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Jake from State Farm



Curt Heimer dressed as a donkey lets the New Richland area know that Wagner Foods has a great deal to offer.

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

101st Farm and City Days

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Hundreds of visitors and residents gathered for the 101st Farm and City Days weekend in New Richland, July 7-9.

The classic car show drew a record 127 cars and brought a bustling crowd of admirers; Neighbor's Meats offered "Cow Pie Bingo" and "Poultry Races," as well as free hamburgers to all comers. Classic options included: Power Pedal Tractor Pull for ages 4-11 Saturday afternoon, sponsored by Morgan's Meat Market, Thompson's Body Shop, New Richland Auto, Midwest Repairables, Wagner Foods, New Richland Liquor, and Neighbor's Meats.

Both Friday and Saturday nights included rambunctious—but well behaved—crowds at the street celebrations, with Gen-X performing Saturday night. Advertised as ending at "11 p.m.," the event went until about a quarter after midnight.

A parade set to perfect weather (last year's was a little warm) showcased many, many groups and organizations. The selection of this year's grand marshal was a complete surprise for Kathy (Schumacher, Flor)

Hinkley. Kathy recently retired from the New Richland Care Center after more than four decades of service.

A plethora of other events took place, including Water Wars with the New Richland Fire Department, and many, many different displays throughout town, including separate shows featuring—for the first time ever—golf carts and antique tractors. Information about all these and morris available throughout this edition of the Star Eagle.

Farm & City continued on 12



Grand Marshall Kathy Flor

Man found dead in county park

A 911 call reported Monday, July 10, that visitors to Courthouse Park in rural Waseca County had discovered the body of an apparently deceased male. Waseca County safety personnel responded at 4:52 p.m. Their investigation concluded that the 49-year-old male had died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound; the weapon was found near him.

The decedent's name had not been released as of press time.

Waseca County Farmers' Market open on Saturdays

Waseca County Farmers Market at 409 8th Ave. NE in Waseca will be open Saturdays from 8 a.m. until noon through October.

Thirty-third annual FCA Sports Camp set for Aug. 1-3

The thirty-third annual Waseca Fellowship of Christian Athletes Jr. Sports Camp is set for August 1-3, 2023. for athletes entering grades 3-8. Registration online at www.minnesotafca.org/waseca-jsc.

SWCD to meet July 13

The Waseca Soil and Water Conservation district will hold its regular meeting July 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Waseca Garden walk set for July 22 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The Waseca Garden Club will be sponsoring a Summer Garden Tour open to the public on Saturday, July 22 from 1 to 5 p.m. This is a FREE event and will take place rain or shine.

A word from The Word

“For the Lord God does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets. The lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken; who can but prophesy?”

Amos 3:7-8

Finstad honors Nelson

Statement entered into official record

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

“Blair would be so incredibly humbled and honored,” observes his wife, Deanne. “Representative Finstad commented about Blair’s love of his country and his devotion to his family and serving others. I believe that was a very accurate observation.”

Minnesota District 1 Representative Brad Finstad met last week with Waseca County Commissioners and members of the Nelson family to present two items honoring Blair Nelson: a flag flown over the nation’s capitol early in June, and the text of a speech Finstad presented to the House of Representatives on June 22 and had entered into the Congressional Record.

Nelson had served as a member of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners since 2011, and died suddenly on May 30. His wife Deanne says she felt privileged to accompany Blair as he took part in the annual Legislative Conference of the National Association of Counties that was held this past February in Washington, D.C. She, Blair, and commissioner Brian



HONORED - Minnesota District 1 Representative Brad Finstad presented the Congressional Record of his recent speech to Blair Nelson’s family members Deanne Nelson, Nikki Benson, Taylor Ziemke, and Madalyn Benson.

Harguth became better acquainted with Finstad at that time. Deanne mentions that she and Blair felt particularly honored when they were given a tour of the capitol that included standing on the house floor—an opportunity not usually provided to members of the public.

“That was very special,” she recalls. “It’s a memory I’m very grateful to have.”

Deanne mentions that Blair saw rich value in networking and exchanging information, not only at the county level, but also with state and national leaders.

“He believed it made him better able to represent his constituents,” she commented. “He loved serving in this capacity.” She says she can’t help thinking of the adage which claims, “Love what you’re doing and you’ll never work a day in your life.”

The text of the June 22 speech is:

“Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Blair Nelson, a friend and dedicated public servant who unexpectedly passed away on May 30. Those of us who knew Blair knew him for his devotion to his family and selfless commitment to serving others. In 2010, Blair was elected to the [Waseca County] Board of Commissioners where he found his true calling in public service. During his nearly 13 years as county commissioner, Blair paved the way for many projects. He was especially proud to bring the [county] veterans memorial to completion. Blair served on the executive board of directors for the Association of Minnesota Counties. Just three months ago, I was fortunate enough to give Blair and his colleagues a tour of our U.S. Capitol.

“Something I will always remember when I think of him [is



ON DISPLAY - The Congressional Record in the Nelson home.

that] Blair’s big personality, his sense of humor and his positive spirit made him a friend to many across Southern Minnesota. He was a proud husband, father, grandfather, coach, mentor, and friend. He will truly be missed.”

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

County board updated on 911

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

During their regularly scheduled July 5 meeting, Waseca County Commissioners were informed regarding “Next Generation” 9-1-1 (NG911) emergency response. Three representatives from the state Emergency Communications Network (ECN) shared a slide show which described the intended transition over the next 4 to 5 years, from “Legacy” 911 service to a more digital, more precise public safety network.

“Think ‘marathon,’ not ‘sprint,’” suggested agency representative Steve Tate. He told commissioners that the change is necessary for numerous reasons, including the fact that the 55-year-old legacy 911 system is “becoming fragile.”

The changeover is expected to be gradual because it must occur on numerous fronts. “It will require a huge overhaul,” he claimed. In order to bring NG911 to an operational level, Tate pointed out, there must be updates and protective protocols incorporated into digital elements of communication. “One ransomware attack can cost tens of thousands of dollars,” he commented. “And we need redundancy in the system: if one call center happens to be down, there still needs to be 911 coverage for any emergencies in that local area.”

Right now, Tate said, there are 103 call centers equipped to receive 911 calls around the state of Minnesota. Whether that number will remain the same has yet to be determined; Tate suggested that the expense, complexity, and expanded capabilities of the updated equipment might lead public safety agencies to consider consolidating. He did inform commissioners, however, that agencies with call centers can expect to receive a one-time \$7 million payment in 2024. After that, grant monies will also be available for selected applicants.

Legacy 911, Tate explained, determines a cellular caller’s location by triangulating the signal off of transmission towers. The system is accurate to within about 9,000 feet. NG911, however, will be able to notify the call center staff member “which side of the county line a caller is

911 continued on 3



Brad Milbrath

Milbrath to run for county seat

Former Waseca County Sheriff Brad Milbrath has announced his intent to run for the seat on the Waseca County Board of Commissioners left vacant by the May 30 death of Blair Nelson.

A special election has been arranged for November during which the residents of County District 3 will be asked to vote on Nelson’s successor. According to Tammy Spooner, county director of property and election services, official filing for the election will be open from August 15 to 29. If two or fewer candidates choose to run, the results from the Nov. 7 election will select the winner; if three or more candidates file, November’s will be a primary, with the final vote taking place Feb. 13.

Only residents of wards 1A and 2A, the roughly 3,700 people occupying the northernmost third of the city of Waseca, will be eligible to file for the position or vote in the election.

Milbrath announced his intent to run this week, citing his 24 years of experience as the county’s chief deputy and then sheriff. Having left public service less than a year ago, he states that he has extensive knowledge of county operations, policies and procedures, and that he understands the division of responsibilities within the departments.

“This knowledge,” he said, “will help me move forward as effectively as possible with current county board business.”

He recalls, “Commissioner Nelson and I worked closely on many projects while I was serving as sheriff. We had similar visions and ideas for making Waseca County a better place to call home for current residents and those we hope to attract and welcome to Waseca County.”

Milbrath invites voters to follow him on Facebook: [bradmilbrathforwasecacounty](https://www.facebook.com/bradmilbrathforwasecacounty).



Compostings

by Al Batt

How many books did Al bring to F&C Days

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

My dog can find anything I ask it to.

What kind of dog is it? It's a LabraGoogle.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. The sun was shining as I put soil in with a plant growing in a container. It wasn't dirt. Dirt is what you track into the house. I wasn't planting corn, but work took me to Cornville. Where's Cornville? You're guessing Iowa. Maybe Illinois or Minnesota. No, Cornville is in Arizona. You won't find much corn growing in Cornville. You'll find grapes. The story is that the name requested was "Coaneville" in honor of a pioneer family and the USPS misspelled the name as "Cornville."

It wasn't from the USPS, UPS or FedEx. It was delivered by a smaller carrier—one that issued no notices of delivery because it enjoys surprising you when you get something delivered. It was a book from a friend along with a note asking this question, "If you had a week to live, where would you spend it?" A stipulation was added that eliminated home and family from the answer. As a boy, I'd stood in a field, watching geese fly over in the spring and again in the fall. Those geese were doing something I wanted to do. Fly. Not by flapping my wings or as a pilot, but as a passenger. I didn't know any kids whose goal of becoming a passenger. My parents had never set foot in a plane, let alone travel in one. I emailed my friend and said I'd spend a couple of days in Haines, Alaska, because it's lovely and got an email in return asking what I'd do with the rest of the week. I'd spend it getting to Haines.

I'VE LEARNED

Casts should be labeled, "Not a piñata."

A typical person, statistically speaking, has nearly 200 third cousins, 950 fourth cousins and 4,700 fifth cousins. That means that one of the two impatient drivers of white pickups who used his entire speedometer and passed me on the right in an intersection as I waited for a vehicle two cars ahead of me to turn could be my fifth cousin. If so, all two-lane highways should become non-passing zones because of my cousins.

BAD JOKE DEPARTMENT

He said he'd run into a grizzly on the trail in June and the bear had taken an instant dislike to him.

You're not supposed to run, but he ran. The bear chased him down the trail, through the forests, over a hill, across the meadow and up and over more mountains than he could count. Finally, he came to a river. He ran over the ice, but the bear broke through, giving the man enough time to escape. I stopped him there and asked how there could be ice on the river in June. He told me the bear had chased him so long that by the time they came to the river, it was January.

A man lay in bed looking up at the night sky—Milky Way, constellations and moon. He wondered, "What happened to the roof?"

The man took his wife to the doctor to see why she was mumbling. Then he went to see another doctor about his hearing loss.

Scientists placed a 10-piece set of matching Tupperware in a sealed chamber. When they opened it a week later, the chamber had 17 lids, none of which fit the remaining container.

When I eat too many chickpeas, I falafel.

I walk 10 Miles each day. 10 Miles is the name of my dog.

NEW RICHLAND NATTERINGS

There is so little to do in a small town, it's impossible to do it all. I enjoyed working at the Farm & City Days book sale. The librarian wanted to have a "Guess how many books Al Batt will bring for the book sale this year" contest.

NATURE NOTES

Baby robins jump from their nest when they're about 13 days old. Leaving the nest is called fledging. They can't fly well when they leave the nest and don't become capable fliers until 10-15 days after fledging. Both parents feed the fledglings for a few days until the mother lays a new clutch of eggs. The fledglings learn from other robins. Leaving the nest early can be advantageous for a young robin, as a nest attracts predators and parasites. After fledging, the young birds are scattered, enhancing their chances of survival.

American white pelicans have 9-foot wingspans. The average wingspan of a bald eagle ranges from 6 to 7 1/2 feet. A trumpeter swan can have an 8-foot wingspan.

Seven states have the cardinal as their state bird—Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, North Carolina, West Virginia and Virginia. A redbird could fly to all seven states without needing to venture into an eighth state.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Humankind. Be both.

What, exactly, defines who we are?

One does not normally expect deep philosophical observations from superhero movies—which is just as well, because one does not normally find them there. But after one particular Batman movie I felt compelled to make a small banner: "It is what we do that defines who we are." The banner has been on display for a decade or more, yet it remains meaningful.

As someone who has just retired from nearly three decades as a teacher—an English teacher even—I have been giving recent consideration to the question of who I am.

How we look? That literally changes with the strength and direction of the wind. Heck, if we're talking about my hair, it doesn't need a wind to look windblown. And as for what we're wearing, well, fashion changes mighty quickly, doesn't it?

What we drive? That, too, is open to interpretation. What some might see as an elegant luxury vehicle, others may see as careless disregard for the planet.

But what we do, that seems like genuine commitment. We do not give our time and energy to organizations or projects that we don't value.

All right, good. Getting to work on time, consistently, and meeting the expectations there. We do that because it's fundamental to our lives and lifestyle. I hope most of us are



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

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working somewhere where the demands we must meet are—at the very least—acceptable. Fulfilling, of course, would be better. But think for a minute of the difference in the message if we hear "He works at a factory" as compared to "He's a park ranger." At least in other people's minds, "what we do" at work says a great deal about "who we are."

But I think perhaps the most important part of "what we do" is how we interact with others. Do we recognize them as fellow travelers on a long and complicated path? Are we willing to set aside our preconceptions and genuinely listen to their stories? If we have reached a conclusion about them or their behaviors, are we willing to reconsider every now and then?

Those same standards apply to how we view ourselves. I, for example, have a habit of calling myself "stupid" when I make a mistake or overlook a detail. I have been known to mutter similar insults to drivers

ahead of me who put on their brakes suddenly or take a turn without signaling. A few moments later, when I see the (often obvious) reason for the seemingly inexplicable behavior, I often apologize. Fortunately, only my windshield typically knows of this flighty behavior.

And okay, now, but what does it say about my character that I like to imitate sounds? People tend to be impressed with the quality of my rooster crow. When I was a child, our farm's rooster thought a great deal of himself, and he liked to announce that to the world by crowing. Whatever my rationale, I worked on imitating him. Eventually, my crows became convincing enough that the rooster would follow the sound, find me, and try to initiate a fight. I can vividly remember my barefoot, elementary school self, raising my feet to meet his.

Just so you know, while the rooster crow gets the most attention, I can demonstrate the difference between

the calls of a goat and a sheep; I can do a reasonably good loon and mourning dove, along with some convincing bird calls, and can represent dogs in every size from chihuahua to mastiff.

Oh, and roller coasters. I love those. I howl in ecstasy while racing downhill at speeds which would be very dangerous under other circumstances. It's a definition of delight for me when the lines at the amusement park are so short I can get off the ride, then go get right back in line.

Okay, so if you're still with me here at the end of all this, perhaps you're reaching the same conclusion I am. Yes, what we do may define "who we are," but what we're doing depends on the moment we're observed. We're back at the "long and complicated path" we all share. I like to think we're all simply doing our best, working to make strong connections in some cases, choosing to let go of them in others. Along the way, I know I work to be kind (except, possibly, to my windshield) and to leave situations slightly better than the way I found them.

I make mistakes, of course. I try to make up for those...or find a way to ensure no one discovers them. What can I say? I'm human.

Dreaming of my Victorian connections



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

I completed a lifelong dream this week: It was amazing. Everyone knows the big house on North State Street near the hospital that an older lady used to live in before it got sold a couple of years ago.

It's a beautiful old house. Three stories of brick and windows with a sizable lawn sloping down to meet the street. And I've always had the strongest urge to see the inside of that house.

A couple of years ago, I don't remember exactly when, my mother and I went on the garden walk in Waseca and if I remember correctly, that house was one of them. I distinctly remember walking up that driveway more focused on the house than the garden and yard we were supposed to be seeing. The expanse of the house itched at my mind and I wondered more than once what it looks like on the inside.

Now I can say I have finally satisfied that curiosity. See, a gentleman called the paper's office on Monday saying that he was receiving an

award for historic preservation of this house and that someone told him to call the paper, which he then did. So that evening, I went down and watched him get the award, then followed the crowd to his house, which he had opened up for everyone to see. And let me tell you, it was breathtaking.

This gentleman and his brother had spent around two years fixing and repairing the entire house. The building is pristine and beautiful in its Victorian aura. Walking through it, I felt like I needed to be wearing a Victorian dress and carrying a small book, complaining about how unfair

the world is.

I was practically giddy, a big smile plastered on my face. I don't know why, but for me, walking through the history, seeing the beauty of the past and wondering what life could have been like back then was enthralling.

People sometimes say they're "old souls" or something like that. I've wondered if I'm one myself. But what does it take to be an old soul? A love for the past? Acting like an old person? Feeling slightly out of place in today's world? Who knows.

There are also quizzes that tell you what era you should live in. Am I a Victorian maiden? A medieval prin-

cess? A renaissance mage? Truly I believe I could belong in any era, although I have to admit I enjoy the comforts and luxuries of the present day. But deep inside, there's still me. The one who wants to wield a sword, wear long dresses, or watch jousts. I carry those folks with me and they come out with exuberant smiles and giddy delight when I come across something that suits them—for example, old Victorian style houses. It's important to enjoy all the pieces of who I am.

My Determination: "Some men are born to good luck: all they do or try to do comes right—all that falls to them is so much gain—all their geese are swans—all their cards are trumps—toss them which way you will, they will always, like poor puss, alight upon their legs, and only move on so much the faster. The world may very likely not always think of them as they think of themselves, but what care they for the world? What can it know about the matter?" - Grimm Brothers.

Farm and City Day ramblings



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

I am sitting here writing this at the conclusion of Farm and City Days. It was another packed weekend. The car show included more cars than ever before. During the nightcap Saturday, I lost count of the number of people who commented about the band. By all accounts, it appears to have been a hit. (Even though I didn't know all of the songs.)

The kids' tractor pull was bigger than ever too. That takes a lot of dedication.

Running around Saturday I was reminded of many things. That, and talking with the new Farm and City Day's Committee member, Jennifer Weber (Kristi Harrington's sister), brought back a lot of memories too.

Jennifer wanted to know how I thought Farm and City Days could

be made even better. The only thing I could think to mention was the carnival/fair; it's a fond memory of mine that we used to have rides like a ferris wheel or "scrambler." I enjoyed those games and rides every year and really looked forward to them when I was a child. I understand it costs money and insurance and all of that. But that was my answer. I'm not complaining: As an adult, I wouldn't ride the rides, and I

don't know if I would play the games. Where I am today, I enjoy the weekend every year. It's something I look forward to.

Last year I asked someone why we couldn't do this sort of thing more often. The answer I got back was, "Then it wouldn't be special."

This year someone asked me that same question. Because then it wouldn't be special.

Speaking of special, I'd like to

thank the Farm and City Days committee, the fire department, the police department, ambulance staff, Lions Club, and all of the other volunteers and persons who helped put this weekend together. I, for one, was a very happy camper.

As for my newsing in Waseca this week, you'll just have to read the paper. I can't tell you, but I'm fairly certain the majority of the stories this week were reader requested. Which meant many, many phone calls and messages to respond to.

We set up for the fair Tuesday and Wednesday. Please stop down and see us!

And for those asking, we are set to move into the new office by the end of the month.

date is collecting detailed information for call center operators to access. Tate mentioned that the hope for the system is that, for example, if a caller reported a health emergency in a large building, the operator would be able to bring up a floor plan of the structure, see the caller's location, and be able to guide someone to the nearest fire extinguisher or Automated Electronic Defibrillator (AED). Acquiring that information for all large structures will be a time-consuming process, but will be worth it when such detailed assistance can be provided.

Another aspect that must be taken into account when updating to NG911, agency representatives said, is ensuring that public safety em-

ployees are trained and ready both to operate the more complex equipment, and to handle the stresses of the job. "These folks work with people who are going through the worst days of their lives," Tate observed. "We want to give them some resources to do the job well and protect their own mental health."

During the July 5 meeting, county commissioners also heard from Steve Herman, CEO of Netwave Broadband operating out of Janesville. Herman told board members his company is already marketing its high speed internet access service in Janesville and the surrounding community, claiming that, with new technology that does not require "line of sight" connection to the customer, he

will soon be able to offer his service to the entire northern half of the county. Plans for expansion over the next 5 years include installing equipment on 6 additional locations, each capable of transmitting up to 7 miles.

In answer to commissioners' questions, Herman revealed that he is currently concentrating his marketing efforts in the Janesville area, since it is more cost effective to limit installation services to selected regions, rather than disperse crews over a wide area.

Netwave offers high-speed broadband with \$199 for installation and a \$99 monthly cost.



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

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GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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■ 911

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standing on," according to ECN department member Jill Bondous.

Commissioners were told that, using NG911, if a cellular caller spotted a roadway problem and dialed 911 to report it, the system would be able to follow "bread crumbs." That is, it would record where the caller was when dialing 911, and then show other markers as the vehicle moved forward, for example crossing the county line or reaching an exit.

Another important step for the up-



SOCIALIZING - Locals enjoy the nice weather and tasty food under the tents at Otisco's Ice Cream Social.

Otisco Ice Cream Social fulfills dual purpose

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

Neighbors and friends gathered to eat barbecue, beans, and delicious pie at the annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, July 9, at Otisco's St. Peter Lutheran Church.

The social lasted until the food was gone; the church's ladies' group visited with those in attendance while carrying out the work of the event. The stated purpose for the event was to raise money to fix the bell tower of the church.

Pat Lewer, one of the women on the board, mentioned that the ice cream social was originally an outdoor picnic when it started in the 1920s. Now, three tents of tables get filled with social enjoyers as neighbors and friends talk and

reunite.

Connie Ruedy, another board member, commented on the good weather. She mentioned that the social had been held outside for many years and only once had it ever been rained out.

"The good Lord looks down on us," Ruedy laughed. "The weather has always been beautiful."

All of the donations go to the lady's group of the church, and they decide where to distribute the funds. Lewer said they like to stay local, donating in past years to Bethlehem Inn or Beds For Kids.

The ladies decided this year's donations need to go toward repairing the roof of the church's belltower after a lady got dripped on after the rains in May.



Church ladies Pat Lewer and Connie Ruedy pause their duties to smile for the camera.
Pioneer photos by Amelia Roessler

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

School district finances addressed

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

"Tonight's discussion is intended to allow our board members to share where we are with our elementary facilities and our bond discussion." Superintendent Eric Hudspeth opened the July 6 work session by passing out several documents with recently updated information for board members to examine, including a possible new traffic and parking plan for the intermediate and high schools to help mitigate traffic concerns. "This isn't a sure thing. We can always modify a plan, but first, we have to have a plan."

Board members discussed the ongoing facilities study at length, taking turns weighing in with their thoughts and concerns about the condition of the current elementary school and the possibility of constructing a new addition to the current intermediate school, transforming it into a preK-6 facility. "An advantage is the efficiency of operation," board member Charlie Priebe said. "Transportation, food service, special education...there's a lot of efficiencies of operation we could have by having a k-6 building." Board chair Julie Anderson concurred; "I think it's about doing our programming better than what we are doing right now. And this is not just efficiency in space but actually in timing as well. We can take care of two buildings with one bond. We're not going to come back again to fix WIS at some point."

Board member Dave Dunn expressed his opinion that the learning environment needs updating. "We don't teach kids the same way in 2023 as we did in the late 1950s when Hartley was built." Board member Theron Kruger circled back to the increase of traffic such a new facility might bring and the accompanying safety issues that might arise as a result. Alyssa Bowers spoke about her conversations with families every day at Keen Bank where she is employed. "We look at people's house payments, their escrow payments, and it's scary for them." Edita Mansfield expressed her opinion that it is not the right time and that Waseca can't afford a bond. The \$36 million bond necessary to accomplish all needed tasks would

School continued on 5

New State Farm agent

By DEB BENTLY

Katie (Schroeder) Gonzales can't help thinking she is the benefactor of divine intervention. A 2012 Waseca High School graduate, she is finishing her training as a State Farm Insurance agent and will be leading the Waseca agency as of August 1.

Gonzales had worked at two State Farm offices over the past 10 years or so as she had moved to various locations around the U.S. But as she and her husband Andrew, along with their toddler son, Levi, moved back to the Waseca area last spring to be near family, she never imagined there might be an opening for her in an office as well established as Gloria Butler's.

She did call the agency to make some changes in one of her family's policies and happened to mention her experience...but only by way of making conversation.

A few days later, she got a call from Butler.

Gonzales remembers, "She asked me, 'Had you heard that I'm retiring?'"

The phone call began a nearly whirlwind process. Butler recommended Gonzales to State Farm as a strong candidate to move into her position. Gonzales was interviewed and selected last November and has been following through with the testing and training process ever



Waseca's State Farm team members Debbie Rodriguez, Barb Draheim and Katie Gonzales with a cardboard cutout of the company's iconic figure, Jake.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

since. She and 20 other agents from all over the country have been attending online sessions together.

Courses have covered laws and regulations, financial and investment programs and much more.

"Gloria has left such a legacy," says Gonzales. "I'm going to build on the service and knowledge she shared with her customers and help keep them moving forward."

"It has been an incredible journey and opportunity."

When asked what advantages customers can find in working with a local agency, Gonzales shares some of her own past experiences.

"I think we all know how it can go," she says. "You call some national number and are asked to enter various numbers. Then you might have to find all kinds of numbers and enter them in a form. When your call

"We're right here. We know you, we know your community."

— Katie Gonzales

finally gets routed to a person, you sit on hold.

"If you call about the same problem more than once, you go through that same process each time, and you speak to a different person."

"That won't happen here."

Gonzales points out that long-time State Farm team members Barb Draheim and Debbie Rodriguez are still in place to continue helping those customers who have been with the company for some time and those she expects to work with as they seek out State Farm's services.

"We're right here," she says. "We know you, we know your community. We can get to know your needs and help make sure they're met."

Gonzales says she hopes to meet with every customer to review their portfolios.

"One thing about insurance," she says lightheartedly, "is that people don't believe they need it until they discover how badly they need it."

State Farm continued on 5

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Council invited to "Explore Waseca"

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

The Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) discussed the "Explore Waseca" project at the regular city council meeting Wednesday, July 5.

Tina Wilson, Economic Development Manager and HPC board member, along with high school teacher John Hanson asked for the city council members' support in the form of \$3,000 to help start the project.

The Explore Waseca project was also previously presented to other area organizations. The county commissioners committed to provide \$3,000 for each of the next five years. The tourism board consented to a one-time payment of \$5,000. The Waseca School District has already committed \$5,000 as well.

The project consists of a historic tour in the form of an app which allows users to download different tours providing historic information about various locations throughout Waseca. As a history teacher, Hanson explained that he and some of his students will work with the Waseca Historical Society to research and record the needed information.

"We want to make the other tours as professional as possible," Hanson said.

A number of the council members expressed support for the project: Council member Stacy Schroeder said it was a great idea for kids to connect with their history and that it could be a way to convince them to live in Waseca once they've become adults.

The council decided to contribute \$3,000 to the project.

Other items approved at the meeting include previous meeting minutes, payroll and expenditures, a residential tax abatement, the addition of a newly appointed airport board member, Letter of Agreement (LOA) #2 with Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS), and the rescheduling of a public nuisance public hearing.



DESTINATION - Autum Acres farm co-owner Cheryl Bleess feels honored after a recent recognition from Mankato citizens.
Pioneer photo by Jonah Stafford

Autumn Acres is recognized

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

Janesville's Autumn Acres Farm has been widely recognized as a top local destination; it was ranked third in the "family fun" category of the Mankato Free Press "Best of Mankato 2023" reader poll. The top two finishers were the YMCA and the Wow!Zone, which are both located in Mankato. "It's pretty exciting," farm co-owner Cheryl Bleess said of the award. She added that it was amazing to see her "small, little farm that's only open twice a year," ranking so strongly against large businesses in a city like Mankato.

Autumn Acres Farm is owned by Chad and Cheryl Bleess, who often receive seasonal help from their children Cody, Autumn, and James. The Bleesses have owned the farm prop-

erty since 2009, when they purchased it from Cheryl's grandparents. Cheryl grew up very close to the farm where her family now lives and is an alum of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School. Chad is a native of St. Clair and served in the United States Army National Guard for 11 years until about 2004. During Chad's service, the Bleesses briefly lived in Italy, where he was deployed. They later took up residences in Mankato and Waseca before the opportunity arose to buy Autumn Acres Farm.

Before opening to the public, Cheryl recalled that Autumn Acres was a CSA (community supported agriculture) farm, where customers paid

Acres continued on 8

WASECA COUNTY

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OBITUARIES

Julie Ziemke

Julie Ziemke, age 72, of Waseca died following a 7-year battle with cancer on Tuesday, July 4, 2023, at her home in Waseca surrounded by her loving family.

Born on May 9, 1951, in Waseca, she was the daughter of Stanley and Evelyn (Powell) Broughton. Julie was baptized as an infant and confirmed in her youth, both at Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca. She attended Waseca Public Schools, graduating with the class of 1969. Following her education Julie began working at Waseca Memorial Hospital. Later she worked at the Waseca Middle School and most recently for the City of Waseca Utilities department, where she worked for over 30 years before retiring in 2016. She loved her job and co-workers!

On May 8, 1971, Julie was united in marriage to her high school sweetheart, Terry Ziemke at Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca and together raised two wonderful daughters. Julie was a devoted wife, daughter, sister, mom, grandma, great grandma, sister-in-law, aunt, and friend. She enjoyed playing bingo, visiting casinos, trips to Las Vegas, shopping, going out to eat, and participating in progressive dinners at Christmas time with her girlfriends. Julie was an avid Minnesota Twins Fan and rarely missed an episode of the Bachelor. She always looked forward to her family's annual trip to the Wisconsin Dells at Thanksgiving time. She cherished time spent with her family and friends. Most of all, she loved her time as "Grandma", Julie's grandchildren were the light of her life as family meant everything to her.

Julie is survived by her husband of 52 years, Terry of Waseca; daughters: Shannon (Ben) Cliff and Missy (Dustin) Roeker; six



Julie Ziemke

grandchildren: Taylor Ziemke, Kenzie (Tom) Starman, Kena Roeker, Keaton Roeker, Tristen Cliff, Talen Cliff; two great grandchildren: Gabe and Greta Ziemke. She is also survived by her two siblings: Dennis Broughton and Pam (Butch) Bartelt; step-brother, Randy Wetzel; sisters-in-law; brothers-in-law; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Evelyn Wetzel; father, Stanley Broughton; stepfather, Warren Wetzel; stepmother, Phyllis Broughton; sister: Jan Belal; mother-in-law, Joyce Ziemke; father-in-law, Don Ziemke; and brothers-in-law, Scott Ziemke and Larry Anderson.

Visitation was from 2:00-5:00 PM on Sunday, July 9, 2023, at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Visitation continued for one hour prior to the service at the church on Monday.

Memorial service was 11:00 AM on Monday July 10, 2023, at Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca. Interment will follow at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca.

Bernard Hausen

Bernard Anthony Hausen, age 64, passed away unexpectedly on July 4, 2023, at his home in Waterville Minnesota.

Bernie was born to Francis and Erlis Hausen on July 21, 1958, in Rice County Minnesota. He spent most of his life living in Minnesota. He attended High School in Brainerd, Minnesota and then joined the Marine Corps. He then joined the Army Reserves. During his high school years, Bernard worked with his father who owned Town and Country Drywall. He had worked in various positions during his lifetime, such as meat packing, a cemetery assistant, etc. but decided to do what he enjoyed much more, which was the Drywall business. He owned his own business, worked for Berg Drywall

and Mulcahy Nickolaus where he retired in August of 2021.

Bernie and PeggySue were united in marriage in July of 1979 and then renewed their vows on July 23, 2011, in Waterville Minnesota where they resided until his passing. They had 3 children and enjoyed going to visit them whenever he could. Bernie enjoyed fishing, ice fishing, hunting, and riding his Harley. He loved to travel with his wife and really enjoyed being a grandfather to his grandchildren.

Bernie leaves behind his wife, PeggySue of Waterville, Minnesota; his daughter, Tina Hausen of Reno, NV; his sons, William (Creeo) Hausen of Las Cruces, NM and Bayley Benson of Lewiston, ID; his three grandchildren, Taylon Hausen of Las Cruces, NM, Kayleigh and Allyssa

Hausen of Reno, NV; seven brothers, Steven (Diana) Schull of Faribault, MN, Larry (Nancy) Hausen of Tangent, OR, Joseph (Linda) Hausen of Mayer, AZ, George (Corrine) Hausen of Faribault, MN, Daniel (Joy) Ostlund of Warroad, MN, Robert Hausen of Faribault, MN and Jerry Hausen of Faribault, MN; three sisters, Judy (Thomas) Simons of Hillsboro, OR, Lillian (Billy) Howard of Mayer, AZ and Barbara (Charles) Hanegraff of Faribault, MN; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Bernie is preceded in death by his parents, Francis and Erlis Hausen; brother, Layne Lockwood; and sister, Jean Ann Schmidtke.

Celebration of Life is being planned for a future date. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Crema-



Bernard Hausen

tion Service is handling arrangements.

Janet Johnson

Janet Dee Johnson, 81, of New Richland, died on July 7, 2023, at the Homestead Hospice House in Owatonna, MN.

She was born on November 5, 1941, in Waterloo, IA, to Howard and Irene (Eaker) Hanson. She moved with her family to rural Ellendale and was baptized in Hope, MN. Janet was a 1959 graduate of Ellendale High School. She married Roger R. Johnson in Meriden, MN, on May 20, 1961. Janet was an excellent mother to her two daughters, Pamela and Annette. Every day she was an example of love and nurturing - to her own children, her two beloved grandchildren, Andrew and Katie, her nieces and nephews, and others fortunate enough to have known her. Janet was a skilled quilter and completed hundreds of them over the years. Some are being enjoyed by friends and family, while others were made for donation to Lu-

theran World Relief and other charitable institutions. She spent many hours visiting with great friends while quilting. She was also the best cook on the planet. Her family will spend years trying to perfect her lefse and her secret rye bread recipe! Janet was an avid reader and completed at least 200 books in the last year of her life. She also enjoyed annual trips with her sisters, Broadway musicals with her girls, foreign and domestic travel, golfing with friends, and spending as much time as possible with her grandchildren.

In April 2022, Janet was diagnosed with cancer. She made the incredibly brave decision to cease treatments in September so as to have a better quality of life.

Janet is survived by her husband, Roger Johnson, New Richland, MN; her daughters, Pamela (David) Utterback, La Crescent, MN, and Annette (Peter) Engeldinger, St. Peter, MN; two grandchildren, Andrew Pettengill,

Portland, OR, and Katherine Engeldinger, St. Peter, MN; her siblings Marilyn (Wayne) Reistad, Owatonna, MN, Carol Proechel, Crozet, VA, Nancy Piazza, Pueblo, CO, Raymond (Sandra) Hanson, Kearney, NE, Gordon (Donna) Hanson, New Richland, MN, Glen (Linda) Hanson, Owatonna, MN, and Julie (Hugh) Carlson, Roseville, MN. She was preceded in death by her parents, Howard and Irene (Eaker) Hanson, her brother Leslie (Carol) Hanson, Plano, TX, and her sister Gladys (Michael) Tressler, Pueblo, CO.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 until 6:00 p.m. on Friday, July 14, 2023 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca, and will continue for one hour before the service at the church on Saturday.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 15, 2023 at Vista Lutheran Church in Waseca County, with Rev. Charles



Janet Johnson

Espe officiating. Interment will follow at Vista Lutheran Cemetery. Memorial gifts may be directed to Planned Parenthood of Minnesota, Lutheran World Relief, or to the Vista-Le Sueur Quilters.

Michelle Christensen

Michelle Christensen, age 54, passed away at her home in Plainview, Nebraska on April 20, 2023.

Michelle "Micki" was born in Minneapolis on September 10, 1968, to parents Dennis and Linda Christensen. Her school years began in Fridley, MN, and then her family moved to Waseca in 1974. Michelle graduated from high school with the class of 1986. During high school she was active in cheerleading and band and was a member of the band that marched in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Throughout her working years she was employed in the sales and hospitality business, which was a natural fit for her. She loved to cook for people and make them feel welcome. At family gatherings she loved to share stories and make people laugh. She was smart, compassionate, and caring.

Micki is survived by parents Dennis and Linda Christensen; sister Cari (Andy) Wright; nieces Ava Wright and Aili Wright; and



Michelle Christensen

nephew, Carver Wright. She is also survived by many loving aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Funeral services was at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, July 14, 2023 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca. Visitation was from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the service at the church. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca is handling the arrangements.

Ronald White

Ronald "Ron" Dean White, age 72 of Waseca, died on the morning of Monday, July 10, 2023 at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester.

Ron was born in Austin, MN on December 14, 1950 to parents Maynard and Ruth (Sowden) White. He attended and graduated from school in Austin, MN. On December 3, 1971 he was married to Randee Diane Herr at the Methodist Church in Brownsdale, MN. Over the years Ron worked in Waseca at Bird's Eye Foods, Corchran Inc, and E.F. Johnson (later Cinch). Following a short try at retirement, he went back to work

at Gandy in Owatonna and the Napa in Waseca. Sitting still just never felt quite right to Ron. He enjoyed deer and pheasant hunting, riding motorcycles, tinkering with woodworking projects, working as a crew chief with his father on oval track racing teams, volunteering with the Waseca Police Reserves where he served as a past Captain, and brownies... wherever he could find them.

Ron is survived by his devoted wife of over 50 years, Randee of Waseca; three children, Allan (Kandi) White of Mankato, Marnee White of Waseca, and Zachary White of Waseca; five grandchil-

dren, Alicia (Garrett) Thompson, Andrew LaMont, Sophie Farris, Kaleb Farris, and Kylee White; one great-granddaughter, Gretta Thompson; and one sister, Joann Shuck of Austin. He was preceded in death by his parents; and four siblings, Avis Wood, Bob White, Gloria White, and Gene White.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, July 17, 2023 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Visitation will be held from 12:00 p.m. until the time of the service at the funeral home.



Ronald White

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NR city council receives updates

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

Among the business transacted at the June 26 New Richland City Council meeting was the approval of closing North Cedar between Third and Fourth Streets on July 22 from 5-10 p.m. Also approved was a single capital charge for a property at 219 2nd St. NW due to the property no longer functioning as a duplex.

Bob Johannsen presented the Care Center report, stating that the Center had an average census of 34 for May. It was noted that referrals continue to come in, but the Center is limiting admissions to local people. Financially, the Center “did okay in May” according to Johannsen, who said that a small profit was made during the month. This is due to a small amount of Medicare dollars coming in and a larger-than-average number of Medicaid residents. The cost of staffing the agency also continues to detract from profit margins.

“We need qualified staff to work all shifts and every other weekend,” Johannsen noted in the report, adding that flexibility with scheduling from part-time to full-time work is available, and positions receive competitive compensation as well as excellent benefits.

Specifically, the Center is looking for an activity director, bus driver, and CNAs and nurses.

This summer, the Center plans to have the parking lot resurfaced and lines painted, with work tentatively scheduled for August. The council approved two new advisory board members along with the Care Center report.

The PeopleService report was presented by Shell Johnson, who stated that Empire jetted out manholes along Highway 13 in May due to heavy grease buildup. Three manholes were jetted, grease was extracted and all lines were de-

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

greased. The main lift station at the wastewater treatment plant was also vacuumed and cleared of grease and debris. It was noted that smoke testing of sewers at Highway 30 and Broadway by the Minnesota Rural Water Association was scheduled for July 10.

Snails that have caused problems at the plant were discussed, and Johnson said she is looking for a way to catch them before they reach the plant. The report was approved.

In the Water and Street report, it was noted that bathrooms at St. Olaf Lake were vandalized on June 2. At the time of the meeting, it was not known who the culprits were, though the footage had not been analyzed yet. A standing water problem at Royal Villa was discussed, and it was noted that the location of documentation for a tile connected to Legion Field was still trying to be obtained. The report was approved.

In new business, city employee health insurance was discussed, as City Administrator Tony Martens was informed of an opportunity to reduce the rate from \$1,200/month to \$700 or \$800/month. The council approved moving forward with looking into the opportunity. An EDA grant for a fence in the back of Bohlen’s at a total of \$1,175 was approved.

The administrator’s report noted that Martens participated in interviews for police officers with NRPD Chief Bruegger and began conversations with Houston Engineering regarding the hydraulic study discussed at previous meetings. Tuck pointing at the city library was approved at a cost of up to \$6,000. The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

■ State Farm from Page 3

She shares a personal example: During a move, she and her husband rented a 26’ moving truck and filled it with their furniture and other possessions. To their dismay, Andrew and the truck were caught by 90 mph winds while driving on a freeway: the vehicle rolled over and was badly damaged. Nearly all their possessions were ruined or lost.

Prior to the move they had made the decision to only make the drive with their personal coverage. Gonzales shakes her head, “We’re still rebuilding,” she comments. “The damage to the truck was covered, but the cost of our belongings was not.”

Apparently an optimist, she observes: “It could have been worse. For example, if our things had been in a building that burned down, there would have been the loss of the building, too.”

Along with her own “worst-case scenario,” Gonzales remembers a time when she was working with another State Farm agency. An agent had reviewed a customer’s coverage and suggested that the coverage on a certain building on the property seemed “a bit low.” The customer had taken the agent’s advice and increased the policy.

“When that same building happened to burn down about 6 months later, it was covered. Without that review, there would have only been about \$30,000 of coverage for a \$100,000 building.”

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Angel Myers takes Orion, the bernese mountain dog, through the A-Frame obstacle during the 4-H agility dog show.
Pioneer photo by Melissa Dunn



Julia Alvarado and Oddie, a poodle.



Eliza Sankovitz and Jellybean, a bull dog.

4-H dog shows

Pets show agility, obedience

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

Participants (canine and human) of the Waseca County 4-H Dog Project had a chance to show off their hard work this weekend at the fairgrounds in the categories of dog obedience, showmanship, rally, and agility. The project classes meet once a week for one to two hours beginning in April, depending on which events the young “handler” and dog wish to prepare for. Many handlers compete in more than one event throughout the day, and those that do well have the opportunity to take part in the Minnesota 4-H State Dog show, which is held every September at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds in St. Paul.

Rylie Cromwell of the Waldorf Peppy Peppers and Nova the black lab have participated in the dog project for two years. Rylie explained she also took part in the Dog Project Bowl (similar to the Knowledge Bowl extra-curricular activity) last October, and though it was the first year for Waseca County, she was very proud that the Peppers sent two teams (the

Bulldog Bandits and the Pug Hugs) on to the state competition in April to test their canine knowledge.

Another event within the project is the interview, a task to give kids a chance to show off their knowledge and hard work, if they perhaps don’t do as well at events as they would have liked. Audrey Gray of the Homegrown Explorers, interview champion at the junior level, is competing in all three events with her mini Aussie Anney for the first time, though this is her second year in the project. “It gets easier when you know what you’re doing,” she said. Along with Audrey, Sydney Lever is this year’s champion senior dog interview winner.

Though the weather could not have been any better, Sunday’s agility show had fewer participants. While her bulldog Jellybean waited patiently, Eliza Sankovitz explained that a dog has to be at least two years old and have been in the dog program for at least one year before entering the agility program. Gus Bethke and partner Odie are currently in their third program year and second year of agility. Gus



Gus Bethke and Odie.



Audrey Gray and Anney, a mini Aussie.



Isiah Alvarado and Rusty, a rough collie.

said this year has been pretty easy for the most part, but Odie did forget a few things. “We kind of struggle with the A-frame. And I’m off-leash (running through the course without a leash on the dog)



Sydney Lever and Milo, a German shorthair.



Rylie Cromwell and Nova, a black lab.

this year, so that might be fun,” he chuckled wryly. “Odie is food-driven, so I’m making sure my hands smell like dog food.”

■ School from Page 3

cost the local taxpayers only \$28 million, since the state of Minnesota would cover the remaining cost.

Board member Grant Scheffert said he prefers to look at it as an in-

vestment rather than an expense. “I also look at how we grow the community. As a district we can’t affect regulation, we can’t affect the roads, but our part is the school. How do we make sure we have the best school possible because that will attract people? How do we make sure we retain good teachers and have good staff, because that’s also how we make sure we have the best school possible.” Scheffert used the “chicken

or the egg” analogy. “Waiting for a bigger tax base would be great, but somebody’s gotta take the first step and start doing something towards that.”

Scheffert brought up the high school bond from eight years ago; “Some felt it wasn’t the right time then, but it passed. It feels hard to say we should ask for this right now. But I haven’t had a time in the past 25 years of being a homeowner when

I’ve ever said ‘Well, now’s a good time for that.’ I don’t think in the next 25 years anyone will ever say ‘Now’s a good time.’ Will there ever be a right time?” Scheffert ended by sharing his opinion that it was the board’s responsibility to let the public answer that question for themselves with their vote in November.

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Waseca County

July 12-16, 2023

2023 Waseca County Free Fair
Events Schedule

Saturday, July 8

9 am 4-H Dog Showmanship.
Obedience. Raty Show
9 am-12 pm Creative Arts Entry
5 pm 4-H Dog Agility Show
5-8 pm Creative Arts Entry -* Note All
Textiles are due in by Sunday at

Sunday, July 9

9 am 4-H Horse Show
7 am-5 pm Creative Arts Entry
5 pm Creative Arts Entries/
Building Closed – Judging Begins

Monday, July 10

9 am 4-H Horse Show
Tuesday, July 11
7 am-5 pm Creative Arts Entry
5 pm Creative Arts Entries/
Building Closed – Judging Begins

Wednesday, July 12

All Day Antique Tractor Display
All Day Pallet Maze (Oak Island)
8 30 am 4-H Rabbit Show
10am 4-H Building Opens
10 am Kids Scavenger Hunt
(Discover Tourism Free Stage)
11 am Food Vendors Open
11 am Indoor Booths Open
11 am Just 4 Laffs Entertainment-
Opening Show
11 am- 9 pm Just 4 Laffs Activities
12 pm 4-H Poultry Show
1 pm Books & Barns-Goats (DWT Free Stage)
1:30 pm Family Scavenger Hunt
(DWT Free Stage)
12-2 pm RORRING Car Racing
12-9 pm Family Quiet Zone-
located on the north Side of Bldg #8
3-4:30 pm Beads & Bracelets (Building M)
3-5 pm RORRING Car Racing
4 pm Just 4 Laffs Entertainment -
Mid Day Show
4 30 pm Kiddie Coin Find
(Near DWT Free Stage)
4.30 pm Local Veterans Official Fair Opening
Ceremony (Place to be determined)
5 pm Advance Ride Ticket Sales End
5 pm Carnival Rides Begin
5-8 pm In A Bind (DWT Free Stage)
5-8 pm Los Tequileros (Food Court)
6 pm 4-H Sheep Show
6-8 pm RORRING Car Racing

6-8 pm Water Wars on 8th Avenue
8 30 pm The Johnny Holm Band (Beer Garden)

Thursday, July 13

All Day Antique Tractor Display
All Day Pallet Maze (Oak Island)
930am 4-H Meat Goat Show
10 am Kids Scavenger Hunt (DWT Free Stage)
11 am Indoor Booths Open
11 am Food Vendors Open
11 am Just 4 Laffs Entertainment-
Opening Show
11 am- 9 pm Just 4 Laffs Activities
1:30 am Heritage Magic Show (DWT Free Stage)
12 pm Rotary Meets at the Fair (Bldg. 4)
12 pm 4-H Dairy Goat Show
12-2 pm RORRING Car Racing
12-9 pm Family Quiet Zone-
located on the north side Bldg 06
12:30 pm Balloon Twisting Class
(DWT Free Stage)
1 pm Carnival Rides Begin
1pm Books & Barns-Pigs (DWT Free Stage)
1:30 pm Family Scavenger Muni
(DWT Free Stage)
2 pm Kiddie Coin Find
(Near DWT Free Stage)
3 pm Heritage Magic Show (DWT Free Stage)
3-5 pm RORRING Car Racing
4 pm Just 4 Laffs Entertainment-
Mid Day Show
5 pm Heritage Magic Show (DWT Free Stage)
5:30-8:30 pm Melissa Schulz-Musican (Food Court)
6 pm Kid Power Pedal Pull
(In front of Creative Arts Building)
6 pm Baby Races (DWT Free Stage)
6-8 pm RORRING Car Racing
6 pm 4-H Beef Show
7:30 pm Great Frontier Bull Riding “Dirt
Kickin” Wicked Good” - Grandstand
8 30 pm Rag town (Beer Garden)
All Day Antique Tractor Deplay
All Day Pallet Maze (Oak Island)
8 am 4-H Swine Show
10 am Kids Scavenger Hunt (DWT Free Stage)
11 am Indoor Booths Open
11 am Food Vendors Open
11 am Just 4 Laffs Entertainment-Opening Show
11 am-9 pm Just 4 Laffs Activities
12-2 pm RORRING Car Racing
1 pm Carnival Rides Begin

Friday, July 14

1 pm 4-H Dairy Show
1 pm Books & Barns-Sheep (DWT Free Stage)
1 30 pm Family Scavenger Hunt (DWT Free Stage)
1:30-3 pm Beads & Bracelets (Building #4)
2 pm HypnoFX with Jerry Frazier
(DWT Free Stage)
3 pm Kids Donut Decorating Contest
(DWT Free Stage)
3-5 pm RORRING Car Racing
4 pm Just 4 Laffs Entertainment- Mid Day Show
4:30 pm Kiddie Coin Find (Near DWT Free Stage)
5 pm HypnoFX with Jerry Frazier
(DWT Free Stage)
6 pm Paul Stewart Band (DWT Free Stage)
6-8 pm Waseca Jazz Band (Food Court)
6-8 pm RORRING Car Racing
6:30 pm Demolition Derby (x)
8:30 pm Triple Dog Dare (Beer Garden)

Saturday, July 15

All Day Antique Tractor Display
All Day Pallet Maze (Oak Island)
9 am Market Livestock Auction (Judging Arena)
10 am Kids Scavage* Hunt (DWT Free Stage)
11 am Indoor Booths Open
11 am Food Vendors Open
11 am Just 4 Laffs Entertainment-Opening Show
11 am- 9 pm Just 4 Laffs Activities
11 am-9 pm Family Quiet Zone-
located on the north side of Bldg. #8
11:30 am Heritage Magic Show (DWT Free Stage)
11:30 am Open Class Dairy Show
12 pm Carnival Rides Begin
12-2 pm The Fathers Daughters (Food Court)
12-2 pm RORRING Car Racing
12.30 pm Balloon Twisting Class
1 pm Books & Barns-Beef Cow (DWT Free Stage)
1:30 pm Family Scavenger Hunt (DWT Free Stage)
1:30 pm Baker's Dozen Auction (DWT Free Stage)
2 pm Pie Tasting Contest (DWT Free Stage)
2-4 pm Craft Beer Expo (Beer Garden)
2 30 pm Kiddie Coin Find (Near DWT Free Stage)
3 pm Waseca County Sings!! (DWT Free Stage)
3-5 pm RORRING Car Racing
4 pm Just 4 Laffs Entertainment- Mid Day Show
4 30 pm Heritage Magic Show (DWT Free Stage)
5-8 pm Miller Denn (Food Court)
6-8 pm RORRING Car Racing
6 pm Enduro Auto & Compact Car Race -
Grandstand
8:30 pm The Local Hooligans (Beer Garden)



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July 12-16, 2023

Sunday, July 16

All Day

Antique Tractor Show

All Day

Pallet Maze (Oak Island)

10-11 am

Non-Denominational Church Service-
Hosted by Faith United Methodist Church

11 am

Indoor Booths Open

11 am

Food Vendors Open

11 am

Just 4 Laffs Entertainment-
Opening Show

11am- 6pm

Just 4 Laffs Activities

11 am

Food Vendors Open

11 am

Indoor Booths Open

12 pm

Carnival Rides Begin

12 pm

Looney Lutherans (DWT Free Stage)

12-4 pm

Auto & Cycle Show-n-Shine
8th Ave NE - 12-1 pm Registration

12-6 pm

Family Quiet Zone-located on the
north side of Bldg. #8

12-6 pm

RORRING Car Racing

1 pm

Books & Barns-Rabbit
(DWT Free Stage)

1.30 pm

Just 4 Laffs Entertainment -
Mid Day Show

1.30 pm

Family Scavenger Hunt
(DWT Free Stage)

1 30 pm

Puzzle Contest (DWT Free Stage)

2 30 pm

Kiddie Coin Find
(Near DWT Free Stage)

3 pm

Ice Cream Treats
(Farm Bureau-Near Fair Office)

4 pm

4-H Parade of Champions

4 pm

Looney Lutherans (DWT Free Stage)

5 30 pm

Livestock Barns Close

6 pm

Commercial Buildings Close

6-8 pm

Open Class Entries Released

7 pm

Carnival Rides Close

7 pm

Food Vendors Close

*Schedule Subject to Change

*A complete schedule of 4-H Livestock Shows and Events
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July 12

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Happy Hour 6:30 till 7:30 2-4-1 Margaritas on the
rocks and Coors Lights

Party inside in our HUGE
Beer Garden-or enjoy
fresh air outside on
one of our decks!

Thur.
July 13

Live music by RAGTOWN Band, 8:30pm - 12:30am
Happy Hour 6:30 till 7:30 2-4-1 Titos Lemonades and
Modelo Especiales

Fri.
July 14

Live music by TRIPLE DOG DARE, 8:30pm - 12:30am
Happy Hour 6:30 till 7:30 2-4-1 Jello Shots and Busch Light Pounders

Sat.
July 15

Minnesota made Beer, Wine & Spirits tasting
2-4 pm
Sample products from over a dozen MN companies.
Watch for details on our Facebook page.

Sun.
July 16

Live music by THE LOCAL HOOLIGANS, 8:30pm-12:30am
Happy Hour 6:30 till 7:30 2-4-1 Captain Morgan Spiced Rum and Twisted
Tea's

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STRONG SEASON— The Waseca Braves are enjoying one of their best seasons in recent memory, running their record to 14-3-1 after a 4-3 triumph over Morristown Sunday, July 9 at Tink Larson Community Field in Waseca. Above from left: Ben Schoenrock; Alex Feeney; Ryan Glynn and Kelvin Nelson; below from left: Tyson Reger; Zach Hoehn. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Braves rebound after rare setback

Waseca improves record to 14-3-1

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Waseca Braves moved to 14-3-1 on the year with a hard-fought 4-3 win over Morristown at Tink Larson Field Sunday afternoon.

Kelvin Nelson led the Braves, posting the pitching victory while adding two hits offensively.

Ryan Hanson registered a three-inning save.

The Braves 10-ran the visiting Rochester Roadrunners 12-2 Friday, July 7.

Uriah Possin was impressive on the mound, going six innings for the win.

"It was his first appearance on the mound this season and he threw strikes," said Braves coach Tink Larson. "He gave up a few hits, but always worked his way out of trouble."

Jimmy Loonan also made his first pitching appearance of the season and after Possin walked the first batter of the seventh inning; he got three outs on four pitches.

Kyle Waugh had a great game at the plate with three hits, including a home run, two walks, and four RBIs.

In an unusual happening, Braves pitchers did not strike out a Rochester batter.

The Braves dropped a 6-5 decision to Wanamingo at home Wednesday, July 5, allowing five runs in a rough eighth inning.

Tyson Reger, Waugh and Loonan had two hits apiece, with one each by Seth Anderson, Ryan Glynn and Alex Feeney.

The Braves used four pitchers: Ryan Wangen, Erik Simmons, Payton Garza and Reger, with Garza taking the loss.



WASECA BRAVES SCHEDULE – 2023

Friday	July 14	Owatonna	Away	7:30
Sunday	July 16	Waterville	Away	2:00
Wednesday	July 19	League Play-in Game TBD		7:30
Saturday	July 22	League Playoffs	TBD	TBD
Sunday	July 23	League Playoffs	TBD	TBD
Saturday	July 29	League Playoffs	TBD	TBD

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■ Acres

from Page 3

to buy shares of seasonal vegetable crops. In addition, for eight years, Autumn Acres pumpkins were sold on wagons. The various activities that Autumn Acres is known for today began happening 6 or 7 years ago, when the Bleesses decided to expand their business.

In August, the farm opens to allow visitors to enjoy the sunflower field in bloom. The "Salutation in the Sunflowers" yoga class will take place in the field this year. In September, the farms' pumpkin patch opens and many of the farm's seasonal activities take place. The annual Fall Festival is scheduled for September 23,

bringing music, food trucks, and vendors to the farm. The next weekend, Cheryl said that "ghost gourds," are slated to go on sale. The decorated gourds, hand-painted by the family, are known to sell out fast. "A lot of people mark their calendars for that," said Cheryl. The October 7 Family Fun Fest is another big event that features face painting, caricature artists, and food trailers. Romantically inclined fans of the farm should mark their calendars for the adults-only date night. Cheryl said that last year's date night "sold out in a day". The event features a dinner, hay ride, take-home souvenirs, and a romantic atmosphere supplemented by special music. Bleess reported that an engagement took place at last year's date night and a total of three have occurred at the farm. Besides those public and ticketed events, Bleess said that Autumn Acres Farm has re-

cently become available to be rented for private or corporate events.

Bleess is a graduate of Minnesota State University, Mankato, where she was a parks and recreation major. She said she had never been involved in event planning or marketing prior to her work for Autumn Acres, but the one marketing class required for her degree has come in handy. "It has all come back around," said Bleess. Besides running the farm with her family, Bleess manages its Facebook account, which has attracted a large following. In addition to keeping up with Autumn Acres' popular seasonal activities, Bleess noted that many people have begun following the account for updates on the flower garden she tends outside her house.

With devoted fans visiting each fall, a dedicated social media following, and a "Best of Mankato," award in tow, Bleess is very thankful for the

support Autumn Acres Farm has received from its surrounding community. "This is what inspired us to keep going and get bigger to this size," said Bleess.

She exclusively revealed that Autumn Acres Farm will be expanding again in the near future, with the recent purchase of Janesville's 19th century schoolhouse, which will be moved onto the property. For many years, the schoolhouse has been in the old town of Janesville, in the country by Waldorf, but will soon be available to be viewed and enjoyed by the larger public. "We need those things that inspire community pride," said Bleess. She added that Autumn Acres fans should stay tuned for "big announcements" that will be made in August, as the fall season approaches.

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LEFT: Doug Berndt hits the water with tow rope slacking. RIGHT: Janesville postal employees Jim Fury (left) and Rich Winter (right) pose with their new jackets received from the U.S Postal Service in appreciation of their efforts.

Argus archives

100 Years Ago - 1923

- On Friday Postoffice Inspector W. M. Hughes of Minneapolis came to Janesville for the purpose of completing negotiations for a renewal of the lease for office fixtures and buildings for the coming decade. While here Mr. Hughes stated to the writer that the improvements were highly satisfactory and that the lease would be executed without further delay.

- LOST- Between Elysian and Janesville on the Fourth of July, a Weed chain. Finder please return to A. S. Helebo for reward.

- BARN DANCE - Friday night, July 13 in the new barn just completed by Jack Cahill, one mile east of Janesville. This will be the best dance of the season.

- Mrs. E. J. Hougland, who returned from Iowa Thursday, informed the writer that crops in Minnesota, especially corn, are much better and in advance of what they are in that state. A late spring and late planting put corn back in that state and the result is that corn here is at least fifty per cent further along than in that state.

- Two hundred and twenty-five women from every district of Minnesota have organized a committee to work for the election of J. A. O. Preus to the Senate July 16. This is the largest group of women ever formed for political purposes in the state.

- One of the finest celebrations in this vicinity for many a Fourth of July occurred on Thursday at Wm. Quade's splendid grove a mile south of town, when the ladies of the Trinity Lutheran congregation entertained the public.

75 Years Ago - 1948

- Forty-eight persons were killed in motor vehicle traffic accidents in Minnesota in June, according to reports received by the State Highway Department. This is the largest number of any month since November, when 58 were killed.

- Miss Catherine Lustman, teacher and librarian in the Janesville public schools, is attending the University of Minnesota summer session. She is taking library and physical education courses in the college of education.

- LOST- upper dental plate. Finder please leave at this office for reward.

- In the race for associate justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court Atty. Frank T. Gallagher of Waseca made a wonderful run in a field of eight candidates when he topped the list with 219,717 to his credit when the votes were counted throughout the state.

- On Tuesday morning, June 25, Miss Delores Mae Renner, daughter of Mrs. Frank Renner became the bride of Frederick Strunk, son of MRS. Wm. Strunk, Sr., of Janesville.

50 Years Ago - 1973

- The new waterski jump at Lakeview Park was barely installed last week before daring young men (and some not so young) were demonstrating how to clear it. A joint project of the Lakeview Park Board and the Rotary Club, the jump was set almost at its highest point. That made the dropoff a good seven feet.

- Donald Andrix will be ordained into the Holy Ministry of the Lutheran Church and installed as Assistant Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Janesville, in a service of worship at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 15.

- After 18 years of planning, meetings, bickering and hearings, work on the Janesville Village Watershed Project is underway. Last Tuesday a group of people who have been working on the project met on the Karl Grams farm for the official groundbreaking.

- The District 830 School had a chance to get into the "big money" Monday night, but they blew it by holding their salary at \$15 per meeting. In the past, school board salaries had been set by law at \$15 per meeting, not to exceed \$300 per year.

- "Bring your garage sale up town." That's the theme Janesville merchants have given their Third Annual Flea Market set for Saturday, August 4, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- The Village Council having received complaints of dogs running at large and barking late at night within the Village and Lakeview Park: therefore, notice is hereby given to all dog owners that all ordinances pertaining to the keeping of animals will be enforced. All dogs shall be licensed and leashed. Any dog running at large and not licensed will be disposed of.

25 Years Ago - 1998

- Consideration of a new water tower for the city of Janesville has been postponed. Water tower discussions were originally brought forward for consideration because DWRF presented a window of opportunity to build the water tower under low interest rates. However, a repeated concern of both council and commission members has been the impact the project costs would have on residents.

- For the first time ever, the Twin Cities-based Northland District of the U.S. Postal Service has reached a major service milestone - "95/95." The local district delivered 95 percent of overnight first-class mail on time as measured by the independent accounting firm Price Waterhouse.

- Joe Eustice, Janesville High School alumnus, received a master's degree in elementary education on Saturday, May 9, from Southwest State University.

- Dutch elm disease is starting to show up here in southern Minnesota. Those trees that missed the first round about 15 years ago are now being re-infected, as are the younger elms that sprouted since the last outbreak. If you travel U.S. Highway 14 between Waseca and Janesville you can already see the dead elms starting to show up.

- German students with excellent English skills and motivation are arriving this August to experience the "American way of life." Families in Janesville willing to open their hearts and homes to a student are invited to participate.

- WEATHER REPORT- Temperatures: highest, 87 (June 25); average high, 74.9; lowest, 39 (June 4 and 5); average low, 55.7; daily average, 65.3; normal average, 67.1

Pickle contest added to fair

100 Years Back - 1923

-At a meeting of stockholders of the Waseca Co-operative store held at the creamery hall Thursday evening, Frederick A. Bade, the new manager, fell dead. He had been enjoying the best of health and complained of no illness during the day. He got up to speak at the meeting and was forced to be seated with a sinking spell. A few minutes later he dropped dead. The attending physicians pronounced it heart failure.

- The Waseca county total of 2975 automobiles and trucks is exceeded by those in 44 other counties in the state, according to a compilation by The Farmer, a St. Paul farm journal. A highway bulletin this week points out that machines in this county at average taxes yielded state trunk highway funds of \$48, 345, or at the rate of \$940 for each of the 51 miles of trunk routes in the county.

- Because the fishing in Clear lake was so excellent twenty-nine men, women and children from the Osage Indian Reservation at Pawhuska, Oklahoma, came up here to pull in the game fish and to camp along the shores of beautiful Clear lake.

- A larger vote than was expected turned out last Monday when 1265 people voted in the city election and Acting Mayor Johnson was elected by a majority of 128 votes. There were four defective ballots, five blanks and two voters cast their ballots for Geo. Goodspeed.

- PEAS - peas should be cooked or canned the day they are picked but if allowed to stand longer they become tough and lose a great deal of their freshness and sweetness.

- JANESVILLE WOMAN HEADS DIST. G.O.P. - Among the women who make up a committee of 225 from every congressional district in the state working as a volunteer organization for the election of J.A O. Preus to the senate are Mrs. Margaret Dieudonne, Janesville, first district.

75 Years Back - 1948

- Chris Martinson and LeRoy Tyrholm Overcome Past Week End - Two well known Waseca business men are confined this week to their homes after being overcome from the effects of the severe heat bringin on heart attacks.

- For the second time in eight days, Waseca drubbed Owatonna at Owatonna under the lights, winning 11 to 2 a week ago and 16 to 2 last night, for one of the highest scoring wins in the league this year.

- Two Waseca area trainees in the Universal Military Training Experimental Unit here on June 30th after enlisting in the Regular Army last December. They are Carl J. Oswaldson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Holvert E. Oswaldson, of 711 8th Ave. N. E., and Frank N. Paquin, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Paquin, of 818 N. State Street.

- The employees of the E.F. Johnson Company are enjoying vacations as the plant and offices are announced closed from July 4 through July 18, inclusive. Small forces of employees are on duty to take care of important business and necessary duties.

- Vern Fetchenhier of the Waldorf community entered the Fifth County Commissioner race against incumbent, Elmer Neitzel, by filing for County Commissioner Wednesday morning.

- Important studies affecting Waseca county dairymen will be speeded up as a result of a new research plan at the University of Minnesota, County Agent Cletus F. Murphy announced today. The University is now using identical twins in its dairy research. One pair of twins will yield more authentic information than 20 pairs of less closely related individuals, Cletus F. Murphy says.

50 Years Back - 1973

- A Veterans Outreach Program is in operation at the University of Minnesota Technical College-Waseca. Ray Byrnes, a member of the communications faculty at UMW, is serving as Veterans Representative for the college and working with Ethan Allen, Veterans Service Officer for Waseca County.

- Sandra K. Oeltjenbruns and Arthur B. Carlson III were married at the St. John Lutheran Church June 9 at 7 p.m. with Rev. Merlin Bartelt officiating at the ceremony. Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Emil E. Oeltjenbruns and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Carlson Jr., all of Waseca.

- The Waseca Braves used a 15-hit attack to down the Mankato Merchants 10-2 and even their season's record at 10-10 in a game played Wednesday evening at Community Field.

- The Mrozinski Brothers, nationally known Polka band, will play at the Morristown Community Hall Sat., July 14 from 8 - 12:30 p.m. Eastern disc jockeys have acclaimed the group as being the fastest rising Polish Old Tyme and Contemporary



Joe Nelson, owner and operator of Nelson Liquor in Waseca, opened the business in June at 620 W. Elm Avenue.

music group.

- WANTED: retired couple to manage apartment building.

- NEW RICHLAND - 1973-74 officers for the Governing Board of the Waseca County Vocational Center were appointed at a meeting held July 5 in New Richland. The appointments were made in approval of the rotation schedule of the Governing Board By-laws.

25 Years Back - 1998

- PICKLE CONTEST ADDED TO FAIR'S OPEN CLASS: Back by popular demand, a dill pickle contest will be offered this year for those interested in participating in open class exhibits. Four years ago, the first dill pickle contest was offered, and, by all accounts, it was a huge success.

- It isn't every day that a person wins free prizes in a contest. But for Nick Edwards, winning Pepsi's pop culture contest was nothing new. The lucky 15-year-old has been the recipient of numerous prizes in the past - a mountain bike, a gigantic stuffed bear, and other prize money, to name a few. Pepsi will be giving Nick \$100 per month for the next year, for winning their contest.

- ALL-SCHOOL REUNION: It was all a photographer could do to assemble four of the five recipients of the Waseca All-School Reunion's first group of alumni achievement award winners after Sunday's ceremony in the Waseca High School gymnasium. While 1,400 people officially registered for the weekend event, it was apparent that many more than that participated in a wide range of events organized by the committee

- POLICE LOG: A 19-year-old Waseca man was mailed a citation for theft after placing \$84.76 in



YES IT'S A FISH- Randy Hofmeister on the left and Deney Hofmeister caught this 90 pound paddlefish on a recent fishing trip to Big Bend Dam on the Missouri River in South Dakota.

phone calls from a local hotel room and not paying the bill.

- Joe Nelson renovates 1949 building for new business. Nelson, who says much of his family lives in the area, has really laid down some roots after recently completing a nearly eight-month renovation to open Nelson Liquor at 620 W. Elm Avenue.

- The Waseca Community Education Department will be hosting an all-comers track and field meet at the Waseca High School track. The meet, which is open to anyone ages 2 to 103, will include various sprints, runs and field events.

Eweld farm represented

100 Years Back - 1923

- Hundreds of people seeking relief from the intense heat on the Fourth spent the day at St. Olaf lake where a picnic celebration was conducted.

-After seventeen years of study, H. D. Weed, formerly of this place and now of Garvin, Minn., has perfected an engine of the gasoline turbine type. He has spent the past two weeks in Washington where he has been granted a patent on his rotary gasoline engine.

-Several hundred people attended the Matawan Creamery Picnic held at the Henry Kaiser grove two miles west of Matawan last Sunday. The occasion was the first public gathering ever held in the Matawan community and the day proved a pleasant affair.

-President Harding says motor trucks should be used in conjunction with rail lines, not in senseless competition.

-The Gust Tollefson and C. O. Youngberg young people motored to Beaver lake Sunday.

-County surveyor Cox was over from Waseca Thursday setting the stakes and making ready for work on the road to be opened west from Albert Fetchenheier's corner to the Blue Earth county line.

-LeRoy Concannon is the possessor of a Ford roadster.

77 Years Back - 1946

-One night last week there was an attempted burglary of the American Legion club rooms but whoever it was that attempted to perpetrate the crime must have gotten cold feet. The screen at the rear door was cut sufficiently so that the screen door was unhooked and the window screen was cut and a window glass broken but entry was not made.

-Interest in softball (kittenball) has been greatly heightened by the returned GIs through whose efforts a fine softball field has been put in condition at Skelly park. The Legion team is going to Ellendale Friday, July 12 to play under the lights.

-Miss Maxine Ratigan is assisting at the Modern Beauty Shop in New Richland.

-Peterson Food Market: Balanced Blend Jordan's Coffee, 2 lbs. 61c; Sure-Jell, 2 pkgs. 19c; Certo, 19c; Jack Sprat baby food, 5c; Hershey's Cocoa, 2 pkgs. 19c; Hot Tamales, 18c; Creamettes, 4 pkgs. 26c; orange concentrate, 39c; nectars, 2 for 15c; pie crust mix, 19c; spaghetti, 2-lb.box 19c; Old Dutch cleanser, 3 cans 21c; powdered gre-solvent (for washing hands), 25c; oranges, 10 pounds 75c; green peppers, 1b. 35c; calavos, large, each 25c-We Deliver-Phone No. 2.

-Joyce and Genelle Byrne and Mardell Wenzel of Owatonna spent the week end at the Herman Wenzel home.

-J. W. Linnihan better known as "Fargo" was ill last week of a heart ailment but was down town again this week. Mr. Linnihan is in the



On July 1 Isaac Kofstad and Tony Kunkel, new owners of what is now New Richland Auto Repair, accepted the keys to their new business from Dale and Dawn Halgren. The repair shop has been a part of the New Richland business community since July of 1978.

early 80s.

-Lost-One 19-inch tire, wheel, and rim somewhere between New Richland and Ellendale, June 21. Finder return to the Star office.

50 Years Back - 1973

-Lynn and Guy Ewald, Fair Acres Stock Farm, Waldorf, represented Minnesota at the sixth annual National Shorthorn Youth Conference, Oklahoma City, Olka., June 29-July 1.

-With Unit Leader Tooty at the lead Saturday morning and counselor, Floppsie, bringing up the rear the Girl Scout bicycle campers at Singing Hills started out on a five-day cycling trip that took them through Elysian, Janesville, Waldorf, New Richland, Otisco, Waseca, Waterville and Sakatah State Park and back to camp on the Fourth of July.

-Mr. and Mrs. Ray Eustice enjoyed a picnic at the Raymond Rooney home on the Fourth of July.

-Mrs. Clarence Wenthold, Pam-

mie, Jackie and Robbie visited at the Marvin Kalis home Thursday afternoon.

-Mr. and Mrs. Fred Phillips, Lori and Dan, attended the Ice Cream Social Sunday at St. Peter Lutheran Church in New Richland.

-The time is now to save really big: '72 Chevrolet Impala, \$3,395; '72 Chevrolet Bel Air, \$2,895; '71 Monte Carlo, \$3,395; '71 Chevrolet Impala, \$2,695; '68 Chevrolet Bel Air, \$1,095; '68 Buick Skylark, \$1,395; '67 Chevrolet Impala, \$695; '67 Buick LeSabre, \$895-Hinkley Chevrolet Inc., Freeborn, Minnesota.

25 Years Back - 1998

Nicole Werth was selected NRHEG Junior Miss for 1998. She will represent New Richland in the Minnesota State Junior Miss Scholarship Program next February.

-Jim Jessen was selected Grand Marshal for the 15th annual Farm-City Days parade.



Bruce Robeck, John Ogler, Deb Otto, Kay Gottschalk, and Gary Gottschalk posed for a picture outside the food shelf, during service hours Thursday. Pioneer photo by Jonah Stafford

Food shelf in high demand

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

As the summer continues, the need for food and other necessities has increased in Janesville. The Janesville Community Food Shelf (JCFS), located in the back of Trinity Lutheran Church, responds to food insecurity in the community by opening its doors to those in need. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as “a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food.” According to a 2021 survey by Feeding America, Waseca County has a food insecure population of 1,160 (6.1% of all residents). Another survey by the organization estimated that about 11% of Minnesota children are impacted by food insecurity. Waseca County’s childhood food insecurity rate is about 13.4%, just above the state average. Kay Gottschalk, the head of the JCFS’s executive board, said that July “tends to be slow,” in terms of donations, but because of community needs, the organization is holding a fundraiser right now. Gottschalk added that

the increasing need during this time of year is due to families having “extra mouths to feed,” as schools, where children can receive free meals, are closed. “Our need has grown, but the amount of food available has decreased,” said Gottschalk. The JCFS’s fundraiser is in collaboration with the non-profit organization Hunger Solutions Minnesota, which assists local food shelves at a level proportionate to community donations. In addition, Gottschalk said that there is an anonymous local sponsor who will match donations up to \$250. With the help of extra donations, the food shelf will be better equipped to continue servicing those impacted by food insecurity. The Janesville Community Food Shelf is open every Thursday from 1-3 p.m., the second Thursday of each month from 6-7 p.m., and Saturdays from 1-3 p.m. Cash and food donations can be dropped off at the food shelf during its normal operating hours or given to Donita Hagen at Trinity Lutheran Church.



Turning dreams into results

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

I struggle to dream. I am not talking about when we go to sleep at night and dreams come, well, I struggle with that too, but I am talking about the preferred future dreaming. Think about your future, what do you want your life to be like in the next 20 years? Is that too far? What about 10 years? Still too long? What about 5 years? One year? A month? Next week? What are you thinking about? What do you want to change or do differently? What are you looking forward to? What are you planning and purposing to do? Once you have that idea in place, what are you willing to do to get it accomplished? What are you willing to sacrifice? The most difficult thing to do when you dream of a preferred future is to take the first steps to get it done. So often, we are crippled by taking the first step that we don’t even start to make progress to our dream. We need to get to a point where we cannot stand our current situation to allow our dreams to come to fruition. We need to be willing to risk to see the dream develop. What would it take to get you to that situation? The people of Israel got to that position more than once throughout their history, just read the book of Judges. They found themselves in a position where they were in captivity, needed to be set free and were dreaming big, not for their own glory, but for God’s. In Psalm 126 we read: 1 When the Lord brought back

the captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed. 2 Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” 3 The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. 4 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like streams in the Negev. 5 Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. 6 He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him. They took the pain of captivity with them into the fields, remembering those that were lost in the capture and captivity. They remembered the work of God to free them from the atrocities of slavery. They cried out for God to move, prayed for Him to forgive and set them free, and waited for Him to act. In the tears of sowing, they had hope for the harvest. They dreamed of the harvest that God would have for them, while He healed their wounds. Are you ready to dream of what God would have for you in the next weeks, months, or years? Are you willing to let God work through your pains to do something that will bring healing and hope? Are you ready to point to Him as the doer of great things? Will you have joy anticipating what God will do?

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PICNICKING - From left, Lonny Zell, Brittany and Amy Arndt, Betty Zell, Darlene Halstead, Darla Zell, Audrey and Marlin Rudolph enjoy each others’ company during the annual Whispering Creek event. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Whispering Creek has picnic

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

About 150 guests joined the residents of Whispering Creek in Janesville for the senior care facility’s annual outdoor family picnic event from 11 to 1 on Sunday, July 9. Those attending were treated to typical fare which included hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans and the like. Large outdoor tents provided a space to eat and then visit as family members of all ages enjoyed a sunny day with temperatures in the 70s. “It couldn’t be more perfect,” said one diner. “It’s a little

touch of home to get together like this.” The musical group “In A Bind,” which includes Deb Borneke, Melanie Morrow and Jenna Byron, provided entertainment for the event. Whispering Creek administrator Pete Madel mentioned that the annual picnic was begun more than 20 years ago and has been consistent ever since, with a few years’ break taken because of Covid. “It’s a nice touch,” he commented. “Everyone enjoys an occasional change from the routine, and this has worked out very well.”



IN A BIND - Performing on Sunday was the band In A Bind, consisting of Melanie Morrow, Becky Borneke, and Jenna Byron. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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						1
2	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5 6pm BAR Bingo	6 HALL 7pm BINGO	7 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	8
9	10 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	11	12 6pm BAR Bingo	13HALL 7pm BINGO	14 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	15
16	17	18	19 6pm BAR Bingo	20HALL 7pm BINGO	21 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	22
23	24	25 NATIONAL HIRE A VETERAN DAY	26 6pm BAR Bingo	27 HALL 7pm BINGO NATIONAL KOREAN WAR VETERANS ARMISTICE DAY	28 NATIONAL BUFFALO SOLDIERS DAY MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	29 ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS ANNIVERSARY
30	31					

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Farm and City Days



Jody Leonardo of shows wares offered by her company Purple Daisy of Farmington during the vendor show.



Kathy Kronebusch offers products from her company, Grabngodesserts. Along with home-made baked goods, she sells garden art, sun-catchers, and other less edible items.



Jennifer Dunnette and Lorna Warke who help organize the Classic Car Show every year at Farm and City Days.



Jason Casey of Sun Honey, is also selling retired street signs from old New Richland streets.



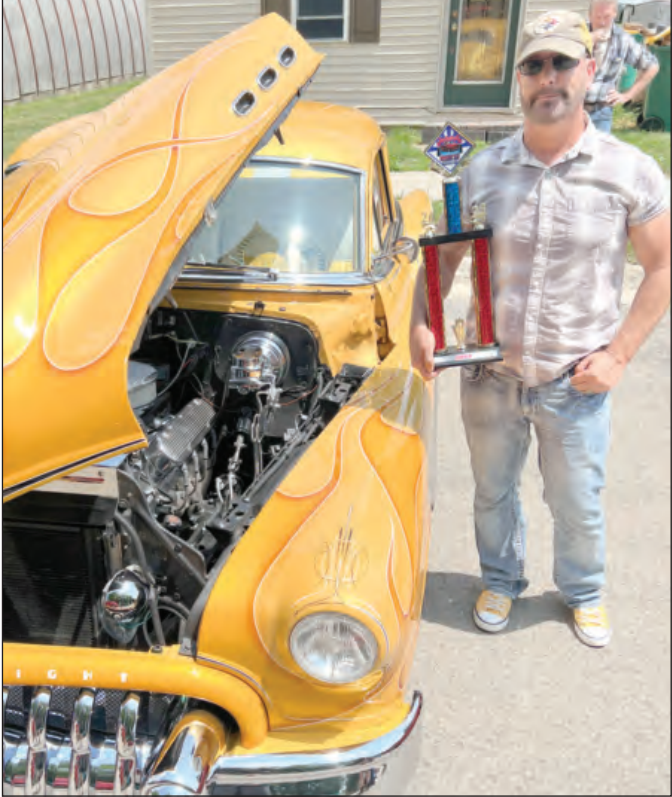
Molly Johnson of New Richland and her brother Lowell, of Albert Lea, with the 1948 Plymouth they are in the process of refurbishing.



Brian Mendenhall with his 1972 Chevy C-10



BEST MOPAR - This award went to Scott Soderberg driving a 1971 Dodge Challenger Rt.



BEST OF SHOW - This award went to Todd Moran driving a 50 Buick Jetback



Neal (driving) and Maryl Scott of New Richland offered free rides in their customized wagon drawn by Dixie and Dolly, a pair of 3-year-old mares which are half Norwegian Fjord and half Halflinger.



The Neighbors Meat Market crew grill out Saturday afternoon.

Farm & City from Page 1

The Farm and City Days Committee deserves a lot of credit in its efforts to put together our annual community-wide celebration. "It was great to be able to be together," SaraJo Vulcan said. "Thanks to everyone who made it a success." The committee consists of co-chairs Angela Gehrke, Ryan Gehrke and Sara Jo Vulcan and Sam Morgan, Brandy Jacobson, Jennifer Weber. If you see them, thank them for a job well done!

Farm & City Days Parade Grand Marshals

- 2023 — Kathy (Schumacher, Flor) Hinkley
- 2022 — State Bank of New Richland, Bonnerup Funeral Home, and NRHEG Star Eagle

- 2021 — Karl and Tammy Proehl
- 2019 — Chris Schlaak
- 2018 — Charlie Wagner
- 2017 — Mary Ebnet and Rick Schulz
- 2016 — Town & Country Garden Club — Kris Pfeffer, Delores Bartholmey, Mary Sack, Joanie Proehl, Pastor Charles Espe,
- 2015 — Lou Anderson, Julie Phinney, Jodi Johnson, Betty Hullopeter, Avis Rugroden, Mike Phinney, Barb Finseth, Kay Adams, Dawn Halgren, Gerald Hullopeter, Eleanor Schlaak, Janae Janike
- 2014 — Surviving WWII veterans: Richard Crumb, Eugene Warke, Bud Shurson, Donnie Bartness, Tony Arnfelt, Dr. Albert Flor, Gordon Peterson, Harold Thompson, Winston Evenson, Kenneth Eaton, Donald Smith, Audrinne Smith, Marie Querna
- 2013 — 2012-13 NRHEG Girls'

- Basketball Team — Hannah Lundberg, Maddie Wagner, Marmie Wagner, Charlie Wagner, Abby Crabtree, Paige Overgaard, Anna Stork, Jade Schultz, Katie Cole, Kelli Harrington, Raelin Schue, Ryann Hagen
- 2012 — Gail Schmidt
- 2011 — Pastor Paul Andree
- 2010 — Larry and Pam Goehring
- 2009 — Myron Schumacher
- 2008 — Gene and Sylvia Dodge
- 2007 — Mary Ann Schlaak
- 2006 — Vince Peterson
- 2005 — Don and Audrinne Smith
- 2004 — Pastor Phil Lewison
- 2003 — Gene and Mildred Budach
- 2002 — Orrin Ribbe (Honorary Gary Billing)
- 2001 — Bernie Anderson
- 2000 — Dale and Dawn Halgren
- 1999 — Beth Wesselhoeft
- 1998 — Jim Jessen
- 1997 — Margaret Engesser
- 1996 — Pastor Charles Espe

- 1995 — Lee Mendenhall
- 1994 — Gene Amley
- 1993 — Elmer and Marilyn Quiram
- 1992 — Jean Horn
- 1991 — Bill Robinson
- 1990 — Vince and Edna Erdmann
- 1989 — Herb Prescher
- 1988 — Abraham Family
- 1987 — Dr. Albert Flor
- 1986 — Harry Anderson
- 1985 — Leo Eckart
- 1984 — Dr. George H. Olds

TOP 25 - CLASSIC CAR SHOW

zTop 25 in the Farm and City Day's classic car show, in no particular order:
Bob Neudecker; Dodge Royal Lancer 1955
Rich Granowski; 1964 Chevy Corvair
Wayne Larson; 1969 Dodge Charger
Rick and Kathy Ahrens; 1931 Ford Tudor Sedan
Rick Kendall; 1950 Mercury Z dr Sedan
Jim Heidemann; 1969 Chevy Novass
Gary Johnson; 1958 Chevy Impala
TeJae Johnson; 1936 Ford pickup
Dave Paulson; 1963 Chevy Impala SS
Richard and Loretta Springer; 1934 Chevy 3 Win Coupe
Sylvia Christiansen; 1974 Dodge Challenger
Jeff Quam; 1955 Chevy Nomad
Wayne Woodard; 1956 Chevy 3100
Gene and Mikki Hillesheim; 1953 Ford F-100
Daryl Johnson; 1957 Chevy BelAir
James Hlavoc; 1966 Ford

Fast Back
Mike Klampe; 1939 Chevy Master Deluxe
Don Hlavoc; 1955 Mercury Montclair
Mike Possin; 1968 Pontiac GTO
Terry Hansen; 1955 Chevy 210
Dale and Lori Lembke; 1929 Ford Tudor
Doug Davies; 1967 Pontiac Firebird
Rawley Brodeen/Amilia and Malcom Routh; 1955 Chevy 210
Kurt Hoyne; 1964 Olds 76/Kustom
Matt Thompson; 1967 Chevy Nova SS

Best GM - Rodney Lund, '78 Pontiac TransAm
Best Ford - Larry Farris, '69 Ford Mustang Convertible
Best Mopar - Scott Soderberg, Dodge Challenger Rt 1971
Best of the Rest - Daniel Miller, '74 Citroen Hy
Best of Show - Todd Moran, '50 Buick Jetback
Mayor's Choice - Dennis Malecha, '50 Chevy Pickup



Shelley Mendenhall with her 1976 Monte Carlo.



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