WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 30 Vol. II $2 | Office at 103 South State Street Waseca | Friday, July 28, 2023

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Horse Detectives

Senior card games 12:15 p.m. Fridays

Card playing enthusiasts should keep the Waseca Area Senior Center card game sessions in mind. The Center, located at 308 N State St. in Waseca, hosts them every Friday beginning at 12:15.

* * *

Waseca Braves continue playoffs Saturday at 2 p.m.

The Waseca Braves will host Minnesota Lake at 2 p.m. on Saturday. If they win, they will play again on Sunday at 2 p.m. Location to be determined.

* * *

Hofmann Apiaries Open House 4 p.m. Saturday Aug. 19

The Waseca County Historical Society and Larry and Jan Hofmann of Janesville are holding an open house Saturday, Aug. 19 from noon to 4 p.m. at their event location, 4661 420th Ave in Janesville.

* * *

Pool Party July 30

The Christ Community Church of Waseca is having a pool party at Northeast Park from 5-7 p.m. and the Waseca Waterpark from 7-9 p.m. There will be free food, games, and summer fun raffle baskets. Free admission for the whole family.

* * *

Blue Ringers Band 8 p.m. July 29

The Blue Ringers Band will be performing Saturday, July 29 from 8 p.m.- midnight at the New Richland Liquor Co-Karl's. The performance is donated by Finly's Wings At Work: The Joanie Olson Family will be receiving all free will donations.

* * *

Boxcar Bar Outdoor Dash July 28-29

Boxcar Bar in Waseca is hosting its Outdoor Bash July 28-29. Friday there will be a karaoke contest with $1,000 cash prize; Saturday will feature live music. Tickets are $10.

* * *

Tuscan Lodge Nr 77

Tuscan Lodge Number 77 holds meetings every fourth Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Masonic Temple in Waseca, 831 Third Ave NE.

* * *

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

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

* * *

Correction

Last week's city council story stated that the EDA tracking program went unused for 10 weeks. The span of time was actually 10 months.

A word from The Word

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

Romans 11:33

Janesville burglaries

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

The Janesville Police Department is currently investigating a series of burglaries and attempted thefts that occurred the evenings of July 17 and 18, when, according to Janesville Police Chief Dave Ulmen, four break-ins were reported within a 24-hour period.

"That is absolutely more than usual," said Ulmen, who added that break-ins and burglaries are not typical happenings in the Janesville community. Ulmen revealed that the thieves targeted cars and garages both in the city's Northwoods addition and near Lakeview Park. While Ulmen said that there is "no solid information on who the suspects are at this point," video surveillance submitted by community members indicates there may be a pair of men working together.

Miranda Southwick, who experienced a break-in, said she realized her garage was broken into when she heard her garage door open at 3 a.m. Tuesday. Although she did not see anyone when she went outside to investigate, a recording made by her security system showed two suspicious men walking by her yard. During the break-in, Southwick said that a 70-inch television, which was "broken already," was stolen from her garage. After Southwick filed a police report, she shared her footage on the "Janesvillian's Daily Chat " Facebook group, where other victims and community members have been discussing the recent criminal activ-

Break-In continued on 5

IN THE ACT - Images caught on a private surveillance camera show two culprits during one of the break-ins.

RESTORATION- Brothers Dwight Tostenson (left) and Mikhail Rostislavovich (right) display their award in the house's restored library. Councilmember James Ebertowski (left) and Tostenson's son, Hans, (right) stand in the back. Photo by Amelia Roessler

Historic home gets facelift

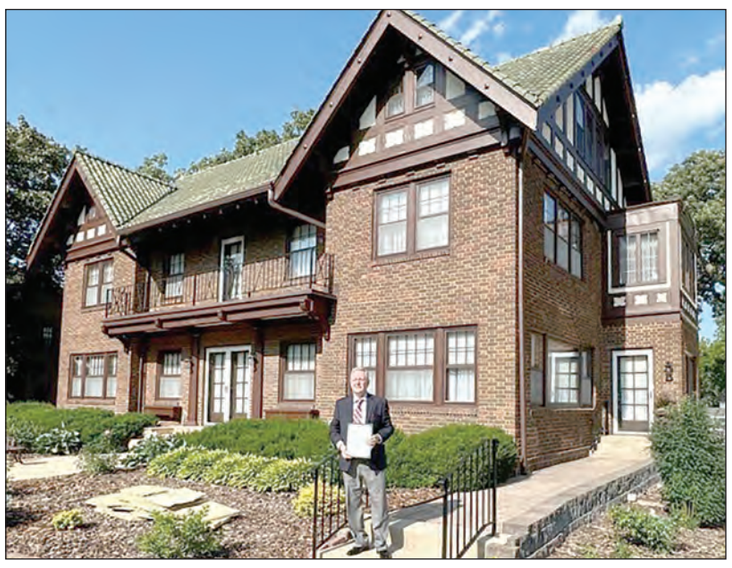
By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

The Waseca Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) presented the HPC award to Mikhail Rostislavovich during their regular meeting Monday, July 10 for his work preserving and restoring the large, three-story brick house on the 600 block of North State Street also known by the names of its previous owners, Moonan, Alexander, or Driessen.

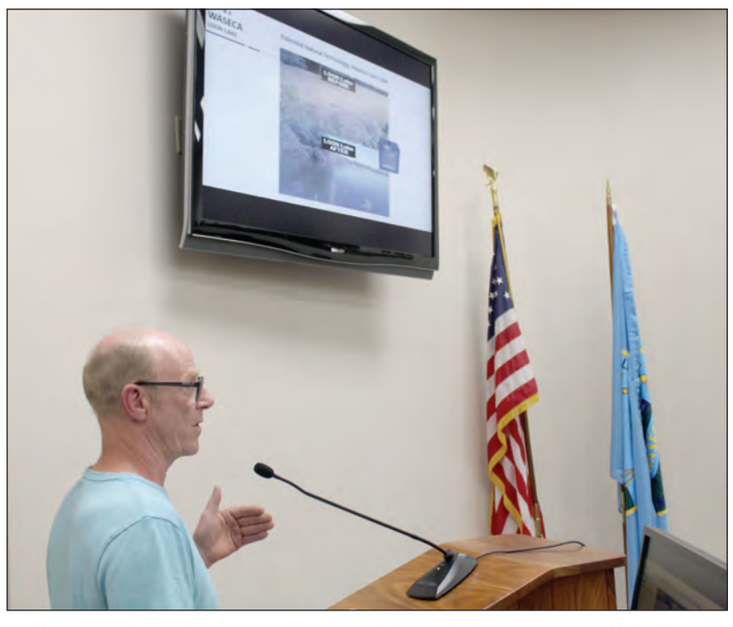
After receiving the award, Rostislavovich talked about the journey he undertook to complete the restoration. Rostislavovich and his brother, Dwight Tostenson, who are both in their late 60s now, had been known to "flip houses" in the past when they were younger. Rostislavovich prefers not to use the term "flipping houses" because he says what they do goes beyond the typical meaning of the term. Rostislavovich and Tostenson put the house back to the time period when it was first built. Together they have restored around eight houses, Rostislavovich said, although this has been the first house they have restored and lived in.

But when Rostislavovich drove past the Moonan house in the fall of 2021 and saw it in disarray, he said he knew they had to save it, knowing it would be an asset to the community. The daunting project took over 14 months, according to Rostislavovich, as the house had severe plumbing problems and a lot of water damage from not being used and cared for. The brothers enlisted the help of Brett and Allison Byers with Byers Choice Construction LLC in Waseca and Tostenson's son Hans and together they fixed the

Tour continued on 5



Rostislavovich in front of the recently restored home on North State Street.



George Klug during his presentation to the Waseca City Council. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Council updated on Loon Lake

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

George Klug of WQ3D LLC, an organization based in Bloomington, shared a brief summary during the Tuesday, July 18, Waseca City Council meeting regarding his work on Loon Lake over the past two years.

Klug displayed "before" and "after" photos of the lake from last summer which showed it coated several inches deep in filamentous algae over most of its surface during June, and then open and clear several weeks after his system had been installed once permits and permission had been granted during July.

In response to council questions, Klug mentioned that the system uses "no filter, no media, no chemicals. It's pure physics."

Though he provided few details, he mentioned that the patented technology balances the oxygen

Klug continued on 7

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

Hartley discussion continues

Hudspith seeks path forward

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

To be or not to be.

The Waseca school district continues to come up against the classic question regarding the Hartley school building, built in 1959 and currently housing kindergarten through third grades.

During the June 6 school board meeting, board members were divided. Some took the stance it would be financially responsible for the school board to request taxpayers to consider a $36 million construction bond to expand the current intermediate school to house grades kindergarten through 6. Doing so would remove the need for upgrades, improvements and repairs on the Hartley building while also consolidating the delivery of various services.

Other board members seemed to feel a referendum would be unwise, since taxpayers might resent the request and vote the question down.

During the July 20 board meeting, superintendent Eric Hudspith observed that he has "more work to do" to help board members decide what course they would like to recommend.

Hudspith offered to take two steps: First, he plans to put together a survey which provides clearer information about the possible consolidation of Hartley and the intermediate school. The survey would be more specific than one distributed in the past, and would be designed to collect feedback which gives a clearer impression of citizens' feelings about the need for change, the perceived benefits of consolidation, and willingness to support a referendum.

Second, Hudspith informed board members that, if the Hartley site is retained, keeping it "functional" for somewhere between 10 and 15 years will require about $6 million in funding which is not available in the school budget, and so would necessitate going to voters with a referendum for the much smaller amount.

He offered to have a more or less complete plan for a $6 million referendum prepared by the August 3 work session.

"Whether we ask voters for $36 million or for $6 million," Hudspith observed, "they will remember that we asked."

Hudspith said that time frames will no longer allow a

School continued on 8

Compostings

by Al Batt

Sniffing the south end of a porcupine

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I'm glad it's summer and not winter.

Do you like hot, muggy weather?

No, but think how terrible it would be to shovel snow in this heat.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. The weather had been up and down. I dumped the dust from the rain gauge in the hopes water could find room there. Bo Jackson, one of the greatest athletes in history, won the Heisman Trophy in 1985 and later played in the NFL and MLB. A hip injury cut his athletic short. "Bo Knows" was the theme of a 1980s Nike campaign featuring Jackson. Now Bo knows hiccups. Jackson said he'd tried every cure, including smelling the south end of a porcupine. I doubt he sniffed a porcupine. An Iowan, Charles Osborne, holds the record for hiccupping—68 years. Doctors couldn't determine cause or remedy for Jackson's chronic hiccups. DIY remedies abound. I had hiccups for three weeks. I said "pineapple," named seven bald men I knew, had someone order me to hiccup, held my breath, held down my left ear, ate spoonfuls of both sugar and peanut butter, and drank water from the wrong side of a glass.

I'VE LEARNED

Parthenocarpic cucumber varieties don't require pollination to produce fruit.

There is no bottom to politics.

Barbers can't cut hair any longer.

After reading "Moby Dick" three times and watching whales in Sitka, I've determined it's better to watch whales than harpoon them.

When I figure things out, I learn I haven't figured things out.

I grew up around Dwight Potter, Dwight Miller and Dwight Casper. They looked nothing alike, but they each looked like a Dwight.

NEWSWORTHY

I watched NRHEG defeat Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial and St. Clair in girls' summer basketball league games in Nicollet. NRHEG is scrappy.

I enjoyed a fine meal at the Red Leaf. I mustn't be hungry when I go grocery shopping. I found everything I needed at Wagner's in New Richland. We must support locally owned businesses. Each has a stake (and some steaks) in the community. Hartland has no cafe. Its departure left a considerable hole.

NATURE NOTES

Roadside botany offers tall, yellow flower stalks of common mullein and evening primrose (blooms at dusk). Primrose's Potawatomi name is "yellow top." No one is sure when wild parsnip (native of Europe and Asia) arrived here or how. There are records of this plant being in Wisconsin in 1894. It's a biennial that grows 5 feet tall with leaves of two to five pairs of toothed leaflets often shaped like mittens. It has yellowish-green flowers that form umbrella-shaped clusters 4 to 8 inches across and bloom in June and July. The stem is green, 1 to 2 inches thick and smooth with few hairs. Wild parsnip grows in sunny open areas, such as pastures, fields, roadsides, and disturbed areas, and can tolerate different soils and moisture levels. Wild parsnip is persistent even after being sprayed. Contact with its sap combined with the presence of sunlight causes phytophotodermatitis, unpleasant rashes or blisters on skin. The prairie plant golden alexander, a native perennial, can be mistaken for wild parsnip. The primary difference between the plants is a matter of scale. Wild parsnip is much more robust. Both are lacy-looking plants with thick green stems topped with disk-like clusters of yellow flowers, but golden alexander is significantly smaller when mature. Wild parsnip has appreciably broader leaves, and bigger, flatter flower clusters. Wild parsnip has deeply forked leaves and those of golden alexander are smooth with fine serrations. The flowers of wild parsnip form flat clusters, while golden alexander flowers are more loosely and unevenly clustered. Queen Anne's lace has white flowers that bloom in an umbrella shape pattern called an umbel. Queen Anne's lace usually has a single purplish flower in the center of the umbel. Legend says Queen Anne pricked her finger while sewing the lace and a droplet of her blood fell to the center of the flowers.

If there are webs on a lawn on a dewy morning, and the sheetlike webs aren't sticky and have a tunnel on one side, it's the work of a funnel or grass spider. The webs become noticeable on the heavy dew of a cool, humid morning. A web could be a dollar spot fungus. The branching mycelia of this fungus resemble spider webs on the grass, but dollar spot disappears when dew dries. Excess moisture and lack of nutrients are causes of dollar spot fungus.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again."—William Penn.

In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Behind the wheel

I would like to extend my thanks to the six folks from the Palmer Bus Service who put up with me this past Saturday.

First, I walked up and started asking all sorts of invasive questions: How many buses do you have? How many bus routes? What do you do when the regular driver can't make it?

Then I asked to drive a school bus…even though I have no expectation of ever becoming a bus driver. Having now logged all of 8 to 10 minutes behind the wheel, I can agree with bus driver Nicole Olson: "It's not so hard."

Certainly I can't brag about my prowess–some traffic cones were saved when my "supervisor" Audra Veroeven suggested I just stop trying to back in between them all. I kept reaching in the wrong direction whenever I was supposed to shift between gears. And, although I never actually looked at the speedometer–too busy looking at the road ahead of me–I'm guessing I did not exceed 20 mph. At any time during the drive. I would say Audra has the patience of a saint, but she's a bus driver, so it's obvious she's patient and strong.

Did you know school buses don't have a "Park" setting? You just put them in neutral and set the parking brake.

Oh, and the bus I drove is powered by propane. The drivers told me it's as carbon neutral as an electric vehicle of the same size while costing one-fourth as much. They also mentioned that its engine is much quieter than one powered with diesel, and is not at all vulnerable to cold weather.

GIVING IT A TRY - Waseca County Pioneer writer Deb Bently at the wheel of a school bus. Pioneer photo by Nicole Olson

One more thing: the bus drivers talked about some of their experiences. Nicole said, "It's really powerful to know that you can parallel park a bus." Yikes, I bet it is.

Audra commented about the role bus drivers play in students' lives, about how they are a source of stability and reliability. She made me think of the friendly greetings and authoritative manner of the bus drivers I have worked with as a teacher and even long, long ago, as a student. I couldn't help thinking that she's right. There's nobility in being the adult, the voice of reason, authority, and, when necessary, compassion.

There is no way to measure the value of a friendly greeting and a trusted presence.

So I want to take a moment to thank the people who drive our children places, who get up early or stay up late as necessary, who brave slippery roads or busy traffic behind the wheel of a giant orange vehicle. The stories shared at the "drive a bus" event gave me the sense that the drivers there recognize their value and feel appreciated; I hope that's the case for all of you.

I hope your days and your drives bring you memorable gems, and I hope you find the strength to laugh about some of those…other…moments.

In any case, I thank you. Blessings upon you.

Gifts, hazards, and rewards of journaling

To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

This week I was able to spend a couple hours in the Waseca County Historical Society's Bailey House doing research into the archives of the old newspapers for the Pioneer.

Researching the archives is always interesting in my opinion. As someone who appreciates history, it is pretty cool to look back at newspapers from 25, 50, 75, and 100 years ago. It's such a treat to find the odd little gems in the middle of a newspaper from 1923 or 1948. It's just fun to think how some of these things that might seem trivial to a modern reader, or that even have no connection to the way life is lived these days, were once regarded as important enough to be in the newspaper. For example, this week's archives have something about the rising polio cases. We don't even think about that much anymore.

There was a story about a guy who jumped out of a plane or something onto Clear Lake. Or when I did the archives last time, there was a picture of someone using the ski jump that once stood in Clear Lake. Now, people enjoy skiing, tubing, fishing, or jet skiing. No crazy air exhibits or ski jumps, sadly.

My grandma asked me a couple of weeks ago if I had any interest in typing up my great-grandpa's journals, something she thought should be done. I said of course I was interested, I would love to go through his journals, something that records his life from the time he was born (His mother wrote them for him at that point).

So she brought out the big box filled with big journals, small journals, and other papers filled with his consistent flow of words. He wrote in his journal every day. Every day! Do you know how difficult it is to do that? The number of times I have told myself that I would do that very thing–record my thoughts every day–makes me laugh. It's a lot. And yet I still haven't written in my journal in a while.

I write my journals not for myself some days. I write them, hopefully, for my children, grandchildren, and even possibly great-grandchildren that will someday look at my journals with the same awe and excitement that I look at my ancestor's journals.

Sure, some may say that there isn't really a point in reading old journals, but I disagree. I get to learn about this person who was important to someone important to me. I get to learn not only about them but about how life was at that time. It's incredible. Hopefully someone will someday enjoy reading about all the quirks and fun adventures of my life. I've even been keeping physical evidence of my life happenings in there too. Like for my study abroad journal, the number of museum tickets I kept is more than I ever thought I would have.

And then there's the history records like ancestry and where you can see your family tree. On my other grandma's side, I have a great-great-grandfather named Mandus that I always thought would be a fun name to name my child one day. I was told recently that his name is actually Amandus, according to a relative's family tree, although the death certificate says Mandus. It makes no large difference to me, but I find it fascinating that we can double check these things due to the record keeping of death certificates or things such as that. I will forever be grateful for those people preserving history.

My Determination: "But do you know when stories stop being stories? The moment someone begins to believe in them." – Codringher, The Witcher Saga

Geno, our very own Kirk Gibson

STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

I came down with a cold this week, so less "newsing" than usual.

I only made it to one of the two Braves playoff games this weekend. I arrived late to the 5-4 loss to Blue Earth, a team we beat twice earlier in the season. Energy was down when I arrived, and unfortunately my presence alone was not enough of a boost. The absences of Chris Glynn and then Geno Glynn when he pulled a hamstring early in the game were definitely felt. Chris was ejected during the regular season finale against Waterville. Apparently, there were some tensions between the umpire there and several Braves players and personnel. If I say more, however, I'll be breaking my rule of insider trading.

So back to Sunday. The highlight of the game, according to several people, was when Geno pinch-hit in the bottom of the ninth, pulled hamstring and all. We made jokes about Kirk Gibson and the like. Kirk Gibson, who could barely walk, was called in to pinch-hit (act as batter in place of another player) for a teammate during the ninth inning of the 1988 World Series. He hit a walk-off, game-winning home run and trotted–slowly–around the bases. Any other outcome would have likely resulted in an out.

Well, Geno got hold of the third pitch in the at-bat and delivered a high, slow chopper to third. Limping and all–more walking really, Geno nonetheless beat the throw to first. My favorite part was the third baseman who fielded the ball and tried to make the throw on the run. When he fielded the ball, I'd argue Geno and he were about the same distance from first base. But the third baseman didn't realize Geno was walking to first base. It made it all the more fun when he bounced the throw in his haste, missing the fielder at first. Geno was safe by a mile.

Our next contest is Saturday, at home against Minnesota Lake at 2 p.m. If we win, we're guaranteed at least three more games and a trip to the regional round of playoffs. If we lose, well, we're done.

As for my newsing adventures this week, work continues on the new building at 111 West Elm Avenue. It rather seems like each project we complete simply makes it more evident that there's another project to be taken care of. This will be our one time when the building is unoccupied, making it the simplest time to get work done.

"I'm not out here to win a beauty contest." - Kirk Gibson.

"If you're a manager you can't get frustrated and be emotional. You have to continue to steer the ship, you can't let go of the wheel because who knows where it will go then." - Kirk Gibson.

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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including the communities of Waseca, Janesville, New Richland, and Waldorf

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IN BLOOM- Kathy Oftedahl, Pam and John Fossum and Jolene Gundermann stand at the start of the Garden tour.

Beautiful sights on Waseca walk

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

Community members enjoyed a day of sightseeing as the Waseca Garden Club hosted its annual Summer Garden Tour on Saturday afternoon. Club president Jolene Gundermann said that the tour is a tradition that dates back at least 35 years. Gundermann herself is a longtime member of the club. "I've been involved for over 40 years, starting in '78 or '79," she recalled.

As part of the event, featured gardens at homes and businesses in Waseca make themselves available to be viewed and enjoyed by the public. While many of the gardeners volunteer to be part of the tour, Gundermann said that sometimes club members ask their neighbors to join

Walk continued on 7

SCENIC - Featured gardeners Mike and Jane Mulcahey.
Pioneer photos by Jonah Stafford

Country Show, Dance Saturday

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

Fans of country music will have a chance to enjoy live performances from Doug Allen Nash and Penny Gilley at the Country Show and Dance on Saturday, July 29 at 7 p.m at the Starfire Event Center. The duo are known for playing classic country hits by stars such as Johnny Cash and Neil Diamond, as well as original material. Gilley is a cousin to Mickey Gilley, a famous country singer, and hosts The Penny Gilley Show, a music variety program on RFD-TV. Nash hails from Dallas, Texas, often tours with Gilley, and sometimes appears on her show as a musical guest.

The duo have been playing each summer in Waseca for over 10 years at concerts organized by Judy Kuhns and her husband Lyle. The couple became friends of Gilley after seeing her perform at the RFD Theater in Branson, Missouri. "We liked her so much that we stayed a second day to see her play again," said Judy. Besides booking and planning the Country Show and Dance, Kuhns said that she "does as much advertising as [she] can," to ensure a great turnout. The concert has been supported by promotional posters, radio ads, and by the Starfire Event Center itself.

Tickets to the Country Show and Dance cost $20 in advance or $25 at the door. The concert will take place in the Starfire Event Center's chandelier room, which features a dance floor. Food and beverages will be served.

"Come prepared to see friends, have a good time, and just enjoy yourself," said Kuhns.

Palmer bus recruiting

Test drives give feel for real thing

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"Powerful."
"Never boring."
"Flexible."
"Noble."

Six representatives from Palmer Bus Service offered a variety of words to define their work. The group spent four hours Saturday, July 22, providing area residents the chance to test drive a school bus. About a dozen folks came, most of them genuinely interested in learning more about the job, a few simply curious.

Potential drivers were able to get behind the wheel and follow a course which took them around the county fairgrounds. At various locations they got a chance to follow the steps needed to cross a railroad track, to back the bus straight up and around a corner, and to follow the procedures expected when picking up passengers.

Drivers could choose among three buses of various shapes and lengths: one with a flat nose, two with a more traditional hood shape and engine compartment. One quite new bus was powered by propane rather than diesel fuel.

Palmer Bus Service is a privately owned company which contracts with school districts to transport students as needed. According to regional recruiter Kathy Anderson, the company owns 800 student transportation vehicles—buses and vans–and works with 25 school districts ranging from the size of Shakopee, which has 40 routes, to New Ulm's Minnesota Valley Lutheran, which has 4. Originally founded in St. Clair in 1974 by Floyd Palmer, now deceased. The company is headquartered out of North Mankato and owned by Palmer's daughters, Jenna Fromm and Hollie Johnson.

Represented at the fairgrounds on Saturday were the Waseca, Janesville and St. Clair bus barns which operate, between them all, about 25 bus routes. At this time, they are looking for 3 to 5 drivers willing to be designated to a specific route–which is why they are using this unusual system of recruitment.

EVERYDAY NOBILITY - Bus drivers (from top) Tomas Howe and Nicole and Barry Olson were among those helping recruit new drivers during the "Test drive a bus" event.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Audra Veroeven is the site manager for Waseca's buses; Sue Johnson manages St. Clair's. Bus drivers Barry and Nicole Olson and Tomas Howe were also on hand. This is the second year the company has offered this special "drive a school bus" opportunity; Johnson says more than half the folks who came last year ended up as drivers in some capacity, whether as regular drivers or substitutes.

All of the spokespersons at the fairground mentioned that being a bus driver has genuine rewards: "We're the first person related to school that many children see as they start their day, and the last one they see as their day ends," says Veroeven. "We make a connection unlike any other person related to school."

"In some cases, kids have the same bus driver for most or even all of their school careers," says

Ride continued on 4

This Ranch Protected By Waseca County Detectives Horse Thief

Horse thief detectives still active

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The Waseca County Horse Thief Detectives met for their 159th annual meeting on Tuesday, July 4. About 50 people gathered at Waseca's Northeast Park for a potluck lunch, a summary of the year's accomplishments, and some old-fashioned games.

But there was more to it than met the eye.

"We're honoring the lives and accomplishments of those early pioneers," observes organization president Scott Roemhildt. "We're recalling a time when people faced a much different set of hardships than any of us do today."

In addition to his nine-year service, to date, as the organization's president, Roemhildt is a horse owner and history enthusiast who has been a Detective for the past 35 years.

He recalls how the organization was originally founded: In 1864, Minnesota was in its sixth year of statehood. A map published by the Minnesota Historical Society shows that in 1862 only the southeast corner of the state had a significant presence of settlers. At the time, Waseca County had a population of fewer than 5 people per square mile.

Under the National Homestead Act of 1862, farmers who lived on and "improved" 160 acres of land for 5 years could become the registered owner for a small registration fee. These farmers were working not only to house and feed their families, but to build a legacy for the future. "Probably the most important tool they had on their farm was their horses," observed Roemhildt, inviting a comparison between the animals in use in the 1800s and the wide range of mechanical equipment used on farms today.

In the early 1860s, some horse thieves moved through Waseca County and, although pursued by then sheriff Brisbane, they managed to escape. "That's when some folks declared, 'You need help!" and formed the Detectives society," says Roemhildt. Though Roemhildt admits membership today is mostly ceremonial, he's quick to point out the organization and its work were once a serious matter indeed.

Back then, members were

Thieves continued on 5

Fortunate, thankful to be a boomer

Bits and Pieces
by Dave Zika

My class reunion will be held in August. I graduated from Austin High School. It will be the 55th year reunion; several of my classmates have passed on, but our class had well over 500 members, so there are still many people to see and catch up with. As I reflect, I feel very fortunate and thankful to be a baby boomer; I was able to grow up during the best of times.

My family was lower middle class and we appreciated anything and everything we had. Dad worked 50 hours a week at an office supply and Mom took care of the household. She could cook, sew, and play a mean piano. All of my childhood friends grew up in the same environment; I can remember only one good friend who grew up with a single parent.

I grew up in a small house on the east side: one car garage, one car family, and three boys sleeping in one bedroom. My two brothers slept in a bunk bed and I had a small single bed because I was the oldest. During hot summer nights, we survived with a window fan: No one had any idea what central air was.

On Sundays every business in Austin was closed. It was time for church on Sunday morning, everyone dressed up, everyone figured on spending the entire day with family. Mom would make a great lunch, Dad would monitor the portions each of us received. I remember only two slices of bacon per person. Maybe goulash, beef with carrots and potatoes, or chicken dumplings for supper. Every Sunday evening it was family T.V. time. Our television received three stations thanks to rabbit ears. We all sat together to watch "Bonanza," the "Ed Sullivan Show," and "Walt Disney." We were in bed by 9:30.

I remember how excited we were to see the Beatles perform on the "Ed Sullivan Show." "Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett" were always my favorites on Disney. Dad purchased a T.V. with color, "Disney" and "Bonanza" were our first viewings in color, and Dad planted a T.V. antenna on the roof. Saturday mornings became prime time for kids' cartoon shows with "Heckle and Jeckle," "Mighty Mouse," "Bullwinkle," or the "Road Runner" - beep beep! Half an hour with "Roy Rogers," "Sky King," or "The Lone Ranger." Every baby boomer can also remember "Leave it to Beaver," "Father Knows Best," "Ozzie and Harriet," "My Three Sons," and many other shows aired weekly on the T.V.

Dad was an avid outdoorsman; any chance he got he took us hunting pheasants or ducks at Lake Geneva or fishing at St. Olaf Lake. We'd tie cane poles to the side of the car, throw our 6-horse motor in the trunk, rent a boat at the store on the lake, and catch sunnies and crappies. Mom could prepare anything we harvested from the wild, so we had many meals of game or fish.

Mom enrolled us in Holy Cross Lutheran School, whose activities and events were the centers of our

Zika continued on 6

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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FRIENDLY - Brittaney Blankenhagen takes a break from yoga to pet the goat.

GOAT - From left, Angie Grotberg, Kelly Hovel, Lily Hovel, and Riggin Hovel hold goats Finlee and Everley.

YOGA - Angie Grotberg performs a yoga pose assisted by a goat. Pioneer photos by Tristan Jensen

Goat yoga at Farmamerica

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

Four sessions of "Goat Yoga" were held at FarmAmerica the weekend of July 22-23. During the event, participants did yoga exercises while interacting with dairy goats who were allowed to wander through and eat treats. Leading the yoga sessions was Angie Grotberg, owner of Awaken Vibrance studio located in downtown Waseca. The goats came from LR Acres in Cannon Falls, brought by Kelly Hovel and her daughter Lily and son Riggin. Hovel also brought along the goat milk soap which she makes and sells through her "LR Acres Goat Milk Soap" Facebook page. Both LR Acres and Awaken Vibrance studio have collaborated with FarmAmerica to put on Goat Yoga events for the last four years.

Goat Yoga proved to be popular, with around twenty people attending each session on a preregistration basis. The next Goat Yoga event is expected in September, the first time a fall session will take place, according to Hovel. Those interested should watch the FarmAmerica events calendar for details.

On August 10, FarmAmerica will host its next big event - Meat-A-Palooza - their biggest fundraiser of the year. Guests will be able to sample meats, beer, and wine produced in Minnesota and meet the butchers, brewers, and farmers responsible for the production of those products. Tickets are available to those 21 and over at FarmAmerica.org.

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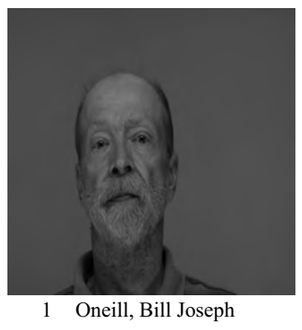
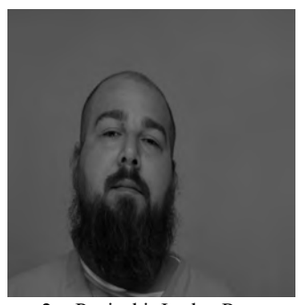
Date: 07/26/2023



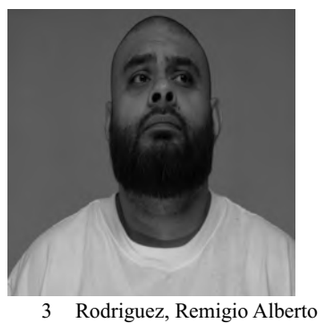
1 Oneill, Bill Joseph

Date and Time of Booking: 07/24/2023 at 5:04 pm
Arresting Agency:
Charges: Traffic-DL-Driving after cancellation-in
Status: Sentenced
Sentence Date: 07/25/2023
Projected Release Date: 08/12/2023



2 Papinski, Jordan Ryne

Date and Time of Booking: 07/25/2023 at 2:30 pm
Arresting Agency:
Charges: Predatory Offender - Knowingly commits a
Status: Pending
Sentence Date:
Projected Release Date:



3 Rodriguez, Remigio Alberto

Date and Time of Booking: 07/25/2023 at 2:37 pm
Arresting Agency:
Charges: Terroristic Threats-Reckless Disregard R
Status: Pending
Sentence Date:
Projected Release Date:

Council considers 2024 budget

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

The main concern on council members' minds at the Monday, July 10, Janesville council meeting was the review of the 2024 budget. Janesville's proposed budget for 2024 has increased by about 10% over 2023, with travel and conference expenses scheduled to increase from $450 to $2,000. Proposed salary increases for city employees amount to $10,000: City administrator Clinton Rogers told council members he had purposely used high estimates for insurance and other related expenses in anticipation that rates will rise before the budget is finalized in November. The budget also includes $2,000 to cover the cost of facilitating the upcoming 2024 presidential election.

Shortly prior to the meeting, Mayor Andy Arnoldt and other city council members met with representatives from the EDA (Economic Development Administration) to discuss the idea of building a community center with an included daycare center. In that meeting, Arnoldt said he and his fellow council members were told that pursuing the project with government assistance could not continue without producing a concept. The council approved engaging the design and engineering company ISG of Mankato to perform conceptual work for the community center building. Up to $15,000 for ISG's fees will come from $60,000 the city has remaining in American Rescue Plan funds. Arnoldt argued in favor of the $15,000 expenditure, saying that if the council doesn't invest in the concept, the long-discussed idea of building the center will be "dead in the water." He added that once this conceptual work is done, the city could apply for government grants to finance the community center's construction. The council also voted to spend $1,300 from the American Rescue Plan to pay for traffic control during a three-week construction project on Teal Street.

The utilities committee reported that they had received applicants for a new electrical lineman position and have started to look at next year's water budget.

Pete Madel, administrator at the city-owned care facility Whispering Creek, reported enthusiastically that the nursing home's annual family picnic and the Hay Daze turtle races and kiddie carnival were able to take place recently for the first time since 2019. Madel announced that Whispering Creek will receive $380,000 from the state's recent $300 million nursing home aid package. Whispering Creek is also planning to apply for a state grant to give "all of the staff that stuck with us through Covid a one-time bonus" of $2,000 to $3,000. While Whispering Creek managed to break even financially this past year, Madel said that the nursing home could have an even "healthier" budget if it receives a $600,000 employee retention credit that it applied for.

Jacob Lehrke, grounds superintendent at the city-owned Prairie Ridge Golf Course, told the council that the Janesville Golf Association recently helped the course buy 30 tons of sand for its bunkers, a purchase that isn't made often. He was

Council continued on 12

■ Ride

from Page 3

Barry Olson. "They get new teachers, even start going to different buildings. But their bus routes and sometimes their drivers remain the same."

"Sometimes, the youngest children are afraid of the bus because it's so big," comments Howe."But by having a bit of give and take with the kids, by being reliable and just always doing a good job, we earn their trust. We become someone who's always there for them."

There are also some gems.

"I once had a student tell me, 'I heard it with my own eyes,'" Veroeven recalls. "I always smile when I think of that moment."

Bus drivers who have a route put in 2 hours each morning and another 2 each afternoon. One common way to increase the number of hours is to perform maintenance or cleaning duties for the bus service. Many bus drivers have other jobs–among those named by the group are farmer, construction or dump truck driver, teacher, school cook, business owner, coach and "mom."

"You can bring your kids with you to work," comments Nicole Olson. "That's one way the job is amazingly flexible."

So given all that, why is the bus service in need of new staff? "A share of our drivers are becoming older," observes Anderson. "It also seems to be a trend that more and more retired folks are becoming 'snow birds,' traveling to warmer states during the winter months.

"And so we have to try some creative types of recruitment."

So what hurdles must potential drivers overcome?

Supervisors Veroeven and Johnson are quick to name the many licensing requirements. Bus drivers must pass four written tests which give them "endorsements" in general knowledge, air brakes, passenger procedures, and school bus expectations. They must also pass a background check and a Department of Transportation physical.

With those taken care of, they receive their commercial learners' permit (CLP) permit which allows them to get behind the wheel and complete at least 20 hours of practice driving and pre-trip training. They are also required to watch about 30 hours of entry level drivers training videos which are federally mandated. After having their CLP for a minimum of 14 days, they are eligible to take the over-the-road driving test; Palmer Bus Service schedules those through a third-party tester at the North Mankato location.

"But all that time is paid," Johnson is quick to mention. "We do everything we can to help people navigate the process and hopefully pass the test on the first try."

Another factor that sometimes keeps people from considering the job, suggests Nicole Olson, is that they don't trust themselves to drive such a large vehicle. "But if they give it a chance," she comments, "they find out it's not so hard."

Barry Olson speculates that they are worried about the responsibility. "But someone has to do it," he says. "And the job has genuine rewards."

The drivers share stories about the various interactions that have come their way. The group of students who purposely sat together so they could practice their song for the Christmas concert. The kindergartener who concentrated on saying the alphabet, and who would get occasional nudges from others when he came to a stop. Busloads of ecstatic athletes returning from a successful competition. Groups of elementary students excited to be going on a field trip.

"It's never dull," observes Howe.

Another source of variety are the many extracurricular trips bus drivers are needed for. Destinations may be anything from an amusement park to a concert, a demonstration to a competition. Paid hours include not only the time spent driving, but the time spent waiting or even taking part in the activity.

The month of May tends to be especially busy, between the number of spring sports and the end-of-year trips groups plan. Nicole Olson and another driver added up the number of miles they drove during May alone: 4,000. "That's the distance from New York to San Diego, back to New York and then home to Janesville. It's amazing when you think about it.

"Nobody can say we're not going places."

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PICTUIRED - Another culprit on camera.

■ Break-in

from Page 1

ity in the city.

To protect against potential burglaries, Ulmen encourages community members to lock their storage sheds, garages, and vehicles at night. He added that residents should consider investing in surveillance equipment, such as doorbell cameras, motion sensors, and night lights. "It dispels a lot of illegal activity if there is more light than dark," said Ulmen.

Anyone with information or footage pertaining to the suspected burglars is asked to call the Janesville Police Department using the non-emergency line at 507-234-5111 or the non-emergency Waseca County Dispatch line at 507-835-0500. Tips can also be delivered in person at the Janesville Police Department during its normal operating hours. Ulmen added that if residents see potential criminal activity firsthand, they are encouraged to call 911. Ulmen said that updates pertaining to this investigation will be posted to the Janesville Police Department's Facebook page as progress is made.

Julie Anderson, the Heritigae Preservation Commission Chair, reads and presents the HPC award to Mikhail Rostislovovich during the meeting on July 10.

Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler

■ Tour

from Page 1

plumbing, refurbished the wood and replaced 150 sheets of drywall and 77 windows.

Rostislavovich said the house, built in 1916, still has its original ceilings and stained glass work as the team worked to preserve them during the remodeling.

At the HPC meeting, one which Representative John Petersburg attended, Rostislavovich thanked the commission and stressed the importance of the HPC, calling the commission a "shining star" in a community that cares. Rostislavovich invited all who attended the meeting to the house, saying he had opened the entire house for people to venture in.

Excited Waseca residents and HPC board members toured the three-story house, marveling at the workmanship and the selection of carefully picked Victorian collectables Rostislavovich chose to decorate the house with, bringing the visitors a glance to what the house might have looked like when it was built. Guests toured the music room with a grand piano, a library, kitchen and dining room on the main floor and bedroom suites on the top two floors, while maneuvering a staircase that spans all three floors.

James Ebertowski, HPC and city council member, said "the word 'amazing' doesn't describe it" when he toured the house after the HPC meeting.

Now, Rostislavovich and Tostenson both live in the house. Rostislavovich is retired and holds a variety of positions with many boards including the Waseca Arts Center, Prairie Lakes Board, Exchange Board and the Historical Society.

"That is what I do when I move into a community," Rostislavovich explained about his plentiful participation in civic organizations. "It's a way for me to participate, learn more about, and give back to the community." Tostenson, while working towards retirement himself, is the CEO and president of The Redemption Project, a program that works with employers to provide inmates with mentoring opportunities while incarcerated and meaningful employment upon release.

Where'd it go?

Waseca County History Center

Where'd It Go?

Billiard Hotel Demolition. Ca. 1945 , razed to make way for the addition to the E. F. Johnson Co. headquarters, located behind it on 2nd Avenue S.W.; this hotel was located on the south side of West Elm Avenue; 215 West Elm Avenue, Waseca, MN.

Paul and Mary (Radloff) Billiard were owners and proprietors of a successful Waseca Hotel. The Billiard Hotel was a misnomer as it was actually The Nora House and later The Nicollet House. It's location was 215 West Elm south side of the street and a half block of the M & ST Louis Railroad Depot. The well known hotel and boarding house with the Billiard family operating it for over 40 years. In 1937, it became The Snow's Chicken Hatchery. In 1945, E.F. Johnson Company bought the building and tore it down.

ON THE CASE - Waseca County Horse Thief Detective treasurer Amy Roemhildt doesn't chase horse thieves, but does take part in mounted cowboy shooting competitions where the targets are balloons. Lower left: WCHTD president Scott Roemhildt is an avid horseman.

Submitted photos

■ Thieves

from Page 3

organized into groups which could be rallied for a pursuit on short notice. Rosters were kept and riders were keenly aware of their responsibilities.

Iin one famous incident, the Detectives assisted in the capture of a group which had begun by stealing horses in Iowa and then moved northward into Minnesota. A group of nearly 1,000 people gathered on the grounds of what has since become the University of Minnesota Extension Office. Tensions mounted and led to the "roughing up" of the criminals. The situation eventually required the intervention of the sheriff and well-known county leader and historian James Childs to prevent a full-scale lynching.

Even as the use of horses in farming began to decrease, the Detectives continued to provide support and assistance in catching criminals. Roemhildt mentions that the organization would offer rewards for information about missing livestock, including even hogs and poultry. Roemhildt has also come across an ad from the 1920s in which the Detectives were requesting information about a stolen car.

Today's organization takes pride in a range of accomplishments. First, it is the longest continuously operating association of its kind west of the Mississippi, looking forward to its 160th annual meeting next summer. Second, it has well over 2,000 members from all 50 states and even 13 countries.

With a lifetime membership fee of only $5, Roemhildt admits, membership is easy to come by. But the low fee memorializes the 1800s when the $1 membership cost was equivalent to a day's wages.

Roemhildt feels the group is also remaining true to its original purpose of supporting law enforcement in two ways. First, it has made consistent contributions to the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association, a statewide group which manages a horse-drawn caisson for use at the funerals of fallen law enforcement officers, and which carries out numerous events throughout the state.

The Detectives are also in the process of establishing an annual scholarship meant to be available to any graduate of a Waseca County high school entering law enforcement as a career field. Roemhildt expects to see the first scholarship presented next spring.

Alongside these more serious accomplishments is next year's 160th anniversary–a number not to be taken lightly, despite the light-hearted fun entailed in the annual president's report which shares the news that no horse stolen in Waseca County has gone unrecovered in the past year–as verified by the county sheriff himself. And despite the old-fashioned fun of pie-eating contests, gunny sack races and bubble-gum bubble-blowing contests.

"There's great value in fellowship," comments Roemhildt. "We get together, we enjoy each other's company. We remember the history that led to where we are today. We appreciate simpler times and simpler lives."

> "We remember the history that led to where we are today. We appreciate simpler times and simpler lives."
> **— WCHTD president Scott Roemhildt**

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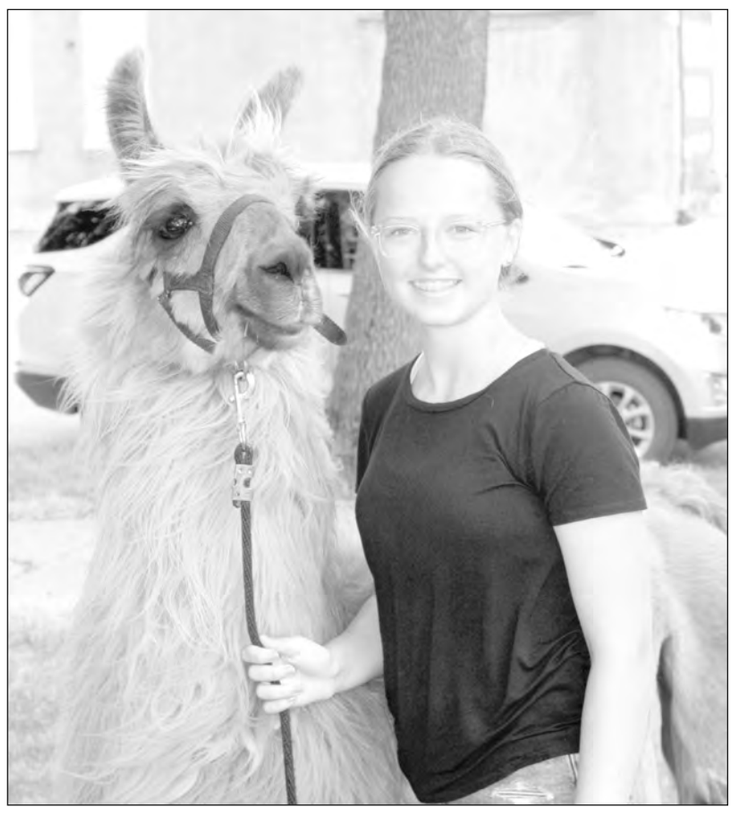

SHARING THE LOVE - Left: A visitor interacts with a llama during the event last Thursday afternoon at the Janesville Public Library's reading garden. Handlers Mikayla Schlosser (center) and Mallory Romeneeco (right) work for Llovable Llamas at Carlson's Farm.
Pioneer photos by Jonah Stafford

Lovable Llamas come to Janesville, Waseca

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

A crowd of over 80 people arrived to make new furry friends, as the "Llovable Llamas" visited the Janesville Public Library's reading garden Thursday afternoon. The same event took place the day prior in Waseca's Trowbridge Park, near the Waseca Public Library.

The visiting llamas were from Carlson's Farm in Waconia, while the event was led by attendants Mikayla Schlosser and Mallory Romeneeco. Schlosser is a veterinary student from St. Paul, while Romeneeco is a student at Chaska Senior High School. "I get to hang out with llamas, so why not?" Schlosser said of her summer job, which she's held since she was in fifth grade. Romeneeco is involved in 4H in her home community and has shown one of the farm's llamas, Pacemaker, at both the Carver County Fair and Minnesota State Fair. The other llamas that visited the Janesville Public library were named Bob, Mocha, and Fred.

"I'm super excited that the llamas are here," said Kelly Koplen, the Janesville Public Library's branch supervisor. "They are adorable," she added. The event was organized by the Waseca-Le-Sueur Regional Library System, while volunteers from the Janesville Friends of the Library assisted in managing it. "I'm really glad they came to help," Koplen said of the Friends of the Library's contribution.

For the duration of the two-hour event, the public was invited to pet, walk, and take pictures with the llamas. In addition, an informational "llama talk" was led by Schlosser.

■ Zika

from Page 3

lives through sixth grade. The only means of transportation for kids was walking or riding a bike to school. When Dad decided it was time for us to gain some independence, he went out and bought us our first bike–used. If we wanted something better, we were told to acquire it on our own. I remember shoveling driveways, mowing lawns, and working a 5:30 a.m. Pioneer Press paper route to earn enough money to buy a 3-speed black Schwinn bike.

Our neighborhood consisted of a group of kids not unlike the little Rascals. We built a baseball field a few blocks away on the airport property; we pulled games together there all summer long. Kick the Can was a game we played every evening. I especially enjoyed the game because all of the girls played. During the winter, we'd walk a mile to the East Side Lake warming house, put on our skates and play games on the ice.

We walked or rode our bikes miles to have fun. I fished with friends on the Ramsey Dam, a two-mile ride one way, or the Dobbins Creek Bridge, a one-mile ride. Our city swimming pool was a three-mile trip. Sometimes we'd carry buckets on our bikes, ride to the Ramsey Golf Course, and drown out striped gophers for 25 cents a piece.

I grew up loving athletics. Mom shopped for groceries at our Piggly Wiggly store and collected Green Stamps. I remember her saving stamps for a set of dishes–we ate off them forever. She also got me my first basketball. I listened to or attended every Packer basketball game, and shot baskets countless hours on our driveway, even during the winter.

While attending Ellis Junior High, I lived for sports. We had huge class numbers and everything was Intramurals. Our big game was against another junior high, Central, which we completed our season against in basketball, football, and baseball.

I passed my drivers' test and it was off to Austin High School. I was involved in sports so Dad purchased an old white Pontiac we called "the bomb." I was an above-average student, but my memories are all about sports.

During my junior year, we won the state in football. I played defensive back on an undefeated big nine team.

There were no playoffs, a mythical state champion was crowned by the St. Paul Pioneer Press. Basketball was my passion and I played guard for the Packers. There were no girls' sports, only cheerleaders and dance lines, also no 3-point basket. Geez - that was a long long time ago. The gym and open auditorium were always packed when we took the floor. We always got out of school early, rode a GreyHound bus, and had a big sit-down team meal in a fancy eating place at every away game. The guy I always sat next to on the bus and I would always eat a banana and an orange on the ride. I'd trade him my orange peelings for the fruit of his orange. He always ate the peelings: maybe that's why he was an outstanding player. We had great basketball teams but my high school career went down in flames when we lost to small school Hayfield in the sections. Oh yes, I did make the honor roll in high school.

Unlike more modern kids, I have no recollection of computers, cell phones, or technology; only a dial telephone hanging on our kitchen wall. I can't recall any lockdowns, school shootings or drug problems; if a student was a troublemaker they were sent to a detention center in Redwing.

The words "stress," "anxiety" and "psychological testing" were never in my vocabulary. I don't remember mass shootings in malls, workplaces, neighborhoods, or even places of worship. I don't remember violence, the burning and destruction of blocks of our major cities, a covid pandemic, or police brutality. I do remember getting a polio shot or a smallpox vaccination–and a police officer bringin me home when I was out after 10 p.m. curfew. Today I could probably call that police brutality, maybe even file a lawsuit!

I grew up during much easier times, the golden years. The world has definitely changed and there is no need to worry or lose sleep over everything taking place. I will live each day to its fullest, watch some Andy of Mayberry and Gunsmoke, and go to bed with memories of Dad buying the family 25-cent huge chocolate swirl ice cream cones for the family at Klagees in Austin. I will say my prayers tonight and go to sleep in peace; God will take care of it all.

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- John Deere 4430, Quad range, Aprox - 8952 Hrs tach replaced at 3157 hrs, two Hyd., 18.4R-38" tires with axle duals, Rock Box, S.N. 003032R
- John Deere 4020 Diesel, Quad range, tach not correct shows 4410 Hrs, 18.4-34" tires, rear weights, two Hyd., Rock Box, S.N. T213R137222R
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- Oliver 770 Gas, WF, with Westendorf Hyd. loader and bale and pallet fork attachments
- Oliver super 88 Gas, NF, with Vaughn Hyd. loader with bale fork and manure buckets
- John Deere 6620 Sidehill, Diesel shows 4123 Hrs, chopper, plumbed for RWA, w/rear wheel assist attachment sells w/combine, S.N. 504474
- John Deere Titan II side hill, chopper, head reverser, shows 3259 Hrs, S.N. H06620X615553
- John Deere 6620 sidehill, shows 3958 Hrs, chopper, S.N. 505620
- John Deere 643 corn head, 6 row x 30", pixel stalk rolls
- 4 - Crysteel 600 Bu gravity wagons, center unload, lights-brakes
- 2003 - Chevy 2500, 4x4, V-8 engine, auto, reg. cab, longbox, Aprox. 150,000 miles, one owner
- 1972 - Chevy C-60 Grain truck, single axle, newer floor

FARM EQUIPMENT + MISC. ITEMS
Case I.H. Ecolo-Tiger 530C Disc Ripper, 5 Shanks, Disc. levelers, lights
John Deere 980 field cultivator, 44 1/2', w/ 3 Bar Harrow
Riteway model 1200 rock rake, 12', Hyd. Driven
Riteway model 700 reel type rock picker, high lift
L + D Ag. Land Tender, 1000 gal. tandem axel, w/ Honda motor
DMI 17 shank Anhydrous Applicator, cold flow, 42 1/2'
I.H. 480 Disk, 18 1/2', w/ 2 Bar Harrow
I.H. 720 Plow, 4 bottom x 18", Auto reset
M.C. Stalk chopper, 20', 1000 PTO, 4 wheel
Hardi sprayer frame, 1250 gal., 90' Booms, Hyd. pump, 380/95-38" tires, Raven 450 monitor
White 550 L.P. Fork lift, side shift, 14.9-24" tires
New Idea 5407 Rotary cutter, 5 disc, 3 pt.
J.D. 400 Rotary Hoe, 20'
John Deere 7100 Planter, 12 row x 30", liquid Fert, kinze corn units, 2 sets of plates, monitor
J.D. 12 row x 30" FM front Mount cultivator w/ rolling shields
J.D. AT600A 8 row x 30" front Mount cultivator w/ rolling shields
Hopto model 120TM54 Portable Backhoe
7 1/2' x 16' Flat Rack w/ gear
5 section spike tooth drag on cart
J.D. 6000 Sprayer, shows 6272 Hrs, air ride seat, 60' x-fold century booms, Accumulator, Raven 440 monitor w/ single front wheel assembly and fenders
McCormick 10' grain drill, Double Disc, mechanical lift, low rubber, grass seed
500 gal. Diesel Tender, tandem axle w/ Honda motor
N.H. 510 Apron type manure spreader, single axle
SnowCo portable grain screener
N.H. 855 Round Baler
N.H. 55 side rake
J+M seed tender wagon, 2 compartments, MN gear w/ sudenga Brush auger, tarp
Drive over grain Hopper, Hyd. motor
3 pt. Stump grinder
Westgo 10" x 51' grain auger, PTO drive
Westfield WR 60-51 grain auger, 6"x 51', w/ 7 1/2 HP electric motor
3" Grain Blower, 3 phase, 15 HP motor, air lock bad
Farm King 6' rotary cutter, 3 pt.
3 pt. 60' x-fold Booms w/ Raven 440 monitor, electric shut off
1000 gal. Fuel Barrel w/ 2-Pumps
500 gal. Fuel Barrel w/Pump
500 gal. fuel Barrel
300 gal. used oil Barrel
Homemade single axle trailer
J.D. RM cultivator, 6 row x 30"
Portable Grain dryer shed
Lindsay fanning Mill
14-J.D. combine weights
Hydraulic oil cooler
Portable cement mixer
MBW Hyd. hitch w/ controls
Inductor tank w/ pump
Pair of 28L-26" combine tire and rims
Pair of Poly saddle tanks w/ brackets
Alumacraft 17' canoe
Alumacraft 12' boat w/trailer
Larson 12' Boat
Drive shafts for sidehill 220 Grain Head
Brush Auger 6" x 22', electric motor
2-Hook system quick hitches
Bulk seed fork frame
Large chain Hoist, 4 ton
Hossfeld Bender
Reed Bench lath 14"
10 ton floor jack
Century 225 amp wire feed welder, (less tank)
Large Vice opens to 15 3/8"
Single phase air compressor
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■ Klug

from Page 1

and pH levels of water, thus producing subtle changes in how the water behaves. The technology was originally created by hydrology scientists Russ Parker of Idaho Falls, Idaho, and Clarence Johnson of Morgana, California. Klug referred to them lightheartedly as "gurus with 70 or 80 years of experience between them."

The technology now in use in Loon Lake was first applied in 2014 in irrigation systems out west in Idaho, Nevada and Washington where, Klug quipped, "a six-inch rain is a drop of rain every 6 inches." The physical manipulation is useful there because it causes water to be more easily absorbed into soil while decreasing evaporation, leading to increased crop yields.

According to information Klug provided after the meeting, the process used to adjust the water's oxygen/pH balance has been used in systems of widely varying sizes–from some that have pipes the size of a garden hose to irrigation systems that use 200-horse electric motors to deliver 6,000 gallons a minute through 36" pipes.

"It's a remarkably adaptable system that can be scaled to suit almost any purpose," said Klug.

Another application Klug shared with council members is in the dairy and livestock industries in California, Washington and Iowa. There, animals have been shown to be better hydrated when consuming water from the system, and so have increased revenue through higher levels of dairy production.

Klug began experimenting with the system's effect on lake flora in 2016, entirely at "out of pocket" expense. After acquiring proper permitting and permissions, he has installed systems in Twin Lake of Crystal, Lake Alice of Fergus Falls, St. Olaf Lake near New Richland, and Loon Lake.

> "It's a system that can be scaled to suit almost any purpose."
> **— George Klug**

He stated ongoing testing has shown that, having been run through the application, lake water is clearer and does not smell. Oxygen and pH levels are more balanced and populations of bait fish tend to become more sustainable. Along with that, nuisance algae, coliform bacteria, E. coli, and cyanobacteria are reduced. With time, native plant populations begin to recover.

Council member Stacy Schroeder commented that Loon Lake is under the jurisdiction of her ward, and is in her neighborhood. She thanked Klug for the improved appearance and public appeal of the lake.

Klug went on to tell council members that he is not requesting any funds from the cities or lake associations connected with the various bodies of water he has studied. Instead, his goal has been to test and study the effectiveness of the application and to work toward receiving state-level funding and wider use of the system in those lakes where it will be most beneficial.

He further reported that presentations and applications at that level are already underway, and that he hopes the positive results achieved so far will be helpful in advancing their progress.

Winona author visits library

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

Janesville Public Library patrons enjoyed a visit from first-time Minnesota author Jenny Baertsch as she came to promote her children's chapter book Junkyard Tough: A "Tail" of Bravery last Tuesday, July 18. The book was illustrated by Sara Pientok, a graphic designer who is also Baertsch's best friend.

Baertsch lives and works in Winona, where she studied public relations at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota and graduated in 2001. While a student there, she met her husband Jim, a Winona native. "It's the same story for every SMUMN graduate: I came for the recruiting visit and loved the community," said Baertsch.

Baertsch said that Junkyard Tough came about as a passion project, when her family adopted a cat named Boots from a local junkyard. Around the time Boots came into her life, Baertsch's children became old enough to read chapter books and she felt "reinspired" to pursue writing again. As a young reader, Baertsch enjoyed the works of children's authors like Roald Dahl and Beverly Cleary. In writing her own book, Baertsch sought to create a narrative that combined the "real-life crazy adventures" of Boots the cat with a fictional narrative that would be "fun for kids to read," and an "underlying story of bravery that connects a moral to a pet."

After writing the first draft of her story, Baertsch enlisted the help of an informal team of editors which included friends, colleagues, teachers, and librarians, to prepare her book for publication. She also conducted focus groups in local classrooms, where third to fifth graders, who are her book's primary audience, served as the "best editors" when it came to pointing out what needed to change in her manuscript.

BOOKED - First time author Jenny Baertsch visited with young readers about her book "Junkyard Tough: A 'Tail' oif Bravery at the Janesville Public Library. Pioneer photo by Jonah Stafford

In the year following the completion of Junkyard Tough's manuscript, Pientok completed her illustrations and the design of the book. Then, Baertsch formed her own publishing imprint, Baertsch Books, to maintain control of ownership and the publication process. When the book was released in October 2021, every part of it was made locally in Winona.

Since becoming an author, Baertsch said that her favorite part of the job is "connecting with readers" through visits to schools and libraries, such as the one in Janesville."The book has become only one part of the process; the dream is connecting with readers and inspiring them, " said Baertsch. Baertsch said that Junkyard Tough recently surpassed 2,000 copies sold. "My first order was 500 and I thought that was a lot of books, but I just placed another order," said Baertsch.

> "The dream is connecting with readers and inspiring them."
> **— Jenny Baertsch**

As part of her visit, Baertsch gave a presentation for students receiving school-aged care from the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton and Trinity Lutheran schools on Tuesday afternoon. She stayed through that evening, selling signed copies of Junkyard Tough and handing out free coloring sheets of Pientok's illustrations.

Before becoming an author, Baertsch worked as a sports reporter for the Winona Daily News. She intended to build her career in the sports industry, earning a master's degree in sports management from Minnesota State University, Mankato in 2007. During her studies in Mankato, Baertsch also served as the university's athletic communications graduate assistant.

Baertsch switched career paths at 23 years old, when she felt burnt out "working every night and every weekend," as a sports writer. That pivot brought her into a position at WNB Financial, Winona's community bank, where she has worked for 15 years and holds the title of marketing manager. While Baertsch said that she does not represent the bank while on author visits, she "appreciates all they have done to support [her] dream."

CUTLINE - Left: Featured gardeners Audrey and Ralph Keyes with their daughter Tanya Herbst (center). Right: Vicki and Dennis Neidt took part in the Waseca Garden Walk Saturday, July 22.
Pioneer photos by Jonah Stafford

■ Walk

from Page 3

if they have a particularly "nice garden."

Club members at the Waseca Historical Society's Bailey-Lewer House offered free refreshments and maps of the tour, guiding participants to four other gardens in the city. Each stop had a station manned by club members, with a guest book to be signed by visitors. One member quipped that the gardeners with the smallest number of signatures will have to do the dishes at the next garden club meeting.

Lifelong county residents Vicki and Dennis Neidt opened their garden to visitors as part of Saturday's festivities. In addition to helping maintain his family's garden, Dennis said that Wasecans may recognize him from leading painting classes in the community. Also participating were former Waseca County commissioner Ralph Keyes and his wife Audrey. Their daughter, Tanya Herbst, joined them in greeting guests on the tour. Homestead home goods store owner Nancy Walter enjoyed being part of the lineup for a second consecutive tour. "It was a lot of work to get the yard ready," said Walter, adding that she was thankful that this year's tour wasn't rainy like last year's. Mike and Jane Mulcahey, a couple who have lived in their Waseca home together for 45 years, hosted the final stop. Their flower garden was especially expansive and its decor included metal silhouettes of their five grandchildren.

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Staff begins transition for new school year

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

During its July 17 meeting, the NRHEG school board conducted a wide array of business.

It officially accepted the resignation of Diana Foster, who has been a Bridges (Pre-Kindergarten) teacher for the past 13 years. Also submitting resignations were staff members Becky Lassahn and Michelle Thiele.

Holly Pederson was hired on to fill one of two open secondary language arts teaching positions. The board also learned that interviews are advancing to help assure the second position is filled soon.

Board members were notified that Jason Toupence, who was hired earlier in the year, officially joined the district staff during July. As teaching and learning coordinator (TLC), Toupence will fill a variety of roles including supervising staff development and the state required "World's Best Workforce" program.

Superintendent Michael Meihak also informed board members that no applications have so far been received for a music teacher position which has been posted for months, ever since the state implemented a new requirement increasing the amount of instruction elementary and middle school students receive in the "fine" and visual arts.

The district received more than $14,000 in donations; $1,750 came from the softball, track, wrestling and basketball booster organizations in support of the weight room. Another $12,250 was donated by Finly's Wings at Work: part of the amount is designated for purchase of fitness room equipment, part for playground equipment.

Among other matters attended to during the meeting was a "school property statement of use" summarizing an acknowledgement that Brenda and Mark Routh, residents of 320 Broadway Avenue South, would be allowed to access one entrance to a structure on their property through the secondary school parking lot. Board chair Rick Schultz stated that, since the school lot is public property, and since the agreement does not include any expense or modifications to the plans for next summer's improvements to the lot, there seemed to be no harm in allowing the access. The Rouths do plan to pave the access, including a piece of school-owned property about 12 feet wide and 5 feet deep.

Board members also approved arrangements to comply with a new state requirement that schools keep a supply of overdose medication on site. Under the policy, each site will acquire the medication naloxone hydrochloride and will have staff trained in administering it. The substance is used to help alleviate the symptoms of persons experiencing an overdose from the use of opiates.

Also in compliance with state regulations, board members approved the district's "literacy plan" for students in kindergarten through third grade. The plan lists steps the district takes to help assure that all students become proficient at reading. The district's ongoing "long-term facilities maintenance plan was also approved for submission to the state.

It was also mentioned during the meeting that Superintendent Meihak's three-year contract with the district is coming near completion. Board chair Schultz stated that, with a recent positive job review completed, negotiations with Meihak are likely to begin soon, with the hope that a new contract will be in place before the end of November.

■ School

from Page 1

referendum vote to occur in November, "So we have some time to get some answers and rethink our position." He suggested a vote might be considered for either next spring or next fall. "But I'm going to keep coming back with this, because we need some direction about how the board would like to move forward.

"We're past the point of sitting back and waiting another 6 months in good conscience."

During the member comment period, Dave Dunn expressed his gratitude to Pamela Deike, a paraprofessional at the elementary school who recently retired after 40 years of service.

Among the action items handled during the meeting was the approval of the 2023-24 student handbooks, renewing membership in both the Minnesota State School Board Association and the Minnesota State High School League, approving the state-required long term facilities maintenance (LTFM) plan, and approving updates to the district's strategic plan.

Board members accepted and acknowledged an anonymous donation of $175 which covered outstanding debt for the school's 2022-23 student meal service; that is, it took care of any debt which remained for students who are continuing with the district. Since the state legislature determined during its most recent session that there will be no charge for student meals in 2023-24 regardless of family income, having the debts canceled allows the district and families to move forward with a clean slate.

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Open for touring during the car show: Gus' Gas Station building, complete with candy from days gone by.

This Chevy Bel Air brought back scrumptious memories with its drive-in window tray.

Living expenses from the era in front of a 1955 Dodge Custom Royal Lancer owned by Bob Neudecker of Twin Lakes.

Did we stumble into a 1950s parking lot, or is this still the Gus' Station Car Show? Pioneer photos by Melanie Piltingsrud

Gus' Station 9th annual show

By MELANIE PILTINGSRUD
Staff writer

The weather was fine and the vehicles beautiful at the 9th Annual Gus' Station Car Show that took place on Saturday, July 15 in Owatonna at the Steele County Historical Society (SCHS) from 8 a.m. - 12:30.

Proceeds from the event go toward funding a service bay to be constructed next to Gus' Station at the Village of Yesteryear.

One prominent feature of the Service Bay will be a collection of tools made by the Owatonna Tool Company (OTC), a business begun in 1925 by Godfrey Kaplan. Frank Menulty began collecting tools from OTC 20 years ago because he felt there should be a display at the SCHS of the products made by what was once the largest employer in Owatonna, having at one time employed 1,600 people. Many individuals bring their hand-me-down tools to Menulty, having heard of his goal to create a display at SCHS. Menulty, who worked as a product manager for OTC for 30 years, plans to donate the collected tools for display at the hoped-for service bay.

The number of vehicles at the Gus' Station show this year was hard to keep up with: They started arriving before 8 a.m. and were still rolling in at 11 a.m. One motorist was overheard observing, "We showed up at 8 o'clock and we should have been here by 6!" Suffice it to say that at least 170 vehicles were on display at Gus' 9th Annual Car Show, and the eye candy ran to everything from a 1916 Dodge Brothers street rod, owned by Ed and Marilyn Wetzel of Blooming Prairie, to a 2019 Buick Special, owned by Todd Moran of Austin, and vehicles representative of every decade in between. For visitors whose tastes ranged from a '20s Model T, a '50s Bel Air, a '60s Mustang, or another iconic car, there was something there for everyone.

Car owners love to discuss their vehicles, and the car stories abounded on Saturday.

Scott Coy of Waseca showed off his 1956 Chevy Corvette, still in its pristine, original paint job in Cascade Green. "They only made 290 of these in '56," said Coy, who also explained that the "bug eye" headlights were designed when the CEO of Chevrolet thought the lines of their original design looked too feminine. The "bug eyes" were a move to make the vehicle more manly.

Owatonna resident Dave Brauten's entry was a vehicle he'd previously owned that he bought back after a 40-year hiatus. When he got married, he found he needed money, so he sold his 1967 Chevy Chevelle. The car went through five owners. The last owner was Brauten's nephew, who had the vehicle tricked out with a stock car engine and repainted it from butternut to a far brighter '68 Corvette Safari Yellow. "It's a lot more powerful now," said Brauten, who is more than pleased with the changes. Brauten says he's the third and seventh owner of the vehicle, which he doesn't intend to part with again.

Many car owners decorated the interiors of their vehicles with stuffed animals or dice, and a couple cars even sported drive-in style food trays, sure to bring back fond memories for some.

Announcer for the show was John Connor, who occasionally interrupted the steady stream of car-related tunes to announce the winners of various door prizes, as well as to thank the many sponsors of this year's Gus' Station Car Show, including Steve's Meat Market of Ellendale, who donated the popular hot dogs and bratwursts, and Jule Johnson, who provided the sound system for the event.

Gus' Gas Station brings visitors from all over the country, as visitors remember lining up to buy candy there as youngsters when they attended school in Ellendale. It took many volunteers to move the tiny, beloved station house from Ellendale to the Village of Yesteryear at the SCHS several years ago, so grown-ups could recall this happy memory from their childhoods, and so children could see a piece of how their parents grew up.

Mayor of Ellendale Matthew Bartsch drew for the winner of the 50/50 drawing, which won Steve Moreau of Faribault a handy $212.

Mike Hamilton of Owatonna Motor handed out the awards for the Top 20 vehicles as well as the various other categories.

The Top 20 cars as voted by the motorists were:

1957 Chevrolet Bel Air owned by Daryl Johnson, Hope

1957 Chevrolet Bel Air Convertible owned by Dave Wecker, Carver

1958 Chevrolet Impala 348 owned by Gary Johnson, Lemond

1967 Pontiac GTO owned by Arnie Beyer, Owatonna

1933 Ford Beebop Body owned by Dave Dunnette, New Richland

1931 Model A Ford 2-door Tudor Sedan owned by Rick Ahrens, Owatonna

1959 Chevrolet Impala owned by Jule Johnson, Waseca

1955 Chevrolet 2-door Handyman Wagon owned by Dwight Ward, Kasson

1968 Ford three speed factory Pontiac GTO owned by Mike Casson, Meriden

1950 Mercury 2-door Sedan owned by Rick Kendall, Waterville

1969 Chevrolet Camaro owned by Dan Deneen, Faribault

1972 Plymouth Cuda owned by Dana Christianson, Hartland

1971 Dodge Challenger RT Heavy owned by Scott Soderberg, Austin

1950 Chevrolet pickup owned by Dennis Malecha, Waseca

1969 Plymouth GTX owned by Allen Lee, Ellendale

1955 Chevrolet Bel Air Hardtop owned by Chris Iverson, Austin

1949 Chevrolet 3100 owned by Richard and Karlene Hansen

1957 Ford Thunderbird owned by Gene Michaelson, Owatonna

1966 Ford Mustang owned by Randy Young, Owatonna

1955 Ford Crown Victoria owned by Vicki Hanson of Minneapolis

Mayor's Choice – 1929 Ford Model A owned by Ron Musolf, Kasson

Best Street Rod – 1936 Ford Coupe owned by Steve Moreau, Faribault

Farthest Driven – 1972 Mercury Monterey Custom owned by Kevin Clark, Fergus Falls

Best Engine – 1964 Plymouth Belvedere owned by Dan and Sandy Janke, Owatonna

Best Truck – 1979 Chevrolet C10 Pickup owned by Rob McGreger

Best Interior – 1957 Ford Custom 300 owned by Wayne Woodward, Albert Lea

Best Paint – 1950 Buick Special owned by Todd Moran, Austin

Best Late Model – 2019 Corvette Convertible owned by Ron Fuller, Owatonna

Best Wheels – 1933 Ford 3-Window Coupe owned by Mike Klampe, Ellendale

Best in Show – 1963 Chevrolet Impala 409 owned by John Erickson, Kasson

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Argus archives

'Tell the News, Share the Love'

100 Years Back - 1923

Sad accident causes death - A deplorable accident occurred shortly after five o'clock Friday afternoon, when Mrs. August Tetzloff was hit by the engine of the east bound train a mile west of town and instantly killed.

Tourists stop occasionally in town for one thing and another and from them is gleaned the fact that is told in song and story everywhere that Minnesota is the finest state in the Union in productive power and capacity, and that the graveled road from Janesville to Waseca is the finest stretch of road on the Black and Yellow trail.

Continuing his early memoirs - G.W. Allyn tells about the erection of a log school house and its first teacher.

D.D. Carpenter had an opportunity to ride over to St. Clair Thursday morning, but on account of pressing duties he turned it down, much against his will. He stated in the presence of the writer that he has been a resident of Janesville for lo these many years, fifty or more, and that during all that long half century it has never come his way to go to that town, and he has never seen it.

NOTICE - It would be well for chicken owners to remember that the law restraining chickens applies to young chickens as well as others. In some cases these are allowed to roam about at their own sweet will, doing much damage. Owners of such should take this as a warning.

77 Years Back - 1946

Dr. Dean S. Fleming, State Health Department PReventable Disease Chief, has reported that Minnesota's 1948 polio cases total 29, as of July 15. On July 21, there were 74 patients receiving care at the Minneapolis Kenny Institute.

Janesville held a track meet in trouncing Lake Crystal here Sunday in a lop-sided game by a score of 16-7. The visitors played poor baseball, falling apart, and never having a chance with the home gang.

Program for wheat crop given - Under government loans, or purchase agreements, farmers in the county are assured of a top price of $2.10 a bushel.

The Waseca County Fair Board held a meeting Wednesday evening and selected Louis H. Pagel of Janesville, County Commissioner for the 4th Waseca County District, to fill the vacancy on the County Fair Board caused by the death of A. F. Sponberg of New Richland, who had been a member of the fair board for several years.

50 Years Back - 1973

John Scott, center, executive vice president of Janesville State Bank, hands Fire Chief Ken Lau a check for $400 to be used for the purchase of new equipment.

The Minnesota Department of Health announced today that children entering school for the first time must have received immunizations for both measles and rubella.

"Tell the News. Share the Love" will be the theme of Trinity Lutheran's two-week Vacation Bible School opening here Monday, July 30. All area children are invited and welcome to attend.

The Misses Ruth and Rachel Wagner, Marilyn Manthey and Connie Blasing of Janesville, attended the Future Homemakers of America Camp from July 15 to 20.

The Janesville American Legion dropped a 6-1 game to New Richland at Albert Lea last week and was eliminated from the Legion tourney. They had earned their way to the quarterfinals by defeating Alden.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Cele-Brate-A-Bit Birthday Club met at the home of Mrs. Bernard Lynch. Sr. The birthday of Mrs. Ema Wingen was celebrated.

25 Years Back - 1998

Looking down the road to future construction projects, West Second Street came up for city council discussion. The Janesville City Council granted Bolton and Menk its approval to conduct a feasibility study on West Second Street, with costs not to exceed $3,000.

Summer travels took a St. Clair teacher halfway around the world. Judy Bach, elementary special education teacher, was one of 200 American educators to visit Japan.

Pat Smith of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School was one of 38 area high school instructors that have been chosen to participate in Summer High School Experience programs provided through a special partnership of business and education leaders in the Mankato area.

The University of Minnesota Extension Service is sponsoring "Operation Hat Check" as a skin cancer prevention educational effort at this year's Farm Fest, Tuesday, Aug. 4- Thursday, Aug. 6, near Redwood Falls. Farmers attending Farm Fest can trade in their old baseball-style caps for a free hat that provides better protection from the sun.

LEFT: (1948) The Glamorous Group will feature one of the 8 big acts to appear before the grandstand at the Waseca County Fair, Friday afternoon and evening, August 6th. RIGHT: (1998) Joshua Sutlief, of Waseca, used his keen eyesight to throw darts in a game, winning a stuffed animal.

Unusually fine pea harvest

100 Years Back - 1923

Over 350 Waseca County farmers see show Saturday - The newly organized Waseca Chamber of Commerce put on their first "Farmers' Day" in Waseca. Tickets were given to the farmers and their families admitting them to the free show at the Palace Theatre as well as numbers on the $200 worth of prizes.

A crowd of happy humanity, variously estimated at from 5,000 to 8,000 people, enjoyed the picnic and program of the formal opening of the Elks summer club house on the north shore of Clear Lake Sunday.

Death came suddenly to Percy Cottingham, a well-known Waseca young man, last Friday afternoon, when he fell from a boat on Clear Lake and was drowned.

It may or may not be due to the extremely hot weather, but in any event Judge Brown had to commit three men to the hospital for the insane during the past week. They were: Ole Leverson of Blooming Grove, Gustav Fratzke of Waldorf and Hugo Brandt of Matawan.

Last week A. D. Haedecke, secretary of the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association spent a day in the county with County Agent Dickinson looking over fields of grain which the owners wish to have certified. The most of the fields inspected were Minturki winter wheat. This is a new variety of winter wheat developed by the Minnesota Experiment Station.

75 Years Back - 1946

Waseca paid final tribute Wednesday to Staff Sergeant Robert L. Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Brown, 510 West Elm street of the 15th Army Air Force. Staff Sgt. Brown, a crew member of a B-17 bomber, was killed in action over Czechoslovakia on August 29, 1944.

The Vista Evangelical Church will celebrate its 90th anniversary this coming week. The program will cover from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon. The theme of the Mission meeting will be "And Now The Harvest."

Waseca merchants will back "On Wheels" day which is scheduled to take place here Friday, July 30th.

Manager Eugene Byron of the Waseca Canning Co. reports that the last of the unusually fine 1948 pea harvest was processed on Tuesday afternoon. Because of the exceptional quality of the peas, all were fresh frozen and either stored at the factory or shipped immediately to market.

LOST- Blue crepe belt with embroidered front. Finder return to Herald Office.

50 Years Back - 1973

The Waseca Civil Air Patrol hosted 10 Swedish youngsters last night at a whole pig barbeque at the Jim Keller residence at Loon Lake.

David A. Winegar, University of Minnesota-Minneapolis Student Association Senator, was appointed in May to the Consultative Committee to President Malcom Moos. Senator Winegar spoke to the importance of retaining the University of Minnesota-Waseca for preparation of students for middle management and technical positions in agriculture.

Janesville - 29 senior citizens enjoyed a noon potluck picnic dinner at the American Legion Club Rooms, July 20.

FOR SALE - Encyclopedia Americana, 4 yrs. old. $50.o0. New Book of Knowledge, 4 yrs. old, $40.00

25 Years Back - 1998

The Minnesota Twins announced Friday that they finalized an agreement with the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission to keep the team in Minnesota for at least two more years, and possibly as long as five years.

Seven Waseca students recently returned from a 19 day trip to Australia and New Zealand. Hilary Jensen, Matt Hines, Tim Andree, Bryan Wellner, Andrea Hildebrandt, Amanda Holthus, and Jake Scribner are the first group of local students to take part in this type of trip.

Crazy, nuts and booming. These were the adjectives of choice for area merchants Monday when they described the hype surrounding Wednesday's record Powerball drawing for an estimated $250 million.

Lori Stangler and Curt Wetzel are hoping their unique combination of antiques and espresso will bring people from miles around to Petticoat Junxtion in Waterville.

Waseca County's rate of unemployment for the month of may was 2.5 percent, down from April's rate of 3.0 percent, according to the June 1998 issue of the Minnesota Employment Review.

Compiled by Amelia Roessler

Get your news in the Pioneer
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• Call (507) 837-6767
• Stop in person 103 S. State St.

LOOKING BACK

100 Years Back - 1923

-A contribution of $32 was taken up in Ellendale last week for the erection of a diving board at Beaver Lake.

-Found–An automobile side curtain has been left at the Star office for the owner; also a license tag.

-On July Fourth the New Richland and Austin teams played three innings of a scheduled game at the celebration at Wells. When this game was called by rain in the third inning New Richland had a 6 to 0 lead over Austin. Last Thursday the game was played off at wells for a $400 purse. New Richland won the game 6 to 5 when Tyrholm poled out a three bagger with Nock, Dielke and Gomsrud on bases.

-Two Ellendale residents were arrested in Albert Lea Thursday night by the local police department when liquor was found in their automobile.

-Cash Specials–Salmon, 1 lb. cans, 29c; beans, per can 11c; syrup, 5 lb. pails, 23c; toilet paper, per roll 6c; red cherries, per can 33c; Golden Bantam corn, per can 19c; Chocolate, pure baking chocolate, per cake 19c; tooth picks, 3c; salt, per bag 7c; pineapple, per can 29c; fig cookies, per lb. 17c; olive skin soap, per bar 8c; Tanglefoot, to get rid of flies, 3 double sheets 5c; picnic plates, 12 in. package, 8c; wash rags, each 4c–Sunde-Romine Co., phone 35, New Richland.

-Waseca is fast becoming a city. The first evidence is the fact that three divorce actions were started in one week.

77 Years Back - 1946

-Fire did a lot of damage Monday night at the Faust Theatre. The evening show was well under way when at 8:40 a defective wiring in the rewind table threw a spark which ignited the film. This touched off other films and soon the interior of the fire-proof booth was enveloped in flames. About 20,000 feet of film was destroyed, and both projectors which cost about $2,000 each probably were ruined.

-Sharrell Albright was hostess at a party for 13 of her friends last Friday evening at her home. It was her 12th birthday.

-William Sullivan was the successful bidder for the residential estate of Miss Agnes Sunde and will do some remodeling before occupying the home. The purchase price was around $3,800.

-Every once in a while someone reminds me of news I've missed. The latest to kid me about it is Attalla Abraham who gleefully remarked that he was gone from the store a whole week and it failed to "make" The Star. That was back in June when he was called down into Oklahoma by the death of a cousin. Some time we're going to make trouble for those Abraham clerks who hold up news from us.--C. W. Brown

-Elmer Lee accompanied Reuben Johnson of Clarks Grove, Oscar Hendrickson of New Richland and D. P. Moon of Norwalk, Calif., to the northern part of the state at Lake Winnibigoshish Wednesday morning where they enjoyed fishing, returning home Sunday.

-Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Storlie of Waseca and Mr. and Mrs. Orville Johnston of Albert Lea were Saturday evening guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Kaufman.

50 Years Back - 1973

-Pee-Wee tractor pull will be held at the annual Farm-City Day in New Richland this year. Pictured are Gary Hagen and Brad Nelson holding the prize trophies, and Orlene Moden on the Pee-Wee tractor.

-Mr. and Mrs. John G. Johnson of Albert Lea, Mrs. Palma Hanson and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Knutson were Sunday evening visitors at the Selmer Gulbrandson home.

-Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Reistad attended a birthday party Sunday at the Earl Thompson home in honor of his mother, Mrs. Gladys Thompson's birthday.

-Unofficial UFO Landing?--Delano Bartness, a farmer near Hartland, was spraying his cornfield when he discovered a most peculiar disturbance in the midst of the rows. It was in the shape of a circle and estimated to be about 12 to 15 feet across. In the circle there were vice holes in the ground, all about a foot and a half deep. Other smaller but deeper holes also appeared in the circle. The dirt near the holes had what appeared to be white ashes on it. The corn leaves on the outside of the circle were silted, but still green, as though they had been exposed to extreme heat. It's been nearly two weeks since the incident was noticed and most everything in the area is back to normal.

25 Years Back - 1998

-The congregation of Vista Lutheran Church, rural New Richland, will celebrate the 140th anniversary of the organization of the church, Sunday morning, Aug. 9 at 10 a.m. worship service.

-New Richland-Hartland Elementary School in New Richland welcomes Paul Sparby to the position of the principal. Paul accepted the position this spring, following the resignation of Ken Meyers. Ken had served in that capacity for 19 years.

-Minnesota Lake's Festag royalty was crowned following the parade Wednesday, July 15. They are from left: Miss Congeniality Melissa Bruegger, First Runner-Up April Becker, Miss Festag 1998 Katie Maras, and Second Runner-Up Taryn Treanor. Parents of the girls are Richard and Cindy Bruegger, Richard and Anne Becker, Denise and Brian Esser and Arlyn and Sandy Treanor. Katie is the granddaughter of Dennis and Barb Byrne of New Richland.

Compiled by Jessica Lutgens

PLAYOFF BASEBALL — At left, the Braves' Jimmy Loonan (12) rounds first base after leading off the bottom of the second inning with a double in Waseca's tough 5-4 loss to Blue Earth Sunday at Tink Larson Field. Above center, Loonan and a Blue Earth baserunner look to the umpire for the decision; it was an easy call, an out. At right, Braves second baseman Seth Anderson (3) awaits the throw at second base while shortstopTyson Reger backs him up. Waseca hosts Minnesota Lake Saturday at 2 p.m.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Braves remain alive in 13-60 League playoffs

Waseca hosts Minnesota Lake Saturday in do-or-die elimination game

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The good news for the Waseca Braves? They're still alive in the 13-60 League baseball playoffs, one win away from the double-elimination region tournament.

The bad news? One more loss ends their season.

The Braves split a pair of games at Tink Larson Field in Waseca last weekend, defeating Cleveland 11-7 in seven innings Saturday and dropping a frustrating 5-4 decision to Blue Earth Sunday."

"We lost a tough one," said Braves coach Tink Larson of Sunday's game. "We didn't help ourselves with a couple of baserunning mistakes."

Another thing that didn't help is that the Braves struck out 10 times while the Pirates struck out only twice.

Kyle Waugh went 2-for3 with a double, Kelvin Nelson 2-for-4. Jimmy Loonan doubled. Ryan Wangen and Payton Garza added one hit apiece.

Danny Cromer started and pitched four innings, taking the loss.

Ryan Hanson pitched well in relief. He gave up hits to the first two batters he faced and then gave up just one hit over the next five innings.

Waseca romped over Cleveland, with excellent pitching by Nelson, who yielding only three hits. He struck out eight and walked one.

"It was a well pitched game by Kelvin," said Larson. "Only a couple passed balls in the first inning kept him from a shutout. Cleveland never had a runner advance to second base after the second inning."

Collecting one hit each were Tyson Reger, Seth Anderson, Nelson, Waugh, Wangen, Erik Simmons and Alex Feeney.

The Braves improved their record to 16-5-1.

For the second consecutive game the Braves were without one of their best player, Chris Glynn, who was suspended for four games after being ejected against Waterville.

Now it is do-or-die in an elimination game on Saturday against Minnesota Lake. The game will be in Waseca at 2 p.m.

The winner advances to the region tournament.

The Pastor's Column

Summer is slowing down

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

For some reason it feels like summer is almost over. There are a lot of clues floating around that tell me it is almost over allow me to share. First off, I hear the band just about every day. As I slow down at night, check how dry my lawn is, water my vegetables on my porch, I hear the drums and salvo of trumpets from the High School.

Secondly, I got the call to help with Football again as a coach. I get to the field about 4:30 p.m., listen to the last of the band and then the football players take the field. This week marks the start of our season, we are reviewing our plays and teaching students how to step and move like football players.

Thirdly, Mason is selling sweet corn. Mason's family has strategically planted a variety of corn to have some early and later crops. I have had my first ear of this year's crop and look forward to my next few ears. I am excited for not only sweet corn, but green beans, peppers, and tomatoes. My early harvest in my garden is starting to come in and the later harvest will turn into salsas and sauces.

Finally, my wife is setting up her classroom. She is thinking about her next class of students, what they need to be able to learn and grow. She is planning lessons and moving furniture, cleaning up messes and organizing closets. Summer is almost over.

I feel like summer has barely started, but at the same time we are preparing for the fall harvest. It reminds of what Jesus said after His interaction with the woman at the well in John 4:

35 Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.36 Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.37 Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true.

No matter the time of year, we have been called to be watchful for the harvest. What harvest are we looking for? The disciples were confused, telling Jesus to eat something, but He was trying to tell them that the people were ready to follow Him. We continue to look for the opportunity to reveal Christ as Savior and Lord to those we meet in everyday life.

Jesus went to the well in the middle of the day and met a woman who went to gather water in the heat of the day. She was doing things differently to avoid those she would meet, but at just the right time and in just the right way Jesus met her and her whole life was turned upside down.

Jesus is in the business of seeing lives transformed. So, no matter what season you find yourself in, be ready to plant the seed of faith, grow in the knowledge of God and reap the harvest of transformed lives for God glory. Take time today to pray for those God puts in your life.

WASECA BRAVES SCHEDULE – 2023

Waseca Braves continue playoffs Saturday at 2 p.m.

The Waseca Braves will host Minnesota Lake at 2 p.m. on Saturday. If they win, they will play again on Sunday at 2 p.m. Location to be determined.

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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., 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship
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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
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Worship Sunday 10 a.m.
* * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 E Elm Ave, Waseca
507-835-1709
Worship Sunday 9 a.m.
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SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Sundays 9 and 10:30 a.m.
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1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca
507-835-4640
Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.
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Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship
Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship
* * *
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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
* * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Pamela Jensen
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship
* * *
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
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Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
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VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
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* * *
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Vacancy
Sunday = 1 p.m. Worship
* * *
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Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship
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August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6pm BAR Bingo	3 7pm BINGO	4 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm *COAST GUARD*	5
6	7 *PURPLE HEART DAY*	8	9 6pm BAR Bingo	10 7pm BINGO U.S. DEPARTMENT DEFENSE BIRTH-DAY	11 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	12
13	14 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting *NAVAJO CODE TALKERS DAY*	15	16 6pm BAR Bingo *NATIONAL AIR-BORNE DAY*	17 7pm BINGO	18 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	19
20	21	22	23 6pm BAR Bingo	24 7pm BINGO	25 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30 pm	26
27	28	29 *MARINE CORPS RESERVE BIRTH-DAY*	30 6pm BAR Bingo	31 7pm BINGO		

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IRIDESCENCE - Left: Braxtyn shows off his homemade bubble-blower made at the summer bubble party July 22 at Trowbridge Park in Waseca. Center: Lawrence Ripp, aka "Sir Sidney Soapington, the Baron of Bubble" demonstrates his bubbling technique. Right: Jude and Fulton were the two youngest guests of the bubble party. Pioneer photos by Tristan Jensen

Bubble extravaganza in park

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

The Waseca Public Library hosted Lawrence Ripp, also known as "Sir Sidney Soapington, the Baron of Bubble," for a bubble party summer event the afternoon of July 22. Inside the library, kids could use pipe cleaners, beads and cookie cutters to make their own bubble wands. Outside at Trowbridge Park, Ripp spoke in rhymes and engaged children in play with a variety of bubble wands and ropes. "I'll make you a bubble you'll want to take home," he said, "but it won't fit in your cart and will scare your horse – so let it fly free! It's a bubble, of course!" Ripp has called himself the Baron of Bubble for thirteen years, and brought those years worth of fun to the kids attending the event. He also performed a closeup magic trick "catching" the bubbles participants blew and presenting delighted children with shiny "gems" in their place. Library staff also offered "bubble painting" as an outdoor activity: Children used dyed bubble solution and bundled straws to create colorful images on cardstock.

More than 30 children attended the bubble party, which children's librarian Brianna Bleeker said is the Waseca library's last really big kids' event of the summer. The idea for a bubble party came from Jessi Zimmerman, who collaborated with Bleeker. They explain that their objective was to make the event all-ages inclusive, with activities anyone from toddler age to grownup could enjoy.

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also pleased to say that the golf course has been "consistently busy all season long," despite the heat waves and drought.

Also speaking July 10 was Shane Zahrt, a representative from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC), a lobbying organization which advocates for more than 100 member communities at the state capital. Monday's visit was to recap the recent legislative session and how it would affect Janesville and other cities in the CGMC.

The main topic at hand was the State Legislature's approval of $20 million in street funding to be distributed among all Minnesota cities with a population of fewer than 5,000 residents. According to Zahrt, cities of that size typically "never got any dedicated funding" in the past, although towns located near the Twin Cities typically receive roughly 80% of funds distributed to municipalities. While Zahrt declared this funding to be a "big victory," he said that the $20 million will be divided at least 705 ways. With continued lobbying, Zahrt claimed even more funding could be possible in the future. Zahrt said he's waiting on word from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) as to how and when those funds will be distributed, but "it should be great news."

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