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WASECA
COUNTY
PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 18 Vol. III \$2

Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca

Friday, May 3, 2024

■ Inside



Prom, Spring

Whimsical Wandcrafting for Wacky Wizards May 5
Waseca Public Library is hosting the “magical librarian” to assist children in making custom wands and learning to use them. The event is free and open to the public, geared for ages 8-12.

TEAM Academy 20th Anniversary Open House 5 p.m. May 9
TEAM Academy is hosting an Open House to celebrate their 20th anniversary with light refreshments. The event is being held at TEAM Academy school from 5-6 p.m. and is open to the public. For more information call 507-833-8326.

Art Exhibit and Reception at Waseca Art Center May 9
Eric Zuccola and the Waseca Art Appreciation Group will be exhibiting their work from April 24-June 8th at the Waseca Art Center. There will be a reception for Zuccola’s work on May 9, 2024 from 5-7pm.

Waldorf Petal Pushers to host plant sale May 11
The Waldorf Petal Pushers garden club is having a plant sale on May 11 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Waldorf Community Center. Annuals, perennials, houseplants, succulents will be available. \$20.00 gift cards from Soubas greenhouse will be sold.

Hartley’s ‘Night in the big city’ May 14
Students, parents, and families are invited to Hartley Elementary’s ‘Night in the big city’ May 14 from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Food will be served from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Events include an art show, literacy activities, BOGO Book Fair. The meal is free and includes hotdogs, chips, a cookie and beverage.

4-H Garage Sale May 17-19 at Waseca County Fairgrounds
The “largest garage sale in Waseca” will be May 17-19, during Waseca’s all-city garage sale weekend, benefitting 4-H camps, scholarships, and project-learning opportunities for Waseca youth. Community donations are appreciated.

Waseca Craft and Vendor Show May 17-19 at Waseca County Fairgrounds
The Waseca Craft and Vendor Show will be May 17, 18, and 19 at the Waseca County Fairgrounds. Times are 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, May 17: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 18, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, May 19. Vendors looking to participate should call Jennie Johnson (507-475-1021) or Robin Dulas (507-461-0314) to reserve a space.

Happy Days in Waseca 5 p.m. June 6
Happy Days in Waseca, an event aiming to bring more community to Waseca and support local businesses, is taking place June 6 from 5-9 p.m.

A word from
The Word

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

1 John 5:14

After Glow



AFTER GLOW - A total of 111 couples/groups/singles walked the magic carpet during the Waseca High School prom the evening of Saturday, April 27, 2024 in the high school gymnasium. The night’s theme was “After Glow.” Photos of couples walking during Grand March can be found on Pages 2, 3, 18, 19 and 20. Any photos taken that evening but not printed in this issue can be found on the Pioneer’s Facebook page.

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

Wildlife, plants experiencing benefits after March 3 fire

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

All eyes were on Waseca County March 3 this year when a wildfire rode the day’s gusty winds across more than 1,600 acres of winter-dry grassland. Eight fire departments responded to help control the blaze, including aircraft with special firefighting materials and equipment.

It was a difficult, demanding day which threatened and delivered tragedy. Jeanine Vorland, the area wildlife manager for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) says she considers the efforts of everyone who helped control the fire to have been “absolutely heroic.” Thanks to their hard work and coordination, the fire didn’t damage any buildings or homes.

She remembers returning toward Waseca after fetching some equipment in the Owatonna area. “I could see the smoke and flames from Interstate 35,” she remembers. At 40 feet tall, “the flames seemed to be licking the bottom of the clouds.”

In her position as wildlife manager, Vorland helps oversee two DNR “wildlife management areas” (WMA) which were caught up in the wildfire: Moonan Marsh and Findley.

The smaller of the two, Findley, is 287 acres of marsh, grassland and forest located on the north and west side of Waseca’s “Snake Trail” highway. Moonan Marsh, at 955 acres, is across the road on the highway’s south and east side. Thanks to the unusually strong winds which gusted up to 40 mph that day, the fire burned through Findley, then



A helicopter helped with efforts to control the wildfire which burned more than 1,600 acres in Waseca County on March 3. Chris Howard, Land and Water Resources Manager for Waseca County, captured a video which included this scene. Below, areas of Moonan Marsh and Findley Wildlife Management Area are greening quickly; many plants and animals are experiencing advantages because the “litter” of previous years’ growth was removed by the fire.

Photo by Chris Howard

“jumped” the Snake Trail to turn many acres of Moonan’s dry grass and cattail stalks to ash.

But even during that tense, difficult battle against the fire, Vorland knew something that is becoming more and more obvious as the spring progresses. What looked like Armageddon that day was far from the end of the world.

“Fire is essential to maintain diverse habitat,” Vorland observes.

The land that is now Waseca County was home

Marsh continued on 13



WASECA CITY COUNCIL

TIF hearing tabled until May 21

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

During its meeting on April 16, the Waseca City Council tabled a public hearing meant to gather public input about whether tax increment financing (TIF) should be allowed for a possible construction project at the north end of town. The hearing was rescheduled to May 21, awaiting the preparation of pertinent documents and a recommendation from Northland Securities financial advisors. Also tabled for the same reason was a related matter regarding the sale of city property.

A group of investors calling themselves the Waseca Real Estate Fund limited partnership (WREF LP) is working to purchase and develop three city-owned lots in the “Marketplace” subdivision located between Walmart and the junior/senior high school. The proposed development would be completed in two phases, the first of which is the construction of a 36-unit apartment building.

Chris Kennelly, a representative of REF, introduced himself and told the city council he is currently assisting in the development of the Marketplace property.

The costs, Kennelly said, are higher than expected but investors are working through the design and making a few alterations so REF can proceed under numbers similar to original cash flow projections. He also expressed confidence construction would still happen this year.

“Based on where the project is at, in your original plan which was June 1, that’s highly unlikely at this point,” City Manager Carl Sonnenberg stated.

Kennelly confirmed he understood that, but stated his belief construction could begin July 1 is based on how engaged the mechanical and electrical contractors are.

In other matters, the council approved modifications to the city’s floodplain ordinance to bring it into compliance with current state and federal guidelines.

During public forum, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Waseca Exchange Club president, asked the council to sign a proclamation recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. After reading some troubling news headlines, he noted that they didn’t come from the metro area – they were from neighborhoods in a local town.

“There are 3.2 million cases of known child abuse that are reported nationwide every single year,” Rostislavovich said.

Mayor Randy Zimmerman thanked Rostislavovich for the presentation.

City resident Josh Boeckman asked council members about language in city ordinances which specify what types of non-licensed vehicles are allowed on city roadways, saying the weight limits named in the laws made classifications unclear. Sonnenberg promised to take the ordinance back to law enforcement and check it out.

WHS Prom 2024



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WHS Prom 2024



Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



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Compostings

by Al Batt

We're almost there

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
Well, Lars Larson, look at you. The last time I saw you, you were tall and thin with a head full of hair. Now you're short, portly and bald. My name is John Johnson. And you've changed your name, too, Lars?

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. The weather forecast was warm, cold, sunny, cloudy, rainy, snowy, calm and windy.

I wisely played Duck, Duck, Gray Duck (DDGD) as a child. My unfortunate cousins in Iowa were forced to play Duck, Duck, Goose. The children who aren't "it" are seated facing inward, while the one who is "it" walks around in a circle behind them. It taps each child on the head and says "duck" until it says "gray duck" (or "goose"). The victim then jumps up and pursues it around the circle, and if it reaches and claims the victim's former seat, the victim becomes it. Lather, rinse, repeat. Both activities originated in Sweden. One is called "Anka Anka Gas," meaning "Duck, Duck, Goose," and the other is called "Anka Anka Gra Anka," meaning "Duck, Duck, Gray Duck." Perhaps the smartest Swedes used the DDGD version and made their way to Minnesota, as it involves more strategy than its counterpart. The player who is "it" can trick opponents by tapping someone on the head and starting with the sound, "Grrr." It may choose to say "Green Duck" or "Great Duck," instead of calling out "Gray Duck" to confuse another.

"Olly olly oxen free" is a catchphrase used by a surrendering seeker in hide-and-seek games to indicate that players who are hiding can come out into the open without losing. In Minnesota, it should be "Ole Ole Olson free."

DOCTOR, DOCTOR
At least I wasn't the guy who told me he'd bitten himself on his forehead. I asked him how that was possible. He said, "I was on a ladder."

And even better, I wasn't the fellow who went to a doctor who told him the bad news. He had little time left.

Of course, the patient asked how much time.

"Ten," said the doctor.
"Ten? Days, weeks, months, years?" asked the patient.

"Nine, eight, seven..." said the doctor.

I had a hitch in my gitalong. My problem is that I can never remember which knee is my bad one and which is my good one.

I've written about Doc Olds and Doc Buturf, the small-town physicians of my youth who kept me going. Marian Bahl of Faribault sent this, "My childhood physician was Dr. Rumpf. When called out at night, he would fly through all the stop signs, then send a check to the police dept. to cover any transgressions. Whenever my mom would take me in for some ailment or stitches, he would tell her, 'Just sell her to the circus!'"

WORDS INSIDE A MARRIAGE'S CAR
We're almost there.
You said that 20 minutes ago.
We're even closer now.

I'VE LEARNED
Keep your eye on the doorknob. It will turn on you.

Let your doctors do the Goo-gling.

If you put ketchup on your shopping list, it will be difficult to read.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

What friends do you always bring to dinner? Your taste buds.

I've never seen a hippopotamus hiding in a tree. They must be good at it.

Why is it called golf? Because all the other four-letter words were taken.

What word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it? Short.

NATURE NOTES
I've never seen one wearing eyeglasses, but a skunk has poor vision, and combined with a dark pelage and crepuscular activity, leads to many skunks becoming victims of automobile collisions. Skunks have limited eyesight and can see about 10 feet clearly, but possess excellent hearing and smell. I talk to any skunk I encounter in my yard. My vocalization allows a skunk to gauge my location and avoid me.

Most waterfowl migrations occur at night. Studies indicate migratory movements intensify shortly after sunset, peak in the middle of the night, and decline thereafter. The result can be an impressive increase in local waterfowl numbers overnight. Most waterfowl fly at speeds of 40 to 60 mph, with many species averaging roughly 50 mph. With a 50-mph tailwind, migrating mallards could travel 800 miles during an eight-hour flight. Studies found a mallard needs to feed and rest for three to seven days to replenish the energy expended during this eight-hour journey.

MEETING ADJOURNED
"Be an encourager. Scatter sunshine. Who knows whose life you might touch with something as simple as a kind word."—Debbie Macomber.

On tour of Waseca's greenhouses

I interviewed three greenhouse owners for stories in this week's edition of the Pioneer. I learned a lot—and I deeply enjoyed the chance to visit warm, sunny spaces filled with plants and flowers.

I also got a refresher course about not making assumptions.

When I set out to arrange interviews with folks who "start" plants for people to buy, I figured I would be writing a single story which provided fundamental information about the greenhouse business, and then maybe a paragraph or two which highlighted something specific about each operation.

But as I spoke in turn with Michael Johnson of RCR Farm, Ed Bethke of Ed's Greenhouse, and Rick Morris of Waseca Greenhouse, it quickly became clear their operations were so different that each deserved its own story.

The personalities of the three interviewees were very different. I would classify Michael and Ed as "excited" for the start of the growing season; with more than 50 years' experience in the business, Rick might be described as pleasantly prepared. His claim to fame will forever be as my only interview conducted while the interviewee trimmed hundreds of roses. I appreciated his patient smiles as I asked questions which showed



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

my ignorance. One of my favorite answers, both from Rick and from Ed, was "Here, let me show you." After all that meant another walk among the plants and flowers.

I was practically amazed when watching Kristin Maxon, who works at Waseca Greenhouse, transplant seedlings.

Those tiny plants look so fragile, surely they should be handled tenderly...

Well, based on what she said about loving her work, I'm sure Kristin's heart may have been tender, but her technique certainly didn't seem to be. She tucked the slender end of a stick under the plant, lifted it up with its roots hanging in the air, and slid it unceremoniously into another spot. She made it look very easy.

I couldn't help commenting what a good laugh she would have had if she had asked me to do the transplant. What she accomplished in a few seconds would have taken me

much longer. Still, the evidence she knows what she is doing was green and growing all around us. There was likely not a single plant in that (to me) giant greenhouse she hadn't touched.

As for RCR Farm, I visited one of their sites last fall when I wrote a story about some NRHEG Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) students visiting to learn about the "farm to table" fresh food initiative being followed in that school system.

The marvel there was the amazing variety of plants which were thriving in such a relatively small space. As one who loves tomatoes, I particularly enjoyed the eight-foot tall trellises covered in green and dotted with the colorful fruits.

With tall plants on two sides of many rows, it was a matter of walking along between them and reaching among the leaves for the juicy treasures. I was deeply impressed by the efficiency, and by the down-to-earth

description provided by Matt Oelke, one of the owners. He was happy to talk not only about the successes, but also the "almosts" of their work. He showed the group some plants which had clearly not yet met their potential, and told of steps they were taking to see whether the crop could be viable at all. But there was no disappointment in his tone, only a good-humored "this should be interesting" sort of tone.

The visit at Ed's Greenhouse was an adventure in color and variety. What a delight it was to walk along the tables admiring the flowers and remembering the taste of fresh-picked peas. To me, anyway, it seemed like Ed could barely contain his excitement. Observing that of course it was too early to plant them out, he indicated the various plants and told of the ways his customers tended to use them.

Turns out, if you get Ed talking about plants, he can go on for a while. The man clearly loves what he does.

If you have the time to read all three of my greenhouse stories, I hope you'll have no trouble imagining what fun I had visiting with each of these folks. Here's hoping those of us without greenhouses can soon see the tops of our tender little seedlings coming out of the ground.

My 10-page report about 'Shrek'

School is over and while it might seem I have all the time in the world now, I don't.

We had our last day of instructional classes on Monday, but that got cut short because of the protesters. The administration closed many of the main buildings at 2 p.m. on Monday because that's when the protesters on campus said they were going to meet again and "escalate." I don't blame the school for shutting down the buildings as a precaution, but a lot of the protesters were peaceful. My friends and I walked by on our way home and there was just an encampment, no one talking or chanting and everything seemed relatively quiet.

The same buildings were closed again on Tuesday, and while I think a lot of students are understanding, some are a little more frustrated, as one of the closed buildings is Walter Library, one of the biggest libraries on campus. It's finals season, which



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

means we students are used to having around-the-clock access to the library, so having the building be shut down when the students need it to study can be a little frustrating.

I have stayed out of the way, though, mostly because it isn't my scene. I went as far as Waseca to escape (I actually went home to do billing for the paper).

While I was home, I attended a fiftieth wedding anniversary for a relative. Congrats Johnny and Carol! It was really fun hearing your fun stories about your wedding night, the

dress catching on fire (crazy!), and the drunk friends who provided some entertainment. I hope to one day make it as far as both of you.

We also ordered a root beer keg for Lizzie's graduation party and discussed what type of food she wants. It was kind of weird to talk about - my little sister is all big and grown!

It was funny discussing the details, because while it was less than four years ago, I don't really remember a lot from my graduation party. Some people are just really good at remembering certain details about things,

but I like to think I just live in the moment and remember the big stuff. I don't know how many times my roommate, who I've been friends with since year one of college, will bring up little things that we did or said freshman year that I had totally forgotten about. It always ends with me gasping and saying, 'Oh my gosh, I remember that!' as it finally clicks.

Well, now we are mostly spending our time studying and doing work. I don't have any test finals, but I do have a final project left for my social psychology class. The best part, is it is a ten-page paper on a movie analysis, so you know what movie I watched? The greatest movie ever - Shrek. So for the next couple days, I will be writing about how people are prejudiced against Shrek, poor guy.

My Determination: "Before this is over, I'm gonna need a whole lot of serious therapy. Look at my eye twitchin'." - Donkey, Shrek

Donation



Central Farm Service and Land O Lakes recently came together and donated \$5,000 to the Waseca Fire Department for the purchase of "Seek Thermal Imaging Cameras."



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The Waseca High School robotics team competed in the 2024 Vex World Robotics Competition from April 25 to 27 in Dallas, Texas. Five seniors, Oliver, Cyrus, Mason, Daniel and Noah, named their team the "Monkey Buccaneers," and placed twelfth in a division of 82 teams. The group finished 43rd in the skills competition. The team won the Design Award, the highest judged award in each division. It is bestowed upon the team which does the best job of documenting and communicating the engineering design process through the use of an engineering notebook. More than 800 teams took part in this worldwide competition.



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New peace officer values family and community

Janesville's McElmury sworn in during April 10 council meeting

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

Justice McElmury, 26, who started as the new police officer in Janesville on April 10, comes across as a confident individual who wants to serve with integrity. She said she keeps the importance of family in mind as she serves the people of any community.

Prior to joining the Janesville police force, she held a part-time position in Wells for two years. Hoping for a full-time job closer to home, she was grateful for the opportunity to apply in Janesville. Among other former positions, McElmury has worked for the Dakota County Sheriff's Department as a park ranger; she also interned at Itasca State Park in Park Rapids as a security guard.

McElmury lives in Waseca with her husband Ed, 30, and their eight-month-old daughter, Hazel. While McElmury made it clear she loved the city of Wells and it had treated her well, it was also getting too far of a drive for her. Now she only has to travel 15 minutes to Janesville, rather than 35 to Wells.

"I enjoyed meeting with the police chief and the other staff," McElmury added. "Everyone is really nice."

Regarding what the best qualities are for a police officer, McElmury said personability and being a good listener are two.

"You have to be able to talk to people in high-stress situations, calm them down, and be able to talk in such a way they open up," she said. "Sometimes you get on a call and people are scared to talk to you because they don't know what's going to happen."

But McElmury said police officers just want to understand the current situation the best they can.

"You have to be a good listener to what they're saying," she said. "If you don't listen to people and unintentionally offend them, it's going to make them close up really quickly and you're not going to get the details about what's truly going on."

That said, she stated a police officer has to know when it's best to take charge of the situation. "You have to make sure you maintain control of whatever situation you're dealing with so that it doesn't get out of hand or get worse than when you arrived," McElmury added.

When asked what the community should know about police officers

Justice McElmury

nesville for the opportunity to serve as a full-time police officer in the community.

She grew up on the outskirts of Northfield where her dad, Jon, served as a firefighter and later a paramedic and EMS. She credits his decades of service as a source of inspiration for entering public service.

Another inspiration was an "explorer's program" she took part in during high school which allowed students to take part in a mock emergency; she went on to earn a degree in criminal justice at Bemidji State.

McElmury thanks the City of Ja-

On Friday, April 19, 48 JWP fourth- and fifth-grade students participated in their grades' annual Math League contest. In the "fact drill," Jackson Ling won the championship with a score of 54. He was followed by Amelia Schisler.

In the individual contest, Charlotte Haekenkamp won the championship with a score of 18. She was trailed closely by: Waylon Schuch. In the team event, the group which included Hadley Conklin, Charlotte Haekenkamp, Jace Ready, and Blake Neegaard took first. Second place was the team consisting of: Raegan Daschner, Mason Adams, Korey Merrill-Jentz, and Brock Groh. Taking third place was the team of: Devon Williams, Cooper James, Amelia Schisler, and Maggie Burns.

In the Math League event, students with placing scores for the fourth grade were: Ally Hammett, Avery Hammett, Felix Fellows, Madi Pederson, Elsie Jaeger, Nash James, Reagan Kelley, and Lilly Rients. For the fifth grade: Charlotte Haekenkamp, Brock Groh, Maggie Burns, Mason Adams, Miranda Bonnifield, Jackson Ling, Waylon Schuch, and Korey Merril-Jentz.

All participating students: Fourth Grade - David Adams, Ambria Bonnifield, Colton Budahn, Harlynn Daschner, Elsa Dieker, Felix Fellows, Ally Hammett, Avery Hammett, Elsie Jaeger, Nash James, Reagan Kelley, Blaire Kopachek, Dylan Mulcahey, Madi Pederson, Ceci Quast, Lilly Rients, Owen Wheelock, Arianna Woods.

Fifth Grade- Mason Adams, Evelynne Ashleson, Miranda Bonnifield, Brody Bronstad, Maggie Burns, Hadley Conklin, Cooper Danberry, Raegan Daschner, Marin Demarais, Brock Groh, Charlotte Haekenkamp, Cooper James, Addison Johnson, Jackson Ling, Korey Merrill-Jentz, Blake Neegaard, Jace Ready, Broderick Robinson, Gus Roesler, Amelia Schisler, Liam Schisler, Kyla Schlingmann, Waylon Schuch, Mya Wheelock, Dravon Williams, and Caden Wolff.

OBITUARIES

Marcia Rocek
Marcia Rocek
1965-2024

We are sad to announce the passing of Marcia Rocek, age 58, of Mankato. She passed away peacefully in her home surrounded by loved ones in the early morning hours of April 20, 2024, after fighting a courageous battle with ALS.

Marcia was a Veteran of the U.S. Army, enlisting right out of high school serving 7 years, 7 months, and 28 days in service to her country. She began her nursing career in 2003, spending 16 dedicated years as a charge nurse at the School Sisters of Notre Dame until their closing. She continued her passion in service to others at the Lyle C. Pearson Veteran's Affairs Clinic in Mankato until she passed.

Marcia was an avid cyclist, runner, and philanthropist for much of her life. Her passions included fundraising and awareness for multiple sclerosis by participating for many years in the MS 150 bike ride. She also dedicated her time to running 5 & 10K races in honor of many different organizations and causes in the local area, as well as traveling to New Orleans in support of Hurricane



Marcia Rocek

Katrina relief efforts. She enjoyed traveling, reading, crocheting, knitting, and attending concerts as often as possible.

She is survived by her loving partner of 23 years, Craig Baer; daughter, Lysette (Eric) Bergery of Willow Spring, NC; and son, Jorel (Hillary) Challenger of Laconia, New Hampshire; and three beautiful grandchildren.

There will be a celebration of life held in her honor at a later date. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service is handling arrangements.

DSOFuneral.com

Sandra Daniel

SANDRA DIANE "DAISY" DANIEL, age 76 of Waseca, entered her heavenly home surrounded by her family, Friday, April 26, 2024, at her home in Waseca.

She was born, August 3, 1947, in Cooperstown, North Dakota, a daughter of the late Joe and Alice (Price) Johnson. Sandy attended Bemidji High School. She was on the student council, a Hi-Fi Queen, a cheerleader, and later, Miss Bemidji. She graduated with the Class of 1965. On June 22, 1968, she married her high school sweetheart Craig Daniel at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bemidji. Together they moved to Otisco where they would raise their two children, Troy, and Kari Jo. Sandy was a very welcoming, caring, and giving person who always put others before herself and left a remarkable impact on all the lives she touched. She was a member of Real-Life Church in Waseca, The Garden Club of Waseca, and Wilton River Riders Saddle Club, in Waseca. She loved birdwatching, listening to her

family play her favorite music, but above all, spending time with her family; she was deeply devoted to her faith, and made great efforts to spread the word of God to her children and grandchildren throughout their lives. She spent many years of her life doing various jobs with the intent of helping others. One of her many joys in life was sharing her faith by selflessly putting others before herself, to ensure they felt special and loved.

Sandy struggled with her health for many years of her life. Throughout all the years of struggle and pain, she always remained with a positive outlook for the future, the thought that life is supposed to be good, and to be thankful for every day. Through many years of treatments and health-care visits, she always aimed to bring her touch of happiness and joy to all those around her, including fellow patients and hospital staff. Fortunately, for a selfless, loving person such as Sandy, her brother Rick was a compatible match to gift her one of his kidneys, which got her through

the last 40 years of her life.

Sandy is survived by her husband; her children, Troy (Renee) Daniel of Waseca, Kari Jo (Craig) Schumacher of Waseca; grandchildren, Jackson (Megan Rabenberg) Mueller of Montgomery, Carson Schumacher of Waseca, Denver Daniel of Waseca, Mariah Jo (David Monroe) Daniel of Waseca, Korbin Schumacher of Waseca; siblings, Jerry (Kathy) Johnson, Ron (Lin) Johnson, Roger Johnson, Rick (Marlene) Johnson, Cindy (Dan) Egli; her goddaughter, Mary Olson; her grand puppies, Cash, Waylon, Charlie; as well as several nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family members, all of whom she will forever leave her impeccable mark on. She is preceded in death by her parents; foster daughter, Ludean Hubel; sister, Beverly Jane Johnson; brother-in-law, Fred Tegtmeier, and sister-in-law, Mary Johnson.

The family will host a memorial service at Troy and Renee's home, on Saturday, May 4, 2024, at 3:00 PM, at 31229 128th St. Waseca, Minne-



Sandra Daniel

sota 56093. A celebration of Sandy's life will continue throughout the evening following the service. Daisy's nephew and niece, Rev. Joe and Amanda Johnson will officiate the service. All family, friends, and anyone whose lives were touched by Sandy, are invited to attend. dsfuneral.com

In memory



Mary Routh (left), Charles Evenson, and Leann Fuchs, daughters and brother to well-known New Richland resident Winston Evenson, display the memorial painting of Winston which was set out for public viewing and then given to Charles during an event sponsored by WET Signs and Murals in Waseca.

The Memorial showing took place the afternoon of Saturday, April 20 at The Mill. It featured 70 memorial paintings done by Whtey Thompson, owner of WET Signs. Thompson used photographs as models as he created black and white paintings of people who died between January of 2023 and March of 2024. Also on display were color paintings Thompson has done over time.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Stanley Stiernagle

STANLEY A. STIERNAGLE, age 79 of Waseca, died on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at Colony Court in Waseca.

Stan was born in Waseca County on May 11, 1944, to parents Ervin and Ethel (Gehring) Stiernagle. He attended school in Waseca and graduated from Waseca High School before beginning to work. Stan was married to Carol Hartema on October 10, 1964, and together they raised their family in Waseca before divorcing. As a young father he was involved with his kids' 4-H and FFA programs, and he enjoyed being a part of the "chore boy contests" at the Waseca County Fair. Stan farmed until 1970, then drove for GTA Feeds and Bud Schmidt Truck-

ing. He later worked for a short time at Brown Printing in Waseca until Pastor Harms from St. Paul Lutheran helped him land a job working on the Roy and Marcy Lukken farm. He was a farm hand for Mert Hildebrandt, worked at Kirtchmen Construction in Mankato, Farm America in Waseca, Fitzsimmons Trucking, his own trucking company, and finally at Cemstone until his retirement. He was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Stan is survived by three children, Bob Stiernagle and his fiancé Patty Benedict-Serna of Owatonna, Tammy (Dan) Bosshart of Stewartville, and Jeff (Julie) Stiernagle of Waseca; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and three brothers, Donald Stiernagle of WI,

Richard Stiernagle of Owatonna; and Leroy "Butch" Stiernagle of Waseca. He was preceded in death by both of his parents; two sisters, Jeanette and Phyllis; a brother, Harland "Jim", sister-in-law, Marlene Harland, and a nephew, Roger Stiernagle. In a unique course of events, Stan passed away at the same time as Richard's wife, Norma "Jeanie" Stiernagle of Owatonna.

Services were held at 11:00 AM on Monday, April 29, 2024, at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca, with Rev. Michael Grannis officiating. Visitation was held for one hour before the service at the funeral home. Interment followed at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca. dsfuneral.com



Stanley Stiernagle

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Running for joy



Students at Sacred Heart School raised more than \$43,000 in pledges for the annual Catholic Schools marathon founded by the Knights of Columbus. According to organizer Tara Steffel, the marathon has been held each spring since 1974.

More than 100 students and many parents and staff members made the 2-mile walk/run around Loon Lake starting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 24. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a dinner prepared and served by school staff members and volunteers.

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

Hartley Concert



The third-graders of Hartley Elementary presented their spring music concert titled “My Pen,” at the Central Building auditorium Tuesday, April 23. Hartley’s Music teacher, David Schmitt, introduced the show to the audience, explaining that students had a hand in the selection and creation of the night’s music, as well as writing and recording the speaking parts played between each musical number. He provided introductions to the show in both English and Spanish. He then led his students in the presentation of eight songs.

The Ukulele Club opened the show, playing along to the song “Thunder” by Imagine Dragons. The full third grade then performed “Land of the Silver Birch,” a Canadian folk song; “Rocky Mountain,” an American folk song arranged by the third graders; “Use Your Hands,” a rhythm piece composed by the third graders; “Good Night, Stars Our Light,” another professionally arranged folk song; “Sally Go ‘Round the Sun,” another Canadian folk song arranged by the third graders; “Sunday Best,” by Surfaces; and “We Shall Overcome,” by Charles Albert Tindley and Pete Seeger.

Prior to each number, the third graders’ speaking parts described everything given to them by their pen – a story of creativity, power, and joy.

Pioneer photos by Tristan Gehring

The Pastor’s Column

When He speaks, let us listen

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

I was distracted in my devotions this morning. I woke up on time, took a shower, made coffee for my family and sat down to read scripture while the dog was doing her business. I read parts of Judges, John 1 and then the Psalms came along.

I must have read Psalm 101 four times this morning and even now as I re-read it I am distracted by the truths within it. I want to just sit and think about the different verses, I want to dwell upon the word and pray through different parts of it. Sometimes you just need to slow down and re-read something a few times to get it through your head.

I know I have read this Psalm many times before, but today, for some reason, it struck me new and differently. So now it is time to slow down, so often during the course of our daily devotions we want to just get it done and move on to the next thing. Then God distracts you by His word and you know that you are supposed to spend more time looking at it, studying it, and applying it to your everyday life.

Today is that day for me. I am continuing to read Psalm 101; I am praying it through. When the rain changes my plans today, I will read it again. I want to take time to hear from God and have Him make me into a better disciple of His. These first 2 and a half verses have me thinking.

Psalm 101 (ESV)

1 I will sing of steadfast love and justice;

to you, O Lord, I will make music.

2 I will ponder the way that is blameless.

Oh when will you come to me?

I will walk with integrity of heart

within my house;

3 I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless.

If I listen to these verses today, I will turn on some music or pick up my neglected guitar and make some music to worship God with. I will sit and listen to the thunderstorm as it rolls across the plains and then spend my evening thinking about God’s best.

When God speaks to us, let us listen and respond to His word. He speaks to us through His word and wants to transform our hearts to be more like His. May your day be filled with God speaking to you, may it be slow enough for you to listen, and respond with joyous obedience.

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WASECA COUNTY
PIONEER

FARM & AGRICULTURE SPECIAL

Growing Season 2024: a perspective

April precipitation could push back planting dates; increased temperatures expected

By MARK BERNARD
Staff Writer

The 2023 cropping season left almost everyone waiting for the other shoe to drop. Prices softened into harvest, although welcome rains fell in September after the crop was mature as well as in October, unlike the two previous seasons. We'll get out our crystal ball and tea leaves again to offer some insight for the cropping year.

We're coming off one of the more bizarre winters ever. With El Niño firmly entrenched, snowfall was sparse, and temperatures were extremely moderate. Some welcome rain fell in December, with most picking up one to two inches of moisture after a brown Christmas. Total snowfall measured about 17" at the ranch and 14.6" in New Richland. Normal seasonal snowfall at the Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC) is 52.3". Despite the light snowfall total, the frost depth was very shallow, allowing much of that moisture to percolate into the soil. Moving snow was a novelty. Many snowblowers were never even attached to tractors, let alone operated. Translation: Look out for next winter.

Warm temperatures in March allowed anhydrous to be applied. More fence lines and groves were cleaned out of unwanted trees than in any winter in recent memory. April precip has been substantial but not excessive to this point. Warm days allowed some corn planting to begin from the twelfth to the fourteenth. There are tales of the odd soybean field being planted. Not so surprisingly, after last year's heavy May rains that resulted in nearly a quarter of the corn acres being replanted, many have taken a go-slow approach. Trust but verify. If we continue to receive April precipitation, it could push planting dates back. The warmer weather we experienced earlier has been tempered by more seasonal temps as of late. Much of the corn was planted last year in the first week of May. Much of the replant corn was planted in late May. Given the drier than normal and above normal GDU growing season we had, the corn crop in particular was nothing short of amazing for most. April precip as of the 22nd has been generous but not excessive with 3.51" in New Richland, 2.6" at the ranch and 3.02" at the SROC in Waseca. Normal for the entire month of April at the SROC is 3.3".

What do the growing season temperatures and precipitation outlooks look like? Released April 18, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's (NOAA's) 30-day May outlook for our area shows a 40 – 50% chance of

above normal temperatures with even odds of above or below normal precipitation. Also released on April 18, NOAA's 90-day outlook (April through June) is calling for 33 - 40% increased odds of above normal temps. On the precipitation side, it's calling for even chances of above or below normal precipitation. Our soil moisture is in much better shape than last year. Tile lines are running, and the soil profile is full in many places. We should be transitioning into an ENSO-neutral period (85% chance) for April – June with a La Niña event developing, 60% chance for June – August, with an 85% chance of it developing for September – November.

That said, it's anyone's guess how and when the La Niña might affect the growing season. For starters, it hasn't happened, yet. Typically, a La Niña tends to increase the odds that we'll see a warmer and drier than normal summer if it becomes entrenched on the earlier side. That's once the transition is complete. In the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO)-neutral interim, conditions may tend to be more normal. If the transition isn't complete until later summer, the La Niña would tend to increase the odds we could see a colder, wetter late fall and winter. Stay tuned.

What about the Drought Monitor? Southern Minnesota remained under the "abnormally dry" category as of the April 18 report. The southwestern part of Iowa, eastern Nebraska, and eastern Kansas are all likely to remain under moderate drought for the foreseeable future. There are no indications that severe drought will extend eastward at this point. The US Seasonal Drought Outlook indicates the drought designation in Southern Minnesota will likely be removed with the exception of a sliver south of I-90 in the southeastern part of the state. Areas of southwestern Iowa, southeastern Nebraska and northeast Kansas are designated as being under a drought, but it's likely to be removed. While much of Nebraska is irrigated, the potential to affect dry land areas remains. The eastern corn belt remains relatively drought free, and areas are facing planting delays due to wet soils. The silver lining is the river levels on the Mississippi should improve given that and more recent moisture here in Minnesota and Iowa.

Unlike last year at this time, earlier planting intentions leaned towards fewer corn acres on both the state and national level. Corn and soybean prices are both down compared to last spring, although in many cases, soybeans hold a slight profit potential advantage in



CERTIFIED - Mark Bernard, the author of this piece, has 40 years of experience as a crop advisor in Minnesota and North Dakota. He has been a **Certified Professional Agronomist**, his preferred title, for 30 years. Bernard also has 19 years of experience with *Pro Farmer* as a **Tour Agromonist**.

many people's eyes. Fall fertilizer prices were down over the previous year, and in this area, good, early spring planting conditions should help tip the scale toward planting a few more acres of corn than earlier indicated.

Insect potential due to the warm winter is elevated. Conditions for survival of corn rootworm eggs should've been ideal, particularly for western corn rootworm. Northern corn rootworm eggs are seldom affected significantly by cold winters. Ditto with insects such as the soybean aphid. Taking an air temperature of -29° F or below, it simply never got cold enough to impact their survival. The insects that migrate in, including the black cutworm, are also on the radar. There have been some moths captured already in traps this April. Many of the corn hybrids with Bt for corn borer also provide control of black cutworm. Not all, however, and with the renewed interest in non-GMO corn, this insect could bear watching. Even soybean fields are not exempt as we found last year due to planting delays.

We continue to hear about tar spot in corn, although perhaps not to the degree we have the past several growing seasons. Last year, it simply didn't materialize as conditions were too warm and dry for it to gain much traction.



CROP REPORT - Soybeans enjoying late-July growing conditions.

Is it still a potential problem? Sure, although the organism needs to be present first; it needs the proper environment for disease development, and needs a susceptible host. That's the one advantage we have in the western corn belt where tar spot hasn't been a widespread problem yet. Seed companies have been working relentlessly, screening hybrids for susceptibility. While they haven't developed any true resistance so far, they have done their homework when it comes to providing growers with tolerant genetics. It can make a huge difference.

Despite the possible dry weather and continued global turmoil, there's still potential for another profitable cropping season. The 2024 growing season will definitely require input costs to be watched carefully. Marketing is crucial. The opportunity to lock in a profit may be short-lived, so it'll mean being ready to pull the trigger and avoiding the temptation to be greedy. In the near term, the same applies to planting. With more moisture to deal with, it makes the days when fields are fit even more precious. Corn that was planted April 13 to 15 has a nice sprout on it already. Some who missed that planting window may be getting antsy. By the same token, mudding the crop in is seldom a good idea in April and May. A lot of very good yields still came to be when planting in May the past two seasons. Plenty of time before hitting the panic button. Live long and prosper.

Sesquicentennial farm families announced

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) is pleased to recognize 44 recipients of the Sesquicentennial Farm award for 2024.

Since the program began in 2008, 559 families have received the honor.

To qualify, a family farm must be in continuous family ownership for at least 150 years, be 50 acres or larger, and currently be involved in agricultural production.

A commemorative certificate signed by Governor Tim Walz, Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen and MFBF President Dan Glessing will be awarded to qualifying families, along with an outdoor sign signifying Sesquicentennial Farm recognition.

Becker
Audubon – Olliane Sharp Anderson, Paul Anderson, James Sharp, 1871

Chippewa
Montevideo – Elling Jorgenson Farm, 1869
Chisago
Harris – Lowell & Lori Colliander, 1870
Dakota
Rosemount – Fahey Farms, 1874
Dodge
Hayfield – Terry Gulbransen, 1857
Douglas
Brandon – Skrove Squirrel Hollow Farm, 1874
Carlos – Gary and Diane Botzet & Family, 1874
Farwell – Guiles Family Farm, 1866
Kensington – Oakdale Farm, 1866
Faribault
Winnebago – Eldon Jones Family Share Trust, 1874
Freeborn
Albert Lea – Roger & Shirley Ender-

son, 1861
Albert Lea – Donald and Joanne Johnsrud Farm, 1865
Albert Lea – Roger J Pestorous and Jeannie Pestorous, 1871
Emmons – Nicholson Farm, 1860
Emmons – Schmidt-Stroklund Farms, 1861
Houston
Spring Grove – Berquam-Krogstad Family Farm, 1855
Kandiyohi
Atwater – Shirley Dahl and Joyce Dahl, 1874
Lac qui Parle
Montevideo – Bornus, 1874
Montevideo – Heieren, 1873
Le Sueur
Montgomery – Rynda, 1872
Meeker
Darwin – The John Dacy Homestead, 1871

Grove City – James & Arlene Johnson Farm, 1873
Mower
Rose Creek – Willis & Elizabeth Corbitt, 1872
Rose Creek – Nelson Family Farm, 1874
Nicollet
Courtland – Gerald and Gloria Firtzner/Firtzner Brothers Inc., 1874
Renville
Hector – Gerald & Dorothy Johnson, 1872
Morton – Richard H. Scheffler, 1874
Sacred Heart – Dambrotten Farms, 1871
Sacred Hard – Sonja Thune, Springdale Farm, 1866
Rice
Faribault – Janet Low, Jean Low, Gail Low-McGillen, 1867
Kilkenny – The Murphy Family, 1861

Webster – Lawrence & Kathleen McFadden, 1872
Scott
Webster – Shimota Family Farm, 1874
Sibley
Arlington – Family of Merrill Sickmann, 1874
Arlington – Darlene Steffer, 1869
Stearns
Pennock – Pierce Farms, 1873
Steele
Owatonna – Hill Crest Farm, James R. and Elaine Springer and Carol and Eugene Staltman, 1874
Owatonna – Mark & Ruth Pfeifer, 1874
Stevens
Morris – Wagner Farm, 1874
Waseca
Janesville – Cole and Jenny James, 1874
Waseca – Thomas F. Sommers &

Ricky Sommers, 1873
West Polk
Fisher – Nisbet, 1874
Winona
Altura – Speltz Farms Inc., 1874
Wright
Watertown – John B. & Danice L. Motzko (Florek Farm), 1873
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WASECA COUNTY
PIONEER

FARM & AGRICULTURE SPECIAL

Ready to get in the garden

Ed’s Greenhouse, Waseca staple for more than a decade

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Ed’s Greenhouse, located south-east of Waseca along 315th Avenue, opened for business about a month early this year. “It’s been so warm,” owner Ed Bethke, 76, comments, “everybody—including the plants—can hardly wait to get into their gardens.”

He explains that, even though he followed the same planting and growing schedule as in other years, he has had to trim some of his plants back to keep them from becoming too large or entangled with each other. “They get a little thicker when they’re trimmed back,” he observes. “So that’s a good thing for the customer.”

A major element of Bethke’s business are his seasonal greenhouse sales. That is, he starts flowers and vegetables in a greenhouse beginning in February, nurtures them through March and April, and has plants of an optimal size ready for transplant into gardens just as the Minnesota gardening season begins.

He and his employees—mostly family members and friends—also grow sweet corn and other popular vegetables to be sold from a stand on-site, at farmers’ markets or at independent locations “from the back of a pickup truck.” His year begins, though, with selling vegetables and flowers ready for transplant. He also

has an array of flowers in hanging pots.

Bethke uses two greenhouses, a “starter” building 24 by 52 feet and his display and sales structure 26 by 96 feet. All are located on the rural family homestead which belonged to his parents and grandparents before him.

He has been operating his sales business for a little more than a decade, having begun it after retiring from working as a mechanic with Bird’s Eye for 23 years.

“I just love it,” says Bethke, indicating the long rows of tables covered in verdant green and bright colors. “It’s almost not like work, it’s so much fun.”

Bethke warns that operating a business like his is not for everyone. “You can’t do this if you don’t love working with plants,” he says. “You definitely won’t get rich at it.”

He says there are also some tricks to the trade which one learns only with time “and the occasional mistake.”

Bethke’s busy season began in February with the delivery of thousands of “plugs,” some as small as a sugar cube and others quite a bit larger. Each plug is a square of nutrient which has had a seed inserted into it, and then been given the sunlight and water needed to germinate the seed. The plant itself will likely be only one or two tiny leaves and

less than an inch tall.

“It’s kind of overwhelming when it all arrives,” he observes, mentioning that a tray 10 by 23 inches might have 288 plugs in it.

Once delivered, the plugs must be transplanted quickly into pots filled with soil. Vegetables are often transplanted in lots of four. Flowers might be arranged together in a larger pot, for example, three or four trailing petunias around the edges with a taller, center plant in the middle.

Bethke and his workers put in many hours getting all the needed materials lined up, then placing the tiny plants where they will have the soil and water capacity they need to continue growing. “The days can get pretty long,” Bethke admits.

The potted plants are moved to the display greenhouse as they become ready, continue to thrive and, in a typical year, the greenhouse opens for sales the weekend before Mother’s Day.

A lifelong gardener, Bethke says “I sell good stuff. The kind of plants I would choose for myself.”

He says he also looks for ways to be creative, and asks for input from others as he makes his decisions.

He has also been a regular attendee at the annual Greenhouse and Growers Expo held the first week of December in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The largest gathering of its kind, the expo brings together greenhouse



Pictured with Ed Bethke of Ed’s Greenhouse are some of the workers who help with the company’s operation: From left, Janeli Garcia and Alex and Ton Bethke. Also a worker at the greenhouse is Eddie Bethke.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

owners and fruit and vegetable growers from all over the country. Hundreds of vendors also bring their products to show.

“I learn something every year,” Bethke says regarding the training sessions, courses and information offered. Instructors are often research and industry leaders. “There’s the chance to network, too, and that’s really significant,” Bethke mentions. “We have a lot of experiences we like to share.”

“I sell good stuff. The kind of plants I would choose for myself.” — Ed Bethke

Surrounded by this year’s product, Bethke says the greatest reward of operating his greenhouse is “the beauty of being able to show what you’ve done. The opportunity to take those tiny seeds and help them grow into something that brings so much pleasure.”

Along with that, he says he enjoys “dealing with my wonderful customers. Gardening is something we do out of love, out of a desire to nurture. It’s a real pleasure talking with folks who don’t mind getting their hands dirty in order to accomplish something important.”

Century farm award winners announced

The Minnesota State Fair and the Minnesota Farm Bureau recognize 97 Minnesota farms as 2024 Century Farms. Qualifying farms have been in continuous family ownership for at least 100 years and are 50 acres or more. Century Farm families receive a commemorative sign, as well as a certificate signed by Minnesota State Fair and Minnesota Farm Bureau presidents and Governor Tim Walz. Since the program began in 1976, more than 11,000 Minnesota farms have been recognized as Century Farms.

Family farms are recognized as a Century Farm when three requirements are met. The farm must be: 1) at least 100 years old according to authentic land records; 2) in continuous family ownership for at least 100 years (continuous residence on the farm is not required); and 3) at least 50 acres and currently be involved in agricultural production.

2024 Century Farm families are listed by county, then by the farm’s city or township, family or farm names and year of original purchase:

Anoka
Cedar - DeLong Dairyvale Farm, 1924
Beltrami
Bemidji - Gullicksrud Family Farm, 1924
Benton
Foley - Pekarek Farm, 1924
Oak Park - Chapp Farm, 1921
St. Cloud - Jurek Farm, 1882
Big Stone
Ortonville - Helgeson, 1920

Blue Earth
Blue Earth - Ferdinand Henry Wil-
liam Tank Farm, 1907
Mapleton - Clark Ward Farm, 1911
Truman - Wilde’s Prairie View Farm, 1918
Brown
Sleepy Eye - Schroepfer, 1884
Carlton
Cloquet - Swenson’s Dairy, 1911
Cass
Motley - Bendson Family Home-
stead, 1919
Chippewa
Maynard - Loe Farm, 1912
Chisago
Harris - Moline Farm, 1923
Clay
Hawley - Dunham Farm, 1915
Clearwater
Bagley - Friborg Farm, 1920
Clearbrook - Bjerke-Stoller, 1905
Shevlin - Julin Family Farm, 1912
Crow Wing
Brainerd - Bordwell Dairy Farm, 1923
Dakota
Hastings - Reinardy Family Farm, 1924
Faribault
Faribault - Paschke, 1920
Wells - Hankerson Farm, 1902
Fillmore
Mabel - Spande Family Farm, 1896
Preston - Plainview Farm, 1916
Preston - Rumpus Ridge Farms, 1881
Preston - Schmidt Farm, 1901
Freeborn
Alden - Drescher Farms, 1924
Emmons - Andersland Farm, 1923

Goodhue
Zumbrota - Edgewood Farm, 1924
Houston
Brownsville - Driscoll, 1894
Spring Grove - Berquam-Krogstad
Family Farm, 1855
Hubbard
Laporte - The Stevens Farm, 1918
Jackson
Jackson - Gazda Family Farms, 1897
Lakefield - Bailey/Hass, 1924
Kandiyohi
Atwater - Heining Family Farm, 1877
Willmar - Fixsen Farms, 1908
Kittson
Lancaster - Blazejewski Farms, 1902
Koochiching
Loman - Mannausau Farm, 1924
Lac Qui Parle
Canby (Providence Township) - Buer
Farms, 1924
Dawson - Boraas Farms, 1881
Le Sueur
Cleveland - The Pufpaff Farm, 1886
Lincoln
Lincoln - Fink Family Farm, 1924
Lyon
Marshall - DeVos Family Farm, 1924
Russell - Dahlneelman Farm, 1901
Marshall
Oslo - John & Judy Nelson, 1920
Stephen - Anderson Farm, 1890
Martin
Dunnell - Ream/Schultz Farm, 1898
McLeod
Brownston - Zimmerman Farm, 1919
Meeker
Darwin - The John Dacy Homestead, 1871

Litchfield - Mark and John Hulter-
strum, 1923
Mille Lacs
Oak Park - Dahlstrom Farms, 1922
Princeton - Gerth Farm, 1909
Princeton - Gerth Farms, 1924
Princeton - Shelley Farms, LLC, 1923
Morrison
Little Falls - Waltman Farm, 1912
Pierz - Hilltop Farm, 1924
Royalton - Warzecha Farm, 1919
Mower
Elkton - Gustav & Anna C. Hanson
Farm, 1896
Rose Creek - Anderson Farm, 1910
Rose Creek - Roy & Nancy Corbitt
Farm, 1888
Waltham - Schlichting Farm, 1913
Nobles
Worthington - Kuhl Family Farm, 1896
Norman
Shelly - Aamodt Farm, 1880
Twin Valley - Christensen Sunny
Brook Stock Farm, 1918
Olmsted
Rochester - Mahoney-Kuise Farm, 1882
Rochester - O’Neill Farms, 1899
St. Charles - Biers Farm, 1924
Otter Tail (East)
Vining - Mickelson Homestead, 1884
Otter Tail (West)
Pelican Rapids - Colosky Farm, 1924
Pine
Hinckley - Sadler Farm, 1917
Pine City - Geisler Farms, 1920
Pine City - John & Freda Johnson, 1923

Pipestone
Jasper - Bill and Jody Brockberg,
1924
Pope
Glenwood - Koubsky Family Farm, 1920
Redwood
Lamberton - The Turbes Family
Farm, 1924
Walnut Grove - Swoffer Family
Farm, 1887
Renville
Granite Falls - Rolland & RaeAnn
Hegna Farm, 1924
Franklin - The Steinbeisser Farm, 1924
Renville - Schneider Farm, 1903
St. Louis
Iron - Mabraten Farm, 1921
Stearns
Albany - Gill Dairy Farm, 1911
Freeport - Von Wahlde Farm, 1923
Holdingford - Feia Family Farm, 1924
Kimball - Bridgeside, LLC, 1924
Todd
Long Prairie - Jason & Amanda
Parker, 1915
Traverse
Traverse - The Pedalty Family Farm, 1900
Wadena
Wadena - Homestead Juntunen, 1902
Watonswan
Madelia - Skarphol Farm, 1902
St. James - Askeland Farm, 1917
Wilkin
Wilkin - Skrove Riverland, 1924
Winona

Altura - Speltz Farms, Inc., 1874
Wright
Buffalo - Elwood F. Ledin Farm, 1923
Cokato - Melquist Farm, 1882
Watertown - Hoernemann Farm, 1921
Yellow Medicine
Hazel Run - Norgaard Farms, 1919
Hazel Run - Norgaard/Thompson, 1917
Wood Lake - William Timm Sr.
Farm, 1890
Information on all Century Farms will be available at the Minnesota Farm Bureau exhibit during the 2024Minnesota State Fair. A database of all Minnesota Century Farms is also available at fbmn.org.
The Minnesota State Fair is one of the largest and best-attended expositions in the world. Showcasing Minnesota’s finest agriculture, art and industry, the Great Minnesota Get-Together is 12 Days of Fun Ending Labor Day. Follow along on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and TikTok @mnstatefair for year-round Minnesota State Fair updates. The 2024 Minnesota State Fair will run Aug. 3 through Labor Day. Visit mnstatefair.org for more information.
About the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation: To ensure Minnesota’s agricultural vitality, the Minnesota Farm Bureau amplifies its members’ voices through engagement, grassroots advocacy and agricultural awareness. Learn more about their efforts as an advocate for their nearly 30,000 members and 78 county Farm Bureaus at fbmn.org.



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WASECA COUNTY

PIONEER

FARM & AGRICULTURE SPECIAL



Waseca Greenhouse employee Kristin Maxon caring for young plants. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Waseca Floral set for gardening season

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

With more than 50 years' experience in the greenhouse business, Rick Morris—who with his wife, Sheila, operates Waseca Floral Design—has seen many changes. But some things will never change.

"I still marvel at the miracle that just by putting a seed in the ground and giving it a little water, within a few days it will germinate and a few days later there will be leaves. All that just with sunlight and water."

Morris also mentions another major benefit of his work: In a way, he gets two more months of spring than most Minnesotans.

"I have seeds in the ground and plants growing already in February," he comments. "I'm surrounded by green when, most years, people are still shoveling snow off their sidewalks."

Waseca Floral's greenhouse is 35 by 80 feet, and filled with color and variety. Morris says it is kept at at least 65 degrees when there are plants in it, and reaches higher temperatures on sunny days. Even such a large space must be used efficiently, however: Hanging plants are suspended above tables covered in

smaller bedding plants.

While everyone else is still usually shoveling snow, Morris and greenhouse helper Kristin Maxon are planting seeds or, as has become a greenhouse standard, "plugs." Plugs are small squares of growing medium with a tiny, one- or two-leaf seedling. Once delivered, they must be transplanted into larger containers quickly, since the squares do not have many nutrients and do not hold water well.

Thanks to all these preparations, Waseca Floral has its full line of spring garden plants available as April comes to a close. "But nobody should be buying them yet," Morris comments. Only the hardiest plants, including potato and onion sets, peas and radishes, are likely to thrive if put in the ground when night temperatures continue to fall to freezing or below.

"Nighttime temperatures are the key," he shares, suggesting the majority of plants won't thrive until overnight lows are staying reliably above 40 or 45 degrees.

Waseca Floral has a full and varied line of green vegetable and herb plants for sale—although, Morris observes, no greenhouse can have ev-

everything. He names a range of options from broccoli to rhubarb to tomatoes, and mentions many customers come in for the hardy, early plants, then again about two weeks later for the next hardiest group, and so on.

Along with the many vegetables and herbs, of course, are the flowers. "About eighty percent of our business is flowers," he calculates. As is well known, Waseca Floral provides cut flower arrangements for milestone events, corsages for special occasions, and green plants as gifts.

The company goes into overdrive every Valentines' and Mothers' Day, working extra hours and often taking on extra help.

Memorial Day also brings in a great deal of business. Some people purchase plants to create their own gravesite plantings. Others buy fully assembled potted arrangements. Morris mentions Waseca Floral has long offered a service under which it picks up an urn in the fall, stores it



From left, Kristin Maxon, Sheila and Rick Morris. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

over the winter, then refreshes the soil and puts in new plants early in the year so that, by Memorial Day, the arrangement is full and thriving. The urns are then delivered back to their respective gravesites at many, but not all, cemeteries throughout the county.

Morris says time has taught him not to deliver the 150 urns too early, since Minnesota's unpredictable weather has even sometimes dropped snow on them.

The company sells hanging plants of many types and colors to walk-in customers. It also prepares especially large hanging plants for two cities: Waseca takes 57 and Janesville 12.

For the sake of all those arrangements, the business must grow many, many plants not intended for direct sale to customers. Morris offers the example of geraniums—colorful, hardy "everblooming" flowers commonly used in potted arrangements. "We often use two or three in a single pot, so you can imagine how many

we need altogether."

Customers are also invited to bring in their own large "porch pots" or other containers. "They just tell us whether it's in a sunny spot or a shady one, or what colors they would like, and we take care of things," says greenhouse worker Maxon. "We get it planted, give it a good start in the greenhouse, and it's ready for the season."

Morris can't help observing all the activity in April, May and June associated with gardening and summer decorating comprise about forty percent of his company's business each year. "It takes a lot of planning and preparation," he concedes. "But after

all this time, we've learned a bit about what it takes to be ready."

Waseca Floral has its full line of flowers and bedding plants available now. Even though the weather is not quite where it needs to be for full-time gardening, Morris invites people to stop by and have a look: "It just lifts a person's heart to be in among all this color and life," he observes.

Operating hours for the business, located along Waseca's North State Street, are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Only during May, the doors are also open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday.

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FARM & AGRICULTURE SPECIAL

A farming family for more than 36 years

In 2015, Vicky Singelstad was recognized as an active distinguished Waseca County Farmer. This year, her son Mike was recognized during the Farm and City Luncheon with an Outstanding Young Farmer award. Below is the article written in 2015 recognizing Vicky.

Vicky Singelstad and her husband, Scott, have been farming together for 36 years. They raise corn and soybeans on 800 acres near Waseca. Vicky and Scott are the second generation of Singelstads to farm in Waseca County. Their son, Michael, is continuing the tradition with his hog farm. Vicky and Scott help him raise 4,000 pigs per year.

Vicky takes every opportunity to share the story of her family's farm; for the past 24 years, she has been making presentations to students through Minnesota's "Ag in the Classroom" program. Vicky is also active in agriculture organizations. She is a member of the Waseca County Farm Bureau, the Minnesota Farm Bureau, the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association and the Minnesota Pork Producers Association. She serves on the board of directors for Far-

mamerica, the Minnesota Agricultural Interpretive Center and on its Farm Camp Minnesota committee.

In 1991, Vicky and Scott received the American Soybean Association/Dupont Young Leader Award. In 1993, they were recognized with the Minnesota Jaycees Outstanding Young Farmer Award. In 1999, the University of Minnesota named them Waseca Farm Family of the Year. In 2010 the Minnesota Pork Producers Association honored them with the organization's Pork Promoter of the Year Award. In 2015, Vicky received the Waseca County Agricultural Leadership Award.

Vicky attended the University of Minnesota Technical College in Waseca and earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in office management.

Vicky and Scott have three children. Vicky is actively involved in her local church and is chair of the altar guild.



Vicky Singelstad

Involved with Waseca County Ag since 1979

In 2016, Scott Singelstad was recognized as an active distinguished Waseca County Farmer. This year, his son Mike was recognized during the Farm and City Luncheon with an Outstanding Young Farmer award. Below is the article written recognizing Scott in 2016.

Scott Singelstad, a life-long resident of Waseca County, has been directly involved in agriculture since 1979 when he married Vicky and started taking over management aspects of the corn, soybean and hog operations from his father, Gebhard. They worked closely together, building the farrow-to-finish hog operation to 120 sows and expanding their crop production acres. Their children (Michelle, Michael, and Kristy) were also actively involved in agricultural activities with Mike taking over the hog operation in 2012. Scott and Vicky continue to be active corn and soybean producers.

Scott's leadership and service roles in agriculture have been numerous. He has been a member of the Waseca County Corn and Soybean Boards for 30 years and served on the County Farm Bureau Board for 12 years (2 years as secretary, 2 as vice-president, and 4 as president). He served on the Farm Bureau State Young Farmer Committee for 2 years. In addition, he participated in Co-Lead, a 2-year leadership program started by Extension as a predecessor to MARL. He was elected to the State Soybean Research and Promotion Council for 15 years, serving as secretary for 3 years, vice-chair for 1 year, and chair for 1 year. He was then appointed to the United Soybean Board (a national check-off board) for 8 years. Scott concurrently worked with the United States Meat Export Federation

and the United States Soybean Export Council boards, promoting soybeans and meats (pork, beef and lamb). This led to extensive travel, spending 30 to 45 days each year away from home in locations including China, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Romania, Spain, Vietnam and the United Arab Emirates (Dubai). He said his motivation was simple: "To increase the profit in every bushel produced by American soybean growers"

The above travel enabled Scott to build many relationships within the international soybean industry, resulting in International Trade Teams from Japan, Mexico, Philippines, and Taiwan coming to the U.S., where they were hosted by the Singelstads at their farm. Scott often included locals from the farm equipment, ag chemical, fertilizer, banking, finance and university research entities to join them in discussions regarding domestic soybean production and usage.

Awards received by Scott for his agricultural achievement and community leadership include: Jaycee's County Young Farmer Award (1992), Jaycee's State Young Farmer Award (1993), Waseca Co. Farm Family of the Year (1999), and the Hiram Award for long-term service to the Waseca Masons (2012).

He is a member of Grace Lutheran Church, where he served as treasurer for 2 years and president for 1 year. He has also been a member of the Tuscan Lodge - Waseca Masons for 27 years, serving as Grand Master of the Lodge.



Scott Singelstad

Singlestad is named Waseca's outstanding young farmer

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

The Waseca County Outstanding Young Farmer award is presented to a farmer between 21-39 years of age who utilizes innovative methods, has made improvement in farming operations, and demonstrates service to community organizations and conservation practices. This year's winner was Waseca area farmer Mike Singelstad. He was recognized during the annual Farm and City Luncheon Thursday, March 21.

"He's committed to excellence; it is evident in every facet of his work," Mark Scharf said of Singelstad as he introduced him.

"Thank you to all of those close family and friends who have supported me through all of my farming activities," Singelstad said. "Especially my parents: Before I could walk, they would take me out to the barn in the stroller and let me sleep outside while they helped the mother cows give birth."

Mike grew up on a farm just north of Waseca, harvesting corn and soybeans and also operating a farrow-to-finish hog operation. He is the fourth generation to farm on the acreage which was purchased in 1946 by his great-grandfather Sever Singelstad and his grandfather Geb Singelstad.

Growing up, he was active in 4-H and FFA. He graduated from high school in 2003 and went to college at SDSU in Brookings, South Dakota, graduating with a degree in environmental management. While there, he was on a soils judging team.

During college in the summer and a few years after, he worked at the Southern Minnesota Research and Outreach Center in Waseca. In 2012 he started contract finishing hogs with Big Gain in Mankato. A year later, in 2013, his parents sold him part of the family building site and the



Mike Singelstad alongside his parents, Vicky and Scott.

Photo by Eli Lutgens

old farmhouse. He liked working with pigs; in 2015 he tore down some of the first hog barns his parents owned and replaced them with a new wean-to-finish barn.

Mike raises about 3,800 head of wean-to-finish pigs each year. When purchasing the family swine operation, he made significant remodeling investments in the facilities to ensure long-term viability for his operation. One of his most recent investments has been the integration of solar power to improve the energy efficiency of his swine operation.

In 2018, he started renting land from his parents. He raises corn and soybeans and farms with his parents Scott and Vicky and his brother-in-law, Craig Baxter.

He is also willing to make significant changes in his cropping operation. He works with McPherson Crop Management, an area independent crop consulting organization, to utilize his manure production to its maximum extent and to implement best environmental practices in his production methods.

He has also worked part-time at the Costco

Depot near Owatonna for three years as an equipment operator.

Working with his Farm Business Management Instructor, Mark Wehe, Mike has learned record keeping methods which utilize modern computer systems, including PC Mars. Mike has grown his operation and has matured as a manager. He is always open to new ideas and methods.

Mike is very active in the community. He currently serves on the Waseca County Farm Bureau board, where he was vice president for four years and president for four years. In his role, he works with a very progressive group of Waseca County producers advocating for farm policies that benefit the progressive agricultural community. He is currently a member of the Minnesota Soybean and Corn Growers organizations.

Mike is also active in the Tuscan Lodge, the area Masonic Lodge: He is currently the group's secretary, but has served in many other important roles in the lodge. He has been a mason in the lodge for more than 20 years.



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State FFA



On April 19, Waseca High School sent eight students to the 2024 Minnesota State FFA Convention as competitors. Pictured are Cameron, Bailey, Karley, Addie, Charley, Ashley, Olivia, and Orianna.

State Speech



On April 19, JWP High School sent three students to the state speech competition at Shakopee High School. Pictured are Eric Daschner, Madyn Holland, and Rachelle Oelke.

■ Marsh

from Page 1

to indigenous cultures, including the Dakota Sioux for thousands of years.

Vorland says the Dakota commonly used fire to manage the land they relied on for farming, hunting and gathering. Perhaps surprisingly, much of their farming was done inside the boundaries of forests. Vorland says, fire was used regularly for a host of reasons. For one, it cleared the “understory,” disposing of the prior year’s leaves, sticks and other debris and encouraging beneficial production of nuts and berries by keeping dense vegetation from proliferating. Though they would not have used the same words to describe it, the Dakota were also aware that fire released nutrients into the soil.

The prairie would also often burn. Even a brief online search reveals numerous historic accounts describing fires of 250,000 acres and more; along with planned fires, lightning, escaped campfires, and sparks from steam locomotives are named as causes.

In addition to helping indigenous peoples farm, Vorland says the Dakota might burn part of the prairie because the new, tender growth which came up afterward would appeal to grazing animals, which they could then hunt.

“So this area has had a climate of fire management for centuries,” Vorland says. “Those fires have shaped the ecosystems and helped determine what kinds of wildlife can thrive here.”

The fire in Moonan and Findley WMAs has reset a number of factors which Vorland names off easily.

Where it reached, the fire turned the “litter” of previous years’ growth into nutrients. The shade once cast by the dense brush, dried grass and cattails has been eliminated, allowing more sunlight to strike the black soil, heating it more quickly and efficiently and encouraging the growth of “cool season” plants—those which often go dormant in the full heat of summer. The warmer ground also encourages microbes to “wake up” and begin their work enriching the soil.

The water is also less shaded, and so warms more quickly than it would have. This gives a boost to amphibians and others who lay their eggs in water, for example, allowing more frog eggs to become tadpoles. It also gives water birds open pools of shallow water where they can more easily land and feed.

Certain ground-nesting birds who prefer open lines of sight are given an advantage for the time

being; among these, Vorland names the grasshopper sparrow, bobolink, sedge wren, and meadowlark.

A drive through the Moonan Marsh area confirms Vorland’s descriptions: the areas that seemed charred and ruined in March are now a rich, verdant green, looking much more appealing than the unburned areas which are still only brown.

Vorland also names grazing animals as a group which benefits from the regeneration: “Those fresh, green shoots of grass are tender and digestible,” she suggests. “They must taste mighty good after those animals have spent the whole winter hungry.” Among “grazing animals” Vorland includes not only large species like deer, but also rabbits, mice and voles. The small grazers cut and eat the grass, recycling its nutrients. They also occupy a vital location in the food web. Vorland’s phrasing is that they “live fast, die young, and feed a lot of critters along the way.”

Not only is the ecosystem of the burned area changed for now, but research shows benefits to wildlife such as pheasants will continue to increase. Vorland says the numbers of nests and the percentage of offspring raised to maturity will rise for the next four years.

She points out that, of course, her agency does not want anything like the fast-moving flames and hundreds of degrees of heat produced by March’s wildfire. But controlled burns are actually listed as a management technique for many wildlife management areas all around the state—including Moonan and Findley. “Fire is decay,” observes Vorland. “It just works a lot faster than having bacteria do the job.”

She mentions that she and others trained in “fire ecology” use burns persistently as part of their work. From her office in Rice Lake State Park, she indicates the nearby forest floor, where a burn was carried out last fall. The resulting openness has been followed by a proliferation of wildflowers.

Vorland notes that the number of planned burns this spring has been inhibited by the drought: a decreased amount of moisture increases the chances a fire might escape and cause harm in a setting like the “wildland and human interface” near Moonan Marsh. Vorland observes that days this spring have either been windy or rainy—both of which are deterrents.

But for anyone who looks at a forest or a grassland charred by fire and laments that it has been destroyed, Vorland comments, “It’s not destroyed. It’s still there.

“It’s just different. And not all the changes are bad ones.”

Waseca

25 Years Ago



- Candice Miller, 17, is a junior at Waseca High School. Despite her tender years, she has long had a local musical career going. Now she’s thinking of expanding it by joining her sisters for a musical summer in Nashville.

-Six thousand royal blue ribbons have been passed out in schools in Waseca, Steele, Dodge, and Rice counties this month, according to Jean O’Mallery-Laursen, director of the Exchange Club Center for Family Unity. April is child abuse prevention month both locally and nationally and the blue ribbons are meant to heighten awareness of child abuse.

-A Basic Riding & Street Skills course will be conducted by the state Motorcycle Safety Center and Waseca School District. Interested individuals must be at least 15 years old and possess a valid driver instruction permit or driver’s license. Participants age 18 and older who bring a valid motorcycle permit, can fulfill the state motorcycle endorsement requirements, upon successful completion of the course.

-There aren’t any bright-eyed children running around a federal prison. There aren’t even any well-loved pets. What you can find in the prison in Waseca, though, are some tenderly cared for plants.

50 Years Ago

-Saturday, April 20, was a typical Minnesota spring day. That is to say, it was hot-cold-sunny-dreary-wet-dry-wet. Out in all that weather was an atypical group of kids-Teen Corps volunteers. They were busy all day long unpolluting the beaches of Waseca.

-Step into a woodland day on any hot summer day and you can appreciate, without needing any elaborate instruments to prove it, the air conditioning job performed by trees. They can do the same work at your home, and the right placement of a few large-growing, leafy trees can mean an important reduction in the use of your mechanical air conditioner.

-If Arvid Tollefson, Sr., had asked you to ride in his little red wagon 43 years ago, in 1931, chances are you’d have been unloaded at the present ball park. The ball park was formerly, and until the late 50s; the city dump.

75 Years Ago

-These men took pride in their work as they do in their community as they pitched in to clean-up operations of Janesville’s new park Tuesday afternoon. Left to right are Otto Vogler, Gilbert Anton (in background), and Herman Durken, treasurer of the park board; Nels Lundquist, E.H. Doss, mayor of Janesville; John Fury and George Trahms, president of the park board.

-These tree planters did preliminary work on the new Janesville park landscaping operations. Thousands of tons of dirt were moved since the operation started. The evergreens will not only add beauty but keep the hillsides from washing away. In the foreground is Ernie Werdin, secretary of the park board; and Fred Ulman. In immediate background at left is Frank Zellmer and at right in background is Percy Hagen.

-Dr. Bill Gallagher is stepping into his father’s big shoes, but it isn’t a new experience for the handsome 24-year-old. When he was just a little fellow, he often traced Dr. Ben’s footsteps on calls around Waseca county. Today the University of Minnesota medical school graduate is taking over while his father, a patient in Rochester St. Mary’s hospital, is recovering from a partial stroke.

100 Years Ago

-Mayor Charles Ward asks the Herald to once more warn the public that he intends to see that the traffic laws are obeyed. From now on, he says, speeders or careless drivers will be punished to the fullest extent. In order to give as much leeway as possible, consistent with safety, the mayor says that all motorists must drive at a speed not to exceed fifteen miles an hour on any business street of Waseca.

-That the use of the silo is the best way to furnish roughage to dairy cattle has been proven. Some successful feeders of beef carrel seem to think that they can get along just as well without a silo, but no dairyman who is in the business to any great extent would think of doing without a silo.

-What has the gentle cow to do with drinkers of coffee and tea? A great deal, if figures of the United States Department of Agriculture are correct. It appears that this country consumes 40,000,000,000 cups of coffee a year, and it takes about 40,000,000,000 ounces of cream to modify that coffee to the desired consistency.

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New Richland

25 Years Ago – April 29, 1999



- (Photos, Brian Wayne) Local business professionals have teamed up with the NRHEG school district the past few weeks for the first year of the local Junior Achievement (JA) program. Through the program, area business people have taught 4th grade students in the Ellendale and New Richland buildings about various aspects of the business world. The program relies on volunteers to teach the concepts. The business people work as partners with the teachers making five visits to the classroom. The local business volunteers are Karla Sponbert, State Bank of New Richland, Gail Schmidt, City of New Richland, and Schmidt Trucking, Bob Kruse, First National Bank in Ellendale, and Donnavon Eaker, Steve’s Meats of Ellendale.

37 Years Ago – April 29, 1987

- In recognition of National Volunteer Week, the 1987 Steele County Retired Senior Volunteer Program held a Recognition Luncheon Wednesday, April 22 at the Ellendale Community Center. Mary Kittleson, Steele County RSVP Coordinator, gave the welcome followed by the guest speaker, Cheryl Anderson, Freeborn County RSVP Coordinator. Alice Hall, RSVP Program Supervisor, gave a slide presentation, “Volunteers in Action.” Darlene Munson, Kaye Standish, Bernie Anderson, Romaine Moore, and Lil Weller of the Dancing & Singing Grandmas entertained for the day’s program.

- (Photo: Prom) The Circus arrived Saturday night at the Ellendale Community Center when a large group of clowns, a gorilla, a lion, a yellow duck and a fortune teller joined the After-Prom Party. Forty-six students entered the Big Top for a morning of games and fun.

102 Years Ago – April 27, 1922

- A. B. Nelson, agent here for the Standard Oil Co., will commence the erection of a new house here immediately. The contract has been let to Marx Pedersen and he will commence on the job as soon as he can get someone to do the excavating for the basement. The new structure is to be a bungalow with five rooms and bath and is to be located on a lot just west of the house now occupied by Rev. A. Nielsen.

- D. J. Sullivan went to Faribault Sunday morning to see his daughter, Leontine, who underwent an emergency operation for appendicitis at the hospital there the previous evening. For a time her condition was quite serious, but at last reports strong hopes were entertained for her recovery. Miss Leontine has a good position at Faribault with the Shaft-Pierce Shoe Co., a very responsible position.

- A large number of townspeople were awakened in the early hours of last Thursday morning by the insistent ringing of the fire bell, and it was not long before the fire apparatus was manned and taken to the scene of the trouble, which was a refrigerator car left on the siding by a passing freight. The train crew discovered the fire while en route and cutting the burning car from the train ran with it to Ellendale and switched it onto the side track, returning immediately for the balance of the train, which had been left on the main track. The car was spotted close to the Botsford coal sheds, which were also endangered. The fire company emptied the chemical engine in the interior of the car while the water hose was being laid. This seemed to put out the blaze, but later it flared up again, having caught in the flax straw insulation, where its smoldering had not been observed. It was necessary to tear out a considerable portion of one end of the car to reach the insulation before the last spark could be extinguished.

Janesville

1924

- On Sunday last Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Shell drove to Madison Lake and spent the day at the home of G. W. Allyn. Other visitors at the same home at the same time were Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Orr and son, Burton and Mrs. W. H. Allyn. As an incident illustrating his resourceful genius Mr. Orr pulled off a radio stunt that quite astonished the gathering. An original method was utilized when wires were strung from his new Studebaker to the residence and attached to the radio. It may be well to add that the machine is a part and parcel of his car equipment and that wherever he goes and wherever the car goes there is the radio ready for use.

- Elsewhere in this issue will be found an article from the Dairy Record relative to importations of butter from foreign countries and its effect upon the American selling price. It appears that the writer is of the opinion that foreign exchange is the principal cause because it operates to wipe out the protection afforded by a duty of eight cents a pound on importations into this country. On account of this fact a delegation of dairymen headed by John Brandt, president of the Minnesota Cooperative Creameries Association, has gone to Washington for the purpose of presenting the situation to the President. It is hoped by this means to secure an increase in the duty to fifteen or sixteen cents a pound.

1949

- On Tuesday afternoon, April 26, everybody is asked to come out to the park at Lake Elysian and help clean it up. All stores in Janesville will close at noon so that all businessmen can help. The committee also asks the help of everyone interested in making the park a place to be proud of. Farmers are asked to help also and are asked to bring tractors, mowers, sickles, rakes, log chains, and shovels.

- On Wednesday afternoon, April 6, Miss Irene Berndt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Berndt of Wilton Township brought the bride of Donald Lau, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Lau of Freedom Township, at the Freedom Lutheran Church at one o’clock. Rev. Carl Gundermann of Waldorf performed the single ring ceremony.

1974

- The Janesville Jaycees sold 384 bottles of honey at a dollar a bottle to do their part in the statewide honey sale for the mentally [handicapped] Sunday. Minnesota Jaycees will turn the honey proceeds to the Harry Meyering Center for the mentally [handicapped]. It will be used to purchase tools to habilitate the mentally ill.

- Mary Kraft, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Harold Kraft of St. Clair, has been selected as one of the cheerleading co-captains for Westmar College of Le Mars, Iowa. Mary is presently a sophomore and will be cheering with five other girls for the 1974-74 athletic seasons.

1999

Fliers left on car windows over the weekend caught several district residents’ attention bringing them to the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School Board’s meeting Monday night. The topic of interest was the superintendent’s contract. However, the board took this item off the agenda at the beginning of the meeting. Several board committee members wished to have a negotiations meeting before bringing it for a board vote.

Baseball Bluejays swept by Fairmont

The Waseca High School baseball team had a doubleheader last Friday at Fairmont, where the Bluejays were the visitors in the first game and the home team in the nightcap. It didn't much matter. The Cardinals dominated both contests, 15-2 and 16-2. "It was not a good day," said Bluejays assistant coach Tink Larson. "In only nine defensive innings, we gave up 31 runs, 15 walks, hit five batters and committed 13 errors, six in the first game and seven in the second game." In both games, the Bluejays trailed 7-0 after one inning. "It's hard to come back from that large a deficit against a team as good as Fairmont," said Larson. The Bluejays had just three hits in the opener, one each by Nate Engel-

Mueller, Noah Thompson and Colten Ruedy. The Bluejays totaled eight hits in game two, two by Sebastian Teague and one apiece from Carter Ellis, Keato Roeker, Shane Engel-Mueller, Thompson, Ruedy and Max Wirtz. "One positive thing is that we hit the ball well in the second game, coming up with eight hits and hitting a couple of other balls hard," said Larson. The Bluejays, rained out Tuesday at New Ulm, were slated to host WEM Thursday. They have a Saturday doubleheader Saturday at Worthington starting at 11 a.m. They host St. Peter May 7 and play at Blooming Prairie May 9.



AND THE PITCH — Senior Carter Ellis of the WHS baseball team delivers a pitch while relieving during a recent home game at Tink Larson Field. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

Russell sets new school record in 100

Track teams 2nd, 4th at Plainview

There were plenty of highlights for the Waseca High School boys' track and field team at the Plainview-Elgin-Millville Winged Foot Invitational Thursday, April 25. The biggest ones belonged to Damarius Russell.

Russell, a junior sprinter, finished first in two events, setting a school record in one, and ran a leg on the first-place 4x100-meter relay as the Bluejays placed second among six schools. Winona Cotter's boys won with 171.5 points. Waseca had 147.5.

Russell, a key member of the Bluejays' state-qualifying football and basketball teams, set a school record while winning the 100 in 10.97 seconds. He was first in the 200 in 22.7.

Russell joined Kaeden Johnson, Jordan Johnston and Carson Ohnstad to win the 4x100 with a time of 44.97.

The Bluejay boys won two more events. William Mansfield cleared 12-6 for first in the pole vault while Isaac Feldkamp won the 1600 in 4:52.95. Feldkamp was second in the 800 in 2:08.15.

Ethan Stenzel was second in the throwing events, tossing the discus 138-2 and the shot put 41.7. Ohnstad, Brady Tloughan, Feldkamp and Wyatt Hager combined for second in the 4x400 in 3:43.52.

Johnson, making his first competitive appearance since an injury cut short his football season, clocked 11.22 for third in the 100. Tloughan was third in the 400 in 56.03. Wyatt Hager cleared 5-4 for third in the high jump, and Javonn Rodney was third in the shot put at 40-4.5. Micah Allen-Haas, Tloughan, Koltyn Quillen and Johah Worke were third in the 4x200, clocking 1:40.63.

Other places for the WHS boys: Hager, fourth, discus, 123-0; Colton Schroeder, fourth, 3200, 12:45.56; Tristan Godwin, fourth, pole vault, 9-6 and sixth, 1600, 5:11.38; Worke, fourth, long jump, 18-3.25; Rodney, fourth, shot put, 44-4 and fifth, discus, 117-9; Andrew Robran, fifth, shot put, 39-0; Owen Rupe, sixth, high jump, 5-2; Hager, sixth, long jump, 17-7.

On the girls' side, Winona Cotter won with 144.333 points. The Bluejays were fourth with 93.

Firsts for the Jays were by Brooklyn Flatau, 100 high hurdles, 16.10; Callie Dufault, 1600, 5:50.1; Stella Omvedt, 3200, 12:14.19; and Kalea Sortori, shot put, 35.95.

Flatau was second in the long jump at 15-2, third in the pole vault at 7-6 and fourth in the 300 intermediate hurdles in 53.2.

Dufault, Mareen Schimming, Omvedt and Reese Rodriguez took second in the 4x800 in 10:33.6.

Other places for the girls: Schimming, third, 800, 2:34.13; 4x200 relay, third, 1:56.52 (Camila Marquez, Gabriela Lopez, Sarah Haley, Bella Wikan); Schimming, fourth, pole vault, 7-6; 4x400 relay, fourth, 5:03 (Dufault, Lopez, Schimming, Rodriguez); Sartori, fifth, discus, 86-3; 4x100 relay, fifth, 55:24 (Lopez, Wikan, Marquez, Haley); Sierra Krause, sixth, discus, 86.2.

Winners of events received a T-shirt for their efforts.

"It was a really good night on the track for both the boys and girls," said Bluejays coach David Abel. "We scored well. It was nice to have some decent weather. We got to see what some of our kids could do against some solid competition. It was good for us to run against some section teams in Cannon Falls and PEM. It's nice to be able to see where we are against them."



Russell



TOO TOUGH THIS TIME — The Waseca High School boys' tennis team hosted Schaeffer Academy in a nonconference match last Thursday on the WHS courts, falling 5-2. Above left, Bluejays No. 1 singles player Tyler Jellum chases down a shot. Above right, Henry Huttemier eyes up a shot at No. 2 singles. Lower left, Brayden Hoof hits a backhand during the No. 4 doubles victory. Below right, Hoof's playing partner Lucas McQuery hits a two-handed backhand. Hoof and McQuery won 6-0, 6-3. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



WHS netmen 8-2 after loss to Schaeffer Academy

Waseca High School boys' tennis coach Kyle Collins warned that the Bluejays' Rochester opponents could be tough. He was right. The Bluejays, undefeated before last week's match at Rochester Lourdes, were upended 5-2 by visit-

ing Shaeffer Academy last Thursday, leaving them 8-2 for the season. Both of the Bluejays' victories were at doubles. Domnic Grunzke and Otto Schoenrock rallied to win 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 at No. 1 doubles. The No. 3

team of Brayden Hoof and Lucas McQuery won in straight sets, 6-0 and 6-3. Allen Kopetzki and Keenan Collins won their first set but wound up losing 6-7 (7), 6-3, 6-1. The lone Waseca singles player to take it to three sets was Tanner

Hanson at No. 4, who fell 4-6, 6-1, 6-1. Tyler Jellum lost 6-0, 6-1 at No. 1 singles, Henry Huttemier was upended 6-1, 6-3 at No. 2, and Armaan Bhatti lost 6-0, 6-3 at No. 3. Waseca's junior varsity won 4-1. The Bluejays, rained out Tuesday

at New Ulm, were scheduled to host Worthington Thursday. They play Saturday at 9 a.m. in Stewartville and face St. Peter at home Tuesday, May 7 at 4:30. They finish the regular season May 9 at Lake City.

Waseca golf squads defeat United South Central

The Waseca High School golf teams were in action twice recently. The girls were at St. Peter Monday, April 22 for the Big South East matches. They finished second with 214 strokes. Blue Earth Area won with 182. The WHS girls, according to coach Ted Hammond, all shot in the mid-50s. The boys' barsity was in Blue

Earth April 22, finishing fifth among six squads. St. Peter won, 23 strokes better than the Bluejays. Hunter Anderson led the boys with a 38 for nine holes. Cody Vagts shot a 39. Both squads hosted United South Central April 23 at Waseca's Lakeside Golf Club. The boys won 165-171. Again, the Bluejays' top three scorers were

Vagt, Anderson and Braiden Nelson, a freshman. The WHS girls defeated USC 219-247. The Bluejays' top scorers were Emma Keith and Madison Rasche. The girls played at St. Peter last Thursday and, according to Hammond, struggled in blustery conditions, finishing in fifth place. Mia Kanewischer was the low

scorer for Waseca. Both squads play Monday, the girls at Jackson Country Club and the boys at New Ulm Country Club. Starting time for both is 2 p.m.



Anderson



Vagts



Kanewischer



HUSTLE — The NRHEG softball team registered a come-from-behind 16-8 win at Janesville Monday. At left, the Bulldogs' Brielle Dessner rounds third and heads for home as the Bulldogs built an early lead. In the middle, NRHEG's Izley Boerner makes a catch in the infield as teammate Olivia Berg backs her up. At right, Hudson Miller at second base. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG softball squad rallies past JWP, 16-8

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It didn't start out so well for the NRHEG softball team at JWP Monday. But it ended great. The Panthers trailed 4-0 after two innings, but they plated three runs in the third, seven in the fourth and five in the fifth en route to a 16-8 Gopher Conference victory. "Coming off a tournament this past weekend, we knew we had to bring a lot of energy in this game right from the start," said NRHEG coach Kaylie Camerer. "We did right away on the on both the defensive and offensive sides of the ball." Olivia Berg led the Panthers' 12-hit attack, going 3-for-4 with two runs. Isabel Stadheim went 2-for-3 with two runs, Faith Nielsen 2-for-4 with four RBIs, Izley Boerner 2-for-5 with two RBIs, Tayler Schmidt 2-for-5 with two runs and one RBI. Addie Stadheim also hit safely. Isabel Stadheim stole three bases. Preslie Nielsen drove in two runs, scored twice and walked twice. Faith Nielsen went the distance in the circle for the Panthers, allowing seven earned runs on 11 hits, with five strikeouts and four walks. "Faith pitched a great consistent game and our defense stepped up behind her," said Camerer. "We made great heads-up plays all game and Payton Bunn had a great diving

catch in the outfield. At the plate we needed to stay aggressive and we had two big innings where we stayed disciplined at the plate, when we put the ball in play we made their defensive work, and we took advantage of their mistakes while on the basepaths." It was, according to Camerer, one of the Panthers' best complete games this season. "We will look to keep the same energy for the remainder of the season," said the coach. The Panthers hosted Hayfield Thursday, April 25. The visitors made themselves right at home. The Vikings overcame a 4-2 first-inning deficit to defeat the Panthers 17-5 in five innings. "Hayfield is a good hitting team and did a good job finding the gaps in our defense and hitting them," said Camerer. "Our bats are starting to come alive the deeper we get into the season, but tonight was just not our night. Coming back this week we need to focus on staying mentally tough within the flow of the game." The Panthers totaled seven hits against Hayfield, two by Erin Peterson and one each from Isabel Stadheim, Berg, Faith Nielsen, Addie Stadheim and Schmidt. Addie Stadheim tripled. Faith Nielsen was the lone NRHEG player to drive in a



WIN AT JWP — At left, NRHEG left fielder Erin Peterson comes up throwing. In the middle, the Panthers' Tayler Schmidt tags a baserunner at second. At right, Preslie Nielsen looks for the sign from coach Kayley Camerer. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

"We made great heads-up plays all game long."
— NRHEG coach Kaylie Camerer

run. NRHEG struck out four times and drew one walk. Each team had four errors. Nielsen started in the circle and took the pitching loss. She gave up six earned runs on eight through three innings, fanning five and walking five while surrendering two home runs. Boerner pitched the final two innings. The Panthers played three games in a tournament at Caswell Park in Mankato on Saturday. They sand-

wiched a victory over New London-Spicer between losses to Cleveland and Madelia. Cleveland handed the Panthers an 8-1 loss in game one, when NRHEG stranded 11 baserunners. Faith Nielsen had two hits and one RBI, with one hit apiece by Preslie Nielsen, Addie Stadheim, Chloe Stork and Schmidt. Faith Nielsen, who doubled, pitched the first five innings and took the loss. Against NLS, the Panthers plated

three runs in the first and one in the second and held on for a 4-2 triumph. Isabel Stadheim and Berg had two hits each, Preslie Nielsen, Boerner and Peterson one each. Faith Nielsen drove in two runs. Berg and Preslie Nielsen doubled. Boerner pitched seven innings for the win, finishing with five strikeouts and three walks. The Panthers were shut out by Madelia 5-0. Faith Nielsen had two hits, Stenzel one. Faith Nielsen and Peterson pitched. "After getting rained out Friday night, we pushed one game for a total of three on Saturday," said Camerer. "Defensively, all tournament we were making great plays

and little mental errors. We moved people around and asked players to step into the positions they have not yet played this season. I thought the girls handled those changeups well. Offensively, we are making solid contact with the ball throughout the game. We just need to find a way to string hits together down the lineup and keep momentum on our side from inning to inning. Overall, we improved and gained experience from the weekend that will help in the last half of the season." After playing at Blue Earth Area Tuesday, the Panthers host Kenyon-Wanamingo Thursday, May 2. They entertain USC Tuesday, May 7.

Baseball Panthers top JWP

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

According to NRHEG baseball coach Shawn Larson, it was defense that set the tone in Monday's home game against JWP. Everything else fell into place. The Panthers played one of their best all-around games of the season while winning 9-2 at Jeff and Carol Reese Field. "This was one of those games where almost everything goes the way it should," said Larson. "It started with the defense, and we just seemed to flow into the offense as well." Sophomore Deven Parpart pitched a complete game, allowing two runs on three hits. He struck out three and walked three. Alden Dobberstein had another great day at the plate, starting with a first-inning RBI and finishing 3-for-4 with three RBIs. Sophomore Wyatt Larson and freshman Brooks Gilliland also had good showings. They were each 2-for-3. The late innings proved to be the difference at Hayfield last Thursday.



BIG WIN — The NRHEG baseball team defeated visiting JWP 9-2 Monday at Jeff and Carol Reese Field in New Richland. At left, Deven Parpart fires a pitch on his way to a complete-game victory. At right, Wyatt Larson is greeted at home plate by teammate A.J. Dean. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

The Panthers led 2-1 and it was 2-2 after four innings, but the Vikings put it out of reach with a pair of runs in the fifth and sixth. "This was a good back-and-forth game today," said Coach Larson, whose team stranded just three baserunners but had some blunders on the base paths. "We made several mistakes on the

bases today," said the coach "That most likely was the biggest indicator of why we lost today. Hopefully, we keep making improvements in our awareness of in-game situations. If we can make those improvements along with striking out less, we have a chance in most games. Jace Ihrke continued to hit well with two hits in the game. Jordan Brouwers also had

two hits." Parpart was 2-for-3 with a run. Dobberstein had one hit, a double. Brouwers also doubled. RBIs went to Ihrke and Carter Martens. The Panthers drew two walks and struck out nine times. They had four fielding errors, Hayfield two. Freshman left-hander Jared Lee started on the mound for the

Panthers and pitched four innings, allowing one earned run on four hits, with four strikeouts and three walks. Martens went the next two innings and took the loss, giving up three earned runs on two hits. He fanned three and walked four. The Panthers are in action Thursday, May 2 at Kenyon-Wanamingo.

NRHEG golf teams take 2nd, 3rd at BP

Budach again gains medalist honors

The NRHEG High School golf teams took on Triton and Blooming Prairie last Thursday at Dodge Country Club. The NRHEG girls, led by medalist Meela Budach's 48 for nine holes, finished second as a team. Hallie Schultz posted the second-best score on the day, 50. Elsie Schultz shot 65, Alexis Olson 69. The NRHEG boys took third. Scores: Daxter Lee 60, Jackson Chrz 62, Shan Hanson 64, Hudson Chrz 65 and Braydon Rollag 65. The Panthers face United South Central at Oak View Thursday, May 2 at 4:30.



Budach

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.:81-PR-24-255
In Re: Estate of
Joyce E Reese,
Decedent
NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING
ON PETITION FOR FORMAL
PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE IN UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of June, 2024, at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be

held in the above Court at Waseca, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the will of the above named decedent, dated June 4, 2007, and for the appointment of Jeffrey A. Reese, whose address is 17041 State Hwy 30, New Richland, MN 56072, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the above named decedent in unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper and no objections are filed, a Personal Representative will be appointed to administer the Estate, to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate. Upon completion of the administration, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereunto entitled as ordered by the

Court, and close the estate.
Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said Estate are required to present the same to said Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or said claims will be barred.

Dated: 04/18/2024
/s/ Carol M Hanks,
Judge of District Court
/s/ Shannon M. Asselin
Deputy Court Administrator

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, P.A.
William L. Hoversten , #47478
215 E Elm Ave, PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093
Phone: 507-835-5240

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on April 26 and May 3, 2024

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
Certificate of Assumed Name
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: Connors Plumbing, Heating and Air
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 407 5th Ave. SE WASECA MN 56093 USA

APPLICANT(S):
Name: Connors Plumbing & Heating, LLC
Address: 407 5th Ave. SE WASECA MN 56093 USA

Name: Connors Plumbing & Heating, LLC

Address: 205 W. Ruth Street, MANKATO, MN 56001 USA

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supercedes the data referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties

of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: Margaret Hildebrandt, President

MAILING ADDRESS: 407 5th Ave. SE, WASECA, MN, 56093

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: peggy@callconnors.com

Original File Number 1471161800024

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED
04/24/2024

Steve Simon Secretary of State

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on May 3 and May 10, 2024

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.: 81-PR-24-293
In Re: Estate of
RALPH E. HANKS,
Decedent
NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING
ON PETITION FOR FORMAL
PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE IN UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 14th day of June, 2024, at 2:15 p.m., a hearing will be held in the above Court at Waseca, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the will of the above named decedent, dated December 5, 2017, and amended by First Codicil dated

September 2, 2023, and Second Codicil dated September 16, 2023, and for the appointment of Carol M. Hanks whose address is 16350 305th Ave, Waseca, Minnesota 56093 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the above named decedent in unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper and no objections are filed, a Personal Representative will be appointed to administer the Estate, to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate. Upon completion of the administration, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereunto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said Estate are required to present the same to said Personal Representative or to the Court Ad-

ministrator within four months after the date of this Notice or said claims will be barred.

Dated: 04/29/2024
/s/ Jeffrey Johnson
Judge of District Court
/s/ Shannon Asselin
Court Administrator

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, P.A.
Perry A. Berg , #135999
215 E Elm Ave, PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093
Ph: 507-835-5240

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Friday May 3 and 10, 2024

Johnson
APARTMENTS

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SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6pm BAR Bingo	2 7pm HALL BINGO	3 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	4
5	6	7 Burger nite 5- 7pm	8 6pm BAR Bingo	9 7pm HALL BINGO	10 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	11
12 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am--Noon Your HOST	13 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	14 Burger nite 5- 7pm	15 6pm BAR Bingo	16 7pm HALL BINGO	17 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm	18
19	20	21 Burger nite 5- 7pm	22 6pm BAR Bingo	23 7pm HALL BINGO	24 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	25
26 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am--Noon Your Host	27	28 Burger nite 5- 7pm	29 6pm BAR Bingo	30 7pm HALL BINGO	31 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	

HOURS OF OPERATION

SUN.- MON. CLOSED

TUE.- WED. 3pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady's nite 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm.

THUR.- 1pm to 11pm

FRI.- SAT.-11am to 1 am

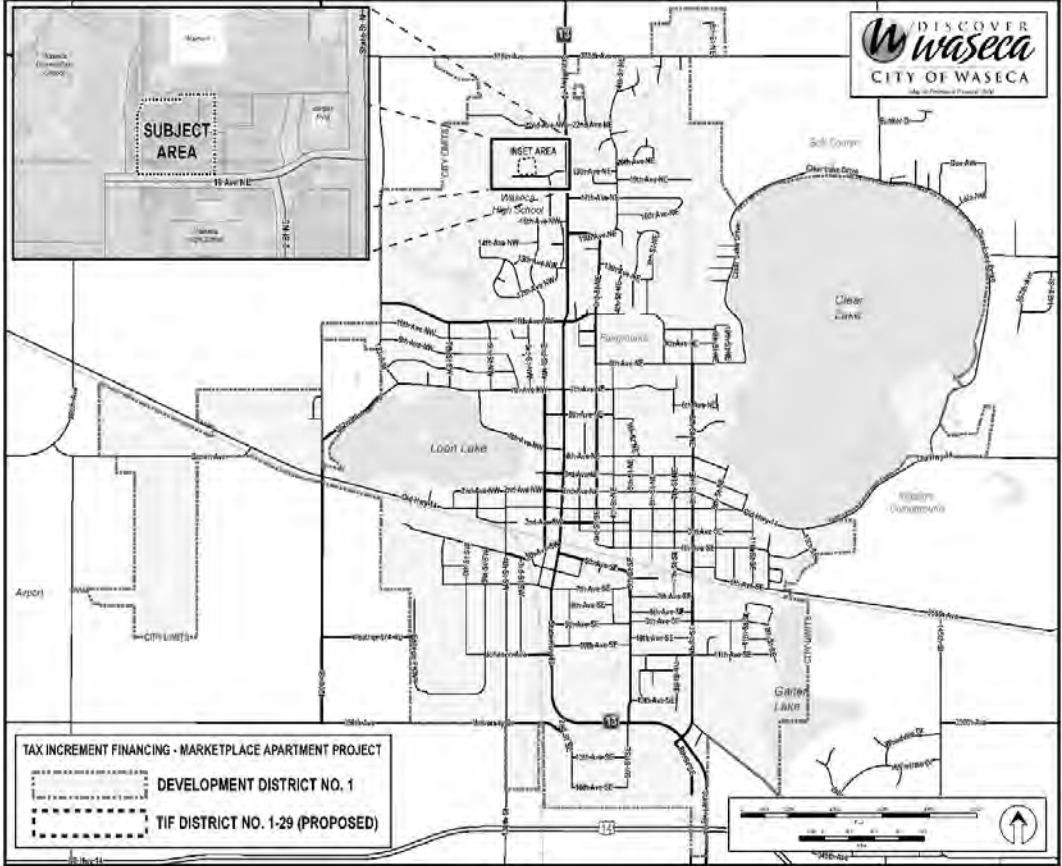
CITY OF WASECA
WASECA COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council (the "Council") of the City of Waseca, Waseca County, Minnesota, will hold a public hearing on May 21, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall, 508 South State Street, City of Waseca, Minnesota (the "City"), relating to the proposed modification of Development District No. 1, the proposed modification of the Development Program for Development District No. 1, the proposed establishment of Tax Increment Financing District (Housing) No. 1-29 (Marketplace Apartment Project) within Development District No. 1, and the proposed adoption of a Tax Increment Financing Plan therefor, all pursuant to and in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Sections 469.124 through 469.133 and Sections 469.174 through 469.1794. Copies of the Development Program, as modified, the proposed Tax Increment Financing Plan are on file and available for public inspection at the office of the City Administrator at City Hall.

The property included in Development District No. 1 is described in the Development Program, as amended, on file in the office of the City Administrator. The property proposed to be included in Tax Increment Financing District (Housing) No. 1-29 (Marketplace Apartment Project) is described in the Tax Increment Financing Plan on file at City Hall, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

A map of Development District No. 1 and Tax Increment Financing District (Housing) No. 1-29 (Marketplace Apartment Project) is set forth below:



All interested persons may appear at the hearing and present their views orally or in writing prior to the hearing.

BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF WASECA, MINNESOTA

/s/ Carl Sonnenberg
City Manager
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on May 3, 2024

CITY OF WASECA
CITY COUNCIL & PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the **City of Waseca Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing at **5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, May 14, 2024**, in the **COUNCIL CHAMBERS of CITY HALL** located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

The purpose of the hearing is to gather information from the public and make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the following:

- VARIANCE REQUEST:** Sarah Cahill Backman is requesting a Variance from the minimum seven (7) foot setback from side property line for a single family detached dwelling and from the minimum five (5) foot setback from side property line for a driveway. The property is located at 510 2nd Avenue NW in Waseca.

A complete copy of the request is available in the office of the Director of Engineering located at Waseca City Hall, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Those interested in commenting may appear in person or by counsel or may submit written comments to the City of Waseca at 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Upon request, accommodations will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Waseca services, programs, and activities.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Friday, May 3, 2024.

Nathan Willey, P.E.
City of Waseca Director of Engineering



CLEAN
WATER
LAND &
LEGACY
AMENDMENT

Septic system causing problems? Waseca County Public Health is pleased to announce a septic grant program available to Waseca County residents with a noncompliant/failing septic system. Eligibility is determined by income and funds are limited. Please call 507-835-0655 for more information or to get an application.

Grant money is made possible by the Clean Water, Land & Legacy Amendment Program and the Board of Water and Soil Resources.



Public Health

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Waseca County



Waseca County Courthouse
307 N. State Street
Waseca, MN 56093-2953
Phone: 507-835-0630
Fax: 507-835-0633

05/03/2024

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes section 373.01, subdivision 1(b), the purpose of this letter is to inform the public of the sale of real property owned by Waseca County in Waseca County. The properties available for sale are identified below. The full legal descriptions for each Property are included at the end of this notice.

Property No. 1: PID No. 05.030.1110. Approximately 11 Acres.

Property No. 2: PID No. 01.003.1050. Approximately 10.41 Acres.

Property No. 3: PID No. 02.026.1100. Approximately 8.1 Acres and PID No. 02.027.0600. Approximately 0.6 Acres. These 2 parcels must be bought together.

Property No. 4: PID No. 06.013.0400. Approximately 10.5 Acres.

Property No. 5: PID No. 12.004.1100. Approximately 15 Acres

SUMMARY OF BID PROCESS

The County will pay all assessments (current or delinquent), taxes, and deferred installments of assessments, if any, currently levied against said real estate. The cost of recording the deed will be paid by the purchaser. The purchaser shall be required to pay all state deed tax/recording fees required for the conveyance. Upon acceptance of any bid, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 373.01, the County shall reserve to itself all iron ore and other valuable minerals in and upon the land, with right to explore for, mine and remove the iron ore and other valuable minerals. The minimum bid amount for each property is identified in the full bid documents.

The full bid documents and information can be accessed on the Waseca County Website, <https://www.wasecacounty.gov/>, to be printed off, or you can stop in at 900 3rd Street NE, Waseca, MN 56093 for a copy.

Bids will need to be received in the Public and Elections office located at the Courthouse (307 N State Street, Waseca, MN 56093) no later than 1 pm on Wednesday, May 22, 2024. Bid opening will be held at the East Annex Conference Room on May 22, 2024, at 1:15pm. All bids shall be considered and the one most favorable to the County accepted, but the County Board may, in the interest of the County, reject any or all bids. The County Board will make a final determination at the County Board meeting on 06-18-2024, in the county meeting room located at 300 State Street N Waseca, MN 56093.

Questions regarding the properties can be submitted to the contact below.

Sincerely,

Brian Tomford, Facilities Director
900 3rd Street NE (507-835-0629)
brian.tomford@wasecacounty.gov

Legal Descriptions for the Properties

Property No. 1:

That part of the Southwest quarter of the Southwest quarter (SW-4 of SW4), Section 30, Township 108 North, Range 23 West, Waseca County, Minnesota described as:

Beginning at the Southwest corner of Section 30, thence North 89 degrees 10 minutes 42 seconds East (assumed bearing) along the South line of Section 30, a distance of 1116.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 20 minutes 49 seconds West parallel with the West line of Section 30, a distance of 429.35 feet; thence South 89 degrees 10 minutes 42 seconds West, parallel with the South line of Section 30, a distance of 1116.00 feet to the West line of Section 30; thence South 00 degrees 20 minutes 49 seconds East along the West line of Section 30, a distance of 429.35 feet to the point of beginning.

Contains 11.00 acres and is subject to right-of-way easements along the South and East boundaries together with all hereditaments and appurtenances belonging thereto.

Property No. 2:

Exhibit "A"

Tract A. That part of the North Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 3, Township 107 North, Range 24 West, shown as Parcels 17 and 18 on Minnesota Department of Transportation Right of Way Plat Numbered 81-27 as the same is on file and of record in the office of the County Recorder in and for Waseca County, B1 as shown on said Plat No. 81-27; thence southerly on an azimuth of 181 degrees 16 minutes 15 seconds along the boundary of said plat for 23.06 feet to Right of Way Boundary Corner B2; thence continue on an azimuth of 181 degrees 16 minutes 15 seconds for 294.03 feet to the point of beginning of Tract A to be described; thence continue on an azimuth of 181 degrees 16 minutes 15 seconds for 30.31 feet; thence southwesterly for 567.94 feet on a non-tangential curve, concave to the southeast, having a radius of 1121.35 feet, a delta angle of 29 degrees 01 minutes 09 seconds and a chord azimuth of 251 degrees 50 minutes 25 seconds; thence on an azimuth of 237 degrees 19 minutes 50 seconds for 925.37 feet; thence deflect to the right on a tangential curve, having a radius of 624.81 feet and a delta angle of 08 degrees 58 minutes 42 seconds for 97.91 feet; thence continue on the last described curve for 172.25 feet; thence on an azimuth of 00 degrees 53 minutes 32 seconds for 491.43 feet; thence on an azimuth of 70 degrees 53 minutes 32 seconds for 696.79 feet; thence deflect to the right on a tangential curve, having a radius of 1357.39 feet and a delta angle of 12 degrees 35 minutes 12 seconds for 298.19 feet; thence on an azimuth of 83 degrees 41 minutes 39 seconds for 143.93 feet; thence on an azimuth of 90 degrees 25 minutes 16 seconds for 465.70 feet to the point of beginning;

containing 10.41 acres, more or less;

Subject to the following restrictions and reservations:

No access shall be permitted to Trunk Highway No. 14 from the lands herein conveyed, except that access shall be permitted along the following described line: Commencing at Right of Way Boundary Corner B1 as shown on said Plat No. 81-27; thence southerly on an azimuth of 181 degrees 16 minutes 15 seconds along the boundary of said plat for 23.06 feet to Right of Way Boundary Corner B2; thence continue on an azimuth of 181 degrees 16 minutes 15 seconds for 324.34 feet to the point of beginning of the line to be described; thence southwesterly for 567.94 feet on a non-tangential curve, concave to the southeast, having a radius of 1121.35 feet, a delta angle of 29 degrees 01 minutes 09 seconds and a chord azimuth of 251 degrees 50 minutes 25 seconds; thence on an azimuth of 237 degrees 19 minutes 50 seconds for 925.37 feet; thence deflect to the right on a tangential curve, having a radius of 624.81 feet and a delta angle of 08 degrees 58 minutes 42 seconds for 97.91 feet and there terminating.

THE ABOVE DESCRIBED REAL PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO THE RIGHTS OF EXISTING UTILITIES, IF ANY, AS PROVIDED IN MINNESOTA STATUTES §161.45 SUBDIVISION 3.

Property No. 3:

PID No. 02.026.1100

Beginning at a point on the North line of the Southwest Quarter (SW¼) of Section Twenty-six (26), Township One Hundred eight (108) North, Range Twenty-two (22) West, said point being six hundred sixty (660) feet East of the Northeast corner of the Southwest Quarter (SE¼) of Section twenty-seven (27), Township One hundred eight (108) North, Range Twenty-two (22) West, thence South Ninehundred eighty (980) feet on a line parallel with the East line of said Section Twenty-seven (27), thence North Sixty seven degrees thirty minutes (67° 30') West One hundred eighty (180) feet, thence North Two hundred Fifty (250) feet parallel with the East line of said Section Twenty-seven (27), thence West Two hundred (200) feet parallel with the North line of said Section Twenty-six (26), thence North Twenty degrees 30 minutes (20° 30') West One hundred (100) feet, thence North Seventy-four degrees 30 minutes (74° 30') West One hundred fifty (150) feet, thence North three degrees thirty minutes (3° 30') East One hundred twenty-five (125) feet, thence North twenty seven degrees ten minutes (27° 10') East Three hundred twenty (320) feet, thence North Fifty five degrees fifty minutes (55° 50') West One hundred sixty (160) feet to the North line of said Section twenty-six (26), thence East along the North line of said Section twenty-six (26), Five hundred (500) feet to the point of beginning.

PID No. 02.027.0600

The North twenty feet (20) of the East one-half of the Southeast one-quarter (E½ of SE¼) of Section Twenty-seven (27), Township one hundred eight (108) North, Range Twenty-two (22) West and the North twenty (20) feet of the West one-half of the West one-half (W½ of W¼) of the Southwest quarter (SW¼) of Section Twenty-six (26), Township one hundred eight (108) North, Range Twenty-two (22) West, EXCEPT for any land contained in the following described parcel beginning at a point on the North line of the Southwest quarter (SW¼) of Section Twenty-six (26), Township one hundred eight (108) North, Range Twenty-two (22) West, said point being six hundred sixty (660) feet East of the Northeast corner of the Southeast quarter (SE¼) of Section Twenty-seven (27), Township one hundred eight (108) North, Range Twenty-two (22) West, thence South nine hundred eighty (980) feet on a line parallel with the East line of said Section Twenty-seven (27), thence North Sixty seven degrees thirty minutes (67° 30') West one hundred eighty (180) feet, thence North two hundred fifty (250) feet parallel with the East line of said Section Twenty-seven (27), thence West two hundred (200) feet parallel with the North line of said Section Twenty-six (26), thence North Twenty degrees Thirty minutes (20° 30') West one hundred (100) feet, thence North Seventy-four degrees Thirty minutes (74° 30') West one hundred fifty (150) feet, thence North three degrees thirty minutes (3° 30') East one hundred Twenty-five (125) feet, thence North Twenty seven degrees ten minutes (27° 10') East three hundred twenty (320) feet, thence North Fifty five degrees Fifty minutes (55° 50') West one hundred sixty (160) feet to the North line of said Section Twenty-six (26), thence East along the North line of said Section Twenty-six (26), five hundred (500) feet to the point of beginning.

Property No. 4:

That part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 13, Township 108 North, Range 24 West, Waseca County, Minnesota, described as follows:

Beginning at the southwest corner of said Section 13; thence on an assumed bearing of North along the west line of said Southwest Quarter, a distance of 414.40 feet; thence North 86 degrees 00 minutes East, a distance of 1,074.00 feet; thence South 13 degrees 53 minutes West, a distance of 510.59 feet to the south line of said Southwest Quarter; thence North 89 degrees 37 minutes West along said south line of the Southwest Quarter, a distance of 988.86 feet to the point of beginning. This tract contains 10.5 acres of land and is subject to right-of-way in existing Township Road and subject to any and all easements of record.

Property No. 5:

All that part of Government Lot 2 in Section 4, Township 107 North, Range 22 West, described as follows:

Commencing at the northwest corner of said Government Lot 2; thence south 00°10' west one hundred seventy three and four tenths (173.4) feet, on an assumed bearing on the west line of said Government Lot 2; thence north 90°00' east four hundred sixty two and six tenths (462.6) feet; thence south 5°00' west two hundred thirty six and four tenths (236.4) feet; thence south 00°00' west two hundred seventy three and six tenths (273.6) feet; thence south 83°30' east two hundred forty seven and six tenths (247.6) feet; thence south 90°00' east six hundred twelve and twenty one hundredths (612.21) feet, to the point of beginning; thence north 58°58' east two hundred and seventy (270) feet more or less, to a point on the westerly shoreline of Rice Lake; thence southeasterly one hundred ninety five (195) feet more or less, on said westerly shoreline, to the point of intersection with a line bearing south 90°00' east from the point of beginning; thence north 90°00' west three hundred seventy (370) feet more or less to the point of beginning; containing 0.6 acres more or less.

AND:

That part of Government Lot 2 in Section 4, Township 107 North, Range 22 West, lying easterly of the hereinafter described Line 'A':

Commencing at the northwest corner of Government Lot 2, in Section 4, Township 107 North, Range 22 West; thence south zero zero degrees ten minutes (00°10') west one hundred seventy three and four tenths (173.4), on an assumed bearing on the west line of said Government Lot; thence south ninety degrees zero zero minutes (90°00') east four hundred sixty two and six tenths (462.6) feet; thence south five degrees zero zero minutes (5°00') west two hundred thirty six and four tenths (236.4) feet; thence south zero zero degrees zero zero minutes (00°00') west two hundred seventy three and six tenths (273.6) feet; thence south eighty three degrees thirty minutes (83°30') east one hundred ninety nine and thirty seven hundredths (199.37) feet, to the point of beginning of Line 'A':

thence south fifty three degrees two minutes (53°02') east seven hundred nine and eighty six hundredths (709.86) feet, to the point of beginning of a curve;

thence southeasterly one hundred eighty one (181) feet more or less, on a curve concave to the southwest, with a radius of two hundred ninety seven and twenty three hundredths (297.23) feet, to a point on the south line of said Government Lot 2, and there terminating;

and southerly of the hereinafter described Line 'B':

Commencing at the northwest corner of Government Lot 2, in Section 4, Township 107 North, Range 22 West; thence south zero zero degrees ten minutes (00°10') west, one hundred seventy three and four tenths (173.4) feet on an assumed bearing on the west line of said Government Lot; thence south ninety degrees zero zero minutes (90°00') east four hundred sixty two and six tenths (462.6) feet; thence south five degrees zero zero minutes (5°00') west two hundred thirty six and four tenths (236.4) feet; thence south zero zero degrees zero zero minutes (00°00') west two hundred seventy three and six tenths (273.6) feet; thence south eighty three degrees thirty minutes (83°30') east on hundred ninety nine and thirty seven hundredths (199.37) feet, to the point of beginning of Line 'B';

thence south eighty three degrees and thirty minutes (83°30') east forty eight and twenty three hundredths (48.23) feet;

thence south ninety degrees zero zero minutes (90°00') east nine hundred eighty two (982) feet more or less to the westerly shoreline of Rice Lake, and there terminating, containing 15 acres more or less. (Area indicated includes accretion by recession of Rice Lake).

Subject to highway easement on the westerly side thereof.

EXCEPT:

All that part of Government Lot 2, in Section 4, Township 107 North, Range 22 West, described as follows:

Commencing at the northwest corner of said Government Lot 2; thence south 00°10' west one hundred seventy three and four tenths (173.4) feet, on an assumed bearing on the west line of said Government Lot 2; thence north 90°00' east four hundred sixty two and six tenths (462.6) feet; thence south 5°00' west two hundred thirty six and four tenths (236.4) feet; thence south 00°00' west two hundred seventy three and six tenths (273.6) feet; thence south 83°30' east one hundred ninety nine and thirty seven hundredths (199.37) feet, to the point of beginning of the parcel to be described;

thence south 83°30' east forty eight and twenty three hundredths (48.23) feet;

thence south 90°00' east six hundred twelve and twenty one hundredths (612.21) feet;

thence south 58°58' west four hundred twenty three and forty four hundredths (423.44) feet, to the centerline of a township road;

thence north 53°02' west three hundred seventy two and nine hundredths (372.09) feet on said centerline, to the point of beginning;

containing 1.64 acres, more or less;

subject to highway easement on the southwesterly side thereof.
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on May 3, 10, and 17, 2024

WHS Prom 2024





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WHS Prom 2024



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