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Night out

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

Waseca Braves play Saturday at 2 p.m. in Jordan
The Waseca Braves will play in Jordan at 2 p.m. on Saturday. If they win they play Sunday night at 7 p.m. If they lose, they play at 1:30 p.m.

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

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

Annual Corn and Burger Feed Aug. 25
The Waldorf Fire and Rescue Department is hosting its annual corn and burger feed on Friday, Aug. 25. The dinner is from 5:30-8:30 p.m. and a dance follows at 8:30 p.m. \$10 for the meal and \$15 for the dinner and dance. Kids under 5 are free. Events will be held in or near the Waldorf Community Center.

Waldorf Car and Truck Show Aug. 25
Members of the Waldorf Days Committee will be hosting a Car and Truck Show from 4-7:30 p.m. Aug. 25. MyGlobalDJ will be providing music with a Kids' Zone held between 4:30-5:30 p.m. Prizes will be given away at the Kids' Zone.

New Richland's Night to Unite Aug. 8 at 6 p.m.
New Richland Police Dept. will be hosting Night to Unite Aug. 8 at 6 p.m. at City Park in New Richland. They will have hot dogs, chips and cookies. The fire department and ambulance will have their trucks there to check out.

Relay For Life of Steele/Waseca County. Sept. 23 from 5-10 p.m.
Steele/Waseca County will be having a Relay For Life event from 5-10 p.m. at the Steele County Fairgrounds. There will be a silent auction, entertainment, survivor recognition, raffle, kids activities and food.

A word from The Word



Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

Waseca county jail forced to upgrade

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

After a regularly scheduled inspection of the Waseca County Jail, the Department of Corrections (DOC) informed county leadership that the facility risks being downgraded if certain improvements are not made before next May.

At this time, the county jail has the capacity to hold more than 25 prisoners and requires about 8 staff members to operate. Typical daily occupancy, according to county administrator Michael Johnson, is about 9.

At this time, the facility is listed at class 3, a "jail," which is authorized to hold prisoners "365 days a year," according to Johnson. Statute specifies a class 2 facility as a "lockup," and authorizes it to hold prisoners for no more than 90 days. Class 1 is a "holding" facility, not meant to keep incarcerated individuals for more than 72 hours—essentially long enough for them to take part in preliminary courtroom activities before being transferred elsewhere.

Jail continued on 8



OUTDATED - Built in the late 1960s, the Waseca County jail has already outlasted Department of Correction expectations by 25 years.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently



STAYING COOL - TOP: Volunteers at Nite to Unite. BOTTOM LEFT: Lifeguards and Police Officer Nick Wellman cool off in the air conditioning. From left: Haydn Lynch, Britney Ross, Tegan Flatau, Wellman, Morgan Ebnet, Jadyrn Olsem and Brielle James.
BOTTOM RIGHT: Luz Natalia won a bike.
Pioneer photos by Amelia Roessler



Nite to Unite attracts hundreds

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

The Waseca Nite to Unite held from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at the waterpark brought a few hundred people in for the sixth year.

Nite to Unite is organized by the police department and put on "to allow the community to relax and interact with police, fire and EMS in order to build partnerships that create awareness and increase public safety," according to the city police department's Facebook post.

This year's Nite to Unite featured free admission to the waterpark; a free meal which included grilled hot dogs, chips, water, and freeze pops; and drawings which gave away two bikes and backpacks from Walmart.

"It's for the community and bringing them together to showcase our parks," said Penny Vought, Waseca's Chief of Police. "We've found it to be very beneficial and it lets people have fun."

Vought and council member Stacy Schroeder shared their recollections

regarding the history of Nite to Unite and its beginnings more than twenty years ago. They discussed how they believe it originated as a house party for a neighborhood watch, then expanded to a block party, and eventually became the large-scale event held first at Trowbridge Park, then the fairgrounds and now the waterpark.

"We've done it here just because we have the facility," says co-planner, Officer Nick Wellman, observing that the setting makes it

"easy to bring people together."

Wellman said the important part is bringing neighbors together to get to know each other and enjoy one another's company. He explained that was part of the reason such a variety of activities was offered, so there would be something for everyone, whether at the pool, talking with the officers and firefighters giving out food, listening to artist Melissa Schulz sing live music, or with the lifeguards handing out water balloons.



YOUNG LOVE - Dolores and Marvin Sommers early in their marriage. They farmed for more than 30 years in Wilton township.
Contributed photo

Dolores, 101 years young

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"A lot of hard work, I guess."

When lifelong area resident Dolores Sommers says it takes "hard work" to reach the age of 101, she's not talking about exercise machines.

"She was always a busy lady!" exclaims her daughter, Marsha Vollbrecht.

Now a resident at Colony Court, Dolores celebrated her 101st birthday on Wednesday, August 2. Born in 1922 "out on the farm," she was the oldest of four children.

She married Marvin Sommers in 1949, and the two of them took on the operation of a dairy farm in Wilton Township from 1950 until retiring in 1987. They raised four children: Marsha, Debbie, Dennis and Mark, born between 1953 and 1960.

"I no sooner got done washing

diapers," Dolores remembers, laughing, "than the next one would come along."

In addition to operating the—at the time—350-acre farm, the couple milked about 25 head of dairy cattle.

They also raised poultry including chickens, ducks and geese. They sold eggs, both serving buyers who would visit the farm and delivering to regular customers in town.

Butchered poultry was also for sale. Marsha describes times in the fall when the extended family, aunts, uncles, cousins, would arrive at each others' farms in turn to set up an assembly line of sorts, butchering sometimes dozens of birds to be delivered fresh to customers or frozen.

"I kept a large garden," Dolores remembers. She names an extensive

Sommers continued on 6

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

County allocates \$50,000 to district

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

Introduction of new staff and discussion of the Riparian fund dominated the August 1 regular meeting of Waseca County Commissioners.

The meeting started off with the introduction of new staff by Sheriff Jay Dulas, Public Health Director Sarah Berry, and Court Services Director John Schiro. Dulas introduced deputies Mary Ulrich and Brandon Herman and welcomed them to the Waseca department. He also introduced Sarah Sundve as the new dispatcher and Erin Heitkamp, the Sheriff office's summer intern from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Berry introduced the public health department's three new hires: Taylor Merges, Kirston Janike, and Andrea Kronbach; Schiro introduced Carrie Deml and John Frid, who recently joined the court services office.

The Land and Water Resource staff presented three separate contracts regarding cover crop cost share projects within Waseca County. All three were eventually approved, but only after lengthy discussion regarding whether growers should be able to decide for themselves whether to harvest and sell the crop, or would be required to leave all plantings as cover crop only, receiving a flat rate reimbursement of \$40 per acre.

As discussed at the July 18 commissioner meeting, the board members approved the finance of the Youth Mental Health Navigator Program, which is meant to help students and families gain access to mental health resources and services. The board allocated \$50,000 over five years; funds will be drawn from opioid settlement dollars.

Board members approved installing a new bathroom, septic system and dump station at Courthouse Park using

Waseca continued on 12



Compostings

by Al Batt

People hate math until they get a receipt

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING

I didn’t catch a single fish on my trip to Ontario.

How come?
I couldn’t tell a single one from a married fish.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I was thinking about the great job I once had at a helium balloon factory. My boss spoke highly of me. People weren’t supposed to leave the balloons in a hot car because helium expands in the heat and could cause the balloons to pop. I had no balloons in my car to pop, but it was so hot, I saw a robin blow on a worm before eating it. Air conditioning is a wonderful thing. I grew up without it. It was a learning experience. I learned as a teenager that if I was going to take off my clothes and open all the windows on a scorching day, I should get off the school bus first. I spent a few days putting on miles and miles of miles on my car, which caused me to realize that U-Haul has the worst drivers on the road.

I walked down another road. I wore sandals that are fond of picking up pebbles. I picked one up and began walking that weird way I do when I’m stepping on a wet floor in front of a person holding a mop. I hoped the pebble might tumble out. One of my coaches, Tom Smith, told me to walk things off. He gave that advice no matter what was the injury. If I’d have had two broken legs and a stubbed toe, he’d have told me to walk it off, so I figured it would apply to a pebble under my foot. I tried to walk it off, but I must suffer from a gravel-intolerance. As I walked, the pebble grew to be the size of a boulder. I watched a YouTube video on how to remove a pebble from a sandal safely and I followed the proper pebble removal protocol.

POOR FARMER VERSUS A GOOD FARMER

My father said you could tell a poor farmer from a good farmer by the number of weeds in his fields. A weedy field was brought about by a poor farmer or poor land. I went with Dad on a Sunday afternoon drive. He claimed you weren’t a true farmer unless you’d gone into the ditch at least once while looking at a neighbor’s crops. Dad was a true farmer. He pointed at a weed-free field and said, “That’s the work of a good farmer right

there.”

I protested because it was our field.

He responded, “And it’s the work of a good farmer.”

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

Lawrence Welk had twin daughters—Anna 1, Anna 2.

I was hit by a violin, a clarinet and a French horn. It was an orchestrated attack.

A cow, a pig and a chicken walk into a BBQ joint. The end.

Yoda’s last name is Ladywho.

Someone phoned me, sneezed and then hung up. It was a cold call.

I’VE LEARNED

People hate math until they get a store receipt.

You’re getting old if you remember when politicians resigned amid a scandal.

A cellphone can replace a watch, a camera, a GPS, a calendar, an alarm clock and a life.

Nothing seems more like “just yesterday” than mowing the lawn.

Patience is a virtue at 10 mph over the speed limit.

NATURE NOTES

Canada geese molt when their goslings are about one-month old in late June or early July. They are flightless for 4-5 weeks and regain their flight feathers about the time their goslings reach the flight stage.

I’d been on the road and staying in a hotel. Across the street were stores of every kind. I wanted to get a large bottle of iced tea to put in my room’s refrigerator and decided to walk to a store. I wondered aloud, “But which store should I go to?” A chickadee whistled, “Hy-Vee.” The black-capped chickadee’s song is a simple two-note whistled “fee-bee” or “sweet-ic.”

Erica McAlister, a curator of Diptera (flies) at the Museum of Natural History in London, reported there are an estimated 17 million flies per person in the world. I don’t know who counted them.

Raccoons let us know when the sweet corn is ripe. Vultures fly in circles because they are buffering.

MEETING ADJOURNED

“Life is short, and we have never too much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are traveling the dark journey with us. Oh be swift to love, make haste to be kind.”—Henri Frederick Amiel.

Minnesota’s new marijuana laws now in effect

Minnesota is now the 23rd state to make it legal for adults to use marijuana recreationally.

That means a lot will change in the next few months and years. Soon it will be legal to grow and smoke marijuana. Cities and counties must allow licensed cannabis shops to open. People with certain marijuana convictions will have them effectively erased.

MPR News host Angela Davis talked with Sen. Lindsey Port, DFL-Burnsville, who sponsored the bill and Beau Kilmer, the McCauley Chair in Drug Policy Innovation at RAND, a non-partisan think tank headquartered in Santa Monica, Calif.

The three discussed this shift in attitude towards and policy about marijuana as well as what the new law means for people who use cannabis products and those who do not.

Here are 10 key questions and answers about the new Minnesota cannabis law.

What does this new law say about tribal medical marijuana dispensaries?

Port: We really wanted to make sure we respected the sovereignty of our tribal nations here in Minnesota. So all of the tribal ability to do their medical marijuana programs or get into the recreational side is able to be done to their specifications through compacting. So that is sort of the agreements that they make with the state government and tribal governments each year or each couple of years. We don’t restrict it in any way in the bill. We say that is all a decision that their sovereign nations

make with the governor, and they are able to be in control of that.

What does the law say about expungement?

Port: If you have a misdemeanor possession, conviction on your record, it will be automatically expunged. And if you have a felony conviction for sale or for possession, it will be looked at by a board individually on a case-by-case basis to see if it should be resentenced into something smaller or expunged altogether based on the circumstances.

Expungements will happen even for non-citizens.

Kilmer: The fact that [the law] allows for automatic expungement, I think it’s a really big deal. You know, when Washington and Colorado first legalized, you know, 10 years ago, expungement wasn’t part of the conversation. And then over time, as other states legalize, they began to allow some offenses to be expunged.

But oftentimes, they would still put the onus on the individual, you know, they would have to petition the court, they might have to hire a lawyer, right. And, you know, in depending on the amount of resources you have, you know, that would determine whether or not you could actually have the offense expunged. But by making it automatic, and kind of putting the onus on the state. Now, that’s a big deal. And that’s going to make it much more impactful for Minnesotans.

Are there any restrictions on where you can use cannabis?

Port: That’s gonna depend city to city. In August, cities will be able to decide if they want you to be able to

use in public spaces, like at parks. So a city can adopt a local ordinance just like they can for smoking.

Just like you can for cigarettes, people can ban smoking, cities can ban smoking on public grounds, have non-smoking areas, things like that. And that will be the same for public consumption. You also can’t consume it in your motor vehicle, just like alcohol. And then the final place where there’s a restriction is on smoking in multifamily units like apartment buildings.

You can still use edibles, tinctures, oils, but there is a ban on smoking. Many landlords banned smoking in buildings anyway. But that was a public health concern that we addressed in the bill.

What are the rules to grow cannabis in an outside garden?

Port: You are able to grow eight plants and up to four of them flowering at any one time. So you can grow out in your garden, you can grow inside, it doesn’t matter. It does need to be sort of cordoned off. So you need to put a little fence or something around it if you are growing outside in a visible place. But you are able to grow in your backyard or under grow lights inside.

Kilmer: Most of the places that have passed legalization in the U.S. also allow some form of home growing. Now, in some places it may be six plants, in some places, it may be more, but also this idea of having some plants that are flowering and some plants that aren’t, that’s pretty consistent.

Can employers prohibit the use of marijuana by their employees?

Port: So we specified a group of safety-related jobs. If you care for children, if you care for medical patients, if you drive a truck, if you drive a school bus, sort of those safety-dependent jobs — and there’s a list of them in the bill — then your employer can still do regular drug testing. They do have to let you know that they will continue to do regular drug testing or if they’re going to.

But if you have a job outside of that, so you work in retail or you work in manufacturing or at a warehouse and you are not in one of those safety-related jobs, you are able to use cannabis in your off time.

Obviously, you can’t use it while at work, your employer can still prohibit that and just like you couldn’t show up to work intoxicated on alcohol, you also can’t and your employer could fire you for showing up intoxicated on marijuana.

Will research be done about the impact of legalization?

Kilmer: As a researcher, one of the things I really liked about the bill is that it allocated over \$3 million to the University of Minnesota to set up a center for cannabis research.

Port: The University of Minnesota research grants, specifically, will document both use and public health effects, but also the different products and the different types of cannabis that are out there and how they affect public health and public consumption plans.

We also have a baseline survey in here, which will be done over the

Law continued on 8

This moment will just be another story



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

a lake day this summer.

I’m a skier. Tubing is great, but having to share a tube with your sister who is scared of tubing isn’t really the greatest time. Plus, once when I was a kid, the rope pulling the tube got pulled down into the water on a turn, and the rope came across and smacked me in the face, leaving a giant red mark running across my nose, which hurt a lot. It also gave me a nose bleed; I was sure I had broken my nose, although I hadn’t.

Luckily that hadn’t made me fear for tubing or the water so instead I took up the next challenging water sport I could think of - skiing. My family likes to ski, so I spent a summer learning how to get up and stay up, then a couple years enjoying

the thrill of weaving back and forth in and out of the wake.

There’s power in skiing. It’s a delicate balance between gliding atop the water like a pro and smacking face first into the water like a cartoon. I enjoy the tension it brings in my arms and my back, the balance and shift in my legs and the wind whipping through my hair as I try to focus on breathing.

So I mastered that and it was time for me to learn to slalom ski, where you drop one ski and plant both your feet on one, not needing the two to balance. This is where I’m stuck now. Last summer, I spent some good hours getting up on two skis, going around once, dropping the one ski, planting my now loose foot on

the other ski, and then promptly falling face first, somersaulting, or literally tripping into the water when I lost my balance trying to move back into the wake behind the boat. I would fall so forcefully that my long-sleeved swimsuit would be rolled up to my bicep.

So hopefully skiing will be a part of my next day at a lake. Or tubing. Or paddleboarding. Or kayaking. All things I enjoy doing.

And then there’s fishing, another great lake day activity and one that I know some people prefer over the other water sports. I also enjoy fishing, whether that be bobber or trolling.

I am very thankful to live in the land of 10,000 lakes—and have access to a handful of them. As a side note, I will say I was slightly offended and upset when my Wisconsin-native roommate told me that Wisconsin actually has more lakes than Minnesota.

My Determination: “This moment will just be another story someday.” - Stephen Chbosky, The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Good news, bad news, and baseball

Two of our readers had significant birthdays this week: Dolores Sommers and Helen Fowler. The Sommers family put a birthday notice in the paper last year when she turned 100 and did so again this year. That got me thinking. Deb Bently really enjoys the company of Helen Fowler each time they’ve visited. These over-100 ladies really are famous (and loved), so, why not send Deb to chat with Mrs. Sommers?

As my work day was winding down Tuesday evening, Gloria Butler gave me a call to let me know Mrs. Fowler was celebrating her 103rd birthday at Lakeside Golf Course. I learned how personable Mrs. Butler is when I interviewed her last year as she retired from the insurance business at State Farm. I’m grateful to see business continuing smoothly there as Gloria enjoys the “full week of Saturdays” that is retirement.

Speaking with Gloria last year was very memorable. At some point most of my interviews for feature stories usually stop being a flow of questions and simply transition into a rich conversation. That’s what happened with Gloria, basically from the start. Those are the best kind of interviews/stories. I don’t know if it’s selfish, but I generally use the excuse of the newspaper to hear really good stories in person, and/or through our writers at the paper. Everyone has a



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

story, and hearing the best parts over an hour (or sometimes three) is truly enriching. I’m grateful for the opportunity and the privilege of hearing about people’s experiences and insights.

Speaking of experiences, I made it to the Saturday Braves game. We won 4-2 and breathed a sigh of relief as we earned two more games this season. I kind of had a feeling we would play poorly on Sunday given the high stress nature of Saturday’s game. Unfortunately I was attending a birthday party and did not make it Sunday. Well, we lost that one.

So what was the feeling like Saturday? Both coaches, Tink and Blake, spoke about how it’s hard to watch from the sidelines. “Players don’t understand what it’s like.”

They’re both right. I only coached baseball for two years, and at the middle school level, but man is it hard to watch while also being in charge of the players.

I remember a “relay” gone bad after which I almost stormed onto the

field. I’m not much of a “yeller” but in this instance, I lost my temper a bit. A parent (I knew all of the parents because of my role with the newspaper at the time. Oh, and I was 19.) cautioned me, “Eli, they’re kids,” or something to that extent. “I know,” I growled back, “but I just care.”

Another time I found coaching hard was when I wanted to pinch hit (then eighth-grader) Ben Schoenrock late in a game we were losing. Ben, who currently also plays for the Braves, was on the eighth-grade team at the time; I was coaching seventh-graders. The move wouldn’t have been illegal, but it was much too competitive for that level of ball. One of my coaching and umpiring mentors (I umpired baseball up to the sophomore level from age 15 until about 22) pulled me aside and vetoed my decision. I’m grateful he did and I’m grateful for the lessons learned.

That said, I agree with Tink. I don’t know how he made it to his age looking much younger than his years

in the face of all this baseball-induced stress.

On a more personal note. We will not be running the Waseca Jail roster in the paper again. Many readers asked/requested that we include it; I was not a particular fan of the idea, but I am a fan of doing what readers want. After it appeared last week, more than one reader reached out via phone and email. After hearing their concerns, I agree. People who are interested in the roster can easily access it online: As much as possible, I prefer that the Pioneer remain a “good news” publication.

“A lot of times good news happens slowly and bad news happens all at once. And so we tend to focus on the bad news that’s crashing over us in waves, and not on the slow long-term work that people are doing together to try to make a better world for us to share.”

— John Green

“Bad news travels at the speed of light; good news travels like molasses.”

— Tracy Morgan

“The good news is that every morning we have the choice; not to be controlled by circumstances nor our past but by purposely designing our day, hence our lives better. Not to react to life but to respond with love.”

— Bernard Kelvin Clive



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

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DEADLINES: Pioneer: Noon Tuesday
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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DEB BENTLY
JIM LUTGENS
AMELIA ROESSLER
TERESA ROSACKER
JONAH STAFFORD
JESSICA LUTGENS
TRISTAN JENSEN
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$55 Per Year, Waseca County Residents
\$65 State of Minnesota • \$75 Outside Minnesota

Waseca County Pioneer (USPS permit #25304) is published weekly on Friday, by Pioneer Publications Inc., 103 S. State St., Waseca, MN, 56093. Periodicals Postage at New Richland, MN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to Waseca County Pioneer, P.O. Box 578, Waseca, MN, 56093.



A family photo taken last summer: In front is Mallory. Behind her, from left, are Faith, Emily, Joanie, Lyncon, Alison and Katelyn. Also in the picture is the family dog, Bane.

Benefit concert in NR a delight

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Genuine delight.

The Blue Ringers concert and dance sponsored by the Finly's Wings philanthropic organization the evening of Saturday, July 29, was a welcome evening of fellowship and fun for Joanie Olson and her daughters, all of whom came. Along with them were a few friends and about 15 members of the Olsons' extended family.

"It made me feel truly good to see my daughters enjoying the music, dancing with their cousins and friends, and mingling with the crowd," recalls Olson. An estimated 250 people or more gathered for the event which went from 8 p.m. to midnight. Finly's Wings covered the cost of booking the band; everyone attending was invited to make a donation to be given to the Olson family.

Olson is a member of the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton school board, lifelong Janesville area resident, and Spanish Language Arts teacher for 20 years at NRHEG. Late this past spring, Lyncon, her husband of more than 21 years, died suddenly of a heart attack at age 49. She and her five daughters, Emily, 20; Faith, 18; Alison, 17; Katelyn, 15; and

Wings continued on 4



Joanie Olson was presented with a reproduction of a famous piece of art by Mexican artist Frida Kahlo.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



Melissa Schulz

Making waves

Waseca based musician
Melissa Schulz

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Waseca-based musician Melissa Schulz is making waves in southern Minnesota through her ongoing string of performances at local festivals, fairs, breweries, and more. Some of Schulz's recent bookings include Waseca's Lakefest and the Waseca and Rice County fairs. A classically trained pianist and singer, Schulz performs songs from an array of genres including pop, country, jazz, rock, and anywhere in between. In addition to a constant stream of gigs as a live musician, she is a voice and piano teacher with nine students under her wing.

Schulz is a native of Dubuque, Iowa and earned a bachelor degree in music performance and education at Decorah's Luther College. "I wasn't sure which way I wanted to go, so I chose both," said Schulz. She said she had opera and Broadway dreams, but worked as a music teacher at a few public schools in her 20s when she didn't feel ready "to go gung-ho into the performing route." During a period of reflection, Schulz took on a variety of jobs like working at a call center and clinic, leading ZUMBA dance classes, and substitute teaching at Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Schools. Around that time, Schulz began teaching lessons at her music studio independently. Starting in 2011, for four years, she was also a dance teacher for Waseca Community Education.

After leaving her Community Ed position, Schulz

Schulz continued on 5

Annual church night

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"There you go," says Christ Community youth pastor Scott Bryant enthusiastically. "Thanks for coming!"

Bryant has a row of rainbow-colored ice treats in front of him, and they're disappearing quickly as folks come from conversations at the well-filled Northeast Park pavilion picnic tables for a light dessert.

"We planned for about 300 people," says Bryant of the crowd. "We probably had a fair number more than that, since we've started to run out of food."

Hot dogs, chips and beverages were on the menu, and have been being served for most of two hours as the iced treats continue to disappear. All around Bryant's serving location, families are talking; children are playing on the nearby equipment while adults supervise.

Christ Community Church, located just across the street from Northeast Park, has reserved not only the pavilion, but also the nearby waterpark for this evening's events. The meal they are serving is free to all comers.

The purpose of the gathering, Bryant says, is to broaden the church's presence in the community. The church has recently finished its summer Vacation Bible School program and is looking forward to its fall programs for children and youth.

"We wanted to provide an event that served families, that gave them a setting where they could mingle and enjoy fellowship."

Christ Community Church has been in Waseca since the 1960s. Its 250 members are currently served by both Bryant, in charge of youth programs, and senior pastor Rick Wulf. In addition to its regular worship ses-



Top, five-year-old Aubrey Heroff balances her way across the floating obstacles as helpful adult Adam Troyer watches for her safety.

Left, Christ Community Church youth pastor Scott Bryant distributes frozen treats during the church's evening of fellowship at Northeast Park in Waseca.

Right, Christ Community Church office manager Jeannie Hadley serves hot dogs during the free meal offered the evening of Sunday, July 30.

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

sions, the church offers a Spanish service on Monday evenings.

Bryant estimates that roughly 40 percent of the people present this evening are members of Christ Community. The rest, he says, are likely present because of the extensive outreach members have done to invite families for the evening. He says he is thrilled that so many families are joining in on the sense of community which the evening is meant to provide.

"And we plan for even more over at the waterpark," he observes. There, the church has paid to open the swimming facilities free of charge for all comers.

In the pool, people of all ages enjoy the variety of facilities; by 7:30 p.m., nearly 400 people have already arrived.

"This is really fun," comments diving board gymnast Ashton Hayes. "It was really nice of the church to do this for us."

"I've never come here before," comments one nearby adult. "This is a great park...and we all get to swim for free!"



Deanna Summers

Summers honored

Roger J. Wolfe
award celebrated
during annual
MVAC dinner

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Deanna Summers of Janesville was honored posthumously by the Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) with the 2023 Roger J. Wolfe service award. Before her sudden death in 2021, Summers helped organize and start Simply Saved Thrift Store, serving on the board of directors, managing the finances, and planning the annual fashion show fundraiser. She was a co-president of Janesville Matters where she worked tirelessly writing grants and fundraising for various improvements to the Janesville community. She also volunteered with Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Big Sisters, school reading programs, and community education crafting classes. She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville.

The Roger J. Wolfe Achievement Award was established in memory of Roger J. Wolfe who served on the MVAC Board of Directors for 22 years. During this time, Roger contributed his time and energy to help improve the lives of others. This honor goes to someone who symbolizes the ideals that Roger represented.

MVAC announced this award during its 57th annual meeting and awards dinner, during which numerous other honorees were named.

MVAC honored an "achiever" or a "supporter" from each of the nine counties that represent the agency service area.

Honored as an "achiever" in Waseca County was Peyton Crow. The criteria to be selected is to be someone receiving MVAC services who demon-

MVAC continued on 5

Some of my favorite fishing experiences

I've had a couple of wonderful fishing experiences this summer. Pier fishing is available to people who don't own a boat but enjoy fishing from shore. I decided to head to Fountain Lake in Albert Lea to fish from a pier. I took some buddies along, since angling alone isn't my cup of tea: I enjoy conversation and company whenever I go.

It was a hot summer day; fishing from a floating dock was spectacular. We caught bluegills of all sizes, some were 8-9 inches and great size for a fish meal. I caught a trophy one just under 11 inches; in my younger years that big guy would have gone on the wall. We threw enough fish for meat into a bucket and helped two ladies and daughter put gills in their bucket. Their husbands work at Hormel in



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika

Austin and they wanted to surprise them with a fish supper. I wonder if the ladies cleaned them? When I returned home, I cleaned mine—had enough for a meal and decided to present a meal to those who appreciate them. Time for a random act of kindness. I went out to Waseca - Clarks Grove Vet Clinic with a couple of bags of fresh sunfish filets. Sue Borglum is a wonderful employee who assists pet owners daily, always

with a smile. Sophie cuts and grooms hair and nails for our wonder dog Sammie, always doing a first class job. Sammie really enjoys her bath and hair styling. Every time I pick her up, she prances out, head held high, a real lady. Sue and Sophie both enjoyed a fresh meal of fish.

Jim Panzram had been trolling for northern pike in an area lake. To my delight, he invited me to tag along. Jim trolls with an ancient lure called

the spoonplug; you can't buy them anymore. The spoonplug is made of curved metal and has eyes resembling an owl; it trolls right to the bottom. If you have any for sale please call Dave Zika. Jim handed me a thick, 5 ft. rod with heavy, colored line. He instructed me to let out a section of line to the purple color, and away we went trolling his hot spots at 4 mph.

It was a hot summer day and we trolled from 2-4 p.m. in the heat of the day. I experienced something I'd book a trip to Canada for. I caught and landed 7 northern pike ranging from 26" to 34" long, in two hours of fishing. The biggest weighed just

Zika continued on 6

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OBITUARIES

Delency Sutlief

Delency Louis Sutlief, age 88 of Waseca, died Sunday, July 30, 2023, at Mayo Health System – Mankato.

Born on March 25, 1935, in Waseca, a son of the late Austin and Esther (Duitman) Sutlief. He was baptized as an infant on May 6, 1935. He graduated from Central High School in Waseca, Minnesota. In April of 1958, he was drafted in the United States Army during the Korea Occupation, serving until April of 1960. He would continue in the Army Reserves until his honorable discharge in March of 1964 earning the rank of Sergeant E5. On May 5, 1962, he married JoAnn Sutter at First Congregational Church in Waseca. He would go on to work the next 45 years as a Laborer for Birds Eye General Food's in Waseca until his retirement in 1997. Following his retirement, he found joy in being a bus driver for many years for Waseca Area Schools. He was an active member of the Waseca VFW Sweet-Sommers Post 1642 and was also a member of First Congregational Church in Waseca. Delency loved his family, being active in VFW events, playing cards with his brothers, calling Bingo, and reading western books.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, JoAnn Sutlief of Waseca; children, Lisa (Scott) Borst of Waterville, Michael (Leann) Sutlief of Waseca, Mitchell Sutlief of Waseca, Denise (Kelly) Pforr of Prior Lake, Craig Sutlief of Waseca; eight grandchildren, Natasha Sutlief of Virginia, Minnesota, Cayla (Blu) Anderson of Kitzville, Minnesota, Joshua Sutlief (Anne Wetherbee) of Fayetteville, Georgia, Jon Borst of Plymouth, Minnesota, Tyler Borst of Owatonna, Michael Sutlief of



Delency Sutlief

Owatonna, Brandon (Hannah) Sutlief of Pella, Iowa, Layne Pforr of Prior Lake; great-grandchildren, Warren Sutlief, LeAura and Lottie Melheim, Bryant and Wyatt Dunkel; one brother, Rolland Sutlief of Treasure Island, Florida. He is preceded in death by his parents; four brothers Donald and his wife Audrey, Byron, Orville, Melvin and his wife Virginia Sutlief; two sisters Virgie Lehman and her husband Lester and Pearl Peterson and her husband Arvid; sister-in-law Cleone Sutlief.

In honoring his wishes, he will be cremated. A Memorial Service was on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at 11:00 AM at First Congregational Church in Waseca with Reverend Ken Andrs officiating. Burial followed in the Woodville Cemetery in Waseca. Visitation was held two hours prior to the service at the church. Following the burial, all were invited to the Waseca VFW Sweet-Sommers Post 1642 for a time of fellowship with the family. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service handled the arrangements. Dsofuneral.com Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt

Marilyn Lykken

Marilyn J. (Danielson) Lykken, age 82 of Waseca, died Monday, July 31, 2023, in Redwood Falls, Minnesota.

Born April 14, 1941, in Lanesboro, MN, a daughter of the late Elnor and Myrtle (Olson) Danielson. She graduated from Lanesboro High School, Class of 1959. On February 1, 1974, she married Richard Lykken in South Dakota. Marilyn loved her family, she enjoyed fishing, baking, crafting, knitting, crocheting, and going to casinos.

She is survived by her husband Richard; children, Katherine Bruhn of Burnsville, Lorrie (Brad) Kohl of Harlan, Iowa, Patricia (Kevin) Kirchberg of St. Michael, Tammy (Todd) Zimmerman of Mankato; grandchildren, Larry (Romina) Esk of Omaha, Nebraska, Jesse (Angie) Bruhn of Elko New Market, Lindsey Bruhn of Minneapolis, April (Steve) Riley of Harlan, Samantha Kirchberg (Shayne Zurn) of Maple Grove, Alex Kirchberg of St. Michael, Alexis Overholt (Jon Aumann) of Des Moines, Iowa, Bella Overholt of Mankato; great-grandchildren, Amelia Bruhn of Elko New Market, Christina Kirchberg of St. Michael, Charles Riley of Harlan, Skyler Rockwell-Esk, Ashton Rockwell-Esk, Amelia Esk all of Omaha; siblings, Linda (Tom) Jensen, Marlys Paulson (Elvin Paulson), Darlene Sutherland; sister-in-law, Linda Daniel-



Marilyn Lykken

son; several nieces, nephews and extended relatives.

She is preceded in death by her parents; one son, Danny Lykken; siblings, DeLoyce Danielson (brother who died in infancy), Roger Danielson, Gloria Vrieze, and her husband Nevin, Phyllis Ellis and her husband David, Gerald Danielson and his wife Barb, Bob Danielson, Vernon Danielson and his wife Jackie; sister-in-law; Marge Danielson; brother-in-law Bruce Sutherland.

Visitation will be held, Sunday, August 13, 2023, from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM at the Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service, Third Street Chapel. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service is handling the arrangements. Dsofuneral.com

Council continues to review budget

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

Council members continued their review of the city's projected 2024 budget at the July 24 Janesville City Council meeting. The Janesville Police Department's general fund budget is expected to increase by nearly 9% to \$720,389 in 2024, compared to \$661,610 in 2023. Like other aspects of the city's budget that have increased, it was said by the council to be partially due to a rise in insurance costs. The cost of natural gas for heating was said to have been underestimated last year and was raised for 2024. Finally, human resource allotments were also raised because of an expected increased need. City administrator Clinton Rogers reminded the council that they have until September to "run preliminary numbers" on all aspects of the budget. Then, it will be sent for review at the Waseca County Courthouse.

Janesville's current accounts receivable were accepted by the council. It was noted that while the city received the first half of its local government aid (LGA) at the end of the previous week, that payment was not reflected in the documents available at the meeting. The closing of three streets near Veterans Memorial Park for the Janesville Night Out on Sunday, July 30 was approved by the council as well.

Police Chief Dave Ulmen reported that two candidates had been interviewed for a new sergeant position in the Janesville Police Department. Steve Johnson

was chosen for the position by the department; the council approved his hiring.

The council discussed updated designs for new playground equipment to be installed at Veterans Memorial Park. Although the equipment cost about \$2,000 more than originally planned, the council agreed to pay the additional costs with Park Forward funds.

The council reported receiving a quote from ISG of Mankato, regarding the cost of building a city community center, an item that will be handled at future meetings. While the possibility of adding a sales tax to fund the project was discussed at the previous meeting, members were since made aware that due to a recent law, no new sales tax decisions can be made until after a moratorium set to end on June 1, 2025.

Kelsey Carson CPA from Abdo appeared to deliver the company's audit of Janesville's 2022 budget. Carson said that the company was planning on finalizing the report within the next week. She said that under generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), Abdo found no evidence of misstatements or non-compliance of Minnesota law in the budget.

One auditor recommendation was made to the council. "The majority of your cash is sitting in an account that earns 0.5% interest," said Carson. "The current market rate is much higher than that," she added, saying that finding a better interest rate would be worth looking into.

JANESVILLE
CITY COUNCIL

2022's general fund balance was \$2,132,419. Revenues above anticipated amounts included an extra \$71,000 in property taxes and two years of Fire State Aid from the Minnesota Department of Revenue. However, other miscellaneous revenues fell short of what was anticipated by about \$35,000.

Some expenses were also over budget, due to safety personnel services and increased engineering costs for the "safe routes to school" project. Carson reported that a main cause for decreased fund balances was transfers out to other accounts or projects. The "safe routes to school" transfer amounted to \$67,000 that was not budgeted for.

In general revenues, Carson said that taxes saw "quite an increase," due to an uptick in levy and delinquent collection. Carson said that the city had about \$146,000 in leftover revenues from 2022 to spend, which are expected to be used on street improvements.

Carson said that the Prairie Ridge Golf Course's fund "had a great year," with operating receipts over \$450,000 and operating disbursements of \$350,000. Carson said that this showed a growth of profit from year to year. Council members added that while the golf course is not in debt, it had to pay interest on a PPP loan and for golf cart leases in 2022.

Overall, Carson said that Janesville's budget was about in line with other Class 4 Cities in Minnesota, including those in Waseca County.

Council person Ivan Maas said he recently had a meeting with the residents of Park Road Plaza Apartments, who wanted to thank first responders for being quick to respond to an emergency call. He added that community members wanted to issue a thank you to Janesville's power workers for fixing an outage during Hay Daze in June, despite the Father's Day holiday.

Austin Carda of Janesville Boy Scout Troop 89 spoke about his plans to renovate Lakeview Park's shed in September or October as his Eagle Scout project. He said that these repairs are highly necessary, as the lock to the shed is "smashed" and it has become prone to break-ins and nesting animals. Other areas of repair include cinder blocks that need to be filled in and fixing the shed's tin roof. Carda said that the project is expected to cost about \$2,500 and he is willing to solicit contributions at community businesses if he does not receive that amount from the city government.

Arnoldt said that the city's parks board has already discussed Carda's project and he expects the full \$2,500 to be paid from the equipment fund. "The project sounds like a terrific idea and we're awfully thankful to have you do it," said Arnoldt.

■ Wings

from Page 3

Mallory, 10, not only had to face that immeasurable loss, but the task of planning, preparing for, and attending an unexpected-unanticipated-funeral.

The Finly's Wings organization arranges a concert most summers, making all arrangements and paying for all costs. A person or family is selected to receive the free will admission money paid by those who attend.

For Olson herself, a highlight was touching base with many of her former students who came to support her: With about 50 new students each year over the 20 years of her career at NRHEG, Olson has touched the lives of at least 1,000 NRHEG youth.

"It was heartwarming to see them and find out where their lives have taken them," recalled Olson. "I loved hearing their stories and having them describe their memories from Spanish class."

A surprise for the evening was a gift from New Richland resident Brenda Kampen, who had acquired a large print of a painting by well-known Mexican artist Frida Kahlo.

"My family and I are truly grateful and humbled to have been chosen as the benefactors for this event."

— Joanie Olson

Kahlo achieved fame in the 1940s and '50s for her stylized self portraits. Kampen presented the print with the intent that it could be displayed in the NRHEG Spanish language classroom.

Olson expresses her thanks to everyone who attended the evening's event, and to the Finly's Wings organization. "They do so much for the

NRHEG community," she says. "A person just can't say enough about the caring spirit, the kind hearts and the generosity that motivate them to keep making our community a better place."

"My family and I are truly grateful and humbled to have been chosen as the beneficiaries for this event."



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Shown above were members of the security team on opening night for the 2023 Waseca County Free Fair. Individuals shown are representing Waseca County Sheriff's Office, Waseca County Mounted Posse, and Waseca Police Reserves. From left: Doug Gerdtz, Victoria Rethemeier, Jeff Androli, Traci Hodgkins, Cole Ulrich, Scott Rew, Jolene Gundermann, Ken Borgmann, Erin Heitkamp, Brandon Herrmann, Joshua Langr, Sheriff Jay Dulas, Matt DeWees, Josh Knudtson, James Johannsen. Pioneer photo by Deb Bentley

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University of MN salutes 2023 Farm Families of the Year

ST. PAUL, Minn. (7/11/2023) — Families and growers from all of Minnesota’s 87 counties will be represented as the University of Minnesota honors them in the 2023 Farm Family of the Year ceremony. This is the first time in recent memory that every county has selected agricultural leaders for this recognition.

The farms will be recognized in a ceremony beginning at 1:15 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 3, at the annual Minnesota Farmfest on the Gilfillan Estate near Redwood Falls. The event is in the Wick Buildings Farmfest Center on the estate grounds.

Those honored cover a wide spectrum of farming, from traditional crops and livestock to community-based ventures focused on organics and traditional native foods. They were chosen by county-based local University of Minnesota Extension committees based on their demonstrated commitment to enhancing and supporting agriculture.

“This year’s Minnesota’s Farm Families of the Year reflect the breadth and variety of agriculture in our state,” said Extension Dean Bev Durgan. “The University of Minnesota is proud to honor these families and their innovation and dedication to Minnesota agriculture.”

A sampling of farmers and their contributions to agriculture follows. All the 2023 families are profiled at extension.umn.edu/farm-families.

Pennington County
Neal and Nicole Peterson
Neil and Nicole Peterson’s multi-generational farm consists of 1,100 acres of rotating crops of soybeans, alfalfa, oats, wheat and corn. The Petersons grow 30 to 40 varieties of fruits and vegetables and 60-plus varieties of pumpkins. In 2010, the Petersons began producing canned goods to sell at the Thief River Falls Farmers Market. In 2015 they launched a small community-support agriculture enterprise and five years later, sold their beef herd.

All of the Petersons’ children and their families are involved with the farm; Nicole’s parents also help. Neil has served on the Pennington County Board since 2011, where his duties include serving on the Extension Committee. He devotes his time to a wide range of community service organizations. Nicole coordinates the Red Kettle Campaign for the Salvation Army in Pennington County and takes part in Pennington County One Vegetable Community Group and serves on the county fair board.

Scott County
Vern and Becky Wick
The Wicks purchased their farm from Vern’s parents in 1990. The current farm consists of 46 Jersey and Holstein milk cows; they also have dry cows and raise their own calves for replacement heifers. They grow corn, alfalfa and oats – all to feed their livestock – on 160 acres. They also raise broiler chickens and laying hens. In 2016, they converted all their acreage to no-till and twin-row planting. They plant winter rye as a cover crop following corn silage and small grains, and they rotationally graze the milking cows, dry cows and heifers on the cereal rye. They were the 2020 Scott County Conservation Leaders of the Year.

The Wicks have four adult children, all of whom helped on the farm as they grew up. They are Dairy Herd Improvement Association and Minnesota Farm Bureau members, and are very involved with their parish church in Jordan. They also like to harvest maple syrup, garden,

explore new holistic and fermented foods, and enjoy deer hunting.

Big Stone County
Olson Family
Les and Jessica Olson’s farm was founded by his great-grandparents in 1888. Today, it’s one of two sites that make up Big Stone Garlic Company, where garlic is grown in a reclaimed cattle yard and sold both locally and across the country. With daughters Rosa and Anika, the family does planting, weeding harvesting, processing and sales.

Les, Jessica, Rosa and Anika are involved in planting, weeding, harvesting, processing, packaging and sales. Rosa handles website administration and Jessica takes care of the book-keeping. The Olsons work with University of Minnesota Extension and Bonnie’s Hometown Grocery to pioneer a backhauling process that enables small specialty crop farmers to access larger markets with their produce. They’re active in sustainable farming efforts, while the daughters are leaders in their 4-H club.

Dodge County
Glenn and Carolyn Hahn
University of Minnesota alum Glenn Hahn and his wife Carolyn started a small dairy in 1993 on a rented farm when their son Brian joined the operation. The Hahns sold their dairy herd in 1997 and expanded the crop side of the business. In 2014, son Brian and his family traded farms with Glenn and Carolyn when Brian took over a major part of the operation in both acres and management. Today, the farm consists of corn, soybeans, canning corn and hay on about 2,000 acres of owned and rented land.

Glenn is a member of the Dodge County Corn and Soybean Growers Association. He served on the Dodge County FSA board for nine years and currently is a Dodge County Soil and Water Conservation District supervisor and a member of the county livestock siting committee. Glenn also devotes time as a policy board member on the Root River One Watershed One Plan and is a supervisor for the Vernon Township board. The Hahns are 40-plus-year members of the Minnesota Farmers Union, where Glenn served as county president for more than a decade and Carolyn remains as secretary/treasurer. They are active members of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hayfield.

Ramsey County
Urban Roots
Over the years, Urban Roots organizers have provided a range of community development services with a common thread of empowerment, engagement and innovation. Since 1996, Urban Roots has provided paid internships to youth on the East Side of St. Paul. Interns develop leadership, entrepreneurial and life skills through the program’s Market Garden, Conservation, and Cook Fresh programs. Each year up to 80 interns, ages 14-24, participate in Urban Roots’ progressive, tiered programming connects to each other and the world around them.

Urban Roots’ Market Garden Program wouldn’t exist without the hard work of its staff: Skyler Hawkins is the farm manager, Jaclyne Jandro serves as the youth program manager, Marcos Giossi is the farm coordinator, Paloma Cardoza is the coordinator of youth programs, Alfredo Alvarado is the group’s market coordinator, and Hayley Ball is the executive director of Urban Roots.



CHRISTMAS 1963 - From left: Marvin, Dolores, Marsha, Deb, Dennis and Mark Sommers.

■ Sommers

from Page 1

list of vegetables and laughs, “Lots of times, I had so much food I didn’t know what to do with it all.” Like most farmers of her time, Dolores used currently available techniques to preserve as much of the food as possible for future use. This meant “putting up” food in Mason jars in earlier years and freezing it later on. Dolores describes making many different kinds of pickles and processing tomatoes all through the last half of the summer.

When it comes to the garden, Marsha remembers the extended family gathering to dig each household’s potatoes and get them put away for the winter.

Asked about how technology developed over her time on the farm, Dolores remembers the “party line” phone. A certain number of households would all be connected using the same phone line. When a call would come in, it would be accompanied by a specific combination of rings, for example, two longs and a short. Party line users knew by the individualized ring who, among the several households, the particular call was meant for. When any family was using the line, all others had to wait until the current user was finished. It was also possible to pick up the receiver and listen in on other people’s calls.

Dolores comments, however, that she was always too busy to use her

time spying on others.

A piece of technology she remembers being very glad to acquire was a barn cleaner. “After that, we didn’t have to fork the mess any more,” she says.

In addition to her work at home, Dolores worked for 15 years at Winegar’s Machining, which was owned by her brother at the time. She remembers being assigned a machine that produced especially small, fine parts, and jokes that she broke more than her share of the pieces she produced. Despite that, she remembers her brother was grateful to have the help.

While still raising her family, she also took seasonal work at Bird’s Eye for both the June pea harvest and the summer sweet corn pack for a bit of extra income.

As an active member of St. Johns church, Dolores joined the quilters, helping make blankets and quilts to be distributed through missions. According to Marsha, she also made covers for family members, perhaps most especially for new babies. She embroidered pillowcases and towels, another common pastime, and decorated special little “tooth fairy packets” as gifts for young children.

“She did a lot of volunteer work,” emphasizes Marsha, mentioning that Dolores served as a “Meals on Wheels” driver for 15 years.

Given all that she’s accomplished, then, it seems completely accurate to summarize Dolores’ system for living longer than a century as “a lot of hard work.”

These days she enjoys the pastimes and company at Colony Court,



BROTHER AND SISTER - Don and Dolores Winegar



JUNE WEDDING - Dolores and Marvin were married on June 1, 1949.

Contributed photos

visits from her 4 children, 8 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, and the occasional treat—including

deliveries from her son Dennis, owner of Grandma D’s Kettle Corn.

■ Zika

from Page 3

over 8 lbs. They were all thick, healthy, fish and we released them all back into the water. It was an unforgettable fishing experience and I can’t help but thank the DNR Waterville fisheries for my wonderful fishing this summer. Oh, and yes, thank you, Jim.

I’m a huge fan of the DNR Waterville fish hatchery. When I listen to someone complain my response is simple: “Where would we fishermen be without them?” All of the crew employed at the hatchery have to deal with climate change, drought, increasing technology, and fishing pressure 12 months a year on our many southern Minnesota lakes. The hatchery is also a division of our great state of Minnesota, so naturally they have to deal with politics.

Our lakes are divided into 3 tiers. Those rated number 1 are regarded as a high priority for management. An example: Clear Lake in Waseca is a tier 1; Loon Lake is tier 3. Hatchery biologists and the crew can assess a lake and professionally figure its health in regards to fish population. Area lakes are electro shocked, and netted to survey the fish population. With the data gathered the hatchery takes measures to make the lake the best it can be for fishing. You can contact the Waterville hatchery any time and they will give you up to date statistics on surveyed lakes.

The hatchery gathers female walleyes in the spring from area lakes, fertilizes the eggs, and grows millions of fry to be stocked. Some of the fry go into shallow area lakes where they are released in the fall as fingerlings. If you catch a walleye in Madison or Washington Lake, it’s

been stocked by the hatchery. This spring the hatchery successfully raised a number of muskies that will be stocked in lakes throughout the state for musky fisherman to enjoy.

Lake Elysian was a great lake to fish last summer and my family enjoyed great fishing for walleyes and crappies. The lake suffered a severe winter kill, both game fish and rough fish. The fisheries will be busy this summer stocking the appropriate game fish, bringing the lake back to good fishing. Mazaska Lake was surveyed and it was determined that the sunfish there needed help. The result, a five-fish limit.

I’m sure Mr. Bluegill breathed a sigh of relief and is on his way to recovery.



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Bridge players MaryLou Kaderlik, Robert Hunter and Frances Kunz during the Waseca Senior Citizens Center's Friday card tournament.

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently



Card games at senior center

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

“Have you seen her garden?”
“Forget about that, wait until you see the inside of her house...”

Conversation is lively as people arrive and settle in for Friday afternoon card games at the Waseca Senior Citizens Center. The Bridge players have a 12:15 start time; 500 players don't officially begin until 1:00, when a bell is rung to let everyone know the games they are playing are no longer “just practice.”

On this particular Friday, 24 folks have gathered from quite a wide area to play 500. Regular participants LaVonne Kalke and Sharon Smith indicate occupants of various tables who have come from Wells, New Richland, Owatonna, Pemberton, Morristown, and Faribault. Smith, who lives in Wells, mentions that she also goes to Thursday afternoon games at the Easton senior center.

And what's the attraction? “Social interaction,” says Kalke, as though the answer is obvious. “A chance to get out and talk with people,” answers Smith. Alvin Miller, a now-retired farmer who operated a hog farm in Blooming Grove Township much of his life, says he rarely misses one of the Friday-afternoon tournaments. He qualifies himself as a slightly-above-average card player, but states that winning or losing are not really the objective. “It's meeting people,” he says. “It's visiting with folks.”

Player Nancy Berndt of Waseca agrees. “It's more fun when there are lots of players,” she observes. “And the most fun of all when you're winning.”

“I like winning,” agrees Edy Barber. “But then, I think we all do.” She goes on to say, though, that win or lose, the card games are an enjoyable part of her week.

The system at the Waseca senior center is that each player pro-

vides a \$2 ante at the 1:00 start time. Tables of 4 compete, and at regular intervals the winning pair receives a punch and rotates forward. At the 3:00 finish time, the players with the most punches are proclaimed the winners and are refunded their \$2 entry fee. The two who place second are refunded \$1.

With playing finished for the day, everyone enjoys coffee and a treat—today's will be apple turnovers, according to center director, Tarin Kuball. “Then everybody chats and visits until we tell them they have to leave,” she adds lightheartedly.

Over at the Bridge-playing side of the room, numbers are somewhat smaller and expectations are slightly different. For one thing, according to coordinator and player Don Frankenberry Sr, Bridge players are asked to sign up a week in advance so that everything possible can be done to arrange for full tables of 4 players each.

Today, despite Frankenberry's efforts, there are 7 players. This leads to the difficult circumstance of one person from the four-player table having to “fill in” at certain points at the three-player table. “It's not how we like to do it,” says player Robert Hunter, “but we're doing the best we can under the circumstances.”

At this point Frankenberry calls out, “Tell people we need more players! We'll take them even if they can only come once in a while!”

Throughout the games, playing and banter continue. Every now and then, 500 player Smith checks on her small white dog, Ohso Cute, now 16 years old. Housed in a stroller, Ohso looks on patiently as play continues. Smith mentions that's one reason she's chosen the Waseca card tournament—management had no objection to the dog's presence.

In among the players, director Tarin Kuball and volunteer Kari



GETTING THE NEWS OUT - Kari (left) and Tarin (right) Kuball send out the center's monthly newsletter.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

“We need more (Bridge) players. We'll take them even if they can only come once in a while!.”

— Robert Frankenberry Sr.

Kuball (her mother) watch the activity while also preparing the center's monthly newsletter for mailing. Tarin explains the center has about 260 members who receive the newsletter. Joining is only a matter of completing a brief form and paying a \$10 annual fee—there is no minimum age or residency requirement.

She explains that the center receives funding from the United Way and from both the county and city governments. Her job as director is to plan and coordinate the activities which fill the calendars currently being mailed.

In addition to the Friday afternoon card games, the center holds Bingo on Wednesdays beginning at 12:30 p.m. The schedule includes 20 games of Bingo followed by a snack. On the second Thursday of each month there is a \$5 “Bingo Supper.” Lasting from 3 to 5 p.m., the event follows the agenda provided by its name: About 2 hours of Bingo followed by a supper prepared by some of the center's members. “And they're good cooks,” says Kari. “So it's a good time to be

here.”

Also on the center's weekly schedule is an afternoon of pool which begins each Tuesday at 1:00, for which roughly a dozen people usually come.

The newest weekly event, begun a few months ago, is a Euchre tournament, also held on Tuesdays beginning at 1. So far, about 8 people typically arrive for that. Afterwards is—who could've guessed—coffee and a treat.

Also offered at the center are “Stay Active and Independent for Life” (S.A.I.L.) exercise classes each Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

The center is closed on Mondays.

“We look for activities and events that help make life a little better,” observes director Tarin. Indicating the very full calendar in the newsletter, she comments, “We're always open to new ideas and suggestions.”

“It's fulfilling to see all these folks getting together and enjoying each others' company.”

\$20 sports screenings for students

MANKATO, Minn. — Student athletes entering grades 7 through 12 in the 2023–2024 school year can receive a \$20 sports screening at one of the Mayo Clinic Health System locations across the Southwest Minnesota region at events in July and August.

Appointments are required at most locations. Schedule an appointment through the patient portal, the Mayo Clinic App or by calling the listed location number.

Sports screenings will be held at the hospital in Waseca (501 North State Street) from 5 to 6 p.m. on August 3. More information can be acquired by calling 507-835-1210. Screenings are also offered at the Mankato Clinic's offices in the Madison East Health Center at 1400 Madison Avenue, Suite 100AA, from 5 to 8 p.m. on July 19. More information available by

calling 507-594-2600.

New this year is the ability to receive immunizations during the sports screening event. Parent or guardian consent is required to receive immunizations. Student athletes must bring the completed and signed Consent to Treat Unaccompanied Minor form to the sports screening event.

Request immunizations when scheduling the sports screening appointment. Insurance will be billed for any immunizations given.

Student athletes should wear gym shorts and a T-shirt to the screening, bring their school identification and a completed Minnesota High School League sports screening form. Any participants under the age of 18 should have a parent or guardian accompany them.

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City talks marijuana laws, public meeting set

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

With the passage of legal recreational marijuana in the State of Minnesota going into effect Aug. 1, the New Richland City Council heard from city attorney Jason Moran regarding the city's options moving forward during its second council meeting of the month on Monday, July 24.

"This is a big change for law enforcement and a big change for all of us in the legal community," Moran said.

Currently, the city has two options: to pass an interim ordinance prohibiting retail sale and issuance of retail licenses for cannabis up to Jan. 1, 2025, or to do nothing and allow. After Jan. 1, 2025, the city would have to allow at least one license for sale. The interim ordinance would allow the city time to get zoning ordinances regarding hours, places, and manner of operation, figured out between now and the deadline of Jan. 1, 2025.

It was noted that the state's Department of Cannabis will eventually license retail THC establishments, though the state will not be ready to license establishments until early to mid-2024, giving the city more time for discussion and decision making regarding sales of THC in the city.

The council agreed to hold a public hearing on the matter, which has been scheduled for Aug. 14 at 6:35 p.m.

A public hearing was held during the meeting regarding vacating an alley running east to west between Cedar Avenue North and Birch Avenue North. With no members of the public present for comment, the council approved Resolution 23-13 to vacate the alley.

Bob Johannsen presented the care center report, stating that the center's average census for June was 36.3. There were six admissions during the month and two residents were discharged to their homes. Overall, Johannsen said June "was a good month."

The 2022 audit for the care center, which was due months ago, has not yet been completed, but is expected to be received by the first week in August. Until the audit is received, the city cannot

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

file its own audit, and City Administrator Tony Martens has been in contact with the company conducting the audit on multiple occasions.

The care center still has openings for CNAs, RN or LPN, and a bus driver.

"If you know of anybody in any of those positions, please forward them to us," Johannsen said. "We'd like to fill up [the positions] and not have to use agency staffing any longer."

It was also noted that the care center's advisory board is now full. The report was approved.

The PeopleService report was submitted in writing, and it was noted that recent smoke testing identified one property with issues that is in the process of being addressed. The report was approved.

In the Water and Street report, it was stated that 25 blue cards were issued in June with one shutoff due to lack of payment. A catch basin was put in at 1st St. NE by the care center on July 13, and Affordable Jetting cleaned city hall on July 13 as well. In preparation for a new fence at Legion Field, the backstop was removed July 17-19, and a fence was removed behind the north softball field on July 11. Work to be done on the infield and outfield at Legion Field due to uneven ground at a cost of \$2,743.75 was approved along with new tin on the dugout at the field at a cost of \$3,600. The report was approved.

An update was given on St. Olaf Lake concession stands, which, having not been utilized as much as hoped for this year, will only be open while lifeguards are at the lake. It was noted that the lake has not been used much this year despite an increase in swimming lesson participation, and it is thought this is due to the amount of weeds in the lake.

A contract with Jobs Plus for city hall, library, and fire hall cleaning was approved, which is expected to save the city about \$2,000/year beginning with the 2024 budget. The administrator's report was approved, and the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Jail

from Page 1

The most recently published inspection report states outright: "It is recommended that the Waseca County Jail be reduced to a 90 day facility," a significant downgrade from its current "jail" status.

It also states, "The Waseca County Jail was built in 1970. The life expectancy for a facility of this size is on average 25 years and this jail is now over 50 years old. Double bunking also reduces the life expectancy of a jail with added use and wear on the infrastructure. Although the facility has been maintained and updated where possible, the limited size and age of the physical plant is no longer meeting the needs of the inmate population."

According to Johnson, the DOC has given the county until its next inspection, in May of 2024, to find solutions for the shortfalls cited in its report. Strongest emphasis, he says, is placed on the current failure to comply with the expectation that prisoners being moved from the jail to the courtroom are brought through

"secure areas" with camera surveillance. Since the jail is not physically attached to the courthouse, incarcerated individuals actually walk outdoors for part of the move. "This is well known and creates a safety risk for the inmates and staff," states the report.

Other safety concerns listed in the report are deficiencies with the "line of sight" and quality of lighting within the facility. Problems with the nurse's office, attorney conference space, and recreational opportunities are also mentioned in the report.

Johnson seems to concur with the validity of the state's assessment: "There are many things within the jail that most people would recognize are not satisfactory," he says. The plumbing system, for example, was first constructed using cast iron pipes, was later augmented using copper, and most recently made use of PVC plumbing.

Given the state's determination regarding the jail, members of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners have been researching possible responses.

Johnson says options range from designing and building a new facility which meets all state expectations to finding a "hybrid" solution which

does just enough to preserve the facility's class 3 status as a "jail." Another option is to allow the downgrade and find a different location to house those incarcerated individuals with sentences longer than 90 days.

The county has been working with BKV Group, an architectural design firm out of the Twin Cities. BKV has provided some preliminary conceptual work which suggests building a new facility could cost as much as \$45 million, Johnson reveals. Given the typical jail population of fewer than 10 persons a day, he points out, that price might be difficult to justify.

Less expensive but still costly would be repairing, upgrading and extending the current facility. Although estimates are still being determined, Johnson says, costs to repair the plumbing system alone have been put at \$1 million in the past; an upgrade that includes many of the improvements specified by the DOC has been bid at as much as \$33 million in the past.

On the other end of the spectrum, board members have made visits to area facilities to explore adopting a "regional" approach to housing incarcerated individuals. Although no daily rates have been officially discussed, Waseca County could work

out an arrangement under which its prisoners would be kept at, for example, the current Steele or Blue Earth County facilities. Costs for housing inmates in past circumstances, Johnson says, have been about \$150 a day.

During a July 5 work session, commissioners DeAnn Malterer and Doug Christopherson described a tour they had taken at the Steele County jail near Owatonna. Discussion at that time surrounded the travel time and any complications that might arise for family members and attorneys who would want access to inmates.

Johnson said that commissioners plan to continue investigating and exploring options. Once they feel sufficiently informed, they will begin reaching out for public input, including holding at least two listening sessions.

"The board takes major capital expenditures very seriously," said Johnson. "Whatever path forward is chosen, they want it to be a long-term solution that makes the best use of funds while meeting the statutory requirements and taking public needs and interests into account."

"Finding that path takes time and deliberation."

Law

from Page 2

next year, so that we can get exactly that: What are folks using now? And how is that going to change then once the stores open? And we'll do another survey after the stores open so that we understand the public health outcomes and how we can best address them.

There's over \$5 million in this bill for studies and surveys to make sure that we are getting accurate information from broad public health, but also from youth: how are youth using? And how does that change with legalization?

Does legalizing cannabis affect youth use?

Kilmer: Typically, what researchers would do is they would look at the states that legalized it and compare them to the states that didn't legalize it. Early on, you only had a few states, you didn't have a lot of data. I would say the early research on this suggested that as states legalized, it didn't really have much of an effect on what we would call "past-month prevalence." That is, did you

use in the past month? And so the research tended to suggest that legalization doesn't have much of an effect on past month use, or may even decrease it.

That said, there was a new study that came out a little less than a year ago, which was much more rigorous and used additional years of data. And they actually found that when states adopted recreational marijuana laws and they had dispensaries, that it increased the past-month prevalence by 15 percent.

But we need to step back and say: well, do we really care about the past month's prevalence in terms of when we're thinking about the health consequences? A lot of what we need to do is not just whether or not somebody used in the past month, but how frequently were they using, what products were they using and this is where the surveys that Sen. Port referenced I think are gonna be really helpful.

The takeaway is we have a lot to learn about how cannabis legalization affects problem use.

Are there some provisions that will make it more equitable for people who want to start a business?

Port: We know that communities of color have been disproportionately harmed by cannabis prohibition. So

we wanted to make sure with this bill, that they're also able to really take advantage of being a part of this brand new industry. So there are social equity applications, for folks who live in a community that has been disproportionately harmed by cannabis and who have been personally harmed by cannabis [policy].

So if you have a past cannabis conviction, you're able to apply under this, if you live in an area that has been sort of over-policed, you are able to apply under this social equity application, and those jump to the beginning of the line, those are really given sort of higher preference in licensing. So we want to make sure that those folks across our state are able to get licenses to open those dispensaries.

How will tax revenue from marijuana sales be used?

Port: We kept our taxes pretty low. That was an ongoing choice that we made because we didn't want to out-price the legal market from the illicit market. So the tax rate is at 10 percent, and 20 percent of that goes to local communities, so cities and counties, to help with enforcement, public health, things like that.

We really worked in partnership with the cities and counties to make sure that they had the resources to

appropriately monitor regulations. The rest of it goes into the general fund to continue to build our state's ability to provide the services that our residents need.

Will marijuana prices in Minnesota go down?

Port: We absolutely expect the cost to go down with the recreational program, knowing that availability, demand and supply will massively increase across the state. Right now there are only two medical marijuana companies in Minnesota. So with the creation of a whole industry that will be able to sell, we absolutely expect the cost to go down significantly.

Also, starting in July, we're lowering medical patients' annual fee or registration fee to zero. We want to make sure that folks have access to their medical marijuana as easily as possible and we understand cost has been very prohibitive here in Minnesota.

We did put things in place to start driving that cost down and opening up not just the recreational market but also the medical market to new companies.



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1998: LEFT: John Grams of the Janesville Jacks and Jills and his horse Poncho came home with a number of ribbons from the 1998 County Fair. Grams received a grand champion in the key hole race; grand champion in the jumping figure eight; reserve grand champion for the poles - novice; and grand champion in barrels - novice. RIGHT: Brenda Hiles of the Janesville Jacks and Jills participated in the 4-H Dog Show on Thursday, July 23, at the Waseca County Fair. Pictured is Hiles with her American Eskimo dog, Sadie

Argus archives

Family of 66: who can top it?

100 Years Ago – 1923

- A wrestling match has been staged to take place at the pavilion on Saturday evening next to which all the sportsmen in the country and all others are cordially invited. The contestants are Kid Norton of St. Paul and Frank Knapp of Madison Lake, both professional.
- A Ku Klux Klan lecturer was not given a hearing in Waseca according to reports from that city. He tried to get in but the new mayor refused to allow him to talk.
- On Friday last shortly after one o'clock in the afternoon Alfred Hirscher was badly burned about the head and arms when his hair and clothing ignited from a gasoline stove. He was making a medicinal soap whose contents was a mixture of carbohic acid and oils.
- Brick work on the new Lutheran church was completed the latter part of the week. From now on the carpenters will put on the roofing and erect a twenty-eight foot steeple, while the basement will be cemented.

75 Years Ago – 1948

- Following is a copy of the Proclamation of the Governor establishing the dates of registration of the male citizens of Minnesota in the age group 18 through 25, pursuant to the provisions of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1948.
- Reports have come in that polio cases have finally appeared in Waseca county with the first one being reported on Thursday of last week at New Richland and shortly thereafter two cases were reported in the Waldorf territory.
- LOST: Three small ducks.
- Mr. and Mrs. Ole J. Anderson are 82 and have been married 61 years. They have four sons, six daughters, eleven grandchildren, nineteen granddaughters, eleven great grandsons, thirteen great granddaughters. Counting Pa and Ma that reaches the imposing total of 66. Who can top it?
- Midshipman John Edward Hogan, USNR, son of Mrs. Ellen Hogan of Janesville is participating in the two-month Naval Reserve Officers Training Cruise aboard the aircraft carrier USS Boxer.

50 Years Ago – 1973

- A free lunch, bargains galore, and the opportunity to dunk Rotarians are some of the highlights of Janesville's third annual Flea Market set for this Saturday.
- You've all heard people say, "I never won anything in my life." You won't hear that remark from Bob Krause family of Janesville. Last year Bob won the big prize, a Johnson motor, in the Sportsmen's Club annual summer drawing. This year his son, Steven, won the motor.
- Arthur Plath, principal of Trinity Lutheran School, has completed a 240-hour training course as a Right to Read director in the Minnesota Right to Read Program at Mankato State College.
- Jane Sexton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sexton, Janesville and Richard Greenwood, son of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Greenwood, New Richland, were united in marriage at a six o'clock nuptial mass by Father W.D. Sullivan at St. Ann's Catholic Church, Janesville, on June 29.
- Janesville welcomes seven new residents this week. They include Mr. Elmer Digner, a retired farmer.

25 Years Ago – 1998

- After 22 years of employment, Janesville resident Jeanette Bartelt decided to retire from State Farm Insurance. "I'm very happy for her," said Jack Frank, agent. "She was the best."
- Debra Rence Born and Robb Andrew Nelson were united in marriage Sept. 6, 1997 at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. The Rev. Roger Holland performed the 3 p.m. double-ring ceremony.
- Minnesota's mammoth drainage system will eventually fail unless some dramatic changes are made, said an economist with the University of Monnesota's Extension Service.
- A new education tool for this country's middle school science teachers is helping improve nutrition skills by capturing the imagination of children. The "Fueled for Flight" video education kit, created with checkoff funding from Waseca County beef producers, uses the exciting world of space travel to deliver a message about good nutrition and the role of beef in a healthful diet to fifth and sixth grade students.
- The Waseca County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education is planning a Farm Safety Clinic at the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Elementary school in Janesville for all fourth-graders on Tuesday, Sept.22.

Meat shortage increases crime

100 Years Ago – 1923

- There are about forty vacancies to be filled in the country school districts of Waseca county at present. Only eight prospective teachers took the examinations this week. They were: Mrs. Crystal Reinertson, Misses Pearl Roesler and Dorothy DeBar of Waseca; Misses Sarah Goltz and Laura Marsh of Janesville; Miss Cecelia Conway of St. Mary; Miss Genevieve Haley of Iosco; Mr. Ralph Crim of Cedar Falls, Iowa.
- A large number of people went out to Clear Lake last Sunday and enjoyed a flying stunt exhibition, given by George Vanselow. He gave a parachute drop into Clear Lake which proved quite a thriller and his other antics in the airplane were also enjoyed.
- Clerk Madigan says the city council, at the meeting last week, passed the largest batch of bills acted upon at any one meeting in years. There was a total of 80, calling for an outlay of between \$2,400 and \$2,500. Nearly all of them were for work on the streets and for the expenses of the recent election.
- George Boucher came in from his Blooming Grove farm Tuesday with a truck load of about the finest Early Ohio potatoes we have seen in years. They were smooth-skinned, solid and even in size and commanded a ready sale. Mr. Boucher says he treated the seed with formaldehyde last spring and now finds that the improved appearance of his potatoes pays him well for his time and expense.

75 Years Ago – 1948

- The right of a veteran of World War II to have first opportunity to buy or to rent a dwelling completed after June 20, 1947 and prior to April 1 next year, was emphasized today by Blake Haddon, Area Rent Director.
- Prime beef, top hogs, and lambs will be offered for sale by 4-H club members when they display their 4-H club projects at the annual sale. Some of the 4-H members have had their beef on feed for almost a year. In 4-H club work requires that a beef animal must have feed at least six months, pigs for three months and lambs for three months.
- Carol Ann Larson, 4-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Larson slipped and fell while climbing a tree Wednesday. Five stitches were needed to close the gash in her leg.
- Dr. Ralph L. West, formerly of Waseca, will speak on "Observations of the Foot and Mouth Disease Control program in Mexico" at a meeting of the Twin City Veterinary Medical Society at 8 p.m. Friday in the Veterinary building in Minneapolis.
- Effective August 11th, Father Gregoire will become the new spiritual director of the new St. Mary's Preparatory Seminary to be established on the campus of St. Mary's College, Winona.



-WINNERS- Champion in the Midget League is the Dairy Queen. Front row left to right: Ron Dahnert, Larry Welch, Brad Root, Dean Spies, Jeff Janssen. Back row left to right: Mike Miller, Dave Janssen, Dan Atwood, Scott Murphy, Doug Root, Keith McKay.

- Enrollment at the University of Minnesota Technical College-Waseca is 201 for Summer Quarter, it was recently announced by James Hesch, supervisor of admissions and records.
- LOST: Golden Retriever, answers to name Tuffy.
- Dave Wagner was appointed 3rd Ward Councilman last night to replace Bob Korteum who has moved from the city.
- High in Waseca from 8 a.m. Wednesday to 8 a.m. Thursday was 74; low 49 according to the Southern Experiment Station. No precipitation was recorded.
- The Waseca Braves warmed up for the start of Four County League play-off action by stopping Hayward 6-4 Wednesday night in an exhibition game at Community Field. The win puts Manager Warren Dunn's Braves above the .500 mark for the first time in quite some time. The Braves are now 14-13 on the season.
- The meat shortage has increased the crime rate in Waseca County over the weekend according to Don Eustice, Waseca County Sheriff. His office is investigating the possible theft of a 600 lb pig from the Herb Clausen farm in Alma City and an attempted burglary at Eisen's Sausage Company in Waldorf.

25 Years Ago – 1998

- The Waseca American Legion Post 228 Men's Marching Unit earned first-place honors in the parade competition at the 80th annual Department of Minnesota American Legion Convention in Bloomington on July 17.
- University Park to turn into Vietnam Veterans Memorial - After each of the two 123-foot walls arrive Tuesday night, they will be unloaded Wednesday at University Park. Organizers say Waseca can expect up to 30,000 visitors who will come to see the replica.
- The Waseca School Board unanimously approved a resolution creating a school liaison officer (SLO) position in the district Thursday at its meeting.
- The Waseca School Board unanimously approved a resolution at its Thursday meeting expanding the Waseca Area Learning Center (ALC) to include seventh- through ninth-grade students.
- Letters to the editor: I read with alarm articles stating Congress should reopen the Farm Bill and go back to supply management. Please ... haven't America's farmers suffered long enough under those insidious rules? We need to produce for a market, not the government.
- Waseca will soon benefit from a local bowling alley once again. Bowler's World owned by Loren Kaiser, LEs Cheever, and Harvey Cheever, is projected to open tomorrow.

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LOOKING BACK

100 Years Back - 1923

- Today the village that has been dead for 40 years was laid away in peace when the Waseca county board wrote an order dissolving the charter of the village of Wilton. Wilton was a city, once with a volunteer fire company, newspapers, lodges, county offices, and a wealth of real estate dealers and a rosy future. Now all that is left is a gaunt frame building, once the Wilton hotel.
- A new firm engaged in automobile repairing is making a bid for trade beginning this week. Ben Smith and Ernest Kroeger have formed a partnership of Smith & Kroeger and have rented the buildings and repair department of the Lower, Woodhall Co.
- An argument over a Rochester-Austin basketball scrap of last winter resulted in a free-for-all fight between Rochester and Austin base ball fans at the Jefferson Cafe at Albert Lea Thursday. Dishes were broken, chairs flew across the room, tables were turned over, perfectly good steaks, potatoes, gravy, bread, butter, and other delicacies skidded across the floor as waitresses skidded from the room. Three arrests were made when the cops called.
- If the engine of your car is missing you will not be able to recover it at the Star office. A variety of accessories and tags have been left, however, that may belong to you. Read them in the Star's "Want" column.
- N. E. Lowery of the Matawan neighborhood returned Tuesday after a stay of two months in the vicinity of Browns Valley, Minn. Corn, he states, is showing the effects of the drought in that territory, more so than in Waseca county.

77 Years Back - 1946

- Gene Mobley, Red Cross swimming instructor, is urging parents to continue sending their children to the regular swimming lessons and not to fear that poliomyelitis will result from the contact with other children.
- It was definitely decided by the Waseca County Fair board that everything at this year's 4-H fair is to be free, including the gate and grandstand. The entertainment is to be principally by the Red River Gang and clowns to supply free acts Tuesday afternoon and evening. There will be a fireworks display the first and third evenings.
- Last Thursday the Waseca Jaycee nine were soundly trounced by the local American Legionnaires 14 to 2 in a softball game at Skelly field. Billy Bell pitched creditable ball for 4 innings allowing but two hits. Kenny Finseth tossed the final three innings and shut out the visitors with two hits.
- Mr. and Mrs. Thorvold Shelby of Minneapolis and Halvard Langlie of Waterville visited at the Reuben Jacobson home Monday afternoon.
- For the past two weeks Mrs. Leonard Mortenson and son, Benny, visited relatives at Bemidji, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Krueger at Blackduck, and Mrs. Ralph Hayward at the cities. They returned Friday.
- "It's a grand and glorious feeling," was Earl Lange's comment on moving into their new dwelling the middle of last week. The new home in the west part of town is not completed on account of the shortage of material, but it is in livable condition.
- We wish to extend our thanks to the New Richland fire department and the neighbors who responded so promptly to our fire call Sunday. We appreciate your efforts, although there was no fire.--Mr. And Mrs. John Kelleher.

50 Years Back - 1973

- In a story in the Minneapolis Star Monday about the demise of Lea College, Albert Lea, Reed Waller, a student at the college, was quoted. In the interview, Waller said he stayed on at the school this past year because "Other schools I've been to won't let you be a person. I needed an education, but I wanted it to be personally meaningful. I found that Lea College was the only school which could provide that."
- An estimated \$50,000 in non-negotiable checks, \$250 in cash and several other checks were taken in a burglary at Hartland Elevator sometime early Saturday morning. The thieves gained entrance to the elevator through a rear window and peeled the safe. According to Mrs. Lawrence Knutson, bookkeeper, they were neat, moving several knick-knacks and books from one desk to another.
- Well, folks, I discovered something while away. Upon arriving home I read "Unofficial UFO Landing???" I wondered who had written the article and discovered that it was Tim Flor and LaJean Berg. From now on, when I "ain't got" a power of imagination, I will tell Tim to write the sports and LaJean to write the feature stories.--E. H. Engesser
- Afternoon visitors at the Clarence Reese home Saturday were Mrs. Norman Holmen, Cindy and Paulette.
- Mrs. Alvie Arnold and Tami of Owatonna visited at the Milford Berg home Monday evening.
- Thursday, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Mickelson attended a picnic dinner at the Elmer Jensen home south of Albert Lea. The honored guests were Mr. and Mrs. Tore Nelson of Norway.



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

- Kathleen Foster was promoted to serve as Hartland's Postmaster in July this year. She was formally installed in a special ceremony, Monday, Aug. 3 by Postmaster Dan Heins of Austin.
- Pemberton will celebrate Summerfest Saturday, Aug. 15 with lots of exciting events including a parade, a beef and turkey supper and the crowning of Miss Pemberton 1998. Candidates are Lana Burmeister, Lindsay Hines and Katie Ofstedahl. All will be juniors at JWP High School this fall.
- Family heritage items, music and albums of old and new pictures were featured at a gathering of 80 descendants of Espen and Gjertrud Hatle on July 12 during Farm-City Days in the New Richland City Hall.



BIG WIN — The Waseca Braves defeated visiting Minnesota Lake 4-2 last Saturday to earn a spot in the upcoming Region 6C Tournament. At left, Kelvin Nelson takes aim during his complete-game pitching victory. At right, Kyle Waugh is congratulated by teammates after hitting a home run.



Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Braves reach region tourney

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It's early August, and there are still games to play for the Waseca Braves. That can only mean one thing: they've qualified for the double-elimination region tournament. The Braves, already enjoying a successful season, defeated Minnesota Lake 4-2 at home Saturday, sending them to region. "It was a good win against a good team," said Braves coach Tink Larson. "We always have great games against them. We were fortunate that things went our way today." Kelvin Nelson was in control on the mound, tossing a complete game six-hitter. He fanned 10 and walked four. "Kelvin was very good again," said Larson. "His changeup was very good today." Nelson also had a couple hits, a walk and a sacrifice bunt. Kyle Waugh hit a solo home run. "That's always nice to see," said Larson. Tyson Reger, Seth Anderson, Jimmy Loonan and Ryan Wangen had one hit apiece. "With the adversity we've had in the past couple weeks after having a very good regular season, it was rewarding to win today so we can advance to the region tournament," said Larson.

The Braves lost 8-1 to Morristown at home on Sunday for seeding in the region tournament. "We had a very bad fourth inning," said Larson. "Morristown put together six straight hits." Sabastian Teague did a nice job with 3.2 innings of hitless relief after giving up a couple hits and runs in the disastrous fourth inning. Danny Cromer started and took the loss. "We didn't do much at the plate," said Larson. Alex Feeney went 2-for-3. Reger, Nelson and Payton Garza also hit safely. "I have to give credit to Doug Harmon, Morristown first baseman," said Larson. "He was the only Morristown hitter with two hits and I think he is 55 years old. He can still swing the bat well." The Braves, 17-6-1, are seeded fourth in the Region 6C Tournament and play Saturday at 7 p.m. at Jordan. On Sunday, they'll play at either 1:30 or 7 p.m. in Jordan against Waterville or Belle Plaine. Top bracket seeds, in order: Blue Earth, Gaylord, Morristown, LeSueur. Bottom bracket: Jordan, Waterville, Belle Plaine, Waseca. The tournament continues Aug. 6 and Aug. 12 at Jordan and ISG Field in Mankato.



The
Pastor's Column

Receiving faith in god as a kid

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS
"Let the little children come to me."
There is something encouraging about kids feeling safe in church. You have probably seen these kids before. The kids that feel safe are the ones that sing loudly, move quickly, and don't care that someone else is talking.
This week at First Congregational Vacation Bible School is in full swing. We have intentionally started small, reaching those in our church and our family members nearby. The children have started to feel safe, they are playing games, and eating snacks. Most importantly though, they are learning that God is real, and He loves each one of them.
It is a start, not only to Vacation Bible School, but to the lifelong discipleship that we hope to teach children, who will become teenagers, and ultimately adults. What we have started to do is to reveal to children that God loves them. We have been called to be faithful, the results are left to Him.
Jesus understood the need for children to encounter God, in Luke 18 we see the true story of Jesus interacting with children.
15 People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. 16 But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 17 I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."
This scripture shares a few important theological ideas with us. First of all, Jesus wanted nothing to stand in the way of children meeting God. What barriers, traditions, or expectations have we created that stand in the way of children coming to know Christ? What are we doing to reduce barriers for children to feel safe, encouraged, and loved by us and God?
Secondly, Jesus promised the kingdom of God to children. I have heard it said more than once and have adopted this next statement for my life and ministry. "Children are not the church of tomorrow, they are the church with us." Children are shaping the church of tomorrow, how are we encouraging them to use their gifts, talents, and abilities to give God glory and share the truths of God's word with friends and family?
Finally, we are to receive faith in God as a child. Jump with both feet into faith, don't go halfway or hold anything back. Put your faith in God, like a child trusts a parent. When we put trust in God everything changes, we become His children, we inherit the kingdom of God and have direct access to God.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * * * *	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * * * *	New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * * *	Interhim Pastor Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:00 a.m. Worship * * * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. * * * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * * * *	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass * * * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship * * * * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays 9 a.m., 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship * * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville Father Brian Mulligan 10 a.m. - Mass * * * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Vacancy Sunday = 1 p.m. Worship * * * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Vacancy Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: lcwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * * * *	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Pamela Jensen Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * * * *	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 * * * * *	NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St, Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday "Young at heart" Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation * * * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * * * *	LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting * * * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * * * *	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.
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. * * * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH		
REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-607-8245 Sundays 9 and 10:30 a.m.			

WASECA BRAVES SCHEDULE - 2023

Waseca Braves continue playoffs Saturday at 2 p.m. in Jordan

The Waseca Braves will play in Jordan at 2 p.m. on Saturday. If they win they play Sunday night at 7 p.m. If they lose, they play at 1:30 p.m. If they lose both, their season will come to an end.

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STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.: 81-PR-23-494

In Re: Estate of
KATHERYN M. WEBER,
Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING
ON PETITION FOR FORMAL PRO-
BATE OF WILL AND APPOINT-
MENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE IN UNSUPER-
VISED ADMINISTRATION AND NO-
TICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 13th day of September, 2023, at 2:00 p.m., a hearing will be held in the above Court at Waseca, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be an unsigned copy of the last will of the above named decedent, dated May 17, 2011, and for the appoint- ment of Robert Weber and Nathan Weber, whose addresses are 407 2nd 407 2nd Ave NE, Waseca, Minnesota 56093, as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of the above named decedent in an unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper and no objec- tions are filed, the Co-Personal Repre- sentatives will be appointed to administer

Dated: 07/27/2023
/s/ Carol Hanks
Judge of District Court
/s/ Shannon Asselin
Deputy Court Administrator

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG,
P.A.
John D. Scott, #47478
215 E Elm Ave, PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093
Phn: 507-835-5240

(Published in the Waseca Pioneer on August 4 and August 11, 2023.)

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Escaping the heat



Like many, 18-month-old Gus Nordquist, son of Chloe and C.J. Nordquist of Waseca, escaped last week's heat by visiting the city-operated waterpark. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently



Green Team from left: Isaac, Nash, Abel, Teagan, Evan, Loretta, Jacob, and Braxton



Nash



Willow



Coach Lizzie Roessler leads Evan to first base



Coach Jessica Stensland helps grey team set up



Loretta



Abel

‘Leave the dirt on the ground’

Community Ed t-ball concludes

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editorial Assistant

The Waseca Community Education t-ball program ended with some big games last Thursday, July 20. Six teams of kids aged three to six played against each other at Tink Larson field in Waseca as a way to end the season. Each team was assigned a different color, so that teams dressed in red, gold, light blue, royal blue, green, and charcoal took turns playing against each other throughout the season, which started the first week of June, with practices running every Tuesday and Thursday. “I loved all my little t-ball kids,”

said green team coach Lizzie Roessler, who had fun assisting the kids running bases, teaching them how to bat, and where to stand in the field. “But I kept having to say ‘let’s leave the dirt on the ground, please!’” Roessler laughed.

Gray team coach Grayson Hiller said that he believed t-ball went very well. “It was fun getting to know the kids, and it was awesome to see how much they learned.”

Community ed offers many other summer programs including dance, aquatics, gymnastics, art programs, and other sports for both children and adults.



COMMUNITY - Jansenville volunteer firefighters and their families
Pioneer photos by Jonah Stafford

400 attend Night Out in Janesville

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

Nearly 400 people crowded into Veterans Memorial Park for the Janesville Night Out on Sunday. The event was Janesville's version of the National Night Out, also known as "Night To Unite," in which community members enjoy an evening of activities which help them become better acquainted with members of local law enforcement and emergency response agencies, local government, and community partners. The Janesville Area Foundation sponsored two activities during the event: face painting by Carrie Goettlicher of Making Faces Mankato and a golden retriever "puppy holding session" by local dog breeder Heather Dimmel.

Andy Arnoldt said that Sunday was his "first night out as mayor." He was elected shortly before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. Since then, restrictions and guidelines prevented holding the Janesville Night Out for three consecutive years. To mark the event's comeback, Arnoldt said he sought to "expand it" through new inclusions, such as live entertainment at the park's recently constructed amphitheater. Arnoldt also donated ice cream from the city's Dairy Queen and, with his wife Sarah, served free sundaes throughout the night.

Members of the Janesville Police Department and the Waseca County Mounted Sheriff Posse operated the law enforcement booth. "It takes a team to help the community come out," said Janesville Police Officer Dan Peach, who has served since 2015. The booth featured free police badge stickers and safety handouts for youngsters. The group also presented two educational demonstrations for the public: The first was a surveillance drone flight. For the second, two people volunteered to be shocked with a taser by Peach.

The Janesville Fire Department invited children to "touch a truck," satisfying curiosity about its response vehicles. Janesville Fire Fighter Cody Dobbertstein said that his favorite part of the job is "helping people."

"It's nice to give back to the community," said Dobbertstein.



TOP: A participant volunteered to get tazed in a police demonstration. - BOTTOM LEFT: Sarah and Andy Arnold served sundaes. BOTTOM RIGHT: from left, Morgan Dimmel, Nora Welvaert and Heather Dimmel.

Also present were Nicole Bowman and Tim Engle from Palmer Bus Service, which provides bus service for a number of regional school districts including Janesville-Waldorf Pemberton (JWP). Engle, who operates the Janesville hub, said that JWP currently has six regular buses in use. The pair attended the Janesville Night Out as part of a push to recruit potential bus drivers. "We're looking for more bus drivers, even for odd trips," said Bowman.

Janesville Matters, a non-profit organization dedicated to the beautification of the city, was represented by Jan Prail, Mike and Judy Ready, Vicki Bornecke, and Cheryl Schuch. Arlene Pooley, noted for being an exceptionally active member of the group, took on double duty by representing both it and the Janesville Area Foundation. "There are so many other wonderful volunteers," said Ready. Besides offering information to prospective volunteers, Janesville Matters hosted a rock-painting activity for children.

After the strong attendance at Sunday's festivities, Arnoldt said that community members can expect the Janesville Night Out to happen again next year. He added that he'd like to see large community gatherings like this happen "more often," now that he knows they can be executed successfully. "It's great for the community," Sarah added.



BIRTHDAY- Helen Fowler celebrated her 103rd birthday with friends at the Lakeside Golf Course in Waseca on Tuesday, Aug. 1. A member of the Lakeside Golf Club since the 1940s, she stopped golfing when she was 99—but still meets friends almost every week for a "Ladies' Night" meal. To commemorate her 101st birthday, the golf club began waiving the usual annual membership fee indefinitely. Pioneer photos by Amelia Roessler



■ Waseca

from Page 1

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The worn-out bathrooms will be replaced with a facility that meets the expectations of the Americans with Disabilities Act; the dump station will be added for current or future campers or RVs. The goal is to make the park more user-friendly and inviting to prospective campers.

The Fiscal Year 2024 cooperative agreement for the Steele - Waseca Treatment Court with the Third Judicial District was presented for approval by Court Services Director John Schiro. Cost for the agreement is \$10,000 lower than last year, which Schiro believed could be due to decreased activity and other factors. The total cost of reimbursement to Waseca County should not exceed \$153,275.

The commissioners approved a residential tax abatement for Gary and Linda Seifert for their application for residential development.

Other items approved during the meeting include the approval of previous county board minutes, approval of bills, June transfers and transfer request,

transfer of funds from fund 25 to fund 41, the extension of a zoning permit for Lucas Boelter and the approval of solid waste collection and transportation licenses.

Got news?

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