

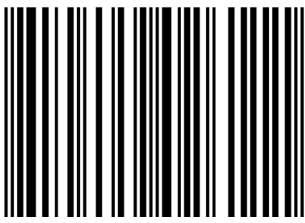
THE

Janesville Journal

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SERVING THE JANESVILLE-WALDORF-PEMBERTON-ST. CLAIR AREA

Wednesday, July 23, 2025



Inside

- 2 - Mike's Corner
- 3 - Blood Drive
- 4 - Pemberton Council
- 5 - Hip Hop & Sip
- 6 - EDA Meeting
- 7 - Tator Days
- 8 - Back in the Day
- 9 - Classifieds
- 10 - Paddlefish Days

5 DAY FORECAST

Wed 23 | 90°
Rain 24%
Wind SSW 12 mph
Sunshine and clouds mixed. A stray shower or thunderstorm is possible. High near 90F. Winds SSW at 10 to 15 mph.

Thu 24 | 81°
Rain 51%
Wind NNW 7 mph
Variable clouds with scattered thunderstorms. High 81F. Winds NNW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 50%.

Fri 25 | 84°
Rain 9%
Wind E 4 mph
Mostly sunny skies. High 84F. Winds light and variable.

Sat 26 | 87°
Rain 15%
Wind S 9 mph
Mostly sunny skies. A stray shower or thunderstorm is possible. High 87F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph.

Sun 27 | 87°
Rain 40%
Wind S 8 mph
Scattered thunderstorms in the morning. Partly cloudy skies late. High 87F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40%.

Quote of the Week

Money and success don't change people; they merely amplify what is already there.

—Will Smith

Tator Days
Eagle Lake becomes a haven for spud lovers



By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

From July 13-20, the small town of Eagle Lake would become a haven for spud lovers everywhere as Tator Days would bring a serving or two of deliciously fried potatoes. While Saturday would have enough events and activities to stuff a baked potato, there was plenty of fun to be had throughout the early portion of the week: a Sunday golf tournament at Prairie Ridge had several groups swinging far and wide for the grand prize and a little later in the day, the Royalty Coronation would crown a new era of Mr. Fry Guy and Little Miss Eagle lake, a Medallion Hunt would have folks scramble to locate the prized possession for a cash prize. Wednesday and Thursday would bring out even more competitive spirit with a beginner's lesson of pickleball while kickball games caused some local agencies to hash out their problems while the hometown ball club faced off against local business owners. The weekend would be the official start of Tator Days as the American Legion, Fire

Department, Eagles Nest, and the nearby elementary school would host a variety of events like a Classic Car Roll-In, Pancake Breakfast, Eagle Lake 5K and Fun Run, a Duke Burger Eating Contest, and so much more. Live music would keep toes tapping and the drinks coming as 3 Hour Download and Smokescreen delivered great performances. The street parade would feature all manner of local Eagle Lake groups, businesses, and enough candy to keep the kids at bay until Halloween. When it came to the namesake of the weeklong celebration, small buttons would

guarantee a salty serving of french fries at the Legion; the crew back in the kitchen kept the fryers rolling and tators flowing for about three hours until supplies ran dry. Sunday would keep the spud-filled week going with breakfast at the Legion serving steak and hashbrowns for those looking to fuel up after a late Saturday night. To finish off Tator Days, the Expos would cap off another successful season and it seemed half the Eagle Lake community posted up to cheer on some hometown favorites.



Brummund retiring from Soil and Water Conservation District

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

After 40 years of working in the agronomy and farming industry, most recently spending a decade as an administrative assistant at the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District, Cheri Brummund has decided it is time to retire. "It's just a time in my life that I'm ready for a change," Brummund explained. "I want to enjoy being around grandkids and watching them grow up." Brummund began working for the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District in 2016. Agronomy and farming have always been something she loved being around, having grown up surrounded by the industry. "There was an opening here at the time," she added. "I grew up on the farm, so I was very impartial with farm

programs." Brummund's primary role was to provide resources to local landowners and farmers. She also made it a point to find creative ways to educate the youth about agriculture and the importance of the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District. "I know a lot of the landowners in the county through various other positions that I've held," Brummund shared. However, she always enjoyed working with the kids. To her, that was a "big plus" of the role she took on. "I loved working with the kids on their 4-H projects and through the school system," she said. She has worked with every school in the area, from Waseca to NRHEG and JWP. She even brought programs to Trinity Lutheran in Janesville and Sacred Heart Catholic in Waseca. One particular program that

she restarted and has conducted since the fall of 2018 was giving coloring books to kindergarteners and first graders. She also distributed ribbons to various 4-H conservation projects at the 2018 Waseca County Fair. According to Brummund, the coloring books were a hit. She reminisced, "One year, I had leftover coloring books from the school events, so I gave them out at the fair. These kids knew that I'd brought them to the schools. That was a plus that they remembered that particular book the following year." Educating the youth is something she's passionate about and has given her some of her favorite memories with the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District. "I wanted to get conservation ideas into the young people's minds to think more about conservation. We did have, at one point, grant

Janesville City Council

City has clean audit report; Golf Course budget something to watch

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

The Janesville City Council began its meeting on Monday, July 14, reviewing the 2024 Audit Report. The report came back clean with no instances of noncompliance. However, there were a few minor things that the city was told to keep an eye on. The two most notable things were to make sure operational costs in the general stay in line to counteract any increases in the future, and to monitor Prairie Ridge Golf Course, which just broke even on covering operational expenses after a decrease in revenue in 2024. The report was provided by Tom Olinger of Abdo. When comparing the budget numbers to the actual figures in 2024, both the revenue and expenses the city took in were under budget. The revenue was approximately \$175,000 below the expected amount, while expenditures were about \$171,600 under budget, resulting in a \$ 3,400 decrease between the budgeted and actual amounts in the fund balance as of December 31, 2024. When examining general fund revenues by type, taxes increased slightly from 2023 but remained lower than the 2022 rate. Intergovernmental (aid such as Local Government Aid provided by the state) followed that same trend, increasing in 2024 but not as high as it was in 2022. In the capital project balances, there was a massive decrease due to the \$450,000

needed by the Janesville Fire Department for a new fire truck. The water fund experienced a slight increase to \$621,000, despite lower usage in 2024, due to the wet start to the summer. The golf course just broke even on operating expenses in 2024, but according to Olinger, the money coming in "isn't quite covering debt payments." Although this could be attributed to the weather affecting their business, it's something that the city will be monitoring throughout the year. Abdo then compared Janesville to similar cities (labeled Class 4 cities in the graphs presented) and the communities within Waseca County. Residents sometimes rightly complain about the high taxes, and Janesville is relatively expensive compared to Class 4 cities. However, it's lower than its fellow towns in Waseca County and has trended that way for years. Per capita, Janesville is lower than Class 4 cities but higher than the communities in Waseca County. In terms of debt, Janesville follows the "up-and-down" trend. Depending on the graph you look at, Janesville is either trending up or down. Per capita, it's trending upward and has historically been much higher than in Class 4 Cities or Waseca County; however, there was no data available for comparison in 2024. Janesville's debt is approximately \$4,213 per person. On the other hand, Janesville's debt service expenditures as a percentage of expenditures are trending downward, still higher than those of Class 4 Cities or Waseca County. Lastly, the council and Olinger looked at "key performance indicators." Olinger pointed out that in current expenditures per capita, Janesville has been "right in line" with Class 4 Cities and

Council
cont to Page 3



money available to get coloring books and that type of thing, so we could do outreach to the schools." Brummund also proudly shared that she helped usher the internet into the Waseca Soil and

Water Conservation District by creating a website to reach more local residents and raise aware-

Brummund
cont to pg 3

Community Happenings

Paddlefish Days Madison Lake July 24-27	City Council Mtg St. Clair Aug 5
Model T @Farmamerica Waseca July 24 11:30am	Janesville Night Out Janesville Aug 7
Cheri Brummund Retirement Party Waseca July 25 11:30-2:30pm	Janesville Food Shelf Hours: Thursdays 1-3 p.m. Second Thurs. of month 6-7 p.m. First & Third Sat. of month 1-3 p.m.



Upcoming Events

WASECA-LE SUEUR REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM
408 N STATE ST WASECA, MN 56093
507-835-2910

Rainbow Loom Bands
Create colorful bracelets with unique patters at **Waseca Public Library on Monday, July 28th at 1 pm.** Geared for ages 7-12.

Solar Printing
Harness the power of the sun to create beautiful prints with botanicals at 2:30 pm on **Tuesday, July 29th at Janesville Public Library.** Ages 13-18.

Mario Kart Tournament
Start your engines. Avoid the shells. Fly by competitors. Conquer Rainbow Road at **Waseca Public Library on Tuesday, July 29th at 1 pm.** This free event is exclusively for ages 13-18.

Stenciled Book Edges for Adults
Jump into the world of book artistry by stenciling the edges of a popular book for your home library at **Waterville Public Library on Tuesday, July 29th at 5 pm.** Books and supplies provided. This free event is geared for adults.

The Great Rainbow Party
This colorful event is full of prisms, pattern building, color mixing, sorting, and crafting at **Elysian Area Library on Thursday, July 31st at 10 am.** Geared for ages 3-6.

Superhero Cave Workshop
Be ready to save the world in style! Learn how to use a sewing machine to make a superhero cape at Janesville Public Library on Thursdays, July 31st at 10 am. Ages 5-12. Registration required.
Sponsored by Janesville Area Foundation and the Pope Family Fund

TID-BITS OF TRIVIA

1. THE SEC is a government agency that was established in response to what national event?
2. The site of a famous 1839 slave mutiny, the 19th-century ship La Amistad has a name that means what in Spanish?
3. The site of the Wright Brothers historic first flight, Kitty Hawk, is located in what U.S. state?
4. The sketch comedy series “Portlandia” pokes fun at hipsters residing in what state’s most populous city?
5. The slang term “El Lay” phonetically spells out the abbreviation for what state’s most populated city?

6. The slogan “This machine kills fascists” often appeared on the guitars of what musician?
7. The United Nations flag depicts a map of the world surrounded by what?
8. The United States of America is named after a famous what?
9. The University of California, San Diego’s Geisel Library bears the real surname of what author?
10. The voice actor Don LaFontaine was famous for what signature phrase, often heard in movie trailers?

Echoes from the Loafers’ Club Meeting
My wife says that I can be an idiot sometimes. That’s good to know.
Why is that good to know?
Rather than as an accusation, I take it as a permission to be myself.

Driving by Bruce’s drive
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me from the land of the tall yellow corn. I have a fear of speed bumps, but I’m slowly getting over it. There was a dead chicken on the road not far from our humble abode. I hope it hadn’t been trying to show the opossum that it was possible to cross the road.

I’ve learned
I hope gravy has a lot of vitamins.
Psychologists believe that walking through doorways resets memory to make room for a new episode to emerge. This is the doorway effect. It involves a liminal space, a place of transition, a threshold between two points, signaling the end of one space and the beginning of another.
The man said he was a good ventriloquist, and he wasn’t the only one saying it.
The Anchorage, Alaska, Zoo has Wolverines and polar bears. It isn’t a petting zoo. A polar bear can eat 100 pounds of seal blubber in a single sitting and

Have you ever had a long day while on vacation, and you feel so tired that you feel like you could fall asleep instantly, and yet, you struggle to sleep all night because you’re using a bed you’re not used to?
That was me this week.
Last Saturday was only the second time I did a whole concrete job (thanks to the weather finally holding up enough for us to get the work done). I thought afterwards, I’d sleep like a baby. Not so much. My brother blew up an air mattress for me, and I slept very little, if at all, on Saturday night. That compounded the five hours of sleep I got Friday night.
It’s why it’s 11:15 p.m. on a Sunday and I’m writing my column now. I took a four-hour siesta after covering the Eagle Lake Expos game and taking a much-needed bath. I ended up tweaking my right wrist a bit just before we cleaned everything after the concrete job (potentially a mild sprain), so I needed hot water to cool down the inflammation.
There have been very few times when I have struggled to fall asleep so severely that I can barely stay awake the next day. Usually, those were times I was purposely attempting to pull off an all-nighter, especially in college or high school. This time, I had no intention of doing so, and I may have done it without trying.

Seeing a Bigfoot is no small feat



Compostings

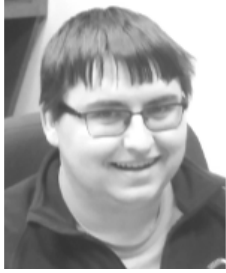
by Al Batt
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would destroy Joey Chestnut in a hot dog eating contest.
Gov. Wally Hickel of Alaska, also Secretary of the Interior under President Nixon, wanted to be buried upright and was buried vertically and facing toward Washington, D.C., so he could keep an eye on it, at the Anchorage Memorial Park Cemetery.
Seeing a Bigfoot is no small feat.
When I step onto a scale, I remind myself that wisdom is heavy.
The Magic 8 Ball was an early version of AI.
You can’t be a geezer if you don’t know how to geeze.
The world’s shoe-tying championship ended in a tie.
Bad jokes department
You don’t need a parachute to go skydiving. You need a parachute to go skydiving twice.
The mechanic asked when I’d last rotated my tires. I told him, “On the way here.”
As I get older and remember all the people I’ve lost along the way, I think maybe a career as a tour guide hadn’t been a wise choice for me.
To whoever stole my diary.

My thoughts are with you.
I cried when I got a speeding ticket. It was a moving violation.
What did the hair stylist say after counting to 10? “Ready or not, here I comb!”
Why was the bicycle so sleepy? It was two-tired.
Nature notes
A squirrel was giving a rousing stump speech as I stumbled through the treacherous phalanxes of mosquitoes. The air was flavored with the odor of skunk.
Depending upon the environment, conditions and the sniffer’s nose, one can detect the smell of skunk from 1.5 miles to 20 miles. As Pepe Le Pew said, “If you have not tried it, do not knock it.”
Crows flapped shadows in the welkin. They made flight announcements. Henry David Thoreau wrote, “What a delicious sound! It is not merely crow calling to crow, for it speaks to me too.” I love seeing crows walking in a bandy-legged gait.
He wanted to follow me on my walk to the mailbox. He was a fawn. I called the little buck “Fawnzie.” It was a happy day.

I sat on a deck with friends and watched birds, each a stunning beauty, visit the busy feeders. It’s impossible to be unhappy around friends with bird feeders.
At home, a talkative eastern screech owl, all beak and eyes, perched on our deck rail at midnight. It wasn’t the first night it’s done that. I see it flying out of a shed, but I never see it flying in.
Juvenile cardinals resemble adult females but have gray-to-black bills. A chickadee feeds on a sunflower seed feeder each morning. No matter how many chickadees there are in this world, it needs one more.
It’s the time for tiny toads in our yards and gardens as they hop from water into a terrestrial life.
Julie Knutson of Hartland said one of her sons had 4 pounds of honeybees on the outside of his mailbox. Bees swarm as a natural way for colonies to reproduce by splitting in two. The old queen and a portion of the worker bees leave the original hive to establish a new colony elsewhere. Overcrowding combined with the availability of resources like nectar and pollen can trigger swarming.
Meeting adjourned
“Every student needs someone who says, simply, ‘You mean something. You count.’” —Tony Kushner. Be kind.

Pulling an all-nighter



Mikes Corner

by Michael Roy
Staff writer
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When you make changes to your diet and increase your physical activity, you will start to feel the effects over time. I’ve certainly felt that. I’ve gained a bit more energy throughout the month, and I feel like I can focus my mind on whatever I set my mind to. However, when I crash, I feel it much more. I think it’s a reasonable price to pay for better health. I’d rather go through this struggle now on the road to getting healthy than deal with worse issues down the road.
My family’s had a history of health problems. My grandma dealt with several of them. You named the cancer, and she probably either had it or was at risk of getting it. But she dealt with diabetes and other heart problems (including three heart attacks). My grandpa’s only issue was high cholesterol. My mother also must watch which pain reliever she uses since she has high blood pressure. Given that history, it’s why I’m working so hard now to lose the weight.
It’s weeks like these that make writing columns difficult. Politics and weight loss have

become my go-to subjects. However, the problem is that I can only talk so much about my journey when I’m only a few months into it, with not much to go on. All I’m doing is eating fewer calories than I burn and eating a bit healthier. That’s about it. The fine details will be coming later.
The problem with politics, too, is that there is so much going on. Much of it is quite insane, and I struggle to keep up. We went from the Trump administration teasing us about

the Epstein files to the legitimate attempt to arrest Barack Obama over it and the Russiagate scandal. How do you even piece through that?
I’m getting to be too much of an adult to care as much anymore. What can I do about it? There’s a fine line between blind emotion and apathy. I remember a quote from the Harry Potter movies – I think this was from Order of the Phoenix – where Harry said, “The more you care, the more you have to lose.” I know he was just about to lose his godfather in the movie, but that quote has stuck with me to this day. It makes you wonder how many people live like that today.
Anyways, stay cool out there, and make sure you surround yourself with people that care. Having a support system around you makes life easier.

THE

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Brummund
cont from pg 1

ness about their organization. While it's been a great ride for Brummund, she does acknowledge that the job did come with challenges. The one challenge she always remembered was organizing the paperwork and other information required by the grants. "You have to make sure you are recording everything," she explained. "It's make sure you're keeping track of everything on the back end." One thing she has learned over the years is how to adopt new practices in projects within the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District. "Many years ago, in the '70s, I worked for another soil and water conservation district in a different county," she said. "Being from a farm, I'm familiar with a lot of practices now. But some of the old practices have been improved a lot from what they used to be." Any final advice for her fellow employees before

retirement? "Keep up the good work," she said as half advice, half compliment. "They are what makes the soil and water conservation district beneficial to the landowners in Waseca County. Cheri Brummund's last day will be Friday, July 25. After that, she can do with her time while she pleases. When asked if she has any big retirement plans, she joked that she has "some dreams." "I want to do this and that...we'll have to wait and see how everything plays out," she said. "There's always a different avenue you can go down. I volunteer a lot, so that's something that I'm also looking forward to." She is also excited to spend time with her grandchildren. Cheri Brummund has played a significant role in promoting the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District's name within the local communities it serves in the county. It will undoubtedly be bittersweet as she reaches her last day working in the district. But it's an excellent time for her to enjoy her "dreams," have some extra time to relax, and do whatever she pleases.

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Council
cont from pg 1

Waseca County, following their trends while staying below them. While there was no data from 2023 or 2024 to compare the three, Janesville's historically been \$100 below Class 4 and Waseca County communities. In capital expenditures, they've bounced around. When capital expenses trend downward, Janesville's costs are much lower. However, when trending upward, it surpasses Waseca County and Class 4 Cities. Outside of the budget itself, Olinger did mention that there was a "little bit of a change" in recording compensation for absences. "We took into consideration what is expected to be paid for sick leave versus actual," he said. "We had to do some estimates based on that." As council member Andy Ahlman summarized, "Overall, we're looking pretty good." The city will continue to review its balances and refine its budgets throughout 2025, following the release of this audit report.

Fire Board adds three Township sections to coverage; small increase in fire and police budgets It's that time of year when the city council starts looking at numbers across the board. On Monday, July 14, the council received the 2024 audit report while reviewing the first part of the 2026 draft budget, which began with the fire and police budgets. Following the audit report, the council hosted the Township Fire Board for its bi-annual meeting. They went into the 2026 draft budget a bit, with Janesville Fire Chief Mike Santo explaining that things would be "pretty close to the same." City Administrator explained that the current draft puts the fire budget at a 4.7 increase for the year. "In theory, we have until December to review the budget," he added. Chief Santo shared that in 2024, five rookies joined the fire department, hiring two out of those five, with one already receiving training in Kasota. The fire department is now fully staffed at 25. Kurt Anderson of Le Ray Township had a few questions about the loan payment on the Janesville fire department's pumper truck. The \$69,000 loan is a five-year one, and Santo

First time donor experience at Janesville Blood Drive

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Whenever you talk to Marylou Jewison at a blood drive, she always happily shares her passion for donating. She has been donating blood regularly since the 1990s, with over 1,000 units given over the years. She's given so much for so long, that the American Red Cross didn't have records of her giving in the 1990s digitized. This Thursday, July 17, Jewison got to see her 16-year-old grandson, Lowell Schultz (whom she nicknamed Gavin), donate for the first time. Since he wasn't 18, he had to receive permission from his mother to donate, which she happily granted. Although he and his mother live in Owatonna, he chose the blood drive at Trinity Lutheran Church's Discipling Center in Janesville for his first time. "I have the blood to give," Schultz said, explaining his reason to give. "If it can help someone else, why not do it?" Jewison remembered her first time giving blood. It was in 1973 while she was attending MSU in Mankato for schooling. "I was actually deferred the first day because I didn't eat enough that day," she said. "But I went back the next day and was able to donate." Ever since, she's given over a thousand units of blood. She has also volunteered to help or lead



Gavin Schultz was one of the donors giving blood at Trinity Church Blood Drive Thursday, July 17. He is the Grandson of Marylou Jewison, the one that organizes and oversees the Blood Drives. (Journal Photo by Mike Roy)

blood drives in the area since 1982. Jewison ensured that Schultz's first donation experience was as comfortable as possible. While regular donors have their beds slightly inclined like a recliner, he had to have his flat. After donating his one unit, the doctors collected a few more samples in small vials for later analysis. Afterwards, he joined several donors at the "canteen" for snacks, homemade and packaged. His one unit of blood could save up to three people, whether that's using the blood itself for transfusions, using the platelets, or extracting the plasma from the blood. According to Jewison, 107 units of blood were collected from the Trinity Lutheran Church blood drive. Members of the Janesville United Methodist Church sponsored and served at the

explained they've already made a year's worth of payments. Another topic of discussion was the fire department adding three sections of Alton Township to its coverage. These three sections would be on the south side of Janesville's coverage and will include Buffalo Lake and Alma City. Anderson asked Santo what the impact would be on the budget of adding those three sections. "To be honest, not a lot," Santo replied. "We've responded to those sections as mutual aid anyway. There's not a lot of housing in that area either. It's more farmland and woodland. I don't see it impacting our budget much." Anderson then asked about the "routine practice" of a township shifting sections from one fire station to another. Rogers answered that it's up to the township. "We can crunch the numbers almost immediately and figure that out." Anderson then took the time to praise the Janesville Fire Department and the council. "We've been very happy with the way the Chief has been operating the fire department," he said. "He's kept a close eye on the budget and has controlled the expenses well. We appreciate the city council working in that same vein to keep the increase down to a palatable level that's easy and

transparent to justify when that may not have always been the case in the past." The fire department has responded to an average of 18 calls a month as of May. Santo also confirmed there were 18 calls in June. "It's slightly above last year, but not by much," he pointed out. Most calls were medical and not fire-related incidents. There were eight mutual aid calls, with five coming from Waseca and one each from St. Clair, Pemberton, and Waldorf. According to the agenda packet, the department's capital reserve fund is at \$145,527, with funds for rural fire coverage at \$23,144. With the Fire Board meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m., the council deliberated on how to handle enforcement of the three-hour parking spots on Main Street after a local businesswoman complained about cars blocking spots in front of her business for longer than the signage suggests. The ultimate solution was to send a message to residents through the mail, reminding them to follow the three-hour parking rule. The problem with trying to enforce it, according to Police Chief Steve Johnson is that the department "doesn't have the staff to cover it." Notices on windshields could cause issues, too, as some residents don't have their cars registered under their current licenses or address. "The problem is, I'd have to be watching which cars are parked longer than three hours," Johnson said. "That's a big cost of time." Council member Ivan Maas asked if installing security cameras on Main Street would help enforce the three-hour parking limit. Although Johnson thought the cameras wouldn't be a bad idea, he warned that they could be expensive. Rogers provided a brief update on 109 N. Main Street, sharing the disappointing news that there have been zero bids on the Request for Proposal on the property. He did say that a gentleman who had spoken with Mayor Andy Arnoldt visited City Hall on the day of the meeting to obtain the RFP. The fire and police budgets were the only other items examined. As Santo went through most of the fire budget

(projected to increase by 4.7 percent), Johnson spent most of the time talking. The police budget, still in its preliminary stage, is set to be approximately 3.63 percent of the total, with the possibility of decreasing before the final budget is approved. Much of the cuts that Johnson made to the budget are what he called "trimming the fat." For example, he purchased body cameras that cost between \$500 and \$600 each, significantly less expensive than the higher-end cameras, which were nearly \$5,000. The legal fees line item was also cut by almost half, thanks to the past charges being paid off. The budget still increased, however, due to salary raises and an increase in PERA for four full-time officers, including the school resource officer (which JWP is helping to reimburse). The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m. The next one will be on August 11.



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MATTHEW 5:14-16

Sunday, July 27th 2025

3:00pm - 7:00pm (Supper included)

**Ages Invited: Pre-k (potty-trained or accompanied by an adult) -
going into 6th grade**

To Register: Scan the QR Code, follow the Link
<https://forms.gle/NdwFmqmEHFT4FSu6>
or visit Faith's Website (www.flcjanesville.org) -youth->Sunday School





The effects from the Canadian wildfires smoke and how to avoid intake

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Lately, it seems like Minnesota has been getting the smoke... literally. It seems that smoke in the air is a common occurrence in Minnesota's springs and summers, and this year is no exception. If it isn't smoke from the California wildfires polluting the air, it is Canadian wildfires placing a layer of haze over us. This year, it seems more like the latter is happening.

This didn't seem like a common occurrence before. So, why all the smoke now? What's the cause of the wildfires that have been polluting the Minnesota skies?

Firstly, let's check on our friends in the Northwest. Oregon Public Broadcasting published an article in June about the Canadian wildfires named "Smoke knows no boundaries: What Canada's fires mean for the U.S. in the future." Much of the potential causes of these wildfires included some unusually hotter and drier conditions in the area and some ready fuel for a spark, such as that caused by a lightning strike to set a domino effect on the vast Canadian and American forests.

When the article was written in June, the Canadian

Interagency Forest Fire Center said that 201 fires were burning in the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario, with half considered "out of control." As of Sunday, July 20, the CIFFC's map showed there were 566 active fires in Canada, with two new fires reported the day this story was drafted. 135 were considered out of control, and only the provinces of Quebec and Nunavut didn't have any active fires, although there were a few not too far from their borders. Most of the out-of-control fires are in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and western Ontario, all provinces that border the Midwest states of Minnesota and North Dakota.

Much of the cause of these wildfires is a lack of preparation or the inability to prepare for them. When the 2025 California wildfires struck at the beginning of the year, many fire departments struggled to tackle the fires due to the extreme Santa Ana winds, a phenomenon originating from the Santa Ana Mountains that affects Southern California. They also lacked adequate water to attempt to fight these fires. This caused whole neighborhoods in Los Angeles to crumble in the Palisades fires in January, and as of July 15 of this year,

over 200,000 acres of land in California has burned thanks to 4,195 fires from across the state.

It's a similar situation in Canada. Dry conditions, combined with strong winds, create a perfect environment for wildfires to spread and intensify. This year, there have been over 3,300 fires reported, with 5.6 million hectares – that'd be over 13.8 million acres – of Canadian land burned. The fires have triggered several air quality alerts in Minnesota, including blanket air quality alerts for the whole state. Earlier this month, the entire states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan were under air quality alerts for unhealthy amounts of smoke in the air.

This may be the way of life for most of us, at least in the next few years. So, how do we combat the effects of smoke without letting it affect our lives too much?

Firstly, it's great to know the categories for levels on the air quality index to know what to expect. We are usually in the good or moderate range, marked green or yellow. Whenever an air quality map displays orange, it indicates that the air is unhealthy for sensitive groups. Air quality alerts are usually put out there when the air is unhealthy for the public; this is marked in red. Very

unhealthy (purple) air is rare, and this editor has personally not remembered a time when the air was considered hazardous (maroon) in Minnesota. While smoke doesn't always trigger air quality alerts (pollution in metro areas such as the Twin Cities can trigger alerts), it's good to pay attention to these, especially if you have any respiratory issues.

It may be wise to keep doors and windows closed during days when the smoke is thick in the air. Air conditioning can keep the house cool while providing some air flow for those who are more sensitive to smoke. If you have pets, keep them inside when possible and shorten walks. In extreme instances, the CDC does suggest respirators. But the editor likely thinks that this is when there is a wildfire only miles away from where you live.

Smoke may make what would otherwise be a beautiful day into an unpleasant one. Make sure you're paying attention to air quality alerts and do your best to avoid inhaling too much smoke. Thousands have already lost their homes in Canada and California to wildfires. We can only hope that the fires stop soon, and we can focus on breathing clean air again.

Waseca farmers look to fall with hope after strong start to growing season

After a couple of challenging years marked by extremes including flash flooding, the fields are sharing up pretty nicely for farmers this year as a mix of regular rain and seasonable but not extreme warmth has given corn and beans the conditions they need to thrive.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Crop Progress Report, the share of corn and soybeans across the state that are in good or excellent condition stands at about three-quarters, double digits ahead of the share of crops reported as such at this time last year.

While this year's weather hasn't been exactly spot free, with events like flash flooding throughout the Waseca area at the end of June, and some spots in the fields have been unlucky enough to be damaged, local farmers described it as a "night and day" difference from last year.

For many local farmers, ongoing droughts have been harsh, severely limiting crops and leaving fields parched. So far, This year has been completely different — except for a couple of counties on the northwest edge of the state, no Minnesota county is in any level of drought.

Matthew Pfarr, an crops extension educator who works out of the University of Minnesota Extension office in Mankato, warned that the season is still young, and the crop is still much in need of timely rains and warm temperatures in order to ensure it finishes off nicely.

Beyond the potential for drought, flooding, wind or other storms, Pfarr said that many farmers in the area are worried that corn tar spot could spread to their fields. The fungal disease, first detected in Minnesota in 2019, can cause significant yield loss.

Understanding of corn tar

spot is limited, with limited consensus on how to diagnose and treat corn stalks found to have it. It is characterized by small, black, raised spots on corn leaves and husks. The good news is that so far, Pfarr said it hasn't destroyed many yields, but Extension is keeping an eye out for it.

Keeping the corn healthy is all the more important considering that farmers have planted near record amounts of it. The 95.2 million acres of corn planted this year is up 5% from last year and the third highest since 1944, with soybeans dropping by a comparable amount.

Ironically, it's been the overall strong weather conditions across the "corn belt" which have in part cut badly into commodity prices. U.S. export commitments have already exceeded USDA projections, showing that demand does remain for high quality U.S. corn.

However, the market does have its limits in terms of demand for corn, which are being tested not only by the large anticipated crop here in the United States but also what is expected to be a very large corn crop in Brazil, which has positioned itself as another key global supplier.

Even as commodity prices remain low, input costs have continued to rise, from fuel to fertilizer to seed. All that high-lights why it just isn't easy to be a farmer and the job comes with many risks. Still, expressed strong support for local farmers and optimism that they could pull through financial challenges.

"We certainly hope for stability and profitable prices because it's where our economy relies up on where the future ones we don't know but we can thank our farmer for the most productive and stable food system anywhere in the world and food security is national security."

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Council discuss proposed changes to city's street project

By RICARDO MORENO JR.
Staff Writer

The Pemberton City Council meeting took place on Monday July 14th. It began promptly at 7:00 p.m. with the approval of the previous meeting's minutes. Representatives from Bollig Engineering began a presentation on the proposed changes to the city's street project.

Funding concerns provided the basis for changes in every aspect of the project. The representatives of Bollig Engineering were Chris Brouwer, Brandon Johnson, and Paul Jurek. To improve the City's position in the funding environment, the changes that were proposed for the project were made to lower the overall cost of the plan to make qualifying for aid from Government sources more likely. Picture packets of the original and newly proposed changes

Pemberton City Council

were given to the council and citizens in attendance. Briefly, the images show significant changes to the city project that the project was originally planned to affect a majority of the city but has since been revised to target specific areas.

Revisions to drinking water improvements focus on the north side of 158th ST. In fact, the storm water and street improvements will also focus on the north side of town. The decision to reduce and concentrate on improvements to the north side is due to the age of the current utilities. Changing the oldest equipment first will not negatively affect the other older equipment. A new water treatment plant and improvements to the water tower will benefit the town regardless.

There was no specific date given for when the work would begin because of the current issues with funding. The project has been segmented into phases in order to expedite overall improvements to the town. Bollig will continue to pursue avenues for funding and the Council has made a motion to approve them to contact the county for funding.

The Public Forum began with

a request for \$500 from the city for a Back-to-School event, to be held August 12th. The funds would be used to purchase Walmart Gift cards for the children of this town to buy school supplies. The Council approved the \$500 donation and the plaza rental.

There was discussion between the Public and Council about the efforts being made to clean up the properties that have been an unyielding issue. Efforts that were made to clean up the properties were acknowledged, but the public noted that the efforts were quickly made irrelevant. A resident requested a one-week extension to pay their utility bill and the Council approved it. As a resident, Oftedah requested to pay a discounted utility bill due to faulty water meter equipment. The request was granted, and the city will replace the faulty equipment so that future readings, and bills, are accurate.

The Fire and Public Work reports were given by City Clerk, Kathy Grinnell. In preparation for the National Night Out and Summer Fest, the Fire Department will be preparing games for the children to play that will teach

them about fire safety.

The new radios for the department have not been programmed since their acquisition and will be set up soon. That action, along with repairing the lights on department vehicles, is one of many the FD will be taking before the township meeting being held on August 14th. Manifold repairs are high on the to-do list. A new fire chief has yet to be decided on, but the department has received three applications.

Public works's Randy Gillette completed work on a merry-go-round. General lawn care has been going well and included the removal of branches blocking a stop sign. The council requested that Gillette be particular about weed-eating as Summer Fest approaches.

The upkeep of the city's gravel roads and lots became a point of conversation. While there is no city access to a tractor, it was determined that a lawnmower could be affixed with the city's dirt drag to keep up maintenance. Members of the council will dedicate some of their time to weeding during the month.

The City Clerk reported that

the event space was not as active as it was in June. July will see only a few, two or three events being held. Mayor Spielman requested that future bill statements have more detailed labels for each purchase by the city. Efforts will be made to lower the city's current phone bill. It is a land line connection needed to maintain the alarm systems at the city pump station. Clarification on the wording of "10 days" and "10 business days" was asked for. Grinnell was concerned that shutoff notices would be misinterpreted because of the lack of business days and was assured that both phrases meant business days.

The Old Business credited a resident's city utilities account \$256.14 so that her payment would return to \$185 due to a faulty water reading system. The credit and resident payment are pending the arrival and installation of new water equipment.

There were three bids for a new lift station pump. Deciding to keep with their current vendor, the city voted to accept the bid from Quality Flow. Discussion arose around the refurbishing of the town's current pump. While in need of

replacement, the pump is still well enough to refurbish after being replaced. The cost to do so was equivalent to purchasing a new one so it was determined that the old pump should be stored after the new one is installed and the refurbishing brought up at a later date. Summer Fest needs more volunteers, and to continue without will put excessive pressure on the hands currently giving their time to make the event happen.

The tax levy set against the city was confirmed by the city attorney to be "out of their hands" now. It was stated that the previous city clerk had submitted the tax forms without the mayor's signature but were still accepted despite that and the other errors made.

The Council discussed whether they should address the public any further about the tax levy or wait until the time came were something could be done about the issue. To be as open and honest as possible in this unfavorable situation, the Council decided that a public statement would be prepared and shared with the residents.

The next city council meeting will be held on August 11, 2025, at 7pm.

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Working up a sweat for sweet, sweet wine



By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

The Journal has covered a plethora of “Paint & Sips” with unique twists here and there, but never has the reward of a glass of wine been so refreshingly deserved than a recent Hip-Hop and Sip event at Indian Island on July 20.

It was a warm and breezy day at the Winery, and the grassy knoll by the vineyard would welcome 15 or so, including owner Angie Winter, to an after-

noon pop, lock, and drop session to some hip-hop beats. Two lifelong friends and Waseca alums Mackenzie Hoy and Landi Dulas would be the dynamic duo behind the two sessions of what some coined the “Hip & Sip.”

These two are no strangers to rigorous exercise in a group setting as they are both experienced dancers; Hoy owns The Vibrant Collective, a wellness center in Waseca and has consistently been instructing yoga and dance sessions for years. Winter had attended one of Hoy’s classes earlier in the year, and believed

she and Dulas could provide Indian Island patrons a chance to put some extra pep in their step.

As the session began, a healthy blend of youth and experience gathered as grandmothers and granddaughters danced side by side. Dulas and Hoy strived for this first ever dance off to be welcoming to all skill levels and abilities, and everyone seemed to be able to follow along after a few reps. Hoy would lead the group through a series of stretches that focused on keeping the lower back, hips, and core flexible throughout the session while Dulas would work on a dance routine featuring a handful of moves.

With this being a hip-hop class, the two encouraged their dancers to add some sensuality and personality into the moves, but many were more concerned on nailing the moves in time with the beat. There were some genuine moments of laughter and joy as the dancers learned each hip swing, booty shake, and the occasional gyration...some were a bit shy and timid to move so freely in an open space while others were more than excited to let loose at the Winery. After learning each move individually, Dulas and Hoy set out to accom-

plish the entire routine in one go song “Swing” by Joel Fletcher and Savage.

It took a few extra repetitions to get the timing down, but the group was able to successfully run through the routine. There was a sense of accomplishment amongst the dancers as many admitted they “hadn’t moved like that in a long time” and anticipated an opportunity to dance like that again. After a brief cooldown stretch, the group would return to the Winery to enjoy their well-earned reward with a glass of wine and they would pose for a group photo.

Hoy intends to host similar dancing events in the future, and is currently scheduling outdoor yoga sessions at Indian Island in the coming months. Dulas and Hoy were thrilled at the participation and success of their very first public dance lesson. “This was the first time teaching this routine outside, and I think the group did very well,” said Hoy. Dulas added, “The whole idea for today was to go out and have fun, and everyone had big smiles on their faces once they got the moves down. Having fun and sipping wine is what this was all about.”

What do you see?

Mother Knows
BEST

By Kathy Richardson
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There is so much to be happy about these days like hearing the birds singing in the morning, watching the sun rise or set every day, the happy faces on our family and friends, or that we have a good friend.

How do your friends see you? Are you a friend that they can count on in an emergency or need a helping hand? Are you someone that they can have a friendly cup of coffee together or go out and have a friendly drink together and kick up your heels. Are you someone that they can confide in when the occasion occurs or cry on your shoulder when need be?

Do you enjoy your spouse, children, and your friends? Are there things that you would like to change about your life? Ask yourself why you haven’t made these changes. Start enjoying life the way you imagined it to be.

Perhaps you are happy with your life and that is a great place to be! Keep doing what works for you and make it last a lifetime. We only get one chance in this life so we need to make it the best.

So, what do you see when you look in the mirror?

What do you see when you look in the mirror? Do you like the person you see? Are you a happy person or do you look hassled? Has life made you a bitter, self-centered, or angry person? Maybe we have forgotten how to enjoy life. Sometimes we need a reminder to get back to that point in life when we were happy.

Are you happy with your job or is it just a job? Would you like to go back to school to work a different career?

Try to remember that anything is possible if you really want it enough. Are you over worked? Do you take on too much for yourself instead of distributing the chores to family? Some of us are happy! We have a loving spouse, family, and friends. We are doing a job that we like and are thankful that we wake up every morning to see our family and friends. Maybe you have a hobby that you enjoy doing. I, myself, like to read a good mystery book which I didn’t have time for when raising my family. Maybe you like to do woodworking, remodeling your home, do cross-words or word search, or just sitting with your feet up to watch a good movie with family.

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University of Minnesota will honor 86 families at annual Farmfest ceremony

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Families and growers from across Minnesota will be represented as the University of Minnesota honors them in the 2025 Farm Family of the Year ceremony at 1:15 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7, at the annual Minnesota Farmfest near Redwood Falls. The event will be held on the Gilfillan Estate in the Wick Buildings Farmfest Center.

Those chosen cover a wide spectrum of farming, from traditional crops and livestock to community-based ventures and operations producing an array of fruit, vegetables and flowers. They were selected by local University of Minnesota Extension committees based on the honorees’ demonstrated commitment to enhancing and supporting agriculture.

“This year’s 86 Farm Families of the Year reflect the breadth and variety of agriculture in our state,” said Extension Dean Bev Durgan. “The University of Minnesota is proud to honor these families and their innovation and dedication to Minnesota agriculture.”

Below are four examples of farm families and their contributions to agriculture. All the 2025 families — one in nearly every county in the state — are featured at z.umn.edu/farm-families-2025.

Fischer Family | Brown County

Craig and Elizabeth Fischer’s bison ranching began with a spark of inspiration at the 2009 Minnesota State Fair. Their curiosity about the species once abundant in Minnesota has grown into Sleepy Bison Acres, now home to the fourth and fifth generations of the Alfred “Fritz” Fischer farm. Over the years, Craig and Elizabeth have created a vertically integrated operation producing bison, corn, soybeans, small grains, pasture-raised pigs, egg-laying chickens, guinea fowl and occasionally, pasture-raised turkeys and broiler chickens.

The Fischer family blends old wisdom with new techniques. They use adaptive rotational grazing, cover cropping and no-till farming, doing what Craig’s great-grandfather did,

but with modern tools. They were early adopters of the Minnesota Ag Water Certification Program.

The farm serves as both a production and education space. They host field days, school groups, 4-H clubs and annual customer events. The Fischers sell at farmers markets in Mankato, Prior Lake and St. Paul, reaching tens of thousands yearly. Elizabeth operates Sleepy Bison Grill, a food trailer serving farm-fresh bison at state fairs, rodeos, powwows and business events across the Midwest. Customers also buy from their website or partner stores.

Their children Bryce, Logan and Gavin own livestock and help with farm operations. Craig farms with father Steve, brother Keith and uncle Mike Seitz. Elizabeth’s parents Duane and Mary help as needed. The Fischers are members of the Minnesota Bison Association, the National Bison Association, Minnesota Grown, Minnesota Farmers Union, Practical Farmers of Iowa, The Land Stewardship Project and the National Independent Concessionaires Association. Elizabeth leads the Stark Happy Hustlers 4-H club and their family is involved with youth baseball in Stark.

Becker Family | McLeod County

What started as a small goat project nearly two decades ago has grown into a unique and well-loved family operation. For the past 20 years, Ed and Tracy Becker have raised goats, and in 2013, they found the perfect place to continue that work. They purchased a five-acre farm that’s now home to 100 goats. Over the past eight years, the Becker family has found fulfillment beyond their animals’ role as livestock. They have shared their herd with the community through goat therapy, snuggle sessions and goat yoga, bringing joy and connection to people of all ages.

Their children, Eddie, Jack, Emma and Sam, grew up with chores and 4-H shows. While most have moved on to their own careers, the farm still draws

them back. Eddie travels with the Budweiser Clydesdales, but jumps in on herd checks and genetics when he’s home. Jack and his wife Bethany, along with their kids Luka and Anna, handle some of the hay production. Luka is now learning how to help with the daily chores. Emma and her husband Justin live in North Carolina, where Emma runs her own electrical business. They both still contribute to the farm when they are home. Sam, the youngest, still lives at home and is gearing up to start school for diesel mechanics, though he continues to be a steady hand on the farm.

Tracy also volunteers in their local community with the goats. Most of the time, she is busy on the road, traveling fulltime with the goats to senior facilities or private events to make the farm profitable. For larger events, like those held at wineries or breweries, Ed travels with Tracy to help. The family’s long involvement in 4-H has shaped much of their story, and with Sam in his final year, it marks the end of an era. Even so, the goats, the land and the community connections continue to keep the farm thriving.

Sudanese Farming Group | Hennepin County

The Sudanese Farming Group began in 2022 with one goal in mind: Bring people together through agriculture. Most members are only a generation or two removed from farming back in Sudan. Growing food wasn’t just about survival. It was a way of life. Today, on a half-acre plot in New Hope, Minnesota, members are returning to that way of life again.

Twenty to 30 families work the land. They share the responsibilities of planting, weeding, watering and harvesting.

Everything grown has meaning: Molokhia, okra, Armenian cucumbers and purslane are foods that tie them to home. The harvest gets shared among the group or sold to neighbors. Either way, it’s all about community.

There’s no hierarchy here — just a group of people who show up, put in the work and lead

with kindness. They partner with The Food Group and University of Minnesota Extension, run youth-led farmers market stands and even have students building solar ovens and electric carts. If you stop by on the right day, you might just get invited to stay for the potluck. Everyone is welcome.

Spinler Family | Cook County

Melinda and Mark Spinler have spent more than 40 years building their homestead in the forests of northern Minnesota. What started as a simple effort to clear land and grow food has turned into a working farm that supports both their family and the surrounding community. Managing life in the Northwoods hasn’t always been easy, since protecting livestock from predators and developing usable soil takes ongoing effort, but they have found creative ways to make it work.

Today, they manage a 12-acre sugarbush where they harvest, process and sell maple syrup. They grow a variety of non-certified organic vegetables and raise free-range meat chickens, ducks and geese for both personal use and local sales. Their products are sold on-farm, at the Grand Marais farmers market and to restaurants and co-ops in the area.

The farm is a full-time effort between the two of them. Mark brings in a strong knowledge from five generations of Minnesota farming, along with a building and engineering skillset. Melinda focuses on crop production and community outreach.

Together, they have helped grow local agriculture through mentorship, starting farmers markets and teaching homesteading and maple syruping classes. Their work continues to strengthen food systems in Cook County.

For more news from U of M Extension, visit extension.umn.edu/news. University of Minnesota Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Beyond Brink’s holds second annual “End of Summer” Bash



By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Beyond Brink’s second annual “End of Summer” bash at Duck Lake Park near Madison Lake on Sunday, July 20, was another success, with over a hundred once again in attendance. It was a fantastic event for those who were within the community of Beyond Brink, a recovery community organization that helps former drug and alcohol addicts recover from addiction.

The event at Duck Lake Park had been inspired by a similar event held last year, which received tremendous popularity. Events like the one at Duck Lake Park provide an opportunity for fun and support for those seeking a community to aid their journey toward sobriety, while fostering relationships along the way. After all, going through a challenging battle after years of

fighting addiction is something one shouldn’t do alone.

Beyond Brink has helped several in the local area recover from addiction through these events while providing programs to help others, such as having a harm reduction team (funded by EMS grants) and housing for recovering addicts within the area, such as recovery houses for men, women, and the LGBTQ+ community.

Several within the Beyond Brink community enjoyed a nice, sunny day, grilled food under a pavilion, and spent time with their families and friends, taking in the latter half of classic July Minnesota weather on the beach of Duck Lake. It was another important reminder of how community can make those going through challenging battles, like fighting addiction, realize that they don’t have to take the journey alone. There is a whole community out there with their back.

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INTERSTATE BATTERIES

VALVOLINE

Contest serves up three pound Duke Burgers



JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

It's unclear on the reason why, but the summer months seem to entice big eaters from far and wide to compete. Competitions will put those with a strong desire to overindulge on grill out classics like hot dogs, ribs, and burgers all for the glory of coming out on top.

The Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest is must watch television every Fourth of July, but at the local level, many flocked to the Eagles Nest during Tator Days to witness a gargantuan three-pound burger get devoured.

The Duke Burger has been a staple at this local eatery for 30 years, and this behemoth of a burger has been pushing the stomach capacities of those brave—or foolish—enough to challenge it. A two pound beef patty, a bun the size of a bar stool cushion, and all the fixings make this a tasty meal, but a daunting one nonetheless as each one is served on a pizza tray. When the Duke Burgers are hand-delivered by the Eagles Nest owner, Dave Dittrich, the sight of them lures customers away from their own burgers...which are microscopic by comparison.

While the eating contest has only been around for a dozen years, it has garnered a full house every time as customers sit back and watch a handful of participants scarf down a burger nearly 10 times larger than their own. While participation has waned in the last few years, as many as 16 contestants have battled at one time with the all-time record of 4 minutes and 57 seconds remaining untouched.

This year's contest featured three competitors ready to tackle this meaty mountain. Dittrich, who at this point was in full burger costume, welcomed the three eaters Cody, Matt, and Ethan while going over the "ground" rules. Get it? Because ground beef patties? In reality, there weren't that many rules at all other than eat as much of the Duke Burger as possible. Small bins were placed at the sides of each eater, in case of an emergency...evacuation. It was found out that Cody would serve as a ringer to replace the original third competitor, and the opportunity to compete had him fired up to get the contest going.

As the Duke Burgers were brought out, a packed Eagles Nest let out a roar of applause as each eater divided up their burgers: Cody would quarter his burger and requested a pitcher of water to "dunk" his portions, Matt would cut his like a pizza with eight individual slices, Ethan seemed to have the best strategy as he chopped the patty up into bite-sized pieces.

Last year's contest pushed the endurance of the four eaters who competed...the winner would claim victory after nearly a half hour. However, this year's competition would be more of a sprint than a marathon as these hungry eaters started furiously devouring their burgers. There were a few moments of squeamishness as Ethan and Matt appeared to force bites of burger down their gullet while Cody methodically dunked his into the pitcher of water. Despite his unconventional methods, Cody seemed to have the unwavering support of the Eagles Nest, but it wouldn't be enough to carry him to a win in this contest.

At the three minute mark, Ethan's divide and conquer strategy worked to great effect as he polished off the last of the two-pound burger patty. With the all-time record in sight, all that remained was the starchy one pound bun, so he began to chomp through it ferociously. It took some calculated bites and the occasional dip into his own water pitcher to help scarf down the rest of the bun, but at the 6:08 mark, Ethan had chewed his way into Eagles Nest fame. Thrilled at his victory and a cool 150 dollars in his pocket for first place, Ethan revealed himself to be a local competitive eater, and shared his thoughts about the contest, "The Duke Burger was a really fun challenge, and I had fun taking it down. The bun was the hardest part of the contest...it just didn't take in as much water as I had hoped, but it feels good to take home the win."

Although he didn't break the all-time record, Dittrich announced Ethan had become the second fastest to demolish the Duke Burger. Additionally, as the Eagles Nest prepares for its 50th anniversary in 2026, promises of having a grand event for the eating contest were made with further information to be provided at a later date.

EDA considers changes to revolving loan fund policy

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Something that may not have been expected to take up a significant portion of time during the Janesville EDA's meeting on Tuesday, July 15, was the discussion surrounding the revolving loan fund. Council representative Ivan Maas shared concerns about the "Laundry Station" owned by Andy Arnoldt and its status, given that they are no longer at their location on 1st Street and have yet to relocate.

"I've not heard anything regarding its future," Maas said. "I understand these aren't transferable loans. So, I have some concerns there."

City Administrator Clinton Rogers shared that he'd been talking with City Attorney Jason Moran to compile some material and investigate the potential issue. The way the policy surrounding the RLF is written, they concluded that the loan can be transferred to a different location if the borrower is relocating their equipment to a new location; Arnoldt's loan for the Laundry Station was for equipment only.

Maas shared further concerns with Moran's involvement in this, claiming that Arnoldt stated that Moran was his attorney.

EDA member Mike Danberry agreed that there should be some stipulations on the loans depending on the activity level. "This was given months prior to opening," he said. "Then they closed months after opening. Maybe in the future, we should have something in there about the business activity. You can't have it closed for a year and a half during the term of the loan."

Maas was more worried about the city appearing to give favoritism to Arnoldt. Danberry shared that he had a few conversations with people mentioning this issue. Katelynne Kratz, economic specialist with CEDA, shared that there are stipulations when applying for the loan, "if you benefit from this as a city employee or council member before applying," but there was nothing after the fact. EDA member Sean Finley felt they should have this on their August agenda for further discussion and potential changes to the policy.

Much of the rest of the meeting was devoted to brief

updates on projects and events. Kratz reported that the T-Mobile grant application for the 109 N. Main Street project was submitted and that the city would find out if they received any funds in August. Rogers also reported that, despite having posted a Request for Proposal for the project for months, there has been virtually zero interest. Danberry took a copy of the RFP with him after the meeting.

The Janesville Night at the Mankato Moondogs game was not well received, particularly in comparison to last year. Rogers shared that 43 tickets were sold, and he had to return 82, which ended up putting the city over \$1,200 short of their goal. When asked if he could get a refund, the Moondogs refused, offering to give the city a credit for next year...if there is one.

"There weren't a lot of people there," EDA member Pam Lehrke reported. "Usually, those nights sell out. I'm not sure if it was a bad day or time. I thought it was a small crowd."

Kratz reported that six vendors have applied for the Janesville farmers' market so far. Initially slated for the first date in June, the event had to

be postponed due to weather, and only three of the initial five could attend.

Maas thought that, and the Songs in the Park went over relatively well. "We had about 100 to 150 attend the concert, and one vendor who had vegetables sold everything she had."

With a lack of response from businesses about sponsoring a "business challenge," Kratz suggested pushing back the date again, citing that she had not been receiving responses. Finley agreed with her. Additionally, there have been no applications for the storefront facade program.

The last item of note was that Kratz informed the EDA of another grant opportunity from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. Dubbed the "Economic Development Grant," the SMIF will start accepting applications from August 25 to October 10. Finley felt this would be a great opportunity to get the business challenge idea off the ground.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m. The next meeting is August 12.

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Rising above the doubt

Jay's Way

By Jordan Carrillo



outright positive moments in an athletes' life; the fast sports cars, the bombshell babes, the lavish vacations can help form a solitary narrative about some of the elite professionals in their sports. However, despite his overwhelming success, Scheffler challenges the notion that continued success and accolades doesn't always mean absolute happiness, "This is not a fulfilling life. It's fulfilling from the sense of accomplishment, but not from a sense of the deepest places in your heart." In a way, I can understand Scheffler's struggle to maintain a sense of enjoyment with each victory; you're only as successful as your last successful act, and it takes a disciplined mind to keep that fire going.

Many dream of ascending to the elite status of the Michael Jordans, the Tiger Woods, the Tom Bradys, but so few understand the attention to detail and the rigorous routine that allows them to not only hit

that peak, but maintain over a decades-long career.

It's too early to put Scheffler into that pantheon, but his Open Championship win marks his fourth major victory—second in 2025—and completes the third leg of the Grand Slam. He is knocking on the door of joining fellow golfer Rory McIlroy and others as the greatest to ever do it, and yet, his priorities still align with more traditional values of family and fatherhood. Soon after the birth of his son, Scheffler shifted his ideals to cater more heavily to his family. Sure, he's still performing at a high level, but no amount of Majors or tour wins is compelling enough to drive him apart from his loved ones.

He even expressed a strong belief to suddenly quit the sport of golf if his family demanded more of his time and attention, "I'm blessed to be able to come out here and play golf, but if my golf ever started affecting my

home life or it ever affected the relationship I have with my wife or my son, that's going to be the last day that I play out here for a living." Not many athletes are willing to admit that—looking at you, Brady. What really had me tear up during his press conference was Scheffler doubling down on the love for his family outweighing his love for golf, "Golf is not the end all, be all...it is not the most important thing in my life. I'd much rather be a great father than I would be a great golfer."

Perhaps that philosophical reflection helped Scheffler during the Open Championship in Portrush, Ireland, a tournament known for its difficult peaks and valleys...this Major is meant to test the mental fortitude of players who dare to challenge it, but Scheffler led the field for much of the four days of competition.

On Sunday, he would cruise to a four-stroke victory and finish with a dominant -17 under par. That's unheard of in an Open Championship. While he wore a big smile when hoisting up that trophy, Scottie Scheffler knows the euphoria from this triumph will disappear as quickly as it came. It's clear Scottie Scheffler's greatness is here to stay, but how he ultimately feels about a sport he would easily walk away from will continue to wax and wane as time goes on.

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3 Hour Download brings a wave of nostalgia to Tator Days

By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

As we reach a quarter of a century in the 2000s, an endless wave of nostalgia brought about by the music of my youth is a constant pursuit. This feeling must pass down from generation to generation as the tunes that defined one's adolescence are now considered "classics" or "throwbacks".

For many who attended Tator Days, they got to embrace that wave of nostalgia under the water tower as the Summer Sounds Concert series invited 3 Hour Download to take the crowd on a trip down memory lane. Although a relatively new band getting their start in the winter of 2023, 3 Hour Download has made a name for themselves on the local Southern MN circuit. Many of the band's six members are also part of the live music at Hosanna



(Journal Photos by Jordan Carrillo)

Church in Mankato, but their love of the music from their youth is mostly what brought them together.

While several of the members prepped their instruments, Holly Callaghan, the lead vocalist and acoustic, spoke briefly about the band's origins, and how they came up with their band name 3 Hour Download.

After a blizzard knocked out power in North Kato back in the winter of 2023, a Callaghan, her husband Orion (keys), and close friends Ben, Matt, Kale, and Logan all gathered at local eatery Big Dog; oddly enough, the group decided then and there to formulate a playlist comprised of popular songs from the 90s & 00s, and the rest as they say is history. Staying with the nostalgic/vintage energy of the eras the band attempts to emulate, 3 Hour Download came from a jovial jab at Limewire, a music site that posted a long wait time to download a band's album. You see kids, back in the day, people had to go to a website to download their favorite music and then we would "burn" them onto CDs. Now kids, a CD is...

Since starting their band, 3 Hour Download has performed at a variety of local venues and fairs like Mankato Fun Days and even at a Smoked Chicken Buffet at Victory Bowl (where was my invite to that?), but Tator Days brought a unique twist for them by performing underneath the water tower. The Summer Sound Series is usually performed at the local park, but the change in venue was a welcomed choice as hundreds of patrons flocked to hear some nostalgic tunes.

Just before the show started, a sudden rainfall put a little damper on the perfor-

mance, but the band pressed on through their set. Ironically, their first few songs mentioned rainfall and hoping for clearer skies...what was even more ironic is that they performed "Ironie" by Alanis Morissette. Sometimes you just can't write these things into existence, they just happen.

It's not a small town fair without a band that knows how to draw a crowd and for much of their set, 3 Hour Download would invoke a lively reaction from the crowd. The wave of nostalgia would crash into them and they would sing, dance, head bang along to the music... taking them back to a specific moment in time. Music can have that effect on so many who enjoy it, and bands like 3 Hour Download have wisely harnessed that power to great effect.

Janesville man charged with fleeing police, damaging property

A Janesville man has been charged with fleeing a police officer and damage to property after he reportedly fled a police officer after failing to stop for a stop sign and crashed into a parked vehicle while possibly drunk.

Carter Martin Anderson, 21, was charged in Waseca County District Court with the two felony charges on July 14 following an incident which took place the prior day around 3 a.m., when a Janesville police officer noticed a truck failing to stop for a stop sign.

The officer activated their flashing lights but the truck failed to stop, instead failing to stop for several more stop signs, swerving between lanes and even briefly into the ditch, and traveling at high rates of speed throughout a 30 mph residential speed zone area.

Following the vehicle's tracks, police arrived at a Janesville apartment building and found it unoccupied with the passenger's side door open. They determined that the vehicle was registered to Anderson and seized it and stored it for evidence.

Police noted the presence of alcoholic beverages and spilled alcohol in the vehicle, and also documented extensive damage done by the truck, which was also damaged, to bleachers at the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton baseball field.

Law enforcement began to search for Anderson in earnest around 8 a.m. and around noon confirmed that he was at the residence of a friend who had been a passenger in the truck, according to a woman who said that she had seen them at a party together earlier in the night.

Anderson was arrested and brought to the Waseca County Jail, where a preliminary blood test was performed on him due to the odor of alcohol coming from his person. The test indicated a blood alcohol level of .031. He declined to answer further questions from police.

Eagle Lake Expos; final regular season game



By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Nothing is more American than watching the local baseball teams show off their skills at home plate and on the mound. And that's what the Eagle Lake Expos aimed to do as they had their last regular season matchup with the Jordan Brewers on Sunday, July 20.

The Expos had the pleasure

of closing out the week-long town celebration "Tator Days," and they were looking to upset their rivals in the River Valley League. It was a tall order, though, as the Brewers were undefeated in league play while the Expos, although sporting a stellar 13-5 overall record, were 7-4 in league games. The two had also played each other on June 29 of this year, with Jordan defending their home field with a 3-0 victory.

After a quiet two innings, Jordan was first to get on the board with a deep ball aimed between the center and left out-field, which was perfectly placed away from the Expos outfielders, who had a difficult time tracking the ball as it was. It allowed the Brewers to get the advantage in an otherwise tightly contested game. In the fifth inning, Jordan tallied two more.

Despite the Expos trying to hold back the Brewers on defense, they couldn't get a string of hits going. Although

they had seven hits and Jordan had an error, they weren't able to convert any of those into runs. Another tally by Jordan ensured they'd stay undefeated in the River Valley League with a 5-0 finish.

Cael Willaert was the most successful player at bat with three of the Expos' seven hits. Nicholas Werk, Jack Clifford, Matthew Werk, and Logan Hermer contributed a hit each. Riston Wojcik pitched seven innings, allowing four runs and ten hits while striking out three, walking one, and committing three errors. M. Werk was the closer, allowing one run and committing one error while striking out one and walking two on three hits.

Although it was a tough out for the Expos, they still enjoyed a great Sunday afternoon. After all, with this game, their regular season was over. These sluggers have the playoffs to look forward to.

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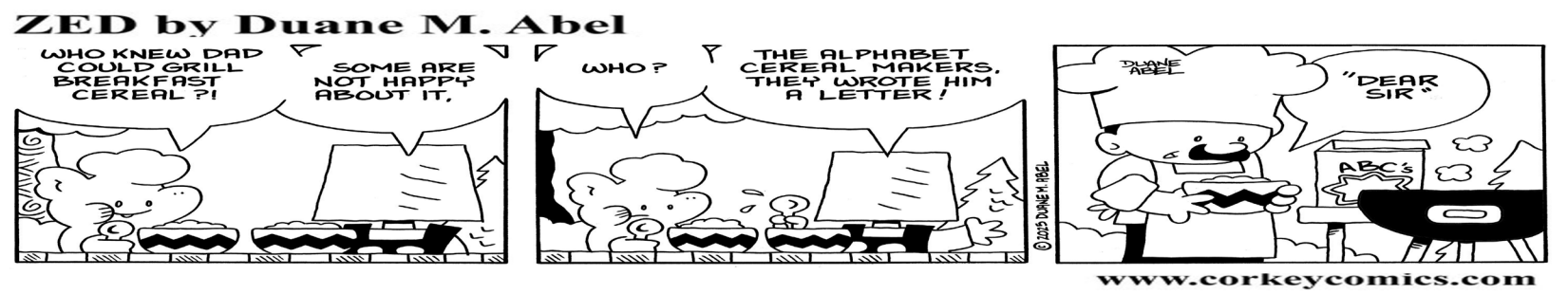
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This is a continuation of St. Clair's history found in the book, "Years of Memories: St. Clair, MN - 1855-2005."

1944 (continued)
Rationing dates:
SUGAR: Stamp NO. 14 good for five pounds of sugar until midnight, November 1.

CANNING SUGAR: Stamps No. 15 and 16 in book. One good for five pounds each of

canning sugar through October 31. Where more than 10 pounds per book holder are needed application should be made to the local board.

MEAT, BUTTER, CHEESE, COILS: Brown stamp "C" from Ration Book Three valid from September 26 through October 30. Brown stamp "D" valid from October 3 through October 30. Brown stamps "E" valid form

October 10 through October 30. Brown stamps "F" valid from October 17 through October 30.

CANNED GOODS: Blue stamps "U," "V," and "W" are valid until midnight, October 20. Blue stamps "X," "Y," and "Z" valid from October 1 through November 20.

TIRE INSPECTIONS: "A" drivers must have their next tire

inspection by midnight, March 31, 1944. "B" drivers must have their next tire inspection by midnight, October 31. "C" drivers must have their next tire inspection by midnight, November 30.

STOVES: Applications for purchase certificates on all gas, oil and wood or coal heating and cooking stoves must be made to local war price and ration board.

GASOLINE: "A" coupons No. 8 in new book, good for three gallons each are valid through November 21, only "B" and "C" new type coupons with words "Mileage Ration" printed on the face are valid for supplemental gasoline purchases at rate of two gallons each.

SHOES: Stamp No. 18 in book one valid for one pair of

shoes. Validity date extended indefinitely. Stamp No. 1 on the "airplane" sheet of ration book three good for one pair of shoes beginning November 1, with no expiration date set.

FUEL OIL: Period one unit coupons in new ration books, good for 10 gallons for each unit, valid for deliveries through January 3, 1944. Coupons No. 5 in 1942-43 rations now invalid.

Local Church Times and Schedules

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
412 N. Main St.
Janesville, MN
(507)231-5189
Pastor Wolter
Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship
Sunday- 8:00a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship
9a.m. Sunday School & Bible Study

JANESVILLLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
401 N. West St.
Janesville, MN
(507) 234-5350
Pastor Kathy King
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship

WATERVILLE EVANGELICAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
319 E. Main St.
Waterville, MN
(507)362-4379
Pastor Kathy King
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
43089 180th St.
Morristown, MN
(507)384-2483
Pastor Kathy King
Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH
307 W. 2nd St.
Janesville, MN
(507)234-6244
Father Rob Schneider
Sunday- 8:30 a.m. Mass

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
225 3rd Ave.
Waldorf, MN
(507)234-6244
Father Swaminatha (Swamy) Pothireddy
Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
120 3rd Ave
Waldorf, MN
(507)239-2431
Pastor Michael Matthews
Sunday-8 a.m. Worship
9:10a.m. Sunday School & Bible Class

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
307 1st St SW
New Richland, MN
(507) 234-6244
Father Glenn Frerichs
Friday: 10:00 a.m. Mass
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. Mass

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
114 4th St. NW
Waseca, MN
(507) 835-1222
Father Glenn Frerichs
Sunday: 10:00 a.m. Mass
Tue-Thu: 8:30 a.m. Mass
Saturday: 5:15 p.m. Mass

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 Owen St.
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ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Alma City, MN
(507)234-5353
Pastor Robert Harting
Sunday - 10:00 a.m. Worship

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Sunday Worship 8:30am

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Pastor Jeff Enderle
Sunday - 9:00 a.m. Worship
8:00 am Bible Study

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(507) 245-3447
Father Rob Schneider
Saturday - 4:00 p.m. Mass

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
601 4th St.
Madison Lake, MN
(507) 243-3319
Father Rob Schneider
Sunday - 10:00 a.m. Mass

ST. TERESA CATHOLIC CHURCH
104 Silver St. W
Mapleton, MN
(507) 362-4311
Father Swaminatha (Swamy) Pothireddy
Sunday - 8:00 a.m. Mass

ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH
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1925
One of the old "strong arm" games that refuses to die is the picture enlarging racket. It is worked by crews of men who systematically canvass whole communities at a time, representing, we will say, the Grafting Portrait Company. These are real high powered salesmen and about the only way to get rid of them is to drive them out with a club.
Washington D.C., July 21 – According to the latest report of the Department of Agriculture on the farm situation, the farmers this year on the whole, have better crop prospects than in any year since 1919. The report declares that taken as a whole the main crops are promising fairly well, except for winter wheat in certain localities. It is said further that the present nice balance in both livestock and crop production "is a tribute to the readjustments made by the American farmer since the fall of 1921."
When William Clark makes his last trip over old Route Four, Saturday, August 1, he will have covered 160,862 miles past the mail boxes of his patrons. It has taken some time, a little over 20 years in fact, to cover this distance, but Mr. Clark admits that he'll be a bit lonesome for the daily ride along the way when he retires on his pension in another week. Mr. Clark began his duties as rural carrier May 1, 1905. He will not be 65 years of age until the 21st of August, but with the annual vacation, his time will be up with the first of the coming month.

1950
Maybe Iowa is famous for its tall corn but when it comes to REALLY tall corn, the Alma City community will take a back seat from no one. Tuesday afternoon, L. C. Mortensen, Jr., farmer living a half mile west of Alma City, came into the Argue office with a stalk of corn that measured a trifle over seven feet in height. Mr. Mortensen stated that he planted 404-A DeKalb in the 21 acres in this particular plot and some of the corn is just starting to ear-out. The stalk is now on display in the Argus office.
Wrestlers you have been seeing all winter on television will be in Waseca in person for the Waseca County Fair. They will appear on a wrestling card Saturday evening, August 5. Bronko Nagurski, Otto Kuss, Joe Pazandak, Sterling Robson, Bobby Nelson and Stan Hyslajek are the wrestlers who will appear at the Waseca County Fair. Nagurski of International Falls, acclaimed one of the greatest



Todd Huxford of the Janesville Fire Department and his daughter, Kelsi, posing with a Heartstart 2000 machine that helped save lives in Janesville in 2000.

wrestlers of all time, will face the 240-pound Otto Kuss of Pine City. Kuss boasts a string of 200 wins and only a few over a dozen losses.
Never since opening day have the Janesville Red Sox been so near to the top spot of the South Le Sueur County League as they are today. Ever since the second game of the season the Red Sox have wanted to defeat the Morries of Morristown who have the Red Sox their worst beating of the season in that game by a score of 20 to 8. The Sox's dreams came true when they made Morristown's league-leading club look like anything but that when they paraded to their seventh consecutive win over the Morries Sunday afternoon at Morristown by an 8 to 3 score.

1975
Hiring and reorganization were the order of the day for the District 830 School Baord when they met for their July meeting last Wednesday and began planning for the 1975-76 school year. High on priority was the hiring of three teachers, one of which is already teaching half-time sixth grade at JHS, Elaine Schave. She will transfer to full-time elementary. Two new teachers were hired to replace Nancy Boettcher and Deidre Malden who resigned at the end of the year. Cindy Olson and Allan Tonn will both begin their teaching careers at JHS this fall.
There will be more than street selling going on at Janesville's annual Flea Market Saturday, August 9. Individuals, clubs, and merchants can win cash prizes by dressing for the occasion. A \$25 prize will go to the store, the club and the individuals who display the most original costumes and theme for the event. A Flea Market committee of Leon Schultz, Jerry Chapman, Audrey Wilson, and Rosie Bauer

has set the theme for the street sale as a Preview of the Bi-Centennial.

2000
Carolann Eggert knows first hand the value of the Janesville rescue team. if it weren't for them ,she may not be alive. On the night of May 1st, Eggert awoke with severe chest pains. She was able to make the call to 911, and in her words, "they were here like a bang." The volunteers quickly determined that Eggert's heart was not getting enough blood. "They knew exactly what to do," said Eggert. "They absolutely know their business; they were wonderful."

Janesville native, Courtney Adams, was crowned Miss Waseca County 2000 on Saturday, July 14. First runner-up was Christina Stewart from Waseca, and second runner-up was Amanda Tesch of Waldorf. Other contestants vying for the title were Nicole Werth, Courtney Judd, Stacy Lewer, Mariah Routh, and Jennifer Mackey.

Shelly Schultz has loved her job as Waldorf Middle School Principal. That is what has made her decision to leave so difficult. But sometimes, the opportunity is just too good to turn down, and that has made all the difference. Schultz is leaving her job in Waldorf to accept the position of high school principal at Loyola High School in Mankato. Schultz was not necessarily looking for a new job. When a former parent of a student called her and told her about the opening, she deliberated long and hard before throwing her hat into the ring. She decided to "let go and let God," a motto she tries to live by. When she received the offer, she took the time to call a few people, making sure Loyola was the place for her. And, with everything she saw and heard, she made the decision to accept.

The Waseca County Sheriff's Office is urging people in the county to be on the lookout for possible scams in the area. There have been incidents of individuals possibly working together in a scamming operation in rural Waseca County in the past week. One incident involved a Hispanic male claiming he was from the "power company" and needed to know where the victim's property line ran. The suspect led the victim away from the residence while other suspects entered the residence and took approximately \$2,000 to \$2,500 in cash along with several thousand dollars of certificates of deposits.

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LEGAL NOTICES

CITY OF ST. CLAIR, MINNESOTA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - VARIANCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a hearing will be held before the City Council of the City of St. Clair on **Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.** The Public Hearing will be held in the St. Clair City Hall Meeting Room, 304 Main Street West, St. Clair, Minnesota.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to discuss and solicit public input with regard to a Variance request submitted by Jon Hubner (Hubner Family Partnership). The property under consideration is located at 112 Railroad Street, St. Clair, Minnesota. The variance is in regard to building a front deck within the setback from Railroad Street. The ordinance is 25 ft. from the street.

Interested people are invited to attend the Public Hearing to express their comments or comments may be submitted in writing. Written comments may be sent to St. Clair City Hall, P.O. Box 97, St. Clair MN 56080. Any person who desires to be heard regarding this matter will be heard.

Stefanie Janike
City Clerk-Treasurer
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Classic Roll-In brings in 43 entries for Tator Days



JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

As Tator Days began its official celebration on July 18, a number of vintage hot rides, remastered classics, and an old jalopy from the distant past rolled up to the Eagle Lake Legion for another Roll-In. These events have been a constant at the local legion, but Tator Days seems to bring an extra level of participation as 43 vehicles pulled up to the Legion's backlot. There were plenty of eye-catching wheels like a red and black striped z28 nicknamed The Outlaw, a pair of Plymouth Barracudas including a fire-engine red one nicknamed Barn Lady. Oddly enough, a powder blue Plymouth also featured a baby seat in the back...now that's being responsible, but with style. A dark blue Nova SS with a cheeky license plate stating "YurNext" had patrons chuckling as they walked past. Guess that refers to being passed on the big blue highway.

There was a little bit of everything and anything at this Classic Roll-In, but two entries stood out for intriguing the senses. The first one was an old dragster hot rod that surely knew how to make an entrance as its engine roared through the backlot...everyone came to a screeching halt once they heard an old 566J speedster named Elsa. It was certainly an eye-catching or maybe in this case an ear-deafening experience, but the fun was short-lived after its owner quickly parked, and separated a few parts from the engine in order to "cool it down."

While the dragster brought some momentary excitement and thrill to the Roll-In, it would be an almost 100-year old Ford pickup that would draw the biggest crowd. A 1933 Ford v8 resembled an image from black-and-white films displaying some of the first automobiles put into production almost a century ago, and to see one in near mint-condition—granted with a few modern upgrades—was a treat for many to see. All it takes is a rarity to get people talking.



The owner of the classic is Ken Reichel, Owner of K.R. Automotive in Madison Lake, who is an avid enthusiast when it comes to collecting vintage rides. He's often seen at various Roll-Ins throughout the Mankato area, and his 1933 Ford is just



one piece of his vast collection. Reichel has had his eyes set on this timeless truck since 1989 after an old friend purchased it, and it was bestowed to him after the friend's passing in early 2024. The Ford had been "sitting for 36 years" and needed some proper attention, so under Reichel's care, the pickup has gone through some changes like new tires, a swapped out engine from an El Camino, a front bumper plate, and even some updated front seats from an old Caravan. Don't worry though, much of the original design like its steel box and frames have been untouched to preserve its history...even the foghorn still lets out a nostalgic "ahooga" when pressed. Now that's how you know it's a classic.

It was a lively Classic Roll-In at the Legion as Tator Days brought anyone and everyone out to show off their pride and joy. From hearing an old hot rod approach from a mile away to seeing automobile history before us, you'll never know what will pull up to one of these events, and each one is a unique experience.

THURSDAY

BANDS & BURGERS @ LUCKY LURE
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Burger Specials
Music by What Could Go Wrong
Contact The Lucky Lure
507-243-4343

GOLF CART TOUR OF CITY AND LAKES
Golf Carts, ATVs, and UTVs
Food and conversations 5:30 PM
Welcome Cruise at 8:00 PM
Live Music by Sohmer and Dale
Stoufers Auto Sales
Contact Dave 507-382-0541

FRIDAY

KIDDIE PARADE
5:45 PM Line-up, 6:00 PM Start
400 Main St.
Contact Molly
msanders_429@yahoo.com

FIRE DEPT OPEN HOUSE
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fire Hall
Kid Activities
Contact MLFD 507-243-3011

PATIO PARTY
6:00 PM Lucky Lure
9:00 PM - Music by Nowhere Fast
Contact The Lucky Lure
507-243-4343

CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT
6:30 PM Sign in at Point Pleasant
Event Center
7:00 PM Start Time
\$5.00 Entry Fee, 100% Payback,
Contact Audrey Splinter
507-720-8571

LIVE MUSIC
7:00PM-10:00PM
The Landing on Madison
Music by Powerhouse
Contact 507-243-9898

LIVE MUSIC
8:00 PM - 12:00 AM
The Anchor
Music by Problem Child
Contact Ally 507-317-3293

FIREWORKS
10:00 PM
Best viewed at Lindberg Park

JULY 24TH-27TH 2025
MADISON LAKE
PADLEFISH DAYS
40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

SATURDAY

PADLEFISH DAYS MC
DJ Miller Tyme All day

CAR SHOW
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Anchor Parking Lot
Contact Cody 507-779-4448

PATRICK FREEBERG MEMORIAL 5K RACE/WALK
Start & Finish at North Shore Park
8:00 AM Sign In
8:30 AM Kids Fun Run
9:00 AM Start Time
Contact Gayle 507-508-7613

MADISON LAKE FARMERS MARKET
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Lindbergh Park
Contact Ryan 507-381-8136

MAD TOWN CHOW DOWN
Many food vendors on Main St.
All Day!
Contact Dave 507-382-0541

SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT
Start at 8:00 AM at Legion Field
Concessions available
Contact Steve 507-382-0626

FREE KIDS GAMES & GOOFY GOAT FARM!
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Inflatables, Trampoline,
Face Painting and
The Bull is Back!
Site provided by
MN Construction & Restoration
Contact Tonya 507-317-3571

BEER GARDEN
12:00 PM - 12:30 AM
All proceeds benefit
MLFD Relief
Contact MLFD 507-243-3011

GRAND PARADE
Line up at 12:00 PM (Noon)
1:00 PM Start time, Free to Enter
Contact Heather 720-365-0291

LIVE MUSIC
After Parade
The Anchor Bar
Music by Jeremy Poland &
Lantz Dale
Contact Ally 507-317-3293

SATURDAY

PEDAL PULL IS BACK!
2:30 PM Registration
3:00 PM Start at Main St.
Ages 4-11, Trophies Awarded
Contact Dave 507-382-0541

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
Spruce Ave., 2:30 PM Check In -
3:00 PM Start, Site provided by
the Hammet family
Contact Lucas 952-484-0015

KISS-A GOAT
3:30 PM Winner Announced

BINGO
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Parking lot
next to Cornerstone Bank
Proceeds benefit Son's of the
American Legion Post 269
Contact Terry 507-317-5529

BEER & WINE TASTING
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM at the bingo
tent by Paddlefish Brewing and
9 mile winery

MLFD STREET DANCE
6:00 PM - 8:45 PM The Murphy
Brothers Band
9:15 PM - Music by IV Play

Food, beer and liquor available
\$10 cover charge starting at 5:00 PM
Shuttle Service available
Contact MLFD 507-243-3011

SUNDAY

SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT
Starts at 9:00 AM at Legion Field
Concession stand available

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT
Starts at 9:00 AM
Contact Lisa Menne 507-995-1414

LIVE MUSIC
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM The Landing
on Madison
Music by Colby Straka
Contact 507-243-9898

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