



■ Inside:

- 3 - Yaunt 2
- 3 - El Molino
- 4 - Downtown bling
- 5 - Tattoood baker
- 5 - Courthouse Park
- 6-7 - Steele Cty Fair
- 10 - Food shelf
- 12 - Syd's business
- 12 - MVAC honors

■ Page 4



Downtown change

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.

Waseca Art Center's new exhibit Bob Nonnemacher opening Thursday, August 7

New artist Bob Nonnemacher will be featured at the Waseca Art Center from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, August 7. Online he defines himself: I am a professional Fine Artist dedicated to creating high quality aesthetic fine art for individual collectors as well as business clients for homes and offices.

AZBY at Janesville Veterans Memorial Park Thursday, Aug. 7

Musical group AZBY will play at the Janesville Veterans Memorial Park from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7. This event is free to attend and is part of the Songs in the Park.

Community Salad Luncheon at St. Paul Lutheran Church Friday, Aug. 8

Musical group AZBY will play at the Janesville Veterans Memorial Park from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7.

Crista and Muriah at Indian Island Winery Friday, August 8

Crista and Muriah will be performing at the Indian Island Winery from 6-8:30 p.m. Friday, August 8. They play a variety of hits.

Waseca Sweetheart (Sweathard) Bike Ride Saturday, August 9

The Waseca Sweetheart (Sweathard) Bike Ride will take place at 9 a.m. Saturday, August 9. This 26-mile ride will meet at 1600 State Street North, (just north of McDonalds). Contact Bryan Boyce at boycebry@gmail.com with any questions.

Handbuilding Ceramic Cups at Waseca Art Center Saturday August 9 and 23

There will be a ceramic cup handbuilding class at the Waseca Art Center from 10 a.m. till noon on August 9 and 23. This class only allows 10, register at <https://www.wasecart-center.org>.

A word from
The Word

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

Deuteronomy 7:9

More than a research library

Working to keep the Bailey-Lewer house a home for peoples' memories

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

The 157-year-old Bailey-Lewer house in Waseca is seeing some new — and needed — changes.

A historic house, it has a foundation laid in a time when construction practices were rather informal. Waseca County History Center database manager Elizabeth Anselmo said a structural engineer informed them the building is leaning three inches toward the southwest corner.

“When you walk on the second floor, it has that fun house floor kind of feel,” she said.

The house, located at 401 Second Avenue northeast, has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1994 and belongs to Waseca County, with a 99-year lease to the Waseca County History Center through 2099. It is the oldest existing house within Waseca County and is a typical example of the houses built by Waseca merchants during that period. It also was owned by a horse



MERCHANT HOUSE - Built in 1868, the historic Bailey-Lewer house at 401 Second Avenue Northeast in Waseca, is the oldest existing house within Waseca County. Structural problems have officials studying the best way to facilitate upgrades.

Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler

thief and one of the city's founding fathers.

The Bailey-Lewer house is known as the home of Waseca pioneer Philo Bailey, who owned the Italianate-style two-story brick house built by “Date” Smith in his late 30s. In his time, Smith was also well known as a horse thief.

Two years after he built the home, Smith was run out of town after being threatened by a Waseca lynch mob. As the story goes, Waterville was known for a gang of horse thieves operating in Iowa and Minnesota, and Smith was allegedly a Waterville farmer. Smith barely es-

caped with his life and sold all of his property in 1870, including his two-year old home.

Philo Bailey opened the first hardware store in Waseca County in 1857 in Wilton but moved his store to the city of Waseca when the city was founded in 1867. Bailey lived in his store until 1872 when he bought the 13-room house on the corner. As the city grew, many prosperous merchants built houses primarily in the northeast quarter of town, the location allowing merchants to reach the commercial sector without crossing railroad tracks.

Bailey, in addition to being an ac-

tive merchant, was also involved in many civic affairs. He was a state representative in 1862, county treasurer in 1864 and 1865, senator in 1877 and 1878, an alderman from the second ward of Waseca in 1893 and county commissioner from the Waseca district from 1895 to 1897. He also took a prominent part in supervising the construction of the county court house.

After Bailey's death in 1907, the home was owned by H. F. Lewer and remained in the Lewer family until purchased by the Waseca County

Bailey continued on 10



IN BLOOM - Left, Gene and Jody Buell next to their Black Eyed Susan Vines. Right, Jen Dvorak and John Katz presented their garden during the Waseca Garden Club's Summer Garden Tour on Saturday, Aug. 2, 2025. Pictured is Ree Katz, master gardener and mother to John.



Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

Waseca Garden Club Summer Tour Gardens, landscaping bring joy for Andy and Kathy Miller

By DEB BENTLY and BEN REVERMANN

The Waseca Garden Club's summer tour took place Saturday, Aug. 2. Five locations were part of the event; well over 100 people attended. Included gardens belonged to Jen Dvorak and John Katz; Jody and Gene Buell; Julie and Maddie Poehler; and Andy and Kathy Miller. Home base for the tour was the historic Bailey-Lewer House on Second Avenue Northeast. Participants were invited to sign in there and enjoy refreshments before using provided maps to visit as many of the four private gardens as they wished.

Volunteering at the Bailey-Lewer house were Gini Gekeler, Sue Schoenfeld, Kathy Oftedahl, Vicki Neidt and Jolene Gundermann. Visitors at the site enjoyed the vintage gardens purposely designed to be similar to the way the yard would have looked in 1868.

Another stop on the tour was the vegetable garden of Jen Dvorak and John Katz on their property along Sixteenth Avenue Northeast. The garden began in 2017 with a single raised bed and now has three. John provided a quick walk-through of his lush plants that include red onions, green bell peppers, sugar snap peas and regular peas, Blue Lake pole beans, Better Boy tomatoes, and red and white potatoes. He tells of having started his planting “around the third week in May.” He attributed the late start to the hard freezes which occurred a number of times in April. So far, he's harvested some peas and cucumbers.” As of 2 p.m. on Saturday his garden had seen around 60 visitors.

Andy and Kathy Miller say it brought them great pleasure to meet and talk with the individuals, couples and families who visited their property.



FAMILY AFFAIR - Julie, Maddie and Jamie in front of their garden gazebo.

Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

“We've put in a lot of time and energy to bring our yard and garden to a place where we're proud of it,” observed Andy. “It's a pleasure to share it and answer people's questions.”

The two have lived in their home along Clear Lake Drive for 35 years, having raised their children Keith, Reid and Paige there, they now love having their children and grandchildren for visits.

Their three-acre lawn is designed for hospitality.

Garden continued on 12



IN THE FLIGHT DECK - Peter Suek, a Waldorf area resident for the past 17 years, is retiring after being a commercial pilot for 45 years.

Local Pilot has special retirement flight

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

For the past 17 years, Peter Suek, 65, has been commuting from his home near Waldorf to his job in San Francisco.

Suek, a pilot, explains it has not been anywhere near as impractical as it sounds.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules dictate that pilots of commercial flights cannot be at the controls of a plane for more than 1,000 hours in a year, a schedule that works out to roughly 80 hours in a month.

“It's been simple enough to get a flight from the Cities that gets me to San Francisco on time,” he says. “I watch the weather and just leave early if there's anything that might cause a complication.” His casual observation about catching flights is easier to understand when one knows there is a reciprocal agreement among airlines that qualified members of flight crews can take unsold seats on flights, regardless of what airline they work for.

This flexibility has allowed Peter and his wife Teresa to live in a variety of places over the 40 years of their marriage. Both grew up in the Twin Cities; they lived near Newark, New Jersey, early in Peter's career in the 1980s, and in Guam for 13 years prior to acquiring and moving on to the property near Waldorf.

Teresa, originally a nurse, became involved in pharmaceutical research. Before her retirement two years ago, her job also required frequent travel. Their experiences and opportunities have allowed them both to feel very comfortable about navigating airports and sifting through flight schedules. Teresa speaks of having lived in Guam, but knowing she could be in the U.S. visiting family or “shopping at a Target store” with relatively little trouble—aside from the disruption caused to her sleep cycle by crossing the international date line.

Peter began his career as a pilot shortly after leaving high school, having always had a feeling he would like to fly. After taking private lessons, he was able to join a training program with People Express based in Newark. At the time, the company was relatively small; it no longer exists today, having been among the companies gradually

Suek continued on 5



Compostings

by Al Batt

Lack of curb appeal

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

There are going to be many people in Minneapolis tonight.

Why is that?
They live there.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I was a Bounty hunter in a big store. It took me a while to find the paper towels. Once that was done, I went to work at the fair, where the skies sniffled and wept. Rain bucketed down, with an inch falling so fast, it might have been controlled by the White Rabbit, a fictional and anthropomorphic character in Lewis Carroll's 1865 book "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland." In that tome, he said, "Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be too late!" Alice followed him down the rabbit hole. The crowd at the county fair didn't. They took a break and hunkered down until fair weather resumed. I tell people that all weather is fair weather when you're at a fair. We love a fair for many reasons, but one major one is that we get to break the law, "eat dinner before dessert," which our parents had enforced.

I'VE LEARNED

John Wayne (born Marion Robert Morrison) lived in Winterset, Iowa, for the first three years of his life. His family moved to other Iowa towns before settling in California when he was six. Firemen in Glendale, California, called him 'Little Duke' because he was rarely seen without his Airedale Terrier named Duke.

All the TV news channels prove we can never have too much of a bad thing. WalletHub (<https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-best-health-care/23457>) compared the states and the District of Columbia across 44 measures of cost, accessibility and outcome, and discovered the best healthcare was in New Hampshire, with Rhode Island second. Minnesota was third and Iowa fourth. Mississippi was 51st, Alaska 50th and Alabama 49th.

For corn's sake! Evapotranspiration is the key to how "corn sweat" works. As the root systems of plants draw in water, the leaves of the plant release water vapor into the air. A single acre of corn can give off 3,000 to 4,000 gallons of water per day, according to the National Weather Service. So, if you live near a gym that caters to corn, you will experience high humidity when the corn works out.

Wisdom comes with age because we become too tired to do anything stupid.

We frown on nepotism, but praise family businesses.

The internet both enhances and destroys productivity.

Never argue with anyone stupider than you.

Superman taught us that everything is portable if you're strong enough.

An ice cream sandwich doesn't need ketchup.

NEWS FROM HARTLAND HAROLD

From Bath Township: The Langlie/Baarson Farm was recognized as a Century Farm at the Freeborn County Fair. Roger Langlie accepted the honor on behalf of the family farm founded by Johannes Baarson in 1902 and then owned by Peder Baarson, Carl Baarson, Leighton and Sylvia Langlie, and currently Roger.

Darwyn Olson's grandfather bought a 160-acre farm in Hartland Township in 1925. He borrowed \$10,000, which took him 30 years to pay back. Darwyn joked he'd spent more on a lawn mower.

I read that the median income per capita was \$700 a year in 1925. That's misleading because most of the residents of Hartland Township were cows, pigs and chickens.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

Where do rainbows go when they've been bad? To the prism, to reflect on what they've done.

The driver, who was involved in a high-speed police chase, pulled into a car wash and made a clean getaway.

The woman complained about her husband spending all day on eBay. She said if he were still on it tomorrow, she'd lower his price.

The doctor asked, "Do you smoke or drink coffee?" The patient replied, "I drink it."

I entered a competition to see which man had gained the most weight and lost the most hair in five years. It was called a high school reunion.

NATURE NOTES

A temporary wetland in a farm field after recent heavy rainfall was rimmed with great egrets. I couldn't say I had no egrets.

Not all gulls are eating pilfered pizza in a parking lot. A Bomgaars store had a large flock of ring-billed gulls on its roof. The Latin word "arena" means sand, and the stage where the gladiators and exotic animals engaged in mortal combat was covered in a thin layer of sand. The store's roof might have been a gull arena.

I walked in the woods, reveling in the lack of curb appeal. An American goldfinch male's flight, performed in a slow circling fashion over a nesting area, was accompanied by a "po-ta-to-chip" call. A red-headed woodpecker was hawking insects. Its rich red head demanded my attention. Does any bird deserve its name more than the red-headed woodpecker? It was a grand champion day.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"The wonderful thing is that it's so incredibly easy to be kind."—Ingrid Newkirk.

Each creature is specially engineered

I found a blue jay tail feather on the ground today.

Its color and size identified what bird it came from. The white tip made it clear it was a tailfeather.

Ever since I interviewed Waseca artist Dean Dykema, who paints on turkey feathers, I have had an increased appreciation for the engineering feathers represent.

Recently, one of my sons was driving through Janesville and noticed a Martin house, complete with pole, lying next to the curb free for the taking.

He remembered my personal appreciation for Martins, who don't inhabit birdhouses, but rather bird apartment complexes. Structures built to attract them have many small compartments each with their own entries and are mounted high in the air in an open area, rather than in or next to a tree.

He somehow lodged the pole extending out one of the win-



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

dows of his small sedan and came by with his surprise. We immediately opened up the "apartment complex" to clean it out.

What we found also heightened my appreciation for birds.

The interior compartments were probably eight inches in all three dimensions. The manufacturer of the structure had included a smooth, circular indentation at the bottom which did a nice job of hinting at the everyday conception of a bird's nest—a charming little bowl-like thing just the right size for nestling in.

Apparently, martins take the idea of nestling to new heights.

Packed into each of the tiny "rooms" was so much dried grass on all sides that the remaining space was more a "cave" than it was a nest. It looked as if the adult bird could come in through the entry hole and would then have to squeeze into itself in order to be able to even turn around.

Along with the grass was an astounding variety of feathers. I don't mean feathers accidentally dropped by the residents, I mean collected specimens in every color, size and pattern.

They were not in the bottom of the nesting area as though they were meant to make a soft bed,

they were simply jammed helter skelter in among the grass. There were so many in each of the compartments, though, it was perfectly clear they were not there by accident.

Just like the blue jay feather I found lying on the ground, each one was distinctive. Given all they must have gone through both to arrive in the nest and then to serve as part of it, most were in impressively good shape—there's that engineering again. Not only is each strand connected to a central shaft, the strands have "barbules" which cause them to link to one another, creating the flat surface needed to provide aerodynamics or warmth or waterproofing, or all of the above.

To me, every detail speaks loudly of the Chief Engineer who took the time to shape each component of each creature in a way that serves it best.

Saying goodbye to Minnesota, family

The day I've had my phone counting down to on its home screen for the past three weeks has arrived. This paper is publishing on the day I will be heading to Colorado and saying my goodbyes to Minnesota and Waseca.

It feels odd that the day which marks such a change in my life has made its appearance. I've been thinking about this for so long that it will be strange to go from, "I will be moving to Denver," to "I live in Denver."

Another big change for me will be moving in with my boyfriend. I don't have a brother, so I've never experienced what it's like to adapt to a guy's habits. (I don't think my father counts, at least not in the way I mean right now.) It will be interesting to see what it's like to share everything with only the two of us living symbiotically.

I have received some advice though. One person told me to share our Google Calendars so we can see what is on the other person's schedule. Another person said to make sure to take time for myself. Yet another said to not get bothered over the little stuff; boys are going to leave stuff out and not bother to pick



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

them up all the time.

People have had mixed reactions to me moving all the way to a different state just because my boyfriend lives there. Some are very excited and will sometimes even give me advice on where to visit, what to see or do. Others might give me a look and judge me for making such a big change for the sake of following my boyfriend. To that I always respond, "Sorry I want to be with the person I love."

But I always get the same questions: Do you have a job? (Not one that's there, thank you, Eli, for letting me work remotely.) Do you have an apartment? (Yes, about 15 minutes southeast of downtown.) How do your parents feel? (Devastated, obviously, but also incredibly supportive.) Are you excited? (Absolutely.)

I have received so much sup-

port not only from my family and friends, but people I don't personally know or have just met. Thank you to all of those people who help me realize no matter what happens, I will be fine. It's okay that I don't have any friends in Denver besides my boyfriend, I can easily make friends. It's okay that I don't have a job there in my profession, I have other ways of earning an income. It's okay to move; getting out of the great state of Minnesota isn't bad. Seeing the world, exploring what's out there, is good. It's good.

I've gotten really sentimental the past week. As I've been packing and organizing, my childhood bedroom has been changing more than it ever has. I'm trying to cement in my memory the color of the walls, the smell of all my books, the feel of my bed. I'm trying to take in what it's like to

come home to our three happy dogs and wait for the rest of my family to get home. I'm trying to appreciate the night-time family routine of watching the news, chatting about our days at dinner, and enjoying each other's company.

And I'm filling up with anticipation for the future. The unknown of which mountain I might hike on a weekend. Which new food I might try, what fascinating event or festival I could go to. The unknown of what life holds. It's exciting and nerve-racking and all-encompassing.

So I will say goodbye to my family and friends. Goodbye to the town that raised me, the community that welcomed me. I will say goodbye to my surroundings — the mini forest I lived in, the clear stars I watched at night, and the tall corn that lets me know it's time to go back to school. But I won't be going back to school this time. If you look for me, I'll be in Denver, Colorado.

My Determination: "In my fantasy, I always thought I would slap someone, make a big speech, and storm out forever...but this is good too." — Pam Beasley, The Office

Moments I know print isn't dead

Last week our anniversary edition went to print and thus, a convoy of Pioneer staff members made the long trek to Madelia's House of Print to pick up 10,000 plus newspapers. The drive was pleasant. Due to construction, I ended up taking a route to the printer which I had never taken before. Much of the drive I was familiar with, outside of the last 20 minutes of twists and turns. As a teen, one of my jobs for a period of time was newspaper route driver. It was a relaxing job, driving the back roads to Madelia, followed by the back roads to



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

Hartland, Geneva, Clarks Grove, Ellendale and Waseca.

Our newspaper driver has been out of commission, in the hospital recovering from necrotizing fasciitis. He'll be recovering for at least another three months before he's able to return home.

As a result, Ben Revermann has been delivering newspapers for the past month or so. I cannot speak highly enough of Ben's dedication to the Pioneer. He is an asset. If you see him out in public, he's often in a hurry, rushing from story to story, event to event, often with his kids along for the

ride.

While doing the newspaper route Ben brings his son Alex along with him. I was immediately brought back to my childhood when my own dad would bring me along for the newspaper route. It was so cool, even though I had to get up early to go along with my dad. One of my core memories was stopping for lunch at the former Hope restaurant after one of these routes. This little hole in the wall, but excellent, establishments felt like a prohibition era bar from the 1920s. It was there, I had fried ice cream

for the first time.

We still deliver newspapers to the Hope Minnesota gas station because I remember going there as a youth and enjoying the experience. It was the coolest little station. My dad always told me not many papers were sold there. Until one fateful afternoon when, while there, I mentioned this to the working attendant. He said, give me a minute. A young woman in her 20s came rushing to the counter and bought every remaining paper and said she was so excited to send the paper to relatives as she was featured in that week's newspaper. I can still remember seeing the excitement in her bright red smiling face. When folks ask me if newspapers are dying, memories like that, and many more, give me hope/faith that print is in fact, not dead.



Get your news in the Pioneer

- news@wasecacountypioneer.com
- Call (507) 837-6767
- Stop in person 111 West Elm Ave



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

PHONE: 507-837-6767

email: news@wasecacountypioneer.com

Address: Office at 111 Elm Avenue West

Mail: PO Box 578, Waseca MN 56093

DEADLINES: Pioneer: Noon Monday
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

ELI LUTGENS	Publisher
DEB BENTLY	News Editor
JIM LUTGENS	Sports Editor/Dad
JON LUCCA	Ad Design
BEN REVERMANN	Staff Writer
TERESA ROSACKER	Advertising Sales
JESSICA LUTGENS	Staff Writer
RACHAEL JAEGER	Staff Writer
AMELIA ROESSLER	Editorial Assistant

Contributing writers/photographers: Dave Zika, Al Batt

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$59 Per Year, Waseca County Residents
\$69 State of Minnesota • \$79 Outside Minnesota

Waseca County Pioneer (USPS permit #25304) is published weekly on Thursday, by Pioneer Publications Inc., 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca, MN, 56093. Entire contents copyright © 2025 PIONEER Publications, Inc. and respective authors. Opinions expressed in editorials or letters to the editor are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Waseca County Pioneer or PIONEER Publications, Inc. Letters may be edited for content or length. Periodicals Postage at New Richland, MN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to Waseca County Pioneer, P.O. Box 578, Waseca, MN, 56093.

Sportsmen’s club installs pollinator garden

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The New Richland Sportsmen’s Club invites people to stop by and view two updated landscape features at the organization’s grounds on the east side of Highway 13. Club members are issued keys and can open the gate; visitors can park outside the gate and walk in.

Thanks to the club’s efforts, and to \$800 in support from the New Richland Area Foundation, visitors will see 15 varieties of plants regarded as optimal for pollinators—insects which forage for nectar constantly during daylight hours, and thus allow plants to reproduce. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), there are more than 500 native species of bees in the state, and thousands of different types of insects help spread pollen. The feeding habits of hummingbirds also lead to pollination.

Without this foraging, many fruits and vegetables would not reproduce.



POLLINATORS WELCOME - Some of the funding which helped make the new pollinator garden at the New Richland Sportsmen’s Club possible came from the New Richland Area Foundation. Rocks and Roots Landscaping of Hartland prepared the site, planted the flowers and put identifying labels in place. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

The DNR and other agencies express concern since there seems to be a decline in pollinator populations, and sharp decline among certain species, some of which are now considered “endangered” or “threatened.”

Dave Wallin’s local landscaping company, Rocks and Roots, installed the edging, mulch and other features of the garden, in addition to positioning the 220 individual plants.

Planted in mid-June, “the flowers are doing really well,” observe Club committee members Dave Dunnett, Wallin, and Lee Mendenhall.

The three explain there is a significant difference between a garden filled with flowers and one selected especially to support pollinators. “They’re both beautiful to look at,” Mendenhall concedes. “But the flowers people plant for show are bred for size and color, with pretty much no attention paid to how much nectar they produce.”

The DNR website recommends the use of plant species native to

the region.

Among the plant types growing at the Sportsmen’s Club are some well-known varieties; alongside are many that are not so familiar. Visitors will see purple poppy mallows, prairie onion, prairie sedge grass, blanket flower, prairie phlox, purple prairie clover, aromatic aster, grey golden rod and hoary vernian.

Recently installed are signs identifying each type, and a mailbox holding a reference sheet that shows the layout of the flowers.

Committee members mention that, with the installation of the pollinator garden, the size of the native prairie planting which has been on the property for about 30 years has grown smaller. It will be undergoing a multiple-season regeneration process, since invasive plants had been, well, invading in recent years.

To inhibit the unwanted plants from reproducing, the native prairie area will be mowed each of the next few summers: Seeds will be distributed to replenish the desired species.

Unlocking conservation resources for communities, farms

Local farmers, landowners and community members are invited to a free event on Tuesday, August 5, from Noon-2 p.m. at Owatonna Public Utilities Building to learn about how conservation practices can benefit farms and rural communities. The event, “Unlocking Conservation Resources for Communities & Farms,” is part of a statewide summer series and hosted by Renewing the Countryside (RTC) in partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (in Minnesota).

The program includes a panel of local voices—NRCS and Soil Water Conservation District staff, and a guest farmer from the region—sharing how conservation practices can deliver practical and economic benefits. Attendees will enjoy a complimentary lunch, have a chance to win door prizes, and receive free, one-on-one support for those interested in seeking technical assistance.

This event is part of an innovative, multistate collaborative agreement between RTC and NRCS, arriving at a time when many are concerned about possible federal

cuts to agriculture and conservation programs.

“When funding goes to NRCS conservation programs, it’s not just farmers who benefit—it’s entire communities,” said Gilbert Schwartz, event organizer with Renewing the Countryside. “In Minnesota, conservation investments have returned \$1.81 for every \$1 spent and supported thousands of jobs. And on the farm, even simple practices like cover cropping can lower input costs, help feed livestock, and build healthier, more productive soils.”

The event also marks the 90th anniversary of the NRCS, which has been working hand in hand with farmers since 1935. Whether you’re a beginning farmer, long-term landowner, or curious community member, this is an opportunity to connect with local experts and neighbors working for a more resilient, rural future.

Learn more and register at renewingthecountryside.org/conservation or contact Gilbert Schwartz at gilbert@rtcinfo.org and (612) 296-9020. Space is limited—advanced registration is requested.



POWER OF A CAPE - Top, Lydia, Nathan and Kendra attended the Superhero cape workshop at the Janesville Public Library on Thursday, July 31, 2025. Bottom, Retired Janesville Elementary School Teacher, Linda Hendricks, was donating her time to help Lydia during the Superhero cape workshop. Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

Superheroes suit up at Janesville Library

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

A small, but stupendously imaginative class attended a Superhero Cape workshop in the basement of the Janesville Public Library on Thursday, July 31. Participants ages 8 to 12 all had particular super characters in mind as they arrived.

Saving the world is no easy task; a legendary character doesn’t simply appear from nowhere. It takes planning, daring, and of course, emblematic capes. There were four children bent over the tables, elbow deep in fabric, marking out edges and emblems, then cutting them using scissors. Kelly Koplen, librarian said, “The kids are supposed to register, that helps us get the right amount of material, but if they don’t, we’re not going to turn anyone away.”

Nathan, the only male attending the class, had picked Superman’s cape, “The S will be in yellow.” Next to him was a blue cape, but when he checked out a picture of Superman, he realized he had chosen the wrong color, “I’m gonna switch the cape from blue to red.” As luck had it, there was an unclaimed red cape; he was told he could flush out his superhero outfit by putting a blue t-shirt underneath when he got home. “Then I’ll look

just like Superman.” Next to him was Gabby, she was tracing a cat onto a cape; she admitted she wasn’t sure where it was going, but she was moving forward nonetheless. “I’m just thinking what drawing to do, but I want it to have a cat in it.” Next to her was Kendra, “I’m making a Love, Peace, Happiness, Kindness project, whatever superhero does that, that’s who I want to be, and that’s what I want to do.”

Linda Hendricks, a former Janesville elementary school teacher who retired in 2002, was volunteering her time. There were sewing machines set up to help the children finish their projects. Said Hendricks, “I’m not a seamstress, but I do know how to do it and probably have a better idea how to sew than these little ones do.” Her former experience as a teacher was showing in full force; none of the children had any problems, if they did Hendricks was on top of it when she addressed the group, “I know these aren’t the best scissors for cutting, but just do your best.” The capes had Velcro to attach around the necks.

There are many events lined up for August at the Janesville Library, including a jigsaw puzzle derby on August 5, and the laser-engraved wooden coasters on August 12.



SNOWTIME FUN - Some of the Community Lights committee members are, from right to left, Robin Dulas, Stacey Schroeder, Randy Zimmerman and Ashley Semmann

Downtown Waseca will shine bright this holiday season

The spirit of the holidays is arriving early in Waseca, as Discover Waseca Tourism announced the arrival of beautiful new snowflake decorations that will light up downtown this winter season.

These dazzling additions are part of a collaborative effort to enhance the holiday experience for residents and visitors alike.

The new snowflakes, designed to bring festive charm and wintry elegance to our streetscapes, will be installed throughout the downtown corridor in time for the 2025 holiday season. This project has been made possible thanks to the incredible generosity of local donors, community service clubs, a valued partnership with the Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Committee, and the dedicated efforts of the Community Lights Committee, including Randy Zimmerman, Stacey Schroeder, Robin Dulas, Briana Worke, Ashley Semmann, Jill

Sollin-Strauss, Tiffany Lynch, and Jenifer Dvorak.

“This is a wonderful example of Waseca coming together to make something beautiful happen,” said Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Discover Waseca Tourism Board. “Our downtown will be brighter than ever, and it reflects the pride and spirit of our entire community. These decorations are more than lights—they’re a symbol of unity, generosity, and tradition.”

“This was truly a team effort,” added Mayor Randy Zimmerman, Chair of the Community Lights Committee.

“The new snowflakes are going to transform downtown Waseca into a magical place during the holidays. We’re deeply grateful to the Sleigh and Cutter Committee, our local service organizations, and everyone who stepped forward to give back to their community.”

The snowflake decorations are the latest in a series of ongoing efforts to revitalize and beautify the downtown area, making it a welcoming destination during one of the most cherished times of the year. Installation of the decorations is expected to begin in late fall, just in time to light up community celebrations, shopping events, and seasonal gatherings.

To donate to the Community Lights initiative, please visit www.discoverwaseca.com, click on the “Donate” button, and choose “Community Lights.”

Stay tuned for more details on the official lighting event and holiday happenings in downtown Waseca.

Rick's Appliance
ricksappliancewaseca.com

AMANA
Speed Queen

Sales & Service
507-461-9615

MAYTAG
Whirlpool

Hours
M-F.....7:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Sat.....7:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Sunday.....Closed

Visit our new Showroom!
405 West Elm Ave, Waseca MN

Waseca Music
COMPANY

YOUR LOCAL MUSIC STORE
Band Instruments • Repairs
Guitars • CD, DVD, & Vinyl

507-835-2980
111 South State Street

Tesch Service Center
Family-Owned Automotive Repair

- wheel alignments
- brake services
- suspension repairs
- towing & more!

Call us today!

321 Elm Ave W, Waseca, MN
Call Us! (507) 835-4610
teschservice@mediacombb.net

DENNIS STEFFEL OMTVEDT
FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICE
109 3RD STREET NE, WASECA, MN 56093
WASECA • JANESVILLE • WATERVILLE

GUARDIAN ENERGY
AMERICAN MADE, FARMER OWNED
www.guardiannrg.com

ETHANOL

13 NORTH EXPRESS LUBE
NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!
WAYNE NELSON
Owner/Operator
1201 North State St.
Waseca, MN 56093

Hours:
MON - FRI
8:30 AM - 6:00 PM
SAT
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
507-833-7667

\$3 OFF
ANY SERVICE
WITH THIS COUPON

- Oil Change • Air Filter
- Cabin Air Filter • Fuel System Clean
- Serpentine Belt Replacement
- Transmission Fluid Change
- Power Steering Fluid Flush
- Check Engine Light Reset
- Antifreeze Test • Battery Test

DENNIS STEFFEL OMTVEDT
FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICE
109 3RD STREET NE, WASECA, MN 56093
WASECA • JANESVILLE • WATERVILLE



CLEANUP EFFORTS UNDERWAY -Fallen trees, downed power lines and standing water have forced the county to close Courthouse Park to visitors until the grounds are safe.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Courthouse Park open after cleanup

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Courthouse Park, the largest and busiest county-owned recreational area, reopened on Monday, Aug. 4 after being closed since the morning of July 28.

Waseca County Land and Water director Chris Howard reported during the Aug. 5 county board meeting that large equipment made available by the county allowed crews to complete the removal of trees and mitigation of damage much more quickly than would otherwise have been the case.

County facilities director Brian Tomford estimates 65 or more trees were downed overnight on Thursday, July 27, in the 536-acre park. Three trees fell on one of the cabins, damaging it beyond repair; power poles were broken, leaving the location without power for four days. Downed lines kept workers from accessing the

park for a time.

Tomford mentions a couple had rented a cabin in the park the night of July 27; the two were safe, but a tree had fallen nearby.

Once issues with downed power lines were resolved, crews of up to seven county staff members began working to clear trees which had fallen into open areas, across trails, and in the fairways of the park's popular disc golf course. An additional challenge were trees which had not fallen completely down, but were broken or uprooted and leaning against other trees. Tomford referred to them lightheartedly as "widow-makers," since there is no predicting when they might fall: he explained those require extra time and care as workers remove them.

"We were just finishing up after the last storm," commented Tomford ruefully. "And now this."

“The Tattooed Baker”

The cake master extraordinaire hit the Waseca Farmers Market

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Beginning two weeks ago, “The Tattooed Baker” has been a new stand at the Waseca farmers market on Saturday morning at the fairgrounds. Armed with her new license to sell baked goods, she and her husband had their stand open for business. The temp was in the lower 70s, giving the market vendors a much-needed break from the relentless heat which has hit Waseca these past few weeks.

Amanda, 41, and Andy Riehm, 44, are Waseca locals, he’s been here 29 years, she’s been here for 18.

“Cake pops” she said, “I will always have cake pops whenever I am open, but the rest of my selection will be a rotating menu.” She has four separate cake pop flavors. Six different truffle flavors, (think cake pop without the stick), 40 different cake flavors, 10 cookies to choose from and of course pies come autumn. “But the pies will wait till fall, to keep them in season. I have also been trying bagels, specifically protein bagels, I have



BAKED GOODS - Amanda Riehm and her husband Andy make up "The Tattooed Baker," a new stand at the Waseca Farmers Market, selling baked goods on Saturday, August 2, 2025.

two different flavors there, both are blueberry related.”

Her husband Andy was tending to customers, a group of little girls was questioning him about the Oreo cake flavor. Little girl, “Are there real Oreos in your cakes?” His reply, “Yes, there are crushed Oreos in our cakes, it’s in the batter.” His prowess as a salesman was showing because he sold one. Said Amanda, “My husband? We go almost everywhere together. We’re both retired from the Federal Correctional Institute in town here. He’s what brought me to Waseca.”

Not only that, but they live on Seventh Avenue northeast, so the farmers market isn’t far from their house.

They have two adult offspring and two still in the Waseca school district. When asked where her love for baking came from, Amanda replied, “My whole life I grew up being taught to bake, like cakes and cookies. I’m always the desert lady. Whenever there is a potluck, that’s what the request is for me, to bring a baked good.” This week she was working on selling her cakes, next week at the

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

farmers market she says she will be changing her menu to cookies, “But the cake pops will be here every time no matter what, they’re my number one.” She has also been selling in Blooming Prairie every Wednesday. Said Amanda, “I also want to eventually start selling at the Janesville Farmers Market but that might be a while. I will also be in Mankato every Thursday.” The name of her stand is “The Tattooed Baker,” a name that fits since, when asked how many tattoos she has, her answer was “So many I’ve lost count.”

Janesville State Bank

Three generations and counting

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

One of the oldest businesses in Janesville is the Janesville State Bank. In business since 1878, it’s been sold and moved more than once, but has outlasted two other banks and countless other local businesses in that time. The current owner is local Joe Finley, who is in his 90s and plans one day to pass the bank to his son Mike Finley who is the current president. Who will one day pass on the bank to his son, Sean Finley, who is currently the CFO/Assistant Vice President. Three generations and counting.

Sean is also a local with plenty of experience in the banking world after working at Eide Bailey, an accounting firm out of Mankato, for ten years. Said Sean, “I have two kids in Janesville school, this is a multiple-generation, family-owned bank. We have 10 full-time people, and



FAMILY TRADITION - Sean P. Finley, CFO and assistant vice president of Janesville State Bank is part of this family owned business, one of the oldest in town.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

up to five part-timers working here. Our mission is to serve Janesville and the surrounding communities.” He pointed around him and said, “We’re all local people working here, that’s what we support and that’s what we’re proud of.”

The Janesville State Bank is big on helping out with agriculture, mobile banking, debit cards and home loans. More information is available at www.janesvillestatebank.com.

■ Suek

from Page 1

acquired over time by Continental Airlines, after which Continental and United Airlines merged, creating the company from which Peter is retiring.

Though he wishes his work could continue, Peter has come up against another FAA rule; this one requires all pilots to retire when they reach the age of 65.

Teresa offers that she has been contacting government officials all the way up to the level of the White

House protesting that an age-based retirement is inappropriate, and in Peter’s case, an obvious mistake.

“Why would they ground someone who’s so good at what he does?” she asks.

The approach of the mandatory deadline has been a significant influence for the couple for roughly two decades. As accustomed as they are to travel, and having the advantage of “space available” seats on flights for the rest of their lives, the couple recognized long ago they had nearly endless options when it came to their selection of where they wanted to be after retiring.

Thinking of the advantages and disadvantages of all the settings they were acquainted with, it was Peter’s

childhood connection to the Waldorf area which turned their eyes toward Waseca County.

“I would spend part of the summer at Grandma and Grandpa’s place every year,” Peter mentioned, speaking of Innocence and Rita (Mathews) Suek. “I had really strong memories of the peaceful setting and the close-knit community. It was the center of everything when I was growing up.” The couple began communicating with area realtor Bill Hinz, bided their time, and in 2002 bought the seven-acre, wooded plot which was once the homeplace of a local farm. Still standing on the property were a small house and granary.

Over time they have also constructed a workshop and done renovations

on the pre-existing buildings; the granary has a painted sign inside indicating it was built in 1895.

They built their current home and moved in in 2008. Both are still pleased with their selection. “It’s quiet here,” observes Peter. “And we know our neighbors.”

“Quiet” was a priority for both of them, knowing their childhood neighborhood in the Cities is constantly inundated with traffic noise from nearby highways.

Peter’s retirement was official at the end of July. Teresa explains it is an airline tradition that, when pilots retire, one flight during their final month is designated as a celebration of their career. Family members are invited to join the flight and are allowed to tour the plane, including a stop in the flight deck for a few minutes.

Peter’s grandson Henrik, 10, was able to sit in the pilot’s chair for a few moments and even press a couple of carefully selected buttons.

The flight took the family from San Francisco to Washington, D.C. Family members were seated in luxury class. An announcement was made during the flight that Captain Peter Suek was taking his retirement flight. After landing, Teresa joined Peter at the exit speaking with passengers as they deplaned. In D.C., the family enjoyed the Independence Day fireworks at the nation’s capital, and joked among themselves they were in honor of Peter’s career.

“It was a truly special event,” comments Teresa. “We were grateful for the chance to be together and celebrate that way.”

Get your news in the Pioneer

- news@wasecacountypioneer.com
- Call (507) 837-6767
- Stop in person 111 West Elm Ave

Meet your Dedicated Lending Team



Jon
President



David
Ag and
Commercial Lender

Helping You Cultivate the Future

Lines of Credit ♦ Equipment
Loans ♦ Farmer Mac

mybankfm.com
220 Elm Ave. E
Waseca, MN 56093
507-571-3130

Member FDIC



Experience the Advantage®



Complete Septic Service and Installation • Excavation
Residential and Commercial Site Preparation and Utilities
Locally Owned and Operated since 1978



2025 STEELE COUNTY FREE FAIR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TUESDAY

- 9:00 a.m. 4-H Horse Show (Horse Arena)
- 12:00 p.m. 4-H Poultry, Pigeon, & Dove Show Judging (Rabbit/Poultry Barn)
- 1:00 p.m. Equine Hall of Fame (Cattle Show Arena)
- 1:00 p.m. Midway Ticket Office Opens/ Mega Ride Ticket Redemption Begins
- 2:30 p.m. Farm Family of The Year / Livestock Hall of Fame Induction (Cattle Show Arena)
- 3:30 p.m. Grandstand Opens
- 5:00 p.m. Flag Raising Ceremony (Wenger Stage)
- 5:00 p.m. Official Opening of Fair
- 5:00 p.m. All - Star Stunt Dogs (North End)
- 5:00 p.m. FFA Alumni Antique Tractor Pull - FREE (Grandstand)
- 5:00 – 11:00 p.m. Rides Open @ 5:00 p.m. Power 96 Ride Night on Midway (All rides 2 tickets each)
- 5:30 p.m. Robinson Wood Carving (Alexander Corner)
- 6:00 p.m. Owatonna Community Band (Wenger Stage)
- 6:00 p.m. 4-H Sheep Show (Foundation Building)
- 6:00 p.m. Pig Races (North End)
- 6:00 p.m. SW Dairy Farmers Mobile Classroom (Leisure Lane)
- 6:00 p.m. Todd Utpadel (Village of Yesteryear Stage)
- 6:00 p.m. High Flying Pages (North End)
- 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. Hans Hohrman – accordion (Four Seasons Centre)
- 7:00 p.m. Cowboy Circus (Federated Pavilion)
- 7:30 p.m. Pig Races (North End)
- 7:30 p.m. Matt Herzog Band (Wenger Stage)
- 7:30 p.m. Jurassic Kingdom (North End)
- 8:00 p.m. Lew E's Comedy Circus (North End)
- 8:00 p.m. SW Dairy Farmers Mobile Classroom (Leisure Lane)
- 8:30 p.m. Smokescreen (Beer Garden, 21+)

*SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
*Wenger Stage = Wenger Fair Square Stage
*First Aid & Family Quiet Zone are available in the Community Center on the North end of the grounds.
*Smoking in designated areas only on the Steele County Free Fair grounds. Vaping & cannabis use are prohibited on the grounds.
*ATM machines are available throughout the grounds.
*For your safety, pets, bikes, scooters, and skateboards are not allowed on the grounds.

AUGUST 12, 2025



OTHER EVENTS TODAY

- * Check out the activities and attractions in the Great Outdoors Center.
- * Visit Gandy's Old Iron Show located outside the Village of Yesteryear.
- * Camel and pony rides next to the Thorni Ridge Exotics Petting Zoo.
- * View the 4-H exhibits in the 4-H Building.
- *Visit the Master Gardener's Learning Gardens North of the Steele Saloon.
- *Enjoy the display of Chryslers in the House Auto Group Auto Museum.

Today's Building & Location Hours

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| Food Vendors: | 11:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m |
| Four Seasons Centre: | Noon – 9:00 p.m. |
| Great Outdoors Center: | Noon – 9:00 p.m. |
| Muckle Fair Museum: | Noon – 9:00 p.m. |
| Outdoor Vendors: | 3:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. |
| Bingo Tent: | 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. |
| Village of Yesteryear: | 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. |
| Exhibit Buildings: | 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. |
| FFA Barnyard: | 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. |
| House Auto Group Auto Museum – featuring Chryslers: | 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. |
| Ye Old Beer Garden | Noon – 12:30 a.m. |
| Midway: | 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. |
| Steele Saloon: | 2:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. |
| HomeTown Mobility: | Open at 10:30 a.m. |

WEDNESDAY

AUGUST 13, 2025

- 7:30 a.m. 4-H Swine Show (Swine Show Arena)
- 9:00 a.m. 4-H Horse Fun Show (Horse Arena)
- 10:00 a.m. SW Dairy Farmers Mobile Classroom (Leisure Lane)
- 11:30 a.m. Robinson Wood Carving (Alexander Corner)
- 11:30 a.m. Orchid Jane (Wenger Stage)
- 11:45 a.m. Midway Ticket Office Opens
- 12:00 p.m. "Squeals on Wheels" Pig Races (North End)
- 12:00 p.m. Midway Opens – Rides Start
- 12:00 p.m. - 5 p.m. Horizon Eye Care Midway Kid's Day Ride Special - \$25 wristband
- 12:00 p.m. I-35 Junior Dairy Club Show (Cattle Show Arena)
- 12:00 p.m. All - Star Stunt Dog Show (North End)
- 12:00 p.m. Senior Moments (Village of Yesteryear Stage)
- 12:30 p.m. Lew-E's Comedy Circus (North End)
- 1:00 p.m. Mayo Clinic Peregrine Falcon (Great Outdoors Center)
- 1:30 p.m. Cowboy Circus (Federated Pavilion)
- 1:30 p.m. Matt Yetter (Wenger Stage)
- 2:00 p.m. Jurassic Kingdom (North End)
- 2:00 p.m. Open Class Sheep Show (Foundation Building)
- 2:00 p.m. "Squeals on Wheels" Pig Races (North End)
- 2:30 p.m. Robinson Wood Carving (Alexander Corner)
- 3:00 p.m. "Best of the Fair" Food Competition (Wenger Stage)
- 3:00 p.m. Mayo Clinic Peregrine Falcon (Great Outdoors Center)
- 3:00 p.m. All - Star Stunt Dog Show (North End)
- 3:00 p.m. Alan O'Malley-Laursen (Village Stage)
- 3:30 p.m. Lew-E's Comedy Circus (North End)
- 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. Hans Hohrman – accordion (Four Seasons Centre)
- 4:00 p.m. SW Dairy Farmers Mobile Classroom (Leisure Lane)
- 4:00 p.m. High Flying Pages (North End)
- 4:30 p.m. Grandstand Ticket Booth Opens
- 4:30 p.m. Cowboy Circus (Federated Pavilion)
- 4:30 p.m. Scott Rogness (Wenger Stage)
- 5:00 p.m. "Squeals on Wheels" Pig Races (North End)
- 5:00 p.m. Jurassic Kingdom (North End)
- 5:00 p.m. Mayo Clinic Peregrine Falcon (Great Outdoors Center)
- 5:30 p.m. Robinson Wood Carver (Alexander Corner)
- 5:30 p.m. Open Class Light Horse Show (Radel Pavilion)
- 5:30 p.m. 4-H Beef Show (Cattle Arena)
- 6:00 p.m. Grandstand Doors Open
- 6:00 p.m. "Squeals on Wheels" Pig Races (North End)
- 6:00 p.m. SW Dairy Farmers Mobile Classroom (Leisure Lane)
- 6:00 p.m. Curt Copeland (Village Stage)
- 6:00 p.m. All - Star Stunt Dog Show (North End)
- 6:30 p.m. Lew-E's Comedy Circus (North End)
- 7:00 p.m. "Squeals on Wheels" Pig Races (North End)
- 7:00 p.m. Big Daddy Weave w/special guest Cochren & Co. (Grandstand)
- 7:00 p.m. High Flying Pages (North End)
- 7:00 p.m. Six to Midnight (Wenger Stage)
- 7:30 p.m. Cowboy Circus (Federated Pavilion)
- 8:00 p.m. Jurassic Kingdom (North End)
- 8:30 p.m. Arch Allies (Beer Garden, 21+)

*SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
*Wenger Stage = Wenger Fair Square Stage
*First Aid & Family Quiet Zone are available in the Community Center on the N end of the grounds.
*Smoking in designated areas only on the Steele County Free Fair grounds. Vaping & cannabis use are prohibited on the grounds.
*ATM machines are available throughout the grounds.
*For your safety, pets, bikes, scooters, and skateboards are not allowed on the grounds.



OTHER EVENTS TODAY

- * See who will be crowned the winner of the 2nd Annual "Best of the Fair" Food Competition ~ 3:00 PM on the Wenger Stage.
- * Check out the activities and attractions in the Great Outdoors Center.
- * See Gandy's Old Iron Show located outside the Village of Yesteryear.
- * Camel and pony rides next to the Thorni Ridge Exotics Petting Zoo.
- * Safety Zone display North End on Elm Street.
- * Take a walk through the livestock barns... rabbits, cows, pigs and more!

Today's Building Hours

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| FFA Barnyard: | 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. |
| Four Seasons Centre: | 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. |
| Great Outdoors Center: | 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. |
| Muckle Fair Museum: | 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. |
| Information Stations: | 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. |
| Exhibit Buildings: | 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. |
| Village of Yesteryear: | 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. |
| Bingo Tent: | 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. |
| Outdoor Vendors: | 11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. |
| House Auto Group Auto Museum – featuring Chryslers | 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. |
| Food Vendors: | 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. |
| Midway: | 12:00 noon – 11:00 p.m. |
| Steele Saloon: | 2:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. |
| HomeTown Mobility: | Open at 10:30 a.m. |

KRAUSE FEEDS & SUPPLIES
9352 SW 37th Ave,
Hope, MN, 56046
(507) 451-3043
kfshope@outlook.com

GUARDIAN ENERGY
AMERICAN MADE FARMER OWNED
www.guardiannrg.com

DAVE'S Body Shop
Waseca, Minnesota
715 S State St,
Waseca, MN
(507) 835-8615
Hours:
Sat-Sun Closed
M-F 8 AM-5 PM
Ali and Willy Malecha are excited to continue to bring you the excellent service you have come to expect at Dave's Body Shop!
Serving Waseca and the surrounding areas for more than 30 years!

JAY'S AUTO SERVICE INC
JAY LONGENEKER
507-380-6359
jaysautoserviceinc@gmail.com
228 3rd Ave N, Waldorf, MN 56091

GEORGE'S CARS.COM INC
(507) 267-3962
1381 State St. S Waseca, MN
M-F.....8 AM - 5 PM
Sat-Sun Closed

MINNWEST BANK®
WASECA
Commercial, agricultural and personal banking
200 2nd Street NE PH: (507) 835-4220
Waseca, MN 56093 FX: (507) 835-7751
LOBBY HOURS
Mon-Fri: 8:30 a.m. - 4:00p.m.
Saturday: Closed
Member FDIC

Tesch Service
321 Elm Ave W, Waseca, MN
Call Us! (507) 835-4610
teschservice@mediacommbb.net

iWealth
Your Dreams Become Our Goals
Planning • Investments • Insurance
(507) 835-9111
info@iWealth4me.com
213 15th Ave NE
Waseca, MN 56093
Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advice offered through iWealth Financial, LLC, a Registered Investment Advisor. iWealth Financial, LLC and iWealth are separate entities from LPL Financial.



The Pastor's Column

The rules of faith, improv

By REV. MIKE COGLAN
Ten years ago, I attended Second City Theater in Chicago for a class in improvisational acting, or improv as it is commonly called. Improv is live theater without a script. The actors make up a story spontaneously. Because no one knows what the others will contribute to the story, the results are a surprise to the cast as well as the audience.

I expected to benefit my communication skills, but I came away with much more. I found a profound way to view my role both as a leader of a church and a follower of God. Christians often speak of a “wonderful plan” that God has for each of our lives. I certainly believe God has hopes and expectations, but I don’t think there is usually one specific script for a life. God has granted us great freedom within moral limits. While God wants to spare us the grief of destructive choices, I think God wants us to make some choices on our own. He wants us to tell a good story with our life, much the way a healthy parent hopes of growing children. In short, life is improvised even for Christians.

Improv, like faith, has rules that give structure, meaning and beauty. Four basic rules of improv are these: listen, cooperate, contribute and have fun. To begin with, the players have to listen closely to their partners and to the audience. They have to pay attention to make sure that they are on the same page and telling the same story.

Listening is a Christian discipline. We all need to listen to God, and we need to listen to each other. “To answer before listening—that is folly and shame,” says Proverbs 18:13. Real listening is rare today. Most people only listen to get enough information to pursue their own agenda. We have all spoken to a salesperson who only wanted to sell us something. We all also know that one person who only listens enough so he can explain why we are wrong. Honestly, I’m guilty of this same behavior more often than I like to think.

A good definition of listening is given by an improv instructor named Dave Morris: “Listening is the willingness to change.” There is no improv theater unless the actors are willing to change. In our improv class there were people who were fun to work with, and there were people who were not so much. If someone decides in advance what they want or don’t want in a sketch, then the story won’t happen. When only one person tells the story, there is no col-

laboration. Collaboration only happens if the collaborators are willing to change.

True listening means being at least vulnerable to new information that might change my life in some way, large or small. This doesn’t mean I have to change or give up my discernment. But if a group is going to develop in any type of endeavor, there has to be trust that what each member says is going to matter. This goes for a theater group, or a church or a business or a family. We earn trust only to the extent that we are open to what other people say. Listening means being willing to change.

The second rule is to cooperate. Improvisers often use the phrase, “Say Yes.” In other words, affirm what your partner says. Obviously, this is important in our relationship with God. In prayer, I need to say ‘yes’ to God. But I also need to say ‘yes’ to others within reasonable and moral limits. Ephesians 5:21 says, “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” Submitting to one another simply means to put others’ needs ahead of our own. When someone asks me to meet a legitimate healthy need, I should say ‘yes,’ if I can. I need to be inclined to say ‘yes’ to others.

The next rule is to contribute. We not only say ‘yes,’ but ‘yes, and...’ Improv is at its best when everybody unselfconsciously adds to the story. Everybody is included. This is true in every group, especially in a church. This is why it says in 1 Corinthians 12:27, “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” Everybody has a function. Everybody has a contribution to make. And everyone has free will to make the contribution or not.

The final rule is to have fun. Human beings are born playful, but as we mature, we often lose this capacity. This is sad because having a sense of humor about life is essential to our health. If you look out at nature even in your own backyard, you see God’s creatures playing. Jesus himself had fun. He was falsely accused of having too much fun, of attending the wrong dinner parties and drinking too much. He made jokes and he had nicknames for his disciples.

I believe that God has given us our freedom with the hope that we will listen to Him, cooperate with Him, and then contribute our own decisions. He wants us to listen, and say ‘yes,’ but also to say ‘and.’ Remember; God is a loving Father, not a controlling tyrant. And He is a lot of fun.

Achievement of Rank



LEVEL UP - Alexis Olson of New Richland recently achieved ranking as a High Blue Belt in taekwondo. Pictured with Alexis is her instructor, Mr Jason Freizen from NTI Waseca.

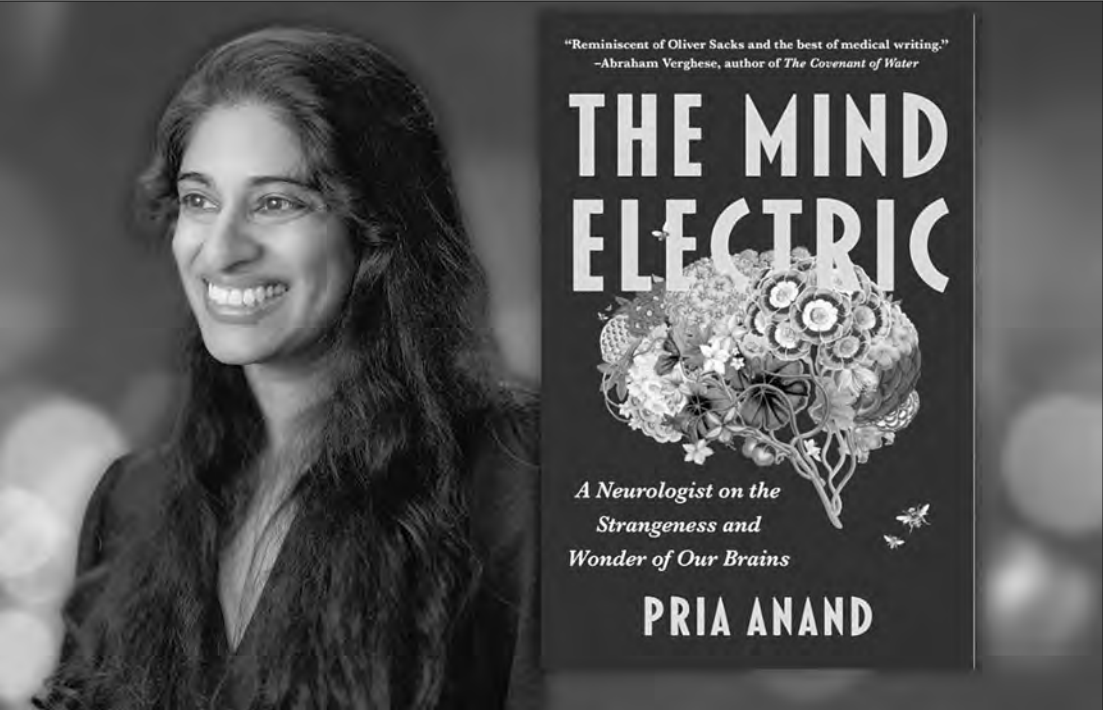
Online library presentation looks at “The Mind Electric”

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Author Dr. Pria Anand recently appeared virtually, courtesy of the Waseca Le Sueur Library System on Thursday, July 31, to talk about her book, “The Mind Electric: A Neurologist on the Strangeness and Wonders of Our Brains.” Anand is a neurologist at the Boston Medical Center and an assistant professor at the Boston University School of Medicine. The online interview was conducted by Brandon Adler, who is a lawyer and librarian by training, as well as an adjunct professor at the University of New Orleans. The conversation was live, allowing Anand to take questions from anyone who signed up in advance.

An online description: “In The Mind Electric,” neurologist Pria Anand reveals—through case study, history, fable, and memoir—all that the medical establishment has overlooked: the complexity and wonder of brains in health and in extremis, and the vast gray area between sanity and insanity, doctor and patient, and illness and wellness, each separated from the next by the thin veneer of a different story.” In her training to become a doctor according to her website: her work experience meant moving from the Boston hospital where she treats her patients, to her childhood years in India, to Isla Providencia in the Caribbean and to the Republic of Guinea in West Africa, she demonstrates again and again the compelling paradox at the heart of neurology: that even the most peculiar symptoms can show us something universal about ourselves as humans.

Elizabeth from Waseca County asked, “Can



WONDER OF OUR BRAIN - Author Dr. Pria Anand virtually presented her book, “The Mind Electric: A Neurologist on the Strangeness and Wonder of Our Brains” courtesy of the Waseca Le Sueur Library System on Thursday, July 31.

you mention something about infrequent audio hallucinations and how they present as a precursor to a seizure.”

Anand replied, “There are many different things that can cause phantom sounds. One of the strangest manifestations of a seizure happens when there is abnormal electrical activity in the brain. One of the parts of the brain most susceptible to seizures is the temporal lobe where the audio cortex is. Sometimes people will hear certain voices or certain chords of a song. They go to a doctor, and they say, “I’m hearing these three cords.” And the doctor will reply, “Okay, what do you want me to do about it?” It’s not something that people can outwardly manifest, that people can look at and know it’s a seizure.”

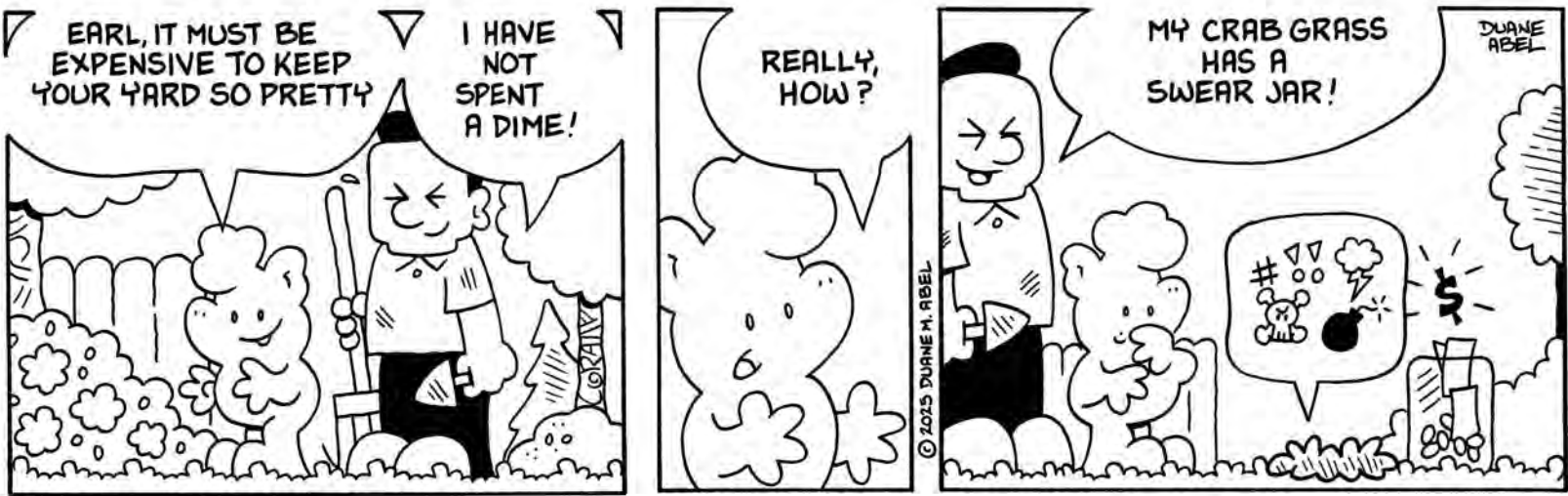
Brandon Adler asked, “How does neuroscience explain DeJa’Vu?”

Anand responded, “One theory is our memories are formed in our hippocampus, we have two, which are named after the Greek word for

seahorses because they curl like seahorses, and we have one on each side. One hypothesis is memories are formed in these two structures but it’s possible we access one memory just before it’s activated in the other, or a particular sensation will activate in one before the other. Somewhere below in our unconscious, that dissonance between one half before the other, this gives us the sensation that we’ve done that before, or seen that before or heard that before, giving a person this false sense of familiarity. Either that or it’s magical: That’s one other hypothesis.”

This event was made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant provided by the Traverse des Sioux Library Cooperative, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. The event was held in coordination with Library Speakers Consortium and presented by Waseca-Le Sueur Library Systems.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * *	507-607-8245 Sunday worship 10 a.m. * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd’s Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * *	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 * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * *	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * *	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. * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter) * * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * *	ST. JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: lcwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * *	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 * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1 * * *	NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday “Young at heart” Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	THE CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18 * * *	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca Father Glenn Ferichs 507-835-1222 Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m. * * *			
REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca * * *			

Janesville

1925

- Fire at the Anton Schramsky farm about a mile and a half west of Janesville Monday noon completely destroyed seven buildings and caused a heavy loss in personal property. The blaze was discovered by Mrs. Cullen about 12:30 and she immediately turned in an alarm over the telephone. Help from the neighboring farms and a chemical truck from town were soon on the scene. A bucket brigade working frantically managed to save the house which at several times had taken fire. The big barn, granary, chicken house, corn crib, garage, and two sheds were burned to the ground. These buildings were in a cluster not a hundred feet from the residence, and, with the wind driving the flames directly on the dwelling, it was only by heroic and efficient work that the house was saved.

- Quick thinking upon the part of Harold Ryan saved him from being held up last Thursday night when he and Mrs. Ryan and little daughter Rosemary were driving along the road from Rochester to Blooming Prairie. Coming over the top of a hill Ryan saw a small truck with three men in it start off on the downgrade ahead of them. As the truck reached a narrow part in the road it slowed down and two men hopped out and one of them started laying fence rails across the road. The other tried to “wave down” Ryan. Blessed with woman’s intuition, Mrs. Ryan warned her husband that it looked like a hold-up. Ryan was clipping it along at a good speed anyhow, but at his wife’s remarks he “stepped on her,” picked the side of the road where the fence rails lay, hit them, bounced about four feet in the air and kept on going.

1950

- The power laden Janesville Red Sox, riding on the crest of an eight game winning streak, took an easy victory from the St. Clair Saints by an 11-3 score at St. Clair Sunday afternoon. The game was moved to St. Clair because Northside Park was unplayable as a result of heavy rains Saturday evening. Leading the Sox ninth hit attack off Winkelman and Loeffler was pitcher Len Guse who got four safeties in five tries and hit a long home run in the fifth inning with the sacks loaded to drive in five counters.

- During the past week six farm accidents were reported by 4-H club members. Robert Vogelsang of Byron township fell from a ladder and broke his right arm. Charles Cummins, Iosco township, had the misfortune of having a horse fall on him while he was riding it. Robert Olson, Otisco Township, had the misfortune to step on a rusty nail. John Saufferer, Blooming Grove township, was running and fell on a nail, the nail entering his knee. Wilbert Remund, of Blooming Grove township, accidentally gashed his knee cap while cutting thistles in his grain fields. Gene Rosenthal, Iosco township, fractured his leg when he stepped through a hole in their truck floor.

- Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Dimmel of near Janesville had their infant son, Steven Alan, born on Thursday, July 6, christened at Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville by Rev. A. T. Koehler on Sunday morning, July 23. The baby’s sponsors were Wilmar Dimmel of Waseca and Mrs. Arthur Kopischke of near Janesville and Marlin Haugen of Minneapolis, witness.

1975

- After three special meetings, considerable haggling, a few lost tempers, and several misunderstandings, stockholders of the Janesville Creamery Association finally agreed Thursday night to go into the gas business. By a simple majority vote of 55 yes, 35 no, and one ballot spoiled, stockholders approved the purchase of Ery’s Phillips 66 Station for a price of \$60,000. If the 90 stockholders had chosen to overrule a contract already signed by their board of directors, the association probably would have been involved in a lawsuit over breach of contract.

- Mrs. M. G. Gardner, Janesville, was presented a Certificate of Appreciation from the Selected Service System by Tom Kennedy from the state headquarters Monday. Kennedy made the presentation on behalf of President Gerald Ford. Mrs. Gardner was cited for having served as an uncompensated Selective Service Registrar for Waseca County Local Board No. 125 for 25 years.

- Social Security recipients won’t have to worry about bad weather or illness keeping them from cashing their checks because of a new program being introduced by Janesville State Bank. The program is called Direct Deposit of Social Security Payments. It is being offered at no charge to senior citizens. Direct Deposit will automatically deposit a Social Security check into a checking or savings account. It eliminates waiting in line and any worry about having the check lost, or stolen, before you can deposit it.

2000

- Darrell Schubbe of Pemberton, MN, came home from Korea in January, 1953, after serving two years in the Korean War. He just recently received a medal for his service. The medal is from the Korean War Veterans Reunion of Pennsylvania, a group started four years ago by the state commander, Charlie Cooper. All Korean War veterans who served between June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953, are eligible to receive this medal. There is a \$15 charge if you are a member of the Korean War Veterans Reunion, and a \$20 charge for nonmembers. This charge covers the cost of shipping and handling. For Schubbe, who is still able to wear his Korean War uniform, the medal is a special recognition for a time in his life he still thinks about often. He remembers the good and the bad of this “forgotten war,” and enjoys reminiscing.

- **Darrell Schubbe proudly displaying a medal he received for his service in the Korean War in 2000.**

- Indy Hancock, daughter of Larry Hancock of Mankato and Laurel Youngerberg of Janesville, entered the air force delayed enlistment program and is schedule to enter active duty on Tuesday, Aug. 8. A 1997 graduate of St. Clair High School, Hancock is scheduled to attend basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

- Despite being the youngest team in District 6 competition, the Janesville team succeeded expectations and finished second only to Mankato’s veteran team. Competition involved four separate golf events. Janesville’s team consisted of Jon Conlon, Brian Finley, Sean Finley, Evan Holmes, Levi Mulcahey, Sean Mulcahey, and Travis Priem.



Waseca

25 years ago

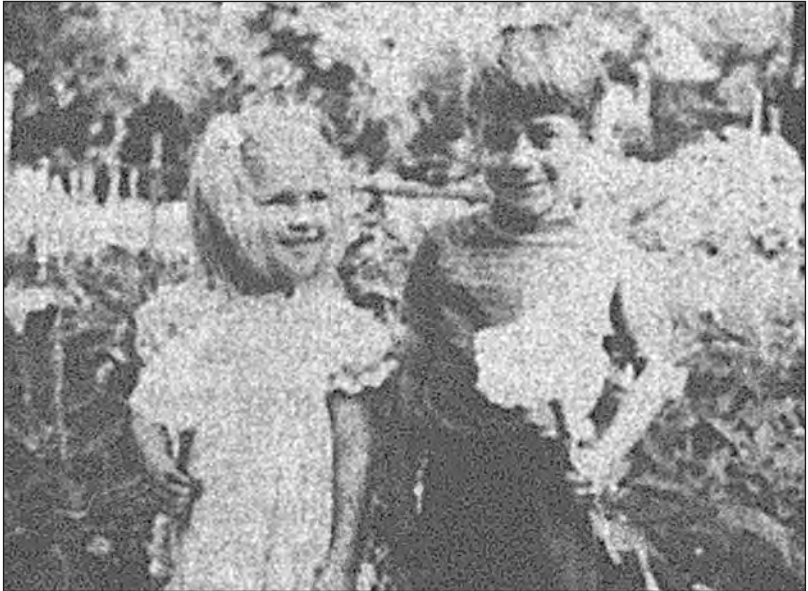
- Nicole Bakken and Dan Kuhns engagement: Steve and Helen Bakken of Hartland and Eugene and Lonnie Kuhns of Waseca. Nicole is currently employed by Dr. Tim Flor. Dan is currently employed by Farmers State Bank of Hartland. An Aug. 12, 2000 wedding is planned.

- Births- Kaylee Claire Nielsen: Laura Sack and Robert Nielsen are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Kaylee Claire, born July 20, 2000, at the Waseca Medical Center. She weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces. Kaylee was welcomed home by Sara, age 14, Andrew age 10, Nicolas, age 8, Krystal, age 10 and Joshua, age 9. Maternal grandparents are Robert and Sandy Sack of Janesville. Paternal grandparents are Pauline and Robert Nielsen of Albert Lea. Great-Grandparents are Mrs. Rannow of Henderson, Mrs. Erickson of Brooklyn Center, Mr. Quam of Albert Lea and Mr. Nielsen of Albert Lea.

- Tuesday, July 18- At 3:43 a.m. a vehicle driven by Clayton Eytcheson, 33 of Wells was traveling on 80th Street near 320th Avenue when a deer entered the roadway causing a collision. He was not injured in the accident. At 5:24 a.m. a vehicle driven by Leo Earl Ripka, 59, of Medford was traveling on Waseca County Road 7 when a deer entered the roadway causing a collision. He was not injured in the accident

50 years ago

- Daylight Savings Time saved more than time: Washington (AP) - Transportation Secretary William T. Coleman says the experimental eight-month Daylight Saving Time period may have been modestly helpful in cutting energy use, traffic deaths and violent crime. He suggested it be extended through 1977.



- **Posing for a picture, while mosquitos attack you from all directions, is a difficult job — even for adults. When two youngsters accomplished the feat, they received extra praise from our roving reporter who asked them to pose with some angel trumpets growing in a neighbor’s vegetable garden. The petite, smiling beauty is 3-year-old Amy and her grinning, “big” brother Mark, who will celebrate his 6th birthday in October. Parents are Connie and Jim Christiansen, who live at 920 Elm Ave. E., in Waseca.**

- Bloomfield Hills, Michigan (AP) - Police searched today for former Teamsters union President Jimmy Hoffa, who hasn’t been seen since Wednesday when his car was abandoned in a parking lot. Police said early today that they have no clues as to the whereabouts of the 62-year-old Hoffa, whose career has been dotted with incidents of violence.

- ‘Go-slow approach’ advised on smoking law: The acting head of the Minnesota Health Department says he’s taking a go-slow approach to the new “Clean Indoor Air Act” that took effect today. The law says in essence, that it’s illegal to smoke in any “public place” unless an area is specifically designated for smokers.



- **James Praxy of 527 Ninth Ave. S. E. proudly displays his four largemouth bass and on northern pike caught in one of the area’s lakes yesterday. The bass weighed from three to five pounds each.**

75 years ago

- The Waseca draft board was notified Saturday by telegram that the call for August is to be tripled. Instead of only seven men leaving for pre-induction physical there will be 21. Fourteen of the men will leave August 9 by chartered bus and will return the same day. The seven that were scheduled to go August 10 will leave as planned before.

- Mr. and Mrs. Swen Moe were here Friday. They recently returned from Norway where they resided for 11 months. Swen, who is a native of Norway, says that money is plentiful in the country, but goods remain very scarce. He found the Norwegian people much worried about the spread of communism. Swen retired from the C. & N. W. railway shortly before he went to Norway.

- Waseca Hires Pitcher for Stretch Drive: Word has just been received as we go to press that Waseca has hired a new pitcher. He will be here tonight to pitch against Mankato. Robert Snider, 19, is the new addition. He pitched in northern Iowa for the past four years and reports are that they are very high on him down there.

100 years ago

- Man Stoops to Drink, Pals Lift Wallet and \$127: While topping over to take a drink from the public fountain on the corner of Second and Wood streets a pocketbook containing \$127.07 was slipped from the back pocket fo Roy Merkle by two companions who made good their escape by running west on Wood street and then circling south.

New Richland

25 years back



- **Darrell Scubbe of Pemberton admires the Korean War Service Medal he received recently. The medals, which were authorized by Syngman Rhee, president of the Republic in the 1950s, are just now being distributed through the efforts of the Korean War Veterans Reunion of Pennsylvania to any person who served in Korea from June 1950 through July 1953. Schubbe wears three medals in his uniform that he received from Korean soldiers at the dedication of the Korean War Memorial at Washington, D.C. in 1995. Two are pinned to the right pocket of his uniform and one on the left.**

- A son was born on Monday, July 24, 2000, to Tom and Jodi Ferris of Mankato. He weighed 7 lbs 5.6 oz., was 20 ½ inches long and has been named Christain Joseph. He joins one brother, Carter Thomas, 4 ½ years old. Grandparents are David and Arlene Purdy of New Richland and Shirlee Ferris of Mankato and the late Harold (“cub”) Ferris. Great - grandparents are Adeline H. Nelson of New Richland and Irma Purdy of Mankato.

- The 2000 Steele County Free Fair in Owatonna will open on August 15 with a special ribbon cutting ceremony on the front entrance deck of the new Four Seasons Centre. County, City, school, fair and private fund raising officials are expected to be a part of the event starting at 5:00 pm. Over 100 booths will be in the new facility. There will even be exhibitors in the upper level between the two buildings. There will be short comments from dignitaries on hand and balloons will be launched to mark the opening of the building. All fairgoers are invited to attend this ceremony. Dates of the 2000 Steele County Free Fair are August 17-22 in Owatonna.

50 years back



- **Winning the lightweight class garden tractor pull, Saturday, at Farm-City day was Richard Arndt, pictured here with his tractor and his trophy. Richard is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Arndt of near Waldorf.**

- LaVonne Wallin, of New Richland-Hartland high school, appeared in the concert July 27 at Bemidji State College with the 150 members of the Minnesota All-State Choir. Wallin, who sang first soprano, spent four days of intensive study at BSC under Dr. B.R. Henson, choir director at the University of Oklahoma, in preparation for the concert. The 150 students in the choir were chosen following auditions in each of the 32 high school districts of the state. Nearly 1000 students competed for positions with the choir.

- A baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Joel Fetchenheir of El Cajon, California. She has been given the name Melissa Blair. Melissa has 2 sisters, Elizabeth (10) and Courtney (3). Mrs. Vern Fetchenheir of Waldorf is the grandmother.

- Dave Jones of Owatonna won the New Richland AAU ten mile open Saturday. The race was held in Connection with Farm-City Day, here. Dave's time was 54:34.9. Winning the Masters trophy was Jack Moran of Edina with a time of 63:33, in eighth place in the field. The women's one mile was won by Donna Gathje of Rochester with a time of 6:11. Dave Shurson of New Richland was first in the Joggers 2 mile with a time of 13:27.

75 years ago

- Pfc Leonard F. Kroeger of Company “D” Second Battalion, 14th Armored Cavalry (US CON) home station, Shueinfurt, Germany has recently completed a course in Artillery Mechanics at EUCOM Ordnance School, Eschwege, Germany; and has graduated as Honor Student with the highest rating in his class. Pfc Kroeger has received Commendation Letters from Maj. Gen. I. D. White (Commander Us Constabulary), Brig. Gen. Read (Commander 1st Con Brig), Colonel Quill (Commander 14th Armored Cav Regt) , Colonel Walker (EU COM Ordnance School Commandant, and Lt Colonel Dickie, (Commander 2d Bn, 14th Armed Cav (US CON). His superior rating as honor student reflects great credit as honor student reflects great credit upon himself and his unit. He has served with his organization since his arrival in the European Theater. Pfc Kroeger is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Kroeger, New Richland.

- A son was born August 25 at the Owatonna City hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Rasmussen of Hartland. Mother and child are doing nicely.

‘Ask a Trooper’: pulling a camper or trailer

Question: I see a lot of motorists pulling campers and trailers that don’t have experience or simply don’t know what they are doing. I see some crashes that I suspect are due to this. Can you talk about pulling campers and trailers?

Answer: If you pull a camper or trailer with your vehicle, you must maintain at least 500 feet of following distance from other vehicles.

When loaded, 10 to 15 percent of the trailer’s weight should be balanced on the hitch between the trailer and vehicle. When correctly loaded, the trailer’s floor should be level. After the first few miles, stop and check the hitch, tires, lights and load. Repeat this process at all rest stops.

Travel at a slower speed. Many trailers have smaller wheels that turn faster than your car wheels, causing heat buildup that can lead to trailer wheel bearing failure.

Remember that the brakes on your vehicle were probably not designed to handle heavy trailer loads. A sudden stop at high speed could flip both the trailer and the car.

Speed up carefully, using a lower gear if necessary. Maintain enough following distance to prevent the need for sudden

stops. When passing other vehicles, remember the additional length of your trailer and be aware that your ability to accelerate is reduced.

Wind and rain will affect your ability to handle and control a vehicle pulling extra weight. When towing a trailer or camper in wet or windy conditions, slow down more than you would normally do in such weather.

Allow plenty of room for turns. Long trailers will swing closer to the edge of the road than your vehicle.

Pay extra attention to your vehicle’s cooling system when towing extra weight. Your engine will overheat more easily in warm weather, at high speeds and in hilly areas.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson – Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)

Keeping the beat alive: ‘Song & Dance’ documentary honors Midwest dance band

A new musical documentary to be released Aug. 16, 2025, weaves together the inspiring story of one young local musician, as well as the enduring legacy of old-time dance bands in the Midwest.

“Song & Dance,” produced and directed by musician Kris Keltgen, tells the story of Keltgen’s 18-year-old daughter, Evelyn, who was diagnosed with pediatric pulmonary hypertension (PH) at 6 weeks old. PH is a rare but serious condition where a child has high blood pressure in the arteries of the lungs, making it harder for the right side of the heart to pump blood through the lungs. Yet despite these health challenges, Evelyn beat all odds and became a skilled saxophone player, performing often at events across southern Minnesota during her teen years.

“The film explores the Midwest musical world Evelyn came up in and its inspiring history. It features my band, Kris and the Riverbend Dutchmen, and showcases legendary Midwest ballrooms and unique instruments like the Hengel concertina,” Keltgen said. “It also captures the spirit of polka fans and dancers who keep these traditions alive.”

The invitation-only world premiere of the film will be a black-tie affair with a red car-

pet at Spotlight 4 Theater in Mankato Aug. 16, with cocktails and a Q&A with the filmmaker to follow. Area public screenings of the movie will begin Aug. 22 at selected theaters, including Lyric 3 in New Ulm, Northwoods Cinema 10 in Owatonna, and The Forest Theatre in Forest City, Iowa. (For complete showtimes and locations, visit songanddance-themovie.com.)

“Song & Dance” was produced locally by Reel Cinema Productions – a partnership between Barefoot Music Studios and Publishing, Zak Rivers Photography and Bruellman Films.

The film was made possible by a Minnesota State Arts Board grant, the Minnesota Ballroom Operator’s Association and the Polka Lover’s Klub of America. In-kind support was provided by KEYC TV, KNUJ and KCHK.

“With Zak Rivers as our director of photography and Justin Bruellman as our cinematographer, the film has such an incredible look and polish,” Keltgen said. “We couldn’t be more proud to show it to the public.”

To watch a trailer of the film, to order a DVD, or for more information, visit songanddance-themovie.com.

Food shelf running short; garden produce requested

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The Waseca Area Food Shelf has found itself responding to some of the greatest need ever this summer. According to food shelf director Cindy Kolander, 617 households—the highest number in her experience—were assisted with well over 18,000 pounds of food during the month of July. About half those households found themselves in need of assistance twice during the month.

The amount of food each visitor is allotted, Kolander explained, is determined by the number of people supported by the household.

“Need has been rising consistently,” she observes regarding the level of activity at the food shelf. “We’re finding it harder and harder to stock the supplies families should have available.”

She points out that, along with rising prices and strained budgets, families tend to go through food a bit more quickly in summer because children who would normally eat up to two meals a day at school are now at home, and frequently very active thanks to outdoor tasks and play.

“Summer is a good time to donate,” com-



GROWING GREEN- Highlighting a request that gardeners donate extra produce to the Waseca Area Food Shelf are food shelf director Cindy Kolander, left, alongside area gardeners who will be making donations: Kathy Miller (center) and Lori Underwood. The photo was taken in the garden of Andy and Kathy Miller.

Pioneer photo by Deby Bently

ments Kolander. “Need tends to be on the rise.”

Food shelves all over the country, Kolander relates, acquire the majority of the items they stock through a large-scale regional food bank; an agency called Channel One serves the local area.

The “bank” acquires food from various sources and sells it to food shelves at much lower prices than shoppers at a store would pay, which is why Kolander says one of the best ways to support the shelf is to contribute money, which is then used to buy from the food bank. Donations of purchased food are also welcome.

A down side to the food bank is that the agency does not always have everything the

food shelf would like to have available for its visitors. When it comes to fresh foods, a recent delivery included three bags of apples.

“Our produce section sat empty,” recalls Kolander. “We would have loved to be offering onions, potatoes, vegetables...but we didn’t have any.”

For that reason, and simply to help supply the need, Kolander encourages area gardeners to consider donating produce.

“We’re looking for everything,” she says simply. “We can take any produce growers are willing to share.”

Sheriff’s Posse Wagon Train taking registrations for Sept. 5 to 7

The Waseca County Sheriff’s Posse will be hosting the Minnesota State Mounted Posse Association (MSMPA) forty-second annual Wagon Train for Youth from Friday, Sept. 5. to Sunday, Sept. 7. Most of the money raised by the event will benefit Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota; \$1,000 will be donated to the Donald D. Eustice memorial scholarship fund. The local fund provides a scholarship for a person attending training to become a law enforcement officer, and also helps support training for

members of the Minnesota statewide posse.

The event has set a goal of raising at least \$25,000.

Participation in the wagon train is open to the public; anyone with a vehicle drawn by horse or mule can register. Mounted riders may also sign up. Early registration closes Aug. 15.

Participants will camp at the Waseca County fairgrounds and visit various sites around Waseca County across the scheduled Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Among

the destinations are Farmamerica and Courthouse Park. The group is also planning to travel past Hartley School, Colony Court and Lakeshore Rehabilitation Center, as well as taking a Sunday drive around Clear Lake. Typical drive lengths will be 16 miles or less. Events will continue rain or shine; no registration fees will be refunded.

Breakfast will be provided Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings; lunch will be served during daily drives, and an evening meal will be provided at the fairgrounds

on Friday and Saturday, followed by entertainment.

Donations will be accepted along the route, or checks can be made out to the Waseca County Mounted Sheriff’s Posse and sent to 228 Ninth Avenue Southeast, Waseca. Payments are also accepted via Venmo to @Waseca_County_Sheriff’s_Posse.

Updates, registration forms and additional information are available at the Waseca County Mounted Sheriff’s Posse Facebook page.

■ Bailey from Page 1

Historical Society in 1991 for \$7,000. Anselmo said that was practically giving it to the Historical Society.

Now, the History Center is working to stay ahead of the curve and keep the building in good shape. Because of the “funhouse feel,” Anselmo said the county moved 227 boxes of probate files that had been stored on the second floor of the house into an annex building.

“Then we will be kind of reviewing what we’re storing on the second floor and determining whether that will stay in this building or will move over to the museum building,” Anselmo said. “Just trying to move things off the second floor, like the yearbooks and things that people will find interesting and want to be able to access when they’re here visiting.”

Paper artifacts are mostly stored in the Bailey-Lewer house, with the exceptions of photographs and physical artifacts kept in the museum building.

Anselmo was hired in May, when executive director Joan Mooney retired along with two research librarians. She said it was good timing for her to step in and try to reinvision the space of the Bailey-Lewer house.

“It was the right time to come in and give the house a little bit of a refresh, and that involved moving some furniture over to the museum building for some functionality,” Anselmo said.

She says her biggest goal is to provide access and functionality for people to come and use and appreciate the historic house. By providing workstations and space for researchers and curious minds, Anselmo hopes to encourage people to access what the library has to offer.

“Allowing people the space to reminisce is really cool,” Anselmo explained. “There are a lot of great resources here that maybe people aren’t aware of. Besides microfilm,

we have census, we have birth and death records up to a certain date. There’s a list on our website of a lot of the things that are accessible here.”

Anselmo said one of her favorite things to look through are the old phone books, which gave addresses and so allow people to and see where ancestors used to live. Also popular are older yearbooks where people’s high school pictures allow them to relive those years and also remember previous classmates.

“I love this building. It’s very important to the community and it’s important to the museum that we’re good stewards of the space. So we’ll do whatever we can in conjunction with the county to make sure that it’s here for a long time,” Anselmo said.

Being good stewards involves making tough decisions regarding what needs to be kept, what’s important for the county’s history and what needs to move on. For example, Anselmo said they have newsletters from genealogy organizations going back into the ‘90s that don’t necessarily have anything to do with Waseca County.

But if something doesn’t stay, it doesn’t mean it gets thrown away. A lot of things are given to other historical societies, offered to citizens for free or made sure they get a good home.

“Unfortunately, we do recycle some things,” Anselmo said. “There’s always the option to reach out to other historical societies. I know we have a fair amount of things that are not necessarily Waseca County, but could be Steele County. So we can always reach out to them. And then offering items for free, like we have a desk that’s going away for free or other furniture that we need to move out of the space because of its weight.”

Because of the structural challenges, the house is currently only open by appointment. Previously, the building was open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., something Anselmo said she would like changed to being open four days a week, coinciding with the museum’s



HOLDING MEMORIES - Database Manager Elizabeth Anselmo has been working to bring forward the records people would enjoy, like old phone books and yearbooks.

Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler

“It’s very important to the community and it’s important to the museum that we’re good stewards of the space.”

— Elizabeth Anselmo

open hours.

According to Anselmo, there is a building committee with the museum made up of some board members who have been able to talk about the issues and plans moving forward. She added some of those plans include the option of a possible capital campaign to cover the cost of repairs and updates.

“So many things are still up in the air,” Anselmo said.

For now, the county and museum have decided to let the house sit for a year and see how much change in the structure happens in order to help inform them of needed changes going forward.

“I think it’s important for people to know that our collection is accessible online through the website. We have a hub where we have 270,000 entries

from our collection and people can view those at any time. If there’s something that was indexed and on microfilm, they can either come in or submit a request to have that research request fulfilled,” Anselmo said.

While Anselmo said they are still in transition from moving files and historical documents around due to weight and finding room for people to do research, she added that they’ve come a long way.

“It feels very welcoming,” she explained. “It’s going to be a process, and that’s true with what’s going on with the structure itself, but the house is not going to fall down, there are no cracks in the ceiling. So we’re kind of, we think we’re ahead of the curve on what’s happening to the building.”

Get your news in the Pioneer

• news@wasecacountypioneer.com

• Call (507) 837-6767

• Stop in person 111 West Elm Ave

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

My Patriot Supply
Patriot Supply

WHEN THE SHELVES ARE EMPTY (AGAIN), YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU PLANNED AHEAD.

Grab Your 4-Week Emergency Food Supply

- Includes Breakfasts, Lunches, Dinners, Snacks and Drinks
- 2,000+ Calories/Day | Fortified with 12 Essential Vitamins & Minerals
- Up to 25-Year Shelf Life
- Easy-to-Store, Stackable Buckets
- Lightning-fast FREE Shipping

AMERICA'S MOST TRUSTED EMERGENCY FOOD COMPANY
OVER 72,000 5-STAR REVIEWS | A+ RATING WITH THE BBB

To access a special deal on the 4-Week Emergency Food Kit from My Patriot Supply, scan the QR code below, visit or call:

1-855-755-5825
mypatriotdeal.com/prep62

DISABLED?
We've Helped Thousands Get Benefits

Contact Us Today For Free Advice

Long-Term Disability
Short-Term Disability
Social Security Disability

507-923-4169
www.GetFields.com

Johnson APARTMENTS
507-456-9514
Operating in
Waseca, Steele, Freeborn Counties
johnsonrents.com

Got news?
507-837-6767

Rick's Appliance
ricksappliancewaseca.com

Sales & Service
507-461-9615

Hours
M-F.....7:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Sat.....7:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Sunday.....Closed

Visit our new Showroom!
405 West Elm Ave, Waseca MN

MCAN
Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

WANTED TO BUY
WANTED:
ALL 1970S MOTORCYCLES
Running or not. Titled or not. Will pick up. Cash in exchange. Sell now before prices fall. Call Dan at 612/720-2142

WE BUY HOUSES
for cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 844/978-0683

Advertise here statewide in 200+ newspapers for only \$279 per week! Call 612-332-8844

MISCELLANEOUS
DON'T LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY!
Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 866/852-5506

GET BOOST INFINITE!
Unlimited talk, text and data for just \$25/mo! The power of 3 5G networks, one low price! Call today and get the latest iPhone every year on us! 855/849-6621

GET DISH
SATELLITE TV + INTERNET!
Free install, free HD-DVR upgrade, 80,000 on-demand movies, plus limited time up to \$600 in gift cards. Call today! 855/562-4309

MISCELLANEOUS
GET A BREAK ON YOUR TAXES!
Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 844/220-9501 today!

YOUR AD HERE!
One phone call & only \$279 to reach a statewide audience of 1.3 million readers!!!
612-332-8844

SAFE STEP
North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1,600 off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 833/966-3882

SUMMIT ON SECOND APARTMENTS
FOR RENTAL INFO CALL 507-201-3474

We are accepting applications for:

1 bedroom apartments
Income guidelines apply
Vouchers accepted

2 bedroom & 3 bedroom
Rent based on income

Professionally managed by:

BRUTGER
EQUITIES, INC.

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642
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 7pm Post & AUX. Meeting	12	13 6pm BAR Bingo	14 7pm HALL BINGO NAVAJO CODE TALKERS	15 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	16 NATTONAL 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 GET PANCAKE BREAKFAST 8 AM - 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						

HOURS OF OPERATION
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

TGWET
GREG WILMES EXTERIORS

COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL • NEW CONSTRUCTION • REMODELING

- SHINGLES, STEEL, RUBBER ROOFING
- VINYL, STEEL, & CEMENT BOARD SIDING
- WINDOWS & DOORS: INSULATION, SHEETROCK
- ALL FLOORING: CONCRETE, PATIOS, DECKS
- SEAMLESS GUTTERS & GUTTER PROTECTION SYSTEMS
- CERTAINTED® CLAIMS SPECIALIST

GREG WILMES EXTERIORS LLC • BUILDING CONTRACTOR #BC793885

"Footings to Finish"

GREGWILMESROOFING.NET
GREGWILMESROOFING@GMAIL.COM
(507) 202-7070

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

GUARDIAN ENERGY
AMERICAN MADE FARMER OWNED
www.guardianrng.com

PH & B
Your Trusted Local Law Offices for Over 50 Years
PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, PA
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
www.phblawoffice.com

Waseca Music COMPANY
YOUR LOCAL MUSIC STORE
Band Instruments • Repairs
Guitars • CD, DVD, & Vinyl
507-835-2980
111 South State Street

DJ Daniel J. Johnson ACCOUNTING LLC
115 North State Street, Waseca
(507) 201-2484

WASECA FLORAL
810 N. State St. Waseca, MN 56093
(507) 835-3790
wasecafloral.com
rickmorris982@gmail.com

Rick's Appliance
ricksappliancewaseca.com
Sales & Service
507-461-9615
405 West Elm Ave, Waseca MN

13 NORTH EXPRESS LUBE
NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!
VALVOLINE INTERSTATE PATTERIES
1201 North State St. Waseca, MN 56093
507-833-7667

DAVE'S Body Shop
Waseca, Minnesota
715 S State St, Waseca, MN
(507) 835-8615

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER NEWS FOR LOCALS BY LOCALS
SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
(507) 837-6767
NEWS@WASECACOUNTYPIONEER.COM

PERSONALIZED PRINTING & APPAREL
Bluejays Merch & Apparel Custom Printing & Design You Want it? We Make it!
Barb & Mark Buker
100 S. STATE ST. - WASECA MN
PHONE: (507) 835-7565
INFO@PPRINTWASECA.COM

TGWET
GREG WILMES EXTERIORS
GREGWILMESROOFING.NET
(507) 202-7070

DENNIS STEFFEL OMTVEDT
FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICE
109 3RD STREET NE
WASECA, MN 56093

Tesch Service
321 Elm Ave W, Waseca, MN
Call Us! (507) 835-4610
teschservice@mediacombb.net

Check out our Eco-friendly, artful, Paper & Bamboo or Walnut cases for the iPhone, Handmade in Waseca, MN!
twigcase.com

SWEET - SOMMERS VFW POST 1642
113 E Elm Ave
Waseca, MN 56093
(507) 835-1811

PHEASANT CAFE
• SINCE 1942 •
Great Home Cooking
Catering • Full Breakfast Menu
Daily Lunch Specials
104 State Street
Waseca MN
835-1259

BATTENFELD LAWN CARE
ZACH BATTENFELD
507-521-0226
ZACHBATTENFELD@GMAIL.COM

JOHNSON APARTMENTS
507-456-9514
OPERATING IN
WASECA, STEELE, & FREEBORN COUNTIES
JOHNSONRENTS.COM

IN BRIEF

Pemberton Summerfest
August 12, 15 & 16

The annual Pemberton Summerfest begins on Tuesday, August 12 with the medallion hunt and National Night Out. Other events are across Friday and Saturday, with a full schedule of activities on Sunday beginning with a parade at noon.

Detroit Tigers vs. MN
Twins Lutheran Night
at the Twins Thursday,
August 14

The 32nd Annual Lutheran Night at the Twins will be leaving at 3:45 p.m. from behind Hy-Vee in Albert Lea on Thursday, Aug. 14. Cost is \$65 per person and is paid in advance. For reservations, call Bob or Genie Hanson at 507-373-8655 or Wayne or Bev Indrelie at 507-402-8228.

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 in-

formation 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 Saturday,
August 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.

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>.

■ Garden

from Page 1

keep the immediate vicinity interesting.

Andy describes having found a smartphone app which identifies birds. He says the number and variety of winged visitors astounded him, with 35 different species apparently coming and going. "Some of them, I'd never even heard of," he comments. He says he especially enjoys hearing the songs of goldfinches and cardinals.

"We love to sit out here and enjoy the cool breeze off the lake while we watch the activity," observes Kathy.

That "breeze" becomes a particularly icy wind in colder parts of the year, the two observe. They say it took a few tries to find some landscaping plants which could survive the winter and bounce back in the spring. The solution? "Spirea is indestructible," notes Andy. "And it's pretty easy to care for, too." He has different colors and varieties of the bush up against the northwest wall of the house and lining his lakeshore property across the road. He says even though he cuts the plants "down to the ground" in the fall, they grow out again when the weather turns warm.

"And they look nice, too," he comments.

In the back yard, a spacious pergola up at the same level with the house offers a gathering place

for 20 or more people. The patio is constructed with landscape pavers; the pillars and sitting walls are constructed with tumbled blocks. Under the pergola is a u-shaped, leathered granite-topped counter which can seat a small crowd; a grill is nestled into the counter, making it clear this is a place for well-rounded hospitality.

An appealing feature of the patio is an outdoor fireplace built of the same "tumbled" blocks.

The back yard is also shaded. Strategically placed in easy view of the patio are a number of plant features. Andy says the ginkgo bush is one of his favorites, thanks to its exotically shaped leaves. He feels it's part of a set, in a way, since a ginkgo tree is growing nearby.

Kathy says she finds particular pleasure in a flower garden which features a two-foot-tall statue of St. Frances. Known for his humil-

ity, his concern for the poor and underprivileged, and for communing with nature, the saint seems right at home surrounded by day lilies of various colors and other colorful plants. The garden includes elements which memorialize beloved people from Kathy and Andy's past.

Leading in and among other strategically placed plantings are some paving bricks which say either "Flint Co." or "Purington." Andy acquired the bricks even before he owned the house on Clear Lake Drive. He explains they were the paving on streets in Waseca's downtown before modern bituminous surfacing became the standard. At least 100 years old, they had been left in place and covered over at one time.

When the streets were redone, he explains regarding a time nearly 50 years ago, "the city decided to get rid of them. They put them out in a pile near the airport and told people they could take what they wanted."

The bricks have been adding character at the Millers' house, now, for decades. But before that, they cost family members a lot of effort, since they were moved and stored at about four different locations before finding their current placements. Andy estimates there are about 2,000 of them creating pathways in the back yard.

Behind the patio, the back yard slopes down to a lower level, eventually leading to a cornfield behind their property. Hydrangea, fruit trees and shrubs outline the house and property. In the center of the largest space in the backyard is Andy's garden.

He comments it, too, has evolved over time. Fenced in to keep out deer, the space features raised gardening beds and even has a few benches scattered among them, apparently for detail work. He says he spends about an hour a day there, and loves every minute of it. His criteria for selecting his produce is perfectly straightforward: "I grow what I like to eat." Many of his favorite recipes are equally simple: "I heat the vegetables up and put on a little butter."

Summer, of course, is the time to enjoy and appreciate the rich growth and beauty of nature. Andy comments his appreciation is perhaps even richer given the effort needed in the fall and spring to prepare for and then recover from winter weather.

"It's a lot to take care of," Kathy observes. "But it's all worth it because we enjoy it so much."

Syd's Sleek Renderings

By MELANIE PILTINGSRUD
Staff Writer

Syd's Sleek Renderings is one of the newest businesses in the NRHEG area, and its owner, Sydney Lewer 19, wasn't expecting it to take off like it did.

Lewer was continuing her education after high school when she decided the college scene wasn't for her. Her ultimate plan was to go into the meat business like her parents, Dan and Amber Lewer, who own Neighbor's Meats in New Richland, Mankato, and Owatonna, but when she looked around at all the people she worked with there, including her parents, none of them had a degree in meat animal science or equine science.

Lewer returned from college during the slow season at Neighbor's Meats, so she looked around for ways to be useful.

Lewer had heard a lot about the health benefits of tallow for the skin, and, having struggled with acne for six years, she decided to try rendering some of the suet her parents' business commonly threw out as a side product of meat production. She didn't know what she was getting herself into. The products she created proved the healing benefits of tallow weren't overblown. "It's actually worked wonders; it's amazing!" Lewer said. Others are discovering similar benefits, and Lewer is kept busy keeping her increasing line of products on the shelves.

Lewer started her first renderings in December 2024.

"It kind of boomed," said Lewer. "It was just for fun at first." The first product she tried making was lavender whipped tallow balm, and she accidentally made a lot. "I think I made like 70 tins my first batch." She thought family and friends might like it, so she gave it away as Christmas gifts. "And then everybody's family and friends wanted to try it," said Lewer.

Lewer explained that whipped tallow balm is similar to an everyday lotion, but it's a little heavier. "I use it as a daily facial moisturizer, but other people use it on elbows, knees, hands, feet, pretty much anywhere." Lewer said that even baby's benefit from it, because it helps with diaper rash and cradle cap.

Lewer senses that the market is moving back toward older remedies that worked better and that lacked the undesirable ingredients of some modern products. "Everybody's stepping away from the bigger brands, and they like how we have something that actually works," said Lewer.

Lewer didn't expect anything out of her venture into tallow products. She thought maybe she'd earn a little at farmers markets. Per Lewer, "It's doing really good for its first year, so I think it could go places."

Of the rendering process, Lewer said, "It's rendered down seven times, so that there's no beef smell,

and it's pure white." Each batch of tallow takes about nine hours to render. "And that's without whipping it or packaging it or anything," said Lewer. The beef fat is ground down for her right at the meat market. She

then puts it into large roasters where it cooks to 150o F. "It's like melted butter basically," said Lewer. The first render, which Lewer usually does overnight, takes about four hours, and it is in this rendering that any lumps of muscle tissue are rendered out. She then puts it through a strainer and a cheesecloth. At that point, it is pure fat, and this process is repeated seven times.

During the final render, Lewer infuses her products with essential oils or herbs. When it cools, she whips it.

The whipping process is necessary because rendered tallow is hard like cold butter, Lewer explains. "If you whip it with castor oil, it's a lot softer," she said, "almost like your typical lotion, but just a little heavier consistency, so you use a lot less of it, which is nice."

For tallow balm, Lewer recommends putting it on damp skin, because there's no water in the balm, unlike a typical lotion, which has a lot of added water.

Some people still like the added water for the feel of lotion, so Lewer now makes tallow lotion to accommodate that preference as well. Since water and oil don't mix, Lewer adds emulsifying wax and Geogard, a natural preservative, to keep the mixture from separating and spoiling.

Lewer is really careful about what she adds to her skin care line. "If you can't pronounce what's in your skin care, would you really want to put it on your skin?" she asks. "All of mine is essential oils and tallow and castor oil."

Spoiling isn't normally an issue; rendered tallow will keep for one to two years under ideal conditions, and most of the products from Syd's Sleek Renderings will keep their scent for at least six months. "It depends on what essential oils and carrier oils are in it," said Lewer. "It's not that [an older product] will mold or anything; it just won't smell as pleasant as it did."

Lewer tries to source all her ingredients from the US. If something is hard to find, she takes to social media. "I'm in a lot of Facebook groups, so if I can't find something that's really local, I ask them." Even if it's from a state that's really far away, Lewer still likes to purchase from "local" businesses.

Lewer isn't sure which is her most popular item. "I have so many things now," she said, but estimates that her most popular items are still the whipped lavender balm and the whipped pomegranate balm.

Lewer describes her care line as "pretty much a little of everything."



"If you can't pronounce what's in your skin care, would you really want to put it on your skin?"

— Sydney Lewer

Besides balms and lotions, she makes soaps, magnesium oils for sore muscles, deodorants, sugar scrubs, lip balms, care items for pets, and a hair care line that includes spray leave-in conditioner, curl cream, tallow hair mask, flaxseed protein hair mask, and a hair wax stick.

It came as a surprise to Lewer how popular the citrus scented products have become. "Lemon is so acidic, I thought it would burn," said Lewer. Such was not the case. "I actually really like that one; it kind of smells like Skittles."

"I really like the sunburn relief," said Lewer, who admits she's one of those people who never remembers to reapply sunscreen. "So I always get super burnt."

Lewer still works 30 hours a week at Neighbor's Meats. She finds time to render tallow by rushing home during breaks. "It's kind of just a lot of nonstop hustle," Lewer laughs. On weekends, she attends farmers markets and other summer events to sell her products.

Lewer is in the process of building her own website for the purpose of selling products online, but right now people contact her through Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok @syds_sleek_renderings. Her products can also be found at in-person locations, including Neighbor's Meats in New Richland, Mankato, and Owatonna; First Impressions in New Richland, Selective Looks in Owatonna, and Midwest Makers Mercantile and Divine Echoes Esoterica in Mankato.

Those who enjoy events and farmers markets have found Syd's Sleek Renderings at Ellendale Days



WONDERS FOR THE SKIN - Sydney Lewer, 19, struggled with acne before deciding to try making her own skin care product, which became the foundation of her business, Syd's Sleek Renderings.

in Ellendale, Wind Down Wednesdays in Albert Lea, the Lansing Corners Bar & Grill in Austin, and various area farmers markets; Lewer alternates between towns, so she can make her products available to more people.

In the future, Lewer would like to develop shampoo and conditioner bars and candles. Also, in the interest of not wasting anything, she would like to learn how to use the muscle tissue that is rendered out to make chicken treats for feeding chickens. "It's supposed to be high in vitamins," said Lewer.

For now, Lewer is really excited to create new scents for fall, like apple-cinnamon. "I'm trying to keep it seasonal," said Lewer. "Hopefully I'll find some good recipes for it."

It started off as a fun experiment, and at first Lewer found it strange to be thought of as "the skin care guru of New Richland," but there is no question that Lewer wants to continue making products for Syd's Sleek Renderings. "I really like it!" she enthuses.

For those who still like to buy suet for making their own skin care products and traditional recipes, not to worry; Neighbor's Meats even renders it for you and sells it by the quart. For those who want great skin care products without all the extra labor, Syd's Sleek Renderings has you covered.

MVAC honors Waseca resident

Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) held its 60th Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner to celebrate successes over the past year. Each year, MVAC honors an achiever or a supporter from each of the nine counties that represent the agency service area and names the Roger J. Wolfe Achievement recipient.

An Achiever is a service recipient honored for demonstrating success by overcoming multiple barriers, making vast improvements and significant achievements. Bailie MacIntosh was the Waseca County honoree. Bailie came to MVAC as a MFIP referral in Feb. of 2022. At that time, she had a 10-month-old son and was fleeing a domestic violence situation. Bailie and MVAC staff met and realized she needed a safety plan set up right away. Bailie was not working at this time, had no childcare lined up, and was living in her sister's basement. She was working with the Crisis Resource Center with a domestic violence advocate and had an open Child Protection Case due to the situation.

Bailie wanted to make a better life for her and her son, and that is exactly what she did. She entered the MVAC Adult education program and graduated in Dec. 2024 with her Associate's Degree in Administrative Office and Business Office from South Central College. She maintained an A/B average all through her classes. Bailie obtained Child Care Assistance and found a daycare provider for her son, so that she could focus time on her classes. She also applied for Section 8, was approved, and found her own apartment that was affordable.

Bailie accepted employment and is now working as a Case Aide for LeSueur County Child Protection Services and closed on MFIP due to being over income and self-sufficient.

Other achievers this year were Mylette Cabrera Martin County, Hope Winterfeldt of Brown County, Suzan Drill of Blue Earth County, Chloe Taber of Nicollet County.

A Supporter is honored for helping to support, strengthen, and sustain the goals of Community Action



HIGH ACHIEVER - Bailie MacIntosh was honored at the 2025 MVAC Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner.

through their selfless donation of time, energy, materials, and knowledge. This year the supporters were Schmidt's Bakery of Watonwan County, Bobbi Wendt of Sibley County, United Methodist Church of LeSueur County, Rep. Bjorn Olson of Faribault County.

Long-Time Board member Joe McCabe was named as the 2025

Roger J. Wolfe recipient. The Roger J. Wolfe Achievement Award was established in memory of Roger J. Wolfe who served on the MVAC Board of Directors for 22 years. During this time, Roger contributed his time and energy towards improving the lives of others. This honor goes to someone who symbolizes the ideals that Roger demonstrated.