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Waseca Art Center will provide an outdoor art show on Second Avenue Northeast in Waseca from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 22. The work of local artists will be on display. Live bands will be performing and vendors and food trucks will have items for sale. There is no admission cost; the show will take place "rain or shine." For more information contact the Art Center at 507-835-1701; ask for Mikhail or Christy.

The Waseca Fire Department will hold its annual fish fry fundraiser starting at 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 22, at the community Public Safety Building. An all-you-care-to-eat fish dinner with chips, potato salad, vegetable and a cookie will be \$15. A \$5 hot dog meal will include chips, a vegetable and a cookie.

The public is invited to a meet and greet with Waseca natives Malik and Kyreese Willingham to celebrate their recent success as members of the NCAA Division 2 Basketball Championship.

The event will be June 29 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Clear Lake Basketball courts. Hot dogs and chips will be served. The rain out location will be the VFW in Waseca.

The Waseca Hockey Association is sponsoring a summer Bingo event at the Boat House in Waseca on Saturday June 29 beginning at 1 p.m. Eight games at \$2 per sheet. Various prizes available.

This annual event will start a week earlier than usual, beginning on Friday, July 5.

The annual Waseca County Free Fair is scheduled to be at the county fairgrounds on July 10 to 14.

Young athletes in grades 3 to 8 can take part in a Christian-centered camp which has them concentrate on one sport each of the three days of the camp, Tuesday through Thursday, July 30 to August 1. Registration is \$60 per camper, with scholarships and generous family discounts available. More information and registration are at minnesotafca.org/waseca-jsc.

Every Saturday until the fall season the Waseca County Fair Grounds will be hosting a farmers market from 8 a.m. until noon.

*And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. **Luke 11:9***



JANESVILLE JOURNAL - Janesville's Hay Daze celebration offered visitors a variety of events from June 10 to 16. Unfortunately, so did Mother Nature. Though the weather started off relatively dry, one of the busiest days, Saturday June 15, became soggy, and was followed by the hottest day of the year so far on the final day of festivities.

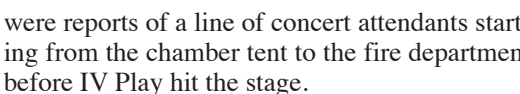
The week kicked off with Simply Saved's eleventh Annual Fashion Show at the Trinity Discipling Center on Monday, June 10. Since 2013, the thrift store has raised more than \$250,000 to be given away as grants to community organizations, businesses, and schools, including Trinity Lutheran. Tuesday, June 11, featured Janesville Bowl's annual moonlight colored-nin bowling.

The weather threatened to make the Hay Daze 5k run a little dicey on Wednesday, June 12. Rain and thunderstorms were forecast in the morning and the forecast threatened more rain around 6

p.m., when participants were supposed to register. Thankfully, the evening settled on being “partly cloudy” with only a hint of humidity. Nearly 100 participants took part in the kids’ 1k and the 5k Fun Run and Walk.

The Miss Janesville Pageant at the JWP Auditorium and Paradise City Wrestling's (PCW) "Main Street Mayhem" both took place on Thursday evening. It was PCW's second visit to Janesville; the wrestling match took place, well, on a main street.

Friday brought what was arguably the nicest weather of this year's Hay Daze, with sunny skies for a golf tournament at Prairie Ridge Golf Course. It was also the first day for Crescent City Amusements to open its rides; a fairly long line of excitement seekers formed to buy tickets. Generation Gap began the first musical performance of the night with a packed crowd showing up to see IV Play on the Guardian Energy Stage. There



Saturday featured a wet start to the morning. The rain held off for some time as Whispering Creek Nursing Home hosted the carnival and turtle races. Although rain continued throughout the day, bean bag tournaments still went on as scheduled. As a precautionary measure for the impending rain, the Hay Daze committee decided the "show must go on" and moved the musical enter-

Hay Daze continued on 12

Hay Daze

By **TRISTAN GEHRING**
Staff Writer

LakeFest 2024 will take place at Clear Lake Park, Wascea, beginning at 12:00 p.m. on July 4. The event will include live music, food trucks, drinks, volleyball and bean bag tournaments, a boat parade, vintage fire trucks, a bounce house and kids activities, and will round out the evening with a fireworks show over the lake. The day will also feature the nineteenth annual Freedom Run and Wigglebutt Dog Walk. Registration opens for the day at 7:30 a.m., with the Kids 1-mile walk/run beginning at 8 a.m., the 5-mile walk/run around Clear Lake and Wigglebutt Dog Walk beginning at 8:30 a.m. Registration with a T-Shirt is \$25; registration only is \$15.

The bean bag tournament begins at noon; teams must register online by noon of July 3. The cost to participate is \$30, payable at the event. All teams are guaranteed three games. There is a cash prize for the top three teams, and "hardware" for the champions of the tournament. For more information and to register, visit <https://forms.gle/RrXsSXxXYWg1Ade08>.

Check-in for the sand volleyball tournament begins at 2:00 p.m. with a 3:00 p.m. start time. Teams must pre-register by noon of July 3. Teams must consist of 5 to 8 players, all over the age of 16; at least two players must be females. Entry is \$50 per team. There will again be cash payouts

Lakefest continued on 4

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

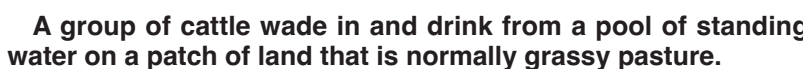
According to records kept at the University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC), this past May was the third wettest since record-keeping began in the county.

May of 2024 delivered 7.5 inches of rain; in 1991 the area received 7.76 inches. The all-time record-setter was May of 1945, with 7.78 inches.

SROC scientist Tom Hoverstad points out, though, that the center's practice is to record the rainfall from a 24-hour period on the following morning. Close to 2 inches of rain, 1.84, fell during the hours of May 31, but was recorded on June 1.

"If that had been one day sooner, 2024 would have been the record holder," he said. As it is, the difference between the three records is less than three tenths of an inch.

Along with receiving about three inches more rain than normal, the area also experienced 18 days with measurable rainfall amounts. "That didn't leave much of a planting window," Hoverstad said.



Coupled with that was 4.5 inches stances.

of rain in April, 1.23 inches more than normal, now being followed by an unusually wet June. The first 13 days of the month brought 8 days with rain, shrinking planting opportunities even further. "Area farmers have been fighting that wet soil all spring," Hoverstand observes.

As a tour of area fields shows, the majority of farmers managed to get seeds in the ground only to have fields soaked and sometimes left with large areas of standing water.

According to Hoverstad and area agronomist Mark Bernard, this creates different complications depending on the individual circum-

May continued on 3



Pioneer photos by Deb Bently



Compostings

by Al Batt

I have no idea what everyone else is thinking

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
Someone robbed me at the gas station.

Oh, no! Do you know who the robber was?

Yes, it was Pump 6.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. I had provided fine dining opportunities to multitudes of female mosquitoes, but it was still a good day. I'm sure it'd be in the top 10 days of the week. I headed to town. It would be 8 miles if I turned one way or 24,901 miles if I turned in the opposite direction. It was the first 8 miles in a journey of 237 miles. On that journey, I stopped at a convenience store to get gas and some fruit for lunch. There were roller dogs available. Hot dogs on a roller grill; sausage in a logrolling competition. I read something a few years back saying that Minnesotans eat 197 hot dogs per capita per year while Iowans eat 207 per capita annually. I passed on the roller dogs.

It rained most of the day, but in the early afternoon, the sun peeked out. That was the highlight of the day until I reached my workplace, wishing I'd been wearing a T-shirt reading "Before" on the front and "After" on the back.

I'VE LEARNED

The good old days were when I had no idea what everyone else in the world was thinking.

I can't remember the last time I said "rhombus."

Cargo pants are important because you never know when you might get a job as a cargo ship.

Life is getting used to doing things you'll later need to get used to not doing.

When I tipped the canoe, I discovered it was cap-sized.

The sign said, "Employees must wash hands," but I washed my own as I couldn't wait for them.

IN THE NEWS

Man walks into a bar and loses limbo contest.

Mime arrested for doing unspeakable things.

Jeweler charged with making a customer's ear ring.

Local woman gets new car for her husband. She considered it a good trade.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

He called his horse Mayo. Sometimes Mayo nays.

What looks like half of a Twinkie? The other half.

Is a child who is in pre-K in J?

What word is always spelled backward? Backward.

Be prepared—read a step-by-step guide to falling down the stairs.

Ducks ate my neighbor's dog. I warned him not to get a purebred dog.

Where do you see yourself in five years? In mirrors, in other reflective surfaces and in selfies.

NATURE NOTES

Kathryn Tollefson of New Richland asked why she sees pigeons in the same place near the Le Sueur River Lutheran Church frequently. With humans and other animals, the attraction to a particular place is often food. Maybe there is something to eat there—pigeon chow. Pigeons, like us, are creatures of habit and adhere to traditions. They have better homing instincts than we do, so they can find where they want to be without a GPS. Perhaps they are waiting for an invitation to attend church services.

I watched a couple of turkey vultures make Venn diagrams in the sky and spotted hoofed ruminants that are deer to us. A crow dipped a colorful snack bag in the water of a pond. I don't know what was in it. Crows are notorious for soaking food in water. They're not cleaning it, and it's more than softening the food to make it more palatable. Baby crows rely on their parents to provide food containing enough moisture to prevent dehydration, and moistened food helps.

Serviceberry, also called juneberry, shadbush or Saskatoon berry, is a small tree or shrub native to Minnesota. Ripe fruit can be eaten fresh or used in jams, jellies and pies. Serviceberry is attractive to pollinators, birds and other animals. One story maintains the first settlers in New England planned funeral services at the same time the tree bloomed, a sign the ground had thawed sufficiently to dig graves. The tree became known as the serviceberry. That origin is disputed.

Wild ginger is sometimes called woodland ginger, Canada ginger, snakeroot, colic root, coltsfoot, namepin and sturgeon potato. It has fuzzy, green, heart- or kidney-shaped leaves and below them is a small brown to burgundy, bowl-shaped flower. The color and scent of the blooms attract early spring gnats, flies and beetles. The flowers smell like rotten meat, although the scent isn't noticeable to me.

MEETING ADJOURNED

I flipped a switch and a light came on. I'm most grateful for that and for all the people who made that possible. Be kind.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

'Stop! I want to take your picture'

Aah, that moment. The hair-thin second when one must act on impulse or let the impulse pass, never to know what might have been.

I acted on impulse this past week. I was driving west on West Elm Avenue when I came upon a car standing still in my lane. I looked at my passenger, my sister-in-law Joan, visiting from out of town.

"What's he doing?" I asked, perhaps a bit annoyed. Her line of sight was better than mine. "He's rescuing a turtle," she answered.

My annoyance gone, I said something like, "Oh, that's nice." As the unknown individual got back inside his car, I looked at Joan and said, "I'm going to follow him and take his picture."

"It's something newspaper writers have an excuse to do." Given that she was trapped in the passenger seat, she had no choice but to accompany me—but she has enough of a sense of adventure that I'm willing to claim the prospect pleased her.

As the vehicle drove away, I followed, making the same turns, always leading toward access to the edge of Loon Lake. As his car stopped, he jumped out and walked briskly lakeward. I had a rare moment of panic—my camera was in the back, I feared I would not be quick enough to leave my seat, open the back door, grab the camera and still somehow get to the man and the turtle in time for his photo.

I did the only logical thing. I got out of the car and called out—perhaps somewhat frantically—"Please stop. I want to take your picture!" Fortunately, my unexpected request (or was it the tone of desperation?) was enough to bring the fellow—who I soon learned is named Ben Revermann—to a stop. I grabbed the camera and my notebook and walked after him, explaining as I approached that I work for the newspaper, that I saw him rescue the turtle, that I thought it was a very kind thing to do, and that I wanted to include his picture in the paper.

He, in the meantime, was struggling to hang onto the turtle. Somehow the 10-inch-long creature did not understand it was in the process of becoming famous: It was clawing and, uh, wetting itself defensively, as Ben waited for me to catch up with him.

"Oh," he said. "I thought you were going to yell at me for stopping in the road." He continued his struggle to hang onto the squirming turtle. I repeated my request to put his picture in the paper.

"I guess so," he said. "As long as you mention my book." Touche, Ben. The first unexpected request had been topped by a second one.

"Seems fair," I responded. There wasn't a lot of time for negotiations, what with the struggle and the, uh, defensive wetting.

I snapped a couple photos, neither of which had the framing or positioning I might have chosen under less pressing circumstances, and Ben set the now-famous turtle into the water. Somewhere in there, my sister-in-law had caught up with us.

Ben told us he has had a lifelong appreciation for turtles. He shared some of what he knows about the females who leave the water to go bury their eggs. He mentioned with a tone of awe that he has held some "silver-



Local author Ben Revermann and the now-famous turtle. Revermann, who has published a number of books on Amazon, makes it a habit to help turtles in distress whenever it is safe to do so. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

dollar-sized" hatchlings. He said he does whatever he can to help turtles he sees which have put themselves in danger.

Remembering our negotiations, I asked him about his book—he elaborated that he has written 14 of them, all self-published on Amazon. His most recently completed is titled "I am Lying to Queen Victoria," and he is currently working on "I am Lying to Hitler."

Both our vehicles were parked somewhat awkwardly, so our conversation was rushed, but I took down his name for the sake of the "cutline," (that's the journalist's term for the information printed beneath photos), and asked for his phone number, in case I needed more information. Somewhere in there, Ben mentioned he had considered applying to be a writer for the newspaper.

I encouraged him to do so. We parted company, each of us with an entertaining story to share with our respective families, friends and acquaintances.

So look here, Ben! I've published your photo, mentioned your book, and made the turtle famous, just as I agreed.

And reader, look around. Within only a few days of our conversation, Ben consented to write a piece for the Pioneer! He found local artist Victor Gilmore at the Waseca farmers' market this past Saturday and has shared the story (See page 4). If we have our way, you'll probably see more of Ben's writing in upcoming issues.

Aah, impulse. You just never know what can come of a split-second decision.

Have I become a hermit living in solitude?

Living alone is so odd. Much of the time I count myself as blessed to be able to walk around my apartment singing and dancing with no worries of being seen or heard. But then the sun goes down and I'm turning off the lights in the kitchen and running to my bedroom because it's scary in the dark.

I live in a four-bed, four-bath apartment on the eighth floor. Two of my roommates moved out never to move back in (drama, I know), and the third roommate is living at home for the summer because of her internship and coming back to campus every couple of weekends. So for now it's just me living in this spacious new, lonely apartment.

But I have discovered there are perks to living alone. I can leave my door open at all times, watch tv both in my room and in the living room as loud as I like, organize things how I want them to be (feng shui is important), strew my budding succulents all over the place, and leave messes



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

and not have to worry about cleaning them up right away worried someone might judge me.

Then there are the not-so-nice things—mostly just being alone (does anyone like being constantly alone?). In high school, I had no problem being a homebody, but I had my parents, sister, and dogs to socialize with. Here it's just me, my plants, and the flag of Bibble from Barbie, but there is an urge to go out, socialize, and see the world. An attitude of "I'm in the Cities - there has to be something for me to do!" was born when I came to school and I cannot

get rid of it. And for the life of me I can't tell if time seems to move faster or more slowly when alone. Maybe it just moves.

I say all these things as if I am a hermit living in solitude. I am not. I have work daily and, thankfully, I am able to spend time with my boyfriend most days; he keeps me sane. But it makes me think, if I did not have him, what would become of me in this solitude? Would I truckle to my bed and never come out, sad of what I am missing out on? Or would I thrive, spend my plentiful free time going to the gym, honing my writing,

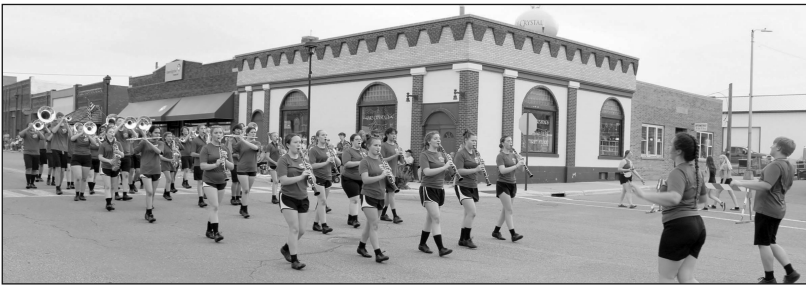
reading, and cooking skills so that I come out on the other side of this time triumphant? Who knows.

It makes me think of people's situations in life where they might have become widowed and now live alone in an older age. What does one in that situation do with their days? I know my grandma, for one, loves to go out and have lunch with her friends; I've always found that adorable. Each day it's a guess as to which of the four "Barbs" she has had lunch with.

People still watch the local news, right? I feel like I would enjoy waking up early and watching the news in the morning before having breakfast, then sitting down with the local paper - really digging into the gossip and news of the town.

My Determination: "Why must our only options be to squawk and settle or to never leave the nest? What if I want to fly?" — Eloise Bridgerton, Bridgerton

Marching Jays



About 70 members of the Marching Jays participated in the group's first parade of the year at Straight River Days in Lake Crystal the evening of Friday, June 14. According to band director Devon Lawrence, the musicians will continue to practice as the summer progresses. Their next parade will be during the Minnesota State Fair at the end of August.

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently



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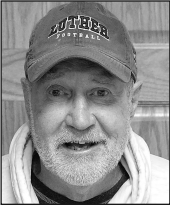
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Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



My duck tale

I consider myself an agriozoo-ophile—a real lover of all wild animals. I’m a pet lover, a pet person, and a real friend to all animals—well, almost every animal.

Here are some high-powered new vocabulary words for all those who work crossword puzzles and like to toss out big words to impress others. A “biophile” is someone who loves nature and the experiences it has to offer. An “ornithologist” is a birder, someone who feeds, observes, and finds joy in studying and learning about them. Bet you’ll never guess what defines a “dogophile.” Yep, a person who really enjoys canines. And just maybe, a group of dogophiles would consider chasing an “ailurophile,” someone who loves anything and everything about cats.

Unfortunately, not everyone appreciates and loves the warm and fuzzy fellow occupants of the planet. Thoughts surrounding certain creatures can lead to full-blown anxiety and panic attacks.

“Arachnophobia” is the fear of spiders and scorpions; if you can’t tolerate the eight-legged creatures, be sure not to watch the movie with the same name.

If you scream every time you see a snake, you may have an extreme, overwhelming fear of snakes called “ophidiophobia.”

If you keep a tennis racket handy, have nightmares about squirming creatures tangled in your hair, and get the creeps even thinking about bats, you may be suffering from “chiroptophobia.”

Deb Bently and I would really appreciate some of our readers interacting with the paper. We’re hoping you will consider submitting some of your thoughts, stories or articles.

As Deb wrote in her June 14 column, maybe describe something in nature, something that inspires you or makes you happy. Maybe you can choose something from the plant kingdom. Deb’s piece about the yellow lady slipper was a great example.

I challenge you to write a story about an animal—maybe a pet dog, cat, rabbit, bird or even a pig. Maybe a camping story about army worms falling into your supper or your tent being swept away in a torrential downpour. The possibilities are endless. You can submit your writing to the Waseca County Pioneer at news@wasecacounty-pioneer.com.

I’m closing this column with a memory, one I acquired thanks to my pet duck, Oscar.

I was a young lad and on my way home from the swimming pool with friends. Our three-mile bike ride took us around the mill pond. There we saw quite a commotion down on the water: There was a large group of grown and baby ducks quacking and splashing away.

We investigated, the ducks departed, and there remained a fuzzy, yellow duckling, injured.

I wrapped it in my towel and carried it home to the Zika emergency treatment facility.

My family welcomed the duckling. Kept in a big box in the basement, it recovered fairly quickly under our loving attentions.

It ate everything: seeds, insects, worms, cereal. I know it came to recognize me as its loving parent. Before she fledged out, I didn’t know whether she was a greenhead or hen, only that she was a mallard.

That’s my excuse for naming her “Oscar.” I gradually recognized my misnomer as she grew into a beautiful brown hen mallard with a blazing blue wing patch. We had a fenced-in backyard, so when Oscar was big enough, she was safe spending hours outdoors on our lawn.

Why didn’t she fly away? Because her “dad” also raised pigeons and was well versed in the art of clipping wings.

I have many special memories of that duck. Once, my dad was rototilling a section of our garden. Oscar followed close behind gobbling up worms the process had brought to the surface.

Oscar enjoyed scolding our dog, Charlie. Her high-pitched quacking could be heard around our neighborhood.

The local newspaper published a picture of Oscar and me. Every once in a while, Oscar would cuddle up and snooze, head and neck down, in my lap.

When fall arrived, Oscar changed. Her personality grew into that of a hen mallard in the wild. Dad said, “Time for Oscar to go.” I had two choices: release her at the mill pond or—the option I chose—take her to Uncle Willie’s farm near Jordan. The farm featured a big flock of domestic mallards and some Muscovy ducks, which are so big and ugly I always took them for a breed of goose.

We visited my uncle’s farm frequently, so I figured I would have the opportunity to visit with my buddy. On our first visit, I did get to see her. She was now fully fledged and had become a member of Uncle Willie’s flock of mallards.

The farm had a big, fenced-in pasture, a woods, and a marshy section with a small pond. Uncle Willie’s report was that Oscar was doing fine, but was a bit of a renegade: He said she would frequently go off into the pasture alone, away from the other ducks.

On our next visit to the farm, Uncle Willie informed me Oscar was missing and had been gone for several days. I surmise one of two things happened to her. Either she had an encounter with a predator in the pasture, or sauntered into the woods, found the pond, and met the greenhead love of her life. I’ve always chosen that version of the story: it brings me pleasure to think that first she, and now her offspring, are migrating overhead to go south every fall and come back north every spring.

Princess and the Pea

Performance set for Friday, Saturday

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

About 30 area middle schoolers will take to the Junior/Senior High School Performing Arts Center (PAC) stage at 7 p.m. on Friday and at 2 p.m. on Saturday to perform “The Princess and the Pea.”

Though many are probably familiar with the traditional version of the story—in which a princess is identified because of her tender back—cast members suggest they will find some interesting new elements in their version.

Khloe Nelson and Keegan Rodriguez, performing respectively in their first and sixth summer productions, have been cast as the king and queen of Paragonia. Since their son Pete, played by Jeremy Bohlmann-Little, is of an age to marry, the two are in search of his perfect princess. Brier Hayes, performing in her fourth community education summer play, suggests audiences will be surprised by the dance numbers, the variety of characters, and perhaps especially, the ending. She also thinks it’s a nice touch that members of the crew, rather than simply waiting in the wings to make scene changes, are able to dress as royal footmen and be on stage.

Maddie Halla, cast as the palace lady in waiting, is performing in her fourth community education play, and is excited by the challenge of having many lines.

Though she is not a princess—a significant point as the story develops—Halla believes audience members will enjoy the costumes and characters of the 17 people who are wearing fancy dresses and tiaras.

Director Karen Pfarr Anderson says she has been impressed with the progress her cast members have shown, especially given the short turnaround time from when practices began right after the school year ended to this week’s performance.



Cast members of “The Princess and the Pea” carry a fairy tale beauty contest as they attempt to find the perfect match for Paragonia’s young prince.
Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

formance. “It’s amazing what they’ve done in only 13 practices,” she comments. “In some cases, I’ve asked a great deal of them, and they’ve delivered.”

Pfarr Anderson began working with the youth summer theater in 2007, co-directing for three years with Jack Williams. Since 2010, she has sat in the figurative director’s chair, often inviting a high-schooler to be assistant director. This year, Sadie Schimming has taken that position on.

Another element of this year’s production Pfarr Anderson finds particularly exciting is the size of the cast. She is thrilled to have had more than 30 students attend auditions.

Wanting all the aspiring actors to have their chance, the director even wrote additional lines and a new scene. She estimates she added 10 or more minutes to the length of the production, which she expects to run about 45 minutes.

Pfarr Anderson expresses her gratitude to the actors and crew, PAC technical guru Chuck Pollock, and to parents who helped ensure their children could get to practices.



This weekend’s performances are sponsored by the community education department. The play received grants and support from the Waseca Area Foundation, and from the non-profit Waseca Drama Department.

Tickets are \$5; children ages 5 and under are free. Tickets are available for sale at the door before the performances.

■ May from Page 1

may lose the expensive nitrogen fertilizers they have applied to their soil. Corn is especially dependent on sufficient levels of nitrogen for continued development: nitrogen in the soil tends to bond with water, and thus is prone to leach away as the water drains. Exposure to water can also cause the nitrogen to undergo a slight chemical change and become prone to a form of evaporation. This leaves farmers with decisions to make about cost-to-benefit advantages of applying additional nitrogen—which will entail not only the cost of the fertilizer, but the time and resources to apply it and potential damage to plants which might occur during the application.

Yet another complex choice confronts farmers who have fields with pools of standing water. Hoverstad explains that, in cool weather, plants can survive even up to four or five days of being submerged. If the water warms, however, bacterial growth accelerates and causes irreversible damage. Farmers with areas

where no crop remains must weigh a surprising number of factors as they make decisions about replanting.

Among their choices, agronomist Mark Bernard jokes, are “so many decisions it could make your head explode.”

Many farmers have a “prevent plant” clause in their crop insurance, “They’re guaranteed a certain level of income from that,” Hoverstad observed. “But they don’t like to use it.”

Based on what he saw in the wet year of 2013, he speculates that it goes against a farmer’s nature to give up on a crop. Farmers must weigh the likely sale price of any crop to be harvested from the replanted portion of the field against the costs and time needed to do the replanting.

They must decide whether there is another hybrid of the corn or soybeans which will mature fast enough to “catch up” with undamaged areas.

For any who decide not to replant drowned-out sections, “they’re going to want a cover crop,” says Hoverstad. “There’s a rule of thumb about what happens when you let part of a field grow wild unchecked: ‘One year’s weeding equals seven years seeding.’” In other words, farmers might consider planting soybeans or some other dense crop on the open part of the field simply so the cultivated plants will take over the space and prevent weeds from thriving.

“There’s nothing wrong with planting soybeans as a cover crop,” said Hoverstad, mentioning there are also other choices.

Agronomist Mark Bernard mentions insects and pathogens as another factor which may have been affected by the unusually wet soil. For example, he says, the mild weather probably allowed soybean aphids to overwinter in strong numbers giving them “the potential to be a problem.” However, if soybeans should reach canopy over unusually wet soil, “it is likely to create advantageous conditions for pathogenic fungi which help keep aphid numbers in check, in conjunction with beneficial insects such ladybird beetles, lacewings, syrphid flies and parasitic wasps.”

He also suggests “the wet conditions are definitely favorable for disease development as the season wears on.” Among the diseases he names are stalk rots and leaf disease in corn and white mold and sudden death syndrome in soybeans.

Bernard can’t help mentioning that weather patterns in early April had given the impression the spring would be relatively dry.

“Nobody saw this coming,” he comments.

Just as they must every spring, farmers had made decisions about what crops to plant on which fields at what time. As the surprisingly wet year materialized, some of those decisions turned out to be “lucky,” while some did not.

“We know there’s been damage done, now farmers have to decide how they’re going to respond,” said Bernard. As to whether this next set of choices will be “lucky,” Bernard says the only time those factors can truly be weighed is during harvest, when the results are measurable.

“They’ve seen this before,” he says somewhat philosophically. “Farmers use what they know from past experience with all the variables—the seeds, the contour of the land, the fertilizers and herbicides they use.

“They have to hedge their bets and go with their gut.”

At this point, Bernard suggests, farmers can do essentially nothing while the fields and soil remain so wet. “I think their approach is, ‘We’ll get through this. We can’t do anything about it right now, but we will take care of things when we can.”



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OBITUARIES

LeVine Paulson

LeVine Raxine (Loken) Paulson passed away on June 13, 2024, at the New Richland Care Center. She was 98 years old. LeVine was born on January 30, 1926, to Clarence and Palma (Olson) Loken at the Norby farm in Ellendale, MN. She was baptized at First Lutheran Church in Ellendale, started Wednesday school at the church at the age of three years, and was confirmed at LeSueur River Lutheran in 1940. LeVine attended first grade at District 53 country school in Lemond Township as well as several other country schools before graduating from New Richland High School in 1944. After graduation, she attended the Naeve School of Nursing in Albert Lea, MN graduating in the Class of 1947. LeVine was employed as a registered nurse at Naeve Hospital in Albert Lea, Birds Eye in Waseca for 25 years, and Country Neighbors in New Richland for nine years.

LeVine was united in marriage to James Paulson in 1948 at LeSueur River Lutheran Church. James and LeVine farmed the Paulson farm east of St. Olaf Lake for nearly 50 years. They traveled extensively, setting foot on six continents. LeVine enjoyed gardening, genealogy, history, and above all—her family. She especially loved to watch her great-granddaughters performing music and dancing.

LeVine is survived by a daughter, Ranae (Niel) Berg of Hartland, five grandchildren: Evan (Kerry) Berg of New Richland, Tait (Lindsey) Berg of New Richland, Kellen (Hannah) Berg of Minneapolis, Mandy (Pat) Sutherland of Eagle



LeVine Paulson

Lake, and Ryan Paulson of Sioux Falls, SD; four great-granddaughters: Lily Sutherland, Ada, Lyla, and Mina Berg; two step-great grandchildren: Cora Sutherland of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Owen Sutherland of New York City; daughter-in-law Linda Paulson of Mankato, nieces: LeAnn (Dean) Buendorf of New Richland, Marsha (Bob) Heers of Owatonna, nephews: John (Cheryl) Herbst of New Richland, and Kevin (Lori) Herbst of Albert Lea as well as several great nephews, nieces and cousins. LeVine was preceded in death by her husband, James in 1995, son, Randy in 2000, sister-in-law, Doris Herbst in 1991, and brother-in-law, Stanley Herbst in 2018.

A private family service was held at LeSueur River Lutheran Church in New Richland. Expressions of sympathy may be shared by visiting www.BonnerupFuneralService.com

David Thompson

DAVID GARRY THOMPSON, age 74 of Shakopee, died on June 16, 2024 at St. Francis Regional Medical Center in Shakopee.

David was born in Owatonna on February 26, 1950 to Melvin and Loretta (Sleper) Thompson. He graduated from Kenyon High School. He was married to Nancy and together they had one son, Lucas, before they later divorced. David enjoyed fishing in his younger years, and when he wasn't fishing, he was hunting. He liked tinkering and building, and often collected scrap metal. He liked to laugh and was always known to have a smile on his face. He loved being around his friends who would call him Clyde, and he loved movies and enjoyed watching his favorite westerns.

David is survived by his son, Lucas Thompson of Waseca; siblings Wendell (Diane) Thompson, Dean Thompson, Tony Thompson, and Verna (Morris) Hildebrandt. He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Marcia Drew; and one sister-in-law, Susan Thompson.



David Thompson

A public visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Friday, June 21, 2024 at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. A closing prayer will begin at 7:00 p.m. Interment and graveside prayers will take place at the Vang Lutheran Cemetery near Dennison at a later date. (dsfuneral.com) Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service Waseca ~ Janesville ~ Waterville

■ Lakefest

from Page 1

for the top three teams, and “hardware” for the champions. To register or learn more, visit <https://forms.gle/gnCYbEqy-qugb9rzV9>.

Participation in the boat parade is free, and requires pre-registration. Boats will line up at 2:30 p.m.; the parade will begin at 3:00 p.m. traveling from near the Boat House Restaurant following a route that

passes Maplewood and Clear Lake Parks. There are cash prizes for the top three boats in each of three competitive categories: “Most Patriotic,” “Most Creative,” and “Best Party Barge.” To register or learn more, visit <https://forms.gle/H4SsagmgZ32vErss7>. The schedule for live entertainment is as follows. From 12:00-1:15, Melissa Schulz; from 1:30-3:00, Miller-Dehn; from 3:30-5:15, Gary West & The MN Players; from 5:30-7:20, Los Tequileros; and from 7:40-9:40 AZBY Band. The Fireworks show over Clear Lake will begin at 9:50 p.m.

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Farmers’ Market is more than only a sales venue

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Raising a garden has always been a summer tradition for Bev and Darryl Gehring, both 76, who are life-long Waseca area residents. The two live on a piece of land originally homesteaded in pioneer days by an earlier generation of Darryl’s family. They raised their own children on the homestead and still continue to find ways to maintain and improve it.

That goes perhaps double for the garden.

Darryl has taken items to the Waseca area farmers’ market for about the past 10 years. The weekly event is from 8 a.m. to noon each Saturday beginning in May and continuing into September. It has been in various locations on the fairgrounds, and is currently located in the parking lot along Third Street Northeast.

According to the two, the number of vendors and the items offered for sale tend to evolve with the growing season, but there is always a good variety and a friendly atmosphere.

Darryl began taking items to the farmers’ market for a very practical reason: “I had extra produce, and I didn’t want to see it go to waste.” In addition to his lifelong work as a farmer raising traditional corn and soybean crops, Darryl has always kept a garden about half an acre in size.

Bev has always canned or frozen some of the produce to keep over the winter, “Especially when we had kids at home.”

Now with only the two of them, they grow what they like—and what tends to be popular at the market. When it comes to summer vegetables, this includes beets, cucumbers, tomatoes, green beans, cabbage, onions, and a few kohlrabi (a dense vegetable with a cabbage-like flavor). They also grow pumpkins and “a few squash.”

Though beets are one of those vegetables famous for being disliked by children, Darryl says they are a favorite of his. After taking them to the market a few times, he learned he is not alone. He also learned many people want them as fresh from the garden as possible because they like to prepare the “greens,” that is, the leaves, as well as the round, red root the plant produces. In order to keep up with demand, Darryl says he plants an additional row of beets weekly through the late spring and

early summer, and many years does the same with green beans.

Once they begin, cucumbers and tomatoes continue to produce repeatedly. In their case, he says, he simply has to be sure to give them enough space.

In order to make the garden work a bit easier, Darryl has built raised garden beds. In addition to a large “traditional” ground-level area, he now has four raised beds, each 20 feet long and 4 feet wide. He and Bev especially appreciate them for cucumbers, which have such long, thick vines as the summer progresses that finding the vegetables can be very tricky.

“God should have made those things orange,” jokes Darryl about the way the green cucumbers disappear among the green vines and leaves.

The couple estimates they grew and sold 700 pounds of cucumbers last year, in three different forms: small ones are sold at the market to people who want to make pickles, large ones are sold as “slicers.” Those picked in a sort of “medium” size are made into Bev’s “Bread and Butter” pickles and sold in jars.

Bev admits that, although she has never managed to get dill pickles “right,” she has made an art of refining her recipe and technique for the thick-sliced pickles she sells. “They snap,” she says of their texture, mentioning that many buyers stop at her sales booth looking specifically for her pickles.

Another recipe she has worked to perfect is for “corn relish.” The canned mixture uses sweet corn, peppers, and a variety of other ingredients she declines to reveal. She sells it in pint jars, and it, too, has a following among her customers. Her beet pickles will begin arriving once the beets are ready. Also coming as the summer progresses are her Russian dill sauce with horseradish and canned sauerkraut.

Darryl says work on their garden begins as soon as possible in spring, including sometimes starting certain plants indoors to be transplanted outside when the weather allows. But even without transplanting, the ground is prepared and limited planting begins in April.

Still, since the farmers’ market opens on the first Saturday in May, it is too early to sell any fresh produce, with the possible exception of rad-



Lifelong Waseca area residents Bev and Darryl Gehring have been taking home-grown and homemade products to the Waseca farmers' market for about 10 years.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

ishes.

This past weekend, the Gehrings’ stand featured corn relish and rhubarb sauce. Rhubarb, of course, is one of those things that can be harvested very early. As for the corn relish, Bev relied on sweet corn available for sale in local stores.

The two are watching their garden and will begin bringing fresh produce as soon as possible—but are encountering complications thanks to the weather.

“We’ve replanted some things four times already,” observes Bev, mentioning that one time their rows of beets were under standing water. Another time, the water drained away quickly but left silt burying the small plants. Even the cucumbers in the raised bed weren’t completely safe: strong winds and blowing dirt literally cut off some of the sprouts.

Still, they persevered and the garden is progressing nicely.

The couple admits that, while they probably take in enough money to cover their expenses and have a little left over, they do not bring home the kind of income which would cover the cost of the time they invest.

Bev reveals her favorite part of going to the farmers’ market is the opportunity to meet people and talk

about shared interests. “You can learn a lot about people in a five-minute talk,” she says. “It’s fulfilling to make something and have other people appreciate it,” she comments. “We make connections, we have a pleasant time, and sometimes we learn from each other.”

“I do it because I enjoy it.”

Another “connection” she has made is with customers who have special requests. Bev says she has modified a number of her recipes based on requests such as using sea salt for the sake of its minerals or caraway seed for its distinct flavor.

A new addition to the farmers’ market last year was the Power of Produce Club (POP), a special arrangement through the University of Minnesota Extension office which allowed anyone 18 years old and younger to sign up for the “club,” then select \$5 worth of edible product each week. POP repaid vendors for selections made at their booths.

Because families would come with their children, Bev observes, the number of people visiting the market increased greatly and business picked up. The program is scheduled to become available again a bit later this summer.

A Saturday at Waseca’s farmers market

By BEN REVERMANN
Contributing writer

It bothered me for most of that morning, Saturday, June 15. Why had I been to the farmers’ market before? It was cloudy as my children and I approached the Waseca Farmers’ Market located at the Waseca County Fairgrounds.

“Beets!” I blurted out. My children asked “What about them?”

I replied, “Beets. That’s what we came here for July of last year.” I had wanted the leaves and stems and the beets themselves. My children replied, “So what?” My recollection is that no, they didn’t care much about the raw vegetables I bought that morning—but that Teriyaki Beef recipe with beet leaves and stems, they cared about that after the work was all done: They loved it. But there were no beets in mid-June, it’s still too early in the season.

Wandering through the Waseca farmers market, my daughter found bracelets she thought were pretty. My sons found peanut brittle, honey—but no honeycomb, just the honey in squeeze bottles. There were also jellies and a few candies. Then Deadpool in puppy form appeared.

If you don’t know, Deadpool was an X-Men addition to the movie franchise in 2016, Deadpool 2 in 2018 and soon to be released Deadpool & Wolverine in 2024. But as far as Deadpool puppies go, this was a first.

Victor Gilmore is the man guilty for this unexpected pup. Turning the page found a baby bird in a gritty Batman outfit. The next page, a steampunk cowboy.



Waseca artist Victor Gilmore in his booth at the Waseca farmers' market.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Victor approached with a smile and heavy weight in his hand. The tent over his makeshift studio/sellers’ corner was tipping over, ever so slightly from the wind.

As we discussed before, it was cloudy and rain was anticipated. The wind was not taking it easy on the VG Artworks tent.

Victor Gilmore, a lifelong Waseca resident, 36 years old with 3 children finds time and dedicates it to making pictures no one’s ever thought of. But isn’t that the point?

Artificial Intelligence is picking up steam as we head further towards 2025. Computer programs like Runway, GIMP, Comfy UI, Discord all have options which let you type prompts in and have pictures generated. These can be aided by PhotoShop, but it takes practice.

Steampunk is defined by Websters as “A subgenre of science fiction or fantasy that uses aesthetic design and technology inspired by nineteenth-century steam-powered

machinery.” Think Victorian era meets the future.

“So,” you ask, “What about Spiderman as a little boy calf? Does Victor Gilmore have that?” As a matter of fact, he does. Turning the page of his display portfolio revealed a very attractive gothic lady astronaut with hot-pink eye shadow and lavender hair. The page after that, a baby lamb Joker. Seriously, does this guy have everything? The Witcher, Beauty and the Beast, The Nightmare Before Christmas, Little Red Riding Hood.

Although he has no immediate plans for attending conventions, Victor says he will have his display at as many Waseca farmers’ markets as he can. Regarding longer-term plans, VG Artworks will be at Austi-Con in Austin from October 18 to 20 this year. Austi-Con is a festival about tabletop gaming. There will be a silent auction at that event with proceeds going to the Autism Day Camp program in Austin, run by the

Hormel Historic Society.

Items in his artwork which really stood out for me were the steampunk cowboy or any one of the strikingly beautiful women in the many different settings. Some of his artwork resembles lady pin-up vampires, witches, etc. But rest assured all his work is G rated, nothing inappropriate here, and all are easy on the eyes.

Victor with his partner Erin and their three children Alistair, Cillian and Skyler have over a thousand pictures in Victor Gilmore’s portfolio and five plus years’ experience. He adds more every week. This full-time Waseca resident artist and his computer aided, AI-assisted artwork will reach out and grab you, so be careful. But if you’re looking, and one of his drawings makes eye contact, don’t turn your back. It is advisable to get his artwork before it gets you!

Visit Victor Gilmore’s website at vgartworksmn.square.site.

A piece of living history

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Self-proclaimed “muleskinner” Donna Thoreson, 85, has owned a stagecoach since 2003. She and her husband LeRoy traveled over a five-state region taking it or other mule-drawn vehicles to parades, “wagon train” trips, horse shows and historic reenactments.

While she has an extensive collection of fond memories, she says one of her favorites was taking the stagecoach to the Albert Lea area’s Big Island Rendezvous. There at the pioneer village, she would dress in period costume and tell the groups of school children who visited that she was a traveler who had been stranded when robbers attacked the stage and stole not only all the valuables aboard the coach, but the horses which had been pulling it as well.

She says she used her narrative to educate the children about the hardships and realities of early settlement days, as well as the determination and hardiness shown by those arriving in the newly opened territory.

After she and LeRoy farmed for 50 years between Owatonna and Blooming Prairie, and after raising sons Kraig and Kevin and daughter Sheri—all of whom are now parents and two of whom are already grandparents—on the farm, Donna is now retired and living in Albert Lea. The stagecoach, however, is not retired and, if she has anything to say about it, never will be.

“I’ve told my kids,” she jokes, “that if they ever get rid of that stagecoach, I will come back from the dead and haunt them.”

Donna has consented to loan the stagecoach to the Waseca County Historical Society (WCHS) for the duration of the Waseca County fair from July 10 to 14. Though planning continues, her current thought is that she will be giving her “stranded traveler” presentation at 6 p.m. the evening of Thursday, July 11.

Joan Mooney, WCHS director, says the organization requested the coach because of attention called to early settlement travel by the June release of Waldorf-area writer Judy Joecks’ self-published book, “Stagecoaches across Waseca County and Neighboring Counties.”

The coach will be kept indoors throughout the fair, will not be giving rides, and will be available only for viewing.

Donna believes being able to see and stand near the coach will help people begin to understand the time and places when such vehicles were “luxurious” in comparison to typical means of travel.

She is also willing to share it because, she says, she wishes to honor the people who have been associated with it.

First on that list is her brother, Glenn Adams. “He was an amazing woodworker,” Donna recalls. “He could make anything and it would look beautiful.”

While visiting the Thoreson farm, “He was just fascinated with the mules,” Donna said. “One time he said to me, ‘I would like to build a stagecoach before I die.’ Then he asked me, ‘If I build a stagecoach, could I give it to you?’”

Donna remembers saying to her husband, LeRoy, afterward, “I may be blonde, but I knew enough to say yes.” She learned later that anyone desiring to buy a full-sized replica of a stagecoach is likely to pay \$40,000 or more. Glenn was in his seventies and beginning to experience macular degeneration as he began the project. He lived in Washington State; over the three years he continued to plug away at the various steps, his wife was diagnosed with dementia, placed in a skilled care facility, and eventually died. Donna remembers his work on the stagecoach as being a kind of therapy. “I know there were times he would be in that workshop of his night and day.”

He touched base with her persistently to find out her preferences and send her pictures of how the work was progressing. She consulted back and forth with him and paid for the materials. During that time, Donna says she remembers sometimes being nervous that she and her brother were coming at the project from two different angles: “Me being a muleskinner, and him being a woodworker, there were times I worried we weren’t on the same page,” she said.

As more time passed, Glenn’s macular degeneration gradually worsened, but he continued working on the coach. Donna remembers he would wear his glasses and a jeweler’s headband magnifier, and also kept a magnifying glass handy.

Though Glenn had intended to build the wheels for the stagecoach, by the time the project had advanced that far, his health no longer left room for the possibility.

Donna remembers the 2003 trip with LeRoy out to Washington State to pick up the body of the stagecoach.

“We were so proud,” she remembers of herself, Glenn and LeRoy. “Glenn had accomplished so much, and he was thrilled to be sending it home with us.”

“Seeing what he had built, I realized we were on the same page all along.”

The wooden wheels were built by wheelwright Gene Jacobson of Kiester. Donna remembers that he happened to have hubs actually made by a stagecoach company, and so they were used at the centers of the four handmade wheels. The wheels, she mentions, are somewhat smaller than were used in the 1800s. The body of the coach, though, is within an inch of the length of an original stagecoach.

The lettering was done by Ryan Bergeson of Twin Lakes. Though Bergeson specialized in motorcycles, Donna comments she would have been willing to believe he spent all his time on stagecoaches. She says she



Donna Thoreson rides shotgun with LeRoy. During their 62-year marriage, the couple enjoyed riding and driving horses and also breeding, raising and driving mules.



The Bestemor Stagecoach in use. Hand built by Donna Thoreson’s brother, Glenn Adams, the stage will be available for viewing during the county fair at the Waseca County Historical Society’s display. Thoreson is loaning the coach to the historical society; its presence is meant to call attention to the recent publication of “Stagecoaches across Waseca County and Neighboring Counties” by Waldorf area resident Judy Joecks.

chose the burgundy color with yellow accents because she liked the combination and thought it would look striking. The fictional business name, Bestemor Stage Line, uses the Norwegian word for “grandmother.”

“I’m a grandmother, and it was given to me,” she says lightheartedly. “That’s how I chose the name.”

Donna says she did the upholstery herself, using a sturdy, leather-like vinyl to cover the seats, make the curtains, and cover the “boot,” the otherwise open back end of the carriage.

Donna is pleased to report her brother saw and rode in the finished stagecoach more than once. She remembers he was nearly speechless each time.

The coach was road ready in 2004 and began some of its many travels.

It was nearly always pulled by the mule team of Nellie and Nacho, both

of whom were bred and raised on the family farm. Donna remembers the synchrony she and LeRoy shared with the two, who were part of their daily lives for nearly two decades. She and LeRoy had owned riding and driving horses for most of their time on the farm, then followed through on an interest in raising mules.

Numerous online sources say the word “skinner” was slang used in the 1800s for anyone who could “out-smart” mules enough to get them to do what was needed.

“People say mules are stubborn,” says Donna of her experiences. “But they’re not stubborn. They’re smart, and they have long memories. If they got away with something once, they’re more likely to try and get away with it again.”

“I had to stay one step ahead of them, and then everything would be

fine.”

She remembers that when LeRoy would be asked how he managed to work with mules, his standard answer was “You’ve got to be their mother, father, and god.”

LeRoy, who was “120 percent Norwegian,” died in 2021. The two of them had been married 62 years. Before meeting him, Donna said she had “never even touched a horse.”

“He taught me everything I knew about it,” she remembers of her path to becoming a muleskinner. “I loved every minute of it.”

And so, in addition to honoring her brother for building the stagecoach, Donna says she wants it to be seen and used to honor her husband and his beloved mule team.

She remembers the many children at the Rendezvous who were fascinated by the coach and by her

“stranded traveler” story. She remembers the real-life travelers who once crammed as many as nine people into a single stagecoach to journey across rough, barely passable roads. She remembers the horses who would pull the coach, often at a full gallop, working so hard they had to be changed out about every 10 miles.

“All of that deserves to be remembered,” she says. “So of course I’m willing to let the historical society use the stagecoach.”

She is also grateful her son Kraig continues to keep mules and make use of the stagecoach; it is available for hire for special events including weddings, birthdays, and other gatherings. Anyone interested is invited to contact Donna at 507-456-3373, or Kraig at 507-363-1910. Emails with inquiries can be sent to kraigh@gmail.com.



About 700 people waited in line for the free meal and companionship offered at Farm Bureau’s “Taste of the Farm” event last week.

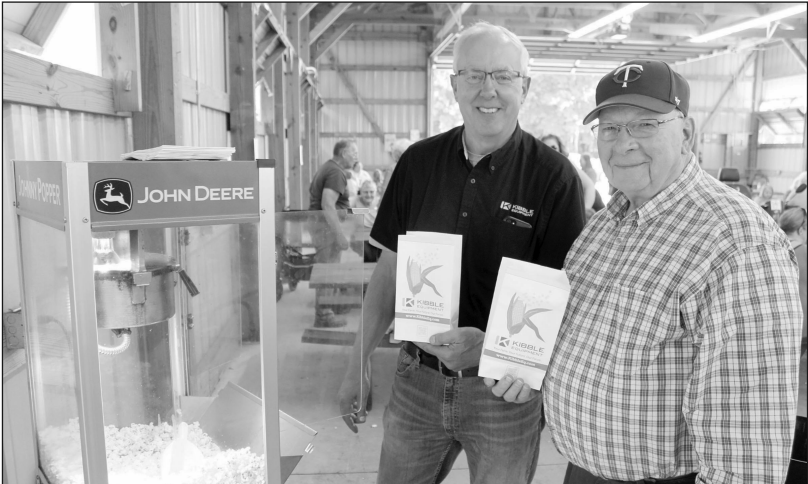
‘Taste of the Farm’ feeds 700

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

About 700 people visited the Farm Bureau “Taste of the Farm” free dinner offered on the county fairgrounds the evening of Tuesday, June 11. Serving began at about 4:30 and continued until about 7 when the last people in a very long line got their food. Offering visitors their salads and burgers were staff members of FM Bank, who, according to Waseca Farm Bureau president Gary Schoenfeld, volunteered for the job. Offering beverages were the smiling faces of Sleight and Cutter pageant royalty. Root beer floats were available for dessert.

Schoenfeld explains Farm Bureau has offered the dinner since 2017 as part of its advocacy program. The idea, he says, is to provide an opportunity and a pleasant atmosphere where town and country dwellers can mingle and build relationships. Perhaps as conversation starters, pieces of agricultural equipment are parked in the vicinity.

“We didn’t have as many as usual this year, though,” Schoenfeld observes. “We had too many folks who were still planting.”



Kevin Hanson of Kibble Equipment serves popcorn to area farmer Marv Guse. Pioneer photos by Deb Bently



Members of the royalty selected during this year’s Sleight and Cutter pageants were on hand to serve beverages.



David Trcka of Waseca’s FM BANK volunteered to serve the food during the event. To his right is FM BANK President Jon Butler. Serving began before 5 and lasted until after 7 p.m.

Preliminary budget presented

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

In his report to the school board, Superintendent Eric Hudspith said licensed teaching positions are filled for the coming school year for all but a few special education positions, but there are good candidates. Hudspith said there has been focus on conversations with community members such as what they're seeing within the district or what activities are exciting to them. Preparations for the upcoming school board election this fall are also underway. Teachers are involved with curriculum mapping and scope and sequencing for their next year as well as literacy training for the Read Act. Lastly, the district's operational plan and vision card was reviewed briefly and will be examined in full in July, with new vision cards being brought to the board for approval in August and September.

Business Director Matt Moline presented the fiscal year 2025 preliminary budget. Moline underscored that the projected fund balance showed a slight decrease, but overall the budget shows a balance between revenues and expenses. Board policy states the general fund should be between 15 and 35 percent. At 23 percent, next year's proposed budget is projected to be within the desired range. The board approved the preliminary budget which is available for viewing on the district's website under the "District Office" heading.

Board members gave committee reports if there was information not previously covered. Superintendent Hudspith mentioned new junior student board representative Allen Kopetski,

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

who was unable to attend that evening, who will be joining senior board representative Collin Dettmer. "We value our student board members and their input," Hudspith said, "and as we continue to find more ways to include them in our work, I'm looking forward to taking the thoughts of last year's reps and going forward."

The results of a recent evaluation of Hudspith's work were addressed as part of the action items on the agenda. Board Chair Dave Dunn said Hudspith received scores of 'effective' or 'highly effective' from all seven board members on each of his goals (strategic plan implementation, community engagement, budget stabilization, doctoral program). Hudspith thanked the board for taking the time to complete the evaluation.

"The feedback I receive from this process is extremely beneficial to how I continue to work and grow as the leader here. I've been honored to be here now for four school years, and we are seeing some really positive things coming out of the pandemic," Hudspith says he appreciates the ongoing dialogue he has with most board members each week and asks for that to continue. "We have some decisions to make about where we want to go as a district. I can support you if I know what you're thinking or give you the information you need to make a better decision."

All other items having been addressed, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be July 11.

Annual audit review presented

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

During the Janesville council meeting on June 13, Senior Governmental Audit Associate Kelsey Larson summarized the results her firm reached after examining the city's 2023 financial records. Larson pointed out the city did well in that its expenditures were lower than originally anticipated, but so were its revenues—to an extent where they did not completely cover expenditures. She warned that the city should be careful about what it spends in the next several years.

She noted the city's "debt per capita" index is higher than in past years because the city "issued bonds," which essentially means "borrowed money and is paying interest" for funds used to complete those projects.

Larson shared the city currently has a policy of keeping an amount equal to about 35 percent of its annual budget in a separate account, known as a "general fund." The saved money collects interest and, perhaps more importantly, would be available in case of a long-term emergency. Despite the policy, she noted the general fund has been trending downwards to just over 34 percent. Bringing the level back up to policy, she said, will require the city to reduce its expenditures.

"Looking at your general fund budget, revenue came in \$170,000 under budget. The main contributor there is you did not receive your fire state aid due to late file submissions," Larson continued. "Charges for services were under budget by about \$25,000 and the miscellaneous revenues were under by about \$50,000." Larson attributed that to a "restructuring" of funding for the school resource officer (SRO) reimbursement.

She then turned her attention to the variation in general fund revenues throughout the last several years and noted "a large spike" in delinquent collections for the city's taxes in 2022 which returned to 90 to 99 percent in 2023. She also observed that charges for services were on "a great increase."

After providing some detailed analysis of various line items in the audit, Larson turned her attention to bonds the city has issued and when the city will be able to stop paying interest on them.

"The main thing I want to note here is we try to keep those ten years when you have those debt payments pretty level so we don't have to keep adjusting the debt service levy," Larson said, adding that meant the city didn't have much flexibility for funds in the next decade. "You have a little bit of a drop in 2027 but then not

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

really until 2032. When you're looking at street projects and such, it's somewhere to look if you want to keep the debt levy service the same."

Next year, City Administrator Clinton Rogers informed Larson that the city will have the First Street project paid off and the next street construction bond will be paid off in 2031. He agreed that it will probably be a few years before the city looks into another street project. He also said the city council plans to discuss a capital improvement plan at the July meeting.

Councilmember Jim Muleahey inquired if there is anywhere the city is deficit. Larson responded that the business funds look good, but the main concern would be the general fund and trying to get the unassigned balance back level with policy.

During the public forum, the council approved a request from Boy Scout Eagle candidate Daulton Lotton to remodel the pavilion near the baseball field in Lakeview Park as a project. Lotton reported he has already found a private donor who has supplied paint and has gathered a crew of people willing to help him. He es-

timates he will need less than another \$150 in supplies, and reported it should take him no more than a month to complete the project.

In new business matters, the council addressed a resident's concern regarding the speeds drivers reach along West North Street. The resident suggested posting a speed limit sign, since there isn't one along that stretch of the road. After some discussion, it was decided to have police officers increase patrols; council members said they remain open to putting a sign in place if the issue persists.

Also during the meeting, the council approved Cole Schlueter as a regular full-time employee with the beginning wage of \$26.87 per hour. For the last few years, Schlueter has worked part-time during the summer months, primarily in public works. During last year's budget discussions, a decision was made to add a full-time position for the second half of 2024.

The council accepted donations totaling \$600 for the music in Veterans Park from local businesses Synergy Home Care of Mankato, Autumn Acres Farm, LLC, Utility Consultants, Janesville Agency, and James Management.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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

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

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

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 6th St NE, Waseca
507-835-9176
Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service
* * *

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

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

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

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

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

REAL LIFE CHURCH
620 W Elm Ave, Waseca
507-607-8245
Sunday worship 10 a.m.
* * *

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS
1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca

507-835-4640
Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.
* * *

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

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

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

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

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

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Pamela Jensen
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship
* * *

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

VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
* * *

VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Brian Schanil Pastor
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe

Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark
* * *

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

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

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

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

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC
Waldorf, Minnesota
Father Brian Mulligan
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship
* * *

TRINITY LUTHERAN
Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
Sunday - 10:45 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
* * *

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
412 N. Main Street, Janesville
Interhim Pastor
Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m.

Worship
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:15 a.m. Worship
* * *

JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
401 N. West St., Janesville
Pastor Kathy King
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship
* * *

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

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH
307 W. 2nd St, Janesville
10 a.m. - Mass
* * *

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

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

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

NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA
404 30 120th St. Waseca
Pastor Sarah Krolak
507-234-6463
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday - 10:00 a.m. confirmation
* * *

NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.

The Pastor's Column

The early church

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

I grow two things in my garden, tomatoes and peppers. My wife, Naomi, on the other hand grows what seems interesting to her any given year. This year she is growing vine cucumbers, snap peas, strawberries, tomatoes and a bunch of stuff I haven't recognized yet. She is enjoying last year's mother's day present of her raised garden bed and this year's present of it being loaded with compost.

The few things that I know about gardening I learned by trial and error, one year I mistakenly pinched off the female flowers on my pumpkin vines, that year I had a great crop of pumpkin leaves. Another year I didn't get my tomatoes in early enough, but I also gave up on the garden when my back yard got washed out 3 weeks into the growing season and nothing seemed to survive. I was surprised when I cleaned out the weeds in the fall to find a crop of tomatoes and brussels sprouts.

This year and the years since I have been in Waseca, I have my peppers in pots on the back porch. I don't start the peppers myself, but I rely on those that plan ahead and have extra plants to share with me, then in August or September I harvest my crop and make a batch of pickled peppers. I didn't start them, I don't know how spicy they will be, but I do water them, harvest them, and pickle them.

The spiritual life is similar to the way that I garden. A pastor, Sunday school worker, parent or friend may have had an impact on your relationship with God. There maybe someone else who comes along and teaches you something more about your faith. Then you may move or life happens and

God brings someone else into your life to walk along side you, or you may be that person for someone else. God has a way of putting people into your life that are there to teach or support you for a time or you are there for them.

In the early church there was division or conflict over who you were following in your faith. Some picked one of the apostles, others focused on Paul or Apollos, who were teachers in the early church. They tried to make their faith and their teachers a source of pride, but God had other plans. In 1 Corinthians 3 Paul corrects the church and redirects their focus off of a source of pride to the source of our salvation.

5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

I don't cause my peppers and tomatoes to grow, I am a steward of the plants and trust that God will bring about a harvest. It is the same way in the kingdom of God, God calls us to share our faith, to engage in fellowship, to correct and encourage ourselves and others, but it is He who causes His people and ultimately His church to grow. We have been called to be faithful in doing our part as the church, to plant and water, watching God cause the growth in us and those that would come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord.

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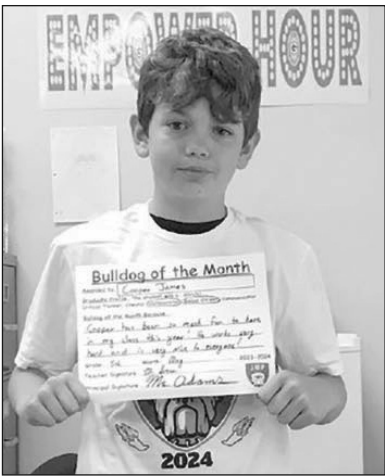

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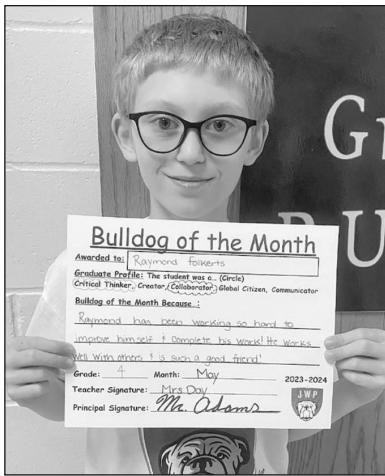
Bulldogs of the month, May 2024



Rhynn Danberry



Cooper James



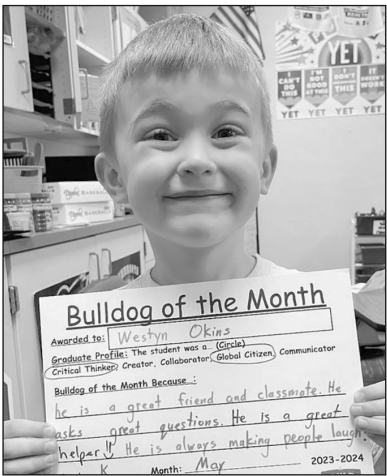
Raymond Folkerts



Holden Bowen



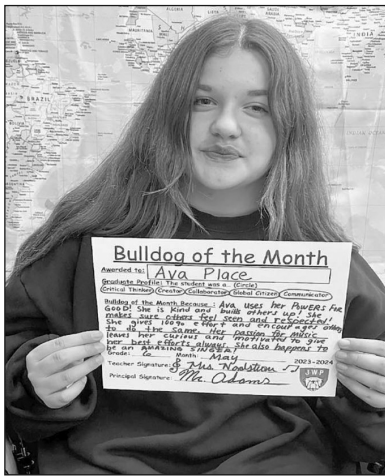
Brooklyn Okins



Westyn Okins



Elsa Dieker



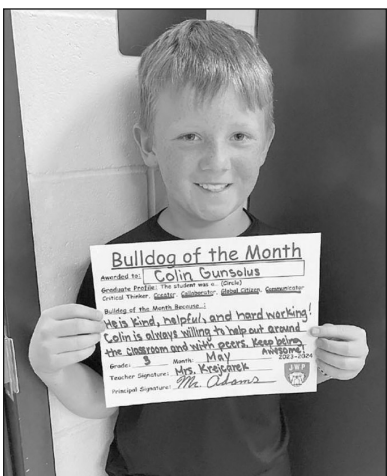
Ava Place



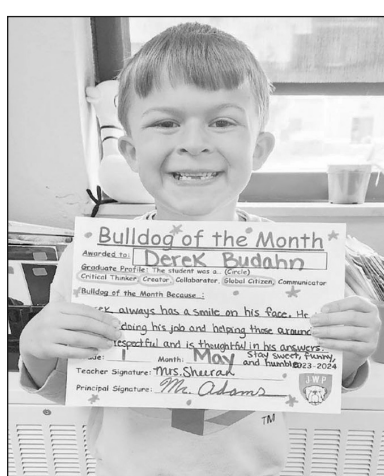
Macey Golombiecki



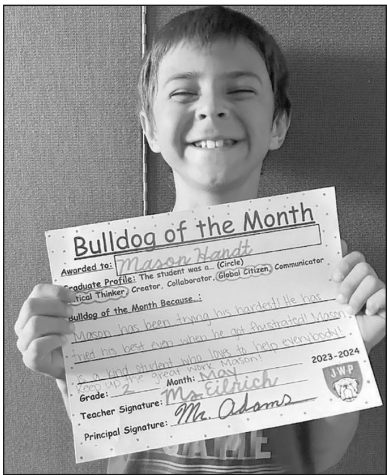
Sophia Donovan



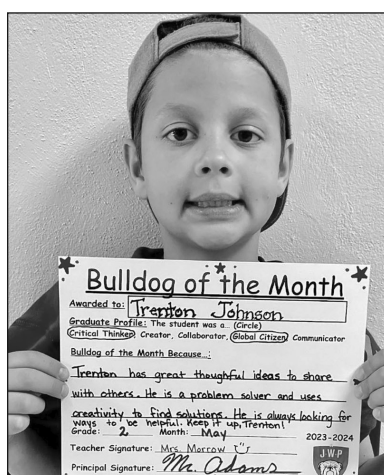
Colin Gunsolus



Derek Budahn



Mason Handt



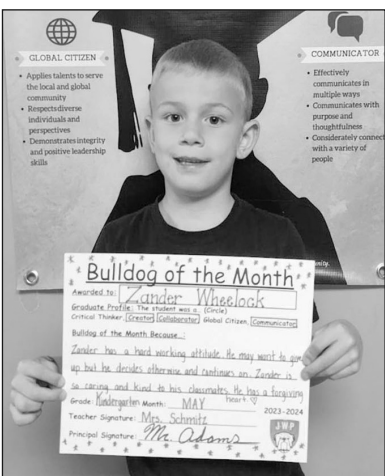
Trenton Johnson



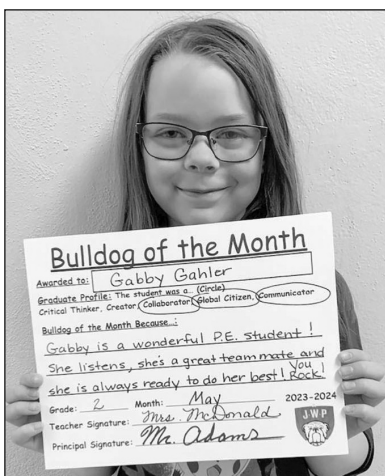
Brydon Olson



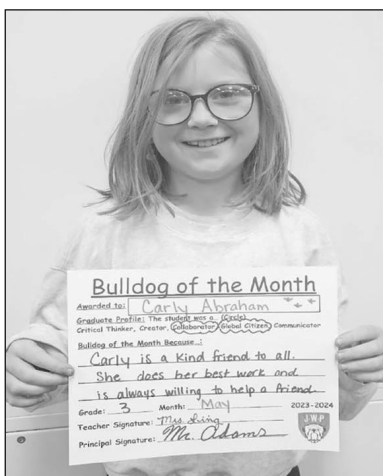
Jackson Ling



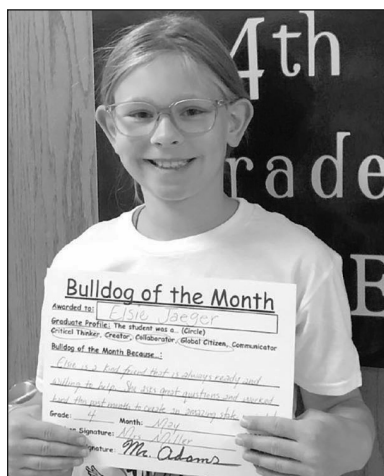
Zander Wheelock



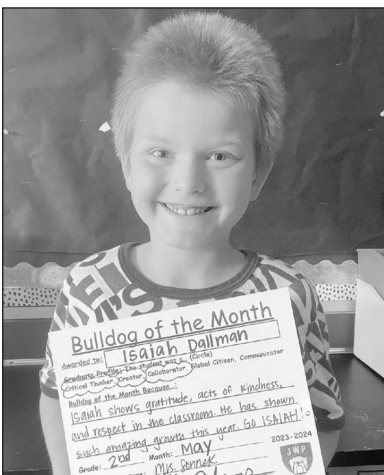
Gabby Gahler



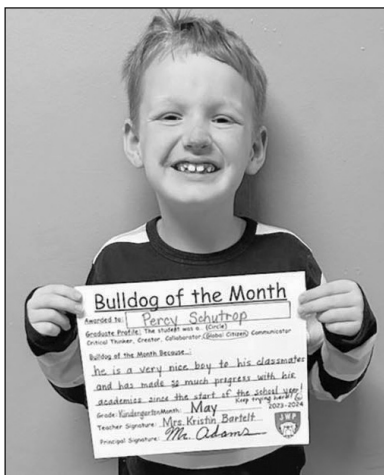
Carly Abraham



Elsie Jaeger



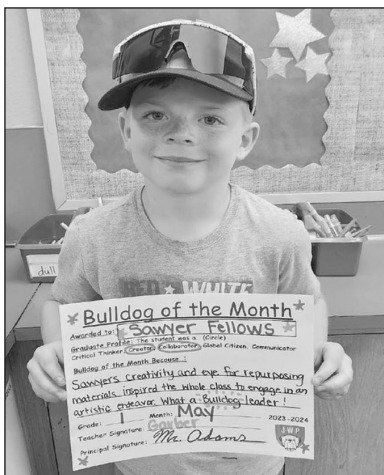
Isaiah Dallman



Percy Schutrop



Lola Peterson



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Hanson pitches Braves past Austin

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The first four batters in the Austin Bluejays' lineup scored off Waseca Braves starting pitcher Ryan Hanson last Friday night.

It was not a sign of things to come.

Hanson settled down after the early uprising, shutting out the Bluejays over the next seven innings as the Braves went on to a 7-5 victory at Austin. He finished with 10 strikeouts.

Hanson, however, was not the only pitching standout for Waseca. Sebastian Teague came in to pitch in the ninth inning with no outs and the

tying run at the plate and retired three straight batters for the save.

"It was a very nice win," said Braves coach Tink Larson.

Kyle Waugh got Waseca back into the game with a three-run home run in the seventh inning to tie it 4-4. Hanson finished with three hits, including a double, while Tyson Reger, Kelvin Nelson, Alex Feeney and Teague had two hits apiece.

The Braves lost at North Mankato 11-4 June 11.

Nelson and Chris Glynn had two hits each. Jimmy Loonan, Waugh, Feene and Teague also hit safely. Nelson took the pitching loss.

"North Mankato beat us quite

handily by the score," said Larson. "Sometimes scores are misleading. Ten of their 11 runs scored after two were out, which means we're only one pitch away from all of those runs being scored. Kelvin Nelson continued his torrid hitting.

The Braves jumped off to a solid first inning at home against Lake Crystal, scoring seven runs without a hit and only one Lake Crystal error on their way to a 13-3 triumph at Tink Larson Field June 12. The Braves received six walks, had two batters hit by pitch and had four runs score on wild pitches in the inning.

Nelson had two hits and scored four runs. Reger, Loonan, Waugh,

Chaz Verdusco and Zach Hoehn contributed one hit each. Loonan doubled. Reger stole three bases. Verdusco drove in two runs. Teague was the winning pitcher.

"Sebastian made his first mound appearance a winning one, pitching five good innings," said Larson.

He gave up one unearned run on four hits, while walking one and striking out five.

After a Wednesday home game with Eagle Lake, the Braves play Friday at Gaylord and Sunday at Wells. They're back at Larson Field Wednesday, June 26 at 7:30 p.m. against Waterville.

Reger, Roeker spark Legion team over Kasson

The Waseca American Legion dominated Kasson at Tink Larson Field last week, winning 7-1 while allowing only four hits.

"It was a great game for the Legion," said Waseca coach Tink Larson.

It started with pitching as Tyson Reger struck out 13 and walked none for Post 228. He lost his shutout bid when he hit the No. 9 batter on an 0-2 count with two outs in the bottom of the seventh. The next batter then got a hit to score a run.

"It might be the first game I can remember of him throwing a complete game without issuing a walk," said Larson.

Keaton Roeker led Waseca offensively, going 3-for-4. Reger had two hits, Sebastian Teague and Nate Engel-Mueller one each.

"Keato had a nice night at the plate," said Larson.

The team is home against Albert Lea Monday, June 25, at Winnebago Tuesday and at Mankato American Thursday.

Waseca Tennis Junior Tournament June 21, 22

The 2024 Waseca Tennis Association Junior Tennis Tournament is set for Friday, June 21 for singles and Saturday, June 22 for doubles.

Events and starting times:

10U and 12U Boys & Girls Singles Friday 9 a.m.

14U and 16U Boys & Girls Singles Friday 11 a.m.

18U Boys & Girls Singles Friday 2 p.m.

10U and 12U Boys & Girls Doubles Saturday 9 a.m.

14U and 16U Boys & Girls Doubles Saturday 11 a.m.

18U Boys & Girls Doubles Saturday 2 p.m.

Cost: \$10 per event

Site: Waseca High School tennis courts

Prizes: Given to winners and runners-up

Entry deadline: Tuesday, June 18 at 5 p.m.

Register online at: <https://waseca.ce.leyo.com/>

Tournament regulations:

1. Match will consist of two sets to four. (Scoring and length of

match may be adjusted by the tournament director).

2. Continuous Play.

3. Knowledge of scoring is required.

4. Please bring your own water.

5. Age groups may be combined.

Four Bluejays all-conference

Senior McKyla Hasselquist was Waseca's representative on the 2024 Big South All-Conference Softball Team. Sophomore Madison Roessler earned honorable mention.

Waseca senior Cody Vagts and junior Hunter Anderson made the all-conference team in boys' golf. Senior Emma Keith made all-conference in girls' golf.

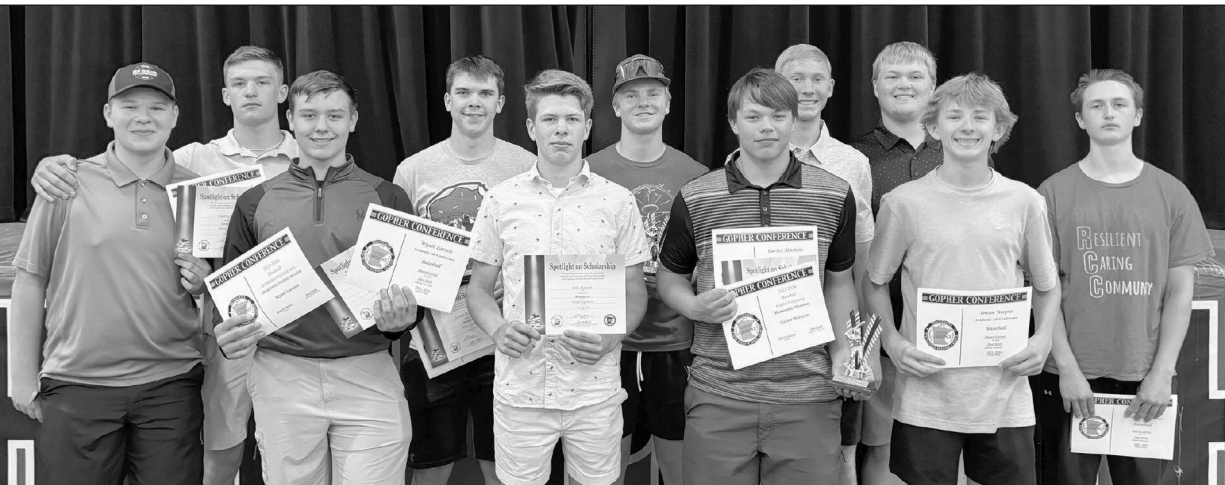
Senior Sebastian Teague and junior Colten Ruedy received honorable mention for baseball.



NRHEG softball players pose with their awards during the spring sports banquet held Tuesday, June 4, 2024 in the high school gymnasium.



NRHEG golfers pose with their awards during the spring sports banquet held Tuesday, June 4, 2024 in the high school gymnasium.



NRHEG baseball players pose with their awards during the spring sports banquet held Tuesday, June 4, 2024 in the high school gymnasium.



NRHEG track competitors pose with their awards during the spring sports banquet held Tuesday, June 4, 2024 in the high school gymnasium.



NRHEG seniors pose during the spring sports banquet held Tuesday, June 4, 2024 in the high school gymnasium.



NRHEG track competitors pose with their awards during the spring sports banquet held Tuesday, June 4, 2024 in the high school gymnasium.

NRHEG holds spring sports banquet

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

NRHEG Activities Director Dan Stork extended many thank-yous as he opened the 2024 Spring Sports Banquet ceremony Tuesday night, June 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school gym in New Richland.

All NRHEG Spring sports were recognized, and coaches and representatives from the team spoke.

All of the senior athletes were recognized. Many deserving awards were handed out during the evening. A sense of gratitude encompassed the room as speakers, coaches and players reflected on their memorable seasons, and for some, entire careers.

The banquet concluded with photos and good conversation among the hundreds of

students, parents, family, and coaches in attendance.

The following awards were handed out:

Golf

Most Improved - Braydon Rollag, Elsie Schultz

MVP - Hudson Chrz, Meela Budach

Captains Award - Shan Hansen, Meela Budach

Sportsmanship Award - Shan Hansen

Honorable Mention All Conference - Meela Budach

Honorable Mention All Conference - Halie Schultz

Sportsmanship Award - Olivia Wilkenson

Baseball

Golden Arm - Jared Lee

Golden Glove - Carter Martens

Golden Bat - Alden Dobberstein

Most Improved - Jordan Brouwers

Captains - Alden Dobberstein, Jared Lee

Plaque

1st Team All Conference - Jared Lee

3rd Team All Conference - Alden Dobberstein

Honorable Mention All Conference - Carter Martens

Sportsmanship Award - Wyatt Larson

Softball

Golden Glove - Isabel Stadheim

Golden Bat - Preslie Nielsen

Oil Can Award - Erin Peterson

Most Improved - Izley Boerner

MVP - Preslie Nielsen

All Conference - Faith Nielsen, Isabel Stadheim

Honorable Mention All Conference - Izley Boerner

Sportsmanship Award - Payton Bunn

Track and Field

Most Valuable Track Events - Levin Kitzer, Quinn VanMaldeghem

Most Valuable Field Events - Jaylin Raab, Malonna Wilson

Most Valuable Track and Field Events - William Tuttle, Evelyn Nydegger

Most Improved - Harbor Cromwell, Chloe Riewer

Rookie of the Year - Gavin Lewison, Julieann Wobbrock

Captains - Will Tuttle, Malonna Wilson, Levin Kitzer, Evelyn Nydegger and Parker Bunn

All Conference

Will Tuttle 4x100

Evelyn Nydegger 100 LH

Will Tuttle 110HH

Sierra Misgen 4x200

Will Tuttle 300 IH

Clara Buendorf 4x200

Levin Kitzer 4x100

Sierra Misgen 4x200

Jaylin Raab 4x100

Chloe Riewer 4x200

Jaylin Raab Long Jump

Harbor Cromwell 4x100

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON
PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL TAX ABATEMENT**

Waseca County will conduct a public hearing pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 469.1812 to 469.1815 for the purpose of receiving oral and/or written comments for a proposed Residential Tax Abatement (2024-23) for the County portion of property taxes for a new residential structure to be built on property within the City of Waseca, as described as follows: Lot One (1), Block Two (2), Fox Meadows 2nd Addition. The Parcel Identification number is 17.285.0210.

The public hearing will convene at approximately 9:30 A.M., Tuesday July 2, 2024 in the Waseca County Board Room, 300 North State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

The County's abatement term cannot exceed 100% of the County's share of annual taxes for up to three years. The total abatement of the County's share of taxes on this parcel described above shall not exceed \$6060.33 in total.

Waseca County held a hearing on and approved the City of Waseca and Waseca County Residential Tax Abatement Program on May 16, 2023.

Pertinent information is on file at Waseca County Planning & Zoning. Persons wishing to make written comment may do so by mailing them to Waseca County, 300 North State Street, Waseca MN 56093.

Waseca County.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Friday, June 21, 2024.



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Hay Daze



Members of the JWP National Honor Society and FCCLA spent the morning of Saturday, June 15, 2024 running the Hay Daze Kiddie Carnival at the Whispering Creek Nursing Home.

■ Hay Daze from Page 1

tainment for the evening to a temporary stage inside a tent: The rain throughout the day had made the outdoor Guardian Energy Stage too wet to use.

Although the band Family Tradition had no problems playing their set, dark clouds loomed during Junk FM's soundcheck. Although they were able to play, the power cut out in the middle of their set. Heavy thunderstorms kept crew members working energetically to keep pools of water from forming and splashing down on the crowd.

Although the power was restored, storms showed no signs of slowing down. Those attending the performance were eventually instructed to leave the tent. While some braved the heavy downpours and lightning to head home, many went to the Purple Goose to seek shelter and continue the party. The saloon was so packed there were no open seats and barely any standing room.

Sunday saw a scorching end to Hay Daze; temperatures reached the mid-80s, and the rain left the air humid. Strong winds picked up during the parade. The after-

noon ended with some bingo; musical entertainment was offered by members of the JWP Swing Show, who performed solos, duets, and in groups.

While the weather certainly kept things interesting, Hay Daze was once again a great success, with hundreds in attendance throughout the week and about a thousand at the peak of all the activities during the weekend.

Janesville Beauty Pageant

JANESVILLE JOURNAL - "Adapt" and "overcome" were two words for part of the Miss Janesville 2024 pageant at the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School Auditorium on Thursday, June 13.

Despite some technical difficulties causing a hitch in the show, the pageant went on smoothly the rest of the way.

Ariana Aguilar received the 2024 crown and sash as she became the new Miss Janesville; Madyn Holland and Victoria Blomstrom are her attendants. The three, along with Lilly Ewert, were vying for the title.

Genna Mueller was selected among nine contestants to become 2024's Little Miss Janesville. The pageant featured Brandon Johnson and Kristin Ziemke as the masters of ceremony; Becky Borneke provided some musicianship on the piano. The judges for the evening were Carrie Moriarty, Kylie Bohnert, and Sherri Wakefield.

The theme for this year's pageant was a swanky soiree that brought the audience back to the Roaring '20s. The opening number was, appropriately, "All that Jazz."

All four Miss Janesville contestants nearly glowed in their gowns as they responded to interview questions.

Ewert was asked, "If you were to become Miss Janesville, how would you contribute to the community?"

"I believe that being Miss Janesville means being a big role model for younger kids," Ewert responded. "I believe that younger kids should learn to be themselves and have people love them for who they are and not try to be anyone else."

Blomstrom's question was related to her future ambition of being a teacher. "How do you plan to make an impact through elementary education?"

"I have always enjoyed leaving an impact and working with younger children," she replied. "I love encouraging them to be themselves no matter what other people think because other people's opinions do not define who they are. I want to work with them, and that would help me in my future career and using my leadership skills."

Aguilar's question was, "What advice would you give to a child, and why?"

"Some advice I would give to a child would be, whenever an opportunity comes to you, always take it, because you never want to live with regret," she answered. "I remember my freshman year in high school when I didn't go out for the high school musical. I was pretty upset about it. So, I went out for it the next year, and I saw what an incredible opportunity it was, and I haven't regretted it since."

Holland's question was, "How do you measure success?"

"I measure success in the failures that I make because I learn from them at the end of the day," she responded. "If I get a bad grade on a test, I learn to study more. At the end of the day, it's not a failure for me. It's a learning experience. It is a learning curve, but it's one that I can get over and not deal with in the future."

The contestants then showed off their talents, starting with Ewert performing a great vocal rendition of Jennifer Hart's "Half the Man" with Borneke on piano. When it came time for Blomstrom's vocal performance of Lady A's "American Honey," the audio went haywire.

While Borneke tried fixing the issues, Johnson gave the audience a taste of his comedy by sharing some Christian-friendly swear words. Miss Janesville 2023 Sophia Coulsey also shared a memory of when she and first attendant Abby Sobolik found out they both shared a fear of clowns; they were nearly driven to tears by a group of them during a parade in Le Center.

With the audio not cooperating, Plan B was to play the backing tracks of Blomstrom's performance through a phone and use a microphone to amplify the sound. After showing great patience, Blomstrom drew excitement from the crowd with her performance. Holland put her public speaking skills to good use,



2024 Miss Janesville Royalty: Miss Janesville - Ariana Aguilar; Second Attendant - Victoria Blomstrom; First Attendant - Madyn Holland; Little Miss Janesville - Genna Mueller. Below participants in the Hay Daze parade.



sharing a monologue called "More Than Just a Crown and Sash." The monologue featured a slideshow highlighting past Miss Janesville royalty and their accomplishments and showing many events centered around Hay Daze.

Aguilar capped off the talent portion of the show with a beautiful clarinet cover of Elvis Presley's "Can't Help Falling In Love," with Borneke accompanying her on piano. As the judges tabulated scores, Coulsey performed a vocal solo of Pink's "Cover Me In Sunshine." The Little Miss Janesville candidates also entertained the crowd with a dance routine to Hilary Duff's "What Dreams Are Made Of." Emcees Johnson and Ziemke presented a medley of songs from "The Greatest Showman."

Coulsey then gave her farewell speech as Miss Janesville. "As I stand here tonight, I am faced with the realization that my time as Miss Janesville has come to an end. It has been an honor and a privilege to represent this community throughout the past year, and I am grateful for the opportunities, trust, and support you have provided. This year would not have been possible without so many people, and I appreciate every single individual who has been part of this journey."

She teared up halfway through her speech as she talked about her mother. "No detail was ever skipped over with my mom, and she made sure I

got the most out of my experience with Miss Janesville. My mom drove me to the parades, helped me pick outfits — even when I had my Miss Drama Queen Janesville moments — and even funded my trip to the St. Paul Winter Carnival, where I got to meet so many people and educated them about what Janesville has to offer. None of this would have been possible without my mom, and I am forever grateful to her."

With that, she signed off as Miss Janesville 2023, took one last walk, and crowned Aguilar Miss Janesville 2024.

Along with the crownings, the contestants won cash prizes. Holland, who was named first attendant, received \$100 along with the title; she also won the \$25 prize which came with the talent award. Blomstrom earned \$50 as the second attendant. She was also named Miss Congeniality, an award based on votes cast by all the candidates; each one chooses a fellow candidate who is congenial, charismatic, and supportive. Along with the title of Miss Janesville 2024, Aguilar received a \$300 award. Everyone's reaction to receiving their crown and sash was terrific to see. Aguilar's response to winning Miss Janesville was joyful tears. Her beaming smile as she took her first walk made it obvious she was delighted.



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