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LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
No. 28 Vol. III \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Friday, July 12, 2024

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F&C Days

Waseca County Free Fair July 10-14

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

Farmamerica upcoming events

Summer camps, kids clubs, and activities are in full swing at Farmamerica. Monday Morning Coffee Club and self-guided tours and everything else at Farmamerica offers families and adults many opportunities to connect with agriculture, nature, and each other.

July 13: Goat Yoga

Join us for an unforgettable fit-on-the-farm experience! Whether you are new to yoga, an experienced yogi, or just love goats, all are welcome. Each session includes a 45-minute yoga practice with friendly goats followed by a 15-minute goat meet-and-greet. Learn More

Sessions start at 10 AM, 1 PM, and 4 PM

Tickets: \$30 (General Admission) | \$25 (Passholders)

August 8: Taste of Time

Experience Taste of Time: A progressive Farm to Fork experience. Sit back and unwind as you ride a tram around our Time Lane trail. Enjoy food and drinks at each unique historic site. Learn More.

Check-in at 6 PM or 6:45 PM
Tickets: \$100 (Advance) | \$125 (Door) | \$75 (Passholders)

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

Young athletes in grades 3 to 8 can take part in a Christian-centered camp which has them concentrate on one sport each of the three days of the camp, Tuesday through Thursday, July 30 to August 1. Registration is \$60 per camper, with scholarships and generous family discounts available. More information and registration are at minnesotaafca.org/waseca-jsc.

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

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

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

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

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

CredibleMind offers free mental health resources

All area residents are eligible to use free online access to mental health resources available at MNPrairie's "CredibleMind" website.

A word from The Word

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
Ephesians 5:15-17

New Richland's Farm and City Days



Mitch Heimer was awarded the distinguished honor as 2024 Farm and City Days Grand Marshal during the Saturday pancake breakfast. Above, Heimer stands with the Farm and City Days Committee, Brandy Jacobson, Ryan Gehrke, Heimer, Angela Gehrke, Jennifer Weber and SaraJo Vulcan.

Rain stays away as folks enjoy Farm and City Days

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Hundreds of visitors and residents were in attendance throughout Farm and City Days weekend in New Richland, July 5-7.

The most popular attractions included the classic car show, which drew a record 149 cars this year, up from a record year of 127 in 2023. This year's big winner of best of show was Noah Kreitinger of Owatonna with a 1947 Ford COE, featuring the Dean's Towing decal.

The weekend included three new events sponsored by the State Bank of New Richland, including the adult blow up races; mini golf, and a petting zoo.

The winner of the \$100 cash prize for the adult blow up races was Jacob Schuller.

Making a return this year was the famous dunk tank, which featured popular names in town including Matt Schultz, Pastor Scott Williams, New Richland officer Drew DeRaad, Chief Tanyce Bruegger, Curt Pederson, and Chad Neitzel. This event was sponsored by the NR Ambulance Department.

Other popular events included Neighbors Meat's Cow Pie Bingo, Power Pedal Tractor Pull for ages 4-11 (sponsored by NR Auto Repair, Midwest Repairables and Thompson's Body Shop).

Saturday night included a rambunctious-but well behaved-crowd at the street celebration, with Top Shelf Band performing Saturday night. Advertised as ending at "midnight," the event went until about 11:45 p.m. Over the previous years, the street dance was advertised as ending at 11 p.m., but often went until after midnight.

Farm & City Days continued on 4



Children celebrate with Miles Pederson (wearing red shorts) who was the winner of the 4-year-old division of the 2024 kid's power pedal competition on Saturday.



Officer Drew Deraad takes his turn in the dunk tank. Right, Adonis Cully, who finished 3rd in the 6-year old division of the kid's power pedal pull.



Photos by Eli Lutgens

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Flooding problems discussed

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

The 2023 audit report and the Gaiter Lake Development project were the major areas of discussion during the regular meeting of the Waseca City Council held the evening of Tuesday, July 2, 2024.

It was otherwise, a relatively light meeting.

Abby Schmidt of Abdo CPA in Mankato presented the city with an unmodified, clean financial audit for fiscal year 2023.

Among aspects she highlighted were sound fund balances which were higher than average compared with other cities in the same category, and revenues for the water and utility funds. Schmidt explained the benefit of maintaining strong cash flow for these services creates a fund balance which provides for future repairs without the need to borrow money.

Waseca's rate compared with its peer group remains considerably higher.

In 2019, Waseca's tax rate was 92%, compared with 60.8% of its peers.

In 2023, Waseca's tax rate came down to 77.9%.

Per capita, however, Waseca's tax rate is lower than its peers. Larger taxable events, such as ConAgra, help explain the discrepancy.

The entire presentation shown during Tuesday night's meeting is available online at the city's website and on the city's Facebook page.

Kevin Pfeiffer of Stantec consulting firm shared the engineering proposal for the city's planned Gaiter Lake development.

A total of 42.2 acres of land is available for the development of 67 total units on 50 lots. Pfeiffer laid out a three-phase plan which starts with mass grading of the land, followed by extension of streets and grading for the rest of the lots.

Pfeiffer provided a timeline which showed potential work on the ground beginning in April of 2025.

Inflow and Infiltration were talked about at length during a presentation from Waseca County's Land and Water Resources Manager and County Ditch Inspector Chris Howard.

Waseca's public drainage system is more than 100 years old and so was constructed to specifications in use at the time. In places, it uses one-quarter-inch drainage pipe with capacity to remove 1/4 inch of rain per day, per

Council continued on 3

Lakefest pushed back to July 5

Local Waseca group, Los Tequileros, performs during day of fun

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Lakefest, Waseca's elaborate fourth-of-July celebration, was postponed to Friday, July 5, because of rainy weather on Thursday. Despite having to make many last-minute adjustments, organizer Tom Sexton reported that all food vendors and nearly all the originally-scheduled entertainers were able to be present at Clear Lake Park for the celebration.

During the event, the sounds of the band Los Tequileros were every-

where from 5:30 till 7:30pm. With too many children to count, the nearby playground and new playground equipment were full of shouting and laughing children as the band rocked away.

After naming himself the "lead singer" for the five-man band, Mick Barrens, 66, acoustic guitar, harmonica and vocals, admitted, "Everyone sings in Los Tequileros, we all just take turns, there really isn't any lead singer." Barrens says he even learned Portuguese to help with his pronunciation because he loves the Spanish

songs of the sixties.

Additional band members are Jerome Broughten, 75, electric guitar and vocals; Marty Buum, 72, bass guitar and vocals; Jim Kozan, 72, harmonica and keyboard, and youngest member Jonny Lucca, 52, performing slide whistle, drums and vocals. Members explain their name by mentioning that the band was formed eleven years ago at Waseca restaurant, El Tequila. The Spanish

Lakefest continued on 2



Members of the Los Tequileros band, which performed from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at Waseca's Lakefest on July 5.



Compostings

by Al Batt

No greater wisdom than kindness

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I have memories of making sand castles with my grandfather.

Oh, that's sweet.

Of course, that was before my mother told me to leave his urn alone.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. Our sofa had finally run out of change. That was a bummer, but the Earth rotated and made my day.

A friend told me that a particular food runs right through him. I pictured an onion with tiny legs wearing running shoes. Mayo Clinic said that after you eat, it takes about six to eight hours for food to pass through your stomach and small intestine. Food then enters your large intestine (colon) for further digestion, absorption of water and, finally, elimination of undigested food. It takes about 36 hours for food to move through the entire colon. All in all, the whole process—from the time you swallow food to the time it leaves your body takes about two to five days, depending on the individual. I guess the onion wasn't wearing running shoes. It waited patiently, wearing bedroom slippers.

KEEPING BAIT SHOPS SUPPLIED

He told me he ran leech traps. I imagined him taking a bare-legged run through leech-infested waters to catch them. He targeted a certain kind of leech. Leech traps can be made of coffee cans, soda bottles, small buckets or anything that can hold bait and allow leeches to cling to it while feeding. He folded an aluminum pie plate in half and crimped the edges together, leaving a small opening at one end, and poked a hole through the top edge to attach a line. Ideal spots for leech traps are in shallow ponds, creeks or swamps with few fish in them or along the shallow, warm edges of lakes and rivers with many fish in them. He baited the traps with chunks of fresh-cut bait, fish heads and guts, beef kidneys or beef knuckles. He added a couple of small rocks to weigh the trap down and then attached a heavy monofilament line or twine. A trap sinks to the bottom and is tied to a float made from an empty plastic bottle to aid location. I'm guessing if he needed a day off, he called in a substitute leecher.

MY TOOLBOX HOLDS ONE THING

My wife stepped on my glasses.

That was bad enough, but what made things worse was that I was wearing them. What to do? If it ain't broke, don't fix it. If it is broke, grab the duct tape. Duct tape makes everyone a DIY wizard. We have a friend in duct tape. The hardest part is finding the roll, which requires some rooting around. If a junk drawer refuses to open, that's where the duct tape is hiding. The lodged roll prevents it from opening. I found the duct tape and quickly repaired the glasses. There's only one problem. I can't see out of them. Duct tape is in the way.

BAD JOKE DEPARTMENT

The ventriloquist had wearied of travel, so he set up shop as a clairvoyant. His first customer was a woman who wanted to talk to her son Floyd, who had died in a freak rock, paper, scissors game accident.

"Well," he said, "for \$100, I can let you talk to Floyd, but he can't talk to you. For \$200, I can let you talk to Floyd, and he can talk to you."

"What else do you have?" the woman asked.

"Well," he said, "for \$300, I can let you and Floyd have a conversation while I drink a glass of water."

NATURE NOTES

Before European settlement brought chimneys to North America, chimney swifts nested in caves, cliff faces and hollow trees. They're among the most aerial of birds, flying constantly unless roosting or nesting. Swifts bathe in flight: gliding down to the water, smacking the surface with their bodies, and then shaking the water from their plumage as they fly away. When they rest, they don't perch like most birds, but cling to the walls of chimneys and other vertical surfaces. Unmated swifts continue roosting together in the summer, sometimes in large groups, but the species doesn't nest colonially. Only one breeding pair nests in any one chimney.

Robins, cardinals, catbirds, crows, blue jays, Baltimore orioles, foxes, raccoons, chipmunks, skunks, opossums, squirrels, wild turkeys, brown thrashers, eastern bluebirds, great crested flycatchers, northern mockingbirds, rose-breasted grosbeaks, cedar waxwings, indigo buntings, tufted titmice, scarlet tanagers, northern flickers and I eat mulberries.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"What wisdom can you find that is greater than kindness?"—Jean Jacques Rousseau.

Not an excuse, simply an explanation

I owe an apology to the members of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Otisco. It was me who messed up the entry in the Pioneer's "Briefs" listing, accidentally claiming the church's ice cream social was at 4 p.m. on Saturday, rather than what would have been correct—at 4 p.m. on Sunday. I deeply regret any confusion or frustration the mistake may have caused, either for the proprietors or for the customers who accidentally went on the wrong day.

Let me share a thing or two about our briefs. First, we collect the information from a variety of different sources. People must wonder about Eli and me—whenver we pass a bulletin board, we tend to stop, study the flyers posted there at length, and usually take pictures of them with our cell phones. Then we, or another staff member, type up the short announcement and include it in the briefs in chronological order.

Only rarely does a person or organization directly request that events be included in the listings; it's usually just us, coming across information either in a local business or online.

We do not charge for these entries, but since the amount of room available for them is sometimes plenteous and other times nonexistent, we also make no promises they will be published. It's just another one of those



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

things we do hoping we can be helpful to our readers.

Now let me address the issue of mistakes.

Regarding the written material which appears in a newspaper, it is often produced in quite a short span of time, and also sometimes with a looming deadline. Take a moment to consider how many words appear on the pages you are holding. Now consider all the places we writers had to go, all the phone calls we had to make, all the people we had to catch up with, all the bulletin boards we had to peruse, and all the sources we had to refer to while gathering, organizing, phrasing and editing these words.

It is a monumental task to produce a newspaper each week—and I feel compelled to mention that we are often producing text for two publications, the NRHEG Star Eagle and the Pioneer.

Then, with the stories written, they

must be laid out in a way which is both appealing to the eye and easy to follow. They must be given headlines which advise the reader about their content and, it is hoped, entice subscribers to read at least enough to satisfy their curiosity.

The headlines, by the way, are challenging because the aim is to use as few words as possible while being reasonably accurate—or at least, not at all inaccurate. We're also always working to make them "stack" nicely—for example, to make the top line shorter than the line(s) below it. We don't always succeed, but we try hard to conform to certain standards.

In an issue a few weeks back, the word "stagecoach" was printed in large, bold letters—and had a glaring typographical error in it.

This is another error which I should have noticed during the proofreading phase and corrected—after all, I was selected as editor because of the star-

ling amount of red ink which appears when I begin checking the spelling, grammar, and word choice in a piece of writing. Ask any NRHEG graduate—I covered their English papers in notations, suggestions and comments (not all of them bad).

Yet the word "stagecoach" appeared on the Pioneer's front page in 60-point type.

Here's the simple truth: when a publication with relatively few writers chooses to produce 12 or more newspaper-sized pages of information in a limited time, mistakes are regrettable, but inevitable. There is a point at which the brain reaches overload and human fallibility becomes a major factor.

All this is not meant as an excuse, but simply as an explanation. When mistakes are relatively harmless, the answer is to make light of it, determine what caused them, and try to not let it happen again. When they cause difficulty or frustration, the only real option is to apologize and hope for forgiveness.

So, sorry everyone. I made a mistake and it caused you inconvenience; I regret that. At least if you accidentally traveled to Otisco on Saturday and learned it was the wrong day, you still had the option of going back to St. Peter's on Sunday. I bet the food was worth a second trip.

Success does not look the same to everyone

Well, I was wrong. The weather cleared for the Fourth of July and I finally got my sun time. I spent the Fourth and the fifth at my grandparents' cabin on a lake north of Brainerd; while there, I was reminded how pleasant it is to spend time on the water.

We went fishing whenever we wanted, swam when we felt like it, and soaked in the warm and delicious rays of the sun all the time. It's days like that when I am able to stop in the tracks of life, take a deep breath, and appreciate my surroundings and what I have been given in life, both the good and the bad.

There aren't many times in the hustle and bustle of daily life that I find myself with that opportunity to stop and reflect. Vacations are usually busy, and normally in life, there are the day-to-day duties of just living that keep me from taking it all in: work, eating, trying to exercise and attempting to



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

stay connected with my friends and the world. Sometimes it is just so continual that I look at the date and have trouble fathoming that so much of the year has already passed. 'Oh my gosh, it's already July 9? Where did the time go?'

I saw a TikTok the other day of some woman talking to college students about life. In the video, she was explaining that while many people look to graduate, find jobs immediately after school, and start to pay off their debts while excelling in their career, that doesn't have to happen. She

said what's important is your happiness and enjoying life. Everyone talks about life being short and enjoying it while we can, but most of the time, those are only words, no matter how often they're repeated. As a younger person, I may give lip service to the idea of enjoying life, but I turn around and continue plugging away at work, school, and the desire to be successful.

Thanks to that talk, and perhaps to my relaxed holiday, I was reminded success does not look the same to everyone. It can be taking the time to travel, or not focusing too tightly on

my career plans, or just finding myself or discovering what I like and what I truly want out of life. When does one stop worrying about the expectations of society and focus on one's own expectations?

I seem to have gone on a sad little rant there, but I write this as I wait for my boyfriend to do a drug test for the new "big boy" job he starts next month. I see this waiting room full of people, and I can't help but wonder where they are in their lives. Are they getting tested for new jobs too? What will they be doing? How did they choose it? Do any of these people have regrets about previous or current decisions? And then I wonder where I will be in my life when I get to the age they are. How will my life be different?

My Determination: "Give me a mountain, I'll climb it. Give me a Katy Perry song, I'll sing it." -Louis Litt, Suits

A worthy choice for Grand Marshal

Another Farm and City Days is in the books.

My weekend of fun began Friday night at the baked potato and root beer float bar. I arrived at about 4:30 and enjoyed myself a good tater.

On Saturday morning, Mitch Heimer was named grand marshal of the parade. A fine choice indeed.

I, along with many, many folks, am very grateful for the hard work Mitch puts into running Wagner's grocery in New Richland. Without him, many folks would be without a grocery store. I know I often find myself running to the store when I look at my clock and see it's 7 p.m. I'm very grateful Wagner's is right up the road. On the occasions I am out shopping in other communities, I make a deliberate choice to avoid buying products I know Mitch carries. And, if Mitch doesn't carry an item, everyone knows they can just ask, and he will likely add it to the shelves.

Mitch also joined the Economic Development Authority (EDA) of New Richland this year. The world needs more people like Mitch.

The car show was a splendid suc-



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

cess. It was a slight shock to walk out my front door Saturday morning to a row of cars stretching in both directions. The line has never reached as far south as the Star Eagle office before: There were a record 149 cars this year.

I made a point to get a picture of each winner. If folks enjoy this coverage, please let me know. It was at the expense of other photos. Next year, we may just add another photo page to accommodate everything. Also on Saturday, I snapped a photo of each winner of the Kids Power Pedal Pull. I am uncertain whether folks want pictures of the winners or if they simply enjoy other photos I might choose to include. I think I'll just have another page next year.

Thank you to our many sponsors

who pay for the space which allows us to dedicate as much coverage as we do to Farm and City Days. If you or a local business wants to be a sponsor next year, let me know.

And thank you to the many sponsors and volunteers who made Farm and City Days possible again this year.

I really wish we could get a carnival back. I don't know the cost and have only been told the insurance is rather expensive. Despite that, though, Janesville still manages to get a carnival. It wouldn't hurt to talk to them about how they do their annual Hay Daze celebration. They do a beauty pageant for the kids/teens, along with a plethora of other events throughout the week. This year they did main street wrestling. It was ex-

citing and maybe it would be a crowd pleaser in New Richland.

When I was younger, Dad brought my siblings and me to amateur wrestling at the bar in Hope every summer. It was one of the highlights of my youth. That would be a great addition for young kids, teens and adults. A catch-all, if you will.

It would also not be a bad idea to do an area all-school reunion type event. Really, just invite every former graduating class, or coordinate which ones have reunions and schedule them for Farm and City Days weekend. It would be enjoyable to see our celebration last a little longer than the 2.5 days it does. Folks put a lot of work in, so maybe we just add one thing at a time. My vote for next year would be to look into amateur wrestling.

Back to this year's event, Saturday concluded with a very good performance from the band at the street dance.

Though I have mentioned many nice features of this year's event, I have definitely not named them all. It was another successful, enjoyable Farm and City Days weekend.

drummer but he also plays the slide whistle and vocals, although he wants everyone to know, "No one is

good at the slide whistle, you just try to play it well." Lucca has performed with the band the past eight years. A Waseca resident since the late '90s, he even found the date he joined Los Tequileros, June 12, 2015, at the Boathouse fireworks fundraiser.

In the future the group will be onstage at the Indian Island Winery on July 27. They also perform at many private functions; bookings can be made by contacting Jerome Broughten at 507-835-1192 or 507-521-0227. Anyone in the Waseca area looking to find or play an instrument can call Jim Kozan of Waseca Music at 507-835-2980.



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■ Lakefest

from Page 1

words "Los Tequileros" literally mean "tequila people." Band members joke that the uninformed have sometimes associated their name with city mayors and Mexican drug cartels, but it's easy to see the Waseca "Tequila People" are simply a group of nice guys who enjoy playing good music. Their Facebook caption defines their style as, "Well-worn Tex Mex music riding through the old west, the Appalachian mountains, and the great mid-western plains."

A small list of some of the cover songs that could be heard at Lakefest

2024 includes The Beatles' "With A Little Help From My Friends," Buffalo Springfield's "For What it's Worth," UB40s

"Groovin'," Bob Dylan's "Rolling Stone," Roy Orbison's "Candy," The Band's "The Weight," and

Glen Campbell's "Rhinestone Cowboy." As the list reflects, Los Tequileros plays a very wide range of songs spanning at least six decades; no single genre defines them.

Asked to describe their music, group members say they don't wish to be "bogged down with labels," then go on to say they like some 1940s, and lots of '50s numbers. They also like music from the sixties, but that includes both American and Spanish numbers, including Spanish pop songs and bossa nova. They say they are familiar with the '70s and '80s, but try not to go past the '90s.

There we have it, a truly diverse cover band!

Although Los Tequileros has been around for eleven years, Jim Kozan has been with them since 2019 as a substitute. Kozan is the owner of the Waseca Music Company located downtown at 111 State Street South. He has been playing the keyboard for 70 years, having begun learning when he was only 5 years old.

Kozan is no stranger to bands; he's been in one or more for the last 57 years. Bands like Powerhouse, Gold Star, Beaker Street and the Mankato Country Opry Band. His store, first opened by his parents in 1952, has been a staple for musicians with skills ranging from beginner to expert; Kozan took over the store in 2006.

Jonny Lucca is the youngest group member. For Los Tequileros he's the



Superintendent’s Corner
by Eric Hudspith

Summer greetings

As the days of summer continue, we hope everyone is in the midst of wonderful adventures and cherished moments with family and friends. Summer is a special time—a season that invites us to relax, recharge, and create memories that will last a lifetime. Although we haven’t had a typical summer of weather yet, hopefully spending your time on a lake, exploring new places, or simply enjoying the warmth of the sun has still been part of your summer thus far.

While there is still plenty of summer left to enjoy, it is almost time to look ahead and start thinking about the upcoming school year. Early August is when we begin to send out back-to-school information to all of our families. This information will include everything you need to know to prepare for the new school year, from class schedules and supply lists to important dates and events. Please contact your school if you have questions along the way.

We understand that receiving this information can bring about a mix of emotions. For some, it may signal the end of a carefree summer and the return to routines and responsibilities. For others, it may bring excitement and anticipation for a new beginning filled with opportunities for growth and learning. Regardless of how you feel, we want you to know that we are here to support you every step of the way.

Our team has been hard at work throughout the summer to ensure that the upcoming school year will be a successful and enriching experience for all of our students. From maintaining our facilities to planning engaging curriculum and activities, we are committed to providing a safe, supportive, and stimulating environment where every student can thrive.

We are particularly excited to welcome our new students and families to the Blue Jay community. Transitioning to a new school can be both exciting and challenging, and we want to make this process as smooth and welcoming as possible. Our staff is eager to meet you, answer your questions, and help you feel at home in your new school.

For our returning students, we can’t wait to see how much you have grown and hear about all of your summer adventures. Each new school year is a chance to build on the knowledge and skills you have developed, to set new goals, and to continue your journey of discovery and achievement. We are proud of your accomplishments and are here to support you in reaching even greater heights.

As we look forward to September, I encourage you to savor the remaining days of summer. Continue to explore, relax, and enjoy the time with your loved ones. And as you begin to prepare for the new school year, know that we are eagerly awaiting your return.

The start of a new school year is always a special time—a time filled with promise, potential, and the excitement of new beginnings. We are honored to be a part of your educational journey and look forward to another year of learning, growth, and success.

Thank you for being a part of our Blue Jay family. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and we will see you soon!

County levy increases among lowest in state

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

During the July 2 work session and county board meeting, county administrator Michael Johnson informed commissioners that, according to information compiled by state offices regarding property tax levies in the state’s 87 counties over the most recent five years, Waseca County has shown the fifth-smallest percentage of increase.

According to certified amounts released by the state of Minnesota, from 2020 to 2024, the total levy amount for Waseca County rose 6.51 percent. In 2020, the amount levied was \$16,742,000; in 2021 it was \$17,069,000; in 2022 it was \$17,396,000, in 2023 it was \$17,744,000, and 2024 it was \$17,833,000.

Across all counties, the smallest percentage change was Lake of the Woods, which showed a slight decrease in its levy across the five years. The highest increase was more than 47 percent across 2020 to 2024.

Johnson spent roughly 15 minutes summarizing a complex spreadsheet and sharing his personal observations regarding the decisions county leaders made which helped keep their levy increases low. One he mentioned was that they “made extensive use of covid monies to prevent levy increases.” In the case of Waseca County, Johnson mentioned staff willingness to seek out and apply for grants which have helped cover the costs of everything from additional staff to highway improvement.

Over the past few county board work sessions, commissioners have heard from a number of department heads who have summarized their intended budgets for 2025; July 2 brought facilities department director

Brian Tomford before the board. His proposed budget included a new pickup truck as well as a skid loader which Tomford said would be helpful in removing buckthorn at county parks; he especially mentioned Courthouse Park. For the past few years, goats have been brought into the area to clear the invasive growth. While the goats have been helping, Tomford said, they have been removed this year because the wet ground has caused them to develop split hooves. Other complications have also arisen over time.

When asked whether removing the buckthorn would reduce habitat for wildlife, Tomford said the intent is that, by removing the invasive plants, native species would be given a chance to reclaim the territory.

A presentation by Tim Penny, founder and executive director of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) located in Owatonna summarized his organization’s activity within Waseca County over the past year. SMIF’s purpose, he said, is to promote entrepreneurship and general welfare within a 20-county region across the southern section of the state. Among the projects he named were giving \$10,000 worth of books to the Waseca and New Richland libraries and to the county public health department. The agency provided the state-required continuing education course needed by in-home child care providers. It provided financial support to two Waseca businesses, helped with a project in New Richland, contributed toward improvements at Waseca’s Tink Larson baseball field, and donated 85 gallons of paint to Farmamerica.

Penny also mentioned SMIF offers area residents access to “FreeWill,” an online application which people

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

can use to “create a legal will free of charge.”

Also presenting on July 2 was Sarah Berry, head of the county’s public health department.

While she mentioned that public health is most often associated with its well-publicized childhood immunizations and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) programs, Berry said it provides a diverse range of services which assist clients ranging from young families to elderly citizens looking at entering skilled care facilities.

An upcoming focus for the department, she mentioned, is selecting appropriate uses for the roughly \$25,000 a year the county expects to receive as a settlement coming from opioid lawsuits. She named mental health support as a likely option, mentioning the department is working with a “community health supervisor” out of LeSueur County.

Commissioners proclaimed July 16, 2024, as “Drug Court Day.” County attorney Rachel Cornelius announced the local drug court program will celebrate its tenth anniversary that day. She described the program as one which offers a choice for people convicted of a crime related to either drug addiction or alcohol use. They can either serve the sentence associated with their conviction, or go through a set of steps intended to help them recover from their addiction while also building more sustainable lifestyles and reconnecting with the community.

Cornelius reported the program has celebrated 108 “graduations”—

meaning the individuals have successfully completed all required steps. Doing so requires a minimum of 18 months, and may take longer than two years.

The July 16 celebration will include a picnic and a “volleyball event.”

“We’re really proud of the program’s accomplishments,” said Cornelius, pointing out that housing one person in prison for one year in Minnesota costs about \$76,000.

Board members were introduced to college student Silas Tolosa, who spent a number of days shadowing county department heads and learning more about their various responsibilities. Tolosa is originally from Owatonna and is in his second year of a college program in business administration.

The final discussion of the July 2 meeting surrounded a lengthy document recently released by the Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management. The booklet offers much-anticipated guidance for local agencies regarding which governmental units can offer licenses to sell cannabis and what state restrictions and expectations are in place.

As a result of the recently shared information, county leadership expects to be arranging meetings with city and township leaders to disseminate information and discuss plans and options going forward.

The new information mentions that retailers hoping to sell cannabis will need to comply with all planning and zoning rules. There are 13 different types of licenses specified by state law; these cover not only retail stores and marketing, but also growth and production. State law includes “gross receipts” tax of 10 percent.

Council
from Page 1

acre, throughout the watershed. This was up to code in 1920.

“When we get a five-inch rain, that does a lot of quarters,” Howard said. “None of these county public drainage systems, when designed, were installed to take these significant rain events we’ve been having.

“Or altered land use, (I.E.) from ag, accelerated runoff, etc,” Howard continued. “We have standing water all throughout the county and southern Minnesota. Waseca County is not different from our neighbors. We’re all looking for answers to move the water faster, keep the water out of backyards and from drowning our crops.”

Howard said the simple answer is making the pipes bigger.

But, then the speed at which water drains downstream creates more problems for systems which also are also not equipped to handle the current needs.

“Environmental challenges are very hard to deal with,” Howard stated. “Usually that equates to money.

“We can put in larger tile, but then we can put in controls to hold larger portions of water back and let it out at a controlled rate.”

Howard explained the difficult process necessary to update any existing drainage tiles, which includes applying for the “blessing and approval” of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

In 2022 a redetermination of benefits was done on County Ditch 15-1, the one in question during Tuesday’s meeting. The waterway runs along the east side of property developments in the southeast corner of the city, drain-

ing about 950 acres in the area between Gaiter Lake and Clear Lake.

In order for the county ditch authority to take any action, a petition needs to be signed by at least 26 percent of the affected owners of a particular ditch. And then, 100 percent of the cost needs to be paid for by those who benefit from the system.

The city of Waseca was found to be the beneficiary of 76 percent of this particular ditch and thus, a qualified signatory of a potential petition.

It appears, if a petition were raised, it would be up to the city to financially assess the homeowners in the proposed area.

No action was taken as this was a presentation. No dollar amount was shared as Howard said he has an insufficient amount of information to hazard an estimate.

“We’re having this conversation all over the county,” Howard concluded. “Hundred-year-old systems are expensive to maintain and most of the time it doesn’t cost that much more to increase the size and capacity [in place of doing a repair].”

The public comment portion of the council meeting was used by two residents to express frustrations with water and sewer construction in addition to damages related to the recent flooding.

One resident was upset that the construction companies performing work on new streets have to excavate and remove dirt numerous times to install pipes for water and sewer. “Why can’t it all be done in one shot?” he asked.

City Manager Carl Sonnenberg explained that different crews provide different services, and that water and

sewer pipes are at different depths. Thirdly he explained that avoiding interruption of services is a high priority. Finally, he also said the more constraints placed on a bid for a particular job, the higher the price tag tends to be.

A local bike rider spoke briefly suggesting there should be more places downtown to lock up bikes, claiming that street signs are the only structures with the integrity to anchor a locked bike along State Street.

Ron Stevens spoke at length about his property on Twelfth Street Southeast, which backs up to Gaiter Lake. County Drainage Ditch 15-1 lies parallel to his property.

Stevens estimated he suffered more than \$30,000 in damages from the recent flooding. He further stated he and his wife had no prior knowledge their backyard was prone to flooding, and had done many thousands of dollars in landscaping and lawn improvements since acquiring their home in March of 2019.

“We spent painstaking hours to beautify our homestead to enjoy our last years,” Stevens told the council. “And hoped others would be encouraged to move to our beautiful city.

“In ending, Linda and I are now faced with thousands of dollars of home equity loss. We now have to disclose this to future buyers of our estate. We respectfully encourage the council members to review before and after photos and give deep consideration to how these issues can be resolved.”

Aside from approval of the consent agenda, no official action was taken on any other items Tuesday night.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

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OBITUARIES

Margie Arndt

MARGIE FRANCES ARNDT, age 97, of Waseca passed away on Sunday, July 7, 2024 at Foxdale Memory Center in Waseca.

Born on March 3, 1927 in Waseca County, Margie was the daughter of Arnold and Mary (Sommers) Arndt. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca. She graduated from Waseca High School. Following her education, she worked for EF Johnson for over forty-two years. She also worked part time at the Senior Citizens Center. She was a lifelong member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca.

Margie is survived by her niece and nephews, David Arndt of Mankato, Delores (Donald) Dierking of Medford, Darold (Irene) Arndt of Gilbert, AZ, Donald (JoAnne) Arndt of Woodbury; and many great and great-great nieces and nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Arnold and Mary Arndt; siblings, Mabel Schoenrock, Gertrude Kopischke, Walter Arndt, and Elmer Arndt; and fi-



Margie Arndt

ancé, Henry "Hank" Anderson.

Funeral Service will be at 11:00 AM on Saturday, July 13, 2024 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will follow at Woodville Cemetery.

A special thank you to the caregivers at Colony Court and St. Croix Hospice for their wonderful care.

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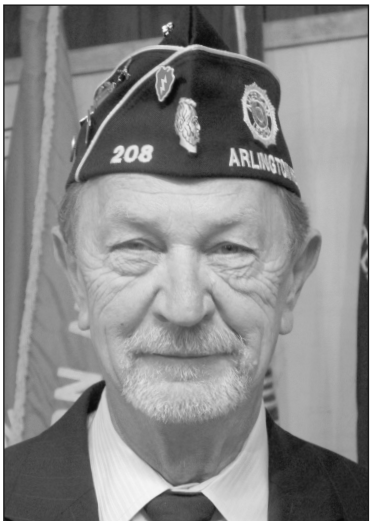
Dale A. Berg

Dale Albert Berg, 74, born in Albert Lea, Minnesota on October 17, 1949 to Kenneth and Marvel (nee Fratzke) Berg, led a life filled with service and dedication. He died Thursday, June 27, 2024 at Northwest Community Hospital, in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

Dale was a financial consultant by profession. His greatest pride was being a devoted husband to his wife Sharon and father to his sons. He found great happiness spending time and sharing stories of his four grandchildren. Dale's devotion extended beyond his family. He served his country with honor in the Army during the Vietnam War, and was awarded a Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars with V Device. His bravery and commitment to his country were exemplary, serving in the 25th Infantry Division, 27th Infantry Regiment - known as the Wolfhounds.

Locally, Dale was a fixture in the veteran's community. He was the Commander of the Arlington Heights American Legion Merle Guild Post #208. Dale was a member of the Sons of American Legion, Arlington Heights Veterans of Foreign War Post #981, and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 311. He was also a member of Northwest Towns Sportsman's Club. His involvement in these groups highlighted his dedication to service and camaraderie.

Dale is survived by his sons, Ryan (Amy) and Blair (Melanie); his grandchildren, Dylan, Cole,



Dale Berg

Walter and Britton; his sister, Nancy Baanrud, his brothers, Neil (Collette) and Dean (Liz); and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Sharon; and his parents.

Visitation was on Thursday, July 11, 2024 from 2 p.m. until the time of Funeral Service at 4 p.m. at the Glueckert Funeral Home, Ltd., 1520 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Arlington Heights, IL 60004. Dale's cremated remains will be placed at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (https://www.vvmf.org/Support-VVMF/Memorial-Donations).

Funeral Information and condolences can be given at www.GlueckertFuneralHome.com or (847) 253-0168.

Two-sister team operates Lucia's Cocina at Lakefest

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Mona Montenegro and her sister Laura were a pair of busy bees keeping up with the Independence Day buzz at Waseca's Clear Lake Park during Lakefest, the annual Fourth-of-July celebration. The two operate Lucia's Cocina, which offers Mexican cuisine. The business name translates to Lucia's Kitchen, an homage to the sisters' mother, Lucia.

The food truck was one of eight establishments available during the festival: While enjoying the music of Los Tequileros and other bands playing in the bandshell, hungry shoppers could choose among options ranging from chicken barbeque to mini donuts to tacos.

Two years ago, when Mona and Laura first started out at the Waseca farmers market, they say they opened their stand as a hobby.

Said Mona, "We only had bur-

ritos in the beginning; it was a limited menu." Mona said they expanded their menu this year for the July 4 celebration, "We have bacon wrapped hotdogs, loaded walking tacos, loaded nachos, tamale boats and street pickles with Mexican cheese, tajin and lime." Their concession stand was covered from top to bottom in American flag decorations. A light, cool wind off Clear Lake kept those banners waving.

The two proprietors reveal that, over the course of their ever-evolving menu options, they've had numerous meat choices, asada (sliced beef), al pastor (sliced pork), pollo asado (grilled chicken) or chorizo (type of pork sausage).

Food items prepared by the two-sister team are also available every Saturday at the Waseca

Farmers' Market, held at the county fairgrounds from 7 a.m. till noon. Mona also said, "We have a breakfast menu there and



Diners lined up at Lucia's Cocina during the July 5 Lakefest celebration. The business is locally owned by sisters Laura and Mona Montenegro.

everything." Something the two are particularly proud of are their specialty gourmet tamales and bowls. According to their Facebook page, "Nothing says

"I love you" like a burrito box from Lucia's Cocina" or, "Did someone say 'tamale boat'? Ever try a teriyaki bowl or a taco bowl?"

A one-time Waseca resident, Laura had moved to Bakersfield, California, for a time, but left the city of 416,000 to return to Waseca eight years ago. She says she's never looked back. "It's slower here and I like the slow life." With a significant amount

of experience in the food industry, it's no wonder she knows what she's doing.

She's worked at Nestle's, Bird's Eye, Jack Links and currently for Jonny Pops and of course

Lucia's Cocina. Her sister Mona eventually followed Laura from California to Waseca after a brief stint in Rochester. Both claim they have become lifelong Wasecans and hope to keep operating Lucia's Cocina for a long time. Laura and Mona are available for catering and events in the Waseca County area; they can be contacted at (661) 331-4912.

F&C Days

from Page 1

A parade, escaping the raindrops by a couple hours, showcased many, many groups and organizations. The selection of this year's grand marshal was Mitch Heimer, owner of Wagner Foods.

A plethora of other events took place, including Water Wars with the New Richland Fire Department, and many different displays throughout town.

These displays and more are shown on Page 5 of the Pioneer.

The Farm and City Days Committee deserves a lot of credit in its efforts to put together its annual community-wide celebration. "It was great to be able to be together," SaraJo Vulcan said.

"Thanks to everyone who made it a success." Among the committee members are Angela and Ryan Gehrke, SaraJo Vulcan, Brandy Jacobson, Jennifer Harrington Weber.

Farm & City Days Parade Grand Marshals

Got news?
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- 2024 — Mitch Heimer
- 2023 — Kathy (Schumacher, Flor) Hinkley
- 2022 — State Bank of New Richland, Bonnerup Funeral Home, and NRHEG Star Eagle
- 2021 — Karl and Tammy Proehl
- 2019 — Chris Schlaak
- 2018 — Carlie Wagner
- 2017 — Mary Ebnert and Rick Schulz
- 2016 — Town & Country Garden Club — Kris Pfeffer, Delores Bartholmey, Mary Sack, Joanie Proehl, Pastor Charles Espe, Lou Anderson, Julie Phinney, Jodi Johnson, Betty Hullopeter, Avis Rugroden, Mike Phinney, Barb Finseth, Kay Adams, Dawn Halgren, Gerald Hullopeter, Eleanor Schlaak, Janae Janike
- 2015 — Wayne and Merlys Wenzel
- 2014 — Surviving WWII veterans: Richard Crumb, Eugene

- Warke, Bud Shurson, Donnie Bartsch, Tony Arnfelt, Dr. Albert Flor, Gordon Peterson, Harold Thompson, Winston Evenson, Kenneth Eaton, Donald Smith, Audrinne Smith, Marie Querna
- 2013 — 2012-13 NRHEG Girls' Basketball Team — Hannah Lundberg, Maddie Wagner, Marnie Wagner, Carlie Wagner, Abby Crabtree, Paige Overgaard, Anna Stork, Jade Schultz, Katie Cole, Kelli Harrington, Raelin Schue, Ryan Hagen
- 2012 — Gail Schmidt
- 2011 — Pastor Paul Andree
- 2010 — Larry and Pam Goehring
- 2009 — Myron Schumacher
- 2008 — Gene and Sylvia Dodge
- 2007 — Mary Ann Schlaak
- 2006 — Vince Peterson
- 2005 — Don and Audrinne Smith
- 2004 — Pastor Phil Lewison

- 2003 — Gene and Mildred Budach
- 2002 — Orrin Ribbe (Honorary Gary Billing)
- 2001 — Bernie Anderson
- 2000 — Dale and Dawn Halgren
- 1999 — Beth Wesselhoeft
- 1998 — Jim Jensen
- 1997 — Margaret Engesser
- 1996 — Pastor Charles Espe
- 1995 — Lee Mendenhall
- 1994 — Gene Amley
- 1993 — Elmer and Marilyn Quiram
- 1992 — Jean Horn
- 1991 — Bill Robinson
- 1990 — Vince and Edna Erdmann
- 1989 — Herb Prescher
- 1988 — Abraham Family
- 1987 — Dr. Albert Flor
- 1986 — Harry Anderson
- 1985 — Leo Eckart
- 1984 — Dr. George H. Olds

WASECA BRAVES SCHEDULE – 2024

Saturday	July 13	Stewartville	Home	7:00
Sunday	July 14	Blue Earth	Home	2:00
Wednesday	July 17	League Play-in Game TBD		7:30
Saturday	July 20	League Playoffs	TBD	TBD

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Farm and City Days



Returning for a second time to the 2024 F&C Days vendor sale were Don and Kathy Kronebusch of Grab and Go Desserts.



Valerie Ingram enjoys face painting as F&C Days committee member Brandy Jacobson paints.



Running the 2024 Friends of the Library book sale were, from left: Nancy Rudua, Peggy Wiskocil, Torunn Nelson and Al Batt.



New Richland Police Chief, and 2024 dunk tank volunteer, Tanyce Bruegger.



2024 Blow up race winner, Jacob Schuller



2024 Car show helper, Junebug



10-year old Kiara Moen visits the 2024 Farm and City Day's petting zoo in city park.



Ryan Gehrke and daughter Kaisley volunteering during the 2024 F&C days



A classic, Lee Mendenhall, attends the 2024 classic car show



Attending the 2024 F&C Days vendor sale for the first time were Angi Giles and Dawn Miller of Hartland Creations.



Diana Hermanek, Tristan Gehring, and Julie Jensen.



Helping with the 2024 F&C Days baked potato and root beer float bar were, from left Adryn Peterson, Gary Lust and Dale Bayerkohler.



Attending the 2024 F&C Days vendor sale for the third time were, from left, Tammy Techau, Jacob Montgomery, Cori Zimprich, and Leanie Bergland of TJ Creations.

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

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Waseca County

July 10-14, 2024

2024 Waseca County Free Fair Events Schedule

Thursday, July 11		Friday, July 12	
All Day	Antique Tractor Display	All Day	Antique Tractor Display
All Day	Pallet Maze (Oak Island)	8 am	Pallet Maze (Oak Island)
9 am	4-H Meat Goat Show	10 am	4-H Swine Show
10 am	Dock Dogs Practice	10:30-11:30 am	Dock Dogs Practice
10:30-11:30 am	Kids & Family Scavenger Hunt (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)	10:30-11:30 am	Kids & Family Scavenger Hunt (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
10:30 am-7 pm	Agri-Golf (Oak Island)	10:30 am-7 pm	Agri-Golf (Oak Island)
11 am	Dock Dogs Big Air Show	11 am	Indoor Booths Open
11 am	Indoor Booths Open	11 am	Food Vendors Open
11 am	Food Vendors Open	11 am	Dock Dogs Big Air Show
12 pm	Rotary Meets at the Fair (Bldg. 4)	11:30 am	The Donner Party-Musicians (Food Court)
12 pm	4-H Dairy Goat Show	12-9 pm	Family Quiet Zone-located on the north side of Bldg. #8
12-9 pm	Family Quiet Zone-located on the north side of Bldg. #8	12:30 pm	Dazzling Dave Strolling Magician
1 pm	Jerry Frazier Magic Show (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)	1 pm	Carnival Rides Begin
1 pm	Dock Dogs Big Air Show	1 pm	4-H Dairy Show
2 pm	RJ Kern Photography "The Unchosen Ones"	1 pm	Brad Weston Comedy Stunt Show (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
3 pm	Jerry Frazier Magic Show (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)	1:30 pm	Dock Dogs Big Air Show
3 pm	Dock Dogs Big Air Show	1:30 pm	Dazzling Dave Magic Show (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
3:30-4:30 pm	Beads & Bracelets (Building #4)	2 pm	RJ Kern Photography "The Unchosen Ones"
4:15 pm	Jerry Frazier Strolling Magician	3 pm	Dazzling Dave Strolling Magician
4:30 pm	Kiddie Coin Find (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)	3 pm	Dock Dogs Big Air Show
5 pm	Jerry Frazier Magic Show (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)	3:30 pm	Brad Weston Comedy Stunt Show (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
5 pm	Dock Dogs Big Air Show	3:30-4:30 pm	Beads & Bracelets (Building #4)
5-8 pm	Melissa Schulz-Musician (Food Court)	4 pm	Dazzling Dave Magic Show (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
5:30 pm	RJ Kern Photography "The Unchosen Ones"	4:30 pm	Kiddie Coin Find (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
6 pm	Kid Power Pedal Pull (In front of Creative Arts Building)	5 pm	Paul Stewart Band (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
6 pm	4-H Beef Show	5 pm	Dock Dogs Extreme Vertical Competition
6:30 pm	Jerry Frazier Strolling Magician	5-8 pm	GTX Band (Food Court)
6:30 pm	Kiddie Coin Find (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)	5:30 pm	RJ Kern Photography "The Unchosen Ones"
6:30 pm	Demolition Derby-Grandstand	6:30 pm	Kiddie Coin Find (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
7 pm	Jerry Frazier Magic Show (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)	6:30 pm	Demolition Derby (Grandstand)
7:15 pm	RJ Kern Live Photo	7:30 pm	Brad Weston Comedy Stunt Show (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
8:30 pm	Good for Gary (Beer Garden)	8:30 pm	Gen X (Beer Garden)



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Free Fair

July 10-14, 2024

2024 Waseca County Free Fair Events Schedule (cont.)

Saturday, July 13

All Day	Antique Tractor Display
All Day	Pallet Maze (Oak Island)
9 am	Market Livestock Auction (Judging Arena)
10 am	Dazzling Dave Strolling Magician
10:30-11:30 am	Kids & Family Scavenger Hunt (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
10:30 am-7 pm	Agri-Golf (Oak Island)
11 am	Dock Dogs Big Air Show
11 am	Dazzling Dave Magic Show (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
11 am	Indoor Booths Open
11 am	Food Vendors Open
11:30 am	The Father's Daughters (Food Court)
11:30 am	Open Class Dairy Show
12 pm	Carnival Rides Begin
12-9 pm	Family Quiet Zone-located on the north side of Bldg. #8
1 pm	Dazzling Dave Strolling Magician
1 pm	Dock Dogs Big Air Show
1:30 pm	RJ Kern Photography "The Unchosen Ones"
2-4 pm	Craft Beer Expo (Beer Garden)
2 pm	Dazzling Dave Magic Show (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
2:30 pm	Puzzle Contest (Bldg. #4)
2:30 pm	Kiddie Coin Find (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
3 pm	Harmonica Lessons (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
3 pm	Dock Dogs Speed Retrieve
4 pm	Dazzling Dave Strolling Magician
4:30 pm	Kiddie Coin Find (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
5 pm	Dazzling Dave Magic Show (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
5 pm	Dock Dogs Big Air Show Finals
5-8 pm	In A Bind (Food Court)
5:30 pm	RJ Kern Photography "The Unchosen Ones"
5:30 pm	Enduro Auto & Compact Car Race -Grandstand
6:30 pm	Kiddie Coin Find (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
8:30 pm	The Local Hooligans (Beer Garden)

Sunday, July 14

All Day	Antique Tractor Show
All Day	Pallet Maze (Oak Island)
10-11 am	Non-Denominational Church Service- Hosted by Faith United Methodist Church
10:30-11:30 am	Kids & Family Scavenger Hunt (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
10:30 am-7 pm	Agri-Golf (Oak Island)
11 am	Food Vendors Open
11 am	Indoor Booths Open
11 am-1:30 pm	iPolka Band & Pie (Bldg. #4)
12 pm	Poppa Bear Norton-RedNeck Comedy Show (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
12 pm	Carnival Rides Begin
12-4 pm	Auto & Cycle Show-n-Shine-8th Ave NE
12-1 pm	Registration
12-6 pm	Family Quiet Zone-located on the north side of Bldg. #8
2 pm	Ice Cream Treats (Farm Bureau-Near Fair Office)
2:30 pm	Kiddie Coin Find (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
3:30 pm	Poppa Bear Norton-RedNeck Comedy Show (Discover Waseca Tourism Free Stage)
4 pm	4-H Parade of Champions
5:30 pm	Livestock Barns Close
6 pm	Commercial Buildings Close
6-8 pm	Open Class Entries Released
7 pm	Carnival Rides Close
7 pm	Food Vendors Close

2024 Beer Garden Lineup

OPEN 11 A.M. - 1 A.M. DAILY
SUNDAY 11 A.M. - 6 P.M.

Beer distributors: College City Beverage and Dahlheimer Distributors





*Schedule Subject to Change

*A complete schedule of 4-H Livestock Shows and Events can be found at z.umn.edu/4HFairSchedule24 or scan the QR code.



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Waseca schools students named to the A honor roll

Last	First	Gr	Last	First	Gr	Last	First	Gr
Abrego	Sophia	8	Nelson	Tristan	9	Donnay	Emma	11
Bhatti	Armaan	8	Toapanta	Jostin	9	Eads	Eden	11
Eldeen	Ashlynn	8	Vagts	Savanna	9	Engel-Mueller	MaLanie	11
Fliflet	Ashley	8	Weber	Katelyn	9	Feldkamp	Isaac	11
Gilmore	Mailee	8	Welander	Alexa	9	Iernandez-Verde	Jennifer	11
			Wieseler	Owen	9	Hesch-Priem	Brayden	11
Malouff	Max	8	Anderson	Brooklyn	10	Hoof	Brayden	11
O'Brien	Archer	8	Bodenweiser	Maximus	10	Krause	Sierra	11
Petersen	Lillian	8	Bulfer	Ella	10	Manthe	Elizabeth	11
Ray	Violet	8	Claybaugh	Alexis	10	McMurphy	Katlyn	11
Rodriguez	Reese	8	Fuller	Khloe	10	Meyman	Oz	11
Roemhildt	Claire	8	Hess	Kody	10	Morgan	Gracie	11
Root	Mandi	8	Hiller	Ethan	10	Murphy	Jason	11
Rugger	Hannah	8	Hillsman	Sophia	10	Pfeifer	Addison	11
Sharif	Asha	8	Kahnke	Haley	10	Rupe	Tauston	11
Thursdale	Megan	8	Kopetzki	Allen	10	Sampson	Nevaeh	11
VanDenHemel	Ava	8	Larrabee	Madilyn	10	Sandborg	Kenzie	11
Zimmerman	Addison	8	Larson	Jolee	10	Slattery	Takara	11
Chawra	Grace	9	Mansfield	William	10	Williams	Aniyah	11
Danner	Lucas	9	Marik	Dakotah	10	Wilson	Solomon	11
Drake	Noelle	9	Murphy	Remy	10	Wirtz	Maxwell	11
Dufault	Brody	9	Olson	Catherine	10	Wobschall	Henri	11
Dunn	Zoey	9	Possin	Christian	10	Young	Kendra	11
Garza	Isabella	9	Reger	Logan	10	Anderson	Jack	12
Hudak	Megan	9	Roemhildt	Chloe	10	Androli	Charlie	12
Huttemier	Henry	9	Sanchez	Lillianna	10	Anhorn	Alex	12
Jensen	Jacey	9	Schafer	Jaiden	10	Barstad	Aliyah	12
McQuery	Nolan	9	Teague	Hannah	10	Bjerke	Cecelia	12
Morrissey	Kaylie	9	Wulf	Caleb	10	Dahle	Noah	12
			Anderson	Hunter	11	Farooq	Ahmed	12
			Brinkman	Alexis	11	Flatau	Tegan	12
			Danner	Caden	11	Gordon	Emily	12
			Dauchel	Jade	11			

The Pastor's Column

It is midsummer, time to enjoy it

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

The Great Waseca Get-Together. It is fair time in Waseca, we get to greet our friends and indulge in foods we don't normally eat. Have you wandered through the barns? Have you explored the history of Waseca? Or played with the kids in the corn bin?

The stages are calling me this year, music and comedy while enjoying my own iced tea in the heat. I am excited to be outside this week doing something other than mowing my lawn. It is mid-summer, and I am going to enjoy it!

My problem is that sermons don't write themselves, visits don't get done unless you show up, the lawn doesn't get cut if it is raining and there are projects inside and outside the house that take time. I want to enjoy the summer, but there is so much to do! Do you have that same problem?

God does not want us to labor all the days of our lives. He has given us days of rest and refreshment. He has planned patterns to our days and seasons, some busy and others slower. Now is our time to enjoy what He has for us.

He sent the rain in its time and now nourishes the earth with heat causing everything around us to grow. King David speaks to God's actions on the earth and calls for us to respond in worship. Psalm 65:9-13 (CSB)

9 You [God] visit the earth and

water it abundantly, enriching it greatly.

God's stream is filled with water, for You prepare the earth in this way, providing people with grain.

10 You soften it with showers and bless its growth, soaking its furrows and leveling its ridges.

11 You crown the year with Your goodness; Your ways overflow with plenty.

12 The wilderness pastures overflow, and the hills are robbed with joy.

13 The pastures are clothed with flocks and the valleys covered with grain.

They shout in triumph; indeed, they sing.

Let us respond to God's provision of the earth by rejoicing together, yes, we have had rain and flooding, but God is good and He has brought the warmth to cause our flocks and crops to grow. We rejoice and sing for what God has done and the harvest that He has planned to come.

In your work, trust in God's concern to provide for you. In your rest, trust in God's provision of refreshment. In your worship, have faith to see that God is worthy of it in the rain and the sunshine. In all of this enjoy what God is doing, He has planned these days for your good and His glory. Worship God in your rest and refreshing.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 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: 1ewaseca@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 Interim 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 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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NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

Waseca County Property & Election Services Office will test the electronic voting machines to be used for vote tabulation in the Primary Election of August 13th, 2024.

Testing will be held on Monday July 22nd, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the Election Room on the main floor of the Courthouse, 307 North State Street, Waseca, MN.

The Public is invited to attend.

Tamara J. Spooner, Director of Property & Election Services

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on July 12, 2024.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Before the
Waseca County Board of Commissioners
SITTING AS THE DRAINAGE AUTHORITY FOR
Waseca County Ditch 35

In the Matter of:

JOHN E KRAUSE TRUSTEE
DORIS K KRAUSE TRUSTEE
10769 300TH AVE
WASECA, MN 56093

Petition for Authority to Use Waseca
County Ditch 35 as an Outlet

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, the Waseca Board of Commissioners of the Waseca County Drainage Authority, sitting as the drainage authority for Waseca County Ditch 35, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103E.401, shall hold a public hearing on the petition of John and Doris Krause to use Waseca County Ditch 35 as an outlet for drainage. The petition requests authority to use Waseca County Ditch 35 as an outlet for drainage from the following property:

14 acres in the NE ¼ of the NW ¼, section 14 of Wilton Township with PID # 11.014.0120

The hearing shall be held at 9:30AM on August 6th, 2024, at the Waseca County Board of Commissioners Room, located in the Waseca County East Annex at 300 N. State St. Waseca, MN 56093. All interested parties may appear and be heard.

Brian Harguth
Board Chair

Dated: 7-02-2024

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on July 12, 19, 26 and August 2, 2024

NOTICE OF FILING DATES
FOR 2024 CITY ELECTION

NOTICE is hereby given by the City of Waseca, Minnesota that the first day of filing of candidates for the November 5, 2024 City General Election is **Tuesday, July 30, 2024**, and the last day for filing is **Tuesday, August 13, 2024**.

The offices to be filled at said election are as follows:

Mayor – two year term
Council member Ward 1 – four year term
Council member Ward 2 – four year term
Council member Ward 3 – four year term

Candidates may file in the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 508 South State Street, Waseca, Minnesota, during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., from July 30, 2024, to August 13, 2024. The City Clerk’s office will be open until 5:00 p.m. on August 13th. Candidates must be over 21 years of age and have maintained residence in the Ward from which the candidate seeks election for 30 days before the election. Filing fee is \$2.00.

Julia Hall
City Clerk

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on July 5, 12, 19, 26, and August 2 and 9, 2024.

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642
July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6pm BAR Bingo	4 7pm HALL BINGO	5 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	6
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			

HOURS OF OPERATION
SUN.– MON. CLOSED
TUE.– WED.-3pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady’s nite 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm.
THUR.—1pm to 11pm
FRI.– SAT.-11am to 1 am
POST & AUX MEETING 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license number 00385

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.: 81-PR-24-461
In Re: Estate of
IVY M. JOHNSON,
Decedent
**NOTICE AND ORDER FOR
HEARING ON PETITION
FOR DESCENT OF PROP-
ERTY**

TO ALL INTERESTED PER-
SONS:
A Petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years ago, leaving property in Minnesota and the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property. Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted. It is ordered and Notice is further given that the Petition will be heard on the 11th day of September, 2024, at 10:00 am, by this Court via Zoom technology.
1. Notice shall be given to all interested persons (Minn. Stat. 524.1-401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minn. Stat. 524.3-204.
2. Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by mailing a copy of this Notice and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing date.
BY THE COURT
Dated: July 1, 2024
/s/ Carol M. Hanks
Judge of District Court
/s/ Shannon M. Asselin
Deputy Court Administrator

**PATTON HOVERSTEN &
BERG PA**
Perry A. Berg, #135999
215 E. Elm Avenue
Waseca, MN 56093
Phn: 507-835-5240

Published in the Waseca
County Pioneer on July 5 and
12, 2024



Waseca County Courthouse
307 N. State Street
Waseca, MN 56093-2953
Phone: 507-835-0630
Fax: 507-835-0633

07/05/2024

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes section 373.01, subdivision 1(b), the purpose of this letter is to inform the public of the sale of real property owned by Waseca County in Waseca County. The property available for sale is identified below. The full legal description for this Property is included at the end of this notice.

Property No. 1: PID No. 01.003.1050. Approximately 10.41 Acres.

SUMMARY OF BID PROCESS

The County will pay all assessments (current or delinquent), taxes, and deferred installments of assessments, if any, currently levied against said real estate. The cost of recording the deed will be paid by the purchaser. The purchaser shall be required to pay all state deed tax/recording fees required for the conveyance. Upon acceptance of any bid, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 373.01, the County shall reserve to itself all iron ore and other valuable minerals in and upon the land, with right to explore for, mine and remove the iron ore and other valuable minerals. The minimum bid amount for this property is identified in the full bid documents.

The full bid documents and information can be accessed on the Waseca County Website, <https://www.wasecacounty.gov/>, to be printed off, or you can stop in at 900 3rd Street NE, Waseca, MN 56093 for a copy.

Bids will need to be received in the Public and Elections office located at the Courthouse (307 N State Street, Waseca, MN 56093) no later than 1 pm on Friday, July 26, 2024. Bid opening will be held at the East Annex Conference Room on July 26, 2024, at 1:10pm. All bids shall be considered and the one most favorable to the County accepted, but the County Board may, in the interest of the County, reject any or all bids. The County Board will make a final determination at the County Board meeting on 08-06-2024, in the county meeting room located at 300 State Street N Waseca, MN 56093.

Questions regarding the properties can be submitted to the contact below.

Sincerely,

Brian Tomford, Facilities Director
900 3rd Street NE (507-835-0629)
brian.tomford@wasecacounty.gov

Legal Description for the Property

Exhibit “A”

Tract A. That part of the North Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 3, Township 107 North, Range 24 West, shown as Parcels 17 and 18 on Minnesota Department of Transportation Right of Way Plat Numbered 81-27 as the same is on file and of record in the office of the County Recorder in and for Waseca County, B1 as shown on said Plat No. 81-27; thence southerly on an azimuth of 181 degrees 16 minutes 15 seconds along the boundary of said plat for 23.06 feet to Right of Way Boundary Corner B2; thence continue on an azimuth of 181 degrees 16 minutes 15 seconds for 294.03 feet to the point of beginning of Tract A to be described; thence continue on an azimuth of 181 degrees 16 minutes 15 seconds for 30.31 feet; thence southwesterly for 567.94 feet on a non-tangential curve, concave to the southeast, having a radius of 1121.35 feet, a delta angle of 29 degrees 01 minutes 09 seconds and a chord azimuth of 251 degrees 50 minutes 25 seconds; thence on an azimuth of 237 degrees 19 minutes 50 seconds for 925.37 feet; thence deflect to the right on a tangential curve, having a radius of 624.81 feet and a delta angle of 08 degrees 58 minutes 42 seconds for 97.91 feet; thence continue on the last described curve for 172.25 feet; thence on an azimuth of 00 degrees 53 minutes 32 seconds for 491.43 feet; thence on an azimuth of 70 degrees 53 minutes 32 seconds for 696.79 feet; thence deflect to the right on a tangential curve, having a radius of 1357.39 feet and a delta angle of 12 degrees 35 minutes 12 seconds for 298.19 feet; thence on an azimuth of 83 degrees 41 minutes 39 seconds for 143.93 feet; thence on an azimuth of 90 degrees 25 minutes 16 seconds for 465.70 feet to the point of beginning;

containing 10.41 acres, more or less;

Subject to the following restrictions and reservations:

No access shall be permitted to Trunk Highway No. 14 from the lands herein conveyed, except that access shall be permitted along the following described line: Commencing at Right of Way Boundary Corner B1 as shown on said Plat No. 81-27; thence southerly on an azimuth of 181 degrees 16 minutes 15 seconds along the boundary of said plat for 23.06 feet to Right of Way Boundary Corner B2; thence continue on an azimuth of 181 degrees 16 minutes 15 seconds for 324.34 feet to the point of beginning of the line to be described; thence southwesterly for 567.94 feet on a non-tangential curve, concave to the southeast, having a radius of 1121.35 feet, a delta angle of 29 degrees 01 minutes 09 seconds and a chord azimuth of 251 degrees 50 minutes 25 seconds; thence on an azimuth of 237 degrees 19 minutes 50 seconds for 925.37 feet; thence deflect to the right on a tangential curve, having a radius of 624.81 feet and a delta angle of 08 degrees 58 minutes 42 seconds for 97.91 feet and there terminating.

THE ABOVE DESCRIBED REAL PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO THE RIGHTS OF EXISTING UTILITIES, IF ANY, AS PROVIDED IN MINNESOTA STATUTES §161.45 SUBDIVISION 3.

Effectively providing services for the health, safety, and general welfare of the public

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on July 5, 12, and 19, 2024.

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• Call (507) 837-6767

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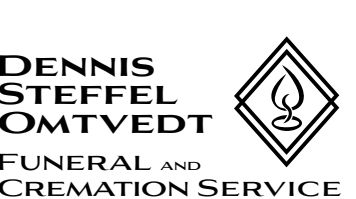
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Horse Thief Detectives gather for group's 160th annual meeting

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca County Horse Thief Detectives (WCHTD) met on July 4 at Northeast Park in Waseca. Thursday was not the greatest day for the WCHTD to conduct its annual potluck lunch. Thanks to the weather—it rained, and rained hard for much of the scheduled gathering time—only about one-third of the expected 100 participants attended. The optimists in the group were rewarded when, from noon till around two-thirty there was a small break in the rain. Even a touch of sunshine complimented the brief respite.

With dark red roasting pans keeping the fried chicken warm, President Scott Roemhildt welcomed everyone to the event with his call to order, “Welcome to the hundred and sixtieth consecutive WCHTDs potluck lunch and annual get-together.” The microphone was handed to Vice President Les Wells who said the opening prayer; Wells told the crowd he has led the prayer for “many years.” With the Pledge of Allegiance, everyone stood and placed hands on their hearts.

From there, lunch was served and a long line was formed to the sound of grumbling bellies and smiling faces. The nearby playground was empty of children, because of the rain. In line at the potluck, everyone looked forward to a nice spread. Numerous potato salads, walnut cranberry salad, cucumber salad, a basket of strawberries, hotdog sauerkraut hot-dish, crispy fried chicken, spicy seven-bean casserole, four different

cakes of chocolate or fruit and a tray of cookies. Nearby was a cooler of bottled water donated by Culligan’s in Waseca.

There was a constant hum of talking as everyone got their food and sat at the long tables under the pavilion.

And that’s how it was for the first hour, serene.

As plates were cleared and water was drunk and faces wiped, President Roemhildt got up to speak again to cover the items on the agenda. As he spoke, a “Captain of Riders” sheet was passed around for anyone who wanted to sign up. Captains of Riders are the first detectives to ride out after a report of a stolen horse is received.

The demands of the title seem minimal, given no such reports have been received in quite a while, according to Roemhildt: “Not a single horse was reported stolen in Waseca county for 2024.”

The Waseca County Horse Thief Detectives somehow kept the peace for another year. Many people turned to each other and said “Thank you” and “Congratulations.”

Randy Raub, Beth Raub, Danny Robinson and Autumn Stewart were welcomed as new members of the WCHTDs. Focusing on Autumn Stewart, it was announced that former secretary Therese Riecke has stepped down and needed to be replaced. Autumn

Stewart rose to the challenge and was accepted.

For next year Scott Roemhildt will be president again. Vice President will again be Les Wells

with Dale Riecke as Captain of Riders and Treasurer Amy Roemhildt. Other items

on the agenda were the bank accounts of the WCHTDs. Formerly Roundbank, Minnwest bank has begun charging ten dollars per year to have a savings account. WCHTD has \$429 in checking with \$2714 in savings, but there won’t be enough interest with that amount to cover the ten-dollar charge. Treasurer Roemhildt asked to transfer from the savings account to the checking account because there’s no extra charge to keep in checking. The savings account will then be closed. With \$192 in donations this year there will be \$3144 in total funds.

The WCHTDs also donated \$100 to the Law Enforcement Memorial Association. Last year was \$100, next year it was suggested the amount be raised to \$150. That motion passed.

The WCHTDs will have a booth at the Waseca County Fair from July 10-14 and have a unit in Pemberton’s Summerfest Parade on August 3. In December they will be at the Elysian Holiday Parade and at next year’s Sleigh and Cutter Parade where there will be a display table.

The plan is to again meet at the Northeast Park pavilion for next year’s annual meeting; the fee is \$90,



Waseca County's "Horse Thief Detectives" organization stems from pioneer days when there were very few law enforcement officers, and when summoning them might take hours. Instead, property owners banded together so that, if someone's livestock was taken, a group could be formed quickly to investigate the theft and pursue the thieves. Today, Waseca County's "detectives" are members of the state's oldest continually operating organization of its type..

Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

which was approved. Some members suggested that if there is the threat of rain next

year, it wouldn’t hurt to have a backup meeting location. It was discussed and agreed upon to reserve the St. John’s Lutheran Church community hall with a \$30 charge. There are chairs and tables and plenty of room.

To finish things off, new members Randy and Elizabeth Raub were ready to show everyone how to rope. Hay bales were lined up and some of the bales had horns. The Waseca County Horse

Thief Detectives took timely advantage of the break in the weather. Anyone interested can be a lifetime member for a one-time fee of \$5. Call President Roemhildt (507) 995-9832 to sign up.



Members of the Horse Thief Detectives took care of organization business, were given lessons in roping, and had the chance to purchase memorabilia during their annual meeting on July 4.

Braves romp Aces, win 4-2 over Morristown

By JIM LUTGENS
Staff Writer

The Waseca Braves plated five runs in the first inning and four in the second at Owatonna's Fuller Field last week.

It proved to be more than enough offense.

The Braves went on to total 16 hits while defeating the Owatonna Aces 15-3.

"We got off to a great start," said Waseca coach Tink Larson.

Eight of the nine players in the Braves' starting lineup had at least one hit, led by Ryan Hanson and Griffin Krautkremer with three hits each. Tyson Reger, Jimmy Loonan, Chris Glynn and Ben Schoenrock had two hits apiece. Glynn homered. Payton Garza doubled and drove in a run. Alex Feeney also hit safely.

Hanson went the distance on the mound to earn his third win in four decisions.

"Something unusual happened," said Larson.

Of the 21 outs for Owatonna, only one came in a ground ball. Hanson gave up six hits, struck out eight and walked seven.

The Braves won 4-2 at Morristown as Kelvin Nelson pitched a complete game.

"Kelvin pitched his best game of the year," said Larson. The Braves backed him with errorless defense.

Nelson's dad, Blake, the Braves' manager, was pressed into service and the 64-year-old played well with a hit, a walk and a nice backhand play on defense."

Loonan got things started with a big two-run single in the first inning. Glynn had two hits. Krautkremer, Kelvin Nelson, Feeney and Blake Nelson had one hit each.

"That was a very nice win against Morristown, which has a nice team, and they had a good pitcher throwing against us," said Larson. "We we had 10 baserunners in the first four innings and only two baserunners over final five innings."

Legion drops two of three

By JIM LUTGENS
Staff Writer

The Waseca American Legion baseball team was so close for so long at Kasson last week.

But it all fell apart in the sixth inning.

"It was a good game until Kasson's last at-bat," said Waseca coach Tink Larson. "We just about threw a no-hitter and lost."

Aiden Shoemaker and Max Wirtz combined to pitch the near-gem.

Waseca was down 2-1 in the bottom of the sixth with two outs and two strikes when their number nine hitter got an opposite field single. A couple batters later, Kasson got a three-run double to make it 6-1, and that's how it finished.

Kasson totaled just two hits, but their two pitchers combined for nine strikeouts and no walks. They had two fielding errors.

Payton Garza, Tyson Reger and Colton Ruedy had hits, Reger's being

a double. Garza, Reger and Teague each had one sacrifice. Waseca totaled two errors.

Waseca won one of two games in a weekend tournament at New Ulm, falling 7-2 to Plover, Wis. in the opener. Post 228 was outhit 10-6. Each team had one error. Ruedy took the pitching loss.

Kendrick Volkmann had two hits, with Reger, Riley Mitchell, Nate Engel-Mueller and Teague adding one apiece. Waseca drew three walks and struck out seven times.

The Post 228 bats came alive in the final two innings against Dassel-Cokato while winning 13-5.

Reger pitched a complete game, striking out 14.

Volkmann had a hit and three stolen bases. Also hitting safely were Reger, Garza, Keato Roeker, Teague, Engel-Mueller and Wirtz. Reger had two stolen bases.

"We played some good competition in this tournament and showed well," said Larson.

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