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One game away

Flowers in Literature Exhibit at Waseca Public Library in August

Learn about the Language of Flowers, explore author gardens, and discover flowers in literature at this pop-up Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System exhibit. This interactive exhibit features handmade flowers, a flower seed library, and more! The exhibit runs during the month of August at Waseca Public Library during open hours. This exhibit is for all ages.

Taste of Time at Farmamerica on Thursday, August 14

The Taste of Time will be at Farmamerica at 6 p.m. Thursday, August 14. Sit back and unwind as you ride a tram around the scenic Time Line Trail. At each of the unique historic sites, you'll enjoy locally sourced food and drinks offering a glimpse into the past.

County Veterans Memorial plaque requests by August 15

Anyone wishing to add a new plaque to the Waseca County Veterans Memorial on the courthouse property can apply anytime. Applying by August 15 will ensure the newly ordered plaque is in place by Veterans Day. Anyone wanting further information should contact the county Veterans' Services office at 507-835-0680. Applications can also be completed online at <https://www.co.waseca.mn.us/134/Veteran-Services>.

Hartland University's Biker Bug Run Saturday, August 16

The Third Annual Hartland University Biker Bug Run will take place at noon, Saturday, Aug. 16, with kickstands up at 12:30 p.m. Registration is \$10 per person, all proceeds donated to American Bikers for Awareness and the training and education of Minnesota Young Rider Program. There will be six stops in total with a door prize at each location for closest bug to the bullseye.

Bee Bash! Pollinator Party 3.0 at Hofmann Apiarie Sat., Aug. 16

There will be a Bee Bash and Pollinator Party at the Hofmann Apiarie from 11 a.m. till 4 p.m. on Saturday, August 16. Live music, historic buildings, bee friendly garden on a restored prairie. Find them at 4661 420th Ave. Janesville.

The Jazz 10 at Indian Island Winery on Saturday, Aug. 16

The Jazz 10 will play Indian Island Winery from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, August 16. Classic and modern jazz for dancing.

Watercolor Doodle Birds at Waseca Art Center August 16

The free children's class is back by popular demand! A maximum of 10 students will watercolor doodle birds from 1-3 p.m. on Aug. 16. Register on the Waseca Art Center webpage: <https://www.wasecaartcenter.org>

A word from

The Word 

The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent. Exodus 14:14

Children's Hospital is truly special to local family

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Waseca area farmers Trent and Kari Wadd know their lives would be quite different if it weren't for Children's Hospital and Clinics of Minnesota.

"We know how good they are and how much they help people," says Kari of the medical facilities. "If people want to support a good cause, they won't find a better one."

The first weekend in September, the Waseca County Sheriff's Posse is hosting a "wagon train" for equestrian riders and for vehicles pulled by horses or mules. Participants will camp at the county fairgrounds and go on daily excursions of 13 miles or less on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Along the way, they will encourage people to donate to the event's selected cause, Children's Hospital and Clinics. Slated to receive a small portion of the proceeds, \$1000, is the Donald D. Eustice scholarship fund, which supports a student entering training to become a law enforcement officer. The fundraising goal for the wagon train is \$25,000.

Kari says she wants local people to know her family's story so they can better understand why Children's Hospital is worthy of their donations.

She says if it weren't for the expertise and care their son Mason, now 19, received beginning even before he was born, it's reasonable to conclude theirs would be a family of three rather than of four.

"Looking at him today," she acknowledges, "you would never guess Mason was born premature. But things were nip and tuck, there, for a while."

About a year after they were married, Trent and Kari welcomed their daughter Kloe, now 21, into the world. The pregnancy was normal and Kloe was born at full term with no complications.

What no one realized at the time is that Trent's blood has a relatively rare characteristic found in only about six percent of the population, a "K" factor.

In much the same way that people who have a "negative" after their blood type would experience complications if they receive blood considered "positive," blood from the "Kell" group should not be given to people whose blood does not have the K characteristic.

When Baby Mason was conceived, he inherited the K characteristic as part of his red blood cells. As he developed in utero and exchanges occurred across the placental barrier, antibodies Kari's body created to protect itself from the "foreign" K presence entered his tiny system and began to wreak havoc, literally attacking his blood cells.

Wadd continued on 4



MASON'S SWEET CORN - Mason Wadd is headed to Minnesota State University Mankato this fall. Given his accomplishments and stature, one might never guess his strong connection with Children's Hospitals and Clinics.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

County board looks at IT budget, bridge replacement, broadband

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

As the county continues to look at creating a preliminary 2026 budget by the state-set deadline in mid-September, county commissioners have heard from numerous department heads over the past few months.

Information Technology (IT) department leader Judy Hiller revealed she expects no increase in her budget, but listed some of the equipment, software and online services her department is responsible for.

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

During the discussion, it was shared by Hiller and county administrator Michael Johnson that "phishing" and "ransomware attempts" are constant for all businesses and agencies with an online presence. Waseca County, Johnson said, is bombarded by "tens of thousands" attempted attacks each day.

Hiller said there are two types of protection—steps taken to prevent the attacks from gaining access, and preparations that would make any system penetrations less harmful, for example, having "backups of backups of backups" so that threats to hold pockets of information for ransom would be rendered harmless.

County engineer Jim Kollar requested commissioner approval of a contract which would expedite the replacement of a bridge along

County continued on 10



This bridge along County Road 6 northeast of New Richland was built in 1940. Stress tests showed it is no longer safe for vehicles over 8 tons. Originally scheduled for replacement in 2027, it will now be replaced in the next few months.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Sheriff's 50th celebrated with gaffs and laughs

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

A small celebration took place at the Waseca Pizza Ranch on Thursday, Aug. 7 to mark the approach of birthday number 50 for Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas. Surrounded by friends Dulas had been festooned with button declaring "My Big Day," and had been coerced into wearing candle-themed headgear.

Although his birthday was still a week away at the time, on Wednesday, Aug. 13, his friends hoped celebrating early would increase their chances of surprising him. Given that most of the attendees at the party had turned 50 decades before the sheriff, they decided they would

tease him a bit, and eat some pizza while they were at it. Someone remembered hearing, at one point, that Dulas had said he liked dinosaur plates, so that's what was used. There was fresh baked blueberry and lemon cake for dessert. There were cards and gifts but Dulas headed up to the buffet first. On his way back he said, "I'll always remember what I got here for my fiftieth birthday: I got pizza, French fries, salad and mashed potatoes. How could I ever forget that?"

There to celebrate with him were his wife Robin, Mikhail Rostislavovich, and bridge players MaryAnn

Birthday continued on 6



A small party of guests surprised Sheriff Jay Dulas during a private 50th birthday party at Pizza Ranch on Thursday, Aug. 7, 2025.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently



Compostings

by Al Batt

An inspiring tale

ECHOES FROM A LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
Not a single person has wished me a happy birthday today. I'll fix that. Happy birthday. Thanks, but it's not my birthday.
DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I was taking a walk break between volunteer gigs at a fair when a friend proposed buying me an ice cream cone. That was an offer I couldn't refuse. According to the weather app on my phone, it was ice cream weather. Don Kardong stated, "Without ice cream, there would be darkness and chaos." The song "I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream" was written in 1927. The carving of Mount Rushmore began in 1927, yet it didn't include an ice cream cone—a colossal oversight. I was effusive in my gratitude at becoming the proud owner of a maple nut ice cream cone, which was simply sublime. The abiding rule is that the hotter the day, the more I want an ice cream cone. And the hotter the day, the faster the ice cream melts.

GETTING A GOOD EDUCATION
Once upon a time, in a land not far, far away, I sat at my desk in my grand grade school when nature called. Nature would have put me on speed dial had there been speed dial in those thrilling days of yesteryear.

"Can I go to the bathroom?" precious little me asked meekly. "May I go to the bathroom?" my excellent elementary school teacher corrected me. I told her she could.

I'VE LEARNED
If my wife tells me I look nice, that means I haven't missed a button on my shirt. Locks turn doors into walls. I'm not allowed in a casino because I count cards. There are 52. Conspiracy theorists forget how difficult it is for just two people to keep a secret.

In lighter news, the Zippo lighter has appeared in more than 2,000 movies, stage plays and television shows.

I used to be good at taking things apart and not good at putting them back together again. I was lucky that my father and brother seemed able to fix everything I could dismantle. I've met many mechanics. My father told me never to trust a mechanic with clean fingernails.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
Just when I thought food couldn't call me on the phone, onion rings. Wanted: Someone to brush their teeth with me. Because nine out of

ten dentists say brushing alone won't help tooth decay. No weirdos, please.

What do you call a Zen master in charge of snacks? A chipmunk. I asked the Michelin Man how his day went. He said it was tiring. I bought a thesaurus, but when I got home and opened it, all the pages were blank. I have no words to describe how angry I was.

THE NEWS FROM HARTLAND HAROLD
I listened to Todd Utpadel tell his inspiring cancer story at the Relay for Life in Albert Lea. I always find making my laps past all the luminarias on a survivors' walk to be a humbling experience.

I was likewise humbled by being named the Freebom County Fair Person of the Year.
NATURE NOTES
As I pulled weeds that were identical to the weeds I'd pulled the week before, I was reminded that nature has much more patience than I do.

A cardinal sang a cheerful message, an exultation of an avian voice that could be heard as, "Oh, dear, dear, dear."

A phoebe engaged in persistent tail pumping before snatching a flying insect. Phoebe is a Titaness in Greek mythology.

Lord of the stable flies, I am not. They chew on my ankles as if I were a bag of Purina Stable Fly Chow. Small meadowhawk dragonflies flew like mini-drones. The males are red and the females are yellow.

The "black eye" of black-eyed Susans refers to the dark brown center of the daisy-like flower head. This member of the Asteraceae family can be found growing in almost any sunny location. It's believed that their name originates from a 1729 ballad about a young woman named Susan saying goodbye to her true love. Wild bergamot (bee balm) bloomed in a light-purple profusion. Fleabane provided lovely white flowers.

Far from home, the downtown crows flew in and landed on my borrowed truck. I'd gone into a bookstore to buy a friend's new book. The birds landed and made crow noises. I suspected they were waiting to get a ride home.

Dragonflies travel long distances and congregate (swarm) in areas where there is plentiful flying food, such as winged ants, mosquitoes, etc. Some prefer to hunt near dusk or dawn because they see their prey better when the sun is low on the horizon. Once the prey numbers drop, the dragonflies move on.

MEETING ADJOURNED
"Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you."—Princess Diana.

What it took to be road ready

Over the past few days, I've had numerous reasons to pay attention to the idea of roads.

I guess it started when my brother purchased a permit from the forestry division of the Department of Natural Resources to cut some firewood in the state forest near my family's cabin in Hubbard County.

The practice is that large lumber companies are sometimes issued contracts to harvest trees in selected parts of the forest. Those companies go in with their big equipment, cut down the trees, take the logs of useful size, then leave a big pile of medium-sized branches. That pile sits around and dries for a few years and then, apparently, is burned to return the nutrients to the soil.

During that sitting-around time, people with permits are allowed to go in with their own vehicles and equipment (think chainsaws) and make firewood.

After purchasing the permit, my brother was given a map showing the location of the selected site and decided to drive in for a look.

Though it was wide enough for road-sized vehicle, the "road" leading to the location was labeled both "minimum maintenance" and "recreational trail." On the "trail" sign was a picture of a four-wheeler. As we proceeded, we saw branching trails whose signs had pictures of two-wheeled "dirt bike" motorcycles.

It didn't matter how slowly we drove, the truck bounced and jolted over washed-out gullies and exposed rocks. Let me just say, the words "minimum maintenance" have taken



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

on a whole new meaning for me. My brother won't dare stack his loads of wood higher than the side of his pickup, or he'll be stopping every few feet to pick some of it up.

The bumpy ride had me thinking of a description in Judy Joecks' self-published book from last summer, "Stagecoaches across Waseca County." It includes a description of what it was like to travel in Minnesota back in its early history. A member of the U.S. Post Office staff was sent from the Twin Cities to Mankato to deliver a bag of mail and ended up traveling on horseback, in canoes, and even on foot—sometimes through mosquito-ridden swamps. It took him weeks to get to his destination. He chose to take only water routes on the way back. No news about whether he quit his job upon his return, but one would understand the temptation.

Experiences like those should give us a deep appreciation for modern roads.

I can't help thinking of the visits I made to County Road 2, west of New Richland, when it was being resurfaced. I saw the old surface lifted and broken apart by one set of giant machines, the exposed ground

graded and smoothed by another set, and then numerous layers of asphalt paving put down as giant trucks arrived with the steaming, black material.

Obviously, it's not a field I have any experience in, but I would never have guessed how many different, giant pieces of equipment are designed specifically for all the tasks involved in grading and paving a road.

The workers were flattered that the newspaper took an interest; they loved answering questions and even smiled for my photos. I was saddened when only a couple pictures could be used with the written piece because that particular issue of the paper was rather full—frankly, I found the process so interesting, I believe people might have enjoyed a whole photo page.

What kept coming to mind for me—especially on that rough trail of a road—was the answer I got when I asked the crew foreman why the asphalt—which would eventually be eight or more inches thick—was being put down in numerous layers, each one no more than two inches deep.

His answer? "It gives a smoother ride."

You should wear more linen

I love observing people. It fascinates me to see how we are all alike and yet all different at the same time.

My grandpa told me that when he went into the military, he realized there are only a certain number of types of people, no matter where you go in the world. He said when he was on a Navy ship, he found himself spending time with a certain group of crewmates. He eventually realized they had personalities and behaviors that were nearly identical to the high school friends he had left back at home. The comedian, the nice guy, the intelligent one, and so on.

So then we started talking about friends. In high school, I had different groups of friends for each activity I was in. In college, I had different groups of friends and like everyone else, I sometimes had conflicts or struggles with my friends.

There was one in particular who liked to rehash the same problem in her life at least once a week, usually after a few drinks. After a while, when I had given her every single re-



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

sponse I could think of and tried my best to help, it drained me to listen to her say the same things over and over when there was nothing either of us could do about it. My grandpa, being the expert therapist he is, volunteered a response I could've given.

"All you have to say is 'You should wear more linen,'" he told me.

"Linen?" "Yeah! Tell her she should wear more linen. It's as simple as that."

But it wasn't that simple for me to understand at first, so we tried role playing. I was my friend, discussing the issue at hand. He played me, the respectful listener...until he wasn't.

"Well, I don't know why this keeps happening—"

"You know, you should wear more linen," he interrupted. Not in an impolite way, just as a positive, light-hearted suggestion. It was supposed to be as simple as that.

Here's the reasoning behind it. When people get stuck on a subject, on an aspect of their life that is stressing them out, it's easy to get locked in. Once on the highway of a subject that is occupying a lot of their time and thought, it's very hard to get off. There is no exit ramp in sight, no easy way to leave.

So the idea is that you tell people something to throw them off. Show

them the exit sign they didn't see before.

"More linen, next stop." The goal is they think about linen, why an idea so incredibly off subject would be brought into the conversation. And they don't think about their problem for a second. But all it takes is that one second. They now are able to see this exit sign, and maybe they won't get off here, but maybe the small change in perspective will allow them to see the next one.

Now, I only have a psychology degree with no practice and just a love for trying to understand how our brains work—why we think the way we do. And maybe linen isn't what will work for you, for the person you're talking with. But try it out next time and see what happens. Who knows, maybe you should try wearing more linen.

My Determination: "There's more to life than making shallow, fairly obvious observations."—Jerry Seinfeld

Maybe next year will be the one

This past weekend I attended the final games of the Waseca Braves amateur baseball team. A couple years ago, I played for this same team and thus, am pretty familiar with the guys.

I arrived at about 4 p.m. and sat down next to Tink Larson as we watched the final innings of the previous game. We chatted, conversed and caught up each other's lives. It was delightful.

I ran into cousin Kelvin Nelson and he asked me if I was there as a fan or reporter. Both, good sir. Both.

Afterwards Jim Boerboom caught me and told me about an interesting project I hope to report on soon.

From there I called my dad and told him I had a good feeling about the day and departed for the Braves dugout.

The first person I saw in the dugout was Kyle Waugh who told me not to worry about getting in anyone's way while I was taking photos. He is kind.

Manager Blake Nelson saw me next and greeted me with a huge smile.

"I told myself when I saw you next I was going to give you so much grief for not making it to any games this season," Blake said.



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

"But now you're just happy to see me," I chided him.

Tyson Reger pitched the first game of the day and I was confident he would do well.

He did and we won 3-2. It was great baseball. There was small ball and clutch hitting from Jimmy Loonan and all the Braves. Kyle had a great diving catch in center that I was pleased to snap a photo of.

It was interesting sitting between Tink and Blake. Two times they disagreed.

First, a decision in the 9th inning of whether to intentionally walk a hitter or let him hit.

I really wasn't sure in the moment which choice was best.

I don't like walking hitters. In this case it would have put the game winning run at first base.

Reger throws strikes, but can be a little wild at times and I was worried about putting more pressure on him.

I didn't agree with Blake's rea-

soning that a hitter who is 3-3 is less likely to get a hit in his 4th at bat, but I do agree that I don't think I would have walked the hitter. We hadn't turned a double play all day due to the wet grass, so the other advantage of possibly turning one batter into two outs seemed unreasonable to me.

Sorry, Tink, I wouldn't have walked him either.

The other instance the two disagreed came in the 5th inning of game two.

Kelvin, who was pitching, gave up a lead-off single and Blake pulled him from the game.

Kelvin was upset.

Having pitched so little this season, I didn't disagree with Blake's decision.

I may have given him one more hitter, but if that person gets on base, you're in trouble.

Sabastian Teague got out of that inning without giving up a run. So really, it all appeared fine.

It's difficult, hindsight and all.

If not for errors, the Braves very well could have earned entrance to the state tournament.

I asked Blake early in game two if it's different when his son, Kelvin pitches.

He told me, "Yes. I'm more relaxed because I know how Kelvin pitches. He knows what he's doing."

Experience will do that.

I ran into Seth Anderson at Pizza Ranch on Sunday, where Deb Bently and I go for lunch after church on Sundays.

I told him about the game and he mentioned how he wished Kelvin had the velocity he did five years ago. "That would have made the difference [in making the state tournament]," he said.

One last thing.

As I was sitting next to Tink before the start of the day, I told him about my good feeling. He immediately responded. "I hope it's two good feelings."

I wish there were two good feelings. Sometimes I hate being right.

Six hours of baseball, good conversation and many photos later, I'm very grateful for having attended. Congratulations on a season well played. Maybe next year will be the year.



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

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Volunteers for organizations aimed at helping people were present during the Waseca Night to Unite at the Waseca Waterpark on Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2025. Organizations like the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center, Public Health Waseca, Waseca Public Library, CADA, MN Valley Action Council and more. “Night to Unite” is meant to honor law enforcement officers and first responders, including medical personnel and firefighters. Pioneer photos by Juniper Revermann



Waseca Night to Unite draws more than 450

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca Night to Unite observance took place at the Waseca Waterpark the evening of Tuesday, Aug. 5. More than 450 Wasecans enjoyed some free food, some fun and sun and some water sliding. The venue seemed especially well chosen given the weather was warm and dry. “Night to Unite”

is meant to honor law enforcement officers and first responders, including medical personnel and firefighters.

There were lots of smiles to go around, and with free hot dogs it was no surprise. Waseca Fire Chief Jason Forshee passed out hot dogs like they were going out of style, mentioning, “We got the dogs tonight at cost from Morgan’s Meats.” Helping him with the task was

Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas. All around them and throughout the waterpark, kids were jumping off the diving board or climbing into the waterslides to escape from the heat.

Waseca Area Food Shelf director Cindy Kolander was among the representatives set up at booths around the park’s perimeter. Representatives hoped to share information

about their organizations with community members. Along with Kolander were folks from Waseca Library, Centers Against Domestic Abuse (CADA), Minnesota Valley Action Council, volunteers from the Waseca Fire Department and the Waseca Police Department.

The event went from 5 to 7 p.m.; when it came time to close, people were gathering

materials or folding up tables. Yawning children were draped with towels and rubbing their eyes as moms and dads searched in their pockets for the car keys, juggling beach bags and wet bathing suits. With the sun on its way down it was a pretty safe bet to say the evening’s participants would be getting a good night’s sleep.



There was free popcorn and root beer floats and plenty of smiles at Janesville’s Night to Unite at the Janesville Veterans Memorial Park on Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2025. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Janesville Night Out offers many attractions

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

With Music in the Park, the Janesville Night Out and the Janesville Farmers Market all on the same night, the Janesville Memorial Veterans Park was full of people on Thursday, Aug. 7. AZBY performed on the bandstand, people in lawn chairs peppered the grounds. The national “Night to Unite” event is meant to help citizens—and especially children—feel better acquainted with law enforcement officers and first responders, including medical personnel and firefighters.

Fire trucks bordered the south side of the park; police cars stood open to

give children tours and familiarize them with the good guys. Two horses, Morton and Rose, were there for children to meet and pet, courtesy of the Sheriff’s Posse. Representatives were present from the Waseca County Sheriff’s office, the Janesville Fire Department, the Janesville Police, and the Sheriff’s Posse.

Offered to everyone were free popcorn and root beer floats. The crowd was so large that, according to float maker Sara Rienhardt, “We ran out of three gallons in 30 minutes.” She used that as a way to illustrate how much the event had grown over the

Janesville continued on 6



Mackenzie Moorman, Madeline Smith and Jay Dulas were letting kids pet horses on behalf of the Waseca Sheriff’s Posse at the Janesville Night Out on Thursday, Aug. 7, 2025. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Sheriff asking for additional dispatch position

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas spent 30 minutes or more of the Aug. 5 county board of commissioners work session explaining and defending his proposal to make changes in the staffing system of the county dispatch center.

Dulas pointed out the center is always staffed by at least one dispatcher, and thanks to scheduling which includes four mostly overlapping 10-hour shifts in each 24-hour period, is staffed by two most of the time. Currently, the equivalent of seven full-time dispatchers is regarded as “full” staffing, with four scheduled to work on any given day..

Dispatchers are supervised by a sheriff’s department sergeant, someone whose training has centered around interacting with the public for the sake of supporting public safety, and so has less expertise in the operation of necessary communication systems and equipment than an experienced dispatcher.

All 9-1-1 calls made from within the county are routed through the center, which is located in the county law enforcement building next to the courthouse. Based on the nature of the emergency, dispatchers decide what response personnel should be sent to the scene. They have constant access to police officers in Janesville, New Richland and Waseca; sheriff’s

deputies; and all fire departments and emergency medical services.

Both Dulas and commissioner Brad Milbrath, a former county sheriff, attested to the many demands which might fall on a dispatcher during an emergency, including reassuring the caller, selecting and dispatching the needed agencies, acquiring and sharing additional information about the scene as it becomes available, and being in place to take calls regarding unrelated emergencies happening elsewhere.

The dispatch center also receives the feeds from security cameras located within the jail, and at six entry points associated with the building. These must be monitored consistently,

and people requesting entry must be “buzzed in.”

Dispatchers are called upon to assist with paperwork and other administrative tasks including entering warrants and running criminal histories.

Because the county jailers are all males, female dispatchers are also called upon to help “process” female inmates—including “pat-down” searches, clothing changes, and monitoring the collection of samples for urinalysis tests.

What Dulas told commissioners he would like to see is the incorporation of a “lead” position within the department. Among the expectations he included in his description were

being well trained in some of the communication systems and equipment dispatchers make use of, being the individual authorized to access higher-level recordkeeping systems, “troubleshooting,” and taking a lead role during emergencies or exceptional situations.

Dulas acknowledged the addition of the role would increase staffing costs for the dispatch center, both because the extra training and time commitments for the new position would command a higher salary, and because the promotion might leave either a full- or part-time dispatch position open.

Although commissioners appeared to be open to the change, Dulas had

not finalized any plans to a point where he could supply definitive numbers. Part of the reason for starting the discussion at this time is that the county is currently in the process of preparing its preliminary 2026 budget which, by state statute, must arrive at a preliminary figure for property tax levies by mid-September.

At this time, county administrator Michael Johnson told commissioners, he anticipates about a two-percent increase over the amount levied from taxpayers in 2025; Johnson’s estimate includes the possibility of a five-percent increase in the sheriff’s department budget.



New Richland deputy clerk Heather Christensen and New Richland Chief of Police Tanyce Bruegger serving food during Night to Unite.

Sixth annual New Richland Night Out

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Several dozen people attended New Richland’s fifth annual Night to Unite celebration the evening of Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2025 at New Richland City Park. The “Night to Unite” is meant to honor law enforcement officers and first responders, including medical personnel and firefighters.

“The weather was beautiful tonight,” said Tanyce Bruegger, city police chief. “You can’t beat a free

meal, some good fun and a chance to meet some new people... Plus there were no mosquitoes!”

This year’s event had the addition of a pony, Quinton, provided by the Waseca County Sheriff’s Posse, some of whose members attended this year. Leading the evening’s activities were the local fire department, first responders, ambulance, and police volunteers. It was hard to tell exactly who the volunteers were with representatives from many local agencies attending simply because

they wanted to.

Bruegger credited the three departments for the setup. Chad Neitzel helped grill hot dogs again this year. Other volunteers helped serve. Hot dogs by Neighbor’s Meats of New Richland were enjoyed on buns supplied by Wagner Foods. Chips were from the Willows, alongside cookies from Casey’s.

Firefighters assisted kids in a target practice event with a fire hose

New Richland continued on 10



Logan Jake demonstrated the use of a fire hose for junior firefighter Viv Trautman during the New Richland National Night Out on August 5, 2025. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

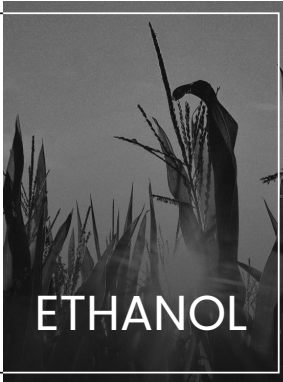


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OBITUARIES

Gladys Bently

GLADYS R. BENTLY, age 91, passed away on the morning of Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at the Lakeshore Inn Rehabilitation Center in Waseca, MN.

Gladys was born in Oak Park, IL on August 18, 1933, to parents Foster and Ruth (Ross) Rechel. After graduating high school, she earned a B.A. in Spanish from Purdue University. She married John Bently, and they later divorced. Gladys's careers included working as an Licensed Practical Nurse at Highland Park Hospital, and she was also a medical courier. She met her life partner, Sylvester "Syl" Reitmeyer and they enjoyed volunteering at Boy Scout Camps and laughing through life, sometimes with red noses on their faces.

Gladys was preceded in death by Syl, by her parents, and by her daughter Ruth "Ruthie" Bently. She is survived by her children Jean Bently-Jones, Joan (Dan) Fletcher, and John (Deb) Bently, along with many loving grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Visitation was held from 9:00-10:00 a.m. on Monday, August 11, 2025, at Zion Lutheran Church in Deerfield, IL (10 Deerfield Road,



Gladys Bently

Deerfield, IL 60015). Funeral services were held after the visitation at 10:00 a.m. at the church. Following a luncheon in the church basement, interment was scheduled at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, August 11, 2025, at Ascension Catholic Cemetery in Libertyville (1920 Buckley Road, Libertyville, IL 60048). In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be directed to the Alzheimer's Association or to Zion Lutheran Church in Deerfield, IL.

James LeCocq

James Harlan LeCocq, age 79, of Waseca, MN, passed away peacefully with Amy beside him on August 5, 2025.

Born on July 18, 1946, to Harlan and Anine (Svendsen) LeCocq, in Cedar Falls, IA, Jim grew up in Waterloo, IA, where his parents operated an accounting business—instilling in him a love of math and problem-solving from a young age. Jim enlisted in the Navy in 1964, eventually serving on a destroyer during the Vietnam era. He married Amy (Kuennen) in 1975. Jim met Amy while he was working road construction as an asphalt paver operator and she was a flag girl.

Jim held several jobs before landing his dream job as an electrical engineer. He delivered Winnebago's, worked as an equipment operator, and was a mechanic for a diesel tractor/trailer fleet. He began working as an electronics technician at EF Johnson in 1984, continued his education to earn his BSEE, and became a software engineer. He retired from EF Johnson in 2017 after 33 years.

Jim was most proud of his daughters, Sarah and Beth, and loved watching their families grow.

He will be remembered for his quick wit, generosity with those he loved most, and his wide array of hobbies—such as his entrepreneurial courier service, building RC planes, gardening, bowling, darts, playing his vintage Gibson guitar, and watching Hallmark Christmas movies. He was an avid reader of history, especially the Civil War. Throughout his life, reading and golf were constants. A highlight was shooting his age at 75. Jim and Amy loved traveling and enjoyed



James LeCocq

many camping vacations in MN, FL, TX, and the West.

He was a lifelong fan of The Rolling Stones, having seen them in concert 15 times—always with tickets on Keith's side of the stage. A core family memory was seeing them together at TCF Bank Stadium in 2015, where Jim's unfiltered joy was on full display as he yelled Keith's name.

He is survived by his wife, Amy LeCocq of Waseca; daughters Sarah (Steve) Ketter of St. Louis Park and Beth (Grady) Glynn of Minnetonka; and grandchildren Sophie Ketter, Shay Ketter, Charlotte Glynn, and Griffin Glynn, and special friends Connie and Dallas Janssen. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harlan and Anine LeCocq.

A memorial service for Jim will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, August 15, 2025, at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omvtedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca, MN. Family will greet guests at a visitation one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Smithsonian



Dr. Jay Falk, author of "The Bird Book: The Stories, Science and History of Birds" gave an online presentation of his book on Tuesday, August 5, 2025.

Author talks, 'The Bird Book'

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Dr. Jay Falk, author of "The Bird Book, the Stories, Science and History of Birds" gave a talk to the Waseca – Le Sueur Library System on August 5. This event required registration but can now be viewed online. The book was illustrated by Gordon Merkel.

There were many facts about many birds, but hummingbirds are Dr. Falk's focus of study. His determination in regard to finding out why some female hummingbirds mimic the males in plumage color. His initial suspicion was that the similarities in color had to do with mat-

ing. He found out this was not the case. Instead, when a female's feathers mimic a male's feathers, other males are apt to leave that female alone while feeding. Whereas if it is a female with female feathers, other males will attack and run her out of their territory.

Falk also shared a wide variety of information about other bird species. For example, even though there may be millions of penguins in a single location, they still select a single partner, apparently for life. Among chickens, hens will sometimes grow spurs in the same places on their legs as on the roosters', also as a disguise to avoid being attacked. America has 20 species of hummingbird; Colum-

bia, South America, has more than 165.

"The Bird Book: The Stories, Science and History of Birds" is available for sale at www.bookshop.org.

According to the bookshop.org: "Dr. Jay Jinsing Falk is a postdoctoral fellow at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and the University of Colorado. He is an evolutionary biologist and behavioral ecologist fascinated by the diversity that can be found within species, especially in sexual traits. During his PhD, he began studying White-necked Jacobin hummingbirds as a STRI Short-Term Fellow, and later as a Smithsonian Predoctoral Fellow.

His findings, that some females of this species look like males while others do not, has become the cornerstone of his research program. He is inspired by the dizzying array of feather coloration that can be found in hummingbirds. After completing his PhD at Cornell University, he moved to the University of Washington to study hummingbird movement and metabolism. Now at the University of Colorado, he is investigating the genetics and development of feather coloration. Jay currently lives in Gamboa, Panamá, where he studies the hummingbirds that visit the feeders at his house on the edge of the forest."

■ Wadd

from Page 1

tacking his blood as though it were a danger to him.

At about 18 weeks, prenatal checkups revealed he was anemic—that is, that he needed a transfusion in order for his systems to function and continue to develop. The problem of the K characteristics was determined at that time, but there was nothing that could be done except to continue administering treatments that dealt with immediate conditions.

With his infant system losing the battle, doctors decided they had little choice but to bring Mason into the world 10 weeks ahead of schedule in week 26, weighing only 2.5 pounds. He was taken directly to Children's Hospital for care, and spent the next 77 days in the neonatal intensive care

unit (NICU) undergoing numerous surgeries and receiving ongoing treatment for life-threatening conditions.

Kari remembers doctors not only administered top-level treatment, they understood she and Trent were as much under their care, in a way, as the baby was. "They were patient. They explained everything clearly. They treated us with compassion and let us know they cared about us" she recalls.

She also mentions that the Ronald McDonald House, located within Children's Hospital, "made us feel like we were at home."

Mason has no memory of care received when he was an infant, but clearly recalls times since then when he has needed treatment for ongoing conditions. When it was discovered at age 16 that Mason would need heart surgery, he remembers being supported every step of the way—"pre-op, post-op, follow-up and

"I wasn't scared, and though I didn't like it, I knew it was something I had to do."

— Mason Wadd

medications."

Information was shared with him in a way he could understand, he describes, and doctors helped alleviate his nervousness and uncertainty. "They're very good at breaking everything down," he summarizes. "They told me what they would do, how long it would take, and what the recovery would look like."

"I wasn't scared, and though I didn't like it, I knew it was something I had to do."

Mason is happy to recommend Children's Hospital as a worthy recipient of people's donations.

"If you're looking for a way to help make the world a better place,"

he comments, "donating to the Children's Hospital means you're helping make children's lives better, sometimes in big ways, sometimes in smaller ones. But always in a very good way."

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Sheriff's Posse Wagon train can write checks to the Waseca County Mounted Sheriff's Posse and send them to 228 Ninth Avenue Southeast, Waseca. Payments are also accepted via Venmo to @Waseca_County_Sheriffs_Posse. Donations will also be accepted along the route of the daily excursions to Farmamerica, Courthouse Park and around Clear Lake.

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From left: Exchange Club President Mikhail Rostislavovich, Tarin Kuball, and Club Treasurer Jeanne Sexton.

Exchange welcomes new member and highlights growing holiday tradition

Waseca, MN – The Waseca Exchange Club is proud to announce the induction of Tarin Kuball as its newest member. A lifelong Waseca resident and the current Executive Director of the Waseca Senior Citizens Center, Kuball brings a spirit of service and community pride that perfectly aligns with the Club’s mission.

“Tarin has already made an impact by jumping right in, helping with highway clean-up and distributing American flags at the Waseca County Fair,” said Club President Mikhail Rostislavovich. “She is a great addition to the Club, and we are fortunate to have her energy and leadership at the table.”

Kuball’s passion for Waseca and dedication to community service make her a natural fit for the Exchange Club, which is known for its commitment to Americanism, youth programs, community service, and the prevention of child abuse.

In addition to welcoming a new member, the Exchange Club also featured a presentation by Jen

Losen, a fellow Exchangite and community organizer, who shared exciting updates on the upcoming Christmastime at the Mill celebration. This beloved event, now in its fourth year, continues to grow in popularity and scope.

Designed as a free, family-friendly holiday experience, Christmastime at the Mill invites all ages to get into the spirit of the season through live entertainment, visits with Santa, children’s activities, and opportunities to give back to those in need. Held annually at the Mill Event Center property, the event has become a cherished Waseca tradition that brings together volunteers, organizations, and businesses in the spirit of community and Christmas joy.

“The Exchange Club is proud to support members like Jen who lead with vision and generosity,” said Rostislavovich. “Events like Christmastime at the Mill are exactly the kind of community-building efforts that make Waseca such a special place to call home.”



Valentine



Emil



Charles



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2015: Hofmann Apiaries is placed on The National Register of Historic Places.

hofmannapiaries.com

Celebrating World Honeybee Day in rural Janesville Saturday, August 16, 2025

Join Hofmann Apiaries and the Waseca County History Center to celebrate World Honeybee Day on Saturday, August 16 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on their farm at 4661 420th Avenue in rural Janesville, Minnesota.

Tour the historic farm where local honey producers will share their bee keeping knowledge. Visitors can walk the restored prairie and pollinator gardens. The pollinator gardens provide the opportunity for close observation of our bees and other insect activity in the garden.

Consult with the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation representatives about efforts to restore habitat for wildlife as well as pollinators. Learn what resources are available to landowners in the area.

Visit the vendors to learn about

pollinator plants, purchase honey and honey related merchandise!

Enjoy live music by Arsenaull and Pengra from 1 to 3 and get all the buzz from the Queen Bee on Stilts.

Bring your lawn chair, wear comfortable shoes as exploring the site and the restored buildings require walking distances, stairs, and uneven surfaces.

The Bee Bash will be held rain or shine.

Hot dogs and chips will be offered for a free will donation. Some vendors will have sweet treats for sale.

Hofmann Apiaries “Bee Bash” celebrating World Honey Bee Day is free and open to the public.

Donations to Hofmann Apiaries via WCHS are graciously welcomed!

Seventh annual soapbox race set for this weekend

WASECA, Minn. – August 7, 2025 — Zack Sather, Master of Tuscan Lodge No. 77 of the Waseca Freemasons, has announced that the Lodge will host its seventh annual Soapbox Race and Carnival on Saturday, August 16 from noon to 3 p.m. at their location just west of the Tink Larson Community baseball fields on 4th Street NE.

“We’re thrilled to be back at it again this year,” said Sather. “This is our second year at our new location, and we’re expecting a great turnout from the community.”

The annual event features high-speed, ramp-launched soapbox car races for kids and a festive carnival atmosphere for all ages.

“We’re inviting young racers age 6 and up to join in,” said co-organizer Kevin Clemons. “We’re aiming to make this our biggest race yet. Even if you’re not behind the wheel, we encourage everyone to come out, cheer on the drivers, and enjoy the fun.”

Proceeds from the event will support the purchase of fire suppression kits for Waseca County first responders. Public service remains a cornerstone of the Masonic mission, and this year’s project reinforces their commitment to safety and community well-being.

“This project will help save lives and protect property,” said Lodge member Rick Kritzer, “all while providing a great day of family fun.”

In preparation for the race, the brothers of Lodge 77 have been hard at work building cars, securing sponsors, and selling hay bale sponsorships, a unique way to protect racers and promote



Emma Sather’s car went off course immediately during the “fun” races that followed the competitive portion of the fourth annual Freemasons’ soap box races in 2022.

Archive photo by Eli Lutgens

local businesses at the same time.

Brother Mike Lee added, “It truly takes the whole Lodge, the Eastern Stars, and a group of dedicated volunteers to make this race happen every year.”

With the help of homeowners on 4th Street NE, coordination with the City for barricades, and support from local food vendors, the Masons are gear-

ing up for another high-energy afternoon full of racing, carnival games, food, and community spirit.

“We hope the whole town comes out to support this effort,” Kritzer said. “Together, we can raise the funds needed to equip our first responders with the tools they need and have a great time doing it.”

Region Nine earns 2025 Impact Award

Mankato – Region Nine Development Commission based in Mankato has recently been recognized with a 2025 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the Building a More Sustainable Model for Rural EMS in Region Nine project.

This project was a partnership between the University of Minnesota Extension - Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, University of Minnesota School of Public Health, Region Nine Development Commission, and South Central EMS. The goal of the project was to find and develop strategies to address the root causes of poor recruitment and retention in the rural EMS profession. This included an environmental scan of recruitment and retention practices and conditions in rural EMS nationwide, a review of relevant literature, interviews with stakeholders and key informants, and both in-person and online listening sessions with EMS professionals and

other relevant stakeholders.

“Access to reliable EMS services is vital to the health and resilience of rural communities in south central Minnesota. RNDC is honored to receive this national recognition and proud to have partnered with local and statewide leaders to help look for solutions for our EMS professionals. This award affirms the critical need to invest in the people and systems that keep our communities safe,” said RNDC Executive Director Nicole Griensewic.

Presented annually, the NADO Impact Awards honor regional development organizations and their partners for strengthening communities, building regional resilience, and enhancing local economies through innovative approaches to economic and community development. NADO is a Washington, DC-based membership association of regional development organizations that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies.

These award-winning efforts will

be recognized during NADO’s 2025 Annual Training Conference, held this coming October in Salt Lake City, Utah. All selected projects are featured in an interactive StoryMap that showcases summaries, images, and key partners. The map is available at www.nado.org/2025impactawards/.

“The Impact Awards are an annual reminder of the creativity and commitment that regional development organizations bring to their communities,” said 2024-2025 NADO President Rick Hunsaker, Executive Director of the Region XII Council of Governments in Iowa. “This year’s awardees show how local and regional partnerships, driven by vision and collaboration, can lead to lasting positive change across our country.”

The Impact Awards are presented in memory of Duluth native, Aliceann Wohlbruck, NADO’s first executive director, who was a lifelong advocate for regional solutions and rural economic development.

For more information, contact

Communications Manager Nate George at nate@rndc.org.

###

Region Nine Development Commission takes great pride in working with and on behalf of counties, cities, townships, and schools throughout South Central Minnesota. Since 1972, being a partner for progress has led to the development of programs and identification of solutions in the areas of community development, economic development, transportation, healthy communities, business development, and leveraging regional resources.

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) promotes public policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through the regional strategies, coordination efforts, and program expertise of the nation’s regional development organizations. Learn more about NADO at www.nado.org.

■ Birthday from Page 1

Madel, Cookie Rausch, Wilda Smith, Jacque Storby, and Phoebe Praxl.

He took a few bites and picked up

the first of many cards. While he opened it, he asked the ladies, “Do you remember what you were eating on your fiftieth birthday?” He received a unified “No” from all of them at once. These were joke cards, so Dulas read them out loud, “On your 50th birthday, someone of the opposite sex will chase after you.” The punchline, “To tell you the lights

of your car are on in the parking lot.” Everyone around him was also eating, but the laughs kept flowing.

The next card read, “Why did the 50-year-old cross the road?” the punchline, “Because the elderly get disoriented sometimes.”

The next card, “Have you heard any bad talk about getting older?” the punchline, “No? That’s because your

hearing is the first to go.”

Before he took a second turn at the buffet, Dulas said, “It’s hard to believe I’m 50, I remember turning 40, and even 30; and I keep thinking of how cheap stamps used to be. One perk of getting this old is I get a lot fewer haircuts now.”

■ Janesville from Page 3

previous year, when “we didn’t go through three gallons in three hours.”

She indicated a line of people waiting for root beer floats and explained volunteers had had to leave to acquire more supplies. She reassured, “They should be back any second.” In the meantime, there was plenty of popcorn. The popcorn, root beer and ice cream were a joint donation from

the Janesville FFA and the Songs in the Park series. Free will donations were also accepted.

Behind the bandstand was the Janesville Farmers Market with six vendors selling fresh produce, baked goods and homemade fare. The playground was also full of children

laughing and running around. Occasionally a fire truck or police car would flash its lights for a group of excited children. With AZBY playing in the background and people settling down with drinks in their lawn chairs, it was a nice night out in Janesville’s Veterans Memorial Park.

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Handbuilding Ceramic Cups at Waseca Art Center Sat. August 23

There will be a ceramic cup handbuilding class at the Waseca Art Center from 10 a.m. till noon on August 23. This class only allows 10, register at <https://www.wasecaartcenter.org>

Adult Handbuilding Clay Class at Waseca Art Center Saturday August 23

There will be an adult handbuilding clay class at the Waseca Art Center from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, August 23. Handbuilding a highland cow head. Members \$50, non-members \$55, maximum 6 per class. Register at <https://www.wasecaartcenter.org>

Mal Murphy at Indian Island Winery Sunday, Aug. 24

Mal Murphy will perform at the Indian Island Winery from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 24. Performing folk, alternative and country covers and originals.

Midwest Farewell at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm Sunday, Aug. 24

Midwest Farewell will perform at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm from 4 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 24. This trio covers everyone from Dawes to Van Morrison to The Last Revel and more.

Romp and Rhyme Story Times at NR Library Tues., Aug. 26

Romp and Rhyme Story Times at the New Richland Public Library at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26. From puppets to pumping music, from bubble machines to banging bands, these are not your average story times. This is free and open to the public.

NRHEG Open House, Grill Out Wed., Aug. 27

There will be an open house and grill out at New Richland High School from 2-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 27. This will include a hot dog meal from 3 p.m. till gone. Come to the open house and meet teachers, find your locker, walk your schedule and fill out paperwork.



From left, front row: Brad Donner, Brad Milbrath, Katie Youngberg, Jenne Sexton, Missy Donner, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Molly Erdman, Penny Vought, Ann Staloch, Christy Easton, Caitlin Roberts. Back Row: Amy Potter, Jodi Thompson, Diane Beckmann, Marcy Buchele, Tiffany Lynch, Abby Hughes, Tom Sankovitz, and Kriste Biehn.

Waseca Art Center earns Progress Award

WASECA, MN – The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors proudly presented a Progress Award to the Waseca Art Center on Thursday, July 31st in recognition of the Center’s significant impact on the community and its celebration of 50 years of inspiring creativity, education, and cultural enrichment in Waseca.

The Progress Award is given to local Chamber businesses that demonstrate growth, positive change, and continued dedication to the vitality of

Waseca. The milestone 50th anniversary of the Art Center marks a legacy of fostering the arts and building connections through visual art, music, workshops, and community events.

"The Waseca Art Center has stood as a cornerstone of artistic expression and community involvement for half a century," said Mihail Rostislavovich President of the Waseca Art Center. "This award is not only a celebration of the past 50 years but a testament to the people—artists, volunteers, donors, and supporters—

who have believed in the power of the arts in Waseca. We look forward to the next 50 years of growth, creativity, and community engagement."

In addition to the award, the Chamber Ambassadors joined Art Center board members, volunteers, and supporters to tour the facility and learn more about upcoming events and plans.

"The Waseca Art Center continues to be a vibrant hub for creativity and education, and its longevity is a testament to the power of community-

driven passion," said Robin Dulas, Executive Director of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. "We are thrilled to celebrate this important milestone with them and to honor the Art Center’s commitment to enriching the lives of our residents and visitors alike."

The Waseca Art Center invites the community to join in its year-long celebration with special exhibits, classes, and events. Visit www.wasecaartscenter.org for more information.

JAMBOYZ at Janesville Veterans Memorial Park Monday, Sept. 4

Musical group JAMBOYZ will play at the Janesville Veterans Memorial Park from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 4. This event is part of the free “Songs in the Park” series.

Sheriff’s Posse Wagon Train in Waseca Sept. 5, 6, 7

The Waseca County Sheriff’s Posse is hosting the statewide Posse Wagon Train for Youth from Sept. 5 to 7. Participants and their horses or mules will be camping at the Waseca County fairgrounds and taking daily drives to local sites of interest including Courthouse Park, Farmamerica, and a drive around Clear Lake. More information either for participating or giving donations is available from the Waseca County Sheriff’s Posse Facebook Page. Funds will be donated to Children’s Hospital and Clinics. Early registration closes Aug. 15.

Family Tradition at Janesville Veterans Memorial Park Monday, Sept. 18

Musical group Family Tradition will play at the Janesville Veterans Memorial Park from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 18. This event is part of the free “Songs in the Park” series.

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.

■ Council from Page 5

because of potential concerns surrounding stormwater drainage.

“All of the calculations and all of the modelings provided to them by engineers have been approved by the DNR,” Sonnenberg said.

Schroeder, councilmember Mark Christiansen, and Mayor Randy Zimmerman supported a motion to allow staff members to seek bids, stating genuine assessment of the

project included knowing what it is likely to cost. When the decision was stalled by a tied vote, Sonnenberg observed, “A lot of time and effort has gone into this to make sure plans are done right.”

In other business, the council approved adding the Historic Commercial District to the city zoning map as a designated “Heritage Preservation Overlay District.” The area was included on the National Register of Historic Places beginning in 2020.

At the school district’s request, new parking regulations were imposed along Nineteenth Avenue northwest, between the Junior/Senior High School and the site where con-

struction on the Marketplace project is scheduled to begin. The south side of the street, nearer to the school building, has been designated “School Parking Only, 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Monday-Friday.” Parking will no longer be allowed on the north side, nearer to the construction site.

In the city manager’s reports, Sonnenberg congratulated police department staff member Greta Luiken for being promoted to Sergeant. She was previously the School Resource Officer (SRO) and will continue to hold the position until a new SRO can be found.

Alicia Fischer, city director of fi-

nance and human resources, updated the council on the police department staff. She reported there are currently promising prospects for each of three open positions for patrol officers. At the time of the meeting, qualified individuals were finishing required psychological and background checks before they could officially join the staff. She said the department is the closest it’s been in some time to being fully staffed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37. The next regular city council meeting is Aug. 19 with a work session discussing general fund budgets and all special revenue funds at 5:30 p.m. prior to the meeting.

Waseca Legion and VFW 2025 season stats

WASECA VFW - 2025																	
HITTING																	
NAME	YR	G	AB	R	H	E	2B	3B	HR	SB	SAC	BB	SO	RBI	SLG%	OB%	AVG
Butler, Braden	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0.000	0.000	
Ferch, Kameron	10	22	47	11	13	1	1	0	0	3	1	9	18	5	0.298	0.393	
Honstad, Owen	10	21	54	17	20	13	5	1	1	8	0	9	7	17	0.556	0.460	
Kahnke, Calvin	9	24	53	9	16	5	1	0	0	5	1	15	16	11	0.321	0.456	
Janike, Jaxson	8	1	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2.000	1.000	
Keele, Braxton	9	14	15	5	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	9	9	1	0.067	0.417	
Klinger, Kellen	9	19	47	10	17	9	4	1	0	6	5	8	6	18	0.489	0.455	
Krautkremer, Ty	9	19	45	9	7	6	0	0	0	3	2	11	12	7	0.156	0.321	
Lewer, Landon	10	17	24	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	14	1	0.167	0.259	
Lynch, Cash	10	9	21	1	6	1	1	0	0	2	1	4	5	2	0.333	0.400	
Preston, Carson	10	19	32	8	7	10	1	0	0	1	0	4	9	5	0.250	0.306	
Reger, Gavin	9	19	30	8	4	2	0	0	0	1	1	11	14	2	0.133	0.366	
Rohl, Jaxton	9	15	35	8	8	2	1	0	0	4	0	6	10	5	0.257	0.341	
Ryan, Troy	10	20	36	5	6	2	0	0	0	1	3	6	9	5	0.167	0.286	
Snesrud, Cael	9	10	14	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	2	0.143	0.294	
Stencel, Hayden	10	19	31	12	8	3	2	0	0	9	3	23	12	1	0.323	0.574	
Waugh, Mason	9	16	37	10	13	6	2	0	0	0	2	5	2	7	0.405	0.429	
TOTALS		24	524	121	134	65	18	3	1	43	19	126	146	90	0.307	0.400	
OPPONENTS		24	589	158	154	52	20	7	2	43	12	120	108	124	0.329	0.386	
Pitching																	
NAME	YR	G	CG	SH	S	W	L		R	ER		H	BB	SO	HBP	IP	
Ferch, Kameron	10	7	1	0	0	2	4		37	25		32	29	18	5	30.67	
Honstad, Owen	10	5	0	0	0	2	0		4	3		11	4	12	2	11.00	
Kahnke, Calvin	9	5	0	0	0	0	2		14	10		7	10	9	5	6.33	
Klinger, Kellen	9	2	0	0	0	1	0		0	0		3	3	4	1	3.00	
Krautkremer, Ty	9	5	1	0	0	1	2		13	8		8	13	11	3	10.33	
Lynch, Cash	10	4	0	0	0	2	1		10	8		9	7	16	1	13.33	
Preston, Carson	10	5	0	0	0	0	0		11	4		8	13	4	2	11.67	
Reger, Gavin	9	9	0	0	2	1	2		34	28		31	15	8	5	13.33	
Ryan, Troy	10	5	0	0	0	1	0		13	9		16	8	6	0	14.33	
Stencel, Hayden	10	7	0	0	0	1	2		22	15		28	17	20	10	23.00	
Waugh, Mason	9	1	0	0	0	0	0		0	0		1	1	0	0	0.33	
TOTALS		24	2	0	2	11	13		158	110		154	120	108	34	137.32	
OPPONENTS		24	8	6	0	13	11		121	79		134	126	146	12	142.00	

WASECA LEGION - 2025																	
HITTING																	
NAME	YR	G	AB	R	H	E	2B	3B	HR	SB	SAC	BB	SO	RBI	SLG%	OB%	AVG
Barnes, Hunter	11	13	17	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	2	0.059	0.059	0.059
Bertelt, Andrew	11	14	13	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	11	0	0.000	0.133	0.000
Engel-Mueller, Nate	C	16	38	3	3	0	1	0	0	2	0	11	28	0	0.105	0.286	0.079
Engel-Mueller, Shane	C	16	32	7	6	5	1	0	0	3	0	14	16	4	0.219	0.435	0.188
Garza, Kaden	11	14	19	1	6	2	1	0	0	0	0	4	6	3	0.368	0.435	0.316
Honstad, Owen	10	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2.000	1.000	1.000
Ihrke, Jace	12	11	18	3	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	6	10	2	0.167	0.375	0.167
Martens, Carter	12	17	30	5	6	3	1	0	0	1	1	6	7	7	0.233	0.333	0.200
Mitchell, Riley	11	17	33	4	11	12	0	0	0	0	3	7	9	5	0.333	0.450	0.333
Reger, Gavin	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000
Reger, Logan	11	18	39	8	9	0	0	0	0	5	9	10	7	3	0.231	0.388	0.231
Roeker, Keato	C	18	45	10	18	7	8	1	0	11	2	7	4	10	0.622	0.481	0.400
Root, Jacob	11	13	9	4	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	7	1	0.222	0.273	0.111
Schafer, Jaiden	11	18	35	2	8	2	0	0	0	1	0	10	10	1	0.229	0.400	0.229
Shoemaker, Aiden	12	18	19	2	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	10	9	3	0.053	0.379	0.053
Wirtz, Max	12	14	31	8	3	3	1	0	0	1	0	8	14	0	0.129	0.282	0.097
TOTALS		18	379	61	77	47	15	1	0	24	15	97	146	44	0.248	0.366	0.203
OPPONENTS		18	422	157	137	22	18	4	1	68	8	115	76	120	0.393	0.469	0.325
PITCHING																	
NAME	YR	G	CG	SH	SV	W	L		R	ER		H	BB	SO	HBP	IP	ERA
Engel-Mueller, Nate	C	5	0	0	0	0	0		10	8		13	5	5	0	5.33	10.51
Engel-Mueller, Shane	C	4	0	0	0	0	2		11	9		8	7	4	2	9.33	6.75
Garza, Kaden	11	1	0	0	0	0	0		1	0		1	3	2	0	1.67	0.00
Martens, Carter	12	4	0	0	0	0	1		17	13		9	10	0	5	5.67	16.05
Mitchell, Riley	11	3	0	0	0	0	0		9	9		9	9	4	1	4.00	15.75
Reger, Logan	11	10	3	0	0	4	3		39	17		33	22	24	7	34.00	3.50
Roeker, Keato	C	8	1	0	0	0	3		19	15		19	32	29	4	18.00	5.83
Shoemaker, Aiden	12	8	0	0	0	0	5		37	31		28	20	6	7	15.33	14.16
Wirtz, Max	12	5	0	0	0	0	0		14	11		17	7	2	6	7.00	11.00
TOTALS		17	4	0	0	4	14		157	113		137	115	76	32	100.33	7.88

Heavenward

LeSueur River Lutheran church steeple set to go up this week

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Members of LeSueur River Lutheran, a rural church located northeast of New Richland, can still tell you when the steeple was blown off their house of worship by a tornado: 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

Various circumstances have stretched the process out, but members are thrilled to know their steeple-less building will have its bell and its entire classic shape again within a few days. A rebuilt steeple will soon be raised into place by an especially tall crane being brought in for the purpose.

The church's bell, first purchased in 1883 and weighing 1,250 pounds, has been refurbished and now shines like new. Congregation members say they look forward to hearing it ring. "There's something unique about the sound of a bell from a country church," observes church member Matt Groskreutz. Church leaders shake their heads when they consider what could have happened: When the bell fell, the metal framework which suspended it was broken. The bell left an inches-deep indentation in the road. It missed a metal construction dumpster, which could have easily caused it to be permanently damaged, by inches.

For the time being, the rebuilt steeple stands alongside the church building, rivaling its height. It, too, sends a message of renewal. Its shingles and any temporarily visible areas of wood are completely unweathered.

Church leaders say it's nearly inexpressible what it took to get to this point.

The night of the tornado, a construction crew had just finished a \$130,000 remodelling project inside the church. "We didn't even get to have one service in it," observed

Groskreutz. The silver lining was that the equipment the construction crew had been using was still parked on site: workers had the tools needed to put up a temporary roof.

After the June 2 storm moved through, news spread quickly that the steeple had fallen. "It blew down, landed on the church roof, and then dropped down onto the road," describes Jim Kortz, who has been the contact point for the replacement over the past 2.5 years.

"People were there salvaging things," remembers Judy Kortz. "We kind of walked around in shock."

An independent adjustor determined there had been \$817,000 worth of damage.

The insurance company began processing the claim and matters at the church settled into a new "normal," that is, as much as "normal" was possible remembering the Covid-19 pandemic was underway. An engineer was sent to determine what it would take to build and install a replacement, and everyone knew it would take time for plans to be drawn, finances to be settled, and work to begin.

Church leaders were astounded at the number of people who contacted the church, literally from all over the country, offering prayers and financial contributions. They explain most were connected to the church in some way—either because they had once attended it, or because they were family to someone who attended. Of the 300 or so baptized members of the church, many can trace their connection back six or more generations.

Fundraisers were held, some of them sponsored by other organizations. Congregation treasurer Jan Wenzel mentions Cross of Glory church in Hartland held one just last



The bell tower and steeple of LeSueur River Lutheran Church, located northeast of New Richland, were broken loose by a tornado in June of 2020 and dropped to the ground nearby. The remainder of the building was relatively untouched. The church was originally built in 1875.

"We've waited and worked for this for a long time."
— Judy Kortz

year in support of the project.

"We were so grateful for the way people jumped in and helped," comments congregation president Lori Routh. "We never had any doubt everything would be put back together."

More than two years passed, at which time Jim Kortz—who had recently retired—was asked to look into the status of the claim at the insurance company.

"Nothing was happening," he says, a tone of surprise still evident in his voice. "It was like they had completely forgotten the claim." Jim speculates part of the problem was staff changeover and confusion caused by the pandemic, but whatever the reason, it took two weeks of phone calls and questions from Jim to get things rolling again.

A new engineer was assigned and let the congregation know there would have to be some major upgrades.

"The old steeple tower wasn't up to code, you see," mentions Wenzel. Neither, it turned out, were the stairs which led up to the balcony. Even the balcony railing did not

meet code, and would have to be made more than a foot taller.

Even more significantly, the structure underneath the bell tower was deemed insufficient. Before a new steeple could be installed, up-right metal beams had to be added in order to meet code requirements.

To install the metal beams, a Bobcat vehicle was driven down the stairs to the church basement and used a corkscrew-shaped attachment to drill holes and install beams. The new supports extend about 17 feet below the church basement floor.

"The joke now," comments Groskreutz, "is that next time there's a tornado, the church will blow away and the steeple will still be standing there."

Leaders comment on how respectful and careful all the workers have been, consistently protecting the interior of the church, and always removing their equipment and materials so that church gatherings were never interfered with.

Church members were asked to make numerous decisions. It was known, for example, that the church



The members of LeSueur River Lutheran Church northeast of New Richland have been working about five years toward replacing their steeple, which was blown down by a tornado. Now that the replacement structure is built, a particularly large crane is scheduled to come soon to lift it into place. Photo by Deb Bently

had previously had two steeples. The first one, built in the late 1870s along with the church, reportedly reached 95 feet into the sky. Years later, upon the encouragement of a pastor who felt it would be appropriate to glorify God with an even taller structure, a second steeple which reached to 125 feet was built right over the first one.

Once the discussion regarding height began, leaders remember, it meandered between the extremes of not replacing the steeple at all to recreating the 125-foot profile. After lengthy discussion, it was decided to restore the full height. Code, however, specified that it would have to be a bit narrower and steeper than the structure which was destroyed.

"It's been a process, that's for sure," observes Jim.

Within the upcoming days when the crane arrives and the steeple is raised into place, church leaders make a number of predictions.

"It's a good thing it's tall, and you can see it from a long way back," comments Judy Kortz. "Because a lot of people are going to want to come watch." She predicts a line of cars on both sides of the road extending both east and west from the church.

"It will be beautiful," suggests Routh. "We've waited and worked for this for a long time. Everyone will be really pleased to see it restored."

As for themselves, with the controversy, the complications, the communication and coordination needed to interact with the many agencies and workers needed to get everything done, the leaders predict seeing the tower and the bell lifted into place will also provide, for them, a tremendous sense of a weight being lifted off their shoulders.

"We're looking forward to it," comments Jim with a smile.

The Pastor's Column

God's stewards

By Pastor Michael James Grannis
St. Paul Lutheran Church

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our risen Savior,

In 1 Corinthians 8:6 we hear these words: "...there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist."

As Christians it is easy to acknowledge that our existence is fully dependent on God. He is our Creator. More than this, He is our Redeemer. Our Salvation is fully dependent on God. He made us and then redeemed us from sin, death, and the devil with the precious, holy, innocent blood of Christ. However, it can be a bit harder for us to acknowledge that we exist "for" God; that your whole life's purpose is to do God's will and work in every aspect of your life. But this is exactly what the Scriptures reveal to us. In Ephesians 2:10 it is said this way: "For we are (God's) workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

In the United States of America (perhaps no place more than here in upper-Midwest) there is a deeply internalized sense of rugged individualism — a pull yourself up from your bootstraps mentality. This is a place where people all around the world once came (and still come) in the hopes of making a better life for themselves and for their families. America: land of the free and home of the brave. Where you can come and be your own man or woman.

But this ideology is in direct contrast to what God's Word reveals as the truth of who we are. I am not my own man. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 reminds us that even what we do with our own bodies is to be done to the honor and glory of God, saying to each

one of us, "You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

In short, we are stewards of God. He provides from His fullness, and we manage what He has given. As I have looked into the idea of Christian Stewardship one definition that has really rung true for me is this: "Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the Church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes." This definition is broad and all encompassing. It leaves no room for us as owners of anything. It reflects what the Scriptures proclaim. God's Word tells us that everything we have...everything we are belongs to God. We (as individuals and as His Church) are merely managers of His temporal and eternal blessings.

If we approach all of life with this understanding, how would that change our daily decisions? Would we be more grateful? Would we be more thoughtful? Would we be more prayerful in making decisions? Would we be more generous toward others? Would we be less wasteful? Would we be more gracious? Would we be more forgiving?

As stewards of God's earthly and eternal resources we are accountable to God for all He has put in our care. From our very lives, to our faith in Christ, to the shoes on our feet — all that we have been blessed with is from our heavenly Father, and is to be used for His purposes, and to His glory. Yes, He created us for a purpose; to use all we have at our disposal to accomplish His good and gracious will. I pray that by the power of the Holy Spirit we would all grow in our true identity as God's stewards to the honor and glory of our Heavenly Father, through Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Living forever, now,
Pastor Michael James Grannis
St. Paul Lutheran Church (LCMS)

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507-835-2235
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* * *

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN
Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
Sunday - 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1
* * *

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

* * *
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
412 N. Main Street, Janesville
Pastor Jason Wolter
Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship
* * *

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

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

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

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

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

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

NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA
404 30 120th St. Waseca
Pastor Sarah Krolak
507-234-6463

Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday - "Young at heart"
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation
* * *

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

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Waseca

25 Years back

- The family farm of Don and Judy Hoffmeister, near Sherburn, is expected to draw as many as 600 visitors when Bishop Bernard J. Harrington, Bishop of the Diocese of Winona, celebrates the annual Harvest Mass there on Saturday afternoon, August 14. Open to all, the 4 p.m. liturgy will take place in an outdoor setting designed to inspire thanks for a bountiful harvest and foster awareness of how all people depend on the land for the quality of their lives. The Harvest Mass is sponsored by the diocesan Rural Life Committee and Catholic Charities' Social Action Office.

- An open house in honor of the 40th wedding anniversary of Elwin and Shirley Groskreutz will be held on Sunday, August 22, 2 to 6 p.m. at the Waldorf Community Center. Entertainment will be provided by the Thompson family. Everyone is welcome.

- Among the area gospel singers who will be featured at Steele County Fair's "Gospel Night" Wednesday, August 18 on Fair Square Stage will be a portion of the Ebnet Family Singers from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The evening will conclude with an hour long concert by the popular "Gospel Express" of Owatonna. Gary Ebnet is the lead singer of the Express.

50 Years ago

- Minnesota tree losses to Dutch elm disease this season will set a new annual record sometime this week, although three months of active control work remain, a state Department of Agriculture official predicted today. Robert Flaskerd, director of the plant industry, said the 2,220 elm tree losses confirmed through July 31 by the state tree disease control laboratory is a new record for that date and only 158 short of the 1973 season record of 2,378 elm losses.

- Harry Pool, American Party candidate for governor, said today that during the Midwest Governors' Conference just concluded there was much discussion on the crop failure in the Soviet Union and Asia. Pool said, "It sounds very much as if they are buttering up the American people for another 'wheat deal.'" Pool says that he is unalterably opposed to another "wheat deal" such as was perpetrated on the American people last fall.

- Waseca County young people have the opportunity to attend a camp planned just for 6th, 7th and 8th graders of Waseca County. The Waseca County Residence Camp is being planned for Camp Patterson by the Waseca County Extension Service. The camp is being held on August 19, 20, and 21. Activities planned include: boating, canoeing, archery, swimming, hiking, nature crafts, nature exploration and many others.

75 Years ago

- Plans for the enlistment of women in the regular navy, beginning about September 15, and for the subsequent appointment of the first regular navy women officers, were announced by the Bureau of Naval Personnel on the sixth anniversary of the Women's Reserve of the Navy. A total of 6,000 women will be enlisted by June, 1950 under provisions of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948. Of the total 4,500 will be enlisted prior to June 30, 1949, and the remaining 1,500 during the fiscal year 1950.

- Pierce School for Girls, Litchfield, Conn., founded in 1792, is said to have been the first young ladies' seminary in America.

- Wild Indians of Brazil: As in other South American countries, Brazil has remnants of aboriginal Indians in the wilds whither the benefits of civilization have not yet properly penetrated. Some of them flee from any kind of approximation to civilized people.

100 Years ago

- Charles M. Babcock, state highway commissioner, this week is awarding to low bidders about \$520,000 of contracts covering 75 miles of grading, 6 1/2 miles of paving, 2 bridges, and 30 miles of guard rail on different parts of the state's 7,000-mile system of trunk highways. The improvements are made possible now by county reimbursement bonds, but are to be paid for under the law wholly with automobile taxes collected in this and other counties.

- A new use has been found for obsolete courthouse, or at least one such is to be thus tried out. The old Mitchell county courthouse, built at Mitchell, Iowa, in 1860, and used for that purpose until 1869, when the county seat was moved to Osage is to be town down and the limestone of which it was built is to be ground up and converted into fertilizer for use of the farmers of the vicinity. The stone consists chiefly of calcium carbonate, which is especially valuable as fertilizer for alfalfa and sweet clover. It is estimated the building will make 500 tons, and will be worth \$2 a ton.

- Ten years ago while assisting his brother-in-law, J.F. Dunbar, to stack grain on his farm near Leland, Iowa, James McGreevey lost his gold watch. Careful search was made when the grain was threshed, but it was not found. Recently Mr. Dunbar's youngest son, now a young man, who was cultivating corn in the same field, found the watch, which showed very little effect of its long burial in the soil. The case was very little marred and it was believed the works can be put in condition to run again.

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New Richland

25 Years back



- The New Richland-Hartland High School girl graduates of 1975 joined their male counterparts, Saturday, July 8 at a reunion at St. Olaf Lake Park marking the 25th anniversary of their commencement. They are from the left: front, Sindy Thompson Lewer, Marry Ellen Duenes Podrat, Dawn Hendrickson Thompson, Carol Vinegar Trenholm, Jody Bergner Quiram and Sandy Nelson Rath; back, Darlene Baker Halstead, Virginia Besser Raimann, Rhonda Borchert Prechel, Mary Jo Hanson, Cindra Jensen, Kathy Schumacher Flor and Sandra Jensen Fredrick.

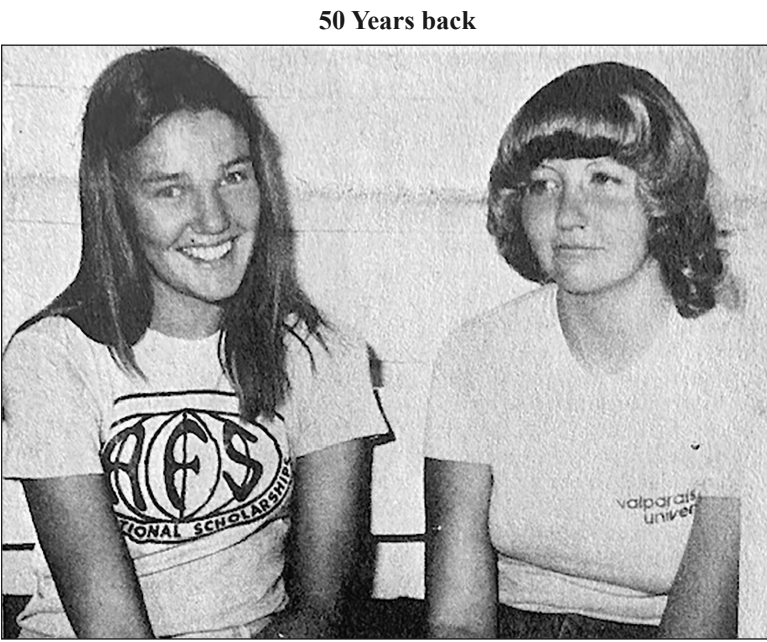
- Courtney Adams, Janesville native and 1997 graduate of JWP High school, was crowned Miss Waseca county 2000 on Saturday, July 14. First runner up is Cristina Stewert of Waseca, and second runner up is another area resident, Amanda Tesch of Waldorf. Each contestant was guaranteed at least \$100 in scholarship money. As the winner, Adams received a \$1,000 scholarship. runner up Stewert received \$300 and second runner up Tesch received \$200. Included in the Royal Court was Miss congeniality, Stacey Lewer, daughter of Brian and Cindy Lewer of Waseca and granddaughter to Florence Thompson of New Richland.

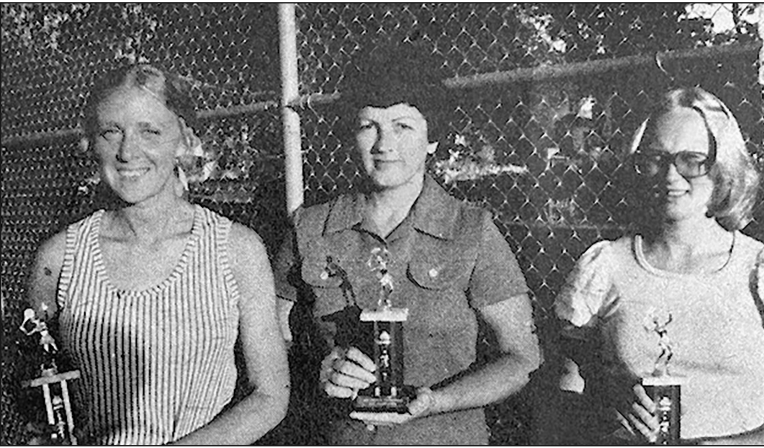
50 Years back



- Inger Nordby, New Richland-Hartland AFS student, arrived from Norway, last Tuesday. She is pictured here with Julie Lundberg. She will be living with Darrel Lundberg family. A senior, Inger is 18. She comes from just outside Oslo, Norway, where her father, Asbjorn Nordby is self-employed in electronic instruments. She has a brother, 20 and a sister, 11.

- A baby boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Tom O'Brien of Minnetonka at Methodist Hospital, St. Louis Park, Thursday, August 7. He has been named Timothy John and weighed in at 7 lbs and 6 oz. Grandmothers are Mrs. Armin Mueller of Waldorf and Mrs. Edward O'Brien of Waldorf is his great grandmother.

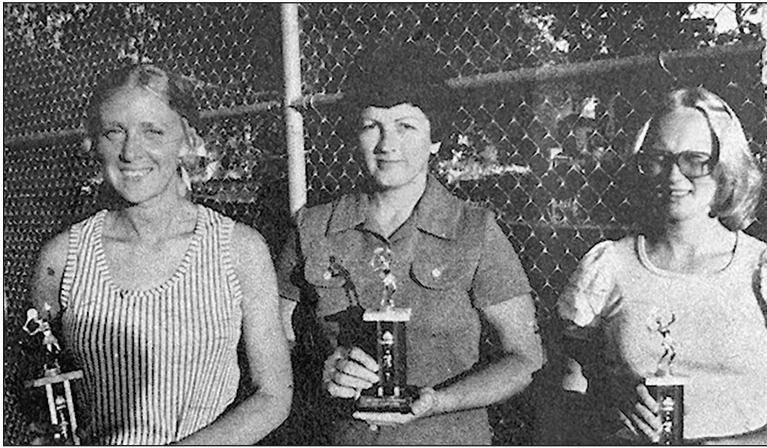




- Mary Evenson won the 18-25 ladies division of the A & W Tennis Tourney at New Richland, this past weekend. Winning the 25 and over division for ladies was Mrs. Robert Rugroden. The high school division for gals was won by Mary Jo Hanson. The gals are pictured here with their trophies.

75 Years back

- Lord and Lady Peutland of New York and London, who have been visiting several Albert Lea families, were guests at the Dr. C. F. Palmer cottage at St. Olaf lake during the weekend.



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AUGUST 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	2
3	4 COAST GUARD DAY	5	6 6pm BAR Bingo	7 7pm HALL BINGO PURPLE HEART DAY	8 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	9
10	11 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	12	13 6pm BAR Bingo	14 7pm HALL BINGO NAVA-JO CODE TALKERS	15 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	16 NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY
17	18	19	20 6pm BAR Bingo	21 7pm HALL BINGO	22 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	23
24 ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST 8AM - NOON YOUR HOSTS VFW	25	26	27 6pm BAR Bingo	28 7pm HALL BINGO	29 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	30
31						

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SUN.- MON. CLOSED
TUE.- 1pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady's nite 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm.
WED.- SAT.-1am to 12 pm
POST & AUX MEETING 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license number 00385

A black and white photograph of a large group of people, mostly men, standing in two rows. The front row is seated on bicycles, while the back row stands. They are outdoors on a paved area with trees in the background.

The participants in the Seventh Annual Sweetheart Century bicycle ride.

City State Zip

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE WASECA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (ACQ)

The City of Waseca is inviting qualified airport consulting firms to submit a **Statement of Qualifications (SOQ)** to retain professional services for a five (5) year period to assist the Waseca Municipal Airport (ACQ) in the completion of projects included in their Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

The required professional services include planning/zoning, architectural/engineering (preliminary, design, bidding, construction, and closeout phases), and other related airport project and development services.

AIRPORT PROJECTS:

Although subject to periodic review/modification and receipt of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and MnDOT Aeronautics grant funding, the following CIP projects may be initiated within this consultant selection period (2025-2030):

- Parking Lot Reconstruction/Expansion
- AvGas Fuel Dispenser Replacement & Fuel Tank Removal
- Procurement of Airport Grounds Maintenance Equipment
- Rehabilitation of Miscellaneous Airfield Pavements
- Rotating Beacon Replacement
- Reconstruction of Runway 15/33 with Lighting Replacement
- Reconstruction of Taxiway A
- Private Hangar Site Development & Hangar Demolition
- Rehabilitation of Existing Aircraft Storage Hangars
- Construction of New Aircraft Storage Hangars
- Completion of Miscellaneous Studies for the Above Listed Projects
- Completion of Miscellaneous Studies related to Airport Planning, Development, & Zoning Issues

Projects undertaken must meet the requirements of all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and codes and may need to be completed using multiple funding sources and work orders.

SOQ EVALUATION & SCORING:

A qualification-based selection process conforming to FAA Advisory Circular 150/5100-14E will be utilized to select the most qualified firm. The City will respond to firms who submit an SOQ within four (4) weeks of the specified submittal date. If necessary, the selection process may include interviews with the top scoring firms.

The SOQ evaluation and scoring criteria (out of 100 total points) shall be as follows:

- **Key Personnel Qualifications, Availability, & Responsiveness – 20 pts**
Include brief staff summary resumes, tasks assigned, relationship flow chart, availability to attend public meetings (Airport Board, City Council, etc.), and overall responsiveness.
- **Previous Project Experience with Similar Airports – 20 pts**
Include at least three (3) past projects with airports of similar size and at least one airport reference per project.
- **Understanding of Short-Term & Long-Term Airport Needs – 20 pts**

Describe the challenges facing the airport and how the firm intends to guide the maintenance of existing infrastructure and make recommendations for necessary improvements.

- **Approach to Project Management – 20 pts**
Describe how the firm’s approach to the management of individual projects and the 20-year CIP as a whole will benefit the airport.
- **Experience & Approach dealing with State & Federal Grants – 20 pts**
Describe past grant program experience and how the firm can help the airport better utilize grant appropriations and secure additional grant funding.

The City intends to retain the selected firm for a period of five (5) years after the date of execution of a Professional Services Agreement (PSA). Fees will be negotiated as individual project contracts are initiated. Contracts and agreements shall be subject to Federal provisions (AC 150/5100-14E - Architectural, Engineering, and Planning Consultant Services for Airport Grant Projects).

SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS:

The SOQ should contain the evaluation and scoring criteria information noted above, along with any other information deemed relevant. Fee information will not be considered in the selection process and must not be submitted with the SOQ.

Please limit the SOQ to a total of 20 single-sided or 10 double-sided pages (not including the cover page).

Submit a digital (PDF) copy of the SOQ via email to natew@ci.waseca.mn.us prior to the submittal deadline of **4:00 PM on Thursday, September 4, 2025**. Hard copies of the SOQ will also be accepted prior to the deadline, but digital are preferred. An SOQ received after the deadline will not be accepted.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you have any questions or want a complete copy of the RFQ, please contact Nathan Willey at natew@ci.waseca.mn.us or at 507-835-9716.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.: 81-PR-25-548
In Re: Estate of
MARILYN A. SMITH,
Deceased
NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:
Notice is hereby given that an amended application for informal probate of the above-named Decedent’s Last Will dated December 29, 2004 has been filed with the Probate Registrar, and the amended application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally appointed Mary C. Bosacker of 10627 Sherman Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55347 and

Gen A. Smith of 1120 3rd Street SE, Rochester, MN 55904 as personal representatives of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative, or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-607, and the court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the Will, or to the appointment of the personal representative, must be filed with this court, and will be heard by the court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the

Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice, or the claims will be barred.

Dated: 08/08/25
/s/ Barb Stevensen
Probate Registrar
/s/ Shannon Asselin
Court Administrator

Pro Se Personal Representative
Mary C. Bosacker
10627 Sherman Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

(Published in the Waseca Pioneer on August 14 and August 21, 2025.)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

AA Self Storage will sell at public auction the contents of several storage units in Waseca on which payment is past due. The auction will be conducted online at storage-treasures.com beginning about August 21, 2025.

The contents of these units is unknown, but are believed to be miscellaneous household and personal items.

The names of persons renting the units are as follows:

Brandy Hott

Jessica Landry

Manager Special

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on August 7 and 14, 2025

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Waseca City Council held a public hearing on **Wednesday, August 6th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** in the City Hall Council Chambers, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 and adopted the following Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 1129 – Matejcek Annexation

ORDINANCE NO. 1130 – Commercial Historic District

Complete copies of Ordinances 1129 and 1130 are available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk at 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Published in the *Waseca County Pioneer* on August 14, 2025.

Julia Zuehlke
City Clerk

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WIN - Tyson Reger high fives Jimmy Loonin after a 3-2 victory over Blue Earth. Kyle Waugh walks behind the two.



RUN BATTED IN - Zach Hoehn celebrates after an RBI single in the state qualifying game versus Cannon Falls.



TIE GAME - Tyson Reger celebrates after knocking in the tying 5th run for the Braves versus the Bears, Saturday.



CLUTCH - Jimmy Loonan high fives Tink Larson after hitting a go-ahead double versus the Pirates.



DURABLE - 2023 Waseca High School graduate Payton Garza caught every inning of both games for the Braves, Saturday.



OUT - Kyle Waugh is called out trying to stretch a single into a double against the Pirates in a 3-2 win, Saturday.

A long drive home

Braves fall one win short of state: defeat Blue Earth 3-2, lose qualifier 7-5 to Cannon Falls

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Oh so close.

The best amateur baseball team to come out of Waseca in nearly a decade—described by coach Tink Larson before the season began as one of the “best teams we ever had coming in”—nearly qualified for the state tournament for the first time since 2016.

“It will take a while before I get over this one,” Larson said after the team’s final game. “We were so close to making it to the state tournament. Had we not made a few costly errors and eliminated a couple base running mistakes, we might have made it.”

The Waseca Braves’ season came to an end one win from the state tournament after splitting two games on the final day of their season, Saturday, Aug. 9, 2025 in Waterville.

After an exciting 3-2 victory over Blue Earth, the Braves fell 7-5 to Cannon Falls.

Cannon Falls joined Waterville and Pine Island representing Region 5C at the state tournament. The Braves finished their 2025 campaign with a final record of 13-14. Pitcher Tyson Reger was selected by Waterville to play in the state tournament and pitcher Ryan Hanson by Pine Island. In Braves history, the team has qualified for the State tournament 17 times: 1957, ‘67, ‘69, ‘74, ‘76, ‘77, ‘78, ‘85, ‘86, ‘87, ‘96, ‘2001, ‘02, ‘03, ‘13, ‘14, and ‘16.

Prior to Saturday’s games, the Braves started their playoff run by defeating Minnesota Lake 2-1 before losing to Waterville 9-4.

Braves 3, Pirates 2

In their first match Saturday, Braves’ pitcher Tyson Reger went the distance, earning the win and avenging the teams two regular season losses of 12-2 and 11-0 to the 3-seed Blue Earth Pirates.

Jimmy Loonan knocked in all three runs for the Braves, putting

them on the board first in the second inning. After a Chris Glynn single and Payton Garza sacrifice bunt, a Loonan single put the Braves up 1-0.

The Pirates answered with two of their own in the third. A two-out walk was followed by four straight singles.

Leading off the fourth, a 35-year-old veteran Kelvin Nelson single was followed by another single from Glynn. A one-out double to the deepest part of the park, center field, from Loonan, put the Braves ahead for good.

Regar put the Pirates down 1-2-3 in the fourth. Over the final four frames, the Pirates managed to put runners in scoring position three times.

The most controversial moment of the game came after the leadoff man was hit in the knob of the bat/hand during the bottom (Pirates) half of the ninth inning. After taking his base, the runner was bunted to second.

As this was happening, managers Blake Nelson and Tink Larson discussed whether the three-hole hitter, Brandon Olsen, who had three hits, should be intentionally walked following the bunt.

“The law of averages,” Blake Nelson said after Olsen grounded out sharply to the pitcher, “indicates that he shouldn’t get a fourth hit.”

The final batter of the game grounded out to shortstop.

The Pirates stranded runners on third in each of the last two innings.

“An excellent pitched game by Reger,” Larson said. “Loonan came up big. We played well defensively. They beat us twice during the season, but Tyson didn’t pitch in either game. We have a lot of confidence when he pitches.”

Statistically for the Braves against Blue Earth:

Regar, 1-4; Keato Roeker 2-4, 1 stolen base; Nelson 1-4, 1 run scored; Glynn 2-4, 2 runs scored; Garza 0-3, 1

sacrifice; Ryan Hanson 0-3, 1 walk; Loonan 2-4, 1 double, 3 RBI; Kyle Waugh 1-4; Zach Hoehn 0-4. Defensively, Sabastian Teague played right field.

Regar earned the win and pitched all nine innings for the Braves, striking out 10, walking 3, allowing 8 hits and 2 earned runs. Hodges pitched all nine innings for the Pirates, allowing 3 earned runs, 8 hits, walking 1 and striking out 3.

Bears 7, Braves 5

The final bout of the day to determine the last entrant to the state tournament did not disappoint.

Nelson started on the mound for the Braves, against the 2-seeded Cannon Falls Bears, making only his second start of the year due to shoulder problems.

A back-and-forth affair, the Braves scored two runs in the second.

Singles from Glynn, Garza and Hanson loaded the bases with no one out. After a strikeout, Waugh and Hoehn both recorded RBI singles. A pair of fielder’s choices ended the inning and the threat, leaving Braves players wanting more.

The Bears answered with two runs of their own in the bottom of the second.

An infield single was followed up by a one-out double to put two runners in scoring position for the Bears. A routine grounder to Regar at shortstop was thrown out of play, plating two runs on the error for the Bears.

After getting out of the inning, Nelson found himself in trouble in the fourth.

With the bases loaded and one out, the Bears dared to try a suicide squeeze; Nelson made what was arguably the play of the day. All in one swift motion, sprinting and scooping the ball with his glove, he tossed the ball to the catcher for the force play at the plate. A ground ball to short ended the inning.

Nelson’s day was done after his first pitch of the fifth inning was hit for a single.



GAME SAVING - Kyle Waugh gets full extension as he makes a catch for the third out, with runners in scoring position late in the game against Blue Earth, Saturday.

“It will take a while before I get over this one. We were so close to making it to the state tournament.” — Tink Larson

Teague came on in relief, pitching a scoreless inning.

A two-out rally was started with a double from Waugh in the sixth. Hoehn reached via error to put two runners on.

A Reger single and Roeker double plated two runs as Reger was thrown out at the plate on a near-perfect relay throw trying to score the third run of the inning.

Two singles, a walk and a double plated three runs for the Bears in their half of the sixth.

After a single and a walk, Glynn scored on a Loonan single to tie the game at 5-5 in the seventh.

Hanson pitched a scoreless seventh in relief of Teague.

In the eighth, things fell apart for Hanson and the Braves.

A leadoff single was followed by two Hanson fielding errors. The ball was thrown away twice leading to two unearned runs.

That was the ball game.

The Braves put runners on base in every inning and registered 15 hits.

“Had we not made a few costly errors and eliminated a couple base running mistakes, we might have made it [to the state tournament],” Larson said. “It will take awhile to get over this one.”

“This is what competition is about,” Blake Nelson told players after the game. “You try to win and we came up short... It hurts, but it’s a good hurt. Thanks for playing hard all summer.”

Statistically for the Waseca Braves against Cannon Falls:

Regar 1-4, 1 walk, 1 RBI; Roeker 3-5, 1 double, 1 RBI; Nelson 2-5, Glynn 2-5, 2 runs scored, Garza 1-4, 1 run, 1 walk; Hanson 1-5, 3 errors, Loonan 1-5, 1 RBI; Waugh 3-4, 1 run, 1 RBI; Hoehn 1-4, 1 run, 1 RBI.

On the mound, Reger finished the year with an 8-3 record, eight complete games, and 104 strikeouts in 80 innings. He allowed only 63 hits and 19 walks.

The Braves are coached by Blake Nelson, 30 seasons and assisted by Larson, 58 seasons.

Blake Nelson’s career record is 174-169 and Larson’s 903-543.

The following players comprised the 2025 roster for the Braves: Tyson Reger, Chris Glynn, Logan Reger, Sabastian Teague, Oliver O’Brien, Tink Larson, Ben Schoenrock, Keato Roeker, Kodi Cunningham, Payton Garza, Jimmy Loonan, Ryan Wangen, Griffin Krautkremer, Danny Cromer, Zach Hoehn, Ryan Hanson, Carter McQuerry, Kelvin Nelson, Eric Maas, Kyle Waugh, Jason Reger and Blake Nelson.

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