



■ Inside:

- 3 - POP club
- 4 - Garden club
- 4 - IT budget
- 5 - Biker Bug Run
- 6 - Mission trip
- 8 - 100 Best Books
- 9 - Redemption
- 10 - Sports
- 12 - Cheer teams



LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
No. 2 Vol. IV \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, August 21, 2025



Biker Bug Run

Flowers in Literature Exhibit at Waseca Public Library in August

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

Butterflies workshop at Waldorf Public Library Aug. 19 to 22

Create iridescent butterflies using colorful paper, pompoms, and other crafty surprises at Waldorf Public Library during open hours Aug. 19-22. Encourages creativity, fine motor skills. For ages 5 and up.

Cook the Boko at Waseca Public Library Thursday, Aug. 21

There will be a Cook the Book event at the Waseca Public Library at noon, Thursday, Aug. 21. The selected book is "The Complete Salad Cookbook" by America's Test Kitchen, visit the library to choose a recipe, then bring the finished dish to the event.

Build your own Bouquet at New Richland Liquor Store Thursday, Aug. 21

A Build your own Bouquet event will be from 6-8 p.m. at the New Richland Liquor Store on Thursday, Aug. 21. Join Andi and Haley for a delightful evening of flower arranging, unleash creativity and learn the art of bouquet-making from talented local floral experts, tickets are \$55.

Amy Manette Band at Janesville Veterans Memorial Park Thursday, Aug. 21

Musical group AZBY will play at the Janesville Veterans Memorial Park from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21. This event is free to attend and is part of the Songs in the Park Series.

Competitive arm wrestling practice at Club '57 Aug. 22

Anyone interested in learning more about competitive arm wrestling can attend a practice and informative session at noon at Club '57 in Waseca. The event is hosted by Alex and Jolene Clark, state-level competitors in the sport.

Ice Cream Truck at Minnwest Bank in Waldorf on Aug. 22

An ice cream truck will be serving free treats at Minnwest Bank in Waldorf from noon till 3 p.m. Friday Aug. 22. All ages welcome at 102 South Main Street, Waldorf.

A word from The Word

Then young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.

Jeremiah 31:13



LOCAL LEADERS - Representative Brad Finstad stopped in Waseca this past week to meet with local leaders as part of his journey to visit every county in his district. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

Walking tour brings Finstad to Waseca

Representative Brad Finstad made a stop in Waseca this week as part of his ongoing journey to personally visit every county in his district. In a vibrant yet intimate gathering at the Waseca Art Center, leaders from the City, County, School District, Chamber of Commerce, Sheriff's Department, Economic Development Authority, local businesses, and civic organizations came together to hear his message and engage in thoughtful dialogue.

Rep. Finstad opened his remarks

by highlighting that the United States has experienced three consecutive months of zero illegal border crossings. He also addressed the political polarization in the nation, stating, "The reality is, there are far more of us in the middle, trying to do the best we can for our constituents and our country."

When asked about the increasing influence of the executive branch, Rep. Finstad acknowledged longstanding concerns. "We've seen an imbalance for decades as executive

orders have become standard operating procedure for Presidents," he said. "If Congress agrees with an executive order, it should simply be passed into law. There's no reason for new Presidents to come in and reverse them, it gives the public whip-lash."

The event allowed local leaders to connect directly with their Congressman, asking questions and sharing community priorities.

"It was wonderful to have so many impactful leaders gathered to hear di-

rectly from Representative Finstad," said Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce. "We were honored to welcome him to the heart of his district, and to have this kind of meaningful exchange right here in Waseca."

Rep. Finstad's visit to Waseca is one of many stops on his ongoing tour to ensure his district has a voice in Washington.



Steeple soars skyward

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Roughly 40 feet tall and weighing 30,000 pounds, the replacement steeple for LeSueur River Lutheran Church lifted off the pavement where it had been constructed and moved directly to the place it belonged, easily 80 feet above the ground atop the church's bell tower the morning of Thursday, Aug. 14.

The bell, which weighs 1,250 pounds, had arrived in its space only shortly before.

The lifting and placing were accomplished in less than two hours' time using a Grove GMK 5150 crane

supplied by Meyerhofer Crane and Rigging Services out of Grand Meadow, Minn. According to Jason Ree with Meyerhofer, the GMK 5150 has about 200 feet of boom and is capable of lifting 165 U.S. tons of weight. Purchase price for a similar vehicle, he suggests, would be about \$2 million.

The crane was operated by a crew of three, and also arrived in a caravan of three vehicles: the GMK 5150 driving independently and two semis. One semi carried pallet-sized metal plates which provided a secure

Steeple continued on 6



ALL THE BUZZ - Jan and Larry Hofmann, owners of Hofmann Apiaries located near Janesville, in front of the facility's honey harvesting barn during the Bee Bash Pollinator Party on Saturday, Aug. 16, 2025. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Pollinator party

Hofmann Apiaree Bee Bash! Pollinator Party sees honey, music and a stream of visitors

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

From 1903 through 1985, the Hofmann Apiary near Janesville was a successful honey producer and breeder of Italian bees and queens. Nowadays, visitors are invited to tour the buildings and facilities and learn about traditional honey production methods. A Bee Bash! and Pollinator Party 3.0 celebration on Aug. 16 brought a long stream of visitors from a wide area.

Owners Jan and Larry Hofmann spoke with visitors. Said Jan, "We were so glad all these people were able to come out today, we hoped

so many could see it." Larry added, "We opened the wax shed and honey house." Near the edge of the grounds, numerous bee boxes were marked as being off limits to reduce disruption to the hives. Also part of the grounds is a 15-acre plot of restored prairie graced by a walking trail. Signs and markers identify native flowers including Wild Bergamot and Golden Alexanders, perfect for bees on the hunt for nectar.

Volunteer Jim Jewison tells of having been an employee at the apiary in the sixties and early sev-

Bee Bash continued on 4

Finstad answers local leaders

By ELI LUTGENS

Minnesota's First District Congressman Brad Finstad visited with local community leaders for approximately one hour Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2025, at the Waseca Art Center as part of a southern Minnesota walking tour. During the month of August, Finstad is making dozens of stops including nine in Rochester on Wednesday and four more on Thursday in Mankato, Waseca, and Steele County.

Finstad introduced himself and talked about his family, seven children all under 22 years old. He said he is among the 80 percent of congress members who "fall between the Ilhan Ohmars and Marjorie Taylor Greenes of the world."

Finstad gave an update which included talk of the traditional August recess due to "miserable heat," which provides an opportunity for members of Congress to return home to their district to "hear what's going on."

Prior to recess, Congress passed a reconciliation bill which included public safety measures aimed at addressing "unmitigated disaster" at the southern border.

Finstad cited the absence of any illegal border crossings in the last three months as a victory. He said the next step is dealing with those illegal immigrants already in the United States who came here with ill intent, i.e. the cartel and other gangs. He said the efforts are aimed at making streets safer.

Finstad said he talked with the Rochester chief of police who agreed he never thought this would be a problem here.

"Right now, we [Waseca County] don't have any negative effects from illegal immigration," Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas told the Pioneer. "It's not affecting Waseca County at this time."

Finstad talked of the difficulty of legalized marijuana. He said he grew up with the DARE program and "just say no."

Finstad cited four recent deaths due to fentanyl-laced marijuana overdoses by teens in Rochester.

In June, the Star Tribune reported on five recent overdoses due to fentanyl, but did not state the cause was marijuana laced with fentanyl. The Rochester police reported the overdoses were due to narcotics laced with fentanyl, not marijuana.

Pioneer staff could not find any recent news articles from Minnesota referencing overdoses involving marijuana laced with fentanyl.

"I have no first-hand knowledge of pot being laced with fentanyl in Waseca County," Sheriff Dulas said, clarifying the county has experienced deaths due to fentanyl, but the substance was mixed with materials other than marijuana. Dulas also said he's never seen a death in the county related to marijuana laced with fentanyl.

Finstad said the most devastating tax increase in the coun-

Finstad continued on 5



Compostings

by Al Batt

The field of flicks

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING
I got a quote to have my roof repaired.

What was the quote?
It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. It was too hot outside and too cold inside. I left the business I’d visited and noticed a pile of Amazon boxes at a nearby home of shoppers in their prime. I thought of a time before air conditioning, when Amazon was just a jungle. I grew up near the village of Bath, home of the Bath Store, before it became a ghost town. I recalled a conversation with another boy. He’d told me that his family called Bath “Poptown.” I asked him why.

“Because you can get pop there,” he said.

“Can’t you get pop everywhere?” I asked.

“I don’t know, we don’t go everywhere.”

THE FIELD OF FLICKS
I enjoy baseball and movies, and movies about baseball. “Bull Durham,” “Major League,” “Field of Dreams,” “A League of Their Own,” “It Happens Every Spring,” and “Angels in the Outfield” are fine film fare.

I recall the last Twins game I attended. I sang, “I don’t care if I never get back,” in the key of off. It was the peanuts and Cracker Jack talking.

The last movie I saw in a theater was delightful, but the trailers of upcoming movies were so loud I couldn’t hear others eating popcorn.

I’VE LEARNED

I bought a 24-pack of bottled water. Earlier, I’d purchased a bottle of water at an airport. The airport bottle cost more than the 24.

I got a shingles shot. I’m thinking of getting a vinyl siding shot.

A bug zapper is a fly-by-night operation.

My dog ate a small chair. The veterinarian has requested a stool sample.

In 1930, only 8% of American homes had an electric refrigerator.

A coming attraction shown in a theater is something that looks better than the movie you’re about to watch.

The USDA found the average U.S. corn yield in 2024 was a record 179.3 bushels per acre. In 1975, the average U.S. corn yield was approximately 71-80 bushels per acre. According to the National Corn Growers Association, David Hula of Charles City, Virginia, set the record of 623.84 bushels per acre in 2023.

THE NEWS FROM

HARTLAND HAROLD

I looked at grainy photos of bygone grocery stores offering food, produce, dry goods, men’s wear and shoes. Sibilrud’s (Kenneth) Jack Sprat Foods in Hartland. Phone Tilden 5-2077. Anderson’s (Dorothy and Walter) Jack Sprat Foods in Freeborn. Phone 2555. This nursery rhyme inspired the store name, “Jack Sprat could eat no fat. His wife could eat no lean. And so betwixt the two of them, they licked the platter clean.”

My wife and I dined at Casa Zamora, a retiring restaurant that began in Albert Lea in 1969 and got better all the time.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

I hate to brag, but I have the memory of one of those big gray animals.

The worst time to have a heart attack is during a game of charades.

Justice is a dish best served cold. Otherwise, it’s just water.

NATURE NOTES

I heard a whistle, a plaintive “Ken-ne-dy.” Here’s a fun fact: only .003% of eastern wood-pee-wee males are named Kennedy. That’s not true. The pee-wee produced this call: “pee-a-wee!”

I found wild turkey and blue jay feathers in the yard. Does that mean we’ll be seeing naked turkeys and jays? Turkeys molt all of their feathers each year, and molting is most pronounced during the summer. Jakes molt first, followed by the hens that didn’t nest or hatch a brood, and toms molt after their breeding activities wane. Successful hens with broods and hens that have renested molt last. Blue jays also molt in summer, and some jays drop all their head feathers simultaneously. That’s why I see bald blue jays each year.

On a lovely day in August, what better thing to do than to consider winter? Winters can be treacherous, and it’s the only season that happens twice a year. According to folklore, a narrow orange band on a woolly bear (woolly worm) caterpillar predicts a harsh winter, while a wide orange band means a mild winter. Folklore says the number of fogs in August will correspond to the number of snowfalls in the coming winter.

The Baltimore oriole migration peaks in August and September. It may seem that by Labor Day, they have all gone back to school, but there are always some that linger longer before heading to wintering grounds in Florida, the Caribbean, Central America and the northern tip of South America.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Be kind, don’t judge, and have respect for others. If we can all do this, the world would be a better place. The point is to teach this to the next generation.”—Jasmine Guinness.

A glimpse at how things have changed

Along a gravel road not far from where I live, a field of contracted sweet corn has been growing gradually taller all summer. The field has had a tough go of it, especially the low-lying part which is right along Boot Creek. Somehow the crop managed to keep growing despite being repeatedly inundated with water.

The other day, the giant equipment from the processing company came and the harvest began.

A moment of revelation came for me when I wanted to drive down the gravel road in question. The combine, or picker, or whatever the right name is, had filled its hopper. As I approached, I saw that the field equipment had pulled up on the narrow road to transfer its load into a nearby truck.

Between the two vehicles, it was obvious I had two options: either wait until the load was in the truck, or turn around and take a different route. Seeing the size of the truck and the size of the picker, I presumed the process would be time-consuming.

My eyes widened in wonder, though, when the hopper—big enough to hold a large truckload of ears of sweet corn—lifted into the sky above both the field equipment and the truck, then tipped itself neatly to the side, simultaneously emptying itself and filling the large cargo area of the truck. Just like that. In seconds.

Then the hopper lowered back down as though it had never risen and the picker was ready to drive back into the field. The first truck drove away and another was already



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

standing there waiting for it all to happen again.

I thought of my grandfather who made a living and raised a family on 160 acres.

I remembered a description of how farmers from that time harvested field corn. They walked through the field picking the ears and placing them in a wagon. Then they went to the “corn crib,” and put the ears, still wrapped in their husks, inside.

There are very few corn cribs still standing in southern Minnesota, but I can point to the spot where one stood until only a decade or so ago—unused, but still something of a monument to earlier times. They were usually long, slender structures which stood quite high. Their walls tended to be sided with widely spaced boards so that the ears of corn would stay inside but air could circulate freely.

Then the corn stayed there for months drying on the ears while the husks lost their moisture, turned brown, and shrank. By the time it was removed, it looked vastly different from when it had gone in.

Once it was dry, the corn could either be fed to livestock or loaded back on a wagon and taken into town to be sold.

Back in the corner of my grandfather’s barn, we (then) kids came across a hand-turned machine with cogs inside. We were eventually informed it was a “corn shucker,” a wonderful labor-saving device which rotated ears of dry cob corn in such a way that the kernels separated fairly smoothly from the cob. Grandpa explained it was a much better way than the one used during his childhood—removing the kernels by hand.

After seeing the giant picker fill a truck in a few seconds, I tried to imagine what someone from my grandfather’s generation would have said—and yes, I know field corn and sweet corn are not the same. I also know it’s been a very long time since field corn was left on the ear as it was picked. But that does not remove the wonder of the moment.

Hours later, I returned homeward past that same field of sweet corn. It was storming at the time, with rain pelting down. Thanks to the rain, the lightning and the thunder—oh yes, and then my phone telling me I was in the area of a tornado warning—my eyes were focused on the road.

Suddenly I realized there were some very bright lights off to my right.

It was the picker, now surreal in a

whole different way because it was out there in the darkness and the storm, somehow continuing the work of harvesting that corn. There must have been about six amazingly bright spotlights shining down in front of it, showing the track it was following.

Again, the level of technology gave me pause.

That giant piece of equipment was out there navigating the storm and the mud, still doing its job.

I marveled at it—how for the time I was near it, the brightness of those floodlights rivaled the impressive lightning show in the sky.

I thought of how muddy the field must be in all that rain, and my heart went out to the operator, speculating what it must be like trying to complete such a large-scale task when all of nature seemed to be against it.

I drove down the gravel road again the next afternoon. The low-lying part of the field along Boot Creek was rutted with deep tracks. A small part of the field, a spot where standing water must have stunted the corn’s growth, stood unharvested. The road, normally the brown color of gravel, was a deep black. When I drove on through, mud sprayed up in the air, even falling on my windshield.

I’m not sure I will ever see that section of road in the same way again. It’s almost as if it’s the site of a great confrontation which arose between human ingenuity and nature herself. And while, yes, ingenuity accomplished its goal, the field still shows the signs it was a fierce battle.



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

What life is like here in Denver

I’m betting you are all dying to know, so let me assure you I have survived my first week living in Denver.

The drive down was easy, albeit a bit boring since it makes use of essentially only one highway, I-80, through the entirety of Nebraska. I’ve never really stopped and toured in Nebraska, and to be frank, I don’t think I ever plan to. I don’t mean any offense, there just wasn’t anything along the way that caught my interest. My sister, though, was excited to drive into new states: The wonder of Omaha and the endless fields was not lost on her. Even the hotel we stopped at was surrounded by fields and cattle, which made for a gorgeous sunset.

We arrived in Denver in the late afternoon on Friday, and quickly set to work unpacking both vehicles. My thanks to my wonderful family. First, they helped me pack everything into my car and my dad’s truck. Then they provided company and assistance on the drive. Finally, they were all set to help carry everything inside. There was one hitch though — the carpeting in the hallway outside my apartment was being actively replaced as I was moving in. Thankfully we got everything up in two trips, so we only had to wait a few times for the carpet guys to lay down enough carpet over the glue for us to walk over.

My boyfriend, Jack, and I spent the next day going to stores for all the necessities of apartment living. We came back with a car full of groceries and furniture from Ikea, Costco and Walmart. An expensive day to say the least, but also exciting.

I spent the next few days unpacking, organizing the apartment a bit, and generally making it feel homey and welcoming while Jack went to work.

There’s probably not any way to tell by looking at the editions of the newspaper, but there’s been a big change in the way they’re put together. For the past three years, it has been Eli who has taken the news, advertising, public notices and other items and “laid them out” to create the pages electronically.

Over the past couple of months, I have been taking that job on, using my experience from college and at the local paper. Eli is still the publisher; he makes all the upper-level decisions and supervises what I do. Except for when my transition to Colorado interfered, I have been assembling the paper for a bit more than a month. However, I had taken this week off from the task so I could focus on this transition, familiarize myself with Denver and get to know my new neighborhood.

Turns out we landed in a place I consider the perfect area to live in. We have some parks only a few blocks away, a nicer neighborhood, and all types of stores and restaurants only a few minutes down the road. We even have an AMC only two blocks away, next to the Trader Joe’s and a coffee shop. All these fun things so close have me itching to explore, but, for my budget’s sake, I will explore slowly.

First though, I have to figure out what to do with myself. It is my first weekend as a Denver resident, yet Jack is away on a trip to California with his friends, leaving me to myself for five days. (He had planned this months ago, it just happened to fall on this weekend.) However, it has left me to ponder the things I should do while alone.

I have always appreciated and valued my independence. I never wanted that to change when I entered a relationship and I don’t think it ever has. But being alone in a city I don’t know very well is a bit nervewracking. I would love to travel a bit outside the city to go hiking in the mountains, but I don’t think it would be wise to set out on unknown trails by myself. I don’t know which areas to avoid or which ones are good to walk around in as a solo woman. In reality I’m sure I would be fine, but you get my point.

So then I ask myself, is it so bad to just be by myself in my apartment? No one said I had to go out and venture anywhere and there are plenty of things I can do to keep myself occupied in this new setting—except I believe I might go a bit stir crazy. So how do I balance relaxing across from fulfilling my



NEBRASKA - My sister Lizzie, left, and I stand in front of the Nebraska fields outside of the hotel we stopped at for the night.
Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler

everpresent desire to be productive? I guess I will find out and try not to feel too guilty about not exploring my new city alone.

Either way, the future looks exciting and I’m ready to explore it, whether it be enjoying my hobbies

in my apartment or venturing into the great unknown.

My Determination: “It does not do to dwell on dreams and forget to live.” — J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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

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DEADLINES: Pioneer: Noon Monday
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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JON LUCCA
BEN REVERMANN
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OBITUARIES

Shirley Langer

Shirley Anne Langer, age 81, of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and a devout Catholic, passed away peacefully at Lakeshore Assisted Living in Waseca on Monday August 11, 2025, surrounded by loved ones.

Shirley was born in Grafton, ND, on April 25, 1944, to parents Edward and Myrtle LeQuire. She graduated from Grafton High School in 1962 and then spent two years at Sacred Heart Convent in Fargo, ND. On November 20, 1965, Shirley was united in marriage to Marvin Langer at the Church of Saint Casimir in St Paul, MN. They were married for 54 years before Marvin died in 2020. Shortly after their marriage, Marvin's sister Bernice passed away, leaving her 3 children without parents, so Marvin and Shirley opened their home to Roger, Barb, and Tom Curtis and later added to their family with 4 more children, Gina, Michele, Jessie, and Jeremy. Shirley began her working life as a nurse's aid in St. Paul and later became a licensed practical nurse employed in Waseca and Owatonna. She also offered home health care and worked as a school nurse at Sacred Heart School in Waseca. Shirley was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church where she was a member of the Catholic Daughters and taught religious education classes. She had also enjoyed being a Brownie/Girl Scout Leader, volunteering to chaperone and attend different school events, singing, dancing, going to different casinos, playing bingo, and walking to buy her scratch off tickets at the local Kwik Trip.

Shirley is survived by her children Gina Groth of Waseca, Michele Langer of Mankato, Jessie (Andy) Kath of Waseca, Jeremy (Sam) Langer of Waseca, Roger Curtis of Donna, TX, Barb (Jennifer Muse) Curtis of Salt Lake City, UT, Tom (Julie) Curtis of St Paul; her grandchildren, Peyton, Derek, Emilee, Alexis, Madalynne, Aydan, Mya, Joe, Bethany, Samantha, Jack, Henry, Isabelle,



Shirley Anne Langer

Zac, Angie, Andrea, Andrew, Ashley, and Dan; and great-grandchildren Bella, Dominic and Grayson. She is also survived by her sisters Beverly (Richard) Bolduc and Mary Hewitt (Greg Hahn). Shirley was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; siblings, Louie, Lloyd, John, Tom, Jim, Gene, Helen, and Betty; and in-laws, Joseph and Francis Langer, Bernice, Art, Grace, Kathleen, Victor, and Wilfred.

Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, August 18, 2025, at 10:30 am at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca, with Fr. Glenn Frerichs officiating. That same morning there was a reading of the Rosary at 9:00 am, followed by a time to greet Shirley's family from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. Interment took place at Calvary Cemetery in Waseca.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Sacred Heart Catholic Church or Sacred Heart Catholic School. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca is handling arrangements.

With grateful hearts, Shirley's family would like to thank the staff at Lakeshore Assisted Living, formerly Latham Place Assisted Living for their loving care and attention during the 8 years our mom resided there. We also want to say a very special thank you to Claudia, RN, with St Croix Hospice.

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

County looks at IT budget, replacing bridge

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

As the county continues to look at creating a preliminary 2026 budget by the state-set deadline in mid-September, county commissioners have heard from numerous department heads over the past few months.

Information Technology (IT) department leader Judy Hiller revealed she expects no increase in her budget, but listed some of the equipment, software and online services her department is responsible for.

During the discussion, it was shared by Hiller and county administrator Michael Johnson that "phishing" and "ransomware attempts" are constant for all businesses and agencies with an online presence. Waseca County, Johnson said, is bombarded by "tens of thousands" attempted attacks each day.

Hiller said there are two types of protection—steps taken to prevent the attacks from gaining access, and preparations that would make any system penetrations less harmful, for example, having "backups of backups of backups" so that threats



STRUCTURAL CONCERNS- This bridge along County Road 6 northeast of New Richland was built in 1940. Stress tests showed it is no longer safe for vehicles over eight tons. Originally scheduled for replacement in 2027, it will now be replaced in the next few months.

to hold pockets of information for ransom would be rendered harmless.

County engineer Jim Kollar requested commissioner approval of a contract which would expedite the replacement of a bridge along County Road 6 northeast of New Richland over the LeSueur River. The bridge was constructed in 1940, and was extended using timbers in the 1980s. Due to structural concerns, it has had an eight-ton-per-axle limit since early in the year, forcing area farmers to take detours with heavy vehicles. Kollar explained the bridge was originally scheduled for replacement during the 2027 construction season, but the level of deterioration justifies moving it forward on the schedule.

The contract approved on Aug. 5 will have work beginning this September and completed by Nov. 1. Cost for the work is about \$590,000; a state bridge replacement program will be covering about \$250,000 of the expense.

Bevcomm leader Bill Eckles shared an update with commissioners regarding work on the fiber-optic system being laid in the unincorporated areas of the southern part of the county. He said that all main cables have been laid, and teams are continuing with the process of running connections up to residences; of 684 eligible locations, he said 543 property owners have signed agreements for feeding lines across their property. It will be pos-

sible, he said, for some people on the system to begin receiving services this fall, after a needed "hub" is in place within the county. That hub is scheduled to be installed during September.

"You remember," he said during the meeting, "we do not 'require' anyone to purchase our services. If we lay the line and the resident does not want a connection, we simply coil and bury the cable."

Eckles said he invites people to contact Bevcomm, whose main office is in Blue Earth, with questions and concerns, including any dissatisfaction with the way their property was affected by the installation process.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently



GARDEN VISITS - Members of the New Richland Town and Country Garden Club participated in their almost-yearly tour of each other's gardens on Thursday, Aug. 15. Members see it as a chance to share knowledge and learn from each other, as well as enjoying some fellowship of like minds. Pictured here are club members and guests (from left) Stacy Bethke, Barb Finseth, Eleanor Schlaak, Diane Smith, Valerie Bartelt, Joann Paulson, Brenda Berg, Jodi Johnson, Joan Proehl, Julie Economy, Chris Possin and Kris Pfeffer.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

New Richland garden club shares expertise

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

The 22 or so members of the New Richland Town and Country Garden Club have been sharing collaborative efforts during the summer, especially when it comes to caring for the decorative garden along Highway 30 near the high school. Members have met regularly to pull weeds and deadhead flowers. Individuals and small groups from the membership have been taking care of the planters on the sidewalk along Broadway.

The group recently put together a less work-centered outing, spending the morning of Aug. 14 touring the gardens of six members who volunteered to be on the list of sites.

About 15 members caravanned to each other's homes and took a break from their visits to enjoy a leisurely lunch together at The Willows.

"It's fun," declares club member Kris Pfeffer. "We get to socialize, we get to learn about new plants, and we can share what's worked for us when we've had some sort of a problem."

"It's a chance to learn from one another."

Pfeffer mentions that no group members regard themselves as experts, but everyone enjoys the chance to get new ideas. "It's also fascinating to see the different ways people can make use of the space available to them—whether that means they can have a big garden, a small one, or even grow things

mostly in planters."

The gardens visited belonged to Barb Finseth, Diane Smith, Stacy Bethke, Joan Proehl, Eleanor Schlaak and Chris Possin.

Club president Brenda Berg says she especially enjoys being introduced to various plants and flowers she has never encountered before. She says gardeners tend to be patient people who enjoy being outdoors and are curious about the things that work together to help a garden thrive.

"We have some lively conversations," she mentions, joking it was a persistent difficulty to keep the tour moving, since everyone had so many ideas and questions to share.

Berg invites anyone interested to attend club meetings.

"The next one will be Monday, Sept. 8," she shares. The Sept. 8, Oct. 6 and Nov. 3 meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the basement of Trinity Lutheran Church at 204 First Street Northwest.

■ Bee Bash

from Page 1

enties. "I still pitch in here when I can." Also giving some of their time were Virginia from Janesville and Bev from North Mankato, "We're volunteering today because we believe in the apiary, we love it here and we approve of this." Musicians Dave Pengra and Ron Arsenault of City Mouse contributed live guitar music to an apparently appreciative audience seated at tables and on lawn chairs. City Mouse is a Mankato based band.

Visitors were offered the chance to buy some Hofmann Apiaries merchandise, and were given a flyer which summarized the site's history: 1873-Valentine and Rosilia Hofmann buy their first tract of land. 1903-Emil, son, begins keeping bees and builds Hofmann Apiaries into a nationally recognized operation. 1932-Charles, son to Emil, took

over the apiary which flourished until 1985. 2015-The Hofmann Apiary is placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Also offering information related to bees and pollinators were the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District; Rim Reserve Conservation Easement; Edenvale Nursery out of Mankato; Strand Beeswax-Since 1936, Katie Lee, an MSU Extension Educator of Apiculture; Sun Honey LLC. and the Waseca County Historical Society who is also the fiscal agent for Hofmann Apiaries.

To quote a 1928 American Bee Journal article: "It seems impossible for me to describe the Hofmann extracting plant. It is one of the most extensive and perfectly arranged that I have ever seen among the hundreds of such plants visited. Any beekeeper who contemplates building a honey house for the output of two hundred or more colonies will find it money well spent to drive several hundred miles to see how this one is arranged."

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Superintendent's Corner

by Eric Hudspeth

Welcoming the new school year

Welcome back to the 2025-2026 school year!

As summer winds down and the crisp mornings of late August begin to appear, there's a special kind of energy in the air: one that signals the start of a new school year. On behalf of Waseca Public Schools, I'm thrilled to welcome our students, families, and community members back for what promises to be an exciting and impactful 2025-2026 school year.

Our schools come alive when hallways are filled with the voices of curious learners, when playgrounds ring with laughter, and when classrooms hum with the shared work of teaching and learning. While the first day of school is officially Wednesday, September 3, for all students in grades K-12, the sense of anticipation starts much earlier.

The week of August 25 will be filled with back-to-school activities across the district. Whether you are attending an open house, meeting teachers during a welcome night, or participating in conferences, these events are more than just calendar dates. They are opportunities to build the relationships that form the foundation of a strong school year. I encourage all families to take part in these gatherings. Meeting your child's teachers, visiting classrooms, and connecting with staff helps ensure a smooth and positive start to the year.

This year, we remain committed to providing a safe, supportive, and challenging learning environment for every student. Our teachers and staff have spent the summer preparing classrooms, designing engaging lessons, and

collaborating to meet the diverse needs of our learners. From the earliest grades through graduation, we are dedicated to equipping our students with the skills, knowledge, and character they need to succeed in school and in life.

We know that education is most powerful when it is a true partnership between schools, families, and the community. Waseca is fortunate to have a long-standing tradition of community pride in our schools, and that pride is a key part of our success. Whether you volunteer in a classroom, cheer from the stands at a Blue Jays game, attend a performance, or simply offer encouragement to a student you know, you are making a difference.

This year will bring new opportunities for innovation, creativity, and growth. We will continue to focus on preparing every student to graduate with meaningful options for the future, be it college, career, or military service. We'll also celebrate the milestones along the way: the breakthroughs in learning, the personal achievements, and the acts of kindness that define our school culture.

As we stand at the starting line of a new school year, I want to express my gratitude to our families for entrusting us with your children, to our staff for their unwavering dedication, and to our community for your steadfast support. Together, we will make this a year of learning, growth, and success for all students.

Let's make 2025-2026 a year to remember. See you in the halls on September 3!

'Ask a Trooper': flash flood warnings

Question: It seems like we have been seeing a fair amount of rain along with flash flood warnings. Can you talk about what motorists should do if they encounter such a thing?

Answer: Flooding can happen when streams and rivers overflow, dams or levees break, snow melts rapidly, or during heavy rainfall. Floodwaters can cover roads, bridges and low areas. Flash floods can come quickly and without warning, within minutes or hours of excessive rainfall.

- ♦ Do not drive through flooded areas. If you see a flooded roadway ahead, turn around and find another route.
- ♦ Be cautious, especially at night when visibility is limited.
- ♦ Remember, 6 inches of

water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control or possible stalling.

- ♦ 2 feet of moving water can carry away most vehicles, including SUVs and pickup trucks.
- ♦ Even if the water appears shallow, do not attempt to cross a flooded road. Water can hide dips or damage roadways by washing away the surface.
- ♦ If there is no other route, proceed to higher ground and wait for the waters to subside.

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



REV READY - Left, Craig Lestrud stands next to his hog at the third annual Hartland University's Biker Bug Run on Saturday, Aug. 16. Right, Jesse Olmanson (left) and Chris Soday are ready to participate in the Biker Bug Run.

Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

Hartland University's Biker Bug Run rides smoothly

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

More than 60 participants made it possible for the third annual "Biker Bug Run" fundraiser at the Hartland University Bar to raise \$2,200 to be donated toward increased motorcycle safety in the state of Minnesota.

Rich Shultz was the winner of a drawing and will receive \$795.00. A check has been written for \$1,405 to A.B.A.T.E. of MN, a non-profit motorcycle rights organization whose acronym stands for American Bikers for Awareness, Training and Education. The money will be utilized to support the organization's Young Riders Program, promoting education and safety for future riders and all road users. This year the training, scholarships and classes have positively affected 88 students.

Virgil Legried, Southeast District Director for ABATE told participants, "Gotta be safe out there, no way around it."

There was no specified order in which destinations were to be visited, but they included the Orange Door in Minnesota Lake, the Thunder Bar in Good Thunder,

Classic's Pub in Waterville and the Toy Box Saloon in Kilkenny. Hartland University Bar was both the start and the finish for the run. Five bars total, registration at noon and kickstands up at 12:30 p.m. Participants were given a bullseye sticker to adhere to the front of their motorcycles when they left. At each destination, the person with a bug closest to the center of their sticker would receive a prize.

The following are testimonials ABATE shared regarding the benefits of youth motorcycle safety training:

"I've purchased proper gloves, riding boots, a helmet, leathers, I could go on. If it isn't clear by now, riding to me isn't just a hobby."

"I am in high school right now and work at Pizza Ranch in the evenings, but I really don't make a lot of money there. I would like to surprise my dad by getting my license and being able to ride with him this summer."

From Hartland University Bar: "Hartland University Bar staff and owners would like to express their appreciation to everyone who at-



READY TO RIDE - Top, Charlene Kuchenreuther sits on her bike, ready for the Biker Bug Run. Bottom right, Nate Baseman and Stephanie Mills, participants of the run.

Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

tended, assisted and hosted our Biker Bug Run yesterday. We acknowledge the diligent efforts of all the bartenders from each of our stops, who worked tirelessly to ensure prompt service. Their dedication did not go unnoticed, as

we received numerous compliments regarding the stops we selected and the exceptional staff they employed."

Look for the Hartland University's Biker Bug Run next year.

Waldorf Veterans Park plans continue to advance

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waldorf City Council meeting was called to order on Monday, August 11. The Waldorf Community Park committee has a new chair, Missy Sorbo. Mayor Rob Wilkening reported the city has collected around \$35,000 in grants toward the project, and there is hope the DNR will match that amount from its parks and recreation fund. He commented that any suggestions for fundraisers are welcome.

First Lutheran Church informed the community of its plans for a "Faith Night" event on Wednesday, Aug. 20.

Scheduled for the afternoon of

WALDORF CITY COUNCIL

Friday, Aug. 22 is a community event which will feature a car and truck show, a burger and sweet corn feed with raffle fundraiser, and "water wars." From noon until 3, an ice cream truck will be distributing free treats in front of and thanks to Minnwest Bank.

Wilkening told council members the city pays \$375 each time the community is sprayed to reduce the mosquito population. He suggested buying the equipment so Waldorf can spray whenever needed. Residents have complained the company that was

hired didn't do very well because mosquitoes have been bad this summer. Since there is only one spray left this year, it was agreed to wait until next year to possibly purchase equipment. Discussion revealed the spray equipment is of a size that can fit in the back of a pickup truck; no license is needed to operate it. Using Menard's rebates, a new battery powered leaf blower is going to be purchased.

The Waldorf Fire Department donated \$2,000 toward the Veterans Memorial Park from the gambling fund; council member Charlie Barnes wanted to say thank you. The city received a \$10,000 grant, the funds of which will be used toward a \$5,500

eagle statue dedicated to first responders to go in the Veterans Park; the remaining \$4,500 will cover the cost of some benches to be installed in the park; the benches have already been delivered. Barnes suggested that the city should make arrangements to provide "a nice steak dinner" for four volunteers who have been working on the park gazebo. Wilkening offered to take them out himself, saying he would be happy to do so.

Regarding the city water system, a total of \$2,790.93 was not collected; three water users have been sent a shut-off notice.



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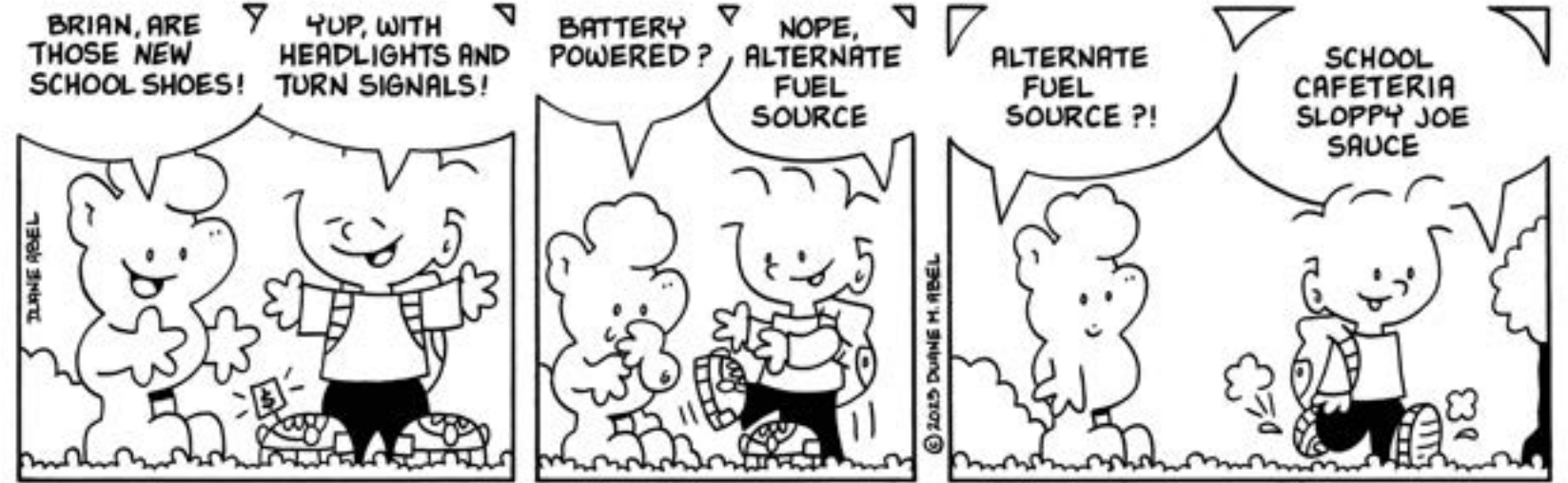
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The Pastor's Column

A few of my favorite things

By PASTOR RICK WULF
You know that song, “These are a few of my favorite things?” I’m drawing a blank on the movie, but I’m sure you are either singing the song or you are shouting at the newspaper the name of the movie that the song is from. Or maybe you’re thinking of your favorite things. The truth is, we all have favorite things. We all have things we like, things that bring us good feelings, and things that bring us joy.

If you haven’t already, I want you to think of a few of your favorite things. Maybe it’s your family or special people in your life. These people are good gifts from our God, who loves us very much. Maybe it’s a talent you have or something you are good at, and you find joy playing piano or guitar. Maybe you love to sing. God has given us these things in our life so that we can find enjoyment in our life. Maybe it’s sports or an activity. I believe God has given us these things in life so we can find Him in every area of life.

I love sports. And I’m blessed to be on the coaching staff for the Waseca Blue Jays. Let’s go, Jays!! I love students and I love to watch them do what they love to do. One of my favorite things is to watch our seniors play their hearts out every game. I have a senior on the team this year. I love to see him play his best and enjoy his teammates. I really do enjoy the upper class men who have been getting better and better each year. But I also love that I am one of the 9th grade coaches. For all of them, this is their first year playing high school football, and for some of them, this is their first year playing at all. I love that I get to help develop their skills and give them an opportunity to enjoy the game of football.

You know, it’s kind of like our faith. I love that I am a Jesus-follower. It is my absolute favorite thing. And as I follow Jesus, I get to point others to Jesus as well. I feel very fortunate that I get to do this as a pastor, but I really don’t think God intended for just pastors to disciple younger Jesus-followers. God intended for all of us to fulfill the Great Commission together. We are all on the front lines and God wants to use all of us to share His love with those around us.

As I think of my favorite things, I also truly enjoy being a part of the family of God at my local Church. I believe there is nothing better than the church being who the church is called to be. As we love one another, being the hands and feet of Jesus, we get to experience Jesus together. As we are being light and bringing hope, building a family together. I love that we are united by the Holy Spirit to bring those who are far away from God into His family. And then, as people grow in their faith, they see the need to be a part of a church family, too. The church is such an important piece of the puzzle that is growing in faith.

It’s kind of like the football team we’re working so hard to field. Each player is unique and each of them bring different skills and abilities to the team. Every one of the players is necessary. And it’s our job as coaches to help them be all they can be to play the game as one team, not 11 individuals. So as coaches, we are working hard to create a cohesive unit, ready to fulfill the purpose of playing one of my favorite sports. As they gain new skills and master the ones they’re learning, they are becoming a great football team. I love seeing how it all comes together.

Just like a football team, as Christians, we also have our created purpose. Ephesians 2:10 writes, “we are God’s masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which He has prepared in advance for us to do.” Our purpose is to work together with others who love Jesus to fulfill His calling in our lives. So whether you are part of the experienced generation or the emerging one, whether you have been a Christian for a long time or you are new to faith, you belong on our team. And you have an amazing opportunity to live out God’s purpose for your life.

If you’re not on Team Jesus, let me encourage you to let Him change your life. Call me and let’s chat about a few of my favorite things, beginning with Jesus. If you are on Team Jesus, it’s time to get on the field and play your heart out for our Coach.

I’m rooting for you. God is on the move and never forget that we’re on the winning team!

■ Steeple

from Page 1

Because the reconstructed steeple was required to comply with current building codes, it had metal structures inside. Rocon workers set to work welding the newly arrived metal beams to those installed in the bell tower within a few moments of being sure everything was straight. Rocon staff had been moving up and down using aerial construction lifts since about 7 a.m., ensuring things were ready.

Church member and the congregation’s coordinator for the project is Jim Kortz. He and his wife Judy, a fellow church leader, were at the church bright and early on Thursday. “The morning of the steeple raising I had been on every floor of the church, from the basement to the bell tower. I was thinking about how long it took to get to this point. Then after the crane arrived, within two hours the bell was lifted into the tower and the steeple was in place.

“Even though there is finishing work to get done, the project feels complete. When we drove away from church that morning, we had to stop along the road and look at the steeple from a distance. It was so neat to see the landmark up there along the skyline. I think about how it feels to some of the life-long members of 90 years or more to see the steeple back in place; it may have been an emotional day for some.”

base for stabilizing extensions on the crane. The other bore two specially shaped counterweights to be attached near the base of the crane’s extendable boom. All of the plates and weights could be moved only with a forklift.

The vast majority of the crane’s time on site was spent setting up for the lifts, or waiting while workers took care of transitional tasks.

According to Ree, the crane had come from Rochester, where it had been used to remove storm-damaged trees from on top of structures and from confined spaces. When it finished the morning’s work, it went on to Austin, where it is being used to facilitate a roof replacement.

About 50 spectators, a few comfortably seated in lawn chairs, gathered along the roadway both east and west of the church to observe the process.

Carpenters and a welder from Rocon Construction of Owatonna, the company which built the bell tower and steeple, mingled themselves throughout the process, including making preparations before the crane arrived, helping with various elements of the lifting, and then stabilizing the steeple once it was in place.



HARD WORK - Twelve members of Waseca’s Real Life Covenant Church traveled to Nome, Alaska and spent July 18 to Aug. 3 helping with the construction of a building to be used in the work of KICY Christian Radio. Mission team members were (from left) Dani Hoy, Dwight Hoy, Mary Dorn, Todd Dorn, Mike Cogan, Colton Madson, Mary Pascua, Ron Person, Reilly Hadt, Cindy Lewer, Carter Hadt, Colton Roballo, and Milt Madson.

Mission trip brings surprises, accomplishments

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Twelve members of Waseca’s Real Life Covenant Church spent July 28 to Aug. 3 in Nome, Alaska, helping with the construction of a building to be used in the work of KICY Christian Radio.

The radio station has been broadcasting for 65 years using almost entirely volunteer staff. According to a presentation given at the Real Life Church last October by station manager Patty Burchell, the station reaches about 50,000 people in Alaska and an unknowable but substantial number of indigenous people living in Russia.

Real Life pastor Mike Cogan volunteered with the station in the past and continues to create weekly half-hour devotions which KICY broadcasts.

Cogan and 11 other members of Real Life were one of several teams who took turns helping construct a housing unit to be used by station volunteers. According to the KICY website, the new housing is “phase one” of a station renovation project. The new structure has one two-bedroom living space and two one-bedroom spaces.

Mission team members were Cogan, Mary and Todd Dorn, Carter and Reilly Hadt, Dani and Dwight Hoy, Cindy Lewer, Colton and Milt Madson, Mary Pascua and Colton Roballo. Nine people took the stage at Waseca Covenant on Sunday, Aug. 17 to tell about their experience.

Group members shared they encountered many surprises during their mission trip ranging from the amount of homelessness they saw in Alaska to the nature of the work they were asked to perform.

Though team members had been told they were likely to be doing finishing work and painting when they arrived, the construction project had been delayed because the barge delivering the needed supplies had not arrived on schedule.

“We did much more construction than we expected,” said team members, explaining they had put weather wrapping on the exterior walls and roof, as well as siding on the building walls.

“We never saw it dark up there,” mentioned one mission worker. The team also mentioned nearly ever-present fog down near the ocean, even though further away from the coastline the sun shone brightly and the skies were clear.

Some of the younger members of the team took an opportunity to swim in the Bering Sea. “That’s something I never thought I would be able to do,” commented one of them.

Those who didn’t swim mentioned it was a pleasure to see the adventurous group members enjoy themselves. “Some tiptoed, others plunged straight in. It was fun to see that.”

One team member came home with bags and bags of rocks and sea glass he had collected along the beach. When airport security staff members recognized how heavy the



ALASKA FUN - Real Life pastor Mike Cogan and 11 other members of Real Life were one of several teams who took turns helping construct a housing unit to be used by station volunteers.

Mission continued on 12

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * * * *	507-607-8245 Sunday worship 10 a.m. * * * * *	Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * * *	12-18 * * * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * * * *	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd’s Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Pastor Jason Wolter Rev. Timothy Contreras Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. * * * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Ferichs Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m. * * * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * * * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service * * * * *	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class * * * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter) * * * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship * * * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St., Janesville Father Robert Schneider Sunday - 8:30 a.m. - Mass * * * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship * * * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * * * *	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 * * * * *	ST. JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Sammy Pothiredy Saturday - 5 p.m. Worship * * * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * * * *	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 * * * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1 * * * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * * * *
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca Father Glenn Ferichs 507-835-1222 Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m. * * * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota * * * * *	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages	NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday “Young at heart” Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation * * * * *
REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca * * * * *			NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION TO THE WASECA PIONEER.

Janesville

1925

- The several committees – that are in charge of the Waseca County Fair are straining every effort to make the fair this year a winner in every respect. The general plan which worked so successfully last year is being followed again only the fair will be bigger and better in every department. A new and better stage is going to be built for the free acts, so that all performances will be seen to better advantage than ever before. All the fair buildings are being renovated. With the improvements being made on the grounds, all exhibits will be shown to better advantage.

- Something to think about: As the days round out into years, and the years begin to fall about us like ripened fruit, we give, without knowing why, more serious thought to comfort than happiness. The dream of content when the cheeks are faded, when the hair is silvered, and the strength of the bone and the blood is slowly ebbing away, is the common dream of mankind the world over. In early life, it spreads out before us like a glorious vision, then it wanes and narrows, causing us to wonder what we have done with all the precious time of the past, ticked away right under our eyes by the friendly family clock, still ticking and faithfully performing its monotonous duty. We have worshipped golf and found it but a mocker.

1950

- Eugene (Schueb) Volz, local businessman, filed Thursday of last week for the office of state representative. He will be opposed by Omar Dahle, incumbent, and H. J. Sprengeler, Waseca. Mr. Dahle is a farmer and Mr. Sprengeler operates an oil company at Waseca. With the exception of eight years spent in Milwaukee, Chicago, and California, Mr. Volz has made Janesville his home. He owns and operates Schueb's Bar here. Twelve years ago he was a candidate for the office of state representative. He is 47 years of age and is married to the farmer Alice Taxer of Le Center. They have four children, three boys and a girl. Mr. Volz is a member of the Janesville Board of Education and was just recently appointed clerk of the board.

- Dale Blank, 15, Janesville, made it three in a row at the Waseca County Fair on Saturday when his Holstein cow was named grand champion 4-H dairy animal. Dale's cow topped one of the outstanding dairy show ever presented at Waseca fair, Cletus Murphy, county, agent, said. All 35 of the animals exhibited were in the blue ribbon class. The young Janesville farmer, who won previous championships in 1948 and 1949, will head the county's delegation of five dairy winners to the Minnesota State fair. Dale was the grand champion Holstein showman at the state fair last year and "warmed up" for another shot at the title by winning county showmanship honors again. He also plans to enter open class competition with a string of five Holsteins.

- The Janesville Red Sox, with 11 straight wins to their credit, were resting on top of the South Le Sueur County League today, after humbling Kilkenny Thursday in a twilight game and routing Madison Lake Sondau. Bill Haag and Ken Schafer hit home runs at Kilkenny with two and three men on, respectively, to lead Janesville batters. Bob Schueneman made his first mound chore a successful one as he allowed only five hits in the seven-inning game for the Sox while his mates were supporting him with 12 blows. The Sox went on a 15-hit spree to route the Lakers at Northside park and much of the glory went to Roy Lukken. All Lukken did was pound a home run, a double, and three singles in five trips to the plate for the best plate day for him in league play this season.

1975

- Members of Janesville's American Legion Post #281 are urged to attend a special 8:30 p.m. meeting in the club room, at which the proposed Legion Club expansion will be discussed and decided upon. The above drawing is a sketch of what the front of the proposed addition would look like. The building committee of the local post is proposing a 44' x 125' addition to the north of the present clubroom. The 5,000 square foot addition will include a community hall complete with kitchen and bathroom facilities. The cost has been estimate at \$45,000. If the club expansion is approved, Legionnaires plan to sell \$100 first mortgage bonds to finance it.

- After six negotiating meetings – ranging from one to two and a half hours each – Janesville teachers and the District 30 School Board have agreed on a new two-year teaching contract. Tentative agreement between teacher negotiators Dave U'Ren, Rose Till and Leon Haefner and board members Sib Joyce, Ken Johansen and Billie Quast was reached July 24. The entire school board ratified the agreement at their meeting Monday night.

- Plans for Janesville's new off-sale liquor store are going ahead according to schedule according to Denny Gustafson. Land has been purchased just east of the Janesville Dairy Queen on Highway 14 for the building, Gustafson said. The Janesville City Council approved Gustafson's request for an off-sale liquor license at last week's meeting providing he meets all local building and zoning requirements.

2000

-Kim Youngerberg is no stranger to Janesville. She grew up here, and except for one years when her family moved to South Dakota, she has always lived in the area. Now she has become a member of the teaching faculty at Trinity Lutheran School. Youngerberg begins this fall as the pre-school teacher at Trinity. She was previously employed on a part-time basis at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Elementary School as a Title I teacher. Youngerberg is excited about her new duties, and feels it is in many ways an extension of what she has been doing lately as a parent.

- Mark Muedeking, a lawyer with more than 20 years of experience in government and private practice, has been named the new general counsel for the U.S. Olympic Committee. He will assume the position on Sept. 1. The announcement was made by USOC chief executive officer Norm Blake. Muedeking's appointment fills the final position on the USOC's newly structured leadership team. He replaces Schott Blackmun who was named senior managing director of sport resources.



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Waseca

25 years ago

- Lakeside golfers burglarized again: Golfers who store their equipment at Lakeside Country Club have been subjected to a series of burglaries that began on April 16. Since that date, Lakeside has been burglarized on four separate occasions according to Waseca County Sheriff's Department. Once again, on Sunday evening Aug. 13, the club experienced the loss of a large number of golf clubs owned by its members. "It happened sometime last night. Several set of golf clubs were taken. They were housed in a golf cart shed," said Sheriff's Deputy Lance Lehman on Monday.

- Looking at Fairmont's aquatic park with an eye towards Waseca: On Friday a group of Wasecans made a trip to Fairmont, City of Lakes, to take a look at the new Aquatic Park which opened last year in the southwest Minnesota city of 11,000. Roy Srp, Gary Conrath, Jean Worke, Mark Bartelt, Robin Terrell and Brad Milbrath spent a couple of hours looking at the park and imagining such a facility in Waseca.

- Technology adds to drivers' distractions: Changing the radio station, adjusting the review mirror, picking stuff up off the floor, yelling at the kids, eating and talking on the cellular phone. These are things most everyone does while they are driving. Federal, state and local authorities say this is a growing problem: drivers doing lots of things besides paying attention.



- Left to right: Mike & Cherri Larson and Sandi & Ron Boekelman, the new owners of Waseca's bowling alley.

50 years ago

- Two horses suffer from encephalitis in Waseca: Wasecans who are worried about catching encephalitis (sleeping sickness) should "take extra precautions outdoors" and "get plenty of rest" according to Waseca County Public Health Officer, Dr. Stever Normann, but those who own horses better keep a clear eye on their animals, particularly if they have not been vaccinated. As of this time, no human cases of encephalitis have been reported to Waseca County doctors, according to Dr. Normann, but Waseca veterinarian, Dr. Daniel West said this morning that two horses in the county have contracted the disease.

- Four-year-old Waseca boy is struck by car: Four-year-old Craig D. Sutlief is listed in fair condition today at Waseca Area Memorial Hospital following a car-pedestrian accident Wednesday afternoon near Clear Lake Park. Craig, who reportedly ran out in front of the west bound vehicle on 8th Ave. N.E. is suffering from multiple bruises on his back, neck and shoulders. At the present time he is being observed by doctors for possible head and internal injuries.

- Lampman printing to open Sept. 1: "My printing business comes first," says Steve Lampman who will open Lampman Printing on September 1 at 123 2nd Ave. N.E., Waseca. Lampman, 36, is presently employed as a foreman at Quality Print. In his own shop he plans to specialize in type setting for various firms. He will do art prints, commercial printing, brochures, newsletters, letter heads and envelopes. "There's always a challenge," says Lampman.



- Takaaki Hamaguchi, 14, Japan, center, has been in Waseca for nearly three weeks and will return to his home on August 21. He is staying with Mr. and Mrs. Norman Gehring and family at R. 1. He is here under the auspices of the LOBO program of the 4-H organization. Hamaguchi, who speaks a little English, says, "Waseca is wonderful and big." Last summer Douglas Gehring, 16, right, was one of four 4-Hers in the county chosen for the foreign exchange and spent a similar length of time at the Hamaguchi home just outside Tokyo. The aim of the program is to teach each race to learn about the way the other lives. Pictured left to right are Mrs. Gehring and her daught, Debra.

75 years ago

- Pfc. Levi H. Bartz, first Wasecan wound in the fighting in Korea, has been moved from Korea to Tokyo Army Hospital, according to a letter received by his mother, Mrs. Theo. Lueck, Thursday. He writes that he has been awarded the Purple Heart for a .30 calibre rifle wound in the right shoulder. He expects to be in the Tokyo hospital for two or three weeks before receiving surgery for the removal of the bullet.

- Wasecan to Open Offices in Mankato: Russel T. Peterson, certified public accountant, is opening an office on the second floor of the First National Bank building, Mankato. He will engage in the general practice of public accounting, including audits, systems and tax accounting. Peterson, 39, is a native Wasecan and a son of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Peterson, 604 2nd Ave. N.E. Waseca.

- The Veterans of Foreign Wars auxiliary gave a card party Thursday evening, August 10, at the Odd Fellows hall. Guests were present for 13 tables of pfeffer. The ladies' high prize was won by Mrs. Blanche Foss, with low score going to Mrs. Vera Kahnke. The men's high went to John Below, and the low to Alber Bethke. Pfeffer prize was won by Mr. Frank Clasen.

100 years ago

- The officers and committeemen of the Waseca County Fair are busily engaged in making arrangements for the securing of attractions, which will make every department larger and more interesting than heretofore. The buildings on the fair grounds are being repainted this week and work will commence shortly on he replacing of the roof ont he grand stand. A new and more substantial stage will be erected in front of the grandstand, which will be greatly appreciated by the actors as well as the public.

New Richland

25 years ago



- Julie Tesch, daughter of Martin and Jan Tesch of rural Waldorf, filled the position of Lisa Hinz on June 1, as Waseca County Extension Educator for 4-H Youth Development. For the past seven years Julie has lived in the twin Cities, where she attended the University of Minnesota and was employed with the Extension Service for two years. She was satisfied with her work and the people she worked with, but is very happy to be back in the area where she grew up.



- Joseph Johnson, a member of the Vista Busy Bees earned blue ribbons on each of the four Suffolk sheep he showed in 4-H competition at the Waseca County Fair. Apparently this animal did not care much for the photograph!

50 years ago



- Community Development in New Richland continues to progress with completion dates nearing for some building projects. The pictures above (going clockwise, at top left.) show the New Richland City Nursing home nearing its October 1st completion date; the apartment complex being built by Jim Weydert, shows the exterior work almost complete as it nears its September 1st occupancy date; in house in the lower left photo is being built by Merlin Krueger, and is a good example of the many fine new homes being built in the city; and the Vinylex Corporation, on the south edge of the city, is nearing its completion date and begin to start New Richlands newest industry.

- On August 17th, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Tesch presented their daughter, Julie Lynn, for baptism at the 8:15 am service at First Lutheran Church. Pastor Gerald Pundt officiated. Julie's sponsors were Mrs. Kathy Pryzbilla of St. Cloud and Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Kipp of Mankato.



- Jeff Getskow and Scott Smith were selected last week by their teammates to be co-captains for this year's New Richland-Hartland football squad. Getskow, senior quarterback, and Scott Smith, senior halfback, hope to improve on last year's 7-3 second place finish.

75 years ago

- Mrs C. A. Newgard and Mrs Hans Sunde drove to Glenville Sunday and were guests at the Paul Loken home. At Sunday morning Church services Mr. and Mrs. Loken had their four months old adopted son, Steven Keith baptized. The Lokens have a daughter, Paulette, seven years of age.

- Theodore Schroeder has purchased the residence on south Broadway which formerly belonged to the O. P. Olson estate. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Abraham and daughters Sandra who occupy the downstairs rooms will continue to make their home there.

- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Haugan of St. Paul are parents of their first child, a son Eric Albert born Sunday morning. He weighed 8 lbs. And 14 ozs.

The 100 Best Books for Early Literacy

Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System has created an updated list of The 100 Best Books for Early Literacy. Originally created in 2015, this list has been updated to include some of the great books published in the years since the original list was developed. Early literacy is everything that children know about reading and writing before they can read or write. The books on this list are the most effective in preparing kids to read — helping them hear the sounds in words, develop their vocabulary, describe things and tell stories, learn their letters, know how books work and follow words on a page, and enjoy books. Reading is the cornerstone of knowledge and kids can start learning from birth!

These books feature a wide range of stories, from laugh-out-loud scenarios to bedtime stories, from exploring emotions to learning how to navigate a child's world. This list is part of the Library System's Romp and Rhyme curriculum, designed to create a standard of excellence for early literacy education.

The Library System is issuing The Romp 100 Challenge, encouraging kids and their grown-

ups to read all 100 books. Kids and their grownups can keep track of what books they read by using the checklist available at their local public library. Once all 100 books have been read, kids can turn in their checklist to receive a stuffed animal character from one of the books they've read.

All of the books on the list are stocked in all nine of the Library System's libraries (including a few Tonies for our Tonieboxes). The Library System is also hosting special events at its libraries which feature the books from The Romp 100 Challenge, including upcoming Edible Story Times, Rabbit Stories, and Kiddie Yoga events.

"We hope our community falls in love with these books like we have. Reading picture books with a child is a creative, bonding experience for everyone involved. It also is critical for a child's future success," said Stacy Lienemann, Director of Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System. "This project is a deliberate effort to ensure that the prereaders in our communities will be better prepared to read when they reach kindergarten and can succeed in all subjects going forward."

Waseca County Farm and Home Safety Day set for September 9

We are hosting our 27th annual Waseca County Farm Bureau Farm and Home Safety Day at our new location at the Waseca County Fair Grounds this year on Tuesday, September 9, 2025. We are looking forward to seeing 222 students and their teachers there. The schools in attendance will be Janesville Public, Trinity Lutheran of Janesville, Waterville Elysian Morristown, Waseca Public and Waseca Team Academy.

You can almost feel fall in the air already, soon the colors will be changing, too. Our farmers will soon be harvesting their crops so they can feed the world. Remember to thank a farmer for their labors and help support their work. Farmers are always trying to be safe on the roads, so we need to be slowing down as well so everyone is safe. As a farmwife, I pray that each year we have no accidents and that our weather is good to harvest.

This is an important program for our community showing how to be safe in your home and on farms. We have quite a few farm volunteers and businesses that help to support this program. I want to thank Subway of Waseca, Culligan Waseca, Waseca Fair Board, Compeer Financial, FM Bank Waseca, Janesville State Bank, Keen Bank, MinnWest Bank, Waseca Area Foundation and our local

FFA students

from Waseca High School. I am grateful for everyone's willingness to help and make this a success!

Our 6 Safety Stations are:

- 1) Animal Safety-Crystal @ Summers Ridge Veterinary, Janesville
- 2) Tractor/PTO Safety-Jared Prestegard, Kibble Equipment, Owatonna
- 3) ATV/Snowmobile/Boat Safety-Jay Dulas, Waseca Sheriff's Office
- 4) Electrical Safety-Syd & Dan, Steele/Waseca Cooperative Electric, Owatonna
- 5) Chemical Safety-Reece Boucher, Crystal Valley Cooperative, Janesville
- 6) Lawn Mower/Chainsaw Safety, Jacob Katzung & Matt Levisay, Northland Farm Systems, Owatonna

Come out to see our highlight of the day, our mock farm accident at 11:30 am which involves our Waseca Sheriff's Office, Janesville Fire & Rescue, North Waseca Ambulance and their helicopter with one of our local students. The accident will involve a tractor/pto accident. Remember to always check your surroundings when out and about and in our homes so you can avoid accidents.

Our event runs from 9 am to 2:30 pm. We hope to see you out there to learn about our safety program.



CENTURY AWARD - Back row: Kevin Walter, Larry Johnson, Bernie Gaytko, Diane Beckmann. Front row: Kristie Biehn, Abby Hughes, Marcy Buchele, Aaron Omtvedt, Tom Sankovitz, Molly Erdman, Tiffany Lynch and Jodie Thompson.

Dennis, Steffel, Omtvedt Funeral Homes & Crematory earns Century Award

The Waseca Area Chamber Ambassadors proudly presented Dennis, Steffel, Omtvedt Funeral Homes & Crematory with the prestigious Century Award in recognition of over 150 years of service to the Waseca community.

The Century Award honors businesses and organizations that have demonstrated unwavering commitment to the community for 100 years or more. This recognition is reserved for Chamber Members whose longevity reflects resilience, adaptability, and a

lasting impact on both the local economy and society. Recipients of this award embody the spirit of tradition and progress, serving as pillars of the Waseca community and inspiring future generations to build upon their legacy.

"Dennis, Steffel, Omtvedt Funeral Homes & Crematory's century-and-a-half of service represents more than just years in business—it's a testament to compassion, dedication, and an enduring presence in our community's most

meaningful moments," said Robin Dulas, Executive Director of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. "Their legacy is deeply woven into the history of Waseca, and we are proud to recognize their remarkable contributions."

Katie Gonzales, Waseca Area Chamber Ambassador Chair, added, "The Century Award is about honoring organizations that not only stand the test of time, but also grow and adapt while holding true to their values. Den-

nis, Steffel, Omtvedt Funeral Homes & Crematory has done just that, offering care, professionalism, and community spirit for generations."

The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce congratulates Dennis, Steffel, Omtvedt Funeral Homes & Crematory on this incredible milestone and thanks them for their steadfast service to the community.



MOVING ON - Attending a farewell get-together for outgoing City Administrator Anthony Martens on Friday, Aug. 15, 2025 at New Richland City Hall, were, from left: New Richland Chief of Police Tanyce Bruegger, Corbin Martens, Anthony Martens, Assistant City Administrator Heather Christensen, New Richland Postmaster Randy Lewer, City Maintenance Supervisor Eric Hendrickson, and Sawyer Hender.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

New Richland will always be home Residents bid Anthony Martens farewell, Friday

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

After eight years serving the City of New Richland, Administrator Anthony Martens, 45, is departing for greener pastures. He began his new position as Blooming Prairie City Administrator on Tuesday.

Martens started his journey with New Richland in April of 2017 when he was hired as chief of police. Five years later, to the month, he began serving as city administrator.

Martens said working for the city wasn't about him, it was about the community.

"I wanted us to bring the city to the

community. I always looked at this as an 'us.' Everyone here is a team. Every win has been about us, not me."

So far the city has received three applicants for administrator.

"The city is in good hands," Martens said. "This is one of the best staffs I've ever worked with."

If I could pick them all up and take them with me, I would.

"My family isn't going anywhere in the near future," Martens continued. "We'll still be around."

Martens said he's looking to grow as a person in his new role with Blooming Prairie, calling it a "new

opportunity for challenge, growth."

A resident of New Richland for more than twenty years, Martens earned his MPA degree in Administration in 2016.

Martens came to know New Richland after working at the Creamery in Otisco and has lived in New Richland on and off since 2001 and permanently after purchasing his family's home in 2005. Martens married his wife Kelly (Nelson) in 2001 and the pair have two teenagers: Carter, 18; and Corbin, 16.

Carter is going to college at MSU pursuing a degree in Sports Management and Corbin is a Junior at

NRHEG High School.

In his time with the city, Martens said the biggest achievement he's been part of is restoring the city's bond rating, which was unsatisfactory when he took over as administrator.

"Working together as a staff, we brought it back to a stable environment," Martens said.

"We've also migrated more to a user friendly atmosphere for everyone, staff and community. We've helped bring everything online."

Martens continued on 12



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‘Ask a Trooper’: State Patrol squads

I was recently issued a 2024 Dodge Durango, replacing my 2019 Dodge Charger. Dodge discontinued making the Dodge Charger for a few years but is supposed to be coming back. State Patrol’s main squads are Dodge Durango or the Ford F-150. The State Patrol issues new squads to troopers when the vehicle reaches approximately 120,000 miles. The retired squads are then auctioned off online to the highest bidder.

2024 Dodge Durango Pursuit AWD

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■ Council

from Page 3

He said he has done some research on his own and has become highly skeptical of the course’s practice of retaining both a course manager and a golf pro. He went on to express criticism of the city’s money management system in general.

Rogers read a letter from business owner Clinton Broviak of Synergy Homecare. Broviak stated he could not be present, but that he had numerous concerns regarding recent council discussions about reducing the length of time vehicles could park along Main Street during business hours. Broviak stated the proposed enforcement would gravely complicate the workday for his employees. The letter also commented on the loss of productivity and valuable work time which would ultimately lead to financial impact on his business. Broviak stated his employees already park a block or more away because of the limited availability.

He also mentioned inconvenience to tenants who live in apartments above downtown buildings.

After reading the letter, Rogers asked council members to ponder Broviak’s statements and let him know their thoughts.

Later in the meeting, Scott Allen announced his plans to retire fairly soon from the clubhouse at Prairie Ridge Golf Course. Rogers asked the council if they preferred a clubhouse manager again or a pro golf player. Councilor Kyle Luitjens said since he wasn’t a golf guy, he was unsure of what the responsibilities were for both.

Councilor Andy Ahlman responded that the clubhouse manager runs the daily tasks of clubhouse tournaments, events, and league play but also teaches golf lessons.

“Historically speaking, we had a clubhouse manager,” Rogers said and added the council back at the time decided they wanted a licensed golf professional, a PGA.

“I’d like to see the financial aspect of it or how much we are going to lose from lessons and having a pro versus just having someone oversee it,” Luitjens stated.

Ahlman said the PGA earns the money from the golf lessons.

“The personnel committee is leaning towards a manager,” he added and, in addition to minimum and preferred qualifications when the new job description is written, it would also be mandatory that the individual is familiar with the game of golf.

In other news, residents asked the city to purchase a sign raising awareness of the presence of an autistic child. After some discussion, the council asked to come back at the next meeting with some figures on the pricing and wording of the sign.

In other matters, starting in September, the council plans to meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

The council adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

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REDEMPTION - The Virtues for Success program has been running in Waseca’s Federal Correctional Institution for over a year. Featured here are those working closely with the program. Left to right, Chairman Mikhail Rostislavovich, CEO Dwight Tostenson, FCI Reentry Affairs Coordinator Crystal Deverteski, and Institutional Adjunct Instructor Bruce Morrisette

Redemption Project sees success through virtues

The Redemption Project (TRP) is seeing growing success in its work with incarcerated women at the Federal Correctional Institution in Waseca (FCI-Waseca), where the Virtues for Success program has been running for over a year. While the women’s cohort has proven impactful since its introduction, this marks the first time the curriculum, originally developed with men in mind, has been thoughtfully adapted to address the distinct experiences and needs of incarcerated women.

The 16-week *Virtues for Success* program is rooted in classical Socratic teaching and focuses on four core virtues: Wisdom, Courage, Self-Control, and Justice. FCI-Waseca has now graduated three full classes of Fellows, and the impact has been nothing short of profound.

“Incarcerated women often carry a unique and heavy burden,” said Dwight Tostenson Founder and CEO of The Redemption Project. “Many are mothers. Many have survived trauma. Prison can be emotionally devastating. We knew if we were going to work with these women, we had to meet them where they were, with compassion, with purpose, and with a curriculum that understands how rebuilding relationships can lead to rebuilding communities. What’s happening in Waseca is transformational, for the women, and for us as an organization.”

Unlike traditional prison education programs, Virtues for Success is only offered to individuals within 18 months of release. Inmates engage in meaningful study and personal development that prepare them for reintegration into society. For women, the program includes a deeper focus on emotional healing, reconnection with family, especially children, and the rebuilding of community trust.

Crystal Deverteski, Reentry Affairs Coordinator at FCI-Waseca, underscored the importance of the program.

“The Redemption Project and their Virtues for Success program is one of the most impactful programs that I have seen. It really teaches individuals how to think differently and move forward living well. Even after the first few class sessions, participants are already thinking and behaving differently, while also making real concerted efforts in their studies and personal growth. The Redemption Project walks the walk. They continue supporting graduates through the remainder of their incarceration and after release, especially with employment opportunities that are truly felon-friendly. They’re not just offering hope, they’re offering a real road to redemption.”

TRP’s tailored version of the program for women has prompted new conversations around the need for gender-specific programming in correctional settings. The women’s cohort at FCI- Waseca has helped pave the way for similar initiatives at other facilities nationwide.

“This is about dignity, restoration, and second chances,” said Mikhail Rostislavovich, Chairman of the Board for TRP. “We must remember that virtue is not gendered, but the pathways back to it often are. These women are rediscovering their strength, not just through textbooks, but through truth, healing, and connection. They are not broken, they are rebuilding. And the communities they return to will be better for it.”

The Redemption Project continues to expand its work in correctional institutions across Minnesota. With each graduating Fellow, more lives are changed, and more bridges built between incarceration and opportunity.

To learn more about Virtues for Success, visit www.redemption-project.org.

■ Finstad

from Page 1

try’s history was avoided when the 2017 tax bill was made permanent.

Finstad said the reconciliation bill increases Medicaid spending by more than \$20 billion over the next ten years. He said the “Welfare to Work Program” initiative is now law, even though the Clinton administration’s efforts to pass it in the 1990s were unsuccessful.

Finstad talked about the negative effects of the U.S. Ag trade deficit of \$50 billion. He said “Farmers want to get government out of the way.

“Farmers want to farm for the market,” he added.

Finstad referred to President Donald Trump as the “ultimate disruptor and chief,” then went on to say he brings people to the trade table, leading to short term uncertainty.

Following his introduction and legislative update, Finstad entertained questions for nearly 45 minutes.

Waseca School board member Charlie Priebe asked the first questions.

“Seeing the power of the president, with presidents taking more and more power, what can congress do to bring power back to the people?”

Priebe also asked how the Department of Education could be more efficient.

Finstad said the legislative branch of government is supposed to control spending. He gave an example of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and how an appropriations bill gives them a \$1 billion budget and doesn’t give them guidelines for what to do with the money. Finstad said that isn’t representative government.

Finstad said laws implemented at the local level lead to more diligence. He later spoke of the Department of Education saying he voted to abolish it, stating “Local school board members like Charlie Priebe know best how to educate their local youth.

“Give those dollars back to the local school board,” he said. “A book load of mandates come from those in Washington who think they know better than Waseca.”

He also referenced 40 un-funded mandates passed by Minnesota this year.

Waseca Mayor Randy Zimmerman asked how the United States Chamber of Commerce can help entice and solicit funds for local development.

“There used to be a day, where if you build it, they will come,” Finstad answered. “If you added a factory with 400 jobs, can the region support that?”

Zimmerman hesitated and answered, “It depends.”

Finstad talked about a shortage of workers, referencing 60,000 open healthcare positions in Minnesota along with 4,000 engineering openings.

“These are job openings that simple math doesn’t fill,” he said. “Common sense says that the jobs we’ve lost to China can’t come back overnight.”

Finstad talked about restoring vital needs to be produced in the United States including animal drugs and critical minerals, which the United States is nearly entirely dependent on China for.

Zimmerman asked how Waseca can be part of the solution.

Finstad said working together for new ideas and businesses.

Waseca County Commissioner



WALKING TOUR - Minnesota’s First District Congressman Brad Finstad talks to a room full of local Waseca County Community leaders.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



Brad Finstad shakes hands with Waseca School Board Member Charlie Priebe during visit to Waseca on Aug. 13, 2025.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

Doug Christopherson asked about added administrative pressure because of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program changes.

“The fear is we’re going to end up paying for staff to police these forms at the local level? Is there anything in place to help local staff?”

Minnesota is one of 10 states to implement social services at the county level and only one of two states which puts the burden (administrative costs) on the county.

“Minnesota screwed that up,” Finstad stated. “Counties.../ should fight for the state to take those responsibilities.”

“The state has to step up and say ‘Counties we hear you hear loud and clear and will work together to fix it,’” Finstad said.

Conclusion

Before departing for visits in Steele County, Finstad posed for a picture. In the coming weeks Finstad said he expects to make dozens more visits across Minnesota’s first district.



In 1st single, Waseca senior Vivian Mader defeated Austin's Yazmine Huerta 6-0 and 6-0
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



In 3rd doubles Waseca's Madison Rasche and Lily Sanchez (pictured above) defeated Danica Helle/Eve Snater, Austin, 2-6 , 6-0, 11-9
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

Lady Jays begin '25 tennis season

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

The Waseca Bluejays girls tennis team won its first match of the season, Thursday Aug. 14, 2025 in Waseca, 7-0 over the Austin Packers. The matches were not close. Across seven matches, the Lady Jays did not allow a set in more than half of the matches. "I was pleased with the way the girls played in the first match," Waseca head coach Kyle Collins said. "Everyone got off to some very

good starts, especially in singles. Austin is a young team, and we will face some much stiffer competition this week."

Singles

Vivian Mader defeated Yazmine Huerta, Austin, 6-0 , 6-0
Ava Miller defeated Sophia Meyer, Austin, 6-0 , 6-0
Pearl Moore defeated Gisele Hinks, Austin, 6-0 , 6-0
Chloe Hagen defeated Paw Clay, Austin, 6-1 , 6-3



In 2nd singles, Waseca freshman Ava Miller defeated Austin's Sophia Meyer, 6-0 and 6-0.
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



In 2nd doubles, Waseca's Hannah Rugger and Anna Benson, pictured above, defeated Megan Grush/Lydia Masara, Austin, 6-1 , 6-0.
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

"I was pleased with the way the girls played in the first match."
— Head coach Kyle Collins

Doubles

Paige Dufault/Layla Keith defeated Kayla Ball/Isabelle Owens, Austin, 6-2 , 6-2
Hannah Rugger/Anna Benson defeated Megan Grush/Lydia Masara, Austin, 6-1 , 6-0

Madison Rasche/Lily Sanchez defeated Danica Helle/Eve Snater, Austin, 2-6 , 6-0 , 11-9
Waseca (1-0) traveled to New Prague on Monday to play New Prague and Belle Plaine.



Waseca Head caoch Kyle Collins patrols the courts, coaching.
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



In 3rd doubles Waseca's Madison Rasche (pictured above) and Lily Sanchez defeated Danica Helle/Eve Snater, Austin, 2-6 , 6-0, 11-9
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



In 3rd singles, Waseca senior Chloe Hagen defeated Austin's Paw Clay, Austin, 6-1 and 6-3.
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



In 1st doubles, Waseca senior Paige Dufault (pictured above) and Layla Keith defeated Austin's Kayla Ball and Isabelle Owens, Austin, 6-2 and 6-2.
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

A football program full of extraordinary gentleman

It's time for fall and football! Our high school football team is getting ready for a new season. Head coach Brad Wendland puts a super competitive squad on the gridiron every fall season. Ed Hoehn does a tremendous job running the Bluejay youth football program and develops a great number of young players for Brad Wendland's varsity. Brad and staff coach them up and the Bluejays are in the conference and playoff hunt every season. I was a varsity Waseca football coach for many seasons. I was honored and privileged to be the defensive coordinator for head coaches Terry Gilbertson, Keith Kottkee, and Joel Hayford. I worked with Terry for 25 years. Time to share some memorable Bluejay football moments.

Probably the biggest game I was involved in was a win against St. Peter. St. Peter was ranked first in the state and was loaded with athletes, even some division 1 players. We upset them and won in front of a packed house on our home field. Joe Rocka Hoehn rushed more than 200 yards; our players left everything on the field. St. Peter went on to easily win the state championship. Pioneer sports editor Jim Lutgens covered the game for our local paper at the time. Mr. Lutgens was a young rookie sports writer back then. He wrote a page and a half article with the story, pictures, interviews and gave us Nobel level coverage for the game. Another time we were playing at New Ulm, were behind by a



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



couple of points, and had the ball for the last play. Sixty yards from the end zone, victory looked hopeless. Lucas Miller caught a short pass and ran right with the entire Eagle defense on his heels. He eluded a couple of tacklers, reversed his run, then scampered down the left side line for the winning score. Coach Bill Walter ran down the side lines, escorting him to the end zone, running over others in his way. Gilby was a creative sixth-

grade teacher and came up with the most creative coaching preparation I've been involved with. St. Peter and Fairmont were perennial conference powers. We'd lost a couple of home games and were undefeated on the road. We were playing Fairmont at home for the conference championship. We decided to make it a road game. The late Bill Kemp drove us in a bus around Lake Sakatah in Waterville. We unloaded at our locker room, got dressed, played

football and won. I've been apart of a couple of unbelievable games. I've also been involved in a couple of unbelievable football coaching bloopers. We once decided to punt on the fourth down. The punt team took the field and prepared to punt. The signal caller began barking cadence to the center to snap the ball to the punter. I yelled out "coach, where's the punter?" Coach yelled back, "He's standing next to us." Before we could call time out, our center snapped the ball to no one. The opponent recovered the bouncing football. During one particularly difficult season, we were playing at Jackson. Our opening drive stalled inside the Jackson ten-yard line. We were huddled with

the defense on the sidelines giving them a fire up talk. We took a little too long. The referee signaled to start the clock. Jackson was lined up ready to go without a Bluejay on the field. Their coaches yelled at them to run a play. The Jackson running back ran down the sidelines, uncontested, toward the end zone. The Bluejay defense ran to an angle, onto the field in panicked pursuit. We tackled the Jackson player on our seven-yard line. The stands behind us were silent. I remember someone calling out "What kind of a bleeping football play was that?" Have fun watching football this fall and a memorable moment. SKOLL, Row The Boat, and GO Bluejays!! Go Panthers! Go Bulldogs!!

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STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.: 81-PR-25-548
In Re: Estate of
MARILYN A. SMITH,
Deceased
NOTICE OF INFORMAL PRO-
BATE OF WILL AND APPOINT-
MENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS
AND CREDITORS:
Notice is hereby given that an
amended application for informal
probate of the above-named Dece-
dent's Last Will dated December 29,
2004 has been filed with the Probate
Registrar, and the amended applica-
tion has been granted.

Gen A. Smith of 1120 3rd Street SE,
Rochester, MN 55904 as personal
representatives of the Estate of the
Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other
interested person may be entitled to
appointment as personal representa-
tive,
or may object to the appointment of
the personal representative. Unless
objections are filed pursuant to Minn.
Stat. § 524.3-607, and the court
otherwise orders, the personal repre-
sentative has full power to administer
the Estate, including, after 30 days
from the date of issuance of letters,
the power to sell, encumber, lease or
distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the
Will, or to the appointment of the
personal representative, must be filed
with this court, and will be heard by
the court after the filing of an appro-
priate
petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that, subject to
Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors
having claims against the Estate are
required to present the claims to the
personal representative or to the
Court
Administrator within four (4) months
after the date of this Notice, or the
claims will be barred.

Dated: 08/08/25
/s/ Barb Stevensen
Probate Registrar
/s/ Shannon Asselin
Court Administrator

Pro Se Personal Representative
Mary C. Bosacker
10627 Sherman Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

(Published in the Waseca Pioneer
on August 14 and August 21, 2025.)

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

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CHAMPIONS - The Division 4 Waseca Novas won the national championship this past summer. Front row, kneeling left to right, Sophia Berg, Paislee Kwasniewski. Second row, Kinley Morrissey, Coach Michelle Berg, Aurora Malterer, Madelyn Holling, Elly Schroeder. Third row, Kendyl Priebe, Kiera Holmgren, Brynlee Spies, Ashlynn Nowacki, Cadence Britton, Coach Ashley Robbins

Champion Force cheerleaders triumph

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

About 45 young Waseca area cheerleaders won national-level titles this past summer through the “Champion Force” program.

According to coach Ashley Robbins, Champion Force has been active in Waseca—and the whole state of Minnesota—since 2020. The Waseca program features five “divisions.” Division 1 includes athletes aged 4 through 6; Division 2 is for seven- and eight-year-olds. Those aged 9 and above are in Division 3. Participants 7 and older who wish may also try out for Divisions 4 and 5.4.

Divisions 3, 4 and 5.4 attended the national tournament in Ohio in July after learning early in the year they had earned the needed number of points to take part, including scoring well enough at state competition last fall.

“They were excited, stressed, nervous and jittery,” describes

Robbins. “Anyone would be.” She attributes the feelings to anticipation, though, rather than worry. “They love going up on stage and showing off what they’ve learned. They’re really proud of what they’ve accomplished.

“And they should be.

“They’ve worked hard and they do their best.”

The competition, she explains, consists of performing a 2.5 minute routine to music. The routines include synchronized movements and a wide variety of tumbling and gymnastics moves along with lifts and “flying”—controlled drops from the hands or shoulders of other athletes.

“This is genuinely hard work,” comments Robbins. “It takes strength and coordination.”

Tumbling coach Michelle Feeley explains she incorporates elements of humor and even silliness as she works with participants to build their strength,

stamina, and coordination. She divides them into teams for light-hearted competition, she explains, to help them build a team approach, and to recognize how much they rely on each other.

Sarah Kwasniewski brings her now 9-year-old daughter Paislee to Champion Force “because she loves it!” Paislee is in her fourth year. Sarah says she loves the interaction with other participants, and appreciates the chance to use her gymnastics skills.

Rebecca Hanson brings her daughter Adelynn, 11. Rebecca says she signed Adelynn up at age 5, and was glad to learn there was a program for someone so young. She says Adelynn enjoys the social interaction and shared tasks which make use of dance, stunting and cheerleading moves. “She really loves the coaches,” Rebecca adds.

Both moms remember being on the sidelines during the Waseca performances at Nationals focus-

ing on safety: “Don’t fall. Don’t fall. Don’t fall.”

Robbins remembers the energy, excitement and team commitment she saw. “I knew it was going to go well,” she recalls. “The girls were ready, and they had done their absolute best to learn the routines well.”

Waseca teams that competed at the national level included the Division 4 “Waseca Novas,” who took the championship of their level. Team members are Sophia Berg, Paislee Kwasniewski, Kinley Morrissey, Aurora Malterer, Madelyn Holling, Elly Schroeder, Kendyl Priebe, Kiera Holmgren, Brynlee Spies, Ashlynn Nowacki, and Cadence Britton.

The “Waseca Glitz” Division 3 team, which took second place, included Kylie Handshoe, Mylee Bubak, Regina Yezdi, Arianna Brown, Elaina Berg, Kenzie Connors, Zoe Clement, Angel Bice, Rylee Kaiser, Elora Grannis, Sarah Tegmeier, Kinley Grotberg, Cordelia Pearce, Kendyl Priebe, Ada Prehn.

Also taking second place in their competitive group were the Division 5.4 “Next Level Elite” team members. They include Sophia Berg, Paislee Robbins, Pais-



GLITZ AWARDED - Waseca Division 3, Waseca Glitz, won second at nationals. Front row, left to right, Kylie Handshoe, Mylee Bubak, Regina Yezdi, Arianna Brown, Elaina Berg. Second row, Kenzie Connors, Zoe Clement, Angel Bice, Rylee Kaiser, Elora Grannis, Emily Roeker. Third row, Kylie Lando, Brynlee Spies, Sarah Tegmeier, Kinley Grotberg, Cordelia Pearce, Kendyl Priebe, Ada Prehn.



NEXT LEVEL - Waseca Division 5.4, Waseca Next Level Elite, won second place at nationals. Front row, from left to right, Sophia Berg, Paislee Robbins, Paislee Kwasniewski. Second row, Emily Harguth, Angelica Hernandez, Jordyn Hinna, Hadley Rodriguez, Addison Schmitz, Isabel Berg. Third row, Taelyn Nowak, Kenzie Morrissey, Presley Holling, Lorelai Russell, Adelynn Hanson, Amelia Ellis.

Brynlee Spies, Sarah Tegmeier, Kinley Grotberg, Cordelia Pearce, Kendyl Priebe, and Ada Prehn.

Also taking second place in their competitive group were the Division 5.4 “Next Level Elite” team members. They include Sophia Berg, Paislee Robbins, Pais-

lee Kwasniewski, Emily Harguth, Angelica Hernandez, Jordyn Hinna, Hadley Rodriguez, Addison Schmitz, Isabel Berg, Taelyn Nowak, Kenzie Morrissey, Presley Holling, Lorelai Russell, Adelynn Hanson, and Amelia Ellis.

IN BRIEF

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

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

JAMBOYZ at Janesville Veterans Memorial Park Monday, Sept. 4

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

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

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

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

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

■ Mission
from Page 6

bag was and asked to search it, their response was only “It’s full of rocks.”

“Then they returned the bag and Carter brought the rocks home,” said the speaker.

Another surprise for team members was the spongy nature of the tundra where Nome is built. Comparing the surface to a trampoline, team members mentioned how uneven it is, with low spots large enough to have scrub trees growing in them and leaving only a small portion of the plant showing above ground.

The structure they worked on uses numerous adjustable leveling jacks for its base, since the motion of the tundra would break it apart if it were built directly on the ground. The unstable surface is also the reason Nome’s streets are gravel rather than being paved.

One team member stated, “I couldn’t believe how much Patty knows about every part of the KICY mission.” Others went on to observe that, in addition to running the radio station, she was well informed about the construction project and the needed tasks.

“It was definitely a blessing to be there,” observed one team member.

“We made our mark,” commented Cogan, elaborating that the 12 members of the Waseca team had completed a wide variety of tasks and contributed significant progress to the construction project. Other teams are there working and will be until the building is fully complete.

Real Life Covenant Church will be hosting a salmon dinner the evening of Wednesday, Oct. 8. KICY station manager Burchell will be there to share information about KICY and its work, and will be supplying the salmon. All interested members of the public are invited to attend; the meal will be served on a free-will basis.

Southeast RSDP seeks applicants for board and work group members

The Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (Southeast RSDP) is seeking applicants for membership on community-led regional board and work groups.

Southeast RSDP is one of five regional partnerships that connect local communities with University of Minnesota resources to support sustainable development and resilience in Greater Minnesota. RSDP has four work groups: natural resources, local food systems, resilient communities and clean energy.

Southeast RSDP’s board and work groups are composed of community volunteers from the region along with representation from University of Minnesota faculty

and staff. Members work together to make recommendations about how to support community-driven projects that partner with the University of Minnesota. RSDP strives to reflect a diversity of backgrounds and perspectives among its board membership.

Successful candidates for the Southeast RSDP work groups will:

- ◆ Be committed to building resilience in Southwest Minnesota communities -- economically, environmentally, and socially
- ◆ Contribute diverse backgrounds, identities, experiences, and viewpoints
- ◆ Operate with integrity in making decisions
- ◆ Embrace complexity and inno-

vation

Southeast RSDP is currently seeking those with an interest in natural resources and sustainable agriculture and food systems. Among the knowledge areas we are especially interested in are farming and agriculture; water resource management; naturalists or wild areas/ecosystems; and climate and extreme weather readiness.

Across our 16-county region, we are specifically seeking applicants from the following counties: Faribault, Blue Earth, Waseca, Steele, Houston, Winona, Fillmore, Mower as well as the Prairie Island Indian Community. However, we will consider applications from all counties within our region.

During their terms, board and work group members participate in in-person or virtual meetings (10 for board members, 4 for work group members). Mileage compensation and honoraria for meeting attendance are available.

To apply for a board position, please see z.umn/rsdpboard.

To apply for work group position, please see z.umn/rsdpworkgroups.

Applications are preferred by Monday, Sept 15 th for a start date of October 1st. For questions, or to learn more, please contact Andi Sutton, Southeast RSDP Executive Director, at sutto364@umn.edu or (857) 928-4196.

■ Martens

from Page 8

Assistant City Administrator Heather Christiansen said she’s learned a lot during her year and a half working with Martens.

“He’s a fun guy,” Christiansen said. “A tech nerd. Very involved. Knowledgeable. As a boss, he’s definitely good with a budget, finding grants, helping the city improve. He’s a great team leader, encouraging everyone to be the best they can be.”

In a 2022 interview with the Star Eagle, Martens praised the community as receptive and “tight knit,” adding that residents tend to rally together for those in need and recognize each other when out and about. Martens wants people to know he and his family will continue to call New Richland home.

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