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Happy Days



At left: Waseca Youth Football president Ed Hoehn with grandsons Clark (left) and Jack. Above: A Vikings youth coach shows young players how to get in position for a fast take-off. Right: Hy-Vee staff from Owatonna and Des Moines stores were present to distribute water and treats. Below: Football players ages 6 to 14 took part in a free camp at the Waseca football field the morning of June 6. Different skills were practiced at 10 different stations.



Training for tomorrow's Vikings

Nearly 300 local youths participate in morning football camp

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

About 275 young football players ages 6 to 14 took part in a 2-hour football camp the morning of June 6 at the Waseca Junior/Senior High School football field. The free event was sponsored by the Vikings football organization and Hy-Vee stores, and was one of 16 such camps scheduled between June 4 and July 16 in Minnesota, Iowa, and North and South Dakota.

Vikings youth football coaches provided instruction at 10 different stations, through which young players grouped by age rotated every 7.5 minutes. Also based on their ages, players took part in games ranging from flag football to “cap-

ture the football” for the last 30 minutes or so.

Waseca Youth Football Association president Ed Hoehn said he appreciated the station drills focused on “the fundamentals.”

“The Vikings coaches were very positive,” he observed. “To me, that’s huge. I like to see players look forward to coming to practice; I want being in the football program to be something that makes them feel good about themselves.

“Sure, we get on ‘em,” he said. “But we also build them back up.”

Hoehn’s grandsons Jack and Clark Durison, ages 13 and 9, took part in the camp; both agree it was “awesome.”

Jack reiterates his grandfather’s statement that

learning the fundamentals was a valuable part of the camp. “They taught us how to get in position, how to get low,” he offers as an example. “It was tough, but in a good way.”

For Clark, a significant highlight was winning a Vikings sweatshirt. “We didn’t even know there was a prize,” he recalled, telling of the station at which the groups worked on throwing accurately enough to get a football into a large trash container. Strong crosswinds complicated the task, but Clark says he “played the wind” and managed to get a ball in on his third try; he was simply asked

Camp continued on 5



Waseca Art Center Art on the Avenue June 22

Waseca Art Center will provide an outdoor art show on Second Avenue Northeast in Waseca from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 22. The work of local artists will be on display. Live bands will be performing and vendors and food trucks will have items for sale. There is no admission cost; the show will take place “rain or shine.” For more information contact the Art Center at 507-835-1701; ask for Michaela or Christy.

Waseca Fire Department Fish Fry June 22

The Waseca Fire Department will hold its annual fish fry fundraiser starting at 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 22, at the community Public Safety Building. An all-you-care-to-eat fish dinner with chips, potato salad, vegetable and a cookie will be \$15. A \$5 hot dog meal will include chips, a vegetable and a cookie.

Waseca Hockey Summer Bingo June 29 at Boat House

The Waseca Hockey Association is sponsoring a summer Bingo event at the Boat House in Waseca on Saturday June 29 beginning at 1 p.m. Eight games at \$2 per sheet. Various prizes available.

New Richland Farm and City Days July 5,

Briefs continued on 2

A word from The Word

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in.

Isaiah 40:22

‘True public servants’

Condon, Wells honored for years of service

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Tim Condon and Leslie Wells were recognized for their decades of service to the city of Waseca and its public schools during the regular meeting of the Waseca City Council, June 4, 2024.

Condon and Wells have served as local crossing guards for 32 and 25 years, respectively. With the conclusion of the 2023-24 school year came the announcement of their retirements.

Waseca Police Chief Penny Vought introduced Wells to the city council and the public, saying she’s known these two men for more than 40 years.

“These two truly exemplify what public service really is,” Vought said. “They are the kindest men who would help anyone.

“I just want to say to Les and Tim, this is not ‘goodbye,’ just ‘see you later,’ ” Vought concluded. “Congratulations.”

Prior to becoming a crossing guard, Wells served with the Waseca Police Reserves for three decades. Upon retiring from that role, he took up the post along Highway 13, helping Waseca’s youth cross the road safely.

“I’d start crying [if I have to speak],” Wells said. “It’s been an honor to be a crossing guard. I love



From left, Waseca City Finance Director Alicia Fischer, retired crossing guard Leslie Wells, Waseca Police Chief Penny Vought. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

those kids dearly. I’ve had fun helping them and have looked forward to it. It’s going to be a challenge not to be out there again.”

A plaque was presented to Wells during the meeting; Condon’s will be delivered later, since he could not be present.

“It’s going to be a challenge not seeing you out there,” Mayor Randy Zimmerman said. “Thank you for all you’ve done.”

“It’s been an honor to be a crossing guard. I love those kids dearly.”

— Leslie Wells



Amanda Zwart
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Community outreach worker ‘Bridges a Gap’

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

“One ‘no’ doesn’t mean no forever,” says Minnesota Prairie Health Alliance (MNPrairie) community outreach social worker Amanda Zwart. Zwart, 31, has been in the position for about 6 months. She defines her job as “bridging a gap” which formerly left many individuals with mental health disparities in a sort of limbo.

According to Waseca Police Cap-

tain Kris Markeson and Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas, local law enforcement officers are grateful for the new position, since the “gap” is one which has been growing gradually wider for about a decade.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), roughly 1 in every 6 American adults is experiencing a mental health disorder at any given time. The difficulty might be an overload of stress or a string of disruptive events which

combine to make life seem unmanageable. In addition, NAMI lists a number of possible diagnoses including depression and anxiety, which account for roughly half, as well as compulsive obsessive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, panic disorder, and even a disconnection with reality. People experience them to different degrees, and their day-to-day activities are impacted to differ-

Zwart continued on 4

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Annual updates shared with county

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The June 4 meeting of the Waseca County Commissioners included three annual updates. One, from county attorney Rachel Cornelius, shared information about her department and the trends it is seeing.

She told county commissioners members of her team experience “vicarious trauma” and “compassion fatigue,” a condition which WebMD says can affect workers who “view graphic evidence or deal with evidence or reports of trauma.”

“Sometimes we deal with some terrible stuff,” she commented. “It can be embedded in your mind forever.

Cornelius reported the county attorney’s office has the goal of “pursuing justice and accountability” in many settings. She said her department prosecutes cases which are initiated by contact with any law enforcement agency in the county, which includes the Waseca, New Richland and Janesville police departments and the county sheriff’s office.

Within the past five years, increases in child protection and child support cases—both of which are very time-consuming—have created pressure on her office.

She also stated her office has prosecuted more charges for violent crime in the last four years than she had seen during her entire prior career with the county.

Also on the increase are the number of jury trials, contested

County continued on 5



Compostings

by Al Batt

Even the little ones count for something

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I was named after my father. Your father's first name was Al? No, his last name was Batt.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. I led a bus tour. A member of the group showed me her ring. She introduced it to me because it came with a story. Her marriage had ended. She liked her wedding ring more than she liked her ex-husband, so she had her wedding ring repurposed into a lovely and tasteful piece of jewelry called a divorce ring. She would have done the same to her ex-husband if she could have.

UNSOLVED MYSTERIES

You've all been there. You're in the car with your significant other at chow time.

"Where do you want to eat?"

"Anywhere is fine with me."

"What do you feel like eating?"

"I don't care. What are you hungry for?"

"It doesn't make any difference to me. You pick."

"I picked the last time. It's your turn."

"What did you pick the last time?"

"I don't remember, but I know I picked something."

"Well, what don't you feel like eating?"

We try to whittle it down until the hunger subsides or Dr. Phil chimes in.

After being diagnosed with terminal pleural mesothelioma, singer-songwriter Warren Zevon appeared on David Letterman's TV show. Letterman asked him what he had learned about life. Zevon said, "Enjoy every sandwich."

That is wonderful advice, but even that wisdom doesn't make it any easier to find a place to take nourishment.

I'VE LEARNED

If you've never had a car accident, you're a wreckless driver.

An ohnosecond is that fraction of a second it takes us to realize we just made a big mistake. It often occurs right after we hit the "send" button.

It's not true that an apple a day keeps the doctor away. That's a Granny's myth.

Genetic testing has found that 41.12% of the chronic speeders on the road today have Bigfoot in their DNA.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

How can three elephants stay dry under one tiny umbrella? They use it on a sunny day.

Did you hear about the glitter

factory blowing up? It's all over town.

What's orange and sounds like a parrot? A carrot.

What is the end of everything? The letter G.

I called the Tinnitus Hotline, but it just kept ringing.

NATURE NOTES

Roger Truax of Albert Lea wondered what the most common hawk is in Minnesota and Iowa. The red-tailed hawk is the most commonly seen raptor here and the most common hawk in North America. They're the large highway hawks that find our roads to be excellent hunting grounds.

Chimney swifts are sooty gray and often called "flying cigars." Their narrow and curved wings move with quick, shallow wingbeats. Their bodies are tube-shaped, and their tails are short and squared at the tip. Swifts can be confused with swallows. If you see flashes of blue or orange, that's probably a swallow. If the bird has long, skinny wings that look like they're fluttering, that's a swift; if it has thick wings tapering near the ends, that's a swallow. Swifts tend to hunt high above, over buildings or trees, while swallows are likely to swoop low.

Samaras, more commonly referred to as helicopters, whirlers, twisters, spinners or whirligigs, are the winged seeds produced by maple trees. Red, silver and Norway maples produce the largest quantities. Silver maples drop theirs in late spring, and red maples in late spring or early summer and fall. Sugar maple samaras ripen from early summer into fall. Red maple samaras are red, in contrast to those of sugar maple, which are green in spring. Box elder samaras are V-shaped pairs that are winged and similar to those of a sugar maple but smaller and ripen in late summer or early fall. They often stay on trees all winter. Squirrels, chipmunks and other animals eat most of the seeds. Every few years, maples produce a glut of seeds, which gives the trees a better chance of producing viable seedlings and the seed eaters more than enough food. The theory is this overwhelms the animals that eat the seeds.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"I should dearly love that the world should be ever so little better for my presence. Even on this small stage we have our two sides, and something might be done by throwing all one's weight on the scale of breadth, tolerance, charity, temperance, peace, and kindness to man and beast. We can't all strike very big blows, and even the little ones count for something."—Arthur Conan Doyle.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Watching a concept become reality

The yellow lady slipper flower was only a concept to me until this past weekend.

I have taken a fair number of pictures of our state flower, the pink lady slipper. I have challenged myself to capture its subtle shading from a strong pink at the tip to white at the stem. I have been amazed by its shape—almost like a tiny inflated balloon. It is a wild orchid, and since I am used to thinking of orchids as delicate, sensitive flowers which require careful attention, I am entranced that the wild plant can flourish as it does.

So when it comes to the pink lady slipper, I had met some in person at least eight or ten times, and found it a privilege to make their acquaintance.

This year, I received a texted photo from a friend. In the picture, which was taken in the woods alongside her driveway, were at least 100 yellow lady slipper blooms in two large clusters a few feet apart. My response, to deliver the essence of the message, was "I'll be right over."

As I arrived in the vicinity of my friend's house, I came across some scattered clusters of two or three flowers. They were right alongside the road—fortunately for me, a rather narrow, isolated gravel road which sees relatively little traffic.

I moved from flower to flower, repeatedly getting down on my knees to try and get a picture from the direct front of the blooms, whose stems were probably 18 inches tall.

If any drivers had come along, they might have been concerned for my sanity, since even though I was alone at the time, I kept commenting out loud about how unusual and beautiful the flowers were. I asked them questions like, "How do you do that?" and "Can you be transplanted?"

The familiar "tiny inflated balloon" shape (I'm told the correct term is "labellum") was identical to the pink versions I had photographed before. Familiar, but continually fascinating.

What was different was that, where the pink version has three broad white petals up behind it—like a tiara on a beauty queen—the yellow flower has narrow, spiraling appendages which, rather than a crown, are reminiscent of curly sideburns and a beard. Or maybe braided pigtails, since they hang down rather than fanning upwards. Their beautifully symmetrical twists extend quite a bit below the bottom of the flower.

Online descriptions refer to the spiraled parts as "sepals and petals." Me, I had trouble looking away. The spirals did not have the graceful elegance of the pink lady slippers' petals; instead they had



A yellow lady slipper growing in the wild.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

an insistent independence about them. "I choose not to look like other flowers," they seemed to declare. "Appreciate me."

When I caught up with my friend, she showed me the robust collections from her along-the-driveway photographs. They took my breath away. I was on my knees again, looking for angles and lighting that would help the two-dimensional pictures in representing the physical—and even spiritual—reality of what was in front of me.

I was deeply grateful to be there, and equally grateful to have learned that not all lady slippers are alike.

And now, for something completely different: Dave Zika and I had a conversation the other day. Dave says he misses the days when people would have an interactive relationship with the newspaper—like letters to the editor, for example.

So he and I talked it over, and

we have a challenge for you. Describe something in nature; something that has lifted your spirits or inspired your curiosity or simply caused you to smile. Bring it alive for us; take us there, somewhat like the column above was intended to do for you.

Include a photo if you would like, but no promises the photo will be used. Dave and I will use our considerable influence to ensure at least some of the descriptions appear in the newspaper. Those that don't will be published online.

You may submit your writing the way Dave does—written out on paper—or the way I do—typed in an electronic document. Paper pieces can be delivered in person or by mail to 111 W. Elm Avenue, Waseca. Electronic versions can be submitted via email to news@wasecacountypioneer.com.

Dave and I can't wait to see what you come up with!

Experiencing the mysteries of life

I went camping last weekend. This is not unfamiliar to me, but I was camping without my family, which was the new and interesting part. A friend and I took a tent and some food and went out into the wide world to brave the wilderness for two nights.

So that was my brief vacation, although I still edited and attended a Zoom meeting while camping. Once I got back, the Daily had an all-staff meeting and I will just say, after being away for a month or so, it was very nice seeing everyone's lovely faces in the office again. It made me think of the pandemic, when people experienced the exact same thing, but with a longer hiatus in between seeing the (mostly) lovely faces of their coworkers. Personally, I missed all of my co-



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

workers, but maybe that's just because we're all fun college students. I was talking with one of the editors today; we were commenting that everyone working at the student paper has anxiety or a mental illness in some way. I agreed, but then again I feel like most students—and possibly everyone—has anxiety or some type or degree of mental illness. If I were Oprah, I'd be saying, "Therapy for you! Therapy for you! And therapy for you!"

But I would not say that, as I

am currently not attending therapy and will not be a hypocrite, no sir, not me.

Anyway, if anyone watches Netflix or keeps up with recent Netflix shows, the second half of the Bridgerton series comes out this week and I am incredibly excited. It also made me realize I don't watch that many tv shows or movies anymore. The last movies I watched were Dune and Dune 2. I keep seeing commercials for Inside Out 2, the kids' movie, and I will admit while I

did not necessarily enjoy the first Inside Out (RIP Bing Bong), I think I might be willing to give the second one a chance. We will see if I rake up the energy to go see it.

As for books, I have joined a book club! Our first book is Northanger Abbey (which I realized I have been pronouncing wrong, oops) and I am excited to read more Jane Austen even though that is not necessarily what our club will always be reading. We kind of vote on what we are feeling like reading as time goes on. So if anyone has any recommendations, let me know.

My Determination: "The mystery of life isn't a problem to solve, but a reality to experience."

— Frank Herbert, Dunes

written to WVMP Fund Drive can be mailed to WVMP Fund Drive; Judy Joecks, treasurer; P.O. Box 55; Waldorf, MN 56091. Questions can be directed to Charlie Barnes at (763) 286-2246.

Shepherd's Robe Free store Tuesdays from 1-3 and 5-7 p.m.

The Shepherd's Robe free store offers clothing, supplies, and much more for free to all interested parties. The store is located at Vista Covenant Church, 14679 275th Avenue, New Richland.

CredibleMind offers free mental health resources

All area residents are eligible to use free online access to mental health resources available at MNPrairie's "CredibleMind" website. The site offers interactive, evidence-based ways to explore local and national mental well-being resources. Free and anonymous at www.mnprairie.crediblemind.com

Waldorf Veterans Memorial Fund Drive

Donations are requested to support the construction of the Waldorf Veterans Memorial. Checks

Briefs

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This annual event will start a week earlier than usual, beginning on Friday, July 5.

Waseca County Free Fair July 10-14

The annual Waseca County Free Fair is scheduled to be at the county fairgrounds on July 10 to 14.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes Junior Sports Camp July 30 - August 1

Young athletes in grades 3 to 8 can take part in a Christian-centered camp which has them concentrate on one sport each of the three days of the camp, Tuesday through Thursday,

July 30 to August 1. Registration is \$60 per camper, with scholarships and generous family discounts available. More information and registration are at minnesotafca.org/waseca-jsc.

Waseca Farmers Market Saturdays from 8 a.m. until noon

Every Saturday until the fall season the Waseca County Fair Grounds will be hosting a farmers market from 8 a.m. until noon.

Happy Days in Waseca 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. August 10

Happy Days in Waseca, an event aiming to bring more community to Waseca is taking place August 10 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

There will be a car roll-in, live music, vendors, and food trucks. The event will take place in the lot downtown behind Refinery 507.



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

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GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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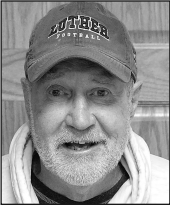
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Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



If I had one wish, I'd use it on water

This spring I made a couple of predictions: I missed ice-out by only one day. I predicted our drought was over because April and May would bring their showers. No more rain, please: Our lawns are green and lush, our rivers and lakes are full, and our trees and plants are now drowning in water. When it rains, it pours—Inches and inches of rain in a week. Whatever happened to those gentle, listen-to-the-rhythm-of-the-falling-rain evenings?

We've been at our home in Waseca this week and have spent a fair amount of time acquiring just the right groceries. Lisa is busy baking goodies for our oldest grandson, Sean David's, graduation party in Mankato this Saturday. I'm now enjoying the smell and salivating with anticipation as I observe the batch of brownies she just pulled from the oven. Betty Crocker Delights—supreme, triple-chunk brownies. Even only sitting here observing the fresh batch of brownies is nothing short of heavenly.

I decided to head north to Waterville and check our dock and boat lift at our cabin on Lake Tetonka. Well, you see, Lake Tetonka is located on a river system. Lake German, Sabre and Volney are all north of us and their water flows to Tetonka, then from there through Lake Sakatah to Cannon Lake, then eventually empties into the Mississippi at Red Wing. I knew we had a ton of rain above Tetonka last week. The news this morning said the Cannon River was flooding in Northfield.

As I headed north on Highway 13, I noted ponds of water in the lower elevations of farm fields. I turned left at Del's to go west, but had to turn around and use another route to the cabin; the blacktop around lower Sakatah was flooded and barricaded. The wind was blowing 40 mph out of the northwest. Northwest is the worst direction for my dock, boat and boat lift. I was now stressed and worried.

When I got to my cabin, I discovered a minor disaster. My neighbor's dock to the west had blown and drifted to my dock. I was lucky she hadn't put her lift or pontoon in, yet. Another neighbor was also in trouble; his canopy had blown off his lift. The pontoon was really moving in the waves—it was roped to the lift. A Jetski lift was overturned and caught on a section of his dock. My entire dock was 6 inches underwater, and the "L" extension at the end was bobbing up and down in the waves. My lift and boat were still okay (knock on

wood and an answer to my prayer). I'll go over tomorrow to less wind and a healthy dock, boat and lift. There's really nothing a person can do in a 40 mph wind and rising, flooding water.

If I had a book of wishes, I'd use one to help reduce damage done by rising waters and flooding. It appears that, in the future, we will continue to get 3-, 4-, and five-inch rains. Our fields and cropland have been tiled and trained. When the ground becomes saturated, the water has to go somewhere. It runs from tiles and ditches to waterways, then to streams and rivers.

The answer? Restore wetlands and marshes to the low areas of land where they once existed. The benefit would be twofold. Water would be filtered as it prepared to flow underground to the water table. Also, when great amounts of rain fall, there would be a place for it to collect. It would help reduce the problems we have with flooding, overflowing rivers, washed out roads and highways, and floating docks.

I would need another wish to work out some answers for farmers and others growing food on agricultural land—I know it would be a big wish, since there would be many complications as we asked landowners to take some acres out of production and let them hold water instead.

It was 85 degrees the other day, and very humid. The air conditioning in our twin home made the day much more comfortable. How did I ever survive growing up in the 60s without air conditioning? Sleeping in a small bedroom with two brothers with no air, or riding in the back seat of our car with no air—how did we do that? Guess we put a fan in the window, or rolled down the car windows to get relief from a moving breeze.

How did we enjoy a meal in a restaurant, pay attention during school, or listen to the pastor on Sunday with no air conditioning? How did I bale hay at Uncle Willy's on a 90-degree day, or get some rest in the upstairs bedroom of an old farmhouse? I guess we were tough and fit during the 60s: Dealing with heat wasn't a problem. No more living in the 60s for this senior, though. I welcome our air conditioning every hot, humid day of the summer indoors or in the car.

Interesting fact: Pat Sayjak just retired after 41 years of hosting Wheel of Fortune. He was short and I always wondered whether Vanna White was taller. I'm sure he has plenty of money set aside for his retirement!

Harmful 'bloom' reported at St. Olaf

**By CRAIG SOUPIR
MNA DNR**

Have you ever observed what appeared to be pink lemonade colored water under the ice in your local lake? Have you observed a brown/pink layer of 'scum' on the surface of a lake? This may indicate a harmful bloom of Cyanobacterium Planktothrix rubescens. A couple reports of this have been documented in the past couple winters around Waterville and Windom so it is worth discussion, albeit I am admittedly by no means an expert on this topic!

An example is shown in the included photos, in winter 2024 one photo was taken at St. Olaf Lake (Waseca County). The Waterville Fisheries Office had reports of a reddish color/hue to the water under the ice. Upon inspection it was confirmed to be Planktothrix rubescens. These Cynaobacteria, which are likely present in all lakes naturally but only proliferate under favorable environmental conditions, seem to thrive in cold water and with limited snow cover, and in 2024 really took off. Typically, when the ice comes out the signs of P. rubescens disappear from the upper water column. But remnants of a large bloom can persist!

This weekend I was sent the following photos taken by a 'rightfully' concerned lakeshore owner on St. Olaf Lake. Pictured is apparently the remnants of this winter's P. rubescens bloom.

The following statement was from a knowledgeable staff at the Science Museum of Minnesota.

"WOW! That looks horrific. It is clearly the end product of a Planktothrix bloom that has persisted into spring and is now breaking down.

That's the smell, that's the gunky look of the water, and it also is probably a huge oxygen demand on the lake (=sad fish). We had an unprecedented winter that was characterized by thin ice, low snow, and short ice-on. All of this contributed to perfect conditions for the Planktothrix bloom. Algae are like people; they love light and food (nutrients). Planktothrix is a winter form and this winter hit all its buttons just right. Thin ice=good light. No snow=good light. Short ice on=got the lake kicking in spring very early. Perfect Planktothrix storm. I'm not sure what the prognosis of this lake will be this season. A big concern is that with such low light levels [due to the turbid water now], the macrophytes will not come in as before and open up the lake to increased internal nutrient cycling and/or sediment resuspension. Welcome to climate change, folks. And St Olaf Lake is definitely a nutrient-rich lake already poised to kick it given the right conditions."

In looking into this more, I have found the dynamics that allow Planktothrix rubescens to proliferate are very complex, but that it is most common to occur in what are typically 'better quality lakes' that are moderately deep and mesotrophic to oligotrophic lakes (clearer water with stratification) but in watersheds with high nutrient history. Large blooms of Planktothrix rubescens are not as common in most eutrophic to hyper-eutrophic lakes of Southern MN lakes that are dominated by other forms of algal blooms., or that do not stratify. No lake is immune, we have even documented this on Fish Lake (LeSueur County) which is one of our best water quality lakes in the entire nine County management area.



St. Olaf Lake

The bottom line is there is little that can be done to prevent this type of situation, or to treat it. We need to clean up our watersheds and stop nutrients from entering our waters. This is yet another natural cycle we will have to deal with in the meantime.

Importantly, since Planktothrix rubescens can contain toxins, here are some tips to reduce your risk of illness from ingesting toxins:

- Don't drink the lake water, and if you brought your dog out to the lake with you, don't let your dog drink the water either. Always bring clean fresh drinking water.
- Clean off your hands after handling fish or wetting hands with lake water, and before eating. Use clean

fresh water that you brought with you, or wipes.

- Toxins are more likely to accumulate in organs, so only eat fillets.
- Rinse fillets well with clean water before cooking or freezing.
- Blue-green algae can produce "taste and odor" compounds that may give earthy or musty off-flavors to fish living in waters with high blue-green algae levels. These off-flavors are not toxins.

Craig Soupir, DNR Waterville Area Fisheries Office and State Fish Hatchery Supervisor. Craig.soupir@state.mn.us; call/text 507-461-9377.

Future utility rate increases coming to Waseca

**By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor**

A work session to discuss planned future utility rate increases was held prior to the regular meeting of the Waseca City Council, Tuesday June 4, 2024.

City Manager Carl Sonnenberg said the city is not instituting imminent rate increases for utility users, but that they will be needed in the future.

Via Zoom, Stantec, an engineering and consulting firm engaged by the city, explained possible plans for implementing various rate increase options necessary in the coming decade to maintain Waseca's water and sewer capacities.

The city spends about \$2 million every year in Enterprise funds, water and sewer. To accommodate all of the necessary upgrades, this spending will be increased to about \$3.5 million between 2026 and 2029.

In order to accommodate the additional expenses, Stantec presented rate adjustments, including 5 percent and/or 10 percent capital charges implemented throughout the next decade.

An example was given showing an average residential household water use cost of \$31 and \$49 for wastewater removal during 2023.

Under option 1, residential users

would experience an increase to \$33 for water use in 2025 and \$37 in 2028. Wastewater costs would increase to \$52 in 2025 and to \$57 in 2028.

Under option 2, residential users would see an increase to \$35 in 2025 and \$40 in 2028 for water, with wastewater costs would be \$54 in 2025 and \$60 in 2028.

In addition to raised rates for residential users, a plan for increases in access charges, or "one-time fees for capacity costs of new development" was presented.

Current access charges for water and sewer range from \$1,090 to \$8,105, with charges implemented for both water and sewer. Price depends on meter sizes ranging from five-eighths of an inch up to 10 inches.

For the five-eighth-inch water and sewer access charge, the presented plan would see those costs increase about \$700 for water and \$130 for sewer.

On the larger ten-inch size, the price would increase from \$8,105 to \$400,260 on the water side and from \$4,600 to \$257,880. Stantec said these increases would put the city in the upper third of "access chargers" compared to its current location in the lower, middle third of cities of comparable size.

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Rates for ConAgra held its own dedicated portion of the presentation. Stantec's plan showed an option for a total access charge of \$893,290, as well as annual costs for discharge rates ranging from \$505,000 beginning in 2024 to \$546,000 in 2028.

Stantec's presentation included some fundamental recommendations. For one thing, their research shows existing rates will not be sufficient to cover the increasing cost of delivering the water utilities. The company suggested annual rate increases are required starting in fiscal year 2024 to meet capital expenditure and to sustain operations. The company's unique needs make it necessary to identify cost-based wastewater discharge rates and access charges for ConAgra. Stantec also told council members they should look seriously at adopting updated water and sewer access changes, and then periodically review finances to ensure rate sufficiency and future rate needs.

Council comments

"I hate to say I'm depressed," Councilmember Jeremy Conrath said.

Conrath asked why a page on the

showslide was removed from the presentation. The page removed showed Waseca as being one of the higher sewer bills compared with other cities.

"I do not dispute that for a second," Conrath said. "It's showing that we have one of the higher rates but yet we're struggling to fund our things? What can we do better is my question."

City Manager Carl Sonnenberg said the issue is more complicated, "than what that one slide shows."

Sonnenberg explained that given where a city is in regards to its infrastructure for sewer and water often indicates which cities charge more or less. Simply put, if the city had all of its infrastructure needs already met, the cost would be lower. Sonnenberg also used an example of state bonding money. Last session, the city of Owatonna received \$10 million and Waseca received none.

"We have to keep up with what's needed in the city of Waseca," Sonnenberg said. "We can't get into the financial needs of other cities, just Waseca. That's my short answer."

Nearly every council member, including the city manager, expressed discontent with the situation and the future rate increases. No action was taken regarding this work session during the regular meeting.

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OBITUARIES

Elizabeth Dahle

ELIZABETH “BETTY” (PE-LANT) DAHLE, age 92 of Waseca died on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at Lakeshore Rehabilitation Center in Waseca.

Born on December 25, 1931 in New Prague, Betty was the daughter of John and Helen (Friauf) Pelant. She attended Montgomery schools and graduated from Montgomery High School in 1949. Following her education, she worked at Green Giant Canteen (now Seneca) in Montgomery. Betty was united in marriage to Kenneth Dahle on October 15, 1950 at Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Montgomery. During her lifetime she worked as a cook in Morristown, at Brown Printing, at Birdseye, at Wallace Café in Waterville, at Lakeshore Inn Nursing Home in Waseca, at Meals On Wheels, and at Philmart in Waterville. In 1974, Betty and Ken moved to Alaska. She and several of her daughters made the ten-day gravel drive alone in a 1968 Chevrolet Impala. Their family lived in Fairbanks for fourteen years and during that time Betty leased a restaurant on the Nenana Riverboat in Pioneer Park. Her passion was cooking and catering events.

Betty is survived by her children, Darlene Krocak of Waterville, Barbara Swan of Anchorage, AK, Susan Moldenhauer of Waseca, Nancy (Sam) Hall of Gardnerville, NV, and Mary (Tim) Mahlen of Buckley, WA; daughter-in-law, Gretchen Dahle of Lake City; grandchildren, Cathy and John Krocak, Tony Dahle (Amy Tolman), Brigitte (Leonard) Sims, Sarah (Patrick) Hopwood, Elizabeth (Andrew) Wilkinson, Kenneth (Melissa) Swan, Joyce (Tyler) Eggen, Brad Buker, Dillon (Emerald) Dayton, Connor (Sydney) Dayton, Randall Mahlen and



Elizabeth Dahle

Naomi (Jose) Ibarra; great-grandchildren, Bailey, Kendall and Jameson Hopwood, Ryan and Myles Eggen, Kaiden Buker, and Aurora and Kevin Wilkenson; nephews, Jim (Sally) Pelant, Jason (Trista) Pelant, Josh (Amy) Pelant; and many other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ken Dahle; son, Daniel Dahle; parents, John and Helen Pelant; brother, John (Judy) Pelant; sons-in-law, Ken Krocak, Doug Moldenhauer, and Bob Swan; and one great-grandchild in infancy, Casey.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11:00 AM on Monday, June 10, 2024, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca with Father Glenn Frerichs officiating. Visitation was held for one hour before the service at the church. Interment followed at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca is handling arrangements. dsf-
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Keen Bank celebrates 150 years

June 10, 2024 (Waseca, MN) — Keen Bank is celebrating 150 years of thriving together and serving the financial needs of Waseca and surrounding communities with roots dating back to 1874 when The Bank of Waseca was established. Keen Bank is a family owned and operated community bank with locations in Waseca, Owatonna and Ellendale.

“The growth and prosperity of our region is deeply intertwined with the founding of our bank in 1874,” said President and CEO, Bernie Gaytko. “Our family is very proud to have been continually managing and owning Keen Bank for three generations. We take our partnership with the communities we serve seriously and intend to continue this legacy for many more generations to come.”

The history of Keen Bank begins in 1874 when The Bank of Waseca opened across the street from their current location on State Street in downtown Waseca. After being succeeded by The Citizens Bank, Otto Bremer Company of St. Paul purchased and chartered The First National Bank. In 1966, Frank T. Sankovitz and Richard P. Sankovitz purchased Otto Bremer Company stock resulting in the controlling interest of the bank. The Sankovitz family to this day owns and continues to operate Keen Bank with several family members managing and others serving on the board of directors.

Throughout the years there have been a tremendous number of changes to products, services and technology within the banking industry. What has not changed is the unwavering commitment the Keen Bank team has for its customers and communities—to meet growing needs while maintaining the personal aspects of service that are synonymous with community banking.

Keen Bank will host a customer appreciation event to celebrate its 150th anniversary this August. For more information visit keen.bank.

###

About Keen Bank

Keen Bank is a local, family-owned and managed bank that has been proudly serving southern Minnesota since 1874 with three locations in



Keen Bank will be celebrating its 150th anniversary at a date to be determined in August, 2024. Above from left: Richard Sankovitz, Ann Gaytko, bank President Bernie Gaytko, and bank CFO Tom Sankovitz. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

Waseca, Owatonna and Ellendale, MN. Their commitment to customers, responsiveness to find solutions and genuine willingness to help is the

makeup of their organization. For more information visit keen.bank. Member FDIC

■ Zwart

from Page 1

ent levels—some manage to carry on nearly normal lives, others may become dissociated from their families and lose their homes.

Numerous representatives from law enforcement, MNPrairie and the judicial system observe that, even though many of these disorders can be treated and allow people to function smoothly in society, people experiencing mental health difficulties frequently hesitate to seek help.

“They may genuinely not realize their thoughts or behaviors are negatively impacting themselves or others,” offers Zwart. “They may be worried there’s something wrong, but don’t know who to talk to, or what services are out there. Many feel a sense of stigma about seeking any type of treatment or resources, feeling shame and hopelessness about not being able to cope or overcome life’s circumstances.”

According to Markeson and Dulas, for the last 10 years and increasing dramatically over the most recent five, persons with untreated mental health difficulties have placed extra strain on law enforcement. The two explain that, when members of the public see odd or suspicious behavior, calling the police or sheriff’s department is exactly what they should do. “We’ve always been the first responders,” observes Markeson. “We assess the situation and, when needed, transport or refer to a higher level of care.”

“But often, the behavior might be a nuisance or unsettling in some way, but it’s not against the law,” observes Dulas. For example, parents might understandably be uneasy when a stranger sits unresponsively on a park bench for an unusually long time, especially when their children

are in the park.

In such a case, Markeson and Dulas describe, a responding officer might speak with the stranger, possibly even spend an hour or more talking and making sure the person is safe, but aside from letting the stranger know his or her presence is making others uneasy, or contacting a family member about the situation, really has no authority to intervene.

“It’s not illegal to act strangely,” says Markeson. “Yet members of the public become irritated when we ‘don’t do anything,’ especially if the behavior is repeated.”

“We’ve had an officer away from patrol or other duties, all for a circumstance where we sometimes can make very little difference.”

Both officers point out that, if such individuals ask for help, if they become hostile or unruly, or if they appear to present a danger to themselves or others, law enforcement will intervene. The two are quick to explain there has been a system for some time to deal with individuals in distress: A professionally trained “crisis response team” through the South Central Human Relations Center is positioned to either confer with the individual over the phone or, when necessary, arrive in person. That team is used frequently by law enforcement; Dulas and Markeson praise the quick, thorough response and assistance their officers have received. “Crisis response helps stabilize the situation and knows what resources are available to help the individual. Often, it’s the beginning of a path to improvement,” says Dulas.

But if there is no crisis, “we are tying up time and resources to deal with circumstances that are really not part of our jurisdiction.”

He points out that public dissatisfaction and time pressure on law enforcement agencies increases further when situations repeat themselves. “Sometimes we will get 20, 30 or even 40 calls about the same person or situation over a few months.”

The “gap” MNPrairie’s Amanda Zwart fills often

comes into play when individuals who would benefit from a mental health assessment or other service either completely reject support or perhaps have been assisted by the crisis response team and believe no further support is needed.

When law enforcement believes Zwart’s community outreach is the best path, in the example of the person on the park bench, law enforcement will notify Zwart of the person’s information and see whether she is available to meet and assist right away. If not, she contacts the individual within two business days of receiving the referral. The intent and tone of her interaction is to build a level of rapport on a personal level. In the six months since her position was created and she came on board, Zwart has received 50 such referrals.

For those who have been referred, participating in the community outreach program with Zwart is completely voluntary.

As she discovers the needs and shortfalls in the person’s circumstances, she does what she can to overcome them. “That may mean giving them a ride to an appointment. It may mean just sitting and talking with them,” says Zwart. When family members are affected by the situation, they are also likely to benefit.

Zwart says she seeks out resources simultaneously from many types of organizations, including local philanthropic groups such as the food shelf or Bethlehem Inn, government agencies such as the county veterans services office, state health programs, or treatment centers. Among her goals is helping prevent anyone feeling lost or desperate from acquiring an ideation of self-harm or of harming others.

“I’m sort of a ‘jack of all trades’: my job is to be acquainted with support systems and programs. I do what I can to help people get their sense of well-being back.”

Though quite a range of programs exists to help people with mental health difficulties, many require having been diagnosed with a mental illness to acquire services. That

is not the case with community outreach.

One MNPrairie administrator refers to what Zwart does as “walking side by side” with referred individuals, moving in a beneficial direction at the pace they are comfortable with.

As Zwart manages to stabilize people’s lives and lifestyles, she is also reducing pressure on law enforcement and local health care facilities, since calls and reports regarding the individual are either fewer in number or nonexistent. Though the number fluctuates, Zwart is currently working with 28 individuals across the MNPrairie service area, which includes Waseca, Dodge and Steele counties. Among those are people who are homeless and can’t afford smartphone service.

In order to maintain persistent contact, Zwart suggests her clients can use computers at the library to send her an email. In more extreme cases, she will arrange a regular meeting at a preselected location. Her position makes it feasible for her to visit her clients in whatever setting they are open to—a park, a dilapidated building and, if things have come to that, jail.

All along her journey with them, she says her objective is to stabilize and improve their circumstances with the goal of gradually building a lifestyle which helps them function smoothly in society and keep moving in a positive direction.

Law enforcement leaders Markeson and Dulas express gratitude that many former gaps are being filled for individuals whose circumstances formerly fell between the cracks.

“Before Amanda’s position existed, we would sometimes see people’s circumstances deteriorating, and there would be almost nothing we could do to help,” recalls Markeson. “Eventually, we would sometimes end up filing a committal request because the individuals were failing to take care of themselves.”

“The community outreach position is a great addition and another resource we can use to help people.”



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Collaboration, planning lead to outreach position

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Waseca County Commissioner Doug Christopherson is in his third and final year as chair of the six-member joint powers board which oversees the Minnesota Prairie County Health Alliance (MNPrairie). The alliance is the result of a cooperative venture among Waseca, Steele and Dodge counties to continue delivering human services—many of which are mandated by state law—while finding ways to be more cost effective. Human services departments are located in all three counties while many administrative tasks are handled by a consolidated leadership group. He, fellow Waseca County representative DeAnne Malterer, and two commissioners each from Steele and Dodge counties comprise the board which helps steer MNPrairie’s activities and its more than 170 employees.

Christopherson admits that, with the interests of nearly 80,000 area residents across three settings as diverse as the three counties, being chair of the board sometimes places him at the center of controversies.

He is grateful, however, that he was also in place to help find a beneficial response to the growing difficulties area law enforcement agencies have been experiencing because of the mental health crisis referenced repeatedly in national government communications.

“I had been hearing about the difficulties and frustrations they were experiencing, especially when it came to repeat calls about the same individuals who didn’t fit into any of the programs that

might help them,” Christopherson said in an interview.

At an Association of Minnesota Counties convention, Christopherson attended a session which described a community outreach position in Stearns County; he says he asked himself almost right away, “How do we do something like that with a three-county entity?”

Upon returning, he met with MNPrairie staff, described what he had learned, and asked whether they could find a path forward. Along with a certain amount of state funding for programs of this type, money from the “community support program” of the Southeast Minnesota Adult Mental Health Fund Initiative – Community Support Program made it possible to get the program going.

Amanda Zwart was hired to fill the position late last year. Among her first tasks, she was to build community connections, work to eliminate barriers to resources and expedite access to services. So far, she tells of having received 50 referrals from numerous community entities including law enforcement; she currently has a caseload of 28 individuals across the three MNPrairie Counties.

“This program is for individuals trying to build a sense of well-being in their lives,” Zwart says of the individuals she works with. “I find it fulfilling to see how much of a difference this program has already made for so many people.”



Christopherson

■ County

from Page 1

hearings, appeals, and “discovery” cases—all of which are time-consuming.

Desiring to finish her report on a positive note, she mentioned drug court, a program which offers people addicted to alcohol or drugs the chance to avoid going to prison by instead following a rigid and demanding program of restitution and self improvement. She mentioned program graduate Lyle Sellers, a Wasecan who, after nearly two decades on law enforcement’s “radar,” recently spoke at the state capitol about the positive affect the drug court regimen had on him.

Another report offered during the June 4 county board meeting was from Waseca County Court Services director Jonathan Schiro. Schiro summarized the department’s 105-page “comprehensive plan,” listing the many types of tasks the eight members of his staff perform.

The report lists the court services and mission statement as “Promote public safety by holding offenders accountable, aiding them to achieve positive behavioral changes, and providing for victim and community reparations through the utilization of quality probation services.”

The report showed “pre-trial services” provided the department as having increased from a caseload of 73 in 2020 to 153 in 2023. It showed juvenile pre-trial services as having been 14 in 2020 and 19 in 2023.

Regarding the number of people on probation in the county, that total was shown to be 323 in 2020; 370 in 2021; 345 in 2022, and 203 in 2023. The crimes people were on probation for in 2023 included 17 for assault, 22 for domestic assault, 11 for disturbing the peace, 62 for driving while under the influence, 12 for property damage, 18 for theft, and 19 for (non-DWI)

Janesville’s Hay Daze under way

JANESVILLE JOURNAL - It will be quite a busy summer for everyone in the local area with all the fairs, celebrations, and other summertime activities. Janesville will be no different as it will celebrate Hay Daze from June 10-16.

This year’s Grand Marshal is Harlan Erdman, a longtime city resident. Although he was born in Wisconsin, Erdman and his family moved into the area when he was an eighth-grader; he remembers spending most of his time helping on the family farm. He then served his country in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1954 during the Korean War. After receiving an honorable discharge, he went to work for Frost Benco Electric in June 1956 until his retirement in 2004. These days, he mows fairways at Prairie Ridge Golf Course.

Erdman has three children, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. He is known in town for serving in the Janesville American Legion Post 281. He’s been a member of the local legion for 65 years and has served as its commander twice. Erdman was also a member of the Janesville/Smiths Mill Sportsmen’s Club.

Erdman received the news about his nomination to be Grand Marshal over a month ago, joking that the Hay Daze Committee had to persuade him to do it. But after a humorous exchange, he accepted it. “It really is an honor to be chosen,” he said.

His favorite activities during Hay Daze include playing bingo on Sunday afternoons and purchasing tickets for his grandkids and great-grandkids to go on the carnival rides.

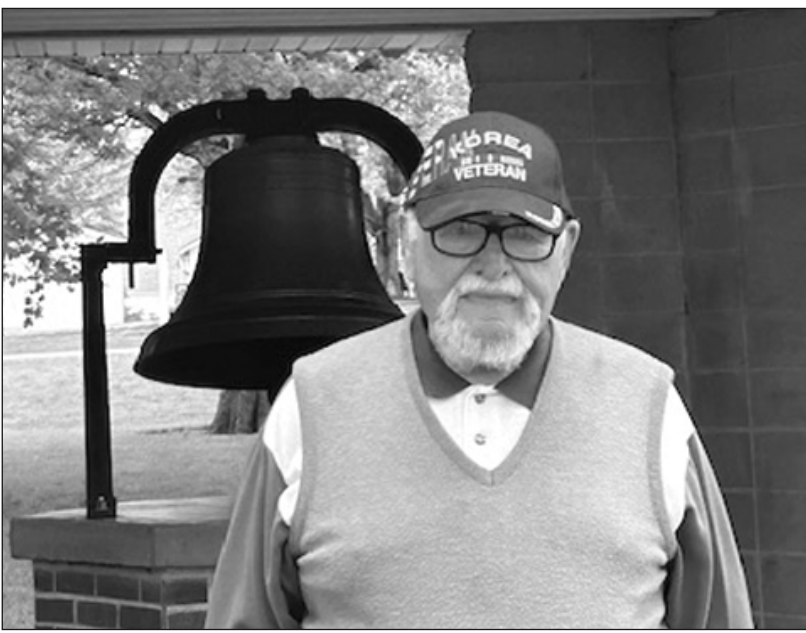
Main Street Mayhem

Paradise City Wrestling (PCW), with leading man Mitch Paradise, will return to cause some Mayhem on Main Street on June 13 as part of Hay Daze. PCW entered the ring and

wowed audiences at last year’s Hay Daze with a medley of high-flying acrobatics, bone-crunching hits, and an all-out brawl in the street that gave such a strong impression that the city asked Paradise and Co. to come back for a sequel. “It’s great to be called back to Janesville once again and put on a show that people are really going to enjoy,” said Paradise. During the three years of performances, PCW has traveled to a variety of locations and participated in all kinds of mayhem like a steel cage match in New Prague, their own version of “Wrestlemania” called “The Big Top” in New Market, and “Wintermania” in St. Peter.

PCW has been able to draw massive crowds of over 500 spectators, and the show at Janesville is sure to attract an even larger crowd than it did last year. Main Street Mayhem will feature a handful of PCW’s talent, both new and championship on the line as Mitch Paradise will face off against an opponent familiar to Harlan Erdman, like loudmouth Aaron Corbin, who returns as the antagonistic Irishman who got under everyone’s skin after he berated the town of Janesville for several minutes on the microphone. Big Cat, with his high-flying acrobatics, will surely dazzle audiences once again, but new talent will “keep the show fresh,” noted Paradise. The prize fight of the evening will have the PCW Heavyweight face-off with Heavy Metal Lore. Before he could go, Paradise cut a quick promo to get fans pumped up for the June 13 performance at Hay Daze. “In just two weeks on June 13, Mitch Paradise will invade the City of Janesville to take on the 330-pound Heavy Metal Lore with the PCW title belt on the line, and I promise you one thing... Mitch Paradise will walk out of Janesville as the PCW Champion!”

Other Activities



Hay Daze 2024 Parade Grand Marshal Harlan Erdman

Monday, June 10: Simply Saved Fashion Show at Trinity Discipling Center, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 11: Moonlight Colored Pin Bowling at Janesville Bowl, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 12: Hay Daze Fun Run/Walk at the JWP Athletic Comple, 6 p.m. registration, kids’ 1k at 6:30 p.m. and 5k run/walk at 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 13: Miss Janesville and Little Miss Janesville Pageant at JWP Auditorium, 5 p.m. Paradise City Wrestling’s Main Street Mayhem 2 on Main Street at 7 p.m.

Friday, June 14: Golf Tournament at Prairie Ridge Golf Course at 9 a.m. (event is full, but spectators are welcome). Crescent City Amusements Carnival on Main Street from 6-11 p.m. Generation Gap on the Guardian Energy Stage from 6:30-8:30 p.m. IV on the Guardian Energy Stage from 9:15 p.m. to 12:15 a.m. (Must be 18+ to enter).

Saturday, June 15: Medallion Hunt Begins at 10 a.m. with clues posted outside the Janesville Public Library. Kiddie Carnival and Turtle Races at Whispering Creek Nursing Home from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Adult Bean Bag Doubles Tournament for the Danberry family to X out ALD, 11 a.m. at the Chamber tent. The

JWP vs WEM Hay Daze Challenge at Lakeview Park will start at noon. Carnival opens from noon to 11 p.m. The Youth Bean Bag Doubles Tournament begins at 2 p.m. in Chamber Tent. Face Painting, Lighted Balloon Art, and Glitter Tattoos from 6-8 p.m. on the intersection of Main and 2nd Streets. Family Tradition on Guardian Energy Stage from 6:30:30 p.m. Junk FM on Guardian Energy Stage from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. (Must be 18+ to enter.)

Sunday, June 16: Pre-Church Service Music by Family Tradition from 9:30-10 a.m. with church service from 10-11 a.m. provided by Trinity Lutheran Church in the Chamber Tent. Antique Tractor Display on North Main Street from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hay Daze Parade beginning at 1 p.m. Carnival open from 1-5 p.m. JWP student performances featuring Becky Borneke on Guardian Energy Stage from 3-5 p.m. Bingo in the Chamber Tent from 3-5 p.m. With all those activities happening throughout the week, boredom is no excuse. There will be fun for everyone during this year’s Hay Daze. “It’s always a pretty good time,” Erdman said. “We have a great carnival, and the parade always has a great turnout with about a hundred units each year. All in all, it’s a good weekend.”

■ Camp

from Page 1

to write his name on a list and “See me after practice.”

Hoehn estimates about 30 young athletes won sweatshirts. Participant Cole Nelson was named most valuable player (MVP) for getting the ball into the container most often,

and was rewarded with a pair of Viking Oakley sunglasses.

Hoehn said he saw young players from Farmington, New Richland, Janesville, and many other area communities at the camp; nearly all of Waseca Youth Football’s 100 or so young players took part.

Jack and Clark both commented the event was more fun because they could participate with friends. Jack said he wished to extend his thanks to Hy-Vee, the Vikings, and everyone

who made the event possible. “It was unforgettable,” he said. “We were all really grateful for the opportunities it gave us.”

According to Hoehn, the next event for community youth interested in football is the community education flag football program. The Youth Football Program will have its “Blitz” camp early in August for those in grades 3 to 6, and a full pad-

ded camp for grades 7 to 8 at the same time. The youth league will begin soon thereafter.

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Elected to the Steele Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) board of directors June 4 were (from left): PJ Duchene, District 1; Neil Schlaak, District 3; and Rodney Krell, District 5.

SWCE's 88th annual meeting First-ever mail-in ballot results announced

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric members in attendance for the co-op's 88th annual meeting Tuesday, June 4, learned the results of the co-op's first-ever mail-in ballot for three director seats.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Attorney Tricia Lancaster announced to the 461 registered members in attendance that a total of 1,408 mail-in ballots were received by Sun,ey & Ballot Systems to track the results. Incumbent District 1 Director PJ Duchene of Faribault and incumbent District 5 Director Rodney D. Krell of Blooming Prairie were unopposed and re-elected to three-year terms. In District 3, Interim District 3 Director Neil R. Schlaak of New Richland was elected with 487 votes. The other candidates in District 3 included Anton H. Seykora of Ellendale, 391 votes; DanM. Hansen of Ellendale, 321 votes and Ralph F. Miller of Owatonna with 164 votes.

With guests, the co-op's annual meeting had 972 in attendance.

The Pastor's Column

Take time to pray, read, listen

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

How many fires can you put out at one time? This morning everything is getting busy. Unknown charges to my credit card, multiple text messages, random stress from the past creeping up in my mind. Super busy and this letter won't write itself.

Growing up my Grandpa Hoog-even had a very specific phrase he would use when us grandkids got a little out of control. He would wait for a lull in the buzz of noise and say very calmly, "Be still." I was surprised how often I would just stop, settle my body and focus my mind. He wanted us to calm down, but instead of telling us what to do, he gave us his expectation and made us figure out how to get there.

Even on days like today, when everything seems chaotic, I desire to be still. How I get there is up to me, but the desire is the same. On the most chaotic night following a day ministry, the disciples were in the boat crossing over the sea of Galilee and Jesus was asleep. He slept in the back of the boat, while the disciples battled the wind and rain.

Amid the storm, the ship became flooded and started to sink. They awoke Jesus stating, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" (Mark 4:38B ESV) So often in our chaos we can only

see the problem at hand, then we try to avoid it, ignore it, or solve it ourselves. The disciples wanted a solution, but they had no faith in what Jesus could do, because they had never seen Him do anything about the weather before.

In our lives, we imagine that Jesus doesn't care, understand, or would even want to get involved in our little problems. The storm isn't that bad, it could be worse, or we say it is just a minor inconvenience. God cares about the little things, just like He does the big things. Jesus woke up, saw the need, and spoke to the storm. I imagine that He was speaking to the disciples as well when He said, "Peace! Be still!" (Mark 4:39 ESV)

The command is clear, but sometimes the journey to peace and stillness is difficult to navigate when the storm is raging. Practice the art of peace and stillness before you need it. Take time to pray, read God's word, worship, and listen for God's voice. Peace comes with practice, stillness results from faith.

Turn to God with your concerns and emotional stress, ask Him to meet the need of calming your chaos. Find rest in Him through the active practice of your faith. As you do the work of faith, listen to His command, "Peace! Be Still!"

Protecting a Heritage

Sacred Heart undergoing tuck pointing

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"We want to recognize the care and effort that our ancestors took when they built this beautiful sanctuary," observes Father Glenn Frerich of Sacred Heart Church in Waseca. "We want to see that what they've given us is preserved."

For the past two weeks and probably for one more, two large lift trucks owned by Krause Konstruktion of Coon Rapids, Wisconsin, have been parked on the lawn and in front of Waseca's Sacred Heart Church along West Elm Avenue. A crew of three workers, headed by company employee Larry Adkins, has been "tuck pointing" the mortar between bricks on the east and south walls, and on all sides of the bell tower, which Adkins estimates to be about 85 feet tall. In all, he says, about 12,000 square feet of surface have been examined; selected areas have had an inch or two of aging mortar ground away, and are in the process of having new mortar installed.

The cornerstone of the church indicates the main sanctuary was built in 1899. Despite being about 125 years old, he says the many thousands of bricks are in excellent condition, and so not even one is in need of replacement.

"This church has been really well maintained," Adkins, who has 18 years of experience in the field, observes.

His crew is using a lift and two large boom trucks in order to reach the higher work areas. One truck has a lift capable of extending 85 feet in the air while also navigating corners.

Once the new mortar is all in place, areas of the structure will be sprayed with water-proofing which Adkins says should prevent water from seeping into the mortar for up to 10 years. Brick, he mentions, has a ceramic surface which prevents water from seeping in.

In other structures, Adkins says he has seen significant damage result when the materials have been infiltrated by water and the cycle



Workers from Krause Konstruktion of Coon Rapids, Wisconsin, will spend about three weeks finding and replacing patches of mortar on the walls and tower of Sacred Heart Church in Waseca. Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

of freezing and thawing has harmed the structural integrity.

Of the two lift trucks which are frequently parked alongside the building and even straddling the sidewalk in front of it, Adkins says he is grateful for the "easy" access he and his crew have to the faces of the building. He describes a job at another impressive structure where it was impossible to position the trucks nearby, and workers had to build (and consistently climb) steel-and-wood scaffolding up



Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * * *	507-607-8245 Sunday worship 10 a.m. * * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Interim Pastor Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:15 a.m. Worship * * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. * * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * * *	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Ferichs Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m. * * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter) * * * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class * * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass * * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship * * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * * *	LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting * * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * * *	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Pamela Jensen Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship * * * *	NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday "Young at heart" Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation * * * *
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca Father Glenn Ferichs 507-835-1222 Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m. * * * *	REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca * * * *	THE CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.llds.org Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, * * * *	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER. * * * *

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Janesville



“A shot of suntan lotion never hurt nobody!” That’s what the Argus used as a headline for this photo from June, 1973, when 11-year-old Mike Cummins was doing his best to bite the cap off some suntan lotion during a Sunday afternoon at Lakeview Park.

Miss Janesville and the Dairy Princess

100 years ago

-Twelve ribbons of merit for the production of 365 pounds or more of butterfat by a grade cow went to Waseca County Cow Testing Association members the first of June. Three Jerseys in the herd of Mrs. Wood and Sons qualified, the production of the three running from 395 to 423 pounds for the year. They also have a purebred Jersey which would have come in for a ribbon had she been a grade. It requires an official test and a production of two pounds a day to get a ribbon of merit for a purebred. The same applies to two Holsteins in the herd of Roy Hecht, and one in the herd of George Boucher and Sons.

-The post office building has been thoroughly repaired on the interior — new papering and painting. This in pursuance of the ten-year contract recently negotiated between Strunk Brothers and the post office department. W. R. Strunk did the work and as may be inferred he has made the interior look like a ray of perpetual sunshine. We dare say that Janesville now has the finest post office building and equipment of any other town of its size in the state.

-Speaking of the manner in which the human mind is wont to follow after strange devices, D. D. Carpenter refers to the hallucinations running amuck everywhere on lines leading to get rich quick schemes. This is notable everywhere and just now is manifested in certain places with tremendous force. For instance, at Rochester a stock company has been formed and is now actually digging a well to go down at least fifteen-hundred feet in search of oil. He refers to the fact that conditions there seem to indicate that about fifteen-hundred feet under the soil is a layer or strata that produces oil in abundance.

75 years ago

-“Last month the State began to slip in the Safety campaign to save 400 lives in 1948,” Dr. R. N. Barr, chief of the Section of Special Services, State Department of Health, said. “During the first quarter of 1948, a trend toward fewer accidental deaths indicated that the safety goal might be reached, but in May we began to fall behind in the campaign, which has as its slogan ‘Save 400 lives in 1948, 399 and yours’ Unless we can improve our record during the remainder of the year, we will fall short of our goal. Although there was a saving of 96 lives in the first four months of 1948, an average of 133.33 lives must be saved in each four-month period if 400 lives are to be saved this year.

-A lawn mowing accident was reported this week, which occurred about a month ago to Lloyd Parrish, of Blooming Grown Township. He was mowing the lawn with a rotary power mower when it became plugged with grass. He kicked it to unplug it and his foot was cut very badly. At this time he is on crutches and is uncertain as to when he will be able to assume his normal farm activities.

50 years ago

-Janet Manthey hadn’t even finished her reign at Miss Janesville before she was crowned Waseca County Dairy Princess last night in Waseca. Her attendants are Colleen Jewison and Jean Proechel. Janesville’s Maxine Keyes was named Miss Congeniality in the contest. The Argus’ early deadline prevented detailed reporting of the event.

-Janesville’s six-week Summer Recreation Program will get underway here June 18 with a full schedule of activities for boys and girls. Mike Niemczyk will again direct the program with the assistance of Barbara Arnold. Sue Westphal will head the swimming program.

-John Hottinger, son of Dr. And Mrs. R. C. Hottinger, Janesville, has been named a new associate with the law firm of Farrish, Zimmerman & Johnson in the Ridgely Building, Mankato. He began his law career there Monday. A 1963 graduate of Janesville High School, Hottinger earned a degree in journalism from the College of St. Thomas and received his J. D. Degree from Georgetown Law Center. While attending law school in Washington, he worked for Minneapolis Congressman Donald Frazer, the Democratic Study Group (DSG), and was staff assistant to a DSG task force on law enforcement and constitutional right headed by Congressman Brock Adams (Dem-Wash.).

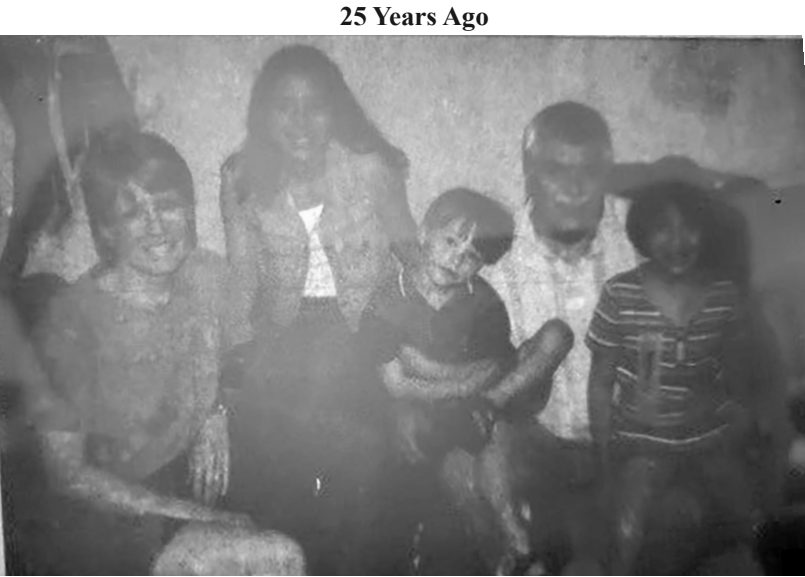
25 years ago

-In spite of two clues, searchers have not been able to find the Hay Daze medallion. Somewhere it lies, waiting for a friend to find it. The medallion is above ground, and it is not necessary to destroy or dig on any property to find it. It is also on public land. Find the medallion and you win \$100 in Janesville Bucks.

-Offering old favorites as well as new, Greenland Club 60 experiences a successful opening. “Business has been really good,” said Shelly Almhjeld, co-owner of Greenland Club 60. Located on Highway 60 just outside of Elysian, Greenland Club 60 (formerly known as Greenland Supper Club) opened for business on Monday, June 8. The creative team behind Greenland Club 60 includes Dave and Diane Armhjeld, who are relocating from St. Cloud, and Dave’s brother Chuck Almhjeld and his wife Shelly of Faribault. While they are new to the restaurant business, the Almhjelds are not new to the area. In fact, both couples have previously lived in Janesville.

-Venture down high school hallways again without going to class. The Waseca County Historical Society is exhibiting what high school life was like from the 1930s to the 1970s. The exhibit focuses on three Waseca high schools. Curator at the historical society Sarah Normann said, “It was the All School Reunion that gave me the idea to do a Waseca school display.” Objects from Sacred Heart High School (SHHS), Southern School of Agriculture (SSA), and Waseca Central High School (WHS) are featured. From clothing to photographs high school memories have been trapped in glass display cases.

Waseca



-The Van Loon family Beth (left), Evelyn, Nathaniel, Dan and Ana. Not pictured are Isaac and Joel. A fundraiser to help the Guatemalan birth mother of Evelyn and Aana is being sponsored by the Lutheran Brotherhood Wilton Branch.



-Waseca Gardeners Jackie Kramer, Pat McShane, Jackie Overland, and Carol Wachter taste test lettuce at the Southern Research and Outreach Center.



50 Years Ago

-THERESE KNIFEL WAS CROWNED Miss Waterville 1974 Thursday evening at coronation ceremonies in Waterville. Crowned Junior Miss Waterville was Karen Stoering. The pageant kicked off the annual Bullhead Days celebration that will run today, Saturday, and Sunday.

- Rachele Thiewes graduated June 11 from the University of Southern Illinois with honors. She is the daughter of George and Cy-netta Thieves, St. Charles, Ill., and the granddaughter of William Papkes of Waseca. Her brother is George Thiewes, a nationally known glass blower who is an art instructor in a college in Rochester, N.Y.

- Dr. D.A. Rieck has announced that he will be receiving an associate dentist in July. The dentist who will soon be joining the Rieck office is Dr. William A. Struve. Dr. Struve is a 1964 graduate of John Marshall High School in Rochester and he is a 1968 graduate of the University of Minnesota.

75 Years Ago

-Arthur Kroeger, two miles south of Otisco, broke his wrist while haying Saturday afternoon about 6 p.m. He was pulling the slings out of the barn when he slipped, falling from the lead of hay onto the ground where he landed on his wrist. His hired man, Ralph Baker, was helping him at the time. Mrs. Kroeger drove him to Waseca where he had the bones set and a cast made for the rest.

-The Waseca canning Co. has sprayed some 1,700 acres of peas in this area this year for the control of peas per aphid or green plant lice. These are not the same type of aphids that are common in the Dakotas and western Minnesota, according to County agent Murphy.

100 Years Ago

-Waseca streets will be gaily bedecked for the big Fourth of July celebration. Arrangements were made this week with a firm of professional decorators who will come here well in advance to drape the buildings and work out an elaborate system of decorations to be used on the streets.

-Eighty-two boys and girls, graduates from the rural schools of Waseca county, were given their diplomas on Saturday afternoon at the twentieth annual commencement exercises. The exercises were held at the Palace Theatre, every available seat being occupied by parents, brothers and sisters, and friends of the lads and lassies.

-Mrs. Thomas Davis of Waldena was elected chairman of the Sixth District Auxiliary to the Legion at a convention in Brainerd recently. Mrs. W.S. Orne of Brainerd was elected vice chairman. Park Rapids, Waldena, and Crosby extended bids for the next session, Wadena winning out. Colonel Frank Mattson and Department Adjutant Stafford King were among the speakers.



Friendship Wagon Train

Coming to Waldorf, Minnesota for an overnight stay!

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Live Music Starts at 6:00 p.m.
At
Papa Olie’s Bar and Grill
In
Waldorf, Minnesota
Bring your Lawn Chair and Marshmallows!



2024 Friendship Wagon Train is headed this way

The 2024 Friendship Wagon Train is just around the corner. This is the 36th year of the Friendship Wagon Train. This group of volunteers will be traveling for a week (June 22-29) through southern Minnesota collecting donations for Special Olympics. All members of the wagon train are volunteers. 100% of everything raised is donated to Special Olympics. Anyone who is interested in making a donation is welcome to. We receive donations in many ways: individuals, businesses, Lions clubs, American Legion Posts, 4H Clubs, civic organizations, and others.

We encourage everyone along the route to come out to see us as we travel through the countryside and come to visit in the evening camps. Stop by our Peddler Wagon to buy a souvenir or two. Feel free to walk through camp to get a look at the animals and wagons that they use to travel during the day. With the permission of the animal owners, you are likely to be able to pet some of the horses and mules, as well.

Assembly day is Friday, June 21, at Gamehaven Scout Reservation (GSR) on the east side of Rochester, MN. After leaving GSR the morning of Saturday, June 22, our overnight camps will be the Donley property (northeast of Hayfield), Blooming Prairie (next to the nursing home), Hope (in a field on the north end of town), Waldorf (in town), Mapleton (in a lot near the baseball fields), and in Good Thunder (west end of town, near Anderson Trucking). We will be camping in Hope the evening of June 24 and all day June 25. The evening of June 25, the group will hold an informal auction, where all items donated will be sold, with all proceeds going to Special Olympics. Organizations along the route who will be working with the Wagon Train include Lions Clubs, 4H Clubs, Churches, and American Legions. These groups will be providing meals for the wagon train participants, whether it be serving breakfast, lunch, or evening meal.

On Saturday morning (June 29) the wagon train will have a final ceremony in Good Thunder. Staff from the Special Olympics will greet the wagontrainers, and the 2024 Friendship Wagon Train group will deliver to them the donations collected during the week of the Wagon Train. In past years they have raised \$20,000 to \$25,000 for Special Olympics; they are setting their goals at being just as successful (possibly reaching a higher amount) for their 2024 trek

For more information, you may contact John or Monica Davis (507-365-8064). The 2024 Friendship Wagon Train looks forward to visiting your communities.

Get your news in the Pioneer

- news@wasecacountypioneer.com
- Call (507) 837-6767
- Office at 111 W. Elm Avenue

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093
Tuesday, July 2, 2024, at 9:30 p.m.

Notice is hereby given that the Waseca County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing to consider an amendment to Section 6.21 of the Unified Development Code to include Landscape Material Retail Business under the list of conditional uses in the VMX Village Mixed Use Zoning District.

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

Maame Quarcoo, AICP, Sr. Land Use Planner.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on June 14, 2024



MINNESOTA

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
REGULATORY BOARD

May 22, 2024

Interested Parties:

Re: Notice of Completed Application – North Memorial - Waseca

The Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board (EMS RB) is providing “Notice of Completed Application” for an application submitted by *North Memorial* for a new license to provide Basic Life Support and Part-Time Advanced Life Support. This notice is being provided in accordance with Minnesota Statutes section 144E.11, subdivision 2, which provides:

Application Notice: *The board [EMS RB] shall promptly send notice of the completed application to each county board, community health board, governing body of a regional emergency medical services system designated under section 144E.50, ambulance service, and municipality in the area in which ambulance service would be provided by the applicant.*

Enclosed is the “Notice of Completed Application” which identifies the date when comments on this application must be received and where to send comments. A copy of the application submitted by *North Memorial* is available for review at the following link: <https://mn.gov/boards/emsr/ambulanceservices/licensereview.jsp> or by contacting the EMS RB at 1-800-747-2011.

Sincerely,


Dylan Ferguson
Executive Director

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on June 14, 2024

Enclosure: Notice of Completed Application - North Memorial Waseca

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Electronic bids will be received by the County of Waseca via QuestCDN.com through their VirtuBid online bid service until 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday July 9th, 2024. Preliminary results will be posted on QuestCDN by 3:00 p.m. on July 9th. Bids are for the furnishing of all labor and materials for the following project:

Waseca County Highway Cold Storage Bldg

This is a single lump sum bid contract for a cold storage building with minor site improvements. Bid includes alternates for the building structural system of Pre-Engineered Metal Building or Post Frame construction. Site work, landscape, electrical, door/hardware, and overhead doors to be included in the base bid.

Owner County of Waseca 307 North State Street Waseca, MN 56093 Phone: (507) 835-0661	Architect Oertel Architects, Ltd. 1795 St. Clair Avenue St. Paul, MN 55105 Phone: (651) 696-5186
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A complete digital copy of the specifications and drawings are available at www.questcdn.com. Documents may be downloaded for a non-refundable fee of \$22.00 by inputting QuestCDN project #9174943 on the web site's Project Search page. Prime bidders will also incur a \$42.00 online bid fee. Please contact QuestCDN at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in registration and downloading the digital project information. Ensure your company is registered with Quest.CDN online bidding prior to bid day to ensure timely submittal of bid.

Sets of documents are available for review at:

- The office of the Architect
- Minnesota Builders Exchange (MBEX)
- Dodge Data Analytics
- CMD Construction Market Data
- St. Cloud Builders Exchange
- LaCrosse, WI Builders Exchange
- The Blue Book

Bids shall be submitted via QuestCDN.com only. The bid shall be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond in the amount of five percent of the total bid price, made payable to the County of Waseca, as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into the proposed contract within the time specified and at the price bid.

The Waseca County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any irregularities and informalities therein and to determine whether a bid is responsive or non-responsive. The County further reserves the right to select alternates and award the contract in the best long-term interests of the County.

Jim Kollar, Public Works Director / County Engineer
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on, June 14, June 21, June 28 and July 5, 2024

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BEFORE THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES REGULATORY BOARD

In the Matter of the License
Application of North Memorial
Waseca, Minnesota

NOTICE OF COMPLETED APPLICATION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board (hereinafter EMSRB) has received a completed application from **North Memorial, Waseca, Minnesota**, for a new license to provide Part-Time Advanced Life Support (ALS).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 144E.11, subdivision 3, each municipality, county, community health board, governing body of a regional emergency medical services system, ambulance service and other person wishing to make recommendations concerning the disposition of the application, shall make written recommendations or comments opposing the application to the EMSRB **within 30 days or by July 3, 2024, 4:30 p.m.**

Written recommendations or comments opposing the application should be sent to: Dylan Ferguson, Executive Director, EMSRB, 335 Randolph Avenue, Suite 220, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102.

If no more than five comments opposing the application are received during the comment period, and the EMSRB approves the application, the applicant will be exempt from a contested case hearing, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 144E.11, subdivision 4(a). If more than five comments in opposition to the application are received during the comment period, or the EMSRB denies the application, the applicant may immediately request a contested case hearing, or may try to resolve the objections of the public and/or the EMSRB within 30 days, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 144E.11, subdivision 5(a)(b).

If the applicant is unable to resolve the objections within 30 days, or if the applicant initially requests a contested case hearing, one will be scheduled and notice of the hearing given pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 144E.11, subdivision 5(c)-(e).

May 22, 2024
Date

Dylan Ferguson, Executive Director

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on June 14, 2024

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Waldorf will be holding a public hearing concerning adoption of Minnesota Basic Code, Code of Ordinances, from American Legal Publishing, on June 25, 2024 at 7 p.m. at the Waldorf Community Center. Persons wishing to appear and present comment may do so at that time.
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on June 14, 2024.

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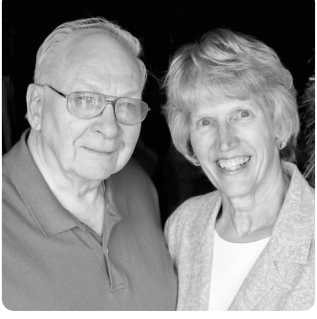
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Happy Days



Streets in the vicinity of MinnWest Bank were filled with activity the evening of Thursday, June 6, as food service vendors, sales booths, and live music entertained those in attendance. Dozens of classic cars were on display as a busy crowd took advantage of nearly perfect evening weather. The Happy Days event will take place again on August 10. Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

Lease agreement approved for Tink Larson Field

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Following a work session discussing utility rate increases and the presentation of acknowledgments for the retirement of long-time crossing guards Leslie Wells and Tim Condon, the city of Waseca got to work on the regular business of their first meeting of the month, held June 4, 2024.

An interactive version of the 2024 budget for the city is available on the city's website under the finance/human resources page.

"This is the first time something like this has been available to city residents," Mayor Randy Zimmerman stated.

The new version provides a more straightforward explanation regarding what the displayed data means. Area residents are encouraged to visit the site as the city continues to work on the upcoming budget.

In December of 2023, the city received \$403,514 to be used for public safety. After review, the fire department and police department submitted proposals for use of the one-time allocation. The council approved their requests, which included about eight items for the police department and a new truck for the fire department. Among the requests were a new gym system, 'less than lethal launchers,' ballistic shields, new rifles, and new bullet-resistant armor.

Not all of the funds have been

allocated and both departments are "open to questions."

An annually required public hearing for stormwater and pollution prevention was opened to the public. The city's stormwater hotline is 507-835-9730.

A new lease agreement was approved between Waseca Schools and the city for use of Tink Larson Community Field. The new lease will save the city \$100,000 from the budget as the previous agreement included funds which went towards the reconstruction of the field/complex after a fire destroyed it in 2016.

In the city manager's report, a memo from the airport board was discussed. The airport board is considering annexation of about 2 miles of space, which would increase their taxable land by about \$11,500. The benefit of this annexation was questioned. No action was taken.

Security cameras are going up in various parks. Which parks they were installed at was not announced.

The annual fire department fish fry will be held the fourth Saturday of the month, June 22.

Following adjournment at 7:57 p.m. the council sang "Happy Birthday" to mayor Randy Zimmerman.

Reeling in Joy



In a heartwarming display of community spirit and togetherness, families gathered at the Take A Kid Fishing Event, on Saturday, June 8. Volunteers and participants gathered at Clear Lake Park to cast their lines in from the fishing pier and shoreline. Children could check out fishing gear and bait, and had volunteers on hand to help them reel in their catches.

This event is intended not only to provide a platform for youngsters to learn the art of fishing, but also to foster positive interactions with law enforcement officers, local heroes, and Queens from the Miss Sleigh and Cutter program. The presence of law enforcement officers not only ensured safety but also facilitated meaningful connections between the community's youth and those who serve and protect. Every child was greeted with a gift and had the opportunity to win a prize with a catch. This event was not just about fishing; it was about introducing kids to the outdoors, building a sense of community, and enjoying one of Waseca's greatest natural resources.

This event wouldn't have been possible without its community partners: Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 16, Sweet Sommers VFW Post 1642, Kelms BBQ and Southern Minnesota Darkhouse Association.



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9	10 7pm Post & AUX. Meeting	11	12 6pm BAR Bingo	13 7pm HALL BINGO	14 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	15
16	17	18	19 6pm BAR Bingo	20 7pm HALL BINGO	21 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	22
23	24	25	26 6pm BAR Bingo	27 7pm HALL BINGO	28 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	29
30						

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THUR.-1pm to 11pm
FRI.- SAT.-11am to 1 am
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Jellum, Huttemier make all-conference

Bluejays’ Hanson, Collins receive honorable mention for boys’ tennis

The 2024 Big South Conference All-Conference Boys' Tennis Team was released on Monday.

All-conference is determined by position played vs. Big South Conference Divisional matches: 1st Singles = 5pts/match; 2nd Singles & 1st Doubles = 3 pts/match; 3rd Singles & 2nd Doubles = 2 pts/match; 4th Singles & 3rd Doubles = 1 pt/match. A win at that position vs. Divisional opponents is worth 3 points.

Selected to the East Division's first team were Waseca junior Tyler Jellum and freshman Henry Huttemier. Receiving honorable mention were Bluejay junior Tanner Hanson and seventh-grader Keenan Collins, son of Bluejays head coach Kyle Collins.

"Congrats to Tyler and Henry for all-conference," said Coach Collins. "Congrats to Tanner and Keenan for honorable mention all-conference."

The rest of the all-conference team:

EAST DIVISION
Joe Frundt 12 - BEA

WEST DIVISION
Andrei Rivera 10 - St. James Area

Honorable Mention
Anthony Stegge 9 - Fairmont - Luke Gilbertson - 12 - St. Peter - Eli Stoll 11 - St. Peter
Tyler Slama 8 - Fairmont

East Division Standings
New Ulm 4-0
Waseca 3-1
BEA 2-2
St. Peter 1-3
Fairmont 0-4

Honorable Mention
Maverick Johnson 12 - New Ulm
Ezekial Ribar 11 - St. Peter
Jaime Johnson 12 - BEA
Charlie Weidman 11 - New Ulm
Joey Kotten 12 - New Ulm
Dan Brownfield 12 - New Ulm
Gideon Hiens - 12 - New Ulm

West Division Standings
St. James Area 3-0
Redwood Valley 2-1
Worthington 1-2
Pipestone 0-3
Luverne played JV schedule



ALL-CONGERENCE — Waseca High School's Henry Huttemier, left, and Tyler Jellum, right, were named to the 2024 Big South All-Conference Team in boys' tennis.

File photos by Jim Lutgens

Zack Lundeen 9 - Redwood Valley
Ian Barber 12- Worthington
Caleb Fast 10 - St. James Area
Dylan Reid 11 - SJA - St. James Area

Lucas Zupp 12 - Pipestone
Vince Brown 12- St. James Area
Cohen Danhoff 10 -St. James Area
Noah Sauer 10 -St. James Area
Rylan Meyer 10 - St. James Area
Kanyon Hicks 12 - Redwood Valley

Valley Cole Johnson 12 - Redwood Valley
Cayden Johnson-Mariner 11 - Redwood Valley
Evan Hansberger 12 - Worthington



SCENES FROM STATE — At left, NRHEG High School's Quinn VanMaldeghem wears a look of determination during the 400-meter dash preliminaries during last week's state track and field meet at St. Michael-Albertville High School. In the middle, the Panthers' Malonna Wilson competes in the shot put. At right, folks got a scare as NRHEG's Evelyn Nydegger collapsed at the end of her 300 intermediate hurdles race. The Panthers did not bring home a medal.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Panthers call it a season, Ferber calls it a career

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Too often, an athlete's lackluster performance at the state level takes away from an already stellar season.

"It is a great accomplishment to be able to compete at the highest level in high school sports," said NRHEG track and field coach Duey Ferber.

He would know.

For 34 seasons, he's been the head track coach in New Richland, and is the school's longest-tenured employee.

That coaching career came to an end last week as the Panthers' three entrants came home from St. Michael-Albertville without a medal.

But, it's not lost on Ferber that simply getting to state is a fantastic feat, and he praised the Panthers' effort.

"The girls tried their best against amazing competition!" said Ferber.

Evelyn Nydegger, a recent NRHEG graduate, finished 18th in the Class A 300-meter intermediate hurdles preliminary, and caused some

genuine concern when she had trouble with the final hurdle and collapsed at the finish line.

Ferber said that Nydegger, who suffers from Tourette Syndrome, sustained an attack late in the race, dashing any hopes of making the finals.

Quinn VanMaldeghem, who just completed her sophomore year, was

the next Panther to see her season end as she finished 15th in the 400 preliminaries with a time of 1:00.11.

The Panthers' final performer - and Ferber's final track and field athlete, was recent graduate Malonna Wilson, who a week earlier was the Section 2A champion in the shot put. She took 15th at state with a toss of 35 feet, 6 inches.

A week earlier, the Panther girls had an exceptional showing in the section meet, finishing third as a team.

"To send three girls to state is quite a feat," said Ferber. "This is a tough section!"

For Ferber, it's been a long and distinguished coaching career.

Braves total 13 hits while dropping 1-0 game to Minnesota Lake

It's not often that a baseball team totals 13 hits, including five doubles, and does not win the game.

But that's what happened last week for the Waseca Braves, who fell 9-8 to Minnesota Lake at Tink Larson Community Field.

Kelvin Nelson led the hitting attack, going 3-for-4 with three dou-

bles and two runs scored.

Payton Garza, Ryan Hanson and Alex Feeney had two hits apiece., with one each by Tyson Reger, Seth Anderson and Jimmy Loonan. Hanson and Feeney doubled.

Nelson started on the mound and took the loss.

"We had chances several times

with runners at third base and less than two outs, and we would strike out," said Braves assistant manager Tink Larson. "We had a bad break when Nelson was hit in the leg with a hard line drive in the sixth inning after surrendering only one hit and no walks to the previous 15 batters."

With that infield hit, the Royals

came up with a walk, a hit batter and three hits to score five runs.

"We continue to make too many fundamental baseball mistakes," said Larson. "Kelvin had great game at the plate with three doubles and two walks. Ryan Hanson pitched well in relief of Nelson, giving up two hits and one walk in 3 2/3

innings.

The top two hitters in the Minnesota Lake lineup gave the Braves trouble, going 6-for-8 with four RBIs. The Minnesota Lake shortstop saved a couple runs with two diving, backhanded plays.

The Braves hosted the Austin Bluejays last Friday and lost 6-4.

JWP boys' golf team 6th in state tournament

Thell finishes 14th, Dimmel takes 36th among individuals

A fine season ended Wednesday for the JWP boys' golf team in the Class A state meet at Pebble Creek in Becker.

The Bulldogs finished the 36-hole, two-day tournament with 658 strokes, 331 Tuesday and 327 Wednesday, putting them sixth among eight teams.

Scoring for JWP: Logan Thell, 14th, 156 (77-79), Steven Dimmel 36th, 163 (83-80), Alex James 47th, 167 (83-84), Ryan Kronbach 57th, 172 (88-84), Carter Miller 66th, 176 (82-84) and Jeffrey Simonson, 71st, 180 (91-89).

The Bulldogs were coached by Tim Burke.

Fertile-Beltrami finished first at 627, followed by Walker-Hackensack-Akely with 635 and Legacy Christian at 637.

Post 228 baseball squad prevails 1-0 in 10-inning season opener

The Waseca American Legion baseball team opened the season with an exciting, 10-inning 1-0 victory at Wells last week.

"It was a great game by both teams," said Waseca assistant coach Tink Larson. Pitching dominated.

Sebastian Teague started and went eight innings on the mound, allowins no runs on two hits, striking out eight and walking one. He threw one wild pitch and hit a batter.

Tyson Reger got the win going the final two innings, giving up one hit and no walks with

two strikeouts.

"Both Sabastian and Tyson were outstanding for us on the mound," said Larson.

Teague worked out of a two-on, no-out jam in the bottom of the seventh to send the game into extra innings.

A sacrifice bunt by Nate Engel-Mueller set up the game-winning, two-out, two-strike hit by Payton Garza.

Garza finished with two hits. Reger, Engel-Mueller, Volkmann and Max Wirtz also hit safely.

Waseca Tennis Association Junior Tournament set for June 21, 22

The 2024 Waseca Tennis Association Junior Tennis Tournament is set for Friday, June 21 for singles and Saturday, June 22 for doubles.

Events and starting times:
10U and 12U Boys & Girls Singles Friday 9 a.m.

14U and 16U Boys & Girls Singles Friday 11 a.m.
18U Boys & Girls Singles Friday 2 p.m.
10U and 12U Boys & Girls Doubles Saturday 9 a.m.
14U and 16U Boys & Girls Doubles Saturday 11 a.m.

18U Boys & Girls Doubles Saturday 2 p.m.
Cost: \$10 per event
Site: Waseca High School tennis courts
Prizes: Given to winners and runners-up
Entry deadline: Tuesday, June 18

at 5 p.m.
Register online at: <https://waseca.ce.eleyo.com/>
Tournament regulations:
1. Match will consist of two sets to four. (Scoring and length of match may be adjusted by the tournament

director).
2. Continuous Play.
3. Knowledge of scoring is required.
4. Please bring your own water.
5. Age groups may be combined.

Six events, four all-state spots

Bluejays garner medals, experience at track & field state championships

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Some people may not have been completely satisfied with Waseca's showing in last week's state track and field meet.

But all you have to do is add up the numbers.

"Qualifying for the state meet is a big accomplishment," said Bluejays coach David Abel. "We were extremely happy to qualify six athletes in six events. The athletes earned all-state in four of the six. That is fantastic."

Brooklyn Flatau, one of several underclassmen for the Bluejays, was Waseca's top finisher in the three-day state meet at St. Michael-Albertville High School, taking fifth in the Class AA girls' 100-meter hurdles, clocking 14.99 seconds. The race was won by Simley junior Naomi Moore in 14.82.

Flatau was also a state entrant in the long jump, where she finished 25th among 33 competitors with a distance of 16 feet, 1.25 inches.

Waseca's other competitor for the girls, junior Kalea Sartori, placed

"The athletes earned all-state in four of six events. That is fantastic."
— Coach David Abel

ninth in the shot put at 36-8. Senior Amelia Davis of Pequot Lakes won at 39-5.25.

The Waseca girls finished in 35th place as a team with six points. Alexandria won with 79.

The Bluejays had a three-event state qualifier on the boys' side in junior Damarius Russell, who placed ninth in the 100 with a time of 10.88. The winner, Red Wing senior Thomas Lamkin, clocked



Abel



DIGGING DEEP — At left, the Bluejays' Carson Ohnstad leads off the 4x100-meter relay in last week's state track and field meet at St. Michael-Albertville High School. At right, Waseca's Damarius Russell runs the anchor leg, with the Bluejays' Benett Ludwig in the background at right. The relay placed ninth.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Russell wound up 19th in the long jump at 21-4.75. Carter Reckelberg, a junior from Red Wing, won with an impressive 24-1.

Russell anchored the 4x100 relay with junior Carson Ohnstad, sophomore Jordan Johnston and junior Bennett Ludwig. They made the medals podium by reaching the finals and taking ninth in 43.10.

The WHS boys scored two points to finish 47th as a squad. Fridley was first with 59.



HANDOFF — The Bulldogs' Daulton Bauer takes the handoff from Isaiah Berndt in last week's state track and field meet at St. Michael-Albertville High School.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

Kronbach earns 3 medals at state

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

All season long, senior Ryan Kronbach has been a master of the jumping events, consistently breaking school records and accumulating accolades.

Why would the state meet be any different?

Leading a host of JWP competitions, Kronbach came home with a medal in three events from the three-day state track and field competition at St. Michael-Albertville High School.

Kronbach's highest finish was fourth in the triple jump with a mark of 42 feet, 7 inches. The event was won by LacQuiParle Valley junior Brayson Boike at 44-4.

Kronbach finished fifth in an extremely competitive high jump, clearing 6-2. It was the same height as the third and fourth-place finishers, but Kronbach had more misses. Sam Snitker, a senior from Grand Meadow-LOKS, won at 6-8. Blooming Prairie's Gabe Hein was second at 6-4.

Kronbach's final medal came in the long jump, where he placed eighth at 20-5.5. The winner was Crosby-Ironton senior Jordan Mount at 22-4.25.

The Bulldogs' 4x200-meter relay team of Dylan McWaters, Isaiah Berndt, Daulton Bauer and Kronbach fell short of the medals podium, finishing 14th with a time of 1:33.59.

Kronbach's 13 points gave the Bulldogs 26th place as a team. Caledonia/Spring Grove won with 67.

JWP junior Lilly Strauss placed ninth in the long jump at 16-10. The event was won by McKaylen Lewis, a freshman at Math & Science Academy, with a jump of 18-11.

That was it for the medals for the JWP girls, but they qualified an impressive three relays for state.

Their top finish was in the 4x100, where Brielle Bure, Nevaeh Weimert, Katelyn Olson and Strauss clocked 51.07 for 14th place.

The girls were 16th in the 4x200 comprised of Weimert, Olson, Strauss and MaKenzi Westphal in 1:47.74.

Strauss, Ashlynn Wolff, Weimert and Westphal combined for 16th in the 4x400 with a time of 4:10.66.

The Bulldogs' other individual entrant among the girls, Westphal, finished 15th in the 800 in 2:22.35.

"We sent a lot of athletes to state this year, which is a testament to the hard work and dedication the athletes and coaching staff has committed to this season," said Bulldogs head coach Sam Schruin. "We are extremely proud of the athletes and all their success this season. We are hoping for a great offseason to return to state next year. Shoutout to Ryan Luedtke and Brandon Goebel for opening the weight room all summer and doing a speed/agility camp!"



SCENES FROM STATE — At left, JWP's Lilly Strauss heads for the finish line of the 4x100-meter relay during the state track and field meet last week at St. Michael-Albertville High School. At right, the Bulldogs Ryan Kronbach competes in the long jump.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



Little Theatre of Owatonna

P.O. BOX 64 • OWATONNA, MN 55060 • (507) 451-0764



Dear Edwin JR.

7:30 PM - June 14, 15, and 21
2:00 PM - June 16, and 22
Tickets go on sale in June 2024!

