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LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY  
No. 20 Vol. IV \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, May 15, 2025



Morgan's Meats

## Unfunded mandates plague long-term care

By DEB BENTLY  
News Editor

Wasecan Pete Madel III is well known for his connection to care facilities for the elderly. His father founded Waseca's Lake Shore facility in 1960 and turned its administration over to Madel in 1998.

Today Madel continues that connection to long-term care through his firm LSI Consulting. He also partners with Chris Knoll, who leads—along with other business interests—Heartland Senior Management Services.

Between their two firms, Knoll and Madel oversee the operation of 16 nursing homes and 17 assisted living facilities distributed across 15 Minnesota counties.

"It's nearly impossible to be viable as a small, stand-alone nursing home these days," Madel explains.

Describing the tasks performed by those who care for vulnerable elderly adults as "the work of angels," Madel says it is difficult to find employees at nearly every skill level needed in a long-term care facility. "Many people have tried working in the environment, but not everyone stays," he observes.

Along with the many demands of caring for the elderly are the tasks associated with managing the facility. "The billing process is very complicated," he observes. "Keeping track of the various organizations that provide funding and what they will cover is a giant puzzle not many can solve."



Madel

Madel continued on 2

### Photos requested for Memorial Day

The Waseca County Pioneer will run a special section honoring those who served in our second annual Memorial Day edition of the paper. We are kindly requesting people call, email or write the Pioneer to request who they would like to see pictured in this year's edition. Please email or bring photos in person to:

Email: [news@wasecacounty-pioneer.com](mailto:news@wasecacounty-pioneer.com)

In person: 111 Elm Ave. W, Waseca.

### Graduation Open house ads available

Celebrate this year's graduates in the paper with a photo and open house announcement. Cost is \$25 for one week or \$40 for two weeks.

Please email: [news@wasecacounty-pioneer.com](mailto:news@wasecacounty-pioneer.com).

### A word from The Word

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given.

James 1:5



Waseca Area Foundation board members are all volunteers. Among them, they make decisions regarding how grants will be distributed to local organizations which have applied. Pictured here are (from left) John Hanson, Dave Dunn, Molly Erdman, Brad Milbrath, Penny Vought, David Oraskovich, Dianne Beckmann, Roger Ashland, Katie Youngberg, Michele Priebe, and Foundation Executive Director Amy Potter. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

## WAF awards more than \$100,000 during celebration

By DEB BENTLY  
News Editor

Well over 100 people attended a May 8 celebration marking more than \$100,000 in grants awarded to local organizations by the Waseca Area Foundation (WAF) during its spring round of funding. Representatives for more than 40 local groups or events gathered at the Starfire Event Center in Waseca.

As the program began, Foundation executive director Amy Potter mentioned the WAF is something of an umbrella group, holding custody of monies set aside by many different people and organizations with the intent of supporting philanthropic programs. "Some of these are earmarked for specific types of projects," she explained. "This might be 'youth,' or 'education.'

"You do the hard work on the ground every day," Potter told those in attendance. "We congratulate you on continuing to do that work, and are glad we could support you."

Potter thanked the members of the WAF board of directors, all volunteers, who have the task of deciding which applications will receive funding each round and how much they will be awarded. "This room is filled with a lot of 'doers,'" said Potter. "Your work accomplishes the fun and vital things that make the Waseca Area community a great place to live and raise a family."

Funds went to groups based across the county, supporting everything from construction projects such as lighting at the Waldorf Veterans Memorial Park and groundwork at the 4-H horse arena on the county fair-

grounds; to furniture including desks, chairs and picnic tables; electronic equipment for schools, many educational events, among them a Todd Dufault music clinic for the Marching Classic and many different field trips for students.

After each recipient was announced, a representative was asked to share information about benefits made possible by the funding. An element of humor was introduced as a string of speakers was forced to adjust the microphone downward in order to be heard; Waseca High School teacher Sandy Schumacher gave a wry smile and observed, "Yes, I'm short." Eventually Diana Kelley of Infants Remembered in Silence (IRIS) turned to WAF board member David Oraskovich, who is more than 6 feet tall and who persistently ad-

justed the microphone upward when he would speak.

"You know, you're the problem," she chided good-naturedly.

Among those who lowered the microphone was Brenda Langerud of Santa's Workshop, wearing a red-and-white Christmas hat. She introduced herself as "Elf Brenda," and mentioned that the group is always looking for volunteers who might be willing to build things like doll beds or perform other tasks. "More and more," she said, "we are getting requests for things like 'a pillow that isn't flat,' or 'my own pairs of socks.'" Langerud said the organization serves 350 children across nine counties.

WAF continued on 2

## County leaders angered over elements of proposed state budget

By DEB BENTLY  
News Editor

After a discussion regarding a proposed future state budget which included the words "horrific," "stark," and "out of control," all five members of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners expressed enthusiasm for placing their signatures on a letter addressed to Minnesota Governor Tim Walz protesting the impact state funding shifts would have on smaller governments and property owners.

One way to summarize their shared observations is that state leaders are creating artificial "reductions" in their 2026-27 and 2027-28 budget plans by insisting that local governments begin paying costs for programs and initiatives the state is imposing on them. Not only is the state looking at withdrawing financial support from programs it created and has previously taken fiscal responsibility for, it is continuing to expect implementation of new programs enacted within the past few years.

Information shared by county administrator Michael Johnson calls attention to county budget-setting and funding efforts which have made it possible for the county to increase its levy funding by less than 8 percent since 2020, even though the consumer price index has risen about 21 percent in that time.

During their May 6 discussion, county leaders speculated proposed cost shifts could lead to a future 5 percent increase in the county tax levy, "undoing" their work at keeping the levy low.

Of the shifts, Commissioner De Malterer stated "These are things the state has taken care of because they result from state mandates." She went



Waseca county commissioners (from left) Brad Krause, De Malterer, Doug Christopherson, Brian Harguth and Brad Milbrath line up to sign a group letter to Governor Tim Walz. County leaders statewide are protesting the financial burdens the current proposed state budget will place on local governments and property tax levies.

### WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

on to say some county leaders statewide feel as if they are "looking over a cliff" which may lead to as much as a 17-percent increase to their levies.

With the current legislative session nearly over, county leaders predicted there will be a special session to continue work on state budget planning. They expressed hope state leaders will respond to input they, and many others who speak for county governments, are sharing.

A draft of the letter commissioners will be sending mentions the state's intent to decrease its expenditures by more than \$800 million, then goes on to say, "While we applaud efforts to reduce budgetary expenditures, it should be done responsibly through the reduction of mandated pro-

grams," rather than "placing additional tax burdens on rural counties."

After a historic \$17.5 billion "surplus" early in the decade, state legislators founded new departments and created numerous new programs which, according to economist Martha Njolomole, led to ongoing "baseline" budget increases of about a billion dollars a year.

As state leaders work on future budgets, they are looking in close detail at those for 2026-27 and 2027-28, while also keeping their eyes on income and spending projections which go into the next decade. Those projections indicate future budget shortfalls are likely.

In Minnesota, income and sales taxes form the foundation for funding statewide government operations, while local entities including counties, cities and townships have property tax as their main source.

### WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## Board discusses cost of new facilities

By DEB BENTLY  
News Editor

Remodeling and construction for planned Waseca County law enforcement and district court facilities could be accomplished for somewhere between \$15.5 and \$18.1 million, predicts Minneapolis engineering company Adolfson and Peterson Construction.

In the "pre-design" phase until now, work to plan a remodeling and construction project which upgrades the jail in hopes it can keep its state department of corrections (DOC) certification and overcomes longstanding space limitations encountered by the county court and related offices has been officially begun. During their May 6 regular meeting, county commissioners reviewed preliminary floor plans and gave approval to move forward with design work.

The concept design featured about 21,000 square feet on two levels. A site plan indicates the justice center structure would occupy most of the space—currently parking lot—to the west of the courthouse annex. A new parking lot would be constructed on the county-owned property at the northwest corner of the block—a vacant space purchased for this contingency some time ago.

Once planning is complete, some remodeling and upgrade work could begin fairly soon, with construction of the new building at least one year away.

County board members had previously set the maximum bonding amount for the work at \$17 million; county administrator Michael Johnson has previously stated the entire cost of the project does not need to be bonded, since the county has been anticipating and designating funds for a project related to the law enforcement center for some time.

Also during the meeting, recently hired sheriff's department deputies Gavin Kritzack and Brayden Berg were sworn in. Sheriff Jay Dulas administered the oath; family members filled available seating and cheered for the special event.

Public health nurse Sarah Berry informed commissioners nine community members had applied to serve on the "Opioid Advisory Committee" meant to assist in decision making regarding funds provided to the county as a result of a massive lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies which profited heavily from the distribution of highly addictive, opioid-based pain relievers. Barry reported guidelines dictate the group can have no more than 20 members, but do not really specify a minimum. She also stated that beginning the group's work with these members would allow everyone to consider what additional skills or education the group would like to see added as membership grows.

Three of the board members are county employees, the remainder are community members who have an interest in the topic: Laura Cain, Rachel Cornelius, Jay Dulas, Nicole Grams, Rosalie Grams, Molly Kortuem, Abigail Malterer, Scot Peterson, and Karissa Stenzel.

During the work session prior

County continued on 6





# Compostings

by Al Batt

## Life is too short to make sure your socks match

### ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

My doctor says my problem is caused by TMB.

Oh, no! What's TMB?

Too Many Birthdays.

### DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Grandma told it like it was, back when there were more coin-operated ponies than premium car washes. She read the newspaper obits aloud to rein in her rambunctious grandchildren. No one died of eating sushi from a gas station in Wyoming, but I noticed that lots of people died while surrounded by loved ones. I'd hoped that wasn't what caused them to shuffle off this mortal coil.

You know it's a distress signal, but what does SOS stand for? Many people think it's an abbreviation for "save our souls" or "save our ship." In reality, "save our souls" and "save our ship" are backronyms. A backronym is an existing word made into an acronym by creating an apt phrase whose initial letters spell the word to make it memorable or explain its origin. The letters are a continuous Morse code string of three dots, three dashes, and three dots all run together with no spaces or full stops (.....- - - - -). Since three dots form the letter "S" and three dashes form an "O" in International Morse Code, the signal came to be called an "SOS" for the sake of convenience.

### I'VE LEARNED

People would have more to worry about if spiders had wings.

Everything bagels aren't everything to everybody.

A college roommate of mine inherited his stringed instrument from his grandfather. He was the first person I ever knew who played the heir guitar.

Flushing, New York, should celebrate one day a year in honor of the Norwegian fellow who invented the toilet seat. Then, they could celebrate the next day in honor of the Swede who thought of cutting a hole in it.

Disproving disinformation takes longer than it does to invent it.

Life is too short to make sure your socks match.

Wander Woman is a superhero with no sense of direction.

Montana is the only state without a law banning texting while driving.

### BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

What do you get when you cross an elephant with a skunk? A smell that you will never forget.

What did the green grape say to the purple grape? Breathe!

Where do you see yourself in five years? In mirrors.

If a parsley farmer loses a lawsuit, can his wages be garnished?

I tried to sneak into a Star Trek convention disguised as a doctor, but a security guard knew I wasn't the real McCoy.

I'm not using Amazon anymore. I ordered grain for my chickens, but after I got it, they sent me an email asking for my feedback.

### NATURE NOTES

Larry Friedrich of St. Peter asked if grape jelly is bad for orioles. I'm aware of no scientific studies done to confirm whether jelly is good or bad for the lovely orioles. I put out orange slices, sliced purple grapes and grape jelly for them. Robins, brown thrashers, house finches, cardinals, scarlet tanagers, hummingbirds, Cape May warblers, downy and redbellied woodpeckers, and other birds with sweet beaks also eat grape jelly. Chipmunks love the stuff. The orioles in my yard readily feed on suet in the spring. It's a good idea to feed grape jelly in limited amounts, as moderation is good for all of us, and it keeps hummingbirds from becoming stuck in the jelly. You could stretch your grape jelly budget by combining one part grape jelly with one part water and mixing it to the consistency of a thick juice. Grape jelly is best if it doesn't contain artificial coloring, other additives or corn fructose. Homemade jelly or bird store grape jelly created for wild birds doesn't contain high fructose corn syrup. Avoid offering any sugar-free options. I've fed orange marmalade and red cherry, strawberry, blackberry and raspberry jellies to orioles without a single complaint on a comment card. For those uncomfortable with feeding grape jelly to the orioles, slice an orange in half and place it on a platform feeder or impale it on a special feeder. Placing sliced purple grapes on a platform feeder might be appreciated.

A reader asked, "What was the first bird you ever looked at through binoculars?" They weren't really binoculars, but I think it was a turkey vulture I saw through my Grandma Cook's opera glasses. She had used them to watch the Metropolitan Opera on the radio. They gave me class. I'm sure the vulture was impressed.

### MEETING ADJOURNED

"A year from now, you might wish you had started today."—Karen Lamb. Be kind.

# After the interview I stuck around...

It was when they stamped their feet.

You see, I knew as I arrived at the Waseca High School's performing arts center Saturday evening that I was in for an uplifting experience. I had interviewed members of the Waseca Chorale a few weeks before about their spring presentation titled "The Greatest Show."

After the interview, I stuck around to eavesdrop on their practice.

So I knew a number of things as I took my seat. There would be 16 meticulously practiced numbers in the performance, many of which I was already familiar with and knew I like.

I knew there would be more than 50 performers for whom singing is such a joy they are willing to give many hours of time to hone their skills.

Despite Saturday having been a busy, somewhat complicated day, I was enthusiastic about having blocked out the time to attend.

The moment my heart lifted, the point in time when it was no longer my head but rather my spirit which was engaged in the performance,



## In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

was only a few seconds in.

The opening words of the song—"Ladies and gents, this is the moment you've waited for..."--and then an unexpected, impressively simultaneous "thump" as all those folks on stage stamped one foot.

For me, that clever touch changed ownership of the song: It no longer "belonged to" Hugh Jackman and the filmed version of the musical. It now belonged to us, all of us, the 50 or so performers and the 300 or so audience members, bound together from now on in the small way that we were all there together at that moment.

And that, as I've already mentioned, was only the beginning.

I have loved Five for Fighting's

"100 Years" since the first time I heard it. "Our" "100 Years" gave me new ways and reasons to appreciate both the lyrics and the tune, leading me to hear both more richly, even though just now they're playing only in my head.

"Walking on Sunshine," "Listen to the Music," and "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" were done with such energy and sincerity, I am currently imagining myself back in the performing arts center with the brightly lit stage in front of me and the Chorale members' voices filling the space. I am looking forward to reliving those moments repeatedly each time I am reminded of those songs in times to come.

Along with that, certain expressive

individuals seemed to emit joy. It was perfectly evident folks on stage were happy to be there—they were caught up in the music and lifted by the sense of shared accomplishment. I frequently found myself picking up my long-lens camera and focusing in on small groupings of performers with the hope I could capture that simultaneous satisfaction, gratification, fulfillment and delight.

Despite the obstacles of low lighting and long focus, a few of the images seem successful. Anyone can see the pleasure on the singers' faces—but perhaps again, it will be richer and clearer for those of us who owned that time together and can travel back to it.

For anyone who did not attend the concert last Saturday, let me express the hope you have been somewhere, somewhen, that was equally rich with delight. I know I found myself surprised it could already be over, that the time had flown, and yet as I remember and describe it, I feel as if I am there again. For all of us, I hope moments of similar pleasure and impact are frequent and memorable.

# Excited for time off, to learn about life, to set goals

I've decided to stop stressing about jobs because being unemployed in the summer is awesome.

I might only be unemployed for the foreseeable two or three weeks, but that's still enough time to appreciate the warm weather and open free time while I work on my personal goals for the summer.

For example, my sister and I decided to drive up to Brainerd to visit my grandparents on Sunday night and stay until Tuesday because we didn't have to work, and why wouldn't we want to go visit?

The Red Cross called me last week, and while I still don't know why I answered, I agreed to sign up for a time to give blood. With no other obligations, why not help out where I can?

I've also been spending a lot of my time reading because I missed that feeling and freedom of being sucked into a new world.

Sometimes I just feel like a kid again (I know it's ironic coming from someone who is only 21, I understand). But I'm spending time at home, I'm wanting to be outside in the sun, planning when I can go to



## To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

the lake with my sister, reading, and just generally having fun.

Except now I have a bit more freedom with a car, a bit of money in my pocket and the decreased restraints of being an adult.

I have decided on a couple of goals for the summer that I want to accomplish before I move. If anyone has any tips for me on these, feel free to call the paper and help me out.

I want to start my own sourdough starter. For some reason, it's become a new craze and I see it all over social media. I already want to start cooking a lot more; I would like to become comfortable with making new things and even sometimes preparing dishes without using a recipe, so why not add making my own

bread? I think it would be fun.

I also want to expand my knowledge of plants and growing things. I've mastered the art of growing succulents, but am not as successful with other plants. It will be interesting to see how I do. This will involve spending more time outside, which is also a goal of mine. In my apartment on campus, my windows don't open, I have a view of the inner courtyard which means I'm basically looking at more walls, and I miss fresh air. So I am excited to get outside.

I spent a good chunk of time outside last weekend for Mother's Day as I helped my parents plant the garden and do some outside chores. Not only can I learn about plants and how to care for a garden, but there's

another lesson I learned as I was helping my mother lay rock.

Not everything has to be perfect and pretty. The rocks don't have to align correctly in the ground and look pretty, they just need to create a path, or a barrier so the bunnies don't get into the garden. And if you don't like how they're laid out, then move them.

If you don't like how certain plants look in the ground, dig them out and try a different spot. One plant grew a different way than you wanted, but it might have worked out. Or maybe it didn't, so you had to readjust.

Basically, what I'm learning is that gardening is like dealing with life. It's okay if things don't go the way you had wanted them to. It's okay if not everything looks pretty. Is it useful? Does it work? Does it need to be pretty?

So not only am I excited to accomplish these goals, I'm excited to appreciate and learn about life along the way.

My Determination: "Always remember, your focus determines your reality."—George Lucas

## ■ Madel

from Page 1

Madel and Knoll recently expressed grave concerns about the future of Minnesota's long-term care facilities, with Madel suggesting, "I don't know if they'll even exist in two years."

Already for the past decade or more, the two claim the small, local facilities their agencies work with "are having a good year when they break even."

Even that, they believe, will be unachievable under some expectations and rules currently in the works in the Minnesota legislature.

Special rules applying specifically to long-term care facilities were enacted at the state level in 2023 and are being applied gradually.

Many are unaware, for example, that while most Minnesota employees are accustomed to receiving between 7 and 10 paid holidays each

year, neither the state nor the federal government require that workers be given paid time off or overtime pay for the 11 officially designated holidays.

Unlike every other employer in the state, beginning January 1 of 2026, nursing homes will be required to provide 11 paid holidays to their staff. Employees who work on holidays must be paid 1.5 times their usual wage. At the same time, the minimum wage for certified nursing assistants (CNAs) will rise to \$19 an hour. That minimum, according to Madel, will continue to rise over the next three years, becoming \$25 an hour in 2028.

Madel says he recognizes the importance of "frontline" staff and wants to see those employees well paid, but the problem is one of affordability.

At the same time the state is dictating an increase in outlay, other specifications have the effect of limiting the amount of income available to care facilities.

"We don't set our price," Knoll

mentions. "The state sets that for us."

Up to 70 percent of the income which supports a nursing home, the two explain, comes from state "Medicaid" sources. The state not only sets the maximum rate facilities can charge, it also allows those agencies to pay a reduced rate.

Furthermore, the daily allowed rate is based on data collected and analyzed two years earlier.

"How viable would any business be," asks Madel, "if it was paying some of the highest wages in the field while charging the same fees as two years before?"

Knoll and Madel believe the new expectations beginning to take effect show a tremendous lack of foresight. "What is the plan, here?" asks Knoll.

"It's obvious this cannot work in the long term, all at a time when demand is rising."

The two point out census information indicates about 50,000 Minnesotans will turn 85 in each of the next 15 years.

"How will vulnerable seniors be cared for if long-term facilities have

been driven out of business?" asks Knoll.

Madel predicts the only way to survive in the changing environment will be to "regionalize" long-term care, that is, consolidate in increasingly larger facilities located further and further apart.

This will lead to longer travel times for visitors wishing to spend time with loved ones, most likely reducing the number of visits. For some who are no longer driving, it may mean visits are nearly impossible.

Larger facilities will put increased demands on staff members' time, likely reducing the one-on-one interaction residents crave.

"I find that truly offensive," comments Knoll. "These are people who have weathered very tough times in history, and still managed—through their hard work and determination—to build our society."

"Now, we're not going to be there for them. We're not giving them the dignity and respect their accomplishments deserve."



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## ■ WAF

from Page 1

Schools and school organizations including Hartley Elementary, Waseca Intermediate, TEAM Academy, Sacred Heart Elementary, Janesville's Trinity Lutheran School,

JWP, the Alternative Learning Center, the Transitions program, Junior Achievement and more received about \$34,000.

Youth support programs including Junior Achievement, Waseca County 4-H, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Scouting America, the Power of Produce Club and Santa's Workshop received about \$21,500.

Arts, history and nature organiza-

tions including the Waseca Art Center, the Waseca County Historical Society, Farmamerica, the Waseca Public Library and Aspyr Acres received a combined total of about \$8,000.

Support organizations including the Bethlehem Inn, the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center, Feeding Our Community Partners, Lutheran Social Services, the Minnesota Valley Action Council, Waseca Area

Caregiver Services, Infants Remembered in Silence, received about \$24,000.

Events and special activities including the Waseca County Farm Bureau Association "Taste of the Farm" meal, the Waseca County Fair, Lakefest 2025 and its Fun Run/Walk, the Janesville Hay Daze Fun Run/Walk, and the Sleigh and Cutter Festival received about \$7,500.

## In Brief

### WHS Vocal Concert 7 p.m. May 19

Students in grades 9 to 12 will present a high school vocal concert at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 19 in the Waseca high school performing arts center.

### JWP Choir Concert for

### grades 7 to 12, 7 p.m. Monday, May 19

Students in grades 7 to 12 will be featured in a vocal concert to be presented in the JWP school auditorium beginning at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 19.

### JWP Academic Awards,

### scholarship celebration 7 p.m. May 21

Those JWP students who have earned academic awards or been selected to receive scholarships will be honored during a ceremony in the JWP auditorium which begins at 7 p.m. on Wed., May 21.

### JWP Graduation 6 p.m. Friday, May 23

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton school district ceremony for the graduating class of 2025 will be at the school beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, May 23. The last academic day for younger students will be Thursday, May 29.



WASECA  
SCHOOL BOARD

# Staff working to use ‘AI’ in teaching

By MELISSA DUNN  
Staff writer

Superintendent Eric Hudspith highlighted the Waseca school district office team during the staff spotlight portion of May’s workshop session. Hudspith said this is an exceptionally busy time as the office team deals with year-end reports, next year’s enrollment, finance planning, and other day-to-day school district work. “It’s important to lift up that team,” Hudspith said, “because that’s the team that’s not going to come to a board meeting and talk as they have got a lot of work to do and they like to stay behind the scenes. But they are a very important part of our district.”

Hudspith shared that staff will be getting updated Chromebook devices within the next month, as the rotation to update staff work devices was somewhat interrupted due to the pandemic and other budgeting decisions. The student device rotation remained consistent during that time. The district servers are also being transitioned to Google Drive and Cloud storage as they are reaching the end of their lifespan and are costly to replace. The district is looking into upgrading the camera system to one that ties in with entrance doors.

Currently, district staff members have been experimenting on their own with the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in their classroom instruction while adhering to internet policy usage. Hudspith said there will be some significant staff development in the next months and during the August workshop week to help support staff in the AI area. He shared a draft of AI guiding principles with the board, explaining that it is an ongoing work in progress; “If we were to write an AI policy, we would have to update that almost monthly,” Hudspith said.

In response to questions he received earlier in the week, Hudspith discussed the charter school model in Minnesota; a tuition-free public school governed by their own school board and their MDE approved “authorizer” (an educational business or sponsor not usually located within the community), instead of the state. They are exempt from some, but not all, regulations (a charter school must have licensed teachers but does not have a required number of school days or hours). The implications for the regular district schools are that the charter school can impact enrollment, funding, and transition to the regular school could be challenging due to possible educational content gaps. “For our community to have multiple options for school is a good thing,” Hudspith said. Board Chair Dave Dunn agreed; “For being a smaller community in rural Minnesota, to have a public school, a private school, and a charter school is pretty good.”

Capital trip



Waseca’s sixth-grade class traveled to the Minnesota Capitol to visit with representative Tom Sexton. “I had the great pleasure of meeting a group of sixth-grade students from Waseca this week,” Sexton said in a press release. “It was fun to show them around and share a little bit about my job as a legislator. These young minds are the next generation; it is very important that we educate them about their opportunities and civil responsibilities. Thank you for visiting!”



From left: Authors Allie Johnson, Mary Sue Hagerty, Ben Sather, Nathan Gottschalk, Beth Lieser, Alex Blake, and Anna Marken gave a reading for their book “The Death of Raggedy Anne” at the Waseca Public Library on Friday, May 9, 2025. Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann



From left: Author Ben Sather and Emcee Haven Sorysteel were among seven other authors giving a reading for their contribution to the book titled “The Death of Raggedy Anne” at the Waseca Public Library on Friday, May 9, 2025.

# Cow Tipping Press visits Waseca Library for public reading

By BEN REVERMANN  
Staff writer

A large crowd attended a public reading of the newly published book “The Death of Raggedy Ann” at the Waseca Public Library the afternoon of Friday, May 9. Published by Cow Tipping Press out of Minneapolis, the book is a composite of pieces written by neurodiverse individuals who live in Waseca and recently completed a creative writing course.

Seven authors gave readings to an excited audience. The lights were dimmed so each author could read their work while accompanying animations were projected to a screen. The animation was done by Dane Cree who also created the illustrations for “The Death of Raggedy Anne.” Cree said much of his inspiration comes from Shel Silverstein. “I try to replicate what the author means without them being there with me.” As far as Raggedy Ann and Andy, he said “My mother had the dolls, and I remember them from when I was little.” His favorite part of this process has been working with the recordings to the accompanying animated videos which were played after each reading.

The first brave soul to speak was Alex Blake, who read his poem

“Talking Cars,” which is set in the year 2045. The poem is an argument between a car and its owner. Blake was at the reading with his girlfriend Anna Marken who was also reading later on in the show, they sat next to each other. Nathan Gottschalk is fascinated by crossover stories and he’s a good dancer. His story “The Death of Raggedy Anne” went on to serve as the title for the book and the basis for the cover artwork. His story was a dark tragedy about a sister saving her brother and dying in the process.

Mary Sue Hagerty likes being in the Special Olympics and has three cats. She read her two stories, “Dream + The Last Day” and “A Part of My Daily Routine” about having a lot of work to do and needing time to wake up to do it. Allie Johnson was with her mom, Audry and she has a cat named Keye. She loves all her dreams including the nightmares, My Little Pony and creepypasta. Her animation was the Earth and the Moon teaming up to fly to the sun and then eating it. Beth Lieser’s piece “Moon and a Firefly” was about the moon falling in love with a firefly. Her other story was “Believing in Love at

Reading continued on 7

WASECA  
CITY COUNCIL

# Airport hangar job won

By BEN REVERMANN  
Staff writer

At the Waseca city council meeting the evening of Tuesday, May 6, Eric Cox, President of the Fire Relief Association placed a request for increases in the amount of money firefighters get in their pensions. He asked for an increase of \$250, which would award retiring firefighters a total of \$6,250 per year of service; firemen cannot collect on their pensions until they turn 50. The Fire Relief Award Presentation for Public Service Recognition Week presented an ax to the City of Waseca for its support of the fire department. Nathan Willey, city engineer, spoke of the Fire Relief Pension Request Approval and Amendment to Fire Relief Bylaws. The council decided on a 90-day pause, which would allow both parties to evaluate the market conditions before making a determination on a pension increase for 2025, this motion was paused until May 20.

Councilwoman Schroeder was happy to announce the Four Unit Hangar Project at the Waseca airport won an award from the Minnesota Council of Airports for the “General Aviation Project for the Year.”

Report Bids and Contingent Award of a Contract for the Second Street NW Reconstruction Project using a pipe bursting method that expands pipes. This will be completed by November 7 with final reseeding and cement touchup by June 19 of the following year.

Councilman Conrath expressed concern about no follow-up to the Loon Lake Island cormorant bird populations. The number of birds that were eradicated from the island was only 50, which seems to have had zero effect, Mayor Zimmerman suggested asking for a written update.

Xcel Energy is considering running a 345 KV line from Mankato to Kellogg. Two routes are being considered, one on Highway 14 or one on Highway 60. Said Mayor Zimmerman, “Both would affect Waseca, potentially positively.”

Maplewood Park has sometimes been locked up during the day. The police are the ones who are supposed to unlock it in the morning, sometimes they get busy and it isn’t opened and some residents are wondering why. It has been locked at night to cut back on vandalism. The Waseca City Council would like to say, “Thank you for all you do” to the city staff. “You do a tremendous amount of work.”

A Gambling Permit Application was granted to the Waseca County Trail Association for July 10 through July 12. A Liquor License Premises Extension Request from Katie O’Leary’s for June 28 for their outdoor event. A Liquor License Premises Extension Request for the BoxCar Bar for July 25 and 26 for an outdoor event.

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OBITUARIES

Wayne Barbknecht

WAYNE BARBKNECHT, age 84 of rural Janesville passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at his home surrounded by family.

Born on August 9, 1940 in Waseca, Minnesota, he was the son of Helmut and Clara (Klinger) Barbknecht. He attended school in rural Waseca County before graduating from Waseca Central High School in 1958. Wayne married Rosanne Hager on August 26, 1961 in Medford.

Wayne was a farmer through and through—hardworking and dedicated to the land that he bought in 1974. He took pride in the farm he built and the challenges that he overcame. The land wasn’t just where he worked; it was how he lived. He was an antique tractor enthusiast and enjoyed tractor restoration. He loved spending time with his family and gatherings on the farm. In recent years, Wayne enjoyed Ranger rides around the farm and neighborhood with Rosanne and his beloved dog, Barney.

He is survived by his wife, Rosanne; four children, Lisa (Lyle) Groskreutz of Eagle Lake, James (Rae Lynn Hall) Barbknecht, Julie (Matthew) Hanson of Dover, NH, and Suzanne Barbknecht of Port Charlotte, FL; 8 grandchildren; and 2 great grandchildren. He is also survived by one brother, Donald (Barb) Barbknecht of Monmouth, OR and Rosanne’s siblings, Dennis (Becky) Hager, Gene (Tena) Hager, Susie (Donald) Redman, Sandy Sutlief, and Debbie Halblieb; and sisters-in-law, Shir-



Wayne Barbknecht

ley Hager, Donna Hager, Betty Hager, and Loretta Ratajcsyk.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents; one son, William; one brother, Lester (Sue) Barbknecht; Rosanne’s siblings, Loretta (Vernon) Schwartz, Helen (Willard) Karsten, Lucille Hager, Mary Jean Hager, John Hager, Neil Hager, Donald Hager, David Hager, Louis (Harriet) Hager, and Paul Hager; and brothers-in-law, David Sutlief and Mark Halblieb.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 from 4-7 PM at the State Street Chapel of Dennis Steffel Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Visitation will continue on Thursday, one hour before services at the funeral home.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 11:00 AM at the State Street Chapel of Dennis Steffel Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Burial will follow at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca.

Sandy Trnka

Sandy Trnka age, 72 of Montgomery, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on May 5, 2025. Born in New Prague and raised on a dairy farm outside of Veseli, Sandy was the eldest of four children and learned the value of hard work early in life. She graduated from New Prague High School in 1971 and married Robert Trnka in 1972, beginning a life filled with love, laughter, and devotion.

Sandy was a proud mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who cherished her family deeply. She had a creative spirit and enjoyed sewing, cross-stitching, reading, playing BINGO, and caring for her plants. Her career included roles at Munsingwear, EF Johnson, Itron, Elm Homes and Aging Services, but her most treasured job was being a stay-at-home mom.

She loved to travel and made unforgettable memories on trips to Texas, Alaska, Las Vegas, and Hawaii. Sandy also found peace in nature, especially during camping trips to T & T Hideaway near Cromwell, MN.

Preceded in death by her father, Charles Shimota, her brother-in-law, Douglas Hagerty; her in-laws, Milton and Margie Trnka; Survived by her husband of 53 years,



Sandy Trnka

Bob; children: Jonathon (Ronna) Trnka, Brian Trnka, and Lori (Gerald) Wovcha; grandchildren: Allie (Sam), Julie, Lizzie (Mason), Andrew, Annelise, and Mia; great grandson, Evren; siblings: Mary Jo (Gary) Turek, Chuck (Eileen) Shimota, and Gary (Donna) Shimota; also by other loving family and friends. Memorial service, 11am Friday, May 9, 2025 at White Funeral Home (Hwy 19) Lonsdale. Memorial visitation from 9-11am prior to the service at the White Funeral Home in Lonsdale.

Sandy will be remembered for her gentle heart, quiet strength, and the deep love she gave to everyone around her.

Charles Dibble

CHARLES JOHN DIBBLE, age 78, of Pemberton went to be with his Lord and Savior on April 29, 2025, in St. Louis Park.

Charles was born on October 24, 1946, in Austin to Charles B. and Bessie (Sladek) Dibble. He grew up in Austin and spent a lot of time with the Oakland, MN Gang. Chuck graduated from Austin High School with the class of 1965. In 1968, Chuck was drafted into the United States Army, serving his country during the Vietnam War being stationed in Chalou and Nam area before being honorable discharged in 1970. He continued serving his country with the National Guard – Austin Unit. Chuck attended Austin Community College and Albert Lea Technical School for drafting and illustrating. He worked for the Austin Railroad, Winnebago Homes, Hormel Foods, Scotsman Ice Machines, before beginning a 25-year career with Caterpillar in Owatonna and later in life

driving van for Palmer Bus Service in Janesville. Chuck loved NASCAR and his motorcycle. He enjoyed traveling and spending his Saturday mornings drinking coffee at Hy-Vee in Austin with the Oakland, MN Gang. Above all else he cherished the time spent with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Chuck was baptized on May 2, 1947, at First United Methodist Church in Austin and was confirmed on June 30, 1991, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in rural Janesville. On September 28, 1991, he was united in marriage to Alice Margaret Krause at Immanuel Lutheran Church in rural Janesville. Chuck was active in his church, serving as treasurer for 13 years and head usher. He was a member of American Legion Post 281 in Janesville.

Chuck is survived by his wife of 33 years, Alice of Pemberton; daughter, Carrie (Al) Parker of Waseca; grandsons: Andrew (Melissa) Parker and Cameron Parker; great grandchildren: Nathan, Mythais, Dexter

and Vanellope Parker. He is also survived by his brother, Kenneth (Joann) Dibble of Spokane, WA; brother-in-law, Armin (Janet) Krause; two special nephews: Nathan Krause of Brooklyn Center, and Mitchell (Ally) Krause and their children: Adeline, Madison and baby boy due in September of Denver, CO; niece, Jennifer (Kevin) Stoll and family of Seattle, WA; nephew, Christopher Dibble of Spokane, WA; his furry daughter, Rosie; former wife, Cindy (Young) Johnson; other relatives and friends.

Preceded in death by his parents; stepdad, Thomas Chrencik; son, Charles Dibble (4/13/24); in-laws: Arnold (Irene) Krause, and Lawrence (Barb) Young.

Visitation will be from 4:00-8:00 PM on Friday, May 16, 2025, at the Janesville Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Services. Visitation will continue for one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday.

Funeral Service will be 10:00 AM



Charles Dibble

on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville with Rev. Larry Sipe officiating. Interment will be at Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery in Freedom Township, Waseca County. DSOfuneral.com

Bernita Knutson

Bernita Helena (Roemhildt) Knutson, a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 13, 2025, while surrounded by family at Mayo Hospital in Eau Claire, WI, at the age of 74.

Bernita was born in Faribault, MN, on November 7th, 1950, to Elmer Hugo Roemhildt (1918–1972) and Irene Viola (Geyer) Roemhildt (1923–2005) as the fifth of seven children. She was baptized, confirmed, and attended kindergarten through grade school at St. Peter’s (Bell) Church. She then attended Waterville-Elysian High School. Bernita got married on August 19, 1968, to Jonathan Dean Knutson, with whom she recently celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary. Over the years, Bernita worked at Herter’s, EF Johnsons, and Brown Printing in Waseca, MN. In May of 1983, Bernita and Jon moved their family to St. Cloud, MN, where they started their own business and were self-em-

ployed for over 40 years, selling Rainbow vacuums and then later installing DirecTV satellites. Through their businesses, they were able to travel to China, Hong Kong, Canada, Mexico, Europe, and all over the U.S. She was a master at keeping everything running from behind the scenes, along with all the bookkeeping, until they retired in 2021.

Bernita will be remembered for her love for cooking and trying new recipes, along with growing a garden for canning, and her ability to master new technology. She dedicated her life to her family; she was always there with a loving, listening ear to talk to, with her warm embrace and strong wisdom. Her accomplishments in life were many, but her greatest pleasure was her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Bernita is survived by her loving husband, Jonathan of Sauk Rapids; daughters, Christine (Brandt) Block of St. Cloud and Patricia (Sean) VanDalen of Foley; grandchildren, Benjamin Knutson of St. Cloud, Ashley

(Romeago) Metho of St. Cloud, Julia VanDalen (fiancé Kyle Holmberg) of Anoka, Seth VanDalen of Foley, Zachary VanDalen of Foley; great-grandchildren, Aweikara Metho, Akoth Metho, Ebaweha Metho, Muabet Metho, Moachebe Metho, Kurwa Metho; sisters, Clarice Scaub of Waseca, Verna (Ward) Hering of Waterville, Janelle (Jim) Hoehn of Elysian; brother Scott Roemhildt of Elysian; brother-in-law Michael (Barb) Knutson of Marcus, IA; and by many nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends.

Bernita was preceded in death by her only son Nathan Jon Knutson; parents, Elmer H. and Irene V. Roemhildt; brother, Lloyd E. Roemhildt Sr.; sister, Katherine (Roemhildt) Krenik; grandparents, Walter and Helena (Quiram) Roemhildt and Fred and Catherine (Kline) Geyer; in-laws, Ornell and Marion (Olson) Knutson; brother-in-law David Knutson; and many uncles, aunts, cousins, and friends.

Celebration of Life Services will be at St. Peter’s Bell Lutheran



Bernita Knutson

Church – North Elysian, 21377 Te-tonka LK Rd, Waterville, on May 17, 2025, at 11 a.m. Visitation will be 1 hour before the service. Burial immediately following the services. Lunch will be provided in the Church Fellowship Hall for those who’d like to gather after the services.

Melvin Metzler

MELVIN “BUTCH” WILLIAM METZLER, age 82, of Waseca passed away Sunday, May 11, 2025 at the Owatonna Hospital.

Born on March 10, 1943, in Waseca, Butch was the son of Martin “Mike” and Sybil (Herrley) Metzler. He was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Waldorf. He graduated from Waseca Central High School before moving to Denver, Colorado, where he established and operated a successful roofing business for 45 years. A dedicated and hardworking man, Butch took pride in his craftsmanship and built a lasting legacy through his work. In 2018, Butch returned to his home-

town of Waseca.

In his younger years, Butch enjoyed fishing, hunting and riding snowmobile. He loved spending time outdoors, especially tending to his yard and maintaining his home with meticulous care. He found joy in making sure everything was just right—a reflection of his personality and values.

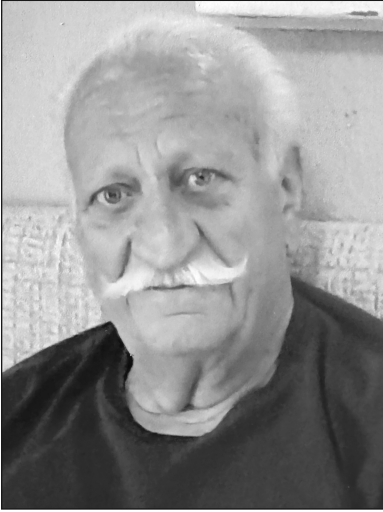
Butch is survived by his sisters, Karen (Jerry) Miester of Waseca, and Sandy (Gene) Matz of Waseca; sister-in-law, Judy Metzler of Mankato; nieces and nephews; other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and siblings, Marvin Metzler and Barbara (Caroll) Schlueter.

Funeral Service will be 1:00 PM on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service with Fr. Gregory Leif officiating. Interment will be in Woodville Cemetery in Waseca with military honors provided by the Waseca American Legion and VFW. Visitation will begin at 11:00 AM and continue until the time of the service at the funeral chapel on Tuesday.

Butch’s family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff at the Owatonna Hospital for the care he received.

Memorials are preferred to American Legion Post 228 or charity of donor’s choice



Melvin Metzler

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NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS, PUBLIC AND EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS, AND AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Issued: May 13, 2025

In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Mankato – Mississippi River 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Southeast Minnesota

PUC Docket Number: E002/CN-22-532, E002/TL-23-157  
OAH Docket Number: 65-2500-40099

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold public hearings on the application of Xcel Energy for a certificate of need and a route permit for the Mankato – Mississippi River Transmission Line Project (MMRT Project or Project). The proposed Project is a new approximately 130-mile 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between the existing Wilmarth Substation in Mankato to the Mississippi River near Kellogg, and a new approximately 20-mile 161 kV transmission line between the existing North Rochester Substation near Pine Island and an existing transmission line northeast of Rochester. The Project may cross portions of Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Waseca, Rice, Dodge, Olmsted, Goodhue, Winona, Wabasha, and Steele counties and is divided into the four segments described below (see attached Project Overview Map):

- Segment 1: a new 48 to 54-mile 345-kV transmission line between the Wilmarth Substation and a point near the West Faribault Substation;
- Segment 2: a new 34 to 42-mile 345-kV transmission line from a point near the existing West Faribault Substation to the existing North Rochester Substation;
- Segment 3: conversion of 27 miles of existing 161/345-kV transmission line to 345/345-kV operation, and installation of a new 16-mile 345-kV circuit on the existing 345/345-kV double-circuit capable structures between the existing North Rochester Substation and the Mississippi River; and
- Segment 4: a new 20 to 24-mile 161-kV transmission line between the existing North Rochester Substation and the existing 161-kV Chester Line northeast of Rochester.

The applicant has requested a route width of 1,000 feet along most of the proposed alignments (500 feet to either side of proposed centerlines), with wider areas (up to 1.25 miles wide) around Project substations, in locations with routing constraints, and where route options come together. The 345 kV portion of this Project typically requires a permanent 150-foot-wide right-of-way. For the 161 kV portions of the Project, a 100-foot-wide right-of-way is typically required.

Xcel Energy indicated that this Project, along with other Long Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) projects that were studied and approved by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) are needed to provide reliable, resilient, and cost-effective delivery of energy as the generation resource mix continues to evolve from aging coal-fired generation plants to renewable energy sources. Specifically, this Project and the other LRTP projects in Wisconsin<sup>1</sup> are needed to address loading and congestion issues on the existing 345 kV transmission system across southern Minnesota and Wisconsin.

In-Person Meetings/Hearings

| Date         | Time                                                             | Location                                                                    |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 27, 2025 | 10 am - 11 am Open House<br>11 am – 1:30 pm Public Hearing       | Country Inn and Suites by Radisson<br>1900 Premier Dr.<br>Mankato, MN 56001 |
| May 27, 2025 | 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Open House<br>6:30 pm – 9:00 pm Public Hearing | Waterville High School<br>500 E Paquin St.<br>Waterville, MN 56096          |
| May 28, 2025 | 10 am – 11 am Open House<br>11 am – 1:30 pm Public Hearing       | Eagles Club Owatonna<br>141 E Rose St.<br>Owatonna, MN 55060                |
| May 28, 2025 | 5 pm - 6 pm Open House<br>6 pm – 8:30 pm Public Hearing          | Zumbrota VFW Post 5727<br>25 E 1st St.<br>Zumbrota, MN 55992                |
| May 29, 2025 | 5 pm – 6 pm Open House<br>6 pm – 8:30 pm Public Hearing          | Faribault American Legion Post 43<br>112 5th St. NE<br>Faribault, MN 55021  |

Public hearings commence at the time stated above and end as soon as the last person present has had the opportunity to speak, or the end time stated above, whichever occurs first.

<sup>1</sup>Tremval - Eau Claire - Jump River and Tremval - Rocky Run - Columbia transmission projects both located in Wisconsin.

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these hearings, please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the meeting. To find out if a hearing is canceled due to bad weather or other call 1-855-731-6208 or visit mn.gov/puc.

Online Meeting/Hearing via WebEx

Date: May 29, 2025  
Time: 9 am – 12 pm  
Join by WebEx (Webinar) Link: <https://minnesota.webex.com>  
Webinar Number: 2492 633 3729 Webinar Password: MNPUC  
Join by Phone: 1-855-282-6330 Toll Free Access Code: 2492 633 3729

The virtual hearing will commence at 9:00 a.m. and conclude as soon as the last person present has had an opportunity to speak, or at the designated end time, whichever occurs first.

If you are joining the meeting via WebEx and would like to ask a question or make a comment during the designated portion of the meeting, use the chat or raised-hand functions to send a message to the meeting moderator. If you are joining the meeting by phone, press \*3 on your phone. When it is your turn to speak, your line will be unmuted, and you will be able to ask questions and provide comments.

Additional information and instructions are available at: <https://mn.gov/puc/activities/meetings/webex/>

Open House

Doors will open one hour prior to each public hearing. Attendees will have an opportunity to review maps and materials on the proposed MMRT Project and ask questions of Xcel Energy and state staff. Discussions and questions posed during the open house do not become part of the official record. Comments are received only during the public hearing. Members of the public may, however, leave written comments with Commission staff during the open house, which will be offered into the official record when the public hearing begins. Forms will be available for this purpose.

Public Hearing Information

The public hearings will be presided over by the Honorable Ann O'Reilly, an administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings, who will provide the Commission with findings of fact, conclusions of law, and a recommendation.

The purpose of the public hearings is to obtain public input on the proposed project and the draft EIS, and compile the record for the Commission to consider in making a final decision on the certificate of need and route permit applications. Specifically, interested persons will have the opportunity to: (1) ask questions of state staff and the applicant; (2) offer oral and written comments on the merits of the proposed project and on the draft EIS; and (3) suggest possible conditions to be considered for inclusion in a route permit.

- Comments received at the hearings and during the comment period will be used to inform the record and help the Commission make its final decision.
- The information presented will be the same at all in-person and online hearings.
- The hearings will end when all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded, or the scheduled end time of the hearing, whichever occurs first. **Therefore, it is important to arrive at the start of the public hearing.**
- Members of the public may participate without the necessity of intervening as a party; representation by legal counsel is permitted but not required.

Comment Period

Written comments will be accepted through **June 10, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.** Please include the docket number in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

Topics for Comment

- What information needs to be clarified or included in the draft EIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate?

- Should the Commission grant a certificate of need for the proposed MMRT Project?
- Should the Commission grant a route permit for the proposed MMRT Project?
- If granted, what additional conditions or requirements should be included in a route permit?

Submit Comments

Online <https://mn.gov/puc/consumers/public-comments>  
Email [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us)  
U.S. Mail Consumer Affairs Office  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7th Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission’s eDockets website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) has prepared a draft EIS for the proposed MMRT Project. The purpose of the draft EIS is to provide information on the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed MMRT Project, suggest possible mitigation for identified impacts, and evaluate the alternatives contained in the scoping decision.

The draft EIS is available for review and download at the online locations provided below:

- Department of Commerce website: <https://eera.web.commerce.state.mn.us/web/project/15507>
- Commission’s eDockets System: eDockets - Search Documents · eFiling (<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/documents?doSearch=true&dockets=23-157&documentId=&onBehalfOf=&content=&receivedFrom=&receivedTo=>)

Print copies of the draft EIS are available for viewing at the following public libraries:

- Blue Earth County Library, 100 E. Main Street, Mankato, MN 56001
- Buckham Memorial Library, 11 Division Street E., Faribault, MN 55201
- Zumbrota Public Library, 100 West Avenue, Zumbrota, MN 55992
- Rochester Public Library, 101 2nd Street SE, Rochester, MN 55904
- Plainview Public Library, 345 1st Avenue NW, Plainview, MN 55964
- Owatonna Public Library, 105 N Elm Ave, Owatonna, MN 55060
- Waseca Le Sueur Library, 408 State St N, Waseca, MN 56093
- Dodge Center Library, 13 1st Ave NW, Dodge Center, MN 55927
- Erin Cavell (**flash drive**)  
Environmental Conservation Library  
Hennepin County Library – Minneapolis  
Central Government Documents – 2nd Floor, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 54401
- Hennepin County Library – Minneapolis (**flash drive**)  
Central Business/Science/Gov Docs – 2nd Floor  
300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 54401
- The Legislative Reference Library  
645 State Office  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155

Print copies of the draft EIS will be available for review at the in-person public hearings. A limited number of electronic copies (zip drives) of the draft EIS will also be available to take home. For questions about the availability of the draft EIS, please contact Department staff, Richard Davis, at [richard.davis@state.mn.us](mailto:richard.davis@state.mn.us) or 651-539-1846.

Comments on the draft EIS may be submitted at any of the public meetings/hearings identified in this notice, or in writing through June 10, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. If you wish to comment on the draft EIS, please indicate so in your comment.

Evidentiary Hearing

Members of the public may attend and listen to the evidentiary hearing. The evidentiary hearing will not provide speaking or commenting opportunities for members of the public. Please attend either the in-person or online public meetings/hearings described earlier in the notice to provide comments or ask questions.

The evidentiary hearing will be held in the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Hearing Rooms at 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101 on the following date and time:

- May 30, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

Additional Information

**Minnesota Statutes and Rules.** This project is being reviewed under Minnesota Statutes chapters 216B and 216E, and Minnesota Rules chapters 7849 and 7850. The rules and statutes are available for review at: [www.revisor.mn.gov](http://www.revisor.mn.gov)

**Review Process.** Information on the review processes for certificates of need and site and route permits for large electric power facilities is available on the Commission’s website at: <https://mn.gov/puc/activities/energy-facilities/>

**Filing Requirements.** Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are required to file documents using the Commission’s electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants, and interested persons are also encouraged to use eFiling: [mn.gov/puc/edockets](http://mn.gov/puc/edockets), select *Go to eDockets* and follow the prompts.

**Full Case Record.** See all documents filed in this matter via the Commission’s website at [mn.gov/puc/edockets](http://mn.gov/puc/edockets), select *Go to eDockets*, enter the year and the docket number (22-532 for the certificate of need or 23-157 for the route permit), and select Search.

**Subscribe to the Docket.** To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>, select *Subscribe to Dockets*.

**Project Mailing List.** Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate or change your mailing preference. Email [eservice.admin@state.mn.us](mailto:eservice.admin@state.mn.us) or call 651-201-2246 with the docket number (22-532 or 23-157), your name, mailing address, and email address.

Questions about these dockets or Commission process and procedure?

Public Utilities Commission

Cezar Panait, Energy Facilities Planner, [cezarc.panait@state.mn.us](mailto:cezarc.panait@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2207  
Jacques Harvieux, Public Advisor, [jacques.harvieux@state.mn.us](mailto:jacques.harvieux@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2233

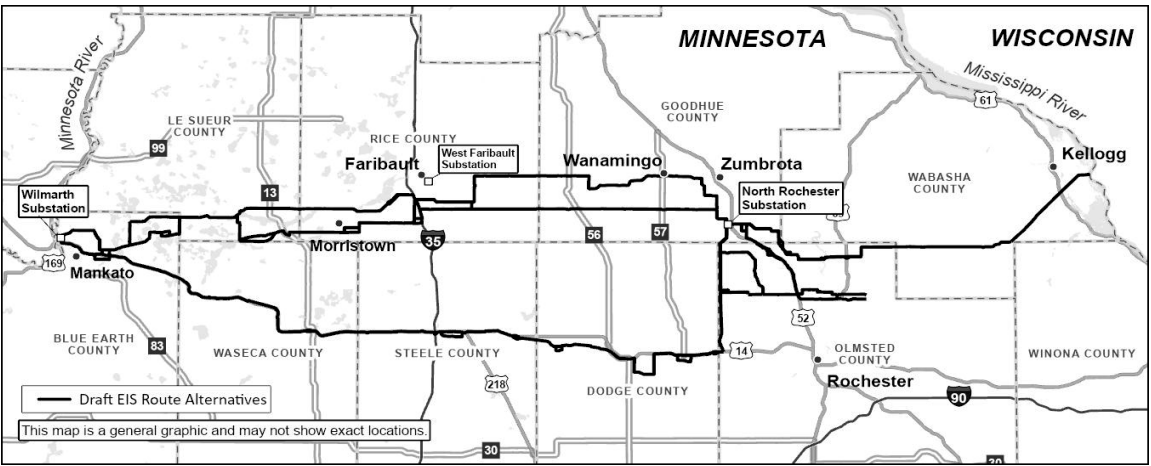
Department of Commerce

Richard Davis, Environmental Review Manager, [richard.davis@state.mn.us](mailto:richard.davis@state.mn.us) or 651-539-1846

Xcel Energy

Ellen Heine, Principal Siting and Permitting Agent, [ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com](mailto:ellen.l.heine@xcelenergy.com) or 612-330-6073  
To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us) for assistance.

Project Overview Map







# The Pastor's Column

## Continue diligently

**By Rev. Michael James Grannis**

Wow! Is summer really just around the corner? It seems like spring just arrived. As the world shifts modes from school year to summer vacation mode, churches often shift gears as well. Sometimes congregations have different worship times during the summer months. One of the most common shifts is a move away from Sunday school and even Bible study.

In Deuteronomy 6 we hear these words regarding God and His Word:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

In other words, God wants us to be sharing the faith, and building up one another in love for God and for His Word all day every day...fall, winter, spring and summer.

Later on in the same chapter it talks about being ready to tell the next generation why... Why should we love and honor God with our whole lives? Why should we learn and keep God's commands? And what was the "why" God gave? For the Old Testament people of Israel, their "why" was God's deliverance from their bondage to slavery in Egypt. Their "why" was the way He would dispose the land of Canaan from the wickedness of the people in the land. Their "why" was the fact that God would give that Promised Land to the people of Israel as an inheritance, so that they might be a light to the world, making God's name great among all nations.

But what about us? What is our "why?" The salvation from bondage in Egypt, stands as a foreshadowing of our freedom from sin, death, and hell – freedom which God has delivered through the death of Jesus Christ. The dispossessing of Canaan foreshadowed the expansion of God's Kingdom into the sinful hearts and lives of His now redeemed people. (I am reminded of Jesus' promise that the gates of hell will not withstand the advances of

God's Kingdom through the faithful witness of His Church.) Our "why" for surrounding ourselves with God's Word, and sharing with those we live life with each and every day is that through Christ we are called to be the light of the world who have an eternal inheritance to pass on, not just to our children but to all people.

As we daily share the Gospel of Christ – forgiveness of sins through Jesus' death and resurrection, reconciliation with God and each other in this world through forgiveness lived out, resurrection from death and eternal life in the world to come – the Kingdom of God pushes hard against the gates of hell and breaks through! The Gospel of forgiveness breaks through the strongholds in our hearts and minds. As we become familiar with the Scriptures and daily share the Good News of God's love and salvation, that news breaks through strongholds in the hearts and minds of our children and grandchildren. As we lovingly and boldly bear witness to the forgiveness and love of God for us and for all people, the gates of hell that divide and make enemies are thrown down in our lives and communities, so that God's Kingdom can advance, bringing reconciliation and peace. It is a Kingdom not of this world (as Jesus said), but found within each person who is made new by the Gospel of Christ Jesus our King.

It is this wonderful true story – God's Story – that reminds us of Who our Creator is, and who we were created to be. It is God's Law and Gospel that reveals who we are in our sin, and reveals Jesus – the One who saves us from our sin and its wages. By regularly opening the pages of Scripture together, and asking God to open our hearts and minds to His life-giving Word, people (young and old) become confident of our identity in Christ and we are equipped to live out that identity as faith-filled and faithful citizens of God's heavenly Kingdom.

God is always calling people to hear and learn His Word. He calls us to care for others by sharing our love for God and His Word with them. I pray that whether you belong to a congregation, or not, and regardless of summer schedules, you would find time to surround yourself with God's Word daily and share that "why" with whoever God has placed into your life. May we all continue to diligently do this, both in season and out of season.

■ **County**  
from Page 1

to the county board meeting, commissioners heard from Waseca High School teacher John Hanson and head of the city of Waseca's heritage preservation commission (HPC) Julie Anderson.

The two asked whether Waseca County would like to take "ownership" of an online tool which provides information about numerous locations of historic interest, most of which are within Waseca city limits, with some being in unincorporated areas.

Students in Hanson's local history class have researched the locations, gathered information, and published it in an online "tour" which can either be read on a screen or narrated by a phone or tablet while the user is walking around the site.

If it were controlled by the county, rather than by the Discover Waseca Tourism group as it is now, Hanson offered that students in other county schools could prepare similar tours for locations in their own communities.

Commissioners responded positively, saying an online tool like that would build a positive impression with visitors and prospective residents, since it would be easily located and accessed online.

In a similar vein, commissioners approved moving forward with an application to be designated as a "Telecommuter Forward!" county by the office of Broadband Development, a division of the state department of employment and economic development.

Broadband consultant Steve Kraus suggested to commissioners the recognition would be another credential to list when communicating with businesses or organizations considering Waseca County for new or expanding development.

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From left, Row 1 Christy Easton, Tourism Vice President; ShaLee Ebertowski, Tourism Board Secretary; Stacey Schroeder. Back row: Jill Strauss; Eli Lutgens; Tourism Board President Mikhail Rostislavovich; Diane Beckmann; Tiffany Lynch; Kari Wadd; Commissioner Brad Milbrath and Mayor Randy Zimmerman.

# Discover Waseca Tourism Board at full strength and thriving

WASECA, MN – For the first time in more than a decade, the Waseca Tourism Board is proud to announce it is fully appointed and highly engaged, with 15 dedicated members and four dynamic committees working to elevate Waseca as a sought after tourism destination

This revitalized board is already making a strong impact through its Media Committee, Grants Committee, Holiday Lights Committee, and Fireworks Committee. These dynamic working groups are not only functional—they are energetic, co-

operative, and planning for future growth as community needs evolve. Committee chairs currently include Mayor Randy Zimmerman (Holiday Lights Committee) and Brad Milbrath (Fireworks Committee), Eli Lutgens (Media) and Co-chairs Kari Wadd and Tiffany Lynch (Grants).

"This level of engagement is moving," said a Board President Mikhail Rostislavovich. "It's been over ten years since the Waseca Tourism Board has operated at this degree of activity, and the results are already visible across our community."

Since its restructuring in February, the Board has wasted no time in supporting Waseca's vibrancy: Backing the Spring Shop Hop, which highlighted local retailers and brought shoppers to State Street, honoring Ken Borgmann for his longstanding contributions to the Sleigh & Cutter Festival, and awarding numerous grants to support local events that draw tourists and enrich community life.

The Discover Waseca Tourism Grant Program remains open and is available to both nonprofit and for-

profit organizations planning events that encourage tourism and overnight stays in Waseca. This thorough funding opportunity helps fuel the local economy while supporting a broad range of community events.

Looking ahead, the Tourism Board plans to expand its committee structure to address additional community needs and opportunities.

For more information on the grant program or to get involved, visit [www.discoverwaseca.com](http://www.discoverwaseca.com) or contact the Tourism Board directly at 507-201-3082.

## Waldorf Petal Pushers



From left: Kathy Stencel, Bev Janike, Pat Coy, Teresa Suek, DeeAnn Britton, Maryls Nelson, JoAnn and Judy Kelling and Patty Garten were all volunteering at the Waldorf Petal Pushers plant sale at the Community Center on Saturday, May 10, 2025.

# Attend the Church of your Choice!

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH</b><br>2200 4th St NE, Waseca<br>507-835-2235<br>Service times 9:30 a.m.<br>* * *                                                                                                       | 507-607-8245<br>Sunday worship 10 a.m.<br>* * *                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Pastor Dan Kordahl</b><br>Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship<br>* * *                                                                                                                                                                                                | 12-18<br>* * *                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH</b><br>605 4th St NE, Waseca<br>507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker)<br>Worship Sundays 10 a.m.<br>* * *                                                                            | <b>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS</b><br>1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca<br>507-835-4640<br>Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.<br>* * *                                                                                                                              | <b>VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Brian Schanil Pastor<br>Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School<br>Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark<br>* * * | <b>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>412 N. Main Street, Janesville<br>Pastor Jason Wolter<br>Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship<br>Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship<br>* * *               |
| <b>FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b><br>801 4th Ave NE, Waseca<br>507-835-3167<br>Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m.<br>* * *                                                                                               | <b>GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH</b><br>1221 8th St SE, Waseca<br>507-835-2213<br>Sunday worship 10:45 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.<br>* * *                                                                                                                                           | <b>ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Father Glenn Ferichs<br>Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass<br>Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m.<br>* * *                                                                               | <b>JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b><br>401 N. West St., Janesville<br>Pastor Kathy King<br>Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship<br>* * *                                                                                    |
| <b>CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>309 6th St NE, Waseca<br>507-835-9176<br>Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service<br>* * *             | <b>CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY</b><br>900 14th Ave SE, Waseca<br>507-833-1082<br>Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m.<br>* * *                                                                                                        | <b>FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod</b><br>Waldorf, Minnesota<br>Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe<br>Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class<br>* * *                                                                                 | <b>BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b><br>43089 180th St., Morristown<br>Pastor Kathy King<br>Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter)<br>* * *                                     |
| <b>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca<br>507-833-1703<br>Sundays 9:00 a.m.<br>* * *                                                                                                            | <b>ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor<br>Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship<br>Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters<br>Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship<br>* * *                  | <b>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>Freedom Township<br>Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship<br>* * *                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH</b><br>307 W. 2nd St. Janesville<br>10 a.m. - Mass<br>* * *                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>314 4th Ave NE, Waseca<br>507-835-2647<br>Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m.<br>* * *                                                                                                     | <b>ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>Otisco, Minnesota<br>Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor<br>Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study<br>Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship<br>* * *                                                                                     | <b>ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST</b><br>Pastor Ava Adams-Morris<br>Waldorf, Minnesota<br>Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship<br>* * *                                                                                                                                         | <b>FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>300 Owen St., Janesville<br>Pastor Sarah Krolak<br>* * *                                                                                                                                |
| <b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH</b><br>503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca<br>507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net)<br>Worship Sunday 10 a.m.<br>* * *                                                           | <b>TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Pastor Mary Iverson<br>Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee<br>Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting<br>Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting<br>* * * | <b>ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC</b><br>Waldorf, Minnesota<br>Father Brian Mulligan<br>Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship<br>* * *                                                                                                                                                  | <b>ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH</b><br>Alma City, Minnesota<br>Pastor Robert Harting<br>Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship<br>* * *                                                                                                |
| <b>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>300 E Elm Ave, Waseca<br>507-835-1709<br>Worship Sunday 9 a.m.<br>* * *                                                                                                            | <b>LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Pastor Dan Kordahl<br>Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School<br>Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting<br>* * *                                                                               | <b>TRINITY LUTHERAN</b><br>Wilton Township<br>Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor<br>Sunday - 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1<br>* * *                                                                                                            | <b>NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA</b><br>404 30 120th St. Waseca<br>Pastor Sarah Krolak<br>507-234-6463<br>Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship, Second Sunday "Young at heart"<br>Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation<br>* * * |
| <b>SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH</b><br>111 4th St NW, Waseca<br>Father Glenn Ferichs<br>507-835-1222<br>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.<br>* * * | <b>VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>* * *                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS</b><br>Brad Donner, Branch President<br>Waseca, Minnesota<br>www.lds.org<br>Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School<br>Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages                            | <b>NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.</b>                                                                                   |
| <b>REAL LIFE CHURCH</b><br>620 W Elm Ave, Waseca<br>* * *                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |



Janesville

1925

On the line of one western railroad during the present year four new beet sugar factories will be built at a cost of \$5,250,000, in time to handle the 1925 beet crop. It is stated that last year farmers averaged \$41 per acre net on sugar beet pro- duction and the acreage this year will be much increased. The American sugar beet industry, protected by a tariff that enables these factories to compete with cane sugar produced by much cheaper labor, encourages prosperous conditions for the beet grower and the transportation companies.

- Janesville defeated Waterville in the opening game of the Waseca County League, by a score of 9 to 1. The game was very close until the last inning when Janesville put on a batting exhibition that netted 6 runs, bringing the total score to 9. Hess and Hartwick did the battery work for the locals while Reynolds, Bunn, and Kaupa worked for Waterville.

- Although a flood of compulsory automobile insurance bills were introduced in the various legislatures, the tabulated list already exceeding sixty very few of them got anywhere. In a great majority of cases the strong arguments made against the measures were sufficient to postpone action. The reasons against the plan are many and cogent and were well set forth in the report of the Committee of Nine appointed to consider such measures. This report holds that such laws would not prevent automobile accidents but would rather tend to increase them, and outlines the other arguments against the plan and the inevitable tendency to encourage state insurance.

1950

Fire broke out early Sunday morning in a two story machine shed on the Phil Arnoldt farm, destroying the shed, machinery 750 baby chicks and other valuable property. Had it not been for the prompt arrival of the Janesville fire department, much more loss would no doubt have resulted. In spite of the fact that the alarm sounded at 3:50 a.m., Sunday morning, Fire Chief Harvey Gardner reports that 18 members of the fire department were at the scene of the fire. Twenty members of the department answered another call on Friday afternoon, April 21, at the Ted Gahler farm, They put out a grass and rubbish fire along the railroad right of way which kept the barn from catching fire.

- The card party, sponsored by the Band Boosters Club of Janesville, on Thursday evening, April 21, in the school auditorium was very well attended. At this time the band made its first appearance in their new uniforms, which are black with gold trim and beautifully tailored. Before the card party the band played the following numbers under the direction of Mr. J. Perry Watson: "Washington's Post," by John Philip Sousa; "Sypsy Festival," by Hayes, and the school song, "Onward Boys of Janesville," by Fillmore.

- Madison Lake volunteer firemen Saturday afternoon rescued a North Mankatoan whose boat overturned on Madison Lake. Rescued was Bill Bohrer, bartender at the Circle Inn. He clung to his overturned, flat-bottomed boat for the few minutes it took alerted volunteers to man a life boat.

1975

- The charter president of the Janesville Jaycees is in the running for the Outstanding First Year Jaycee Award in the State of Minnesota. Jim Johnson, a science teacher at Janesville High School, has already won the award at the district and regional levels. This coming Friday and Saturday he will be in competition for the statewide award. The Minnesota winner of this award will receive an expense-paid trip to the National Jaycee Convention in Miami.

- Greg Cahill, 16, has been accepted into a four-week Environmental Biology Program through Mount Marty College, Yankton, South Dakota. The JHS junior will take part in the program from July 21 – August 16. The first two weeks will be spent at the college and Lewis and Clark Lake. The final two weeks will be spent back packing into Big Bear Lake and doing experiments there.

- After 25 years of pumping gas and changing tires, Ray Holthus, 68, is giving way to the youth movement. Effective next Monday, he will sell Ray's Union 76 on Highway 14 to John Schmidt. Schmidt, 33, is no stranger to the service station business. Until just recently he did alignment work for Paul's Service Center in Mankato.

Before that he operated his own alignment business in the Janesville Body Shop building. Holthus bought the service station from Les Hanlon in 1949. Prior to then he farmed, ran a grocery store, and was a salesman for two Waseca firms.

2000

- Starting May 1st, it will be cheaper to wash your car in Janesville than in either Manka- to or Waseca. The new owners of the Janesville Car Wash, Brent and Judy Philippon, are hoping area residents will do just that. the Philippons assumed ownership of the Janesville Car Wash on March 1st. they are in the process of making some minor improvements, including lowering the price on the fully automatic, "touchless" stall that was installed a year ago.

- Phillipson are not new to the car was business, having owned the Waterville Car Wash for two years. They have also been the owners of the Cannon Gate Park Campground in Waterville since 1992.

- With almost every area school district facing serious budget cuts, State Representa- tive Henry Kalis of Walters said it is important that the Legisla- ture adopt the Senate's educa- tion finance bill, because it will better address the needs of area schools. Kalis said the Senate education bill will provide \$917,041 more to schools attended by students from District 26B than the House bill. "We have an opportunity this year to get our schools back on track financially without increasing pressure on property taxes," he said. "The House plan for using the budget surplus under funds public education."

- Due to an outstanding performance in the USA Junior Nationals all-state high school competition held in Minneapolis on Sunday, April 9, Jonathan Flitter and Adam Hammett, who are currently juniors at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School, have been invited to participate in the prestigious USA Junior Nationals Championship Festival on Monday-Sunday, July 10-16, in Madison, Wis. Flitter is the son of Charles and Virginia Flitter of Pemberton. Hammett is the son of Jim and Julie Hammett of Janesville.

■ Reading  
from Page 3

First Sight," a story about love at the airport.

Anna Marken, girlfriend to Alex Blake, loves spending time with her two kids, and her cat Snowy and her boyfriend. Her story "Northern Lights" takes place in Sterling, Colorado, and has a winter setting. Her second is the longest in the book, titled, from "Blue Eyed Girl" and speaks of her mother dating a very tall man, her grandmother and grand-father and how much time she likes to spend with them. The final person to speak was Ben

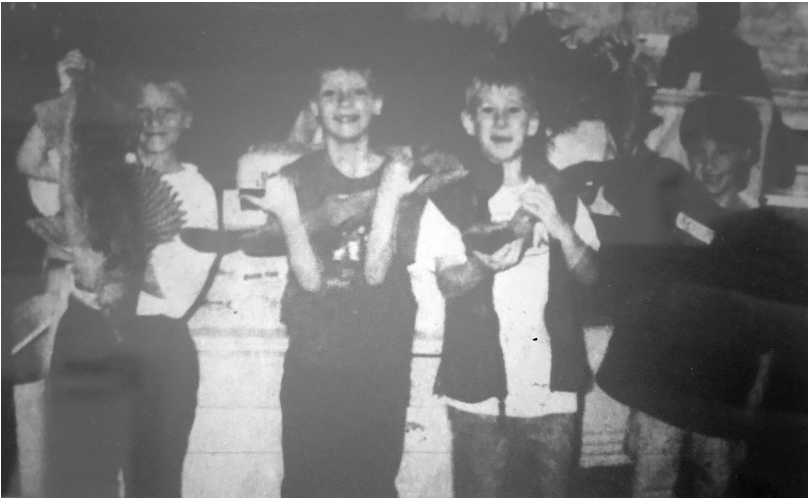
Sather who needed assistance speaking with his phone. His story, titled "Weak" was a powerful statement about himself as a strong person, a smart person and someone who would be a good friend, if he was only given the chance.

Descriptions and readings from the writers seemed to make a powerful connection to the audience members who came to see them. All of the authors wanted to say "Thank You" to everyone who helped with the day's event. Anyone wanting to check out any of the books from the Cow Tipping Press are invited to visit [www.cowtippingpress.org](http://www.cowtippingpress.org), or come check them out from the Waseca Public Library.

Waseca

25 Years Ago

-Department of Natural Resources intern Rich Rients placed large-mouth bass into Loon Lake on Tuesday as part of a re-stocking program to replace the fish lost in last winter's fish kill.



-At the Mississippi River Exhibition, some Hartley Elementary second graders made a big catch! Jackson Denn, Sean Vogelsang, Dereck Pfeifer and Nelson Denn enjoyed the fish exhibitions.

-A fishing opener warm-up – Five-year-old Abby Schaper got a little help from her mom, Carol Schaper, at the fishing contest at Clear Lake on Saturday. The real fishing opener is this weekend.

-The customer is always first. This is the philosophy of Waseca Post-master Mike Grose. He has been recognized as one of the top in his field after placing second in the National Newspaper Association (NNA), Benjamin Franklin Community Newspaper and Postal Partnership Award of Excellence Contest.

50 Years Ago

-Man's favorite sport... especially when they're biting – THESE HARDY FISHERMEN didn't mind the chilly rainy weather one bit yesterday; the bullheads were hungry and that was all that mattered. One fishman had enough in his bucket to last him through next season! The Morristown dam is a favorite springtime fishing spot.



-French bulls – THE BIRTH of these two Maine-Anjous bulls (a breed from France) was especially noteworthy on the Lowell Lindeland farm last week. The two calves were born as the result of embryo transplants, a new breeding technique. Lac Lindeland, pictured, is the owner of the two newborn calves and receipt Holstein cows.

-ARMIN ROEMHILDT, was one of the few farmers in Waseca County who couldn't resist the urge to get into the field Tuesday afternoon. Roemhildt was working in a field 9 miles southwest of Waseca and claimed he was going around the mud holes instead of through them. He said he had already had his tractor stuck once and admitted it was really too muddy to plant yet.

75 Years Ago

-PRETTY TOES – Joanne Manthey, Central high school junior, gingerly samples the water of Clear Lake during the heat wave. Joanne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Art Manthey, was going to beat the heat with a dip into Clear Lake, but when asked by the Journal-Herald photographer to dive into the water said: "Oh heck, I forgot my swimming cap."

-Governor Luther A. Youngdahl this morning announced the appointment of A.H. Draheim, local dairy owner, as special municipal judge of the city of Waseca. A vacancy occurred when Frank J. Speight filed, through error, for the office of the justice of the peace. He was elected without opposition but the council could not certify him to an office which did not exist.

-Friday evening, May 6, the seniors of Sacred Heart prepared their Class play "Old Doc" to a very appreciative audience. The Coach was Sister M. Gerard of the high school faculty. The story of the play was woven around the character and work of old Doctor Hillary. He was a gruff character with a heart of gold. He was most forgetful of himself and always ready to help any one whether sick or in trouble.

100 Years Ago

-Reports regarding the prevalence of small pox in Waseca appear to be like the late Mark Twain said of the numerous reports of his death, "greatly exaggerated." A woman from the west part of the county who was shopping here Saturday informed a local merchant that she heard that there were 27 cases of small pox in Waseca.

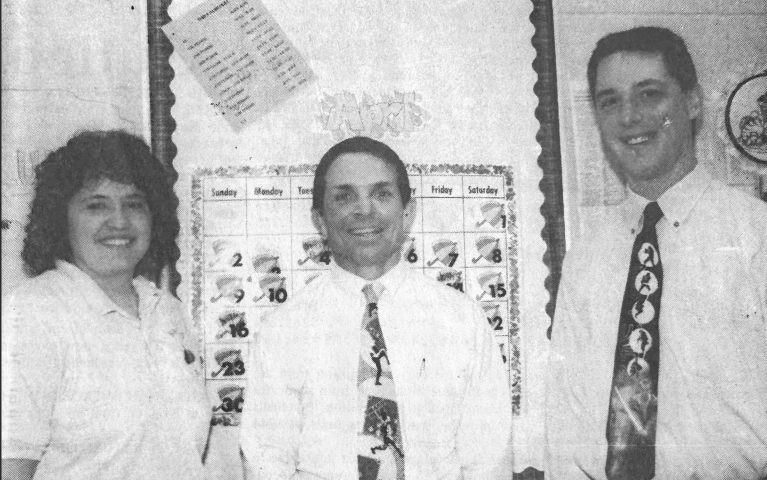
-The attractions committee of the Waseca county fair board reported the securing of two high class troupes, at the monthly meeting at the city council chambers Monday evening. While attending the annual fair secretaries meeting in the cities, the committee was able to get contracts for the appearances of the De Waldos and the Christensens. The De Waldos have two acts and are known as the great American Gymnasts and trick bicycle performers.

-Bert Sackett was given his old job of weed inspector for Waseca county Tuesday, when the county commissioners met in special session. He will get \$50 a month for five month beginning May 15TH, pay his own traveling expenses and furnish a \$500 bond. The bond, we presume, is to guarantee that Bert knows the difference between wild oats, wild mustard, Canada and sow thistles.

-Rodney Brown got the contract for wiring the new high school building which is being erected at Spring Grove. The former high school building, which had been built only two years, was burned last winter and this is being replaced by a fine new fireproof structure. Mr. Brown's bid was \$3,595 and he will have been in the job there right away.

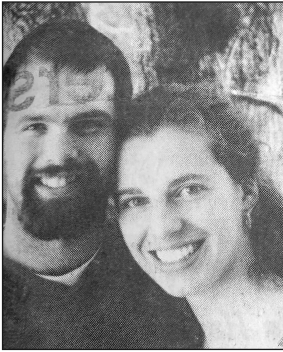
New Richland

25 Years Back



- Staff at NRHEG Middle school, Ellendale, are proud of the results eighth grade students accomplished in basic skills tests for reading and math taken in February. Math scores improved 22% in 2000 over 1999 and reading was improved by 10%. Instrumental in preparing students for the tests were Sharon Ramaker, math instructor; Paul Cyr, principal and Mark Domeier, English instructor.

- Engagement Announcement. Michele Neuman and Micheal Engesser announce their engagement. Parents of the couple are Gisela and Volker Neuman of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and John and Connie Engasser of Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Neuman is a 1997 graduate of Wauwatosa East High School in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Engesser is a 1995 graduate of Grand Rapids High School and will graduate from the University of Minnesota this spring with a degree in Chemical Engineering.



- Lori Arnold of New Richland recently achieved the status of independent sales director with Mary Kay Inc. Arnold said she has discovered that a Mary Kay business allows women the freedom to build successful careers on a part - time or full - time basis with unlimited income potential and flexibility. In preparation for her new role, Arnold attended a week - long business and leadership development seminar in Dallas where she received education in business, management, marketing strategies, sales techniques and fashion trends.

- The Panther girls golf team won their fourth golf match this spring when they defeated Maple River 227 to 274. NRHEG is 4-1 for the season. Amy Sack was medalist when she shot a 54. Sheri Miller was just one stroke behind her with a 55. Sally Johnson carded a 58 and Kristin Jessen 60. Other members of the team Mariah Routh and Missy Shaunce hit 66 and 70 respectively. Rachel Covey led the shot team with 60. Karni Ward shot 63, followed by Kristi Glad with 75 and Leah Fitzsimmons with 76. Other members of the team were Shea Kluedell who carded 77 and Alyssa Boesch with a 78.

50 Years Back



- Lavonne Wallin, left, received a starred rating on her soprano solo at the State Music Contest at Spring Valley, recently. Receiving a star for her piano solo was Susan Crumb seated at the piano. Accompanists for starred soloists were from the left, back of the piano: Donna Peterson, Lori Smith, Marti Moen and Lisa Crumb. The starred instrumental and vocal groups will perform at the Pop Concert, at the New Richland-Hartland High School auditorium, tonight.

- The Cards of New Richland-Hartland took the Janesville Bears to the cleaners twice on Saturday as they took a double-header from them, 9-2 and 8-0. Pete Olson on the mound for the Cards allowed two hits. Janesville scored their runs in the fourth and sixth innings. In the first inning, Tom Quiram flied out to left field. Scott Kormann drew a base on balls and scored on a triple by Jeff Thompson. Brad Weydert sacrificed a bunt to score Thompson. Pete Olson was on a free ticket, but Jeff Getskow flied out at first. The score was 2-0 for the Cards. Brad Brynes opened the second inning for the Cards with a base hit.



- Mrs Buddy Root and Mrs Willam Robinson install Mrs. Oswald Greenwood as president of the American Legion auxiliary unit, here, Thursday evening. Looking on are Mrs. Tom Baynes and Mrs. Vince Erdman, secretary and vice president, respectively.

75 Years Back

- The marriage of Miss Beulah Marie Carlson to Charles Edwin Cowell took place at Hutchinson Sunday evening, June 4 at 8 o'clock. Miss Carlson is the daughter of Mr and Mrs Hilmer Carlson of Hutchinson and the bridesgroom is a son of Mr and Mrs Ray Cowell of Matawan. Pastor M. C. Horn of Austin performed the marriage ceremony at the Chapel of Maplewood Academy, Hutchinson. Spring flowers decorated the room.

- New Richland took a 12 to 8 win from freeborn last friday at Skelly park in softball for their first win of the year in the Tri-county league. There is little to be concerning the score of the game with Ellendale, other than Ellendale was able to eke out a victory by a good margin. Geneva will be the guest of the Legionnaires here Friday night.

- Mrs Arthur Boie entertained 20 ladies at a pink and blue shower at her home Friday afternoon with Mrs Armin Becker, guest of honor. The afternoon was spent playing games and prizes were awarded.





**TWICE AS NICE** – The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton track and field teams celebrated two Gopher Conference championships Saturday, with both the boys and the girls topping a 10-team field at Janesville.

# Bulldogs double their fun at conference meet

## Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton track squads finish first in both boys’ and girls’ division

By JIM LUTGENS  
Sports Editor

For some reason, track and field does not seem like merely a sport at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School. It’s more like a way of life.

“We’ve just witnessed a sporting spectacle for the ages,” said Bulldogs coach Sam Schruin.

In a historic first, both the JWP boys’ and girls’ teams claimed the Gopher Conference championship Saturday on a beautiful day in Janesville.

“If it has happened,” said Schruin. “Well, we couldn’t find anyone that remembers.”

The JWP boys topped the 10-team field with 148 points. Triton was second with 120.

There were plenty of highlights for the boys, including two individuals shattering a school record in the same race.

It came in the 200 meters, where Daulton Bauer bested the school record of 23.15 seconds while placing third. But Isaiah Berndt took second, clocking 23.09.

“It’s like watching two lightning bolts race each other, if lightning bolts were incredibly fast teenagers with impeccable form,” said Schruin.

Bauer, a junior, finished first in the triple jump at 40-2.75 and third in the long jump at 19-4.5. He was third in the 400 in 53.25.

Other first-place finishes for the boys: Isaiah Berndt, long jump, 19-98.5; Isaac Gahlon, pole vault, 11-8; Gavin Weedman, 800, 2:11.39;

The 4x800 relay team of Tyson Kronback, Luke Cahill, Derek Gustafson and T.Johnson claimed gold with a time of 9:14.02.

Also placing in the top six: Weedman, second, triple jump, 38-4.5; Cahill, second pole vault, 11-2 and fourth, 3200, 12:02.25; Klieve, fourth, 800, 2:18.76; Berndt, third, 100, 11.22; Ethan Born, fifth, 110 hurdles, 47.23 and fifth, 300 hurdles, 47.23; Teagan

Mulder, fifth, 1600, 5:27.92; 4x100, fourth, 47.45 (Gahlon, Born, Patrick Morgan, Berndt); 4x200, fifth, 1:44.85 (Gahlon, G.Kaiser, Morgan, Kronbach); 4x400, third, 3:52.08 (Gustafson, Klieve, Weedman, Morgan).

The JWP girls ran away with the championship, amassing 196 points to 88 for second-place Kenyon-Wanamingo. NRHEG was third with 84.

Eighth-grader Ashlynn Wolff was a double winner, taking the 800 in 2:27.51 and clearing 4-11 for first in the high jump. She was third in the 400 in 1:02.01.

Lilly Strauss won the long jump with a leap of 16-8. She was fourth in the 100 in 13.09, sixth in the 400 in 1:03.02.

Onika Herme finished first in the 300 hurdles, clocking 49.06, while taking fifth in the 100 hurdles in 18.02 and fourth in the 200 in 27.35.

Brielle Bure, Katie Olson, Makenzie Westphal and Kayleigh Donner teamed for

first in the 4x200 in 1:51.38.

Other top-six finishes: Nevaeh Wiemert, third, 100, 12.92, second, 200, 26.76, second, 400, 1:01.65 and sixth, triple jump, 31-9.75; Ava Appel, fifth, 100 hurdles, 18.02 and third, high jump, 4-7; Kwynn Krause, sixth, 800, 2:42.35; Westphal, second, 1600, 5:38.46; Clare Groh, fourth, 3200, 14:28.99; Madeline Hoehn, fifth, 3200, 14:36.01 and sixth, pole vault, 7-1; Aubrey Weedman, fourth, discus, 91-03 and third, shot put, 33-7; Olson, fourth, long jump, 15-10.25; Sarah Bulman, third, pole vault, 7-7; Paige Walz, fifth, pole vault, 7-1; Autumn Thissen, fifth, shot put, 32-3; Presley James, third, triple jump, 32-3.5; 4x100, awxons, 52.9 (Bure, Donner, Olson, Westphal); 4x400, second, 4:19.81 (Herme, Walz, Wolff, Westphal); 4x800, second, 11:08.65 (Krause, Hoehn, Westphal, Walz).

“The sun was shining, the breeze was gentle, and the conditions were perfect for athletic feats and, of course, for coaches to

engage in some impromptu water splash shenanigans with our two-mile runners,” said Coach Schruin. “A colossal thank you to everyone who made this home meet a resounding success! From the tireless event workers to the culinary wizardry of the ever-supportive senior moms and Mama Schruin, who prepared a feast fit for royalty in the hospitality shed - your efforts are deeply appreciated. A special shout-out goes to the entire Erler family, whose assistance from setup to teardown was nothing short of heroic.”

As for Bulldog track and field more than a sport?

“It isn’t just a team,,” said Schruin. “It’s a community, a family, a force of nature! These victories are a testament to the dedication, passion, and unity of everyone involved. Together, we’ve achieved greatness!”

The Bulldogs compete today in the Waseca Invitational at 4:30.



**SECOND PLACE** – The WHS boys’ tennis team settled for second place in the overall Big South Conference. At left, the Bluejays’ Otto Schoenrock slams a backhand against Rochester Lourdes. At right, Italian exchange student Tommasso Scognamiglio hits a two-handed backhand.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

# WHS boys’ tennis squad makes history in Big South title match

## Bluejays fall 5-2 to Redwood Valley in first-ever conference championship match

History was made last week for the Waseca High School boys’ tennis team.

For the first time ever, the Bluejays earned the right to compete for the Big South Conference overall championship.

Unfortunately, they came out on the short end of a 5-2 decision to Redwood Valley at Redwood Falls.

The Bluejays split in singles play, with Henry Huttemier and Tommaso

Scognamiglio winning in straight sets at No. 2 and 3. Tyler Jellum lost in straight sets at No. 1 to Zach Lundeen, who improved to 18-0 for the season. At No. 4, Allen Kopetzki fell in straight sets, including a second-set tiebreaker.

The Bluejays’ No. 1 doubles team of Keenan Collins and Armaan Bhatti lost a three-set marathon, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2. Lucas McQuery and Tanner Hanson were at No. 2

doubles, with Braydon Hoof and Brighton Rugger at No. 3.

On Friday, the Bluejays defeated Schaeffer Academy 5-2.

Scognamiglio, an exchange student from Italy, and Otto Schoenrock were victorious at singles, while Jellum and Huttemier fell in straight sets.

Collins and Bhatti won 6-2, 6-3 at No. 1 doubles, McQuery and Hanson cruised 6-1,

6-1 at No. 2, and Hoof and Kopetzki won in straight sets at No. 3.

The Bluejays were edged 4-3 by Rochester Lourdes on Thursday.

With the match tied 3-3, it came down to No. 3 singles, where Scognamiglio prevailed 6-4 in the third set. Schoenrock won in straight sets at No. 4 singles. Jellum and Huttemier were defeated in the top two slots.

Doubles wins were by McQuery and Hanson at No. 2 and Hoff and Kopetzki at No. 3. Collins and Bhatti lost in three sets.

Waseca, 11-3, hosted Stewartville on Monday in the regular season finale.

The Section 1A playoffs will start today at 4 p.m. Waseca should host a first-round match.

Seeding was done Tuesday.

# WHS track teams 8th, 9th in True Team section meet

The Waseca High School track and field teams traveled to Fairmont for True Team section competition last week.

Both squads finished in the bottom half of the pack, the boys seventh with 334.5 points and the girls eighth with 326. Belle Plaine took the boys’ team title with 469 while St. Peter won the girls’ side with 521.

In true team competition, all com-

petitors on every team place, with the top team advancing to the True Team state meet.

Places for the WHS boys: Jordan Johnston, 4th, 100, 11.51; Brady Tlougan, 16th 100 and 10th, 400; Jonah Worke, 13th, 200 and 13th, long jump; Aydan Kath, 15th, 200; Tovin Grannis, 7th, 400 and 5th, high jump; Wyatt Hager, 24th, 800; Tristan Godwin, 14th, 800; Isaac Feldkamp, 7th, 1600 and 6th, 3200;

Sunny Mei, 17th, 1600; Landon Rutt, 14th, 3200; Michaiah Grannis, 15th, 110 hurdles and 16th, 300 hurdles; Nathanel Andrs, 20th, 100 hurdles and 19th, 300 hurdles; Tauston Rupe, 4th, shot put and 10th, discus; Toby Jeske, 8th, shot put and 7th, discus; Jacob Hadley, 3rd, high jump; William Mansfield, 2nd, pole vault, 8th, long jump and 10th, triple jump; Godwin, 11th, pole vault; Toby Jeske, 12th, pole vault.

The Bluejays finished sixth in the 4x400 and 4x800 relays.

For the girls, Brooklyn Flatau finished first in the 100 hurdles in 15.20. She was seventh in the 300 hurdles, 13th in the pole vault and fourth in the long jump.

Bella Wikan won the triple jump at 35-1.

Kalea Sartori was second in the shot put at 37-1, fifth in the discus.

Other girls’ placewinners: Wikan,

12th, 100 and 5th, 300 hurdles; Katelyn Weber, 18th, 100; Angelica Lopez, 17th, 200; Addie Zimmerman, 20th, 200; Ellie Kopischke, 10th, 400; Reese Rodriguez, 14th, 400 and 18th, triple jump; Stella Omtvedt, 4th, 800 and 11th, high jump; Kelsey Draeger, 20th, 800; Callie Dufault, 9th, 1600 and 67th, 3200; Maren Schimming, 15th, 1600 and 15th, pole vault; Ava VanDenHemel, 10th,

3200; Camila Marquez, 14th, 100 hurdles; Sierra Krause, 16th, shot put and 8th, discus; Savanna Vagts, 13th, high jump; Elsie Owens, 18th, long jump

The Bluejays were ninth in the 4x100, eighth in the 4x400 and fourth in the 4x800.

The Bluejays host the Waseca Invitational today at 4:30.





**WALK-OFF WIN** – At left, the Panthers’ Addy Stadheim slides safely into third base during NRHEG’s 19-18 victory over JWP at Legion Field last Wednesday. In the middle, left fielder Kyera Eustice makes a nice running catch. At right, Camryn VanMaldeghem connects. VanMaldeghem doubled in the winning run in the bottom of the eighth inning. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

# VanMaldeghem, Panthers outslug JWP, 19-18

NRHEG and JWP have a long history in athletics, and it used to be one of the biggest rivalries around. Some of that was rekindled Wednesday at New Richland’s Legion Field, where the Panther softball team plated the winning run in the bottom of the eighth inning in a 19-18 walk-off victory.

“This was a game of lots of hits for both teams,” said NRHEG head coach Wendy Schultz. “I was proud of the grit and determination that the girls showed throughout the game.”

“You know it’s a good night offensively when all nine players get at least one hit.” — NRHEG coach Wendy Schultz

It all came down to Camryn VanMaldeghem’s two-out at-bat in the eighth. With Brooklyn Sommer standing on second, VanMaldeghem ripped a double, Sommer scored and the Panthers walked off with the win.

“It was a complete team win,” said Schultz.

There was also plenty of offense, with every NRHEG starter collecting at least one hit.

“You know it’s a good night offensively when all nine players get

at least one hit,” said Schultz.

VanMaldeghem finished 4-for-6 with two doubles and three runs scored. Kyera Eustice was 3-for-5 with a double and three runs, Addy Stadheim 3-for-5 with two runs, Chloe Stork 3-for-6 with two runs, Aspyn Stenzel 2-for-6. Adding one hit apiece were Sommer, Faith Phillips and Olivia Berg.

Sommer started in the circle and, after giving way to Berg in the fourth and fifth innings, returned to secure the victory. She allowed four

earned runs on nine hits, with two strikeouts and five walks.

The Panthers fell 13-3 in five innings to Maple River Thursday at Legion Field.

Stork went 2-for-3 with a double. Berg and VanMaldeghem also hit safely.

Sommer took the pitching loss. “We had one tough inning where Maple River scored eight runs,” said Schultz. “Chloe Stork and Olivia Berg had good nights at the plate.”

The Panthers conclude the regular season today at 4:30 at WEM.

| Gopher Conference standings |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Randolph                    | 9-0  |
| United South Central        | 7-0  |
| Kenyon-Wanamingo            | 7-3  |
| Bethlehem Academy           | 6-3  |
| Hayfield                    | 5-3  |
| JWP                         | 4-4  |
| NRHEG                       | 2-5  |
| Blooming Prairie            | 2-5  |
| WEM                         | 2-6  |
| Triton                      | 2-7  |
| Medford                     | 0-10 |

## Baseball Panthers walk off on LCWM

Martens comes through in the 8th

The table was set for Carter Martens.

He cleared it.

Martens, a senior, came to bat in the bottom of the seventh inning with a baserunner on second and came through with a double to the fence to propel the NRHEG High School baseball team to a walk-off 6-5 victory over LCWM at Reese Field Friday.

“We stayed tough today and kept fighting,” said NRHEG head coach Shawn Larson.

But it wasn’t easy.

“I have to admit that I was starting to feel a little like we have been playing lately, and I was just hoping the guys were going to keep believing,” said Larson.

The Panthers took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first but trailed most of the game, with the Knights holding a 5-1 lead in the fifth.

NRHEG responded with two in the sixth and two more in the seventh.

“We went to the bottom of the seventh looking for a way to get a run to tie,” said Larson.

Aaden Hanna singled and was advanced by his teammates.

Then Martens delivered the big blow.

“What we did today is what I would define as NRHEG Panther baseball,” said Larson. “That win was gritty, and I for one am proud.”

For the Panthers, Owen Wayne finished 2-for-4, Aiden Schlaak 2-for-3 and Jace Ihrke. Martens, Ryan Schlaak and Hanna had one hit apiece. The Panthers combined to draw five walks and strike out 10 times.

Ryan Schlaak started on the mound and went five innings, striking out eight and walking four while allowing five earned runs.

Levi Whiteside, a freshman, got the win in relief, throwing two scoreless innings. He fanned two and walked one.

“Our two young pitchers were good on the mound today,” said Coach Larson. “Sophomore Ryan Schlaak did a good job of staying



**A LOT OF OFFENSE** — Above, Dakota Schlaak pops up at second after stealing the base in the Panthers’ 6-5 extra-inning victory over LCWM at Reese Field Friday. Below, Owen Wayne connects for a first-inning base hit. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

around the strike zone and getting contact outs. He is really showing that he has the ability to be a solid starter for us. Levi Whiteside came in relief for Schlaak and was fantastic. Whiteside did not allow a run and kept the Knights in check for us to make the comeback.”

A day earlier, the Panthers lost 5-0 to Maple River at Mapleton.

Hanna and Martens both went 2-for-3. Wayne and Alden Dobberstein had one hit each. The Panthers struck out 12 times and did not draw a walk.

Wayne started the took the pitching loss, allowing two earned runs in four innings, with seven strikeouts and four walks. Calvin Nissen pitched in relief.

“We feel like we pitched well today, and they pitched well too,” said Larson. “We feel like we played defense well and our opponents matched that. There were a few times that we were overly aggressive at the plate, and other times we were getting called out on strikes.”

The Panthers dropped both ends of a doubleheader at Madelia Saturday, 13-3 and 14-3.

“It was a difficult day for us today,” said Larson. “We hit the ball hard, but oftentimes we hit right at



the defense. On the other side of the game, Madelia was able to hit us very well. It was nothing we were doing wrong, they just hit well, in both games.”

The Panthers were held to five hits in game one, one apiece by Wayne, Martens, Nissen, Ihrke and Brock Ziemke.

Martens took the loss, starting the pitching the first 2 1/3 innings.

## NRHEG track girls third in conference

Karl leads NRHEG boys to 8th

The NRHEG High School track and field teams traveled to Janesville Saturday for the 2025 Gopher Conference meet.

The girls fared the best, finishing third out of 10 teams with 84 points. JWP won with 196.

Juliann Wobbrock, an 8th-grader, finished second in the 3200 meters with a time of 12:24.32. She was fifth in the 800 in 2:39.64.

Sophomore Kylie Olson was second in the shot put at 34-2.5 and third in the discus with a toas of 91-10.

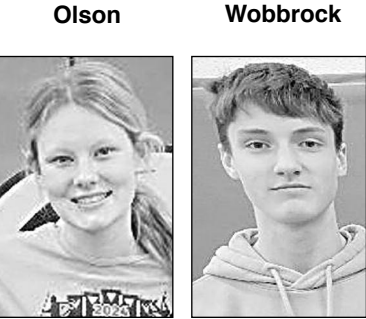
Anika Ladlie, a sophomore, cleared 4-11 for second in the high jump.

Sierra Misgen, Riewer, Clara Buendorf and Peyton Frye clocked 1:53.66 for second in the 4x200 relay.

Riewer, Clara Buendorf, Ladlie and Schlaak teamed for third in the 4x100 in 54.45 seconds. Misgen, Buendorf, Frye and Quinn VanMaldeghem took third in the 4x400 in 4:27.72. Holly Bartness, Fish, Violet Botten and R.Cromwell were sixth in the 4x800 in 13:15.29.

Other top-six finishes for the Panther girls: Gabby Schlaak, third, 100 hurdles, 17.44 and fourth, 300 hurdles, 52.56; Sierra Fish, fifth, discus, 87-9; Chloe Riewer, fifth, long jump, 15-4.

The NRHEG boys totaled 38.5 points, good for eighth place. JWP won with 148.



Jacob Karl, a junior, was the Panthers’ top scorer, finishing second in the 1600 in 4:53.8 and fifth in the 800 in 2:20.52.

Lavon Jewison was second in the high jump at 6-1.

Harbor Cromwell, Wyatt Tuttle, Brendan Schmidt and Nathan Hager were sixth in the 4x100 in 28.94. Cole Hutchens, Gavin Sletten, Logan Schiell and Noah Weller were sixth in the 4x400 in 4:12.64.

The Panthers’ other places were by Schmidt, fifth, pole vault, 9-2, and Charlie Fuller, sixth, triple jump, 37-6.5.

The Panthers are at the Waseca Invitational today at 4:30.<sup>oo</sup>

## NRHEG golfers complete second round of conference

The NRHEG High School golfers traveled to Mankato’s North Links Golf Course for the second round of section play Thursday.

Scores for the NRHEG boys: Reid Sandry 88, Braxton Arnold 98, Braydon Rollag 95, Shan Hanson 98, Matt Williams 112.

For the girls: Alexis Olson 121, Olivia Wilkenson 122.

After another conference round Tuesday at Austin, the Panthers are home today for a 4:30 p.m. meet. They play Monday at Waseca’s Lakeside Golf Course in another conference round.

**Get your sports in the Pioneer**  
• e-mail [sportswriter79@yahoo.com](mailto:sportswriter79@yahoo.com)





**PLENTY OF OFFENSE** – There were plenty of runs by both teams at New Richland last week. At left, the Bulldogs’ Claire Loeffler awaits the throw that does not arrive in time to catch Addy Stadheim sliding into home. In the middle, Loeffler applies the tag late as Chloe Stork scores. At right, Raylen Blasing is tagged out at third by Camryn VanMaldeghe. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

JWP softball team wins 1 of 4, dropping 19-18 marathon to NRHEG

The JWP High School softball team won one of four games this past week.

The Bulldogs fell 14-7 to St. Paul and 8-7 to Rochester Lourdes, defeating Triton 10-3 while dropping an eight-inning 19-18 slugfest at NRHEG.

Raylen Blasing had a great game against St. Paul Central, going 3-for-4 and driving in four runs. She stole two bases.

Kayle Langford was 2-for-3 with two runs. Brielle James, Haylee Appel and Brielle Dessner were all 2-for-4.

Ryleigh Donner absorbed the pitching loss, allowing 12 earned runs on 10 hits, with six strikeouts and eight walks.

Against Lourdes, Ellah Oliver and Lilly Ewert went 3-for-4, Donner 2-for-3.

Donner gave up three earned runs

on 12 hits. She struck out four and walked two.

Leading the offensive assault against Triton was Blasing, who went 4-for-5 with a double, two runs and two stolen bases.

Dessner was 3-for-4 with two doubles, Langford 2-for-4 with a double, Oliver 2-for-4 with a double and four RBIs. Donner was 3-for-5 with two doubles and two RBIs.

Donner was the winning pitcher,

yielding seven hits while striking out seven. She stranded nine baserunners.

Both teams put up plenty of offense in a rescheduled game at New Richland.

JWP leaders: Blasing 4-for-6; Ewert 4-for-5 with two doubles; Dessner 3-for-5 with five RBIs; Autumn Thissen 3-for-3; Oliver 3-for-5.

Claire Loeffler and Donner

shared the pitching duties. Loeffler started and went 2 1/3 innings, giving up six earned runs while facing 20 batters. Donner went 6 2/3 innings, allowing five earned runs on 11 hits, facing 34 batters.

The Bulldogs play today at 4:30 at Bethlehem Academy and conclude the regular season Friday with a 4:30 home game against New Ulm Cathedral.

**Gopher Conference standings**

|                      |      |
|----------------------|------|
| Randolph             | 9-0  |
| United South Central | 7-0  |
| Kenyon-Wanamingo     | 7-3  |
| Bethlehem Academy    | 6-3  |
| Hayfield             | 5-3  |
| JWP                  | 4-4  |
| NRHEG                | 2-5  |
| Blooming Prairie     | 2-5  |
| WEM                  | 2-6  |
| Triton               | 2-7  |
| Medford              | 0-10 |

Baseball Bluejays fall to LeSueur-Henderson, TCU

The Waseca High School baseball team lost twice in recent action, 15-1 to LeSueur-Henderson and 6-5 to Tri-City United at Larson Field in Waseca.

Jeremy Parpart had a great game against TCU, going 4-for-5. Owen Honstad had two hits, Cash Lynch and Aiden Schoemaker one apiece. Colten Ruedy was the losing pitcher.

“We had a chance to win this one, but came up just a little short,” said Bluejays assistant coach Tink Larson

“We had a chance to win, but came up just a little short.”

— Bluejays assistant coach Tink Larson

Larson. “Parpart had a great game at the plate.”

It was visiting LeSueur-Henderson who had the great offensive night Monday, totaling 16 hits while ending the game after five

innings.

Honstad had the Jays’ lone hit. Parpart started on the mound and took the loss.

“LeSueur-Henderson had a nice team,” said Larson. “They played

well in all three phases of the game, hitting (16 hits), pitching (1 hit and 1 walk) and fielding (0 errors). We had just two baserunners in the game, one hit and one walk, so it was hard to produce runs.”

The Bluejays won 6-5 at Worthington Saturday.

The Bluejays host WEM today at 4:30 and finish the regular season Friday at 7 p.m. against Blooming Prairie at Larson Field.

Waseca softball team prevails in one of three

The Waseca High School softball team was victorious in one of three games this past week.

The Bluejays lost 11-6 to Tri-City United and 11-1 at St. Peter before defeating Blue Earth Area 12-6 Saturday at Blue Earth.

The Bluejays, 2-6 in the Big South Big Division and 5-11 overall, hosted Jordan Monday and played at Medford Tuesday. They face Maple River at home today at

5:30 and play Saturday at 11 a.m. at WEM.

**Big South Big Standings**

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| St. Peter   | 7-1 |
| New Ulm     | 6-1 |
| Worthington | 5-3 |
| Worthington | 5-4 |
| Waseca      | 2-6 |
| Fairmont    | 1-1 |
| Marshall    | 0-8 |

Simonson retains lead in Gopher Conference golf

Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton’s Jeffrey Simonson still leads the Gopher Conference by three strokes after two rounds.

The Bulldogs were at North Links in Mankato Thursday for a confer-

ence round, finishing with 385 strokes for 18 holes, good for sixth on the day. Simonson shot 77, Evan Mulcahey 100, Garrett Rienhardt 104, John Bublitz 104.

The JWP boys defeated visiting

NRHEG 192-225 Friday at Prairie Ridge. JWP scores: Simonson, first overall, 42; Mulcahey 47, Reinhardt 50, Bublitz 54. JWP claimed the top four places.

The Bulldogs play today at 4:30

at New Richland’s River Golf Course, then travel to Fairmont’s Rose Lake to face GHEC Friday at 4:15. They travel to Waseca for another Gopher Conference match May 22 at 1 p.m.

MVAC 60th birthday party set for May 22

(Waseca, MN May 1, 2025) – Minnesota Valley Action Council is turning 60 on May 18. To celebrate 60 years of the continued success of Community Action and raise awareness throughout the nine-county area, MVAC will host an Open House on Thursday, May 22 from 9 to 11 a.m. at 108 10th Ave. SE, Waseca.

May 18 is also Head Start’s birthday, and May is Community Action Month. MVAC is part of the national

Community Action Network - a robust state and local force that helps empower hardworking families to achieve economic independence rather than keeping them reliant on government assistance. There are nearly 1,000 agencies across the country working every day to create economic opportunities, strengthen local communities, and help families find pathways to prosperity.

“Each May, during Community

Action Month, we reflect on the impact MVAC and our network has had on families,” said Amanda Mackie, Executive Director at MVAC. “Last year alone, we served more than 5,800 households in Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, and Watonwan with services like job training, Head Start, energy assistance, and helping families build skills to achieve long-term financial freedom.”

Community Action Agencies ensure that hard-working American families have access to the opportunities they need to thrive, while also promoting local economic growth and reducing government dependency. All agencies are locally controlled with boards of directors composed of local elected officials, private and public sector representatives, and engaged community residents.

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF WASECA  
DISTRICT COURT  
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
Probate Division  
Court File No.: 81-PR-25-284  
In Re: Estate of  
BRIAN CHESTER SOMMERS,  
Decedent  
NOTICE OF INFORMAL AP-  
POINTMENT OF PERSONAL  
REPRESENTATIVE AND  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS (IN-  
TESTATE)

-----

Notice is given that an Application for Informal Appointment of Personal Representative was filed with the Registrar. No Will has been presented for probate. The Registrar accepted the application and appointed Kirsten J. Sommers, whose address is 805 11th Avenue SE, Waseca, Minnesota 56093, to serve as the personal representative of the Decedent's estate.  
Any heir or other interested person

may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Any objection to the appointment of the personal representative must be filed with the Court, and any properly filed objection will be heard by the Court after notice is provided to interested persons of the date of hearing on the objection.  
Unless objections are filed, and unless the Court orders otherwise, the personal representative has the full power to administer the estate, including, after thirty (30) days from the issuance of letters of general administration, the power to sell, encumber, lease, or distribute any interest in real estate owned by the Decedent.  
Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within

four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.Dated: 04/29/2025  
2025.04.29  
/s/ Abby Williams 13:53:49-05'00'  
  
Registrar  
Shannon M. Asselin  
Court Administrator

SMITH, TOLLEFSON, RAHRICK & CASS  
Mark J. Rahrick  
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Owatonna, MN 55060  
Telephone: (507) 451-6540  
Facsimile: (507) 451-1846  
e-mail: mark@owatonna-law.com

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT  
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Thursday May 8 and 15, 2025

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF WASECA  
DISTRICT COURT  
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
Probate Court Division  
Court File No.: 81-PR-25-321  
In Re: Estate of  
SHERRY L. LARSON,  
Decedent.  
NOTICE AND ORDER FOR  
HEARING ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF  
INTESTACY, DETERMINA-  
TION OF HEIRSHIP, AND AP-  
POINTMENT OF PERSONAL  
REPRESENTATIVE AND NO-  
TICE TO CREDITORS

-----

TO ALL INTERESTED PER-  
SONS:  
It is ordered and notice is given that on June 25, 2025, at 9:30 AM a hearing will be held via zoom, see notice of remote hearing, at 307 North State St, Waseca, MN 56093, for the formal adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Peyton J. Larson residing at 5801 Dogwood Court NW, Rochester, MN 55901, as personal representative of the estate of the Decedent in an unsupervised administration.  
Any objections to the petition should be filed with the Court prior

to or raised at the hearing. NOTE: You will need to pay a filing fee when you file the objection. If you cannot afford the fee, you can ask for a fee waiver. If proper and no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real property, and to do all necessary acts for the estate.  
Notice is also given that (subject to Minn Stat 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.  
Dated: 05/06/2025  
/s/ Carol M. Hanks  
Judge of District Court  
/s/ Shannon M. Asselin  
Deputy Court Administrator

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, P.A.  
Emily A. Loomis, #505701  
215 E Elm Ave, PO Box 249  
Waseca, MN 56093  
507-835-5240  
Emily.loomis@phblawoffice.com  
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on May 15 and 22, 2025

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF WASECA  
IN DISTRICT COURT  
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Civil Division  
Case Type: Quiet Title  
Court File No. 81-CV-25-310

Wallace B. Wadd, Jennifer K. Klein, and Joseph Klein,  
  
Plaintiffs,  
vs.  
  
SUMMONS

Gary D. Paulson and Barbara A. Paulson; Frank Borgeson; the Unknown Heirs of Seymour J. Johnson; the Unknown Heirs of Dorothy M. Gleason; the Unknown Heirs of Steven L. Gleason; the Unknown Heirs of Helen W. Borgeson a/k/a Helen W. Cooper; and all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, interest, or lien in the real estate described in the Complaint herein,  
  
Defendants.

agree or disagree with each paragraph of the Complaint. If you believe the Plaintiff should not be given everything asked for in the Complaint, you must say so in your Answer.  
4. **YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASE IF YOU DO NOT SEND A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT TO THE PERSON WHO SIGNED THIS SUMMONS.** If you do not Answer within 20 days, you will lose this case. You will not get to tell your side of the story, and the Court may decide against you and award the Plaintiff everything asked for in the Complaint. If you do not want to contest the claims stated in the Complaint, you do not need to respond. A default judgment can then be entered against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.  
5. **LEGAL ASSISTANCE.** You may wish to get legal help from a lawyer. If you do not have a lawyer, The Court Administrator may have information about places where you can get legal assistance. **Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still provide a written Answer to protect your rights or you may lose the case.**  
6. **ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** The parties may agree to or be ordered to participate in an Alternative Dispute Resolution process under Rule 114 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice. You must still send your written response to the Complaint even is you expect to use alternative means of resolving the dispute.  
7. **THIS LAWSUIT MAY AFFECT OPR BRING INTO QUESTION TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY** located in Waseca County, Minnesota, legally described as follows: *See Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof.*

The object of this action is to obtain a judgment that Plaintiff is the owner, in fee simple, of the above-described real property, and that none of said Defendants have any estate or interest therein or lien thereon.

Dated this 29<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025.

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, P.A.

By: Keith L. Deike (#148635)  
215 E. Elm Ave., PO Box 249

Waseca, MN 56093-0249  
(507) 835-5240  
keith.deike@phblawoffice.com  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

EXHIBIT A  
Legal Description  
Wadd & Klein v. Paulson et al.

All that part of the S ½ of the NE ¼ and the SE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 13, Township 108 North, Range 23 West, Waseca County, Minnesota, described as follows:  
Beginning at the southeast corner of said NE ¼ 14;  
Thence North 8929'42" West a distance of 2636.74 feet, on an assumed bearing on the south line of said NE ¼ 14 to the southwest corner of said NE ¼ 14;  
Thence North 8929'42" West a distance of 389.56 feet on the south line of said NW ¼ 14 to the intersection of said south line and the centerline of the abandoned railroad formerly known as the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad;  
Thence North 2243'40" East a distance of 1203.00 feet on the centerline of said abandoned railroad;  
Thence Northeasterly on said centerline a distance of 263.57 feet on a tangential curve concave to the northwest, having a central angle of 0754'25", radius of 1909.86 feet, chord bearing North 1846'28" East, and a chord distance of 263.36 feet, to the north line of said S ½;  
Thence South 8947'48" East a distance of 2483.26 feet on the north line to the northeast corner of said S ½;  
Thence South 0016'30" West a distance of 584.81 feet on the east line of said NE ¼ 14;  
Thence North 8929'42" West a distance of 132.0 feet parallel with the south line of said NE ¼ 14;  
Thence South 0016'30" West a distance of 330.0 feet parallel with the east line of said NE ¼ 14;  
Thence South 8929'42" East a distance of 132.0 feet, parallel with the south line of said NE ¼ 14, to the east line of said NE ¼ 14;  
Thence South 0016'30" West a distance of 462.0 feet to the point of beginning.  
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on May 8, 15 and 22, 2025

The City of Waseca  
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON  
PROPOSED COUNTY ROAD NO. 61 REVOCATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Waseca County will conduct a public hearing pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 163.11 for the purpose of receiving oral and/or written comments on the proposed revocation of County Road No. 61 (78<sup>th</sup> St/ 325<sup>th</sup> Ave/ 80<sup>th</sup> St) in St. Mary Township. The public hearing will convene at 7:00 pm, Monday May 19, 2025, at the St. Mary Township Hall, located at the intersection of 90<sup>th</sup> Street and 350<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Persons wishing to make written comment may do so by mailing them to Waseca County Public Works, 1495 5<sup>th</sup> St SE, PO Box 487, Waseca MN 56093, or by email to jim.kollar@wasecacounty.gov.

Jim Kollar, PE, Waseca County Public Works Director/County Engineer

Publish in the Waseca County Pioneer: April 24, May 1, May 8, May 15

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Heather DeLong, Minnesota Beef Council Business Manager (left) with Dean Morgan (right) holding beef backer award at the Minnesota Association of Meat Processors Convention (photo courtesy of MAMP).

# MN Beef Council names Morgan’s Meat Market as 2025 retail beef backer

MAPLE PLAIN, Minn. – Each year, the Minnesota Beef Council proudly recognizes a Minnesota retailer for its outstanding commitment to excellence in beef promotion. This year’s 2025 Minnesota Retail Beef Backer Award goes to Morgan’s Meat Market of Waseca, Minnesota, a family-owned establishment whose legacy and innovation have made them a pillar of Minnesota’s beef industry.

Founded by Dean and Barb Morgan in 2003, Morgan’s Meat Market has long served as a cornerstone for the communities it serves. From its origins in New Richland to its current home in Waseca, the market has built a reputation for providing top-quality, locally sourced beef products. With a wide selection of hand-cut steaks, expertly seasoned beef jerky, summer sausages, and signature snack sticks, their dedication to craftsmanship and flavor is second to none.

Their success is also a story of resilience and innovation. After a catastrophic flood in 2012 destroyed their original shop, the Morgans rebuilt from the ground up. In 2020, at the height of pandemic-fueled demand, they transitioned their operations to Waseca, returning to the shop where Dean first began meat cutting in 1986. The move allowed them to expand, improve workflow, and become a USDA-inspected facility. Today, they produce 2,000 to 3,000 pounds of beef snack sticks daily, with further expansion on the horizon.

Their signature beef jerky has become a standout product, earning national recognition by being selected as the official beef jerky partner for a premier professional sports organization, placing beef in the spotlight across the country.

“Our team is incredibly honored to receive this year’s Beef Backer Award,” said Dean Morgan. “This

recognition means so much to our family, and we remain committed to supporting Minnesota’s beef producers and delivering the best possible products to our customers.”

Beyond products, Morgan’s Meat Market excels in community engagement and customer education. Their staff shares cooking tips and product knowledge both in-store and through social media, building trust and helping customers discover new beef options.

They also actively compete yearly in a variety of beef product competitions, including the Minnesota State Fair, where they’ve earned more than 200 awards and three Best of Show honors, further highlighting their excellence in the field.

Morgan’s Meat Market received an engraved plaque to commemorate their award, now proudly displayed in their Waseca location. You can check out their meat market on their website at [morgansmeatmarket.net](https://morgansmeatmarket.net) and follow them on Facebook.

Any independent or chain retailer based in Minnesota is eligible to apply for the Retail Beef Backer Award. Retailers may enter themselves or be nominated by customers, vendors, or community members.

###

About the Minnesota Beef Council

The Minnesota Beef Council was established in 1967 and is funded and managed by beef farmers and ranchers. Through the Beef Checkoff Program, \$1 is obtained for every head of cattle sold. The council utilizes promotion, research, and education to strengthen beef demand and improve the marketing climate of beef. To learn more, visit [mnbeef.org](https://mnbeef.org) and follow us on Facebook and Instagram at Minnesota Beef.



Over 70 students were performing 11 different orchestral numbers between both the Concert Band and the Symphonic Band at the Waseca Performing Arts Center on Friday evening of, May 9, 2025. Band Director was Devon Lawrence.

# Spring Pops Concert brings seniors closer to graduation

By BEN REVERMANN  
Staff writer

As he introduced the Waseca Junior Senior High School’s instrumental music Spring Pops Concert the evening of Friday, May 9, director Devon Lawrence told audience members about the Concert Band, “I’ve had to tell these guys to settle down a bunch of times, but they’re ready.”

In the Performing Arts Center for the evening was the Waseca High School Symphonic Band.

After Lawrence explained the term indicates the group has a large wind ensemble, the symphonic band played three songs by Randall Standridge; the second selection, “Stay,”

was chosen by the musicians. Said Lawrence, “I had the students go through and pick out musical numbers they might like or they thought looked interesting.”

Along with musical performances, the concert was peppered by announcements of students selected for specific acknowledgments or accomplishments. These included being a principal , player, letter earner, perfect pep band attendance, honor band participant, State S and E Participant or All State Musician. Out of 45 students, six earned three additional merit credits, Lillianna Sanchez, Violet Rohwer, Lacey Frank, Megan Hudak, Oriana Jewison and senior Gabriel Beltran. Dawson Goodlander earned four additional merit credits:

principal player, State A, S and E Participant, Perfect Pep Band Attendance, and a letter.

The Symphonic Band’s second song “One Thousand Cranes,” had to be further explained by Lawrence, “This song isn’t referring to the bird but to the Origami folding of a thousand paper cranes. It is sometimes used as a form of meditation or for those who need to relax.” This was followed by a short selection from the play “Phantom of the Opera.”

“A play,” said Mr. Lawrence, “that holds the record for longest running play to ever have been on Broadway. They just closed it last year, I believe.”

Of the Symphonic Band, out of 30 students: Those who earned three ad-

ditional merit credits were: Collin Dettmer, Amerette Nevalainen, Allen Kopetzki, Corrick Medina and Kenzie Sandborg. Those who earned four were: Nevaeh Sampson, Taylor Markeson, Luke Yoder and Kaden Elias. One senior earned five additional merit credits: Andrick Balderas was named as a principal player, All State Musician, State S and E Participant, Honor Band Participant, Perfect Pep Band Attendance and he earned his letter.

The staff and students would like to thank the administration, Chuck Pollock, the Custodial Staff, the Waseca Fine Arts Dept., Waseca Band Booster, all supporters and students.

## Waseca Chorale



About 300 people attended the Waseca Chorale’s spring presentation titled “The Greatest Show” at the Waseca Junior Senior High School the evening of Saturday, May 10. Above: Many numbers in the concert were accompanied by a small ensemble that included high school students and school band director Devon Lawrence (with trumpet). At the piano for the concert was accompanist Noah Wilson, far right. Pioneer photos by Deb Bently



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## SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642

MAY 2025

| Sun                                                                  | Mon                         | Tue                           | Wed              | Thu                     | Fri                                                                       | Sat                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
|                                                                      |                             |                               |                  | 1 7pm HALL BINGO        | 2 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm                                    | 5                   |
| 4                                                                    | 5                           | 6 Burger nite 5 -7pm          | 7 6pm BAR Bingo  | 8 7pm HALL BINGO VE DAY | 9 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm                                    | 10                  |
| 11 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am -Noon Your HOST VFW Baseball | 12 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting | 13 Burger nite 5-7pm          | 14 6pm BAR Bingo | 15 7pm HALL BINGO       | 16 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm YOUR HOST HONOR GUARD & AUXILIARY | 17 ARMED FORCES DAY |
| 18                                                                   | 19                          | 20 Burger nite 5-7pm Last one | 21 6pm BAR Bingo | 22 7pm HALL BINGO       | 23 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm                                   | 24                  |
| 25                                                                   | 26 MEMORIAL DAY             | 27                            | 28               | 29                      | 30                                                                        | 31                  |

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