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WASECA
COUNTY
PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 35 Vol. IV \$2

Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca

Thursday, August 28, 2025



■ Page 9



Free ice cream

Flowers in Literature Exhibit at Waseca Public Library in August

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

Virtual Author Event: Dr. Tasha Eurich for Waseca Le Sueur Library System Thursday, Aug. 28

Learn how to master the daily grind and become shatterproof in a tumultuous world with key insights by Dr. Tasha Eurich as she talks about her newest book, “Shatterproof: How to Thrive in a World of Constant Chaos (And why resilience alone isn’t enough),” at a virtual Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System event at 1 p.m., August 28.

Waseca Art Center Gallery presents Bob Nonnemacher Thursday, Aug. 28

The Waseca Art Center Gallery will present new work by artist Bob Nonnemacher and The Members Show from 5-7 p.m. starting on Thursday, August 28.

Diamond Art Book Marks New Richland Public Library Wednesday, Sept. 3

Create Diamond Art Book Marks at the New Richland Public Library at 10:15 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 3. Craft and Coffee, join us twice a month for Craft Wednesday.

JAMBOYZ at Janesville Veterans Memorial Park Monday, Sept. 4

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

Third annual Ride to Remember at Hartland University Bar Saturday, Sept. 6

The third annual Ride to Remember will depart from Hartland University Bar around noon on Saturday, Sept. 6. There will be a list of bars to collect cards from, which bars visited is up to riders, best hand announced 7 p.m. 50/50 raffle, silent auction and winning hand prizes. Proceeds donated to Flags for Vets.

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

The Waseca County Sheriff’s Posse is hosting the statewide Posse Wagon Train for Youth from Sept. 5 to 7.

A word from
The Word

Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.

Psalm 127:1





STRONG START - The 16 motorcyclists and six cars participating in the Ducks and Hogs for Dogs were escorted out of Barney’s Drive-In on Saturday, Aug. 23.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Ducks and Hogs for Dogs fundraiser

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

An unexpected “sweater weather” type of morning awaited participants on Saturday, Aug. 23 at Barney’s Drive In for the Ducks and Hogs for Dogs fundraiser. A harsh wind was blowing off Clear Lake as 16 motorcycles and six vehicles waved goodbye for their departure. Many of them were wearing jean jackets or hoodies that are usually reserved for fall, one or two even had hats.

They left at 10 a.m. and were back by 3 p.m. Amanda and Gerard Duval were in from Owatonna, they said, “We attend many other rides like this, that and we both have a huge love for animals.” Proceeds

from the event are slated for the Waseca County Animal Humane Society. Three employees from Barney’s were having lunch outside, Zoey Dunn, Lillianna Sanchez and Delilah Veroeven were outside under an awning manufacturing Barney’s own Lemonade Shakers. Any of the motorcyclists who were hungry had the full menu to choose from once they got back. Waseca Police Officer John Unger was the escort for the day, he’s helped with a few things like this before, “The charity people, they called us but we’re happy to help.”

Hogs continued on 5

Taking things in stride

Young farmer persists in helping with family business

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Eddie Bethke, 18, likes the idea of being a farmer for the rest of his life. He says he loves to watch and think about the way things grow.

No one has had more opportunity than Eddie, who lives with his father Ed southeast of Waseca. Ed worked for decades as a mechanic for Bird’s Eye foods, then started a greenhouse business after retiring more than 10 years ago.

Eddie, a 2025 Waseca graduate, has helped with all phases of production not only for the greenhouse which sells potted plants in spring, but also for the produce business which grows more than an acre of popular vegetables for sale.

Ed, Eddie and other family workers appear at the Waseca farmers’ market most Saturdays—this past week their hot sellers seemed to be watermelon, cantaloupe and sweet corn.

Eddie also staffs sales out of a pickup truck which is parked along State Street North near Tasty House restaurant most days of the week.

He summarizes that, in order to have the stand up and running by its usual start time



GO-GETTER - Eddie Bethke, 18, helps with the ongoing operations of Ed's Greenhouse, owned by Edward Bethke, south of Waseca. Eddie sells produce at the farmers market on Saturdays and along North State Street near Tasty House restaurant during the week.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

around noon, hours of work must be accomplished in advance. He mentions picking the sweet corn, cucumbers, tomatoes, and other plants in season.

To have fresh sweet corn over an extended time, he continues, plantings of sweet corn had

to go in the ground each week for six or more weeks.

“It takes some work,” he says laconically.

Of Eddie, Ed observes, “Some people have

Eddie continued on 4

Local veterans honored, thanked

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Quilts of Valor Foundation presented four area veterans surrounded by friends and family with beautifully crafted quilts on Monday, Aug. 18, at Waseca Legion Post 228. Beth Birch, foundation member and president of Post 56 American Legion Auxiliary in Albert Lea presented the honors in front of a medium-sized crowd.

Birch started, “Thank you for inviting us. With me today are Jean Enstad and Paulette Anderson, Quilt of Valor Foundation members. Also, Lynda Harig, our Quilts of Valor group leader. Together we represent over 10,000 members and volunteers across the nation. I’d like to welcome all of you to this special occasion to-



night, to honor our four veterans: Thomas Sexton, Steven Welander, James Wilker and Jody Wynnemer.”

A short and solemn prayer was said along with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Waseca branch of the Quilts of Valor group began in 2022 and has since awarded 130 quilts to deserving veterans. Nationally, Quilts of Valor began in 2003 when founder Catherine Roberts had a dream in which she saw someone she knew to be a veteran lost in despair and then, moments later, wrapped in a quilt and comforted. She said the message of the dream was “quilts equal healing.” Nationally the foundation has given out nearly 420,000 quilts. The message of

Quilts continued on 9

WASECA
CITY COUNCIL

Clearwater authorization passes

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editor

Eleven Waseca citizens spoke during the public comment section of the regular Waseca City Council Meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 19 talking about the Clearwater Preserve project or the flooding of homes.

Advocating for the Clearwater development were six prominent Waseca leaders and business owners including Mikhail Rostislavovich, Larry Johnson, Blain Nelson, Aaron Casterton, Tom Sankovitz and Bernie Gaytko. Two citizens spoke strongly against the development, expressing concerns with the debt the city is incurring and dissatisfaction with the quality of answers they have received to their questions.

The council approved the final plat for the Clearwater Preserve subdivision with a 5-2 vote; council members Jeremy Conrath and James Ebertowski voted no.

Prior to the vote, Ebertowski had stated council members voting against the project have varied reasons for doing so, but, “I don’t think any of the three of us that voted no on the last meeting are hoping for this project to fail. We’re all rooting for the project if it moves forward to be successful, although we have our own concerns.”

A vote authorizing city staff to advertise for bids on phase 1 of the project also passed, with four council members voting in favor and three—Gary Conrath, Jeremy Conrath and James Ebertowski—voting no.

The document requesting bids for the first phase summarized, “this project phase consists of mass grading for Phase 1 and 2, and the construction of sanitary sewer, water, and storm sewer mains and private service stubs paid for with public funds, stormwater management features, and bituminous street for the first phase of a residential subdivision.”

Phase 1 will create a total of 17 single-family lots, Phase 2 will create seven single-family lots and 11 twin home lots, and Phase 3 will create nine single-family lots and six twin home lots. This proposed completed development will have 33 single-family lots and 17 twin home lots for a total of 67 housing units.

Bids for phase 1 are scheduled to be opened Sept. 18, with a report on the bids and contract award anticipated to take place at the Oct. 7 council meeting. The project is to be substantially completed on or before Sept. 25, 2026 with final completion to be reached by June 18, 2027. As presented, the cost of construction for Phase 1 is estimated at just over \$2 million.

“It’s been hard to give any numbers to people that request them if we haven’t even requested the numbers ourselves,” councilmember Stacey Schroeder said. “This will give us the numbers that everyone is seeking.”

Councilmember Jeremy Conrath said he appreciated all the information given at the

Council continued on 5



Compostings

by Al Batt

‘We’re out of catalog’

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING

I took my husband to Luxemborg for our 25th anniversary. Wow! What are you going to do for your 50th anniversary?

I might go back and get him.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I love seeing all the fireflies. It’s great to see someone using their blinkers. I got into a fistfight with a skeeter and successfully reduced the mosquito population by one.

I’d been off running my mouth in front of an audience in South Dakota. I stopped in Sioux Falls on my way home to have a bite to eat. It was a restaurant I’d never been to before. I’d never had better food at that restaurant. In his book “Blue Highways,” William Least Heat Moon wrote, “There is one almost infallible way to find honest food at just prices in blue-highway America: count the wall calendars in a café.” He’d found that the more calendars, the better the food. There must have been a few in that eatery.

PUSH THEM AND THEY BECOME EGG ROLLS

On my drive to a speaking gig in Texas, I was reminded that it’s an unwritten state law in the Lone Star State that you must pass the car ahead of you. An audience member, a fellow with a belt buckle doubling as a satellite TV dish, told me a story about his father, who had lived to be 97 because they made things better in those days. He said his father didn’t care how his eggs were prepared and regularly told his favorite waitress when she took his order, “Surprise me.” One day, she brought him two raw eggs in their shells.

THE HOUSE RAN ON RECYCLED TOILET PAPER

I grew up with an outhouse. The roof leaked, which gave us an outhouse with a shower. We recycled. Old catalogs and peach papers became toilet paper. I heard, “We’re out of catalog.” Now, Alexa is the speaker of our house.

I’VE LEARNED

Watching Ben Cartwright on an old “Bonanza” TV show made me feel for Lorne.

There is no good reason socks should match.

Meteorologist Paul Douglas said 2 out of 3 USA storm damage reports come from straight-line winds.

When I was a kid, we told Polish jokes. That might earn you the threat of a punch in the nose. We started telling Norwegian jokes. Those with Norwegian ancestry not only laughed, they told a better

Norwegian joke.

IN THE HEADLINES

Duane Kent was hired as the new city clerk. Clerk Kent is doing a super job.

High school choir goes to Lima for some Perusing.

Man loses his job at the ice cream shop because he refused to work on sundaes.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

What did Paul Revere say when he finished his famous ride? “Whoa.”

Who said, “Coming are British the! Coming are British the!”? Paul Reverse.

Why is a giraffe’s neck so long? Because its feet smell.

What do they say about forks used to cook meat as tough as shoe leather? These are the tines that fry men’s soles.

NATURE NOTES

Ah, fall warblers. They are all atwitter. The vastness of my world is revealed in the passage of these birds—a thrilling and memorable annual event for me. I jump on that seesaw between work and warblers. I look down at the work on my desk, and then I look out the window at the warblers. The bird waterer was at its busiest, but somehow became busier.

Hummingbirds drink sugar water and chase others away from a chance of drinking sugar water. Mix 1 part white table sugar with 4 parts water. I don’t always boil the water, but it helps the sugar dissolve. Don’t add red food coloring to entice hummingbirds. The red parts of feeders attract the birds’ attention. Don’t use honey, fruit juice, soda, sugar substitutes, syrups or brown sugar.

I put out grape jelly in small amounts to prevent a bird from becoming mired in the sticky stuff. Last week, I watched Baltimore orioles, red-bellied woodpeckers, brown thrashers, house finches, gray catbirds, downy woodpeckers and warblers (Tennessee, Nashville, yellow and yellow-rumped) feed on the jelly. I’ve never seen so many warblers feeding on the jelly. Tennessee warblers have been the most regular of the warbler chowhounds. American redstarts eyed the jelly, but I haven’t seen them partake of its sweetness. No grosbeaks.

Red oak leaves have pointed lobes, whereas white oak leaves have rounded ones. A bur oak belongs to the white oak group. Squirrels prefer the sweeter acorns of the white oak.

MEETING ADJOURNED

A tip of the hat to Mark Domeier of Ellendale for sending this: “Don’t just engage in random acts of kindness. Engage in planned acts of kindness.”—Julie Andrews

Speculations surrounding feathers, fins, and fantasy

This afternoon I watched some large birds, probably vultures, riding an updraft above a four-lane highway. They were probably at least 100 feet in the air, their wings apparently motionless as they made lazy circles in the sky.

Since it was not windy, I was led to speculate about the nature of the updraft. It seemed clear the sun was shining on the dark, smooth surface of the road which heated up and then, in turn, warmed the air above it. Following the laws of physics, the air rose, drawing in cooler air from the surrounding fields, which was then also heated.

The birds, of course, had no need to understand any of that. They simply opened their wings and rode the upward wave.

Down below, I speculated about the shape of the wave—Once the air had risen far enough to be away from the influence of the heated roadway, did it just sort of collapse and fall back down only to be heated again?



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Thinking of the birds up on top, had they just been flying along and happened to come across the updraft—or do big birds like that go searching for air currents to ride on. Walking up a hill is hard work, so how tiring is it for birds to keep themselves in the air? Yes, it looks easy from down below, but that’s probably a combination of ignorance and jealousy on my part, since I sure would like to be able to ride the sky like that.

Trying to imagine what the birds experience, the closest analogy I could draw comes from swimming.

In a way, fish can fly.

That is, they move freely at any distance above the bottom of the

lake and, as far as they know, the water’s surface is where the atmosphere ends. I wonder, does it cost them any more effort to swim upward than downward?

I know from keeping my feet in the water while our pontoon moves around the lake that there are warmer and cooler patches with a surprising contrast in the temperatures my toes encounter. Sometimes downright warm, sometimes chilly enough to make me lift my feet—or at least exclaim in surprise.

Do fish notice all that variation? Do they seek out the warmer patches, and do they ever find the water too warm? I know biologists can probably list off which fish thrive most in which

water temperatures, but I find myself wondering whether fish seek out those temperatures...or go looking for “updrafts” in the water...or get “short of breath” when exerting themselves.

But back to my point.

As birds fly through the air, are they encountering cooler and warmer patches the same way my feet do on the pontoon?

It’s not the answers to these questions that’s important, it’s the opportunity to speculate. It’s a little like the jokes my family shares when we put a fish back in the water—if fish can communicate, do all the other members of the school think their “classmate” is a little strange when it tells stories of a whole world up in “space” peopled by bizarre, gigantic creatures who don’t even have scales or fins?

There’s lots of humor to be found in creating the theoretical conversation. “Don’t listen to Pumpkinseed...he hasn’t been the same since he ate that shiny worm two summers back...”

No more school, busy hiking mountains

It is now the time when, for most of my life, I would have been preparing for the start of a new school year. Especially once I started college, activities included organizing my schedule in my calendar, hanging out with my friends before the stresses of class took away all the free time, and looking forward to the excitement of the next school year.

But now, life looks a little different. Last week, I slept in, ate breakfast, then proceeded to take a nap on the couch before getting up to actually start my day sometime in the afternoon. I work from home and spend much of my time in the apartment, switching from sitting to standing to do work.

I wondered the other day, though, now that I won’t be going to school and classes and constantly learning new things, will I lose aspects of my intelligence? Will I forget certain things now that I’m not using my brain all the time in the same way? Will I get sucked into routine and forget to learn new things?

I know the thought is a bit irrational, but it’s something I’ve



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

thought about before. Once you stop going to school and learning every day, how much do you retain? Is intelligence something you can lose or is it something you’re just born with (or without)?

Either way, I’ve been on some new adventures lately that I’d like to share.

I finally went hiking! Jack and I woke up at 5:30 last Saturday to drive two hours north of Denver to Rocky Mountain National Park so we could get there and park without having to buy a day parking spot. And I had an amazing time.

We chose Deer Mountain Trail, a three-mile hike to the summit of one of the mountains. We set off and followed the path as it wound up and up and up. The landscape around us went from

being sandy with open areas dotted with trees and views of the surrounding mountains to rocky inclines in the middle of the forest hedged in by tall trees. It was beautiful as the sun’s rays started peaking through the leaves.

It was exactly everything I had hoped and wished for regarding a hike in the mountains, although I know I’m not a true Coloradan yet. I will proudly wear my transplant badge, always thinking of myself as a Minnesotan.

After hiking, we traveled through Estes Park and decided to stop because there was a music festival going on and the town was alive and exciting. We walked around, had an after-hike lunch along the river, and enjoyed that for its scenic beauty as well. The entire area of Colorado

is mind-blowingly stunning to me. I remember I used to think the bluffs of southwestern Minnesota were cool (which they definitely still are), but nothing compares to real mountains.

In other adventures, I went to my first-ever arcade bar this past week. Entry was restricted to people 21 and over. Inside were two bars with every other square inch filled with old arcade games. There was one room for pinball games, with the colorful lights flashing all along the wall. I chose the Deadpool and Star Wars pinball games to spend my time. The other part of the building was filled with classics like Tetris, Pac-Man, and Super Mario Bros. I played new games I’ve never seen or heard of before either such as Burger Time and Tapper. It was a lot of fun and I’m glad to have been given the opportunities to experience such cool things lately.

My Determination: “I must learn to be content with being happier than I deserve.”

— Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice

Tennis courts to hospital beds

Last week I attended a Waseca tennis match where I ran into numerous folks.

Most notably, Blake and Blain Nelson.

It was a Thursday, so I asked Blake if he had read the Braves baseball article I published in the Pioneer.

Of course, he did.

“I can never talk to you during a game again!” He exclaimed with a large grin.

“You should have written about Kelvin shooing me away when I tried to take him out,” he added.

I wanted to, but I thought maybe that was ‘too personal.’

So now here I am, writing about it.

After Blake returned to the dugout after relieving Kelvin of his pitching responsibilities in the 5th inning of a state qualifying game, he told me under his breath. “It’s gonna be a long drive home tonight.”

I asked Blake how the car ride home went after the loss.



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

He said it was good. Both the Nelson’s agreed the defense gave the game away.

I’m happy for the return of fall sports, which brings with it a fresh new school year.

The fall weather this week has been very enjoyable. Walks are delightful.

Football begins this week and I am unlikely to be in attendance for the first time in many years. I have a procedure scheduled for Friday that requires general anesthesia. It is unlikely I’ll be making a drive that evening. However, my dad tells me I’ll be fine and that I’ll probably go take pictures. More reports on this next week.

I’ve been asked a few times

about how Reed Waller is doing, former Star Eagle production manager.

Reed is doing well. He now lives at Prairie Senior Cottages in New Richland. He suffers from aphasia. For those who don’t know, this means he struggles to remember words/speak them. It has not been an easy process, but he is living in a good place and cared for.

Dad returned home from the hospital last week. He’s had a bad summer. His mental health and autoimmune disorder have taken a toll. Dad had successfully avoided a hospital visit for nearly four years. I’m grateful for that long stretch and optimistic he’ll come out of this as well.

More newspaper news. Our delivery driver, Darin, is still recovering from necrotic fasciitis. He is in long term care now, still months away from returning home. A flesh eating disease is no joke. We’re all thankful he’s alive.

Amelia Roessler is now the editor of this newspaper.

She has worked as my assistant for the past three plus years.

Amelia is talented, smart and has what my dad describes as ‘it’ regarding newspaper construction.

I reminded her this week what Reed Waller told me during my first week in her job.

“The Editor is God,” Reed said in a stone cold voice.

He was holding his cup of black coffee, with a long beard and even longer white hair extending to the floor in a braid. I’ll never forget that moment.

I’m incredibly proud of the team we’ve assembled at the paper and I look forward to where we go from here.



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

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DEADLINES: Pioneer: Noon Monday
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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

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OBITUARIES

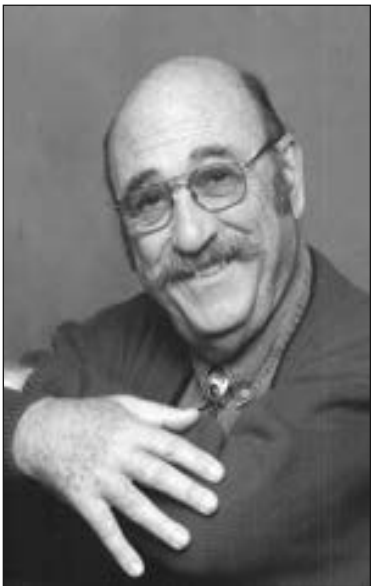
Norman Wolfe

Norman Ernest Wolfe of Waseca, MN passed away peacefully on August 11, 2025, at Mayo Clinic Health System in Waseca, MN, surrounded by his loving family.

Norman E. Wolfe was born on June 8, 1935, on a farm near Deep River, Iowa to Raymond and Beulah (Elliot) Wolfe. In 1939 the family moved to Waseca, Minnesota where he attended Waseca Central and graduated in 1953. He then served two years in the United States Army. Following his honorable discharge from the Army in 1957 he continued his education at Kansas State University where he obtained his bachelor's degree and then later received his master's degree from the University of Minnesota. He spent 6 years as a nutritionist in the family feed supplement business before becoming a science teacher in Faribault and then Bloomington, Minnesota. He married Iva Lee Anderson in 1984 at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, Iowa. After 30 years of teaching, he retired in 1993, and they moved to Arizona. In 2018 they returned to Waseca. He was a member of Faith United Methodist Church in Waseca, MN.

Norm's main avocation was singing in various barbershops quartets for over 60 years. He sang with the Roadrunners quartet for 32 years, performing all across the continent and was inducted into the Barbershops Hall of Fame.

He is survived by his wife, Iva



Norman Wolfe

Lee of Waseca; children, Wendy (Wolfe) Matthews, Becky Wolfe, and Rod Wolfe all of Kansas; stepchildren, Becky (Anderson) Wilson of Colorado, Randy Anderson of California, and Sharon (Anderson) Johnson of Waseca; sister, Esther Wolfe of Waseca; brother, Larry Wolfe of Alabama; and many, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

A memorial service will be held for Norman on Friday, August 29, 2025, at 11:00 AM at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca, MN; Chaplain Chris Seymore will officiate. Military honors will take place following the service. Norman's family will greet guests at a visitation held one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.



COMPLICATIONS - Ongoing construction will interfere slightly with operations as the NRHEG school year begins. Street work which was scheduled to be complete before September was delayed by this year's rainfall. Here, a construction crew put in time on a recent Saturday to pour and level cement on sidewalks. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Unfinished construction hinders start of school

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

During the Aug. 18 meeting of the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva school board, district superintendent Michael Meihak summarized a recent discussion with representatives of the construction company which has been working all summer to redo the utility infrastructure under Ash Avenue South in front of the secondary building and then regrade and resurface the street. Also under construction is a section of Broadway Avenue South: the two streets comprise the path typically taken by school buses as they deliver and pick up students at the start and end of each school day.

"The start of the school year is definitely going to be interesting," observed secondary principal Grant Berg wryly.

However, both Meihak and Berg expressed optimism, saying the construction company offered assurances it would be as accommodating as possible, and offered to devise a traffic plan which should allow the school to conduct business as usual with relatively few complications.

By the start of school, Meihak and Berg reported, it is expected Ash Avenue will be up to grade and usable. "It won't be paved," warned Meihak. "We'll be driving on gravel—but we will be able to drive on it."

The parking lot east of the school will be available for use, and will also be central to the traffic flow plan for buses and student drop-offs.

As work on the street proceeds,

School Board
NRHEG

the two administrators said, the street will receive a two-inch base layer of asphalt prior to winter, with an additional layer to follow as circumstances permit, but perhaps not even until next spring.

Berg revealed the traffic flow pattern was to be ready for presentation during the secondary site open house the evening of Aug. 27 and would be posted on the school website for reference.

In other business, board members approved a "lease to own" agreement for two 77-passenger school buses to be used this year. The district will make yearly payments of about \$63,600 for five years after which it will own the buses at a cost of roughly \$320,000 for the two. Transportation director Dan Schmidt has been in contact with Hoglund Bus Sales of Monticello throughout the summer and expects to receive the vehicles in time to incorporate them into this fall's transportation program.

Schmidt also spoke with board members about the possibility of acquiring another, smaller vehicle for use in daily transportation needs. He mentioned efforts to determine a route which includes a family located at the fringes of the district, whose borders span into five counties. If he were to add the family to a bus route, he predicted, it would lengthen the route by as much as 45 minutes of travel time—a possibility which board

members quickly rejected. The district already owns a number of vans which are used in transporting small groups, including some who travel to locations outside the district for specific services.

The flexibility offered by owning another small vehicle, Schmidt said, would help him feel better positioned to cope with the various complications likely to arise as the year continues and the timing and number of specific needs becomes better known.

Schmidt listed a seven-passenger van, a ten-passenger van and a small school bus with a handicap lift as possible choices. He also told school board members he has contracted with Palmer Bus Service in the past for student transportation, and could do so again, but that the cost of such a contract could be placed toward the purchase price of a vehicle.

After fairly lengthy discussion, board member Kelly Delacruz presented a motion that a short-term contract should be pursued with Palmer, with the question of whether to purchase an additional vehicle to be reconsidered at the September board meeting, when there would be fewer uncertainties

regarding the level of need. The motion passed.

Board members acknowledged the receipt of a \$5,000 trust from the Karen and David Warke estate; Meihak said the intent is to find a way to use the money to enhance activities or athletic programs, since that was the area of interest indicated in the trust.

A brief discussion occurred during the meeting regarding the district's reclassification, being moved to Class A from Class AA. Berg stated districts are evaluated for placement every two years; during the evaluation, the number of students who meet the guidelines for "free and reduced price lunches" is taken into account. According to Berg, the district has gone from being the smallest in AA to one of the largest in A. The MSHSL website states the 128 largest districts in the state are AA, all remaining districts are A.

Berg said that, since the district remains in the Gopher Conference, teams will still compete against opponents familiar from past years during the regular season. But once tournament play begins, he said teams will be "traveling east more than west."

Eddie

from Page 1

to be told to keep working and some people are go-getters.

"Eddie is a go-getter."

When it comes to sales, Eddie says his favorite part is visiting with customers and hearing what they have to say about the various products, including what they like about them and how they plan to use them. He also enjoys chatting with people about how their lives are going in general.

That conversation is one of his favorite elements of salesmanship may seem surprising since Eddie has a tracheostomy, a device implanted in his neck to create a more open airway.

He says it doesn't interfere when he is talking with others. He seems inordinately good at taking things in stride.

He explains he has an inoperable tumor located on his brain stem. It was discovered during testing that took place when he was 5 years old. "They found it because I fell off a lawnmower," he says in his understated way. The details are that he was being given a ride on the mower and simply lost his balance, falling for no apparent

reason, leading to the tests.

Once the tumor was discovered, he recalls going for chemotherapy treatments twice a week at a hospital. After a while it became once a week. These days he takes oral chemotherapy at home and goes for an MRI about every three months. Of the results, he says "sometimes [the tumor] grows, sometimes it shrinks."

Because of the pressure on his brain stem, he says his right side is somewhat weaker than his left, and "sometimes when I'm asleep, my brain forgets to tell my body to breathe." To compensate, he sleeps with a positive airway pressure machine.

Though it creates physical complications for him, he suggests having cancer may have caused him to become a bit more mature than others of the same age. He is glad to be able to say it does not keep him from making contributions to Ed's greenhouse and produce business. Besides that, he describes having begun growing about 16 acres of corn or soybeans each year as a learning exercise toward his someday goal of becoming a farmer.

Asked how he keeps going he responds simply, "I just do it."



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SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642
AUGUST 2025

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

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

‘Learning for All’ strategic plan

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

WASECA
SCHOOL BOARD

During the Waseca school board’s regular business meeting, Superintendent Eric Hudspeth reported the fifteen teachers new to the district this year completed orientation and met the rest of the staff. Hudspeth said three or four were student teachers in Waseca and have chosen to stay.

Hudspeth also emphasized the strategic plan focus this year is “Learning for All.” He said the district will be looking at student results, data, and progress reports, “particularly from a leadership perspective.”

All students in the district will

begin on Wednesday Sept. 3. “We continue to see positive feedback on all students starting on the same day,” Hudspeth told the board. “It really allows us to serve all of our students well as opposed to having the staggered start.”

Business Manager Sarah Brandt will be bringing the preliminary levy to the board for approval in September, along with other final revenue reports once the enrollment numbers are in from the state.

The next work session will be Sept. 4.

General fund, preliminary levy discussed at session

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editor

WASECA
CITY COUNCIL

During their Tuesday, Aug. 19, work session, members of the Waseca City Council were given information regarding the general fund and the city’s potential property tax levy, then offered two options for a possible preliminary levy amount.

During the meeting, city manager Carl Sonnenberg referred to financial audits from the past two years which show the city’s general fund balance has been declining. He said the balance, which essentially constitutes the difference between revenues the city retains and receives and the amount it spends, is meant as a sort of “rainy day” fund which will buffer the city’s finances in case of any unanticipated shortfall.

As of the most recent audit, the general fund is at about 35 percent of the city’s 2025 \$9.5 million budget; ideally, Sonnenberg said, the amount would be closer to 50 percent.

“We’re trying to provide the city council options to provide staff direction on where you want to set the preliminary levy,” said city finance director and human resources manager Alicia Fischer.

Essentially, council members were asked whether they would prefer to support a levy increase of 6.3 percent which would provide about \$87,000 toward restoring the general fund, or a smaller levy increase that would include tightened budgets and a less robust restoration.

According to information posted on the city’s website, the 2025 city budget included balanced income and expenditures of just over \$9.5 million; \$3.5 million of that was collected as property taxes.

A presentation shared during the work session proposed a total 2026 budget of just under \$9,950,000, with property taxes of \$4 million.

Under state law, agencies which receive a significant portion of their funding from property taxes must set a “preliminary levy” in September, indicating the amount they expect to collect. Once that preliminary amount is shared, the agency can continue refining its budget in order to submit a final levy amount in December. Under the law, the amount of the final levy can be lower than or equal to the preliminary number, but not higher.

Councilmember Gary Conrath asked what kind of notification the city would receive if the governor decided to cut the city’s aid. Neither Sonnenberg nor Fischer had a direct answer to that, but Fischer explained the city gets government aid payments twice a year, usually in July and December.

In 2026, Fischer reported the city will be receiving state appropriated Local Government Aid (LGA) of about \$3.6 million, roughly \$10,000 more than in 2025. The formula which determines a city’s LGA, Fischer said, takes population, tax capacity and other variables into account. Fischer’s estimates included a \$433,600 increase in total revenues, about 4.6% above 2025.

She went on to reveal the city expects numerous cost increases, some of which are associated with changes in state financial practices and “unfunded mandates,” that is, projects or tasks the city must take on because of new state laws, but without any additional funding from the state. Beginning in 2026, Fischer said the expanded paid leave law will lead to higher costs.

Expected increases in insurance rates, including for employee health care benefits, are also a concern. Sonnenberg told council members he has heard double-digit increases to premiums “have been the norm.”

Administrators also described a \$45,000 increase to the Internet Technology (IT) budget, to more than \$267,000. Part of the increase, they explained, is because Pantheon Computers has been engaged to provide services. “IT is not going away,” commented Fischer. “Those costs are going to continue to grow as security risks continue to grow.”

Sonnenberg added that IT is a cost risk assessment and that it is highly important to keep up with IT needs, especially within the police department.

Under other major departmental costs, county ditch assessments saw \$91,568, an increase of what was originally in the budget, according to Fischer. She added, “We never know how much this is going to be.”

After council members asked why the city is paying assessments to the county, Fischer explained the county assesses maintenance fees to land owners in unincorporated areas whose property benefits from a county maintained drainage system. When a county ditch is located within city limits, the city is assessed the entire amount, and has the option of passing the cost along to individual property owners.

The full-time water park manager position was also discussed, as it is currently in a transition period continuing into 2026. For 2025, Fischer explained a vacancy opened in early spring that was staffed with a part-time supervisor for the season. Sonnenberg cautioned there is some risk in staffing a core service with a part-time position. Although a budget savings, the person found this year was a returning lifeguard currently going to college.

“Personnel management at the waterpark is a big deal. I will not open the waterpark if the lifeguard funding does not allow for all of the stations at the waterpark to have a certified lifeguard,” Sonnenberg stated. The waterpark is now closed for the rest of the season.

No decisions regarding the funding approach for 2026 were made during the Aug. 19 work session. Discussions are scheduled to continue during a Sept. 2 work session set for 6:30 p.m.

The preliminary budget levy must be submitted by mid-September; the final levy will be approved Dec. 16.

Build your own Bouquet introduces business

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

BOUQUET BEAUTY - Bailey Petersen, Katie Reed and Taylor Heideman all took part in the Create Your Own Bouquet class offered by Hartland Flowers Minnesota at the New Richland Liquor Store on Thursday, August 21, 2025.

Nearly 20 participants flocked over to the New Richland Liquor Store on Thursday, Aug. 21. Many enjoyed beverages as they learned more about flower arrangement. As part of a “Build your own Bouquet” event care of Hartland Flowers Minnesota, they had been told to expect “A delightful evening of flower arranging,” where they would “unleash creativity and learn the art of bouquet-making from talented local floral experts.”

Participants began by selecting among upcycled mason jars or vases in various colors. The room was dimly lit but it worked out well as participants were sifting through 12 buckets of freshly picked flowers and arrangements in numerous varieties.

Haley Nagel and Andi Staloch are the creators of Hartland Flowers, a business they say is unlike typical flower shops. Said Nagel, “We do biweekly flower subscriptions, with seven different pickup locations.”

Staloch added, “We both grow flowers so we thought we should start a business.” The flowers they grow are local and include quite a



variety—asters, zinnias, iris, garden roses, snap dragons, gladiolas, Danes, Gerbera Daisies, sunflowers and German chamomile. There were also numerous greens for accentuation. One of the most used tools for the day was the scissors; every person had a pair to clip back that pesky leaf or unruly petal.

Nearby, Taylor Heideman, who had her head down in concentration said without looking up, “I’ve been signed up for tonight since May. I’m also really looking forward to participating in what these girls do next year.” Bailey Petersen and Katie Reed nodded their heads in agreement.

On the sales side of Hartland Flowers, the company website explains customers can choose and pay for a bouquet, then pick it up at any one of five listed locations: New Richland Liquor Store from 10:00 to 5:00; Nagel’s Nursery in Medford from 11:00 to 5:00; Ginger P. Designs of Janesville from 10:00 to 4:00; Lacey’s Catering in Wells from 10:45 to 1:00, or Lush Cakes in Waseca from 10:00 to 2:30. Or, if customers prefer, they can pick up their purchase with Haley in Hartland or, for those close to Wells, with Andi.



DUCK RIDE- With 16 motorcycles and six vehicles, the Ducks and Hogs for Dogs fundraiser to benefit the animal humane society started and ended at Barney's Drive In on Saturday, August 23, 2025. The day also featured a bounce house, silent auction and much more.

■ Hogs

from Page 1

The bars visited were Tuckers Tavern in Elysian, Toy Box in Kilbenny, Rail 19 in Lonsdale and Last Call Liquor in Morristown.

Teejay Barnett, spectator and volunteer, checked his blow-up yellow duck in the front of the restaurant facing Clear Lake, he said, “I got

here at 9 a.m. to set up my duck but that didn’t take very long. I’m a volunteer for the day, I’ll probably watch the silent auction items, make sure they don’t blow away. I might help with the coloring contest later.” Attendance increased in the afternoon; more children were bouncing in the bounce castle. Mandi Miller and Amanda Haskell were painting the faces of children eager to get back to the bounce house, said Haskell, “We don’t work for a face painting business or anything, we’re

just helping out with the face painting.”

Under the tent near the registration desk were a number of tables filled with donated silent auction items which included signs from the Faribault Harley Davidson, a basket filled with Fords Gin, a \$200 gift certificate to the Dragons Lair, assorted dog toy baskets, an oil change from Firestone, O’Reilly’s, Tesch’s and Waseca Chrysler. A movie night basket, a Fireball Whiskey basket, a free round of golf from Lakeside,

\$25 in service at John’s Service Garage, stone wine glasses, an impact wrench set, a 40-pound turkey, a free grooming from the Paw Salon, and a Stella Rose Peach Brandy basket.

The ride started at 10 a.m. Face painting was offered from 2 to 5 p.m., a bounce castle and kids coloring contest took place from 4 to 5 p.m.. Music was provided from 7-10 p.m. by Kozy JR DJ.

■ Council

from Page 1

meeting. “I’m going to give you some reasons for my no vote. We paid over \$600,000 for the land, and right now [Stantec is estimating] when all three developments are developed and all the lots are sold in those three phases, a loss of \$576,000 on top of what we paid for the land.”

In other business, Lori Bonin and Ryan Torbenson of Rebound Partners were present at the meeting to provide an update for the Waseca Marketplace project. Bonin said they are very excited to reach a point where they are confident they will be able to break ground and start construction on the project this fall. She added a study showed that housing is needed in Waseca, with 4,000 people commuting daily to Waseca. Also, she added, no new apartment building has been built in town since the 1990s.

The Marketplace project consists of a 36-unit building, with 28 units at market rate and eight to be rented

on an income-based basis. Amenities include modern apartments with stainless steel appliances, in-unit washer and dryer, tile in living space and each unit having either a balcony or patio. There will also be a community room, fitness center, patio and grilling space.

“Very excited to bring this product into the community to address a strong housing need,” Bonin said. Torbenson said the development is currently on schedule; planners are currently trying to close on land and bank within the next 45 days, with construction starting in early October.

This \$7 million development has several sources of financing according to Torbenson, with United Prairie Bank as a financing partner and a total of \$450,000 of grants in forgivable loans. He added there has been great local support, with 15 local investors.

The Marketplace is set to open in August or September of 2026.

The council also approved adding park surveillance cameras to additional parks. The Parks Department began installing cameras in high visibility parks in 2023 due to vandalism. City staff planned to in-

stall additional cameras in two parks per year through 2027, however, the installation of park cameras did not make the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget in 2025. The budget impact of installing new cameras is an estimated \$7,818, but will be used from excess funds from the 2025 CIP from the Northwest Park playground project and park trail improvements.

“I think it’s wise that we’re protecting our investments and I like the fact that we can use the excess funds from these projects that came in under budget to fund them. It just makes sense,” Schroeder said.

In the commission reports, councilmember Mark Christiansen said the dog park shelter update is going forward with a donation, so there will be no cost to the taxpayers. The Tink Larson Community Field grandstand project is also moving forward, as is work on the Maplewood Park lodge.

Councilmember Schroeder mentioned in her report from the tourism board that rack cards are being distributed throughout the city and that if a business would like a rack to reach out to the Chamber. The

cards offer lists of businesses, agencies and locations which provide various types of services including lodging, specialty shops, and points of interest.

During announcements, councilmember Daren Arndt asked city staff to clarify, for the sake of the public, how unsafe water comes to be in area lakes during times of flooding, and what type of water it is. Sonnenberg explained during the most recent event, somewhere between 5 and 6 million gallons of rainwater combined with raw sewage were pumped out of the sanitary sewer system. He went on to say an estimated one-tenth of the water was sewage, but a definite number is difficult to pin down.

“A rule of thumb that we’ve estimated is that half is city pipe problem, half is private property owner problem. The council very clearly said, ‘Let’s work on our problem before we require the private property owners to do the same,’” Sonnenberg said.

He added, “Our number one priority is to try to keep sewer water out of peoples’ basements.”

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Janesville

1925

- One of the features of this year's Waseca County Fair will be the coaster wagon parade which will be open to children between the ages of 3 and 12 years. The coaster wagons to be decorated in any manner and with any material that you may wish. They will be judged according to originality of idea, beauty and appearance, and conduct of the child, the same rules applying that were used for the doll buggy parade last year. The parade is open for either boys or girls and you are urged to enter your child for this even. The prizes to be awarded in this event are as follows: \$5.00, 1st prize; \$4.00, 2nd prize; \$3.00, 3rd prize; \$2.00, 4th prize; \$1, 5th prize.

- Farmers are warned to beware of fake produce buyers who are unusually active in the state this summer. The State Department of Agriculture informs the Farm Bureau that it is making a drive against these shyster dealers who have been using trucks to go out and pick up eggs and other farm produce and then defrauding the farmer out of either part or all of its purchase price. "Having nothing to do with strangers seeking to buy produce," says Hugh J. Hughes, director of markets, "unless he is able to show a wholesale dealer's license issued by the Department of Agriculture and signed by N. J. Holmberg, commissioner, good for the year beginning June 1, 1925. Unless he can show this tell him to move on and send particulars to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Old Capitol Building, St. Paul."

1950

- Madison Lake pulled one of the major upsets of the week in state leagues when they, despite the absence of Bud Libraire, Denny Peterson and George Willson, downed the once mighty Morristown Morries in the first round of the South Le Sueur County League sudden death playoffs on Morristown's own diamond Sunday by a 6 to 5 score. Meanwhile, over at Elysian the power-laden Janesville Red Sox showed St. Clair some of their excess power when they rapped the Saints by a score of 19 to 8 for their 12th straight win. Bob Yess, Bill Haag, and Bob Schueneman were the pace setters of an 18-hit attack that placed the Sox into the final round of the league playoff against Madison Lake in another sudden death affair on Sunday.

- The Janesville High School Band and Cub-ettes came home with the bacon again when they took first prize at Mankato last Saturday at the Rounge-Up Days parade. K. E. Pavey, parade chairman, stated that the band and Cub-ettes were certainly two wonderful groups and that the members have something of which they can be proud to belong. Both the drill corps and the Golden Bear Band marched in the parade on Saturday afternoon along Mankato's Front Street. The band drilled and played at the band festival that night at Tanley Field. Members of the band did such a fine job as they marched off the field the entire audience rose as one to their feet and gave them an ovation that will long be remembered by all of the bandsmen.

- Televiewers here will be watching new and better programs when the new coaxial cable is completed September 30. The long-awaited cable will connect Twin City TV stations with Chicago and the east. Both stations now showing television, the WTCN-TV and the KSTPTV studios, will receive lines carried in the cable.



- In 1945, Henry Quade bought his brand new Minneapolis Moline Model R for \$1,000. He used it to farm land now owned by the Winter family, and in later years, also farmed land owned by Frank Galler. Rich Winter purchased the tractor in 1984.

1975

- Marvin G. Gieseke, son of George Gieseke of Janesville, has been appointed to the position of Area Maintenance Engineer of Maintenance Area 8B with headquarters in Marshall. Gieseke, a graduate of Janesville High School, attended Mankato State College and transferred to the University of Minnesota where he received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1959. He joined the Minnesota Department of Highways in 1957 when he was employed as an undergraduate engineer at Mankato. He started full time in 1959 as a graduate engineer in central office. In 1963, he became a registered civil engineer and was promoted to senior civil engineer at Willmar.

- Janesville area youngsters should really enjoy their freedom this week, because it's the last full week of vacation until Christmas, Janesville Public School and Trinity Lutheran School will both open for a full day of school next Wednesday, August 27. Trinity Lutheran will celebrate the first day with an Opening Worship Service at 8:30 a.m. in which parents are encouraged to attend. Janesville Public will begin classes at 8:30 a.m. and will close at 3:20 p.m. throughout the year.

2000

- "Belly flops are bad for your appetite," one little boy was overheard saying in swimming class last week. The kids were attempting to dive into the pool, and as so often happens with kids and driving, there were a few belly flops. Connie Hoehn, the swimming instructor, has just wrapped up a summer full of lessons. From June through August, three two-week sessions have been held, helping somewhere between 140 and 150 area kids improve their skills in the water. The lessons are part of the Community Education Summer Recreation program.

- The idea of [the Fenelons] converting their grand Victorian house into a bed and breakfast place did not occur to John and Pauling Fenelon immediately. "No, no. We didn't even know what a bed and breakfast was," Pauline said, thinking back to the early 1960s when they first laid eyes on the 1903 house in Janesville. One of the first ideas that came to Pauline was to use part of the big, old house as a gift shop. "I don't know when the idea of a bed and breakfast really occurred to us." She recalled that about 30 years ago, the Tourism Department of the State of Minnesota began to push the idea of bed and breakfasts as a way of developing the economy of small towns. The Fenelons went to a state conference designed to inform potential B&B people. They picked up the reams of information and handouts on that occasion. "That kind of planted the seed." By the 1970s that was definitely the plan.

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Waseca

25 years ago

- Today marks the first day of business for the newly re-opened Bowling World. Located just west of Waseca on Hwy. 14, the bowling alley is now owned by Ron & Sandi Boekelman, and Mike & Cherri Larson, all of Albert Lea. From the 15th of August until Labor Day, the bowling alley will be open from noon till 10 p.m. The bar should be open within a week.

- Corinna Ann Foley of Waseca was named to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire's dean's list for the 1999-2000 spring semester. She is a senior majoring in health care administration. To be eligible, a student must receive at least a 3.5 semester grade point average and be in the top 10 percent of education students who are in good standing and have completed at least 15 credits during the semester.

- Sheriff's Log: Wednesday, August 2 At 2:46 a.m. someone reported a suspicious circumstance on 180th street and 430th Avenue. Waseca County Sheriff's Office deputies spent 30 minutes on two inmate escorts from the Waseca County Jail to the Waseca County Courthouse for court appearances.

50 years ago

- Members of the Waseca Police Department handled 242 incidents during the month of July, 80 percent of those being non-criminal matters. Among those incidents were six thefts, four vandalism acts, 16 stolen bicycles and 17 accidents, three with personal injury and one involving a pedestrian.

- The Waseca Postal Service is assigning box numbers to rural route patrons. The patrons who do not live in the Highlands and Vista Villa and do not have a city house and street address are being assigned a box number in addition to their rural route number.

- Waseca Public Schools serve lunches every school day for 35 cents at South Side, Hartley, and Middle School, and 40 cents at the High School. Sacred Heart Catholic Schools serve lunches for 35 cents per day. Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown on the attached scales are eligible for a free lunch or for a lunch at the reduced price of 10 cents.

- City Manager Robert Haarman reports the the City of Waseca recently petitioned District Court for the 5.1 acres of the Kenneth C. Keeley property near the Waseca Municipal Airport on R. 4. The Federal Aviation Administration requires that the city own the land in the fee title because of its proximity in relation to the airport.



- Ramon Garcia Diaz, 115-year-old man from Puerto Rico, admires his new wife, Mayra Tonaza Perez who is 16, at their honeymoon retreat after their wedding at Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic. Diaz, born in 1860, came to the Dominican Republic on a vacation, met Mayra, and married her in Sacedo. It was his first marriage.

75 years ago

- Waseca county farmers are due for an assist from University of Minnesota agricultural scientist in their fight against the European corn borer. Local farmers, now busy spraying and dusting corn to control second-brood borers can look forward to a new corn hybrid resistant or tolerant to the pest that cost state producers \$23 million the past two years.

- A hard hit ball down the first base line Sunday night in the game between Austin and Waseca hit an Owatonna woman who was assisted down the bleachers and separated from the crowd. The woman, Mrs. Harry McReady, was sent home early and asked to have the injured arm x-rayed. It is thought that she received only a severe bruise on the forearm.

- The Waseca schools have one of the outstanding dental health records in the state. Southside elementary grades lead with 99 per cent of the pupils completing dental corrections during the 1948-49 school year. Central grades are next with 95 per cent, followed by Sacred Heart with 86 per cent. The junior high record is 65 per cent and the senior high 61 per cent.



100 years ago

- Two men and a woman are patients at the Waseca hospital, suffering from severe burns sustained when a gasoline stove exploded yesterday morning in a tent on the shores of Lake Francis, near Elysian. Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Scott and Mr. and Mrs. Roy A Nelson came from Omaha, Nebr., to Lake Francis last Sunday for an outing. They had a gasoline stove with an air pressure tank and when Mr. Nelson got up yesterday morning he lit it. A little later, he attached an auto air pump to increase the pressure and gave only one or two pumps when there was an explosion and the flaming gasoline spread over the tent.

- Waseca is on the big new system of United States highways, as designated at a recent conference of federal and state highway officials in Washington, according to the graphic news dispatches. The government-marked round crossing the country from coast to coast and from gulf to Canadian border will take thousands of long-distance travelers through Minnesota over more than 3,000 miles of the present state trunk highways.

New Richland

25 years ago



- Members of the Waldorf-Pemberton graduating class of 1978 found enough members and balloons to fill their float entry in the Waldorf Old-Fashioned Fun days parade, August 5.

- Wayne and Denise Sharp of Mankato announce the engagement of their daughter, Amanda, to Jason Melquist, son of Roger and Helen Melquist of Morton. A 1996 graduate of Mankato East High School, Amanda graduated in 1999 from Minnesota State University. Amanda is an IT analyst at 3M in St. Paul. Lason graduated in 1994 from Verndale High School and Minnesota State University in 1998. Jason is a technology consultant for Impact solutions in Bloomington. A Saturday, September 9, wedding is planned by the couple.



- Displaying a handful of purple ribbons and trophies, awards for dedicated work with her Jersey cattle, is Kylie Otterson (right). She earned three Grand Champion ribbons when she showed her animals in 4-H competition at the Freeborn County Fair, the first weekend in August. At the left is her friend, who also won awards with her animal.

50 years ago



- Reverend and Mrs. Raymond Peterson and children were honored at a farewell open house at Trinity Lutheran Church, Sunday afternoon by residents of the entire New Richland area. Here the Petersons and their daughter, Peggy visit with Mrs. Mil Martinson.

- Bill Goette, a Freeborn farmer and president of the Minnesota Pork Producers Association, won the hog calling contest, Friday, at the Minnesota State fair. He worked on a team with Don Paulson of Albert Lea, but each contestant was scored individually.

- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hoffman, Route 3, New Richland, are the parents of a son born July 29 at the Waseca Memorial Hospital. Richard William as he has been named, weighed 8 lbs. 4 ½ oz. at birth. His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gekeler of Waseca, Lillian Hoffman of Waseca and LaVerne Hoffman of Omaha, Nebraska. He has a brother, Jesse, 2 ½ years old.



- Elementary Instructors at the New Richland elementary school, new to the district area are: Janice Johnson, a native of St. Louis Park and Ricky Gillson, a native of Austin. Miss Johnson, who will teach grade 6, taking the place of Janice Wescott who has moved to Utah, has a degree in elementary education from Concordia College, Moorhead. Mr. Gillson, a graduate of Winona State University, will teach fourth grade, in place of Margret Johnson, who has moved to Arizona.

75 years ago

- Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence E. Zwiener of Owatonna, announce the engagement of their daughter, Elaine to Herbert H. Lee, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Lee, of Ellendale. The couple plans a spring wedding. Miss Zwiener, of New York, is a stewardess with Pan-American World Airways, presently flying the Transatlantic route to Europe and the Orient. Mr. Lee is manager of radio station KDHL of Faribault. Both are graduates of the University of Minnesota.

- A daughter, weighing 6 pounds, 15 ½ ounces, was born to Mr. and Mrs. H. I. Tufte of Ellendale, at the Naeve hospital, Albert Lea, Wednesday, September 20. The Tufte's lived in New Richland several years ago and Mrs. Tufte was employed at the State Bank for several years. They have a son, also.



The Pastor's Column

Humility provides freedom from self

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

There is a story of a family shopping in a grocery store. As they walked down the aisles, the moment was abruptly interrupted by a loud smash. Junior dropped a glass bottle of vinegar on the floor while trying to reach for it as he was pulling it off the shelf. He began crying. Having a bad day, Mom towered over him. She said again and again, pick up those pieces. With each command, Junior became more rebellious in his tears. The father stood by, enjoying neutrality, waiting as he ignored both of their cases.

Her thoughts: "This boy is just like his father: stubborn and self-willed." And his: just like his mother's family, always making a show of authority." Leaving the spill, the mother left the store and dragged her son to his room. Who's the winner? Nobody!

In the Gospel, Luke 14: 1, 7-14, which will be read at Sunday worship in many places this weekend, Jesus speaks about not being eager to place oneself in high places at a banquet. His message? A humble soul always enjoys the esteem of others. This virtue, which has been called the highest of all human virtues, is sometimes confused with timidity, to think less of oneself, or to lower oneself. True humility is that disposition of soul that simply rejoices in the truth: our place before God and our place with each other. When we learn to accept things for what they really are, this also leads to authenticity, or becoming genuine. A humble soul leads to love. Why? Because "Love rejoices in the truth, for it finds joy in what is right and just" (1 Cor. 13:6).

The opposite of humility is pride, which quickly leads to the unforgivable sin of a hardened heart. The fallen angels would not serve, would not ac-

knowledge the truth. As a result, they were seen falling like lightning from the sky (Lk: 10:8).

Humility, C.S. Lewis tells us, provides freedom from self-centeredness. It is not about thinking less of oneself, but about thinking of oneself less. "For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it" (Mk 3:35). This is one of the paradoxes of Christianity: in the cross, Jesus loses everything so that all may be gained. Although our own crosses can be painful, Saint Paul tells us: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Rom. 8: 35-38).

As we continue our Christian journey, let us ask ourselves how humility is, or is not, practiced in our own lives. Can we set ourselves aside to be attentive to God and those around us? Can we think of ourselves less, rather than think less of ourselves? The parents in our story were unable to see the child's actions as a mere accident; it infringed on their day, on the embarrassment of a broken jar in the grocery store. In truth, it was a curious child with no bad intent. It was just an accident.

God is truth, He is humility itself. In His Incarnation, he made Himself vulnerable to the world. In washing the feet of his disciples, he demonstrated that no person is above service. In his dying on the cross, he reveals his undying love to us. Jesus waits for us when we are slow to respond, he walks with us when we need him near, he seeks our welfare in times of danger.



WORKFORCE - Members of the Workforce Development Committee are, from left, Craig Ryan, Dr. Jason Miller, Colin Worke, Jon Froke, Shannon Kuball, Jodie Thompson, Jenna Nelson, Robin Dulas, and Mikhail Rostislavovich.

Waseca Area Chamber announces new workforce development committee chair

The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism is proud to announce that Shannon Kuball has been appointed as the new Chair of the Workforce Development Committee.

Shannon brings a wealth of insight, passion, and commitment to this important role. The Workforce Development Committee is dedicated to fostering a dynamic and skilled workforce by enhancing career readiness and professional development within the Waseca community. The committee plays a vital role in strengthening part-

nerships with Waseca Public Schools while also encouraging a culture of lifelong learning for residents of all ages.

Under Shannon's leadership, the committee will continue to expand valuable career readiness initiatives and professional development opportunities that support both students and working professionals, ensuring Waseca's workforce remains strong, adaptable, and prepared for the future.

"We are excited to welcome Shannon as Chair of the Workforce Development Committee,"

said Robin Dulas, Executive Director of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism. "Her dedication to education, career readiness, and community collaboration will be instrumental in advancing our mission to prepare a skilled workforce that meets the needs of both employers and residents."

Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Board of Directors, added: "The Workforce Development Committee is vital to our community's growth and

success. Shannon's leadership and insight will guide the committee in building stronger partnerships, promoting innovation, and ensuring that Waseca continues to be a place where talent and opportunity thrive."

For more information about the Workforce Development Committee or to learn how to get involved, please contact the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism at info@wasecachamber.com or 507-835-3260.

County

from Page 1

time, Schiro's staff coordinates eligible tasks and keeps record of how much time has been completed. If the court has stipulated that an individual go through a treatment program, staff helps facilitate that. The office also supervises individuals who have served time in incarceration and have been released on parole, working to ensure any conditions are being met.

The "format change," Schiro explained, has little to do with the tasks his staff perform, and more with which members of the public will be working with his staff. Formerly, there were two "corrections" offices in Waseca County: Schiro's worked with juveniles and persons accused of offenses regarded as misdemeanors. A state corrections office, which was located along South State Street, handled cases dealing with more serious crimes regarded as felonies.

Thanks to a recent change in state funding practices, it was explained during a county commissioner meeting earlier this year, it became both financially appealing and logistically practical to consolidate the two offices.

"This makes us a sort of 'one-stop shop' for the public," explained Schiro. "Now anyone remanded to the corrections system will work with staff located in the county courthouse."

Schiro reported with enthusiasm that the two corrections staff members from the state-level office have both accepted positions with the county department. The addition of Megan Merchlewitz and Makenzie Wies, he said, will help make the transition to the new system nearly seamless.

The addition brings the number of staff members in the county's correction office up to six full-time individuals and two who work half-time. The building where Merchlewitz and Wies were formerly located is now for sale.

"Many members of the general



CORRECTIONS - Services formerly provided at this office along South State Street will now be offered through the community corrections department at the county courthouse. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

public will take no real notice of this change," Schiro said. "But for individuals going through the system, and for some of our community partners like treatment facilities or CADA (Committee Against Domes-

tic Abuse), I believe it will make things simpler and clearer.

"We're looking forward to the transition being complete and the new system being fully operational."

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507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker)
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FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
801 4th Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-3167
Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m.
* * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
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507-835-9176
Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service
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ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
314 4th Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-2647
Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m.
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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net)
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507-835-1709
Worship Sunday 9 a.m.
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507-835-4640
Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.
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507-835-2213
Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
* * *
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Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship
* * *
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Otisco, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship
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TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Mary Iverson
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee
Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting
Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting
* * *
LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting
* * *
VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
12-18
* * *
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
412 N. Main Street, Janesville
Pastor Jason Wolter
Rev. Timothy Contreras
Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship
* * *
JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Pastor Kathy King
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship
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BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Father Robert Schneider
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300 Owen St., Janesville
Pastor Sarah Krolak
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ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH
Alma City, Minnesota
Pastor Robert Harting
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship
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Smiths Mill, Minnesota
Pastor Robert Harting
Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship
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Pastor Sarah Krolak
507-234-6463
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second sunday "Young at heart"
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation
* * *
NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION TO THE WASECA PIONEER.

Child’s History of
Waseca County

Chapter 1, 1854-5: Primitive Condition of County

No longer ago than 1854, the present county of Waseca was a portion of that extensive region of country known as Blue Earth county. Not a single white man then had a habitation within its borders. The solitude of nature was broken only occasionally by some hunter and trapper, and by wandering bands of Sioux Indians. The buffalo, the elk, and the deer had, for ages, roamed its wild prairies and woodlands; fishes had basked undisturbed in its lakes and rippling streams; the muskrat, the otter, and the mink had gambled upon the ice in winter with no white man to molest them. Ducks, geese, and other aquatic fowls, in countless numbers, covered the lakes and streams in summer, and chattered and squawked and frolicked in all their native glory and happiness. The prairie wolf howled upon each little hillock, and, coward-like, was always ready to attack and destroy the weak and defenseless. Pocket gophers went on with their interminable underground operations, all unconscious of the inroads soon to be made upon their dominions by the husbandman. Grouse and prairie chickens cackled, crowded, and strutted in all their pride. Blizzards and cyclones swept unheeded across its vast domains.

The autumnal prairie fires, in all their terrible grandeur and weird beauty, lighted the heavens by night and clouded the sun by day. Age after age had added alluvial richness to the soil and prepared it to be one of the most productive fields of the world for the abode of the husbandman and for the uses of civilized man. The enquiring and philosophical mind, at times, finds food for reflection in the fact that an overruling Providence sent the Pilgrim Fathers first to the rock-bound coast of New England to clear the forests

and to settle that country, but reserved the rich and productive prairie-lands of the West, ready prepared for the plow and the mower for descendants and followers.

It is a pleasure to record the early settlement of a county which, for fifty consecutive years, has never suffered a total failure of crops or even a half failure, and where general thrift and prosperity, for all that time, have attended and rewarded the hand of industry and the spirit of frugality:

“Where the glad’ning sunlight nestled,
Where all Nature’s beauty slept
Unrevealed to cultured vision,
Where the savage wail’d and wept,
When his son or sire had given
To the Spirit World his breath,
Find we here a famous region,
(Sunny side of ‘Minne’s’ face)
With lovely lakes and richest soil,
Stately in its quiet grace, —
A healthy home for sons of toil.”

Editorial Note - Upon rummaging through the vast library of contents, I stumbled across a very old blue book titled, “Child’s History of Waseca County Minnesota for Fifty Years, 1854-1904.”

After thumbing through the first several pages it was determined this book was too interesting to go back on the shelf. So, it was used as a stand for a computer monitor. Several months later, after finding a more suitable stand, I opened the book to show a reader who stopped into the office. After reading about the Horse Thief Detective Association, I made the decision that this piece of history should not be lost to time. Since then, we’ve included, “a little bit of this and a little bit of that,” from the book.

Eli Lutgens

‘Ask a Trooper’:
emergency vehicles
and traffic lights

Question: My husband and I are wondering if it is true that emergency vehicles can change a light from red to green, if they need to proceed through an intersection. Is this true, or is it just a myth that people now believe to be true? Also, if this is true, how is the light triggered? Is it triggered by the flashing lights of the emergency vehicle or is it triggered through some other method?

Thank you for your column! We read it every time and we appreciate the helpful and accurate information.

Answer: Emergency vehicles can change traffic lights using a system called Opticom. The device on the vehicle emits a specific light or signal, which is detected by a receiver on or near the traffic light. The receiver then triggers the traffic light to change, giving priority to the emergency vehicle.

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

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

■ Quilts

from Page 1

each one has been meant to be, “Thank you for your service, sacrifice and valor in serving our nation.”

Birch gave a short history of each of the four vets: “Thomas Sexton served his country in the United States Air Force from 1986 to 2012. He flew the HH-3E Jolly Green Giant, the MH-60G Pavehawk, and the MH-60 Blackhawk. He was based out of the Philippines, Florida, Kentucky, Alabama, North Carolina and Iceland. In 2024 he came out of retirement to run for Minnesota House of Representatives in District 19B.”

“Steven Welander served his country in the United States Marine Corps from 1968 to 1970. After training in San Diego, he was transferred to Okinawa, Japan and worked as administra-



SUNNY’S ICE CREAM - Inara, Genny, Alayna, Everly and Lilian were braving the heat for some free ice cream care of Sunny’s Ice Cream at Minnwest Bank in Waldorf on Friday, August 22, 2025.

Customer
appreciation

Minnwest Waldorf hosts
free ice cream, car show

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

There was a full day of events for the residents of City of Waldorf on Friday, Aug. 22. Available to all were free ice cream, an antique car and truck show, a \$100,000 contest giveaway, a Kiddy Car Show, a DJ, and of course the Waldorf Fire and Rescue’s annual sweet corn and burger feed.

Minnwest Bank, located at 102 South Main Street in Waldorf, hosted Sunny’s Ice Cream from noon till 3 p.m. There were two picnic tables outside. Anyone wishing to get their kids excited knows the magic words that will work on even the most stubborn of children, “Free ice cream.” Carol Raimann, Market President for the bank commented, “This is our chance to show our community appreciation today.” On display near the ice cream truck was a large-scale check written for \$360. Raimann said, “Right now, cash back checking products will earn you up to \$360 on all transactions. That’s everything, gas, groceries, everyday purchases.” The bank was also giving away, squeeze balls, giant chalk and lip balm for kids.

The sun was shining; it was hot and getting hotter. Usually in situations like these, the average ice cream man will pick out three or four products and limit the free to those items only. However, Sunny Mehta, owner of Sunny’s Ice Cream was op-

erating his free ice cream with a full menu, “I got lots to choose from here.” Mehta, based out of Austin, has been in the ice cream game for 14 years now, “I travel around all over southern Minnesota, I have eight trucks, three concession stands and one food vendor truck.” He says in addition to himself, his wife, and their two sons, he has eight employees.

Diane Matson, also of Minnwest Bank, was surrounded by kids, she said, “We did this as a community event and customer appreciation. We went with Sunny’s Ice Cream because I’ve heard little ones talking about how good that ice cream is; some of these kids were really excited to come up here. About Minnwest Bank though, we’re here and we can help people in so many ways, financially especially, all you have to do is stop in and ask. We want small businesses to thrive, that’s what we’re after.”

By 3 p.m., as the antique cars and trucks began showing up, the DJ’s van was getting unloaded for the party and burger feed to begin by 4 p.m. Sunny Mehta said, “I gave away 300-350 ice cream bars, pop-sicles and drumsticks today.” By 4 p.m. Sunny’s Ice Cream truck was gone, but rumors of delicious free ice cream are likely to be floating through school hallways for the next few months.

Pleasant Grove
Pizza Farm’s
decade celebration

Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm (PGPF) marked its 10th anniversary with a heartfelt celebration on the farm, welcoming nearly 200 guests including family, close friends, former employees, vendors, collaborators, and longtime supporters. Owners Emily Knudsen and Bill Bartz hosted the evening with endless wood-fired pizza, live music from Pete Klug and Crista Bohlman, and a special toast of homemade limoncello in the garden.

The program featured remarks from community leaders and partners who have been part of PGPF’s journey. Ann Staloch of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) praised PGPF as both a client and a success story, stating: “The Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm is not only a testament to their vision, but also to the power of community and collaboration. They have leaned on and learned from organizations like the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Development Center, and SMIF. This is what can happen when a community rallies together to support a dream.”

Allison Gettings, CEO of Red Wing Shoes and a childhood friend of Emily, shared both admiration and lighthearted stories from their early years. Bill Cronin from Mineral Springs Brewery highlighted the unique partnership between MSB and PGPF, noting the excitement around selling PGPF’s new line of frozen pizzas.

The evening culminated with an emotional address from Emily and Bill themselves. With tears in his eyes, Bill shared: “It’s been a cool ride so far, and a lot of work. It is completely worth it.” Emily added: “It’s not about us, it’s about all of you, family, friends, customers, our veterinarian, and our staff. I can never put into words what our staff means to us.”

From its earliest days, Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm has been more than just a place to enjoy pizza, it has been a gathering place where people come to make memories. The farm grounds invite guests to linger with walking trails, an active garden, and an array of friendly animals that may greet you as you indulge in Pizza Fries. Kenny the Goat, a crowd favorite, has become more of a ham than any swine could ever be.

Since its founding, PGPF has



DECADE OF SUCCESS - Bill Bartz and Emily Knudson, owners of Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm, held a celebration at the farm marking their ten years in business. Nearly 200 people attended.

seen steady growth, from a single pizza oven to a bustling farm with multiple ovens, a mobile unit, and a bar. What started as a hopeful venture down a gravel driveway has grown into a celebrated Minnesota destination, featured in the New York Times, the Magnolia Network, and travel guides across the Midwest.

The 10th anniversary was not only a celebration of pizza, but of the community that has supported PGPF every step of the way. As Emily and Bill look to the future, one thing is clear: Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm is as much about people as it is about pizza.

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: July 25, 2025

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

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) has issued the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Xcel Energy's proposed Mankato – Mississippi River Transmission Line Project (MMRT). The proposed project includes: (1) a new approximately 130-mile long 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between the existing Wilmarth Substation in Mankato and the Mississippi River near Kellogg, and (2) a new approximately 20-mile long 161 kV transmission line between the existing North Rochester Substation near Pine Island and an existing transmission line northeast of Rochester.

The Final EIS analyzes the potential human and environmental impacts of the project and possible measures to mitigate these impacts. It analyzes routing alternatives that could be used for the project and provides a comparative analysis of routing options. The Final EIS responds to the comments received on the Draft EIS for the project. The Final EIS will be used by the Commission in deciding whether to issue a certificate of need and route permit for the project.

Reviewing the Final EIS

The Final EIS is available on eDockets <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/documents>, by searching docket #22-532 for the certificate of need or docket #23-157 for the route permit.

Print copies and/or electronic flash drives of the Final EIS are available at the following locations:

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

Comment Period

Written comments will be accepted through August 15, 2025, by 4:30 p.m. Please include the docket number in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

Topics for Comment

- Is the Final Environmental Impact Statement adequate per Minnesota Rule 7850.2500?

Submit Comments

Online <https://mn.gov/puc/consumers/public-comments>

Email consumer.puc@state.mn.us

U.S. Mail Consumer Affairs Office
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

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

Additional Information

References to Staff. On July 1, 2025, Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC EERA) staff moved to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Energy Infrastructure Permitting (PUC EIP) unit as directed by state law (Laws of Minn. 2024, ch.126, art. 7). While EERA staff initiated environmental review of this project prior to July 1, 2025, the environmental review is now being completed by PUC EIP staff. For accuracy related to procedural history, references to previous filings by EERA will be identified as such. The Final EIS does include references to EERA and EIP, and these should be considered interchangeable throughout the document.

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

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

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

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

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

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

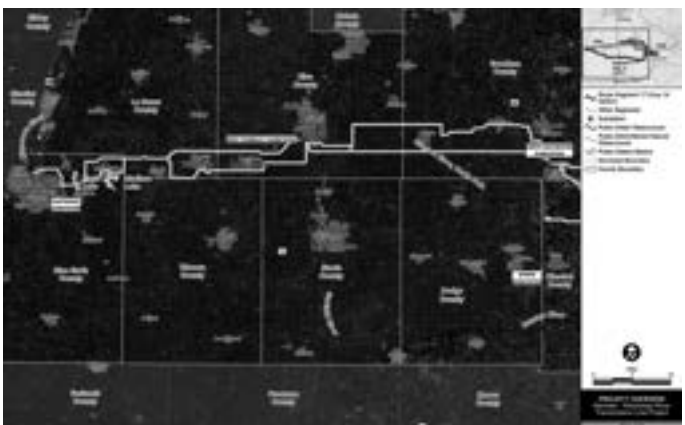
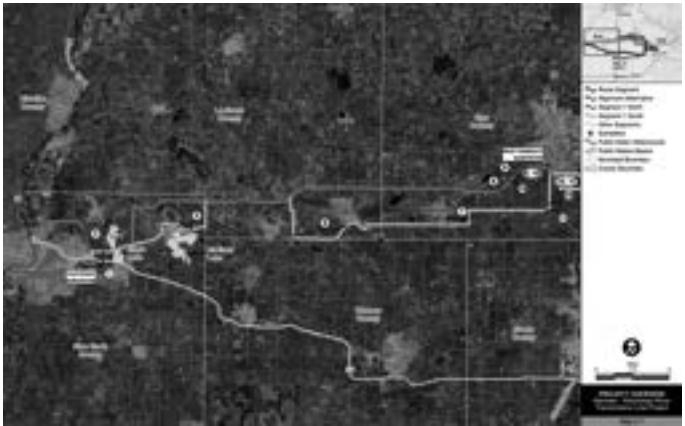
Questions about these dockets or Commission process and procedure?

Contact Commission staff:

Richard Davis, Environmental Review Manager, richard.davis@state.mn.us or 651-539-1077

Cezar Panait, Energy Facilities Planner, cezar.panait@state.mn.us or 651-201-2207

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.



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CITY OF WASECA PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Waseca Planning Commission will hold public hearings at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS of CITY HALL located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

The purpose of the public hearings is to gather information regarding the following:

- REZONING REQUEST:** Kai Thomsen, on behalf of the property owners, is requesting the rezoning of Parcel ID No. 176200040 and No. 176200075 from I-1 (Limited Industry District) to I-2 (Moderate Industry District).
- REZONING REQUEST:** The City of Waseca is requesting the rezoning of Parcel ID No. 176200060 from I-1 (Limited Industry District) to R-2 (Urban Residential District) and is also requesting the rezoning of Parcel ID No. 176200050 and No. 176200080 from I-1 (Limited Industry District) to I-2 (Moderate Industry District).

The purpose of the rezoning request is to facilitate business development. The total area of this rezoning request is approximately 20.26 acres.

The purpose of the rezoning request is to avoid spot zoning. The total area of this rezoning request is approximately 10.31 acres.

Complete copies of the proposed rezonings are available in the office of the City Clerk located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

Those interested in commenting may appear in person or by counsel or may submit written comments to the City of Waseca at 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Upon request, accommodations will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Waseca services, programs, and activities.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Thursday, August 28, 2025.

Jon M. Froke
City Planner



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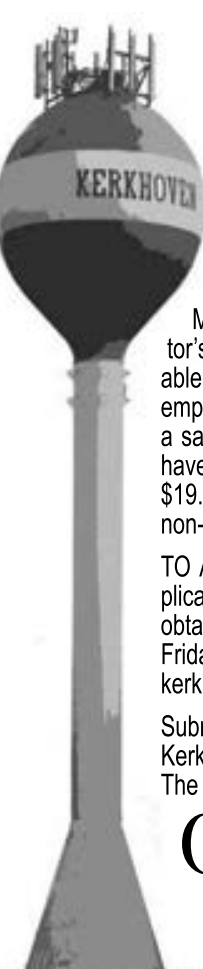
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CITY PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. SEEKING FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE

The City of Kerkhoven, Public Works Department, is seeking a full-time Maintenance Worker starting immediately. A complete job description and benefits package is available upon request.

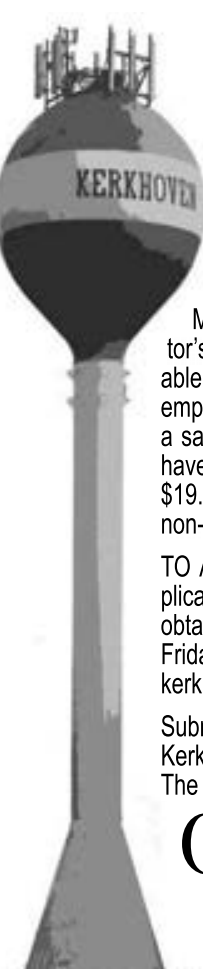
Minimum requirements: Possess or be able to obtain a MN Class D Water Operator's and Class C Sewer Operator's License within two years of employment. Possess or be able to obtain a MN Class B Driver's License within 6 month of employment. Have a valid MN Class D Driver's License and a satisfactory driving record. All applicants will be required to have a physical and are subject to a drug test. Starting wages \$19.34-\$21.28 per hour/DOQ, plus excellent benefits. This is a non-union position.

TO APPLY: All applicants must complete and submit an application for employment packet. Application forms can be obtained at City Hall Monday-Thursday from 8am-5pm and Fridays 8am-noon or by calling 320-264-2581 or by email: kerkhovenclerk@gmail.com.

Submit completed applications in drop box or by mail to: City of Kerkhoven, 208 N 10th St, PO Box 116, Kerkhoven, MN 56252. The City of Kerkhoven is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CITY OF KERKHOVEN

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JENSEN AUCTIONS

Truck & Boat Sell @ 12PM

Saturday, September 6th, 2025 • 9:30AM

Location: 36497 110th St., Waseca, MN 56093

Truck & Boat



2001 Lund Rebel 1650 Alum. Fishing Boat w/ Yamaha 40hp 4 Stroke Tiller Motor – Boat Cover – Minn-Kota Trolling Motor – 4 Seats – Live Well – w/ Shorelandr Roller Trailer – (Always Kept in Garage)



2020 Ford 150 Lariat Super Cab (Black) 4WD – Ecoboost – Leather – Auto – Keyless Entry – Alum Wheels – 5'5 Box w/ Vinyl Cover – Running Boards – 47,000 miles (Very Clean)

Antiques

Maple 48" China Hutch – Duncan Phyfe Table Lamp – Queen Anne 2pc Triple Dresser w/ Mirror & Double Bed Head Board – Early 1900s 3pc Bedroom Set – Full Bed – Chest of Drawers – Mirrored Chest of Drawers (Very Nice) – Small Cedar Chest – Oak Drop Front Writing Desk – White Sewing Machine & Cabinet – Quilts – Mikas Prime Rose 8194 12pc Fine China Set – Bubble Glass – Ventura 12pc Plated Tableware – Germany Cuckoo Clock – 6pc Corning Ware – Cosco Stool – Costume Jewelry – Coleman Cooler – Board Games – 4qt Glass Butter Churn – Large Picture Frames – Chalk Dog – Wash Tubs – Coleman Camping Stove – Collectable Marbles – American Prep Trumpet & Case – Nobles Accordion & Case – Red Wing 3gal Crock – Red Wing 5gal Crock w/ Handles* Many More Items Not Listed*

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Maytag Top Load Washing Machine (White) – Speed Queen Electric Dryer (White)

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A HEARTY WELCOME- New teachers from all Waseca learning sites were welcomed during a lunch held at the Waseca Lakeside Club on Thursday, Aug. 21, 2025.

New Waseca teachers introduced to service groups, community

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer
There were 17 new teaching staff members from four Waseca learning sites introduced and welcomed at a luncheon co-sponsored by the Waseca Rotary, Lions, and Exchange clubs on Thursday, Aug. 21, at the Lakeview Golf Course. The new teachers were introduced by their respective princi-

pals who shared various tidbits during their conversations. Junior/Senior high school principal Justin Johnson encouraged his new teachers to provide information about their favorite hobbies: answers ranged from “blanket collecting” to a laughingly delivered “true crime podcast addict.” Superintendent Eric Hudspith introduced himself and thanked the three sponsoring organizations for

their support and for the luncheon and added “Waseca has less than 10 percent turnover rate of our staff, that’s something to be proud of. There’s a reason our people don’t leave, and you’re it.” Lions Club president Diane Beckmann told teachers, “I hope this luncheon helps demonstrate that Waseca supports schools in a very big way. As you settle into your new positions, we want you to feel appreci-

ated and recognized.” Johnson introduced Craig Korpetski, “His third first year in Waseca, but twenty-ninth year in education, a son in the high school and daughter in SDSU, his wife also teaches at the high school.” Continued Johnson, “Calvin Hill, a student teacher from last year, with one of our teachers going over to Wilmar, which left an open spot for him teaching Junior High

special ed. We’re proud to have him. Robin Tigg taking over in our Ag program as well as FFA Advisor, came very highly recommended.” Mandy Nohmer, coordinator at the Alternative Learning Center (ALC), said, “I would like to introduce Stacy Bauer, a special education teacher. Pam Schmidt, art, health and physed teacher at the ALC and likes to raise American

Bullies, which is a dog breed. Kaylee Warner, counselor and social worker.” Jill Courtney, director of Team Academy introduced Bryce Berry, “A Waseca grad who will be teaching band,” and “Sammi Stillman, who was taught by me when she was in the fourth grade.”

Soap Box Derby



DERBY CHAMPS - From left: Alex Deml 1st Place, Brooks Lehrke 2nd Place, front right Shep Lehrke 3rd place, back right Will and Max Deml holding “Best of Show” trophy, the Farm Bureau race car.



FREEMASONS - Members of the Waseca Mason Tuscan Lodge #77 held their seventh annual Soap Box Race on Aug. 16. Kids lined up to race unpowered cars down the track located near Tink Larson Field, competing for the fastest times and trophies. Proceeds from the event will support the Waseca County Sheriff 's office and the Waseca Fire Department in purchasing three automatic external defibrillator (AED) devices.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

CITY OF WASECA
508 SOUTH STATE STREET
WASECA, MN 56093

On Thursday, September 18th, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. CDT., the City of Waseca will open and review all electronic bids received for the **CLEARWATER PRESERVE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT – PHASE 1 IMPROVEMENTS (CITY PROJECT NO. 2025-12).**

Estimated major quantities are as follows:

DRAINTILE PIPE REMOVAL	LIN FT	13,820
COMMON EXCAVATION	CY YD	66,400
AGGREGATE BASE	CY YD	1,800
SELECT GRANULAR BORROW	CY YD	2,800
GEOTEXTILE FABRIC, TYPE 5	SQ YD	9,600
4" THICK BITUMINOUS PAVEMENT	SQ YD	5,900
CONCRETE CURB & GUTTER	LIN FT	3,370
6" PERFORATED PVC PIPE DRAIN	LIN FT	5,440
SANITARY AND STORM SEWER STRUCTURES	EACH	16
15"- 36" RC STORM SEWER PIPE	LIN FT	1,500
8" SANITARY SEWER MAIN	LIN FT	1,300
SANITARY AND WATER SERVICES	EA	17
6"-8" WATERMAIN	LIN FT	1,920
TURF RESTORATION	ACRE	25
EROSION CONTROL BLANKET, CAT 20 WITH SEED	SQ YD	11,200

Along with miscellaneous utility and roadway improvements, removals, and restoration.

Complete Digital Bidding Documents are available at www.questcdn.com by inputting **QuestCDN eBidDoc #9790196** on the website’s Project Search page. Paper Bidding Documents may also be viewed at the City of Waseca Engineering Department located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Phone: (507) 835-9730.

Bid Security of 5% of the amount of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The successful bidder must be a “responsible contractor” as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 16C.285, subdivision 3.

The City reserves the right to retain the deposit of the lowest Bidder until the Performance Bond and Payment Bond have been executed and approved. No bidder may withdraw a Bid within sixty (60) days after the bid opening date.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, waive irregularities and informalities therein, and award the Contract to the best interests of the City.

Direct any inquiries to Joseph Palen, Project Engineer, at (507) 529-6036.

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