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WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

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Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca

Friday, July 19, 2024

■ Inside

County Fair

2024 Waseca County Free Fair



Scenes from throughout the 2024 Waseca County fair. More photos on Pages 3, 14 and 16. Pioneer photos by Deb Bently, Ben Revermann and Eli Lutgens



Another successful county fair in the books

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Robin Dulas, secretary treasurer for the Waseca County Fair, says she's always saddened when the fun is over. "I'd rather go to the fair for another day than go back to work," she jokes.

"We spend all those months choosing and planning the various events, it's really exciting to be there watching it all happen."

In reviewing the 2024 county fair, Dulas estimates attendance was probably slightly lower than last year's 20,000: The weekend's high temperatures and hot sun, she speculated, kept many people from going outdoors.

Planning for the annual fair begins already in July or August of the previous year. "We're not afraid to try

things and see how they go," says Dulas.

New this year was "Dock Dogs," a canine competition which ranks dogs for their speed, distance or height as they leap into a 30-foot long tank of water to retrieve an object. Set up in the central area among the buildings, the attraction was very busy. "Even with four shows a day," Dulas observes, "their [spectator] bleachers were full every time."

Also new for 2024 was dividing demolition derby competitions in the grandstand across two evenings. "We have had requests to do that," Dulas explains. "This way, instead of finishing at 10 or 10:30, the show is over at about 8:30 or 9:00, which gives people time to enjoy other attractions at the fair."

"It also makes it easier for families with younger chil-

dren."

Now that the two-night format has been tried, Dulas comments, fair board members will discuss whether it's something they wish to continue.

Dulas mentions the performances of Poppa Bear Norton and the teen band Blue Dirt Road as having been particularly well attended. Though few fairgoers are likely to have noticed, Dulas said the carnival rides were brought in by a different company this year, and so fair board members will be evaluating their satisfaction with the services it offered.

A heritage event this year was a photograph taken by showcased photographer R.J. Kerns. In addition to having a display and various presentations throughout the fair, Kern encouraged fairgoers and animal caretakers to

arrange themselves and their animals on the green plaza centered among the fair buildings. From the height of a lift truck, he took a stylized photo meant to represent the community atmosphere of the fair; a poster-sized proof of the photo was presented to the fair board. Kern also gave demonstrations using a century-old camera and chemical photo development.

Dulas mentioned the performers on the free stage are selected to provide variety and family-oriented entertainment; fair board members often arrange for those groups and individuals during a convention in January, at which the various performers demonstrate elements of their shows and offer contracts.

Waseca Summer Garden Walk 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 20

The Summer Garden Tour is from 1 to 5 p.m. this Saturday, July 20. The first stop is the Bailey-Lewer House at 315 Second Ave Northeast, Waseca, where maps and refreshments will be provided. Sponsored by the Waseca Garden Club.

Test Drive a School Bus event Sat., July 20

Interested individuals are offered the chance to try their hand at driving a school bus at the Waseca County fairgrounds from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 20. A special course which offers the chance to drive, maneuver, and even drive the vehicles in reverse, is meant to allow potential drivers to test their potential. Information will be offered about what it takes to become a school bus driver. More information is available from Palmer Bus Service at 507-833-1150.

Briefs continued on 5

*A word from
The Word* 

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalms 147:3

Samaritan's Purse volunteers working to restore homes, hope

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Waterville resident Jim Keller says he has gone through the five stages of grief over the past month. Keller's home of 25 years sits on the shore of Lake Tetonka; a favorite feature of the simple structure is a sturdy deck that looks directly out over the lake.

In all the time he, his wife Teresa, and his now adult sons James and Erik have occupied the structure, there had been water in the crawl space underneath a few times, but never in the house.

So when Lake Tetonka began to rise in mid-June, he says, he was able to remain in the stage of denial for a time.

"I told myself, 'It won't get that high,'" he remembers of those first few days.

As the water continued to rise, he and his family put sandbags around the house. "The water rose higher, so we got more sandbags. We just kept stacking them," he remembers. Despite their hard work, though, water filled the crawlspace and then actually began flowing up into the house through the air vents. "It was coming from everywhere, and we knew there was nothing we could do," he describes.

"That's when it became a rescue mission. We had lost the battle, so it was time to start saving what we could." Family and friends used concrete blocks to lift the stove, refrigerator and beds above floor level. When it became evident the blocks weren't tall enough, "It was chairs," Keller remembers.

"Somewhere in there, I got to the 'anger' phase. God wasn't very high on my list about then."

The bargaining and depression phases were likely spread out across the four or so days the family had no access to their home and then the first time they were able to return.

At its height, Keller estimates, the water level reached about 7 feet above where it had been when spring began. Water had risen at least 18 inches inside the home, soaking carpets and drywall. The stench of spoil and mold were pervasive. Furnishings, decorations and photographs that had been part of the family's life for decades were ruined.

"It looked hopeless," Keller describes.

All through the disaster, LeSueur County and area benevolent organizations had been providing services including sandbags and sand, emergency shelters, meals and medical at-



Waterville homeowner Jim Keller with Linda Mywaart, the Samaritan's Purse volunteer who was site leader for the cleanup of Keller's home after it had been badly damaged by flooding. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

"That's when it became a rescue mission. We had lost the battle, so it was time to start saving what we could."

— Waterville resident Jim Keller

attention. As the water began to recede, area homeowners were invited to meetings where they were informed of further disaster assistance services.

Keller and his family attended, learning for the first time of "Samaritan's Purse," which is described online as an "evangelical Christian humanitarian aid organization." The group would be coming to the area, and would be providing help free of

charge.

"We got on a list," says Keller with surprising good cheer. "And one day these folks showed up."

On Wednesday, July 10, Samaritan's Purse volunteers were in their third day of working at Keller's house. A box truck with storage for tools and equipment stands out front. With the building almost cleared,

Canadian organization volunteering in Waterville

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Since July 2, Nova Scotia resident Andy Northup has been the team leader for a "disaster response unit" sent to work in Waterville by the Canadian branch of the Samaritan's Purse philanthropic organization. A full-sized semi trailer, the response unit has an office with its own designated phone number and is organized to carry supplies and equipment needed to cope with many types of damage.

As leader, Northup has been operating the group's command center located at Waterville's Baptist Church along Highway 60. Parked in the church lot are a number of semi-trailer and box truck units supplied by Samaritan's Purse; each carries supplies to be used as volunteers remove debris and begin the work needed to refurbish flood-damaged homes.

In addition to keeping operations running smoothly, he says he presents two "orientation" sessions each day. These are necessary, he explains, because even

Waterville continued on 5

Volunteers continued on 5



Compostings

by Al Batt

The alfalfa male

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

We should switch to Roman numerals.
Who wants to do that?
I for one.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. The journey of 1000 miles for a squirrel starts with running, stopping, then running in a different direction and repeating those three things endlessly. The journey of 1000 miles for a killdeer (a bird that calls its name) begins with a run and halt, reacting to stop-and-go lights that only it can see.

Bob Dylan sang, "You don't need a weathervane to know which way the wind blows," but a weathervane helps. Pope Gregory I declared that the rooster was "the most suitable emblem of Christianity," referring to Jesus' prophecy that Peter would deny him three times before the rooster crows. In the 9th century, Pope Nicholas I decreed that a rooster be placed at the top of every church and the famous rooster weathervane was born. The rooster's tail caught the breeze and allowed the weathervane to spin, with his beak acting like the point of the directional arrow. The rooster rose with the sun and announced the start of the day. We had both a rooster and a pig for weathervanes on our farm. They both knew which way the wind was blowing.

If you live in or around a small town, you know it's a place where you're no longer a stranger after having lived there for just five minutes, but you're still a newcomer 50 years after having moved there.

I swatted at mosquitoes in a salute to our insect overlords. According to a scientific crew from the House of Research & Stuff, 43% of my yard is made up of mosquitoes this year. I haven't used any bug juice at home yet, but I might.

I met a man who told me that he'd been an original member of a hit reality TV show, but he'd been fired because he wouldn't follow the script. He said, "A reality show shouldn't have a script." If I'd been in a reality TV show as a boy, it might have been called "My Three Aunt Helens" because I'd been blessed with three Aunt Helens. If they were alive today, they'd be ancient. One of them loved shopping.

She'd be a later-day Helen of Troy whose face would launch a thousand shipments, thanks to the facial recognition software on her iPad. She'd buy lots of bug juice. She'd likely purchase some hiccup cures. I had the hiccups once for three long weeks. A guy bet me a dollar I couldn't hiccup five times. That was his cure. It didn't work. Any hiccup, mine or another's, brings memories of that marathon. You can pretend to have the hiccups, but you can't pretend not to have the hiccups.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

I can cut down a tree just by looking at it. I saw it with my own eyes.

What do you call the dominant hay farmer? The alfalfa male.

We don't walk through a door. We walk through a doorway. A door gets in the way.

I was going to tell you a joke about time travel, but you didn't get it.

NATURE NOTES

I enjoy a drumroll when I leave the house. Why not? A woodpecker was happy to provide one by drumming on a resonant limb like John Bonham on the day he graduated from the School of Hard Knocks.

I listened to an eastern woodpeewee and his slurred whistle, a plaintive "pee-ah-wee" or "pee-wee" falling in pitch at the end. I have named him Herman. He's a peewee Herman.

I watched turkey vultures soar with limited flapping. In Tibet, vultures are considered angels who bring souls to heaven where they can be reincarnated.

Crown vetch is a legume native to Europe and Asia. It was introduced to the US in the mid-1800s, and by the 1950s became widely planted. In the Midwest, it's been planted as a cover crop and used for soil stabilization on ditch banks. Crown vetch flowers vary from white to pink to lavender and bloom from May through August. Similar plants show violet-blue flowers on cow vetch (bird vetch), and blue and white on hairy vetch. The flowers of cow vetch and hairy vetch are arranged in a line along the stalk, unlike the clustered arrangement at the top of crown vetch. Crown vetch has a leaflet at the tip of its leaves and doesn't have tendrils at the tips as cow and hairy vetch do.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Don't search for kindness. Find where it is needed.

Our neighbors made national news

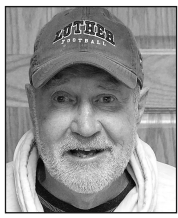
Mother Nature has been busy delivering some eye-opening weather this summer. We have acquired a whole new understanding of the term "rained out" after strings of rainy days and rainstorms. The news has been full of reports and images of flood disasters: Rapidan, Henderson and Mankato are just a few. Numerous Waseca residents have experienced sump pump disasters, flooded basements, and overflowing rain gauges.

Our neighboring town of Waterville has made the national—and even international—news. As I've mentioned in previous columns, Lisa and I have a cabin bordering Lake Tetonka in Waterville; it has completely escaped damage by virtue of being on a hill. I had removed my boat and done what I could in advance to protect my dock and boat lift from the rising water, which eventually submerged even the bench attached to the dock, and reached the level of the boat lift's canopy.

Much of Tetonka Boulevard spent most of a week under water. Along with that, a water main under the street had broken, and so it was only recently that I was able to drive to our property and check the status of things.

As anxious as I was about our cabin, I came to a dead stop a couple blocks shy of it to observe something which caught me by surprise. A one-level red house is the first one I always encounter as I turn onto Tetonka Boulevard. It is a charming little place located less than 10 feet above typical water levels. The house was surrounded by sandbags, but had not been saved by them, since debris was evident all around.

Instead of being a picture of abandoned desolation, though, it was a hive of activity. One fairly large box truck and three typical-sized white pickups were parked in front; and prominently displayed the name "Samaritan's Purse." People dressed in



Bits and Pieces



by Dave Zika



bright orange t-shirts were coming and going, carrying loads of debris out of the home and depositing them in fairly orderly fashion along the roadside.

After watching in surprise and curiosity for a time, I drove on to my cabin where I confirmed the building was undamaged, took note that my dock will require a great many repairs, and ensured the water was running properly. Then I drove home to Waseca.

As I pulled into my driveway, I was followed in by Dan and Pam Kimball. It was impossible to miss that they were wearing the same bright t-shirts as those I had seen a short time before. They had stopped to say hello as they were returning from doing some volunteer work—at a red house along Tetonka Boulevard in Waterville.

Pam showed me a map of the U.S. which indicated a number of places across the country where the organization Samaritan's Purse was inviting volunteers. Of course Waterville was on the map.

Dan encouraged me to visit the red house and get the whole story.

On the internet, I found the information that Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational Christian evangelical organization providing spiritual and physical aid to people hurting around the world. Disaster victims submit a request for help, the request is assessed and selected for a "deployment," and voila—teams of people in orange t-shirts arrive to provide whatever help is useful.

The "disaster relief units" come

amazingly well prepared with a wide variety of equipment and supplies.

In Waterville, the "command center" was located at the Baptist Church. Crews were given their assignments each day at 7:30 a.m. and then headed out to fulfill them.

Volunteers come from near and far. They pay for their own transportation to the location, but then are provided with food, lodging, and the equipment needed to do the work, not to mention orange t-shirts.

Many of the Samaritan's Purse volunteers working in Waterville were given meals and lodging at Christ Community Church in Waseca.

Linda, the site leader at the red house, had come from Calgary, Alberta, Canada. She had been among the volunteers who brought down nine vehicles for use by the disaster response team. The pickups and box trucks had been deployed out of North Carolina. Alongside the folks in orange shirts was a smaller number of volunteers wearing blue shirts. These were chaplains from a Billy Graham organization which partners with Samaritan's Purse; the chaplains provide emotional and spiritual support.

I met one person after another who left me speechless—well, okay, not speechless—let's say they warmed my heart. A senior citizen was there working in the muck; he had come all the way from Texas. Another volunteer, this one from Ohio, was on his twelfth deployment, having previously assisted at the sites of floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and fires.

One pair of ladies told me they had become friends while volunteering on previous locations elsewhere. When the one from Georgia saw there was a posting to help in Minnesota, she called her friend from Motley and said she was on the way. The gal from Motley picked up the Georgian at the airport, and now both of them were here carrying debris and damaged building materials.

The owner of the red house, Jim, had worked countless hours side by side with the volunteers. As he thanked them over and over, I became teary-eyed and visually emotional.

Two ladies in blue t-shirts approached me, asked me about my feelings, and consoled me—me, the busybody visitor. After my visits with these amazing volunteers, I went home certain I had to spread the news. Feeling like the size of the story was a bit above my pay grade, I contacted Eli and asked whether he or Deb would be willing to put some information together.

The next day, I drove Deb up for a tour and introduced her to some of the folks I had met. You'll see the results of her work nearby in this edition of the paper.

Now, when I drive by the red house on my way to the cabin, everything looks much more orderly. There's a diminishing pile of debris on the curb, but the people in orange t-shirts had moved on to a different project. They had left Jim's house ready for repairs and reconstruction, including having treated it with powerful mold prevention substances.

Almost everyone knows the parable of the Good Samaritan. I saw that parable come alive as I watched a group of people—most of whom were strangers to each other when the task began—working side by side together to make an unbearable situation bearable for those whose Waterville homes were damaged by flood water. God will surely bless them all.

Rantings of a newly obsessed plant mom

Life drones on and on and on and I doze on and on and on. Well, it's more that I would like to doze on and on. . .

I hope I am not the only one who believes the best thing to do when you're feeling sleepy but don't really want to take a nap is to get up and move around—get the blood flowing by actually exercising or doing something to get you feeling energized. One would think that resting or taking a nap would make one less tired, but no, that's not necessarily true.

I found myself tired and sleepy the other day and trying to decide whether I was sick or not (I had a cough and congestion, but no fever or anything serious). I had to decide quickly because I had hours to kill before my weekly evening work meeting. Options laid out before me were napping or watching television or movies while resting, or working out, reading, baking, puzzling, or ad-



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

miring my little plants.

The weight of the decision was making me tired and seemed to take a lot of mental fortitude. Somewhere in there I realized a nap was not an option because I had an errand to run. With the decision made for me, I strolled on down to main campus and the bank. The walk, despite the heat, was actually quite nice and woke me up. As the serene voice of Adele played in my ears, I started to pick up the pace, walking with purpose and hopefulness for the day.

After my walk, I propagated some more plants and admired

some other ones I had put into soil weeks ago and are now growing in their own little adorable pots. As anyone I have talked with recently already knows (and has likely grown tired of hearing about), I love my little plants and garden that I have continued to grow in the windowsill of my small apartment. It's going to be interesting when my roommates move in again and I am no longer able to have plants on every level surface, since they will all have things they want displayed as well.

I am excited for the time (probably in a couple of years) when I

am able to move into a house with a yard of possibilities for my plants and their future plant siblings. Ideally, I picture myself moving into a place somewhere in the country where I can have all the yard space I want as my canvas of growth. At my parents' house, as the spots of yard turn from grass to dirt, my mom scours for rocks to outline the dirt spot, till it up and add some of the billion hostas that happen to flower in our yard. I want to be like that. Except maybe in a place where the deer won't eat my flowers and vegetables. But I am sure that is not avoidable, so I already give up that fight. Wow, what a great plant mom I am becoming.

My Determination: "I'm home! I'm home! Overweight minimum wage workers buying discount laundry detergent! I have missed you so much! God bless America! God bless America!"

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OBITUARIES

Willie Eichhorst

WILLIE JUNIOR EICHHORST, age 86 of Waldorf, died on the morning of Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at Hillcrest Rehabilitation Center in Mankato.

Willie was born in Waseca County on December 24, 1937, to parents Wilhelm and Alma (Schwarz) Eichhorst. He attended school in Waldorf and graduated with the class of 1955. Willie was married to Barbara M. Standke on September 20, 1969, at Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca by Rev. Meisner. Willie served in the United States Army Reserves until he was honorably discharged. He was a livestock and crop farmer all of his life, and he had a great love for the work. Over the years he worked on many farms, often while simultaneously caring for his own. He also enjoyed cutting wood on the farm, and he took great pride in his wood piles. Willie served on the Vivian Township board for 34 years, and also served on the FSA committee board for Waseca County.

Willie is survived by his devoted wife of fifty-four years, Barb Eichhorst of Waldorf; two sons, Jay Eichhorst of Mankato and Rick (Katie) Eichhorst of Mankato; two grandsons, Ryan and Brandon Eichhorst; one brother, Dean Eichhorst of Shakopee; six nieces; six nephews; two sisters-in-law, Karen Standke of Montana, and Karyl



Willie Eichhorst

(Kevin) Miller of New Richland. He was preceded in death by both of his parents; one brother, Allen Eichhorst; his parents-in-law, Karl and Evelyn Standke; one brother-in-law, Karl Standke; and one sister-in-law, Annabelle Eichhorst.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at First Lutheran Church in Waldorf, with Rev. Larry Sipe officiating. Visitation was held for one hour before the service at the church. Interment followed at First Lutheran Cemetery in Waldorf. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca is handling the arrangements. dsfuneral.com

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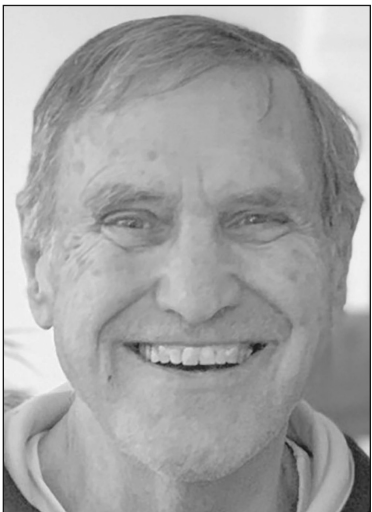
John Denz

JOHN "JACK" EDWARD DENZ, age 76, passed away on Sunday, July 7, 2024, in Cross Plains, Wisconsin.

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on December 9, 1947, Jack was the son of Charles and Viola (Stoeber) Denz. Jack graduated from Brookfield Central High School in Wisconsin and earned his Mechanical Engineering degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1973. He was drafted to the US Army during the Vietnam War and was stationed in Alexandria, Virginia. After an honorable discharge, Jack returned to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and obtained his Master of Business Administration in 1974. He dedicated over 30 years of his career to the printing industry, starting in Cambridge, Maryland, and later at Brown Printing Company in Waseca, Minnesota, where he retired as the Technical Director.

On April 3, 1971, Jack married Mary Sue Tofte in North Lake, Wisconsin, who preceded him in death in 2015. Together, they raised three children, Karen (Kevin) Worden, Jeff (Amy) Denz, and Christopher Denz. Jack worked diligently to support his family and cherished time spent camping, fishing, and attending countless hockey games.

In retirement, Jack found joy at his Island Lake cabin, where he loved hosting friends and family. He especially enjoyed taking his four grandchildren, Griffin, Parker, Kyle, and Natalie, on tube rides where he was known to "crack the whip". Jack was also a skilled carpenter, generously as-



John Denz

sisting his children with numerous home improvement projects while demonstrating anything can be solved with hard work, detailed analysis and logic.

In his later years, Jack enjoyed reading novels with his beloved British Labrador, "Roxy," always at his side.

Jack is preceded in death by his parents and siblings Donald Denz and Robert Denz. He will be deeply missed by his surviving family and friends, including his children, grandchildren, sisters Carol Bachman and Mary Maule, and many nieces and nephews.

A service to celebrate Jack's life will be held at 2:00 PM on Monday, July 22, 2024, at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Visitation will begin at 12:30 PM and continue until the time of the service. A reception at the Waseca American Legion will follow the services, where lunch will be provided.

DSOFuneral.com

Raymond G. Rosacker Jr.

Raymond G. Rosacker Jr., 83, of Waseca, MN passed away peacefully in the comfort of his own home on July 12, 2024 under the care of his daughter Tracie, and St. Croix Hospice.

Raymond Glen Rosacker was born on April 28, 1941 in Waseca, MN to Raymond Sr. and Hazel (Root) Rosacker. He was the oldest of five siblings. Ray grew up in New Richland, MN, on the farm (of only 160 acres), the farm his dad had been born on, and helped his dad farm until graduation. Ray graduated from New Richland High School in 1959. To many he knew he was 'Ray,' but to the immediate family he was 'Junior.'

After graduation, Ray decided driving semi was something he enjoyed, so he worked for Tipton Trucking until drafted into the Army during the Vietnam War. Ray served in the United States Army from 1962 to 1964. He served overseas in Viet-

nam from 1963 to 1964 in transportation, trucking supplies across from one side of Vietnam to the other daily. Ray and his company were some of the few soldiers who did not lose any brothers in the war.

Once honorably discharged from the service, Ray returned to his love of driving trucks for Tipton Trucking. Ray loved farm work, but decided driving semis was greater. In 1968 he met his wife, Kathryn Albers. On May 4, 1968, they were united in marriage in Hartland, MN at Kathy's parents' small café. Ray immediately took on fatherhood by loving and eventually adopting Kathy's daughter, Tracie. A few years later, Ray and Kathy adopted a son, Troy. They discovered another little one was on the way, Teresa, who was born in 1977.

Over the next many years, Ray drove many miles over the country, first for Tipton, who sold the business to Norseman Trucking, then Norseman Trucking (Steffen's Transport) of Waseca. Ray eventually went on his own and drove the mail route from Bemidji, MN to the Cities

round trip every night. After a few years of doing this, Ray and the family moved out to Denver, CO for a couple years, before they decided MN was still their home. Ray and Kathy divorced in 1991 and Ray moved to Waseca and worked at Cinch Connectivity until his health would not allow him to work at the age of 82. He valued hard work and expected the same from everyone else.

Those left to remember and cherish his memory are his children, Tracie, Troy, and Teresa Rosacker all of New Richland, grandchildren, Nathan, Elijah, and Jessica Lutgens, Mathew Rosacker, Cory, Casey, Jordan, Jaden, and Aleena Rosacker, Taya, Payge, and Meya Rosacker; nine great-grandchildren; one brother, Charles (Dana) Rosacker of Marshalltown, IA; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Raymond Sr. and Hazel Rosacker and siblings, Beth, Carol and Lawrence.

Services for Raymond were held on Wednesday, July 17, 2024 begin-



Raymond Rosacker

ning at 2 p.m. at the First Congregational Church in New Richland. A visitation for family and friends was held one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial followed at St. Peter's Cemetery in New Richland.

Dsofuneral.com

Hudspith talks enrollment, demographics

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

Superintendent Erik Hudspith presented highlights of the data from the district analysis completed by Teamworks International in a PowerPoint during the Waseca school board's work session held on July 11. The analysis began last spring and studied elements of the school district including enrollment and community demographics. "I think when you have a community that has a lot of moving parts, a lot of businesses, a lot of homeowners moving, there's a lot of concern about how things move and shake," Hudspith said. "To see some actual census data is helpful to ground us."

Enrollment data indicates that by school year 2028-2029, overall K-12 enrollment is projected to increase 1.5 percent to 1,704 students. Teamworks data also indicates that by 2033-2034, following patterns and cohort survival rate data, overall K-12 enrollment is projected to be 1,682 (nearly identical to 2023-2024). "That's a positive note," Hudspith told the

board. "Our district does not appear to be declining."

The overall resident K-12 market share is 85.8 percent; in other words, roughly 86 percent of school-age youth living within the district attend Waseca Public Schools (WPS) rather than registering at alternative options such as private school, home school, or open enrollment elsewhere. In fact, 9.4 percent of WPS K-12 students live outside the district's boundaries. "We are drawing some students in from open enrollment," Hudspith said. "We're at a net positive."

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Hudspith next discussed cohort survival rates; the number of students within a particular grade who continue on to the next grade. Cohort survival rates stayed at or greater than 100 percent through the intermediate grades, dropped to 97.9 percent in the junior high and to 96 percent at the high school, putting the average WPS cohort survival rate at 100 percent.

In his 2024 legislative session recap, Hudspith highlighted that

there would be more funding for implementation of the upcoming READ Act, minimal new money for the upcoming fiscal school year, and that the state will require each school district to follow a cell phone policy created by the state of Minnesota by March 2025. More information is available on the district's website.

Business manager Matthew Moline also gave an analysis of the long term facilities maintenance ten-year expenditures application. Moline said it was comparable to last year. Approval will take place at the next meeting.

Attention Woodville Township Residents:
The following offices will be up for election
to be filled at the November general election.

Treasurer, 4-year term
Supervisor, 6-year term

Filings are open Tuesday, July 30, 2024 at 8 a.m., and close Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at 5 p.m.

Interested parties should email the township clerk at woodvilletownshipclerk@outlook.com or by phone at 507-461-0193.

Andrew Miller, Woodville Township Clerk

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on July 19, 2024

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■ Briefs

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Free Public Swim from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, July 25

The Waseca Rotary Club is sponsoring a free night of public swimming at the Waseca water park from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, July 25. The weather permitting event is co-sponsored by Thrivent. Contact the Waseca Thrivent office at 507-835-9899 with questions.

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

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

Susan Rucker book signing 6 p.m. Monday, August 5, at Waseca Library

Nationally known consultant and motivational speaker Susan Rucker, who grew up in Waseca, will be telling about and signing copies of the book "Rise Up" at the Waseca Library beginning at 6 p.m. the evening of Monday, August 5.

Farmamerica "Food to Fork" Event 6 p.m. August 8

Farmamerica is offering a 6 p.m. "Food to Fork" dinner the evening of Thursday, August 8. For more information or to acquire tickets, visit the organization's website or telephone the office at 507-835-2052.

Annual Waseca Band Garage Sale at County Fairgrounds 4-H building Aug. 8, 9, 10

The Waseca Band Boosters organization will be holding its annual garage sale fundraiser across three days at the 4-H building located on the Waseca County fairgrounds. Donations can be delivered August 5, 6 and 7 during the afternoon and the morning of August 8. The sale begins at 4 p.m. August 8 and continues on Friday, August 9, and Saturday, August 10. Details regarding times are available in an advertisement available in this paper.

Community Salad

Luncheon 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, August 9 at Waseca's St. Paul Lutheran Church

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Waseca is offering a salad luncheon open to the public from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at its community hall at 314 Fourth Ave Northeast on Friday, August 9. The meal is \$8 per person.

Happy Days in Waseca 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.

"A Hard Day's Night" free band performance 7 p.m. Tuesday, August 13, at Waseca's Trowbridge Park

The Beatles cover band "A Hard Day's Night" will be giving a free performance open to the public at Waseca's Trowbridge Park pavilion at 7 p.m. the evening of Tuesday, August 13. The band bills itself as having an "authentic Beatles sound."

World Honeybee Day at Hofmann Apiary 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, August 17

The Waseca County History Center is sponsoring an observance of World Honeybee Day from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, August 17, at the Hofmann Apiary, 4661 420th Avenue, Janesville. The day will include the chance to meet local honey producers, tour the historic site's honey house and wax shed, and learn more about pollinators and honey production. More information is available from the History Center at 507-835-7700.

Waseca Area Foundation Anniversary 7 to 9 p.m. September 19 at Northeast Park Pavilion

The Waseca Area Foundation will be celebrating its thirty-fifth anniversary from 7 to 9 p.m. the evening of Thursday, September 19 at Waseca's Northeast Park. Food trucks and live music will be featured. More information is available from the Waseca Area Foundation at 507-835-5990.

Woodville Cemetery Tour Sunday, October 6

Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service is planning a walking tour of Woodville Cemetery for the afternoon of Sunday, October 6. The organization invites interested individuals to keep an eye on the company Facebook page for more information and "sneak peeks."



Volunteers from all over the United States came to participate in a "disaster response deployment" by Samaritan's Purse. These 24 volunteers were housed at Christ Community Church in Waseca.

■ Voluteers

from Page 1

though the organization expects to continue operating in Waterville into the beginning of August, various volunteers cycle in as they have time available. His sessions, he describes, help newcomers understand various procedures and protocols while also emphasizing safety.

Northup is one of 11 volunteers who drove the group's equipment down from Canada, where Samaritan's Purse is based in Calgary, Alberta. He notes there is a United States organization based in North Carolina; He then explains the Canadian group has come at the request of the U.S. organization, which already had response teams at 9 sites across the 48 contiguous states and has since added a tenth in Iowa.

Northup states his group was happy to come.

"Ultimately, it's faith based," he observes. "God loves all people through Christ. We exist to help those in need."

The group brought eight large vehicles in addition to the command trailer parked in Waterville. The remainder are located at Waseca's Christ Community Church along Fourth Street Northeast. The church is hosting as many as 25 volunteers, including providing some sleeping rooms and a dining hall. Parked nearby are a shower and hygiene trailer, a bunk trailer, and a fully outfitted mobile kitchen, all brought south on July 2.

Northup elaborates that the variety of vehicles is useful at remote sites, where Samaritan's Purse Canada is able to set up a small, self-sufficient village with its own electrical and water supplies.

Walter Northup, a mechanical technician with the organization, re-

iterates that the group is glad to be serving in Minnesota. "We humans are more alike than we are different," he comments. "In times of crisis, we all need someone to come alongside."

Founded by Franklin Graham, son of evangelist Billy Graham, Samaritan's Purse has the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) as a "sister" organization. BGEA sends trained spiritual advisors, referred to as chaplains, as spiritual support to both victims and volunteers at crisis sites.

Lead chaplain for the Waterville deployment is Kerstin Lehnendorf de Dimas. "We empathize. We provide emotional and spiritual support," she describes, revealing research has found that the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder are lessened when victims have a chance to express their feelings and experiences very soon after tragedy occurs. "When you go through trauma, your brain doesn't work like normal," she

says. "Trauma is something you can't prepare for; you're just thrown into it."

"Everyone is at a different spot. We try to be there for them, whatever that 'spot' might be." For those not ready to listen, de Dimas says, "We show the love of God through practical service."

Not everyone staying at Christ Community Church is from Canada, but all are volunteers through Samaritan's Purse.

Volunteer Sue Bayliss, 66, has come from Omaha with Anthony, an intellectually handicapped adult for whom she once acted as a foster parent. Bayliss describes having learned of Samaritan's Purse only three months ago, but currently being on her tenth deployment. "It does our hearts good," she says of the work. "People have experienced terrible tragedy, and they are so grateful for what we do. It lifts us up to be here."

■ Waterville

from Page 1

most workers have cycled on to other sites, but three remain.

Inside, Dave Sheevel, 81, a Texan, is pulling plywood off one wall while Jeff Streich, a Janesville area resident and member of Waseca's Christ Community Church, is doing the same in the next room.

Around them, only bare studs—with even the nails pulled out—show where one room ended and the next began.

As he continues working, Sheevel tells of having flown up from Texas and rented a car to use while in Minnesota, all at his own expense. He says he began volunteering with Samaritan's Purse in January of 2023 and is on his ninth "deployment." Through the organization, he has helped victims of fire, hurricane, tornado, and now flood.

"It's very rewarding," he says as he tugs on plywood. "I feel blessed I still have the health and the means to be here."

"I feel blessed to help."

Streich is volunteering for the first time. He says a call for help was is-

sued through his church. "I had some free time, so I thought I'd come over," he comments.

Out by the box truck, Canadian Linda Mywaart gives a quick summary of the steps followed during a "mud out," the clearing of a structure which has been soaked and filled with debris by flooding.

"Our chief goal is to give the homeowners hope," she begins. "When they return after there's been a flood, the space gives an impression of being completely ruined. It looks like such a big mess that they'll never be able to get it cleaned up."

She notes the smell, the quick onset of mold, and the debris left behind as the water recedes all work together to reinforce the impression.

The first step of the cleanup process, Mywaart explains, is that a designated organization "assessor" enters the structure to determine the extent of the damage and the steps needed to make it "reconstruction ready."

Volunteers follow through on the plan: Samaritan's Purse supplies tools, equipment, safety gear and support such as water, snacks and group meals.

"We remove the ruined materials and expose the surfaces that have been soaked by water so they can



A Samaritan's Purse box truck filled with supplies parked in front of Jim Keller's Waterville home. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

dry," Mywaart explains. "Once that's done, we back our way out of the house, spraying down all the surfaces with a mold treatment as we go."

Mywaart has been trained as a "site leader" for Samaritan's Purse Canada since 2019. She tells of having been deployed numerous times to disasters including hurricanes, tornadoes, fires and flood. This is the first time she has volunteered outside Canada, however. She reveals that her husband, a trained heavy equipment operator, is in Greenfield, Iowa help-

ing at a location affected by tornadoes.

She admits the work is "hard, hot, and heavy," but "It's also heart work," she says. "We are a group of Christians who believe we need to live our faith with our hands and feet."

"My husband and I feel we are both extremely blessed to have the faith, health, and means to volunteer," says Mywaart. "We also have the support of a congregation back home who are praying for us."

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Private wells endangered by rising floodwater

Health officials urge users to protect private wells from potential flood contamination

By Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

With the risk of flooding increasing in many parts of the state, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) urges private well users to prepare for the possibility that their wells might flood.

If you get your drinking water from a private well, taking these preventative actions now may help protect that water from becoming contaminated.

If your well is in a flood-prone area and you have time, consider contacting a licensed well contractor to check your well and make any necessary repairs or changes to help protect it from flooding. These changes may include repairing cracked or damaged casing, extending the well casing above the expected flood level, or temporarily replacing the vented well cap with a watertight cap or cover. You should also make sure that grading allows water to flow away from your well.

If you think your well might become flooded, store a supply of clean water that will last for at least a few days. Shut off power to the well pump to avoid having floodwater pumped into your plumbing system or home. If you only have a little time before a flood, you can cover the well with a heavy plastic bag or sheeting and secure it with electrical tape. This won't completely protect your well from contamination, but it will help reduce the amount of water and debris that could enter your well, making cleanup easier.

If floodwater reached your well, assume your well is contaminated. Water from your well should not be used for drinking, cooking or brushing your teeth until the floodwater recedes. Also:

- Avoid electrical shock. Do not approach a flooded well until it has been completely disconnected from its power source.
- If floodwater covered your well or may have entered your well directly, have a licensed well con-

tractor inspect the well, clean out sediment or debris and disinfect it with a chlorine solution. Using your well pump to remove sediment or debris could ruin the pump. To find a licensed well contractor check the Licensed Well and Boring Contractor Directory.

If floodwater reached your well, have a licensed well contractor disinfect your well – or complete the disinfection yourself – even if you don't think the floodwater entered the well. Detailed instructions are available at Disinfecting Flooded Private Water Wells.

After you or the licensed well contractor disinfects your well and pumps out the chlorine solution, contact your county health department or a laboratory accredited by MDH about how to get your well water tested for coliform bacteria. They will provide instructions on how to submit a water sample for testing. Accredited Labs in Minnesota Accepting Samples from Private Well Owners (PDF).

If your well water test comes back positive for coliform bacteria, repeat the disinfection and testing process. You may need to disinfect and test your well several times before your well is free of bacterial contamination.

Do not use the water from your well until the lab has informed you that it is safe and free of bacterial contamination.

If floodwater came within 50 feet of your well – but did not reach the well – MDH recommends that you have your well water tested for coliform bacteria as a precaution. You do not need to disinfect your well before having it tested. If the test comes back positive for bacteria, however, the well needs to be disinfected.

For more information, please contact the Well Management Section at MDH at health.wells@state.mn.us or 651-201-4600 or 800-383-9808 or visit the Natural Disasters and Private Wells page on the MDH website.

'Just Friends' singing group

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Every Monday evening for over an hour, they practice.

Then, depending on the time of year, they perform about once a week.

For a group of 10 who've named themselves "Just Friends," it seems they take their singing pretty seriously.

According to founding member and de facto director Randy Lewer, Just Friends was formed in 2002 by a group of New Richland area residents who "just like to sing." Back then, like today, there were about 10 members, all men who shared their Christian faith and their patriotism, along with some level of skill at singing in harmony.

"Some have gone, new ones have come, and we just keep on singing," observes Lewer.

Not that everything has stayed the same. Deceased members Roger Groskreutz and Jim Peterson, for example, are remembered and missed. New members Brian Vairma and Brad Stenel found out about the group and were welcomed within the past year.

"We've gone from being a New Richland group to being more of a southern Minnesota group," observes Lewer.

They have a repertoire which includes dozens of songs and have performed so many places that they are remembered and called out like wins at Bingo every few minutes. The group has been invited to weddings, funerals, birthdays, fairs, churches, care facilities, campgrounds and community celebrations in a wide circle around their home base of New Richland. The farthest away was at a church in Rogers. The largest crowd was at the Steele County Fair.

They adjust the length of their performance to the circumstances, sometimes singing only a few songs, other times, many more. They have fond memories of having once been given the stage and told to perform as long as they wanted.

"We stayed for two hours," states group member Dale Krueger.

"And the crowd stayed," declares Doug Riskedahl matter-of-factly. "That shows you we have something people enjoy."

None of the group members are paid for their work: in fact, since some now commute from communities including Moscow and Mankato—giving them more than an hour's worth of driving for every practice—it's evident they take part at significant personal expense.

Despite this, Lewer says it is typical to have full attendance. Even with the widely ranging loca-



Members of the "Just Friends" choral group include Dean Buendorf, Larry Crabtree, Paul Hanson, Dale Krueger, Randy Lewer, Dennis Maurer, Doug Riskedahl, Brad Stenel, Brian Vairma, and Vern Wilker.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

tions and times of their presentations, he adds, "We've never performed with fewer than eight."

There is no set fee for their performances. "We accept what we're given," says Dean Buendorf. "We like to think the more they like the music, the more they'll give." Donations are used to purchase equipment including microphones, a sound system, and supplies—perhaps especially the sheet music they practice from.

"It's getting harder and harder to find songs written with the right harmonies," observes Lewer, who selects the group's music. He explains the parts are tenor 1, tenor 2, baritone and bass; many songs available in the more standard soprano, alto, tenor and bass arrangements are much easier to come by, he says. Indicating the group of men around him, he points out good-naturedly, "But that's not who we are."

Since the qualifications to join Just Friends are not particularly rigid, group members joke they would welcome anyone who loves their music. They are not seeking other vocal ranges, however, because they find something fundamentally distinctive about all-male harmony.

"It's richer and deeper," observes Brian Vairma. "It's not typical, and that's part of what makes it special."

Also special to them is the opportunity to "spread the message of God in word and song," says group member Dennis Maurer.

That shared underlying value, perhaps, is a big part of the reason the 10 group members go to the effort to learn the many harmonies needed for their performances, and why the group has continued to

thrive for more than 20 years.

To a great degree, it's also the camaraderie. Members joke that they come so they can pick on each other—or watch others do so. Joking aside, they admit enjoying each other's company, challenging themselves and improving their skills as musicians, and knowing they are part of something valuable. "There's a lot of emotion," says Paul Hanson.

They mention the gratification of performing for an appreciative audience. The song "Angels Among Us," for example, is a universal crowd pleaser. "You see people tapping their feet or singing along," observes Vern Wilker, "it just makes you want to keep on singing."

In answer to why he keeps taking part, founding member Larry Crabtree famously responded, "I could be having the worst day of my life. Then I come to practice and we sing these great songs together. We joke around and we make beautiful music."

"No matter how I felt when I arrived, I feel great when I go home."

The members of Just Friends include Brian Vairma, Dale Krueger, Dean Buendorf, Brad Stenel, Doug Riskedahl, Larry Crabtree, Paul Hanson, Randy Lewer, Vern Wilker, and Dennis Maurer. Among the accompanists who have assisted the group are Gratia Johnson, Melissa Williams, Cindy Espe and Jan Prescher.

For booking information call Randy Lewer at 507-461-1173, or visit the group's Facebook page, Just Friends Gospel.

The Pastor's Column

Turn to Him when sleep is elusive

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

Last night for the first time in a long time, I laid awake in bed. Normally I get into bed and fall asleep, and the same holds true for the rare nap, lay down and sleep. I thought through my day, what did I do, why was I awake when I wanted to get 8 hrs of sleep?

I have no problem waking up in the morning, the alarm goes off, feet hit the floor, coffee (because I can) and I am awake for the day. I may need to take a walk after lunch, but it is only to refocus me. Yet last night, sleep eluded me.

When I was working 3rd shift (10pm-6am) while in Seminary, staying up late allowed me to get my schoolwork down while getting paid. I would do all the hard work of my job before 2am and then have 4 hours to read, write papers, and generally study. It was in these early morning sessions that I found it difficult to stay awake and focused.

One of our assignments was to choose a Psalm and develop an outline and background to be able to teach it to another group of people. I chose Psalm 63 because David talked about being awake during the night watches. In verses 6-8 it seems King David has struggled with sleep and he turned His attention to God's care.

6 When I think of You as I lie on my bed,
I meditate on You during the night watches
7 because You are my helper

I will rejoice in the shadow of Your wings.
8 I follow close to You;
Your right hand holds on to me. (Ps 63 CSB)

King David has fled his son Absalom's usurpation and was seeking protection from God. He was worried that the armies of Israel would rally to Absalom and attack his small party as they fled, He had reason to be awake at night. King David took his worries and concerns to God.

King David had every right to fear for his life, but he understood that God was in control. God had a plan to lead David through this tough time of his life. David had to trust God like how the mother hen protects its chicks, by spreading its wings over the chick creating a protection from birds of the sky and the predators on the ground.

King David had to choose on his sleepless nights to follow God's plan. David needed to follow God closely, otherwise the worry and fears of this world would take his focus off God and onto the problem. God wants us to feel the care from His hands and, instead of pulling away, draw near to God and rest in His care.

In the middle of the night, when we cannot sleep and worries and fears creep in, don't allow them to overwhelm you. Instead turn them over to God's care, focus on who He is and how He cares for you. Don't allow worry to keep you from resting in God's mighty hands.

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4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * *	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * *	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 * * *	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) * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St. Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass * * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 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 EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: lcwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Interim Pastor Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:15 a.m. Worship * * *	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 * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST * * *	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.
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. * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Ferichs Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays 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 * * *			

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GET BACK — Waseca's Tyson Reger dives safely into first base on a pickoff attempt against Stewartville.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

Loonan, Braves rally past Stewartville, 4-3

The Waseca Braves were down to their final strike against Stewartville Saturday night. Jimmy Loonan made the most of it. With a 3-2 count, the bases loaded and two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, Loonan came through with the game-winning hit as the Braves prevailed 4-3 at Waseca's Larson Field. "It was a fantastic comeback," said Braves coach Tink Larson. "Not often do you score three in the bottom of the ninth to win. As good as Jimmy Loonan has been all his life, he said that was the first walk-off in his career." Another highlight for the Braves was the pitching of Eric Maas, who went the distance on the mound while fanning five and walking two. "He gave up three runs, but it should have been just one," said Larson. "Fantastic job by Eric." The Braves totaled five hits, two by Kelvin Nelson and one apiece

from Loonan, Maas and Tyson Reger. Griffin Krautkremer walked and drove in a run. The Braves took advantage of four errors by the Sharks, who had 10 hits. Waseca played well defensively, with one error. The Braves struggled Sunday afternoon at Larson Field, falling behind early and losing 11-1 to Blue Earth. "It was a completely different feeling on Sunday," said Larson. "We fell behind 6-0 in the top of the first innng before we had even batted, and it didn't get much better after that." The Braves had just three hits, two by Reger and one by Krautkremer. Blue Earth hit three home runs, good for eight runs. "Ironically, those were the first home runs of the year against Braves pitching," said Larson. Ryan Hanson took the pitching loss.

State champions!



Waseca's 12U girls' soccer team captured the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association state championship last weekend. Front from left: Isabel Berg, Zoe Popp, Nora Olson, Riley Mielke, Keira Holmgren, Leilla Johannsen and Josie Olson. Back: assistant coach Zack Jasper, Lilly Muff, Genna Coon, Vaira Guse, Rachel Mielke, Claire Harguth, Eliana Grannis, Halle Casterton, Ainsley Hanson, Mya Kath and assistant coach Ann Johannsen. Not pictured are Lilly Whitsitt, Natalie Erickson and head coach Neil Johannsen. The team went undefeated in league matches (9 wins, 0 losses, 1 draw), qualifying for Southern Minnesota Soccer League play-offs. In the state tournament, the team won all matches, allowing only three goals in the tournament.

Teague's game-winning hit lifts Post 228 to victory

The Waseca Braves' walk-off victory is not the only recent local baseball game to feature a dramatic ending. The Waseca American Legion baseball team pulled it off Tuesday night, rallying for a 5-4 victory over New Ulm at Tink Larson Field. "We were fortunate," said Larson, Waseca's Legion coach. "Four our first five batters in the first inning got hits and then we had only two hits the rest of the game. But, the last one was a game-winner. Sabastian Teague came through with the game-winning hit as he had two of Waseca's six hits. He drove in three runs. Keaton Roeker went 2-for-3. Tyson Reger and Payton Garza had one hit apiece. New Ulm plated all four runs in the second inning and then Post 228 had four pitchers shut them down the rest of the way. Colton Ruedy started on the mound. Nate Engel-Mueller got the victory. Max Wirtz and Reger also threw. "It was a weird seventh inning," said Larson. "New Ulm had a double and a triple and didn't score in the top of the inning. In the bottom of the inning, we had a runner thrown out trying to steal and nearly had another one picked off base, had just one hit in the inning, and we still managed to score two runs to win the game."

Get your sports in the Pioneer

e-mail sportswriter79@yahoo.com

Janesville

100 Years Ago

- Mr. and Mrs. Gust Kopischke returned on Wednesday from their trip to Leader. mr. Kopischke states that they found fine roads, but ran into mud on their home trip in places due to local showers. At Leader he found his son, Henry, prospering and in charge of a fine creamery in that place. Seven miles from there he found Mr. and Mrs. Edward Coughlin on a fine farm. Also they met Mr. Frank Shepherd, who is operating a big farm near there. They enjoyed a day or two gathering blueberries, which grow in profusion everywhere in that locality. The trip was highly enjoyable from start to finish. - Last week we mentioned the fact that a movement is on foot to organize a civic and commerce association to take the place of the defunct commercial club. This movement is on the way. It is not as yet in the process of incubation sufficiently to exploit through the columns of the newspaper, but it is expected that it will be soon. In the meantime, let everybody get ready to take a hand and push it along. - Jack Strublefedt, a carpenter, was injured quite severely Saturday forenoon while working on the Lutheran church structure. He stepped on a covering that had been placed as a shield above to workmen below and fell about twelve feet. His side was badly bruised and he is out of commission for a time. Dr. Joyce dressed the wound.

75 Years Ago

- Janesville looked like a new ball club Sunday in getting back into the win column by trimming St. Clair at Northside Park by a score of 6-3. St. Clair started off with a marker in the initial frame, but at the end of the fourth stanza the homeguards were out in front 4-1. The St. Clairites staged a rally in the seventh to push across two more runs, but Janesville, not to be denied, shoved two more tallies across the platter in the eighth, enough to put the game in the bag. Griffin did the chucking for Janesville, allowing only seven blows and whiffing nine. - Trinity Lutheran church will celebrate its annual Mission Festival on Sunday, July 25, in three special services. The two morning services, German at 9:15 and English at 10:30 o'clock, will be conducted in the church by Rev. Erwin Schroeder, of near Otisco as guest speaker. The afternoon service will begin at 2:30 o'clock and will be held on the public school grounds opposite the church, weather permitting. Rev. E. Eiert of Waseca will preach the sermon. - Gerald Kroeger, 29-year-old high school speech and dramatics teacher from Janesville, has been appointed associate professor of speech and dramatics at Carthage college in Illinois beginning Sept. 7, according to an announcement by Dr. Erland Nelson, president. Prof. Kroeger has taught for six years in Minnesota high schools, last year serving as teacher of English and speech at Paynesville, Minn. high school.

50 Years Ago

- Ray C. Blasing, 49, has been named to the second highest state office of the Grand Voiture Du Minnesota. The local man was chosen Grand Chef de Train at the Grand Promenade of the organization this past weekend in St. Paul. A sub organization of the American Legion, the Voiture is active in nurses training programs and child welfare. Over the years Blasing has served on several state committees for the organization, including finance, and as the Grand Organizer and Grand Grand Cheminot. His present office compares to becoming the First Vice President of the state organization. In 1974, he will be in line for the top office, that of Grand Chef of the state of Minnesota. - A free noon lunch will be an added feature at the annual Janesville Flea Market Saturday, August 4. It will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the American Legion Clubrooms. The lunch will be financed by the Janesville Area Chamber of Commerce and the businessmen who are members. The Chamber moved to serve the free lunch at a recent meeting.

Waseca

100 Years Ago

- Rev. Herman F. Soldner was chosen pastor of the St. Paul's Lutheran church in this city to take effect Aug. 1. Rev. Trapp has been filling this charge but he told the board of directors of the church that the work was too heavy at both the churches for one man to do justice to them and he therefore wished to spend all his time with just one congregation. The directors saw the need of this and made the offer of the Waseca charge only to Rev. Trapp. He declined stating that he would rather confine all his work to the Trinity Lutheran church at Wilton. The board of directors then extended their appreciation to Rev. Trapp for the fine work he has done since coming here 14 years ago. - Ed. Kelly urged that something be done at once about cutting weeds in Clear Lake. Unless this was done he said the bathing beach of the Elks club and the Lakeside club would be infested with green scum within a few days. He said he thought it up to the Chamber of Commerce to see that the work was done. W. A. Zetterberg also spoke in favor of immediate action in the weed matter. The secretary was authorized to name two to act with him, said committee to see that the weeds are cut at once. The secretary appointed Ed. Kelly and E. O. Herter and the weed cutting machine was started Thursday afternoon. - Dennis E. Bowe, famous as a Wisconsin legislator, international fair commissioner, campaign manager, secretary of the Waseca Chamber of Commerce, has added another title to his already long list. He is now an inventor. Thrilled by the fishing out at Clear Lake, and with his fingers scratched by the fins, he invented a clamp device to hold the fish while scaling. In the August number of the Popular Science monthly a picture of Mr. Bowe and his device is printed.

75 Years Ago

- 120 guests of Swift and Company enjoyed a company sponsored picnic at Clear Lake Park Tuesday afternoon. Among those attending were Swift & Company employees, their families and Swift employees from surrounding cities. Many participated in a very interesting baseball game. Entertainment was provided for the children. The management provided a very delicious supper which was enjoyed by all. - Waseca Municipal Judge Leon Sexton Friday bound over trying John Olson, alleged Fort Dodge auto thief, to district court to face the charge of "using a car without the owner's permission." Olson waived hearing when arraigned. Olson, who has been in the Waseca Community hospital since Monday, will be held in the Waseca County jail until district court calls for his case. - Waseca paid final tribute Wednesday to Staff Sergeant Robert L. Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Brown, of the 15th Army Air Force. Staff Sgt. Brown, a crew member of a B-17 bomber, was killed in action over Czechoslovakia on August 29, 1944. His body was met at the Northwestern depot by an American Legion honor guard which then led a procession up State Street to Second Avenue N. W. and from there to Sacred Heart church. At the church Father J. B. Gregoire conducted the Requiem High Mass. The body was then taken to Calvary cemetery and interred with full military honors.

50 Years Ago

- As usual, a large crowd turned out for the 4-H Livestock Auction early Saturday morning. A total of 90 lots were auctioned off. Top prices were: beef, 63 cents a lb., Madsen's SuperValu purchaser; jog, 99 cents a lb., Vyron Farm Store; poultry, three chickens, \$4.25 a lb., Byron Farm Store; sheep, 71 cents a lb., Midland Coop and rabbits, \$1.95 a lb., Midland Coop. - Marv Lau, R. 4, who lives on the west side of the Loon Lake road, has applied for a seat on the Waseca City Council. The city is taking applications to fill the vacancy of Bob Kortuem who is moving out of Waseca. Lau and his wife Delores have a son Robert. Lau is employed by Grathen Transfer. Dave Wabner is the only other applicant for the 3rd Ward Seat.

New Richland

100 Years Back

-The Waseca county total of 2,975 automobiles and trucks is exceeded by those in 44 other counties in the state, according to a compilation by The Farmer, a St. Paul farm Journal. -An electric lamp which will burn for three years without current has been invented by an Italian engineer. The lamp is described as a self-sustaining incandescent electric light that will burn a long time without connection with any source of electric supply other than itself. -Mrs. L. Jensen returned to her home at Albert Lea Sunday after a week's visit at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lars Grove, in New Richland. -A. L. Gunderson and family are moving some of their household goods to Ellendale this week where they will make their future home. Mr. Gunderson will open a Variety store in the neighboring village about the 4th of August. -The adaptability and convenience of a radio was demonstrated Monday evening at the H. V. Clark radio receiving station. The statewide returns were tabulated rapidly following the close of the polls at 9 o'clock, and at 11:30 the Republican State Committee and conceded the election to Magnus Johnson. -Catcher "Sig" Swanson has been suffering from a badly infected leg caused when he was struck by a pitched ball a week ago Sunday. His injury did not prevent him from being in the line-up yesterday at Wells.

77 Years Back

-Tuesday evening on the softball field the Legionnaires defeated the Old Timers by a score of 18 to 16, the old fellows demonstrating that while they may be called old they're a long way from being worn out. Ducky Strand with a homer, a triple and a double in four trips to the plate was the leading hitter for the Legion, while Gordon Johnson had a double and two singles for the losers. -Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Wood and Charlene were Sunday evening visitors at the Walter Beske home. -Mrs. John Dusza and family and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bishop and daughter of Wells were Sunday afternoon visitors of Mr. and Mrs. John Boettger. -George Clunis is on vacation from his duties as manager of the local Standard Lumber Co.'s yard and with his family he has been visiting with a friend he met while serving in the navy, now living in St. Cloud. E. J. Paulsen has been looking after things at the Standard yard. -Several of the athletic young ladies of the community have approached the athletic committee requesting use of the Skelly Field. Hereafter Tuesday evening will be set aside for their use. It is encouraging to note the interest shown by the fairer sex in softball. They in turn hope that the local fans will turn out en masse to see them in action. -Stolen—About a week ago someone took a door off the hinges at the cemetery tool house and carried off a lawn mower. Please return it at once and save prosecution. St. Olaf Cemetery Association Board.

50 Years Back

-Farm-City Days will be Saturday, Aug. 4, in New Richland. The affair has become an annual one for the community and attracts many people from the area to the village. Innovations this year include a Kiddie Parade down Broadway, a softball tournament, and a horseshoe tournament in the park. Musical entertainment will be provided by the New Richland-Hartland high school band. -Mrs. Herma Millhouse of Alden and her three grandsons, Edward, Scott and Timmy of Albert Le and Miss Joan Jaspersen of Freeborn visited at the Conrad J. Sibilrud home Sunday evening. -The third annual St. Olaf Lake Pontoon Concert was held Saturday evening, July 14. Pontoons for this concert were rented from the St. Olaf Lake Resort.



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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
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THUR.—1pm to 11pm
FRI.– SAT.–11am to 1 am
POST & AUX MEETING 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license number 00385



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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.

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF WASECA

Notice is hereby given that the City of Waseca will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, August 7th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers located at 508 S State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on the progress and performance of the grant that the City of Waseca received from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development Small Cities Development Program for funds to rehabilitate low to moderate income, owner-occupied, single-family households. The public hearing is intended to provide citizens with an update about the program. All persons who may have an interest in the program are encouraged to attend the public hearing.

Julia Hall
City Clerk
City of Waseca
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on July 19, 26, 2024

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING DATES
FOR FILING AFFIDAVITS OF CANDIDACY

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 829, State of Minnesota, as follows:

1. The period for filing affidavits of candidacy for the office of school board member of Independent School District No. 829 shall begin on July 30, 2024 and shall close on August 13, 2024. An affidavit of candidacy must be filed in the office of the school district clerk and the \$2 filing fee paid prior to 5:00 o'clock p.m. on August 13, 2024.
2. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said filing dates to be published in the official newspaper of the district at least two (2) weeks prior to the first day to file affidavits of candidacy.
3. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said filing dates to be posted at the administrative offices of the school district at least ten (10) days prior to the first day to file affidavits of candidacy.
4. The notice of said filing dates shall be in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF FILING DATES FOR ELECTION TO THE SCHOOL BOARD
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 829
WASECA
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the period for filing affidavits of candidacy for the office of school board member of Independent School District No. 829 shall begin on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, and shall close at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, August 13, 2024. The general election shall be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. At that election, three members will be elected to the School Board for a term of 4 years. Affidavits of Candidacy are available from Julie Anderson, School District Clerk, or the Superintendent's Office, 501 East Elm Avenue, Waseca. The filing fee for this office is \$2. A candidate for this office must be an eligible voter, must be 21 years of age or more on assuming office, must have been a resident of the school district from which the candidate seeks election for thirty (30) days before the general election, and must have no other affidavit on file at the same primary or next ensuing general election. The affidavits of candidacy must be filed in the office of the superintendent and the filing fee paid prior to 5:00 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, August 13, 2024.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on July 19, 2024

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WASECA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner's Room)
300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093
Thursday, August 1, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Request for Amendments to Articles 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Unified Development Code (UDC). Waseca County requests amendments to Articles 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the UDC. These amendments are proposed following a series of work sessions by the Waseca County Board of Commissioners. Proposed changes can be found under the Zoning Code Amendments tab on the Planning and Zoning Department page. You can also request a copy of the proposed changes from Planning and Zoning during regular business hours.

The staff report 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 July 19, 2024

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City of Waseca, Minnesota
Proprietary Funds
Statement of Net Position (Continued on the Following Pages)
December 31, 2023

	Business-type Activities- Enterprise Funds			Business-type Activities- Enterprise Funds		Governmental Activities- Internal Service Funds
	601	602	604	651	Total	
	Water	Sanitary Sewer	Electric	Storm Water		
Assets						
Current Assets						
Cash and investments	\$ 2,315,779	\$ 2,840,360	\$ 4,529,899	\$ 867,322	\$ 10,553,360	\$ 345,113
Restricted cash and investments	-	-	214,463	-	214,463	-
Receivables						
Accounts	310,674	439,248	1,250,874	54,037	2,054,833	-
Utility connection	11,928	7,952	-	-	19,880	-
Leases	117,739	-	-	-	117,739	-
Inventories	-	-	490,648	-	490,648	-
Total Current Assets	2,756,120	3,287,560	6,485,884	921,359	13,450,923	345,113
Noncurrent Assets						
Capital assets						
Land	10,585	28,500	88,130	130,250	257,465	-
Construction in progress	71,945	43,841	397,313	6,996	520,095	-
Infrastructure	-	-	-	4,685,466	4,685,466	-
Buildings	230,026	15,323,989	604,632	-	16,158,647	-
Improvements	15,999,368	19,455,727	7,359,837	3,900,307	46,715,239	-
Machinery and equipment	669,354	6,052,045	2,317,967	82,948	9,122,314	-
Less accumulated depreciation	(8,257,368)	(20,330,289)	(6,794,327)	(4,603,525)	(39,985,509)	-
Total capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation)	8,723,910	20,573,813	3,973,552	4,202,442	37,473,717	-
Total Assets	11,480,030	23,861,373	10,459,436	5,123,801	50,924,640	345,113
Deferred Outflows of Resources						
Deferred pension resources	55,814	91,018	116,039	14,432	277,303	37,682
Deferred other postemployment benefit resources	21,055	37,364	37,764	4,308	100,491	-
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	76,869	128,382	153,803	18,740	377,794	37,682
Liabilities						
Current Liabilities						
Accounts payable	26,440	66,118	499,604	272	592,434	18,541
Customer deposits payable	-	-	214,463	-	214,463	-
Accrued wages payable	8,153	15,540	15,092	2,017	40,802	5,909
Accrued interest payable	7,875	47,064	-	-	54,939	-
Due to other governments	9,064	-	33,825	420	43,309	-
Unearned revenue	11,928	26,721	-	-	38,649	-
Revenue notes payable	156,000	747,000	-	-	903,000	-
Revenue bonds payable	44,749	140,251	-	-	185,000	-
Compensated absences payable	13,726	20,765	29,594	690	64,775	-
Other post-employment benefits payable	4,045	7,179	7,256	828	19,308	-
Total Current Liabilities	281,980	1,070,638	799,834	4,227	2,156,679	24,450

City of Waseca, Minnesota						
Proprietary Funds						
Statement of Net Position (Continued)						
December 31, 2023						
	Business-type Activities- Enterprise Funds			Business-type Activities- Enterprise Funds		Governmental Activities- Internal Service Funds
	601	602	604	651	Total	
	Water	Sanitary Sewer	Electric	Storm Water		
Noncurrent Liabilities						
Revenue notes payable	\$ 1,475,000	\$ 4,975,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,450,000	\$ -
Revenue bonds payable	300,152	606,570	-	-	906,722	-
Compensated absences payable	10,622	20,463	16,079	6,529	53,693	-
Net pension liability	203,311	331,550	422,693	52,571	1,010,125	137,262
Other post-employment benefits payable	43,761	77,657	78,488	8,953	208,859	-
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	2,032,846	6,011,240	517,260	68,053	8,629,399	137,262
Total Liabilities	2,314,826	7,081,878	1,317,094	72,280	10,786,078	161,712
Deferred Inflows of Resources						
Deferred lease resources	117,657	-	-	-	117,657	-
Deferred pension resources	82,678	134,827	171,891	-	410,774	55,819
Deferred other postemployment benefit resources	9,518	16,890	17,071	21,378	45,426	-
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	209,853	151,717	188,962	1,947	45,426	-
				23,325	573,857	55,819
Net Position						
Net investment in capital assets	6,737,589	14,095,877	3,925,316			
Unrestricted	2,294,631	2,660,283	5,181,867	4,202,442	28,961,224	-
Total Net Position	\$ 9,032,220	\$ 16,756,160	\$ 9,107,183	844,494	10,981,275	165,264
Adjustment to reflect the consolidation of internal service fund activities related to enterprise funds.				\$ 5,046,936	39,942,499	\$ 165,264
Net Position of Business-type Activities					(60,940)	
					\$ 39,881,559	

City of Waseca, Minnesota						
Proprietary Funds						
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position						
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023						
	Business-type Activities- Enterprise Funds			Business-type Activities- Enterprise Funds		Governmental Activities- Internal Service Funds
	601	602	604	651		
	Water	Sanitary Sewer	Electric	Storm Water	Total	
Operating Revenues						
Charges for services	\$ 1,832,186	\$ 2,724,928	\$ 7,737,666	\$ 386,014	\$ 12,680,794	\$ 978,350
Miscellaneous	11,728	20,825	31,257	3,356	67,166	257,630
Total Operating Revenues	1,843,914	2,745,753	7,768,923	389,370	12,747,960	1,235,980
Operating Expenses						
Power purchased	99,597	-	5,581,567	-	5,681,164	-
Personal services	462,842	688,478	940,964	138,625	2,230,909	359,700
Supplies	182,915	270,340	214,263	667	668,185	185,889
Services and charges	143,461	571,115	263,635	38,117	1,016,328	63,175
Depreciation	646,226	1,268,129	423,439	237,072	2,574,866	-
Insurance payment	-	-	-	-	-	5,791
Insurance premium	-	-	-	-	-	445,358
Total Operating Expenses	1,535,041	2,798,062	7,423,868	414,481	12,171,452	1,059,913
Operating Income (Loss)	308,873	(52,309)	345,055	(25,111)	576,508	176,067
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)						
Taxes	-	181,298	-	-	181,298	-
Loss on disposal of capital assets	-	(996)	-	-	(996)	-
Gain on disposal of capital assets	-	23,000	-	-	23,000	-
Interest income	109,604	142,324	244,839	46,650	543,417	-
Interest expense	(19,416)	(130,813)	(10,289)	-	(160,518)	-
Lease revenues	27,843	-	-	-	27,843	-
Fiscal agent fees	(750)	(750)	-	-	(1,500)	-
Amortization	218	3,688	-	-	3,906	-
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	117,499	217,751	234,550	46,650	616,450	-
Income (Loss) Before Contributions and Transfers	426,372	165,442	579,605	21,539	1,192,958	176,067
Capital Contributions from Other Funds	-	-	-	76,132	76,132	-
Capital Contributions from State Grants	-	-	-	1,866	1,866	-
Transfers In	51,900	-	-	-	51,900	-
Transfers Out	(153,150)	(120,468)	(737,000)	(106,400)	(1,117,018)	(229,982)
Change in Net Position	325,122	44,974	(157,395)	(6,863)	205,838	(53,915)
Net Position, January 1	8,628,433	16,570,030	9,068,419	5,043,098	39,309,980	219,179
Prior Period Adjustment (Note 10)	78,665	141,156	196,159	10,701	426,681	-
Net Position, December 31	\$ 9,032,220	\$ 16,756,160	\$ 9,107,183	\$ 5,046,936	\$ 39,942,499	\$ 165,264
Change in net position as shown above					\$ 205,838	
Adjustment to reflect the consolidation of internal service fund activities related to enterprise funds.					60,709	
Change in Net Position of Business-type Activities					\$ 266,547	

City of Waseca, Minnesota						
Proprietary Funds						
Statement of Cash Flows (Continued on the Following Pages)						
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023						
	Business-type Activities- Enterprise Funds			Business-type Activities- Enterprise Funds		Governmental Activities- Internal Service Funds
	601	602	604	651		
	Water	Sanitary Sewer	Electric	Storm Water	Total	
Cash Flows from Operating Activities						
Cash received from customers	\$ 1,805,156	\$ 2,798,376	\$ 7,740,870	\$ 389,329	\$ 12,733,731	\$ -
Cash received from other funds and reimbursements	-	-	-	-	-	1,237,676
Cash payments to suppliers	(418,759)	(852,402)	(6,071,932)	(38,746)	(7,381,839)	-
Cash payments to employees	(476,834)	(702,307)	(839,432)	(108,175)	(2,126,748)	(301,307)
Cash payments for interfund services used	-	-	-	-	-	(698,847)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	909,563	1,243,667	829,506	242,408	3,225,144	237,522
Cash Flows from Noncapital Financing Activities						
State grants	-	-	2,844	-	2,844	-
Tax receipts	-	184,550	-	-	184,550	-
Lease receipts	27,903	-	-	-	27,903	-
Transfers from other funds	51,900	-	-	-	51,900	-
Transfers to other funds	(153,150)	(120,468)	(737,000)	(106,400)	(1,117,018)	(229,982)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Noncapital Financing Activities	(73,347)	64,082	(734,156)	(106,400)	(849,821)	(229,982)
Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities						
Capital Contributions	-	-	-	1,866	1,866	-
Principal paid on bonds	(44,190)	(130,810)	-	-	(175,000)	-
Principal paid on notes	(154,000)	(732,000)	-	-	(886,000)	-
Acquisition of capital assets	(87,304)	(960,456)	(590,119)	(85,797)	(1,723,676)	-
Proceeds from disposal of capital assets	-	23,000	-	-	23,000	-
Fiscal agent fee	(750)	(750)	-	-	(1,500)	-
Interest paid	(20,238)	(137,806)	(10,289)	-	(168,333)	-
Net Cash Used by Capital and Related Financing Activities	(306,482)	(1,938,822)	(600,408)	(83,931)	(2,929,643)	-
Cash Flows from Investing Activities						
Interest on investments	188,269	283,480	440,998	57,351	970,098	-
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	718,003	(347,593)	(64,060)	109,428	415,778	7,540
Cash and Cash Equivalents, January 1	1,597,776	3,187,953	4,593,959	757,894	10,137,582	337,573
Cash and Cash Equivalents, December 31	\$ 2,315,779	\$ 2,840,360	\$ 4,529,899	\$ 867,322	\$ 10,553,360	\$ 345,113

City of Waseca, Minnesota Proprietary Funds Statement of Cash Flows (Continued) For the Year Ended December 31, 2023						
	Business-type Activities- Enterprise Funds			Business-type Activities- Enterprise Funds		Governmental Activities- Internal Service Funds
	601 Water	602 Sanitary Sewer	604 Electric	651 Storm Water	Total	
Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities						
Operating income (loss)	\$ 308,873	\$ (52,309)	\$ 345,055	\$ (25,111)	\$ 576,508	\$ 176,067
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities						
Depreciation	646,226	1,268,129	423,439	237,072	2,574,866	-
(Increase) decrease in assets						
Accounts receivable	(38,758)	33,854	(28,002)	(41)	(32,947)	1,696
Utility connection receivable	(1,109)	(739)	-	-	(1,848)	-
Inventories	-	-	12,888	-	12,888	-
Prepaid items	3,000	-	-	-	3,000	-
(Increase) decrease in deferred outflows of resources						
Deferred pension resources	51,541	82,723	54,262	(342)	188,184	4,261
Deferred other postemployment benefit resources	(15,845)	(27,503)	(29,032)	(3,540)	(75,920)	-
Increase (decrease) in liabilities						
Accounts payable	1,408	(7,369)	(38,198)	(382)	(44,541)	1,366
Accrued wages payable	(2,262)	2,915	(1,749)	(77)	(1,173)	(361)
Due to other governments	2,806	(3,578)	12,843	420	12,491	-
Compensated absences payable	2,229	6,792	7,863	932	17,816	-
Other postemployment benefit liability	13,591	20,072	28,395	4,739	66,797	-
Net pension liability	(149,590)	(240,276)	(138,119)	6,253	(521,732)	(1,206)
Unearned revenue	1,109	19,508	(51)	-	20,566	-
Increase (decrease) in deferred inflows of resources						
Deferred pension resources	81,392	133,200	170,495	21,211	406,298	55,699
Deferred other postemployment benefit resources	4,952	8,248	9,417	1,274	23,891	-
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	\$ 909,563	\$ 1,243,667	\$ 829,506	\$ 242,408	\$ 3,225,144	\$ 237,522
Schedule of Noncash Investing, Capital and Financing Activities						
Amortization of Bond Discount (Premium)	\$ (218)	\$ (3,688)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (3,906)	\$ -
Capital Items Acquired on Account	\$ 10,420	\$ 9,115	\$ 48,236	\$ -	\$ 67,771	\$ -
Capital Contribution from Governmental Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 76,132	\$ 76,132	\$ -

City of Waseca, Minnesota Summary of Financial Report Revenues and Expenditures for General Operations - Governmental Funds For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022			
	Total		Percent Increase (Decrease)
	2023	2022	
Revenues			
Taxes	\$ 5,695,380	\$ 5,404,957	5.37 %
Licenses	63,196	55,298	14.28
Permits and fees	213,721	250,678	(14.74)
Intergovernmental	5,461,135	5,597,540	(2.44)
Charges for services	509,198	489,244	4.08
Fines and forfeitures	21,927	25,288	(13.29)
Special assessments	111,486	144,599	(22.90)
Interest earnings (loss)	459,136	(536,799)	185.53
Miscellaneous	206,384	172,027	19.97
Total Revenues	\$ 12,741,563	\$ 11,602,832	9.81 %
Per Capita	\$ 1,369	\$ 1,258	8.82 %
Expenditures			
Current			
General government	\$ 1,688,061	\$ 1,472,122	14.67 %
Public safety	4,107,944	3,895,902	5.44
Streets and highways	1,813,955	1,653,920	9.68
Sanitation	72,020	58,770	22.55
Cultural and recreation	1,150,720	1,215,847	(5.36)
Economic development	1,015,330	305,371	232.49
Airport	132,070	131,401	0.51
Capital outlay			
General government	137,429	301	45,557.48
Public safety	270,017	176,384	53.08
Streets and highways	1,290,252	1,689,820	(23.65)
Cultural and recreation	251,713	1,222,376	(79.41)
Economic development	49,678	-	100.00
Airport	73,969	58,860	25.67
Debt service			
Bond principal	418,697	380,000	10.18
Interest and fiscal charges	97,226	108,924	(10.74)
Total Expenditures	\$ 12,569,081	\$ 12,369,998	1.61 %
Per Capita	\$ 1,351	\$ 1,342	0.67 %
Total Long-term Indebtedness	\$ 2,880,000	\$ 3,265,000	(11.79) %
Per Capita	309	354	(12.71)
General Fund Balance - December 31	\$ 4,076,463	\$ 3,863,960	5.50 %
Per Capita	438	419	4.53
The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of financial information concerning the City of Waseca to interested citizens. The complete financial statements may be examined at 508 State Street South. Questions about this report should be directed to the Finance Director at (507)-835-9700. Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on July 19, 2024			



Joe Rinn, Xavyer Torres, Shylah Hanks, Lyncin Torres and Payten Haack were the team supporting vehicle number 63L at the county fair demolition derby. Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

Two nights of destruction at county fair

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

As each of the two nights of demolition derby competition began at this year's Waseca County Fair, giant tanker trucks sprayed water to create the sloppy mess the cars must drive around in. When it was wet enough, inspectors gave a thumbs up and the cars drove out to their starting points.

Among the competitors was Lyncin Torres, 24, a lifelong Waseca resident. Prior to the derby, he said he didn't necessarily think he would win but, "It's always been a dream for me to at least try it." It's something he's wanted to do since he was a kid, he explained. Torres entered the Minivan/SUV class with his 2001 Chrysler Voyager. He was sponsored

by Kan Do It LLC, a Waseca handyman and repair company.

Andrew LaMont, friend to Torres and fellow derby competitor, has strong connections to Waseca's derby. At 27, LaMont said he feels as if he is fulfilling a legacy: "I grew up watching Dad and Grandpa demo." Like a family tradition, but with car crashes. LaMont also entered the Minivan/SUV class; his vehicle was a 2006 Chrysler Town and Country sold to him by J. McShane Custom Repair. He was sponsored in the race by Honey Hole Bear Bait and Williams Concrete Construction.

Both Torres and LaMont reported doing much of the preparation for their vehicles themselves. Not all, they admitted, since they mention

calling in family members including dads and uncles for the more complex tasks.

LaMont's evening ended somewhat early on Thursday. "That first night I had fuel pump issues," he explained. But one evening's defeat didn't end his season; he was able to pull his vehicle together enough to compete again in Friday night's derby. Although he didn't win, he said he was glad for the experience and his richer understanding of what it takes to be competitive.

A tradition at the Waseca County Fair's demolition derby heats involves placing a watermelon in the center of the competition area. The driver who smashes it in each round takes home a \$50 bonus. Torres got

to the melon first during his heat Thursday evening.

With the two nights of competition over, LaMont's car is over and done with forever: Rest In Peace #21L. Torres's car, #63L, is still running. Said Torres, "I could've run it on Friday after fixing it up from Thursday, but that would've been a lot of work for one night." So between the two first-timers, two cars competed in three races at this year's fair. And with a little elbow grease, Torres claimed his car will be back next year, "That's a guarantee." LaMont said he, too, will likely be back for more in 2025.



Andrew LaMont and his father Mark LaMont worked together to prepare this 2006 Town and Country van for the demolition derby competitions at the Waseca County Fair.



Below, Brianna Samuels, 26, brought her one-year-old dog, Lemon, from St. Peter to compete during the Dock Dog "waves" held at the county fair. Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

Waseca County Fair features Dock Dogs for first time

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

With fifteen different scheduled show and practice times, it seems no wonder "Dock Dogs" was a hit at the Waseca County Free Fair for 2024. Fair goers might have been walking around afterwards with splashed pants or shirts, but there was no shortage of smiles watching the dogs. There were stands for anyone to sit and watch the show; during every performance, the stands were full of spectators.

According to show manager Cheri McClaine, originally from Hastings, the 28,000-gallon pool and connected raised platform take about three hours to set up and fill; when complete, the show venue is 76 feet long. For shows and demonstrations, trained dogs are brought up onto the "dock." Their handlers throw a favorite toy, the dogs run to the water's edge, leap after the toy, and are scored based on the current contest—whether they have jumped higher than the others, leapt a longer distance before landing in the water, or retrieved their toy the most quickly. An announcer lets the crowd know the names, ages, and often some interesting history about the animals as they arrive on the dock, then gives the results after they are confirmed using video footage.

Dogs are given three tries in each "wave" of competition.

This year was the first time Dock Dogs appeared at the Waseca County Fair. With so many wagging tails, the dogs seemed happy to be here. Based

on online information, the Dock Dogs organization invites dog owners to become members and to register for various competitions. Standings and achievements are recorded, and dog/handler teams acquire points toward possibly competing in regional and national competitions; the "season" ends with national contests in September, then begins again for the following year. Except that handlers must be at least 7 years of age, dog and trainer teams can take part in local contests regardless of whether the owner is an organization member.

According to McClaine, the Dock Dogs organization has seven ongoing traveling rings appearing at different fairs and events all over the country. Based out of Medina, Ohio, Dock Dogs has been around for 25 years and, in her opinion, "is only getting started."

Dock Dogs has a number of Minnesota appearances yet to come, including in Redwood Falls from July 19 to 21, Grand Forks from July 26 to 28, and the Sibley County Fair from August 2 to 4. Dockdogs.com says the schedule is not limited to summer events, since the show venue is often also set up indoors.

Brianna Samuels, 26, from St. Peter, brought Lemon, her one-year-old female English Pointer, to one day's worth of competition at the Waseca County Fair for her first introduction to the arrangements and expectations. Samuels said Lemon was excited to be there and performing, but a bit overwhelmed by nearly

non-stop barking other dogs were letting loose with whenever crowds were present.

Samuels said she was pleased with Lemon's distance score of 20 feet, 7 inches, during the 11 a.m. "wave" of the show. The distance brought them a second-place win, enough to get them into the finals for the day.

Although Lemon was a first-timer, Samuels was not, having also trained Lemon's father, Tucker, who has done well in DockDogs competitions and was competing with a different handler that day. Lemon's mother Poppi has done a few jumps but as a breeding dog she doesn't have time for shows like this. Said Samuels, "She's not as into it, either." Samuels observed that Lemon shows promise, and may become an excellent competitor as she receives more training and practice. A wagging tail sends the message she plans to improve.

Next steps in the training process, Samuels explained, will be chasing frisbees to be build speed and strength, both of which will be useful when she begins competing in the speed retrieval class.

In the meantime, the heat might have been a bother to other fairgoers—human and animal alike—but the dogs that got to take dips in the pool didn't seem to mind it at all. With five shows per day the Dock Dogs were a busy bunch of hounds.

For the Dock Dogs schedule or to sign up for competitions, interested persons can visit www.dockdogs.com.

DJ

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Alexis Olson
Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

4-H member Olson has success in crafts, fine arts, environment

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

It was a sunny, sweaty 87 degrees near the 4-H Creative Arts Center the afternoon of Sunday, July 14. To combat the heat, 4-H passed out free scoops of ice cream with chocolate or strawberry sauce. Very few complaints were heard.

Inside the 4-H Creative Arts Center was a little firecracker named Alexis Olson, 14, of New Richland who placed in five different competitions this year. It seems a family of robins made a nest above Alexis's porch; instead of scaring them away or knocking the nest down, Alexis used the opportunity as a research project.

She documented the progress of the four eggs which arrived in the nest: May 8 'Eggs laid.' May 17 'Eggs hatch.' May 30 'Chicks leave nest.' Using the information she collected and information she researched regarding the steps birds use to raise their young, she won first place in the "Exploring the Environment" category. Her crisp, neat display showed pictures of the nest, chicks, and adult birds.

Another award-winning effort for Olson was her "Coats for Kids" project. She was named grand champion in the "Citizenship" category for helping acquire winter clothes for Shepherd's Robe Charity, a church-based "thrift store" which does not charge for the used items it provides to visitors. She was able to gather about 40 separate bags of winter clothes—enough for a full season. Shepherd's Robe Charity out of Vista Covenant Church takes donations Tuesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. They have done a lot of good for the

community, for example, in 2022 the charity helped 1,560 people.

Olson entered two original pieces of art which, together, brought her the overall grand champion title in the "Creative Arts" category along with a first place in "Fine Arts." One was an original oil painting of a mountain scene. She told of having learned about painting during a course she took last fall at the Waseca Art Center. When asked why she wanted to paint she replied, "I wanted to show the rugged beauty of nature." She did so in fine style.

Her "Emma" painting was a school project for which she transferred the image from a poster onto a canvas using chalk pastels and makeup brushes. That picture also won her a 4-H ribbon.

Since the 4-H schedule doesn't start until October, Olson has not yet begun planning her projects for next year. In the meantime, she's already been awarded a \$300 scholarship to the Waseca Art Center, so she has that to look forward to when the time comes.

When school starts in September, she says she will be continuing her band practice with the Alto Saxophone. In her spare time she is a Girl Scout, a cheerleader and in competitive dance in Just for Kix. Olson also plays golf, is learning Tae Kwon Do and of course attends 4-H meetings. She is even something of a marksman, since she R-participates in trap shooting.

During last year's fair, Olson garnered awards for her entries of homemade jams and jellies. Her mother carefully vets her social media posts for selling Girl Scout Cookies and any charity work she may do.

Photographer R.J. Kern records rural fair culture

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Photographer R.J. Kern can't help observing that regional fairs and photography "grew up together." That is, the equipment and chemical processing needed to preserve photographic images and the practice of gathering to compare livestock and consider its value for various breeding programs both expanded rapidly beginning around 1850.

Kern, a Twin Cities based photographer, brought his display titled "The Unchosen" to the Waseca County Fair. Created during county fairs in 2017, the photographs are of young handlers whose animals were not selected as winners. Still, Kern said, when he asked them to imagine themselves as champions, their stance and appearance changed dramatically.

In addition to the on-going display, Kern offered periodical educational sessions each day. These ranged from prepared slide show presentations to impromptu demonstrations of his 1902 camera and the steps needed to develop and preserve early photographs.

Kern states his opinion that learning more about the cameras of long ago has scientific and social value. The earliest pictures, he observes, required "both chemistry and luck" as scientists looked for methods first to capture, then to preserve the image. Kern believes there are not only profound lessons in human creativity and persistence, but also altruism. He explains the chemical processes were first made functional by French chemist Joseph Nicéphore Niépce. When the French government acquired information about Niepce's technique, it chose to share it with the world, allowing the art form to develop more quickly and spread more universally.

The evening of Friday, July 12, Kern invited all interested to be part of a special session in which a wide array of people and especially people with their show animals appeared together in the green area at the center of the Waseca County fairgrounds. To take the photo, Kern positioned himself in the bucket of a lift truck, high above everyone gathered for the picture. Kern presented the fair board with a "proof" copy of the photograph and said the image would likely be viewable online in the near future. Similar "tableau" pieces are already displayed on his website,



Award-winning photographer R.J. Kern offered presentations and demonstrations of early photographic methods during the Waseca County Fair. Here, he uses an authentic 1902 camera to create a picture.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

rjkern.com.

Kern has traveled worldwide creating photographs. Many have used some of the same principles of line and lighting as were incorporated into classic paintings of animals. He jokes, however, that painters wishing to preserve images of animals "had it easy," since they needed only their painting supplies and their imaginations.

For a photographer to create similar images, he comments, the most important supplies are "patience and a sense of humor," since animals must be manipulated and cajoled to position themselves appropriately, and then may not stay in position for long. This becomes especially problematic, he points out, when more than one animal is appearing in the photograph.

One video he shared during an educational session shows a photo of all the champion animals at an event—everything from horses to pigs to poultry. After displaying the photo with its dozens of animals, he showed a time-lapse video of what it took to create it.

"They were in the same place," he commented, "but not at the same time." The video becomes downright entertaining given the many mishaps which occurred as animals became nervous or stubborn, or simply did not

seem to understand what was wanted of them. As a final touch, Kern again displayed the "group" photo of all the animals, then pointed out he had also tucked images of two children's shoes in among them as a sort of "hidden treasure" among all the other elements.

As he addressed the shared evolution of the livestock industry and photography, Kern demonstrated a number of examples. He showed a series of images captured in 1872 which answered the centuries-old question of whether, at any time during its trot or gallop, all four of a horse's feet are ever simultaneously off the ground. The answer, as the series of pictures showed, is yes. The process followed to create the series also opened the world to the possibility of using sequential still images to send an impression of "moving pictures."

Images of birds in flight helped scientists study the dynamics which make it possible for birds to fly.

Also, Kern pointed out, agricultural catalogs became more trustworthy when photographic images, rather than drawings, were used to illustrate various breeds of animals—perhaps especially chickens, which were eventually available by mail order all across the United States.

Kids of all ages enjoy 4-H Agricultural Learning Lab

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Kids of all ages hopefully had their thinking caps on when entering the 4-H Agricultural Building at the Waseca County Fairgrounds. Sponsored by a number of area organizations, the "Agricultural Learning Lab" was manned by both Leah Rognes, 20, and Teagan Tietje, 14. Rognes was in charge of the display, and will be supervising it at other area fairs. Tietje was among the 15 or more youth who volunteered at the lab each day during this year's county fair from the lunch hour through the early evening.

Rognes and Tietje mentioned that the lab was using a new setup this year which had taken the team four hours to get ready. New refrigeration units stored containers of chocolate milk and frozen popsicles; the treats were prizes for participating children who answered questions correctly or passed a fitness test. From push-ups to pull-ups to sit-ups, any children who tried were winners. If they didn't want chocolate milk there were popsicles; if they didn't want a popsicle, there were stickers, pencils or pens. Rognes and Tietje were eager to accommodate.

Kaylee Berg, working a nearby stand, had volunteered at the lab during last year's fair. Berg couldn't help observing that something about the new format was working, since attendance seemed much more brisk this year. Rognes and Tietje estimate 50 or more children visited the lab each day this past week. The two reported making numerous runs to Kwik Trip to get more milk.

According to Waseca County 4-H leader Amy Nelson, the ag lab was created to give children hands-on experience. She mentions the space where the lab is located is used earlier during the fair when area growers bring tomatoes, cucumbers or any other home-grown fruits or vegetables to be judged. Once



The "Agricultural Learning Lab" at 2024 Waseca County Fair was manned by both Leah Rognes, 20, and Teagan Tietje, 14.
Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

winners are selected, the produce—which would otherwise spoil if displayed in the heat for five days, is donated to an area food shelf. In previous years, that has left the space empty for the remainder of the fair: 4-H combated that problem by providing children a hands-on interactive experience, thus the Agricultural Learning Lab was born.

The strong numbers were perhaps especially satisfying given that a new element of the ag lab, interactive iPads set to interface with each station, were not functioning for the Waseca fair. "Sadly," Rognes said, "our iPads for the interactive online ag learning activity were not working this week." There was an issue with the charging cords. But Rognes plans to travel with the lab when it is moved to Rice, Steele, and Freeborn counties. "Hopefully we'll have the right cords by then." This is the first year iPads were to be used, so startup problems are not a surprise.

iPads or not, there were still plenty of opportunities for young participants to broaden their knowledge, including learning boards and question-and-answer sessions, coloring books and quizzes. There was also a GMO pop quiz board which allowed everyone to learn "GMO" refers to a "genetically modified organism."

"I'm really passionate about teaching kids agriculture. It's important to learn at a young age," said Rognes, explaining her ag education got started early, since she grew up on a farm. She is currently classified as a scholar picking a degree from South Dakota State University, a school known for its attention to the farming industry. When she graduates SDSU she wants to work in the field of agriculture.

At 14, Tietje has a few years before college will be on her radar, but as of now she's getting in on the ground floor by volunteering her time at the Waseca Fair. She observed, "I like learning ag stuff; working at the fair was a great opportunity for that."

To help with next year's ag learning lab, the two were asking children who had completed some of the challenges to fill out a survey. "We hope to learn what kids want to do so we can better accommodate them," explained Rognes.

The ag learning lab was brought to Waseca in part by The Waseca Area Foundation, Minnesota 4-H Plant Science, the Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Festival Association, Waseca County Corn and Soybean Growers, Central Farm Service, the Hanson Family Foundation and MBT Bank based out of Iowa.

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Willow Gentile paints plein air

By MELANIE PILTINGSRUD
Staff writer

Anyone braving the misty morning on Tuesday, July 2 on Broadway Ave. in New Richland might have been surprised to meet Willow Gentile (pronounced Jen-till'-lee), an artist from Rochester, who stood before her easel, umbrella in one hand and palette knife in the other, painting the home of the New Richland Library: the Oddfellows building.

“I just started Google searching historic libraries that are still in use today,” said Gentile.

Gentile started drawing when she was about five years old, but it wasn't until high school that she really stated getting interested in art history, and came to the realization that, if things were art related, she paid more attention.

After homeschooling throughout her formative years, Gentile still wasn't sure what she wanted to do in college. At first she thought maybe she'd be a teacher, but, after taking a couple of studio classes, “I just never looked back,” she said. “I just knew that I needed to do this self expression.” She attained an art degree in 2015 from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, and subsequently started her own business: Willomina Art Studio, where she has been teaching art for the last eight years. Two years ago she bought a commercial property in Lake City, which houses her gallery and vintage shop. Now Gentile also has a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board to paint historic libraries across Minnesota.

Gentile emails each historic library to ask if they would like a painting of their library. “New Richland's the fastest reply I've ever gotten,” said Gentile. She reached out to the local librarian, Kathy Kronebusch, who responded within ten minutes, inviting Gentile to the community to paint the local library.

“It's a live painting interaction with the community,” Gentile continued. In order to facilitate this, Gentile, with a box of crayons at the ready, had previously sketched the library and made photocopies of the drawing, so kids could make art along with Gentile.

Gentile started this project two years ago. “I realized how much, when I plein air paint – painting outdoors – that people just come and they want to interact and they're really blown away by the creative process.” Gentile says that in most cases, people go to museums and see the finished product, but are left wondering, “How do they do that?” With Gentile's plein air paintings, people get to see the process first-hand. “It's fun to kind of demystify the creative process.”

Gentile was trying to think of a way to get communities, especially smaller communities, involved in art. Her aunt is a librarian in Rushford, where Gentile had previously engaged in art-related events. “I realized how much libraries are the heart and soul of the community,” said Gentile, “especially when you start to get under 10,000 people. A lot of times they are the community center.” The idea of painting libraries came to Gentile once when she was painting outside in a parking lot by Mayo Clinic. “I just wanted to be somewhere else. I was painting a sunflower.” Gentile was astonished by the number of people driving by who stopped, full of curiosity, to ask what she was doing. For both Gentile and those who stopped, it was a really positive experience. “You're getting people to interact with public art in places where there is no public art.

“For a lot of people, this is their first time seeing a plein air painter,” said Gentile, who loves to see people get inspired and think, “Maybe I should paint!”

“For the past couple years I've been doing these pop-up plein air paintings, and I record, too,” said Gentile, who sets up her iPhone on a tripod to record her creative process, as well as interactions with the community.

Gentile finds those interactions critical to the outcome of the work; she loves using color to try to capture the feeling and energy of the people around her. Per Gentile, her paintings turn out better when there are people around. “People's energies and when they talk to me – it somehow alters the painting, because I've done paintings where no one talks to me, and [...] there's something missing to it.

“I love buildings, too,” Gentile continued. “I love his-



The completed painting by Willow Gentile will take up to two years to dry. Above right, artist Willow Gentile and New Richland librarian Kathy Kronebusch.



Pioneer photos by Melanie Piltingsrud

“It's a live painting interaction with the community.”
— Willow Gentile

sketch – either vine charcoal, charcoal pencils, or compressed charcoal, as the mood strikes. Gentile then works right on top of the charcoal drawing in oils. “So it mushes around,” said Gentile. “I kind of use the charcoal as a pigment in a way just to make the lines bigger.” Gentile paints the canvas in vivid colors, many times using various palette knives à la Vincent van Gogh. “I love putting it on pretty thick,” said Gentile, who, even when she does work with brushes, prefers them not to be rinsed out too thoroughly, so they become stiff and behave more like palette knives.

“A lot of times I get these second hand,” said Gentile, who enjoys scrounging for her palette knives. “I go thrifting sometimes, and also garage sales.” She also likes to check out old barns, “Because there are usually cool trowels and stuff that I can use, especially because I love working big, so it's nice having unique tools like that.

“Honestly, I feel really touched and thankful to get these grants,” said Gentile, “because it's awesome to have these ideas, and then to see them come to fruition.”

Gentile finished her painting of the New Richland Public Library by noon the day she started it, and donated it to the library. If you would like to see Gentile's painting, stop by the library during normal library hours.

Waseca schools students named to the Straight A honor roll

Last	First	Gr
Adams	Liah	7
Ahlschlager	Rylee	7
Barnes	Andrew	7
Collins	Keenan	7
De Jager	Bryan	7
Deml	Maxwell	7
Lad	Maahin	7
Lindquist	Kooper	7
Lopez	Maurice	7
Miller	Libby	7
Riehm	Gavin	7
Sommers	Hannah	7
Vasquez-Neigebauer	Tomas	7
Holmseth	Allyson	8
Jewison	Oriana	8
Kietzman	Charley	8
Knutson	Jacob	8
Mader	Allison	8
Nelson	Khloe	8
Possin	Enoch	8
Schimming	Maren	8
Wilson	Cyrus	8
Yoder	Ryan	8
Benzick	Madelynn	9
Harguth	Jacob	9
Holmseth	Lauren	9
Hoof	Colby	9
Ibarra	Kasey	9
Rohwer	Violet	9
Zimprich	Aera	9
Barnett	Slade	10
Dufault	Paige	10
Heusinkveld	Hannah	10
Keith	Layla	10
Lawson	Kaylee	10
Mader	Vivian	10
Medina	Corrick	10

Last	First	Gr
Moore	Pearl	10
Schimming	Sadie	10
Vasquez-Neigebauer	Andres	10
Waldron	Ellery	10
Dettmer	Collin	11
Hagen	Benjamin	11
Jellum	Tyler	11
Kanewischer	Lexi	11
Kanewischer	Mia	11
Kehler	Izaac	11
Krueger Eineke	Melanie	11
Kunkel	Jaya	11
McGuire	Kyle	11
Owens	Lily	11
Root	Levi	11
Scheffert	Leah	11
Schueler	Katlyn	11
Tesch	Jackson	11
Weber	Cody	11
Barnett	Sage	12
Bauman	Lylah	12
Bomsta	Addison	12
Bruhn	Mallory	12
Grunzke	Dominic	12
Jes	Mason	12
Kohler	Daniel	12
Krautkremer	Ella	12
LaCroix	Hannah	12
Madson	Josie	12
O'Brien	Evelyn	12
Omtvedt	Ava	12
Rohwer	Oliver	12
Schimming	Norah	12
Stinehart	Trista	12
Wieseler	Addison	12

B Honor Roll

Last	First	Gr
Root	Madalynn	8
Sandoval	Patsy	8
Swindle	Ella	8
Wilson	Robbyn	8
Donovan	Makya	9
Draheim	Ilamay	9
Eneboe	Chelsia	9
Epper	Addison	9
Galle	Melody	9
Greenwald	Aiden	9
Harrison	Eryn	9
Jenzen	Trey	9
Lapides	Abigail	9
Lewer	Landon	9
Lynch	Amilya	9
Lynch	Cash	9
Markeson	Taylor	9
Mei	Fushen	9
Miller	Belle	9
Miller	Coy	9
Mumme	Emily	9
Nesenson	Mia	9
Nowacki	Gahvin	9
Omtvedt	Stella	9
Owens	Elsie	9
Pfeifer	Isaac	9
Rupe	Owen	9
Schoenrock	Otto	9
Worke	Jonah	9
Ankerholz	Amelia	10
Barnes	Hunter	10
Bartelt	Andrew	10
Bartelt	Brooke	10
Berndt	Natalie	10
Bruhn	Ava	10
Calderon	Victoria	10

Waseca County Fair 2024



Photos by Ben Revermann, Deb Bently & Eli Lutgens



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