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Sports

Scarecrow Decorating Contest at Farmamerica

Farmamerica is calling on individuals, families, organizations, classrooms, and businesses of all kinds to showcase their creativity in its Scarecrow Contest. Once registered, entrants will receive a link to choose a time to decorate their scarecrow on-site on Oct. 8, 9, or 10. The scarecrows will remain on display through October 17. \$25 for entry, nonprofits enter free.

Drawing Club at the Janesville Public Library Sept. 25

At this drawing club for artists, teens of all skill levels will learn new techniques and sample a variety of drawing styles, including fashion, anime, nature, objects, illustration, doodles, portraits, and more. Drawing club begins at 4 pm on Thursday, September 25th at Janesville Public Library. For ages 12-18.

How about Them Apples? at New Richland Public Library Sept. 25

Teens will discover a variety of apples as we hold a tasting with local varieties and toppings at New Richland Public Library at 4 p.m. Thursday, September 25. Free and geared for teens.

City Wide Garage Sales in New Richland Saturday, Sept. 27

There will be city wide garage sales in New Richland on Saturday, Sept. 27.

Waseca Senior Citizens Center all-you-can-eat pancakes Sunday, Sept. 28

The Waseca Senior Citizens Center will hold an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast at the Waseca V.F.W Post from 8 a.m. till noon on Sunday, Sept. 28. Cost is \$12 per person, scrambled eggs, french toast, biscuits and gravy, bacon or sausage.

All You Can Eat Dad's Belgian Waffles Church of All Saints Sunday, Sept. 28

There will be an all you can eat Dad's Belgian Waffles in New Richland at the Church of All Saints from 9 a.m. till 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 28. \$10 per person, 5 and under free, includes beverage, waffles with all the toppings and sausage with takeout available.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Meriden Ice Cream Social Sept. 28

An Ice Cream Social and Fall Festival will take place at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Meriden after mass on Sunday, Sept. 28. Outdoor worship 10:00 a.m., ice cream social and fall festival to follow. Free-will donations accepted.

A word from The Word

My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance.

1 Samuel 2:1



2025 Waseca Marching Classic

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Hundreds of people lined up along State Street at noon for the Marching Classic parade this past Saturday and hundreds took seats in the high school football field stadium to watch the field show performances of 15 different bands beginning at 5:30 p.m. The high school grounds became a field camp throughout the afternoon as bands attended “clinics” led by certified judges.

The thirty-eighth annual Waseca Marching Classic was another success.

An organization known as the Tri-State Judging Association certifies judges for music performance. Barry Peterson, head judge for the day, explains, “At the Waseca show we use a six-person judge panel. Visual performance and music performance evaluate the precision and accuracy of both movement and music. The visual general effect and music general effect are more reactionary and react to dynamics, visual surprises, and anything that generates an emotion. In addition, there is a color guard only judge and a percussion only judge.”

He goes on to say, “What I enjoy that the judging community has had to evolve as the bands evolve. Many bands use props, non-traditional uniforms and lots of enhancements via electronics and more.

“It really isn’t any different from what you see in a Broadway production other than the fact that it is between 8 and 10 minutes long and is presented on a football field.”

Bands which took part in the day’s events and the awards they are received are

Parade Class AA
First: Stewartville Marching Tigers
Second: Luverne Cardinal Marching Band
Third: Pipestone Area Arrow Marching Band

Class AAA
First: Lakeville South Marching Cougars
Second: Eastview Marching Band
Third: Farmington Tiger Marching Band
Fourth: “Spirit of Worthington” Trojan Marching Band



PARADE WAVE - Hundreds of people from Waseca and other communities gathered for the Marching Classic parade on Saturday, Sept. 25. Pictured above are the “Friends of the Classic” current Waseca Chief of Police Kris Markeson and previous chief Penny Vought.

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

Fifth: Lakeville North Panther Marching Band

Special awards
Outstanding horn line: Lakeville South Marching Cougars
Outstanding percussion: Eastview Marching Band
Outstanding color guard: Farmington Tiger Marching Band
Outstanding drum majors: Lakeville North Panther Marching Band
People’s choice: “Spirit of Worthington” Trojan Marching Band
Parade sweepstakes: Lakeville

South Marching Cougars

Field Show Class A
First: Rochester Lourdes Marching Band
Second: Pipestone Area Arrow Marching Band
Third: Luverne Cardinal Marching Band
Fourth: Park Center Marching Pirates
Fifth: NRHEG Panther Marching Band

Classic continued on 14

Farmamerica seeking volunteers

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

“You’ll be glad you did,” is the message three persistent volunteers at Farmamerica have for anyone who would like to join them.

Janesville area residents Rita and Jerry Janish have been volunteering for more than a decade. Both in their mid-seventies, the two say they feel richly rewarded each time they come.

Jerry can’t help smiling as he tells of conversations with children. “A lot of them have no idea where milk comes from,” he comments. “Or most of their food in general.”

Born in 1949, Jerry remembers his grandparents’ home where “they were still living the old way,” meaning their home did not have electricity or running water. When he describes that to children, he says he usually asks how many of them would like to live that way. “And yes, some say they would want to,” he observes. “But I can’t help thinking no modern child would stay very long if they were truly experiencing it.”

Still, the conversations are lively and entertaining, and Jerry says he’s glad to have a chance to share his stories.



VOLUNTEERS - Ron Wood (right) and Jerry and Rita Janish say volunteering at Farmamerica provides a source of personal enjoyment and variety for them while also helping the organization accomplish important goals. They invite others to come join in the fun.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

He expects to be rather busy doing so in the next couple of weeks, since Farmamerica will be the destination for children in grades three through six coming there on school field trips from September 29 to October 7. Program coordinator Kari Wadd names Lakeville, Northfield, Blooming Prairie, New Ulm and others as having signed up to bring groups.

“Children are fascinated by the farmsites and the animals,” said Wadd. “We use that as a sort of jumping off place to help them learn a few things about history.”

The more volunteers the facility can recruit

for the field trips and for other larger events, the richer visitors’ experiences tend to be, she observes.

“We make it very easy,” says Hilary Kruger, who helps schedule volunteers and helps them find roles they will enjoy. “We have scripts and site descriptions. If they would like, we invite people to ‘shadow’ another volunteer before trying it themselves.

“And of course, if they have experiences of their own that are relevant to the site, we hope

Volunteer continued on 14

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

County Board sets preliminary levy increase

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

After considerable discussion surrounding the county budget and a new circumstance with funding spent toward supporting the libraries in Waseca County communities, members of the county’s board of commissioners voted on Sept. 16 to set the preliminary levy increase for taxes payable in 2026 toward county government operations at three percent.

Oddly, due to anomalies in statewide property tax law, county administrator Michael Johnson stated the increase will lead to a slight decrease in county-designated taxes paid in most categories, including agricultural, commercial and industrial property and high-end residences. Taxes paid toward county government on typical homes will likely increase by less than one percent.

Commissioners were uncomfortable with a recent circumstance which will lead to publishing an increase of 6.8 percent. Namely, it was discovered recently that the LeSueur-Waseca library system, which had been assessing taxes separately for a decade or more, must be moved under the county’s “umbrella” for 2026. Thus, although property owners will be paying about the same amount as in previous years, figures to be included on tax statements will seem to indicate the county is asking for a larger share of that money.

All entities which receive property tax monies to support their operations—including school districts, cities, townships and counties—are required to set a preliminary levy amount in September. Property owners are sent a preliminary tax statement and provided the chance to ask questions during “truth in taxation” meetings each entity must hold during the month of December, prior to declaring a final tax levy amount. The final amount can be smaller than the one set in September, but cannot be larger.

According to information shared during the Sept. 16 meeting, the county’s total operating budget for 2026 has been set at just over \$39.6 million; \$19.2 million of that is scheduled to be levied as property taxes while \$20.4 million is expected to come from other revenue sources. The county’s budget for 2025 is \$39.5 million, with \$18 million collected in the form of property taxes.

Commissioners had recently attended a statewide Minnesota Rural Counties (MRC) gathering where they heard from leaders in other parts of the state that they were anticipating levy increases in the double digits.

“They asked ‘How can you be down that low?’” summarized board member Brad

County continued on 13



Compostings

by Al Batt

2000-Pound Cafe

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I did all I could do today. What did you do? Nothing. It was all I could do. **DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE**

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. It's hard to let go of things, but I took some of my precious stuff to the Salvation Army. The Smithsonian Institution had declined to accept even one of them. They claimed my things were too good for them. Their loss. Museum visitors will be missing a thrill or two. Imagine the lines waiting to see Al Batt's three-headed ancient Norelco electric shaver. Who wouldn't want to see that? Or the largest cornflake I'd ever seen safely ensconced in a scuffed orange pill bottle. And that pair of bookends that looks like Andy Rooney, plus a "What are you looking at?" orange hoodie. Never worn. A framed photo of the greatest NCAA basketball time-keeper of all time. Not identified by name, but cool. A polo shirt that never came close to attending a single polo match, yet it had a genuine horse manure stain. Now that I've freed up all that space, my wife won't need to be asking, "What do you get the man who has everything?" because I no longer have it.

AT MY NEIGHBOR CRANDALL'S PLACE

"Grab a bowl and put some chili in it," said Crandall. As instructed, I grabbed a big bowl and filled it with chili and oyster crackers. It was the perfect repast on a chilly day. As I ate, one of Crandall's twin hounds, either Moose or Squirrel, kept growling at me.

"Don't mind him. He likes everyone," advised Crandall.

"Then why is he growling at me?" I wondered aloud.

"It's because you're eating from his bowl."

CITIES WITH INTERESTING NAMES

Jed Clampett of the "Beverly Hillbillies" said he was from Bugtussle, Tenn. Well, doggies! There's a Bugtussle or Bug Tussle in Ala., Ky., Okla. and Texas. The Texas town was named either for an invasion of bugs that spoiled a church ice cream social or because it was a place that offered little entertainment other than watching bugs tussle. Here are some other interesting names: Bacon Level and Possum Trot, Ala. Why, Ariz. Two Eggs, Fla. What Cheer, Iowa. Gas, Kan. Monkey's Eyebrow, Ky. Nimrod and Embarrass, Minn. Hot Coffee, Miss. Worms, Neb. Whynot, N.C. Cannon Ball and Zap, N.D. Knockemstiff, Ohio. Ketchuptown, S.C. Wynot, N.C. Difficult, Tenn. Ding Dong, Texas. Satan's Kingdom and

Mosquitoville, Vt. Imalone, Wis. Tightsqueeze, Va. Okay, Okla. Chicken, Alaska. Tightwad and Frankenstein, Mo. Zzyzx, Calif. (population 1), and No Name, Colo.

I'VE LEARNED

The coolest bone in the human body is the hip.

The more expensive the car, the more likely its parking is to be substandard.

Even if you're losing brain cells while listening to someone, calling those you disagree with stupid won't change their minds.

We had a salt substitute when I was a boy. We called it pepper.

My favorite peaches should be eaten over a sink.

IN LOCAL HEADLINES

Magician's assistant graduates in the top half of her class and in the bottom half.

The 2000-Pound Cafe specializes in one-ton soup

Baking Bad Bakery offers man buns.

Popeye's Eyeglass Shop opens, with its catchphrase, "Eye am what eye am."

A buttermaker says his job has no margarine for error.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

My nephew wants to be a skydiving instructor when he grows up. I told him that was a descent career.

Cowboys hung a lantern on their saddles at night so they could find a trail in the dark. This was early saddle-light navigation.

Why is an airport the worst place to have a cold? Because it becomes a terminal illness.

"What's green and hurts if you get it in your eye?" A John Deere tractor.

NATURE NOTES

When you next hear the cheerful twittering of birds, stop and listen. Researchers from the Max Planck Institute for Human Development and the Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf have shown that birdsong reduces anxiety and irrational thoughts. The scientists published their findings in the journal Scientific Reports.

Folklore says a narrow brown band on a woolly bear caterpillar means a hard winter, and a wide brown band means a mild winter. The truth is that the wider the brown band, the older the woolly bear (woolly worm or hedgehog caterpillar).

What bird has the most feathers? Generally, the bigger the bird, the more feathers it has. An emperor penguin has around 80,000 feathers. That's nearly 60 per square inch. A ruby-throated hummingbird has approximately 1,000.

MEETING ADJOURNED

A kind word is worth 1000 pictures.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Transfixed by thunderstorms

I am transfixed by thunderstorms.

That means that this stormy summer, I have spent a fair amount of time marveling at the sky.

I acknowledge they are dangerous and that the strongest of them can do horrendous damage, but since they are an unremovable feature of nature, I am doing no harm by appreciating their variety, beauty and power.

One recent afternoon, an approaching storm was displaying constant lightning—often two and three strokes at once. Maybe just so I would have an excuse to stand there and watch it, I got out my camera and snapped a few—make that "quite a few"—photos. I wasn't satisfied with even one of them. The single way they are useful is to remind me of how magnificent the moment was.

It made me think of the fiery pillar of biblical times—how intimidating it must have been to have the sky itself bearing down from above.

Another evening I spent 20 minutes or more finding good places to take pictures of a storm which was both dark and darker. Up above, the sun had disappeared behind a skyful of deep grey clouds. Below them near the horizon were streaks of rain in various shades of grey. Some patches were as dark as the clouds, making it clear that somewhere to the north people I know were being drenched. Drivers were very likely pulling to the side of the road, unable to see

ahead of them well enough to keep moving.

In another part of the sky, as strange as it sounds, was a rainbow in grey. Rather than the solid wall of rain off to my right, straight ahead of me was a line that consisted of many different streaks, each in its own shade. In my head, I pictured the people underneath it responding to the different levels of intensity, maybe by racing between different places of shelter as the rain persistently altered its rate of flow, cowering under or behind something when it was coming down fast, then dashing to a larger or more solid structure when it lightened up.

From where I was, dry and safe miles away, it was visual poetry drawing me back to the many times I have been caught in an unexpected downpour.

I have seen hail twice this summer. Once during a drive in the northern half of the state when the rainfall was so dense we had pulled to the side of the ride. Suddenly the even pounding of the rain against the car roof was peppered by little plinking sounds. Fortunately for us—or at least for the car's exterior finish—the hailstones were very small, not even "pea" sized. We could see them hitting the hood and the windshield, bouncing slightly upward, falling a soundless second time, then being washed out of sight by the torrent of rain.

When the rain eased up and we continued our drive, we discovered we had been truly lucky in



MARVELING - This is one of the thunderstorm pictures Deb Bently has taken this summer. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

the "at least it wasn't" sense of the term. Perhaps a mile or so on, the rain had washed the small hailstones to the edge of the road, leaving them in a white line about six inches deep.

My second experience with hail was surreal in another way. I was sitting on a friend's patio during a recent visit. The view to the west was blocked by the house, but we knew a storm was coming because the sound of rumbling thunder had gradually grown to be constant as we talked. Looking upward, I could see the feathered front edge of the cloud in an open space between the house and the roof of the patio structure we were sitting under. A giant raindrop hit me square on the forehead, so I moved under the patio roof. More rain started to fall and make spray off the pavement, so I moved further in.

Next came that familiar "plinking" sound, much louder on the metal roof above me than it had seemed inside the car a few days earlier. The "peppering" was in three different keys since smaller-than-pea-sized hailstones were striking the roof of the house, the

hollow roof of the structure, and the nearby pavement.

And then it stopped, much more suddenly than it had begun.

There had been perhaps two minutes of storm, then there wasn't. All the anticipation inspired by the thunder and the downdrafted clouds had come to a moment of powerful eruption followed by anticlimax.

Not that I'm complaining, mind you. I had just helped myself to the tomatoes in my friend's garden, and would have been deeply saddened to see the harvest come to an abrupt end.

I know each of us sees the world around us from a different perspective formed by our own internal dialogues and our past experiences. For any of you who think I'm crazy because I purposely go outdoors to watch thunderstorms approach, I admit you are probably wiser than I am.

I plan to continue the habit, though, because I'm unavoidably drawn to the variety, beauty, power and magnificence of a sky filled with dynamic, unpredictable energy.

Favorite movies and rewatched shows



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

watch it. I don't think he appreciated it quite as much as I do.

The same thing happened when I showed him another of my favorite movies, "Moonstruck," featuring Nicholas Cage and Cher. It's a fantastic movie about love and opera. Jack thinks it glorifies unfaithfulness in romance because Cher's character ends up falling in love with her fiancé's brother after her fiancé goes to Italy to visit his dying mother and leaves her with the task of making amends with his brother. Maybe it could be considered cheating, but she wasn't suited to be with her fiancé anyway. He was a weird guy who didn't actually love her—and she didn't love him.

Whenever people have asked me my favorite movie, I've always responded with "The Princess Bride": A fantastic and dang near perfect movie, it was a staple of my childhood. I even was gifted The Princess Bride-opoly one year for my birthday. It wasn't until high school, though, that I learned it is based off an actual book. Perhaps the most surprising part is that the book somehow manages to be even better than the practically perfect movie.

So that's three movies for my top five list. The problem is, I don't know what the other two are. I don't see a lot of new movies anymore. I rewatch the same couple of tv shows and then watch

new shows while I eat dinner. Outside of that, I don't really watch much anymore.

I think it's interesting that people like to rewatch shows. I read once that folks with anxiety prefer to rewatch shows because then they know what is going to happen. Or maybe the show is just that good. I rewatch shows so I don't have to pay genuine attention to them; I use them as background ambiance while I'm working, cooking, doing a puzzle, or other things like that.

There was one point I even turned on Netflix on my phone while I was working out because listening to rap or rock or whatever music people usually listen to in the gym stressed me out.

TV itself is just interesting in general. It's the same it's always been, but it's forever changing. Just like we are.

My Determination: "Cynics are simply thwarted romantics." — William Goldman, The Princess Bride



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PHONE: 507-837-6767

email: news@wasecacountypioneer.com

Address: Office at 111 Elm Avenue West

Mail: PO Box 578, Waseca MN 56093

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GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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TERESA ROSACKER
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OBITUARIES

Robert Bentley

Robert “Bob” Glen Bentley, age 81 of Waseca, died on the morning of Saturday, September 20, 2025 at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato.

Bob was born at home on his family’s farm near Mapleton on October 2, 1943, to parents Glen and Lucy (Fitzpatrick) Bentley. He attended District #91 country school in Wilton Township from 1949 until 1956, then Sacred Heart Catholic School in Waseca until 1959. He later graduated from the Southern Ag School in Waseca in 1961. He was then employed part-time at Bob Byron Implement in Waseca and Budach Implement in New Richland. Bob was drafted into the United States Army on May 14, 1965, at age 22. He went to Fort Leonard Wood, MO, then to Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland, and was later stationed at Kaiserslautern, Germany from 1965 until 1967. He served in the 7th Army, Company A, 66th Maintenance Battalion. He returned home in April 1967 following his honorable discharge.

Bob farmed his entire life despite a disability of post-polio syndrome and Guillain-Barré. He utilized a wheelchair for the last 15 years but still spent his time as a “mechanic for the neighborhood” and he painted tractors and was an ace welder. On August 28, 1971, Bob was united in marriage to Bethel Ebnet at Sacred Heart Catholic



Robert Bentley

Church in Waseca.

Bob is survived by his wife of 54 years, Bethel Bentley; one sister, Mary Bentley of Somerset, WI and her son, Curtis McCall; and his brothers and sisters in law, LaVoy (Mary) Ebnet, Doris (John) Krause, Genelle (Bill) Hinchley, Bruce (Kaye) Ebnet, Gordon (Brenda) Ebnet, and Gary (Jana) Ebnet. He was preceded in death by both of his parents.

A private family memorial service will be officiated by Fr. Glenn Frerichs. Interment with Military Honors will take place at Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Waseca. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca is handling the arrangements. dsfuneral.com

Richard Sullivan

hard “Dick” Sullivan, Sr. (a.k.a. “Sully”, “Big Dick”) of Long Prairie, MN passed away on Saturday September 13th at his home on Lake Beauty after a long battle with the squirrels who relentlessly raided his bird feeders. He was surrounded by members of his loving family.

Dick was born on January 18, 1944, to William and Regina Sullivan of Marshall, Minnesota. He had five obnoxious siblings, and one nice one – whose identity remains a mystery to this day.

After graduating from Holy Redeemer High School, where he excelled in basketball and giving the nuns grief, he spent a couple of semesters at Mankato State before he was politely asked to leave. Landing on his feet in Minneapolis, he met the talented and much better-looking, Arlene Melrose of Canby. Sharing laugh-filled rides back home the two fell in love. Despite being out of his league, Arlene agreed to marry him. They would not leave each other’s side for the next fifty-eight years.

After their wedding in 1966, they moved to Waseca, Minnesota, where they raised three flawless and exceedingly humble children, Richard Jr. (Dickie/Little Dick), Daniel (Danny Joe/Eagle) and Gina (Pooh).

For more than twenty years Dick worked nights as a “Stripper” at Brown’s – a printing company in Waseca. During the day, he ran a small shop doing custom printing that kept him busy and engaged in the community. Automation led to Dick being downsized, so he and his wife, with bindle sacks over their shoulders, set out for the shores of Lake Beauty – where they realized their dream of owning a lake home.

Dick took a job at Banta Printing in Long Prairie where he discovered the value of belonging to a union – for a time serving as shop steward. When automation forced his retirement from the printing business for good, he spent his remaining working years as a real estate appraiser where he interacted with different people every day.

In retirement Dick and Arlene increased their time spent entertaining, traveling and visiting far-flung friends and family. They traveled the world together, visiting Germany, France, Poland, Czech Republic, Austria, Denmark, Netherlands, and taking many trips to Ireland. They also traveled “out west” in the U.S. and were especially fond of the winter weather and their many snowbird friends in Chandler, Arizona.

At home, Dick enjoyed tending to his trees, protecting and restoring habitat around the lake, and watching the birds and wildlife (except for the squirrels). He loved spending time with neighbors in their lake-side screen house, soaking up the sun on the golf course or on the water, and planning their next adventure.



Richard Sullivan, Sr.

Dick was at his best – and his trademark dimples, and sparkling blue eyes shined brightest – when entertaining friends and family, sharing laughs and telling stories (which sometimes were true). Having kissed the Blarney Stone in Ireland, he was blessed with the gift of gab. And he was well-known for his performances as Groucho Marx and for his annual tongue-in-cheek Christmas cards, featuring scenes like ice fishing from a canoe on a frozen lake or boarding a rusted old plane for a trip to Europe. Dick was a prankster at heart and above all a relentless teaser – if he gave you a hard time, you knew he liked you. Teasing was his love language.

One of the brightest lights in his life was his granddaughter “Belarus”. He was a doting grandpa who was unable to maintain his Midwestern stoicism when he was with her. He visited any chance he got, read her bedtime stories, and gave her rides in her wagon when she was little. As she grew, he taught her how to drive the boat, bait a fishing hook and gave her driving lessons on their secret trips for burgers and cheese curds at the “Twelve-Mile.”

Dick is survived by his children Richard Sullivan Jr., Daniel Sullivan, Gina Sullivan, granddaughter Bella Sullivan, his sisters Colleen, Sharryl (Jim), and Michelle and brother Pat (Mary). He was preceded in death by his wife Arlene, parents William and Regina Sullivan, brother Bill (Sue), sister Jeanille (Gary), and brothers in-law Al Feldhake and Alan Forbes.

He spent the last weeks of his life on home hospice care attended by the wonderful staff of Centra Care Hospice. The family wishes to acknowledge Hannah, Danielle, Kathy, Kim, and Julie for their attentive and expert care of our father and grandfather.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites you to send memorials to support the important work of Minnesota Public Radio, an enterprise that Dick, a longtime member, supported.

A Celebration of his life took place on Monday, September 22, 2025, at the Iten Funeral Home in Browerville. Arrangements are with the Iten Funeral Home of Browerville, MN.



WARM WELCOME - Waseca Area Chamber Ambassadors welcomed Shady Willow Acres as a new Chamber member. Pictured here, from left, are Diane Beckmann, Jodie Thompson, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Kris Erdman, Daryl Erdman, Molly Erdman and Kevin Walter.

Ambassadors welcome Shady Willow Acres

The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Ambassadors are excited to welcome Shady Willow Acres, a premier vacation home rental, as a new Chamber member. The Ambassadors recently visited the stunning 7-bedroom, 7.5-bathroom property to celebrate its membership and highlight all it has to offer.

From the moment guests step inside, Shady Willow Acres greets them with a grand display of windows that frame sweeping views of the surrounding land and unforgettable sunsets. The home was designed to combine comfort and

luxury with plenty of space for family gatherings, retreats, and getaways—accommodating up to 22 guests.

The main floor includes multiple sitting areas, a formal dining room, a large kitchen, five bedrooms, five full baths, two half baths, a laundry space, and even a garage-turned pickleball court. The primary suite boasts a lavish private bathroom with a spacious walk-in shower.

The lower level expands the experience with a full kitchen, cozy sitting areas, a home theater, poker room, arcade games, pool and dart

tables, plus two additional bedrooms and bathrooms. Outdoors, guests enjoy a large deck, spacious patio with grills and fire pit, scenic water ponds, and an extensive trail system perfect for nature walks and cross-country skiing. The grounds are alive with wildlife, offering frequent sightings of deer, pheasants, turkeys, ducks, and geese.

“We are thrilled to welcome Shady Willow Acres to the Chamber,” said Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Waseca Area Chamber Board of Directors. “This property is not only a gem

for visitors but also a valuable asset to our local tourism and business community.”

“Shady Willow Acres offers a unique and memorable experience that truly showcases the beauty of our region,” added Jodie Thompson, Ambassador and Membership Chair. “We’re excited to see the positive impact they will have on visitors and the opportunities this brings to our local economy.”

For more information on booking a stay at Shady Willow Acres, please visit their Facebook page, Shady Willow Acres.

Council tables preliminary levy, hears reports

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editor

Members of the New Richland City Council tabled discussion of the preliminary budget and tax levy and heard department reports during their regular city council meeting Tuesday, Sept. 2.

A resolution adopting the 2026 preliminary budget and tax levy was brought to the council, but due to concerns about little discussion on the matter, the resolution was tabled until a special meeting on Sept. 24 at 6:30 p.m. Council members said they have not spent any time discussing the matter as a council and even said more work is needed to trim the budget and avoid “using tax payers as an ATM.”

Shell Johnson with PeopleService came before the council to explain her company is trying its best to figure out where extra water is entering the city’s sewer lines. In searching for the source of the extra water, Johnson said the company is considering putting nontoxic dye in the water to see where it goes. In her report, Johnson said the plant is currently working as a bandaid. Instead of basements filling up and the plant surging with sewage and water, the plant is sending water out untreated. She added while this is saving the city thousands of dollars in insurance, it is not solving the problem. Johnson also urged the city to stress to the residents and business owners

NEW RICHLAND
CITY COUNCIL

the importance of not adding cross connections or sump pumps to the sewer.

Along with that, Johnson wanted to remind residents to slow down when they see PeopleService trucks in the street. “We all would like to go home at the end of the day alive,” she said.

Johnson and the council also discussed designating a council member to receive and share information about wastewater and stormwater. It was commented doing so would smooth out the lines of communication.

The council also accepted two donations from Mr. Dale Bayerkohler. One \$500 donation to the New Richland Fire Department for capital expenses and one \$500 donation to the New Richland Ambulance for capital expenses.

Chief of Police Tanyce Bruegger reported 98 calls for service in August.

Nite to Unite was successful, with the department going through more than 120 hot dogs and eight dozen cookies. Bruegger said they ran out of everything.

She also reiterated that anyone driving on the unpaved section of South Ash Avenue in front of the school should keep their speed down.

Bruegger said a psychological evaluation was given for a new part-time officer and Joseph Johnson started with the department on Aug. 22.

The Police Department will be hosting two movie nights coming up. Beetlejuice on Nov. 1 and The Grinch on Dec. 18. Bruegger also said the department will be hosting a Hide and Seek with Law Enforcement set tentatively for Oct. 30 in a location to be determined.

New Richland Care Center Administrator Bob Johannsen reported the August average census for the care center was 33.26 and the July average was 39. He said five residents returned home in early August, and there were two deaths.

Johannsen reported the center is continuing to expand its reach with the nurse manager making contact with local orthopedic centers due to a lot of local hospitals sending their patients there.

July’s revenue at the care center was \$492,541 with expenses being \$471,293. Johannsen said the center is also scrambling to spend grant money because they were awarded money they thought they had two

years to spend, but it was only one. With the money, he said they are redoing some sidewalks and extra drainage around the southwest corner of the building, putting in a security system outside of the building, replacing carpet and buying a lawn mower.

The Fire Department reported a quiet month, with one fire call and one medical call.

Maintenance and Utility Supervisor Eric Hendrickson reported his department will soon begin winterizing Legion Field in preparation for closing it down until spring.

In discussion of the exterior water tower updates, the council decided to just get the black band around the bottom instead of adding the logo to the water tower because “our city logo has changed many times.”

Ambulance Director Sarah Sundve said everyone is doing great, and they have had a few people reach out to be drivers. In order to be an ambulance driver, someone just has to be CPR certified.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m. The next regular city council meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 13.

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Board approves annual goals

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

WASECA
SCHOOL BOARD

At the Waseca school board’s Sept. 18 meeting, Superintendent Eric Hudspeth briefly ran through the district’s strategic plan and how the autumn actions and activities happening at each school have been directly tied in.

Hudspeth also requested board approval for his annual goals, mentioning that nothing had been altered since the board saw them at the work session. In the 2025-26 school year the superintendent’s goals include focusing on student progress, success, future readiness, and community engagement. Also included in his goals is the effective and efficient operation of facilities.

The board examined the three-year school board governance work plan while Hudspeth highlighted changes made since the work session, including engaging the Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) to assist with the annual board evaluation, a facility audit, and invigorating board recognition at the Waseca County fair.

Business Director Sarah Brandt gave a summary of the 2024-25 overall expenses for the general fund while mentioning an audit will

begin in three weeks. Brandt said the district was very close in its overall budgeted numbers. The timing of some projects resulted in a few categories of low numbers, but things looked “relatively healthy.”

Brandt next presented information surrounding the 2026 preliminary levy. Brandt said the state opens the levy information system in August and after she enters certain data, the state “spits out” a 39-page report of calculations based on factors that affect property taxes. Brandt said her department is asking the board to certify the preliminary tax levy at the maximum amount for calendar year 2026, which is fiscal year 2026-27 for the district. The actual dollar amount will be brought back to the board for approval in December at the Truth in Taxation hearing.

September is School Board Recognition Month in Minnesota. On behalf of the district, Hudspeth presented each board member with 25 Bluejay Bucks to be spent at the school store.

Senator Draheim statement on recent clinic closures

Minnesota State Senator Rich Draheim (R-Madison Lake) today issued the following statement about the announcement that Mayo will close six facilities in southern Minnesota.

“This has become a disturbing pattern. Nearly every year that I have been in the Senate, there have been clinics and facilities closed down. And every time it happens it becomes harder for rural Minnesotans to get the care they need.

“The cycle is familiar to everyone who interacts with the health-care system down here. Appointments get harder to come by. Patients are forced to look elsewhere for the care they need. Then the declining patient volumes are cited as a reason that clinics are closing. It is frustrating to watch because the result is always the

same: rural families are left with fewer options and longer drives to see a doctor.

“It is all part of a broader trend that goes beyond one company or one community. Pharmacies, clinics, and hospitals across rural Minnesota are being thinned out or closed completely, leaving large gaps in coverage. That is not acceptable for the people who live here, work here, and raise their families here. And what happens if, God forbid, there is a major emergency that requires significant local resources. Will they be available?

“I am frustrated, I am disappointed, and I am concerned about the direction we are heading. Rural Minnesotans deserve better than being asked to travel farther and farther for the care they should be able to find closer to home.”

Loren and Marlys Mifek talk old cars

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

On the east side of Clear Lake is the home of Loren and Marlys Mifek, two people who like eye-opening lawn ornaments. When regular decoration wasn’t enough, they decided to park a truck in their yard—a 1932 Ford pickup.

Loren and Marlys are hard-working people with an eye for yardage flair. Said Loren, “We’ve only had that truck there for a couple of years.” The truck is propped up on some jacks, said Loren, “I propped it up on some jacks, the tires used to spin but I have power cords attached so they don’t anymore.” There were white Christmas lights hung up around the outer frame of the vehicle, “I got the cord leading out here buried, I installed holders to keep the lights in place. The headlights themselves don’t light up but the [fuel] pump next to the vehicle does.”

Marlys said, “We have over 100 feet of lights strung up around the truck on a timer. Sometimes people will stop and take pictures standing next to it; we don’t mind.” These two go-getters have been doing all the work on their yard themselves. They



LAWN ORNAMENT - Loren and Marlys Mifek endured both the heat and the mosquitoes while being photographed next to the 1932 Ford pickup truck which decorates their property located along Clear Lake Drive.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

picked an old vehicle because they like old cars, the style and the classic styles of them. They were able to get their truck set up and presentable after a few days.

The Mifeks’ lawn is peppered with vintage gas station fuel pumps bearing ancient advertisements for Shell Oil, Conoco Phillips and Sinclair, “I have a thing for collecting old gas pumps, I’ve always just liked them.” They trailered the truck here from Windom a few years back, said Loren, “We couldn’t drive it here, it

had to be on a trailer. We parked it back in the garage almost a full year before we brought it out here.”

The Pioneer has included previous stories about two other vintage vehicles used to decorate lawns. One is a Ford F-100 on the property of James Priebe along the Wilton Bridge Road. The other is a 1925 Model TT Ford Nathan Lund has placed on his property a few miles south of Waseca on State Highway 13. Both Priebe and Lund mentioned having received numerous offers for

Janesville Farmers' Market, Music in the Park end their season

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The year’s final Janesville Farmers Market took place at the Veterans Memorial Park on Thursday, Aug. 18. There were four vendors, alongside Infinity Catering by Kendra Hoehn serving hot food and the band Family Tradition serving up the tunes, both modern and classic for the final installment of the Songs in the Park series.

The threat of rain and overcast skies did nothing to deter Kaitlyn Quast, owner of Sugar & Bloom Cake Bakery out of Janesville from being there, accompanied by her husband Allen and three of her four children. What started out as a cake baking favor request to Kaitlyn from a family member lit a fire underneath her to try going pro: “My sister-in-law asked me to make a birthday cake a while back and that’s how all this started. I definitely would not be here without her.” This summer at the Janesville’s Farmers Market was Quast’s first time selling her baked goods, she started out with custom cakes, then added mini cakes in June and now cake pops. She especially

likes it when the farmers market gets busy, “The Janesville Night Out, or Night to Remember, that was our busiest night ever. Having the market alongside the Songs in the Park series is also a really good idea to get more people to the park as well.”

She has many different design choices and is always taking suggestions, from religious cakes to Minnie Mouse, to cowboy themes, Mother’s Day, Bluey characters. Some of her cakes have looked like makeup kits, notebooks or school supplies, and more. The choices may seem like a strange mixture but it simply shows the spectrum of decoration choices available from Sugar & Bloom. Flavors include Reeses, strawberry crunch, pumpkin, blueberry zucchini, classic vanilla, vanilla with strawberry filling. Quast expresses a willingness to other flavors as well.

A woman and her two children approached the stand and placed their order. While the adults were talking the kids partook in the samples. Both children nodded their approval of the cakes as they ate. As she spoke, the band Family Tradition was unloading musical instruments and setting



BAKED GOODS - Kaitlyn Quast of Sugar & Bloom Cake Bakery set up her stand at the final Janesville Farmers' Market on Sept. 18, 2025.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

up underneath the bandstand. The musicians were checking the skies and the radar on their phones to see if the rain was likely to get worse. A light drizzle had started and the clouds moving in overhead were pretty dark.

The rain ended up not happening, so nothing was canceled, said Kaitlyn, “The band played till 7:30 p.m. and it only sprinkled one more time

for maybe five minutes. Thursday ended up being a beautiful fall evening.” Anyone interested in more information about Sugar & Bloom can check Instagram, @sugar.and.bloom.by.kaitlyn. Sugar & Bloom plans to stay in operation as the weather changes, and will be sharing information about a sale in October when plans are complete.

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ROOTS AWARD - Pictured here are the Waseca Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors congratulating Clifton Larson Allen (CLA) for the company’s longstanding commitment to the Waseca community. From left: Theresa Sunde, Amy Potter, Abby Clemons, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Marcy Buchele, James Hayes, Jodie Thompson, Molly Erdman, Kristie Biehn, and Larry Johnson.

Clifton Larson Allen recognized with Roots Award

The Waseca Area Ambassadors are proud to announce the awarding of the prestigious Roots Award to Clifton Larson Allen (CLA), recognizing their longstanding commitment to the Waseca community. The Roots Award honors established Chamber businesses that have served the community for 30 years or more, providing essential goods and services that contribute to the local economy and quality of life.

Clifton Larson Allen, a leading

professional services firm, has been a pillar in the Waseca area for over three decades, demonstrating unwavering dedication to its clients and the community. Their expertise in accounting, tax, and consulting services has played a crucial role in the growth and success of many local businesses.

“Clifton Larson Allen exemplifies what it means to be a community partner,” said Robin Dulas, Executive Director of the Waseca Chamber

of Commerce. “Their commitment to excellence and service over the years has not only helped countless individuals and businesses thrive but has also strengthened the fabric of our community. We are thrilled to recognize their contributions with the Roots Award.”

Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Board of Directors of the Waseca Chamber of Commerce & Tourism, remarked, “We are proud to honor Clifton Larson Allen with

the Roots Award. Their dedication and service to the Waseca community over the past 30 plus years is a shining example of what it means to be a cornerstone business. We look forward to celebrating their continued success and impact in our area.”

For more information about Clifton Larson Allen, go to <https://www.claconnect.com/>

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NOW WASECA HOME COMING

WASECA ROYALTY

2024 Sophie Chanra, Ben Hagen
2023 Ava Omtvedt, Jack Anderson
2022 Samantha Azure, Will King
2021 Alayna Akers & Miguel Beltran
2020 Gabriela Rodriguez & Zander Fitzsimmons
2019 Gus Boyer & Xander Spies
2018 Olivia Wendland & Matt Olsem
2017 Klaire Harris & Brett Attenberger
2016 Jessica Hodge & Tom Donelan
2015 Allison Breck & Hans Baumgarn
2014 Jordyn Berg, Mikayla Rolling & Jared Rudolph
2013 Corinne Dennis & Thomas O'Neil
2012 Loral Barrie & Gunner Johnson
2011 Erica Hall & Kevin Glynn
2010 Crystal VonEndee & Brandon Pederson
2009 Danni Collins & Justin Deling
2008 Stephanie Possehl & Caleb Davis
2007 Taylor Froehle & Ethan Schultz
2006 Abby Neigebauer & Dustin Platte
2005 Katey O'Neil & Kyser Bartelt
2004 Molly Kolpin & Matt Strehlow
2003 Megan Conway & Zack Walgenbach
2002 Charity Hall & Matt Hines
2001 Katie Bluhm & Ben Janike
2000 Lindsay Wadd & Jeff Mosser
1999 Josie Yess & Levi Kaiser
1998 Molly Arnold & Reid Bartelt
1997 Ann Staloch & Mark Boehme
1996 Angie Dennis & Ryan Krautkremer
1995 Katie Anderson & Jacob Conway
1994 Jane Slama & Tim Steffen
1993 Julie Dey
1992 Angela Harguth

WASECA HOMECOMING 2025



The 2025 Waseca Homecoming Court: from left, Paige Dufault, Cyrett Long, Chloe Roemhildt, Jordan Johnston, Katie Olson, Ethan Hiller, Layla Keith, Deron Russell, Meraina Hiller, Slade Barnett, Ellery Waldron, Caleb Wulf.

WASECA HOMECOMING 2025



WASECA
BLUEJAYS

1991 Tanya Jensen
1990 Cristeen Schumacher
1989 Tricia Hansen
1988 Debbie Born
1987 Deb Gehring
1986 Jodi Mullen
1985 Deb Kuhns
1983 Pam Harter
1982 Julie Gehloff
1981 Anne Pfeifer

1980 Dawn Peterson
1978 Lisa Fuller
1977 Shawn Milbrett
1976 Jody Pfeifer
1975 Elizabeth Welna
1974 Nancy Markus
1973 Penny Felber
1972 Dawn Felber & John Gleason
1971 Mary Welna

WASECA
HOMECOMING 2025



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• The median house price increased by 416% between 1980 & 2020.
• If a renter spends 50% of their income on housing.
• U.S. home values have increased 7.2% over the past three years.
• A little over one-third of sellers initially try to sell their homes themselves as a "For Sale by Owner" listing. However, only about 10% of sellers actually get their FSBO listing across the finish line; the rest give up and hire a real estate agent.

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HOMECOMING 1955



Queen Gwen Pratt with Marlene Seim, Audrey Johnson, Janet Below, Deanna Bartz, Darlo Mittelstaedt

KING AND QUEEN 1972



Dawn Felber and John Gleason



WASECA HOMECOMING FOOTBALL 2014



Back from left: Joe Hedervare, Dave Abel, Ed Hoehn, Steve G., coach, Brad Wendland, Seth

Jr Royalty
2024 Ella Wilson, Eli Janike
2023 Izzy Gilson,
Milo DeWees
2022 Ella Marlin,
Emmett Byron
2021 Mya Marlin,
Peyton Feders & Korbin Collins
2020 No Jr Royalty-Covid
2019 Sydney Langager & Keenan Collins
2018 Abby Gilson & Ashten Benavides
2017 Zoe Popp & Miles Popp
2016 Audrianna Willingham &

Ryan DeWees
2015 Ellie Hoehn & David Hodgkins
2014 Avery Madsen & Riley Mitchell
2013 Ella Holub & Alen Kopetzki
2012 Katelynn Hodgkins & Owen Link
2011 Lindsey Kopetzki & Parker Link
2010 Sophie Alinder & Ryan Wendland
2009 Reagan Vilt & Blake Wendland
2008 Kennedy Hodgkins & Mar-

cus Priebe; Courtney Davison & Jonah Jimmerson
2007 Lexi Hodgkins & JP Swanson
2006 Alexa Shafer & Tyler Wendland
2005 Andrew Kaiser & Claire Harris
2004 Ben Weller & Whitney Davison
2003 Konnor Harris & Nathan Draheim
2001 Torren Byrd & Caitlyn Hayford
2000 Kristen Williams & Matt

Kaiser
1999 Tim Christopherson & Keari Harris
1998 Kyle Cosens & Mackenzie Koble
1992 Peter Swanson & Elizabeth Hansen
1990 Omni Ayers & Justin Ask
1989 Brittany Feder & Colby Swanson
1988 Katie Zika & John Robert Currie
1986 Lindsey & Brin
1985 Heidi Hammond & Brian Kunz

1983 Anne Gilbertson & Mark Zika
1982 Hilary Feder & Jared Dufault
1981 Angie Hammond & Chad Gilbertson
1980 Katie Walter & Joel Wessman
1978 Krissy Williams & Tim Beckman
1976 Katie Bendix & Kevin Walter
1974 Eddie Williams & Debbie Williams
1971 Wendy Nelson & Greg Eberline

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ASE



TOUGH D — Above, the Bluejays’ Jonah Worke (21) breaks up a pass during Waseca’s 21-0 shutout of Norwood-Young America last Friday. Below, Bluejay quarterback Kellen Klinger delivers a pass.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



Jays blank NYA

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Two punt returns for touchdowns, wiped out by penalties. A game delayed for 30 minutes by lightning, bringing rain and a sloppy field that slowed both offenses. A long halfback pass - that didn't result in any points.

It seems Waseca High School's home football game against Central of Norwood-Young America had just about everything.

Everything, that is, except a Raiders score.

The Waseca defense led the way, pitching a shutout to buoy the Bluejays to a 21-0 victory, improving their record to 4-0 while NYA dropped to 2-2.

"I said it was the best defense we would play all year," said Waseca coach Brad Wendland. "They're an athletic bunch, and were without two of our starting offense linemen tonight."

That led to tough going on the ground.

"We couldn't estblish a consistent running game," said Wendland. "Our execution has to be better. Our defense, to come out with a shutout, is impressive," said Wendland. "Defensively we never really felt threatened."

Wendland likes the Bluejays' effort and the fact they play so hard.

"We play hard," said the coach. "We kind of hang our hat on that. We're emerging into the team that we want to be."

The Bluejays put the first points on the scoreboard in the opening period, but the PAT kick was blocked, leaving Waseca up 6-0.

They made up for it in the second quarter, converting a two-

"We're emerging into the team that we want to be."

— Brad Wendland

point PAT try.

Jordan Johnston scored the only points in the third period on a 36-yard pass by Kellen Klinger. Owen Rupe kicked the PAT for a 21-0 lead.

Waseca offensive reserves took the field with three minutes remaining, and milked the clock on the ground, Sam Selthun finishing the game with a 41-yard run.

The Bluejays host TCU for Homecoming this Friday.

Waseca 21, NYA 0				
NYA	0	0	0	0 — 0
WAS	6	8	7	0 — 21

	NYA	WAS
First downs	5	11
Rushing	19	95
Passing	71	210
Total Yds.	90	305
Penalties	6-70	6-70

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing — WAS: Johnston 4-54; Parpart 5-15; Selthun 5-48; Klinger 20-72; Passing — WAS: Klinger 16-29, 210; Receiving — WAS: Johnston 11-48; Russell 4-45; Long 2-77

Class AAA State Rankings	
1. Waseca	4-0
2. Annandale	4-0
3. Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton	3-1
4. Litchfield	3-1
5. Fairmont/Martin Luther	3-1
6. Dassel-Cokato	2-2
7. Albany	3-1
8. New London-Spicer	2-2
9. Pierz	4-0
10. Holy Family Catholic	4-0

Soccer girls trim Wing United, tie New Ulm



Above, members of the Waseca High School girls' soccer team celebrate a goal during their 3-0 win over Wings United Tuesday, Sept. 16. From left: Ava Bruhn (9), Khloe Fuller (7). At left, Ella Bulfer, who registered the shutout in goal, unleashes a free kick.

Bulfer recorded another shutout in the Bluejays' game at New Ulm last Thursday, but the Bluejays were also unable to put the ball in the net, resulting in a 0-0 tie.

The WHS soccer girls ran their record to 0-3-2 in the Big South Conference Black Division and 3-5-1 overall.

Photos by Debbie Rodriguez

WHS CC girls win at Albert Lea invitational

Omtvedt 4th overall

The Waseca High School girls' cross country team finished first in the Albert Lea Invitational Tuesday, Sept. 16 at Bancroft Bay Park.

The Bluejays won with 41 points, edging Belle Plaine, which totaled 43, Red Wing had 67, Albert Lea 87.

Waseca girls places and times for 5000 meters: Stella Omtvedt, fourth, 21:21.6; Maren Schimming, seventh, 21:44.3; Ellie Kopischke, ninth, 22:30.4; Quinn Yoder, 10th, 22:43.6; Taylor Markeson, 11th, 22:44.3.

Waseca's Leah Wilson won the 2500-meter junior high race with a time of 11:12.9. Violet Hughes was ninth in 12:59.7.

The Waseca varsity boys were fourth with 106 points. Belle Plaine won it with 22. Albert Lea scored 53, Red Wing 54.

Bluejay places and times: Wyatt Hager, 19th, 20:13.9; Keenan Collins, 21st, 20:33.1; Luke Feldkamp, 35th, 22:10.2; Korbin Collins, 38th, 23:21.7; Sam Feldkamp, 43rd, 24:21.

In the JV boys' 2500-meter race: Noah Love, eighth, 10:32.4; Kurt Erickson, ninth, 10:37.3; Miles Popp, 22nd, 11:48.8; Will Deml, 25th, 12:08.9; Owen Fierke, 28th, 12:45.7.

Panthers fall short 49-12 at LA

For the second week in a row, the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School football team was on the road to face a formidable foe.

The result was similar. The Panthers, who lost 56-20 at Southland the previous week, fell 49-12 at Lewiston-Altura.

"It was a tough loss for the Panthers," said NRHEG coach Marc Kruger. "It was a lot to go through with the three-hour delay Friday night, just to get sent home and come back in the morning. It was tough on the team. We did not play our best game today. We have some things to work on to get ready for a very good Redwood Valley team on Friday. Hopefully, we can be done with the bad weather, too."

Calvin Nissen scored in the second quarter for the Panthers on a 20-yard touchdown pass from Brooks Gilliland. A two-point conversion failed.

The Panther defense had trouble containing the Cardinals, yielding 21 first-quarter points. LA led 35-6 at halftime.

In the third period, Ryan Schlaak caught a 19-yard touchdown pass from Gilliland. Again, a two-point conversion try failed.

The Panthers yielded 494 yards while gaining 277. Both teams had 19 first towns and both were penalized five times.

Sean Lassahn was the Panthers' top ball carrier with 74 yards on 17

NRHEG football team hosts Redwood Valley Friday

"It was a lot to go through with the three-hour delay Friday night, just to get sent home and come back in the morning. It was tough on the team."

— NRHEG coach Marc Kruger

attempts. Gilliland completed 18 of 39 passes for 215 yards.

Nissen notched his second straight 100-yard receiving game with 108 yards on seven catches.

Lassahn led the defense with seven tackles.

The Panthers play this Friday at home against Redwood Valley

Lewiston-Altura 49, NRHEG 12				
NRHEG	0	6	6	0 — 12
LA	21	14	7	7 — 49

First Quarter	
LA — 1 run (two-point conversion failed)	
LA — 2 run (two-point conversion successful)	
LA — 71 pass (kick successful)	
Second Quarter	
LA — 10 pass (kick successful)	
LA — 51 pass (kick successful)	
NRHEG — Nissen 20 pass from Gilliland (two-point conversion unsuccessful)	
Third Quarter	
LA — 50 fumble return (kick successful)	
NRHEG — R.Schlaak 19 pass from Gilliland (two-point version failed)	
Fourth Quarter	

	NRHEG	LA
Total plays	52	76
First downs	19	19
Rushing	62	288
Passing	215	206
Third Down	2-13	2-5
Fourth Down	2-7	2-2
Fumbles lost	3	5
Penalties	5-25	5-28

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING — NRHEG: Lassahn 17-74; Wyrum 2-13; Nissen 2-6; M.Gilliland 4-2; Piepho 1-2; Holland 1 — 1; B.Gilliland 6 — 34; LA: Prigge 7-79; Wenzel 1-13; Samano 1-11
PASSING — NRHEG: B.Gilliland 18-39, 215; LA: 8-11, 206
RECEIVING — NRHEG: Nissen 7-108; Lassahn 6-45; Meyering 3-24; M.Gilliland 1-0; LA: Wenzel 1-10
NRHEG defense — Lassahn 7T, 1S; R.Schlaak 3T; Beauvais 3T, 1S; Conroy 2T; Bartlett 2T; Wyrum 1T; Meyering 1T; Weller 1T; D.Schlaak 1T; Larson 1T

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Bulldogs blasted at WEM

The JWP High School football team had a rough go of it last Friday, surrendering 30 first-points while falling 51-14 to WEM at Waterville.

"It was a tough one," said Bulldogs coach Ryan Luedtke.

It was indeed a tough one for JWP, which yielded 561 yards of total offense and 29 first downs for the Bucs. The Bulldogs, meanwhile, managed 174 yards and nine first downs. WEM had a 200-yard and a 100-yard ball carrier in the game. Chase Gerdts led JWP with 28 yards on 12 carries.

The Bulldogs got on the board in the third quarter on a 72-yard pass from Daulton Bauer. A two-point conversion try failed. WEM tacked on a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns while the Bulldogs scored on

an 80-yard pass to Caleb Quast from Seth Dahlberg.

The Bulldogs travel to Adams to face Southland this Friday.

WEM 51, JWP 14				
JWP	0	0	7	7 — 14
WEM	30	8	0	13 — 51

First Quarter
WEM — Atherton 6 run (Atherton run)
WEM — Atherton 12 run (Einertson run)
WEM — Atherton 22 run (two-point conversion unsuccessful)
Second Quarter
JWP — Walker 72 pass from D.Bauer (two-point conversion failed)
Third Quarter
JWP — G. Bauer 22 pass from Dahlberg (Peterson kick)
WEM — Atherton 10 run (Murphy run)
Fourth Quarter
JWP — Quast 24 pass 80 pass from Dahlberg (Peterson run)

WEM — Murphy 50 run (Breyer run)

	JWP	WEM
Plays	38	53
First downs	9	29
Total Yds.	174	561
Penalties	3-12	4-56

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing — JWP: Hood 1-1; Dahlberg 3 — 4; Schultz 4-8; Kronbach 1-5; Gerdts 12-28; WEM: Taylor 22-200; Murphy 6-88; Atherton 17-157; Richards 1-9; Brayer 4-57; Root 1-9; Sammon 2-20; Einertson 1-5
Passing — JWP: D.Bauer 2-3, 23; Dahlberg 4-11, 129; WEM: Taylor 1-5, 7
Receiving — JWP: Quast 4-94; G.Bauer 4-54; Gerdts 1-4; Walker 1-0; Wolff 1-0; Kronbach 1-0; WEM: Tolzman 1-0; Androli 1-7; Einertson 1-0
JWP Defense — Hood 3T; Quast 4T; G.Bauer 3T; Scholl 2T; Peterson 1T; Weedman 9T; Gearty 9T; Gerdts 14T, Barbknecht 1T; Rolfson 3T; Rider 6T; Johnson 3T; Freitag 1T



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Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

[illegible]

The

Pastor’s Column

‘Better together’

By PASTOR RICK WULF

There was once a man who lived in the middle of a small, yet bustling town. Despite the busyness of the town and his particular street, he was always alone. He was known for his tidy house, meticulously-trimmed hedges, and plush lawn. On his front porch was a swing that he had installed, but had never sat in it. His car was new, his pantry full, his life seemingly perfect. Yet when he closed his door at night, the only sound that could be heard was the hum of the refrigerator.

The townsfolk would see him every day, always in motion. Perhaps headed to the bank, or to the office, or to the store. He had no wife, no children, no one to call, “friends”. When anyone asked him why, he simply said, “I’m just too busy.”

One day, a boy delivering newspapers stopped to ask him, “Sir, why do you work so much? Do you ever rest?” The man smiled, though not warmly. “Rest is for those who have earned it. I must keep building, keep storing. Someday, I will have enough.” The boy looked puzzled, “Enough for who?” Stunned, the man couldn’t answer such a simple question.

One winter evening, snow unexpectedly fell on the town. As the man shoveled snow from his walk, he slipped and he fell. Hard. Perhaps he blacked out, he wasn’t sure. For a long while, he lay on the ground, the snow soaking through his coat. He waited for someone to come, calling weakly for help. Even though his neighbors’ windows glowed with firelight, no one noticed him, no one heard. Finally, shivering and sore, he mustered enough strength to crawl back inside. As he lay there sleepless, the question the paperboy had asked long ago echoed in his mind, “Enough for who?”

Years passed. The man grew wealthier. He bought a vacation home, which he rented out almost constantly. He bought a business, then another, and then hired workers to manage them. He counted his profits carefully each night. But as he had every night before, he returned home to silence.

Across the street, a young couple, married just a couple years, started a business: a small bakery, filled with love and the aroma of donuts, pastries, and bread. They were not rich, not like the man with the empty house. Their clothes were plain and their car old, but their shop was warm, and they were never lonely.

Every morning, they rose before dawn. The sound of their laughter and singing could be heard outside as they mixed the ingredients and shaped the dough. When one of them was tired, the other one was there to give strength. When one was discouraged, the other one brought joy. And when one stumbled carrying flour, the other one reached out a steady hand.

Despite the beauty of their relationship, their business was not without hardship. Some days the customers were few and the money was short. A customer once asked them how they kept such cheer. The husband replied, “Because we walk together. When I fall, she lifts me. When she grows cold, I keep her warm. And when danger comes, we stand back-to-back. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”

As the solitary man grew older, he noticed he was growing weaker, while noticing the couple at the bakery growing stronger. His house was quiet and empty while the bakery was always full of life. He could hear children laughing, friends gathering, and neighbors coming by just to buy another loaf of their bread.

One afternoon, he passed by the bakery while the wife was outside sweeping. “Would you like to try a new bread we’re testing?” she asked kindly. The man hesitated, unsure whether he should accept “a freebie”. He accepted the gift and as he ate, he realized it was the first time in a very long time that he had shared food with another person.

That one visit changed something inside him. He began to intentionally pass by the bakery to enjoy the aroma. Then he walked in and bought a pastry or two. Soon, he lingered to talk. He told the couple of his houses, his savings, his long hours of work. Finally, one day he confessed, “I thought I was building a good life, but I have built only walls.” The husband laid a hand on his shoulder and said, “Walls keep things out...and you in. You have stored much but shared little. Let me ask you: what good is treasure if no one rejoices with you?”

That night, the man went back to his meticulously kept house, sat alone in his expensive chair, and thought about all he had accomplished. He thought of the newspaper boy’s words years earlier, and the laughter that spilled out of the bakery. And then he thought of how easily his fall in the snow might have been the end of his life with no one to care. In that moment he realized that he was incredibly rich in things, but extremely poor in the things that matter. He had gained the whole world, but he had no one to share it with.

So, he set his mind to change that. It began slowly at first, but he gave away one of his houses to a struggling family. He sold another and used the money to help repair the old playground in town. He began to spend time with the bakers and with his other neighbors he had once ignored. Little by little, the walls he had built began to crumble.

Years later, the man passed away. The townsfolk gathered for his funeral, overflowing the small church he had begun to attend. Families he had helped, children he had begun to love, church members he served with, and the bakers he had learned so much from, were all there to celebrate his life. They remembered him. Not for his houses or his wealth, but for his kindness, and his friendship. They spoke of his late but genuine discovery: that life is not measured by what you store up, but by what you pour out.

And so, we are all left with this lesson written not on stone, but on our hearts: Two are better than one. Woe to the one who falls with no one to lift him. But blessed is the one who walks with companions. For though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves—and a cord of three strands is not quickly broken. We are better together.

Woodville Cemetery Walk set for Sept. 28

The Woodville Cemetery Walk returns for its third year on Sunday, Sept. 28, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca. This free, family-friendly event invites the public to stroll through the historic grounds, learn about the people who shaped Waseca’s past, and see the cemetery as a place of both remembrance and community history.

Each year, the walk has focused on a different set of individuals buried within the cemetery. The first year highlighted some of Waseca’s earliest settlers and founding families whose vision helped establish the community. The second year focused on business leaders and shop owners whose storefronts once lined downtown Waseca.

This year’s walk will center on educators and others connected to both the Waseca school system and the rural schools of Waseca County – teachers, administrators, and supporters whose influence helped shape generations of students across the area. Through stories shared at each gravesite, participants will gain insight into the dedication, challenges, and community spirit of these individuals, some of whom left their mark on local education more than a century ago.

Advance registration is required for the event. On the day of the walk, participants will board a shuttle bus at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service and be transported to the cemetery. This helps ensure safe and convenient access for all attendees. Registration can be made online at the funeral home website: dsfouneral.com or by calling the funeral home at 507-835-2190.

The event is free of charge, though donations are welcomed to help preserve and enhance the cemetery. Past donations have funded important improvements, such as a sign marking



REMEMBERED - Featured on this year’s cemetery walk taking place through Woodville Cemetery on Sept. 28, are people who were influential in regional education and culture.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

beauty of Woodville Cemetery, while discovering the fascinating stories of the people who rest there. The walk offers a unique opportunity to connect with local history in a personal and meaningful way.

Potter’s Field and a new interpretive sign to be installed this year near the Everett Mausoleum, offering visitors historical context about the site.

Organizers hope the event will encourage both residents and visitors to take time to enjoy the peaceful

Council awards Harvey for assistance

By JANESVILLE JOURNAL

The Janesville council has started meeting twice a month instead of monthly to go over its budget and the tax levy for 2026. Monday, September 8, was the first of these meetings, and it all started with a Janesville resident receiving the Civilian Medal of Appreciation On January 4, 2024, Shameek Harvey assisted Sergeant Vanderwilt during a “high-risk arrest.” Although not much detail was given, the report shared by Chief Steven Johnson stated that “his intervention provided officers with critical support in safely restraining the suspect, preventing further escalation, and ensuring the safety of both the public and the officers involved.”

The report continued, “Mr. Harvey acted with sound judgment, restraint, and bravery under pressure. His actions reflect the highest ideals of community partnership and public service, exemplifying the powerful impact of collaboration between citizens and law enforcement.”

Harvey received love from his family and thanks from the council shortly after being awarded the Civilian Medal of Appreciation.

The council then reviewed the budgets of the public works department and the sanitary and storm sewer systems. In the street department portion of the public works budgets, there has been only a 2.2 percent increase between 2025 and 2026, or approximately \$10,000. Much of that is attributed to in-

creases in electricity, tree removal, and miscellaneous.

Public works manager Joe Ziemke explained that the \$6,000 increase in electricity was to cover the costs of lighting in Janesville. “We also bumped up the tree removal line with the ash borer moving in,” he added. The increase in miscellaneous items was to cover any minor items that might arise.

The editor would like to note that while it’s common for the budget to include increases in salaries and wages, the street department decreased that line item by about \$8,500 for 2026.

In the parks department, there is about a 5.4 percent increase, or over \$7,000. Much of that is comprised of small increases throughout the budget, including wage and salary increases, as well as insurance costs (notably property insurance).

In the sanitary and storm sewer budgets, the sanitary sewer budget is expected to decrease in 2025. The primary reason is that the equipment repair line item will go down. Both Ziemke and Utility General Manager Andrea Moen explained that the main lift station requires repairs, and much of that work appears to be taking place this year. This is why the repair line item is decreasing from \$75,000 in 2025 to \$35,000, contributing to the overall budget increase.

Moen did share that they are considering a rate increase. Currently, the rate is a 50-cent base charge with 75 cents for usage. Currently, the lo-



HONORED - Shameek Harvey was recently presented with an award by Janesville Police Sergeant Vanderwilt and Chief Johnson for assistance he provided during a high-risk event.

west bill is about \$34.25. The rate increase would boost that to about \$36.75, or \$2 more. This would still put Janesville below average, especially in the sewer category. Currently, the city has the lowest rates, starting at \$34.25 for sewer and \$34 for water. Eagle Lake was the next lowest at \$46.82 for sewer and \$34.86 for water.

In the storm sewer budget, revenues are expected to increase by approximately \$7,000, while expenses are projected to rise by over \$22,000. Much of the rise can be attributed to the professional services line item, with Moen explaining that ditch maintenance and the GIS assessments are contributing to the expense hike.

Harvey continued on 12



Waseca

County

History Center

You are cordially invited to the Waseca County Historical Society's

Annual Meeting

Wednesday October 8, 2025

5:30 pm - Social Hour

6:00 pm - Meeting and Dinner

Meeting: Free to attend.
Dinner tickets: \$30.00 per person.
Reserve your spot by October 1, 2025
507-835-7700

Choice of Chicken or
Vegetarian burrito
Served with rice and beans



Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH
2200 4th St NE, Waseca
507-835-2235
Service times 9:30 a.m.
* * * *

4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH
605 4th St NE, Waseca
507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker)
Worship Sundays 10 a.m.
* * * *

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

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 6th St NE, Waseca
507-835-9176
Worship Sundays 9 a.m., Sunday School/Fellowship 10:15 a.m., Wednesday evening worship 6:30 p.m.
* * * *

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca
507-833-1703
Sundays 9:00 a.m.
* * * *

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
314 4th Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-2647
Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m.
* * * *

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net)
Worship Sunday 10 a.m.
* * * *

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 E Elm Ave, Waseca
507-835-1709
Worship Sunday 9 a.m.
* * * *

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
111 4th St NW, Waseca
Father Glenn Ferichs
507-835-1222
Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m.
* * * *

REAL LIFE CHURCH
620 W Elm Ave, Waseca

507-607-8245
Sunday worship 10 a.m.
* * * *

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS
1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca
507-835-4640
Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.
* * * *

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

CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY
900 14th Ave SE, Waseca
507-833-1082
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m.
* * * *

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship
Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship
* * * *

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

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

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

VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota

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

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

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Father Glenn Ferichs
Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass
Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m.
* * * *

FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod
Waldorf, Minnesota
Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe
Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class
* * * *

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Freedom Township
Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship
* * * *

ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Pastor Ava Adams-Morris
Waldorf, Minnesota
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
* * * *

ST. JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC
Waldorf, Minnesota
Father Sammy Pothiredy
Saturday - 5 p.m. Worship
* * * *

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

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

12-18
* * * *

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
412 N. Main Street, Janesville
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
401 N. West St., Janesville
Pastor Kathy King
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship
* * * *

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

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH
307 W. 2nd St, Janesville
Father Robert Schneider
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. - Mass
* * * *

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

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

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

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

NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.

Janesville

1925

- “The biggest attendance in the history of the fair.” That’s what the men in charge of the annual event said after a check-up of the figures Saturday. In spite of the fact that rain interfered with the second evening’s program, the gate receipts for the three days were considerably in excess of any other year. The attendance Friday evening was the largest by far ever seen on the grounds. The crowd was so dense that it was almost impossible to move down the midway, to say nothing of securing a seat in the grandstand which was filled before seven o’clock.

- Clifford Johnston, who had been engaged as director of the newly organized band, has been disengaged. For a few days he appeared to be exactly the man for the position, as he has an undoubted ability along band instruction lines evidenced during his short stay here. However, the last few days he was different, decidedly different. Inasmuch as he roomed at the Hotel Sinnott he probably found the sight of the city’s mammoth water tank immediately across the street from his window too depressing because of its indicated capacity. So Janesville is looking for a new band director. The right man is offered a good proposition and will meet with the hearty support of our people in every way – and he will get his pay regularly, too.

- Wednesday morning’s cannonading announced the opening of the hunting season. Hunters were out in force, every duck pass and rice lake in the county being occupied with nimrods and their scatter guns. Several fair strings were brought back to town, though it is said that the first day was hardly as resultful as has been in other years. Those who went after chickens found them particularly chary and elusive. The warm weather is not conducive to good duck shooting and it will probably be necessary to wait for some of the cooling Canadian breezes to send the ducks down this way in numbers.

1950

- The report for the Dairy Herd Improvement Association for the month of August has just been submitted by the tester, Elmer Horn. There were 26 herds in the association for the month, having 412 cows – 291 cows were milking and 121 were dry. Five herds in the association averaged over 25 lbs. of butterfat per cow for the month. Twentyeight individual cows produced over 40 pounds of butterfat. Five cows produced over 50 lbs. of butterfat. The high herd this month was that of Ernest Marquardt, Freedom Township. Ernest had 14 cows milking and they produced 1,056 lbs. of milk and 35.1 lbs. of butterfat. Ernest has a herd of grade Holsteins.

- That the Janesville Fire Department is interested in new and means of extinguishing fires in the rural areas of Janesville is indicated by the fact that at a recent meeting of the department it was decided to purchase a new fire truck to be used only in the rural area. Fire Chief Harvey Gardner stated this morning that the department also plans to purchase in the near future a new 600-gallon capacity tanker truck to be used in the rural areas where insufficient water hampers the progress of extinguishing a fire.

1975

- Special education will be getting extra emphasis at Janesville Public School because of a new six-school cooperative designed to implement a federal grant for the teaching of disabled children. Janesville’s District 830 has joined with Waseca, Waldorf, New Richland, Ellendale, and Waterville in a cooperative effort to implement the new program under a Title VI Grant that will run for four years. The program will be entirely funded the first year, including the salary of Special Education Director Pat Westman, a teacher with 15 years experience including work with the disabled.

- Like most teenagers, Norm Barnhart has his bedroom walls plastered with posters. But instead of singers like Elton John or the latest rock group, Barnhart has his idols on the wall – world famous magicians like Harry Houdini and the Great Blackstone. Barnhart, 17, comes by his interest in magic through his father, Rev. Jerald Barnhart, pastor at Zion Methodist Church in St. Clair. In the 1950s the senior Barnhart toured Korea as a ventriloquist with a USO show. Prior to entering the ministry 10 years ago, the senior Barnhart worked as a disc jockey.

- “Don’t give up on us... we’re learning from our mistakes.” That’s George Tuvey’s voice of optimism after his Golden Bears dropped their second straight shutout, a 29-0 loss to defending Gopher champion, Blooming Prairie. “As soon as we can stabilize our blocking, our offense will begin rolling and our defense won’t have to be under such pressure,” Tuvey said. The Bears played the conference opener without senior Cliff Keyes who injured his hip in the loss to Lake Crystal and is still on the mend. Keyes’ absence hurt, but sophomore Toby Yard did well at a position he only had two days to practice.

2000

- Four Janesville High School alumni – Bill Bartelt, Josh Berndt, Mike Miemczyk and Tim Bartelt – members of the Region 4C Champions, the Waterville Indians, recently competed in the Minnesota 2000 State Amateur Baseball Tournament held in Sleepy Eye and Fairfax. Thirty-two teams from throughout the entire state of Minnesota participated, providing they qualified by placing first or second in their prospective region.

- At 7:18 p.m. on Wednesday, August 30, Janesville police officer John McGuire was dispatched to G&S Gas Station in Janesville to investigate a report of a robbery. G&S employee, Tyler Winter, 17, told Officer McGuire that he had been assaulted and robbed by a white male believed to be in his early 20s. The suspect had been hanging around the station for over 20 minutes. According to Mike Lund, manager of the station, when Winter leaned over to fill the pop machine, the suspect grabbed checks and cash out of Winter’s pocket. “I yelled at him to give the money back,” said Winter. “He told me I seemed like a nice kid and he didn’t want to bust my face.” Before fleeing the station, the suspect threw Winter to the floor. “I scraped by knee,” said Winter, “but I’m fine.”

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Waseca

25 years ago

- Primary day 2000 will soon be history. The polls are open tonight until 8 p.m. for anyone who still wants to vote. Registration may be done right at the polling locations. When the votes are counted, the races will finally be set for the main attraction in November. It has been the most expensive primary election in Minnesota history, making yet another case for campaign finance reform.



- **Joe Mulder, Curt Gustafson, Matt Mulder, Tim Harriman, Jay Harriman and Mike Anderson.**

- Viking Woodcrafts, Inc. is a host site for the National Society of Decorative Painters sponsored event, “Let’s Paint Day,” this Saturday, Sept. 16. The Society is providing all materials and instructors an Viking is opening its facilities to the public for these classes. There are 24 openings for a 10 a.m.-noon session, as well as 24 openings for the 1-3 p.m. session.

- Gov. Jesse Ventura’s push to restrict the Legislature to meeting every other year instead of annually is gaining some momentum among Waseca area officials. “I love it,” said Republican Senator Don Ziegler of Elmore. “I am 100 percent for it.” He is confident that every thing could get done in one year. “I think we could do it except for emergencies, and I think public pressure will move us that way.” Ziegler said.

50 years ago

- Sweet Corn for Processing - Based on Sept. 1 conditions, the 1975 crop is estimated at 456,300 tons, according to the Crop and Livestock Reporting Service of the Minnesota and U.S. Departments of Agriculture. This prospective output is 2 per cent less than the 1974 production. The estimated yield of 3.90 tons per acre compares with 4.19 tons in 1974 and 5.44 tons in 1973.

- Waseca and Blue Earth County sheriff’s officers were involved in a high-speed chase and ultimate capture yesterday afternoon of a rural Janesville man who dashed out of his own trial at the Blue Earth County Courthouse. Wayne Abraham, 19, rural Janesville was apprehended twice yesterday. According to Waseca Sheriff Don Eustice, Abraham was supposed to appear in court in Mankato at 1:30 p.m. yesterday for a jury trial for aggravated assault stemming from an incident June 20 in Madison Lake.

- Gottard R. Johnson, 69, 451 Daril Ave., died suddenly at South Lida Resort at Pelican Rapids, where he was vacationing for the summer Monday, Sept. 1. He was born in Waseca County Nov. 22, 1905. He live in the Owatonna area for 40 years, where he was an auto mechanic. He was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church.



- **Bluejay girls volleyball team plays two home games this week. Tonight they meet St. James in a conference meeting and Thursday they host the New Richland Cardinals who are the defending district champs. Varsity players are pictured with their coach John Currie. They are: Cindy Bartelt, Koreen Conrath, Tami Juberien, Betty Rieck, Pam Fitzsimmons, Patty Wick, Eileen Karsten, Patty Battenfeld, Cathy Root, Jodi Kuhlmann, Sheila Donahue, Lorrie Peterson and Julie Elliot.**

75 years ago

- The Waseca County Branch of the American Association of University Women will meet at the home of Mrs. Everett G. King, Monday, September 16 at 6 p.m. Miss Patricia Gallagher, who studied violin and Italian at the Pope Plus Institute in Florence, Italy during the past year, will be guest speaker. She will tell the group of her experiences and observations while studying abroad.

- Gene Sutter has purchased the interest of Max Thomson in the Thomson Standard Service station on North State street. The station will be known in the future as Sutter’s Standard Service.

- Lightning burned a meter out at the George Stowe residence Sunday night about 2 a.m. The blocks on the bottom of the meter were melted. Lightning must have followed the wire into the meter and melted them within the meter. There was no other damage to any part of the house, except for the meter.

100 years ago

- Real estate sharks with a glib line of talk are making fortunes selling patches of Florida swamps or sand dunes to foolish people who thin they are going to make a fortune on such investments in a few months. They are due for a rude awakening. If this property were one-tenth as valuable as represented, does any sane man think the promoters would need to come all the way to Minnesota to dispose of it?

- Our new columns this week give the story of an Iowa farmer who was driving to attend the State Fair and lost a \$2,500 car when a half-pint of diluted alcohol was found in his pocket by a policeman while he was sitting in his car which was parked on a street in Northfield. The man was honest and told that he bought the liquor from a boot-legger in Albert Lea to fortify himself against a long drive with he was making that night.

- The first of a series of card parties and dances to be given by the Catholic ladies and held in the Sacred Heart auditorium during fall and winter, was given Tuesday evening. Mrs. John McLoone’s division entertained. Music was furnished by the Purple Aces. Delicious refreshments were served and all present enjoyed a good time.

New Richland

25 years ago



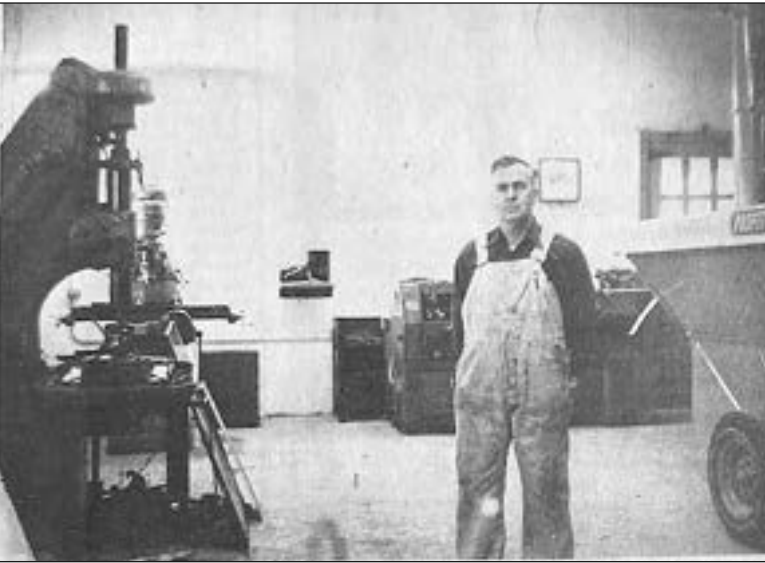
- **The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High school Marching Band placed first out of ten bands in class c marching band competition at the Minnesota State Fair under the direction of David Haugh, high school band director and musical instrument instructor.**

- **Wedding Reception.** An open house reception for Tom and Suzy Coyer, who were married August 23, will be held Sunday, September 23, at Vista Covenant Church, rural New Richland from 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Everyone is welcome.

- Alex Drescher rushed for 156 yards and scored a touchdown in Alden Conger's win over St. Clair 28-0 Friday night. The Knights Paul Scarbeck nabbed three passes for 62 yards and a touchdown. The only touchdown of the first half came on a 46 yard pass from Jeremy Besser to Scarbeck. Besser threw to Derek Thorson for the two-point conversion. Scarbeck and Ben Drescher led the defense with 14 and 12 tackles respectively. The winners gained a total of 293 yards (205 on the ground) while holding their opponents to 86 yards.

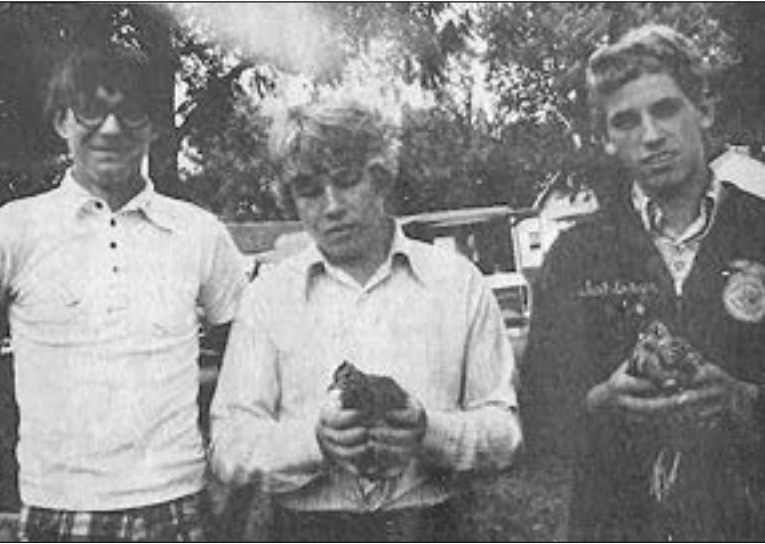


50 years ago



- **Ken Neld of K & M Welding and Machine is pictured here, in his shop in the western most building at the old Hemp Plant site, northwest of New Richland on County Road 12, Ken and Marie Neld are planning an open house in their plant next Saturday from 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm.**

- Cheryl Lynn Hansen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hansen, R. 2, New Richland was baptized at the first congregational Church, New Richland, Sunday at 10:15 am. services with the Rev. Rod Slessor officiating. Witnesses were her brother, Micheal, Brian and Steven along with her sister, Brenda.



- **These Waldorf-Pemberton FFA members raised 200 pheasants for release this summer. They are, from the left, Richard Guse, Ron Miller and Robert Drager. Don Dobberstein also raised pheasants, but was not present when the photo was taken. The birds have been released in the sloughs and wildlife areas near Waldorf and should help hunters get their limit this fall.**

75 years ago

- Dr. A. A. Doyle was the successful applicant for the position of extra clerk at the New Richland post office and started his duties Tuesday of this week. He takes the job vacated by Bud Mertz who moved up a notch when Bob Nock went on duty as carrier on RFD No. 2.

- Miss Marion J. Peek, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vern Peek of Hartland, and Jonathan H. Fox Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Fox r., Route 3, Hopkins, were united in marriage at the Catholic Church of All Saints at New Richland, October 7. The Rev. Father J. P. Hurryriowcz performed the ceremony at 10 am.

- Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Alland (Alice Hanson) of Waseca announce the arrival of their third son, born at the Waseca Memorial hospital, Friday, October 13, weighing seven pounds.

■ **Harvey**
from Page 10

“You will have to publish that in the paper.”

0.25 percent of Janesville’s estimated market value is \$551,840. According to Moen, they will easily exceed that as they plan to spend \$6 million on completing the substation project; they have already issued \$2.5 million in debt for the project.

“We wanted you to be aware because now we’re going to be coming back with the second round of financing,” she said.

The council then approved a franchise fee exemption for Traynor Farms for electricity. Due to new tariff laws, grain elevators are exempt from franchise fees during months of non-operation. However, CenterPoint Energy is allegedly not able to differentiate this on its billing and has started asking local farmers to discuss this issue with their respective cities.

City Administrator, Clinton Rogers, informed the council that the city will need to amend the franchise agreements with CenterPoint and will be meeting with City Attorney Jason Moran and CenterPoint representatives to facilitate this process.

In department head reports, Moen informed the council that Janesville Utilities will plan a hydrant flush, tentatively scheduled for the week of September 29 and October 3, with the following week as the alternative. The water tower also received routine maintenance, which involved draining the tank and cleaning it from the inside. They are waiting for repair maintenance, which takes place every two years.

Janesville Utilities is beginning to map out its system for GIS geomapping. Moen shared that it will “give staff better ideas of when and where to pinpoint any issues underground.” This project is expected to be finished this year.

Ziemke shared that all the Capital Improvement work for 2025 has been completed, including chip seals and overlays. There will be remaining sweeps to be completed, along with some pothole patching. Public Works is also planning to replace some exterior valves at the lift station. “We had another snafu,” Ziemke explained. “Another pump went down as the floods came in. It’s not good, but we’re getting a valve ordered.”

In council reports, Ivan Mass shared that there was no quorum for the EDA at its August meeting, and the community center committee, under its wing, has “pretty much folded.” “People there are burnt out,” he said. “We’re not advancing, and we recognize that the amount of money required to do a center like what we’re looking at is far beyond what our community can support at this time.”

The group will not be meeting again.

Park Road Plaza also shut down the project of replacing windows despite “having enough capital to do it.” Instead, Maas shared that they will be doing small projects at the same time, which will be a similar amount of money. He also shared that a resident had a medical condition that caused them to flood their apartment, the one above them, and the one below.

“The amazing thing is I got to go in there and see the service contractors in there,” he said. “The tech they have for figuring out how much water is inside the walls and the exact spots that need replacing is amazing.” The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m. The next one is September 22.

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Kate Pearl’s Kitchen brings satisfaction

By **DEB BENTLY**
News Editor

It was the lunch hour on a weekday, but customers who saw the “breakfast” banner next to Kate Pearl’s Kitchen, a food trailer parked along Waseca’s West Elm Avenue on Sept. 15, were buying two and three sandwiches at a time. One customer mentioned it had been a surreal moment—she had only just uttered the words “And now it’s too late to get breakfast” when the banner came in sight.

Others said they had been unable to resist the aroma of the cooking sausage and eggs.

Inside the trailer, owner and operator Katelyn Klug, 32, circulated among the various stations as she prepared, served, and received payment for the sandwiches.

She has been operating her own enterprise since May, after starting out in food service about 10 years ago. She has worked at various venues in the field, most consistently as backup and heir apparent to her uncle Tom Klug of Otisco Valley Growers, who began selling breakfast sandwiches at the Mankato farmers’ market about 25 years ago.

With Tom currently selling sandwiches and frozen forage-fed meats at the Waseca market, Katelyn says the largest share of her business is filling the role he left open by moving. The Mankato market is a bustling place, she comments, with sandwich sales frequently reaching as many as 220 in a morning.

“Something that really inflates my ego,” she says lightheartedly, “is when people tell me my sandwiches are better than Tom’s.” Compliments of any sort, she adds, help her feel she’s in the right place.

“The food service industry can be unpredictable,” she comments. “But there’s satisfaction in knowing you’re giving people something they enjoy enough to come and buy again.”

She credits the aroma and flavor of her food to using quality local ingredients including meats from Geneva Meats, Bongard’s cheese, farm-laid eggs, Hope butter, and specially-made Italian-seasoned focaccia bread from Nancy Jane’s Bakery in New Richland.

Katelyn observes her work in food service has taught her more than how to prepare good food.

“You need good communication skills,” she comments. “You have to take the time to listen so you hear people’s orders correctly. You have to speak clearly so people understand you, even when there’s a crowd or there’s background noise.”

Another important form of communication is maintaining her Facebook page, which lets loyal customers know where to look for her.

When it comes to preparing and serving food, she acknowledges it may seem as if her work is very straightforward, but points out many details must be planned for.

“The day before, I spend three to four hours



FOOD FUN - Brad and Gratia Johnson placed orders with Katelyn Klug at her food trailer Kate Pearl's Kitchen, which was located along West Elm Avenue in Waseca last week.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

making sure I have all my supplies,” she begins, noting that includes the various fuels for the grill, the generator, and the pickup which pulls the trailer. “Then I make sure to get a good night’s sleep.”

The next morning she’s up at 5 a.m. or so, depending on how far she has to drive to the venue. When a large crowd is likely, she brings in an assistant. For smaller “gigs,” she can run the operation by herself.

There are many elements of the work which bring her pleasure, she says. The satisfaction of

providing good food, the “internal flow” of a system that functions smoothly, the confidence of knowing she’s good at what she does.

“The best part is being in business for myself,” she finishes. “It feels good knowing my hard work is helping build my own business base and my own reputation. I like working for myself and I like making my own schedule.

“It feels really good to captain my own ship.”



WOODVILLE CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

11:30 AM – 2:30 PM

The Woodville Cemetery Walking Tour is returning for its third year. Explore the beautiful grounds while learning about the history of some of the notable individuals buried there.

The tour is free but donations are accepted to benefit the beautification of Woodville Cemetery.

The shuttle bus will leave from the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service and take attendees to and from the cemetery.

Registration is required and can be made online at dsfuneral.com or by calling the funeral home at 507-835-2190



Festival

from Page 3

filled based on a theme. Among other items for sale were cookie baking baskets, waffle sets, pumpkins, wine, and sports team merchandise. Priebe said she was happy with the festival this year and hoped to raise enough for the church, “We receive a lot of these baskets as donations and we’re so grateful.” She knows a thing or two about the festival, said Priebe, “I chaired this for 11 years and worked at the school for 16 with the youth and family ministry. I love this church and its mission.”

The book sale featured picture and coloring books, pens, classroom pointers, posters, diaries and journals. The White Elephant thrift store’s items

change every year, but organizers say there are always some interesting finds.

Father Glen Frerichs said, “I want to thank everyone who is helping to make our fall festival a big success. One reason this event has been so successful in both our parishes is that it brings families together to celebrate faith and community. It has also had a significant role in helping us meet our yearly budget. Each committee chairperson deserves a lot of credit because they have kept it organized and well run from year to year.”

Sacred Heart Church is currently looking for pumpkins, gourds or anything else suitable for decorating. There will also be an All-You-Can-Eat Dad’s Belgian Waffles event at the New Richland All Saints Fall Festival from 9 a.m. through 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 28.

Girls Soccer, Exchange Club team up

The Waseca Exchange Club partnered with the Waseca Girls Soccer Team to host a successful Burger Fry Fundraiser at Sweet Sommers VFW Post 1642. The event drew a packed house, with cooks at the VFW busy cranking out a steady stream of hamburgers, cheeseburgers, and fries for a never-ending line of patrons.

Soccer parents and Exchangites added a sweet touch by providing a wide variety of desserts, while the athletes and Exchange Club members worked side by side hustling between tables, delivering meals, clearing plates, and selling pop and water. The collaboration showcased teamwork not only on the field but also in the community.

“This event was a perfect example of what makes Waseca special,” said Exchange Club President Mikhail Rostislavovich. “Seeing student-athletes, parents, and our Exchange members come together in service created an incredible atmosphere of teamwork and community pride. We are grateful for everyone who came out to support the cause.”



BURGER FRY SUCCESS - Members of the Waseca Exchange Club are pictured with the Waseca Girls Soccer Team for their successful Burger Fry Fundraiser on Sept. 17.

The partnership was made possible through Exchange Club Vice President Dr. Jay Bulfer, who also serves as the Girls JV Soccer Coach. “It was wonderful to see my two worlds, coaching and community service, come together for such a fun and meaningful night,” Bulfer shared. “Our girls

gave the same hustle in the dining hall that they do on the field, and I couldn’t be prouder.”

The fundraiser not only raised needed funds but also strengthened the connection between Waseca’s youth, families, and civic leaders.



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County

from Page 1

Milbrath regarding the three percent.

Commissioner De Malterer mentioned other leaders expressed concern about “the coming storm” which will be financially difficult for counties as newly enacted state funding reductions take effect in August of 2026.

“It’s not so much that costs are going to go up,” observed Johnson. “It’s that revenue is going to go down.

Johnson mentioned the proposed three percent increase is the lowest in the state and suggested it can be that way because the county has been “meticulous” in managing its funds, especially including federal money received under the CARES Act.

He pointed out three percent has been the average increase in the county’s levy for the past seven years, a rate lower than inflation over that same time period.

Also during the Sept. 16 meeting, commissioners heard a summary report regarding the state-required audit of 2024 finances.

During his report, Paul Frantz of Baker Tilly financial services complimented the county and its staff on the clarity, consistent accuracy and ready accessibility of the data needed for the highly detailed audit, giving the county a “clean bill of health” regarding its finances.

“This means you’re getting good, reliable financial information,” said Frantz regarding county decision-making.

Board members also heard from Freeborn County Engineer Philip Wacholz, who reported on progress toward the start of a “regional” trail which, it is hoped, will someday extend from Albert Lea all the way to the Sakatah Trail at Waterville.

A committee overseeing the project has selected the name “Songbird Trail.” Wacholz reported the trail has received three construction grants totalling \$1.55 million. He said that amount, coupled with other commitments made locally, makes him optimistic construction could begin next year on the six-mile segment of trail which will begin along Fountain Street in Albert Lea and lead all the way to a trailhead to be constructed at Manchester. Freeborn County also owns the right of way for the six miles of former railroad track from Manchester to Hartland.

Commissioners were asked to support a resolution naming the county as a joint applicant in the regional trail. Wacholz said Freeborn County is currently working with an engineering firm to have a “master plan” drafted for the eventual paved path all the way to Waterville. Having the plan, he explained, will help inform the public regarding the project and also support future applications for permits and grants.

Commissioners voted to sign the resolution, but held off on a decision whether to pay one-third of the \$50,000 cost for the master plan.

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NDSU
Meghan Arbegast - Summer Dean's List
Ellsworth Community College
Jewel Stewart, Waseca, Graduate

■ Volunteer from Page 1

they'll share them.”
During school field trips, children tend to cycle through the various settings at the facility in groups of 15 to 20. “So they'll be working with small groups and giving a presentation that lasts about 15 minutes,” says Kruger.
She encourages people who think they might be interested to contact her, either by using the Farmamerica website or calling the facility at 507-835-2052.
Volunteer Ron Wood, 88, grew up in North Dakota. He says he enjoys seeing children and adults learn about “living the old way” because he remembers his father helping install the Rural Electric Authority (REA) powerlines so area residents could have electricity and the running water it made possible.
An overriding memory for him is “I spent many hours driving tractor.” Ron says nearly all his volunteer time has to do with the facility's tractor collection, which includes 15 machines built from 1926 to 1964.
Ron enjoys choosing the day's tractor and hooking it to the facility's “tram” a shaded wagon with stairs for climbing on board and benches for seat-

ing. Then he enjoys endless people-watching as he sees and hears visitors' reactions to the various locations and animals.
An added bonus for him was pulling the tram into Waseca this past weekend to be part of the Marching Classic parade. Another reward is the chance to get his hands dirty doing maintenance work on the tractors. He says he keeps tools in his vehicle so he can do any needed work without having to borrow them from facility workers. “I really enjoy it,” he says.
“I get some great opportunities and I have a lot of fun,” Ron says of his time as a volunteer.
For Rita Janish, the biggest reward is “being part of something good and important.” She says most of her volunteer time is spent in the facility's large interpretive center. “Whatever they need me to do, I do it,” she says lightheartedly.
For her, a favorite is helping with the frequent blood drives. “People come because they want to help other people,” she comments. “They're good folks doing a good thing. It's truly rewarding to help them.”
All three volunteers emphasize it is at least as enjoyable to help operate an event as it is to attend one.
“You're part of something that's simple and good,” observes Jerry. “Everyone should try it so they know much they'll like it.”

Marching Band
Special awards
Outstanding horn line: Lakeville South Marching Cougars
Outstanding percussion: Eastview Marching Band
Outstanding color guard: Mankato 77 Lancers Marching Band
Outstanding drum majors: Mankato 77 Lancers Marching Band
Field Sweepstakes award: Mankato 77 Lancers Marching Band
Hert Streitz Spirit Award: Lakeville South Marching Cougars
Richard “Butch” Dufault combined parade and field sweepstakes award: Lakeville South Marching Cougars

NRHEG Field Show a first at Marching Classic

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

NRHEG band director Seth Schaefer described the Panthers' participation in the Waseca Marching Classic field show on Sept. 20 as a way to expand band members' base of experience and simultaneously broaden their horizons.
He said band members were excited as they prepared for the appearance, and energized by the experience itself.
“We're finding new ways to be a success,” he observed during a recent conversation. “We're seeing some of the exciting things that are possible for a small band.”
Along with competition, participation in the Marching Classic offers clinics with experienced band judges leading sessions and providing feedback and suggestions. Schaefer referred to the Panthers' one-hour session as “a great way to start our day.” He observed clinic leader Steve Citta “got the band thinking about many new things” and helped the musi-



EXCITING BEGINNINGS - The 20-member NRHEG Marching Band performed their field show at the Waseca Marching Classic on Sept. 20.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

cians “strive for new levels with our sound and focus.” He also appreciated that Citta's input tended to “solidify some ideas we have been working on this year.”
The 20-member Panther Band was the first to take the field at Saturday's Marching Classic, with a 5:45 start time. As they took position, the program announcer mentioned that, although the Panthers had appeared in numerous Marching Classic parades, this was the first time the band was taking part in the field show competition. The crowd, which consisted of band enthusiasts from across southern Minnesota, responded with energetic applause

and cheers.
Schaefer said he made it a priority over the past summer to find a combination of musical numbers which suited the selection of instruments and musicians in the band and also followed a theme. Included in the band's eight-minute performance were “Shake it off” and “Shout it out.”
The appearance at the Marching Classic was the group's first performance of the year, and will be followed by pep band appearances at upcoming football and volleyball games.
The field show music and movement will be part of the Oct. 27 Marching Indoor Concert.

■ City from Page 3

ferred the examples of a rock face or burnished rock or a synthetic plaster finish, Paulson said it would also be an option to paint a mural in the space.
The council also heard from Nicole Perrizo with the Waseca Band Boosters related to the organization's request for the Waseca Bluejays symbol to be drawn on downtown city sidewalks as part of a fundraiser. The issue was tabled at the last council meeting in order to hear more from a Booster representative.
After hearing from Perrizo, the council voted 4 to 3 to allow Band Boosters to use concrete stain to paint the symbol. Councilmember Stacey Schroeder said she is curious if the businesses could instead display a banner or paint their own windows instead of using the city-owned sidewalks.
“While I love the Bluejays and I love hometown spirit, there is a part of me that is apprehensive about doing this downtown and setting a precedent,” she said.
City Attorney Chris Kennedy

said allowing the symbol to be painted by the Band Boosters opens the door to a lot of different things being put on the sidewalk, “but at the end of the day, the sidewalk is yours,” he said.
Waseca citizen Jeanne Sexton, who was in attendance at the meeting, requested to speak and said she has seen nice artwork on buildings and sidewalks in numerous other cities in Minnesota. She spoke in support of allowing the symbols. “The Bluejay is our thing. It kind of adds character,” she said.
In commission reports, Mayor Randy Zimmerman and councilmember James Ebertowski informed the council the EDA board approved \$24,000 in loans for the AmeriCn to help them finish their projects. The EDA also discussed the idea of audio recording the meetings, but Ebertowski said there was no solid consensus on that as rules and regulations would have to be worked out. Zimmerman added the EDA board also received a resignation, so they will be looking at a vacancy.

With the Park Board, councilmember Mark Christiansen said work is completed on the Tink Larson Community Field and that the city will not staff the concessions because of costs. He also said the dog park shelter at Memorial park could be built bigger with cheaper materials and hopes it will be finished either this fall or spring.
In closing announcements, Zimmerman asked the council and the public to do a better job of treating each other respectfully.
“In light of recent events over the last couple of weeks, I really hope that we can all make a concerted effort to respect each others' opinions and views and refrain from violence and retributions and anything like that. Especially in regards to political opinions and lifestyles. We need to do a better job of respecting each other,” he said.
The meeting adjourned at 8:04. The next regular city council meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 7 p.m.

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■ Classic from Page 1

Class AA
First: Coon Rapids Marching Cardinals
Second: “The Force” (Spirit Lake, IA)
Third: “Spirit of Madison” Marching Band (SD)
Fourth: Hutchinson Marching Tigers
Class AAA
First: Mankato 77 Lancers Marching Band
Second: Lakeville South Marching Band
Third: Eastview Marching Band
Fourth: Farmington Tiger

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outdoor worship - 10 AM, at St. Paul's
Followed by games & activities for all, silent auction,
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Menu: Pulled Pork or Turkey sandwiches, hot dogs,
Cheesy Potatoes, Calico Beans, Fruit, chips, pie, ice cream, beverage.

Little Theatre of Owatonna

DIRECTOR GORDY HANDELAND	TECH DIRECTOR MELANIE ABRAHAM	MUSIC DIRECTOR KRISTI WESTERGAARD	CHOREOGRAPHY EMILY WINN
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Orchestrator BRUCE COUGHLIN, Arrangements and Additional Orchestrations STEPHEN OREMUS & ALEX LACOMBOIRE

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(Note New Address)
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Elijah J. Lutgens
Waseca County Pioneer Publisher
9/25/25

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Notice is hereby given that the annual review of the City of Waseca’s Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will take place at the City Council meeting scheduled for 7:00 PM on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 508 South State Street in Waseca. The purpose of this public review is to educate and raise awareness regarding stormwater and related issues and to receive public comment and suggestions. Any questions or comments about this public meeting or stormwater related issues may be directed to the City of Waseca Engineering Department at 507-835-9730.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Sept. 25, 2025

NOTICE

UPDATED NOTICE is hereby given that the Waseca City Council will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, October 7th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** in the City Hall Council Chambers, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 to consider the following Resolution:

Resolution 25-59– **Resolution of the Waseca City Council on Proposed Assessments**

A complete copy of Resolution 25-59 and Assessment Roll 25-99 is available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093. Information for the meeting can be found on the Website Calendar at www.ci.waseca.mn.us .

Published in the *Waseca County Pioneer* on Thursday September 25, 2025.

Julia Zuehlke
City Clerk

Get your news in the Pioneer
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CITY OF WASECA
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the **City of Waseca City Council** will hold Public Hearings at **7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, October 7, 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:

- ORDINANCE NO. 1131:** Proposed rezoning of the 2401 North State Street properties (Parcel ID No. 176200040 and No. 176200075) from I-1 (Limited Industry District) to I-2 (Moderate Industry District).
- ORDINANCE NO. 1132:** Proposed rezoning of three (3) City-owned properties within the Tower Industrial Park: Parcel ID No. 176200050 and No. 176200080 from I-1 (Limited Industry District) to I-2 (Moderate Industry District), and Parcel ID No. 176200060 from I-1 (Limited Industry District) to R-2 (Urban Residential District).

Complete copies of the proposed Ordinances 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, September 25, 2025.

Jon M. Froke
City Planner

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642 October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6pm BAR BINGO	2 7pm HALL BINGO	3 MEAT RAFFLE 5:30pm HORSE races 6:30pm	4
5	6	7 Burger night 5-7pm	8 6pm BAR BINGO	9 7pm HALL BINGO	10 MEAT RAFFLE 5:30pm HORSE races 6:30pm	11
12 VFW BREAKFAST 8am to NOON Your Host Waseca Hockey	13 7pm Post & AUX> Meeting US NAVY BIRTHDAY	14 Burger night 5-7pm	15 6pm BAR BINGO	16 7pm HALL BINGO	17 WALLEYE OR SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm	18
19	20	21 Burger night 5-7pm	22 6pm BAR BINGO	23 7pm HALL BINGO	24 MEAT RAFFLE 5:30pm HORSE races 6:30pm	25
26 VFW BREAKFAST 8am to NOON	27	28 Burger night 5-7pm	29 6pm BAR BINGO	30 7pm HALL BINGO	31 MEAT RAFFLE 5:30pm HORSE races 6:30pm	

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2025 Waseca Marching Classic



Pioneer photos by Deb Bently and Ben Revermann