

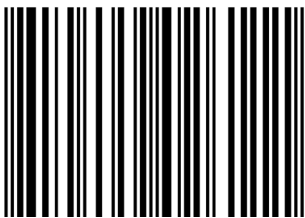
THE

Janesville Journal

No.31 Vol.7 \$1.50

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

Wednesday, July 30, 2025



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5 DAY FORECAST

Wed 30 | 78°
Rain 38%
Wind NE 11 mph
Rain showers early with some sunshine later in the day. High 78F. Winds NE at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 40%.

Thu 31 | 76°
Rain 6%
Wind NE 7 mph
Sunny along with a few clouds. High 76F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph.

Fri 1 | 78°
Rain 7%
Wind E 6 mph
Except for a few afternoon clouds, mainly sunny. High 78F. Winds light and variable.

Sat 2 | 76°
Rain 6%
Wind SE 10 mph
Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 76F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.

Sun 3 | 76°
Rain 20%
Wind SSE 12 mph
Partly cloudy skies in the morning will give way to cloudy skies during the afternoon. High 76F. Winds SSE at 10 to 15 mph.

Quote of the Week

You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.
- Mae West

“Caregiver of the year” Award goes to Westphal

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

When you walk into Whispering Creek, you’ll see that everyone who works there cares deeply for all the residents. However, in the past few weeks, one employee was recognized for her decades-long efforts in making residents feel comfortable and at home: Nancy Westphal.

Westphal was the recipient of the “Caregiver of the Year Award” from a statewide trade association to which the nursing home belongs. She will be officially recognized at a convention in November.

Westphal has worked for the nursing home for over 46 years. She considers her fellow employees as an extended family. “I’ve made bars, dips, and have tried doing other things families would usually do for each other,” she said.

Perhaps it was fate that brought her to Whispering Creek. After all, Westphal grew up next door to the nursing home. She remembered her and her two older brothers bringing animals over for the residents to enjoy. “My mom came here often,” she added. “I started coming here myself when I was five. I just got the feel of what it’s like in a nursing home.”

She remembered getting the talk about “getting a job” when she was 17. She thought, “Why not work next door?” She recalled discussing the idea with her dad, who worked with the city at the time. And his response was, “Why not?”



Pictured above is Nancy Westphal, recipient of the Caregiver of the Year Award, with Administrator Pete Madel. (Journal Photo by Mike Roy)

Westphal may be one of the humblest people out there. When Pete Madel, the Administrator at Whispering Creek, informed her that she had won the “Caregiver of the Year Award,” she couldn’t believe it. “I thought he was being a joker,” she admitted. “She really didn’t believe me,” Madel chuckled. “She didn’t until I called a bunch of other people about it.” “I couldn’t believe it,” Westphal said. “I was very honored and humbled.” Madel knew that she deserved this award. He claimed that he had sent out a request every year for the past several years to get her the award. “I

Westphal
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Model T Ford Club parades through Farmamerica on its International Tour



Pictured above is a partial line up of the Model T’s that paraded through Farmamerica Thursday, July 24. (Journal Photo by Mike Roy)

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Throughout the summer, the Janesville Journal has photographed several classic car roll-ins. Some of those classic cars were the Ford Model T, one of the first automobiles to be mass produced in the early 20th Century.

But what if we told you that a parade of over 200 Model T Fords rolled through the Waseca area? On Thursday, July 24, Farmamerica hosted that many Model T’s for a show and parade.

The event included roughly a one-hour presentation of the vehicles starting at 11:30 a.m.

There were several variations in the colors, horns, and overall build of the car. Some were bright red, while others had that classic “Ahooga” sound to their horns, some much more boisterous than others.

At 12:30 p.m., the Model T’s assembled and went across the dirt path around the back half of Farmamerica, passing the country church, blacksmith shop, and other buildings along the route. Of course, Farmamerica still had events throughout the day, such as a blacksmith demonstration and tours of the historic sites on the property.

Many, if not all, the Model T’s were a part of a group called

the Model T Ford International Club of Owatonna.

Farmamerica was one of several stops for the group during their tour, which took place from July 21 to 25. The group toured the local areas along the cities of Owatonna, Northfield, Zumbrota, Mankato, Faribault, and Mantorville. Farmamerica was part of the Faribault leg of their tour. Janesvillians had a chance to see some Model T’s on Wednesday, July 23, as they headed toward Mankato.

Overall, it was a classic summer day with a great display of automotive history. If not for the Model T, who knows what automobiles would look like today.

Madison Lake’s 40th Annual Paddlefish Days
Music is the mainstay for the weekend

By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

Despite some blistering summer heat for much of the weekend, local bands from across Southern Minnesota kept the party rocking during Madison Lake’s 40th Paddlefish Days celebration.

It seemed everywhere you would turn, a musical group would be cranking up the dial with classic rock ballads, modern hits, and a few blasts from the distant past as the local hotspots in Madison Lake like the Anchor Bar, the Landing, and Lucky Lure would be host to a variety of talent such as What Could Go Wrong, Nowhere Fast, Powerhouse, Problem Child, and fan-favorite IV Play. This would actually be the 19th year that IV Play would grace the main stage during Saturday night’s performance, and the group delivered another pulse-pounding set of songs to an overcrowded Main Street.

Saturday and Sunday would prove to be the more livelier days of Paddlefish Days as the blazing temperatures brought



crowds waiting to sip on some crushed ice, some fresh squeezed lemonade, and take a dip in one of the nearby lakes.

The Grand Parade would feature prominent businesses and groups in the Madison Lake

area as well as two marching bands from St. Peter and South Dakota, respectively. It was an exceptionally warm day, so a few of the parade entries came armed with water guns and a few water balloons to spare...it was

a refreshing reprieve from the heat.

Paddlefish Days may not have been bursting with events like other small town fairs, but its primary focus on music and good times on the lake kept

many entertained throughout the weekend.

Paddlefish Days
cont to Page 10

Community Happenings

End of Summer Nite
Scoops
Elysian
Aug 2 6pm

City Council Mtg
St. Clair
Aug 5

Janesville Night Out
Janesville
Aug 7

City Council Mtg
Janesville
Aug 11 7pm

Pemberton Nite Out
Pemberton
Aug 12

Summerfest
Pemberton
Aug 15-16

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

Beaded Suncatcher Workshop
Create a beaded suncatcher using assorted beads, crystals, and metal decor at **Janesville Public Library on Monday, August 4th at 3 pm.** Ages 13-18.
Sponsored by Janesville Area Foundation and the Pope Family Fund

The Crown Jewels Concert
Join **The Crown Jewels**, a Queen tribute band, at their outdoor concert on **Monday, August 4th at 7 pm in Trowbridge Park in Waseca.** From start to finish, the show is incredible with something for everyone, from the hardcore Queen fan to the casual listener. Hailing from Minneapolis, this live tribute band (no backing instrumental or vocal tracks) performs all the greatest hits, arena anthems, and top ten singles that made Queen one of the most legendary rock bands of all time. Through the use of elaborate lightning effects, costumes, and staging detail, they recreate, both sonically and visually, the live Queen experience that filled stadiums around the world.
Free and open to the public.

Flowers in Literature Exhibit
Learn about the Language of Flowers, explore author gardens, and discover flowers in literature at this pop-up Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System exhibit. This interactive exhibit features handmade flowers, a flower seed library, and more! The exhibit runs during the **month of August at Waseca Public Library** during open hours. This exhibit is geared for all ages.

Jigsaw Puzzle Derby
Assemble a team of up to 4 players to compete in a jigsaw puzzle competition at **Janesville Public Library on Tuesday, August 5th at 5:30 pm.** The first team to complete the puzzle wins a prize . . . and bragging rights! Registration required.

Virtual Author Event: Pria Anand
Delve into the fascinating world of birds at a virtual Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System event at **1 pm on Tuesday, August 5th.**
The Bird Book: The Stories, Science, and History of Birds and Dr. Jay Falk’s presentation will explore:
• The natural history of birds, including their evolution and anatomy as well as their behavior and diversity.
• Hawks, finches, swans, or birds of paradise, moving the focus away from a predictable species-by-species account and allowing for truly global coverage.
• The bold nature of European Robins and why they are associated with Christmas; the mythical Phoenix, which rises from the ashes; and learn about eagles, from their hunting prowess to their myriads of stories and symbolism.
Dr. Jay Jinsing Falk is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and the University of Colorado.
This event will be recorded and people who register will be emailed a link to the recording. Register at the library or at wasecalesueurlibraries.com/getregistered

Echoes from the Loafers’ Club Meeting
I was going to get a new car, but I decided not to.
You couldn’t find the perfect car?
I didn’t need to. The check engine light on my current vehicle finally burned out.

Driving by Bruce’s drive
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Minnesota is known for having crummy weather. That might be a fair or an unfair assessment. If you visit the warmer parts of this country, the residents there might wince when they mention the Gopher State’s winter weather. Winter weather isn’t a problem when it comes time for the county fairs to arrive at a gallop, and a family’s diet plan involves sticks. Omnivores become carnivores who stroll past cows that are enjoying their favorite fair food—hay. A fair is a place for lollygagging and exhibiting gluttony. I walked by a ride on the midway that I found frightening, and it wasn’t even operating.
I’ve learned
To remember the five types of Pacific salmon (chinook or king, coho or silver, sockeye or red, pink or humpback, and chum or dog), use the “5 Finger Method.” Associate each finger with a salmon type: thumb for chum, index finger for sockeye (poke in the eye), middle finger for king

A fair or an unfair assessment



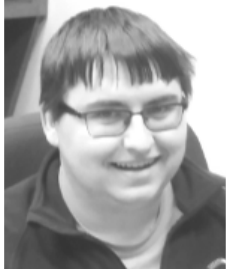
Compostings

by Al Batt
copyright © 2019 by Al Batt

(the largest salmon), ring finger for silver (like a ring), and pinky for pink.
Sometimes it’s worth going into a store just for the air conditioning.
Older people might develop health problems because they have eaten too much angel food birthday cake with melted candle wax on it.
When you decide to rest on your laurels, make sure they aren’t poison ivy.
The world’s largest American coot statue is in Ashby, Minnesota. Coots Unlimited is the local sportsmen’s club with the objective to foster, encourage, promote, educate and develop an appreciation for conservation practices.
There is an easy way to tell if your house is haunted or not. It’s not.
According to the Social Security Administration, the most popular baby names for 2024 were Liam for the eighth year in a row for boys, and Olivia for the sixth year in a row for girls. Emma was second for girls and Amelia third. Noah was the second most popular for boys, and Oliver third.
Spiders have eight eyes, making it difficult for a young spider to keep its eyes on its own paper in school.
I was blown away when I saw my first wind turbine.
Bad jokes department
What is the heaviest soup? Wonton.
What do you call an extremely fast alligator? An insta-gator!
The woman who stole the lamp from a home improvement store received a light sentence.
If there is one thing I can’t deal with, it’s a deck of cards that have been glued together.
Why aren’t koalas bears? It’s because they don’t have the necessary koalafications.
During my physical exam, my doctor checked my eyesight by having me read the numbers on a chart on the wall. “One, two, three, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten,” I read. When I asked for my diagnosis, the MD told me I lacked foresight.
Nature notes
There is plenty of insect pressure (mosquitoes, gnats, deer flies and stable flies) this year, but there is plenty of insect pleasure, too. Fireflies and monarch butterflies are headliners. A summer azure is a tiny

powder blue butterfly that flies in June, July and August, much to my delight.
Tree swallows are staging on utility wires before beginning their fall migration in July and August, heading for Florida and Central America. They gather to reason together.
I spotted two barred owls near one another. I suspect they were in cahoots. The owls have asymmetrical ears, with one higher than the other. Hearing from two different angles helps them pinpoint the location of prey.
There are chiggers in Minnesota. I taste just like chicken to them. Their bites get in all kinds of places on a body. Chiggers go boldly where no one has gone before. Chiggers are larval forms of a mite. They don’t drink our blood or burrow into our skin, but they have a taste for dissolved body tissues. Putting fingernail polish or petroleum jelly on the bites doesn’t help anyone except the manufacturers of those products. Chiggers like heat and humidity. Tall grass, moist areas around lakes or rivers, and wooded areas are likely to harbor chiggers. The bites of chiggers itch enough to keep a mind preoccupied. I take my mind off the itching with an intentional earworm, forcing a song to stick in my head. “It’s a Small World” works well.
Meeting adjourned
It’s your right to be kind to everyone.

Testing the limits



Mikes Corner

by Michael Roy
Staff writer
Copyright © 2019 by Michael Roy

the coast of Costa Rica. Another artist, jazz musician Chuck Mangione, also passed away. I guess he only had one well-known song, “Feels So Good.” It was not the song I was thinking of, but for someone who doesn’t go out of my way to listen to jazz, it was pretty good.
Hulk Hogan was someone I always knew about since I was a child. But since I didn’t watch wrestling, I could never appreciate his impact on the sport. What I could respect is how he was essentially a caricature of the United States, encompassing both its strengths and weaknesses. His theme song, “Real American,” is a bit cheesy. But no one can deny his influence.
The death that impacted me the most was Ozzy Osbourne. I didn’t listen to many Black Sabbath songs when I was growing up. However, much of his solo stuff was on heavy rotation around the house. And whether I’m covering JWP or St. Clair during the school year, I don’t usually make it out of the week without hearing “Crazy Train” at least once. It’s a fantastic song, from the guitar solo to the underrated lyrics. “Crazy Babies” is another guilty pleasure.
One song I’ve always hesitated listening to is “Mama I’m Coming Home.” It’s probably his best song, but it’s on my list of songs that can get me tearing up in an instant depending on my mood. The lyrics were about his realization that he either needed to get sober or he would die from alcoholism, and he dedicated the song to Sharon, AKA “Mama.” It ended up being his highest-charting song in the US, reaching #28. My only gripe

with the song is that the guitarist, Zakk Wyld, frequently employs a technique called pitch harmonics (essentially a goofy high-pitched sound produced by hitting a guitar string a precise way) in every song. It almost ruins the song for me. Thankfully, everything else about “Mama I’m Coming Home” is perfect.
It always seemed like the 1980s were the best times to be around, no matter how much people claim drugs and poverty were problems. I only wish we had music like Ozzy Osbourne or Black Sabbath now, at least in the mainstream. The closest we were to that was Greta Van Fleet. Some days, I wish we had more pride in being American, like Hulk Hogan symbolized. Maybe it’s time for me and others to stop wishing and start doing what we wish for. It’s about time someone tested the limits again.

TID-BITS OF TRIVIA

1. The classic game show “Press Your Luck” features an array of greedy, animated gremlins known as what?

2. The combined populations of China and India make up approximately what percentage of the world’s total?

3. The comic book superhero Wonder Woman is best known for traveling how?

4. The concert films “Delirious” and “Raw” feature memorable stand-up comedy routines by whom?

5. The Congress member who officially assists a majority or minority leader has what violent-sounding title?
6. The Conquistadors were 16th-century New World adventurers native to what European country?

7. The controversial 1915 movie “The Birth of a Nation” depicts what historical event?

8. The interjection “ahem” is meant to imitate the sound a person makes while doing what?

9. The international runaway bestseller “The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo” takes place in what country?

10. The interrobang is a fabricated punctuation mark that combines an exclamation point with a what?

Do you have NEWS you want to tell us about?

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Summer learning program; four week course intends to keep students engaged for 2025-26 school year

By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

For students and teachers alike, summer break is a welcomed hiatus from the hustle and bustle of the school year, and is a fun-filled time with vacations to exotic places, trips to the local waterpark, and spending time with friends and family. These moments of unbridled excitement are the backbone of a wonderful summer vacation, but as the 2025-2026 school year approaches, a handful of St. Clair staff and students traded in beach balls and swimsuits for lesson plans during the Cyclone Summer Learning Program.

This four weeklong Summer Learning Program—or Targeted Services—has been an ongoing program at St. Clair since 2012, and serves as a vital tool for students to avoid the “summer slide” when it comes to literacy and mathematics.

The SLP is federally funded and is described as “self-sustaining”...meaning that funding dictates the number of students eligible for the program. Roughly 60 students from grades 1-8 participate in the program and are generally referred by their teachers based on a variety of factors including below grade-level classroom performance and low FastBridge and/or MCA scores.

While the notion of “summer school” may hold a negative connotation, the SLP serves as an invaluable tool for students who may struggle in the classroom and require additional support from their teachers. Personally, as a student who dealt with speech and attention-deficit at an early age, I can understand the struggles that come with learning in a classroom atmosphere. Additionally, teachers are given a nearly impossible task of providing



equal attention and care to a classroom that may have 30+ students. Programs like the SLP provide the necessary attention to ensure that no student is left behind in the classroom. An informational pamphlet sent to parents furthers this point, noting that the summer staff understands that “every child learns differently.”

The SLP is currently entering its third week of courses, but the Journal attended the opening week of July 14-17. This first week is meant to serve as a “refresher” course of sorts for the students; each classroom’s curriculum stems directly from each teacher’s own lessons during the 2024-2025 school year.

For the younger grades, an emphasis on reading comprehension and English literacy while grades 7 & 8 centered more on mathematics and the upcoming stresses of middle school. Classrooms taught by Casey Gearierty, Ashley Sander, and Kristina Nissen mainly focused on the reading portions of the program while Ashley Miller and Jen Corpstein teamed up to help incoming middle schoolers catch up on mathematics. In between the lessons, the classes would enjoy snacktime and if the weather was pleasant enough, would go outside to enjoy the weather. A variety of activities would keep

the students engaged, working together in pairs, and they would occasionally use an online platform for their lessons.

While observing Nissen’s class, she would read “The Little Red Fort” to a group of first and second graders. Nissen invited her students to “feel what the characters feel” throughout the story; one particular moment showed the characters “howling with laughter” so the classroom soon filled with laughter as well. It seemed the purpose of the exercise was to help these little learners identify certain emotions and how to relate to others.

This would be Sander’s sixth year as one of the teachers in the SLP, and she has found the program to be incredibly positive for both the staff and students, “I love teaching the TS program in the summer. We work at the pace of the students, and it’s exciting to see their success in areas they may have struggled. Our goal as educators is to help reinforce skills that were taught during the previous school year, and help students have a successful start to the next school year.

Due to some reconfiguring of classrooms and a newly waxed Commons area, walking the halls at St. Clair is a bit of a challenge, but reaching Miller’s and Corpstein’s classroom of seventh and eighth graders

introduced a new set of challenges for these upcoming middle schoolers. With two teachers instead of one, the students receive substantial support for the English and Math portions of the SLP.

One of the new responsibilities for these students to learn is how to operate a combination lock for their lockers; it’s important to keep one’s valuables safe and secure. While a few students handled their locks with ease, many struggled to follow the appropriate right-left-right sequence, but both teachers were quick to offer assistance when needed. In addition to the combination locks, Miller and Corpstein would aid students in preparing a school-appropriate email and time management skills.

This would be Miller’s third year with SLP, and her third year assisting Corpstein with the middle schoolers. Being a part of this program has been a thrill for her, “We have a blast getting to know the new seventh and eighth graders over these four weeks. With the two of us in the classroom, the students get a lot of one-on-one help and that really helps us come up with activities that are both engaging and informative. We have seen their confidence grow in both English and Math and that’s what makes programs like this worth it.”

As the SLP enters its final two weeks, the lessons will become more tailored to what students can expect for the 2025-2026 school year. It’s imperative that no student is left behind in the classroom, and programs like Targeted Services are invaluable to both the teachers and students at St. Clair. Sure, it takes away from their summer vacation and time spent soaking up the sun, but the lessons learned in the classroom today will ensure a more confident pupil tomorrow.

Westphal
cont from pg 1

knew we just had to get her that award,” he said. “I talked to Julie Morgan, who’s our marketing person, and told her to put in a nomination this year. She’s much better with words than I could ever be. Julie went and talked to a handful of people in the building to put this together.”

When asked who to credit for helping her become the employee she is today, she tried thinking of all the fellow employees she’d worked with over the years. Names included Mary Rathai, Jane Flemming, Cindy Cahill, Lori Armstrong, Jan Meyer, Sally Marquardt, and Molly Meyer. Long story short, everyone who had been at the nursing home since she started working there deserves some credit.

And that’s what it’s all about, right? “I talk about the nursing home being a team with their roles,” Madel pointed out. “Really, we all get to celebrate this.”

He did mention, however, that with every team, there are always a few superstars. “Nancy was one of them. If we needed someone to pick up extra shifts, she was there. She doesn’t want to see anyone not getting the care they deserve. She doesn’t hesitate to do anything.”

Much of the credit for Westphal receiving the award is attributed to her doing the

“little things.” “She’s a warm, genuine, giving person,” Madel said. “It’s not as much of a job to Nancy as it is an extension of herself. Not many people have that nurturing attitude she had. But that’s who she is. She makes sure that whenever someone comes through our doors, we put a smile on their face.”

To this day, one of Westphal’s favorite things to do is bring animals like sheep to the nursing home to entertain the residents. “Just seeing the reaction of the residents is rewarding,” she said. “This is their home, but they don’t get out like we do. The empathy you feel for the residents, the things people tell you when someone passes... when you become close with many of them, it’s hard.”

“I’ll get families coming into my office, saying how caring the staff was and how they made their loved ones’ time here as enjoyable as possible,” Madel added.

Westphal and the nursing home will enjoy seeing a video montage of her and seeing her speak on behalf of Whispering Creek at the convention in November. Until then, she’ll keep doing what she’s enjoyed doing for the past 46 years: taking care of the residents.

“It’s an honor to be able to enjoy what you do,” she said. “It’s not work. It feels like heavy work at times, but it’s not really work when you enjoy what you do.”

Got  ?
Call us at 507 231-6371

Brummund officially retires

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Cheri Brummund’s final day as an Administrative Assistant with the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District came to an end as she enjoyed several friends and family at her retirement party on Friday, July 25, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Waseca County East Annex building. Several refreshments were provided, including sandwiches, chips, donuts, and cake.

Brummund said her farewells to everyone who came through the door. Although slightly bittersweet, the environment was overall happy. Many shared stories and memories with her, including those of her coworkers. Even Janesville’s Marcie Anderson made the day extra special by providing her with a golden chain with the word “retired” on the bottom.

Although the Journal was only at the retirement party for a short time, it was immediately apparent within the first few minutes how much Brummund meant not only as an employee with the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District, but also as a person to everyone in the Waseca area. It will be a



Brummund with the SWCD staff at her retirement party that was held on Friday, July 25.

challenge to fill her position for those reasons, but Jade Peterson, who will be taking her place, is up to the task.

We had already asked Brummund about her retirement plans, but she didn’t have any set plans. Although she joked that she would travel around the country and enjoy her home in Cape Cod, it seems she’s willing to go wherever life takes her. Whether it brings her back to work or keeps her in a permanent retirement, only time will tell. May she enjoy her retirement journey wherever the road takes her.

Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School District receives \$56,000 grant from Janesville State Bank through Member Impact Fund

Janesville, Minnesota – Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (JWP) is excited to announce it has received a \$56,000 grant from Janesville State Bank and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines (FHLB Des Moines) through the Member Impact Fund. This grant is part of a matching grant program to support community development in Minnesota.

The school district and bank have long been partners in serving students and families in our community. The grant will fund the installation of playground shades at the school, which will be a welcome improvement for the students, staff, and families that use the community outdoor space.

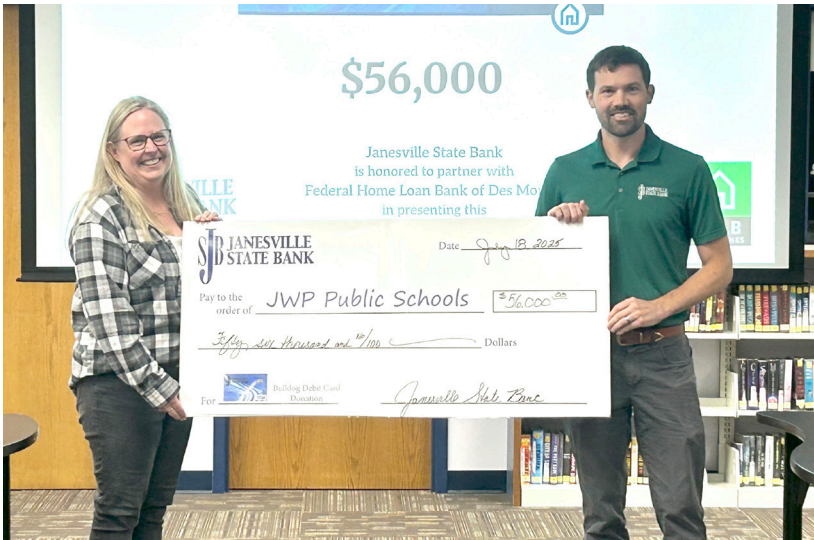
Superintendent Jeremy Erler says, “We are absolutely thrilled to partner with Janesville State Bank on this project. The bank has always been a supporter of the community, and especially

the school district. We are eager to get started on the playground improvements.”

Sean Finley, Chief Financial Officer at Janesville State Bank, added, “We’re proud to partner with JWP to back a project that directly benefits local children and their families. This grant, made possible through our Bulldog debit card program and the Member Impact Fund, shows how important strong community partnerships are.”

FHLB Des Moines supports more than 1,200 member institutions by providing funding solutions to strengthen mortgage lending, economic development, and affordable housing. The Member Impact Fund offers members up to \$3 in matching funds for every \$1 they donate to local nonprofits or public entities, amplifying the reach and impact of community investments.

“The Member Impact Fund enables our members to directly



support local organizations who matter to them, creating value and a profound impact in their own communities,” said Kris Williams, president and CEO of FHLB Des Moines. “The commitment of Janesville State Bank to champion organizations like JWP Schools is an example of this mission in action.”

Grant recipients were selected based on the impact their

work has on affordable housing or community development needs, including youth programs, job training, financial literacy, food access, and more.

Since its launch in 2023, the Member Impact Fund has supported nearly \$70 million in grants to build stronger, more vibrant communities across FHLB Des Moines’ district.

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Mon.-Fri. 8:30-6p Sat. 8:30-3p
 

Women in Agriculture Retreat hosted by U of M Extension Oct 3-5

CAMBRIDGE, MN. — A transformative weekend retreat called Annie’s Project will be held for farmers and ranchers who want to foster connections, share knowledge and empower individuals passionate about agriculture. This educational retreat is geared to women farmers, but all people are invited to attend including long-time, beginner, and future farmers from both urban and rural areas. The event will inspire collaboration, growth, and empowerment.

The Annie’s Project Retreat is being offered by the U of M Extension Women in Ag Network Friday-Sunday, October 3-5, 2025, near Cambridge, Minnesota. Annie’s Project is for any farmer or rancher looking to understand farm management and decision-making topics better. Annie’s Project is designed to empower farm businesses in today’s complex,

dynamic world of agriculture. For more information and to register, follow this link: <https://z.umn.edu/AnniesRetreat>. The event will include a variety of engaging workshops, insightful speakers, and numerous opportunities for renewal and connection with others involved in farming. These activities are designed to address the unique challenges and opportunities faced by women in the agricultural sector. Whether you are an urban farmer, a rural farmer, or anywhere in between, your perspective and experience are invaluable to our collective success.

The cost is \$199, and this includes overnight accommodations and meals at the retreat center at Lakeside Camp, 32393 Rendova Circle NE, Cambridge, MN 55008. Capacity is limited to the first 16 people.

St. Clair American Legion hosts gun safety training class

By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

As the world turns a bit more with each passing day, the need to protect oneself and their loved ones continues to grow as well. While 29 states operate under Constitutional carry, the remaining, including Minnesota, require a Permit to Carry or a Concealed Carry in order to legally carry a firearm in a public setting.

A Permit to Carry course was held at the St. Clair Legion on July 26, and approximately 25 locals of Blue Earth County participated in a five-hour lecture hosted by Richard Bruels of River Valley Training. Bruels has been leading firearm training for citizens and law enforcement alike since the 1990s, but has been an instructor in permit to carry since 2003. He even has competed in professional shooting competitions and even took home first place at a State meet back in 2002. Bruels can talk the talk, but he’s proven to be able to walk the walk.

Many in this permit to carry course were seeking their first ever permit, and there was variety to those attending in regards to youth and experience with firearms. A few vocalized their desire to “feel safe” when out at night or in unfamiliar territory...a feeling Bruels echoed throughout the course.

He regaled the group about several instances where the simplest of actions like “going out for ice cream” can become a harrowing experience, so he understood people’s growing desire for protection and security.

The first two hours of the course centered around much of the legality that pertains to lawfully carrying a firearm in public settings. One of the most recent changes in the State legislature centered around “lending” or “borrowing” a gun from a neighbor...the law changed in 2024 that required gun owners to transfer the firearm to its new owner. There



were some exceptions to the rule based on familial relations... in fact, there are a staggering amount of rules and regulations for responsible gun owners to follow.

Bruels sternly instructed the group to carefully fill out the Permit application for Blue Earth County in order to avoid a Sheriff from “paying you a visit.” He would also outline the most crucial statutes pertaining to carrying a firearm, and shared the utmost urgency required to handle one in public. Bruels advised the group that while a firearm can serve as a “visual deterrent”, the most important thing to remember to remain vigilant and protect yourself when danger is afoot, “It’s not against your manhood to avoid danger at all cost.” He also shared that while it may be the “right” thing to do to intervene during a crisis, it is absolutely critical to “make damn sure you know what’s going on” before escalating the situation.

When it came to confrontation, Bruels asserted that using a firearm should be a “last resort” when no other options for escape or resolution are available. Although he did acknowledge that during times of high stress, instincts and tunnel vision can kick in and logic “soon flies out the window.” In many cases he presented during the lecture, he strongly advised to make others aware of the situation verbally,

call 911, and retreat when absolutely necessary.

Of course, sometimes a situation calls for escalation, and a split second can determine your survival; however, Bruels outlined four major items to consider before resorting to deadly force with a firearm: a person must be in immediate fear of death or great bodily harm, must be considered the victim of the conflict, there must be no reasonable means for retreat, and no lesser force will suffice to stop the threat. Meeting those criteria can be a “very difficult line” to prove according to Bruels, but he gave some sound advice to the class, “If you introduce your firearm and are worried about getting in trouble, that level of force is probably not justified.” He cited some cases including an incident in Madelia, Minnesota where a farm owner opened fire on people trespassing on his property; however, these standards weren’t met, and the gun owner would be cited because the “threat was not an immediate danger to his life.”

Usually when firearms are mentioned during a conflict, police may respond to the scene which Bruels acknowledged can create a difficult set of circumstances for everyone involved. Law enforcement respond based on the information they have been provided by dispatch, and may not have all the facts before

heading into a scenario where firearms are prominent. Bruels strongly urged those to comply with their orders, relay basic information about what happened then remain silent until an attorney is present. He did warn that despite the knowledge presented to law enforcement, a law abiding citizen may be subject to arrest until further details are provided.

As the class entered a break at the two-hour mark, Bruels advised the group to visit handgunlaw.us to learn the ins and outs of each state’s carry laws. It’s quite an elaborate web of laws, statutes, and exceptions with some states not acknowledging another state’s license to carry, so careful examination of each respective law is paramount to lawfully carrying a firearm. It’s unclear what Bruels discussed for the remainder of his course, but the group would then travel to a private gun range for a state mandatory shooting exercise.

It’s important that each individual take a personal stake in their protection, and lawfully owning and carrying a firearm can be the difference between life and death. While owning a firearm is a constitutional right, being knowledgeable on the laws and limitations of the permit to carry can be the most vital tool toward keeping you and your loved ones safe.

JWP Grizzly Youth Cross Country Camp Aug 4-7

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

School may still be over a month away, but that’s not stopping student athletes to prepare with their versions of “training camps.”

For the first time, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton will host a Grizzly Youth cross country camp from Monday, August 4, to Thursday, August 7. This camp will culminate in a 1.5-mile race on the final day, with all participants receiving a t-shirt and a medal upon completion of the race. This camp is targeted at students entering grades 3-6. The event, sponsored by JWP

community education, was organized by soon-to-be sophomore MaKenzie Westphal and cross-country head coach Liz Kvebak. Westphal won the Gopher Conference Runner of the Year title after taking first at the conference meet at Prairie Ridge Golf Course last fall. Westphal also earned a state championship title in the 800 event with the girls’ track and field team, helping them win the Class A team title. Kvebak also coaches track as an assistant, and her work contributed to their state title victory.

Any questions about the cross country camp can be answered by Coach Kvebak at ekvebak@isd2835.org.

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School board approves cell phone policy for 2025-26 school year

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

There wasn’t much in the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School Board’s agenda for Monday, July 21.

However, the few items they did review had significant importance, including the approval of the cell phone policy ahead of the 2025-26 school year.

JWP will be rolling out a new policy that requires students to place their phones and all additional accessories (such as Apple Smart Watches or headphones) in a locker located in their first-hour class. If, for any reason, they need to leave the building, such as for an

appointment, their phone will be available in the high school office when they check out. The finer details, such as whether they will pick up their phones from their first-hour class at the end of the day or if the phones will be at their seventh-hour class, will be left up to High School Principal David Rysdam.

Superintendent Jeremy Erler explained that the “locker” wasn’t that big. With about 33 slots in each locker, teachers can carry them like a suitcase in case of an emergency requiring the school to evacuate the building. “I know that’s when the students will get pretty anxious,” he stated.

When School Board Member, Dave Olson, asked about whether the same rules would apply to teachers, Erler said they “should.” “When teaching a class, they can’t have their cell phones out either,” he elaborated. “They can have it out during their prep time.”

School Board Member, Kevin Born, shared that he talked to

five kids who will return to JWP this year and claimed that they were “confident” they could find a way around the policies.

On the other hand, Katie Cahill noted that the students who graduated this past year thought the policy was a good idea.

The board then went through the district’s ten-year Long Term District Facilities and Maintenance Plan (LTDFM). According to Wendy Dieker, the figures featured in the ten year plan were calculated using a spreadsheet provided by the Minnesota Department of Education. “It’s built in for us,” she added.

After debating some of the details, the school board approved the plan.

Dieker also shared a payroll deduction impact presentation for fiscal year 2026. The four main points she shared were the impact of the Federal Insurance Contributions Act, State and Federal income taxes, pension plan contributions, and the

Minnesota Paid Family and Medical Leave.

The 2025 State Legislative session resulted in two changes to payroll deductions for 2026 and 2027. For TRA (Teacher Retirement Association) qualifying staff, they will see a 0.47 percent increase in deductions in 2026, while all other employees will see a 0.22 percent increase in the same year. All employees will receive a 0.22 percent increase in payroll deductions in 2027.

In an example Dieker shared of a teacher making roughly \$61,500 per year, AKA the average salary of JWP teachers. With the employee paying into FICA, the TRA, and the Paid Family and Medical Leave throughout their employment, the take-home pay would increase by about \$20 a year. That’s not that much, but Dieker said that lane changes and increases in career increments would create outliers.

The impact on the employers (the district) won’t be too much.

An individual example showed a 1.7 percent increase in costs to the employer between 2024-25 and 2025-26, and a 0.48 percent increase between 2025-26 and 2026-27.

However, when factoring in reduced FTE and replacement employees at lower salaries, the overall cost will be stable. With approximately \$7.1 million spent on employees in 2024-25, the overall cost is expected to decrease by 1.4 percent, or nearly \$100,000, with a slight 0.69 percent increase between 2025-26 and 2026-27.

Overall, the district will not expect too much to change concerning teacher salary pay and benefits between the next few years, setting them up well to accommodate for the new increases to benefits, including the Paid Family and Medical Leave.

The school board then approved rescinding their previously approved shared services agreement between the district and the South-Central

Service Cooperative for Regional Workforce Coordination services, following concerns about the associated costs.

Erler spoke with College and Readiness Coordinator Andrea Grussendorf about this vote, and he claimed that she felt confident she could assume some of the tasks that the SCSC would have handled with their Regional Workforce Coordination services.

Sean Finley, Vice President of Janesville State Bank, visited the school board to present a \$56,000 check. This was made possible through their partnership with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, which received a grant from the First-Time Member Impact Fund. These funds will go toward the playgrounds surrounding the schools (the one near the main entrance and the playground on the east side).

The meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m. The next meeting will be August 18.

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Minnesota still settling into life as the flooding continues



By RICARDO MORENO JR.
Staff Writer

Over this summer, maybe almost every summer, a part of the United States of America was bombarded by ceaseless rains that caused flooding on a scale that hasn't been seen in some time.

The Lone Star State of Texas experienced a torrent upon its heart during the celebration of the Nation's independence. Tropical storm Barry had made its failure to become a hurricane into a far-reaching malicious maelstrom upon central Texas. It's rains and winds had been a scourge upon the Gulf of America and Mexico before parts of the storm broke off to just about Austin, TX. Where it descended upon was, as no one who lived there could truly be surprised about, Flash Flood Alley'.

On a map it looks like a large boomerang starting in the Dallas area, going down to San Antonio, and bending west right across the Alamo. It was given the name due to its geography making it easily susceptible to pooling and sliding. The land had been too dry for too long, leaving it unprepared for the downpour about to assail it. Relatively unprepared were the Texans. Yes, they may have been prepared to respond to the rough weather but perhaps the scale was too much for what they had. There may really be nothing one can do to stand up to Earth's nature to strike when it wants to. What happened in Texas may seem far away to some, but Minnesotans 'ought to know the pains, trials, and recoveries made after a flood.

In fact, Minnesotans should know that the grasp of the Gulf of America can clutch its way north to Viking country as easily as a Cowboy. June of 2024 is proof of the effects of tropical storms from the gulf on Minnesota's weather. A mass of moisture pooled together to travel to the north along the

atmosphere towards the northeastern part of Minnesota. On its own, a mass of moisture may have yielded fair rain, but in concoction with suitable conditions from the Dakotas and Wisconsin, it caused a series of rainfall that affected cities across the horn of Minnesota.

From Grand Rapids to Ely and Two Harbors, rainfalls from 1.5 to 8 inches, in acute areas, bombarded the land within eight hours. The rain did not fall all at once but over time and in different places. In one hour, some storms were delivering five inches of rain relentlessly. These particularly powerful downpours were determined by the National Weather Service as being caused in part by the mass of moisture from the gulf. The NWS has on record that eight tornado and sixteen sever thunderstorm warnings were issued on June 19th, 2024. There were some Minnesotans on the morning of that day who woke up to three inches of tropical rain drenching their beloved town. Flash flooding persisted throughout the rainfall and after, leaving major roads closed and people stranded. Homes and memories are drenched and damaged but lives still striving forward despite that. The excess rainwater makes its way down the land and into the rivers at every angle possible. They began to swell as the tropical rain mixed into the midwestern stream, four feet in some spots and twenty feet in others. The Little fork and St. Louis among the engorged rivers. Much of the further overland flooding took place on the second day, June 20th.

Steaming from those storms in the north, a wave of clouds made its way south to deal equal damage across the state. The impacts of these floods are much closer to the home of the Janesville Journal. In Southern Minnesota, it is widely known that the Rapidan Dam was pushed to near breaking and that Waterville was forced to double down on its name. When a

person's commute from Mankato to Waseca did not include a news report in the month of June of 24, they may have been able to look out the window at the result of rain themselves.

Just as in the North, the South experienced a torrent of rain with a tropical twist to it. Though instead of a third of a day of rain it was three days of it. Three days of time to push expectations and test limits. In some areas, like St. Clair and Good Thunder, the yield was between three and four inches, with six to nine inches over being the height of the rainfall over the southern rain bombardment area.

The rain began on the 20th of June, and by then the influence of tropical storm Barry had ended. The rain moved into Wisconsin, found new strength from a near motionless mass of midwestern thunder clouds. Friday and Saturday's rains were caused by the attractive conditions of the troposphere around Minnesota, as not only did it attract storms from Wisconsin, but it attracted the rains of South Dakota too.

Official rainfall values for the three days of rain grace came in at right around nine inches in Windom, reported by the NWS, roughly eight in St. James, and between seven and eight in Mankato. Minnesota suffered a fair bit of flooding across the whole of its land but was spared for further harm by the break of the rain.

A full year has passed since these storms assailed Minnesota and their anniversary was marked by a fiercer storm under relative conditions in Texas. The potential fears of Minnesotans became the melancholy reality of Texans. Though their loss was great, in time their melancholy will fade into an aspirant recovery. Minnesota has settled into life after the floods and the towns and roads that experienced the worst will be aided soon enough.

On June 27, the governor of Minnesota, in response to the devastation across the state, applied for aid from FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency. It was the hope of the State that individuals, 42 counties, and hazard mitigation statewide could be aided by the support of the Federal government. This decision came soon after the governor was taken on a fly over of Rapidan Dam. Former President Joe Biden authenticated the governor's request for aid by declaring that the state of Minnesota was experiencing a major disaster. Amongst the counties that will be receiving FEMA aid are Blue Earth, Le Sueur, and Waseca.

The official estimate of FEMA aid for roads and bridges is over 45 million dollars but damage caused by the rain and flooding could be in billions of dollars, a commonly speculated estimate.

The enrollment period for FEMA aid has recently ended for individuals. It is only a matter of time before the aid begins to show itself, but the people of Minnesota and Texas will strive forward even if it takes longer than expected. What happened in Minnesota in June of 2024 was a rare occurrence of storms caused by conditions rising from the Gulf of America. But that sea never rests and lashes out at the land every year with each storm it conjures over its salty water.

The World is more connected than one might realize and so are humans. Show support to fellow Minnesotans, Texans, Americans by donating to relief funds online. While it is helpful to jump at the chance for Federal aid, it is important for the State's residents to stand with their own and raise each other up with what they can. Just as the World can send a torrent of rain from the south to the north, so can people send support flowing north to south.

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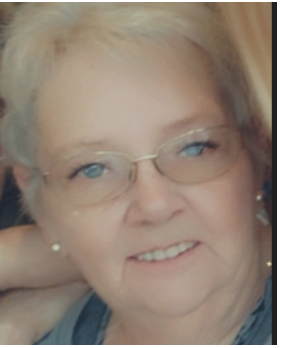
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Making memories

Mother Knows BEST

By Kathy Richardson
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We are groomed from very early on, even before birth, to have everything, and the best of everything, and to have what we want.

Our family and friends give us a baby shower when we are pregnant with our first child, and many nice gifts are received. Some of the guests go together and purchase the larger gifts like bassinets, or gifts of diapers, clothes of different sizes, booties, and gift certificates to buy baby formula.

As children grow, we give them lavish birthday parties with family and friends. In both instances, children get many presents, which as babies they outgrow before they can get the full potential out of all the baby clothes.

As children they get so many gifts that they don't know which to play with first and then they don't really appreciate them. Then along comes Christmas, in which we give them so much more again.

Then as they get older yet, we buy them their first car.

When they graduate from school, we give them another big graduation party where they get more gifts and money.

They get married, and most parents give them a big, beautiful wedding with even more gifts.

Is there something wrong with this picture? Maybe as they grow, we need to give them less material things and more of our time with them. Take them camping for the weekend, go fishing for the day, take them to the fair and go on the rides with them, or have a pizza night at the kitchen table. I can never express it enough about spending time with your children and grandchildren.

Instead of spending so much time working extra hours to buy them more things, when all they want is your time to spend with them.

Yes, they may be sitting in their room doing their homework with you watching televi-

sion in the living room, but at least you are in the same house with them knowing that they are not alone.

Or they may be out for the evening knowing that you will be there when they get home instead of coming home to an empty house. Empty homes tend to lead to empty lives.

We spend too much time on material things in life. We start out with a small house where our family grows, and so does our house. We buy fancy furniture, furnishings, cars, and clothing.

When my children reached their sixteenth birthday, is when I started giving them things for their birthday that they could use after they graduated, which was only a couple years away. Over the course of the next two years, I would go to garage sales and pick up good quality items like

pots and pans, dish set, silverware, glasses, or whatever was needed to get their first place of their own.

The money they received from graduation, they used for rent on their first place. Many parents would give money to their children for graduation which they used for whatever they liked and then it was gone with nothing to show for it.

As the children grew up and went out on their own, we didn't need that big house anymore or all those furnishings. Sure, we could sell the house but what to do with all the furnishings that we spent so much money on. Our children have already started their own homes and we don't want them to fall into the same trap as we did with buying everything by going into debt with loans and credit cards. It's a vicious cycle.

As our children grow with their own families, we hope they remember the good times and memories that we tried to have with them to do the same for their families.

There is nothing more precious than those memories (no matter what your age) to reflect on.

JWP School Board
Official Minutes

Proceedings of the JWP
Regular School Board Meeting
June 16, 2025
5:30 PM Media Center

1. Chair Daschner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Those present were: Sherri Daschner, Laura Seys, Katie Cahill, Joan Olson, Kevin Born, Dave Olson, Monica Erickson, Superintendent Jeremy Erler, Business Manager Wendy Dieker, Exec. Asst. to Supt./ Human Resources Anika Adams, and Michael Roy of the Janesville Journal

2. Reading of the district's promise statement:

Providing an exceptional education where all students are known, valued, and empowered to thrive.

3. Core Values and Belief Statements:

Integrity: We believe in operating with honesty, doing what's right even when no one is looking, and being accountable for our actions.

Growth: We believe in providing safe opportunities and support to excel academically, socially, emotionally, and physically.

Connection: We believe in fostering internal and external partnerships with transparent communication at all levels.

4. Additional items for the agenda

5. A motion to approve the agenda was brought by L. Seys and seconded by J. Olson. Upon vote, motion carried 7-0.

6. Recognition of visitors and open forum

a. Policy 206 - Public Participation in School Board Meetings

7. Positive Recognition / Resolution Accepting Donations

8. Reports and presentations a. Superintendent Report

i. Student, Growth, Achievement, and Support

ii. Staff Support

iii. Communication

iv. Community Engagement

b. Budget Information

i. Treasurer's Report

c. Committee Reports

9. A motion to approve the consent agenda was brought by K. Born and seconded by L. Seys. Upon vote, motion carried 7-0.

a. Minutes from the May 19, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

b. Minutes from the June 2, 2025 Study Session

c. Financial Documents

i. Payroll: \$533,516.89

ii. Expenditures: \$347,079.79

d. Personnel Staff Changes

e. Policies with Nonsubstantial Changes

i. Policy 401 Equal Opportunity Employer

ii. Policy 402 Disability Nondiscrimination Policy

iii. Policy 403 Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of

School District Employees iv. Policy 405 Veteran's Preference

10. Old business

a. A motion to approve a new proposal between the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School District and City of Janesville for the School Resource Officer - Starting January 1, 2026 was brought by L. Seys and seconded by D. Olson. Upon vote, motion carried 7-0.

11. New business

a. A motion to designate Jeremy Erler as the District Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) for Education Identity Access Management was brought by K. Born and seconded by L. Seys. Upon vote, motion carried 7-0.

b. A motion to approve MSBA Membership and Policy Subscription was brought by L. Seys and seconded by M. Erickson. Upon vote, motion carried 7-0.

c. A motion to approve ARCC Student Information System Support Contract was brought by K. Born and seconded by L. Seys. Upon vote, motion carried 7-0.

d. A motion to approve Instructional Staff Sharing Agreement (Occupational Therapist) was brought by L. Seys and seconded by J. Olson. Upon vote, motion carried 7-0.

e. A motion to approve Shared Services Agreement between JWP and SCSC for Regional Workforce Coordination Services with updated dates was brought by K. Born and seconded by L. Seys. Upon vote, motion carried 7-0.

f. First reading of a policy with substantial changes

i. Policy 524.1 Cell Phone Use Policy

g. A motion to approve the Preliminary Budget for the Fiscal Year 26 was brought by J. Olson and seconded by L. Seys. Upon vote, motion carried 7-0.

12. Upcoming Meetings

a. July 7, 2025 - 4:30 p.m. Study Session

b. July 21, 2025 - Regular Meeting

c. August 4, 2025 - Study Session including Finance and Operations Presentation

d. August 18, 2025 - Regular Meeting

e. September 15, 2025 - Regular Meeting

f. October 6, 2025 - Study Session including Curriculum and Instruction presentation

g. October 20, 2025 - Regular Meeting

13. Chair Daschner adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Official minutes, Katie Cahill, clerk

By RICARDO MORENO JR.
Staff Writer

For the second year in a row, the Elysian Area Library and Heritage Center have brought the sound of music to Lake Francis on Thursday July 24th. A clear blue sky graced the lake and the heat that came with it was no problem in the shade of the park's pavilion, where Juliet and the Montagues were preparing to perform. Thanks to a grant from the Traverse de Sioux Library Cooperative, that aims to support art and cultural growth throughout Minnesota, the Heritage Center was able to hold the concert free for all. The band set up their equipment quickly and got to playing right on show time.

Juliet and the Montagues are composed of Daniel Defoe on lead guitar, Michael Meridian on bass, and Aaron Woods on drums, with Juliet Catherine on guitar and lead vocals. Her name was inspired by the play written by Shakespeare; Catherine



began her musical career at the age of 12 when she started performing live. Jazz, Blues, and Funk have inspired her music over the years, and the show Juliet and the Montagues performed for Elysian was more than enjoyable proof of the group's musical prowess. Their setlist for the day included original songs and covers of popular tunes that any Minnesotan could recognize.

Within moments of beginning their performance, the audience had already begun tapping their toes to the wonderful sounds.

Billy Squire, Prince, and Van Morrison are a few of the artists they covered but never did their sound shift from being uniquely theirs. The music Juliet and the Montagues played carried with it good vibes and easy days. Every song had a jazzy tune to it and that sound could put a

smile on the gloomiest of faces. As the Sun's evening shade began to take over the horizon, there may have been no place better to relax than out by Lake Francis where that sweet sound and beautiful view could have sparked the beginning of a great weekend. The concert was short, but the audience shared their appreciation with the best applause they could create.



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Honoring the Hulkster

Jay's
Way

By Jordan Carrillo



beer, Real American, had begun to take its toll on him physically. The last photo of Hogan showed a jabroni who looked like he hadn't had a good night's sleep in weeks.

There are a ton of thoughts that flow through my mind when I think of Hulk Hogan...some bad and some good. I grew up watching wrestling at a young age with my father; we used to both be rabid fans of the Attitude Era and the ongoing feud between WWF and WCW. Of course, Hulk's career in wrestling spans as far back as 1977, but his shining moment came at Wrestlemania III when he bodyslammed another wrestling great, Andre the Giant.

That moment launched Hogan into superstardom as the main draw of an ever growing WWF with Vince McMahon at the helm. The two were

inseparable as promoter and star, and the success of that organization hinged on the success of Hogan. Everywhere Hogan went, fame and popularity followed him...even when he defected to WCW to form the New World Order along with Kevin Nash and Razor Ramon. Over the years, Hulk Hogan would become the beloved hero the fans adored, and would occasionally dabble into the role of the heel with Hollywood Hogan. His iconic match with the Rock remains as one of the standout moments in wrestling history with his vintage "hulking out" being the highlight of the contest.

That era of wrestling brought in millions of new fans, including me, and I can vaguely remember watching weekly shows with my dad; we'd both cheer loudly when

Hogan stepped into the ring. I remember applying wrestling moves to my overstuffed teddy bear—the Atomic Leg Drop & Big Boot to name a few—pinning for the victory, and trying to tear my shirt the way Hogan did. I never really could, but hey I was six years old.

Sure, there were plenty of controversies surrounding Hogan; racist remarks about his daughter's partner, a leaked sex tape and ensuing lawsuit with Gawker, and a brief hiatus away from the WWE put The Hulkster's future in an industry he helped build in jeopardy. Thankfully, he made a return to the WWE in early January when Monday Night Raw moved to Netflix, but there is no denying this unequivocal fact: Without the influence and star power of Hulk Hogan, the WWE would never have become the billion dollar industry it is today.

With Hogan's and Osborne's passings, another reminder that time moves forever forward no matter who you are.

Embrace and celebrate your loved ones for all the good they have brought. Don't be afraid to call them a jabroni...but be prepared to square up in the ring because...what are you gonna do when they decide to run wild on you?



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City of Mankato to expect tens of thousands of people for Ribfest 2025

MANKATO, Minn. (KEYC) - Mankato's 27th annual RibFest is right around the corner.

Local Restaurant owner, Willis Stout, is hoping foot traffic from the big event will hit the mark for his expectations.

"For Ribfest, I expect that one will be a bit bigger and there will be a bit more widespread amounts of people visiting from out of town and trying to check stuff out," said Stout.

Stout recently acquired JD's Hideaway off of East Cherry and South Front Street. With being about a mile away from the Vetterstone, Stout is proud an event like RibFest is nearby.

He says that is because "you



get in at a great price its awesome the city does what they do to make that happen and that they're booking cool acts for it."

The man in charge of booking those acts is Eric Jones,

Co-Director of the civic center and amphitheater. Jones says an event of this caliber requires a lot of planning.

So much so he's already working on Ribfest 2026.

"Yeah, [Ribfest] definitely the biggest show we do between the two properties," said Jones.

With Ribfest being host to 4 concerts throughout the weekend... Jones is optimistic that folks will be traveling into town to get a taste.

"People will potentially you know be doing some shopping, buying some gas... So, it is bringing people into the community. Hopefully, uh we see some uh repercussions across the community as well."

Jones said RibFest is expected to bring in tens of thousands of people over the course of the weekend.

A place to call home; construction underway for new Track



By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

After a string of successful seasons, the St. Clair Track & Field teams are months away from their first well deserved home meet in over a decade.

While the original plans for a rebuild spanned as far back as 2012 with a group of volunteers and members of the Athletic Backers, funding had run out before the project could officially start, and has been few and far between since then. Thankfully, some leftover funds from the 2.9 million dollar FEMA grant has allowed the School Board to finish a project started all those years ago.

As of July 7, construction on several spaces for the track & field are underway: two layers of specialized coating for the track, runways for the Long Jump, Triple Jump, and Pole Vault, Shot Put and Discus areas, High Jump, fencing around the track,

and updated infrastructure for timekeeping are all considered for this renovation. Fisher Track is overseeing the entire project that cost approximately 700K... additionally, a cement pad and visitor bleachers will be added. The construction is slated to be completed by middle-September.

The Journal stopped by the track on July 17 and construction crews were busy digging up the runways for the Long/Triple Jump and Pole Vault areas... the entire asphalt track had already been removed and had been carefully smoothed out with a road roller.

While the spaces are barren so far, it won't be long until these track & field athletes will get to enjoy a new facility to train for the 2026 Spring season. With the renovated spaces, St. Clair/Immanuel Lutheran will hold their own meets for a change... the first since 2012, and that will be a welcomed sight to see.

Board reviews policies; track and security updates

By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

The July 21st St. Clair School Board meeting was brief compared to June's, but there were still several items on the agenda to consider.

The main topic of discussion centered around a recent 2025 MSBA legislative session and some changes to certain policies. Collins highlighted a specific policy (515 Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records) that "caused some confusion" amongst the MSBA, and advised on their updated language.

The 515 pertains to the private contact information for both students and parents in

St. Clair School Board

regards to a district's "directory information." There was much to consider regarding the changes, but Collins strongly advised the Board to "react quickly" and approve the model policy as presented.

Positive Recognition: Dan Kroenke was commended for handling a water leak in the building late in the evening. A recent training with the BEC Sheriffs allowed the Board to offer gratitude to the school's SRO, Deputy Sheriff Wiborg, stating they were "fortunate to have him" during the school year. Rasmussen thanked Collins and the Board for the much anticipated track rebuild and hoped the new facility would "improve Valerie's times even further." Collins furthered there has been a "lot of hard and due diligence" over the last six months to get the rebuild on track. Rasmussen also congratulated a few summer baseball teams performing well, including the 13U team winning the championship game.

Donations: Jason Jodi Anderson-Volleyball setters net & contractor table saw at a total value of \$1,948.00;

Minnesota FFA Foundation/Profinium-\$75.00 toward the FFA Activity Account; St. Clair Fire Department-\$1,000 toward Miss St. Clair Pageant Scholarships.

The Board was swift to approve a series of agenda items. The appointments for a second grade teacher and a part-time Afternoon Supervisor for Kids Connection were considered and approved.

A renewal contract with Greater MN Family Services was considered... Collins noted St. Clair has partnered with the counseling service since the Fall of 2021 and it has been a "fabulous program for us." Two individuals with Greater MN provide counseling services all year long, and are able to meet with families during the summer. The Board also moved to approve their membership with the South Central Service Co-Op... the District has partnered with SCS and has become a "growing program over the past decade." They

have been "heavily involved" on several matters like the technology agreements, the READ Act, Mathematics coaching, and others. The Board approved the Milk Bid from Prairie Farms... the bid came in \$1.10 cheaper than last year.

Collins gave a brief Superintendent Report. Some heavy rainfall has caused a few leaks around the building, the track construction project is underway and he sounded confident the work would be done by mid-September, the updated security system was roughly 80% complete and hoped to be completed before the start of the school year.

Holland was not present during the meeting and Guentzel had nothing to report. Johns recapped the July 1st City Council meeting she attended... Collins advised the Board he would attend the August 5th meeting to review next steps for the street signs and would report back.

With no further agenda items, the Board motioned to end the meeting at 18:15. The next St. Clair School Board meeting to be held on August 18 at 18:00.

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JWP School Board Study Session

Proceedings of the School Board Study Session
July 7, 2025
4:30 PM Media Center

1. Chair Daschner called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Those present were: Sherri Daschner, Laura Seys (arrived at 5:11), Katie Cahill, Joan Olson (left from 6:00-6:04), Monica Erickson, Kevin Born (arrived at 4:46), Superintendent Jeremy Erler, Business Manager Wendy Dieker, High School Principal David Rysdam, and Exec. Asst. to the Sup./Human Resources Specialist Anika Adams.

2. Reading of the district's mission statement:
Providing an exceptional education where all students are known, valued, and empowered to thrive.

3. Core Values and Belief Statements:
Integrity: We believe in operating with honesty, doing what's right even when no one is looking, and being accountable for our actions.
Growth: We believe in providing safe opportunities and support to excel academically, socially, emotionally, and physically.
Connection: We believe in fostering internal and external partnerships with transparent communication at all levels.

4. Additional items for the agenda

5. A motion to approve the agenda was brought by J. Olson and seconded by M. Erickson. Upon vote, motion carried 4-0.

6. Recognition of visitors and open forum
a. Policy 206 - Public Participation in School Board Meetings

7. Old business
a. Second reading of a policy with substantial changes
i. Policy 524.1 Cell Phone Use Policy
1. Yondr Handouts
a. Information about Yondr Pouches
b. Yondr Pouches Price Quote
c. Budget Reduction Discussion

8. Upcoming Meetings
a. July 21, 2025 - Regular Meeting
b. August 4, 2025 - Study Session including Finance and Operations Presentation
c. August 18, 2025 - Regular Meeting
d. September 15, 2025 - Regular Meeting
e. October 6, 2025 - Study Session including Curriculum and Instruction presentation
f. October 20, 2025 - Regular Meeting

9. Chair Daschner adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

Official minutes, Katie Cahill, clerk

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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)
Ra December 11 – Schools Seek Electricity. Efforts are being made to obtain electric lighting for rural schools, Mrs. Elise Phillips, county superintendent of schools, announced today, pointing out that the request for wiring is now pending before the war

production board.

At present, Mrs. Phillips said, 25 of the currently open rural schools in Blue Earth County have electric lighting, which is more than two-thirds. Some of the closed little red or white houses also have such lighting.

“The schools with no electricity have to depend upon the day for light,” Mrs. Phillips

put it, although occasionally when evening meetings are held at the schoolhouses, gas, or kerosene lamps are used.

1944-45
Harland Frank, seaman second class, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Frank of St. Clair, is stationed at the navy training distribution center at Shoemaker, Calif. He entered the navy in January and received his boot

training at Great Lakes. He spent a short leave at his home and then returned to Great Lakes before going to California.

Rapid promotion came recently to Clements T. Mace at Camp Savage, Minnesota when within a short time; he was upped first to private first class and then to corporal. He is a driver of a military police patrol car.

Private Norbert C. Glaser, son of Mr. and Mrs. Theo Glaser, with the infantry, has recently arrived in Italy. He entered the service last November, spent a 14-day furlough with his parents, leaving March 18 for overseas, after finish his training at For McClellan, Alabama. He wrote his parents that he likes Italy, where he has attended musical entertainment and church services making it seem like home.

Seaman first class Gerald J. Preston, son of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Preston, is now stationed at the United States navy's fleet hometown news center at Chicago. He took his naval training at Camp Downs, Great Lakes, Ill., and was later stationed at Hugh Manley High School in Chicago.

Local Church Times and Schedules

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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.
Janesville, MN
(507)234-6463
Pastor Sarah Krolak
June-August
Wednesday Worship 6:00pm

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
1891 321st Ave
Alma City, MN
(507)234-5353
Pastor Robert Harting
Sunday - 10:00 a.m. Worship

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Smiths Mill, MN
(507)234-5547
Pastor Robert Harting
Thursday Worship 7:00pm
Sunday Worship 8:30am

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Pastor Ava Adams-Morris
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10 a.m. Worship

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St. Clair, MN
(507) 245-3330
Pastor Jeff Enderle
Sunday - 9:00 a.m. Worship
8:00 am Bible Study

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120 Church St.
St. Clair, MN
(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
Father Swaminatha (Swamy) Pothireddy
Sunday - 8:00 a.m. Mass

ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH
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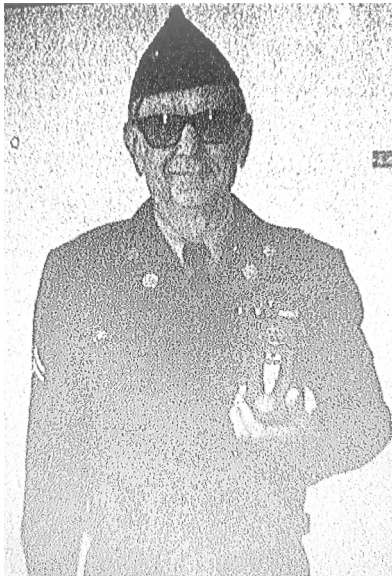
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1925
Fire at the Anton Schramsky farm about a mile and a half west of Janesville Monday noon completely destroyed seven buildings and caused a heavy loss in personal property. The blaze was discovered by Mrs. Cullen about 12:30 and she immediately turned in an alarm over the telephone. Help from the neighboring farms and a chemical truck from town were soon on the scene. A bucket brigade working frantically managed to save the house which at several times had taken fire. The big barn, granary, chicken house, corn crib, garage, and two sheds were burned to the ground. These buildings were in a cluster not a hundred feet from the residence, and, with the wind driving the flames directly on the dwelling, it was only by heroic and efficient work that the house was saved.

Quick thinking upon the part of Harold Ryan saved him from being held up last Thursday night when he and Mrs. Ryan and little daughter Rosemary were driving along the road from Rochester to Blooming Prairie. Coming over the top of a hill Ryan saw a small truck with three men in it start off on the downgrade ahead of them. As the truck reached a narrow part in the road it slowed down and two men hopped out and one of them started laying fence rails across the road. The other tried to “wave down” Ryan. Blessed with woman’s intuition, Mrs. Ryan warned her husband that it looked like a hold-up. Ryan was clipping it along at a good speed anyhow, but at his wife’s remarks he “stepped on her,” picked the side of the road where the fence rails lay, hit them, bounced about four feet in the air and kept on going.

1950
The power laden Janesville Red Sox, riding on the crest of an eight game winning streak, took an easy victory from the St. Clair Saints by an 11-3 score at St. Clair Sunday afternoon. The game was moved to St. Clair because Northside Park was unplayable as a result of heavy rains Saturday evening. Leading the Sox nine-hit attack off Winkelman and Loeffler was pitcher Len Guse who got four safeties in five tries and hit a long home run in the fifth inning with the sacks loaded to drive in five counters.

During the past week six farm accidents were reported by 4-H club members. Robert Vogelsang of Byron township fell from a ladder and broke his



Darrell Schubbe proudly displaying a medal he received for his service in the Korean War in 2000.

right arm. Charles Cummins, Iosco township, had the misfortune of having a horse fall on him while he was riding it. Robert Olson, Otisco Township, had the misfortune to step on a rusty nail. John Saufferer, Blooming Grove township, was running and fell on a nail, the nail entering his knee. Wilbert Remund, of Blooming Grove township, accidentally gashed his knee cap while cutting thistles in his grain fields. Gene Rosenthal, Iosco township, fractured his leg when he stepped through a hole in their truck floor.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Dimmel of near Janesville had their infant son, Steven Alan, born on Thursday, July 6, christened at Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville by Rev. A. T. Koehler on Sunday morning, July 23. The baby’s sponsors were Wilmar Dimmel of Waseca and Mrs. Arthur Kopischke of near Janesville and Marlin Haugen of Minneapolis, witness.

1975
After three special meetings, considerable haggling, a few lost tempers, and several misunderstandings, stockholders of the Janesville Creamery Association finally agreed Thursday night to go into the gas business. By a simple majority vote of 55 yes, 35 no, and one ballot spoiled, stockholders approved the purchase of Erv’s Phillips 66 Station for a price of \$60,000. If the 90 stockholders had chosen to overrule a contract already signed by their board of directors, the association probably would have been involved in a lawsuit over breach of contract.

Mrs. M. G. Gardner, Janesville, was presented a Certificate of Appreciation from the Selected Service System by Tom Kennedy from the state headquarters Monday. Kennedy made the presentation on behalf

of President Gerald Ford. Mrs. Gardner was cited for having served as an uncompensated Selective Service Registrar for Waseca County Local Board No. 125 for 25 years.

Social Security recipients won’t have to worry about bad weather or illness keeping them from cashing their checks because of a new program being introduced by Janesville State Bank. The program is called Direct Deposit of Social Security Payments. It is being offered at no charge to senior citizens. Direct Deposit will automatically deposit a Social Security check into a checking or savings account. It eliminates waiting in line and any worry about having the check lost, or stolen, before you can deposit it.

2000
Darrell Schubbe of Pemberton, MN, came home from Korea in January, 1953, after serving two years in the Korean War. He just recently received a medal for his service. The medal is from the Korean War Veterans Reunion of Pennsylvania, a group started four years ago by the state commander, Charlie Cooper. All Korean War veterans who served between June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953, are eligible to receive this medal. There is a \$15 charge if you are a member of the Korean War Veterans Reunion, and a \$20 charge for non-members. This charge covers the cost of shipping and handling. For Schubbe, who is still able to wear his Korean War uniform, the medal is a special recognition for a time in his life he still thinks about often. He remembers the good and the bad of this “forgotten war,” and enjoys reminiscing.

Indy Hancock, daughter of Larry Hancock of Mankato and Laurel Youngerberg of Janesville, entered the air force delayed enlistment program and is schedule to enter active duty on Tuesday, Aug. 8. A 1997 graduate of St. Clair High School, Hancock is scheduled to attend basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

Despite being the youngest team in District 6 competition, the Janesville team succeeded expectations and finished second only to Mankato’s veteran team. Competition involved four separate golf events. Janesville’s team consisted of Jon Conlon, Brian Finley, Sean Finley, Evan Holmes, Levi Mulcahey, Sean Mulcahey, and Travis Priem.

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PADDLEFISH DAYS 2025



Kiss a Goat...A tradition truly unlike any other

JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

I've covered some kooky events in my time with the Janesville Journal, but I think kissing a stinky, smelly goat has to take the crown as one of the most bizarre activities during a small-town fair.

Waterville might be a close second with its tradition of kissing a Bullhead fish. However, underneath all the inanity of kissing a goat for a small town punishment or pride, generosity ultimately wins the day over as Paddlefish Days was able to raise a little over \$500 for the contest. The proceeds would be used for next year's festivities.

It should be said that the tradition of kissing a goat is a fairly new evolution of this event as Kiss a Fish—a paddlefish, of course—was the event for several years, but after the fish passed the Paddlefish Days Committee believed a change should be in order. Or at least that's how the MC of the event, Diane Bisch, explained it. "This is the sixth year of Kiss a Goat, but this event has always been popular for this community. We raise a lot of money because so many people get involved."

Last year's event raised roughly \$1300, so by comparison, this may seem like a down year for Kiss a Goat, but there have been years where thousands of dollars have been put up to ensure one lucky or unlucky resident of Madison Lake puckers up with a Sheephead. Sometimes it's a well-known figure in town who gets nominated and later



(Journal Photos by Jordan Carrillo)

receives support from the community or "someone that says they would never, ever kiss a goat, so it's our own way of making sure that they do." In a town that could make you kiss a goat, it is best to zip your lip and keep a low profile. Bisch noted that a local police officer had raised over \$1,000 one year while another raised well over \$2,000, all in the hopes of landing a smooch on this smelly goat.

Each dollar served as one vote, so the contest could swing dramatically from one candidate to the other in the blink of an eye. This year, four contestants sat atop the leaderboard with only 10 minutes remaining. In these moments, Bisch attempts to get the leading entries toward the stage, but in a shocking twist, none of the leading four could be found. Ramblings of them being out on the lake, despite knowing full well about their standing, had a few locals miffed that this goat wouldn't be

kissed. However, someone took it upon themselves to lay down a decent chunk of change to have a colleague of theirs lock lips with this kid (baby goat).

A last-second payment of \$150 bucks would declare Carrie Porter as the winner of the contest...much to her initial chagrin. Luckily, Porter's partner would be a small and shy baby goat that seemed more fixated on returning to his pen than sharing a smooch. The goat's cuteness may have aided Porter a little bit, but she was still reluctant to lock lips...something she had to do a few times at the behest of the crowd.

This year's Kiss a Goat didn't quite measure up to the year before it, but \$500 dollars will serve the Paddlefish Days Committee well for next year. Bisch mentioned that potential changes could be made to the event to keep the "spirit going" so perhaps a new animal will be the recipient of a well-placed peck.

