



■ Inside:

- 2 - Stunning revelation
- 3 - Groskreutz reunion
- 4 - Obituaries
- 5 - Local government
- 6 - Sports
- 8 - \$4 million campaign
- 9 - Trap shooting
- 10-11 - Classifieds
- 12 - 2-time Olympian

■ Page 12



Proud grandparents

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

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.

Sacred Heart pillow cleaning Aug. 3 from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Catholic Daughters of the America's Court Sacred Heart #1424 invites everyone to Carlson's Pillow Cleaning Service on Saturday, August 3rd from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

This will be held at the Parish Center of Sacred Heart Church. Use the east entrance door. Feather pillows are cleaned, deodorized, sanitized and fluffed, then covered with new fabric (ticking). Microfiber pillows can also be cleaned. This is done in a mobile unit, same day service, while you wait. Custom made new pillows are also for sale. Proceeds from this event cover many of our projects including support of Bethlehem Inn, Pregnancy Options Clinic in Faribault, Sacred Heart School, Habitat for Humanity and many others. For questions contact Pat at 507-461-5095.

Farmamerica “Food to Fork” 6 p.m. Aug. 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.

Soapbox race Saturday, August 10 from noon - 3 p.m.

The Waseca Freemason's are sponsoring a soapbox race on Saturday, August 10 from 12-3 p.m. It will be held on the west side of Tink Larson Field, 4th Street NE.

The funds raised will go toward Fire Suppression Kits.

We are looking for kids 6 years and older to participate in the race. Contact Kevin Clemons at 507-461-2388 to sign up for the race. Everyone is welcome to

Briefs continued on 2

A word from
The Word



For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God.

2 Peter 3:5

Fun and high temperatures

Rotary holds annual free swim event at Waseca Waterpark

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca Water Park was busy the evening of Thursday, July 25, thanks to a free swim sponsored by the Waseca Rotary Club. The event was timely, given the day’s high temperature of 85 degrees.

A teenage lifeguard clicked in swimsuited, waterpark goes at the entrance. Thanks to donations from Diane Beckman and Thrivent of Waseca, all swimmers were handed red tickets to be cashed in at the snack bar for popsicles or Laffy Taffy candy. In total, 233 people attended the swim. Some 185 popsicle certificates were redeemed before sundown.

Originally started in Chicago in 1905 by Chicago attorney Paul Harris, the international Rotary Club organization has more than 1.4 million members. Rotary clubs are part of a global network of volunteers who work together to address various community and global challenges through local chapters. The Rotary Club motto is: “Service Above Self,” with six main focuses: community



With a hundred and eighty-five children in attendance, this little lady enjoyed the Annual Free Pool Party sponsored by the Waseca Rotary Club on Thursday night.

service, promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, supporting education, and growing local economies.

The Waseca Rotary club has two co-presidents, Amy Potter and Cassie Meister; treasurer Gregg Johnson; Rotary Foundation chair Jason Stenzel;

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

public events Kristie Biehn; membership chair Jennifer Dvorak; cause committee co-chairs Ann Fitch and Gregg Johnson, executive administrator

Rotary continued on 8

WHS Students "nerd out" to create, share history tour

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

“We would nerd out when we found something really cool,” remembers Keira Landrum, a 2024 Waseca graduate who spent the past school year studying history a whole new way in one of John Hanson’s social studies classes. “I’m a bit of a history nerd,” Landrum admits. “But I never realized how much interesting history there is in Waseca.”

Students in the class were assigned to collect and summarize historically accurate information about topics they were allowed to select themselves. Among the places and events students chose are the Everett/Aughenbaugh Mill, Trowbridge Park, the E.F. Johnson Company, Herter’s, the Waseca County Courthouse, the Don Eustice Memorial, and quite a few more.

By visiting the internet site <https://tours.discoverwasecatours.com/> either with their computers or with smartphones, users see a map of Waseca with markers to show locations covered by the tour. Folks are encouraged to travel to the location, then begin learning more about it. As they take the tour, people can either read the text students have posted, or have the information narrated to them; recorded narrations were made by well-known area individuals including Jack Williams and Jeanne Swanson.

“I’m impressed with the amount of information they were able to aggregate,” observes Hanson regarding his students’ work. “It’s interesting, it’s well documented, and it goes much deeper than surface level.”

The seed for the online tour, Hanson explains, comes from his own visits to museums all over the country. As he noted how many sites offered electronic tours of their facilities, he remembers reach-



Members of a Waseca High School class focusing on local history collaborated to create a "history tour" which includes a wide array of area events and landmarks. The history tour is available online at <https://tours.discoverwasecatours.com/>.

ing the conclusion, “Someday, I’m going to do that for Waseca.”

He had set the idea aside as a project for after his retirement when he happened to have a conversation with Julie Anderson, a local historical specialist. As they talked about the idea of a tour, Anderson provided advice and suggestions regarding what system and equipment would be needed to create one.

Hanson visited leadership at the school board, city council, and county requesting funds. He spoke with the Waseca Area Foundation and with the state Heritage Preservation Commission, both of which provided grant money. Funds covered the cost of the virtual tour software used to display the materials and image reproduction and recording.

Hanson says he spent several weeks at the start

of the 2023-24 school year working with students regarding the integrity and reliability of their information—both what they found and what they produced. He also emphasized the value of attributing information they found to authoritative sources.

“We had some great conversations about a historian’s role,” said Hanson. “We talked about who would be likely to access the information, and how it might be useful to them.”

“We also looked deeply into the most appropriate way to report on tragedy,” he commented. “You need to keep a level of sensitivity and respect, but accurately preserve the historical inte-

Tour continued on 5

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Highway department planning \$750,000 building

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

During their July 16 meeting, Waseca County commissioners approved building a pre-engineered metal structure at the county highway department property in Waseca at a cost just under \$750,000. County engineer Jim Kollar had come before the board sharing bids he received for a “cold storage” building 80 by 112 feet in size. Six companies had supplied bids for both timber and pre-engineered metal structures. The winning bid came from APX Construction out of Mankato.

Commissioners stated their approval for the metal structure, since the cost for a timber framed building would have been less than half a percent lower. Kollar said it was possible construction might begin in August.

Kollar explained the new building will be used to house vehicles and equipment currently kept at other sites; moving them from structures at the fairgrounds would give highway staff better access to them, and would free up space at the fairgrounds to be used by other departments. He specifically named the trailer which holds signage and other safety equipment used during emergencies. He also mentioned the new building would allow more efficient use of the warm storage area, since plow trucks and other large vehicles would no longer have to alter their intended entry and exit paths.

Commissioners scheduled their annual “road tour” for August 27.

Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas presented a preliminary budget proposal which would have those parts of his department’s activity funded by local taxpayers about 4.6 percent more in 2025 than in 2024.

Stating squad car replacement was “not a ‘want’ but a ‘need,’” Dulas said his department should replace three squad cars in the coming year. He also stated his department should hire an additional dispatcher.

“We have excellent dispatchers,” he affirmed. “Taking on one more would minimize the number of hours the dispatch center is staffed by only one person. We would be able to better serve the public and emergency responders.”

Dulas related to board

County continued on 5

Eaton celebrates century mark

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

According to his golfing friends, Kenny Eaton’s two years as a drill sergeant carried through to his hobby as a golfer.

“He would call us up and tell us to ‘report to the golf course’ at a certain time,” comments long-time golfing companion Neal Scott, 86, pretending to be offended. “And when it was your turn, you didn’t waste time or you’d hear about it.”

Rolland Swenson adds that he

would “drive Kenny around,” acting as chauffeur in the golf cart co-owned by the three of them.

But any further claims that Kenny, who turned 100 on Friday, July 26, ran a tight ship on the golf course seem difficult to substantiate.

Asked who among them was the better golfer, Rolland admitted, “We usually didn’t keep score.”

To hear Neal talk, the only score kept was the number of digs each one got in on the others during the 1.5 to 2 hours it would take them to

complete the nine-hole course at New Richland’s Riverview Golf Course.

“We would line up, take careful aim...then we’d take another shot,” Neal describes. “We used to tell each other, ‘Swing harder, maybe you’ll hit it this time.’”

“And we’d congratulate each other when the ball would go in the water.”

Eaton continued on 4



Longtime golfing threesome of (from left) Neal Scott, 86; Kenny Eaton, 100; and Rolland Swenson, 97, marked Kenny’s one-hundredth birthday last week.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently



Compostings

by Al Batt

What President had the shortest term?

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I added a skylight to my condo. I'll bet you're enjoying it.
I am, but I don't think the people living in the condo above me are.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. I was trying to carpe a diem, so I picked the lint out of my belly button. Keith Richards had outlived Richard Simmons, so I knew anything was possible. I was grunted, thanks to seeing lightning bugs. I love fireflies. They make me high-five happy. It's nice to see someone is using their blinkers. Technology has extended the lifespan of light-bulbs, but the Centennial Light bulb in a fire station in the San Francisco Bay Area has been shining since 1901 and outlasts modern bulbs. The light shines for 24 hours a day, and was first installed in a cart house when fire hoses traveled by carts, not by trucks. The bulb's survival is likely because of good craftsmanship. Unlike the standard thin tungsten filaments, the hand-blown thick glass of this bulb contains a durable carbon filament. It's filled with nitrogen gas, which is gentler than the argon and krypton gas used in later incandescents. Leaving it on 24/7 contributes to its longevity, since turning a light on and off can damage the filament. Its amazing story falls short of that of the firefly, which produces a chemical reaction inside its body that allows it to light up. This type of light production is called bioluminescence. Fireflies create light in their abdomens by combining oxygen, calcium, adenosine triphosphate, and luciferin in the presence of luciferase. A firefly is a crackerjack chemist. Unlike that light bulb, which produces heat in addition to light, the firefly's glow is a cold light with little energy lost as heat. If a firefly's light-producing organ got as hot as a light bulb, the firefly wouldn't survive the experience.

LEFT-HANDED PENCILS
There are days when everything is like driving down a washboardy gravel road in an ancient vehicle, which, with careful driving, I'm able to hit every bump and feel every ensuing rattle and shutter. That can put a kink in a day. That's when I need something different. Something like pickled radishes. The secret is in the eating. Or a left-handed pencil. You may be surprised to learn that pencils have hands. Well, they don't. On an ordinary pencil, the text runs from the tip to the head, making it the right way up when held in the right hand. That's upside down for southpaws and portsiders. If you're right-handed, you've likely never noticed that most pencils are designed for you. A left-handed pencil appears the right way up when held in the left hand. The percentage of the US population that is lefthanded is 10.9%, and the worldwide average is 10.6%.

ASK AL
"What is the rule of thumb?" Don't hit it with a hammer.
"What can I do about my fear of lettuce?" Romaine calm.
"Why do so many people dislike mimes?" It's because mimes do unspeakable things.
"What tea is the hardest to swallow?" Reality.
"What president had the shortest term?" Grover Cleveland, he was the twenty-second president.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
Sit in the corner if you're cold. Most corners are 90 degrees.
Who is Tinkerbell's smarter sister? Thinkerbell.
If Hobbits can't live there, is it inHobbitable?
What do you call 2000 mockingbirds? Two kilo mockingbird.
When I look at a map, I look up to Canada.
What are two pairs of pliers called? Multipliers.
Why does Smokey the Bear have flat feet? To stamp out forest fires. Why do ducks have flat feet? To stamp out forest fires. Why do elephants have flat feet? To stamp out flaming ducks.

NATURE NOTES
I watched a ruby-throated hummingbird feeding. Pound for pound, a hummingbird isn't. The miniature marvel weighs less than a #2 wooden pencil, a marshmallow or an AA battery.
After swallows finish nesting, they gather in pre-migratory focus groups on utility wires in late July. They chatter excitedly about the gift of another day before starting a meeting without a single doughnut. It's a session with the purpose of planning for migration, including air travel tips, handling hawk emergencies, and whether to eat dragonflies with wings on or off. The young stay with their parents during a diurnal migration undertaken by a flock. They leave here July-September so they can feed on flying insects, with some swallows flying as far as Argentina.

MEETING ADJOURNED
Turn your eyes, ears and hearts to what is good and find beauty in kindness and justice.

Our stories make us one

I spent a few hours at a family reunion this weekend.

Funny thing, it wasn't a reunion of any family I can claim connection to. I was there for two reasons. First, because it was the Groskreutz family reunion, a very German name. It happens that I speak German, and so I had been invited to present the Lord's Prayer and the common table prayer in German.

There was also a point at which I realized a gathering of well over 100 people is a "newsworthy" event—at least by the ultralocal standards of the Star Eagle and the Pioneer. I realized that in addition to my transcribed German text, I should take my camera.

Here's the funny thing. By the standards of genetics, I was not part of the family. In every other way, I was.

Of course everyone was welcoming. Of course they invited me to dine on the rich selection of potluck food. But that's not what I mean.

The way I refer to myself as being part of the family is that everyone shared their stories. It was a supremely human event. We marveled at the ingenuity and determination of those who came



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

before us. We considered the challenges and dangers they overcame. We ruminated over the terrors and fears which might have caused their sudden departures, either to other states or other planes. We speculated about the futures faced by the younger members of the family.

If you have read the news account about the Groskreutz family reunion, you have come across some of the stories and circumstances I am alluding to. If you have not, you have the same types of stories in your family, and so you can empathize.

I warned Jeff Groskreutz before leaving the gathering that the hard part of writing some summaries is deciding what to leave out. Let me just say there were vastly more stories than I had room to share in that piece.

One very sad one is about the family which had a very rough

ride—both literally and figuratively—while crossing the Atlantic. Their two-year-old died at sea. The expectation was that anyone who died on the ocean would be buried there.

But that was not what they wanted. To avoid sending the child to a watery grave, they hid her body in one of their trunks.

They kept her there when they disembarked and brought her all the way to Minnesota, burying her in a cemetery where they would all eventually join her decades later. Hearing the account takes the listener through the whole range of human emotions.

I heard fishing stories; I watched groups of knowledgeable tractor owners speculate about the mechanics of various pieces of equipment. I asked what it was like to ride in a tractor not only with iron wheels, but with protruding metal cleats as its

treads. I asked what sort of rides those tires offered; I was warned not to try drinking hot coffee while riding.

So back to the point of this narrative.

We are all one family. Our stories prove it.

If we lifted 100 or so randomly chosen people from various points of the planet and gave ourselves a weekend to talk, I bet we would (ignoring linguistic difficulties) share many stories that would take us through the whole range of human emotions. We would laugh, nod our heads knowingly, ask for surprising details to be repeated. Our spirits would fly, our hearts would go out to one another, we would wonder at the strength and determination of our "fellow passengers to the grave," as Dickens phrased it in "A Christmas Carol."

So, while of course I wish to extend my thanks to the Groskreutz family for the hospitality they showed me this past weekend, I am even more grateful for the essential life lesson.

We are all family. Our stories prove it.

The price of becoming an adult

I had a revelation this week.

At the bright and early time of 7 a.m. on Thursday, I walked into Waseca Family Dentistry to get my teeth checked. I was given the same friendly, cheerful greeting from Lori, the hygienist who has greeted me regularly since I was in middle school—I remember her coming to Sacred Heart to teach us little kids how to brush our teeth and make sure we understood why it is important to keep our teeth clean and to floss. I always feel bad informing her that I do not floss as often as I should...oops.

Anyway, I was a bit nervous as I walked in. After all, 7 a.m. seems very early for an appointment, and there had been no other cars in the parking lot as I arrived. My concerns were set aside as Lori and the other hygienist greeted me at the desk and asked whether I was awake. A little surprised, I answered yes—I was surprisingly awake and peppy given how early the hour was compared



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

to my usual schedule. They laughed and informed me that when my sister had shown up for her 7 a.m. appointment the previous week, she was not so awake. This is funny to anyone who knows my sister, as sometimes it can be an interesting time to be the one to wake her up.

But as I was sitting in the dentist chair, reclined with glasses on and feet crossed, listening to the variety of music and feeling the vibration of the polisher on my teeth, I had a crazy realization. I had not been asked what flavor of polish I preferred.

Does anyone remember being given choices as children of what flavor polish we wanted? I think

some of the options were mint, cinnamon, bubble gum, chocolate chip or something of the like. It was a fun part of the visit to be able to choose the flavor I would walk out with, running my tongue over the slight grain of the polish left on the back teeth.

What happened to that whimsy? It's like you turn into an adult and no longer do you get to choose what fun flavor will allow you to be fanciful that day.

It's understandable though; I certainly get it. What adult wants bubble gum tooth polish? I'm sure it's just easier to have the generic flavor because most people will not complain.

But yeah, that was my big revelation this week.

It is the last week of summer publication for the "Minnesota Daily" this week. It doesn't mean a lot, just that I will have most of the month of August off to continue to try to figure out what to do with myself. The only problem I have been having lately with work is what I might describe as a bit of imposter syndrome. I got this promotion and everything, but I'm used to doing a lot of work that is either time consuming or mentally taxing. And with this promotion, things aren't necessarily like that. It's like I have more responsibility, but it's not a lot of time (or doesn't at least feel like it takes a lot of time). I just edit a couple of stories every night. I don't know, maybe it will be different in the fall. I will keep you all updated.

My Determination: "Whenever I'm sad, I stop being sad and be awesome instead." - Ted Mosby, How I Met Your Mother

Briefs

from Page 1

watch.



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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. 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."

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

Every Saturday until the fall season the Waseca County Fair Grounds

will be hosting a farmers market from 8 a.m. until noon.

CredibleMind offers free mental health resources

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

The site offers interactive, evidence-based ways to explore local and national mental well-being resources. Free and anonymous at www.mnprairie.crediblemind.com "

Waldorf Veterans Memorial Fund Drive

Donations are requested to support the construction of the Waldorf Veterans Memorial. Checks written to WVMP Fund Drive can be mailed to WVMP Fund Drive; Judy Joecks, treasurer; P.O. Box 55; Waldorf, MN 56091. Questions can be directed to Charlie Barnes at (763) 286-2246.

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

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



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Groskreutz reunion draws more than 100

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

“We’re all strangers,” admits Jeff Groskreutz. “But we’re still family.”

Jeff, 69, and his wife Linda lived in Pemberton for 36 years before moving to a home on Lake Washington this summer. “Anyone who knows me,” he comments, “knows I love a good story.” It seems there’s no better place to find them than by studying genealogy.

Jeff has put together a self-published book well over 600 pages long which lists about 11 generations of the Groskreutz family. The back 90 pages are an index of 4,100 names which appear in the book. “What makes my book different from most genealogy books,” he observes, “is that I put in a lot of detail. If I know you raised a 300-pound pumpkin that won a prize at a local contest, I’ll put it in.”

Thanks to Jeff’s research, the Groskreutz family is aware of connections all across the country. Using that collected information, they shared the news that 2024 marks year 150 since Groskreutz ancestors took up residence in Minnesota.

Two brothers, Karl and Gottlieb, arrived shortly after the end of the Civil War, taking up residence on farmland in the area of Waseca County’s Matawan in 1869 and 1874. Even today, family members point out, there is a two-mile stretch of road where all the homesteads belong to a Groskreutz.

“The story, right or wrong,” relates Jeff, “is that they came for two main reasons. One is that, since they weren’t the oldest sons, they were not in line to inherit any land from their father back in Germany. Young men were also at risk of being drafted as soldiers in the regional wars taking place in Europe at the time.

“Also, once Gottlieb was here, he wrote letters to his younger brother Karl. He told him there was land available, and the grass was so thick and tall it was up to the cow’s knees.

“Gottlieb even paid the cost to bring Karl and his family across the ocean and to Minnesota.”

The stories grow from there.

Jeff explains that about a year ago, a committee was formed to plan this year’s gathering, which took place on Saturday, July 27, and Sunday, July 28. Though not all who came attended for both days, a total of about 125 people signed up to take part at Waldorf area event center JR’s Barn. The facility is owned by Joel and Renee Groskreutz.

Those who came the farthest, according to Jeff, traveled from Illinois and Massachusetts.

Someone whose journey was “long” in the figurative sense was Apple Valley bodybuilder and

“Once Gottlieb was here, he wrote letters to his younger brother Karl. He told him there was land available, and the grass was so thick and tall it was up to the cow’s knees.”

— Jeff Groskreutz

weightlifter Matt Thompson, 44.

Thompson’s mother estranged herself from her Groskreutz family before he was born, and went on to live a tragic life which included mental illness and addiction. “She had no idea how to be a mother,” Thompson said of her. She died in 2019; only as Thompson was sorting through her papers did he learn of his connection to the Groskreutz name.

When he was contacted to attend the reunion, he said he found the idea exciting. “I had no idea how wide and deep the roots are,” he commented.

Activities on Saturday included a tour of the Waldorf area farm currently owned by Russell Groskreutz. The property is still in the family from the time when Karl and Gottlieb first arrived.

Group members also visited the St. Paul cemetery, where many members of the family line are buried. Planning committee members had even gone to the trouble of marking the graves with small, numbered flags. The number indicated what page of the genealogy book the individual is featured on.

For quick reference, those in attendance could refer to a “family tree” chart which showed the lines of descent; the chart was about 8 feet square, and was made by Linda, with technical assistance from Jeff.

“I really have to thank my wife,” Jeff said of Linda numerous times. “She puts up with me and all my shenanigans.” He credits her with devoting more than eight hours to making the giant chart, helping plan the activities, moving furniture to set up arrangements in JR’s Barn, and being a better angler than he is.

After the tours, family members gathered back at JR’s Barn for a potluck supper. The evening ended with a barn dance; musicians were members of the Groskreutz family.

Sunday’s events included a morning divine service, a catered meal, and time set aside for independent area tours.

Among the stories shared was how one Groskreutz farm was located within Matawan “party line” phone service. The neighboring Groskreutz received service from Wells. To save money, the families jury-rigged wiring between their phones.

Another story was of the five farms in a row. “If a letter came

addressed to ‘R. Groskreutz’ at Rt. 2,” remembers Russell, “the mailman would put the letter in the first box in line. If it was the wrong R. Groskreutz, they would put it back in the mailbox. The next day, the mailman would take it to the next mailbox, until they found the right person.”

In JR’s Barn, owner Joel Groskreutz pointed to the large number “1912” painted on one of the beams. He told how, when the barn was first erected, the preacher of the family church came and blessed it; after the ceremony, the year was painted on the beam.

One of Jeff’s favorite stories is of Jeff and Bonnie Groskreutz couple who took their “three on the tree” vehicle to Texarkana, Texas, on their honeymoon back before the days of interstate highways. When the starter went out, they had too little money to get it fixed. Instead, they made a point of parking their car at the top of a steep hill each evening, making it possible to put it in gear, set it rolling, and get it started each morning.

Jeff remembers that, during his childhood, some of the older family members still used German as their home language.

“The children started learning English when they went to school,” he said. He still remembers his father and grandfather sometimes acting as a translator for his great-grandfather, Carl.

A “tour” of sorts was available right on the lawn of JR’s Barn. Family members brought a row of tractors—many of them refurbished—once purchased new by ancestors.

Two of the oldest were McCormick-Deerings made in 1929. One had been sold to a tractor collector decades ago. The collector had gone on to repair the broken transmission, bring the engine back to operational condition, and restore its paint to the original appearance. When the Groskreutz family contacted the collector to see whether the tractor could be borrowed for the reunion, they received the surprise news the collector was downsizing and would be willing to sell it. Matt Groskreutz and his father Dale bought it.

Also on display was a much tougher-looking tractor which had remained in the family the entire time. It had been stored in



This past weekend, well over 100 members of the Groskreutz family gathered at JR’s Barn near Waldorf, owned by Joel and Renee Groskreutz, to celebrate the one-hundred-fiftieth anniversary of the arrival of patriarchs Gottlieb and Karl, who who came to Minnesota in 1869 and 1874, respectively.

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently



Members of the Groskreutz family enjoyed musical entertainment while they ate a pot-luck meal provided the evening of Saturday, July 27, 2024.

doors, but had otherwise not been given any special attention—except for the many modifications made by Joel’s grandfather when it was in use. He had built a wooden cab and added numerous features using automotive parts.

“He should have been an engineer,” said Joel of his grandfather’s ingenuity.

Anyone curious about the stories collected surrounding Groskreutz family history, or about some of the many stories which have been recorded, can visit Jeff Groskreutz’s YouTube Channel “Groskreutz family videos” or access the family Facebook page—permission from Jeff may be needed, since the genealogy pages are private.

Jeff also mentions there may be another reunion in 2026, when the Russell Groskreutz farm will be eligible for classification as a 150-year family farm.



Area resident Russ Groskreutz next to the 1929 McCormick-Deering tractor purchased new by his father. The cab and a number of mechanical features were added over time.

DJ

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OBITUARIES

Constance Kaddatz

CONSTANCE “CONNIE” KAY KADDATZ passed away on July 20, 2024 in Duluth at the age of 67.

Connie was born on September 9, 1956 at Meeker County Hospital to George and Dorothy (Hervin) Kaddatz. She was one of nine children who were raised on the family farm south of Cosmos, MN. Anyone who knew Connie knew she had endless compassion that was demonstrated in her love for her family, her friends, and her clients. Connie held a deep devotion for God, knew Jesus as her Lord and Savior, and found community through her faith.

She will be dearly missed by her daughters Contessa Sovereign and Jayme (Chad) McKenna; her grandchildren Shalom Larson, Olivia McKenna, and Desmond McKenna; her siblings Don (Jean) Kaddatz, Laurel (Jackie) Kaddatz, Coreen (Steve) Williams, Bette Schweer, Georgine Madden, Craig (Nancy) Kaddatz, Jay Paul (Denise) Kaddatz, and Patricia (Scott) Cozad; and her many nieces and nephews. She will join those who preceded her death in heaven: her daughter Cally Jo; her parents Dorothy and George Kaddatz; brother-in-law Brian Schweer; nephew Michael Lundin; Janice Winter; Elizabeth (Lisa) and Mike Zeps; and her dog Jaxon.

Visitation will be held from 5-7



Constance Kaddatz

p.m. on Thursday, August 1, 2024 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca, and will continue for one hour before the service at the church on Friday. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations made payable to the “WAF-Cally Jo fund” may be directed to the Cally Jo Children’s Fund c/o Waseca Area Foundation at 501 East Elm Avenue, Waseca, MN 56093.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 2, 2024 at Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca with Rev. Jillene Gallatin officiating. A luncheon will follow at church. Connie will be laid to rest next to her dolly, Cally Jo, at Lake Ripley Cemetery in Litchfield at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 3, 2024.

Ronald Scribner

Ronald Myer Scribner (Ron), 78, passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 4th, 2024, at Advent Health East Stuart F. Meyer Hospice House, in Palm Coast, Florida after losing his longtime battle with cancer. He described himself as “a philosophical free bird...life enthusiast...creative artist literally and figuratively...always & forever, a low-end specialist”.

Ron was born in Staples, Minnesota and attended Mankato High School then North Central University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He served in the United States Army during the Viet Nam War, in Taegu, Korea serving in the Adjutant General’s Corps as a US Army Administration Specialist. After his military duty, he found a career as a Foundryman working in several Mankato foundries. Ron moved to Bloomington, Minnesota where he met his loving wife and best friend, Gwen. They met at the Fred Astaire Dance Studio and continued to dance together throughout their time together. After his retirement, they moved to Ormond Beach, Florida in 2009.

Besides dancing, he enjoyed spending time with his family, cooking, entertaining, traveling, playing darts and bowling. Ron enjoyed oil painting landscapes and people and would often gift his paintings to others. He had an insatiable thirst for learning and loved to read, often writing notes and essays on what he learned. He would watch the news, politics, sports, and science while he sat with his tablet researching various topics. He was the person you wanted on your Trivial Pursuit team as he had a fantastic memory and could answer the questions with precision and accuracy.

Last, but not least, Ron was an avid Minnesota Vikings Fan. While in Minnesota, Ron and Gwen would have friends and family over to watch the Vikings play. Not every Vikings game was shown in Florida, so they would stop at a local bar to watch the games. Of course, there was always beer and snacks. Ron’s favorite alcoholic beverage was beer,



Ronald Scribner

which he called “liquid bread” and none of that “light watered-down pee water” as he called it, it was a dark beer like a porter, an ale, or even a Guinness.

Ron Scribner was preceded in death by his parents, Bob and Marion (Koons) Scribner, and his sister: Marjorie K (Bentdahl).

Ron is survived by wife, Gwen (Gunnerson) Scribner, son Jon Michael Scribner of Waseca, MN, daughter Lisa Marie Scribner (Steve Biehn) of Mankato, MN, daughter Tae Lynn Born (Todd Schmidt) of Waseca, MN, son Jacob Matthew Scribner (Emily Wisch) of Gaylord, MN, sister Marlys (Carl) Carlson; ten grandchildren; one great grandchild; and Ron and Gwen’s dog, Trixie.

As per his wish, Ron was cremated in a private ceremony this past May at the Baldwin Brothers Cremation Society in Ormond Beach, Florida. A Celebration of Life Gathering will be held on August 4th from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. in Waseca, MN at the 2nd Avenue Event Center, 113-2nd Ave NW, Waseca, MN 56094. A second COL is being planned for family and friends in Ormond Beach with the date still to be set.

Should you desire, contributions may be sent to The HealthWell Foundation (they help cover the cost for life extending and lifesaving expensive drugs to those unable to afford them)

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Eaton

from Page 1

“We had our own way of playing golf,” he admits.

The three would play on Tuesdays and Fridays, usually quite early in the day, starting around 7:30 a.m.

Kenny’s oldest son Steve suggests they had to play at that time so their shenanigans didn’t annoy golfers who took their game more seriously.

Until retiring from the game about two years ago, the threesome had been playing together for more than 20 years. But the whole business started 30 years before that with more of a “ninesome.” The trio names a whole group of players who were fellow members at Vista Covenant Church and who came and went over time: Floyd Calhoun, Sid Bishop, Pastor Steve Johnson, Pastor Dick Williams, Ole Roesler and Rolland Peterson.

The “ninesome” was apparently only a bit more serious about the game than the three came to be. Neal remembers one player as “the hummer.”

“You’d line up to shoot,” he says, again with mock offense, “and he’d start to hum, just to get you off your game.”

Despite the horsing around, the digs, and the apparent indifference to the polite rules of play, Kenny says their time on the golf course had rich significance. He says he fell in love with the game “from the first time I hit that ball.

“It just seemed to go forever. It was almost magical.”

Kenny and his wife Harriet, who have been married 78 years, now reside in a senior living community in Faribault. He still owns the 300-acre farm about a mile east of Otisco where he and Harriet established their home in the 1950s, and where they raised their five children. He was still part of its operation at 90; three grandnephews now farm there.

The couple’s offspring, currently ranging in age from 76 to 61, remember many changes over time.

“I helped with the [dairy] cattle until I was 12 or 13,” remembers firstborn Steve, who recalls there were 30 head. “Dad knew all of their names,” he comments. “And some of them weren’t very flattering.”

The cattle were sold in the mid-1960s. Kenny said it was a strategic move: the money from the sale helped with the purchase of ad-



The threesome of Neal Scott, Kenny Eaton and Rolland Swenson golfed together for more than 20 years.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

ditional farmland. He recalls he had carefully calculated whether having more acreage would bring him the income he needed “without having to keep the cattle.” He had also determined farming the extra land might not leave him time to run the dairy operation.

Whether with or without livestock, though, Kenny might claim farming is in his blood. He was raised as one of five children on an area farm.

“It’s all I ever wanted to do,” he says simply.

He consents it is both physically and mentally demanding to operate a farm. “You’ve got to love it with your whole heart,” he comments. When his sons point out he never pressured them to follow in his footsteps, he repeats the statement.

Kenny was 17 when Pearl Harbor was bombed on December 7, 1941. As he finished out his teen years, he was deferred from the draft because he was performing the essential job of raising food on the home front. Still, by 1944, he says “I felt I should serve the nation.”

He reported to basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama.

Son-in-law Ted Johnson remembers Kenny sharing the story with him on a recent walk. “You were all running up a hill carrying a 40-pound pack on your backs,” Johnson repeats. “And one fellow couldn’t make it up the hill.

“So you picked his pack up and carried it, too.

“That’s when they decided to make you a drill sergeant.”

“I was really lucky,” observes Kenny. “I stayed right there for the rest of the war. A lot of the fellows who went overseas came back in a box.”

Another element of luck occurred

shortly after the war ended and Kenny was back on home turf. He took his pickup to the free outdoor movies which were shown in Otisco at that time. So he didn’t have to sit on the ground, he set the seat cushion from his truck on the grass. “This girl came by and asked me to let her sit on it,” he recalls. “And I ended up on the ground after all.”

But, “By the end of the night, I had asked her for a date.”

The two of them married in 1946. They purchased their first farmland in 1950. Among her children’s strongest recollections of Harriet’s role on the farm was “making sure the farmers were fed.”

“And not only farmers,” says Steve. “If you were on the property at meal time, you got a meal.”

Although he had not been much of a church-goer in his youth, Kenny became a member at Vista Covenant, where Harriet’s name continued to be posted on the “cradle roll” past the time her own children were in cradles. When the couple received an invitation to attend a Billy Graham revival held in Austin in the 1950s, they not only attended but ended up in a group which went on a boat ride with Graham.

The weekend’s message “changed my life,” states Kenny. He never again performed fieldwork on Sundays and has placed strong emphasis on his faith ever since.

Of being a drill sergeant, Kenny refuses to acknowledge the infamous harsh behavior associated with the role. “You had to get up before everyone else,” he observes. “You had to make sure everything was ready. Then you had to let people know what was expected.”

His family members say the habit of “letting others know what was ex-

pected” has been a central element. Not that Kenny bossed others around, but he has always placed a high value on physical fitness. Family lore has it that, although he was in his eighties at the time, he regularly taught children how to perform cartwheels while serving as a volunteer counselor at Lake Beauty Bible Camp in the northern part of the state. Perhaps not surprisingly, the campers in his group also tended to win the “cleanest cabin” award.

His children also mention that shared family vacations—which came to include as many as 57 people—pretty much always included elements of fitness. Son-in-law Ted describes up to 50 people being “roped into” sit-up contests which led to the other, exhausted participants watching and talking among themselves as Kenny continued long after they had stopped. He recalls a record of 211 consecutive sit-ups.

“He had tremendous perseverance,” remembers son Brian. “He just would not stop.”

Of those contests, and perhaps of other elements of his life, Kenny says, “Sure, I could’ve taken things easier. I’ve just always been a hard worker; it’s what made sense to me.”

Even now in the retirement residence, Kenny has marked off a distance one mile in length and walks it two or three times a day.

“He’s been a great role model and a great dad,” commented Brian. “He showed us a good path.”

Son Steve recalls an exchange that would take place almost daily at the breakfast table. “Dad would say to Mom, ‘Guess what? We have another day.’

“He has always been positive, always grateful for what he has.”

Keen Bank celebrating 150 years Customer appreciation event August 22

Keen Bank is celebrating 150 years of serving the financial needs of Waseca and surrounding communities with a Customer Appreciation event on Thursday, August 22 at our Waseca location, 101 State Street

N, from 4-6pm. Keen Bank will provide food, live music and giveaways, while supplies last, to say thank you to customers and the community.

“We are very excited to celebrate our 150 years of continuous com-

munity service and are especially proud of being the only locally owned and managed community bank in Waseca,” said President and CEO, Bernie Gaytko. “I want you to join us for our celebration, learn

more about our history and enjoy some food, fellowship and entertainment with the Keen Bank team.”

Additionally, Keen Bank has unveiled a history wall dating back to 1874 that the public is invited to view, highlighting the important milestones of the family-owned bank.

Waseca basketball to play in “Sweet 16” Pacesetter basketball championships set for August 3-4 at St. Ben’s

The Waseca varsity boys’ basketball team will play Saturday-Sunday, August 3-4, at Clemens Field House at St. Ben’s in St. Joseph in the 35th Annual Pacesetter “Sweet 16” Championships, which will again feature the top-ranked Minnesota high school boys’ and girls’ basketball teams in each class.

Five high school state champions crowned in March and three runner-up teams will battle the field to try to claim the two over-all championships.

Cherry, the Class A boys’ state champion; Breck, the Class AA state champion; and Totino Grace, the Class AAA champion; will be joined

by Wayzata, Class AAA runner-up; Mankato East, Class AAA runner-up; and 2024 state tournament teams, Alexandria, Orono, Albany, and perennial power Hopkins in a powerhouse line-up of boys’ teams.

The girls’ line-up of teams will feature Class AAAA state champion, Minnetonka, and 3-time Class AA champion, Providence Academy, the Class AAAA runner-up and perennial power, Hopkins, plus Eden Prairie, St. Michael-Albertville, and other top teams in a 12-team bracket, which will feature three Final Four divisions – D1, D2, and D3 – on Sunday.

Pacesetter Director Jeff McCarron

refers to the Sweet 16 as “The greatest gathering of Minnesota talent under one roof all year!”

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■ Tour

from Page 1

grity.” Landrum remembers nearly desperate searches to find information she wanted for the two tours she created—one on the Everett-Aughenbaugh Mill and one on the brutal unsolved murders of five members of the Julius Schuch family in 1929. She recalls becoming very frustrated when sources provided three different birthdates for prominent Waseca figure William Everett.

Their intense research, Hanson said, helped the class members build a deep appreciation for the Waseca area’s past, perhaps mostly because they made genuine connections to the people and their circumstances. It also helped them recognize the many links between the past and the present including, if nothing else, why some area locations have the names they do.

Landrum and Hanson observe eyebrows were raised when students would discover savory coincidences from the past—for example, how Waseca businessmen acquired official county records which were supposed to be locked in secure storage, and how two men who had recently started businesses in Waseca “coincidentally” ended up married to Ira Trowbridge’s daughters.

Work continues on the virtual tour. While Hanson’s students continue to work on the “history” portion, other agencies in town are assembling information for the other tours, which include schools, parks, restaurants and shops. At this time, it is expected the “schools” and “parks” sections will be functional early in September.

Hanson states other elements are also being developed. He states

■ County

from Page 1

members that dispatchers not only handle radio communications among officers, they dispatch emergency services (fire, ambulance, utilities, etc) and answer all types of 911 calls, including “enhanced” and “next generation” formats, mental health calls, and text messages requesting assistance.

“It only takes one phone call to tie up a dispatcher for 30 minutes or an hour,” said Dulas. He named large-scale examples such as a snowstorm, vehicle accident, or crime in action, but mentioned some calls are for surprisingly personal reasons, including one individual who would customarily call 911 while driving home from work late at night and struggling to stay awake. He also mentioned calls regarding leaking pipes and overflowing toilets. “Our dispatchers can’t just let the phone ring; they can’t hang up until they know what the problem is or get the caller the help they need. Dispatchers are frequently dealing with more than one incident, more than one agency, and more than one officer all at the same time.”

With Dulas’s presentation complete, county administrator Michael Johnson mentioned it is always his priority to keep county services running smoothly while minimizing any increases to the tax levy. He said he is working with department heads to determine his fifth annual budget, and 2025’s has been “the most challenging so far.” He pointed out that, over the past five years, inflation has increased costs by about 23 percent while the county has increased its levy by only 6.5 percent. Thanks to grants and other cost-saving measures, Johnson told commissioners, “We’re in a very good position,” but the tight finances leave very little “wiggle room” to cope with unforeseen or developing circumstances.

A major element of the 2025 budget will be the employee contract settlement, he said, and negotiations with the four unions who have members working for the county are in their early phase. Johnson named insurance rates as a major source of uncertainty.

County board members set an August 19 meeting to collaborate with leadership of area towns and townships regarding the regulation of cannabis sales. Agencies at all three levels have the authority to grant licenses in any of 13 different

particular excitement over the possibility of “gameification.” The idea, he said, is that individuals would have the option of taking the individual tours and then answering test questions. Those who pass the test at a qualifying level would earn a virtual badge. Hanson speculates families or classes of elementary students might find an added level of interest in “competing” about Waseca history.

The expected timeline, Hanson said, is to spend about two years building the tours and their features, then the next three or so tracking its level of use and the ways people use it, using those results to improve and upgrade various features.

“Then, once it’s established,” he says, “you have to maintain it. An outdated website loses its credibility.”

The intent of the live ap is that it will always be available for use at no cost, although users can donate toward upkeep if they wish.

Hanson said the entire project owes gratitude to the workers at the Waseca County History Center, who were supportive and helpful as students collected information.

Hanson said he is also grateful to local newspapers, who have allowed no-cost links to various news stories. The tour of the county courthouse, for example, features a link to the County Pioneer story regarding the death of Ralph Garland.

Mostly, though, he states, “None of this would be coming together without the kids. They threw themselves into this, and they produced impressive results.

“Anyone who’s looked at the on-line tours will tell you, this doesn’t look like a school project.

“It looks professional.

“I don’t know if any of us can recognize the long-term benefits this project will bring.”

license types, but any ordinances passed by the county take precedence over those issued by towns or townships.

Johnson had suggested at a prior county board meeting that a county-wide meeting would probably be helpful, both to inform other agencies of the circumstances and to network regarding all parties’ interests on this developing issue.

Greg Ous, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) engineer for District 7, summarized his department’s ten-year funding and construction plan. District 7 includes Waseca, Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Faribault, Jackson, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Nobles, Rock, Sibley, and Watonwan counties.

Ous told commissioners \$140 million worth of projects were or are being worked on this year in the 13-county area. Many of them were bridges; none were located within Waseca County. Based on Ous’s statements, the soonest a District 7 project will take place in Waseca County is 2026, when sidewalks in New Richland will be repaired and replaced to come into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Ous also said the stretch of Hwy 13 between Waseca and Waterville is scheduled to be resurfaced in 2033 and ‘34.

Another presentation during the July 16 meeting was from Waseca High School history teacher John Hanson. Hanson thanked commissioners for financial support the board provided toward a project carried out by students in one of his classes which focuses on local history.

Located at <https://tours.discover-wasecatours.com/>, the online project provides information about various buildings, locations, and incidents which are significant to Waseca County’s past.

Hanson showed commissioners the status of the history tour so far, mentioning that more history elements will be added in the future. Also under construction are tours highlighting area parks, restaurants, shops, and schools.

Built into the ap is the option to be guided to a specific location, then hear (or read) information about the site. More information about the Discover Waseca Tours online ap is available in another news story in this edition of the Pioneer.

Commissioners consented to provide \$5,000 in funding to continue the work; funds have also been received from the City of Waseca, the Waseca Area Foundation, and other agencies.

Hagens talk potential plans for church

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff Writer

During their July 22 meeting, New Richland city council members heard from area residents Ethan and Angel Hagen regarding the former First Congregational Church of New Richland, which was recently vacated by its congregation. The Hagens are considering acquiring the building and renovating it to become an event center. They asked council members for guidance and assistance in finding funding, including grants and other concessions. Said Hagen, “Our main focus is to keep the life of this church going. Using the church as an event center will help keep business in town.” Among possible events, Hagen listed live bands, funerals, weddings, and dances. The first step, Hagen said, is to bring the building up to code, including the kitchen, which is currently ineligible to prepare food for the general public; until the facility is renovated, all food would have to be brought in

from elsewhere.

The assessed value of the First Congregational Church is \$563,000; property taxes are about \$10,000 per year. Council members told the Hagens they support the idea of repurposing the building, and suggested they might acquire useful information by meeting with the planning and zoning committee, which might be able to offer suggestions regarding grants and other forms of assistance.

New Richland Care Center administrator Bob Johannsen reported the center currently has 40 residents, with the expectation of three more arriving in the near future. The facility continues to advertise in an effort to recruit new staff, but new applications have been limited. Johannson said he is in the process of drafting a recruitment and retention plan. The center has a family picnic planned for Friday, Aug 2. Music will begin at 3 p.m.; a 5 p.m. meal will be provided by the Red Leaf Café.

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

The waste treatment plan reported some of the complications caused by June’s heavy rains. Because of inflow to the wastewater treatment system. Over the month, more than 17 million gallons of water came through the processing plant; roughly half that amount was processed while about the same amount was “released” into the storm water system when the plant’s capacity was exceeded. The releases conform to allowed practices; samples were taken to determine levels of bacteria in the storm sewer system after releases. Council members approved a \$1,500 request from wastewater plant manager Shell Johnson to purchase a new washer and dryer for use at the plant.

Street maintenance supervisor Eric Hendrickson submitted a written re-

port listing recently completed tasks. These included regular maintenance of Legion field, City Park, City Hall, City Shop, Library, Water Plant, and St. Olaf Lake park. Preparations were performed for Farm and City days. Volunteers Chloe Stork, Faith Phillips, Wyatt Hendrickson, and Eli Hendrickson assisted with painting bleachers at Legion Field.

Council members were informed the pavilion at Legion Field Pavilion needs maintenance and a new roof. Council members requested estimates for various roofing options before proceeding. An area organization has offered to pay half the cost of improvements up to \$10,000.

Council members were advised the county has scheduled a meeting of area township boards and city councils to discuss issues developing around the regulation of cannabis businesses. The meeting will be the evening of Monday, Aug. 19.

Work session examines general fund

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

During the work session on July 22, members of the Janesville city council discussed how needed future improvements will be financed. Consultant Andrea Moen of GM Contracting shared information about possible financing options for future work on the city-owned power plant. She mentioned she had communicated with the local bank, the Public Utility Commission, and Northland Trust Services, the organization the city has used in the past to issue bonds for reconstruction projects.

Moen told council members the “bond rating” for an agency is usually based on the most recent three years of audit history. The stronger that history, the better the interest rate on borrowed money.

Despite her research, Moen revealed that her company could not help the city acquire the level of funding needed for the planned electric revenue bond. A different option was raised by Northland Trust Services, proposing the city council could sign a general obligation (GO) bond with the Public Utility Commission,

an alternate option which Minnesota state statutes permit.

“It offers insured bonds, the A+ rating that you currently have and it offers the lower interest rates,” Moen added. “Currently it would be at 3.76% over twenty years; the GO bond, raises your tax value. However, for that state statute, if you’re spending it on equipment, which in this case, you are, we can reduce that tax levy and we would then pay the debt service payment from the funds.”

“Would that be beyond part of the budget?” Councilmember Jim Mulcahey inquired, then, after Moen said yes, he asked how much money it would be.

“We’re talking roughly \$2.5 million,” Moen responded.

Councilmember Ivan Maas inquired whether the costs of work done last summer to install a temporary transformer have been covered. Moen it had, then referred to the transformer as a “band-aid,” explaining it had an anticipated service life of three to five years.

“In essence, it’s a backup to the one that we are getting which is still in service,” Moen said.

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Maas also asked whether the planned new transformer would have the capacity to serve an expanded customer base, referring specifically to Pearson Acres and Northwoods developments, and any new business which might come to town. Moen responded it had enough capacity for Pearson Acres and anything residential but beyond that, it would require another transformer.

In other matters, The city council also plans to review all other general fund budgets before certifying proposed levies to be submitted to Waseca County at the end of September. Up on August 12 will be the police and fire department budgets. If the budget is not ready by September 9, extra city council meetings will need to be scheduled.

Maas remarked that the miscellaneous part in the city’s general budget was higher than what he liked and Rogers clarified that was for park equipment.

“And community development – you have a salary wage in there but

there’s no health insurance or workers compensation,” Maas noted.

“Workers comp insurances come out of my department budget,” Rogers said, adding that one employee had opted not to have health insurance because he had a different source. Administrator Sara Britton indicated figures showing the city’s health insurance costs had increased by 13 percent and asked Rogers whether he has considered a different provider. Rogers responded he would like to review that topic with the council in the coming months.

Rogers also informed council members he and Britton were looking at budgeting for new office laptops, and also investing in some landscaping.

“That’s probably the biggest thing in this department,” Rogers said. “It went up about \$20,000 for computers, copy and shredder machines.”

After all questions were resolved, the City Council worksession adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

JWP reconsiders cell phone policy

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

During the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (JWP) school board meeting the evening of July 15, members tabled the new cell phone policy until the next meeting after a lengthy discussion.

The new policy mandated that cell phones and other personal electronic devices would remain on silent and be kept in the designated pouches in each classroom in the high school; elementary students would be required to keep their cell phones in their backpacks in their lockers.

Students were also prohibited from recording other students or school employees without their knowledge or consent on school property, on a school bus or at school-sponsored activities, except for activities considered to be in the public arena like sporting events, public meetings, academic competitions, or public performances.

Concerns were still expressed about students making excuses or finding loopholes. Teachers also have expressed frustrations about not wanting to be “babysitters.”

Business Manager Wendy Dieker asked Principal David Rysdam what kind of feedback, if any, he received from teachers. Rysdam responded he was never approached but said there was a recommitment to the policy even if the state wasn’t following it.

“I feel my role is to support the

teachers and make sure they have the time and the space to deliver the instruction needed so these kids can pass their tests and so they can do what they want to do once they pass these walls,” Rysdam added. With that, he asked the school board members whether he could revisit the topic with them within a week.

The JWP school board meeting also revisited a previous discussion in regard to the weighted grades policy after the suggestion was brought up that, rather than starting the practice with all students in grades 10 to 12 this year, it be limited to sophomores only for 2024-25.

Board member Kevin Born said he talked with a variety of groups to gain a fairer perspective on the situation including “4.0 students,” admissions counselors, and two families who weren’t in the 4.0 grade system. Born stated he wanted to talk to the career and college recruiters to gain some understanding whether the grading system change will affect students’ status as they apply for post-secondary education. Born said all he talked to were in favor of the weighted grade system.

“It was for all the reasons we mentioned,” Born said. “Kids taking harder classes should be rewarded and we’re trying to build an academic institution here where we’re absolutely giving credit for that.”

One concern, however, was all the varying factors involved such as, in past years, students who took no col-

JWP SCHOOL BOARD

lege classes maintained a perfect 4.0 but other students took a number of college classes but were seen as equals.

“The admissions were probably the most clear that no student should have their grades changed, even retroactively or moving forward except for incoming freshmen,” Born said. “It would impact the classes that are offered and the classes that students choose or chose along the way. They could have made different decisions all along, had they known classes were going to be weighted.”

The admission counselors informed Born that if he went back a year for the weighted grades, it could mess up scholarships or class rank.

Born stated that, as he talked with more students, he observed certain ones didn’t understand how the change would affect them. To maintain their class rank, Born added, students would have to take all college classes, and so have no free time for extracurricular activities they may have been looking forward to.

During the discussion, Rysdam noted that college courses are sometimes not counted as local credits, then stated it is a goal to try to keep as many students taking as many classes as they can at JWP so no more enrollment is lost.

Ultimately, Board member Seyes suggested putting together some examples on a PowerPoint and explain to the sophomores, juniors, and seniors the reasons why the board is rescinding their previous choice. Rysdam said he is already writing a newsletter with apologies to the students who might feel cheated in the last two years who put in their work for the CIS classes.

“By waiting, we’re ensuring that everybody gets honored for the work they put in up until this point,” Rysdam said.

Brian Wright, the area director from Lunchtime Solutions, updated the school board about where he is in the hiring process for cafeteria staff. The only position not yet filled is that of the food service director. The school board members anticipate choosing one of the three final candidates within the next week.

In other business, the 2025-2027 contract for environmental and safety services with consulting company Institute for Environmental Assessments (IEA) out of Minneapolis was addressed. Sue Liebl, the account manager from IEA, will visit to ensure that JWP is following OSHA standards.

Board members also approved to increasing certified teacher substitutes’ daily pay from \$165 to \$175 as the district became aware that some local school districts are starting to raise their certified substitute teacher’s pay.

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Braves do everything but win at Eagle Lake

One bad inning leads to season-ending loss

The Waseca Braves amateur baseball team saw the season end Saturday with a 6-2 loss at Eagle Lake in the 13-60 League playoffs. It was, according to Braves coach Tink Larson, one of those games. "We outdid them in all categories except one, and that is the most important one, runs scored," said Larson. The Braves had 15 baserunners and scored just two of them, Eagle Lake had 12 baserunners and scored six. Waseca hit into four double plays and left the bases loaded twice. "I don't know the last time I've seen four double plays turned in a town team game," said Larson. The Braves outthit Eagle Lake 8-7.

Payton Garza had two hits, with one apiece from Tyson Reger, Griffin Krautkremer, Kelvin Nelson, Jimmy Loonan, Ryan Hanson and Kyle Waugh. Nelson started on the mound and took the loss, allowing five earned runs on five hits, with three strikeouts and two walks. Sebastian Teague pitched two innings of scoreless relief. "Eagle Lake has a nice team and a nice group of guys, so we wish them well," said Larson, who's optimistic about the Braves' future. "It's always tough to see the season come to a close, but I'm already excited about next year," he said. "We should be a lot better."

Legion season ends in playoffs

The Waseca American Legion baseball team was shut out only twice this season, both by New Ulm. The latest one ended the season for Post 228, a 3-0 playoff decision at New Ulm Thursday, July 25. Waseca had trouble generating offense, finishing the game with only four baserunners on two hits and two walks. According to Waseca coach Tink Larson, Tyson Reger pitched well enough to win, giving up five hits, a walk and one hit batsman. He struck out six. Against powerhouse Mankato National, Post 228 was in it until the bottom of the fifth inning. "We were tied 2-2," said Larson. "Then we kind of imploded." Waseca walked the first three batters and Mankato strung together a series of hits on the way to an 11-2 decision.

"Colton Ruedy pitched very well for four innings," said Larson. Waseca outthit Mankato 10-3, with Tyson Reger and Kendrick Volkmann collecting three hits apiece. Sebastian Teague had two hits, Shane Engel-Mueller and Nate Engel-Mueller one each. Mankato National remained the lone undefeated team in the double-elimination tournament. Post 228 opened the tourney with a 6-2 triumph over Marshall. "It was a very nice way to open the tournament," said Larson. Sabastian Teague pitched an excellent game, allowing no walks. Reger came in to get the final two outs for the save. "We used some small ball that helped us a lot," said Larson. "Some nice bunts and some stolen bases."

2024 Waseca VFW baseball statistics

NAME	G	AB	R	H	E	2B	3B	HR	SB	SAC	BB	SO	RBI	SLG%	OB%
Hitting															
Barnes, Hunter	14	22	5	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	3	0.273	0.333
Ferch, Kamerin	19	30	4	5	4	0	0	0	1	2	6	12	4	0.167	0.306
Garza, Kaden	21	59	12	21	6	2	1	0	7	0	9	14	12	0.424	0.441
Glynn, Kallen	18	40	7	9	9	3	1	0	5	1	13	17	6	0.350	0.415
Miller, Traehvon	5	6	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0.167	0.167
Honstad, Owen	16	46	6	19	13	4	2	0	8	1	6	9	8	0.587	0.481
James, Parker	13	23	2	5	4	2	0	0	2	0	2	12	3	0.304	0.280
Lewer, Landon	14	15	1	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	3	0.333	0.500
Mitchell, Riley	15	42	6	15	9	3	1	0	2	0	6	6	8	0.476	0.438
Preston, Carson	15	26	4	4	9	0	0	0	2	0	9	7	4	0.154	0.371
Reger, Logan	21	53	9	11	0	2	0	0	1	3	14	11	3	0.245	0.373
Rohl, Jeff	9	12	4	4	3	0	0	0	6	0	3	4	2	0.333	0.467
Root, Jacob	13	23	5	3	2	0	0	0	4	0	10	12	4	0.130	0.394
Ryan, Troy	15	22	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	9	1	0.091	0.286
Schafer, Jaiden	19	47	12	13	5	1	0	0	2	3	6	16	4	0.298	0.358
Stencel, Hayden	16	37	3	10	2	0	0	0	6	1	6	11	5	0.270	0.372
Wilhelmi, Zach	7	12	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0.083	0.083
TOTALS	21	515	83	134	76	17	5	0	46	11	103	160	71	0.313	0.383
OPPONENTS	21	582	198	169	28	25	4	1	56	6	135	107	115	0.352	0.424
NAME															
Pitching	G	CG	SH	S	W	L		R	ER		H	BB	SO	HBP	IP
Ferch, Kamerin	6	0	0	0	0	1		18	12		26	9	9	0	13.67
Garza, Kaden	5	0	0	0	0	1		13	12		5	18	9	0	6.00
Honstad, Owen	10	1	0	0	1	4		29	14		34	30	29	1	33.67
James, Parker	1	0	0	0	0	0		7	5		2	4	0	0	0.00
Mitchell, Riley	3	0	0	0	0	2		16	10		8	7	10	3	7.33
Preston, Carson	6	0	0	0	0	3		23	10		12	25	13	4	13.00



The Pastor's Column

Lives constantly inundated

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS
I don't nap well. I either end up sleeping for 30 minutes or for 4 hours and wake up confused wondering what day and where I am. I don't know which one will happen when I lay down to take a nap.
On Sunday, I was tired. We had lunch, I read over the passage for next Sunday and couldn't keep my eyes open. I took a 30 min nap, got up and realized I needed another one. Another 30 mins of sleep and I was up and refreshed for the rest of the day. It felt pretty good to get two naps and not wake up confused.
Sharing about my sleeping habits is not my goal, rather we need to take a few moments to talk about rest. Not just sleep, but true rest. Our lives are constantly inundated with images, information, frustrations, attacks, and confusion. We are seeking approval, acceptance, reward, and entertainment from anywhere we can find it. We live trying to avoid our feelings rather than allowing ourselves to find rest in God.
When we, as believers, face persecution or struggle, we are often surprised by the bravado at which people attack our beliefs, but Peter speaks to us in 1 Peter 4:14, "If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you." Even though Jesus told us there would be troubles, we do not expect them. When we seek out entertainment and find people mocking our faith, don't be surprised.
It taxes our minds when we think about the struggles we face on a daily basis. We long for a break or rest from the stresses we create, or others create for us. The temptation to escape the stress of life through entertainment, work, or activity is great, but even still those things can reveal attacks or create more stress later.
Jesus said in John 16:
18 "If the world hates you, understand that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of it, the world hates you. 20 Remember the word I spoke to you: 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will also keep yours. 21 But they will do all these things to you on account of My name, because they don't know the One who sent Me.
How do we find rest when so many things assail us? How did Jesus nap in the back of the boat when the disciples were bailing water to keep the boat from sinking? We should not be surprised when we are ridiculed for our faith, rather we should rest in the sure knowledge that God knew this would happen and He has a plan for it.
We are able to rest, when we trust that God's plans are greater than the world's. We rest when we have faith that God is working things out. We rest when we realize that our salvation is sure and no matter what happens on earth God's people will have an eternity with Him.

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507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker)
Worship Sundays 10 a.m.
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801 4th Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-3167
Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m.
* * *

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 6th St NE, Waseca
507-835-9176
Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service
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Sundays 9:00 a.m.
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ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
314 4th Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-2647
Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m.
* * *

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

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

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
111 4th St NW, Waseca
Father Glenn Ferichs
507-835-1222
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620 W Elm Ave, Waseca
507-607-8245
Sunday worship 10 a.m.
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CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS
1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca
507-835-4640
Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.
* * *

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

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

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

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

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

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

VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
* * *

Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
* * *

VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Brian Schanil Pastor
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark
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ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass
Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m.
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Freedom Township
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Waldorf, Minnesota
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
* * *

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

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

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

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

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

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
43089 180th St, Morristown
Pastor Kathy King
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter)
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ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH
307 W. 2nd St, Janesville
10 a.m. - Mass
* * *

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

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

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

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

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



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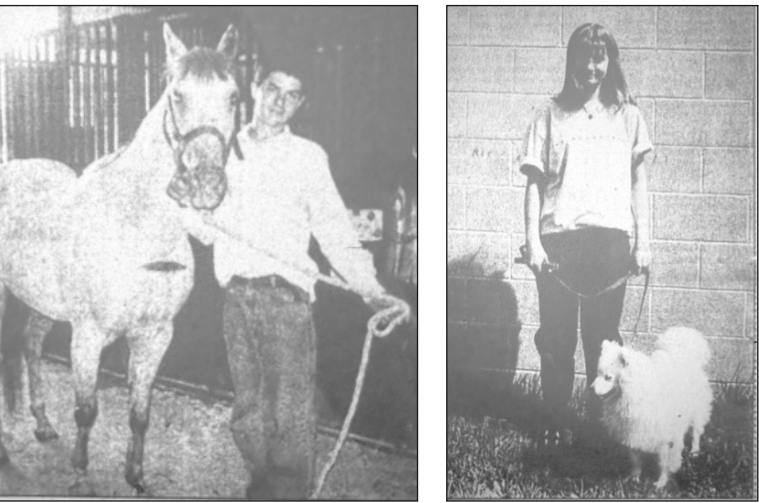
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Janesville



1998: LEFT: John Grams of the Janesville Jacks and Jills and his horse Poncho came home with a number of ribbons from the 1998 County Fair. Grams received a grand champion in the key hole race; grand champion in the jumping figure eight; reserve grand champion for the poles - novice; and grand champion in barrels - novice. RIGHT: Brenda Hiles of the Janesville Jacks and Jills participated in the 4-H Dog Show on Thursday, July 23, at the Waseca County Fair. Pictured is Hiles with her American Eskimo dog, Sadie

100 Years Ago

- A wrestling match has been staged to take place at the pavilion on Saturday evening next to which all the sportsmen in the country and all others are cordially invited. The contestants are Kid Norton of St. Paul and Frank Knapp of Madison Lake, both professional.

- A Ku Klux Klan lecturer was not given a hearing in Waseca according to reports from that city. He tried to get in but the new mayor refused to allow him to talk.

- On Friday last shortly after one o'clock in the afternoon Alfred Hirscher was badly burned about the head and arms when his hair and clothing ignited from a gasoline stove. He was making a medicinal soap whose contents was a mixture of carbolic acid and oils.

- Brick work on the new Lutheran church was completed the latter part of the week. From now on the carpenters will put on the roofing and erect a twenty-eight foot steeple, while the basement will be cemented.

75 Years Ago

- Following is a copy of the Proclamation of the Governor establishing the dates of registration of the male citizens of Minnesota in the age group 18 through 25, pursuant to the provisions of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1948.

- Reports have come in that polio cases have finally appeared in Waseca county with the first one being reported on Thursday of last week at New Richland and shortly thereafter two cases were reported in the Waldorf territory.

- LOST: Three small ducks.

- Mr. and Mrs. Ole J. Anderson are 82 and have been married 61 years. They have four sons, six daughters, eleven grandchildren, nineteen granddaughters, eleven great grandsons, thirteen great granddaughters. Counting Pa and Ma that reaches the imposing total of 66. Who can top it?

- Midshipman John Edward Hogan, USNR, son of MRs. Ellen Hogan of Janesville is participating in the two-month Naval Reserve Officers Training Cruise aboard the aircraft carrier USS Boxer.

50 Years Ago

- A free lunch, bargains galore, and the opportunity to dunk Rotarians are some of the highlights of Janesville's third annual Flea Market set for this Saturday.

- You've all heard people say, "I never won anything in my life." You won't hear that remark from Bob Krause family of Janesville. Last year Bob won the big prize, a Johnson motor, in the Sportsmen's Club annual summer drawing. This year his son, Steven, won the motor.

- Arthur Plath, principal of Trinity Lutheran School, has completed a 240-hour training course as a Right to Read director in the Minnesota Right to Read Program at Mankato State College.

- Jane Sexton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sexton, Janesville and Richard Greenwood, son of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Greenwood, New Richland, were united in marriage at a six o'clock nuptial mass by Father W.D. Sullivan at St. Ann's Catholic Church, Janesville, on June 29.

- Janesville welcomes seven new residents this week. They include Mr. Elmer Digner, a retired farmer.

25 Years Ago

- After 22 years of employment, Janesville resident Jeanette Bartelt decided to retire from State Farm Insurance. "I'm very happy for her," said Jack Frank, agent. "She was the best."

- Debra Rence Born and Robb Andrew Nelson were united in marriage Sept. 6, 1997 at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. The Rev. Roger Holland performed the 3 p.m. double-ring ceremony.

- Minnesota's mammoth drainage system will eventually fail unless some dramatic changes are made, said an economist with the University of Monnesota's Extension Service.

- A new education tool for this country's middle school science teachers is helping improve nutrition skills by capturing the imagination of children. The "Fueled for Flight" video education kit, created with checkoff funding from Waseca County beef producers, uses the exciting world of space travel to deliver a message about good nutrition and the role of beef in a healthful diet to fifth and sixth grade students.

- The Waseca County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education is planning a Farm Safety Clinic at the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Elementary school in Janesville for all fourth-graders on Tuesday, Sept.22.

Waseca

25 Years Ago



-Sundaes on a Sunday outline: Jake Guse, 10 ½ months, of Waseca was one of the many people who enjoyed sundaes on Sunday at the fair.

-Imagine there was a nuclear disaster in Norway and 50,000 Norwegians came to Minnesota. What would our reaction be? Probably not the same as it is to the 40,000 Somalians who have come to Minnesota since the outbreak of civil wear in their country, according to Brad Marks of Owatonna's Cultural Diversity Network. Marks, along with Kim Burnside, Abdulaziz Ahmed and Mhammed Abdulle, were guests of the Waseca Human Rights Commission meeting in July.

-Father John Kunz is chairman of the Waseca Human Rights Commission which is talking about diversity issues.

-Marita and Randy Wadd are inviting the public to come by and enjoy their garden at 40748 Hwy. 14 North as part of the Waseca Garden Club Garden Walk on Sunday, August 8, from 1 to 5 p.m. Marita is a bit nervous about it, even though she is a professional landscape artist. Trouble is, she says, she has been almost too busy tending to other gardens throughout the county for private customers and businesses to tend to her own garden.

- Marita Wadd is a busy professional landscape artist. It hasn't been easy for her to tend her own garden in preparation for the Aug. 8, Garden Walk from 1 to 5 p.m., while tending her patron's gardens at the same time.

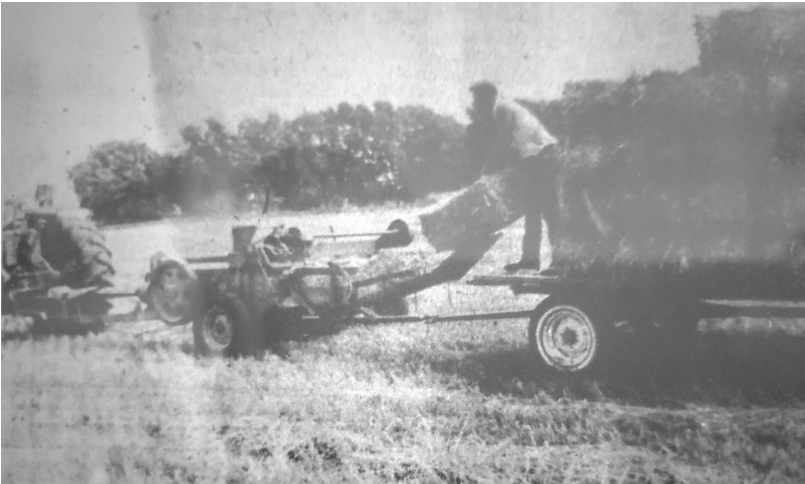


50 Years Ago



- Penny Carnival – PIES WERE FLYING at the Penny Carnival held at Clear Lake Park Thursday night. Here Keith O'Regan, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. James O'Regan, 725 3RD St. N., tries his luck in the pie tossing contest.

- Combining – LLOYD PETERSON, working for the Waseca Experiment Station took advantage of the sunny weather Thursday afternoon to combine the first crop of oats from the station's fields. Small grain harvest has been in full swing throughout Waseca County this week.



- Baling – LESTER KROEGER and his sister Twyla were busy baling oats straw south of Waseca Thursday afternoon. The two baled 16 acres of the crop, which will be used for bedding on their farm.

75 Years Ago

- When Anders Persson and his wife came to Waseca June 12 to visit her two brothers, John Seashore and Erick Sjostrand, and their families, they had a lot to talk over. It was especially so for Sjostrand and his sister. They had not met since he left Sweden 47 years ago.

- THE PILOT OF THE light plane above climbed out of the wreckage with only a bump on his forehead after his one seat Steerman crashed into a grain field at 6:30 a.m. yesterday morning about three miles northwest of Waseca. The pilot, Paul Sengir, of Minneapolis, was spraying sweet corn and was leaving the edge of the field when his propeller struck a high line wire causing the crash.

- BOBO the grandstand clown will perform before and after the show, providing comedy relief for all who attend the Waseca County Fair.

100 Years Ago

-George A. Pulver, a conductor on the Northwestern and one of the best known railroad men on this division, passed away at the Colonial hospital in Rochester Saturday evening at 7:20, following an illness of less than an hour with heart trouble, or what the physicians termed chronic endocarditis. Mr. Pulver was apparently in the best of health and spirits when he left home that afternoon about three o'clock.

-The total rain fall for the first four days of this week amounted to 6:04 inches, according to the state record kept by R.E. Hodgson at the Experimental Farm adjoining this city. The bulk of it fell Tuesday morning, but there were heavy showers each day, more than an inch of rain falling yesterday morning. Many of the fields are so wet that farmers cannot finish cutting grain. Clear Lake raised eight inches after Tuesday's rain, it is said. More rain is promised today.

-The Waseca ball team failed in its thirteenth attempt to win a league game at Mankato last Sunday, the thirteenth was certainly unlucky for Waseca. The local team felt sure that they had broken their strong of hard luck and were due for a league victory after shutting out Willmar last Thursday.

New Richland

100 Years Back

-Today the village that has been dead for 40 years was laid away in peace when the Waseca county board wrote an order dissolving the charter of the village of Wilton. Wilton was a city, once with a volunteer fire company, newspapers, lodges, county offices, and a wealth of real estate dealers and a rosy future. Now all that is left is a gaunt frame building, once the Wilton hotel.

-A new firm engaged in automobile repairing is making a bid for trade beginning this week. Ben Smith and Ernest Kroeger have formed a partnership of Smith & Kroeger and have rented the buildings and repair department of the Lewer, Woodhall Co.

-An argument over a Rochester-Austin basketball scrap of last winter resulted in a free-for-all fight between Rochester and Austin base ball fans at the Jefferson Cafe at Albert Lea Thursday. Dishes were broken, chairs flew across the room, tables were turned over, perfectly good steaks, potatoes, gravy, bread, butter, and other delicacies skidded across the floor as waitresses skiddooed from the room. Three arrests were made when the cops called.

-If the engine of your car is missing you will not be able to recover it at the Star office. A variety of accessories and tags have been left, however, that may belong to you. Read them in the Star's "Want" column.

-N. E. Lowery of the Matawan neighborhood returned Tuesday after a stay of two months in the vicinity of Browns Valley, Minn. Corn, he states, is showing the effects of the drought in that territory, more so than in Waseca county.

77 Years Back

-Gene Mobley, Red Cross swimming instructor, is urging parents to continue sending their children to the regular swimming lessons and not to fear that poliomyelitis will result from the contact with other children.

-It was definitely decided by the Waseca County Fair board that everything at this year's 4-H fair is to be free, including the gate and grandstand. The entertainment is to be principally by the Red River Gang and clowns to supply free acts Tuesday afternoon and evening. There will be a fireworks display the first and third evenings.

-Last Thursday the Waseca Jaycee nine were soundly trounced by the local American Legionnaires 14 to 2 in a softball game at Skelly field. Billy Bell pitched creditable ball for 4 innings allowing but two hits. Kenny Finseth tossed the final three innings and shut out the visitors with two hits.

-Mr. and Mrs. Thorvold Shelby of Minneapolis and Halvard Langlie of Waterville visited at the Reuben Jacobson home Monday afternoon.

-For the past two weeks Mrs. Leonard Mortenson and son, Benny, visited relatives at Bemidji, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Krueger at Blackduck, and Mrs. Ralph Hayward at the cities. They returned Friday.

-“It's a grand and glorious feeling,” was Earl Lange's comment on moving into their new dwelling the middle of last week. The new home in the west part of town is not completed on account of the shortage of material, but it is in livable condition.

-We wish to extend our thanks to the New Richland fire department and the neighbors who responded so promptly to our fire call Sunday. We appreciate your efforts, although there was no fire.--Mr. And Mrs. John Kelleher.

50 Years Back

-In a story in the Minneapolis Star Monday about the demise of Lea College, Albert Lea, Reed Waller, a student at the college, was quoted. In the interview, Waller said he stayed on at the school this past year because “Other schools I've been to won't let you be a person. I needed an education, but I wanted it to be personally meaningful. I found that Lea College was the only school which could provide that.”

-An estimated \$50,000 in non-negotiable checks, \$250 in cash and several other checks were taken in a burglary at Hartland Elevator sometime early Saturday morning. The thieves gained entrance to the elevator through a rear window and peeled the safe. According to Mrs. Lawrence Knutson, bookkeeper, they were neat, moving several knick-knacks and books from one desk to another.

-Well, folks, I discovered something while away. Upon arriving home I read “Unofficial UFO Landing??” I wondered who had written the article and discovered that it was Tim Flor and LaJean Berg. From now on, when I “ain't got” a power of imagination, I will tell Tim to write the sports and LaJean to write the feature stories.--E. H. Engesser

-Afternoon visitors at the Clarence Reese home Saturday were Mrs. Norman Holmen, Cindy and Paulette.

-Mrs. Alvie Arnold and Tami of Owatonna visited at the Milford Berg home Monday evening.

-Thursday, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Mickelson attended a picnic dinner at the Elmer Jensen home south of Albert Lea. The honored guests were Mr. and Mrs. Tore Nelson of Norway.

25 Years Back



-Minnesota Lake's Festag royalty was crowned following the parade Wednesday, July 15. They are from left: Miss Congeniality Melissa Bruegger, First Runner-Up April Becker, Miss Festag 1998 Katie Maras, and Second Runner-Up Taryn Treanor. Parents of the girls are Richard and Cindy Bruegger, Richard and Anne Becker, Denise and Brian Esser and Arlyn and Sandy Treanor. Katie is the granddaughter of Dennis and Barb Byrne of New Richland.

-Kathleen Foster was promoted to serve as Hartland's Postmaster in July this year. She was formally installed in a special ceremony, Monday, Aug. 3 by Postmaster Dan Heins of Austin.

-Pemberton will celebrate Summerfest Saturday, Aug. 15 with lots of exciting events including a parade, a beef and turkey supper and the crowning of Miss Pemberton 1998. Candidates are Lana Burmeister, Lindsay Hines and Katie Oftedahl. All will be juniors at JWP High School this fall.

-Family heritage items, music and albums of old and new pictures were featured at a gathering of 80 descendents of Espen and Gjertrud Hatle on July 12 during Farm-City Days in the New Richland City Hall.

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Vista Villa Court will be undergoing major renovations and some expansion for the next few years. Working at the direction of new owner Brakemeier Properties, long-time manager Steve Nusbaum is overseeing improvements which include new mobile homes, new playgrounds and new driveways, among others. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Vista Villa upgrades creating enthusiasm

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

In the past year, five new mobile homes have appeared in Vista Villa Court, a mobile home community along Old Highway 14 at the west edge of Waseca. According to park management, more will be added to the 125 now in place in the coming years. Since Brakemeier Properties purchased Vista from Arrow Property Management in December of 2022, major changes have been happening at the mobile home park and more are in the works.

Manager Steve Nusbaum says he has been delighted with the new ownership so far, “I love how Brakemeier is. Homes are where they make their money. For years nothing new was brought in nor were there any updates, but now Brakemeier is changing that.” Nusbaum says the company’s goal is to fill every available spot in the park with new mobile homes. This year there have been five, mostly in the 400 and 500 blocks of the park; the intent is to add five more next year, this time in the 600 block. Work is expected to begin soon preparing new spots and laying down cement pads to park the homes on next spring and summer.

Longtime resident Noemie Jones said of the new homes moving in, “It gives more people the opportunity to live comfortably. Cheaper living in the park.” She can’t wait to see what changes next.

But new homes aren’t the only thing changing in Vista. There are currently two playgrounds located at different places in the park. Both are outdated; equipment is aging, and vandalism has

taken its toll; the basketball court has needed replacement nets numerous times. No one knows where the tether ball has gone; right now there is only a pole sticking out of the ground. There are swings and a slide, but those are getting old and also need maintenance.

According to Nusbaum, the plan is to remove the two existing playgrounds and put in a giant new one near the entrance of the mobile home park in the grassy field. Anyone driving past Vista Villa can see the construction of the new playground taking place right now. Said Nusbaum, “We’re also putting in a new basketball court. Kids sometimes play soccer on the field, there will still be plenty of room to play there. The grass is mowed regularly and maintained.”

Residents note that when there was only an open, grassy field in front of the mobile home park there was also the problem teenagers joyriding, ripping up the grass and field with their cars. Nusbaum has since placed giant rocks along the edges of the field to prevent anyone getting cars through there, or at least making it more difficult to mess around on the field. Nusbaum has a tentative plan to add a new office near the entrance next to the new playground. If that comes about, the current office structure would become a maintenance garage and storage building.

Nusbaum says he hopes the improvements will encourage more mobile home owners to consider relocating to Vista Villa. Anyone who would like to inquire about present or future residency is invited to contact Nusbaum at 507-835-1556.



Rotary Club Co-Presidents Amy Potter and Cassie Meister were busy getting sunshine during last week’s free swim night at the Waseca Waterpark. Right, a young fellow on the water slide enjoys a break from the heat. The evening’s event was a public service sponsored by the Waseca Rotary club. Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

■ Rotary from Page 1

Kristie Biehn.
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is nationwide operating through local chapters. Thrivent is not for profit and membership

PILLOW CLEANING

Same Day Service by Carlson’s Pillow Cleaning

Sat, Aug 3rd
8 am to 1 pm

at Sacred Heart Parish Center
(use East door)

Funds used in support of
Sacred Heart School & Students,
Bethlehem Inn of Waseca,
Pregnancy Options in Faribault,
Habitat for Humanity
& other local charities

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Power of Produce opens at Waseca Farmers Market

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca County Power of Produce (POP) Club is now up and running at the Waseca Farmers Market, held from 8 a.m. to noon every Saturday along the west edge of the fairgrounds. Ashley Killday, the Community Health Coordinator with Waseca County Public Health, is among those who will be working the stand as the summer progresses. She explains POP did not begin until July 27 because only a limited selection of produce tends to be available earlier in the Minnesota growing season.

Working alongside volunteer Dianne Forsythe, Killday explained POP is for all young people up to their nineteenth birthday. Any child who signs up will receive up to five Market Bucks—a credit which is valid only at participating booths at the Waseca farmers market. Children under two get two dollars to spend; older children get five. Said Killday, “It’s free money for kids.” By receiving and using the credit, she continues, families and children get to support the community by supporting small businesses at the market. Kids get to choose among fresh fruits and vegetables, canned/pickled/freeze-dried fruits and vegetables, eggs, and herbs. There’s even a kimchi stand called “Cabbage Monster.”

Killday points out this personalized buying power gives young people a great chance to learn about the different types of fresh and self-processed products available.

Killday offers the example of kimchi vendor Nikki Gilmore. “Some kids had never tasted kimchi and now the vendor brought in a five-dollar



Power of Produce overseers Ashley Killday and Diane Forsythe were busy on Saturday, July 17, signing up young members and giving them their vouchers to purchase up to \$5 worth of fresh produce or home-produced foods. The POP booth will be at the Waseca farmers’ market each Saturday morning through September. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

bottle so POP kids could try it; it’s taking off.”

The POP Club concept was developed through the University of Minnesota extension office and is in use at a number of locations across the state. Something which sets the Waseca organization apart is that it commits to providing purchase credits from the end of July to halfway through September. Programs in some counties are a single day; Waseca’s spans nine weeks.

Last year, the first year of the POP Club, 587 children had signed up by the end of the summer. Nearly \$5,500 worth of purchases were made.

Killday explains the program is made possible by grants, donations, and volunteer workers. Local Waseca businesses and foundations have supported POP by providing payment to participating vendors. “The children are the beneficiaries,” said Killday.

Furthermore, said Killday, “Some children didn’t even know the farmers market existed, now they do. Some visit and make purchases on their own. Kids can also learn which produce is available, who sells what, and what fruits and vegetables are in season.”

Among major contributors to the program are MAYO Clinic Health Systems, Cinch Connectivity Solutions, Midwest Bank, the Waseca Area Foundation, Blaze Credit Union, All American Foods Inc., Waseca 4-H Club, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sleigh and Cutter Festival. Volunteer workers also help make the POP Club viable.

Killday also collaborates with the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP). The organization’s purpose is to promote healthy eating and encourage physical activity. SHIP also offers wellbeing initiatives meant to educate young people regarding tobacco use, reduce use of tobacco products, and promote personal awareness and wellbeing.



The Mill in Waseca held a campaign fundraiser supporting Tom Sexton, who has received important endorsements in his run for Minnesota House of Representatives seat 19B. Endorsed Candidate HD 19B Left. On the right are Representative John Petersburg and his wife Deb. Tom Sexton is pictured with his wife, Jeanne. Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

Sexton earns MPPOA endorsement

Brian Peters Executive Director of the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association, and their board announced their endorsement of Tom Sexton in his race for Minnesota House of Representatives District 19B for 2024.

The MPPOA has been in existence since 1922 and represents 10,700 public safety professionals across the state of Minnesota and over 2,000 retired members. Members include rank-and-file police officers, correctional officers, dispatchers, and firefighters.

In his statement, Peters said, “We would like to thank you for your support of law enforcement in Minnesota. The men and women who work in every community across the state appreciate your support to keep them and their communities safe.”

Peters went on to say, “We hope that this endorsement will advance your candidacy and that you will be successful in your election efforts to the Minnesota House of Representatives. The MOPPA sincerely wishes you well.”

Sexton in response said he was honored to receive the endorsement from the Minnesota Police and Peace Officer Association. As a citizen of our great state, I have always had a deep respect for our law enforcement officers and public safety professionals.

We as a community must understand the increasing danger our officers face daily. Our cities and state governments need to ensure that officers are given competitive paying salaries and that their retirement benefits fit the job they have done. Prosecutors need to wake up and properly prosecute their cases without bias and stop targeting officers who are on the line protecting us and our communities without just cause.

Mayors and City Council Members who support the defunding of the police while failing to support their officers in the field need to be held accountable at the ballot box and Council meetings.

There is a reason we are seeing a shortage of over 1,000 officers across our state and we need to stop what we are doing and support the young men and women who chose to go into this profession. When elected I will work diligently on behalf of our communities and their law enforcement professionals to ensure not only their safety but the safety of our communities as well.

As the endorsed Republican Candidate, Tom is proud to have another endorsement from such an outstanding organization.

Fairmont Opera House launches \$4 million campaign

Fairmont, MN - July 23, 2024 — The Fairmont Opera House has announced the launch of its vital capital campaign, “Preserve the Legacy, Enrich the Future,” during the Fairmont Area Community Theater performances of “Mary Poppins” that began on July 23rd at the Fairmont High School Performing Arts Center. The Fairmont Opera House requires \$4 million to repair, restore, and reopen the historic theater, marking the most pivotal moment in its 125-year history.

A Vital Community Landmark

For over a century, The Fairmont Opera House has been a cornerstone of the community, hosting countless performances and events that have brought people together. The building, steeped in history, has been more than just a venue; it has been a place where generations have created cherished memories. The capital campaign seeks to honor this rich legacy by preserving the theater for future generations.

The organization announced the need to repair the facility’s structure in October 2023. Jepsen Shoring of Minneapolis installed extensive temporary structural supports in December 2023 to ensure the facility’s structural security while fundraising occurs. However, repairs can only begin once appropriate funding has been received.

Fairmont Opera House Board Chair Bob Luedtke comments, “It’s the biggest challenge we’ve ever faced. The other fixes we’ve done were fairly critical but relatively easy.” The survival of The Fairmont Opera House hangs in the balance, but Bob is resolute: “It isn’t going down on my watch.”

A Dire Need for Funding

The campaign’s goal of \$4 million is essential to prevent the permanent closure of The Fairmont Opera House, with funds needed by the end of 2025 for repairs and restorations. The Fairmont Opera House has been at the heart of the community for 125 years, and its closure would not just be a significant loss but a tragedy for the community.

Ned Koppen of the Fairmont Economic Development Authority highlighted The Fairmont Opera House’s economic and cultural importance: “The Fairmont Opera House attracts visitors from near and far, generating tourism revenue, supporting local businesses, and contributing to our economy. Additionally, it is crucial in preserving our cultural heritage, fostering creativity, and building a sense of community pride and identity.”

Community Engagement and Support

The first announcement was made during the well-attended opening night of Fairmont Area Community Theater’s “Mary Poppins” production, underscoring the theater’s ongoing role in providing high-quality entertainment and community engagement. “The Fairmont Opera House has affected many lives in the area through the youth and adult theater productions over the years. I have seen many young individuals thrive and grow personally through involvement in our theater programs,” says Stage Manager and Fairmont Opera House Board Member Jane Reiman.

The Fairmont Opera House has been a vital part of the community’s cultural life, offering opportunities for local talent to shine and for residents to enjoy diverse performances. Fairmont Opera House Board Member Zachary Petersen emphasized the importance of this mission: “The quality of arts and entertainment, and by extension ameliorating cultural experience and community involvement, yes, but specifically, and mostly, to educate local people about theater and many other subjects of social issue through theater.”

Looking Ahead

The “Preserve the Legacy, Enrich the Future” campaign is a call to action for the community. It invites everyone to contribute to preserving this historic venue, ensuring it remains a vibrant center for arts, culture, and community engagement within the region.

“At The Fairmont Opera House, we stand on the brink of an incredible transformation. While the urgency of our capital project is undeniable, our hearts are filled with hope and optimism,” says Fairmont Opera House Executive Director Blake Pothoff. “With your support, we will reopen our doors to a brighter, more vibrant future, ensuring this historic gem continues to inspire and unite our community for generations to come.”

For more information on how to contribute, visit The Fairmont Opera House’s website or contact the theater directly.

Vaping concerns, young and old

By SARAH BERRY

Waseca County Public Health

Spinning rides, colorful lights, the smell of onion rings and corn-dogs, kids dressed up and leading animals, the murmur of the crowd, are you thinking about...that's right, the county fair! For many it is a week of reconnecting, perhaps with old neighbors not seen for a while or the kids you used to babysit. It's THE place to be. For school children it marks the middle of summer and it's the ultimate hangout spot. What could be better? Food, friends and less PAW (that's "parents are watching" for the older generation). Ah, the memories!

What were the school children doing last week at the fair? Maybe the better question is how were they doing at the fair? As we watch study after study identify concerns about our youth and their mental well-being, these studies are also uncovering an alarming trend. Students struggling with mental health often turn to substances like nicotine more frequently than their peers in an attempt to feel better. Because the tobacco industry strategically markets vapes and they can be easily available, many teens are finding themselves struggling with a nicotine addiction.

According to the Minnesota Department of Health, "students who use e-cigarettes, also called vaping, are finding themselves increasingly trapped in nicotine dependence, according to new data from the Minnesota Youth Tobacco Survey. About 7 in 10 students who vape want to quit, and nearly two-thirds have tried to quit with some trying to quit 10 or more times."

Nicotine dependence drastically affects youth mental health. Youth can show signs of nicotine dependence quickly. This increased dependence on nicotine leads to stronger withdrawal symptoms, which in turn can cause stress levels to rise. As stress rises, so does anxiety and depression. However, quitting can lower these negative symptoms and allow a more balanced mood.

There are several free resources specifically developed to assist teens who want to quit nicotine use. "My Life, My Quit" is a program for ages 13-17 that provides support by providing a coach who can call, chat online, and give teens specialized youth material. To get started, teens can text "Start My Quit" to 36072 or visit My Life, My Quit online. Minnesota teens looking for information on the dangers of vaping can go online to a new space called Room to Breathe. Teens can learn about the correlation between vaping and mental health, how to identify targeted marketing and find resources to quit.

What can we as a community do to help prevent nicotine addiction in our youth? Continue to support the implementation of public health measures and vaping restrictions in our communities. Educate teens on the hazards of commercial tobacco use – in all its forms. Help teens find their voice to share their knowledge or their burdens in safe ways with trusted adults and leaders.

Listen. We were all young once. While today's youth may have different burdens, they struggle, as we did (or maybe still do), to find their place. Share your smile and show them that place is here, even if the fair has moved on.



The JWP/St. Clair trap shooting team finished its season with the Trap Shooting Championships held in Alexandria.

JWP trap shooters among best in conference

JANESVILLE JOURNAL - While some major sports like baseball, basketball, and football garnered plenty of attention from fans, spectators, and the local newspaper, the accomplishments of the JWP and St. Clair trap shooting team perhaps did not get the coverage it deserved.

The team's season concluded with the Trap Shooting Championships held in Alexandria, Minnesota, from June 10-18. Coach Dale Fleming gave a brief overview of the team's success, highlighted a few sharpshooters, and provided a breakdown of how the sport works on a competitive level.

The team had 24 members when it was founded in 2016 by JWP coach Leigh Wehking. The program was expanded to include St. Clair students in 2019; just two years later, 70 shooters were on board. Given the large numbers, Wehking sought out Fleming to help him coach.

The trap season consists of two practice weeks, one reserve week, and five competition weeks. There are specific MSHSL rules, including that a shooter can "shoot any day during the week" but only "one score can be submitted per shooter." In order to help ensure team members' skills improve over time, Fleming explained he starts out with a "focus on the fundamentals and basics of trap shooting."

As the season progresses, the coaches utilize "tools that will help a shooter adjust their aim to become more accurate, but it's really the practice, repetition, and muscle memory that is the best solution to breaking more clay targets."

Competitions are more involved than simply counting how many clay pigeons are shattered. For one thing, Fleming described that each shooter takes part in two rounds of 25 shots at five stations.

After each five shots, competitors rotate to the next station. Fleming wants people to understand this isn't just point and shoot at a target; it's a skill that requires focus, poise, and coordination. Scores are kept by an official. During the tournament in Alexandria, the number of shots in a round was increased from 25 to 100.

Once all the shots were tallied, MSHSL officials used a "true team" scoring system to average the shooters' scores in order to "make it fair amongst the varying team sizes." Competition scores are compared and used to rank each team over the span of the season. The JWP Trap Team finished first in their conference.

The JWP Trap Team had 68 shooters during the spring season and competed in Conference 8A Class 3, facing off against similar-sized schools including New Prague, Pine Island, Perham, and others.

Shooters from JWP and St. Clair performed well at competitions, with several placing in the top 25 in the conference: Cody Wiederhoeft of St. Clair placed first in the conference with an average of 24.4; Wiederhoeft also earned two "50 straight" patches throughout the season, and finished ranked eleventh in the state.

Several shooters earned "25 straight" patches. Other notable exceptional performers were Garrett Mills (tenth), Kadin Juliar and Zach Blasing (tied for eighteenth), Gavin Loken (ranked number 22 statewide); the women's side also had some outstanding shooters: Janessa Carstensen (fourth), Kayle Langford (ranked number 24).

The state championship in Alexandria was a nine-day event; the JWP/St. Clair team took their turn on June 17. The shooters were placed into distinct categories such as varsity, junior varsity, and novice; their placement was based on their season averages.

Out of the 29 shooters, Stranton Oftedahl placed 22 in the Varsity-Male category, shooting 96/100. Keegan Kwasniewski placed 52 in the Varsity-Male, Luke Hoeft and Cade Meyer placed 78 in the Jr. Varsity-Male category, shooting 80/100, Maddie Lueck placed third in the Novice-Female category, shooting 77/100; Ella VanErdewyk placed 21, shooting 60/100; Fynn Johnson placed 42 in the Novice-Male category, shooting 67/100; Jamison Berg placed 49 in the Novice-Male category, shooting 66/100.

The recent success and public enthusiasm garnered by the JWP Trap Team has Fleming excited for what the future can hold. "This sport is growing fast and is very popular in Minnesota; we have many students at JWP and St. Clair who are passionate about the sport; it's been wonderful to watch them improve as the season went on. We're very proud of each and every one of them. We look forward to what this team can do next season!"

Sports safety spotlight

How to get back in the game safely after shoulder injury

By AMANDA DYSLIN

Mayo Clinic Health System

For teens who love playing summer team sports, an injury that takes them out of the game can be devastating. Shoulder injuries are among the most common for athletes who play volleyball, tennis, swimming, football and a variety of others.

"The shoulder is an incredibly mobile joint that allows you to reach and rotate in a number of directions," says Robert Cates, D.O., Orthopedic Surgery and Sports Medicine, Mayo Clinic Health System. "The design of the shoulder, like a golf ball on a tee, unfortunately makes it easy to slip out of place with enough force. That's why injuries are so common with contact sports."

People in their teens and 20s, because they tend to be more physically active, are at highest risk for shoulder dislocation. Also, people with looser joints can be prone to dislocation from smaller amounts of force.

However, if a shoulder becomes dislocated, it needs to be treated immediately. A dislocated shoulder is easy to detect due to a look of deformity, lack of movement and intense pain.

Between the time of injury and medical treatment, don't move the joint or try to put it back in place. Use a sling or splint to hold it in its current position. Ice the joint to reduce pain and swelling.

"Treatment will include putting the joint back into the correct position. If the joint has been badly damaged, surgery might be required," says Dr. Cates. "Icing and anti-inflammatory medications will relieve pain and swelling. Physical therapy will be prescribed to help you regain range of motion and strength or prepare the shoulder for surgery."

If surgery is required, treatment can be arthroscopic, which involves making small incisions to allow the surgeon to repair the damage, or open (larger incision) if the damage is more severe. Recovery time will depend on the extent of the injury. For most people, a shoulder joint improves over a few weeks.

"If surgery was part of treatment, full recovery may take five or six months," says Dr. Cates. "We know how badly teens want to avoid missing out on the fun of playing sports, but the greatest risk during healing for any shoulder injury is returning to activities before the shoulder is stable."

The best way to prevent a shoulder dislocation is to concentrate on good mechanics and strength conditioning. However, competitive and casual athletes can experience this injury despite the best preparation because so many are caused by contact or falls.

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About Mayo Clinic Health System

Mayo Clinic Health System consists of clinics, hospitals and other facilities that serve the healthcare needs of people in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The community-based healthcare professionals, paired with the resources and expertise of Mayo Clinic, enable patients in the region to receive the highest-quality physical and virtual healthcare close to home.

Happy Here!

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Poems about small town life

What do small towns offer up?
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ZED by Duane M. Abel

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(Waseca, Minnesota)- Step into a journey through history at Taste of Time! This unique farm-to-fork experience invites guests to sit back and unwind as they ride a tram around Farmamerica's Time Lane trail and enjoy locally sourced food and drinks at each unique historical site along the way.

Event Details:
Location: Farmamerica, 5 miles west of Waseca

Date: August 8, 2024
Time: Start times at 6 PM and 6:45 PM

This event puts a new twist on the popular Meat-a-palooza event Farmamerica has held in the past. "Meat-a-palooza has allowed us to build relationships with many local food producers and vendors. We wanted to invite these vendors back

but in a new, special way that better highlights who they are and what their part is in bringing food from the farm to our tables," said Kari Wadd, Farmamerica's Program Coordinator. Vendors set to be featured include Bushel Boy Farms, Morgan's Meat Market, Compart Family Farms, Ferndale Market, Revol Greens, Barefoot Lane, and Apples-Rus, among others. "We're working

with our vendors to ensure that there is a great variety of delicious food and drinks along the route," said Kari.

There are only 100 tickets available for this exclusive event. General public admission is \$100, and Farmamerica Members and Passholders are \$75. Secure your tickets at farmamerica.org/events.

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PUBIC AUCTION NOTICE AUGUST 12, 2024

AASelfStorage will sell at auction the contents of storage units for which payment is delinquent. The auctions will be conducted at Storagetreausres.com beginning approximately August 12,2024. The contents are believed to be miscellaneous personal and household items. The below named persons have rented these units.

Krista Adams, Suszi Bewaji, Rick Tackett and Alyssa Hall.

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Wilton Township

NOTICE OF
PRIMARY
ELECTION

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024

Polls Open:
7:00 am – 8:00 pm

Voting Location:
Wilton Town hall
9499 Wilton Bridge Rd, Waseca

Derrick Sommers
Wilton Township
Clerk

Blooming Grove Township

NOTICE OF
PRIMARY
ELECTION

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024

Polls Open:
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Voting Location:
Blooming Grove Town Hall
41015 150th St, Waseca

Elaine Breck
Blooming Grove
Township Clerk



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Woodville Township

NOTICE OF
PRIMARY
ELECTION

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024

Polls Open:
7:00 am – 8:00 pm

Voting Location:
Woodville Town Hall
200 3rd St SE
Waseca

Andy Miller
Woodville Township Clerk

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642
August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7pm HALL BINGO	2 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	3
4	5	6	7 6pm BAR Bingo	8 7pm HALL BINGO	9 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	10
11	12 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	13	14 6pm BAR Bingo	15 7pm HALL BINGO	16 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	17
18	19	20	21 6pm BAR Bingo	22 7pm HALL BINGO	23 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	24
25	26	27	28 6pm BAR Bingo	29 7pm HALL BINGO	30 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	31

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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

CITY OF WASECA
PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Waseca Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 5:30 p.m., on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS of CITY HALL located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota. The purpose of the hearing is to gather information from the public and make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the following:

VARIANCE REQUEST: Kim Gerdes is requesting a Variance from the minimum seven (7) foot setback from side property line, twenty (20) foot setback from corner side property line and twenty-five (25) foot setback from rear property line in the R-2 zoning district. The request is for the conversion of an existing garage into a single-family detached dwelling. The property is Parcel ID 172510100 and is located at 902 8th St SE in Waseca.

A complete copy of the report is available in the office of Community Development, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Those interested in commenting may appear in person or by counsel or may submit written comments to the City of Waseca at 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Upon request, accommodations will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Waseca services, programs, and activities.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Friday, August 2, 2024.

Jon M. Froke
City of Waseca
City Planner

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Waseca City Council will hold a public hearing on **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.** in the City Hall Council Chambers, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093, to consider the following Ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 1116 – AMENDING CHAPTER 154 OF THE WASECA ZONING ORDINANCE IN REGARD TO INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS

A complete copy of Ordinance No. 1116 is available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Published in the *Waseca County Pioneer*, Friday, July 26th, 2024, and Friday, August 2nd, 2024.

Julia Hall
City Clerk



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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.



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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

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Abby Bauleke poses for a picture with her brand-new bronze medal at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics.

Two-time olympian has local connection

Abby is the granddaughter of Waseca residents Toni and Linden Bauleke

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Like the Olympic Games, international Paralympic competitions are held every four years.

When it's time for the wheelchair basketball games during the August 28 to September 8 Paralympics in Paris, France, Waseca residents Toni and Linden Bauleke will be cheering for their granddaughter from their living room. Abby Bauleke, 23, will be representing America for the second time at the Paralympics; flying to Paris to support her in person will be 15 members of her family.

The first time Abby represented the U.S. was for the 2020 Paralympics, held in Tokyo in 2021. The Tokyo Paralympics were postponed a year due to Covid; the schedule is since back on track.

With a spectacular view of Clear Lake from their living room that would make all of Waseca jealous, the Baulekes have been watching their granddaughter's sports career blossom and evolve. When Abby was five years old, she developed leukemia and needed chemotherapy. This therapy weakened her immune system and caused Guillain-Barre syndrome, otherwise known as French Polio. This led to nerve damage which left Abby paralyzed from the waist down. In high school she swam for the Burnsville Blaze and started wheelchair basketball with the Junior Rolling Timberwolves. After graduating Burnsville High School in 2020, while playing under a college wheelchair basketball scholarship at the University of Alabama, Abby's team, known as the Crimson Tide, won four national basketball championships.

Nationwide, to make it to the Paralympics, Abby has played against eight different college teams. That's eight for the men's teams and eight women's teams and she has quite a record of victories. In May of 2019, representing the U25 Women's team at the Wheelchair Basketball World Championship, her team took home a gold medal. At the 2020 Summer Paralympics, (held in 2021), she won a bronze medal in the Wheelchair Basketball Women's Tournament. In 2022 representing the United States at the Wheelchair Basketball World Championship, she won a bronze medal. In 2023 competing at the

"She never complains. Never wanted any special treatment."
— Toni Bauleke

Para PanAmerican Games, her wheelchair basketball tournament play earned her team an automatic bid for the 2024 Summer Paralympics. March 30, 2024, she was added to the Team USA roster, cementing her a spot in the Paris 2024 Summer Paralympics.

Abby is no slouch when it comes to travel; she has played basketball in places as diverse as Dubai; Tokyo; Santiago, Chili; Bangkok, Thailand; Abu Dhabi and China. To compete, Abby has to travel to the Colorado Springs Olympic and Paralympic Training Center. There, while competing against other girls, she qualified for the Paris Summer Paralympics.

Her grandmother Toni said, "The best thing about her is she never complains. Never wanted any special treatment. Very independent." Funny story about Abby going to Tokyo, said Toni, "When she played there, no one in the family could go. So, the day she was to play in Japan we all gathered at five in the morning and had a big brunch and then watched the game in a basement rubbing our eyes, we were so excited for her."

Toni and Linden have been Waseca residents for the last 76 years, but they redirected all conversations back to their granddaughter. Abby has one sister, Emily, and one brother, Ben. Abby's dad Chris was raised in Waseca and is a 1985 graduate of Waseca High School. Her mother Natalie is a native of Austin, Minnesota. Abby likes to visit Waseca whenever she can but right now she has Paris on her mind.

When asked about her college degree, Abby said she has finished a program in human development and family studies and will begin working on a master's degree the fall. She lives independently in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Of Abby's family, fifteen of them are flying to Paris to watch her compete and cheer her on.



Abby Bauleke celebrates another win with fellow basketball Paralympian and Minnesotan, Rose Hollerman.





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