

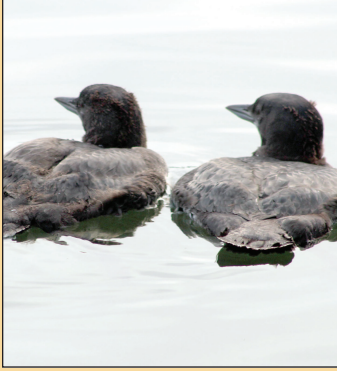


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Loons

Zimmerman next court date in Sept.

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Waseca Mayor Randy Zimmerman, facing two counts of felony perjury charges, had his first preliminary hearing on July 18. Zimmerman reports no plea was entered, and very little occurred. His next court date will be Sept. 19.

The charges stem from Zimmerman having allegedly listed an address within city limits as his residence in order to be eligible to run for election as mayor, even though he resides in Woodville Township.

Annual Corn and Burger Feed Aug. 25

The Waldorf Fire and Rescue Department is hosting its annual corn and burger feed on Friday, Aug. 25. The dinner is from 5:30-8:30 p.m. and a dance follows at 8:30 p.m. \$10 for the meal and \$15 for the dinner and dance. Kids under 5 are free. Events will be held in or near the Waldorf Community Center.

Waldorf Car and Truck Show Aug. 25

Members of the Waldorf Days Committee will be hosting a Car and Truck Show from 4-7:30 p.m. Aug. 25. MyGlobalDJ will be providing music with a Kids' Zone held between 4:30-5:30 p.m. Prizes will be given away at the Kids' Zone.

Relay For Life of Steele/Waseca County. Sept. 23 from 5-10 p.m.

Steele/Waseca County will be having a Relay For Life event from 5-10 p.m. at the Steele County Fairgrounds. There will be a silent auction, entertainment, survivor recognition, raffle, kids activities and food.

Waseca Art Center display until Aug. 11

Montana Becker's Painting Exhibit and Scott Markell's Painting Exhibit. Waseca Art Center, 200 N. State Street; gallery hours: Tues. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Wed.-Fri. 12 Noon-5 p.m., and Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. www.wasecaartcenter.org or (507) 835-1701.

Summerburst Concert Sunday in NR at 3:30 p.m.

Summerburst Concert Series: Salsa del Sol performing Latin-American music and familiar show tunes, 3:30-5 p.m. at the New Richland City Park. Rain location is Trinity Lutheran Church, 204 1st St. NW, New Richland. (507) 521-1209.

Hofmann Apiaries Open House 4 p.m. Saturday Aug. 19

The Waseca County Historical Society and Larry and Jan Hofmann of Janesville are holding an open house Saturday, Aug. 19 from noon to 4 p.m. at their event location, 4661 420th Ave in Janesville.

A word from
The Word

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.
Psalm 34:18

Waseca in on appropriations bill

Zimmerman, Klobuchar conversation leads to \$4 million for infastructure

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

It appears the city of Waseca is all but set to receive \$4 million in federal funding to support local infrastructure, including an additional water tower, with the approval of the next Federal appropriations bill, most likely near the end of the year.

Shortly after Itron announced its intention to close at the end of 2024, Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar called Waseca Mayor Randy Zimmerman to ask what she could do to help the city respond to the economic loss.

Zimmerman told Klobuchar that the Itron situation "was very unfortunate and the loss of jobs needs to be replaced urgently," then went on to highlight the need for more businesses, saying, "we need infrastructure to make that happen."

Klobuchar suggested "congressionally directed" funding through federal appropriations.

"This money is generally earmarked, but we got included," Mayor Zimmerman said.

Waseca city staff prepared the application, and with bipartisan urging

of Senators Klobuchar and Tina Smith, along with District 1 Congressional Representative Brad Finstad, Waseca's request was included with the 2024 appropriations bill.

The \$4 million dollars is part of a \$224 billion bill which is expected to be approved in December.

Part of the funds must be used for an additional water tower on the west end of town, which will benefit Con-Agra and possibly the West Interchange project. Mayor Zimmerman didn't speculate much on the use of the rest of the funds, but said that

paying for sewer and water in the Gaiter Lake development was not outside the realm of possibility. "But we do have existing infrastructure replacement and lining that also needs to happen," Zimmerman said. "We are looking at a phased approach to all of it, and hope to gain additional financial support from the state, as well, early next year. All of which is a work in progress.

"This is great for Waseca," Zimmerman concluded.



MEASURING - Waseca County recycling center specialist Tammie Bramer inserts a four-foot-long thermometer in a windrow of compost at the already existing site.
Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

No longer a landfill

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

It may look like 4.5 acres of gravel, but it's actually a carefully engineered yard waste composting site.

"We're doing it for the public, and for the sake of what's right for the environment," says Tammie Bramer, recycling specialist with the Waseca County recycling center.

"We're not a landfill anymore."

Bramer mentions that many people who have noticed the landscaping and large-scale grading underway on the acreage south of the recycling center have assumed that the solar garden located to the southeast is being expanded. But that's not the case.

Sometime early in September, Bramer explains, the space will be ready to receive yard waste—leaves and grass clippings—for composting. Users will be asked to deposit their waste in deliberately selected locations so that it can be managed



UNDER CONSTRUCTION - Equipment from Evans Companies Landscaping of Byron finishes construction on the new composting site.

and manipulated for the fastest feasible rate of decomposition. Surprisingly, under ideal conditions, waste of this type can be recycled into usable "dirt" in as little as two months—although weather and other factors may extend the process as long as two years.

Among the elements of "engineering" used to prepare the composting site are layers of material placed over the original peat ground at the site. There are layers of crushed aggregate

in varying levels of coarseness over a specially placed layer of geotextile "fabric," all covered by the gravel which is now the most visible element of the acreage. All of these layers have been positioned and landscaped to allow easy drainage of the water which leaches away from decomposing yard waste. The composting area has been shaped to in-

Compost continued on 4

State of education in Waseca County

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The superintendents of the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG), Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (JWP), Waseca and Waterville-Elysian Morrissetown (WEM) school districts schedule a monthly get-together to discuss elements of their programs that they have in common and which will benefit from collaboration among their schools.

The first such meeting for the 2023-24 school year took place August 4. Present were NRHEG's Michael Meihak, JWP's Jeremy Erler, Waseca's Eric Hudspith, and WEM's

new leader, John Regan.

As one spokesperson explained, a major project for the state's school districts over the summer has been coping with a wide array of changes implemented by the state legislature in spring.

"It's not the changes that are a problem," said Hudspith. "It's the time frame we were given to make them."

Other voices chime in, mentioning the abrupt change which now allows certain district employees to collect unemployment during the summer. Also sudden was the pronouncement that Juneteenth was now a mandated holiday. NRHEG, for example, had

to move its regular third-Monday-of-the-month school board meeting to a different night with relatively little notice.

All district offices had to adapt to the procedures and bookkeeping called for by the unemployment rules.

Not only that, but the ramifications and requirements of some legislative changes are still being determined in early August, with the expectation that they will be followed by the end of the month.

"It's been challenging, there's no doubt," observes JWP's Erler.

Some of the new legislative requirements entail adding new staff;



Meihak



Hudspith

one example is an expansion of arts education which, in smaller districts, is likely to require the addition of a "fine arts" instructor at the elementary level. With many new schools suddenly looking for an

Education continued on 4

Deadly out of state crash

A 12-year-old Waseca girl was killed and the rest of her family injured in a double fatal crash in northern Wisconsin on August 4.

Jocelynn J.A. Passon, 12, was a passenger in a pickup truck with her younger brother and parents. Passon was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash. Ethan R. Whitwam, 18, of Durand, Wisconsin was also killed in the crash.

Around 2:40 p.m. Friday, Aug. 4, the Pepin County Sheriff's Office received several 911 calls reporting a very serious traffic accident with one vehicle on fire and several people, including children, trapped inside, according to a release from the Pepin County Sheriff's Office. This happened just east of the U.S. Highway 10 and Sylvester Road intersection in northwestern Pepin County.

Initial investigation shows that a 2007 Pontiac Grand Prix was being driven east on Highway 10 by Whitwam when it crossed into the west-bound lanes and struck the Passons' westbound 2016 Chevrolet Silverado head on.

The pickup's owner and driver, Steve Passon, 40, of Waseca, was transported by helicopter to an Eau Claire Hospital with critical injuries. Passon's wife Jessica, 36, was treated and released at the same hospital. While their daughter Jocelynn was killed, their 8-year-old son Drake sustained critical injuries and was transported to a Minneapolis hospital by helicopter.

The Pepin County Sheriff's Office did not have an update on the conditions of Drake and Steven.

A GoFundMe page started for the Passon family stated that Jessica was able to pull her two children out of the burning car and that a passerby was eventually able to pull Steven from the vehicle as well.

That same passerby, along with three others, all had some level of medical training and immediately began providing medical aid. The fire was primarily extinguished by the first deputy on scene prior to the arrival of firefighters.

The crash remains under investigation by the Pepin County Sheriff's Office and the Wisconsin State Patrol. The Durand Fire Department, Durand Ambulance Service, Pierce County Sheriff's Office, Plum City Ambulance, Plum City Fire Department, Menomonie Fire Department Paramedics, Mayo Clinic Ambulance Helicopter, North Memorial Air Care Helicopter, Pepin County Highway Department, Wisconsin State Patrol and the Wisconsin DNR all assisted the Pepin County Sheriff's Office.



Compostings

by Al Batt

How did your home town get its name?

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
It's nice to meet you, Alan. Please, call me Allen. I just went to the movie theater to see "Groundhog Day II."

How was it?
It was a repeat showing of the original "Groundhog Day" movie.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Everything was nearly copacetic. I'd remembered to swing both legs out of bed that morning. That was a good start. Our collective mantra had become, "I wish it would rain." My wife and I watered the plants at graves in a couple of cemeteries. We miss people. A friend and former neighbor told me she had finally gotten her husband, who has a serious addiction to farming, to go on a vacation. Sometimes we need to get out of our own way. She said the first 100 miles were the hardest. After that, he enjoyed himself. I'm not sure when the first 100 miles go past after losing a cherished friend or family member, but it takes forever. Another friend said she didn't dare put artificial flowers on her mother's grave for fear her mater might come back to haunt her.

I attended the funeral of a beloved classmate, Barb Thompson. I was lucky to have known her and she was a light in a window, even though she was one of those who voted me most likely to be not pictured in our class yearbook.

WORKING AT THE COUNTY FAIR

I was cautious enough to step out of the way of youthful energy as I sampled the fair fare. It was a little chewy, too sweet, had an overabundance of grease and was way too salty. In other words, it was just the way I liked it. Driving home each night, at the same spot on the road, just south of a neighbor's farm driveway, my windshield was bombarded with night-flying insect splats. It sounded as if someone were throwing rice at my car. I see fewer insects on my windshield than years ago. Cars and glass have become more aerodynamic. Many wetlands have disappeared. Widespread use of Bt corn has led to a significant population suppression of the European corn borer and their diminished flights have left room on my windshield. The moths will develop a resistance.

ECHOES FROM THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE

Customer: "Are you selling these self-help books?"

Me: "No, help yourself."

THEY KICKED GRASS

I was at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Decorah when I saw a sheet where folks in the congregation could sign up to mow the church's lawn on Thursday, Friday or Saturday as long as they mowed when the grass was dry and kept the blade height at 3 inches.

A friend told me he doesn't drink, smoke or golf. He doesn't own a boat, snowmobile or motorcycle. People ask him what he does for excitement. He tells them he has a nice lawn mower. He operates a lawn-mowing service, which was slowed by the dry weather.

ASK AL

"If your house was on fire when you came home, other than living things, what would you rush in and save?" Something near the front door.

"What or whom is your hometown named after?" The water tower.

"What is the fear of giants called?" Fee-fi-phobia.

"Have you ever played golf?" Yes, I shot a 42, but I didn't do that well on the second hole.

NATURE NOTES

David Olson of Hartland asked when purple martins leave. They are around their houses from May through late July. After fledging young, they congregate at a roost situated near water. Roosts remain active for six weeks or longer, but individual birds might stay only four weeks before beginning a long migration to Brazil.

Here's some weather lore about August. For every fog in August, there will be a snowfall in winter. As August, so the next February. If the first week in August is unusually warm, the coming winter will be white and long. When it rains in August, it rains honey. If a cold August follows a hot July, it foretells a winter hard and dry.

The Farmer's Almanac's outlook for the winter of 2023-24 is cold with average snowfall in Minnesota, Iowa and the Dakotas and cold and stormy in Wisconsin, with potential blizzards for the first week of March in the North Central States. That sounds about right.

IN GRATITUDE

Thank you to the readers of the Albert Lea Tribune for the wonderful honor and to Bonnie Schuster for her 25 years as editor/publisher of the Freeborn Frisbee.

REST IN PEACE

Ginger Fonza planted and cared for the flowers in Hartland and made them lovelier.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Hello, sun in my face. Hello, you who made the morning and spread it over the fields...Watch, now, how I start the day in happiness, in kindness."—Mary Oliver.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

My fixation on area wildfowl

Perhaps my largest fixation for watching wild animals is for hummingbirds; it's almost mystical to see them hovering in one place, their wings only a blur around them. It is no effort but rather a pleasure for me to make the concentrated sugar water that goes in their feeders and to keep the feeders clean and full.

In exchange, I get to watch them come, go, and quarrel among themselves—or are they making mating decisions? Whatever their intent, it is uplifting to see them circle each other chittering, or perching on a nearby branch like a sentinel to keep other birds away from a particular feeder.

Even though I tell them constantly that there's plenty for everyone, the face-offs continue.

I also enjoy watching much larger birds. The other day I saw a small group of full-grown turkeys walking with sets of young who were obviously from two different hatchings: three of them were about 18 inches tall, the others were more like 8 inches. I happened to be in my car, but not moving so I got to watch the group of them amble along the roadside before tucking themselves into the nearby grass.

I have also been stalking some herons who seem to live on a pond along a route I drive often. Though they pay no attention to a fast-moving

vehicle, they become nervous when one drives slowly or, worse yet, stops so the occupant can try to take some pictures. Even though the photos I've gotten have been pretty unsatisfactory, it is still a privilege to see the birds wading through the shallow pond obviously foraging for food.

This past weekend I was staying on a quiet little lake in northern Minnesota. Called Big Bass Lake, it doesn't have the sort of fishing that pulls in a lot of attention, so it's more of a rural community—one in which everyone knows everyone else. There are often two pairs of adult loons on the lake each spring. The cabin owners keep track of how many young each pair hatches and watch over them like well-intended, nosy neighbors.

Everyone takes note when the adults give their lilting "distress" or "danger" call. The most likely threat is an eagle out to grab itself one of the chicks. One cabin owner told of an incident a few days before during which some folks across the lake realized the eagle was out hunting, and so purposely took their boats out into the water in the vicinity of the loons.

I felt exceptionally privileged during my stay: I looked out over the water and there, only a few feet from shore, were two loons floating serenely. One of them even appeared to



WILDFOWL - Photos Deb captured on a northern Minnesota lake. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently



be asleep and simply drifting.

I grabbed my camera and slid along the lakeshore, stepping out onto the docks of people I knew would be patient with me. I snapped a lot of pictures and moved back and forth across docks a fair number of times, but am thrilled to report the two loons let me get astoundingly close to them at times. They didn't seem to mind me, standing still and quietly aiming my camera, but other disturbances nearby caused them to move around a bit—never really frightened, just cautious.

I told Eli before I left on this trip that, if I got some good loon photos, I was going to ask him to publish them. Well, this column, and my fixation, are my excuse. As you see from the pictures, they are immature birds, probably hatched this spring, but now independent enough to be away from the adults.

Choosing which photo to share was very difficult...in some, they were so relaxed they were stretching their legs out in back of themselves. The quick flips that they gave their big, flat feet were strongly reminiscent of a wave—so much so that I couldn't resist "waving" back a time or two. But you don't have to know much about photography to know that certain elements—good focus, strong framing, a well positioned subject—are vital.

Fortunately for me, the two loons were so patient I was given many, many chances. Here's hoping that you find a chance similar to mine, one in which you get to completely satisfy one of your life's fixations.

Get out there and enjoy yourselves, everyone! There's magic just around the corner; all you have to do is find it.

Dreaming something wild and improbable

As my last full week working at the paper comes to a close, I have been reflecting on my time spent here this summer and my future plans, a daunting thought.

My second summer of the paper has been an interesting time as I've had a better understanding of things than I did last summer. Thank goodness for that. For example, this year I was in charge of doing billing (sorry for any mistakes I made. Blame Eli, he's the one who checks them). Last year, learning billing was a hassle. But now, I have been able to burn through them in a couple of hours.

But it's not just the billing or office work that has improved. Now that I have a better understanding of all of those things, I have been able to appreciate the connections I have made. Like meeting Gloria Butler while taking pictures for Helen Fowler's 103rd birthday. Or talking



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

with the lovely Terri Ingram during a tour of the high school. Or catching up with my good pal Dr. Miller.

And then there's all the nice folk that come into the office to drop off subscription money or give story ideas. I have become appreciative of the short interactions I've had meeting these wonderful people. I don't know if it's just a Waseca thing or a people thing, but most everyone I run across are great people. So keep it up you guys.

Sadly though, I have to move on.

I will continue to write columns for the Pioneer, but once school starts again I'm afraid there will be no more stories from me. I know, I know, everyone is just devastated.

During the school year I will be working for the school newspaper, the Minnesota Daily. I worked there last fall before I studied abroad and it was fun. It was also slightly weird though, coming from a small town newspaper where I was covering events at the library to writing stories about union strikes, the pandemic,

and the safety of the campus.

Next summer I am hoping to get an internship with a larger news source, such as the Star Tribune or MPR. Maybe I'll even go to New York for the summer and work as an intern for the New York Times. My goal before graduating is to have some experience in all types of news reporting so that when I leave school, I will have a better understanding of what I want to do once I step into the career world. I could be a foreign reporter, an editor, a radio show host, a blogger. It's a wonder to think where this life will take me. Hopefully someplace fun.

My Determination: "You're a storyteller. Dream up something wild and improbable. Something beautiful and full of monsters."

"Beautiful and full of monsters?"

"All the best stories are."

— Laini Taylor, Strange the Dreamer

Sitting around talking baseball and news

In my world of newsing this week, it was pretty busy. New Richland held its annual night out and had record attendance. I spoke with the Waseca mayor for a while Tuesday night and came away with a nice story. Chatting with Randy, he made the comment that he probably shouldn't be suggesting stories to the press. I should have stopped him, but a valuable lesson I've learned in the newspaper and regular world is this, "If someone is talking, let them talk."

He shared the story about how Waseca is set to get \$4 million in infrastructure funds and although interesting, that isn't the direction I'm taking this. Here's what I would have said if I had interrupted him. "Our readers should always tell me what they want us to write about."

I can safely say that each week over the past two months, we've written at least one, usually more, stories requested by readers. I think it helps that I'm out and about all the time. It might also help that I tell every subscriber to let me know if they want something in the paper. Regardless, I'm grateful for the feedback. Please keep the suggestions coming.

The Braves season came to an end Monday night in Jordan. Kelvin pitched a good game, but WEM



Just a Thought...

by Eli Lutgens

threw better. Our only hit came in the ninth inning when Kelvin notched a base hit.

I remember last year's final game, a loss to Minnesota Lake. I sat around for a long time after the game, so did Kelvin, Blake, and Tink. Finally Tink walked over and said, "It's always hard to go home after the last game. But it's time to go."

I didn't play a whole lot this season and missed many games for many reasons. (Mainly I work a lot.) So even though it's the first time I've had a season end as a player since 2017, it wasn't as difficult.

In 2017 I played my last summer of legion ball for New Richland. I remember my final game well. Drew Paukert was our coach and we knew we weren't going to play in the playoffs because we weren't sure we would have enough players. So I

knew that this final regular season game would be my last.

We won 8-0. I went 3-3 with some RBIs and pitched the final two innings.

I remember walking up for my final at bat. I didn't really think about it, if I had, it probably wouldn't have ended so well. On the first pitch I laced a triple over the right fielder's head to the wall. (I'm a left handed hitter.)

I then went out and pitched the final inning, the last time I have ever pitched. That was tough. I still remember trying to take my time and stretch that final inning out as long as I could. I allowed two runners before Drew came out to ask me if I was tired. No, I just wanted to keep pitching.

I don't remember my last pitch or the last out, but I do remember that feeling on the mound and the thought

that went through my mind. "Enjoy this."

I don't know how long I stuck around after that final game, but whatever the length of time, it wasn't enough.

I've shared in a previous column how my high school career ended a year prior, so I'll share it in abbreviated fashion.

In my final high school game Jack Schultz threw a no-hitter, but we still lost 2-1 to St. James. I went 0-2 with a walk and my only regret was swinging at the first pitch when I came up with the bases loaded. I never chased, but our assistant coach came up to me before the at-bat and told me to look for a good pitch to hit on the first pitch. And I chased a pitch low and outside.

I remember sitting in a circle with all of our teammates. Everyone was crying when that same coach told us something I will never forget. "If today is the worst day of your life, think about how blessed your life is."

If I can be sad about a baseball season ending, think about how blessed my life is.

Blessed are they who see beautiful things in humble places where other people see nothing." — Camille Pisarro



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

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DEADLINES: Pioneer: Noon Tuesday
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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ON THE ROAD - The vintage schoolhouse recently acquired by Autumn Acres had to be brought over the road in July.

Schoolhouse gets new home

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

A 19th century schoolhouse from the old village of Janesville has found a new home at Autumn Acres Farm, having been moved the morning of Thursday, July 27. The farm’s co-owner Cheryl Bleess said that the schoolhouse is believed to have been constructed in the early 1850s and was in use until at least 1870. That year, Janesville was moved to its current location and a new schoolhouse was built to service its residents.

Bleess said she and her husband Chad decided a few years ago that they wanted to move a historic building, like a school or church, to their farm property if the opportunity came up. This past April, Bleess said that buying the schoolhouse “fell into their lap” when Chad saw it listed on Craigslist. Once they found it was from Janesville, Bleess said

Autumn continued on 5



IN PLACE - Over the next months, the Autumn Acres schoolhouse will be renovated for use on the farm. Submitted photos

Keen Bank customer appreciation Aug. 15

Keen Bank will be hosting a Customer Appreciation event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, August 15 at its Waseca, Ellendale and Hope locations. Keen Bank staff will serve hot dogs, chips and pop to show appreciation to customers and the community, while supplies last.

Art in the Park Aug. 19 in Waseca

Waseca Art in the Park will be 11 a.m.-7 p.m. The art and cultural festival will feature art booths, family art activities, live music, and more. Held at Trowbridge Park, 409 2nd St. NE, Waseca. Sponsored by the Waseca Art Center, (507) 835-1701, www.wasecaartcenter.org or info@wasecaartcouncil.org.

Circus Stella to perform Sept. 8

Circus Stella is coming to Christian Assembly Church on Sept. 8 from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. The show promises to bring smiles and laughter to the audience. Tickets are on sale at circusstella.com

Freemason’s Soap Box races Aug. 19

The Waseca Masons will be holding their 5th annual Soap Box Race on Saturday, August 19. The Family Fun event will start at 11:00 a.m. with games and pre-race festivities. The races will begin at 12:00. They will be held at the Waseca Tuscan Lodge, 831 3rd Ave. NE (1 block south of the Boathouse). Kids ages 6-18 are encouraged to come and race a car. For registration, rules and guidelines contact Kevin Clemons at 507-461-2388. You can also register that day, August 19 at 11:00 a.m.

Back to school crafts Aug. 22 in Waldorf

Aug. 22: Back to School Crafts for ages 8-12. Celebrate the start of the new school year with a trio of crafts you can use at school. Will be 1-5 p.m. at the Waldorf Public Library, 119 S. Main St. (507) 239-2248.

Tea towel class Aug. 22 in New Richland

Aug. 22: Tea Towel Class for adults. Create a custom family heirloom tea towel with a handwritten recipe printed onto it. Bring in a handwritten recipe. Registration required. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at New Richland Public Library, 129 Broadway Ave. S., (507) 465-3708.

Correction

The Melissa Schulz article printed in last week’s edition was written by staff writer, Jonah Stafford, not by Deb Bently.

O’Neil, Miller, leave a legacy

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

After 42 years of service and support, Judy O’Neil is retiring from Waseca Dental Care in Waseca—well, mostly anyway. Kathy Miller “retired” in 2018 only to return to help out part of every year since then.

The two might be accused of loving what they do so much that they’re not quite willing to let go.

They are also a walking compendium of how dental services in Waseca, and even industry-wide, have been evolving over the past five decades.

Now the office manager for Waseca Dental Care, O’Neil says she oversees “a little bit of everything,” including internet technology, accounting and payroll. She began in 1981 as office manager for dentist Dr. Craig Peterson. At that time, accounting and payroll were records kept on paper ledgers, and the term “internet technology” existed only in science fiction. The office was located in Waseca’s downtown area, in the 100 block of Second Avenue SE.

Dr. Peterson purchased the practice in 1971 and was joined in his practice by Dr. Rodney Kolpin in 1977; O’Neil helped manage the changes in record-keeping, customer scheduling, billing, and more.

The office got its first computer in 1992; the process of modernizing fell to O’Neil.

When Dr. Rebecca Thompson became the sole owner, “I told her, ‘No



WASECA DENTAL CARE - Dentists Brett Wickershei, left, and Rebecca Thompson, far right with retirees Kathy Miller, middle left, and Judy O’Neil, middle right.

more name changes.’ They’re too much trouble!” So rather than using her name for the transitioning business, Thompson chose “Waseca Dental Care.”

O’Neil explains that, each time the practice changed its name, she had to take care of innumerable details, from letterhead and forms to information on file with suppliers; “Even the way we answered the phone,” she recalls.

“I just didn’t want to ever have to do it again,” says O’Neil lightly.

Dental hygienist Kathy Miller has been working for the business for the past 47 years, although she did officially retire in 2018, only to come back periodically.

Miller’s recollection of the 1970s and ‘80s are ones that include so many changes they seem even longer ago.

“We didn’t wear masks or gloves,” she says, shaking her head. “The idea of infection control was washing our hands and using cold disinfection on the instruments.”

What shepherded in the change was the AIDS epidemic of the 1990s.

“Change is often good, but it’s almost never easy,” she comments.

Both O’Neil and Miller also remember the changes brought as technology improved.

One of the first changes that come

“Change is often good, but it’s almost never easy.”
— Judy O’Neil

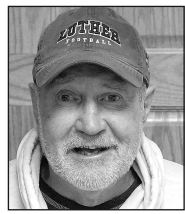
Legacy continued on 5

Slow down: Faster isn’t always better

There’s a song by Simon and Garfunkel titled “Feelin’ Groovy.” It starts out: “Slow down, you move too fast, you got to make the morning last. Just kicking down the cobblestones, looking for fun and feeling groovy.”

The world today just keeps moving faster—I wish it could take the song’s advice, just slow down a bit and not move so fast.

When I’m driving down the freeway at 73 mph, it’s amazing to me how many times I’m passed in the fast lane, those vehicles must be all traveling in the neighborhood of 80 mph. I always wonder if they are late for something, maybe work, maybe the Gopher game, or maybe they just always drive fast. The Vikings #1 draft choice this year, a wide receiver out of Stanford, was clocked at well over 100 mph while driving in the Cities. Obviously he was issued a



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



well deserved ticket. Was he late for practice? His reason: he was rushing home to tend to his sick dog. On a positive note, he may be the fastest, pass catching receiver in the NFL. SLOW DOWN, WE DRIVE TOO FAST!

Our emphasis on speed has changed more than our driving habits.

A great meal that takes two hours to prepare for family is now a difficult endeavor. Mom or Dad are on a tight schedule, and there just isn’t

time to think about preparing a sit-down family supper. Besides, one of the kids is too busy to be there. No time for a pancake sit-down family breakfast. We have to be in Lakeville at 8 a.m. on Saturday morning for our fifth-graders’ basketball game. Pizza delivered to the door, or a quick trip to fast food is so much easier. SLOW DOWN, WE EAT TOO FAST!

When I was teaching sixth grade, I used to show some motivating science movies on the two-reel projector. Disney’s Nature’s Strangest

Creatures, or the Lorax were two of the students’ favorites. Bet you’re saying now, “Oh my, he was one of those learn-by-film teachers.” Next came the overhead projector and writing on the big screen, or learning from transparencies. I was in great shape for teaching unless the light burned out in my equipment; that’s why I always had a spare bulb in my desk drawer. Coaching football, I’d travel with Coach Gilbertson to rival towns to meet other coaches and exchange game film recorded on big, black VCR cassettes. On to the computer lab, DVDs and personal student laptops. On arrival at school I’d check my computer and address several messages or concerns from parents before the bell rang and we all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Zika continued on 4

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Council meets new staff, hears updates

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation annual update and new employee introductions occupied nearly the entire 29-minute span of the brief, August 2 Waseca city council meeting. Council member James Ebertowski was the only one to oppose the adjournment of the meeting, as he was hoping to make it to at least the half-hour mark.

During the requests and presentations part of the meeting, new employees were introduced. Chief of Police Penny Vought presented a new officer, Seth Crouse.

“As the oldest member of the Waseca Police Department,” Vought said, “I introduce you to the youngest member.”

Larry Sipe, chairperson of the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center, introduced the council to Cindy Kolander, the Center’s new executive director. Kolander thanked the council and led them through some of the many programs the center is offering.

Sara Scheffert, a Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) employee, gave an update to the council and thanked them for what she called “continual support.”

Scheffert mentioned three areas of focus for the SMIF: early childhood, economic development and community support. The SMIF, located in Owatonna, gives away free books for young children and provides free training for day-care providers. For economic development, SMIF gives grants for small towns, including providing Waseca with the Paint the Town grant multiple times. Another focus of SMIF is keeping local dollars local, something Scheffert said is done well since for every one dollar donated to SMIF, \$16 is given back to the county.

Scheffert said the city council has provided support of around \$2,000 each year and hopes they will continue supporting SMIF.

The council also gave consideration to a letter from a citizen concerning use of golf carts on city streets. The letter, which Mayor Randy Zimmerman read aloud, observed that even though side-by-side four wheelers can legally be driven on city streets, golf carts cannot. The citizen asked council members to expand the policy to allow golf carts as well.

Council continued on 10

WASECA COUNTY
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Staff effort enables site

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The 4.5 acre composting site being added to the Waseca County Recycling Center is being built with 87% of the funding coming from a greater Minnesota recycling and composting grant awarded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, according to information shared by county administrator Michael Johnson. Total cost for the construction is somewhat more than \$288,000; the county's share is somewhat under \$39,000, an amount already set aside in the department's budget.

Waseca County engineer Jim Kollar had noted the need for an improved yard waste composting site years ago; the county had previously applied for a construction grant without receiving one. This year's application was accepted and the county was awarded \$250,000, with the condition that the county provide no less than 25% of the cost either in payment or in-kind local match; according to information shared by Kollar at a board meeting in May, the county was able to meet that requirement by providing aggregate to be used in the construction. With that obligation met, the county was left only with paying the difference between the \$250,000 grant and the \$288,000 construction cost.

Another positive element was that, although Kollar had estimated construction bids might be as high

as \$495,000, the low bid among the 10 received was for \$288,000 from Evans Companies Landscaping of Byron, nearly 42% less than anticipated.

Construction has been underway throughout the summer, with completion anticipated by September 2. The area where yard waste will be delivered and processed is already finished; a holding pond at the southern end is all that remains for Evans Companies to complete.

Administrator Johnson credits the county's acquisition of the new facility to "a tremendous effort" on the part of staff and notes that the improved facilities will provide important services and benefits for county residents.

Also anticipated are some upgrades on the main grounds of the recycling center facility, according to supervisor Tammie Bramer. These upgrades were already scheduled, and will be helpful as the expansion leads to increased traffic at the center. Those visiting the facility will be asked to use an alternate driveway for a few weeks while the main drive is widened; the large driving and parking area between the recycling center and the compost site will also be repaved.

Around the end of September when all the new services and upgrades are in place, Bramer says she anticipates visits to the center will be smoother and more pleasant.

■ Zika

from Page 3

SLOW DOWN, It was moving too Fast: time to retire.

Cell phones are changing daily, new programs, new features from every provider in the industry.

When I try to have a conversation with my grannies I have to tell them to put their cell phones down. Who knows; maybe the welcome wagon will put a cell phone in every newborns' welcome package.

Wifi, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, dish cable T.V.; what changes will we see in the next couple of years? I finally feel comfortable running my remote and watching T.V. with Media Com cable. Now I hear there will be major changes in the cable industry. Nearly all shopping for anything-can now be done online. Make sure you are aware of identity theft or porch thieves. Many new vehicles don't have CD players. Plug into Pandora, bluetooth, or whatever for your easy listening. SLOW Down media, baby boomers aren't ready for more change.

Gary Meurer is retired west of town and lives on a hobby farm with his wife Ginger. They are both an asset to our Waseca community and are well-liked and respected by all. Gary taught for 41 years and coached for 51. I'm sure any student Gary taught in math or any athlete he coached will tell you they had fun, and Gary made them the best they could be. He coached the Waseca Cross Country team in his latter years and made his team a powerhouse in southern Minnesota.

I remember seeing Gary running with his athletes and later biking with them as they ran their routes. He wasn't a coach who said "meet you in the locker room after completing your workout."

Gary taught his team conditioning and strength strategy, pace, and finish with a kick. He used a little Simon and Garfunkel by teaching his runners to slow down, you run too fast: pace yourself, save strength for your finish. A cross country run is a shade over 3 miles. Gary won a girls state title and placed as high as third with his girls and boys cross country teams.

If you are constantly moving too fast, slow down and take time to smell the roses. Until next time, stay safe and healthy.

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Where'd it go?

Waseca County History Center

Sleigh and Cutter Parade. Waseca. Parade float entered in the 1965 Sleigh and Cutter Parade on North State Street, Waseca; passing by the Waseca Hotel; identified riders: Carol Sue Jensen, Miss Faribault; and Pam Imms, Miss Waterville.





Grant House, built in 1882 also called the Grant Hotel, Hotel Waseca, built by Ira Trowbridge, it burned down in the early 1970s. The hotel was located across from the Court House on North State Street, now the East Annex.

■ Compost

from Page 1

clude gentle rises and valleys. The "windrows" of grass and leaves will be placed on the higher ground.

Water will move downhill away from the windrows to the collecting pond at the south end. There, it will be filtered by carefully engineered aggregates of varying coarseness before being delivered to drainage tiles for removal.

"We are doing everything we can to assure none of our waste is wasted," quips Bramer.

She also explains that the county has had a composting area of land on the property with the recycling center for more than 25 years. Though many residents of Waseca and other communities may not know it, their leaves and yard waste have been being delivered there for all that time: When the city collects the material and hauls it away by the dump

truck load, it has been being delivered to the "back lot" compost area.

For much of that time, however, it has been more a matter of collecting than composting. Bramer points out. The stacks simply built up over time and were pushed back to make more room when necessary. She says procedures changed in 2020.

At that time, county staff began repositioning the yard waste into narrow, high rows, called "windrows." An open area between the rows is needed to allow the materials to be turned, mixed and even occasionally screened to keep natural decomposition processes moving forward.

Bramer demonstrates the energy at work as material breaks down by putting a four-foot-long thermometer into one of the windrows in the current composting site. Already steaming, the location she drives the thermometer into quickly indicates its temperature is about 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

Nearby is the most advanced windrow at the location: A typical observer would probably never guess it was ever anything but a pile of dirt.

"It's good soil," says Bramer matter-of-factly. She mentions that gardeners and landscapers have been buying it in containers ranging from buckets to truckloads at a price of \$25 a ton since 2021. So far in 2023, about 120 tons have been sold; in 2021, when the dog parks in Waseca were being landscaped, almost 550 tons were bought.

The current composting site, however, has a number of shortfalls. For one thing, it is reaching its capacity. For another, 25 years ago when it was selected, the large equipment and wide open spaces needed for a large-scale operation were not taken into account. Thirdly, its remote location makes it impossible for recycling center staff to oversee whether people are following the rules.

One rule, for example, is that there should be only loose yard waste. Within a few feet of Bramer, up to five still-full garbage bags are visible. A certain amount of trash is also littered about, including plastic bottles and food containers.

People are also sometimes careless about following instructions. Bramer

mentions that she had a few signs on display, some instructing visitors not to place their materials in certain places, another specifying which location was currently meant to receive fresh waste.

Shaking her head, Bramer says, "I wouldn't be surprised if the signs are all buried in the windrows."

Once the new site is up and running, she observes, it will be more visually evident where the waste belongs—and recycling center staff will know when materials are being delivered and be able to provide guidance and assistance.

Just as there has never been a cost for delivering yard waste to the "backwoods" location, there will be no charge for delivering it to the new facility.

The engineered surface and the wide-open design will make it much easier to turn, agitate, and screen the decomposing materials.

"All in all," she says enthusiastically, "it will be a better system for everyone involved."

■ Education

from Page 1

additional arts teacher, districts are having trouble finding applicants.

On the other hand, Hudspeth points out, rural districts received additional funding under the legislative changes, which was a pleasant surprise since many outstate districts have felt the legislature has been consistently "metro-centric" with past funding increases. "As we dig deeper into the information, there may be some sources which will be even more help to our programs than we realized," observes Hudspeth.

NRHEG's Meihak mentions a regional opportunity through the South Central Service Cooperative (SCSC) which may provide area schools with a "Career and Technical Education Workforce Coordinator" to help increase opportunities for students in the hands-on education areas of food science, agriculture, construction and business.

Also a possibility for the districts is the "Hope Squad," a program intended to support student mental

health and sense of well-being.

Asked to share something they're excited about for the coming year, WEM's Regan mentions becoming acquainted with the staff after spending the summer working on administration-focused work.

Waseca's Hudspeth says he is excited to continue working on the district's five-year plan, which includes a focus on individual education for each learner. By helping students examine their own education and career plans, he says, the program helps students take advantage of opportunities selected to help them advance those goals.

"We're working to assure all changes and additions are made with purpose and attention to the needs of our students, families and staff."

Meihak mentions that NRHEG's focus on expanding its offerings and programs is providing "dividends" in the form of increased enrollments for the district. He attributes this to the quality staff and facilities NRHEG



Erler

has been building ever since the re-vamping of the district's Career and Technical Education (CTE) facilities.

JWP's Erler takes pride in the continued growth his district has shown in its advanced metal sculpture, life skills, and elementary art programs.

"We've been asking for funding to make these improvements for years," he said. "Now at least one of those new positions has been supported financially by the legislature."

In addition to their scheduled

monthly collaboration sessions, the four superintendents mention that they communicate among themselves quite freely as they face shared questions or tasks. "It helps us serve our districts more efficiently," observes Erler.

And thinking of the shared complications presented by winter storms, Hudspeth jokes, "The text chains become very active around 5 a.m. when there's weather moving in."

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JWP prepares for school year

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School Board continued its preparation for the upcoming school year at its July 17 meeting. All school board members were in attendance with the exception of Tim Burke.

Superintendent Jeremy Erler said that he's been dealing with several resignations and job postings in the district lately, mentioning that an interviewee for the district operations coordinator position was offered the job, but declined. Because of this, applications continue to be accepted. Also not yet filled are the activities director, community education director, high school counselor and behavior interventionist positions.

Erler told board members interviews for the activities director position were scheduled over the next few days, and shared that four applications had been submitted for the community education director role, with others in progress. Erler said he hoped that interviews for the position could take place early the following week. He said that two completed applications had been received for the behavior interventionist position, while none have been received for the role of high school counselor.

Among the staffing changes that have occurred over the summer is the resignation of Dale Compton, the high school's art teacher, effective June 29. High School Counselor Anna Broom resigned effective July 1. Also resigning was Activity Director and Dean of Students Paul Brunner, effective July 14. Finally, Andrea Kronbach, who worked as community education director and as a grant writer for the district, resigned effective July 21. Tori Doohy, a teacher at the elementary school's Bulldog Academy, is taking a leave of absence effective November 28. Two hires were made effective August 21: Aylajeane Seibert taking Compton's place as high school art teacher and Liz Kvebak in the newly created elementary art teacher position.

Erler showed school board members the September lunch menu. He also discussed the ongoing wall construction in the media center and the creation of an extra emergency exit needed to meet fire codes.

Erler said that his annual evaluation is coming up. School Board Chair Laura Seys is expected to distribute a form to all board members, with the results to be shared in a closed session in August. After that conversation, Erler hopes to start negotiations with various staff groups, including teachers, in early August, to prepare for the 2023-2024 school year.

The district's June 2023 bank balances were as follows: General Checking- \$2,909,669, Project Checking- \$998,587, General CDs- \$2,000,000, and Project CD- \$1,250,000.

The school board approved a general work agreement for Rachel Kluver, the district's occupational therapist, for the upcoming year.

A resolution to accept the ballot wording and call for an election for the changed authorized use of bond proceeds was accepted unan-

JWP SCHOOL BOARD

imously by the board. The special election, slated for November 7, will determine whether the district is authorized to use \$1,900,000 it has remaining in General Obligation Facilities Maintenance Bonds toward new acquisitions and betterment of school facilities. One such improvement could be new roof construction. The bonds as a whole were initially distributed for a ten-year plan of facility improvements that have since been completed. The ballot contains a notice that voting "yes," on the question of changing the authorized use of those bonds includes a property tax increase.

Other action during the school board meeting authorized a three-year contract with SMS School Services for payroll and human resources services, pending approval by the district's lawyer. It was noted that while it is a three-year contract, the school would have the option to exit after one year by paying 20% of the rest of it. The contract amounts to \$50,000, paid in two halves, for the first year and with a rate increase of 3% per year for the second and third years. One item of concern was that the contract would make SMS the exclusive accounting firm for the school district, which board members suggested be reworded in negotiation. The motion was approved in a 5-1 vote; board member Tim Boelke dissented.

A motion to approve Erler for designation of identified official with authority for the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) external user access recertification system was passed unanimously. Erler said this authorization must be renewed every July to allow him continued access to secure MDE websites and systems.

A number of proposed new school policies received their first reading during the meeting. Policies regard topics including equal educational opportunity, drug-free workplace/drug-free school, corporal punishment and prone restraint, enrollment of nonresident students, and student directory information.

As a last item of business, the board unanimously passed a resolution accepting donations. Among these were seven Waseca Water Park punch cards donated by Immanuel Miller for a JWP school aged care (SAC) field trip; also donated to SAC were food-serving supplies provided by the Casteel family. Michael and Kay Carda donated \$50 for welding supplies in memory of Richard Carda. The Lake Elysian Watershed Association donated \$500 toward a scholarship. The JWP Education Association donated \$1,500 toward a scholarship as well. The Janesville Area Chamber of Commerce donated \$500 for 2024 JWP band shirts. The Janesville Memorial Day Association gave \$50 each for JWP's general fund and speech and band programs. The Hay Daze Fun Run donated \$3,200 of its event proceeds towards JWP's track program. The Bulldog Baseball Club donated \$1,000 for a "turtle shell" net for the baseball field. A \$12.60 loyalty card donation was made by Casey's General Store.

12u Waseca Softball



Waseca 12u Softball concluded their spring, summer, and national tournament season with a 37-11 combined record. The group went 5-3 last weekend at the "Monsta" 64 team tournament, earning third in the silver bracket. The group missed second after losing by one run in extra innings. The group is coached by Randy Zimmerman and Corey Deml. Of the season, Zimmerman commented, "These girls are amazing, and it's so fun to be their coach; they learned a ton, especially how to battle it out, and how to be great competitors, show sportsmanship, and how to represent their community with class. Special thanks to Corey Deml for helping me co-coach and everything else she does for these girls, and to all of the parents who step up and help coach, as well. We would be lost without all of their support. So darn fun! The future is bright for these young ladies! Absolutely a blessing!"

The players on the team were: Maddie Root, Ali Mader, Addison Zimmerman, Libby Miller, Avery Barto, Lucy Deml, Hannah Rugger, Lilly Peterson, Charley Castro, Estela Balderas, and Brier Hayes.

■ Autumn

from Page 3

buying the schoolhouse "became a no brainer." "It wasn't about if we could do it, but how we would do it," said Bleess.

The schoolhouse was at risk of demolition by its former owner if it was not purchased and moved. Now that they own it, Bleess said that she and her husband have a "sense of responsibility" to not only preserve it, but to "fix it up to make sure it weathers at least another 100 years."

Before the schoolhouse could be transported by the mover the Bleesses hired, the chimney had to be removed, plaster debris was cleaned out from its interior, and a new cement foundation was poured for it to rest on.

Autumn Acres Farm plans on using the schoolhouse as a retail market, while one corner will feature an exhibit on its history. Bleess said that

corner will not be restored and "remain exposed for those who are curious."

In the near future, Bleess said that she plans on installing windows into the schoolhouse, cleaning it up more, and using it in the fall in an "as-is state." By next year, Bleess said they want to "paint it, spruce it up, bring it back to life, and make it pretty again."

As buying, moving, and refurbishing the schoolhouse has become a costly endeavor, Bleess said that Autumn Acres is planning on launching a fundraiser, with more details to come in the near future. Bleess said that donors' names will be engraved in the bricks of the schoolhouse's chimney, "forever associating those names with the schoolhouse as they are saving it too."

A 19th century schoolhouse from the old village of Janesville has found a new home at Autumn Acres Farm, having been moved the morning of Thursday, July 27. The farm's co-owner Cheryl Bleess said that the schoolhouse is believed to have been constructed in the early 1850s and

was in use until at least 1870. That year, Janesville was moved to its current location and a new schoolhouse was built to service its residents.

Bleess said she and her husband Chad decided a few years ago that they wanted to move a historic building, like a school or church, to their farm property if the opportunity came up. This past April, Bleess said that buying the schoolhouse "fell into their lap" when Chad saw it listed on Craigslist. Once they found it was from Janesville, Bleess said buying the schoolhouse "became a no brainer." "It wasn't about if we could do it, but how we would do it," said Bleess.

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■ Legacy

from Page 3

computer instantly, and can even be visually enhanced."

O'Neil describes a change from the earlier years when, each time a patient arrived, she would have to walk back into the treatment rooms to inform the doctor. Later, a system of lit panels was developed.

In terms of bookkeeping, O'Neil and Miller remember that, in the early 1980s, very few patients had dental insurance; for those who did, paper forms had to be completed and forwarded.

Also a change for both of them were the government regulations surrounding privacy and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements, which became more prevalent after the AIDS protocols were introduced.

Here, too, says Miller, "All of that was good, but it wasn't easy. But we had to have our procedures in place

in case of an inspection."

"After that, though, the small-town feel was gone," recalls O'Neil, describing times when a parent wanted information about an adult child's treatment or bills, and she was not allowed to provide it without the proper signed permissions.

"We had to tell them we don't make the rules, but we do have to follow them," says O'Neil.

As for the Covid pandemic, O'Neil shakes her head.

"We used to have safety meetings where we would talk about all the safety protocols required by the government. We had a plan in case of fire. We had a plan in case of a dangerous storm or a medical emergency."

"Also on the list was 'pandemic.' We used to just sort of dismiss it and say, 'I guess we would call the department of health and do what we were told to do.'"

When the Covid pandemic arrived, Waseca Dental Care was required to close its doors for nine weeks, leaving O'Neil as the only person in the office.

In the end, she reveals, the sanitiz-

ing and safety protocols the office was already using proved to be in line with government regulations. As quarantine regulations eased, the office gradually increased its activity back to normal.

A longer lasting difficulty for Waseca Dental Care, and for others in the medical field, was the shortage and costs of supplies such as gloves, masks, and sanitizing equipment created when use of those items expanded so suddenly worldwide.

Even as they weathered nearly constant change, both ladies say something that stayed the same for them was the assurance that the doctors they worked for "have our backs."

They praise the doctors' persistent attention to patient safety and welfare, which included making sure that workers in their office could do their jobs well and efficiently.

Both say they have also enjoyed the strong relationships they have been able to build with their patients.

The newest dentist to join the practice is Dr. Brett Wickersheim, who was once a patient served by the two retirees.

"I came here since the time I was a kid," Wickersheim mentions. "That's made it really easy to transition into the systems and practices here."

"It's definitely a certain type of honor to work with these two ladies who have such a history and so much knowledge about the industry and its practices."

As they ease into their retirements, each of the ladies have plans to spend time with family.

O'Neil and her husband, Mike, of 42 years, plan to go "live life" for a while. That will include spending time with their daughter, son-in-law, and four granddaughters who live in Byron, and with their son who lives in Grand Marais.

"We love to take the role of being 'hands-on' grandparents," says O'Neil.

With her partial retirement since 2018, Miller says she is gradually getting better at relaxing, but admits she enjoys her work so well it has been fun to be back.

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507-835-2020

Steele County Free Fair

August 15-20, 2023

Owatonna, MN

GRANDSTAND

Tuesday **ANTIQUE TRACTOR PULL**
Sponsored by: FFA ALUMNI
FREE ADMISSION

Wednesday **7:00 PM LOCASH**
with special guest Drake Milligan
General Admission \$45.00

Thursday **7:00 PM HAIRBALL**
General Admission \$25.00

Friday **7:00 PM CRAIG MORGAN**
With special guest Ashley Barron
General Admission \$45.00

Saturday **7:30 PM BULLS AND BARRELS**
Adult \$17.00

Sunday **2:00 PM DEMO DERBY**
Adult \$17.00
Preteen (ages 6-12) \$12.00

YE OLD BEER GARDEN

TUESDAY
JOHNNY HOLM
8:30pm

WEDNESDAY
IV PLAY
8:30pm

THURSDAY
JACUZZI PUMA
8:30pm

FRIDAY
SWERVE
3:00pm
SHIRTS & SKINS
8:30pm

SATURDAY
LED PENNY
3:00pm
TRAVIS THAMERT
8:30pm
LINE

SUNDAY
DAN STURSA
1:00pm
THE WHITE KEYS
6:30pm

Gold Star Amusements

Thrilling Rides • Village of Yesteryear
entertainment nightly

HOME PURCHASE TICKETS
GENERAL INFORMATION
ATTRACTIONS SCHEDULES
SPONSORS VENDOR INFORMATION
FOOD EXHIBITOR'S GUIDE

CONTACT US
MEGA BANDS MAY BE REDEEMED
ANY DAY OF THE FAIR. THEY DO NOT
HAVE TO BE REDEEMED ON
TUESDAY.

FREE DAILY EVENTS and MUCH MORE!

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<http://www.scff.org>

FREE ENTERTAINMENT

ELMER RESELAND STAGE

(located in KRFO TownSquare)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15
6:00 PM Moogician
7:15 PM The Electrifying Magic of Jay Mattioli

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16
12:00 PM Moogician
2:00 PM The Electrifying Magic of Jay Mattioli
3:00 PM Moogician
4:30 PM The Electrifying Magic of Jay Mattioli
6:00 PM Deal or No Deal

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17
12:00 PM Moogician
2:00 PM The Electrifying Magic of Jay Mattioli
3:00 PM Moogician
4:30 PM The Electrifying Magic of Jay Mattioli
6:00 PM Deal or No Deal

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18
12:00 PM Moogician
1:00 PM OHS Robotics Team
2:00 PM The Electrifying Magic of Jay Mattioli
3:00 PM Moogician
4:00 PM OHS Robotics Team
5:00 PM The Electrifying Magic of Jay Mattioli
6:00 PM Deal or No Deal

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19
12:00 PM Moogician
1:00 PM OHS Robotics Team
2:00 PM The Electrifying Magic of Jay Mattioli
3:00 PM Moogician
4:00 PM OHS Robotics Team
5:00 PM The Electrifying Magic of Jay Mattioli
6:00 PM Deal or No Deal

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20
12:00 PM Moogician
1:00 PM OHS Robotics Team
3:00 PM Moogician
4:00 PM OHS Robotics Team
5:00 PM Moogician

UNITED PRAIRIE BANK STAGE

All UPB Stage events are FREE
(located in Fair Sq. Park)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15
5:00 PM Flag Raising Ceremony
6:00 PM Owatonna Community Band
7:30 PM Branded

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16
11:20 PM Jeremy Poland & Lantz Dale
2:15 PM UPDS Dance Studio
3:15 PM Chad Johnson & The MN Transplants
5:30 PM Ali Gray's Country Jamboree
7:00 PM Tim Sigler

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17
11:30 AM Senior Citizen Recognition
12:00 PM Marv Nissel Band

2:30 PM Minnesota Over 60 Band
5:30 PM JoJo Green
8:00 PM The Whitesidewalls

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18
11:30 AM Rad Zoo
12:00 PM Dan Stursa Band
2:45 PM Fender Bender
5:45 PM Just Friends
7:15 PM Transit Authority

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20
11:30 AM Dee Miller
1:30 PM Mark Cameron Band
4:00 PM Craig Clark Band
5:30 PM Charity Auction
6:00 PM Harrison Street Band
8:00 PM Royal Emperors

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21
11:00 AM Community Church Service
12:15 PM Taekwondo
1:15 PM Eclipse
4:00 PM Generation Gap
6:30 PM United Way
7:00 PM Football/Cheerleader Rally

VILLAGE OF YESTERYEAR STAGE

All Village of Yesteryear Stage events are FREE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15
6:00PM Todd & Roger Uptadel - Folk

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16
12:00PM Nate & Virginia Page
3:00PM Owatonna String Ensemble at the Saco Church
6:00PM Lights of Columbus Choir

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17
12:00PM Paul Profit Harmonica & Folk Music
3:00PM Dan Stursa Band
6:00PM Alan O'Malley-Laursen

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18
12:00PM South East Minnesota Rendezvous Band
3:00PM Proft Harmonica & Folk Music
6:00PM Just Kidding / Sweet Adeline Singers

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19
12:00PM Peddler, Pumper & Politition
3:00PM Joel Kopp
6:00PM Lights of Litomysl

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20
9:30AM Traditional Church Service
12:30PM Dunnell Lenort
3:00PM Dave Sanders Band

OTHER EVENTS

- Equine Hall of Fame
- Livestock Hall of Fame
- Jurassic Kingdom Dinosaur Show - Show times - Tuesday: 8PM Wednesday - Sunday: 2PM, 5PM & 8PM
- The Wells Fargo Auto Museum
- A-Z Exotic Petting Zoo
- All Star Stunt Dog Shows
- Gandy's Old Iron Show - Next to Village of Yesteryear
- Radio Stations Broadcasting Live
- Six Midway Ride Specials Plus The Mega-Ride Wrist Band
- Three Large Food Courts With Over 300 Picnic Tables
- Robinson Carving Co. Wood Carver

HOLLAND AUCTION

Farmers Machinery Consignment

Live & Online Bidding
Saturday, AUGUST 26, 2023 - 9:30 A.M.
LOCATION: East of Beaver Lake, Ellendale MN
Taking consignments: Tractors • Combines • Haying Equip. • Tillage Equip. • Planters • Wagons • Farm Pickups & Trucks • Construction Equip. • All Types of Farm Machinery • Recreational Items Welcomed (No car or truck tires)
Call early to take full advantage of advertising.
Always a large auction, running two auction rings all day.
Limited Rack Items Accepted!
Delivery of Consignments will be on **AUGUST 20, 21, 22, 23, 2023 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.**
NO Consignments on August 24th and 25th!
To consign, call: Holland Auction at (507) 684-2955 or Tracy Holland, 507-456-5128 (cell) or e-mail hollandauction@frontiernet.net

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18928 Jasmine Rd
Mankato, MN 56001
WingertLandServices.com

LAND AUCTION

Wednesday, August 16
Bruce Piltz Farm
132+/- Acres
Waldorf Community Center, Waldorf, MN

For property brochures call Chuck Wingert, Wingert Land Services, 507-381-9790 or visit www.wingertlandservices.com

Only registered bidders may attend.
Charles Wingert, Broker

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- Call (507) 837-6767

LAND AUCTION

August 17, 2023
265.28 ± Acres Farmland in 2 Parcels
Quality Land with Average Soil CPI of 88.85
Private Drainage Flowing into Little Cobb River
Freedom Township, Waseca County, MN
Only registered bidders may attend

For property brochures, contact Hertz at 507-345-LAND (5263) WWW.HERTZ.AG
151 St. Andrews Court #1310, Mankato MN 56001

Argus archives

100 Years Ago

- Christenson Brothers inform us that they negotiated a deal last week with the heirs of the late C. H. Rickerman, whereby they have come into possession of what is known as the Rickerman livery barn. They will transform it at once into an up-to-date, modern garage, putting a new glass front in for the display of cars. This is a splendid location for the business and one that will materially add to and enhance the volume of business, already reaching large proportions, handled by this firm. It means an improvement and an advance that will be of benefit to the entire village and surrounding country.

- On Wednesday evening the Methodist congregation met at the home of J. Monroe Gordon and at a proper moment went in a body to the parsonage where they surprised the pastor and Mrs. Davidson and where they tendered their congratulations and well wishes. The evening was very pleasantly passed. Cake and ice cream were served. Before leaving Mr. and Mrs. Davidson were presented with a fine chair as a testimonial of their affection and regard.

- Mr. Charles Holtz of Dayton, N.Y., who was in this place last week as guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hubbard, voiced his sentiments when he asserted that there is altogether too much waste in farming operations in Minnesota. By contrast he drew a parallel between the consistent subserviency of soil production as practiced in the East with the wanton waste in the West. Were all this potential energy as to crops utilized it would materially enhance the value of the aggregate in the West to the financial benefit of the farmers. This criticism was drawn out after Mr. Holtz had made observations while on a trip through Minnesota. Undoubtedly the criticism is correct. But until such time as that land may be subdued here the waste will probably continue.

75 Years Ago

- This community has answered the challenge hurled by Greenbush by bringing to notice a family of 102 which sets an imposing record for the state of Minnesota, perhaps for the entire nation. Mrs. Fred Lemke is 89. She has 12 living sons and daughters, 42 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren, 7 great-great-grandchildren. At a recent picnic honoring this remarkable matriarch, 95 of her descendants were present.

- Wilson and Company of Albert Lea purchased the grand champion steer at the Waseca County Fair. This steer was shown by Clifford Weydent, 4-H Clover for Luck Club. The purchase price was \$45 per hundred. This is the highest price ever paid for a beef animal at a Waseca County Sale. The champion pig was shown by Michael Amberg, Sacred Heart Club, and was purchased by Hormel and Company, Austin, at \$41 per hundred. The sale was very successful and bidding was very spirited. The Waseca county bankers, represented by Charles Spaulding of the Farmers National Bank of Waseca, purchased Adrienne Warburton's Hereford calf and donated it to the 4-H clubs for their annual banquet.

50 Years Ago



GRASS DOLLS- The Argus camera spotted these five local girls just after they finished making grass dolls at the Brownie Day Camp last week in Waseca. Showing their creations areTami Dawson, Kristy Storjohann, Ann Gessner,, Michelle Pluym and Kim Hildebrandt.

- A faulty water heater is believed to be the cause of a fire that did considerable damage Monday night to an enclosed porch on a farm owned by Art Steinke three miles west of Janesville, just off Highway 14. Tenants in the home are the Robert Northways. Mrs. Northway told the argus that she had just finished washing clothes and giving her two children a bath when the fire broke out. "I always lock the door to the porch at night," she said. "When I smelled smoke I opened it and the porch was on fire."

- The Janesville High School class of 1968 held its five year class reunion on Saturday evening, July 28, at the Happy Chef Restaurant in Mankato. The evening began with a happy hour, followed by a smorgasbord, dancing and getting reacquainted. The reading of the class will took place, amid much laughter. Two of the class's former teachers stopped by, to help with the reminiscing.

25 Years Ago

- Lucas Dimmel of Janesville will have lots to share with his classmates at Trinity Lutheran School after having participated in the U.S. Space Camp in Florida this summer. Lucas traveled with his parents, Dave and Laurie Dimmel, to Titusville, Fla., where he participated in a U.S. Space Camp basic training camp during the week of Sunday-Friday July 19-24. Lucas joined other students from around the world for the basic training camp, which is open to students in grades fourth through sixth. While Lucas' trip from Minnesota was quite a trek, other students traveled even farther coming from Chile, Switzerland, Egypt and Argentina.

- Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation announced Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School District's membership in the 1998-1999 Academic League. As a service of the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation, the Academic League provides assistance to public and non-public schools in planning and delivering organized challenges, recognitions, and enrichment opportunities for their elementary and secondary students. Implemented in 1989, the Academic League provides a framework which enables schools to involve students in a multitude of high quality activities.

- Telephone options for Janesville residents are now available from competitive telephone companies. The current communications provider to the Janesville area is Frontier Communications of Minnesota, a subsidiary of Frontier Corporation. However, Crystal Communications, Inc., a subsidiary of Hickory Tech Corporation of Mankato, will soon be offering its services to Janesville residents. "This community expressed the desire to have a local telephone company provide them with more services and free local calling to Mankato, Waseca, Waldorf and Pemberton," said Mike Olsen, Crystal Communications general manager sales and marketing, Minnesota. Before implementing its lines, Crystal Communications conducted an interest survey among city residents. The surveys were sent out with a monthly utility bill. A total of 163 responses were returned, with 139 yes and 24 no responses. Crystal plans to have its services implemented by Monday, Nov. 2, 1998.



Looking at the display of work created at the summer library art classes are, left to right: Jane Welna, Ann Collins and Ann Welna.

Violations of prohibition law

100 Years Ago – 1923

- The private library of the late John F. Murphy has been presented through the public schools to the public library. This is one of the most extensive private libraries in the city, comprising some five hundred volumes of standard volumes in English and History, the complete reports of the Smithsonian Institute, and many other valuable works. The library is given through the courtesy of the widow, Mrs. Isabelle Wood Murphy, a former teacher in the city schools, who also includes a very valuable mineralogical collection of wide extent, representing years of careful study and selection. The books and collection will be carefully conserved, and will be placed in the new public library as the "John F. Murphy" collection.

- Tribute to the late President Harding will be paid in Waseca next Friday when a memorial service will be held at the Palace theater between the hours of two and three. Henry M. Gallagher is to preside at the meeting and Judge Brown will deliver the address. Supt. Huffman will have charge of the song service at the meeting and D. E. Perrin is arranging the instrumental music. A large number are expected to be present to pay their last respects to the dead president.

- Warrants for the arrest of Henry Rice and Con Shields for violation of the prohibition laws were sworn out last Friday and arrests were made. Rice pleaded guilty and was sentenced to thirty days in the county jail. Con Shields maintained his innocence and asked for a trial which was held on Tuesday. It seems that men who declared that they had previously purchased liquor from Rice and Shields got in a quarrel with each one individually. One word led to another and in one case it is understood that blows were exchanged. Both parties went to County Attorney Spillane and swore out complaints for the arrest of Rice and Shields.

75 Years Ago – 1948

- Old timers racked their memories this week in an effort to remember when there was a more successful grandstand show than was presented at the Waseca county fair over the weekend. Inclement weather put a damper on attendance Friday afternoon and Saturday night, but 1900 turned out to see the rodeo and grandstand show Sunday. There were so many in attendance that three shows had to be run, two in the afternoon and one at night, for the first time in history.

- Sixty bushels of oats went up in smoke Wednesday evening at the Henry Zimmerman farm 2 ½ miles east of Waseca when fire broke out in the windowed swaths that were ready for combining. The Woodville fire department was summoned and about 60 neighbors and friends rushed over to exterminate the blaze. It was probably caused by a cigarette, Henry Zimmerman said.

- "Farm Talks," the weekly column written by Bob Hodgson, superintendent of the University of Minnesota Southeast Experiment Station, Waseca, has received a rating of "good" in a national competition. The column is published in more than a hundred Minnesota newspapers. The honor was given in the 1948 exhibit competition of the American Association of Agricultural College editors held in Spokane, Washington, August 2-5.

50 Years Ago – 1973

- Joe Skudlarek, recently retired Waseca teacher, will participate in the 1973 Minnesota State Fair Education Day, Monday Aug. 27. The day will honor secondary school teachers from 82 participating counties. Scheduled events include a buffet, hosted by the Minnesota School Boards' Association, Sunday Aug. 26. On Monday, teachers and their guests will tour the University of Minnesota and the State Fair, have lunch at the Fairgrounds, participate in a banquet at the St. Paul Hotel, and return to the Fair for the evening Grandstand show which features singing group, Dawn, and television's Brady Bunch Kids.

- There was a good turnout for the recently added Market Hog division at the 11th annual Waldorf Livestock Show Tuesday night. Eighteen hogs were entered in live competition with five selected as winners. Following the contest all hogs were shipped to Hormel in Austin to be slaughtered and carcasses judged. Placing in live competition were: Jim Cord, Mankato, first and second place; Paul Krause, Waseca, third place; Norman Gehring, Waseca, fourth place and Ron Cords, Mankato, fifth place.

- The Waseca Hospital Auxiliary Board met on Tuesday to lay plans for the Fall Bazaar, Bake Sale and Membership drive. It will be held Sept. 21 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the First National Bank meeting room. Mrs. Sylvester Priem donated a knit cape she made for the Bazaar. Chances will be 10 cents a piece – three for a quarter. Hospital Administrator Merwin Nelson met with the board and gave suggestions on using auxiliary funds for needed hospital equipment. These items will be taken into consideration.

25 Years Ago – 1998

- Fifteen-year-old Kim Reid went out Tuesday night. She didn't go to the movies or to a ball game, she went to Trowbridge Park along with about 70 other Wasecans who aim to keep the community crime and drug free. "This is a good town, and I don't want it messed up," said Kim, who is a member of the Waseca Drug Prevention Task Force. The park was certainly the safest place Kim could be that evening as several local city and county law enforcement officials were part of Waseca's first Night Out. The event included a walk on the bicycle trail west of Loon Lake, and a time for residents to voice their concerns to local officials about criminal activity in their community. The event, organized by the Waseca Police Department, was done in conjunction with the National Night Out, which involved more than 9,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. Territories, Canadian cities and military bases all around the world.

- When Roy Srp was growing up in Austin, he lived four blocks from a railroad in a neighborhood where many railroad employees lived. "I have been fascinated by trains for as long as I can remember," said Srp, whose career track has led him to his new post as manager of operations for Datoa Minnesota and Eastern Railroad (DM&E). "This has been a very rewarding, educational, fantastic journey. It is a dream come true," Srp said. President and Chief Executive Officer of DM&E Kevin Schieffler informed Srp about the promotion Friday.

- Richard Sankovitz, chairman and CEO of the First National Bank of Waseca, announced Monday that negotiations are underway for the purchase and merger of the Valley Bank branch in Waseca from the Frandsen Financial Corporation. The facility will remain open as a branch of the First National Bank. Final approval of the banking authorities is expected within 90 days with final completion of the merger expected in November.

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Back - 1923

John J. Sibilrud of Hartland and L. O. Hartz of Manchester were elected directors of the Service Relation Council, an organization recently formed by postal employees of Freeborn county.

W. J. Romig, C. A. Newgard, Peter Burtness and Ed. Westerlund drove to Charles Lake, near Elysian, Tuesday and brought home the Boy Scouts who had enjoyed a week's outing at that place.

Mesdames Harold Ryan and Harold Root were hostesses to the members of the Priscilla Club and their husbands at a picnic dinner given at St. Olaf lake last Tuesday evening.

Miss Jessie McGrath, who spent her vacation with her parents in New Richland and with relatives in Iowa, returned to her duties at the Eaco Mill office at Waseca this week.

Beryl and Loren Anderson spent a few days last week at the home of their aunt, Mrs. E. W. Tollin at Waldorf.

Little Eldon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Krueger, believes in cooning watermelons early. The other evening he picked a wash tub full of his dad's best melons and said he was going to have them for supper.

Lawrence Carey who has been assisting with the work on the Schue brothers' farm this summer left Tuesday for his home at Albert Lea.

The horses on Hound street are getting to be more popular than automobiles. Edward Anderson had a team run away from him Saturday and Orville Weed had a big smash-up Monday.

77 Years Back - 1946

C. O. Swenson, widower and old resident of Otisco township, received the startling information Tuesday evening that his daughter, Miss Francis Swenson, 25, is a victim of polio.

Many drivers of automobiles as well as pedestrians have made nuisances of themselves by following or going ahead of the fire truck when it is bound for a fire. It is unlawful to follow the truck within 300 feet and furthermore when the siren sounds every automobile occupying the street is required to immediately turn in to the curb. Motorists who are careless in this respect are going to find themselves in trouble unless they desist from these obnoxious practices.

Mrs. Erma Lee Winegar and "Smokey" Truhler accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Bud Johnson spent the week end at Clear Lake, Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Herbst, Jackie and Connie, and Billy Bernstein were visitors at the Ray Callahan home Sunday evening.

Mrs. Minnie Proehl, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Proehl and daughter, James Strahlo of Mapleton, Frank Maas and Mr. and Mrs. R. Dahlberg of Pemberton, Mrs. Alvin Storlie of Palmer, Mrs. Dan Kaufman, and Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Hansen and daughters visited at the Willard Cook home Sunday.

Sunday evening Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Gehlhoff and son visited Mr. and Mrs. Louis Schlaak.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Loken and daughter, Beverly, were Sunday dinner guests at the home of Mrs. I. H. Foley near Manchester.

50 Years Back - 1973

The New Richland Royal Manor, housing for the elderly, is expected to be completed by September 15 and occupied by October 1.

The New Richland Development Corporation elected two new directors at their annual meeting. Elected to fill the terms of Leo Miller and Carl Mathiason, who have left the community, were Eldor Schoenrock and Leo Eckart.

Randy Knutson, a member of the Hartland 4-H Hi-Liners for the past seven years, took top honors in the 4-H Beef Show at the Freeborn County Fair as he was named 4-H Beef Champion Showman and his animal, 4-H Beef Grand Champion Steer.

All children who have completed the summer reading program at the New Richland Public Library are to meet the bus at the New Richland village park Friday, August 10 for their trip to Waseca for movies and fun.

Winning the Tug-o-War at the Waldorf-Pemberton FFA's livestock show was the following team of women: Beverly Kopesky, Donna Traynor, Dianne Schroeder, Maryls Gilster, Mosako Rossell, Judy Adams, Loretta Stencel, and Bonnie Neitzel.

Kelly Kipp, Roxanne Jane, Colleen Weir, Robin Peters, Jayne Meyer, Kathy Rausch and Carla Blashack are attending "Day Camp" at Maplewood Park at Waseca. Kathy Jensen and Tammy Ward are also attending as Cadette Councilor Aids.

The Waseca County Sheriff's department is investigating the theft of a 600 lb. hog from the Herb Clausen farm near Alma City Saturday night and an attempted burglary at Eisen's Sausage Company in Waldorf the same evening. The burglars were apparently frightened away when a motorist passed by.

25 Years Back - 1998

A feature of the Waldorf Days celebration Saturday, August 22 will be the ribbon-cutting ceremony and grand opening at the city's new Community Center.



Rebecca Lynnne claimed a Grand Champion ribbon with her market rabbit Ginger in the 4-H competition at the Freeborn County Fair last Tuesday afternoon.

A block party in New Richland was sponsored by Theresa and Tony Kunkel and Brian and Julie Svoboda on Balsam Avenue in New Richland, Wednesday, Aug. 12, National Night Out. About 35 neighbors had the opportunity to eat together, play games together, and get acquainted.

Compiled by Jessica Lutgens

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STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.: 81-PR-23-494

In Re: Estate of
KATHERYN M. WEBER,
Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING
ON PETITION FOR FORMAL PRO-
BATE OF WILL AND APPOINT-
MENT OF PERSONAL
REAPRESENTATIVE IN UNSUPER-
VISED ADMINISTRATION AND NO-
TICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
It is Ordered and Notice is hereby
given that on the 13th day of September,
2023, at 2:00 p.m., a hearing will be held
in the above Court at Waseca, Minnesota,
for the formal probate of an instrument
purporting to be an unsigned copy of the
last will of the above named decedent,
dated May 17, 2011, and for the appoint-
ment of Robert Weber and Nathan
Weber, whose addresses are 407 2nd 407
2nd Ave NE, Waseca, Minnesota 56093,
as Co-Personal Representatives of the
Estate of the above named decedent in an
unsupervised administration, and that
any objections thereto must be filed with
the Court. That, if proper and no objec-
tions are filed, the Co-Personal Repre-
sentatives will be appointed to administer

the Estate, to collect all assets, to pay all
legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses,
to sell real and personal property, and to
do all necessary acts for the Estate. Upon
completion of the administration, the rep-
resentatives shall file a final account for
the allowance and shall distribute the es-
tate to the persons thereunto entitled as
ordered by the Court, and close the es-
tate.

Notice is further given that ALL
CREDITORS having claims against said
Estate are required to present the same to
said Co-Personal Representatives or to
the Court Administrator within four
months after the date of this Notice or
said claims will be barred.

Dated: 07/27/2023
/s/ Carol Hanks
Judge of District Court
/s/ Shannon Asselin
Deputy Court Administrator

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG,
P.A.
John D. Scott, #47478
215 E Elm Ave, PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093
Phn: 507-835-5240

(Published in the Waseca Pioneer on
August 4 and August 11, 2023.)

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IN BLOOM - Autumn Acres Farm's sunflower field is open for visits through Aug. 13. The farm, near Janesville, offers a variety of events all year long.

Sunflower field open for visits

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

Janesville's Autumn Acres Farm's sunflower field opened to the public as its flowers bloomed on July 30 and it is expected to remain open through August 13, pending weather. Visitors are invited to pose for pictures at a variety of photo spots and enjoy the ambiance of the field.

There is no admission fee for visiting the field, but a \$4 free-will donation per person is suggested. The rest of the farm, including the Janesville village's 19th century schoolhouse, will remain closed during sunflower season.

Recently, two sessions of the ticketed Salutations and Sunflowers yoga experience took

place on August 3 and 8.

Autumn Acres Farm is owned and operated by Cheryl and Chad Bleess, who purchased it from Cheryl's grandparents in 2009. In recent years, the farm has grown to include a variety of public events and experiences.

Autumn Acres Farm's pumpkin patch is expected to open in September. On September 23, the farm will be hosting its annual Fall Festival, with the Family Fun Fest taking place October 7. The ticketed date night experience is expected to happen this fall, as well. The most up-to-date information about the farm's events can be found at the Autumn Acres Farm-Minnesota Facebook page.

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Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas hands out sheriff star stickers during New Richland's Night Out August 8.

Fourth annual New Richland Night Out

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Several dozen people attended New Richland's fourth annual Night to Unite celebration Tuesday evening, August 8, at New Richland City Park.

Among those in attendance were Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas, County Attorney Rachel Cornelius, and County Commissioner Brad Krause. "Night to Unite" is meant to honor law enforcement officers and first responders, including medical personnel and firefighters.

"The weather was beautiful tonight," New Richland City Administrator Anthony Martens said. "You can't beat a free meal, some good fun and a chance to meet some new people."

The event was mainly run by the New Richland Fire Department along with first responders, ambulance, and police volunteers. It was hard to tell exactly who the volunteers were with representatives from many local agencies attending simply because they wanted to.

Martens credited the three departments for setup. Mayor Chad Neitzel helped grill hot dogs. The Chief of Police and other fire department members helped serve. Martens had

manned the grill in previous years and claimed he was very reluctant to hand over the tongs.

Hot dogs donated by Neighbors Meats of New Richland were enjoyed on buns supplied by Wagner Foods. Chips were donated by the Willows along with cookies from Casey's.

Firefighters assisted kids in a target practice event with a fire hose typically used for "grass fires" which



New Richland Firefighter Brandon Mullenbach helps his daughters Marnie and Maddie try out the fire hose.



Serving hot dogs and chips were New Richland Chief of Police Tanyce Bruegger, Mayor Chad Neitzel, and Firefighter Jordan Allen.

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

can shoot up to 50 gallons of water per minute, but was powered down to about 10 gallons per minute in order to make it safe for children to use.

This year's attendance was signif-

icantly higher than last year's, which was also higher than the year prior: Martens said he hopes this annual event continues to grow better and better each year.

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