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Voice of Democracy



Waseca County dispatcher Bob Kubat was honored during the Nov. 19 meeting of the Waseca County Board with a “Lifesave” award. Kubat managed a recent crisis when a teenage passenger on a Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton school bus called 9-1-1 after noticing the driver was becoming unresponsive. Pictured here are, from left, Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas, dispatcher Bob Kubat, Doug Gerdtz, chief deputy with the county sheriff’s office, and Tim Engel, Hub manager at JWP for Palmer Bus Service. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Lifesave award presented during Waseca county board meeting

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

A public hearing on the topic of county law enforcement officials acquiring body-worn cameras lasted only a minute during the Waseca County board meeting on Nov. 19. No one appeared for public comment, and Sheriff Jay Dulas told commissioners he had also received no feedback through numerous other channels where an opportunity had been offered.

Dulas went on to summarize the lowest bidder for supplying cameras and needed equipment; he

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

mentioned he had also requested bids to replace the tasers in use by county law enforcement, since they were acquired in 2004.

Supplier AXON Enterprises offered a five-year, \$225,000 purchase and service package that would include the body-worn equipment, compatible dash-mounted and rear-facing cameras for patrol vehicles, and new tasers, with installation included. The

five-year service contract also includes replacing the body-worn cameras in 2.5 years.

Dulas reported Axon is the provider for numerous regional law enforcement agencies as well as larger groups including the state highway patrol.

County attorney Rachel Cornelius told of having used evidence from Axon body-worn equipment and having been very pleased with the clarity of both the video and

County continued on 4

Santa Anonymous Program receiving applications

The Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center (WANSC) is now taking applications for the Santa Anonymous Program. This annual event provides gifts, toys or clothes to Waseca families in need. Parents of newborn children through grade 12 who are income eligible, and who are residents of Waseca County may apply.

Additional details can be found on Facebook, or by stopping at the WANSC building at 203 Third Avenue Northwest in Waseca to make an appointment or inquire about eligibility requirements. Applications can also be picked up at the County Health building, 1000 West Elm, or at the Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) office, 108 Tenth Avenue Southeast, in Waseca. Further information is also available by calling Cindy Kolander, WANSC Executive Director at 507-833-4119.

Farmamerica Presidential Turkey Trot Friday, Nov. 29 at 10 a.m. till noon

Run off those Thanksgiving calories with the pardoned presidential turkeys 5k. Join Farmamerica for a Turkey Trot around our historic grounds starting at 10 AM and meet the newest members of our farm family straight off the truck from Washington D.C. Cost is \$20 per walker or runner, under 4 is free. A t-shirt.

Melissa Schulz at Indian Island Winery Friday, Nov. 29

Musician Melissa Schulz will be performing at the Indian Island Winery from 6-8:30 p.m. Friday, November 29. Melissa Schulz is a local Waseca musician. She plays keyboard with drum tracks and performs pop, rock, and country covers from the 50s to today’s hits.

Boxcar Bar Santa Anonymous Auction Saturday, Nov. 30

The Boxcar Bar in Waseca will host a Santa Anonymous Auction at 5 p.m. on Saturday, November 30. Proceeds go to families in Waseca County. Anyone with questions is invited to call 507-835-5136 and speak to Todd Schmidt or Tae Born. Donations to be auctioned off can be dropped off at the Boxcar Bar.

A word from The Word

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Teacher of the year Selvik surprised by honor

Award announced during Veterans Day program

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Meghan Selvik, a special education teacher at Hartley Elementary School, was taken by surprise when it was announced at the end of the school’s Veterans Day program she had been named as the Waseca Education Association’s Teacher of the Year.

Building principal Ben O’Brien announced her selection, letting everyone know Selvik was nominated by colleagues and voted on by peers. “Any teacher can nominate or be nominated,” he said.

Selvik had no idea she had won the award. As the Veterans Day celebration continued, “I was sitting with students. I saw my husband was there and my mother, then I saw my kids and there were flowers.” She had been told she’d been nominated, but hadn’t given it much thought since then. Her husband Todd works the farm they own. Her daughter Sydney, 9, is a fourth-grader at Waseca Intermediate School and was excused from classes to watch her mother be honored. Ethan, 7, is in second grade at Hartley and Olivia, 5, is in kindergarten. Said Selvik, “My family was there, and I didn’t know they would be, this was organized without my knowledge but it’s such an honor from the school and the school district.”

Principal O’Brien said the gym was pretty much cleared out by ten and that Selvik, humble till the end, simply went back to work. Said O’Brien, “All our teachers at Hartley are good, but this teacher has been outstanding. She’s a Waseca public school employee who represents our school very well and is the greatest example of what it means to be a team player.” There was time to take pictures and for students and teachers to congratulate Selvik. She’s a resource room teacher for Hartley; her official title is Special Education Teacher.

When asked what sets her apart from other teachers, a little reluctant and humbled by the question, she replied, “I’m a special ed teacher, a team player, I’m flexible and I advocate for my



Waseca’s teacher of the year for 2024, Meghan Selvik.

students. I feel I’m good at getting my students to improve their skills. I always put my students and their needs first. I do sometimes think I can do more for them, but I only have so much time with them per day.” She did want to add, and this was important for her, “I don’t like to be in the spotlight, I think there are many other teachers who deserve this far more than I do. Hartley has a really strong staff, and they also need to be recognized.”

Selvik said she didn’t do much to celebrate the win, “We treated it like a regular day, but my family and I did go to Dairy Queen that night. I thought I would try something different, so I got the Butterfinger Blizzard. Despite her desire to stay out of the spotlight, she said her family was really excited.

New policy summarizes county ditch system practices

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

A public hearing on the topic of county law enforcement officials acquiring body-worn cameras lasted only a minute during the Waseca County board meeting on Nov. 19. No one appeared for public comment, and Sheriff Jay Dulas told commissioners he had also received no feedback through numerous other channels where an opportunity had been offered.

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Dulas reported Axon is the provider for numerous regional law enforcement agencies as well as larger groups including the state highway patrol.

County attorney Rachel Cornelius told of having used evidence from Axon body-worn equipment and having been very pleased with the clarity of both the video and audio. “The information from these body cameras is phenomenal for use in court,” she stated.

Once in place, the body-worn cameras can be activated manually in the moment or remotely from the dash camera. They also activate automatically when a taser or handgun is removed from the officer’s holster. The purchase price of the new equipment, Dulas reported, is covered under state-provided “public safety aid money,” and so will not be part of the 2025 property tax levy.

Ditches continued on 4

Fourth annual Christmas Time at The Mill

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The fourth annual Christmas Time at the Mill event will be Saturday, Dec. 7 from 1 to 7 p.m. This community-focused event is free of charge and is centered around children; adults can attend as well.

Plans for decorating and creating a seasonal atmosphere are well on their way. Matthew Petsinger of American Family Insurance, one of the chief organizers, observed,

“Christ Community Church was kind enough to donate boxes of Christmas lights, trees, decorations and lots of stars. We’re really going to make it look good this year.” Not only will it look good, but there will also be some famous individuals in attendance, including Santa will be there from 1-7 p.m. The jolly old elf will be joined by the Grinch, and by Anna, Elsa and Olaf from the Disney movie “Frozen.” There will also be a 7-foot-tall polar bear. For the

adults, the band Bryce Leppard will perform from 8 to 11 p.m. and there will be no cover charge.

Christmas Time at the Mill is a free event put on by a group of volunteers. The first 200 or so children to arrive will be treated to free hot dogs donated by Morgan’s Meat Market. There will be face painting. About 1,500 home-baked cookies have been acquired for participants

Christmas continued on 4



An overhead photo of Christmas Time at the Mill from 2023.



Compostings

by Al Batt

Terms and conditions

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING
I said to myself, “Bob, you shouldn’t have that third helping of mashed potatoes.”

But your name isn’t Bob. It’s Al. I know.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. The traffic was like driving in a box of wire coat hangers on a road that was under construction and had too much traffic. An argument could have been made that it should have been under martial law. But everything was nearly copacetic. I was on my way home.

A new toilet seat rode in the wayback. It was a surprise gift for my wife. It wasn’t even our anniversary. The seat had been on sale—I for the price of 1. When I carried it into the house, my wife immediately told me to put it down.

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

I was in Yuma, Arizona, where I was about as hot as I’ve ever been. The time and the temperature had been the same after 1:00 p.m. It was a dry heat. I know because many people were kind enough to tell me. I’d have needed to use a meat thermometer to get an accurate reading of the temperature. I didn’t complain to anyone even though I come from a place where the weather is perfect a couple of days each year. I recall being in Meadowlands, Minnesota, when the temp was -33 degrees. I told a couple from Florida that 20 below was nothing at Meadowlands in the winter. They replied in unison, “Oh, it’s something.”

I stayed in the “dead guy’s cabin” in Alaska. It was called that because a guy had died in it. It had a low ceiling. I’m a tall guy and I bumped my head against it often. That might have been what killed the dead guy.

KNOCK, KNOCK
Who’s there?
Mustache.
Mustache who?
Mustache you to pass the stuff-ing.

I’VE LEARNED
I read the obituary of Vivian Rindelaub of Alexandria, Minnesota, who knitted 700 stocking caps for various charities, including “Hat not Hate.” Nice work.

Congested traffic makes me sneeze.

Playing Scrabble can lead to words.

When I was in school, we had slide rules in class, but no slide rules in the playground, where there should have been a sign reading, “Caution: kid slide area.”

You can’t prove that a bottom-

less pit is bottomless.

The nicer the hotel, the less likely it is to provide a complimentary breakfast.

A conspiracy theory teaches us we’re using a search engine, not a truth finder.

Age is not just a number. It’s a word.

Toilet paper is a rip-off.

We must accept the terms and conditions we don’t read.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

If you feel tired and worried, you might have contracted adulthood.

Don’t use “beef stew” as a password. It’s not stroganoff.

What’s the difference between a million and a billion? About a billion.

What do you get when you cross a chicken with a fox? A fox.

A customer of a smashing secondhand store in Hope, Minnesota, called Hopefull Treasures, wondered if turkeys say “gobble, gobble,” what do they say when they’re on the computer? “Google, google.”

NATURE NOTES

Exotic means non-indigenous to an area and invasive means tending to spread prolifically and undesirably/harmfully. The Japanese beetle, common buckthorn and garlic mustard are both exotic and invasive. Not all exotic species are considered invasive. Soybeans, cattle, apples and ring-necked pheasants originated in Asia, corn was first cultivated in Mexico, tomatoes came from South America, and tulips are native to Europe.

Why don’t chickadees migrate? Because I need them here with me. Chickadees think only wimpy birds fly south and are non-migratory, year-round residents throughout their range. It takes a lot of energy for a bird to migrate, but they need food to stay home. Chickadees are good at finding food and they work overtime at it. They cache food to eat later. They are opportunistic feeders who eat between meals, have excellent memories and wear jackets (they fluff up their feathers for insulation). Chickadees are meant to be here and figure out how to get what they need. They make do and they get by. They always have.

MEETING ADJOURNED

This exchange took place in a “Pickles” comic strip done well by Brian Crane. A grandfather says to his grandson: “When I was your age all my heroes were cowboys. Hopalong Cassidy, Red Ryder, Roy Rogers, The Lone Ranger, Gene Autry...now they’re all gone.”

The boy asks, “Who are your heroes now?”

Grandpa replies, “Anyone who shows kindness and compassion to others.”

Electric heat and a wood heater

As I write this, I am in my family’s cabin in northern Minnesota. It’s 26 degrees outside. Inside, the thermometer has been slowly inching upward, and is now in the seventies. That sounds nice and warm, but it doesn’t feel that way, at least not yet.

The cabin is not heated when we are not here. The electricity is turned off between trips and at this time of year, the water has been turned off, too. Interior lines have been blown empty so they can’t freeze and break. When my brother and I arrived mid-afternoon, the temperature inside was actually a bit lower than outside: The atmosphere had been gradually warming since its overnight low while the air inside the cabin was sealed away.

With the electric heat turned on and a fire lit in the glass-faced wood heater, the temperature of the air in the cabin is now what most people would consider warm. The sticking point comes from all the surfaces.

Yes, the air is warm. But the floor is cold even through the carpeting. Each chair pulls body heat from the legs and back until it reaches a comfortable temperature. Warm food set on a cold tabletop does not stay warm long. And though I hesitate to mention it in polite company, imagine the toilet seat.

I don’t offer any of this as a complaint; I am simply sharing the way things are to set the scene.

You can likely imagine I am sitting close to the fire. I have my feet up on a footrest which, as a pleasant surprise,



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

is, is not a cold surface anymore. My face and hands are rosy warm, though my feet still are not.

But oh, the fire provides ongoing variety. Not long ago, the embers inside the firebox were glowing serenely, the logs inside seemed to be lit from within. Though the wood wasn’t moving, the energy inside it seemed to be sliding from place to place. When the last glowing log broke in half, I put some new wood in. The pieces caught quickly. Now the firebox is a curtain of flames. At moments like this, it is easy to see why mythology associates fire with evil. The sharp, pointed tongues send an impression of greedy destruction. If they weren’t so well contained, I might find them frightening.

Encased as they are, however, they seem to have made it possible for me to set my bare feet on the floor, finally, without wincing.

You may be wondering why I’m here at all, waiting for the heaters to overcome inertia and bring not only the air, but the space, up to temperature.

A week ago, if you had asked me, I would have chuckled and assured

you that, with temperatures barely breaking freezing all weekend, I had no reason to go.

But you see, that was before I knew the internet company has finally come to our name far, far down on its waiting list, and we are due to have our internet connection installed right away Monday morning. It’s all rather funny now.

When my siblings, our spouses, and our collective offspring agreed to work together to purchase this cabin last fall, we had an extended discussion regarding whether we should have internet service installed or not. I was staunchly against it. People spend too much time on their devices; we have a cabin on a lake and should be out enjoying it; it was not worth the expense, given we are not full-time residents. To my good fortune, my opinion was overridden by the majority.

Now, since I have turned out to be one of the more frequent visitors, and since I want to be able to accomplish many of my tasks for the newspaper remotely, I am willing to come here in the cold and facilitate the installation. We have been waiting since

June, and I have gone to some humorous ends to catch a few minutes here and there on the worldwide web. Let’s just say I have had a few more slices of pie than I might otherwise have eaten at the local café, since it provides internet service.

But back to the fire: the freshly-laid logs are now embers. The flames have become more languid and flowing—no longer reaching and grabbing, they are now gliding and undulating above glowing wood whose surfaces shift in color from bright orange to a muted grey.

No, I am definitely not complaining about being here. I am grateful for the circumstances which have me hunkered down indoors, away from the distractions and expectations of the everyday, experiencing the space as it comes to temperature and appreciating the mesmerizing motion and transitions within the firebox.

Yes, I prefer summer, when there’s no place I would rather sleep than out on the screened-in porch. But I look forward to tonight as well, when I will fold myself into the blankets already arranged on the couch and watch the fire until I fall asleep.

Deb’s grammar lesson for the week: “Every day” is sometimes one word, and sometimes two. It is two when “every” describes “day,” as in “We will need every day this week to accomplish the task.” It is one when it is an adjective describing something else, for example, “It is an everyday occurrence for Louise to lose her keys.”

A trip the mountainous town of Ridgway

Despite a number of trips to Colorado, I have just now begun to discover the state’s wonders. Twice in this past year I have taken the time to travel to Denver (three times counting when I went this past weekend) and each time, I only stayed in the city. Naturally, Denver is a fairly cool city and has some fun things to do, but I had never been outside the city limits. All that changed this weekend.

Because my boyfriend decided to leave the wonderful state of Minnesota to move back closer to his family in Colorado for his big boy job, I get lovely opportunities to go visit him. He is the one who lives in Denver, but his mother lives six hours south of Denver in a beautiful



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

mountain town called Ridgway. So I begged pretty please let me leave the city and see the mountains, and he agreed (his mom invited us and his siblings down for the weekend).

So we hopped in the car and drove six hours, an adventure I was in love with. In order to get to Ridgway, we had to drive through the mountains,

following the Colorado River as it winds and twists its way up and down, in and out of valleys, through tunnels and beautiful scenery. It was beautiful and I loved every second of it, despite the fact that I was forced to spend many hours of the trip on my computer doing work, as the grind never stops.

But the trip was quite literally like a fairy tale for me. I have always loved the bluffs of Minnesota, but being in the mountains is a whole different level. His mom’s house in Ridgway sits on the edge of the town; I could stand in her kitchen and look out onto a rolling field—part of a nearby yak farm—before laying eyes on the mountains that are right there.

On Saturday, we drove into the picturesque town of Ouray, which looks like it was placed there right out of a movie scene. I was expecting to see cameras or boom mics, or at least a rom com couple with Hall-

Column continued on 7

Thank you Heartland Healthcare, Dr. Bentson

This past week felt like everything that could go wrong, did. But even then, it was not a disaster.

In April of this year, my two best friends Kyle and Anastasiia gave me their game store, located in Austin. The same one I’ve been visiting since I was 19 years old is now known as “PlayIt Forward Games.” I inherited very little to no inventory, but I did get two very good employees whom I care about deeply. The store changed locations under my ownership, and we had to ‘start over’ almost from scratch.

To summarize, the amount of work, rather, the amount it feels like since April 1 through today, is equivalent to one week of publishing my three weekly publications, the Pioneer, Star Eagle and Golden Link. Yes, I’m saying the work of managing a game store for seven months, with two excellent employees, and incredible community, is roughly the same stress as one week of the newspapers.

I say that simply because for the first time in seven months it appeared the game store would interfere with my newspapering.

My father went into this hospital this past week, a result of his autoimmune disorder. This could probably have come at a worse time, but it was especially difficult with the sports preview edition set for publication in both the Star Eagle and Pioneer. The short explanation is, we are waiting a week for the Pioneer to publish its preview (not only because of my dad, but picture day for the various Waseca sports teams is next Monday). With Deb’s help as a photographer, I tackled the Star Eagle preview stories on my own this weekend.

Dad is set to come home before Thanksgiving, but for a few days, it seemed a new health concern was developing—one not related to what we were already acquainted with. More about that soon.

At this same time one of my employees, Madi, has a two-week vacation to California planned, which has



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

been in the works for months. She left on Monday.

Jarod, my other great staffer, recently got another job in addition to working for me. Even though he specifically listed the days he was not free to work for them, the other employer scheduled him on days he is supposed to work for me.

Of course he started at this new job almost two weeks ago.

This left me without a sports editor (a nearly full-time position, especially during preview season) and no staff to run my game store.

I am one person.

I told Editor Deb I felt like my house was on fire and all I could do was walk outside, call the fire department and hope the place didn’t burn down.

By the grace of the good Lord, my dad got a quick diagnosis from the doctor.

I hired a new employee, Alex, a longtime customer and friend, and he shadowed (was trained in by) Madi and Jarod before Madi left and while Jarod was able to work. It was probably one of the fastest onboardings in history—maybe 15 seconds. He sincerely thanked me on Sunday for giving him this chance. I simply said, thanks for helping put out the fire.

Back to my dad.

The same doctor who diagnosed his disorder more than three years ago saw him this week. After receiving his initial diagnosis and treatment, my dad remained healthy for the longest stretch of time I have witnessed since I was in eighth grade.

When he wasn’t feeling well he went to the doctor and told our Mayo clinic physician to test his thyroid. There is a special test that must be

and was requested to test my dad’s levels on his thyroid. He has Hashimoto disease.

The physician said everything was fine. She didn’t even check his numbers. We found that out when Dr. T, Alina physician, looked at Dad’s medical records.

The ‘specialist’ my dad was referred to three years ago by this same Mayo Clinic physician told my dad he “doesn’t believe in Hashimoto disease.”

My dad, and our family, have dealt with this for more than 15 years. The only treatment that worked was what was prescribed three years ago. I remember my dad calling me to tell me he “was cured.” I didn’t believe it until, well, I got three more healthy years back with my father. When I purchased the Star Eagle from my dad in 2021, he told me he didn’t think he’d make it another year, let alone three, almost four healthy years.

Dad is feeling better and sounds loads better. It sounds like he will be back to work next week. That is the hope and our prayer.

More on Mayo Clinic. I’ve been in pain and discomfort every day since March of 2023. I’ve been to the doctor more than half a dozen times and all they did was treat me with different pills for acid reflux, ulcers or other stomach problems. They did an x-ray, ultrasound, so many blood work ups, and a CT scan.

They insisted, despite my stating, “this doesn’t feel like stomach acid,” that it was my stomach. I was told my left side, which hurts, is “part of my stomach.”

Finally I’d had enough. After going in, asking for the darn

endoscopy which the same physician, (the same one as my dad) insisted I get, was denied. I was told by the Doctor to take the same stomach pills which I previously stopped taking because they actually made my stomach hurt.

So I went to Dr. Bentson at Heartland Healthcare, a private clinic in Janesville. For \$55 and 35 minutes of my time, he found out what was wrong. I suffer from “slipped rib syndrome.” He told me to see a chiropractor, prescribed me some topical treatments and told me this is a problem I will have to deal with essentially forever. It can get better, but I must be very aware of how I move my body, especially when lifting things and the like.

He applied a topical agent: 10 minutes later, I felt fine for the first time in a year and a half. I’m very, very grateful.

I should have known it was a slipped rib. More than once during my teen years I found myself in immense pain visiting the chiropractor in New Richland. He told me numerous times my rib has a tendency to slip and cause me back pain. Unfortunately this slipped rib was in a different spot than the previous ones.

I would simply like to conclude by thanking Dr. Bentson, and also the Mayo Clinic staff. Yes they made mistakes with my father and me, but those folks have dedicated their lives to helping people and deserve respect for doing so. We all make mistakes.

P.S. My car was vandalized and deemed totaled, although still drivable, by a bunch of ‘bored’ teenagers in New Richland. That same evening, my truck broke down.

P.P.S. I turned 27 last week. Two columns have been partially written and I hope to share the positive details of my birthday weekend. Thank you Mikhail Rostislavovich for hosting a wonderful Murder Mystery Party during said weekend. It was great fun.

“Wherever you go, go with all your heart” - Confucius.



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

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DEADLINES: Pioneer: Noon Monday
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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Local service organizations raised more than \$4,300 to be donated in support of the Waseca Area Food Shelf. Pictured here are Food shelf staff member Niki Schaffer, Lions Club leader Dianne Beckmann, Exchange Club president Mikhail Rostislavovich, Rotary leader Amy Potter, and Cindy Kolander, executive director of the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center.

Food shelf sees increased usage as food insecurity rises

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

“That kid sitting next to you in class might be hungry, and you don’t even know it.”

Cindy Kolander, executive director of the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center and the Waseca Area Food Shelf, is grateful to the 4-H leader who made this statement during one of her many presentations given regularly around the county.

“Hunger and food insecurity are constant,” observes Kolander.

“And they’re on the increase.”

During the month of October, the Waseca food shelf served 551 households and gave away 19,000 pounds of food. In the same span of time last year, 201 households sought assistance and 11,000 pounds of food were distributed.

The fastest growing group of food shelf visitors, Kolander says, consists of seniors age 60 and older. She cites being on a

Food continued on 4



Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center board member Jim Britton and food shelf employee Niki Schaffer next to a shelf loaded with food to be distributed to area families.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Waseca Public Library November Boundary Waters exhibit

The Waseca Public Library will host a Boundary Waters exhibit for the entire month of November. Learn about the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and its wildlife. This feature will have book recommendations, a wood engraved map and more. This is geared for all ages.

Waseca Chorale Concert 4 p.m. Dec. 1 at Sacred Heart

Waseca Chorale’s holiday concert will be at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1 at Sacred Heart Church in Waseca. Musical numbers will be a combination of secular and religious, current and classic. Admission cost is \$10; children ages 6 to 12 are \$5. There is no charge for children 5 and younger.

Christmas Time at the Mill 1 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7

Christmas Time at The Mill will provide fun and entertainment at no cost to participants from 1 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7. There will be crafts, Santa, cookie decorating, letter writing, face painting, games and more. Bryce Leppert and Band will perform from 8 to 11 p.m. Free hot dogs for the first 200 children.

Waseca Senior Citizen Center Holiday Cookie Dazzle Sat., Dec. 7

The Waseca Senior Center will host the Holiday Cookie Dazzle 9 a.m. till noon on Saturday, Dec. 7. A plate of 12 cookies is \$8. There will also be breads and other treats available. Achieving dreams for disabilities. All funding goes towards children and adults with disabilities.

American Legion Christmas Cookie tray sale Saturday, Dec. 7

The Waseca American Legion Auxiliary will host a Christmas Cookie Tray fundraising sale from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7. Funds support the auxiliary.

St. Paul Lutheran to host Christmas Bazaar Saturday, Dec. 7

St. Paul Lutheran Church will host their Christmas Bazaar from 10:30 a.m. till noon on Saturday, Dec. 7. \$10 per meal and will have hot beef sandwiches, sloppy joes, homemade pies and coffee. For sale will be crafts, baked goods, Christmas cookies, white elephants and a candy shop.

Waseca hosts state of the city address

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

A couple dozen people attended a “State of the City” session sponsored by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce (WACC) legislative committee at the Waseca Junior Senior High School performing arts center the evening of Monday, Nov.18.

Representing city leadership were Waseca Mayor Randy Zimmerman; council members Stacey Schroeder and Mark Christiansen; city manager Carl Sonnenberg and public safety director Kris Markeson.

After an introduction by Waseca Legislative Committee Chair Mikhail Rostislavovich, mayor Zimmerman and manager Sonnenberg took turns summarizing accomplishments and future goals for the city. A question-and-answer period followed the public addresses.

Zimmerman discussed Waseca’s storied history dating back to 1867 and 1881 when the city was officially incorporated.

By the turn of the century, Waseca had doubled in size, with continuing rapid growth in the decades to come. Zimmerman talked of railroads, EF Johnson, Waseca College and how it all led to the crossroads of “our growth from the past” and entrepreneurship of today.

“What I’ve heard is our community wants growth,” Zimmerman declared. “Waseca has good people, in the right places.”

Zimmerman said lobbying for state and federal dollars is a must. He referenced conversations he’s had with local State Senator John Jasinski, local representative elect Tom Sexton, and Senator Amy Klobuchar who helped get Waseca in on a federal appropriations bill for the first in the city’s history.

Zimmerman thanked a great many people before introducing city manager Sonnenberg.

Sonnenberg’s joked his career with the city of



From left: Mikhail Rostislavovich, Dr. Jay Bulfer, Mayor Randy Zimmerman, Councilor Mark Christiansen, Commissioner Brian Harguth, Public Safety Director Kris Markeson, Chamber Executive Director Ann Fitch, Councilor Stacey Schroeder, Eli Lutgens, and City Manager Carl Sonnenberg.

Waseca began 44 years ago as a “lab rat and sewage guy.”

The man most qualified to be in charge of the “nuts and bolts” of the city began by thanking the many folks responsible behind the scenes who ensure Waseca operates smoothly.

Sonnenberg recapped the essential departments within the city and went through a list of accomplishments the city has achieved.

“Tonight I was asked to give the long version of our role,” Sonnenberg stated. “For the first time in 44 years, I wasn’t asked for the short version.”

Sonnenberg’s list of the city’s responsibilities, departments and accomplishments totaled four pages and included, among others, a new dog park; reinvesting in Clear Lake and city parks; pickleball courts; higher-than-state-average clearance rate for crimes; and high quality maintenance of streets and the water supply.

“Ben Franklin said if you fail to plan, you plan to fail,” Sonnenberg concluded. “That failure is not an option. We must move Waseca forward.”

Following Sonnenberg’s speech, he and the rest of the night’s panel responded to questions from the legislative committee and audience members.

In response to a question about “Vision 2030,” participants said the plan is under review, although it had not been updated since 2013. A

planning commission review is scheduled along with a work session by the city council, including a public comment period.

Regarding special street assessments, Mark Christiansen stated living in this community means paying street assessments. “They are an investment into your community... (It’s) part of being a Wasecan... I would not remove them.”

Christiansen said the taxing system is a good source of revenue which helps get more roads completed.

When asked about the ongoing work of the police department, safety director Markeson reported listings of job openings which used to garner up to 50 applicants now typically attract only one to five. “This is a nationwide issue,” he stated. “There are problems or perceptions of problems with public safety nationwide.”

Markeson went on to say community policing, ride-alongs, job fairs, and ‘putting a face to a name’ are helpful ways to encourage people to pursue the profession.

Mayor Zimmerman enjoyed an audience question about the possibility of city tax abatements for people who remodel existing houses already in Waseca, responding he is in favor of reducing the tax burden and encouraging a growth mindset; tax abatements for reconstruction would be in line with that perspective.

City continued on 4

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

WBWF report

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

During the Nov. 21 meeting of the Waseca school board, Dr. Brooke McGuire, the district’s director of teaching and learning, offered a “progress report” regarding the district’s World’s Best Workforce (WBWF) goals from the 2023-’24 school year. WBWF was created by the state with the intent of ensuring school districts and charter schools in Minnesota enhance student achievement by working toward four major goals: young children are well prepared as they begin school, all racial and economic achievement gaps between students are closed, all students are ready for career and college, and all students graduate from high school.

McGuire reported that based on teacher observation and assessments, 96% of incoming kindergarten students were determined to be ready. Data acquired from 2022 to 2024 showed achievement gaps were reduced by 1.7 (Hispanic math) and 0.8 (Hispanic reading) but increased for Black students in both areas. College and career readiness data was based on the exit surveys of graduates, and results show that 88.3% of the class of 2024 felt prepared for the transition to college, the workplace, or the military. Graduation rates according to the 2023 data show that 76% of students within the district graduated in four years. McGuire pointed out that 90% of high school seniors graduated, while at the alternative learning center (ALC) the rate was 6.3%.

McGuire said next year the state is changing its achievement program from “World’s Best WorkForce” to “Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness” (CACR), with an added goal of preparing students to be lifelong learners.

District business manager Sarah Cramblit gave an update on the current “unassigned fund balance” of \$4.8 million. Also known as the “general fund,” these monies are not designated to be spent as part of the budget, but rather set aside for contingencies. The amount equates to

Council holds capital work session Nov. 19

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca City Council work session which took place prior to the council’s regular Nov. 19 meeting addressed a capital improvement plan (CIP) for 2025. With a final version of the CIP due to be approved along with the city’s tax levy during the Dec. 16 meeting, the proposed plan includes a list of possible infrastructure improvements. Often included in such plans are upgrades to roads, water and sewer services, and drainage. The plan placed before council members focused on street

improvements more than utilities.

Waseca city manager Carl Sonnenberg mentioned some of the projects which will definitely proceed are those which are in cooperation with the county or Woodville township. In some cases, grant money has been procured to pay a significant portion of the cost—a contingency which Sonnenberg called a “godsend.” Funding for projects done by the city alone must either come by raising the tax levy or by increasing utility fees. As far as utility rate studies are concerned, “We’ll see how this year is going to go,” Sonnenberg suggested

berg said, it is essentially guaranteed work will take place to reconstruct Second Street Northwest and its sidewalks. The project will extend from Second Street’s intersection with West Elm Avenue northward to West Seventh Avenue. Anticipated cost for the project is \$5.45 million, with \$3.7 million—nearly 70 percent—funded by federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) grants.

Council continued on 8

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OBITUARIES

Troy Klinger

TROY KENNETH KLINGER, age 53 of Waseca, died naturally but unexpectedly on the afternoon of Tuesday, November 19, 2024 in Waseca.

Troy was born in Waseca on February 23, 1971, to parents Kenneth and Linda (Tollefson) Klinger. He attended school in Waseca and graduated with the Bluejay class of 1989. He was employed at Bird's Eye Foods in Waseca and made many lasting friends there. He enjoyed following the Minnesota Twins and Minnesota Vikings and was often seen out around town on his scooter.

Troy is survived by his mother, Linda Klinger of Waseca; and his brother, Tony (Heidi) Klinger of Waseca; four nephews; and five great-nieces and great-nephews. He was preceded in death by his



Troy Klinger

father, Kenneth, in 2021.

No public services are being planned. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca is assisting Troy's family during this difficult time.

Ditches

from Page 1

County board members heard from area resident Roy Srp, who worked for the railroad for 42 years and also served for 32 years as an elected leader, including both mayor and city council member for the city of Waseca. Srp introduced Northfield city council member Suzy Nakasian, who is advocating for passenger rail systems. Her presentation included proposed lines which connected communities in greater Minnesota to one another, and to the Twin Cities. Nakasian used the "Twin Star" train line which connects the "Lone Star" state of Texas to the "North Star" state of Minnesota. The Twin Star, she told commissioners, transports four trains of passengers between the two destinations each day.

Nakasian and Srp pointed out that, under the Biden administration, \$77 billion had been earmarked for the ongoing development of passenger rail, and suggested a line which ran from Tracy, Minnesota on the west border to Winona on the east would provide transportation to the healthcare hub of Rochester, and also create options for students attending universities along that route.

Nakasian told board members the 10-year national plan for railroad development is being formulated, and asked for a letter of support indicating Waseca County would regard a passenger rail line

as a benefit.

Leota Lind, executive director for the South Country Health Alliance (SCHA), shared information about her agency and its programs, including Senior Care Complete and Ability Care. SCHA is one of many agencies which provide health insurance and personal care benefits to qualified individuals through Waseca County human services programs.

Board members adopted the Waseca County Drainage Policy proposed by the county land and water resources department earlier in the month.

During the work session which preceded the 9:30 a.m. meeting, commissioners took part in a lengthy discussion regarding "Global Information Systems" and surveying. The current "remonumenting" of Wilton Township provided a jumping-off point for various considerations, especially the high cost of carrying out a survey within the county. It was mentioned that, because relatively few section corners in Waseca County are identified, and because identifying the relevant corner is the beginning of essentially all surveys, work done in Waseca County might cost \$3,500 to \$5,000, while a similar project would cost \$1,500 in a nearby county.

Board members and county administrator Michael Johnson speculated regarding the respective benefits between having a county surveyor or having funds set aside to carry out surveys. It was mentioned Steele County currently budgets \$35,000 a year for surveys: one major way they are used is for work on roads.

Christmas

from Page 1

to decorate. Another area has been set aside for some craft projects. In the same space, children can write letters to Santa; then, if they wish, they can deliver them in person. Kelm's BBQ will be the food vendor for the event. The Owatonna Hy-Vee donated all the hot choco-

late, and the Cookie Lady donated the cookies.

Said Petsinger, "It's a week earlier than it was last year. We had 750 people in 2023, 350 of those were kids. This year I'm hoping to see 500 kids come through." When asked about accepting donations, Petsinger said, "It's Christmas time, this is a time for giving. Christmas Time at the Mill is not for a cause, it's about giving back to the community."

City

from Page 3

Council member Schroeder responded to a question about long-term growth projects other than those at Gaiter Lake or in Vision 2030. She said the city needs to look at annexation and "partnering with communities outside of Waseca. Mayo [Clinic] is expand-

ing. How can we serve their needs? Or developers? Mankato is expanding at a huge rate. What can we do to get people looking here?"

As the evening's session closed, Rostislavovich thanked everyone for attending. He let everyone know the speeches presented by Sonnenberg and Zimmerman, as well as the question-and-answer session, are available on the Waseca Chamber's website.

School

from Page 3

around 22% of expenditures, which is within policy guidelines for the school district. Cramblit also reported current school enrollment of 1,726 students continues

to be above last year's enrollment at this time.

The next Waseca school board work session will be Thursday, Dec. 5. The next business meeting on December 19 will begin at 6:00 p.m. after the statutorily required "Truth in Taxation" meeting, a session intended to allow taxpayers to have questions answered regarding property taxes levied by the school district.

Aliyah Taylor to play volleyball at Bethany

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Aliyah Taylor, 17, and a senior at Waseca Junior Senior High School, took a monumental step in her athletic and academic career on Wednesday, Nov. 20, as she signed her letter of intent to play volleyball for Bethany Lutheran College. With classmates, family, and coaches gathered to celebrate, Taylor's journey from a determined fourth-grader to a collegiate athlete came full circle.

In the stands, her grandmother, Annette Rode, reflected on Aliyah's growth: 'It's been a fun journey supporting her. This all started in fourth grade, and she's always taken it so seriously.' Coach Krissy Plonske, who goes by Coach Krissy, shared heartfelt words: 'This milestone isn't just about playing at a collegiate level. It's about her accomplishment of getting here, which speaks to her skill and determination.'

Taylor's mother, Angie Phares, a Bethany alum and former Viking volleyball player herself, expressed her pride: "Aliyah is an exceptional student, a dedicated volleyball coach, and a talented athlete whose hard work and passion inspire others. As a Bethany Lutheran College alum, it's incredibly special to see her continue this legacy."

Taylor's decision to attend Bethany carries additional significance beyond her athletic career. As a standout student, she is entering college with 53 earned credits through Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO), positioning her to complete her degree in business management,

with a minor in business administration, ahead of schedule.

Her father, Jared Taylor, beamed with pride at the ceremony, saying, "As a father, I couldn't be prouder in every aspect of her life. Today highlights one of her many accomplishments and paints the picture of how many more are to come."

In addition to excelling academically and athletically, Taylor serves as a volleyball coach, inspiring younger athletes with her leadership and passion for the game. Outside of volleyball, she finds time for unique hobbies including hunting coyotes and deer. Though she wasn't able to bag a buck this year, she shared, "I saw one for just a moment but couldn't get it."

Taylor's signing ceremony was more than a celebration of her athletic talent—it was a testament to her hard work, perseverance, and the strong support system around her. As classmates filtered back to class, Taylor remained to thank friends and family, pose for pictures, and reflect on her journey.

"Don't let anybody tear you down, no matter what," she said, offering advice to her peers. "If you work hard, you can accomplish anything."

With a legacy rooted in Bethany Lutheran College—where her mother not only played volleyball but now serves as the director of career development—Taylor looks forward to continuing her journey as a Viking. Her college years will see her balancing academics, athletics, and her part-time job at Starbucks, which she'll transfer to Bethany's



Aliyah Taylor, 17, signed her letter of intent on Nov. 20, 2024 to play Women's Volleyball for Bethany Lutheran College for the fall of 2025. Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

new Madison Avenue location when it opens.

Taylor's grandmother, Annette Rode, summed up the day's emotions perfectly: "That's probably what made her so tough—growing up with her brothers. It's been a joy to watch her grow into the incredible person she is today."

As the ceremony wrapped up, Aliyah took a moment to look ahead. With her journey as a Viking about to begin, she said, "I'm excited to start this new chapter and make the most of my time at Bethany."



County

from Page 1

audio. "The information from these body cameras is phenomenal for use in court," she stated.

Once in place, the body-worn cameras can be activated manually in the moment or remotely from the dash camera. They also activate automatically when a taser or handgun is removed from the officer's holster. The purchase price of the new equipment, Dulas reported, is covered under state-provided "public safety aid money," and so will not be part of the 2025 property tax levy.

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Food

from Page 3

"fixed income" across a time of high inflation as a significant driver of the increase.

"I wish people understood," she said, "we're not income based."

"If you're in need, we're here." She goes on to note no questions are asked regarding income; in fact, the only information requested is individuals' names, addresses, phone numbers, and the size of their household, since household size determines the amount of food individuals are eligible to take.

She also notes some people are hesitant to visit the food shelf because "they've always been independent, and it's not in their nature to seek help."

Kolander says she understands people have that perspective, but hopes it does not keep them from coming. "One disastrous event

can create a downward spiral," she says, mentioning car trouble, unexpected medical costs, and family emergencies.

She remembers a time when she worked at an area pharmacy as a technician. "People would find out the cost of their new medication and comment they would have to put their cart full of groceries back on the shelves."

With that in mind, she suggests a few visits to the food shelf might stop the spiral and let people get back on their feet. In fact, she says, she's heard from many people who say that's been the case for them.

Policies at the Waseca area food shelf are that households may "shop" once a week, selecting from the canned goods, frozen meats and foods, miscellaneous products and even produce which happen to be available at the time. "Checkout" consists of weighing the selected products before bagging them and taking them home.

The food shelf is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to

noon and again from 1 to 4 p.m. The closure over the noon hour is so that shelves can be restocked. Because of limited space, patrons are encouraged to make appointments in advance. The phone number is 507-833-4119, Ext. 302. The food shelf is located next to the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center at the intersection of First Street and Second Avenue Northwest.

The food shelf works with numerous regional providers including "Channel One," and others which provide bulk deliveries of food at prices much lower than those paid by typical consumers. Local retail businesses also donate significant amounts of food.

Area individuals, churches and service organizations provide various types of support, often in the form of food drives or fundraisers, but also volunteer hours. Kolander describes occasional phone calls from the Southern Research and Outreach Center located at the western edge of Waseca. The organization regularly plants vegetables including

green beans, sweet corn, beets, carrots, cabbage, and more for the sake of its research, and has frequently offered that the food shelf could have all the produce it could harvest.

Those phone calls, and others like them, are "A very welcome surprise," says Kolander, since fresh foods are such an important part of a healthy diet. She expresses deep gratitude to the volunteers from various agencies who help out at moments like those and, of course, the organizations and groups which contribute in so many different ways.

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The Mill will host Christmas Time on Saturday, Dec. 7

It's Christmas Time at The Mill and will be free all day from 1-7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7. There will be crafts, Santa, cookie decorating, letter writing, face painting, games and more. Bryce Leppert and Band will perform from 8-11 p.m. Free hotdogs for the first 200 kids.

Sacred Heart Church Mariachi Church Service and meal Saturday, Dec. 7

Sacred Heart Catholic Church will host live band Mariachi America from St. Paul from 6-8 p.m. on Dec. 7 for Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration. They will also perform during the church service at 5 p.m. There will be a meal provided by El Molino following church. This is free and open to the public.

The Waseca VFW will host a Scouts all-you-can-eat breakfast Sun., Dec. 8

The Waseca VFW will host an all-you-can-eat breakfast from 8-noon on Sunday, Dec. 8, with all proceeds going to local Scout Troop 85. \$12 for adults, \$7 for children 6-13, 5 and under free. This will include pancakes, french toast, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits & gravy, coffee, orange juice, milk or water.

Keen Bank collecting Toys for Tots donations until Dec. 10

Keen Bank is collecting new, unwrapped toys and cash donations for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program through Tuesday, December 10, 2024. All donations stay local and are distributed to children in need. Donations can be dropped off at any Keen Bank location—Waseca, Owatonna or Ellendale, Minnesota. For more information visit www.toysfortots.org.

“State of Education” address 7 p.m. Dec. 10

The Waseca “State of Education” address will begin 7 p.m. on Dec. 10 at the high school performing arts center. The introduction will be by board president Dave Dunn with superintendent Eric Hudspith doing the address.

North Waseca Lutheran Lefse Sale; place order by Dec. 12

North Waseca Lutheran Church is selling bags holding 15 quarters of lefse for \$10 each. Orders must be placed by phone in advance; will be picked up using a “drive-through” system in front of the church from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14. To place order, call or text Greg Thomson at 612-619-3868 or Roy Srp at 507-521-1185 no later than Dec. 12.

W-E-M High school hosts Firefighter Floor Hockey Sat., Dec. 14

Waterville, Elysian, Morris-town and Kilkenny Fire Departments will be playing floor hockey at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 at the W-E-M High School. Suggested donation of \$5 per person or unwrapped toy. All proceeds will go Toys for Tots.

Briefs continued on 9

Thank you

Many community members gathered to thank Ann Fitch for her serice with the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce on Thursday November 21, 2024. From left Sam Steffel, Mikahil Rostislavovich, Amy Potter, Rachel Cornelius, Ann Fitch, Kristie Biehn, Bernie Gaytko, Penny Vought, Gyles Randall, Ann Gaytko and Ed Frederick.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Flooding open house set for Dec. 5

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

Local resident Larry Muff, was present during the New Richland City Council’s Nov. 12 meeting to address concerns regarding the hydrologic study conducted by Houston Engineering. He stated his main concern is that the study is based on a “100-year flooding event,” which was described as seven inches of rainfall in a 24-hour period - an amount far exceeded during the floods of 2010 and 2016. The same concern was raised by council members during the previous meeting.

An open house to discuss and educate the public on the recent Hydrology study will be from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5 . Houston Engineering staff members will be available that evening to answer questions.

The city fire department reported having responded to one medical call in the month of October.

Chief of Police Tanyce Bruegger let council members know the police department responded to 99 calls for service in October. The report was approved along with a Joint Powers Agreement.

In unfinished business, council pay policy was discussed, along with the possibility of reducing the number of council meetings per month from two to one. The council agreed to wait until the newly elected council members are sworn in before deciding on the latter issue and ap-

proved the council pay policy, which is a change from per diem pay to salary, as presented.

In new business, Resolution 24-24 certifying the 2024 election results was approved along with the 2025 People Service contract increase.

A discussion was had on the 2025 budget, which will be approved during the council’s last meeting of the year in December. A public hearing was also opened for five ordinances up for approval during the meeting, and following no public comments, the following ordinances were approved: 24-03: Creating a Storm

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

Sewer Utility; 24-04: Regulating the Use of Cannabis in the City of New Richland; 24-05: Amending the Downtown Commercial District in relation to Lower-Potency Hemp Sales as an Accessory to Retail Sales; 24-06: Amending the C3 Highway Commercial District in relation to Lower-Potency Hemp Sales as Accessory to Retail Sales; 24-07: Amending the Industrial Zone to allow for the manufacture and retail sale of cannabinoid and hemp-derived products as conditional use. Resolution 24-23, establishing handicap parking on the southeast side of the 200 block of First St. NW in front of Trinity Lutheran Church, was also approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Lund’s classic 1925 Model TT Ford

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

“It’s still got the engine in it and the wheels still turn,” says Waseca County resident Nathan Lund. He’s speaking of a rust-covered 1925 Model TT Ford truck displayed in his yard along Highway 13 south of Waseca slightly north of the county recycling center. A novelty Texaco gas pump stands nearby, sharing the rock-lined garden where hostas grow in the summer.

Lund, a mechanic at Deml Ford, says he wouldn’t mind restoring the vehicle, but wonders when he would find the time, especially since he has an infant daughter, Charolette. “I got the truck from a relative,” he relates. “Some might think leaving it outside unfinished is a bad idea, but it’s not to the point of no return.” The truck is rusted, but not rusted out. The wheels still have the original wood rims. The seats are original as well and the key is still in the ignition. While he has tremendous respect for the vintage vehicle, Lund admits he prefers hot rods—vehicles from the 70s and 80s.

For the fun of it, Lund has connected the truck’s lights to a timer; at night, the headlights and tail

Nathan Lund and little baby Charolette were kind enough to pose for a picture on Saturday, Nov. 9 2024.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

ceived many, many offers for the truck, but always passes. That doesn’t mean he wouldn’t sell it, “I do think that truck is priceless, but everything has its price, and I just haven’t heard the right price yet.”

The Model TT was first produced in 1917, and became one of the first motorized vehicles used in

Ford continued on 8

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School Board NRHEG

Board talks travel, testing

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

During their Nov. 18 meeting, members of the NRHEG school board heard from district teaching and learning coordinator Jason Touponce about state assessment and testing expectations for students.

Touponce mentioned to board members that students in grades 5, 8, 9 and 11 will be taking the “Minnesota State Survey” beginning next year. The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) describes the survey saying it is “an anonymous state-wide school-based survey conducted to gain insights into the world of students and their experiences.”

The state administers the survey every three years. MDE says it asks students about their “activities, opinions, behaviors and experiences. Students respond to questions on school climate, bullying, out-of-school activities, healthy eating, emotional health, substance use and connections with school and family. Questions about sexual behaviors are asked only of high school students. All responses are anonymous.”

Touponce also described the state-administered assessment system known as Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness (CACR). Under the program, the district is expected to set age-appropriate goals for all students aimed at helping them achieve academic success and social development.

Touponce summarized a list of SMART goals for many of the CACR requirements, saying for most of them it was fairly simple to construct a goal which is “specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound,” but “Prepare students to be life-long learners” required a more creative approach. The goal which was eventually selected is to have 50 percent or more of NRHEG’s students taking part in extracurricular or outside school activities, whether they were related to physical activity, the arts, social interaction or academic advancement.

Music instructor Krista Reeder appeared before the board to present information regarding two trips. First, she gave a report regarding the 9 students who recently traveled to the FFA national convention which took place Oct. 23 to 26 in Indianapolis. Reeder and Jeff Johnson acted as chaperones for the trip: both are FFA alumni.

Reeder reported more than 73,000 participants gathered at the convention, constituting record-breaking attendance. She stated the experience offered excellent seminars and informational presentations which students found so valuable, they chose to forego a side trip and

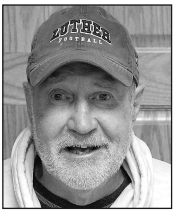
NRHEG continued on 9

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Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



Snow has arrived

Snow has finally arrived along with freezing temperatures, leaving me confined to the indoors. I can't stand watching TV all day, so it was time to dive into some household projects Lisa had on my "honey-do" list from months ago. Regrettably, I'm not very gifted when it comes to fixing things. If my faucet is dripping and I disassemble it, I have to be careful to write down the order everything came apart in so I can put it back together correctly. Lisa is being very generous when she grades my work at "C" level.

I've accumulated a box full of screwdrivers and wrenches over the years—in fact, my collection exceeds the boundaries of reason. The tools I now own are too numerous to mention. If most guys are like me, many of the tools came from our dads when they passed away.

Back to the point. The first task I took on was tightening the hinges on several of our cupboard doors. My phillips head screwdriver and battery-powered drill came in handy. With the doors swinging smoothly—or at least with the hinges nice and tight—I turned my attention to the handles and knobs used to pull drawers open.

Next, on to the plugged drain in the bathroom sink. I always get a kick out of commercials on TV advertising "hero" plumbers who claim they will be to a customer's home immediately after receiving a call. Who needs them? I'm my own hero. After years of trying different products and techniques, I know exactly what to do with a plugged drain. I'm four for four with this product including a nasty backed-up bathtub. After pouring in the recommended amount, I wait an hour, run hot water down the drain for five minutes, and the drain is completely free of hair, toothpaste, and generally yukky stuff. The product does not harm the pipes, and I admit it's a bit expensive—but not more expensive than a superhero plumber. My discovery? Green Gobbler, and I don't mean the turkey on your Thanksgiving table.

Another task that's been waiting for fishing season to end is the big wall clock that hangs above the fridge in our kitchen. The clock's batteries went dead, leaving us

without our go-to reference for the time. Since I had to carry the step ladder into the house for one time-related task, I also took a few minutes to update a couple of clocks I had not changed with daylight savings time. Lisa has a passion for clocks: The correct time is now visible in every room of our house.

Lisa decided it was time to clean our self-cleaning oven. After several hours of a smoke-filled house, the oven became as good as new, ready for the next pizza or chicken casserole.

My second day of home maintenance began in the garage. Anyone with any sense would clean their garage on a beautiful, sunny, calm day. Not me, I was on a cleaning roll. I backed out our cars and went to work filling the garbage cans with junk. I blew out the leaves and cobwebs with my personal favorite tool, my Dewalt leaf blower. I can't imagine the millions of leaves I've blown off our cabin deck and yard. After a day of cleaning, the garage not only looked really nice, it passed Lisa's inspection.

When it comes to household projects, I've been blessed with a couple of friends who are true handymen. I'd give you their names and numbers, but I'm afraid they'd be swamped with your phone calls—leaving them no time to take mine. They've been wonderful and have helped me with projects I can't complete myself.

With these gentlemen's savvy assistance, two elevated senior toilets have been installed in our house and one at the cabin. Whatever the crisis—sticking kitchen drawer slides, a broken door on the mailbox—they've come to my rescue. Don't know how I'd blow out the pipes and shut down the water at the cabin without my good friends, the unnamed-for-their-own-safety-and-my-convenience handymen.

With so much accomplished, the next project on the list is cleaning the house for Thanksgiving. I'll wait for a nice day. After a sufficient rest, maybe I'll open the doors and windows and use my handy leaf blower to do the dusting. For now, I'm exhausted! Have an oh-so-blessed Thanksgiving with family or friends. Don't forget to invite a handyman!



The Pastor's Column

Happy Thanksgiving

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS
Thanksgiving week is always busy. Planning, prepping, friends, family and more all while trying to balance the regular demands of the week. Did your turkey thaw? Do you have enough potatoes? Have you figured out where to put everyone? Or do you need to travel to visit family and are making plans to travel in the unpredictable Minnesota weather?

The joy of togetherness can often be hard to see with the stress of preparation. What you focus upon makes all the difference. People will often focus on the details of preparation, or the satisfaction and comfort of their guests, others will focus on making sure the right foods are there, or maybe you just want to watch the games and take naps. Take an honest inventory of your motivations this Thanksgiving, what is your focus on?

This self-reflection is very important, because it gives us an opportunity to turn a stressor into an act of worship. How do we turn the stress of an unfrozen turkey into worship? By taking the focus off the problem and turning our hearts and minds to God's glory. I have said this many times, but if we focus on the problems, we can't see the solutions that God has for us.

If we dread the political discussions at the dinner table with that crazy uncle or having to explain to an aunt that at age 45 we aren't

going to have more babies, we will miss out on the opportunity to encourage those people who want to share what they are passionate about. We may not share the same passions as another person, but we can view them as God does as needing love and compassion, and often forgiveness. A change of perspective is what we need.

The struggles of the holidays don't measure up to the trials the early church felt on a daily basis, but we can use the same strategy that they did to change our perspective. Hebrews 12:1-2 says:

1 Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, 2 keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Look around you this holiday season, prepare your heart, set aside your sin and focus upon Jesus. He went with joy to the cross to complete the work of being the perfect sacrifice for our sin. The crowd you gather around you this Thanksgiving are the witnesses of your thanks, set aside those things that distract you from the opportunity of focus on the work of God in your life and the lives of those gathered around you. Happy Thanksgiving.

Johnson opens junk removal business

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

When Madti Johnson, Janesville resident and former Patient Care Assistant, found herself moving out of her home at the same time as her then-client, the process of clearing out two living spaces proved to be quite a task - most of which consisted of collecting multiple loads of unwanted items and taking them to the local dump.

"By the end of that month, there was just one last load left," Johnson said, explaining that she then decided to search for services in the area that could remove the remaining items. Finding none, the idea to start her own junk removal business came to mind.

After the moves were done, Johnson had time to do some more research on junk removal services and the process of starting a business. Now, at 26, she is the owner of Paradise Lakes Junk Removal, a business she started in September of 2023.

"My first job [I used] my dad's utility trailer," she said. "I got my dump trailer a month later."

Since then, Johnson has had over a hundred jobs so far, providing residential and commercial junk removal and pickup services in several counties. Currently, most of the jobs are done solely by Johnson, who helps clients remove a variety of objects - from household garbage, mattresses, furniture, appliances, etc. - from multiple areas, including houses and other living spaces to construction and demolition sites.

"Most of the time it's just me," she said, adding, "I have my dolly with me, too."

There have been times where she has had to hire help for particularly difficult items, such as pianos.

"For the most part, I can figure it out," Johnson said.

While the growth and success of her business is rewarding, Johnson also appreciates the experiences her job has provided.

"I don't always pick up junk," she said, describing a recent job she had that led to a discovery of vintage items from an old seed company in Waseca. While clearing items, a garbage bag broke open, revealing personal-



Janesville's Madti Johnson, 26, is the owner of a new junk removal business, "Paradise Lakes Junk Removal."

Pioneer photo by Jessica Lutgens

ized letter openers, Zippo-style lighters, and other novelty items.

She's also enjoyed interactions with the people she's met since starting her business, especially repeat customers who have expressed their satisfaction with the work she's done for them.

"It means the world to me," Johnson said. "When I started [this business], I didn't think it would turn into what it has - I just hope it keeps going."

Paradise Lakes Junk Removal has made a name for itself in the short time since it was established, however. At first, Johnson advertised her business on a website called Angie's List - however, most of the bids were for jobs in the Twin Cities area. So, she researched some more and developed her marketing technique, which, along with the still effective word-of-mouth method in rural areas, has led to more local jobs - and growth for the business.

Recently, Johnson has purchased a new truck for her business, which she says is "an exciting addition". She's also worked with another Janesville business, Bin Pro, with potential future

collaboration plans in the works.

Overall, Johnson is happy with how things have grown and progressed with her business and is excited for future growth.

"I plan for it to keep growing," she said. "I hope someday it won't just be me out there working and I can take a break and work more behind the scenes."

Johnson did express a fondness for working on the sites she is hired to, though. Her chosen field has presented some challenges, but determination and a willingness to learn have allowed Johnson to overcome obstacles and provide a useful service to Waseca County along with several surrounding areas.

"There is no junk removal school," she said. "It's a lot of learning as I go and talking to who I know to ask."

Paradise Lakes Junk Removal services Waseca, Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Rice, and Steele counties, along with surrounding areas depending on the job. For more information or a free estimate, visit the Paradise Lakes Junk Removal Facebook page.

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Service times 9:30 a.m.
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605 4th St NE, Waseca
507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker)
Worship Sundays 10 a.m.
* * *

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

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 6th St NE, Waseca
507-835-9176
Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service
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401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca
507-833-1703
Sundays 9:00 a.m.
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ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
314 4th Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-2647
Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m.
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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net)
Worship Sunday 10 a.m.
* * *

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 E Elm Ave, Waseca
507-835-1709
Worship Sunday 9 a.m.
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SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
111 4th St NW, Waseca
Father Glenn Ferichs
507-835-1222
Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m.
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REAL LIFE CHURCH
620 W Elm Ave, Waseca
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507-607-8245
Sunday worship 10 a.m.
* * *
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS
1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca
507-835-4640
Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.
* * *

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

CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY
900 14th Ave SE, Waseca
507-833-1082
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m.
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ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship
Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship
* * *

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

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

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

VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
* * *

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

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

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Father Glenn Ferichs
Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays
p.m. Mass
Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m.
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FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod
Waldorf, Minnesota
Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe
Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class
* * *

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Freedom Township
Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship
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ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Pastor Ava Adams-Morris
Waldorf, Minnesota
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
* * *

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

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

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

12-18
* * *
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
412 N. Main Street, Janesville
Interim Pastor
Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:15 a.m. Worship
* * *

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Janesville

1924

- Janesville motorists will be interested in a new machine installed by the Kewitsch Garage for the special purpose of refacing motor valves. In explaining the operation of the new machine, Mr. Kewitsch said: "Our experience goes to show that worm, warped, and leaky valves can and do produce more symptoms of serious auto ailments than any other part of an automobile, for instance: "When the valves leak, there is a loss of compression in the cylinders, consequently a very material loss of power. The leaky valves permit unburned gas to pass cut through the exhaust. That's waste. Because they are leaky – not gas tight – they do not hold the compression, consequently they permit oil to come up past the pistons and that fouls the spark plugs.

- Plans for a statewide music contest between the musical organizations in Minnesota high schools were given impetus during the meeting in St. Paul this week of the Minnesota Education Association, before whose membership the scheme was presented by Irving W. Jones, professor of music in the General Extension Division of the University of Minnesota. Letters have been sent to 650 city superintendents of schools in the state and to 150 public school music supervisors, urging their cooperation.

1949

- At the last two meetings of the Janesville Community Club, Bob Olson of Waseca has appeared and explained in detail the organization of the Community Chest in Waseca, New Richland, and the Townships of Waseca County. It is hoped that a Community Chest can be formed which will be county-wide, and at the present time, Janesville and Waldorf are the only two villages which have not organized their Community Chest. We understand that Waldorf is organizing theirs and will be ready to proceed shortly.

- Ceylon – Its small and in general appearance unimpressive, but a little piece owned by Mrs. Jessie McMurtry is appraised as one of the rarest relics of the war between the states. It is the engraved silver cap of the Fort Sumter flag staff. Mrs. McMurtry's father was a private in Company B, 11th Iowa Infantry, who died 42 years ago. While with General Sherman's army in the South he picked up the historic ornament in a Georgia church. Smithsonian Institution has asked for the relic.

- If you intend to take a Thanksgiving trip, plan it so as to avoid the hazards of holiday travel, is the advice of A. V. Rohweder of Duluth, president of the Minnesota Safety Council. Last year, he said, there were 701 accidents on Minnesota roads and streets from Wednesday to Sunday in Thanksgiving week, Five persons were killed and 301 injured. Holiday travel can be safe and pleasant, or dangerous and tragic," said Mr. Rohweder. "It depends largely on how you drive."

1974

- A card of thanks in this week's issue of the Argus is signed by A. C. Ewert. It thanks the people who voted for him in the November 5 election. It also has this message for those who didn't: "You got the same kind of service as the people who supported me." Basically that's the motto A.C. has tried to follow ever since he received his first public service job in 1918. "If someone is entitled to something, I give it to them," he said. "If they are not entitled, I don't. you never have to say 'I'm sorry' if you follow this policy." At 78, A. C. has held so many local government jobs he finds it difficult to recall them all. In 1918, he became the treasurer of Alton Township where he farmed. He held the job for 30 years. During that time he was also active on the County Extension Committee and with the Farm Bureau.

- A Land-O-Lakes feed specialist from Faribault has been appointed to the managershship of the Janesville Creamery Association. Bob Griffith, 44, will take over the reins of the large co-op next Monday, November 18. Griffith is presently working for LandO-Lakes as a feed specialist. He and his wife, Phyllis, live in Faribault with three of their five children.

- The University of Minnesota Board of Regents has approved the appointment of Dr. David Pope of Janesville to the rank of instructor in the Mayo Medical School. The new appointment, which became effective October 1, was announced by Dr. Raymond D. Pruitt, chairman of the Mayo Division of Education. Dr. Pope will be an instructor in family medicine. His teaching with the Rochester Medical School involves working with medical students in his Janesville practice. He has already had two students here for a week each this past summer.

1999

- Poor voter turnout characterized Tuesday's Waseca area school board elections across the four districts that encompass the county. In the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (JWP) school district, 1,012 of the 3,042 registered voters in the district exercised their right to vote for a 32.7 percent turnout. The JWP district led the way in voter turnout. Four candidates battled for three seats in the election. Incumbents Allan Lynch, John Gardner, and Roxann Zimprich were all re-elected. They will serve four year terms. Gardner led the way with 732 votes, followed by Zimprich with 706 votes and Lynch with 699 votes. Challenger Pam Rosen had 368 votes.

- Tasha Kalis said that being chosen as a member of the All State Band was a "good experience playing with all lead players." Tasha is the daughter of Terry and Jerilyn Kalis of rural Waldorf. She is a junior at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School. She describes her family as musical. Tasha, who has played clarinet for five years, was selected, in part, for the honor from her scores from past competitions. A variety of other credentials also are part of the selection process. This was not Tasha's first honor. She has been chosen to be in honor bands before and regularly receives superior ratings in competitions. She said that she is not afraid to work hard to achieve her goals.

- The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton volleyball team didn't go down without a fight in its tournament opener. The Bulldogs saw their season come to an end in the quarterfinals of the West Sub-Section 5AA Tournament at Blue Earth Oct. 28. JWP, the sixth seed in the tourney, lost three straight games to third-seeded Blue Earth, getting outscored 47-32 in the three games. Blue Earth, the third place team in the South Central Conference, captured its 20th victory in 26 starts to advance to the semifinals. JWP ended its season with a 10-13 record.

■ Column from Page 2

mark gear walking around, but no, it was all real. We stopped at a national forest park and hiked up into the mountains on a beautiful sunny midmorning. I felt like I should be throwing out my arms, twirling in a circle and singing like Maria from "The Sound of Music." I restrained myself however and settled for taking lots of photos, which of course are now my background on my phone. It was a lovely weekend and I can't wait to go back. For now, I have to be satisfied with a city, whether that be Denver or Minneapolis. Maybe

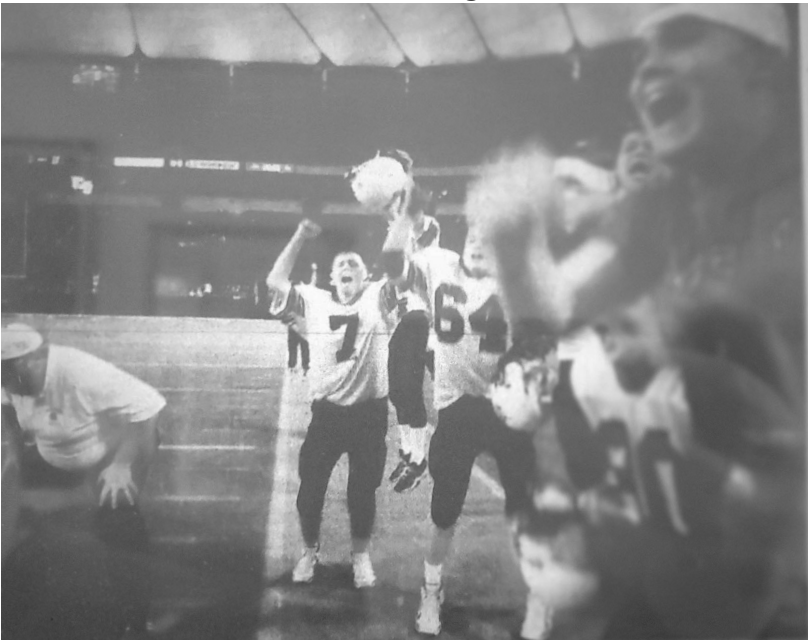
I'll just have to travel back down to Waseca, find a little hill in the middle of the marsh and pretend I'm back in the mountains.

But that all must be left behind, because it's time to lock in and get ready for Thanksgiving and what comes after — Christmas! And all my finals as I watch my school work pile up before it comes to a grand finale finish when I throw it all away or slam my computer shut and don't open it for four weeks during winter break. But for now, running the Turkey Trot is top priority. I'm hoping to get around 30 minutes, but we shall see.

My Determination: "I can't seem to stop singing wherever I am. And what's worse, I can't seem to stop saying things, anything and everything I think and feel." - Maria, The Sound of Music

Waseca

25 Years Ago



-WEM Head Coach Jon Bakken and players look on as the last second field goal from Chatfield hit the crossbar in Friday's semifinal game.

-When power abruptly ended throughout much of Waseca about 9:55 a.m. Thursday, thoughts of an early Y2K popped into many minds. But the real cause of the outage? "It's a squirrel," said City Engineer Fred Salsbury. This time it took city crews only about ½ hour to make the repairs after a squirrel got near a meter box at the substation.



-(Left to right): Andrea Morris, Rick Morris, Lanae Kletscher and Karen Gibson gather around Waseca Floral's Food Shelf Tree before the donations were delivered to the Waseca Neighborhood Service Center last week.

50 Years Ago

-Changing hands – LAKEVIEW 66's new operator Dave Mogden accepts station keys from Bob Carlson (2ND from left) as his wife, Mary Jo, daughter Honna Leah and mechanic Kevin Gross pose this morning during the station's open house. Not shown here are Mel Strom and Chamber of Commerce welcomers George Kastle, Gene Slama, Dick Snyder, F.J. Kozan and Kent Olmanson. The Mogdens also operate the Gaslite Motel.

-Not a scroll – DIANE JEWISON, asst. librarian, pages through a typical government document on "Soybean Diseases." The LRC is building a collection of such government publications in the field of agriculture.

-Pleasant view – THE WEST WALL is glass and overlooks the fertile Southern Minnesota farmland, the Southern Experiment Station, and the UMW horticulture land and facilities. The cubic furniture shown is typical of the furnishings in the new LRC. All of the colors are vibrant, contrasting to the natural gray of the concrete walls. Furnishings were chosen by Luis Henriquez of the U Planning Office.

75 Years Ago

-LUCILLE SPLEFT, student-learner under the local cooperative part-time work program examines a pair of nylon hosiery just received by Wright's Fashion. Shop where she is undergoing her training as a salesperson. Merchandise information is one important area of study for retail store salespeople. Mr. Wright realizes the value of training employees, allowing them to absorb a thorough knowledge of merchandise in order that they in turn may impart complete information to customers.

-Although the installations are not all completed, the Christmas lights across State Street were turned on for the first time early Tuesday evening this ushering in the gay holiday season for Waseca. Work is continuing today on the stringing of the gaily colored lights and it is believed the work will be finished by night, thus putting Waseca right out in front insofar as its holiday decorations are concerned.

-Charles Ewald, prominent Waldorf Shorthorn breeder, will leave Sunday for Chicago as a Minnesota delegate to the annual American Shorthorn Breeders Association convention. The meeting will take place at the Congress hotel November 29. While in Chicago, Ewald will also take in the International Livestock exposition which is now in progress there.

100 Years Ago

-Waseca's new school building, known as the Waseca High School, is located on the site of the old Central School building at Sixth street between Wood and Elm streets. The building was designed and was erected under the direction of William B. Ittner, the kell known architect and school specialist of St. Louis.

-There is no reason why those boys and girls of ours will not do well in their studies in the various sciences. There are probably very few school buildings in the state that are so well equipped as are the various laboratories in our new high school building.

-It is gratifying to know that the auditorium was planned with the proper idea in mind, that of providing a place where really large assemblies could be handled. Times have been changing so fast in recent years that every city is confronted with the problem of accommodating large audiences. The new school building will take care of that now with its 800 seats.

New Richland

25 Years Back

- The General School Board Election for New Richland - Hartland - Ellendale - Geneva School District #2168 was held on Tuesday, November 2nd. Residents of the district were able to cast their ballots at the Geneva Community Center, Ellendale School Building or the Hartland Community Center. A total of 166 voters cast their ballots, which included 3 absentee ballots. The top vote getters were Richard Chicos with a total of 159 votes, followed by Gretchen Supalla with 146 and Joan Richards, 137. A total of 13 write-in votes were cast and a total of 43 incomplete votes were tabulated.

- On Friday, November 5 1999, the wrestling Mavericks from Minnesota State University Mankato defeated Truman State from Missouri 31-12 in their first dual meet of the season.

Wrestling for the Mavericks were NRHEGs Matt Petsinger, who pinned his opponent in 50 seconds and Owatonnas Travis Wuiff, who pinned his opponent in 49 seconds. Petsinger is ranked 1st at 157 pounds by the InterMat Preseason NCAA Division II Rankings and Wuiff is ranked 7th at heavyweight. The team is ranked seventh.



- Missy Lonning is being congratulated by Gloria Henderson, NRHEG English Instructor for being named the October Student of the Month. Melissa Sue Lonning has been named Student of the Month at NRHEG. She is the daughter of Steve and Cheryl Lonning of Ellendale. Missy is a senior at NRHEG High School and currently carries a grade point average of 3.923.

50 Years Back

- The U of M-Waseca announced that Shane O'Brien, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Walker of rural Ellendale, has been accepted for admission in the Agricultural Business Management program.

- The Girls B-Bombers ended their season with a bodacious win over Waterville 25-13. Scorers for the team were: Worrell and Stollard with 8 points, Kaplan -6. David - 2. Thostenson - 1. Everyone did a great job. Their final overall record is 8 and 9. The girls really improved this year in many areas, especially in their conference.

- Sue Stieglbauer, 2nd grade teacher; Superintendent Martin



Avelsguard, Mrs. Avelsgaard; John Hanson, board chairman; Marlowe Spurr, bus driver. Last Thursday the Ellendale-Geneva School Board and Teachers gave a welcome tea for Mr. and Mrs. Martin Avelsgaard from 3:30 to 4:30 for the school personnel. A welcome was given by John Hanson, School Board Chairman, and Xan Johnson gave a welcome from the teachers. That same evening after the boys basketball game, coffee was served in the cafeteria as a welcome to the Avelsgaards our new Superintendent of Schools and his family. A packed cafeteria joined in the welcome.

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Safe sleep week November 17-23

It's pink and white gingham with farm animals embroidered on it and shows the wear from a little girl that took it everywhere. This special blanket, handmade for me by my grandma that my mother received when I was a baby, is one of my favorite possessions, and is something that has inspired me to continue a similar tradition with my children. There are pictures of me as an infant snuggled up with either this blanket or another handmade blanket from family or friends. Gifts of cuddly, fluffy, warm blankets or stuffed animals for infants hasn't changed much in the past few decades, but how these items are utilized when it comes to safe sleep care for an infant has.

According to the Minnesota Department of Health approximately 50 babies living in Minnesota die each year, and most of these events happen in unsafe sleep environments. We have learned so much about Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), but so little at the same time. Even though this unfortunate occurrence still happens, we have come a long way in preventing it by providing safe sleep accommodations for babies.

What does a safe sleep environment look like for your baby, whether it be at bedtime or nap time?

- Room share, Do Not bed share
- Baby should lie on a flat, firm surface such as in a crib or bassinet
- Baby should always lay on their back
- No blankets, pillows, toys,

or crib bumpers

- Swaddle only until baby starts to roll
- If baby falls asleep in a car seat, stroller, swing or similar equipment move them as soon as you can
- Consider giving your baby a pacifier at nap time and bedtime.

As the holidays approach and families are traveling with babies, these are all things to consider. If you are hosting one of these young families, consider having a crib/pack and play available or make sure there is a space for one. Although all the bedding accessories make the crib adorable, avoid placing them in the crib. If you are watching a baby while their parents are out, always place baby on their back in the crib without a blanket to sleep. If you are looking for that perfect gift, ask parents for suggestions. If it's the perfect blanket just know it might get more use when they are a toddler.

If you are the young family traveling with a baby, even short-day trips can feel like you are packing the entire house, but it's best to be prepared. Ask your host family if they have a crib for your baby or space if you were to bring one. Ask whoever lays the baby down for a rest to remove all blankets and fluffy items from the crib.

We can all work together and practice new habits when it comes to providing a safe sleep environment for baby. Hopefully, taking these simple precautions will drastically reduce the number of infant deaths related to sleep.

Rural development leadership funds

The Southern School of Agriculture (SSA), and the University of Minnesota-Waseca (UMW) Alumni Association are pleased to announce the availability of a \$1,000 scholarship. The Rural Development Leadership Scholarship is designed to encourage individuals to seek leadership training opportunities that would result in a strengthened rural Minnesota by providing funds to offset the cost of these training opportunities. Leadership education or training may include but is not limited to programs such as MARL – Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership Program; The Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership; Leadership Programs in FFA or 4-H and other programs. These programs are only examples, all educational opportunities will be considered.

These funds are available to minimum age, completion of 8th grade and above.

The scholarship committee will select the recipients of these awards based on the criteria outlined.

More than one individual may be selected to receive this scholarship. Funds will be provided based on cost (up to the total cost of the program). A total of \$1,000 will be distributed annually.

Criteria and information on how to apply can be found at: <https://z.umn.edu/Rural-Development-Leadership>.

Questions can be directed to Deanne Nelson at (507) 213-0338 or Email: nelson191@alumni.umn.edu. Applications must be postmarked no later than January 6, 2025.

Ford

from Page 5

wartime when the U.S. military used it to transport troops and supplies. Commentator Pat Ware observed, "Although Henry Ford was a pacifist, he didn't pass on

making 12,000 of them for the US Military." Originally offered as a single speed, there was an option at that time for a dual. The truck was used for ordinance, ambulances and anything else the military might think of. The original cost in 1924 was \$600, but by 1926, and thanks to mass production, that price was lowered to \$325.



Senator Jasinski receives the Legislator Advocate Award. From left: Tim Arvidson, Stonebrooke Engineering; Steve Bot, City of St. Michael; Senator John Jasinski; Margaret Donahoe, Minnesota Transportation Alliance; Wayne Sandberg, Washington County and Joe Gladke, Hennepin County.

Senator Jasinski receives legislator award

Senator John Jasinski was recognized by the Minnesota Transportation Alliance, a statewide coalition of organizations advocating for safe and effective transportation, for his work championing improvements to roads and bridges in Minnesota. Senator Jasinski received the Legislator Advocate Award at the organization's 131st Annual Meeting on November 14th for his support of funding to expand and improve Highway 14, his support of the local road and bridge programs and his advocacy for re-di-

recting auto-related fees to transportation.

"We are pleased to honor Senator Jasinski for his many years of leadership on the Senate Transportation Committee and his strong support for investments that have made a difference for people in his district," explained Tim Arvidson, Transportation Alliance Vice President. "The improvements to Highway 14 will save lives and improve the state's economy for many years to come," he added.

Senator John Jasinski represents District 19, which includes communities in Goodhue, Rice, Steele, and Waseca counties. Sen. Jasinski serves as deputy Republican leader, as Republican lead on the Transportation Committee, and as a member of the committee on Capital Investment. He was first elected in 2016.

Prior to his election to the Senate, Sen. Jasinski served in the Navy for four years. He served as the mayor of Faribault from 2008 until 2016, and previously served as a member of the

Faribault Planning Commission, the Faribault Economic Development Authority, and the Faribault City Council.

Photo attachment: Senator Jasinski receives the Legislator Advocate Award. From left to right – Tim Arvidson, Stonebrooke Engineering, Steve Bot, City of St. Michael, Senator John Jasinski, Margaret Donahoe, MN Transportation Alliance, Wayne Sandberg, Washington County and Joe Gladke, Hennepin County

Council

from Page 3

Fourth Street Southwest, jointly managed as County State Aid Highway 4 by Waseca County, will receive a \$225,000 rehabilitation using state aid monies and cost sharing with the county.



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November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	2
3	4	5 Burger nite 5-7pm	6 6pm BAR BINGO	7 7pm HALL BINGO	8 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	9
10 <u>Marine corps Birthday</u>	11 7pm Post & AUX Meeting <u>VETERANS DAY Mash Burger night 5:00 to 7pm</u>	12 Burger nite 5-7pm	13 6pm BAR BINGO	14 7pm HALL BINGO	15 <u>WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm</u>	16
17 <u>ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am – Noon Your Host Neighborhood Service Center</u>	18	19 Burger nite 5-7pm	20 6pm BAR BINGO	21 7pm HALL BINGO <u>Grenada Campaign ended (1983)</u>	22 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	23 <u>TURKEY BINGO 7 PM Hockey Burger Night</u>
24	25	26 Burger nite 5-7pm	27 6pm BAR BINGO	28 7pm HALL BINGO	29 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	30

HOURS OF OPERATION
SUN.- MON. CLOSED
TUE.- WED.- 3pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady's nite 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm.
THUR.- 1pm to 11pm
FRI.- SAT.- 11am to 1 am
POST & AUX MEETING 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license number 00385

Jasinski named deputy senate Republican leader

Minnesota State Senator John Jasinski (R-Faribault) has been re-appointed by Senate Republican Leader Mark Johnson (R-East Grand Forks) to serve as Deputy Leader of the Senate Republican Caucus, continuing a role Senator Jasinski has been in for the last two years. The re-appointment reflects Sen. Jasinski's steady decision making and strong relationships in the Senate.

On November 6, Senator Jasinski was elected by his Republican colleagues to serve on the caucus leadership team. Senator Mark Johnson

(R-East Grand Forks) will again serve as Senate Republican leader.

"I'm honored to take on this role again, and I'm ready to get to work," Sen. Jasinski said. "For me, public service has always meant finding common ground and doing the hard work that serves Minnesotans well – without compromising our principles. I value the connections I've built with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and I see this role as a way to strengthen those connections and deliver results on issues that affect every family in our state.

Whether it's making life more affordable for working people, keeping our communities safe, or guaranteeing every child has a great education, I'm focused on results that make a real difference."

"Senator Jasinski has always been a leader people can count on," Leader Johnson said. "He brings people together and knows how to work through differences to find real solutions. That's exactly what Minnesotans deserve. His experience, commitment, and respect for others will serve our caucus well and help

keep us focused on the priorities that truly matter."

Senator Jasinski's deep roots in southern Minnesota and his years of public service at both the city and state levels have equipped him with unique insight into the needs of working Minnesotans. In addition to his role as deputy leader, Jasinski always prioritizes the feedback of his constituents, staying engaged with local communities, and working toward policies that bring relief to families across the state.



Senator Jasinski speaks during a committee hearing.



Ashton Jenzen and Levi Root learned on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2024, that they were the winners of the "Voice of Democracy" essay contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Is America today our forefathers' vision?

**By Ashton Jenzen
Waseca High School**

The United States of America was conceived in a period of revolutionary fervor. When the Founding Fathers drafted the Constitution and articulated the principles of liberty, democracy, and equality, they envisioned a nation where these ideals could flourish. Among them was the idea that all people are created equal, no matter their race or creed and that all people have fundamental rights, such as free speech, freedom of religion, due process of law, and freedom of assembly. However, as America stands in the 21st century, it is worth asking, "Does our nation today align with our forefathers' vision?" or "Have we diverged in significant ways?"

The vision of America's founders was both ambitious and aspirational. In the Preamble to the Constitution, the founding fathers outlined their general goals: to ensure a just government, peace, an adequate national defense, and a healthy, free nation. The Declaration of Independence proclaimed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, while the Constitution established a framework for a government that would be of the people, by the people, and for the people. The Bill of Rights enshrined fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of speech, religion, and the press, which were revolutionary in their time. These ideals emphasize reason, individual rights, and democratic governance. A system of checks and balances was created to prevent tyranny. Keep in mind, colonists first came to America to escape tyrannical rule. So, when our Founding Fathers sought to establish a new government, they worked to make sure power could not be concentrated by an individual or even a few people. They also envisioned a nation that would continuously strive toward a more perfect union, one that would evolve and expand its principles over time.

In assessing whether America today reflects the forefathers' vision, we must consider several elements. When it comes to political structure and governance, the U.S. political system, with its separation of powers and federal structure, largely remains true to the original design. The principles of checks and balances, as well as representative democracy continue to function, though they face challenges. Issues, such as unelected bureaucrats, partisan polarization, gerrymandering, lack of accountability, and the influence of money in politics sometimes obscure the ideal government that is responsive to the people. The next aspect to consider is civil rights and

equality. The vision of equality was inherently limited in the 18th century, given the historical context of slavery and the disenfranchisement of women. Over time, significant progress has been made in extending civil rights to marginalized groups. The abolition of slavery, the civil rights movement, and the expansion of women's rights reflect a growing alignment with the original principles of equality and liberty. As for economic opportunities, the "American Dream," that the founding fathers envisioned, implies the promise of prosperity through hard work and perseverance. While the U.S. remains a land of opportunity for many, economic inequality presents a significant challenge. The growing disparity between the wealthy and poor, coupled with issues related to access to quality education and healthcare, raises questions about whether the ideal of equal opportunity is being fully achieved. The economic landscape has evolved in ways that the Founding Fathers could not have anticipated, and addressing these disparities is crucial for aligning with their vision.

There is an astounding amount that we can learn from our Founding Fathers. In our current divided government, Republicans and Democrats disagree with each other daily. That doesn't mean we can't work together to find bipartisan solutions to the problems we face as a nation. If we have a common goal, we can work together, and the one commonality we all share is that we're Americans first and foremost.

The Founding Fathers established principles that were meant to be enduring and adaptable, allowing for growth and change over time. However, the gap between the ideal and the reality highlights that the vision is both a benchmark and a journey. The persistent challenges and evolving nature of American society underscores the need for continuous effort to align more closely with the principles articulated by the Founders. The vision of a nation that strives for a more perfect union is not static, but is a dynamic process of growth and reevaluation. In this light, America's alignment with its Forefathers' vision is not merely a matter of historical comparison but an ongoing commitment to realizing and expanding upon the principles of liberty, democracy, and equality. The nation's progress, struggles, and debates all contribute to a living interpretation of the Founding Fathers' vision, reflecting both the achievements and the ongoing challenges in the quest to build a more just and equitable society.

Is America today our forefathers' vision?

**By Levi O. Root
Waseca High School**

Since our declared independence from England in 1776, our forefathers envisioned this great nation to be the best in the world. Many nations at the time were facing famine and religious persecution. Due to these hardships, our nation became a beacon of hope for those around the world because of the possible opportunities to be had. With these opportunities, so many people came together to form the foundation of our nation. The rich and diverse cultures from so many different parts of the world helped to define what our nation is.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "We

hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." This statement said by one of our forefathers was their vision of the rights that should be granted to the citizen's of our nation. However, it is important to point out that this statement was penned in 1776. Jefferson said, "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." The point to be made is that this statement really only applied to males at the time, specifically, white males. It did not

include women or people of different ethnicities. Therefore, I believe that America today is not our forefathers vision.

Our forefathers vision was based on the ideals of their times. Times have changed, women and people of different ethnicities have these same rights now. This wasn't in the ideals of our forefathers because I believe that they based their beliefs on the social norms at the time. The Forefathers would have never imagined that women and people of different ethnicities would gain these rights because at the time of Thomas Jefferson's writing, they weren't seen as equal members in our society yet. It is impossible for someone to predict something that has never happened

in history before.

Our society is better than our forefathers' vision because it applies to all citizens of the United States. Not to say that Thomas Jefferson's vision was entirely wrong, but he didn't have the perspective and knowledge that we have today. Our nation is stronger and more advanced than any other point in history. We took what our forefathers envisioned and expanded it so that every person of every ethnicity has the same rights and opportunities that the man or woman standing besides them has. As President Joe Biden once said, "We are America, second to none, we own the finish line."

■ NRHEG

from Page 5

remain at the convention site to attend more of them.

Reeder shared photos and even a video, telling board members the stu-

dents were "extremely well behaved" and "represented the community well." She thanked board members for the opportunity to act as a chaperone, while they in turn thanked her for consenting to take on the responsibility.

The next item on the agenda was yet another trip, this one sponsored by the music department from March 26 to 31. Reeder told board members

21 students who are members of band, choir, or both, have signed on to be part of a trip called "Focus on the Arts" which will expose them to music, dance, art and acting. Because a minimum of 25 paid participants is needed to make the trip viable with travel company EF Tours, some parents have also signed on to participate and to serve as chaperones: Reeder said the plan is that she, band

teacher Seth Schaefer, and elementary music teacher Josephine Schatz would travel with the group.

Under new policy language in the process of being evaluated for board approval, trips of this type must be presented one month in advance of being approved, so board members will vote on it during their December meeting.

■ Briefs

from Page 5

Farmamerica will host a Santa Experience on Sat., December 14

There will be a Santa Experience from 4-7 p.m. at Farmamerica on Saturday, Dec. 14. Meet Santa and his farm animals, decorate cookies and much much more.

Melissa Schulz at New Richland Liquor Company Friday, Dec. 20

Local Musician Melissa Schulz will be performing at the New Richland Liquor Company from 6-9 p.m. on Friday, December 20. She plays keyboard with drum tracks and performs pop, rock, and country covers from the 50s to today's hits.

CredibleMind offers free mental health resources

All area residents are eligible to

use free online access to mental health resources available at MNPrairie's "CredibleMind" website.

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

Waldorf Veterans Memorial Fund Drive

Donations are requested to support the construction of the Waldorf Veterans Memorial. Checks written to WVMP Fund Drive can be mailed to WVMP Fund Drive; Judy Joecks, treasurer; P.O. Box 55; Waldorf, MN 56091. Questions can be directed

to Charlie Barnes at (763) 286-2246.

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

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

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

Every Saturday until the fall season the Waseca County Fair Grounds will be hosting a farmers market from 8 a.m. until noon.

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Join Us At **The Mill** Waseca, MN

County seeks input on opioid settlement funds

Minnesota, along with other states, received funds from the Opioid Settlement and Waseca County wants to share the purpose and local utilization of these funds.

Opioid Settlement funds are a significant financial response to the opioid crisis. The \$26 billion settlement, spanning 18 years, stems from legal actions against major pharmaceutical companies, including Amerisource-Bergen, Cardinal Health, and McKesson, among others. These companies were found to have played a substantial role in the widespread misuse of opioids. This settlement is intended to provide states with resources to address the opioid crisis, including prevention, treatment, and recovery.

Minnesota's share of settlement funds, over \$196 million, are being allocated over the same 18-year period. The distribution and use of these funds is being determined by state and local governments in collaboration with public health and community organizations to meet the needs of affected communities.

The funds are earmarked for a range of initiatives including prevention, treatment, and recovery services, with local governments playing a pivotal role in their allocation.

Waseca County has been allocated approximately \$1,070,373 to be spent over the 18-year period. To determine how to prioritize the use of these funds for the most meaningful long-term impact, the County will be establishing an advisory committee and is seeking community involvement.

To learn more about the Opioid Settlement and the process for developing the Waseca County Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee, we invite you to join us for a discussion on December 3rd, 2024, at 2:30pm in the Waseca County East Annex Building, 300 N State Street, Waseca, MN, 56093.

Flurries inside and out at Waldorf Library event

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Snow flurries outside were matched by a flurry of activity inside the Waldorf Library on Wednesday, Nov. 20. The Waldorf Public Library's Magic Tree House Party was a success.

Head librarian Cheryl Marquardt was busy with the group of children who attended. Jace Jirele said, "I like coming in and saying Hi to Cheryl. I like to take out books and I like going on the computer." Brianna Holmes, 7, and her older brother T.J., 10, were in attendance; Brianna had recently lost two of her front teeth and Marquardt was quick to notice. When asked what became of the teeth, Brianna replied, "I put them under my pillow and got a dollar each back." From there, she and T.J. headed to the dinosaur identification portion of the event. They spent a considerable amount of time making sure each of the 20 different species of dinosaur were labeled. T.J.'s favorite dinosaur is the Pterodactyl, "Because it's big and because it can fly." Brianna's favorite is the Brachiosaur, the one with the long neck, "I like that one because it's tall and it can reach up and get the leaves." There was a long discussion about fighting ninjas or fighting dinosaurs, T.J. said if he had



From left: Inara, 11, Brianna Holmes, 7, TJ Holmes, 10, Genny, 9, and Alayna, 5, were taking part in the Waldorf Public Libraries Magic Tree House Party on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024.

Star Eagle photo by Ben Revermann

to fight one it would be the dinosaur, "I'd rather be eaten by a dinosaur because it would be cooler."

Inara, 11, Genny, 9, and Alayna, 5, started with the tree house obstacle course, which included artificial stumps and branches to balance across; they also had to carry a ping-pong ball on a spoon to make it more difficult. Alayna appeared to succeed on the first try, but it was learned she was gripping the spoon and ball directly in her hand, so the accomplishment didn't count.

At the castle structure, the girls found building blocks for stacking; it wasn't long before a decent castle began to form.

During the next phase, Marquardt began teaching the children how to read hieroglyphics. An interesting detail: "When it comes to hieroglyphics, when the figure is facing left, begin reading from the left. When the figure is facing right, begin reading from the right." Once the Egyptian portion of the program was done, the children moved on to ninja throwing stars—made of paper, cornhole style, the kids had to throw them through holes stacked on top of each other. There was little fighting because all the kids were good at taking turns.

Marquardt is pleased to note the numbers are improving at the Waldorf library events.

HOLIDAY COOKIE DAZZLE

Let *Achieving Dreams for Disabilities* do your Holiday baking for you!

Saturday, December 7, 2024
9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
Waseca Senior Citizen Center

A plate of 12 cookies is \$8.00

We also have breads & other treats individually priced!

If you would like to donate baked goods, please contact Kari Haslip at 835-2058. All proceeds go toward programs for individuals with disabilities!

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AGT 0071-25

IMPORTANT PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD NOTICE

This will affect your 2025 property taxes and eligibility for Property Tax Refund.

Have you purchased or moved into a property in the past year?

Contact your county assessor to file a homestead application if you or a qualifying relative occupy the property as a homestead on or before December 31, 2024.

What is a qualifying relative?

For unoccupied agricultural property, a qualifying relative includes the child, grandchild, sibling, or parent of the owner or owner's spouse. For occupied agricultural or residential property, a qualifying relative also includes the owner's uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece.

When do I apply?

You must apply on or before December 31, 2024.

Once homestead is granted, annual applications are not necessary unless they are requested by the county assessor.

Contact the assessor by December 31, 2024, if the use of the property you own or occupy as a qualifying relative has changed during the past year.

If you sell, move, or for any reason no longer qualify for the homestead classification, you are required to notify the county assessor within 30 days of the change in homestead status.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
Certificate of Assumed Name
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: Dwyer's Big Rig Service
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 12539 336th Ave. Waseca, MN, 56093

APPLICANT(S):
Name: Alec J. Dwyer
Address: 12539 336th Ave. Waseca, MN, 56093

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: Alec Dwyer

MAILING ADDRESS: None Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES:
dwyersbigrigservice@gmail.com

Work Item 1514623100027
Original File Number 1514623100027

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
11/20/2024 11:59 PM

Steve Simon Secretary of State

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on November 28 and December 5, 2024

STATE OF MINNESOTA
WASECA BLUE EARTH LE SUEUR JOINT COUNTY DRAINAGE AUTHORITY
ACTING AS THE DRAINAGE AUTHORITY FOR WASECA BLUE EARTH LE SUEUR JOINT DITCH 11

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Waseca Blue Earth Le Sueur Joint County Drainage Authority Board of Commissioners, acting as the public drainage authority under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103E ("Joint County Drainage Authority") for Waseca Blue Earth Le Sueur Joint Ditch 11 ("JD 11"), will hold a public hearing on 12-20-2024 at 10:00AM, or shortly thereafter as the agenda allows, in the Waseca County Commissioners Room of the East Annex, 300 N State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

At the public hearing, the Joint County Drainage Authority will consider a proposal by the Waseca County Highway Department to replace the existing 78.5' timber slab span bridge (BR 81509 OLD) with 2-line configuration of 14' x 12' box culverts all with end sections (BR 81126 NEW) at the CR55/380th Avenue crossing of the JD 11 drainage system between the Northwest Quarter (NW¼) of Section 4, Township 107 North, Range 24 West (Alton Township) and the Southwest Quarter (SW¼) of Section 33, Township 108 North, Range 24 West (Janesville Township), Waseca County, Minnesota. The public hearing will be held pursuant to both Minnesota Statutes, sections 103E.525 and 163.17. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 103E.525, approval of the box culvert capacity is being sought by the Director of the Division of Ecological and Water Resources in the Department of Natural Resources. The Waseca County Highway Department and its engineering consultants at Widseth, Inc. have filed a plan showing in detail the alteration or change to replace the existing bridge with box culverts, and a report of findings that the proposed alteration to the crossing will be a minor alteration or change to the JD 11 drainage system that will not affect the functioning or efficiency of the JD 11 drainage system. A copy of the plan and engineer's report of findings is available for public inspection at the Office of the Waseca County Land & Water Resources Director, Chris Howard, at 900 3rd Street NE, Waseca, MN 56093 and is available for viewing during normal business hours, or by contacting Chris Howard at 507-835-0534 or via email at chris.howard@wasecacounty.gov.

All owners of property affected by the JD 11 drainage system are invited to attend public hearing. Written comments will be accepted by mail or email to the Waseca County Land & Water Resources Director, Chris Howard. Written comments may be mailed to Waseca County Land & Water Resources Director, 900 3rd Street NE, Waseca, MN 56093 or emailed to chris.howard@wasecacounty.gov. Any comments received by mail or email prior to the public hearing will be read into the record at the public hearing.

/s/ Michael Johnson, County Administrator /s/ Robert Meyer, County Administrator
Waseca County, Minnesota Blue Earth County, Minnesota

/s/ Dani Ongie, Auditor-Treasurer Date: 11-21-2024
Le Sueur County, Minnesota

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093
Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 9:30 p.m.

Notice is hereby given that the Waseca County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing to consider an amendment to Sections 6.23 and 8.03 of the UDC to correct an inaccurate reference to the Flood Insurance Rant Map (FIRM) in §6.23(B)(1). This amendment will also include a revised definition of manufactured home and structure under §8.03. Proposed changes can be found under the Zoning Code Amendments tab on the Planning and Zoning Department page.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner's Room)
300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093
Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

A. Request for variances to have dwellings within 1,000feet of a registered feedlot. Samuel Borneke requests for the variances listed below to have dwellings on the property with PID: 05.030.1110 in Section 30 T108N R23W of Iosco Township.

I. Variance of 400feet to have a proposed building approximately 600feet from an existing feedlot.

II. Variance of 584feet to have a proposed building approximately 416feet from an existing feedlot.

The variances are part of a broader request to split the parcel into three (3). The County UDC (section 6.06) requires dwellings to be setback 1,000feet from a registered feedlot. The property is in the A-1 Agricultural Protection Zoning District and in the SO Shoreland Overlay District.

B. Request for variances to construct a storage shed. Todd Neitzel request for the following variances to construct a storage shed on his property with PID: 07.013.1850 in Section 13 T105N R22W of New Richland Township. The property is in the SO Shoreland Overlay District of St. Olaf Lake, which is a Recreational Development Lake.

I. Variance of 25feet for the Ordinary High-Water Level (OHWL).

II. Variance of 28feet from the front yard setback requirement.

Section 6.22(G)(2) of the UDC requires structures to be setback at minimum 100feet from the Ordinary High Water Level of Recreational Development Lakes and 50feet from the road right-of-way edge.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WASECA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner's Room)
300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093
Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

A. Request to rezone four (4) parcels east of the City of New Richland. Waseca County requests to change the zone district from A-1 Agricultural Protection Zoning District to HC Highway Commercial District for four parcels with PIDs: 07.021.0600, 07.016.1300, 07.021.0900 and 07.925.0200 in Sections 16 and 21 T105N R22W of New Richland Township.

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

The staff report on this item will be available at the Waseca County Planning and Zoning Office, 300 N State St., Waseca during regular business hours 8-4:30, and will be on the county website www.wasecacounty.gov at the agenda tab. Oral comments will be accepted at the meeting. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all Waseca County services, programs and activities.

Maame Quarcoo, AICP, Sr. Land Use Planner.

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The Lions, together with the Family Eye Care office of Drs. Akre and Clark, were able to brighten the day for a young elementary student. She had a pair of glasses in disrepair. The Lions received a call from the counselor at the elementary school asking for help. The Waseca Lions were able to provide a pair of glasses for her and Taylor Oie, O.D at Drs. Akre and Clark provided the critical eye exam.

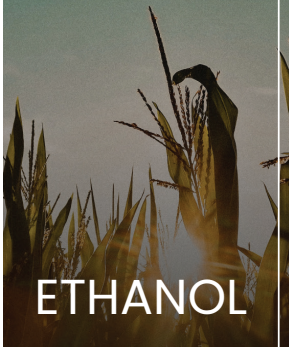
The Lions want to recognize the team at Drs. Akre and Clark, left to right, Sue Rutt, Twylla Vetsch, Beth Stankiewicz, Julie Sommers and Taylor Oie, O.D. As Lions, we serve, and Drs. Akre and Clark assisted in that mission. Thank you to Family Eye Care office.



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