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125 years



Waseca's Clear Lake was closed from Saturday to Tuesday because of dangerous levels of bacteria caused when more than 2 million gallons of water had to be rerouted from the city's overwhelmed wastewater system to its storm sewers, which drain into the lake. Testing has shown bacteria levels are now within standards which apply to swimming beaches.

Catastrophic flooding

By PIONEER STAFF

Flooding that Minnesota Governor Tim Walz has described as "catastrophic" has taken over much of the state, leaving "entire communities under feet of water."

Officials in Waterville said their area is experiencing the worst flooding in its history and that the Minnesota National Guard has been activated to assist with alleviation efforts. Walz declared a peacetime emergency for the state over the weekend, which allowed the National Guard to deploy.

"Across the state, intense rain has had catastrophic effects. Flooding has left entire communities under feet of water, causing severe damage to prop-

Flooding continued on 5



Thirtieth Avenue north of Janesville, which leads to Lake Elysian and to the city's Lakeview Park, was still closed to traffic on Tuesday afternoon.
Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

Waseca Arts Council Postpones Art on the Avenue Event

Due to the thunderstorms, lightning and high winds predicted for Saturday, June 22, the Waseca Arts Council postponed the Art on the Avenue Event until Saturday, June 21, 2025. The future event will be held 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and will feature many of the same artists that were registered for this year's event.

Willingham meet and greet June 29 at Clear Lake Park

The public is invited to a meet and greet with Waseca natives Malik and Kyreese Willingham to celebrate their recent success as members of the NCAA Division 2 Basketball Championship. The event will be June 29 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Clear Lake Basketball courts. Hot dogs and chips will be served. The rain out location will be the VFW in Waseca.

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.

Horse Thief Detectives Picnic 11 a.m. July 4 at Waseca's Northeast Park

The Waseca County Horse Thief Detectives will be holding a potluck picnic and social activities at Northeast Park in Waseca beginning at 11 a.m. on Thursday, July 4. Family centered activities, live music, and old-fashioned games continue into the afternoon. No admission cost; no horse thieves allowed. For more information contact Scott Roemhildt at 507-995-9832.

Swim and Stories at Waseca Water Park July 6

Waseca Public Library will lead a special Romp and Rhyme Story Time at the Waseca Water Park at 10 am on Saturday, July 6. Keep cool and enjoy the water while sharing books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement at this family story time. Water Park admission included.

*A word from
The Word*

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

Psalm 37:7

Summer Garden Tour set for July

Waseca club has offered free event for more than three decades

Bailey-Lewer house first leg of four stops

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

This year's Summer Garden Tour will run from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 20, rain or shine. The free tour, sponsored by the Waseca Garden Club, has run each summer since 1990 and spotlights the gardens of club members as well as those merely interested in displaying their hard work. "We are always on the lookout for people who are interested in showing off their gardens," says club member Vicki Neidt. "Some are small, some are new, some are well-established, but all are unique!"

Beginning at the Waseca County Historical Society's Bailey-Lewer House as usual, this year's tour also includes the gardens of four area residents. Tour participants will be able to obtain maps to the other locations and enjoy refreshments as they take in the 1868 landscaping maintained by Historical Society volunteers.

Gardeners who choose to showcase their beautiful landscapes work long and hard to prepare. John Fossum, a dahlia grower, said he had to take a few "extra" steps to be ready by mid-July. "In a normal year the largest numbers of flowers appear mid to late July and last till freezing," he said. "The Garden Tour date of July 20 meant I had to be planted a week to 10 days earlier. I was able to get the tubers in the ground and the weather cooperated with no freezes the last half of May. Weather permitting between now and tour day, the plants should look good."

Fossum said he spends about an hour and a half each day doing various garden chores, but when asked if he could plant only one thing, he answered, "My dad's red dahlias for sure. My dad was into dahlias and provided tuber stock for my early efforts. His were a basic red dahlia; not as eye dropping as the

Tour continued on 3



Pam and John Fossum, whose home is along Waseca's Northwest Seventh Avenue, have consented to including their garden in this year's tour. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently



The Waseca Stitches in Time group meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Treanor Campion. Photo by Rachael Jaeger

Love for quilts and community

Stitchers in Time
By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

Waseca Stitches in Time quilt guild is a group of ladies who convene every fourth Tuesday of the month except in December at the Treanor Campion Building next to Sacred Heart Catholic Church. They demonstrate their passion for their artistry, value the social time they share with each other, and spread their love for the community through their projects.

The Waseca Stitches in Time board members include President Deb Rysavy Lien, Vice President Marilyn Teskey, Historian Donna Hagerty, Treasurer Joan Manthe, and Secretary Bev Emery. Typically, the Waseca Stitches in Time do their best to rotate the title of president every two years. Some of the thirty members live in Waseca, but others are from nearby towns: Le Center, Mankato, Owatonna, and Blue Earth.

Stitchers continued on 3

Area wide EDA pursued

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

During their June 18 work session, county commissioners examined the possibility of a "community development coordinator" whose job it would be to work with area businesses and local governments to help expand the area's economy.

County administrator Michael Johnson suggested creating the position on a two-year trial basis, telling commissioners it could be added without increasing the county's tax levy. He predicted the position would be "self-funded in a way, given they will be working to bring money into our communities."

Johnson said he is working on a job description for posting, but said he anticipates once the individual is in place and economic development work begins, the tasks of the job are likely to evolve.

The individual will work out of an office located in the planning and zoning office. He told commissioners the location is logical since new businesses and construction also often work with the planning and zoning office. However, he said, he anticipates the individual will be "out and about" meeting with appropriate individuals and groups. He also said he expects the person to attend many conferences where connections can be built within industries or fields. Another part of the job would be finding, applying for and managing grant applications and grants.

Johnson had told commissioners at a prior meeting that the county could benefit from a county-wide economic development authority (EDA). Saying the work would put the community development coordinator in a position to understand "the wants, needs and desires of the local governments," he suggested he or she could help consolidate work and projects already undertaken by EDA committees in the county's four incorporated towns.

In response to a question from commissioners, Johnson estimates he currently commits about 25 percent of his time to tasks which would gradually become the coordinator's respon-

County continued on 4



Compostings

by Al Batt

Difference between illuminators and diminishers

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I have a pessimism glass on my desk. Every time I have a forlorn thought, I put a dollar in it.

How's that working out?

The glass is half-empty.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. It rained every day except the days when it didn't. It was drench warfare that left the ground sodden. It had rained enough that it smelled like wet squirrels. I encountered a lot of clothes-captioning during my walk—Patagonia, Columbia, North Face, etc. We become walking advertisements who pay for the privilege. A walk down a trail is the greatest of hall passes.

At home, I took a hot shower and reminded myself that the greatest cause of dry skin is a towel. Upstairs, I put the soup on my favorite burner on the stove. We all have a favorite burner. I waited as I tried to remember what I'd forgotten while forgetting some things I remembered. The situation was normal.

ENJOYING

WHATCHAMACALLITS

I enjoy a kolache (koh-la-chee), also known as kolachky, kolachi, k-lacky, kolace, kolacki, kolach, kolaczki, kifles, kipfel, kifla and more. It's a pastry that not only comes in many names, but also in many different shapes, sizes and fillings from rounds to folded pockets, hand-sized to pie-sized and sweet to savory.

I'd been in Texas eating a kolache for breakfast. What kind of kolache, you ask? It was a doughy (pillowy), apricot fruit-filled pastry. The kolache was brought to the Lone Star State by Czech settlers in the 1800s. Upon arriving home, Vi Kycek of Albert Lea had left me some delicious kolaches she'd made and then I played softball in Montgomery during Kolacky Days, where Franke's Bakery produced 2000 dozen of the ethnic pastries for that celebration. In just a few days, I'd become half kolache.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

What do you call a magician who has lost his magic? Ian.

What color is burnt umber? It's burnt umber. It was a trick question.

A priest, a minister and a rabbit walk into a blood clinic. The nurse asked each for their blood type. The rabbit said, "I'm probably a typo."

My three favorite things in life are eating cats and not using com-mas.

The man told the genie that he'd like a world without lawyers.

The genie made it so and wished him a good day. The man protested, saying he was owed two more wishes. The genie said, "So sue me."

I ordered a book on riddles. I didn't get it.

A poll found that six of the Seven Dwarfs aren't Happy.

Why doesn't life hand us lemon-ade?

NATURE NOTES

As I walked, I found joy in the company of an American redstart. Warblers are the butterflies of the bird world and the American redstart exemplifies that nickname. The redstart flits about in the trees, holding its wings and tail partly spread. The adult male has a glossy black plumage set off by vivid reddish-orange patches on its sides, wings and tail. Females and young birds, often called "yellowstarts," are grayish, with yellow patches on the sides, wings and tail. The word "start" comes from an Old English word for "tail." An American redstart constantly flicks its tail open and closed like a fan, flashing patches of bright orange or yellow. This is thought to startle insect prey and allow the birds to nab them. In Latin America, the bird is often called candelita, or "little candle."

Others accompanying me on my walk were dragonflies. The handsome insects collect nicknames: devil's darning needles, mosquito hawks, snake doctors, horse stingers and ear cutters. Each spring and fall, large dragonflies called green darners fly across North America, traveling as far as 900 miles on two-inch wings. These dragonflies leave Minnesota in July through October to head south, flying as far as 87 miles per day. Kestrels eat them, as their migrations coincide in both time and location. At migration's finish line, the dragonflies lay eggs and die. A new generation makes its way north in the spring. Some green darners don't migrate and overwinter in Minnesota as naiads in ponds and emerge as adults in the spring.

MEETING ADJOURNED

David Brooks, in his book "How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen," outlined the concept of illuminators and diminishers. He wrote that illuminators shine the brightness of their care on people and make them feel bigger, deeper, respected, and lit up, while diminishers see people as objects to be used, not as persons to know and care for. Be kind.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

A nosey invader or welcome visitor?

I have yet again behaved impulsively—and I'm glad I did.

I wanted to put together a news story about the wind event which occurred last Saturday along Highway 30 near the south edge of the county. Since I was working on that on Tuesday and the storm had happened on Saturday, though, not a lot of official information was available.

I got onto Highway 30 near New Richland and drove west. Within a very short distance, I saw a giant evergreen lying across a yard next to a massive splintered trunk still standing upright. I stopped for a photo, shaking my head all the while at what moving air can do.

I continued westward and soon came to a yard with many pieces of trees in various stages of cleanup. The house had blue tarps set on the roof.

My heart went out to whoever might be the victim of such destruction. Imagine, a yard full of trees transformed to broken branches in the time it takes a stormcloud to pass.

Nervous about invading someone's privacy, I nonetheless drove onto the yard and parked my car.

I walked to the door and knocked, all the while fortifying myself with thoughts like "Newspaper writers can do this kind of thing. People understand..."

I can only imagine what Pam Labs thought when she opened her door to a tall stranger with a scruffy cape of graying hair, but what I said was "Hi. My name is Deb Bently. I work for the newspaper, and I wondered if you would be

willing to tell me about what happened here." As evidence, I was clutching my ever-present notebook and pen.

There was a certain amount of struggling to control an energetic (and charming) dog, but I will avoid cluttering the narrative with all that.

What I want to convey is the welcoming smile Pam gave me, and the fascinating conversation we shared. She invited me inside: I was immediately struck by the contrast between the wreckage outside and the well-ordered comfort inside. Nothing indoors showed any sign of disruption. In answer to my questions, Pam related the story of being away and having left a nephew to "house sit" in her absence. She told me of receiving a phone call out of the blue which began with "This is a deputy from the Waseca County Sheriff's office."

Her description was so animated and open, her manner so hometown friendly, I felt free to ask all sorts of forward questions, including requesting to take a picture of the branch she told me had punched right through her roof into an upstairs bedroom. Yet again, I shook my head in wonder at the power of moving air.

How can it be that the interior of her home looked so orderly when everything outside had been so badly damaged?

We walked around on the yard for a few minutes: Branches and leaves were everywhere. Pam warned me to be aware of a large branch bridged between two trees



This tree branch, roughly four inches in diameter, punctured the roof of Pam Lab's home located along Highway 30.

about 20 feet above the ground. The branch had clearly not come from either of the two trees holding it up, yet was tangled in among the leaves as thoroughly as if it had. Pam showed me a now-level space once graced by her forsythia bushes. She mentioned how much she used to love having a line of juniper trees—every one of which is now gone. She speculated aloud about what it will take to get the broken junipers, lying apparently whole in two nearby areas, off of the neighbors' property.

Of the giant evergreen in her yard which had been broken off at the roots, she could only say it was probably planted by the original owners of her home which, like most old farmhouses, had begun with a central structure and then been added onto bit by bit over time. The oldest part of the house,

she said, was probably about a century old.

She continued to endure my questions and share her observations.

What sticks with me most strongly was her obvious perspective that "the worst" had not happened—that her roof could be repaired and her trees replanted. She expressed gratitude her young house-sitter had not been harmed and even the dog, the only being home at the time of the storm, seemed to have "weathered" the experience well.

When I drove away, Pam's friendly reception and patience had dispersed all my feelings of being a nosy invader and made me instead into a welcome visitor. Yet another privilege, I suppose, of being a recorder of history.

I thought Jane Austen was better than that

What a drag summer is (not). I do not know about you, but I feel like I am living my best life right now. I don't have a real "big girl" job for the summer and don't feel the need to look for one yet. I work out almost every day and I even joined a book club. We're reading Northanger Abbey by Jane Austen and if I'm being completely honest, some of these characters are being high-key annoying. I thought Jane was better than that.

I finished watching (binging) Bridgerton on Netflix and I've been enjoying new games. One of the games I really liked was where you go to a market or a store and buy a couple things you think the other person has never tried before; then you go back and have them close their eyes and guess what it is and what flavor it is.

I played the game on Tuesday with my boyfriend, where we went to a global market in Bloomington and shopped around in the fun different



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

cultural food section. I picked out a guava nectar, different flavored mochi (not the ice cream), a German chocolate coffee bar thing and a stroopwafel. The stroopwafel was less uncommon, but I knew it was going to taste good so I got it anyway.

When it came to my turn, I had to guess squid and barbecue-flavored chips, some weird marshmallow foreign concoction, barbecue flavored corn nuts, lemon drops, a really delicious lemon cookie with white chocolate and then cinnamon sugar pretzel sticks which were also really good. Turns out I am not very good

at guessing really popular flavors like lemon (embarrassing, I know).

But overall it was a great time and now we have a bunch of fun snacks left over to feast on whenever we feel like. I highly recommend playing, even if it is at Waseca Walmart.

Another game we are going to play is an escape where you have to figure out the "whodunit" of the scenario. I'm excited to play, although I haven't done a lot of escape games in the past. My sister once got me the Unsolved Murder case that I stared at for too long before I gave up, frustrated that I couldn't get it. The only thing I remember from trying that is

bubblegum, as she had also gotten me an entire bag of Dubble Bubble bubble gum. I ate the entire bag while trying to solve the case. Maybe that was my problem in trying to solve it, I was too involved in the bubble gum.

I am also getting into crosswords. I have a New York Times subscription and almost every day I play the Wordle, but now I also play the Mini Crossword and I always attempt the regular NYT Crossword, although I never am able to fully finish it. My goal is to one day finish the NYT crossword (but maybe not Sunday's as that is the most difficult day). I think crosswords are a fun little trivia quiz for me. Plus, I like to do it with my boyfriend and compete to see who can finish the mini crossword first (he always happens to beat me, unfortunately). One day I will succeed.

My Determination: "BOB MARLEY, GIVE ME STRENGTH!" - Gene Belcher, Bob's Burgers

Life is hard enough, be kind to yourself

Many thoughts went through my mind during the banquet last Tuesday as Deb, my parents and I were waiting with anticipation to find out whether I had been selected as Minnesota's Young Journalist of the Year.

Deb and I discussed many of those thoughts on our drive to and from St. Paul.

Deb asked me if I thought I was going to be awarded first place. The realist/optimist in me thought yes. The pessimist thought I was named a finalist by mistake.

My friend Jake tells me I need to enjoy moments and awards like this because of the number of times I am yelled at in situations which don't require yelling.

My dad tells me I'm supposed to write about acknowledgements/awards we receive at the newspaper to remind people that what we do has value. That the work we're doing is important.



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

My mom said seeing me get an award like this just makes her want to cry. She's so proud.

I didn't realize when I was named a finalist for this award that I was competing against journalists from the Star Tribune, Minnesota Public Radio, and every other radio, television or newspaper in the state which has members in the Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists.

I wasn't asked to give a speech or anything when I was announced as the winner, however, comments from the selection committee were read aloud. That was cool.

Deb asked me what I would say

in a speech.

I think I'd simply thank people. First my dad.

I wouldn't have pursued journalism if not for him.

I'd also thank my mom.

I wouldn't have pursued journalism if it were not for her.

I'd thank Deb Bently and Reed Waller and Melanie Piltingsrud.

And all of my English teachers, including Mark Domeier and Nancy Rudau.

I certainly wouldn't have the skills I have today if not for all of them.

If I were to talk about anything of substance, I'd talk about pursu-

ing one's dreams. In order to do so, one first must identify what those dreams are.

Usually that means identifying something you're particularly good at or have the potential to be good at. I'm told when you're concentrating on your skills and interests, work doesn't feel like work. On the other hand, let's face it, building a successful career would be essentially impossible in a professional field you're unfamiliar with.

Of course I'd thank the good Lord for all my blessings. They are plentiful.

I consider myself lucky. I've found something I'm good at which brings joy to people around me.

I make too many mistakes and I'm hard on myself when those mistakes are brought to my attention. I would close my speech reminding myself and everyone else, to be kinder to yourself, and to the world.



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

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Attending the annual Minnesota Society of Professional Journalist Page One Awards ceremony, from left Tracie Rosacker, Eli Lutgens, Deb Bently, and Jim Lutgens.

Pioneer publisher named Young Journalist of the Year

Pioneer Publisher Eli Lutgens was named Minnesota's Young Journalist of the Year by the Society of Professional Journalists during the Minnesota Chapter's 2024 Page One Awards ceremony held June 18, 2024 at the Lowlands in St. Paul. More than 500 entries were received from media outlets of every medium, including the Star Tribune, Mankato Free Press, Minnesota Public Radio, and many others.

"Lutgens was selected for the essential work he is doing in local, community journalism," judges commented. "As his recommender noted, there would be no local newsrooms in the communities without his intervention. If running multiple publications wasn't impressive enough, his dedication to reporting news running from local high school sports to local politics is clearly making a difference in the communities he serves. Simply put, we need more people like Lutgens to step up and do this vital work to sustain and advance democracy. There are fewer 'news deserts' in Minnesota thanks to Lutgens' efforts."

Lutgens started his career in journalism at the age of 15 when he was hired as an editorial assis-

tant to his father Jim at the Star Eagle in New Richland. However, as Eli often says, his life in journalism began the day his dad started working at the Waseca Weekly when Jim was only 20 years old and later, when Jim brought him along to work at the Albert Lea Tribune, something he did often. Simply said, Eli grew up in the back of a newsroom.

In April of 2021, Eli purchased the Star Eagle from his father. Later that year he acquired the Southern Minnesota Golden Link. On July 1, 2022 he began publishing the Waseca County Pioneer.

Eli frequently observes that none of his publications would be sustainable without the ongoing support of the NRHEG and Waseca County Communities, in addition to the help of a dedicated staff of talented writers.

The award given out last Tuesday was Eli's second "Page One" Award, the first coming in 2021 in the Investigative Journalism Category, another first place finish for his piece on the mishandling of federal funds distributed to local governments under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

More than 10,000 pounds of fish served

By BEN REVERMANN
Contributing writer

The Waseca fire department's annual fish fry saw what fire chief Jason Forshee classifies as a "bigger than usual" crowd of 600 or more the evening of Saturday, June 22. Several rows of picnic tables were set up in the department's garage; customers entered through the garage bay doors on the north side of the Waseca Public Safety building. On the menu were all-you-care-to-eat fried fish, corn, buns, potato salad and chocolate chip cookies. For those who didn't want fish, hot dogs were also available.

Firefighter Eric Cox, organizer of the event for the second year, said the capacity crowd was no surprise. He mentioned a line had formed already at 3:30, half an hour before the 4 p.m. start time. Already at 5:30, about 12,000 pounds of fish, a thousand buns, and



The annual Waseca Fire department fish fry was a big hit, Saturday. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

600 hot dogs had been served.

Cox explained funds raised during the event go toward the Waseca Firefighters Relief Association. Thirty volunteers including firefighters and their family members and supporters helped make the event possible, performing tasks which ranged from preparing the food to clearing the tables.

Serving, Cox said, proceeded exceptionally well because additional power outlets had been installed, allowing more fryers to be operated than in the past. Aspects of the serving

line had also been changed, specifically, a separate line had been set up for anyone wanting seconds. "That's really sped things up this year," Cox said.

Donations to the firefighters' relief association can also be mailed to or dropped off at the public safety building, 301 South State Street, Waseca. Another firefighter fundraiser is the sale of onion rings during the Waseca County Fair, coming up this year from July 10 to 14.

Tour from Page 1

current hybrids but a nice flower all the same. I am approaching 40 years with the same flower. Dad passed away in 1999 and I consider the reds like having a part of him with me."

Other stops on the garden tour include themed gardens on the farm of Cindy and Roy Miller, Linda and Chuck Cone's raised garden, and the relaxing oasis of Bill and Geraldine Kuchel's backyard.

The Waseca Garden Club

meets eight times a year in the University of Minnesota's Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC) meeting room and is open to the public, with speakers on a variety of gardening topics including maple syrup collecting or goats and controlling buckthorn. For club members, two day-trips to areas of gardening interest are also available. Meeting information is posted to the Waseca Garden Club Facebook page. "Yes, we meet in winter! The only month we don't meet or have an event/outing is December. Our dues are pretty reasonable—\$5 per year!" says Neidt.



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Stitchers from Page 1

During the monthly meetings, they have a "show and tell" during which members share what quilts they've finished or are working on. Each meeting also includes a demonstration on a skill related to quilting, for example bindings, different ways to design scrap quilts, and using a computerized program called EQ8 for designing quilts. They discuss color theory or suggest possible future projects.

While the group of thirty quilters has operated since September 1988, most of the original members have changed because they moved on. But because of the intimacy this group feels they have with each other the longer they participate, they look forward to meeting every month. Members mention that a handful of them are also members of quilt groups closer to where they live, but explain that, since such groups typically meet only once a month, joining more than one club allows them to socialize and work on their craft more often.

Individuals also name their own reasons for why they come back to the group. One member mentioned she likes show and tell, which involves the members sharing what projects they have completed or have been working on for the last month. Another said it's refreshing for her to be around like-minded women with similar passions and interests. A third member said the group is helpful for the encouragement she receives. She added that if she has problems, she can count on the members to help her out.

"It's something to do that can stretch your boundaries a little bit," said Sherry Sholljegerdes, who was president of the group for two years before Deb who became the new president in November. "Instead of doing the same old thing, you see what other people have done and you think, 'Maybe I can do that too.'"

It's not just quilts that the members sew. Every member in the group has her own list of projects she

enjoys. Some like to make purses, table runners, or even occasionally their own jackets. A few ladies design quilts for their family members such as their grandchildren and great-children and for joyous occasions like newborn babies and weddings.

Changes that the Waseca Stitchers in Time have noticed throughout the years is the embroidery machine which creates decorative designs on fabric. A few members agreed that free motion quilting is something that's definitely changed since the late 1990s because it wasn't done on a machine as it is now.

One member describes having cut out paper patterns and then cut fabric with scissors before she sewed quilt blocks. The invention of the rotary cutter, she said, has made it more convenient for measuring more accurately. None of the quilters expressed an interest in going back to the hand stitching that used to be necessary, although they respect those who choose to quilt their projects that way.

The Waseca Stitchers in Time quilt guild also like to share their passions with the community and help others. They've sewn charity quilts and given them away to mothers and children who have stayed at Bethlehem Inn. In the past, they've also donated their quilts to individuals in wheelchairs at Lakeshore nursing facility in Waseca, local emergency responders, Waseca policemen and firemen. They've also made placemats for Meals on Wheels.

One practice unique to their guild, quilters say, is that they have a "sew-in" once a month on a Saturday. If members want to, they can work on their current project while they visit or ask questions about what they're doing and see what everyone else is up to.

Rysavy Lien also mentioned that every other September, the Waseca Arts Center opens up an exhibit in Beckman Center so the Waseca Stitchers in Time can display their different quilts. Though not as part of a group activity, some of the members also regularly enter their quilts in the Waseca County Fair.

But Rysavy Lien mentioned it's "a pretty big deal" because the quilters can make up a big part of the fair.

Their projects vary from pillow cases and embroidery work to huge quilts, table runners, and purses in every size. Rysavy Lien has won a few of these juried exhibits and she keeps all her quilts and their ribbons with one purpose in mind.

"When I give quilts to my granddaughters, I'd like to give them the ribbons that go with them," she said.

Another thing that's unique about the quilters is they regularly ask each other how they would arrange the blocks on their quilts. But if advice is given and not followed, none of the members take offense, but instead eagerly await to see how the project will turn out.

They try to have a challenge every year that they do their best to meet. Two years ago, for instance, a couple members were given a piece of the same fabric, also known as a fat quarter, and had to include it in whatever project they decided to make.

On May 22, Stitchers in Time donated one of their newly made quilts to Caregiver Services after they used one of their sew-Ins to tie a quilt. Those who came to visit their loved ones could put money into a jar for a drawing and Caregiver Services raffled off the quilt as a fundraiser. Later on their social media page, the Caregivers recorded a video of the drawing and announced the lucky winner.

Every October, the quilt group plans a retreat from an early Friday evening to a Sunday afternoon. Some of the first retreats were at Camp Omega near Waterville. In past years, they've met at the Miller Armstrong building and this year they've decided to go to The Village in Waterville. While members have first choice, if they have extra space, they extend an invitation to anyone who would like to join them for that weekend.

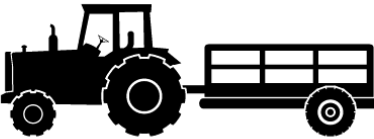
Before the retreats, the board decides on a theme like Logging Camp, Garden Party with gloves and fancy hats, Trip Around the World where the members were required to bring their passports, and a pun of "Leaf Your Cares Behind" which had to do with the fall season.

"It's fun to see what other people are doing," Emery said.



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■ County from Page 1

sibility.

In business during the board meeting, commissioners gave the go-ahead for a grant application for nearly \$2 million to create a space in the “community services building” located at 1000 W. Elm Avenue in Waseca. The building already houses Public Health and MNPrarie staff, but has underutilized space in the basement which the county would like to remodel to become a workforce development center. The intent is to offer training programs and classes which could help economically challenged residents acquire skills to help them get better-paying jobs. Administrator Johnson said the terms of the application require assurance of “matching” part of the grant with local funds, in this case, up to \$600,000, although Johnson suggested the “match” amount might be decreased to as low as 20 percent given that the project is meant to benefit economically challenged individuals.

The county also heard from Kathryn Leys, community economics educator with the University of Minnesota Extension office (Extension). Leys told commissioners Extension is currently initiating a pilot program dubbed Future Opportunities for Rural Workforce and Rural Development (FORWARD). Leys noted that Extension is working to develop training programs, courses and curricula which would benefit workers in rural areas. Saying the county’s efforts to build a center would go “hand in hand” with Extension’s efforts to create training programs, she told commissioners Extension’s work would come at no expense to the county. Extension would be covering the costs because, as a “pilot,” the work would be laying foundations for future Extension programs.

As part of the process for establishing the county’s 2025 operating budget, commissioners heard from Waseca County Highway Engineer Jim Kollar regarding his department’s anticipated expenditures for the coming year, with the objective of having an overall preliminary budget in place by the state-imposed September dead-

line. Once local government units declare a “preliminary” budget, they are able to make modifications up until time to submit the “final” budget in December. Changes from the “preliminary” to the final budget can be reductions, but not increases.

Kollar summarized the types of income received by his department, among them state and federal dollars allocated for construction and maintenance, grants, and local option and wheelage taxes. He mentioned the intent to replace two department trucks and purchase two “pup” trailers used for hauling gravel and other heavy materials. He listed a cost of about \$90,000 to repaint lines and markings on 75 miles of county roads, a distance, he said, which should be maintained yearly.

After a summary which lasted 30 minutes or more, he suggested he would like to see a 17 percent increase to his budget, making it nearly \$2.4 million for 2025. Commissioners nearly immediately posed humorously-phrased questions about ways he could reduce the amount.

During an administrative report at the end of the meeting, Johnson informed commissioners results will soon be released from round 10 of the “border to border” grants for broadband construction. The county received a \$4.38 million grant during round 9 which is facilitating the installation of high-speed internet buried cables in the four southwest townships of the county; the most recent application seeks a grant to help fund similar cables in St. Mary’s township.

Johnson reported that all county departments are working to determine their preliminary budgets for 2025. He told commissioners the Association of Minnesota Counties has created a handbook meant to help clarify some of the state’s rules regarding permits to sell cannabis products. While the rules are complex, Johnson summarized that, assuming someone applies to operate such a business, at least one permit must be granted within the county. He also reported that cities, townships, and the county all have the authority to issue such permits. If leaders wish to see a cap on the number of cannabis businesses allowed within the county, Johnson said commissioners would have to create a law stipulating the number.

‘Woody’ recognized for 41 years
Waseca council considers continuing city’s cannabis moratorium

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

During the Waseca city council’s June 18 meeting, City Attorney Chris Kennedy recommended that Waseca continue with a moratorium on cannabis licenses while the ramifications of new state laws are examined. The new law is pending, but includes “social equity” provisions and the possibility of a state agency becoming involved in licensing.

Kennedy explained the apparent intent of the “social equity” clause is to minimize the impact of past convictions regarding marijuana, since the substance is now legal. Kennedy went on to caution that individuals not granted licenses through local channels might apply to the state for “equity” consideration and receive a license; maintaining the moratorium prevents this while the city considers its licensing parameters.

When Kennedy looked at what other entities have done, so far they have either posted moratoriums or passed ordinances. But in Kennedy’s opinion, those ordinances were problematic because they had restrictions about whether or not marijuana could be sold by someone who is licensed to sell tobacco or alcohol.

“It’s not clear that’s what the city is going to want to do,” he added. “There are some home-based operations which we do probably want to make sure we’re not going to have.

He went on to say that the state has discussed having draft rules in August or early September when it had previously been January. With that, the legislation will be effective and will issue licenses, regardless of the city’s laws.

“This is such a new area that I think we’re better served going in with as much information as we can,” Kennedy said. “Not saying it’s not like any other ordinance where we can modify

or change it later on. I wish we had a better update and I wish we had more things to go forward with.”

“Is there a field sobriety test yet for marijuana?” Mayor Randy Zimmerman inquired.

“There’s some field sobriety tests they can do to see if someone is impaired like the eyes test with Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) or the nine step walk and turn,” Kennedy responded. “There are some other mobility and Rundberg tests they can do, but there’s not a preliminary breath test to indicate what the level is. Scientifically, from law enforcement’s perspective, that’s where the problem is. There isn’t a test to say this is the amount of marijuana you would have in your system that’s going to make you impaired.”

He continued with explaining that part of the problem is it stays in the body’s system for a long period of time. Because of this, someone who has smoked for years on a daily basis might have a very high tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) level but feel very little effects after a couple hours. In comparison, someone may have quite a low THC level because they’ve never smoked before but are affected quite a bit.

“So they would expect a shop owner to be able to determine that?” Zimmerman asked.

“I think that’s where the problem comes in, to try and make those determinations,” Kennedy said. “Particularly when we’re talking about the alcohol license and everything else, I think the state can be as broad as they want to be.” Kennedy suggested insurance rates might inhibit businesses from selling both liquor and cannabis.

Based on their discussion, council members decided to retain the current moratorium on issuing cannabis sales licenses until the ramifications of the new state law are more clear.

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

During the meeting, Finance and Human Resource Director Alicia Fischer presented a recognition of John Underwood as an on-call paid firefighter after 41 years. In his career, Underwood, known also as “Woody,” was a fire chief who also held many other positions in the fire department and most recently served as a shift commander.

“He’s the definition of a civil servant,” Fire Chief Jason Forshee said. “Woody has been consistent in the top percentage in coming to the most calls. Both the rural and the city have been fortunate to have somebody like that. He’s been a mentor to me, being the fire chief. I looked back and every position that the fire service has, he has had some role in. We’re very appreciative of his service.”

“I just want to thank the city council, the mayor, the city manager – all the help you . gave me when I was chief, working with me on budgets,” Underwood said. “Ever since I was a firefighter, I only wanted to do one thing. Every time the pager went off, I wanted to give 110 percent. Some firefighters may not bother, but I was mad when I missed calls.”

Underwood thanked his wife, who he named “the most important person in his life,” for putting up with him for thirty plus years when he left for calls at midnight or two in the morning—sometimes even suddenly abandoning her at a grocery store, church, or school event. He thanked Forshee and Fischer for help with all the budgets, as well as the crew he said he was “privileged to work with.”

At the council meeting, Waseca High School teacher John Hanson offered information about the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) Cer-

tified Local Government Grant the city helped acquire last year. Using funding from that grant, Hanson set his students to working on a live app which allows users to acquire information about locations in the Waseca area while they are visiting them. Students gathered the information from various governmental and private organizations.

New materials for the app are still being created, including interviews and footage from drone flyovers. Residents from Waseca have included their own unique vocal narrations on the site: Jack Williams the high school theater director, Jeannie Swanson, and Garrett Madison, a high school graduate.

Another instance of what the website or app includes is an event from the Don Eustice shooting. Hanson said the links associated with many locations provide background history that enriches people’s understanding of the place and the event.

“Some of this isn’t easy,” Hanson said. “If you know Waseca history, there are some elements that are tough, but it’s stories that need to be told. We had to work real hard at doing our best to tell these stories in a way that’s accurate but also respectful and recognizing that families are still in the community.”

He went on to say he had authentic conversations with students about how to best present historical situations

“That’s what’s been great for me, working with kids and having the benefit of HPC experts and someone to call at the state level who has helped me manage how to best present this,” Hanson said. “A lot of people have poured into the work who have worked behind the scenes. And we’re not done yet. This is really fun; we’re going to continue to build this along with the tours that will draw people to this app and this site that will benefit the community in all kinds of ways.”

Family expresses concern, budget work underway

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

The family of Samuel Houle, an NRHEG senior who died by suicide March 21 of this year, spoke forcefully during the June 17 school board meeting asking for “a total and complete overhaul” of the secondary school’s leadership.

Samuel’s parents, Glenn and LeAnn Houle, and maternal grandparents Janelle and Bruce Hayden, were present for the “public comment” portion of the meeting.

Glenn began by expressing his thanks to the members of the NRHEG staff and to the graduating class of 2024 for their sympathetic outpouring after Samuel’s death. He then went on to mention an incident which had occurred in a school classroom. Saying that although a teacher and a number of students had contacted the principal regarding that incident, no information about it had been passed along to his family. Glenn stated “We are convinced Samuel would have been alive to this day had the principal notified us about that altercation.”

Saying that Samuel had been subjected to ongoing and persistent mistreatment by a group of students, Glenn claimed school leadership knew who those students were and failed to impose sufficient discipline. Samuel’s grandfather, Bruce

Hayden, stated “From March 21 to June 17, I am still devastated. I don’t want anyone in any other place to go through this, it hurts so badly.”

Hayden stated he had heard from NRHEG students who said they had seen the bullying behavior toward Samuel, but had been afraid to speak up, fearing the bullies would turn their attention toward them.

“Some of you know exactly who some of them are,” Hayden said to the school board members.

“We’ve got to do something. Please don’t let this happen to any other kids.”

As they closed their comments, family members offered to meet with school board members privately to show them emails and other information which had been shared with them regarding mistreatment Samuel had been targeted with during his school career.

School board chair Rick Schultz expressed willingness for a private meeting, then extended sympathies to the family “on behalf of the NRHEG district, its school board, staff and students.”

During its June 17 meeting, the NRHEG School board approved a preliminary 2024-25 school year budget which included \$13.4 million in expenditures and nearly \$13.2 million in anticipated revenue. The combination, district business manager



School Board
NRHEG

Karla Christopherson told board members, will reduce the district’s \$3.5 million “general fund” by about \$360,000.

The general fund is money which has been set aside at the recommendation of the Minnesota State School Board Association; the expectation is that, if something were to keep the district from receiving its scheduled income, the district could operate for roughly three months on the undesignated money. NRHEG’s anticipated general fund amount entering the 2024-25 school year is about \$3.5 million, according to business manager Karla Christopherson.

Governmental units which receive public property taxes in Minnesota are expected to report their anticipated annual levy to the county by mid-September and to have a “final” levy in place in December. These amounts are used to determine how many property tax dollars will be needed to fund the various entities associated with a piece of property; these include the city or township, the county, and the local public school.

During discussion, it was men-

tioned the NRHEG school district is among about 90 of Minnesota’s 360 school districts which carries out its annual operations without asking local voters for an “operating levy,” that is, property tax dollars in addition to the amount allowed under statute. Of the \$13.4 million used to meet the school’s financial obligations for the 2024-25 school year, about 17.5 percent or \$2.4 million will be from local taxpayers.

School board members also learned that property insurance rates are rising for everyone. In the case of the school, insuring its \$70 million worth of buildings and property will cost \$139,600 in 2024-25, about 13 percent more than the 2023-24 rate of \$115,500. Tyler Firme of Heinz Insurance out of Owatonna told board members the increase might have been more if not for the district’s strong past performance and some of the safety upgrades taking place in the buildings this summer.

Firme explained insurance carriers have suffered losses because of the damage caused all over the state by extreme weather. Those losses have led to rate increases across the board.

The board accepted the resignation of Kelly Delacruz, family and consumer sciences teacher at the high school for the past five years. Delacruz has accepted a position with the Austin school district.



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The beautifully landscaped backyard of Ron and Lori Stevens along Waseca's Twelfth Street Southeast was inundated by over-flow from a nearby waterway.



Fields in rural Waseca County.



Numerous homes along Twelfth Street Southeast experienced flooding.

■ Flooding

from Page 1

erty and numerous road closures," Walz said.

The emergency proclamation mentions that Waterville, which is wedged between Tetonka Lake and Sakatah Lake in Le Sueur County, received between 14 and 18 inches of rainfall, pushing those lakes and the Cannon River to "uncontrollable levels."

"Residents have been evacuated and the flood has already caused significant damage," the proclamation, issued on Saturday, says.

"It's all hands on deck here in Waterville. The water continues to rise and officials say they don't know when it's going to stop," CBS News Minnesota's Jason Rantala reported on Sunday.

"We just have too much water," Le Sueur County Commissioner David

Preisler said.

Locals have been posting countless photos and videos of the damage on social media. One resident said on Sunday evening that "hundreds of cabins and homes" have been flooded, along with most of the downtown area. At his home, he said there were about 18 inches of water in the shed and around the cabin.

"The water is 3-plus feet deep in some places," stated one witness on Facebook. "Several roads in town are impassable and they have the fire department limiting access in many places."

Officials have called this the worst flooding event ever to hit Waterville as 1,000 people volunteered to fill sandbags over the weekend to try and prevent even worse damage.

The National Weather Service predicts the weather contributing to the flooding across Minnesota may not be over yet, with the possibility of severe storms still appearing in forecasts across the week. Local river levels are also still rising and flood-



Lake Elysian



Jeff and Carol Reese Field underwater in New Richland.



Riverview Golf Course located near New Richland's St. Olaf Lake park.

ing continues to be a concern, forecasters said.

Janesville Area

Clinton Rogers, Janesville city manager, reports the city has declared an official state of emergency through July 8. Lake Elysian, slightly to the north of town, came out of its banks. That, coupled with rising levels in nearby waterways, subjected a number of Janesville's 950 or so residences to water in their basements. The city golf course was closed for about four days while roughly 15 to 20 percent of its area was under water. The course opened Wednesday morning after flooding had sufficiently receded.

A DNR boat landing along the shores of Lake Elysian is closed. The city's Lakeview Park, nestled between two small bays in Lake Elysian, remains inaccessible and, according to Rogers, "definitely under water" as of Tuesday. About 100 feet of Thirtieth Street, which leads between Janesville and the park, is flooded.

A portion of the four-lane Minnesota Highway 14 was closed from Saturday through Tuesday, leading to a detour which brought traffic through Janesville's main downtown intersection, "just like the good old days," Rogers joked sardonically. He mentioned the section of Highway 14 was last closed in 2016.

Rogers was glad to report that, in terms of the city's ongoing functions, "all pumps were operating, and there were no emergency calls." Rogers said the city of Janesville has placed a dumpster near the water tower; city residents are invited to deposit items ruined by water there.

Water continues to recede; Rogers noted his own yard had been "a lake" on Saturday, but said he planned to mow it already Tuesday afternoon.

New Richland Area

Over the weekend, more than 4 inches of rain fell across Waseca County, with totals as high as 7 inches in Janesville.

Damage in New Richland seems to be minimal compared to past flooding issues. The Care Center is safe; the baseball fields in town were still underwater on Monday. Some trees have fallen across power lines, leaving some residents in New Richland without power for several hours Saturday.

A state of emergency was declared in New Richland on Saturday. According to city administrator Anthony Martens, the main purpose of this proclamation is to make the city eligible for reimbursement for damages sustained during the storm. Examples of damage include landscaping in the city park and damage to the fences and the concession stand at Legion Field.

Martens dubbed People Service

manager Shell Johnson a "rockstar," saying "She kept a lot of water out of a lot of basements. She does a phenomenal job."

"I don't think she slept more than 5 hours in the past 48 hours," Martens told the Star Eagle Monday morning.

Shell Johnson, 54, has been the People Service Manager running New Richland's wastewater treatment facility for the past three years.

Johnson's non-stop weekend began Friday morning, when overwhelming quantities of water forced the facility to limit the processing water received before being released into its normal outlet of Boot Creek.

"It isn't possible to handle that much water," Johnson said. "At the height of it, 5 million gallons were going through."

Johnson explains many checks and balances are in place for emergency protocols used over the weekend. She also said the water still runs through the preliminary building garbage catcher before passing through to the creek.

Another emergency action was the use of pumps placed on Broadway at 2:30 a.m. Saturday. Two three-inch pumps were used to transfer water from storm sewers directly into Boot Creek. Doing so helped prevent stormwater from infiltrating the city sewage system and possibly creating a sewer back-up.

"The system gets more and more full; pretty soon [stormwater] can't go anywhere," Johnson explained. "We caught it in time and pumped it out in time."

Johnson said she was extremely grateful for the help of local residents and city staff.

"They would drive by and bring water and snacks," she said. "They were all so nice and helpful."

Johnson spent the weekend sleeping in her office on a pullout cot and in her truck. Every 45 minutes she would have to wake up to put gas in the pumps on Broadway.

"Scott, the maintenance man from the school, brought me coffee at 3 a.m.," Johnson said.

"Others, even Bob (the director of the care center) and Anthony (the city administrator), city staff Braeden Thompson and maintenance man Erik Hendrickson all took turns watching the pumps so I could go check on the plant and do my paperwork."

"I don't want the flooding," she said. "We're lucky we're not in the predicaments these other cities are facing."

City of Waseca

Waseca City Manager Carl Sonnenberg evaluates the city's experience over the past few days as a "bad news, good news" scenario. Sonnenberg reports that about 2.6 million



Wastewater from New Richland's water treatment system had to be diverted into Boot Creek, which runs through the town.



A strong wind event which may have been either a small tornado or straight line winds, downed trees in the southeast section of New Richland.



New Richland area residents stand on a partially submerged dock located along Beaver Lake.

gallons of water was removed from the city's sanitary sewers and transferred to the storm sewer system, which deposits water directly into Clear Lake. The resulting levels of bacteria led to the lake being closed to the public from Saturday to Tuesday, when test results showed the water had reached the "clean beach standard" expected for swimming beaches. Sonnenberg estimates about a dozen city employees worked overtime to position the four large mobile pumps needed to reroute the water. He explained that, although the pumps remained in place Tuesday morning as a precaution against further rains, they had last been used on Saturday.

Sonnenberg mentions that, although "typical" levels vary widely, 2.6 million gallons is about the amount of wastewater Waseca's treatment plant might usually process in two days.

During the recent heavy rainfalls, Sonnenberg says Waseca saw about 6.5 inches of water, probably less than happened to fall on Waterville or New Richland.

He said the "bad news/good news" element of last weekend is that, while it was regrettable the contaminated water was put into the watershed, the city's other choice would have been to leave the water in the sanitary sewer system, which then would almost certainly have flowed back into people's basements. "Those are the choices that have to be balanced at times like that," Sonnenberg said.

Any good news from the incident is simply that the city is in the process of making improvements. A 2017 study showed that, to bring all future "inflow and infiltration" incidents to a controllable level in a single round of construction would cost about \$36 million—creating financial burdens Sonnenberg called much too high for "rate payers" in the city to manage.

Instead, projects are being tackled incrementally, with state and federal grant money helping make them possible. Sonnenberg says the construction along Eighth Avenue Northeast near the fairgrounds and Clear Lake Park is part of that process. New wastewater and storm sewer lines are being laid there and homeowners along the street are being connected to the expanded system. Another "bad news" element is that the work is about three weeks behind because of the rainy weather. "They're working hard to catch up," Sonnenberg observed, "and I think they'll get themselves back on schedule fairly quickly."

Another area of the city which contributes to inflow and infiltration is the low area along Second Street Northwest, in the vicinity of the hos-

pital. Sonnenberg reports that more than half of the recently rerouted wastewater came from the 400 and 500 blocks of Second Street. He also said the city intends to perform upgrades in that area next summer, again with the intent of seeking state and federal grants to help reduce costs to local rate payers.

Having been with the city for 44 years, Sonnenberg remembers previous flooding problems. Asked which has been the worst, he doesn't hesitate before naming the year 2016, when somewhere between 10 and 14 inches of water fell across the city. He recalls not only the underground pipes being overwhelmed, but the wastewater treatment plant itself was inundated by an overflowing waterway. "It was absolutely historic," he recalls.

Rapidan Dam

In Blue Earth County, as of Monday evening, the Rapidan Dam in the Blue Earth River southwest of Mankato was in an "imminent failure condition."

The Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office said the river has cut a new path around one side of the dam and debris has been accumulating in the water. It announced the "imminent failure condition" status and notified those who may be impacted.

"We do not know if it will totally fail or if it will remain in place, however we determined it was necessary to issue this notification to advise downstream residents and the correct regulatory agencies and other local agencies," the sheriff's office said.

By Monday afternoon, the sheriff's office reported a "partial failure" of the dam on the west abutment.

"The dam is still intact and there are no current plans for a mass evacuation," the sheriff said on Facebook. "A portion of the river flow has diverted around the west side of the dam and water continues to flow."

An Xcel Energy substation at the dam, which supplies power to about 600 customers, was washed away early Monday. The utility company said its crews were working to replace the destroyed substation and restore power.

"The river level was already high from the large amounts of recent rainfall and moving fast when it diverted around the dam near the substation and flowed onto the bank," the company said in a statement. A home on the bank is at risk as shoreline continues to wash away.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz related at a news conference Monday morning that the state has received roughly 18 inches of rain over the last few weeks, saturating the ground and leaving the water nowhere else to go. There is potentially more rain coming, he added.

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Zimmerman’s trial pushed back to July

By **ELI LUTGENS**
Publisher/Editor

A three-day trial originally scheduled for early June for Waseca Mayor Randy Zimmerman has been rescheduled to next month with pre-trial proceedings set for July 23 at the Waseca County Courthouse.

Zimmerman was charged with two counts of felony perjury after being accused of providing false address information during his 2022 campaign for mayor. The case will be prosecuted by Rice County Attorney Brian Mortenson.

The investigation into Zimmerman’s activities started after the city of Waseca received a complaint alleging that he did not live in the city prior to the election, despite having claimed on official court documents that he did.

Due to possible conflicts of interest, the Albert Lea Police Department investigated the claim. Among the information gathered by the Albert Lea PD is that Zimmerman had a Woodville Township address on his driver’s license.

Zimmerman stated he was waiting until after the election to change his address on his license, as he indicated that his residence was 313 Fourth Avenue Northeast in Waseca when he filed an affidavit of candidacy with the Minnesota Secretary of State in August of 2022. The Fourth avenue home is actually owned by Zimmerman’s mother. Zimmerman stated he uses his mother’s address as his mailing address, and still receives mail there from time to time.

Zimmerman said his plan was always to move into the city of Waseca if he was elected as mayor, pointing out he had purchased an unimproved lot located at 304 19th

Avenue in Waseca.

After pre-trial for the case was held last month, Thomas Kraus, Zimmerman’s lawyer, requested the jury trial be delayed. The request for continuance was denied, but later the state realized the scheduled hearing time conflicted with a mandatory training and evaluation day which prosecutor Mortenson must attend.

Other reasons for the continuance included the inspection of Zimmerman’s new construction at his new Waseca property and a witness having done work for the defense counsel’s law firm.

The state learned Zimmerman had hooked up the new construction at his Waseca property to the city water supply without installing a meter, which is required. Zimmerman told an official at the city of Waseca that he didn’t know that he needed a meter.

Because of this, the state requested more time to evaluate whether this information is legally relevant and admissible for potential impeachment.

The state conducted witness meetings in early June, including one with the witness who reported the alleged crime to law enforcement. The witness informed the state that she has worked for the defense counsel’s law firm periodically.

Some of her work for the firm was during the pendency of the Zimmerman case. This information will be addressed in court to make sure all parties are aware of it. The state is raising the concern based on the prosecutor’s obligation to preserve the integrity of any potential conviction.

A pre-trial for the case is set for July 23 with the trial to take place shortly after that.

Gracey introduces lunchtime solutions

By **RACHAEL JAEGER**
Staff Writer

During the Janesville, Waldorf, Pemberton (JWP) school board meeting on June 17, Lunchtime Solutions director of business development Susan Gracey from Lunchtime Solutions told school board members about services her company intends to provide now that the school has officially hired them. She expressed that from her recent visit to JWP she felt like they were going to be a great fit.

“I’m so excited to see that your first value is integrity because guess what our first value is,” Gracey said. “It’s the same thing. I feel we’re going to align well as partners and I’m excited to bring your students some fun, cool things.”

Part of Lunchtime Solutions history, she shared, was starting with just one school district, Dakota Valley, in North Sioux City, South Dakota since 2011. She added that Lunchtime Solutions currently serves just under sixty school districts and although that sounds like quite a number, in the scheme of the bigger picture, the company is fairly small.

“We never want to be a great big company because we want to be able to serve our customers and our students because we want to be more hands-on,” Gracey stated. “Some of the things you’re going to see on our menus that maybe some of our competitors don’t offer a lot of homemade items. Whether it’s chicken ranch pasta, macaroni and cheese, and some sandwiches.”

By state requirement, she also said that Lunchtime Solutions must start with a 21-day menu as part of the proposal. During that time frame, students will be asked what they like or don’t like because Lunchtime Solutions desires to encourage students to eat lunch so they can focus on their futures.

“What do you think some of your challenges will be, coming into a new school district?” School board

member Kevin Born inquired.

Gracey responded that she understands trust from the students will take time since it’s a new company.

“On an average day, what would you offer?” Board Member Laura Seyes inquired.

“I think our first day of school will be macaroni and cheese, hot dogs, and a sub sandwich and then the high school is going to get another kind of sandwich,” Gracey answered. “As we move forward, if the kids don’t like that sandwich, we can try pizza or do something different. Everything will be homemade, I can promise you that, and our macaroni and cheese is fantastic.”

She added that Lunchtime Solutions has a link called “My school menus” which will become live within the next two weeks. It will include all the nutritional values, too, in case students have any allergies.

As the discussion closed, Gracey also made known that Lunchtime Solutions will need people to come work for them and also added that the current employees who she’s met have already impressed her. But for any additional employees, she added that the company will include others like Dieker who will assist in the hires.

In other business matters, Casey Rose presented the Q Comp report which is an alternative teacher compensation and professional program which has three goals. The first is site which is focused on a building written goal which the state mandates how it should be done.

One of the programs used to accomplish this is called Fast Bridge, A computer-based platform that offers screening and progress monitoring assessments for academics and social-emotional behavior (SEB). It’s designed to help educators identify students’ academic and SEB needs, align interventions at the right time, and measure whether interventions are helping students.

“It’s very scripted, the way it is written,” Rose said. In her discussion, she said that the assessment

JWP SCHOOL BOARD

goal for Fast Bridge must be above 65%. Within a program like Fast Bridge, a teacher sets professional goals to advance their career and orient student goals within that professional growth. She added that teachers will not always assess a student goal based on a test assessment.

For instance, science teachers have demonstrated how students model things in science which in turn moved students from a zero to a one or two on the grading system.

Rose announced that the site goal for elementary students was achieved this year which was to have equal or more than 69% of students from grades second to sixth to be at benchmark or above. By the spring, she added the percentage of those students ended up being at 70%. The secondary students, however, did not meet their site goal which was the same as the elementary grades based on what the fall data scores and determined what the growth should be. The percentage of those students was 65%. The high school students topped off all the grades at 100%.

Rose added that she would look at what needs to be implemented next year and whether there is anything specific like demographic factors.

Board member Kevin Born addressed a comment Rose made last year about how she felt that her hands were tied as far as Q Comp that would meaningfully move students forward and asked if she thought it had gone differently this year.

“Because our goal was to give you a lot more control to work with teachers,” Born added.

“I would say I did a more intentional and purposeful job, pushing our staff to make meaningful goals,” Rose responded. “Truthfully, yes in some areas and no in other areas. There are some components of this that I think we made some really

good strides in.”

Born followed up with asking what needs to be done so that the school can move forward so it’s meaningful.

“I think we just keep taking small steps forward,” Rose answered. “I think it will start moving in that direction regardless just because I have time to be a larger knowledge base, people will start utilizing me as a resource more effectively. It will take time. Change is hard.”

She also noted that she and three others - Steph Watts, Liz Winter, Tammy Seys – are elementary intervention team who will finish the training in July and in August the four of us will take what’s called Train the Trainer. During the school year, they will take four days to be able to then facilitate the training which was part of the calendar change in the last meeting and then Rose will train the rest of the staff she previously mentioned.

In the meeting, the school board approved the renewal of officer contract with the City of Janesville. The school board also approved a resolution to transfer funds so that the school can pay off its bond. The school board approved the annual membership fees from Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) and Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA). The school board approved a Foster Care Transportation Agreement for Title One Grant so the school board can work with Minnesota Prairie Alliance for transportation.

The school board separately approved the unrequested leaves of Josh Sorenson and Jeffrey Kuball.

The school board approved the 2024-2025 Cost Reimbursable Contract with Lunchtime Solutions. The company will work on site; the contract stipulates a maximum price the district will pay for each meal served. They also approved the 2024-25 Student Information system support agreement with Arrowhead Regional Computer Consortium (ARCC).

The Pastor’s Column

Drowning in the floods of life?

By **PASTOR KEN ANDRS**

Rain. That is our spring. More rain, after a dry winter and even dryer last summer. I know a lot of people were praying for snow/rain after last year, but now we are dealing with too much rain. Waseca County, and the surrounding areas, are in the midst of dealing with the rain and subsequent flooding of the rivers and lakes.

I took a drive through the countryside, witnessed the water in the fields, the high rivers and lakes that are pushing up over the shore. Our neighbors, friends and family have full basements, weakened foundations, and memories that have been washed away by the rain. The recovery from this rain and flooding will affect us for the rest of our lives.

Twice in my life I have had an inch of water in my basement, I remember each time and the cleanup it took. The initial help of cleaning out the basement was positive and supportive, but as the weeks and months went on with slow recovery progress no one recognized the stress clean up took on my life. Right now, we are in the middle of trying to preserve our homes and livelihood. In a month, when the rains and flooding subside, the repairs and cleaning of homes will continue.

You may not be dealing with physical flooding in your own life, but maybe you are overwhelmed by worries, fears and stressors. No one knows the anxiety or depression you face, but God does. You might be drowning in the floods of life that threaten to overwhelm you.

Throughout the bible water holds two positions, one of cleans-

ing and one of judgment. When Naaman developed leprosy Elisha told him to wash seven times in the Jordan River and he would come out clean. Jesus turned water into wine and used water to wash the disciple’s feet. God also judged the peoples of the earth during the time of Noah by sending a flood on the whole earth.

Matthew 11 is one of my most favorite chapters in the bible, because it shows the humanity and questioning of God from John the Baptist, the reluctance of the world to trust God and the promise of Jesus that He would give us knowledge of God and rest in Him. The flooding and rain have caused many to question God’s plan, the laying of sandbags and walking through the floodwaters has worn down our bodies, and we are beginning to wonder when it will end. If you are weary and worn, turn to Jesus even now.

He cries out to us in our doubts and fears to come near to Him. Matthew 11:28-30 is a promise that God is with us, even in our struggles.

28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (ESV)

Find rest in Jesus, ask Him to take your burdens, and take on His yoke, giving up your own. Please reach out to your friends and churches, you are not alone in your struggles or recovery be it from the physical flooding or the emotional strain of life.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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2200 4th St NE, Waseca
507-835-2235
Service times 9:30 a.m.
* * *

4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH
605 4th St NE, Waseca
507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker)
Worship Sundays 10 a.m
* * *

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
801 4th Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-3167
Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m.
* * *

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

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

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

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

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

REAL LIFE CHURCH
620 W Elm Ave, Waseca
507-607-8245
Sunday worship 10 a.m.

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

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

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

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

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Otisco, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship
* * *

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

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Pamela Jensen
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship
* * *

LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting
* * *

VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl

Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
* * *

VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Brian Schanil Pastor
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesdays: The Shepherd’s Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark
* * *

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Father Glenn Ferichs
Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass
Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m.
* * *

FIRST LUTHERAN
Missouri Synod
Waldorf, Minnesota
Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe
Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class
* * *

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Freedom Township
Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship
* * *

ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Pastor Ava Adams-Morris
Waldorf, Minnesota
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
* * *

ST. JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC
Waldorf, Minnesota
Father Brian Mulligan
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship
* * *

TRINITY LUTHERAN
Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship
* * *

THE CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Brad Donner, Branch President
Waseca, Minnesota
www.lds.org
Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18
* * *

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
412 N. Main Street, Janesville

Interhim Pastor
Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:15 a.m. Worship
* * *

JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
401 N. West St., Janesville
Pastor Kathy King
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship
* * *

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
43089 180th St., Morristown
Pastor Kathy King
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter)
* * *

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH
307 W. 2nd St. Janesville
10 a.m. - Mass
* * *

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 Owen St., Janesville
Pastor Sarah Krolak
* * *

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH
Alma City, Minnesota
Pastor Robert Harting
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship
* * *

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Smiths Mill, Minnesota
Pastor Robert Harting
Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship
* * *

NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA
404 30 120th St. Waseca
Pastor Sarah Krolak
507-234-6463
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday - “Young at heart”
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation
* * *

NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.



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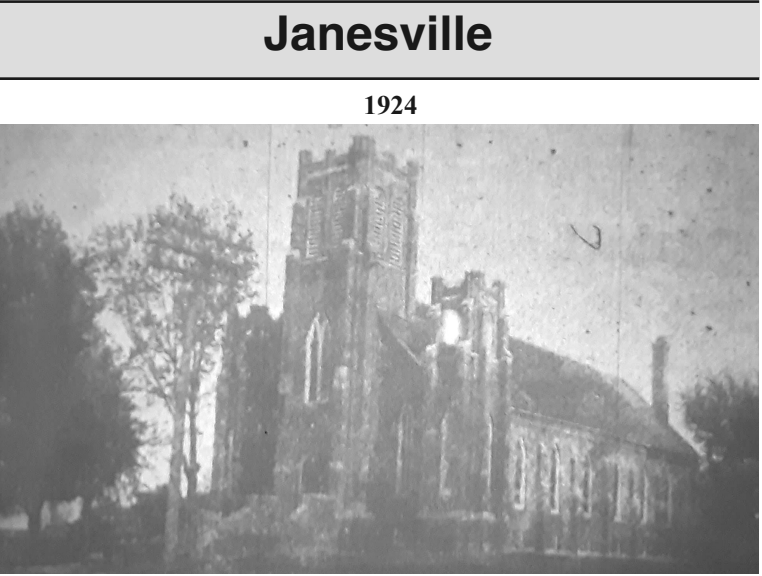


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In 1924, there was a dedication ceremony for the new St. Ann Catholic Church in Janesville which brought in several visitors around the country.

The dedication of the new Catholic church in Janesville on Friday marked an epoch in church history. The solemnity of the ceremonial confirms this. The vast outpouring of people attests its significance. The address of the Bishop added to its import. Never again in Janesville will be witnessed a like gathering. People came from many towns and many sections of the country, drawn hither by a common impulse, a common desire, to see the magnificent building to participate in the service, to hear the Bishop and to partake of its spiritual good and become beneficiaries of the benign influence.

It is something of a misnomer to say that an accident is lucky. But when it is over and one views the remains and considers how much worse it might have been, such an expression or term is wholly appropriate. Such an accident occurred on the Waseca road about six miles from town on Thursday when a Dodge car went off the road into the ditch and tipped over. The cause of the accident was due to some defect in one of the rear wheels which went off the hub about three inches, rendering the steering apparatus ineffective.

1949

Joseph Edward Finley passed away at St. Mary's hospital in Minneapolis on Thursday, June 2, following a brief illness. He was born in Janesville on January 3, 1882, and was 67 years of age at the time of his death. Deceased was the son of the late Joseph and Anna Finley. He graduated from the Janesville High School in 1899 and was a graduate of the University of Minnesota engineering school in 1905. In World War I, he served in France as a captain in the army engineering corps. His occupation during his active years was that of a civil engineer. He was a member of the American Legion.

1974

For the second year in a row, the Waseca County Dairy Princess is a Janesville girl. Gail Westphal, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. LaVern Westphal, couldn't believe it when she felt the crown being placed on her head Monday night. She covered her eyes and broke out in tears as her attendants surrounded her. There was no mistake. The the blond 1974 Janesville High School graduate was the new princess

1999

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton baseball team ended its season by being a no-hit. Faribault Bethlehem Academy's A.J. Walker stymied the Bulldog offense, leading the Cardinals to a 9-0 triumph in a make-up game at Bell Field in Faribault May 19. FBA ended its season with an 8-6 record in the Gopher Conference (fourth place) and 9-9 overall. JWP finished in the conference cellar with a 1-13 record, and ended the year at 1-16. The Bulldogs lost their final 16 games.

A threat of violence forced the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School District to end its school year early. On Tuesday morning, June 1, Superintendent Don Hainlen was notified of a violent threat that was circulated over the Memorial Day weekend. Reports of the rumors came from three independent sources, a business person and two staff members, who heard that someone was going to "shoot up" the school on the last day of class. With just one and a half days left of school, Hainlen said he felt it was in the best interest to call off classes. "It takes away the possibility of a tragic end to the year," he said. Hainlen notified Janesville Chief of Police Mike Schumacher who agreed that ending the school year was the best decision. The JWP School Board also gave Hainlen unanimous support to close school.

Letter of intent



Last week JWP Golfer Steven Dimmel signed his national letter of intent to compete in golf at Ottawa University in Arizona beginning in the fall.

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Waseca

100 years ago

-Acting upon the complaints of several people, who have been bitten by dogs running wild within the city limits, the council in regular session Tuesday evening ordered the city attorney to instruct the policemen to strictly enforce the city ordinance, which requires all dogs to be licensed and muzzled. The owners of canines, desirous of keeping their pets, had better fulfill the requirements of the ordinance, because the police have instructions from the city authorities to rid the community of all unlicensed dogs.

-More hard work and less extravagance is the cure for America's economic ills, in the opinion of U.S. Senator Frank B. Willis of Ohio, who spoke at the Waseca Chautauqua last Friday evening. Today factories are working overtime, every man who wants to work has a job and all classes of people are prosperous except the farmer, he said. But we can have no real prosperity until the farmer gets more for what he sells and pays less for what he buys.

-The letting of the contract for the Janesville-Elysian road grading job to Jack Brown, Tuesday, brings the fifth grading crew into Waseca County this season. The Glencoe Construction Co. has two crews working on road No. 8, one crew east of Otisco and the other south of Waseca. Charles Jorgenson of Stewart has a crew working east of Clear Lake on the Waseca-Deerfield road and the Cameron-Joyce Co. of Keokuk, Ia., began work this week on the Waldorf-Wilton road.

75 years ago

-Formation of the Waseca County Soil Conservation District was authorized by the Minnesota State Soil Conservation Committee. In announcing the new district, Paul E. Miller, chairman of the committee and director of the University of Minnesota agricultural extension service, said that final formation awaits official filing of petitions with the secretary of state.

-“Mom, can I take care of the McLoone kids tonight?” This question is shot to Mrs. Lloyd Kelly after her 14-year-old daughter, Janet, received a call requesting her service at the John McLoone home. Janey is Waseca's typical, and one of the town's most sought after baby sitters. She is busy an average of four nights a week. But prior to accepting an evening's engagement she must receive clearance at home. It has always been the policy at the Lloyd Kellys that mother has first call on the older children's time. Saturday night is the busiest night of the week for Janet. Last Saturday the phone rang seven times requesting her services.

-If your livelihood rises and falls with the Waseca County farmer, don't worry about a slump in your bank account. A county-wide crop survey conducted by the Waseca Journal points to the best all around crop prospects in the county in a decade. The only pessimistic report comes from the farmers who are finding corn borer eggs, in a good stand, that is now nearing or surpassing the knee high stage. County agent Cletus Murphy reports that many farmers are planning a DDT of chemical spraying campaign against the borer.

50 years ago

-“We are awfully impressed with Waseca and look forward to moving here,” said Jim Mitchell, new owner of Pfaff-Kinder Furniture Store in Waseca. Mitchell has purchased the store from Walt Kinder who will now be totally involved with Pfaff-Kinder Home for Funerals. Mitchell, his wife Lillian and their three children, Jody, 16; Jaymie, 12 and Cameron, 8 will move to Waseca as soon as they find housing.

-The Waseca American Legion team put on a sparkling late inning rally to overcome a 4-0 deficit and down New Richland 5-4. Waseca is 5-3 in the league play and 6-4 on the season. Waseca now trails several teams by one game in the race for the Five Star Legion League title.

-Carter Sandvik, 25, has been named managing editor of Waseca's Daily Journal effective today. Announcement of the promotion was made today by Don Brown, president and executive editor of Journal Publishing Co. Sandvik has been city editor since November of 1969. A mass communications graduate of Moorhead State College, Moorhead, Minn., Sandvik came to Waseca's Daily Journal shortly after his graduation from college. “I am very pleased with being named Managing Editor of Waseca's Daily Journal. I have gained a lot of experience working with the staff and publishers of the Journal and will continue to draw from that experience to help make the Journal and even better newspaper,” Sandvik said.

25 years ago

-Julie Jewison was crowned the 1998 Miss Janesville on Friday during the 38th annual Hay Daze Queen Pageant. Julie said she was really happy to be named Miss Janesville and to be able to represent the community. “I am looking forward to riding in the parades to promote Janesville and being a good role model for younger kids,” she said. Julie, the daughter of Bill and Mary Lou Jewison, recently completed her junior year at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School. As Miss Janesville, Julie was given a \$100 savings bond.

-Minnesota department of Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson informed those who attended the Southern Experiment Station's annual Crops and Soils Field Day about the latest statewide livestock research program planned for the next two to three years. He said Tuesday that this research would offer the cold, hard facts about agriculture, which would be its best defense. “If we don't put ourselves under scrutiny, we might see our ability to farm as we have in the past curtailed,” Hugoson told farmers who attended the annual field day.

-When a new traffic signal goes up in most cities, there is little or no fanfare. But in a community with only three traffic signals, a new set of lights is significant. That is especially true for the construction of a new traffic signal on Highway 13 North at the 13th Avenue intersection. The project began last week and will continue through the summer as the intersection is aligned and signal lights raised. City officials hope when the project is completed, it will have a positive impact on vehicle and pedestrian traffic at the busy intersection. “This will provide some continuity in a really congested area,” said City Manager Kris Busse.

New Richland

100 years ago

-\$964.50 is the total amount subscribed to the purchase of the St. Olaf Lake Park grounds at the time of going to press Thursday afternoon. The organization to hold title to the park will be the St. Olaf Lake Park Ass'n and all who donate will be members.

-From the looks of affairs in this country we are not yet back to the happy land of normalcy. Railroad signalmen have asked for an increase in pay on seven northwest lines, which will make an added expense to the railroads of five million. Ten thousand union painters in New York have struck for a ten dollar day and a five day week. As a result of wage problems in the building trades projects totaling one hundred million in New York and seventy five million in Chicago have been held up.

-Oscar Johnson has this week completed a 30x40 addition to his barn. Shingling bees were at his place last week.

-John Floden now drives a new Ford touring car.

-Wanted-Married man with car who wants better position, willing to work for \$40.00 per week.

75 years ago

-Frank. T. Gallagher of Waseca is a candidate for Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Minnesota.

-New Richland friends of Miss Rose Tondl have received the information that she is to return to New Richland for a visit at least. Miss Tondl expects to leave Los Angeles by airplane Saturday, June 29.

-New Barber Prices Now in Effect: adult's haircut, 65c; children (under twelve), 55c; Heinie haircuts, 10c extra; shave, 35c; shampoo, 50c; massage, 65c; tonic, 25c; women's neck clip, 25c; women's shingle trim, feather cut, hair thinning, 65c-Milly's Barber Shop.

-The foolish, and I might almost truthfully say, the imbecile drive down our main street at a speed up to as high as 40 miles an hour and nothing will or maybe can be done about it until a life is lost. We have several institutions in Minnesota for the insane and if these reckless drivers do not qualify in that class then there is no such thing as insanity.

50 years ago

-Thieves broke into Budach Implement Thursday morning about 4 a.m. They wheeled the safe from the office out into a passageway, turned it over and pried it open with a heavy bar and other tools taken from the back shop. According to Gene Budach and his son, David, proprietors, between \$150 and \$200 in cash was taken. A number of checks were also missing.

-New Richland will celebrate the Fourth of July with fireworks. A spectacular display is planned for dusk that evening on the football field in the village. Following the fireworks, some lucky person will win a prize of his or her choice. Given away will be a canoe, a Herter's mini bike, or a certificate worth \$200 in merchandise.

-Wednesday evening, Mrs. Merle Wakefield and Mrs. Dwight Miller and Judy Jo Bartness attended the Dairy Day banquet at Conger.

-Mrs. Anna Fritsche and Shelly Neitzel visited with Mrs. Anna Fogal Saturday afternoon.

25 years ago

-The sirens in Waldorf, New Richland and Hartland sounded Saturday night warning residents of an impending tornado but high straight line winds and torrential rains attacked the area instead. Many trees were broken off, uprooted, tree limbs were scattered all across the area and leaves plastered to windows. Several trees fell on buildings around the area.

-Freeborn County Coop in Alden recently expanded its facility to house a convenience store. Managing the store is Heidi Heidemann, formerly of New Richland.

-The men of the Prescher family enjoyed a week-long fishing expedition at Lake of the Woods recently. According to Herb, the patriarch of the tribe, the group enjoyed the fishing from the 27' launch, the north country, and their stay at Sportsmen's lodge.

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WASECA BRAVES SCHEDULE – 2024					
Wednesday	June 26	Waterville	Home	7:30	
Friday	June 28	Owatonna	Home	7:30	
Sunday	June 30	Eagle Lake	Away	2:00	
Wednesday	July 3	Owatonna	Away	7:30	
Saturday	July 6	Morristown	Away	2:00	
Sunday	July 7	Wells	Home	2:00	
Wednesday	July 10	St. Clair	Home	7:30	

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Did You Know...?

- The Bailey House is one of Waseca's oldest homes, built in 1868.
- 1 in 10 Americans sell their home due to paranormal activity.
- 50% of millennial investors choose to invest in real estate.
- The median house price increased by 416% between 1980 & 2020.
- 1 in 4 renters spend 50% of their income on housing.
- U.S. home values have increased 7.2% over the past three years.
- A little over one-third of sellers initially try to sell their homes themselves as a "For Sale by Owner" listing. However, only about 10% of sellers actually get their FSBO listing across the finish line; the rest give up and hire a real estate agent.



More than 1,000 volunteers helped pack thousands of sand bags over the weekend in Waterville.

Waterville suffers catastrophic flood

By BEN REVERMANN
Contributing writer

The city of Waterville is experiencing catastrophic flooding as the Cannon River delivers rainfall from its watershed to Lakes Tetonka and Sakatah, both of which border on the town.

Jim and Sandy Hennen own a house on Sakatah Bay, the small body of water located along the west side of the bridge on Highway 13. They have lived there, right across from the city post office, for twenty years. In all that time, they say, they have never seen the water rise as high as it did during recent flooding. Although their home and the post office are both protected by three layers of sandbags, water had risen to the highest level possible without flooding the lowest level.

The Hennens' lakeside lawn was not only under water, surfaces were coated with algae, sticks and litter, in considerable contrast to the everyday comfort of the interior. Their deck was, at least temporarily, dry on the surface, but water was visible through the openings between boards.

Sandy, who retired in 2015 said, "2014 was the last time the water was high, but even then it was two, two and a half feet lower than this. It just keeps raining." She also mentioned 2017 as having been a wet year, but again not this bad. Official records indicate the area had received nearly 22 inches of rain so far in 2024: Rainfall for the entire year of 2014 was just over 25 inches.

Jim added, "The normal el-

evation of Sakatah Bay is 999 feet. My house is 1006 feet. As of today, Sakatah Bay is at 1005 feet." Jim also pointed to the bridge between Sakatah Bay and Sakatah Lake, saying the ground under the bridge has been collecting sediment for years and has not been dredged in a long time. The raised lakebed means more water stays in Sakatah Bay than in the past.

Jim describes having set an eight-foot-tall post after the flooding in 2014 to mark that year's high water line; the mark was four feet above the ground. This year, the water has risen so much the post has gone missing.

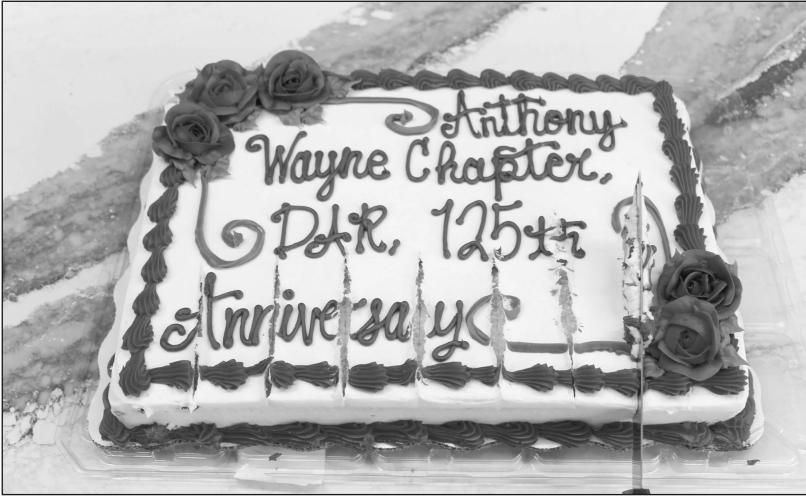
The access to the lake which the Hennens typically enjoy is currently forbidden; Le Sueur County officials are not allowing any lake recreation. The closing, Jim speculates, is at least partly because of whole trees which are floating loose after their roots let go of the shoreline. Docks, though probably still in place, are invisible hazards under water. Debris also includes items which apparently floated away from people's property, among it toys and boat accessories.

Jim and Sandy express gratitude for the many volunteers who assisted with sandbagging. As of Saturday, the arrival of the National Guard was hoped for, but not yet confirmed. Almost 9,000 sandbags were donated and prepared by more than 150 volunteers, then distributed to anyone who needed them. At one point, Jim and Sandy turned volunteers away because they didn't need any more bags.

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Daughters of the American Revolution



The regional Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) chapter, located in Mankato, celebrated anniversary number 125 during a gathering in Mankato on Friday, June 21. The Mankato chapter has named itself after Revolutionary War leader General Anthony Wayne. DAR members from the Waseca area are Linda Born, Susan and Allison Jirele, Marilyn Wilkus, Angie Sipe, Ruth Collins and Elisabeth Wadman. The DAR is a national organization with the mission of promoting patriotism, education, and historic preservation. To be eligible to join, individuals must be able to trace their ancestry back to someone who took part in winning freedom from British rule in the 1770s—eligible choices are soldiers, supporters, and sympathizers.

Though both Waseca and New Richland once had local chapters, groups from a wide region of south central Minnesota have now consolidated to be part of Anthony Wayne, which has 66 members.

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

Open your heart summer challenge

The Waseca Area Food Shelf is excited to be part of the 15th annual Open Your Heart Summer Challenge grant in July. This presents a matching fund opportunity for the Waseca Area Food Shelf to maximize local July fundraising efforts. The distribution of funds from this grant is based on total funds raised by each participating food shelf in July during the Summer Challenge; with grants ranging from \$150 to a maximum of \$4000.

"Rising food costs and pandemic era programs sunseting is really impacting folks right now and we're seeing that at food shelves. The growth just over the past two years in food shelf visits is unsustainable and our food systems need support now more than ever" says Executive Director with The Food Group, Sophia Lenarz-Coy.

The Waseca Area Food Shelf is working hard to meet the challenge of making sure that all Waseca County residents that look for assistance to provide nutritious food for their families obtain what they need. Economic difficulties brought on by the pandemic and rising inflation have led to a continued dependence on food shelves for many households. In 2023, the Waseca Area Food Shelf assisted 7669 individuals by supplying over 137,000 pounds of food. In 2024 the need is even greater: In May 2024, the Food Shelf served 844 individuals, with 195 of those ages 0-17. These households were provided 15,086 pounds of nutritious food to supplement their diets. As one family noted "With the summer months and kids home from school, we're not sure how we'd be able to feed our family without the additional food we are able to receive at the Food Shelf. Thank you so much!"

The Open Your Heart Summer Challenge helps raise awareness of hunger and helps food shelves raise additional funding during slower months when donations are down. Please consider donating to the Waseca Area Food Shelf or another food shelf of your choice. The need is great – and any donation helps meet the needs of families struggling to feed their families. Remember - Hunger is real for some families EVERY month of the year!

If you'd like to donate to the Waseca Area Food Shelf, there are several ways to make this happen:

- In person at the Food Shelf: 203 3rd Ave NW, Waseca or
- Mail to Waseca Area Food Shelf: 203 3rd Ave NW, Waseca MN 56093
- Visit the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center's website. Click on the Donation page and choose the best option for you: <https://www.wasecaareanhoodservicecenter.com>

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Held in Elysian Library

July 3, July 5, July 6

During Library Hours

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2024 JULY 4TH

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EFD Silent Auction

Elysian Fire Dept. Fundraiser

Fire Hall Meeting Room

July 3 @ 6 pm- July 7 @ 12 pm

Auction Items can be dropped off at Elysian City Hall

Mon-Fri 8 am -4:30 pm

Tuesday July 2

★ Miss Elysian Pageant
★ Princess of the Lakes Pageant
7 pm Fire Hall
Contact Shannon Kuball (507) 838-5741
shannonkuball@bevcomm.net

Wednesday July 3

★ Fireman’s Street Dance
Featuring
“Smokescreen”
\$5 Admission
8:30 pm-12:30 am Under tent
No Outside Beverages Permitted
Joy Ride Available 10 pm- 2 am

Thursday July 4

★ 2 Medallion Hunts
1st clue posted at 10am on tent power pole. A new set of clues will be posted after 1st medallion is found. \$100 prize
★ Face Painting & Balloons
11 am- 2 pm Under Tent
Making Faces Mankato
★ 38th Annual “Bob Childs” Turtle Races
12:30 pm under tent
Bring your own turtle!
Registration 12 pm
★ Grand Parade
2 pm Main Street
★ Arm Wrestling
Under tent following Grand Parade
Ages: 12 and up

Friday July 5

★ Bingo
Elysian Fire Department Fundraiser
6 pm Under tent
★ Live Band
Featuring “Neon Live”
8:30 pm-12:00 am Thirsty Beaver Bar
★ Fireworks
Shot from Lake Tustin Park
Sunset 10 pm
Tustin Park Closed

Saturday July 6

★ Kid’s Fishing Contest
Ages 2-12 Lake Francis Park
Registration opens 9:00 am
Ages 2-6 Fish 9:30-9:55 am
Ages 7-12 Fish 10:00-10:30 am
Bait & Lunch Provided
Trophies & Prizes Awarded
Sponsored by Lake Area Women & Elysian Fire Dept. Relief Assoc.
★ Lake Francis Boat Parade
11 am (Starts East end of Lake Francis)
Contact Mark Sybilrud 507-271-9530
Prizes for top 3 boats & top 3 pontoons
1st \$500, 2nd \$300, 3rd \$100
Sponsored by Wade & Carla Becker
★ Bean Bag Tournament
11 am Under Tent
Registration 10 am
Info: 507-955-5417
Phone App: Scoreholio
★ Cribbage Tournament
In Honor of Marti Zimprich
1 pm Main Street Venue
Bring your own board!
★ Kid’s Bingo
2:30 pm Fire Hall

Saturday July 6

★ Legion Chicken Feed
5 pm American Legion Post 311
★ Chamber Street Dance
Featuring
“The Johnny Holm Band”
\$10 admission
9 pm-12:30 am- Under Tent
No Outside Beverages Permitted
Joy Ride Available 10 pm- 2 am

Sunday July 7

★ Pancake Breakfast by Chris Cakes
8 am-12 pm Fire Hall
Available To-Go
★ Flea Market
8 am-2 pm Main Street Sidewalks
Info Tasha Hering (507) 995-0687
★ 29th Annual Elysian Car, Truck, Rat Rod, Motorcycle & Tractor Show
8 am-1:30 pm Main Street
Registration & Check-in by Nu-Chek Prep
Awards 1:30 pm in Front of Nu-Chek Prep
Info: Jeanne Zwart 507-267-4231
★ Fire Department Water War
Featuring EFD & Visiting Fire Departments
12:00 pm Main Street in Front of Fire Hall
Trophies for the Top 3 Teams
★ Kid’s Power Pedal Pull
12:30 pm Under Tent
State Sanctioned

Food vendors & beer garden available throughout the celebration!
All events sponsored by the Elysian Area Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the City of Elysian.
For celebration info email elysianareachamber@gmail.com or phone Pat @ 507-317-0532
You can also find us on Facebook or visit www.elysianmn.com
EAC, PO Box 95, Elysian MN 56028
The City of Elysian, incorporated in 1884, turns 140 years old in 2024!
Be on the lookout for future events to celebrate this milestone.



Dinosaurs were on the prowl in Waseca over the weekend. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Why you don't touch sea turtles

By BEN REVERMANN
Contributing writer

Back in the U.S. Navy while in Hawaii, my fellow squids and I went to Hanauma Bay and tried our hands at snorkeling and scuba diving. There weren't a lot of rules, but one rule announced repeatedly was, "Do not feed or try to touch the sea turtles." I'm all about turtles, so even though it took considerable willpower, I didn't touch them. They swam up to me and seemed to ask to be petted, but I fought the urge.

The reason you shouldn't touch sea turtles is because they are gentle animals, friendly. So friendly they swim up to you like they want to play. Walking out of the water on the beach of Hanauma I felt like a jerk because they had tried to connect with me and I had refused. But the rule is there because the next guy might not be as nice as I am and might try to inflict harm on the ancient creatures.

Then comes Saturday, June 24, 2024. The temperature was 84 degrees; my family and I were out about town. Out the side of our van, my children saw a bunch of cow-sized dinosaurs in the company of Optimus Prime, the head of the Transformers, in the Bomgaars parking lot. Concerned for the safety of the many children I saw mingling, we pulled over.

Hoping to educate all the people there about the dangers of letting dinosaurs out in the open (Didn't they see Jurassic Park?), I approached the pink food trailer labeled "I Heart Cookies" and asked to speak to someone who worked there; I was referred to Joshua Medina. He was holding a baby dinosaur, I didn't catch the species. It was then I

realized all the dinosaurs were animatronic, they weren't real. Just simple robots that could move a little and had speakers to add a jungle sound with the occasional roar to give everyone a jump.

With a sigh of relief, my 11-year-old son and I made the required purchase of \$5.00 for one of the company's "deep dish" cookies or \$25 for 6. My son chose Monster, I chose Chocolate Chip Caramel, and when it comes to cookie selection with I Heart Cookies, everybody's a winner. After buying the saucer-sized cookies, we, too, were able to mingle with the dinosaurs.

Optimus Prime was having his picture taken with little children—in that heat I hoped he had a cool bottle of water standing by...but he is a robot so the heat shouldn't bother him much. Joshua Medina has been with the company for seven months, he told me he likes his job and he enjoys making families happy. The best part for him, he said, is "to entertain, and to bring new people in to try our cookies. Small towns don't have a lot going on all the time. This gives them more options

I Heart Cookies had been in Mankato the day before. Monday June 24 was Waseca's turn. By Tuesday, June 25, they were in Red Wing. With a full schedule lined up, the company will be all around, so if you missed them this last Monday, check their Facebook schedule or visit their website, iheartcookiesco.com. I tried my Chocolate Chip Caramel Cookie and it was amazing. And remember, don't pet wild dinosaurs because the next guy they run into might not be as nice as you: keep our dinosaurs wild!

Donna M. Harguth

DONNA MAE (CLAYTON) HARGUTH, age 89 of Waseca died on Monday, June 24, 2024 at Foxdale in Waseca.

Born on December 31, 1934 in Waseca, Minnesota, she was the daughter of Philo and Bernice (Sommers) Clayton. She attended school in Waseca where she was the Homecoming Queen and graduated with the class of 1952. Donna met George Harguth while at a dance and they were united in marriage on October 27, 1956 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca. Donna worked at Mishek's for a time and then devoted her time as a farm wife and mother raising her five children. She later worked as a lunch lady in the area schools and handed out samples at Hy-Vee.

Donna was a dedicated volunteer with the Hospital Auxiliary and Lake Shore Inn. She was a devout member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church where she was active with the church circle, Catholic Daughters, serving funeral luncheons, and helped start the annual Fall Festival. She loved to quilt, giving away many of her creations and also enjoyed gardening and baking.

She is survived by her husband, George Harguth of Waseca; children, Jeff (Heather) Harguth of Bovey, Todd (Brenda) Harguth of Waseca, Mark (Charley) Harguth of Kasota, Dave (Kathy) Harguth of Waseca, and Cindy (Craig) Keck of Waseca; 15 grandchildren; 15 great grandchildren and another on the way. She is also survived by her sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Char Harguth of Waseca, Paul (Karen) Harguth of

Mankato, Richard Harguth of Yuma, AZ, and Sue Clayton of Janesville; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Russ Clayton; and brothers-in-law, Joe, James, and Robert.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, June 27, 2024 from 4-7 PM with a 3:30 PM rosary at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Visitation will continue on Friday, one hour before services at the church.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, June 28, 2024 at 10:30 AM at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca. Burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery in Waseca.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Sacred Heart Endowment Fund.



Donna Harguth
Dsofuneral.com

Winds cause damage along Highway 30

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Pam Labs was in the northern part of the state visiting her sister when a Waseca County sheriff's deputy called her cell phone the afternoon of Saturday, June 22.

"She asked whether I was at home," Labs remembers. "Then she told me she was on the yard and no one was answering the door."

Labs says her heart nearly stopped, since she did not yet know her nephew, who was house-sitting in her absence, was away at a wedding. Nor could she imagine why a deputy might be on her property, located west of New Richland along State Highway 30.

The sheriff's office, it turns out, had responded to a call from a motorist who had noticed significant damage to the house and trees and expressed concern for anyone inside.

"I lost 17 trees," says Labs. "A piece came out of the roof on the north side of the building, and a tree branch drove through on the south side."

According to Waseca County Emergency Response Team (CERT) leader Denise Wright, it has not yet been determined whether damage done to Labs' house and to trees along about a five-mile stretch of Highway 30 was caused by a small tornado or straight line winds. New Richland city administrator Tony Martens reports that a number of



This stately evergreen located on property along Highway 30 was snapped off by forceful winds this past Saturday.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

trees in the southeast corner of town were damaged or destroyed, and that power lines were damaged, leaving a number of homes in that section of town without power for a few hours.

One individual, a "Skywarn" trained spotter who was at a home along 30 during the storm, reported experiencing torrential rainfall followed by marble-sized hail, then watching small airborne branches and debris moving in a circular motion. The whole incident lasted 15 minutes or less.

Cleanup, however, will be much more time consuming. Labs points to her uprooted juniper trees now lying outside the edges of her property by 20 feet or more. Giant logs more than two feet in diameter, cut by relatives from an ancient evergreen

which broke off in the wind, are stacked on her yard. A large broken branch is suspended between two undamaged trees, but it's evident the branch did not break off either of them. Another large tree still stands, but rather than being upright as it was before, it is now leaning ominously.

"That will have to come out, too, or it will fall on the house," observes Labs. "Even when the clean-up is all done, the place won't be the same as it was."

Still, she is willing to be optimistic. "No one was hurt," she says. "That's the most important thing."

"As for trees, well, I can plant more."

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7	8 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	9	10 6pm BAR Bingo	11 7pm HALL BINGO	12 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	13
14	15	16	17 6pm BAR Bingo	18 7pm HALL BINGO	19 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	20
21	22	23	24 6pm BAR Bingo	25 7pm HALL BINGO	26 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	27
28	29	30	31 6pm BAR Bingo			

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204 1st Ave - Pemberton Restaurant & Bar..... \$310,000
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36146 40th Ave - Wahkon MN, 30 acres - 2 bedroom, 1 bath..... \$450,000
30 acre property near Mille Lacs Lake - just a few miles from Wahkon. Built in 2006, the log cabin features 2 bedrooms & 1 bathroom. Beautiful gas fireplace in living room. Large 3-stall unattached shed is handyman's dream w/in-floor heat & bathroom. Hunters & nature lovers alike will appreciate the 30 acres of north woods w/ a stream running through it & abundant wildlife. This property includes 3 permanent deer stands.

• MORE LISTINGS •

- 1208 State St S., Waseca.....\$305,000
- xx HWY 14 E, Owatonna.....\$2,975,000
- 516 11th Ave NE, PENDING.....\$339,000

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Waseca County Corn & Soybean Growers
Waseca County Free Fair
Waseca County Pork Producers
Waseca County Sheriff's Office
Waseca FFA
Waseca 4-H
Waseca Fire Department

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





NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner's Room)
300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093
Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Request for a Variance of 12ft to have an existing building 28ft from a proposed property line. Richard J. & Dawn C. Androli request for a variance to have an existing building 28ft from a proposed property line. The UDC requires a setback distance of 40ft from property lines. The parcel is located at 42792 Reeds Lake Road, Janesville (PID: 05.008.0110) and in Section 8 of T108N R.23W. The parcel is in the A-1 Agricultural Protection Zoning District with portions in the Feedlot Overlay and Shoreland Overlay Districts.

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, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all Waseca County services, programs and activities.

Maame Quarcoo, Sr. Land Use Planner.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on June 28, 2024

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

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:

1. The office of the Architect

2. Minnesota Builders Exchange (MBEX)

3. Dodge Data Analytics

4. CMD Construction Market Data

5. St. Cloud Builders Exchange

6. LaCrosse, WI Builders Exchange

7. 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

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LAKEFEST

2024

CLEAR LAKE PARK, WASECA

12:00PM JULY 4th, 2024



LIVE MUSIC, FOOD TRUCKS, BEER, SELTZERS, SPIRITS,
KIDS ACTIVITIES, BOUNCE HOUSE, VOLLEYBALL &
BEANBAG TOURNAMENTS, BOAT PARADE &
VINTAGE FIRETRUCKS,
FIREWORKS SHOW OVER THE LAKE

19TH ANNUAL FREEDOM RUN
and WIGGLE BUTT DOG WALK

7:30AM- Race Day Registration Opens
8:00AM- Klds 1 Mile Walk/Run
8:30AM- 5.0 mile Walk/Run around Clear Lake & Wigglebutt Dog Walk
RACE DAY REGISTRATION AT CLEAR LAKE PARK,
REGISTRATION WITH LAKEFEST T SHIRT \$25.00
REGISTRATION ONLY- \$15.00



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

12:00 - 1:15pm Melissa Schulz , 1:30-3:00PM Miller-Dehn
3:30PM -5:15PM Gary West & MN Players
5:30PM-7:20PM Los Tequileros
7:40PM - 9:40PM AZBY Band





BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT

SCAN QR CODE to register your team and to find additional information and details about the tournament
or go to: <https://forms.gle/RrXsSXxXYWg1Adeo8>





SAND VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

SCAN QR CODE to register your team and to find additional information and details about the tournament
or go to: <https://forms.gle/gnCYbEqyqugb9rzV9>



BOAT PARADE

SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION FOR THE BOAT PARADE OR GO TO:
<https://forms.gle/H4SsagmgZ32vErsS7>

FIREWORKS OVER CLEAR LAKE

9:50 PM



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