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WASECA
COUNTY
PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

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■ Pages 6-7



F&C Days

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Newsstand locations will, once finalized, be at Casey's and Kwik Trips in Waseca, Janesville, New Richland, Mankato, Owatonna, and Waterville.

Other locations will likely be arranged for and will be listed in upcoming editions of the *Pioneer*.

Telephone problems

The *Pioneer* has had technical difficulties with out telephone number over the past two weeks, but those problems have been addressed. Thank you for your patience, and please, if we missed your call, please try again.

Subscriptions

The *Pioneer* has concluded its free two week run and will be solely be delivered to newstands and subscribers. Thank you to the many, many readers who have signed up thus far. Handling hundreds of subscriptions in one business week has been a handful and the *Pioneer* kindly requests that anyone who has a question about their subscription status to please contact us.

Email: news@wasecacounty-pioneer.com or call 507-837-6767 or stop in person 103 S. State State Suite 2 or mail Waseca County Pioneer P.O. Box 578 Waseca, MN, 56093

Ulrich graduates Summa Cum Laude at Wartburg college

Mya Ulrich, of Waseca, graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Neuroscience.

Wartburg College awarded diplomas to 253 students during its Spring Commencement on Sunday, May 29.

Waseca Garden walk July 23

The Waseca Garden Club is sponsoring a "Garden Walk" on Saturday, July 23rd from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Rain or shine. It is free and open to the public for visiting five gardens. Maps and refreshments available at 315 2nd Ave. NE, Waseca, MN. For more information, call 507-461-1222.

Pillow cleaning service August 6

Catholic Daughters, Court Sacred Heart #1424, invites everyone to Carlson's Pillow Cleaning Service on Saturday, August 6 from 8am. to 1 p.m. This will be held at the Sacred Heart Parish Center in Waseca. Use the east door. Pillows are cleaned, deodorized, sanititized and fluffed. This is a mobile unit with same day service, while you wait! Custom made new pillows are available for sale. Proceeds go to help local charities such as Bethlehem Inn, Neighborhood Service Center and Sacred Heart School.

A word from
The Word



Rejoice always
1 Thessalonians
5:16



MEAT - The faces behind the new online meat shop, The Meatery, are shown above, from left, Dean Morgan, Colette Drager and Tim Fischer.

Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler

Tasteful selections

Local butchers, farmers start online "Meatery"

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

According to its founder, The Meatery MN is built off the faith that, if people get a chance to taste good, down-home food, they'll want to keep coming back for more. "Access," says kickstarter Collette Drager, "will feed inspiration. "What we've done is developed this community where everyone can be engaged and in the sharing mode. To support that and really grow on that inspiration we make the whole process of selecting and receiving the products smooth and simple."

Briefly summarized, The Meatery is an online platform based in Mankato that publishes the stories and lists the products available from area producers. All of the partner suppliers have been vetted for their high quality and the personal touches they add to their offerings: in other words, the Meatery has found them to be unique and versatile. The Meatery collaborates with each partner farmer to highlight the special elements of items listed online, making it possible for customers across most of the world to have access to the fresh-off-the-farm flavor outstate Minnesotans take for granted.

Collaboratively, through their website, the organization's partners have created a platform for all of their respective products, facilitating a system which allows the farmers and markets to ship their offerings

Meatery continued on 3

Another chapter

After 50 years in business, Waseca Floral is for sale

By ELI LUTGENS and
MICHAEL ROY
Publishers

"Another chapter coming to a close," one 15-year customer observes after learning that Rick and Sheila Morris have placed Waseca Floral and their adjoining residential property up for sale.

As chapters go, it's been a long one.

Rick and Sheila have been operating the business for 50 years, selling live plants, floral arrangements, corsages, boutonnieres and other similar items. Thanks to long practice, they make it look easy. What no outsider can see, however, is what it took to come so far.

Rick smiles as he remembers their almost whimsical beginning.

After growing up in Hopkins, he had graduated from the University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus with a degree in plant pathology. At 26, he had a job which required a lengthy commute and which brought him very little personal satisfaction. Sheila saw an ad offering a greenhouse and adjoining residential property for sale on a "contract for deed" basis. The price, back in 1972, was \$60,000; a monthly installment of \$300.

The two decided to give it a go. They would learn the business and pay for it all at the same time.

"It was really scary those first couple of years," Rick remembers. "We had to scrape together those payments each month. And if we didn't make our payment, well that would mean the whole operation would be taken away from us."

The possibility was quite real, since a previous buyer had defaulted and returned the property to owner Rollie Malloy.

Rick admits "Frankly, if someone were to analyze what we did, they would say we didn't have enough to do it. It took all of the money we had saved, and all of our equity to buy this place."

In the meantime, he and Sheila had a growing family, with the arrival of Eric, Andrea, and Erin within 10 years of their moving to Waseca.

As for learning the skills needed by a florist, Rick credits that to assistance from other area florists, and to persistence. "Customers tell you what they like," he says. "We listen to them and learn to provide it. That's our secret, and it's why we're still in business today." He adds that learning the techniques of the business was more demanding early on. "Today, you can just look it up on YouTube," he comments.

The business, too, needed persistent adjustments as times and circumstances changed. The greenhouse, for example, was once three times larger than it is now because, back in the 70s, the only way to assure there would always be fresh flowers available was to grow them. "We had snapdragons, carnations, mums," recalls Rick. "When we'd get an order, we could just walk out and cut them. It was very easy to assure our customers that the flowers were fresh."

The cost of heating such a large area became prohibitive over time, but it also became easier to acquire flowers from other sources, mostly suppliers in the Twin Cities.

Another facility change was the retail area of the business, which Rick says is now at least twice as large as it once was.

A much-noticed element of his business is the company sign along State Street with its message inviting "Stephanie, stop in for a free rose!" Rick says he may have borrowed the idea from another florist, but has been pleased with the connections his persistently changing offer has

HALF OF HIM – Waseca Floral owner Rick Morris is pictured with his wife Sheila. She has been with him since they bought the place in 1972 and emphasizes that without her help, they wouldn't have been successful.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

Farm and city days turns 100

Hundreds of people, maybe even a thousand visitors and residents, were in attendance throughout the 100-year anniversary of "Dairy Days," later renamed Farm and City Days weekend in New Richland, July 8-10.

The most popular attractions included Greg the Mystifying Magic show, drawing more than 100 people to City Park on Saturday; Power Pedal Tractor Pull for ages 4-11 in the afternoon, sponsored by Morgan's Meat Market, Thompson's Body Shop, New Richland Auto, Midwest Repairables, Wagner Foods, New Richland Liquor, and Neighbor's Meats.

The event left several partici-

Days continued on 6



Shelly Moxon waves to the crowd during the Farm and City Days parade Saturday, July 9.

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Looking in the Mirror

by Jonah Stafford
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Many memories at Camp Indianhead

This week I am going away-working as a camp counselor at Camp Indianhead, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod’s annual Bible camp hosted at Lutheran Island Camp, near the northern Minnesota town of Henning. It is my second year as a counselor, but my eighth year going to camp. With well over 100 campers from all over the mid-west and beyond, Camp Indianhead is akin to a mini convention for all the good Christian kids to gather in fellowship. It’s also the one time a year that living in the shadow of my father’s ministry is a perk: Yes indeed, our beloved Reverend Shawn Stafford is one of the camp directors. Ever since taking up that role several years ago after attending camp countless times as a pastor, my father has proven to be exceptionally popular among all in attendance.

My personal experiences at Camp Indianhead have been quite the rollercoaster. On my second day at camp when I was 11, I got hit in the head with a soccer ball. I ended up being okay but from that moment until I turned 16, the only elective you would catch me participating in was arts and crafts. Due to a policy change, those attending the camp last year and this summer will not be able to be so fickle. Elective activities will be selected by cabin groups rather than individuals, ensuring each youth participates in a variety of experiences, including those outside their comfort zone. Though sports will never be my cup of tea, it was through my onstage action that I made a name for myself at Camp Indianhead.

If there’s one aspect of camp I’ll never have enough to say about, it’s the talent show. At age 11, I took home the “best male actor” award for a particularly enthusiastic display of celebration after winning a rock-paper-scissors tournament, which was my cabin’s skit idea. The skit was a critical flop—a panel of judges was not impressed—but from that moment on, I had the credibility I needed to be a creative force in the Camp Indianhead talent show skit circuit. I spent years and years, along with much more thought and effort, trying to achieve that “best” award again, but to no avail. With a Taylor-Swift-themed apocalypse sketch here and a McDonald’s commercial parody there, nothing could bring me anywhere near another plaque, though my cabins’ offerings were always audience favorites. One standout skit, though not my idea, was a spelling bee which ended with the winner spell-

ing “iridocyclitis” correctly: This was, of course, a reference to a popular Vine at the time of the National Spelling Bee. My Waseca County Fair spelling bee participation trophy, which I brought along in a bag of too many props, ended up being the winner’s prize. Another year, my cabin restaged the heated duel between Darth Vader and Luke Skywalker. During the heat of the battle, I, as Emperor Palpatine, defeated them both. Then, in an act of social commentary, I grabbed my lightsaber, drew Mickey Mouse ears in the air, and declared “I’m Emperor Palpatine and you’re watching the Disney Channel.” No one got an award, but the crowd went wild!

At 16, it was my final shot to try to get any sort of award and my hopes were high that this talent show would be one to remember. However, my cabin slogged through the week, with no creative ideas. Finally, the day before showtime, one of my cabin mates was struck by inspiration, declaring that year’s skit would be a lip syncing contest. With little preparation and no budget or costuming, the show went on without a hitch. My personal song of choice was “Sweet But Psycho,” by Ava Max, a hit that was inescapable on the airwaves in Summer 2019. Not to brag, but I was probably the best lip syncer present, utilizing both levels of the stage, doing actions along with the song, and keeping eye contact with members of the audience. When the panel of judges did not see my lipsync as winworthy, a furious crowd begged for my return. So, in an unrehearsed bit, I stole the show, declared myself the winner, and performed a reprise of my song. In a way, the story of that skit was autobiographical to this journey: I was doing too much and I already had my time to shine- in Bible camp talent show world, I was 2017 Katy Perry. Needless to say, I did not take home another plaque that night, someone else in my cabin did—admittedly well-deserved for a particularly suave lipsync of Rick Astley’s “Never Gonna Give You Up.” What I took home, though, was even better. The roaring applause, the rush of delivering a great performance on stage, and what is this? The joint effort of the lipsync cabin sketch granted my cabin victory, with the highest score among all the talent show performances! I may have won my plaque in a way that did not feel deserved or satisfying, but I had more than proved myself and was happy to share the spotlight.

Consider taking a break sometimes

I own a blue 2022 Kia Forte. It is by far the best vehicle I have ever owned. It has most of what my old Kia Forte had, but better.

But one thing that bugs me? All the safety features.

One day, I was backing slowly out of a parking spot in downtown Janesville. The painted lines are slanted diagonally, so you only have to make a slight turn to get out of your spot; I find it much easier than the “parallel” parking in most communities.

So here I am, carrying out a maneuver that would be easy for a child. Yet every time there is a car coming, my car’s “safety” features blare at me loudly and flash red “caution” signs in my dash cam. One time as I was pulling out safely the brakes engaged themselves as a car approached from the other direction. I knew I had sufficient clearance, but my car came to a stop anyway.

Another feature of my car is that it has some sensors which analyze how “focused” I am when I’m driving. It has three modes: high, normal, and low. If it determines that I am “low,” a message will pop up on the dashboard that says, “Consider taking a break.”



Well, like I said...

by Michael Roy
copyright © 2022 by Michael Roy

Sometimes it is genuinely helpful: Other times I think it’s faulty. I can have my eyes on the road for 15 minutes and it will say the words, “Consider taking a break.” Other times, I’ll be trying to eat and drive at the same time, with admittedly very little focus on the road, and the sensor will indicate “high.” I don’t know how it decides how focused I am, if it’s my hand position on the steering wheel, how hard I press on the gas or brakes, or a combination of things.

I was having a rough day about two weeks ago. We were putting in lots of long hours, anywhere from 10-14 hours a day on my end. (Eli had longer ones.) Now, I’m used to the occasional 12-hour day during the summer. But taking on the role of publisher, running around, and mak-

ing sure things work, created a constant barrage of work that took a while to get used to.

I was getting ready to cover a Waseca Braves game at 7 p.m. I was already tiring after a particularly early start. As I was driving, that one little message came up on my dashboard: “Consider taking a break.”

Sigh. “Okay, fine,” I muttered. So, I pulled into McDonald’s, grabbed my usual two cheeseburger combo with a Coke, parked in the nearby lot, and just breathed.

Sometimes, a break is exactly what we need. I can be pretty bad at that. As someone who’s not in the best shape, it’s especially important for me to take breaks. But there’s that certain young man type of vigor in me that is too prideful to take occasional breaks. If I can get it done

today, I need to get it done as soon as possible to enjoy the rest of the day.

Well, as a publisher, there are often times when “the rest of the day” is half an hour before bed.

But breaks are important. It’s why there are laws that for every four hours worked, there’s a lunch break and small 15-minute breaks every two to three hours. If you don’t take a break from what you’re doing, you’ll get more irritated with the tasks you face and you may feel resentful for the rest of the day. At least that’s the way I see it.

So when you feel like you are on the brink of throwing a chair, take it as an indicator that you should “consider taking a break.”

Before ending the column, I want to shout out to Matt Petsinger for letting the County Pioneer use part of his office space while we finish renovations next door to him. We are also renting our “permanent” office space from him. So, he deserves a lot of credit for our success thus far. Thanks for being a cool insurance agent, Matt!

Boldness has genius, power, and magic

So, I have finally decided how to end my columns. This may not seem all that important, but until you’ve done it, you can’t understand the challenges and pressures which come with writing a column. Imagine sitting with your fingers poised above a keyboard while staring at a blank Word document.

As for me, I feel like I’m there forever, ideas floating through my head. That one? Nope. How about that one? No, that wouldn’t do either. Unless I have a good theme going, it’s hard to decide what to write. The ideas for a column are limitless—it is to the writer as clay is to the sculptor. Anything is possible.

Some of my most recent ideas have been writing about my younger sister, or growing up with both a counselor and a therapist in my family, or I could even start a series about the history of parks in Waseca.



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler
copyright © 2022 by Amelia Roessler

All are valid, but then I’d have to decide which one of those I wanted to go with, how to start (and end) the piece, etc. There’s just so much involved.

As I was mulling over good ways to end a piece, I was told about how other columnists finish theirs: short stories, tidbits, quotes. That got me thinking—I have kept for the past couple of years a list of quotes and tidbits in my notes on my phone of phrases and words that pique my in-

terest or intrigue me. Most of them come from books, I admit, but to me they are all good. So what if I either centered my column around the quote or used it to finish the piece? This thought excited me—this I could work with. What better thing to include in my column than something that I have enjoyed, something that has gotten me thinking?

If I’m being honest, most of the quotes I’ve written down were ideas for my senior quote in the yearbook.

Problem is, the grade before mine didn’t do so well with their senior quotes (if you know what I mean), so my grade wasn’t allowed to do them anymore. I think I would’ve gone with a quote from the tv show The Office, “In my fantasy, I always thought I would slap someone, make a big speech, and storm out forever. But this is good too.” Pam says that in season seven and I found it clever.

Anyway, long story short, I have finally made up my mind (yay!) about what I’m going to do. I will end each of my columns with a quote from my acquired list. Sorry to those who got bored reading about my thought process, but the quote to end today’s thought ramble is by poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: “Whatever you can do or dream you can begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it.”

A special Farm and City Days weekend

I had a fantastic weekend. New Richland’s Farm and City Days celebration is one of my favorite times of the year. It’s also one of my most exhausting. This past Friday and Saturday were filled with more events than one person could really attend—if they even tried to attend them all—which I did.

By 4 o’clock Saturday, I was kaputt.

But, after a half hour nap, awakened by a phone call in the office, I was reminded I had yet one more thing to do before the day was done: attend the parade. This year the Star Eagle was named one of three grand marshals, which meant I got to be in the parade, instead of watching (and taking pictures) from the sidelines.

Unsure of whether I should bring my camera along, I asked the other marshals, as well as the mayor, all of



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens
copyright © 2022 by Eli Lutgens

whom responded with an emphatic “Yes!”

It went by a lot faster than I thought it would. It seems riding in the parade condenses time.

My only regret is that I didn’t throw enough candy.

We were warned to throw candy sparingly, and so we did—to a point where we had some left at the end of the route. Argh. I guess there’s next time.

The night was capped off with a street dance, which, coincidentally, is

the only event the Star Eagle doesn’t really feature in its coverage of Farm and City Days. I guess you could say I took the night off.

Seeing so many familiar faces this weekend warmed my heart and rejuvenated me. I was left asking myself why we don’t do more celebrations like this, and then I was reminded that if we did this every weekend, it wouldn’t be so special. And, of course, things now move to the next level with the county-wide celebration that is the fair.



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Dear Editor,
You out do any newspaper around :) Love your paper!

Susan Wobschall
Waseca

Dear Editor,
Looks like you have an impressive start and I want to sign up. Thank you for taking this on and good luck.

Patricia Born
Waseca

Dear Editor
Wishing you the best in your new journey. This is much needed and I think all of Waseca is behind you. Good Luck!

Lois

Dear Editor,
Thanks for providing us with a newspaper again!!

George Hagge
Waseca

Dear Editor,
Delighted to learn Waseca and area will once again have a news-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send your letters of comment to
Waseca County Pioneer, P.O. Box 248, Waseca MN 56093
or email us at news@wasecacountypioneer.com.

paper. Best wishes!

Waseca

Waseca

Dear Editor,
Eli and Michael, good luck and thank you for the new Waseca paper..

Franklin Johnson

Dear Editor
We’re looking forward to receiving your new newspaper! To show our support we are paying the regular rate instead of the introductory special - to give you a little boost.

Greg and Deb Dobberstein,
Waseca

Dear Editor,
I was very impressed with the July 1 issue! Keep up the good work!

Phoebe Praxl

Dear Editor,
I was excited to see that we might actually have a newspaper that has stories of our area (and not St. Peter and Faribault like the County News does)! I am definitely ordering a subscription to your new publication. I read the first issue thoroughly and was happy to see that it is well written and edited.

Waseca

Dear Editor
I enjoyed reading your paper this weekend. Thank you,

Theresa Neigebour
Waseca

Dear Editor
We enjoyed your paper.

JoAnn Sutlief
Waseca

Dear Editor
Good Luck! Really enjoy your newspaper!!

Keith Vollbrecht
Waseca

Dear Editor,
Great job!! Love pictures and local events and news.

Carol Schlaak
New Richland

Dear Editor,
Congratulations on a beautiful newspaper!

Virginia McCarthy
Janesville

Dear Editor,
Love your paper. Keep up the good work!

Helen Tollefson
Waseca

Dear Editor
Great first edition. Keep it up.

Waseca



Olivia Bartelt is assisted by Jenny Delnay to retrieve DNA from a tomato during an Acres of Pizza event hosted at Farmamerica Saturday, July 9. Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler

Acres of Pizza at Farmamerica

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

“At Farmamerica we try to show you that agriculture is all around you, that you don’t have to live on a farm to be connected with agriculture,” said program director Jenny Delnay.

In keeping with that, the July 11 “Acres of Pizza” event focused on showing participants all the agricultural connections provided in the ever-popular teen food.

Children and families rotated between five stations on the Farmamerica grounds, each of which focused on a specific ingredient. As they completed each station, participants received felt cutouts which, when assembled, created a fabric pizza. The real thing was also available as the final step in the rotation.

The closest station to the visitor center had kids extracting DNA from tomatoes, the chief ingredient in pizza sauce; here budding scientists got to keep their own vial of tomato DNA as a souvenir. The next station, at Farmamerica’s 1850s homestead, looked at wheat and flour, the main component in the pizza crust. Representatives from Ardent Mills

of Mankato were there to help out with flour “sensory bins” for the kids. At the one-room schoolhouse, the pepperoni station had participants looking at model pig barns and completing matching games. At the 1930s site, participants interacted with live animals including cows, pigs, and sheep. There were also model cows which allowed them to try their hand at milking. Also available was a version of the “cheese throwing” trend current on TikTok. The last station, at the feed mill, offered coloring sheets, painting, and a pizza game to earn felt vegetables for the fabric pizza.

As for real pizza, the Pleasant Grove Pizza farm was there to make actual pizzas for everyone hungry from all that learning and experiencing.

Farmamerica is a nonprofit organization which is funded partially by the state, through events, donations, and memberships: another significant source is income from crops grown on the site. Delnay talked about plans for renovations inside the visitor center, excited about an array of interactive exhibits that will be included.



Zookeeper Jacob Kayfes performs during New Richland Farm and City Days Friday night in city park. Pioneer photo by Tristan Jensen

A rad time in the park

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

What makes the RAD Zoo so “rad”? According to Jacob Kayfes, zookeeper, it’s how interactive the organization makes itself, allowing visitors and guests to handle many of its reptile and amphibian occupants. Under Kayfes’ definition, times to be “interactive” include shows, feedings and cleanings, and zookeepers being on hand to answer questions. It also includes taking the zoo on the road, as the Medford-based organization did for New Richland’s Farm and City Days this past weekend.

While Kayfes, who has just finished his first year with the Reptile & Amphibian Discovery (RAD) Zoo, does not often go on the road, off-site shows like the one he gave Friday night in New Richland are not uncommon. During winter the RAD Zoo’s zookeepers take the animals traveling a few times a week; in the busier summer season they may give several shows each day. When the

animals are not on the road with their keepers, they live at the RAD Zoo in Medford, which bills itself as one of the world’s largest reptile displays.

Kayfes was a smart, exciting, and engaging presenter. He spent nearly an hour teaching kids about the amazing animals he’d brought - selected from approximately 300 specimens representing almost 200 species housed at the RAD Zoo. The animal stars of the night included Spot, a leopard gecko; [adfs], a bearded dragon; and Hourglass, a small Tortoise. The audience learned interesting facts such as how to differentiate between an alligator and crocodile by the shapes of their mouths, and that leopard geckos can detach part or all of their tail in order to escape a predator. After the presentation, kids and grown-ups alike were invited to pet Hourglass as well as Larry, a common boa constrictor, and the fan favorite, Monster, a young American Alligator.

Meet your neighbor, Jim

Name: Jim Boerboom	Favorite TV show: <i>This old house</i>
Town: Waseca	Favorite Food: Pepperoni pizza
Age: 71	All Time Favorite Movie: Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid
Hometown: Cottonwood	Favorite Sports Team: Twins
Family: Parents: Walter and Helen, six siblings; Spouse: MaryJo; Children: Merdith, Kelly, Megan, and Allen	Favorite musical artists: Lady GaGa and Toni Bennett
Occupation: Retired, former teacher and Deputy Commisioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture	My favorite activities when I was growing up: Farm work with cousins and family picnics
Hobbies: Small town baseball, and fishing	My biggest pet peeve: Bad driving habits
My dream vacation would be: Canadian Rockies	The best advice I’ve ever received: Be yourself
The best thing about small town living is: A lot, getting to know your neighbors first	If I could have lunch with any one person, living or dead: Martin Luther King Junior
Last Good Book I Read: <i>Truman</i>	Something about me that would surprise people: I was a member of the Univeristy of Minnesota Marching Band



Neighbor Jim Boerboom once met Martin Luther King Junior’s housekeeper.

Dueling Pianos at Indian Island Winery

Crazy Keys bring together Minnesotan Rob Vacanti and Wisonsin Johnny Griggs

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

What do you get when you combine one pianist from Minnesota and another from Wisconsin? A talented duo who shows their musical prowess interspersed with comedic relief.

That’s what the duo Crazy Keys Dueling Pianos brought to the Indian Island Winery in rural Janesville on Saturday afternoon. Because the weather was nice, the winery decided to have the two pianists on their patio as opposed to performing inside. And it was a sellout event. There were so many people attending that cars had to park in the grass next to the gravel lot.

The “duelists” of Crazy Keys Dueling Pianos are Johnny Griggs and Rob Vacanti. Griggs has been a live performer since the 1970s, although it was 1993 when he decided he wanted to start a dueling pianos ensemble. After taking years to learn the craft and performing as part of a few dueling piano pairs, he formed “The Ivory Kings” in 2000, giving him the opportunity to play all around the United States.

Vacanti’s start on the ivories came at age 13 when he began playing theater organ. Since then, he’s been going between the Crazy Keys Dueling Pianos group and fishing at his

home in northwest Minnesota.

Griggs and Vacanti formed the duo over 13 years ago and have traveled around the midwest ever since. Their performance at the winery this past weekend seesawed between showing off their musical prowess and taking digs at each other for comedic effect.

The funniest bit included an argument between the two about which NFL football team—Minnesota or Green Bay—is better. Vacanti, a Vikings fan through and through, called Griggs a “cheesehead” and led the crowd in the Vikings’ fight song, “Skol, Vikings, Skol.”

When not providing comedy, the two complimented each other nicely between songs. Although they had a set list on hand that included the Doors’ tune “Love Her Madly,” the duo honored any request sent their way. A couple of requests included singing “Happy Birthday.”

The two claim to specialize in corporate events, fundraisers, and weddings. With their performance at the Indian Island Winery this past weekend, they can add “performing on the back patio of a vineyard” to their list of specialties. It was a great day for some musical and comedic entertainment which also featured pizza, sunshine, and a nice glass of locally made wine.



Top: Rob Vicanti points to a crowd of people requesting the duo to play “Happy Birthday.” Bottom: Johnny Griggs shows off his Green Bay Packers cap. Pioneer photos by Michael Roy



■ Meatery

from Page 1

directly to the customer in a span of only a day or two.

According to meat market owner Dean Morgan, the best way to explain The Meatery is to look at it like a grocery store. If The Meatery is the grocery store, each aisle in the store is a different farmer, a different provider. A consumer who wants a combination of different meats can go from aisle to aisle to choose among them. Consumers can pick and choose from what each “aisle” is providing. “These are all farmers that are bringing you quality products,” elaborates Colette. “They will tell you their story—about whether the uniqueness of their products is related to the breed, the nutrition, the way they care for them.”

The start of The Meatery was small—an idea conceived by a meat lover, then shared with—and by—another meat lover. Each new member of the conversation added suggestions or possibilities. According to Colette, “The Meatery was one of those things when your family and friends end up together, you come up with all sorts of ideas—you talk smart and it’s just an idea.”

Until it becomes more.

In The Meatery’s case, the discus-

sion centered around a realization that people need to bring back the connection between the farm and table. That the best food is fresh and is prepared with attention to detail. The conversation grew and the concept molded into a genuine plan—one that would make made-at-home taste available away from “home.”

Back in April, their concept became practice, with the start of the 12-person team that is The Meatery. Although the service is still in its infant stages—“It’s a few months old!” Colette laughs—and the process may seem complicated, in reality it’s pretty simple. As The Meatery is not a seller itself, it provides the means for the seller, including the shipping labels, the shipping provider, the advertising, and the website where people go to choose what they want. It connects the farmer or producer to the end user. Although there’s a lot that goes into it, what The Meatery is essentially doing is bringing its seven, soon to be eight, partners together in a platform which offers customers an array of high-quality, down-home options. The partners do not see themselves as being in competition with one another because the more variety and niche-filling items they list, the more customers they expect to draw in.

For markets like Dean Morgan’s, “It’s a way to expand our visibility,” he says. “Exposure is big.”

Area farmer Tim Fischer is also

looking for visibility. “I’ve been selling meat to restaurants for 23 years,” Fischer says, “It’s always been hard for me to sell.” He explains that there are only so many hours in a day, and much of his time is spent handling production. As a “hobby” farmer who raises his pigs, takes care of his farm, and much more, he is grateful that The Meatery takes the task of finding and informing customers off his plate. “We have the product, we just need help getting it out there to the next step,” Fischer says.

Between blogs, videos, a very active Instagram page and website, and just a lot of cooking, Colette explains that The Meatery staff works to inspire people, putting special sets of products together which they think complement each other. “Our business is a combination of spreading the word and inspiring creativity—we help each business,” she explains, noting the importance of social media for the online company. Colette highlights that really, The Meatery is far more about helping partner businesses get the word out.

To the farmers, meat market employees, and people who just get it, knowing that there are people whose idea that seven-day shelf meat is “fresh” is hard to comprehend. “There are just a lot of people who have never had farm fresh meat. Huge difference,” Morgan says. “Once people try it, that’s the only

way they want to go.” For people locally genuinely fresh meat is in easy reach. But The Meatery is trying to provide less privileged people worldwide access to the variety and quality of the products that they could get.

At a meeting of 50-year-old friends – “not to say we’re old,” Morgan clarifies – colleagues Morgan and Fischer met with Colette to discuss the variety of their own products and how they could be combined to provide the best taste a customer could experience. “Once you realize that this model works, the opportunities that you can think of to even take it to the next level for all these partners is tremendous,” Colette mentions, with both Morgan and Fischer excited to take the next step of combining meat products.

As Fischer claims enthusiastically that they’ve become the “Amazon” of meat, Colette says that really all parties involved are just regular people who shoot for authenticity. “We’ve had some great, great support from our local communities,” she says, “What we’re asking of people in this general area is to really spread the word.”

Morgan gets in a final quip: “It’s a win-win situation for everyone, buyers and sellers alike. That doesn’t happen often enough, so it deserves to be talked about.”

OBITUARIES

Judith Gerdts

Judith Ann Gerdts, age 78, passed away on July 3, 2022, after a long battle with Amyloidosis. She was born on February 27, 1944, in Waseca Minnesota, to Walter and Sylvia (Huber) Nelson, and was a farm girl who grew up pulling weeds in the bean fields, and being chased by the chickens (which she hated). She attended grade school in a one room school-house in Waseca, until the 9th grade when she transferred to Owatonna.

When she was 18, she met the love of her life Sylvan Gerdts, at the Owatonna Roller Rink. In February 1964, when he returned from the military, they were married, and moved to their home in Rochester, where she has raised her family. She was preceded in death by her parents Walter and Sylvia (Huber) Nelson, brother Lyle and sister Diane (Stanke) Nelson.

Judy had sparkle; to know her was to love her. She made a difference in the lives of many by providing years of endless love and daycare to her little ones. Her favorite pastimes were decorating her home, and shopping, which was clearly evident from her exquisite style, always looking spec-



Judith Gerdts

tacular in her leopard print, like only she could. She loved spending time at the family cabin in Akeley, MN with the kids and grandkids.

Judy is survived by her husband of 58 years, Sulvan, her three sons,

Michael (Andrea), David (Amy), and Brian (Cara), and her five grandchildren, Kaylee, Sonja, Cody, Dalton, and Janelle, one brother, Robert (Bob) Nelson, and many nephews and nieces and cousins, all of whom she never left in question how much she treasured and loved them.

Merle Barker

Merle “Butch” Wayne Barker, age 71 of Waterville, died at his home on Tuesday, July 5, 2022.

Born in Chillicothe, Missouri on February 15, 1951, Butch was the son of Merle Sr. and Dixie (Waters) Barker. He attended school in Waterville and graduated from Waterville High School before beginning his working years. He worked in road construction before moving into his role at Brown Printing in Waseca where he stayed until his retirement. Butch was a perpetually “busy” man with a knack for mechanics. He enjoyed yard work, planting and tending to new trees, fishing, woodworking, and as a younger man volunteered his time as a hockey coach for his son’s teams.

Butch is survived by his mother, Dixie Barker of Waterville; two sons, Lance Barker of Waseca and his girlfriend DeMarcel Gonzalez of Pamona, CA; and Beau (Sonja) Barker of St. Peter; two grandchild-



Merle Barker

dren, Owen and Ella Barker; and one brother, Terry (Mary) Barker of Waterville. He was preceded in death by his father, Merle Sr.

A private family interment will be held at a later date. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral Homes and Crematory in Waseca is handling the arrangements.

Lorraine Swenson

Lorraine Margaret Swenson, age 101, formerly of Waseca, died on Saturday, July 9, 2022 at Gunderson Health in La Crosse, WI.

Born on October 21, 1920, in Waterville to William and Louise (Roskos) Quast. She attended Waterville Public School, graduating with the class of 1939. On June 20, 1944, Lorraine was united in marriage to Harold Swenson at the EUB Church in Waterville. Together they made their home in Waseca County while raising their four daughters. Lorraine and Harold shared 62 years of marriage before Harold passed away on March 11, 2007. Lorraine worked for Herters and for Mid-State Mutual Insurance Company. She enjoyed gardening, baking, cooking, playing cards, and traveling in her later years. She was a member of the Degree of Honor and Waseca County Home Extension Club. Lorraine had a strong faith and was a member of Vista Lutheran Church where she was active with the Dorcas Society.

Lorraine is survived by her daughters: Mary (James) Hendrickson of Viroqua, WI, Sherry (Chip) Swenson of Rochester and Karie (Gene) Swenson Ward of Avon; grandchildren: Jamie (Christine) Hendrickson, Brie (Quinn) Swenson Arnold, and Adam (Abbe) Swenson; great



Lorraine Swenson

grandchildren: Liv and Elin Hendrickson, Ingrid Hendrickson, and Nicholas and Nathan Arnold; son-in-law: David Mollert; granddaughter-in-law: Erin Swiggum; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Preceded in death by her parents; husband; daughter, Terri Mollert; grandson: Kristofer Hendrickson; siblings: Lorretta Mertins and Rod Quast.

Funeral Service will be 2:00 PM on Saturday, July 16, 2022, at Vista Lutheran Church. Interment will be in the church cemetery. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday.

Ray Mlenek

Ray Eugene Mlenek, age 68 of Waseca, passed away at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato on the morning of Friday, July 8, 2022.

Ray was born in Morristown, MN on May 25, 1954 to Frank Herman and Opal Hulda (Schwanke) Mlenek. He went to school in Morristown. On September 22, 1973 Ray was married to Bonnie Schmidt at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca. He worked for many years as a mill operator for United Feeds, fulfilled his dream of owning and operating his own business, “The Coffee Klatch” in Mankato, and later made many friends working as a delivery driver for Thrifty White Pharmacy in Waseca in recent years. He enjoyed fishing and icefishing, woodworking, traveling to the family cabin in Backus, MN, and spending time with

family and friends. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca.

Ray is survived by his devoted wife of 48 years, Bonnie Mlenek of Waseca; three children, Cathy Sistad and her significant other Gary Rousey of Waseca, Mark (Belinda) Mlenek of Waseca, and Cindi Leckenby and her fiancé Colin Grams of Bird Island; seven grandchildren, Jonathan Leckenby and his fiancé Elizabeth Hassing, Alysha Leckenby, Alexander Grant and his fiancé Breahna Mullerleile, Abigail Mlenek and her fiancé Ethan Adams, Johanna Grant, John Mlenek, and Jacob Mlenek; four great-grandchildren, Ava, Ryland, Lorelie, and Izzabella; and five siblings, Irene Sutter of Morristown, Art Mlenek of Morristown, Lucy (Clifford) Schmidtke of Morristown, Sharon (Norman)

Malacek of Atwater, and Lisa (Mike) Kletschka of Waterville. Ray was preceded in death by his parents; a grandson, Austin Grant; a granddaughter, Malorie Mlenek; a sister, Sylvia Weilage; a half-sister, Gertie Spitzack; his parents-in-law, Harold and Audrey Schmidt; and a brother-in-law, Mike Schmidt.

The Mlenek family would like to offer their thanks to the staff of Mayo Clinic Health System and the Mayo Clinic Hospice Team for the incredible care they offered to Ray.

A celebration of Ray’s life will be held from 1-5 PM on Sunday, July 17, 2022 at the home of Mark and Belinda Mlenek at 704 9th Ave NW, Waseca, MN 56093.

Memorials, cards, and condolences may be sent to Bonnie Mlenek at 211 8th Ave SE Waseca, MN 56093.



Ray Mlenek

Duane Buker

Duane Willian Buker, age 87 of Waseca, passed away on the evening of Friday, July 8, 2022 at the Owatonna hospital.

Born at the Waseca Memorial Hospital on January 27, 1935, Duane was the son of Edwin and Hulda (Rosenthal) Buker. He was baptized on February 10, 1935 by Rev. Soeldner at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca. He attended District 24 country school in Waseca County before graduating from Waseca High School with the class of 1952. Duane was united in marriage to Arlene Scherger on September 26, 1956, at Grace Lutheran Church in Dodge Center. He was a dairy and crop farmer throughout his life. He

and his wife made their life together and raised their family on the Buker farm where his parents had lived. He was a life-long member of St. Paul Lutheran Church where he served as an Elder for twelve years and was on the Board of Stewardship and the Counting Committee. He enjoyed watching and playing all kinds of sports, playing cards, and dancing.

Duane is survived by his wife of sixty-five years, Arlene of Waseca; two daughters, Berniece (Tod) Magnuson of Roseville, and Sharon (Richard) Goetz of Waseca; one son, Roger Buker of Waseca; seven grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; a sister-in-law, Dorothy Buker of Waseca; and many nieces;

nephews; other relatives; and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; and three brothers, Loren, Gerald, and Iver Buker; and a foster sister, Marloe MaHaffey.

Visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral Home in Waseca and will continue for one hour before the service at the church on Wednesday.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca, with Rev. Bob Lund officiating. Interment followed at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca.



Duane Buker

Diane Marie Fox

Diane Marie Fox, 67, of New Richland, Minnesota, passed away June 28, 2022, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Diane fought a courageous battle against Corticobasal Degeneration and passed away peacefully, surrounded by family at her sons home in Tulsa, OK.

Diane was born on July, 5, 1954, to Edward and Shirley Frederick in Mankato, Minnesota. She was the second of five children. Bonnie was the oldest child followed by Diane, Donald, Kenny, and Karen. Growing up she was very active in the church, she enjoyed 4H and spending time with friends, and loved her pet monkey Pud. Diane, Bonnie, and Karen were like three peas in a pod. Their favorite song was “Girls Just Wanna Have Fun”, and that is exactly how all three lived their lives. She had many life long friendships that she valued and would be a friend to anyone in need. Diane was influenced by her family to be a loving and caring woman, always giving her

time to others.

Diane married her high school sweetheart and first husband Danny Labs. Together they had three beautiful boys, Brian, Justin, and Christopher. Her life revolved around the boys as they became her heart and soul. Diane later divorced Danny and continued raising the boys on her own for many years. In 1991 she married Randy Fox at St. Peter Lutheran Church in New Richland, Minnesota. Diane and the boys relocated to New Richland and began a new life with Randy Fox and his two boys Brian and Randy Renstrom.

Diane’s career started right out of high school when she went to work for EF Johnson in Waseca, Minnesota. After more than 25 years the company offered her a buyout. She took the buyout and obtained her Emergency Medical Technician license followed by her Registered Nurse license. Diane was a volunteer EMT for the New Richland Ambulance Service for many years. Her real calling in life was realized when she began her more than 25

year Registered Nurse career in the ICU at Albert Lea Medical Center. She loved her nursing job and poured her heart and soul with full devotion into every patient. Diane had many hobbies and always had a project or two she was working on. Self taught home improvements, gardening, raising puppies, hunting, traveling, and most importantly spending time with her six grandchildren was how she spent her time away from the hospital.

Diane is survived by Husband Randy Fox, Sons Brian Labs and Fiancé Jodie Larson, Justin Labs and Wife Amanda and Christopher Labs, Step Son Randy Renstrom and Wife Lauren, Father Edward Frederick, Siblings Donald Frederick, Kenny Frederick, and Karen Swenson, Grandchildren Tucker Labs, Piper Labs, Ciara Tate, Isabelle Renstrom, Kiersten Renstrom, Mikko Renstrom as well as many extended family members and friends. Diane was preceded in death by her Grandparents, Mother Shirley Frederick, Sister Bonnie Treangen, and Step



Diane Marie Fox

Son Brian Renstrom.

A memorial service will be held at St. Peter Lutheran Church, 201 2nd St NW, New Richland, Minnesota on Saturday August 6, 2022 at 11:00 am.

Child’s History of Waseca

Chapter III, 1855

Winter trip to Minnesota with Ox teams – venturesome crossing of the Mississippi on the ice – climbing the bluff – first blizzard at Zumbro Falls – the Liquor Peddler and his Grog – Mantorville the Last House – Camping Out in Mid-Winter two nights – Cattle with Bleeding Legs and without Ha – Safe Arrival at the Sutlief Shanty.

Mr. Sutlief was thoroughly enamored with Minnesota, as it then was, and lost no opportunity to proclaim her beauty and her merits. He was under agreement with Mr. Barrett, whom he had left upon his claim, to return in January; and on the 9th of that month, 1855, he started back to Minnesota with three pair of oxen, a wagon and a sleigh, some household goods, provisions, etc., and a few swine.

He was accompanied and assisted by the writer whom he had employed for a year to take charge of his Minnesota farming operations. At Fox Lake, Wis., they were joined by S. P. Child of Waupun, Wis., then a boy of nineteen years. He was to assist in driving the teams and the swine. He owned a few hogs which he drove with Sutlief’s herd.

Nothing of striking importance occurred on the journey until their arrival at La Crosse. At this point, they crossed the river after dark on thin ice that had formed after the January thaw. The act of crossing was a dangerous one and a less venturesome man than Mr. Sutlief would at least have chosen daylight for the undertaking.

After crossing the river in safety, they proceeded about two miles, and, at nine o’clock in the evening,

stopped at a small house occupied by a Mr. Plummer and his wife. Here two days were spent while Mr. Plummer was getting ready to join the company. It took nearly all of one day to haul the loaded vehicles to the top of the river bluff, and the party returned to the Plummer house for the night.

All hands turned out early next morning, and the first rays of the rising sun found them on the trail going westward. The day turned to be cloudy and stormy, but the drive was short, and just before dark they stopped at a little frame house, near the road, about five miles southeast of the present village of St. Charles.

The next morning, an early start was made so as to reach Rochester – then known as Zumbro Falls – that night, if possible. The weather that day was pleasant, but the snow was drifted deep in many places, and this made traveling very difficult.

In some places it was necessary to either shovel out or unhitch the teams from the vehicles and drive them back and forth through the snow drifts, before attempting to pass through with the loads; and, although the teams were urged forward as rapidly as shouting and whipping would avail, it was eleven o’clock that night before the travelers reached a stopping place. The weather had turned very cold in the afternoon. Mr. Sutlief frosted his cheeks, ears, nose, and feet, and Messrs. Plummer, Griffin and S. P. Child frosted their toes slightly.

The hotel at which they arrived was already filled with the travelers. The beds were all full, and the floors were nearly covered with sleeping men. There was no sleeping room for

these last arrivals, except in a log shanty lean-to, with its Dutch fireplace. This shanty afforded about the poorest protection from cold that could well be imagined, even by a western pioneer. The roof was made of oak shakes. The crevices between the logs were not yet plastered or daubed. The prairie blizzard whistled through the holes and crevices with a liberality altogether unpleasant that night.

The next morning the wind blew a gale and the thermometer indicated 20 degrees below zero, rendered traveling across the prairie simply impossible. All parties were compelled to remain over during the day. There were some forty travelers thus detained, this place being on the stage road from Dubuque to St. Paul.

Many a good story and some not so good were told that day, and jokes passed among the hotel guests in a manner peculiar to the West. One fellow, a liquor peddler, was quite chagrined at finding his liquor keg bottom end up and his whisky spread out in the snow.

The crowd insisted that he had been on a spree, and had left the keg in that condition himself; and, as no one pretended to know anything to the contrary, he was obliged to smother his pent-up wrath and make the best of the situation. His attempt at the retail business in the morning was, without doubt, the primary cause of his sad bereavement – at least some of the ladies intimated as much to his face.

The wind lulled during the night, and the next morning was bright and pleasant, though still cold. Our first settlers tacked up early and started across the prairie for Mantorville.

That village was then less than a year old and contained only three or four small cabins. It was the last settlement on the route of our “first settlers” until they should reach their destination on the Le Sueur.

Think of the recklessness, not to say foolhardiness, of the trip. Imagine, if you will, good reader, five men and a woman with her babe about to start across a wind-howling prairie, in the midst of winter with the thermometer 10 degrees below zero, without any road, not even a track, and without a tent, to spend three days and two nights, at the least, with no shelter save the starry heavens. The whole company might have perished in a blizzard! Such was the thoughtless undertaking of those men on a morning of the 31st of January, 1855.

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

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



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The 4H dog showmanship, obedience, and rally show began at 9 a.m. Saturday, July 9 in the 4H building at the Waseca Fairgrounds. Handlers Sarah Fredericks, McKinsy Rew, and Mattea Dann are shown above.

Obedient dogs at Waseca fairgrounds

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

July 9 brought a bright morning and many beautiful dogs as the 4H Dog Showmanship, Obedience, and Rally Show began at 9 a.m. Gathered in the 4H building at the Waseca County Fairgrounds were handlers from middle- and high-school levels, along with the dogs they have been working to train. Three alums from the program, Mattea Dann, McKinsey Rew and Sarah Fredericks helped set up and run the show, which can last anywhere from three to five hours.

“We’re training the kids to train their dogs,” Fredericks said. “Every Tuesday we meet with the kids and their dogs from 6 to 8 p.m. We teach them what they need to do and then they take it home and work with their dogs. Now this is the day they get to showcase what they’ve learned.” As the 12 4H kids showed off their dogs in obedience, in which the animals sit down, stay, come on command, and heel next to their trainers, they earned ribbons for participation and rank. Another category in obedience is showmanship, where the dogs are lined up and stationed to show off the breed’s best features. Showmanship is like the “television” version of dog shows, with the line of



Eliza Sankovitz handles her pup during the Saturday show.

Photos by Amelia Roessler people adjusting their dogs’ legs and posture. Rally happens at this show as well, where the owner uses hand signals and movements to command the dog.

This 4H dog program, along with most 4H activities, has been going on a long time. “My mom is kind of the one who got me into showing dogs in the first place,” explained alumni Rew as the three helpers talked about how they all used to show dogs. “She showed dogs in her county, so I kind of wanted to do it too.”

As the kids had a successful day with their pups, some went back the day after to take part in agility, rounding out their range of experience in handling their dogs.



Rick Morris

■ Floral

from Page 1

helped make.

“It can be a little scary, having to turn into our driveway right of the main road like that,” he observes. “But for a free rose, maybe the risk is worth it.”

After all this time learning—and adjusting—the ropes, Rick admits it is bittersweet to be leaving. Still, he has some very pleasant plans. “I’m looking forward to spending time with the grandkids, playing golf, and taking a well deserved trip to our cabin in northern Minnesota.... But still, Waseca will always be home. We built our life

here. It will continue to play an important role in our life.”

Rest assured, Rick believes Waseca Floral will continue and did admit, if he and Sheila do not find a buyer for the 126-year-old business and its adjoining residential property, “I could see myself doing this another five years,” 72-year old Morris said. “I am healthy, and I love what I do.”

And for Rick’s message to customers, he wants them to know he appreciates each and every one of them, especially making “the special, unique orders” he has enjoyed creating. “We know why we’re here, and it’s those customers. I always say, one of our mottos and I’ll say it again. ‘Thank you for allowing us to serve you.’ And that would be a fitting end for our story.”



Performing and attending a Back Alley Concert at Barden’s Bar were: Molly Byron (Waseca Chamber of Commerce), Jim Kozan, Louisa Byron, Mick Barrens, Jerome Broughton, John Lucca and Marty Buum.



Top left Dale Spies waits on patrons seated outside Barden’s; Below Mick Barrens sings during the beginning Los T’s set. Above, Jerome Broughton and Louisa Byron perform.

Back alley concert or class reunion?

Los Tequileros band performs outdoor concert at Barden’s Bar July 1

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

“Friday was like an all-school reunion and memory lane all in one,” said Craig Schuster, one of the hundreds of attendees at the second annual Back Alley Concert hosted by Barden’s Bar in Waseca. “I didn’t want to go home.”

The Friday, July 1 event, was held outdoors with picnic tables where guests sat to enjoy the music along with some summer beverages. An open dancing area was provided in front of the stage where Los Tequileros performed for over four hours. The band, which also performed at last year’s event, consists of five members: Mick Barrens on main vocals and harmonica, Jerome Broughton on guitar and vocals, Marty

Buum on bass and vocals, Jim Kozan on keyboard and vocals, and John Lucca on drums and vocals.

“Everybody sings; we have a lot of harmonies,” said Lucca.

Founded about seven years ago by Broughton and Barrens, the band plays covers of various classic rock music as well as “well-worn Tex Mex music.” Barrens, who has taught in various places worldwide and was a flight attendant for 18 years, met Broughton after returning from Dubai with his wife. He recalled a particularly snowy Pearl Harbor Day when Broughton called and invited him over to play guitar.

“Los Tequileros was started in my kitchen late at night after Mick and I were drinking beer and playing guitar for about four hours,” said Broughton. “Finally, my wife Joan said,

‘Hey, you guys ought to go down and play El Tequila.’ So, we took her advice and went down and talked to the owners and played as a duo.”

Following one performance that Buum attended, the duo invited Buum to play bass with the band.

“He started playing upright bass then,” Broughton said.

Later, at a performance at the Boat House Bar and Grill, the trio was set to play a Hawaiian-themed show when Los Tequileros’ percussion player was unable to attend.

“I called up Johnny [Lucca], and he came down here with a real make-shift drum set,” said Broughton. “It was so much fun, we invited him to be in the band.”

For about three years, the band consisted of four members until its final participant, Jim Kozan, was invited

to join two years ago. While most of the group’s shows are performed around Southern Minnesota, the band has traveled as far as Chicago - a trip that was particularly memorable for Lucca, who is credited with some of the most original music of all the band’s members. Playing locally, however, is also something Lucca stated he enjoys.

“I always love playing at Barden’s,” he said. “Shane [Wendland, owner of Barden’s] has supported all of my—and our [the band’s] musical endeavors over the years.”

Sharing his thoughts on the July 1 event, Wendland said it went really well, and that there is a possibility but no set plan yet for hosting the event again next year.

JWP Honor Roll

Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton students grades 6 through 12 who made the second semester High and Highest Honor Rolls for 2021-22.

Highest Honor Roll (3.5-4.0)

7th Grade
Emma Huelsnitz, Tyson Johnson, Chloe Kaiser, Hudson Miller, Jaidann Mulder, Rachelle Oelke, Elijah Rangel, Aidan Rider, Grace Sanny, Alysa Sheeran, Maija Tolbert, Tara Walker, Blayne Wandrie, and Gavin Weedman.

8th Grade
Abigail Balzotti, Daulton Bauer, Chase Gerdt, Alexandra Hanks, Brielle James, Kwynn Krause, Kayle Langford, Claire Miller, Ellie Morsching, Evan Olson, Katelyn Olson, Lily Quast, Samuel Ryan, Nevaeh Weimert, and Mikayla Wheelock.

9th Grade
Isaiah Berndt, Ethan Born, Brielle Bure, Luke Cahill, Sophia Coulsey, Eric Daschner, Brielle Dessner, Hope Dimmel, McKennah Ganiere, Madyn Holland, Lydia Huelsnitz,

Presley James, Alexander Kleve, Chandelyn Marquardt, Chandra Marquardt, Addison Miller, Lucas Morsching, Ellah Oliver, Abigail Sobolik, Lilly Strauss, Autumn Thissen, Claire Walz, Paige Walz, and Aubrey Weedman.

10th Grade
Joshua Bengston, Austin Carda, Alexis Dahlberg, Landon Dimler, Kelton Erler, Raquel Fischer, Tyler Fleming, Zachary Groh, Kylee Hanks, Paris Herme, Annabelle Hofteig, Nicholas Johnson, Autumn Joyce, Madison Kunst, Damien Kurtz, Karson Lindsay, Faith Olson, Isabelle Rider, Allie Shoultz, and Jessa Westphal.

11th Grade
Regan Asselin, Ian Barnes, James Bleess, John Cahill, Adalynn Davis, Nicholas Johnson, Tyler Fleming, Zachary Groh, Kylee Hanks, Paris Herme, Annabelle Hofteig, Nicholas Johnson, Autumn Joyce, Madison Kunst, Damien Kurtz, Karson Lindsay, Faith Olson, Isabelle Rider, Allie Shoultz, and Jessa Westphal.

12th Grade
Claire Adams, Raegan Bendt,

Bradley Budach, Lillian Cahill, Ashlynn Cameron, Alexa Cords, Deacon Dahlberg, Jonathan Daschner, Sydney Gahlon, Kelsy Ingle, Kaylon Lynch, Ellie Meihak, Faith Miller, Addison Oliver, Chloe Possin, Mara Richardson, Jocelyn Seeley, Dylan Sheeran, Logan Stenger, Kirsten Thell, and Elizabeth White.

Honor Roll (3.0-3.49)
7th Grade
Joshua Coy, Seth Dahlberg, Harley Eldeen, Kaylea Elliott, Parker Gearity, Trenton Huber, Carson Schultz, Brooklyn Stelter, Jason Wheelock, Jackson Winters, and Mason Zimmerman.

8th Grade
Jenna Aasen, Aubrey Adams, Garry Bluhm, Lillian Ewert, Ruby Gunsolus, Lawrence Pietz, Caleb Quest, Tyler Schmah, and Zander Terbeest.

9th Grade
Ariana Aguilar, Ava Appel, Avery Fall, Derek Gustafson, Onikia Herme, Carter Hoehn, Madeline

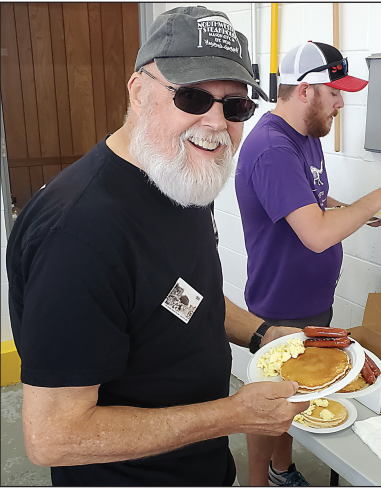
Hoehn, Landon Johnson, Myles Kruger, Reese March, Jaxon Miller, Serena Wagenbach, and Shane Witts.

10th Grade
Kaden Baker, Cole Blomstrom, Caden Clark, Ryan Kronbach, Mickenzey Mendez, Carter Miller, Nolan Morsching, Lydia Sack, Cole Schlueter, Caitlin Sheeran, Mackenzie Triemert, and Trinity Washington.

11th Grade
Zabrina Bronstad, Cody Cowdin, Zachary Groll, Brady Hed, Kennedy Jewison, Ashlin Keyes, Airianna Knuteson, Emma Mudgett, Vanessa Terbeest, Ryder Thissen, Michael VanRavenhorst, and Dakota Waters.

12th Grade
Gable Adams, Heather Bangs, Elias Blaisdell, Christian Born, Blake Cowdin, Erin Daur, Mackson Erdman, Jackson Eustice, Jahdyn Hermel-Melcher, Brooke Jahr, Kaden Johnson, Jordyn Larson, Cody Quast, Cory Scrabeck, Samantha Wehking, and Ashley Ziegler.

Farm and City Days July 8-10



Wayne Billing



Bonnerup's new funeral director Kasie Watkins and Larry Goehrig during New Richland Fire Department's pancake breakfast.



The St. Peter Lutheran Church bake sale outside of the New Richland Fire Department's pancake breakfast is shown during New Richland's Farm and City Days. Elanor Schlaak and Mary Ebnet were the wonderful ladies in charge of the many pastries and sweets for sale.



Jean Billing and Kristi Harrington



Jaden Lenz holding some transformers for sale during a garage sale last weekend



Corbin, Tom, take payments for breakfast



Jim Kozan, Matt Harrington



QUILTERS - Dozens of people and four church groups contributed quilts for the show at Trinity Lutheran Church. Above, from left are: Diane Smith, Kathy Espe, Avis Rugroden, and Lori Thomsche



CARICATURES - Casey draws for Dustin, Ami, and Porter Garduno



Karen Cully and Allison Schlueter enjoy the magic show in city park



Dawn, Darlene and Dennis Abraham



Julie Economy and Nancy Rudau during Friends of the Library book sale on Broadway.



Darcy family and friends attend the St. Olaf Brewing company tasting. Shown above are Sean, Veronica, Mia and Grandma Pat, along with Victoria Ryg and her daughter, Ashlin. Grandma Pat was asked if she was safe to make it to her car after her sample. The brewing company hopes to be open soon in the location adjacent to First Impression Salon.



Dennis and Georgia Dineen



Mia and Ashlin



Joanne Phillips welcomed those attending Trinity Lutheran Church for the quilt show and area church history display.

Days

from Page 1

pants hanging around afterwards to ask, "Can we do this for adults?"

Both Friday and Saturday nights included rambunctious—but well behaved—crowds at the street celebrations, with Powerhouse performing Saturday night. Egged on by the crowd, Powerhouse played for almost an extra hour before finally reminding their audience that, "You don't have to go home, but you can't stay here," as they encouraged enthusiastic participants to help with cleanup.

A parade, featuring almost perfect weather (It could have been a little cooler.) showcased many, many groups and organizations. The selection of this year's grand marshal was done somewhat differently from past parades. Three area businesses were spotlighted: the State Bank of New Richland, Bonnerup-Friedrich Funeral Service, and the NRHEG Star Eagle. Representing the bank, which is celebrating 125 years in business

"There has been a long line of stockholders, employees and, of course, customers who have enabled us to survive and thrive that long." — Kristi Harrington

next year, were bank president Kristi Harrington and son, vice president Matt Harrington. Kristi has been president of the bank since 2012 and Matt has been with the bank since age 18 after attending one year of college before returning.

Kristi had this to say regarding the selection, "The State Bank of New Richland was very honored to be chosen with Bonnerup Funeral Homes and the Star Eagle as Farm & City Days Grand Marshalls this year in honor of our presence in the community for over 100 years.

"In October, we will celebrate 124 years of service to this community. There has been a long line of stockholders, employees and, of course, customers who have enabled us to survive and thrive that long."

The Anderson family has been involved for most of the Bank's tenure. Currently 4th and 5th generation An-

derson's remain actively involved in the Bank."

Representing Bonnerup on the grand marshal float was Judy Popp-Anderson, who joked, "I'm riding because I'm the closest to a hundred," the same age the funeral home turns this year.

For the Star Eagle, Publisher Eli Lutgens rode in the parade, snapping pictures from a vantage point the newspaper doesn't typically have; from a float in the parade.

A plethora of other events took place, including fireworks Friday night, Water Wars with the New Richland Fire Department, and many, many different displays throughout town, including the classic car and antique tractor shows. All these displays and more are covered with stories, pictures, and captions throughout this edition of the Pioneer.

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Farm and City Days July 8-10



10 YEARS - Quilter Diane Smith spent a decade folding six-inch pieces of fabric into the folded up 1x1 squares quilted together, shown above during the Farm and City Days quilt show.



Joe and Gail Schmidt graciously offered the use of their float and truck in order to allow this year's Grand Marshalls to ride in the parade together



Hazel Botten testing the seat belt simulator



Melissa Schulz providing music in the park



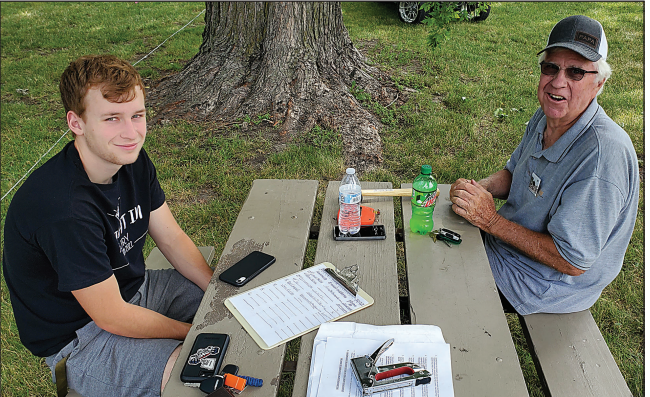
HELPERS - Diane Wengen and Donna Thoreson helped attendants sign up for wagon rides.



Zach Morrow in charge of the roll over simulator



SERVERS - At the New Richland fire fighters pancake breakfast, from left: Shannon Young, Alex Moen, Craig Eustic, and Caleb Hagen



Matthew Mueller and Curt Krause manning Bocce ball in the city park



Eric Welhaven, SaraJo Vulcan



Daxter Lee and grandpa Al Lee



EMERGENCY - Ambulance crew members from both New Richland ambulance and North Memorial out of Waseca were on hand to help during New Richland Farm and City Days. Shown above are: Shelby Priebe (daughter Lizzy), Sara Jo Vulcan (daughter Hazel), Jesi Raimann (daughter Jade), Sarah Sundve, Eric Welhaven (children Bennett, Holly, Kaydence), Mike Morelock North Memorial, Scott Tangen, Brandi Dolen, Tanner Schlueter (son Oliver), Jordan Allen (son Avery), Dustin Russ.



Former New Richland Librarian Linda Lynne attending the pancake breakfast



Dennis Bolduan



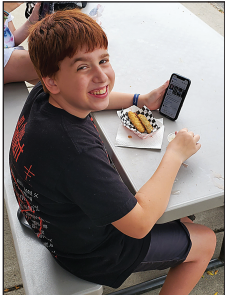
Quilter Polly Madson



Hank



CRAFTY - Brenda Kampen



Devlin McWilliams



Four rows of tables remained consistently filled during Saturday morning's breakfast
Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

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Ribbon winners from the 4H agility test are shown above. Top left is Sydney Lewer with her dog milo, middle is Gus Bethke and Odie and top right is Eliza Sankovitz and Jelly-bean.



Sunday evening, July 10, Waseca 4-H dog trainers gathered for an agility show. Shown above is Kaylee Berg with her dog Phoebe

Agility test

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

The evening of Sunday, July 10th, Waseca County's 4-H dog trainers held their county agility show in preparation for the Waseca County Free Fair. Size categories for these shows are defined by the jump height appropriate for the size of the dog - on this occasion two dogs showed in the 8" and two in the 16" categories. All four dogs showed in both Beginners' Regular Agility and Jumpers 1A.

In Regular Agility, Sidney Lewer and her dog Milo earned the Grand Champion ribbon while Gus Bethke and his dog Odie took Grand Champion. Both Lewer and Bethke had earned perfect scores, which meant the ribbons were decided by the four

second time difference between them. All four teams earned blue ribbons, which qualifies them to show at state.

In Jumpers 1A, Bethke received the Grand Champion ribbon while Eliza Sankovitz and her dog Jelly-bean got Reserve Champion. Bethke, Sankovitz, and Lewer all received blue ribbons and state qualifications in this class.

Following the show, judges Loretta Marshall and Amy Green gave pointers to those showing, particularly for the Jumpers 1A class which is more difficult. The 4-H trainers appeared to take the advice to heart, and throughout the showing humans and dogs all seemed to have good fun.

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Otisco Ice Cream Social



Otisco St. Peter Lutheran Church held an ice cream social event last Sunday July 10 beginning at 4 p.m. until the food was gone, and there was a lot of it. Delicious foods included barbeque and ham sandwiches, potato salad, calico beans, pie, ice cream, cake, coffee, and lemonade. Shown above are volunteers Richard Kelley, Natalie Fell, Pastor Scott Williams, Karel Matz.

Greg the great



About a hundred spectators gathered in New Richland City Park to see Greg the great perform for the second straight year at Farm and City Day's at noon on Saturday, July 9. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

Greg the great at Farm and City Days

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

Music dims, and the mic squeals for just a moment before Greg the Great takes to his stage and announces a five-minute lead time for his show. Those five minutes aren't quiet, as our magician warms up the crowd with simple tricks and side-splitting jokes.

During Farm and City Days the New Richland City Park pavilion was full - kids crowded into the center, accompanied and surrounded by parents, grandparents, and audience members of all ages. Greg the Great put on a high energy show, announcing its start with a flourish and a live dove - and the promise of a rabbit. He used ribbons, cards, wands, flowers, and more, frequently introducing various rabbits - puppets, cutouts, and dancing toys. Each new "rabbit" had the crowd screeching with laughter, kids shouting in excitement, and expectations rising. After the show Leia Guerrero, age 5, happily reported that she had fun and would see one of Greg the Great's shows again. Her favorite part was the rabbit - the real rabbit, she specified. Lincoln Hermanek, age 8, claimed he understood how many of the tricks worked, although he didn't reveal any techniques out of respect for a magician's secrets. Despite any inside knowledge, he admitted to being mystified at least once or twice: "I mean, I don't even know how he did that bunny one."

These kids aren't alone - after the show Greg the Great revealed that the rabbit is always the star of the show. He explains that's why he hypes it up so far, and why at larger events like county fairs he incorporates a cannon. For those interested - his next fair performances will be in Dodge and Washington counties. Greg the Great started learning magic when he was a ten-year-old in Blooming Prairie - putting objects into hats and pulling them out again - and first took to the stage in the year 2000. True to those early roots, he reveals that his favorite shows are the ones like Farm and City Days, where the audience includes a lot of children.

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2022 WASECA COUNTY FREE FAIR EVENTS SCHEDULE (This schedule is subject to change)			
Saturday, July 9			
1 am	4-H Dog Showmanship, Obedience, Rally	12:30 pm	north side of Bldg. #8
Show		1 pm	Magical Katrina (Free Stage)
9 am-12 pm	Creative Arts Entry	2 pm	Carnival Rides Begin
Sunday, July 10			
5 pm	4-H Dog Agility Show	2:15 pm	Agri-Puppets Strolling the Fairgrounds
5-5 pm	Creative Arts Entry -*Note: All textiles are due in by Sunday at 8 pm	3 pm	Magical Katrina (Free Stage)
Monday, July 11			
5 am	4-H Horse Show	3:30 pm	Kiddie Coin Find (Near Free Stage)
Tuesday, July 12			
7 am-5 pm	Creative Arts Entry	5 pm	Agri-Puppets Puppet Show (Near Free Stage)
5 pm	Creative Arts Entries/Building Closed - Judging Begins	5:30 pm	Freddie Justice-The Planet's Funniest Hypnotist (Free Stage)
Wednesday, July 13			
-	Day Antique Tractor Display	5:30-8:30 pm	Melissa Schulz-Musician (Food Court)
B 30 am	4-H Rabbit Show	6 pm	Agri-Puppets Strolling the Fairgrounds
'O am	4-H Building Opens	6 pm	Kid Power Pedal Pull (In front of Creative Arts Building)
10 am	Scavenger Hunt (Meet @ Free Stage)	6 pm	4-H Beef Show
10:30 am	Books and Barns (Free Stage)	6-8 pm	Mariachi Band (Begin at Free Stage & then strolling the grounds)
11 am	Food Vendors Open	7 pm	Agri-Puppets Puppet Show (Near Free Stage)
11 am	Indoor Booths Open	7:30 pm	Magical Katrina (Free Stage)
11 am	Agri-Puppets Puppet Show (Near Free Stage)	7:30 pm	Great Frontier Bull Riding "Dirt Kickin' Wicked Good!"-Grandstand
12 pm	4-H Poultry Show	8:30 pm	The Blue Ringers-Beer Garden
12 pm	Magical Katrina (Free Stage)	Friday, July 15	
* 2-9 pm	Family Quiet Zone-located on the north side of Bldg. #8	All Day	Antique Tractor Display
1 30 pm	Agri-Puppets Strolling the Fairgrounds	8 am	4-H Swine Show
3 pm	Agri-Puppets Puppet Show (Near Free Stage)	10 am	Let's Smile (Free Stage)
12 pm	Magical Katrina (Free Stage)	11 am	Indoor Booths Open
4:30 pm	Local Veterans Official Fair Opening, Ceremony-Century Farm Awards & Fair Recognition Awards to follow. (Place to be determined)	11 am	Food Vendors Open
5 pm	Advance Ride Ticket Sales End	11 am	Agri-Puppets Strolling the Fairgrounds
" om	Carnival Rides Begin	11 am	Books and Barns (Free Stage)
5 pm	Becky Borneke & Kids in the County (Food Court)	11-8:45 pm	Laser Tag
5 pm	Agri-Puppets Strolling the Fairgrounds	11:30 am	Magical Katrina (Free Stage)
5 pm	Baby Races (Free Stage)	12 pm	Kiddie Coin Find (Near Free Stage)
5 30 pm	Magical Katrina (Free Stage)	12-3 pm	Miller Denn & Ditch Creek Dixies (Food Court)
5 pm	4-H Sheep Show	12-9 pm	Family Quiet Zone-located on the north side of Bldg. #8
6:15 pm	Kiddie Coin Find (Near Free Stage)	12:30 pm	Agri-Puppets Puppet Show (Near Free Stage)
6:30 pm	MN Minn-e-Rods Tractor Pull -8th Ave NE	1 pm	Carnival Rides Begin
6:30 pm	Agri-Puppets Puppet Show (Near Free Stage)	1 pm	4-H Dairy Show
7-9 pm	Praise Band (Free Stage)	1:30 pm	Agri-Puppets Strolling the Fairgrounds
8:30 pm	The Johnny Holm Band-Beer Garden	2 pm	Freddie Justice-The Planet's Funniest Hypnotist (Free Stage)
Thursday, July 14			
All Day	Antique Tractor Display	3:30 pm	Magical Katrina (Free Stage)
10 am	4-H Meat Goat Show	4:30 pm	Agri-Puppets Puppet Show (Near Free Stage)
11 am	Indoor Booths Open	4:45 pm	Freddie Justice-The Planet's Funniest Hypnotist (Free Stage)
11 am	Food Vendors Open	5:30-8:30 pm	Los T (Food Court)
11 am	Books and Barns (Free Stage)	6 pm	Agri-Puppets Puppet Show (Near Free Stage)
11 am	Agri-Puppets Puppet Show (Near Free Stage)	6-8 pm	Waseca Jazz Band (Free Stage)
11-8:45 pm	Laser Tag	7 pm	Demolition Derby (Grandstand)
12 pm	Rotary Meets at the Fair (Bldg. 4)	7:45 pm	Kiddie Coin Find (Near Free Stage)
12 pm	4-H Dairy Goat Show	8:30 pm	Magical Katrina (Free Stage)
12-9 pm	Family Quiet Zone-located on the	8:30 pm	Lady Luck (Beer Garden)
Friday, July 15			
All Day	Antique Tractor Display	Saturday, July 16	
8 am	4-H Swine Show	All Day	Antique Tractor Display
10 am	Let's Smile (Free Stage)	8:30 am	Market Livestock Auction (Judging Arena)
11 am	Indoor Booths Open	11 am	Food Vendors Open
11 am	Food Vendors Open	11 am	Indoor Booths Open
11 am	Agri-Puppets Strolling the Fairgrounds	11 am	Magical Katrina (Free Stage)
11 am	Books and Barns (Free Stage)	11-8:45 pm	Laser Tag
11-8:45 pm	Laser Tag	11 am-9 pm	Family Quiet Zone-located on the north side of Bldg. #8
11:30 am	Kiddie Coin Find (Near Free Stage)	11:30 am	Kiddie Coin Find (Near Free Stage)
12 pm	Open Class Dairy Show	11:30 am	Open Class Dairy Show
12 pm	Carnival Rides Begin	12 pm	Carnival Rides Begin
12 pm	Agri-Puppets Puppet Show (Near Free Stage)	12 pm	Agri-Puppets Puppet Show (Near Free Stage)
12:30 pm	Magical Katrina (Free Stage)	12:45 pm	Magical Katrina (Free Stage)
1 pm	Carnival Rides Begin	1 pm	Farmers of the Fair Contest (Place TBD)
1 pm	Agri-Puppets Strolling the Fairgrounds	1 pm	Agri-Puppets Strolling the Fairgrounds
1 pm	Magical Katrina (Free Stage)	2-4 pm	Craft Beer Expo (Beer Garden)
1 pm	Kiddie Coin Find (Near Free Stage)	2 pm	Harmonica Lessons with Everett Smithson (Free Stage)
1 pm	Agri-Puppets Puppet Show (Near Free Stage)	3 pm	Waseca County Sings!! (Free Stage)
2-4 pm	Agri-Puppets Puppet Show (Near Free Stage)	4 pm	Agri-Puppets Puppet Show (Near Free Stage)
2 pm	Harmonica Lessons with Everett Smithson (Free Stage)	4-7 pm	Everett Smithson (Beer Garden)
3 pm	Waseca County Sings!! (Free Stage)	4:30 pm	Magical Katrina (Free Stage)
4 pm	Agri-Puppets Puppet Show (Near Free Stage)	5:30 pm	Just Friends (Free Stage)
4-7 pm	Everett Smithson (Beer Garden)	6 pm	Enduro Auto & Compact Car Race -Grandstand
4:30 pm	Magical Katrina (Free Stage)	6 pm	Family Scavenger Hunt (Meet at Free Stage)
5:30 pm	Just Friends (Free Stage)	6:30 pm	Agri-Puppets Puppet Show (Near Free Stage)
6 pm	Enduro Auto & Compact Car Race -Grandstand	7 pm	River Rats Dueling Pianos (Free Stage)
6 pm	Family Scavenger Hunt (Meet at Free Stage)	7 pm	Agri-Puppets Strolling the Fairgrounds
6:30 pm	Agri-Puppets Puppet Show (Near Free Stage)	8:30 pm	Triple Dog Dare-Beer Garden
7 pm	River Rats Dueling Pianos (Free Stage)	Sunday, July 17	



Janesville Argus columnist and D.C. correspondent John Hottinger shakes hands with Senator George McGovern who was the Democrat presidential nominee in 1972.

Argus archives

- 1892
- The People’s Part county convention met in the courthouse at Waseca Saturday last at 1:30 p.m. About forty delegates were present, we should judge whose political sympathies might safely be counted on the side of the new party. In addition to these there were quite a number present, from the old parties, drawn n in, no doubt, out of curiosity.
 - August Quast has sold the interest in the farm recently purchased of DeGraff, we learn to the mother Chas. Peter. The latter also has an interest in the land.
 - Mrs. R. Earl came very near bleeding to death, Saturday morning, by the bursting of an artery in her leg. She was awakened by a peculiar sensation and on getting up the blood spurted out eight feet. Remedies were applied and the blood stopped.
 - The proposition that the government take a hand in the improvement of the country roads would find favor in the eyes of the people this year if it ever did. The condition of the roads has simply been horrible.
 - Miss Carrie Eastman, who has been teaching on the prairie, went to Minneapolis Tuesday afternoon, where she will remain a week or two previous to her departure for her home in Tennessee.
 - W. J. Baker followed the jubilee singers to Rochester after their hotel bill. They evidently made a raise as he came home with the bill satisfied. It was one of the worst “Original Gorgian” crowds we have ever seen.
 - Mr. Emerson Gates, was in this place, Saturday morning, and informed us that the wheat all along the route from his place to Janesville appeared to be badly injured with black rust.
 - A respectable crowd cam in Thursday to see the circus but were disappointed. The main body of the show failed to arrive until late in the afternoon.

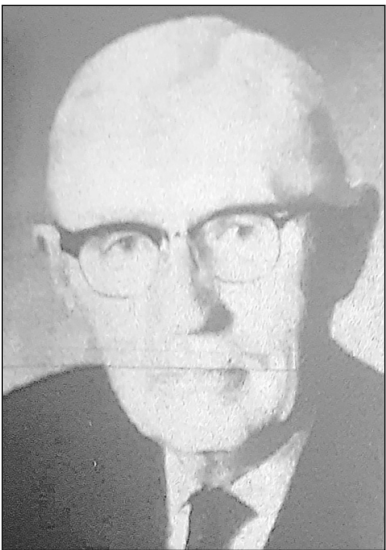
- 1942
- Waseca County along with every other county in Minnesota, and in the nation for that matter, has just completed setting up a system of Neighborhood Leaders. This plan calls for one man and one woman in each community to serve as a leader for 20 other families in their neighborhood. The neighborhood leader plan was started when the county Extension Committee met and appointed three committeemen in each township. These Committeemen in turn selected their neighborhood leaders in their communities. The purpose of the neighborhood plan is to have someone responsible in the community who is reliable informed.
 - Youth’s part in the all-our war effort is being graphically demonstrated by the large number of NYA youth who are taking their roles as war plant operators. Over 1500 NYA Minnesota youth have been placed in private employment throughout the state in the past few months. In addition, 700 have been transferred to the West Coast to take their places in the war industries located there.
 - Next week Janesville’s annual ?Harvest Jubilee, with amusement and relaxation for the entire community, will be held. Under the general management of Attorney Harvey E. Gardner, assisted by several committees, arrangements for the best celebration we ever had a nearing completion.
 - Wm. Deep says that he expects to leave about July 25 for the vicinity of Fort Nelson, British Columbia, where he with 60 other road contractors will be engaged in the building of the mammoth highway to Alaska, says the Waseca Journal.
 - Mrs. Nellie MacDonalds received a message, Tuesday evening, stating that her son, Capt. Dr. Alexander MacDonald, who is now stationed in the Army Dental Corps at the Base hospital, Fort Snelling, has just received a promotion from Captain to Major.
 - While snooping around the Old Burg, it has come to the knowledge of the Argus Pencil Pusher: That an auto speeder always discovers his mistakes by accident.

- 1972
- Harry J. Lillesve, 48, an Industrial Arts and Driver Education Instructor in the New Richland-Hartland Public Schools has filed for the State Senate from District 30. He, his wife, Vi and sons Don, 19 and Jim, 16, have lived in the village of New Richland for eighteen years, since 1954.
 - Several Janesville area 4-H members will provide livestock for the annual Waseca County 4-H Livestock Auction to be held at the fairgrounds. Only blue ribbon animals will be sold and only one animal per 4-H member.
 - June 9 was the wedding anniversary of Kathleen Sue Kunkel’s parents and her maternal grandparents, and now it will also be the anniversary of Kathleen and her bridegroom, Gregory S. Johnson. The pair, who both attended Mankato State College, Mankato, were married in United Methodist Church, St. Clair, home of Gregory’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Johnson.
 - Cold, dry weather got area crops off to a slow start this spring, but rain and July sunshine has made up the difference. As a result of this month’s favorable growing conditions, area farmers are encouraged by the outlook and, while they are hesitant to predict a number crop, they are expecting a good harvest.
 - The local legion team dropped two games in a row last week, losing to Waseca 5-0 and New Richland 9-2. The local club could only manage two hits in the Waseca game. Both were singles by Ron Cummins and Gary Seys. The Bears also had three errors.
 - The organized tumult and shouting of the `1972 Democratic National Convention is now scribed in the pages of history, background material for a most interesting Presidential contest. The convention was full of controversy about the party’s nine plank platform, with Senator McGovern’s forces fighting off numerous attempts to radicalize it. In a convocation absent much ideological harmony, however, one of the nine planks sailed through the convention without a peep of opposition - the plank entitled “Farming and Rural Life.”

Waseca archives

- 100 years ago (1922)
- A heavy downpour of rain in the first half of the sixth inning enabled Faribault to defeat Waseca last Sunday afternoon by a score of 4 to 1. This game was the first one played by the Faribault team as a member of the SouthernMinnesota League and was played at Faribault before a large-sized crowd. The playing was very interesting and close and the rain certainly spoiled a good game.
 - At a meeting held at the creamery hall last Saturday afternoon, a movement was started to form a new stock company to take over the property of the Farmer’s Elevator Co. and operate the elevator.
 - The Herter-McHugo circus which was exhibited here last Saturday afternoon drew a capacity audience and all were greatly pleased with the performance. George Herter and Kenneth McHugo are the owners and promoters of the circus and we doubt if P. T. Barnum could have displayed more skill in this direction when at their age.
 - The Waseca Cubs journeyed to Morristown and gave the Big Diamond nine of that town a dandy beating Sunday. The score was 10 to 5. The game was stopped for a few minute on account of rain but the downpour was not enough to call of the game.
 - That a new clubhouse is to be erected by the Elks out on the shore of Clear Lake was assured the delegation of about seventy members of the lodge, from this city, who drove over to Owatonna to attend the business meeting of the order last Friday evening.
 - Matawan: Considerable grading has been done on the road south of town and on several of the streets in town.
- 75 years ago (1947)
- One of the few remaining frontiers for the motorist on the North American continent was rolled back recently when, for the first time, an automobile was driven across Canada from ocean to ocean without touching foreign soil - a 4,743 mile trip proving the feasibility of travel on the newly opened Trans-Canada Highway. The car used on this historic nine-day trip was a sock model Chevrolet sedan driven by Brigadier R. A. Macfarlane, D.S.O., one of Canada’s most distinguished soldiers and director of mechanization for the Canadian army in World War II.
 - Think twice before you buy a farm now while prices are high. That’s the warning sounded by K. B. McNulty, extension farm management specialist at University Farm.

- The E. F. Johnson Company has announced that the plant will be closed from July 22nd to July 27th including with the exception of a small crew in the office and shipping and for maintenance. This action was taken to give employees of the company their annual vacation and is similar to what many other industrial companies throughout the country are now doing.
- The Veterans of Foreign Wars Sweet Sommer No. 1642 of Waseca will have two permanent firing squads if plans go right, according to recent announcement. The squads will be used for state and ceremonial occasions and if possible the Post may have one army and one navy.
- Minnesota’s machinery to mobilize manpower needed for harvest was pushed into high gear this week when representatives of the Agricultural Extension Service and local managers of the 33 U.S. Employment Service offices in the state were asked to hold final conference on providing farm help before the middle of the month.
- 50 years ago (1972)
- Associate Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court Frank T. Gallagher, native of Waseca, is observing his 85th birthday today. The anniversary is being observed quietly with his children in the Twin Cities. Gallagher, a Waseca attorney, was elected to the Minnesota Supreme Court in 1946. About five years ago he was semi-retired and given the title of Commissioner of the Supreme Court. He now has the title of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, retired.
- The Waseca American Legion Post 228 baseball team finished with a perfect 12-0 mark in Five Star Legion League play as they downed Alden 5-1 Thursday evening in the final league game of the season.
- Dr. D. Allan Rieck was reelected chairman of the Waseca Board of Education at a special meeting recently. Also reelected were Eugene Scheffert, vice chairman; Larry Gallagher, clerk’ Mrs. Paul Arvesen, treasurer; and Mrs. Willard Steffan, Cletus Hoehn and Cr. William Beschnitt all directors.
- Another lengthy meeting was held by Waseca Chamber of Commerce directors to analyze the organization’s finances and discuss alternatives and sultans to the dilemma it seems to be in. Charles Noble showed that the present directors started the beginning of the year



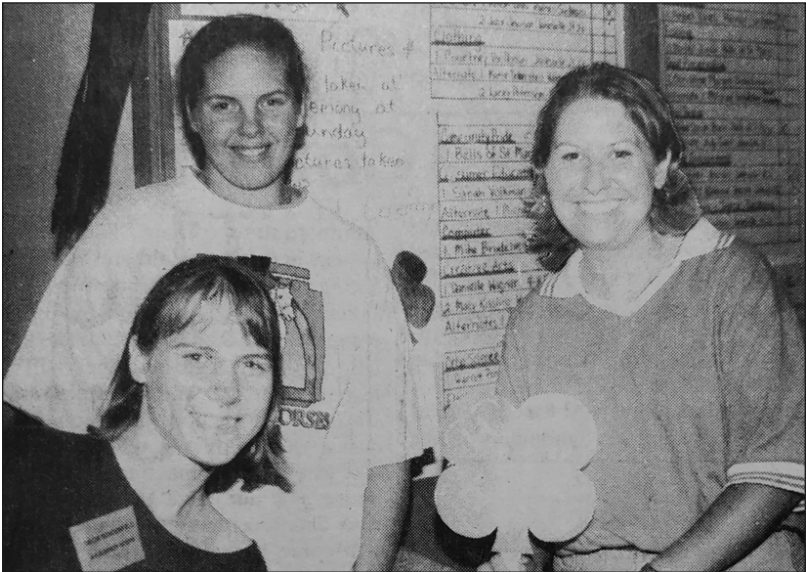
THIS TIME IN 1972 – Minnesota Supreme Court Associate Justice Frank T. Gallagher celebrated his 85th birthday while Dr. D. Allan Rieck got reelected as Waseca School Board chairman.



- with a deficit of \$5,137.18. He then proposed a new revised budget that shows, even with the budget cuts in flags and Christmas decorations purchased by the city light and power plan, that the Chamber would end the year 1972 with a deficit of about \$3,000.
- Two St. Paul men charged with the attempted burglary and theft of the New Richland Drug Store appeared for the second time in Waseca County Court Tuesday afternoon. The two men, Herman Olson, 51, and Lawrence, 48 appeared before County Judge, John McLoone with their attorneys and requested a preliminary hearing. The hearing was scheduled for Friday July 12 at 1:30 p.m. in the Waseca County Courthouse. Bond was set at \$5,000.
 - The monthly total of salaries and wages paid to state and local public employees in Minnesota jumped 39 percent in the three years between October of 1968 and October of 1971, according to the Minnesota Taxpayers Association.
 - 25 years ago (1997)
 - Weekend storms added 2.72 inches of rain to the area’s total of 3.22 inches for the week, and caused a power outage in Waseca and the surrounding community. There was no hail damage in Waseca County, Civil Defense Director Denny Dinneen said, even though 45 mph winds whipped through the area on Sunday night. Two inches of rain were received in 20 minutes, he said.
 - Preschool classes in Ellendale are still up in the air, as survey returns have not come in as expected. The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School District recently surveyed parents about expanding preschool classes. As of Friday, 19 New Richland parents have expressed interest in signing their children up for classes, but only two from Ellendale, said Elementary Principal Ken Meyers.
 - To some people, gymnastics is just a girls’ sport—but not to the members of the Waseca club boys’ gymnastics team. “It was a men’s event before it ever was a women’s event,” said coach and former national champion Scott Young. The boys’ team of four is a tiny fraction of the 224 students working out on the equipment this summer, but it’s a place to start.
 - A snake in the backyard of a Vista Villa home gave Waseca police officers cause for alarm one afternoon last week. On Friday, at approximately 2 p.m., Police Chief Jim Staloch and Officer Lauri Cowell were called to investigate reports that a boa constrictor was on the loose. They gingerly entered the backyard hoping a snake wasn’t about to fall out of a tree and coil around their necks, Staloch said. What they found was not the monster they had imagined. Instead, they found a three-good, bald-face python that was significantly less interested in them than they were in it, Staloch said.
 - In response to community objections, the Waseca School Board will look at changing the name of the Waseca Intermediate School to the Waseca Central Intermediate School. The central Middle School name was changed to reflect the younger students who will attend there next year.
 - The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School District has hired John Larson of Dodge Center as its new high school principal. Prior to coming to JWP, Larson served as the high school principal in the Triton District for two years. He was also a high school principal at Hinckley-Finlayson for three years, assistant principal in Cumberland, Wis.m from 1990-92 and taught English in West Fargo Public Schools in Fargo, N.D., from 1972 to 1990.

Star archives, New Richland

- 100 Years (1922)
- The Champs took the final game of the first half of the schedule of the southern Minnesota association by defeating Owatonna on the home grounds last Sunday 2 to 0. The game was an old-fashioned pitchers’ battle from start to finish, the only break coming in the eighth, when New Richland, bunching their hits succeeded in getting two men across the plate which won the contest. Stadulski for New Richland and Bertsch for Owatonna pitched one of the prettiest games of baseball ever witnessed on the home field.
 - New Richland people will have the opportunity next Monday morning, July 17, at 8:30 a.m. to hear Mrs. Anna D. Olesen, Democratic nominee for the United States Senate, who will deliver an address at Central park to which the public is invited. She is touring the state in the interest of her candidacy, in a Ford sedan presented by her friends, in an attempt to win over Senator Kellogg, republican.
 - A Ladies’ club at Waterville recently raised \$54 for improvements in their West Park. The money was used to build fireplaces, a cook shack, and to erect signs welcoming tourists.
 - 75 Years (1947)
 - Many are the improvements made at the local plant of the Land O’Lakes Creameries Inc., each one-looking toward greater efficiency in expediting the work at hand. A complete change has been made in the egg handling department, formerly on the main floor. A large and beautifully painted room has been prepared in the basement and the candling department is now located down there.
 - The New Richland Fire department is out looking for a new fire truck. That is, a committee of the department composed of O.S. Martinson, chairman; George Clunis, Russell Peterson, V. C. Nelson, George Standing, Harry Clark, Ralph Borchard, and Chief Arthur Stensrud have made trips to several different towns and Tuesday went to Minneapolis to get if possible information on the proper kind of truck to buy to meet the needs of this village.
 - The 75th Wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Holbrook which was observed quietly at their home opposite Central park Wednesday was unique. It is unusual in that it is rarely possible that both members of a marriage live to such extreme ages as have Mr. and Mrs. Holbrook. The husband is past 99 years of age and his beloved wife is 93. New Richland has been much publicized through this rare event and the whole community congratulates the Holbrooks.
 - 50 Years (1972)
 - Waseca county was reapportioned at a publish hearing in the probate court room at the Waseca county courthouse, Thursday evening. When no suggestions were made from the floor, Herb Hokanson, county commissioner from this district introduced a plan for the redistricting of the county of the commissioners. Herluff Offerson, chairman of the board of county commissioners called for comments or proposals



Taking charge of 4-H entries, records, and other business at the Waseca County Fair in 1997 was Dacia Schoenfeld, Kim Klukas and Kris Kroeger.

- from the interested citizens present. After a very short discussion and explanation, the plan was adopted by the commissioners with a 4-1 vote.
- The ninety-third annual Waseca County Free Fair will run Wednesday, July 19 through Sunday, July 23 at the fairgrounds in Waseca. It appears that tit will be one of the most exciting fairs in the history of the event. Many new and different grandstand paeformances have been scheduled. At 8 p.m., Wednesday there will be Snowmobile Drag Races with the entry open to all snowmobile enthusiasts.
 - 25 Years (1997)
 - Held Drug in New Richland changed hands, Tuesday July 1 when Ron Mansmith of rural New Richland purchased the business from Leo L. Held of Albert Lea. A pharmacist, Mansmith has been working part time at the store in the past year. It was just 14 years ago July 1 that Held purchased the store, then New Richland Drug from Leo Entwisle. According to Mansmith, the store will once more be known asNew Richland Drug.

Board discusses renovation options

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

Facilities update and possible renovation talk at the Waseca School Board workshop meeting July 7, 2022 and 5:30 p.m.

A great deal of discussion at the Waseca School Board’s July 7 meeting centered around renovations being considered at the Intermediate School. District Superintendent Eric Hudspith presented two plans. One, expected to cost about \$28 million, calls for adding classrooms and a gym, as well as modifications to the drive and parking lot. The second plan, anticipated to cost about \$39 million, entails full renovation of the building, along the lines of what was previously done at the high school. This plan includes adding kindergarten through third grade facilities to the intermediate building and performing general upgrades throughout. School board members expressed surprise at the anticipated costs, which they found higher than expected.

Also part of the discussion was the importance of notifying the public about proposed plans and getting input before moving forward.

Hartley Elementary Principal Ben O’Brien discussed the closing of the 2021-22 school year and current summer programming. He stated that the personalized learning currently being offered is helping students see significant growth.

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

Intermediate School Principal John Huttmier reported that communication between the school’s two sites has improved. He also reported that the 2021-22 school year reached out quite well, despite the “fragile” start caused by the Covid pandemic. He stated that students showed a positive attitude toward learning and had access to many good events and activities. Huttmier also discussed the importance of guiding students to become independent learners to help them in high school and college, which includes realistic consequences. He told board members he is working to improve communication with parents; he encourages members of the public to reach out with input and feedback.

Hudspith also talked about goals for his office, including continuing to work on the vision cards and measuring student progress. He mentioned the importance of creating a healthy fund balance and following a multi-year budget plan. On a personal level, Hudspith is working toward earning his doctoral degree, which has recently brought him to also teaching a class, something that he has found enjoyable.

The next board meeting will be 5 p.m. Thursday, July 21 in the Central building.

City looking for new clerk, auditor

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

Mayor of the day Arianna Knuteson, shadowed by Mayor Rob Wilkening, called the regular Waldorf City Council meeting to order at 7 p.m. Monday July 11.

One of the first items discussed was selecting a contractor to help with “infiltration” problems being experienced in the city water treatment system. During periods of heavy rain, water from residential and commercial sewers or ground drainage has infiltrated the sewage lines, overloading the system and creating the risk of overflow. Contractor proposals included sending recording devices through the system to find the areas where infiltration occurs; the bid which the council approved, Roto Rooter out of Rochester for \$37,830, included the availability of a plumber to possibly fix any problems. Other maintenance and repairs on the water treatment system were also discussed, including offering lift station training for any interested council members. It was mentioned that nearly \$800 worth of water/sewer bills have gone unpaid.

Council members arranged a special meeting at 6 p.m. Friday, July 22 to discuss business with Mathiowetz Construction. They wish to address retaining the company’s services for some time sensitive projects in the wastewater stabilization pond system project.

Waldorf is looking for a new city auditor along with someone to take

WALDORF CITY COUNCIL

over the city clerk position around August. The deadline to apply for the city clerk’s position was set for Thursday, July 21, 2022. Applications can be found at the community center.

Another important item on the agenda was the approval of the city’s new sign, which will include Waldorf’s new logo, a colt and a water tower. The image of a colt hearkens back to Waldorf’s high school mascot. The sign would be replacing the old existing sign along MN State Hwy 83.

Among reports presented at the meeting were one regarding fire department finances, and another addressing city savings, checking, and Waldorf Days accounts. Mayor Wilkening extended his thanks to area sponsors and local residents for their support helping make Waldorf Days a successful celebration.

In other business, a decision was made not to allow campers on the football field.

Residents are reminded to trim their trees and that they are allowed to water their yards. The City Clerk will adjust their water bills based on the average usage prior to the months of watering their lawns.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made and approved; Arianna Knuteson, the “Mayor of the Day,” pounded the gavel.

Waseca council declares vacancy

The Waseca City Council held a special meeting on Tuesday, July 12 to address the recent resignation of council member Ted Conrath, taking the steps needed to make the vacancy official.

Mayor Roy Srp expressed his regrets at losing Conrath: “It’s not just a city council position,” he stated, commenting that Conrath had brought valuable perceptions and provided important input. “He’s an upstanding young man, and it’s been a pleasure to work with him.”

The council voted to advertise the vacancy and invite interested candidates to complete applications. Members plan to conduct any necessary interviews themselves, and will select a candidate at a future council meeting. Council member Jeremy Conrath em-

phasized that it would be best to find candidates who reside in Ward 1, which Ted Conrath represented. The ward is comprised of northwest Waseca from 3rd Street NE westward and from Elm Ave northward.

City Manager Lee Mattson told the council to expect interviews to begin shortly after Labor Day. The selected candidate will fill the vacancy for the rest of the year; a special election will be held November 8 to allow residents of Ward 1 to elect their new representative.



Conrath



Mayor Rob Wilkening presented Arianna Knuteson with the “Mayor of the Day” award prior to the Waldorf City Council meeting Monday, July 11. From left Amanda Petersen, Mayor Wilkening, Arianna Knuteson, and Alex Ahrendt

Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler

Knuteson named mayor of the day

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

As 15-year-old Arianna Knuteson called the July 11 Waldorf City Council meeting to its close, her term as “Mayor of the Day” ended. It had begun only a few hours earlier when she and her family had dinner with the town’s actual mayor, Rob Wilkening. During the meal, Wilkening and Knuteson discussed her duties for the upcoming city council meeting along with other responsibilities and duties that come with being a mayor.

Discussing Knuteson’s future plans, Wilkening mentioned his favorite saying which comes from animator Walt Disney: “If you can dream it, you can do it!”

But converting dreams to action seems to be no problem for Knuteson, who remembers when she decided to apply: “[It seemed as if] everyone else was just cowering away from it, so I was like ‘I’ll do it.’”

In her letter of application, Knuteson presented herself as a “pretty face” to represent the small but vi-

brant community of Waldorf. She admitted that she can be “loud and funny” but suggested those are positive traits in a leader. She also suggested she would like to use her position of influence to have her boyfriend arrested, leaving him no choice but to stay in town forever.

On a less frivolous note, she commented that learning more about government and city procedures would broaden her understanding of how major projects are planned and accomplished, and would be helpful to her in the future. At the very least,

“it will look good on my resume!”

Of the mayor for a day program, Wilkening says, “it really helps teens realize that they can become an active player in government.” He says he sees great potential in Knuteson, whose duties for the evening included calling the meeting to order, reading the agenda, and calling the meeting to a close.

As for Knuteson’s proposed ordinance about her boyfriend, a city council member joked that it should be amended to require Knuteson to stay.

Power generation issues continue

Substation deemed not safe to run, faulty part shuts down a generator

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

The Janesville Council discussed numerous issues with power generation throughout the city at its Monday, July 11 meeting. It was an all-hands-on-deck situation as the power plant’s substation has been shut down twice this summer.

Power outages have been a problem for the city since early June. Many residents reported outages that lasted hours, with the city giving notice via Facebook that the city’s utilities and generators suffered “multiple catastrophic events.”

The issue turned out to be a faulty load tap changer, the part of the substation’s transformer that regulates its output voltage. It took the workers at Janesville Utilities a couple of days to repair the part, meaning that the town ran on generators until the repairs were completed. The city ordered a new tap load changer, which took two to three weeks to ship. However, other problems occurred the morning of the council meeting.

“At 3:30 this morning, other deficiencies came to light,” Office Manager Andrea Moen stated. “The power plant didn’t feel safe running the substation in case a blackout happened.”

The additional deficiencies included moisture inside of the substation. With the substation out of commission, the city had to switch back to the generators again. However, one problem was that the city’s twelve-cylinder generator, the second-largest at the power plant, went offline.

“We tried turning the switch back online, but it kicked out again,” Moen said. “There’s a possible part on the engine of the generator causing issues getting it back online.”

The city made another post on Facebook on Sunday, July 10 stating that the power plant had reached the maximum load and that engineers were “looking into the current generator that is not available to try and get it back in the generation mix.”

The post also pleaded with residents not to use air conditioning throughout the day to help the power plant stay below maximum capacity. The alternative, the post claimed, was to shut down parts of town “without critical infrastructure.” (The city listed lift stations, well pumps, and senior living as critical infras-

“The power plant didn’t feel safe running the substation in case a blackout happened.”

— Office Manager
Andrea Moen

decided to allocate \$10,000 to the citywide cleanup budget to prepare for costs of curbside pickup, a significant increase over the \$3,300 that was originally proposed.

The council accepted two donations from the Rotary Club. One was a \$1,235.70 toward the construction of an amphitheater at Veterans’ Park; the other was a \$1,500 donation to the library.

Following the advice of city attorney Jason Moran, the council decided not to pursue action on selling city-owned parkland to John Borneke, who was interested in buying a piece of it for a shed. The land sits on the northern edge of town and covers a low-lying grassland and areas surrounding the JWP football field. Council members were in consensus that selling a small piece of city-owned land would “open a can of worms” if similar requests were to surface in the future.

Reports

Council member Jim Mulcahey reported that more than 800 people have registered for the new disc golf course at Lakeview Park since its construction last fall. “People are getting a really good use of it,” he said.

Mayor Andy Arnoldt also reported that Mark Borneke of Borneke Con-

struction will be dropping off a bulldozer for construction on the amphitheater in Veterans’ Park. “He said we may have some dirt down for it by the end of next week,” he added.

Arnoldt also provided a memo on the Whispering Creek Nursing Home’s process, stating that the Minnesota Department of Health found a few deficiencies that were maintenance-related but found no health deficiencies. The report found the nursing home faring better than most others around the state.

“The biggest challenge is finding enough staff,” Arnoldt stated. “The goal is to get a cook, but that’s the hardest position to fill throughout all nursing homes.”

Prairie Ridge Golf Course Manager Jacob Lehrke stated that all is well. The facility is \$40,000 ahead of last year’s income at this time, even though 2021 was a record year. The course is looking at a five-year plan to replace the equipment. “We’re pretty good now, but planning for the future is important,” he said.

Lehrke reports that the facility is having a tough time finding good staff, which was why he was presenting the report in place of his superior, Manager Scott Allen.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

The Latest USDA WASDE Report numbers provided by Guardian Energy					
Summary of July 12, 2022 USDA U.S. Ending Stocks Estimates					
USDA 2021/22 U.S. Grain Ending Stocks (by million bushels)					
	USDA	Average Estimate	Range of Estimates	USDA Previous	Last Year
Corn	1,510	1,486	1,435-1,521	1,485	1,235
Soybeans	216	210	190-261	205	257
USDA 2022/23 U.S. Grain Ending Stocks (by million bushels)					
	USDA	Average Estimate	Range of Estimates	USDA Previous	Last Year
Corn	1,470	1,428	1,271-1,565	1,400	1,510
Soybeans	230	210	141-275	280	215
Wheat	639	641	559-690	627	660

The Pastor's Column

Scriptures are more than just words on a page

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

Words on a page. They struggle to communicate values, intentions, motivations. Each person has their own perspective and understanding of the words and how they will take them in and apply them to their lives. This article is my first for the Pioneer.

I am Pastor Ken Andrs from the First Congregational Church in Waseca. I moved to Waseca last August to serve as a pastor in this community. My wife Naomi is finding her home here as a teacher, my children have invested their lives in the drama, music, and arts departments while attending the High School. We are finding a home in Waseca County.

Do these words communicate the breadth of my life, no, but they do bring a glimpse to mind of what once was or could be in your own life. Do you remember having teenagers? Or being one? Or hope to be one? Or even a longing to go back to when there were teenagers in the home? What about the music? Do you hear it? The band with their bright trumpets or harmony of the choir?

The emotions of those days become clearer, and we are drawn closer together, at least in you understanding me and my life. Over the next few months, I will share more of my life and the things I am thinking of. Those challenges from scripture that force us to grow in faith and knowledge of God and His Son Jesus we will discuss and dwell upon. I find these few words on this page to be a great responsibility, to love my community well

and point them to Jesus.

So today we start. Let us consider the word that Paul spoke to Timothy in his second letter. "16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Tim 3:16-17 ESV

The scriptures are more than words on a page. They are God-breathed, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to communicate God's love for us. The scriptures are useful for all areas of our life as God wrote them to us to help us better understand Him and the world that He created for us.

My words will be quickly forgotten, but God's words live on for eternity. They are spoken by God to us and challenge our thoughts, words, and deeds to help us accomplish the good work God has planned for us. A hard question we have to answer is, "Are we allowing the word of God to transform us into righteous people?"

Just as music can bring up thoughts and emotions, and words seek to communicate our values and motivations, God's word reveals to us the truth of God and His plan through the life and death of Jesus. As you go through this week take time to read God's word, dwell upon it, and allow it through the work of the Holy Spirit to challenge you to be righteous and do good work for God's glory and our benefit.

Blessings,
PK

Bilitz retires after 21 years

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

After 21 years of service in the Waseca County area, Pastor Keith Bilitz of St. John and Trinity Ev. Lutheran churches has retired, with his last service having taken place Sunday, May 22.

While "some pastors go longer," Bilitz said, he chose to retire at 65 due to the stress of the Covid-19 pandemic, along with serving two vacancies over the past two and a half years.

Additionally, Bilitz reports that his hearing has started "going bad."

As a result of Bilitz's retirement, St. John and Trinity Ev. Lutheran congregations are now in the process of calling a new pastor.

Bilitz began his ministry upon his 1983 graduation from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wisconsin, which is affiliated with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). He says that, while some would describe the WELS as a "conservative church body," its doctrine is focused on being "faithful to God's word."

Meeting people from all walks of life, Bible studies, vacation Bible school, and spreading the gospel message were just a few of the pastoral activities that Bilitz enjoyed the most.

In particular, he says he found joy in the assurance his members felt when contemplating death and knowing that they were going to heaven.

"You can't beat a job like that because you want people to go to heaven and you can tell them about Jesus," said Bilitz, who remembers encountering a myriad of societal and technological changes over the course of his 40 years in the ministry. Despite those changes, Bilitz emphasized the unchanging nature of his ministry's message.

Bilitz's work experience received a facelift over the years, courtesy of a variety of technological changes. One example is that the mimeograph that once printed bulletins was replaced with a photocopier. He went from reading his sermon notes off paper to using an electronic tablet, and he had even begun recording his church services and posting them online.

"Technology is fun; I like technology," he observed.

In his travels, Bilitz's vehicle of choice is a red motorcycle, which was quite an attention grabber in the parking lot of Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church in Smiths Mill.

"I don't know many WELS pastors that zip around on a motorcycle," he said.

According to Bilitz, the WELS is facing 140 church vacancies, with only about 25 seminary graduates ready to enter the ministry.

Bilitz said this low proportion of new pastors to congregations in need "doesn't quite fill all the pulpits."

While retirement will mark the end of Bilitz's ministry, he says he has "a list of stuff to do that's a mile long."



Pastor Keith Bilitz served as pastor for 21 years at St. John and Trinity Evangelical Lutheran churches.
Pioneer photo by Jonah Stafford

"It's been fun and I call it a privilege to be able to serve God's people."
— Pastor Keith Bilitz

He plans to remain at his residence in Eagle Lake with his wife and spend time with family members who also live in the area.

For his final service, Pastor Bilitz incorporated a few special plans, ranging from personally significant musical selections performed by the church choir to picking his personal favorite hymns to be sung during the service.

"They don't really fit the Sunday, but that's okay," said Bilitz.

Pastor Bilitz leaves the ministry with decades of experiences, declaring he has "seen everything under the sun."

"It's been fun and I call it a privilege to be able to serve God's people," he observed.

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Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * *	lcwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * *	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. Bible School * * *	Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * *	GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 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 * * *	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 * * *	THE CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18 * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville Father Brian Mulligan 10 a.m. - Mass * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * *	SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca 507-835-1222 Worship Saturday 5:15 p.m., Sundays 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., weekdays 8:30 a.m. Tues., Wed. and Fri., 7:00 a.m. Thurs. * * *	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 * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Pastor Brian Johnston Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship, 9:15 Worship w/bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Interim Pastor * * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m., Wed. 6:30 p.m. (for the summer) * * *	REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-607-8245 Sundays 9 and 10:30 a.m. * * *	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Pamela Jensen Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor Sunday — 8 a.m. Worship; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Class * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Vacancy Sunday = 1 p.m. Worship * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * *	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 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 * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Vacancy Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * *		NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: * * *	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. * * *				
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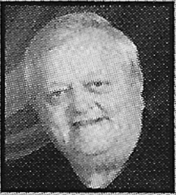
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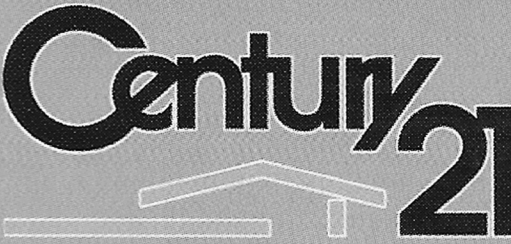
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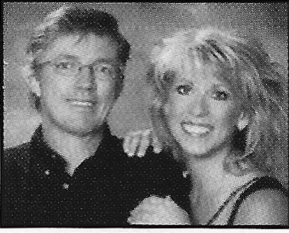
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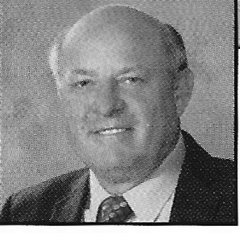

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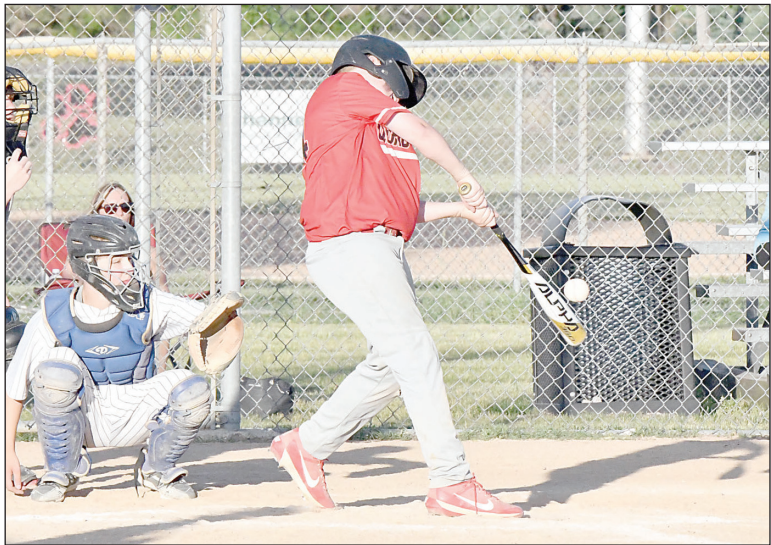
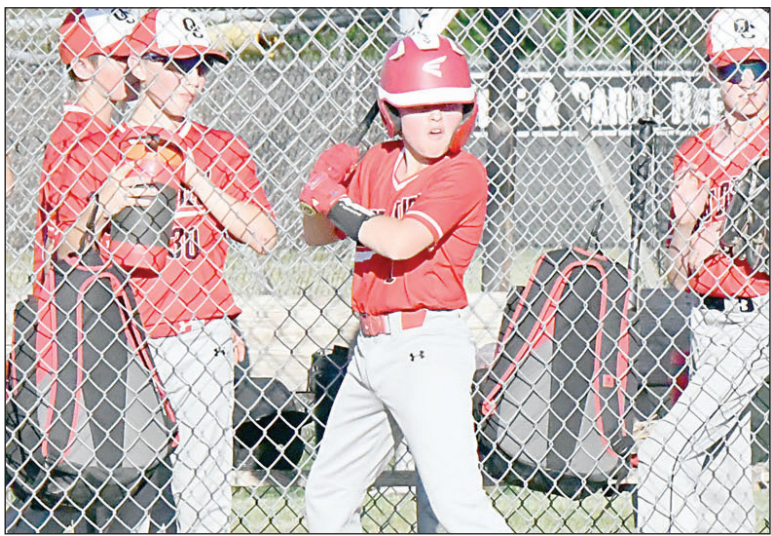
SWEET-SOMMERS VFW POST 1642 CALENDAR EVENTS						
◀ Jun 2022		July 2022				
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	2
3	4 Independence DAY	5	6 6pm Bar Bingo	7 7pm Bingo	8 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	9
10	11 7pm Post & AUX Meeting	12	13 6pm Bar Bingo	14 7pm Bingo	15 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	16
17	18	19	20 6pm Bar Bingo	21 7pm Bingo	22 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	23
24	25	26	27 National Korean War Armistice Day 6pm Bar Bingo	28 National Buffalo Soldiers day 7pm Bingo	29 Army Chaplain Corps Anniversary Meat Raffle 5:30pm	30
31	HOURS of Operation. Sun. - Mon. Closed Tue. - Wed. to close Thur. - 1pm to close Fri. - Sat. - 11am to close POST & AUX Meeting 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only.					

High School Anglers



Two local high school anglers took home silver and bronze in two fishing tournaments in Pickwick and Wilson Lakes, Florence, AL. The tournaments took place from June 22 to the 25th. Brady Matz and Walker Krampitz of Waseca represented the Owatonna Fishing Team, taking 2nd in the World Finals and 3rd in the National Championship. They are pictured holding their plaques for the latter tournament in Pickwick Lake.

End of summer ball



End of the year tournaments for baseball were held at the Legion Complex in New Richland over the weekend of July 8-10. 15 teams played in the baseball tournament, with four teams making the semifinals. They were Waseca Gold, St. Peter Blue, QCBA White (NRHEG), and Owatonna White. Waseca lost to St. Peter 13-6 because, according to Bob Jensen, "Unfortunately, the Waseca starting pitcher blew out his pitching arm early in the game." The Quad Cities team also lost to Owatonna 8-2. St. Peter won the championship game handily with a 14-2 victory. Although the score made seemed Owatonna look inferior, Jensen said that they had split two games with St. Peter earlier in the season. Pictured above are a mix of Quad Cities baseball, and Waseca baseball players.

Janesville Jays 3, Waseca Braves 2



Left, Braves shortstop Seth Anderson goes for the bunt. He helped contribute an RBI and a run during the fifth inning. Right, Waseca catcher Chris Glynn prevents Jays' Ben Maes from scoring a second run. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy



SOLID NINE – Pitcher Nic Cook had a great game for the Jays, pitching all nine innings. He is pictured left celebrating the win against Waseca with catcher Jacob Maes and pictured right throwing one of his first pitches of the game.

Braves drop two of three games

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

After losing on the road to Cannon Falls at the end of June, the Waseca Braves had a great bounce-back game against Cleveland, beating them 10-0 at home on Wednesday, July 6. It gave them the boost they needed to slide into a busy weekend against Stewartville-Racine and Janesville with confidence.

Braves 10, Spiders 0

The Braves were playing a top-notch game against Cleveland's Spiders July 6. It was one of those games where everything went right. The offense hummed along with the score entering the double digits for the second time this season. Cleveland struggled against the Braves and was barely able to get a hit off. However, Waseca shut down every scoring opportunity the Spiders earned. The 10-0 outcome was one of the best games of the season for the Braves and gave them some needed momentum for the

weekend with a road game next on the schedule.

Sharks 9, Braves 1

Waseca was a bit out of their element when they visited Stewartville-Racine's Sharks on Saturday, July 9. Although their bats were active, not much came of it. The Braves had more hits than the home team, successfully making eight of them to the Sharks' six. However, they couldn't string together enough successful hits to make it home more than once. But what plagued any chance of success were their errors: They committed six compared to the Sharks' two. Mistakes allowed Stewartville-Racine to get an early lead, leaving the Braves in catch-up mode all game. The final left Waseca with a bad taste in their mouths as they headed back home to face cross-county rival Janesville.

Jays 3, Braves 2

The matchup on Sunday, July 10

was the most exciting the Braves have had this year. Waseca started its season against the Janesville Jays on May 22 and defeated them on the road 8-5. With a home game against them, they had an opportunity to sweep the two-game series between the teams. It was a quiet four innings at Tink Larson Field, with the Janesville Jays breaking the silence by scoring the first run of the match in the top of the fifth inning. The Braves replied in the bottom of the sixth with a nice bunt by shortstop Seth Anderson to get the offense started. Anderson got an RBI and helped Chris Glynn score the Braves' first run of the game. Anderson got home for the Braves' second run later in the inning to give them the lead. The Braves held onto the one-run lead until the top of the ninth. With the bases loaded, Janesville tied it up with Alex Luepke running home off an error and Waseca pitcher Danny Cromer walking one. Ben Ellingsworth scored the third run off a walk

to home plate. With Jays pitcher Nic Cook coming in clutch in the bottom of the ninth, they took the win when Cook caught the final out of the game off a pop fly. Cook pitched all nine innings for the Janesville Jays, while Erik Simmons pitched for the first six innings for the Bluejays and Danny Cromer closed the game. "It was a tough loss," Coach Tink Larson said. "Three defensive miscues in the ninth inning cost us. We had played well until that point." He complimented Janesville on their performance: "Janesville played well," he stated. "They made some good plays on defense and received good pitching from Nic Cook." The win against Cleveland followed by the two losses left Waseca with a 7-11 record to end the weekend. The Braves will have one final home game against the Owatonna Aces on Friday, July 17 before facing Austin's Greyhounds the following Sunday.

QCBA hosts end of year tournament

While Farm and City Days had activities throughout New Richland, the ball diamonds at Legion Field were packed with action as well. The Quad Cities Baseball Association (QCBA) hosted the year-end tournament for 10U baseball in the South Central Youth Baseball League. 15 teams descended upon New Richland for this three-day tournament. The action started on Friday evening, including the QCBA White team, which defeated Cleveland in the opening round. That evening also included the only first-round upset as #12 seeded Owatonna Blue crushed #5 seeded Waseca Blue. There was also an 8:00 game under the lights in which Maple River Blue came from

two down in the final inning to walk off USC. Saturday morning started with games at 8:30 and ran for 12 hours as teams battled, both in bracket play and then in a second-game guarantee if they lost their first game, a friendly match to end the season. The QCBA Red team competed on Saturday but lost both their games to LCWM and Maple River Blue, who had lost an earlier game to #1 seed Owatonna White. When the dust settled on a long day, four teams remained to advance to Sunday's semi-finals. #1 Owatonna White met #4 QCBA White, who had won in exciting fashion the previous day by beating Owatonna Blue with two outs in

the last inning before scoring the winning run. While it was close for a while, the top seed pulled away in the end for an 8-2 win. On the other side of the brackets, #2 St. Peter Blue faced off with #3 Waseca Gold and did the same thing, turning a 4-4 tie into a 13-5 win. In the championship, another early close game turned into a route as St. Peter Blue turned a couple big innings into a 15-4 win for the title. Big crowds were at the fields to support these young men for the weekend. The QCBA would like to thank all the coaches this season and thank the parents and others who came out to cheer on all the teams. The QCBA would also like to recognize the great work done by our young umpires all season and especially this weekend: Jayden Fleming, Brayden Howe, Alden Dobberstein, Daxter Lee, Kaiden Neitzel, and Ben Schoenrock. With an umpire shortage across the state, these guys stepped up and did a great job, with many compliments from other teams. The QCBA is a non-profit organization supporting youth baseball in the area, from 10U all the way up to Legion baseball. If you would like to volunteer to help in any way or wish to make a donation to help with baseball, please contact one of these board members: Aaron Gilliland, Dan Schmidt, or Mark Domeier.