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Benefit planned for cancer-stricken toddler

BY AL LOHMAN

al.lohman@apgecm.com

The Carver County Fair isn't for another six weeks, but this Sunday, June 26, the fairgrounds Entertainment Center will be hopping with activity from 4-8 p.m.

It's a cancer benefit for young Zoey Orth, age 2 1/2, who was recently diagnosed with an aggressive form of brain cancer.

Parents Mike and Heather Orth face thousands of dollars of expenses in experimental treatment for their daughter not covered by insurance and the benefit is a way to provide some support,



A benefit for 2-year-old cancer patient Zoey Orth is slated for Sunday at the Carver County Fairgrounds. (Submitted photos)

explains event organizer Jeff Mair. Maier is an orthopedic surgeon with Twin Cities Orthopedics and is connected

with Heather Orth through TCO where she is currently a physician recruiter.

Mair highlights that the evening will feature two bands, silent auction and games, food stands and food trucks, drinks, and activities for kids including a bounce house, face painting and balloon artist. Music starts at 4:30 p.m., opening with the Ben Mulwana Band with Minneapolis favorite GB Leighton headlining from 6-8.

Additionally, there are Zoey shirts for sale and other opportunities to make a donation.

"We have experienced a full spectrum of emotions during this journey," the Orths wrote in a flyer about the can-

cer benefit and said they are "deeply grateful to their community of family and friends."

"Unfortunately, cancer spreads but so does goodwill in the community," Maier said, and he's hoping the community rallies for this cause. There several ways to participate.

Tickets are \$10 and are available in advance at HomeTown Bank, Mackenthun's and Waconia Brewing Company, or at the fairgrounds on the day of event. Attend if you can, or if you just want to make a donation, stop by HomeTown Bank (cash or check, payable to Zoey Orth) or Venmo@ZoeyOrth. T-shirts also are available for sale at zoeyshirt@yahoo.com.

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Bank manager retires after nearly 5 decades

BY DEREK TELLIER
newstimes@apgecm.com

After 47 years, Citizens Alliance Bank branch manager Scott Cassidy is retiring.

“Banking is one of many businesses where quality customer service is key. In my 47 years, I have developed many friendships, helped many people get their first loan or first checking account, and later helped these same customers’ sons and daughters get their start,” says Cassidy. “There are times when difficult decisions have to be made and are not always the decision the customer wants to hear. I have always tried to do my best to meet the needs of the customer, yet follow bank policies, and have always tried to provide the best customer service I can.”

Cassidy got his start in 1975 with Bremer Bank of Watertown. He began as a teller and bookkeeper before expanding to the loan

department and working his way up to branch manager.

In 2005, Cassidy, along with Ken Grotho, got hired to open a new, Watertown-based branch of Security State Bank, which was based out of Howard Lake. Cassidy says the move offered him the opportunity to focus more on smaller, community-focused banking as opposed to the more corporate style of Bremer.

Security State Bank, six years later, would later become Citizens Alliance Bank, and Cassidy coming onboard proved to be a good fit for them as well. They wanted to expand their market, which they did. Cassidy, again, along with Grotho, was willing to wear the many hats necessary to make it happen. According to Cassidy, when the Watertown branch of Security/Citizens opened, he and Grotho chipped in on everything. They worked as tellers. They made loans:

consumer loans, business loans, mortgage loans, home equity loans, you name it. They opened open all types of deposit accounts: checking, savings, health savings, IRAs, and consumer and business certificates of deposits. They assisted customers with setting up online and mobile banking. They issued debit cards. And then, of course, they were basically the help line for all of these products, the trouble-shooters.

Over the years, Cassidy has seen the ups and downs of banking.

He says, “interest rates have gone from one extreme to another. In 1975, regular savings accounts were earning 5%. Today the same account earns .01%. In the mid 80s, certificate of deposits were earning up to 15% interest, which resulted in home mortgage interest rates as high as 18%. Today, a 5 year certificate of deposit earns 1% with home mortgage rates being 4 to 5%.”

The farm crisis of the 80s caused turmoil on all fronts. Cassidy says commodity prices, land values, and debt levels were all high. “Then the bottom dropped out, which put some farmers out of business and many banks in workout situations.”

Years later, “on Friday, November 23, 1990, the day after Thanksgiving, I experienced what no bank employee wants to experience,” says Cassidy. “The Bremer Bank in Watertown was robbed. The lone robber escaped but was quickly caught by authorities at the intersection of County Road 10 and Highway 7.”

Lots of people’s professions were affected by 911. Cassidy’s no different. The terrorist attacks led to the passing of The Patriot Act, which put new regulations on banks, changing the way banks open new account and loans.

Since then, lots of positive – well, positive for most people – changes have oc-

curred in banking technology. Cassidy said at the beginning of his career, no one – customers, bankers, or anyone – used computers for their finances. Now, you can’t get by without computerized assistance of some kind. Cassidy saw the advent of the ATM, which led to the debit cards people use in stores. As we know, these debit cards have basically replaced cash transactions. We have online and digital banking; customers can access their accounts and make transactions twenty-fours a day. This technology then resulted in PayPal and Venmo.

The pandemic further solidified these technological evolutions and ushered in the age of e-signing.

In banking, that span is basically the equivalent of cars going from a Model T to a Tesla.

Citizens Alliance Bank will miss him, but my, the stories those ledgers can tell. Happy retirement, Scott.



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READERS WRITE

Biden working to make life better for all of us

To the editor,

I'd like to speak to those of us who voted for President Biden in the hopes of restoring some decency and sanity back in America. Although most legislation is being blocked, he is making sincere efforts on the part of all of us. To achieve any meaningful legislation we need two parties of "good faith" working toward solutions. We now have one party hell bent on big lies and wacky conspiracy theories.

The GOP has voted against infrastructure, health care, gas gouging investigations, gun safe-

ty, a baby formula bill and they even voted against the insurrection investigation after clamoring for it in the days after. And there is more obstruction to come.

President Biden is not lying to us incessantly, not bribing countries, not sleeping with porn stars, not abusing power, not attacking our institutions, not pardoning criminals, not having secret meetings with Putin, not coddling dictators, and he's not purposely causing civil unrest in order to steal an election. The last time we heard so much propaganda from one party was in 1930s Germany, and that did not end well.

One thing I think everyone can agree on: President Biden would

never, ever act with such malign intent against our nation to benefit himself or his party. That act is left for narcissitic wannabe dictators.

**Bill LaRue
Cologne**

Senate GOP takes funds from public schools

To the editor,

Providing a great education for our children is something every parent strives for. I know; we raised four wonderful children who all went to the Eastern Carver County Schools.

Our public schools provide an

outstanding education for our children regardless of their needs and abilities. They do this despite the fact that the State of Minnesota has not adequately funded our public schools for decades! How do the schools do this? By making difficult decisions like cutting staff and requesting bond referendums. Surely, we want to avoid this!

As you may know, the State of Minnesota has a historic budget surplus in the range of \$9 billion. The legislature adjourned without agreeing how to fund our public schools. This is not acceptable! Support our local teachers! Your school system needs you.

Senate Republicans like Julia

Coleman do not support public school funding. Instead, she co-sponsored a bill that required public schools to foot the bill for private school student services (SF925). Julia Coleman says she wants parents to have a choice whether to send their children to a public school or private school. But, she is really advocating for taking funding from the public schools and giving it to a private school. I will be supporting Dr. Dan Kessler because I know he puts the interests of our public schools first and foremost!

**Nancy Haaheim
Chaska**

U.S. Supreme Court is showing its evolution

In the wake of the leaked draft opinion by Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito overturning *Roe v. Wade* and holding that there is no constitutional right to an abortion, there's been a tidal wave of commentary on the court's politicization. Much of it recently has come from the left or from abortion-rights advocates, arguing that the court has fallen prey to the same partisanship and polarization that have marked American politics in recent decades.

It's entirely possible that this alarm over the court's drift is simply a measure of the level of scrutiny its decisions have come in for. Certainly, over the course of my career I've seen rising public interest in what the court does and how it affects American social and political life as the justices have rendered controversial decisions that touch on the most intimate aspects of Americans' lives, from contraception and abortion to gay marriage, and on the workings of American politics in a divided age — I'm thinking particularly of the *Citizens United* decision and *Bush v. Gore*, though a series of redistricting decisions also come to mind.



LEE
HAMILTON

GUEST COLUMN

At the same time, this is hardly the first time that the court's politicization has become a hot topic. It came up repeatedly during the hearings on President Trump's nominations of Amy Coney Barrett and, before her, Brett Kavanaugh, with their supporters on the right deploring the extent to which critics on the left were doing their best to undercut support for the nominees. It came up during George W. Bush's administration, when the appointments of Alito and Chief Justice John Roberts created a bloc of four conservatives who voted consistently with one another, creating an obvious ideological divide on the court. In fact, it's come up repeatedly during our history — all the way back to 1801.

To be sure, it seems inarguable that the court is more polarized than it was a few decades ago. This is, in the end, largely a reflection of the polarization of the Senate. In the past, presidents often sought to nominate justices who could command the broad center of that institution: people like John Paul Stevens, who was a liberal Republican, or Lewis Powell, a conservative Democrat. But those days are over, at least for now. When President Obama sought to nominate Merrick Garland — a judge who enjoyed support on both sides of the aisle — Senate leader Mitch McConnell blocked the move in a bid to ensure a justice purely to Republicans' liking, a gamble that culminated in President Trump's success naming three reliably conservative justices.

I've never bought into the idea that the court is above and beyond politics. Justices can't help but have their political biases. I think that, at least in the past, they worked hard to put them aside, but doing so completely is an impossible task. They do not check their politics at the front door, although most justices do try to be impartial

and to decide a case as the law requires — at least, as they see it.

In this day, can the court regain some of the respect it's lost among Americans at large? A lot, I believe, will depend on the justices' behavior. They have to be good listeners. They have to be prepared to learn from one another and to possess enough humility to recognize that they don't have the answer to every question. They need to pay attention to experts in the field they're considering. Obviously, they should have a deep respect, if not reverence, for the law and for precedence. They should pay attention to what the Congress says in its legislation and its legislative history. And, I would suggest, they need to balance the framers' points of view with the experiences of the ordinary Americans whose lives will inevitably be affected by every decision they make.

Lee Hamilton is a senior adviser for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

NEWS & TIMES

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Signs pay homage to farmers as rural landscape disappears



Pictured are Carver County commissioners with an example of the signs dedicated to farming. (Submitted photos)

BY AL LOHMAN
al.lohman@apgecm.com

Farming has been an integral part of Carver County's culture from early on, but as the fastest growing county in the state farmland is being gobbled up to development across the local rural landscape.

Recently, road signs recognizing the significance and importance of farmers were installed along Highway 10 in Carver County. A dedication of those signs was held June 7 at Waconia High School.

The sign idea originated at the county board level as a way to honor farmers and

their families even predating Carver County's official founding in 1855, according to Commissioner Matthew Udermann. The board discussed some ideas and approved a plan take a 20-plus mile stretch of Highway 10 crossing four commissioner districts and an estimated 500-plus ag parcels and dedicate it to farmers – former, current and future generations.

The significance and importance of local farmers extends beyond county borders and the variety of farms and economic impact is extensive, commissioners noted. Plus, farmers' tireless work and dedication to the land has been an inspiring example to all.

"The original policemen, firemen, teachers and volunteers were all from farming roots. Farmers and their families were the original caretakers well before our official founding in 1855. We honor them, their legacy and leave their future generations a small token of gratitude in dedicating nearly 25 miles of county road for their impact in making Carver County the place we call home," Udermann said.

Public Works chose the

best locations and produced the signs for minimal cost, he noted. The signs are located at the following Highway 10 locations throughout the County:

- Highway 10, 1300 feet east of Ridge Lane – Chaska
- Highway 10, 700 feet east of Highway 11 – Chaska
- Highway 10, 1000 feet west of Highway 11 – Lake-town Township
- Highway 10, 1500 feet east of Little Avenue – Laketown Township
- Highway 10, 700 feet north of Highway 30 – Waconia Township
- Highway 10, 700 feet south of 30th Street – Wattertown Township

Some other fun facts about farms:

- Roughly 30 percent of Carver County land is tillable agriculture.
- Roughly 65percent of Carver County land is tied to ag property.
- Some 96 percent of ag is farmed as family farms.
- Carver County farms produce \$110 million worth of product each year.
- The first residents (ancient times, indigenous populations, Dakota and Sioux) all had farming roots too.

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Jensen threatens retaliation against medical board

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Republican gubernatorial candidate Scott Jensen has threatened to retaliate against the Minnesota board that oversees doctors, which is investigating him for the fifth time, vowing that “this juggernaut will be dealt with” if he’s elected.

Jensen is a COVID-19 vaccine skeptic who has called for civil disobedience over masks and promoted alternative treatments such as ivermectin. He has also said Minnesota’s Democratic secretary of state, Steve Simon, should be jailed over his running of the state’s election system. Jensen won the GOP endorsement last month to challenge incumbent Democratic Gov. Tim Walz, whom he has sharply criticized for his response to the pandemic.

Jensen, a family practice physician from Chaska and former state senator, criticized the board at a campaign event Monday and renewed his attack with a video he posted to Twitter Thursday night. Jensen said all five investigations were based on allegations from anonymous critics. Jensen said he has provided information to the board, but has heard nothing back in months.

“I should not have to practice medicine, or run for governor, with this cloud of, if you will, uncertainty hanging over my head,” Jensen said in his video. “And yet that’s what I’m doing. I’m living with that.”

Jensen noted in response to a question about the board at Monday’s event that if he’s elected, he’ll get to appoint members to the medical board. “And I said this juggernaut will be dealt with,” he added in his video, describing the board as a “massive, inexorable force” that’s been turned against him for political reasons.

“I will not stand for the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice being weaponized,” he said.

The governor-appointed board comprises 16 people — including physicians, members of the public and an osteopath

— who can serve up to two consecutive four-year terms. All were first appointed by Democratic governors and nine seats are due for appointment or reappointment in the next gubernatorial term. Members generally can be removed only for cause or missing meetings.

“The Minnesota Board of Medical Practice investigates complaints as required by and in accordance with state laws and rules,” its executive director, Ruth Martinez, said in an email. “The Board does not have a response to Dr. Jensen’s comments.”

The board does not comment on any complaint unless it decides corrective action is necessary. According to Jensen, it dismissed the first four complaints against him without action.

But the Minnesota Medical Association, which represents more than 12,000 physicians, residents and medical students, defended the Board of Medical Practice.

“Its duty is to protect the public and is required by law to investigate any complaint it receive, while ensuring due process for physicians,” the group’s president, Dr. Randy Rice, said in a statement. “The MMA opposes any efforts to politicize the work or the membership of the Board.”

Democrats also blasted Jensen’s comments.

“These despicable remarks are disqualifying,” Ken Martin, the state Democratic Party chairman, said in a statement. “Anyone who repeatedly promises to use the governor’s office to jail or fire their personal enemies is unfit for public service. The doctors who serve on the board investigating Scott Jensen are not anti-vaccine conspiracy theorists, which is what makes them different from him. Scott Jensen’s extremism and disturbing enthusiasm for political retaliation don’t belong anywhere near the governor’s office.”

At least a dozen regulatory boards across the country have sanctioned or

investigated doctors for promoting unproven treatments such as ivermectin or spreading COVID-19 falsehoods. Ivermectin is commonly used to treat humans and animals for parasites, but the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has not approved it to treat or prevent COVID-19.

Jensen confirmed to the St. Paul Pioneer Press recently that he still has not been vaccinated against the coronavirus even though he continues to see patients. He has long maintained that he doesn’t need to get vaccinated because he gained natural immunity when he caught COVID-19 in 2020, a common view in the GOP that conflicts with the prevailing medical wisdom.

Joel Wu, a medical ethicist at the University of Minnesota, said he was troubled by Jensen’s comment that the board is preventing doctors from providing the care their patients want. Wu said patients need to be able to rely on doctors to provide safe and effective care and that the board has a duty to protect the credibility of “the entire medical enterprise” by maintaining professional standards.

“The right for doctors to do what patients want isn’t unconstrained and isn’t unlimited,” Wu said. “Doctors don’t have the right to provide treatments that are illegal, to provide treatments that are unsubstantiated, harmful or ineffective.”

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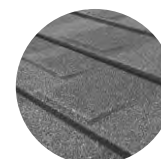
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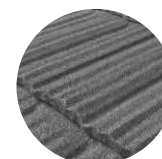


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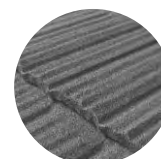
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Obituaries

Michael R. Brazil

Michael R. Brazil, age 81, of Norwood Young America, MN, passed away Saturday, June 11, 2022, at Ridgeview Medical Center in Waconia, MN. Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday, June 17, 2022, 11 a.m. at Church of the Ascension in Norwood Young America with interment following at the St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in Norwood Young America. Visitation will be held Friday, June 17, 2022, from 9 - 11 a.m. at Church of the Ascension in Norwood Young America. Clergy Officiating: Father Abraham George; Organist: Marilee Widmer; Soloist: Mike Wendolek "The Lord's Prayer," "How Great Thou Art," "Ave Maria"; Congregational Hymns: "Amazing Grace," "On Eagle's Wings"; Casket Bearers: Marty Brazil, Steve Brau, Joe Kreger, Lenny Lehrke, Eugene Dvorak, Matt Rolf; Honorary Casket Bearer: Larry Brazil.



Michael "Mike" Richard Brazil was born on September 7, 1940, in Blakeley Township, Scott County, Minnesota. He was the son of John Irving and Marie (Bigaouette) Brazil. Mike was baptized as an infant and later confirmed in his faith as a youth. Mike received his education in Arlington-Green Isle and graduated with the Class of 1958.

On September 24, 1963, Mike was united in marriage to Judith "Judy" Feltmann in Minneapolis, MN. The couple was married for 40 years until Judy's passing on April 1, 2004. They made their home in Norwood Young America, MN. Their marriage was blessed with 2 children, Jim and Roberta.

Mike was employed at Continental Machines for over 30 years in Savage, MN. Mike enjoyed traveling with Judy and their friends, dancing, watching his grandchildren play ball, going to the lake, visiting the casinos with Char, and driving around town with his fur friend, Mitzie.

Mike is survived by his: Son, Jim Brazil and his wife, Lori of Norwood Young America, MN; Daughter, Roberta Schmidt and her husband, John of Waconia, MN; Grandchildren, Kyle Brazil and friend, Rian, Kaylie Brazil and friend, Andrew; Special Friend, Char Herrmann of Maple Grove, MN; Siblings, Mary Jo Hochsprung from Eagan, MN, Patsy Miller and her husband, John of Belle Plaine, MN, Judy Rolf of NYA, MN, Nancy McCormick of Green Isle, MN, Jean Kreger and her husband, Joe of Green Isle, MN, Sally Thompson and her husband, Larry of Nicollet, MN, Larry Brazil and his wife, Deb of Belle Plaine, MN, Susan Brau and her husband, Steve of Mason City, IA, Marty Brazil and his wife, Marilyn of Litchfield, MN; Sisters-in-law, Susie Wendolek and her husband, Mike of Silver Lake, MN, Rita Kiffmeyer and friend, Steve of Becker, MN, Nettie Lehrke and her husband, Lenny of NYA, MN, Kim Dvorak and her husband, Eugene of NYA, MN; Many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Mike is preceded in death by his Wife, Judy Brazil; Parents, John Irving and Marie Brazil; Parents-in-law, Alfred and Sarah Feltmann; Sister, Lynn Sauter; Brothers-in-law, Darv Rolf, Dick McCormick, Don Sauter, Curty Feltmann; Sister-in-law, Jolene Horton.

Arrangements by the Paul-McBride Funeral Chapel of Norwood Young America. Online Obituaries and Guest Book available at www.mcbridechapel.com. Please click on Obituaries/Guest Book.

Worship Directory

CHURCH SERVICES

Norwood Young America

All Saints Lutheran (ELCA)
511 N. Merger St.
Pastor Matt Schroeder 952-467-3388
Services: Sundays, 8 am, 9 am and 10:15 am
during school year; 8 am and 9:30 am
3rd Sunday in May through Labor Day.

Church of Peace
424 N. Franklin St.
Church office 952-467-3946
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Pastor Dale Inman

Church in the Maples UMC
meeting at the Church of Peace's Chapel
8:00 am Worship
Contact Genia Young
Phone: 612-248-9891
Live Streaming on Facebook

St. John's Lutheran Church
101 2nd AVE SE
Josh Bernau, Administrative Pastor
Josh Hoffman, Vicar
Sunday mornings- 8:30am Traditional Worship
9:45am- Education Hour
10:30am- Contemporary Worship
Wednesday Services- 7:00pm

Church of the Ascension
323 Reform St. N.
Fr. Abraham Kochuparackal 952-467-3351
Masses: Tues 6:15 pm & Fri 8 am
Saturdays 2nd, 4th, 5th at 5 pm, Sundays 8 am
Sacrament of Reconciliation
30 mins prior to Sat, Tues Mass or by appt.

Living Rock Church, C&MA,
Sunday Worship @ 9:30 am
Meeting at Central Elementary School
Rev. Roger Eng 952-467-2498
livingrockchurch.com

Friedens UCC (The County Line Church)
Corner of Carver County 34 &
McLeod County 3 and Zebra Ave.
Church 320-238-2200
Rev. Al Fiene
320-238-2483 Services: Sundays 10 a.m.



Belle Plaine
St. John's Assumption Catholic
26523 200 Street
Monsignor Eugene Lozinski.
Masses: Wed 8:30 am
Sundays 8:00 am
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Varies

Saturdays: 1st & 3rd at 5 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation
30 mins prior to Sat, Wed Mass or by appt.

Services: Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Sunday & Bible Study School 8:30 am,
Choir Practice after Worship
Wednesday Catechism Class 6:30-8 pm

Pastor Brian Brosz
Sunday Worship (Sept.-May)
Sunday School & Bible Study 8:45 am
Worship 10:00 am

Bongards
St. John's United Church of Christ
12984 County Road 51, Norwood
Corner of Hwy. 212 and Co. Rd. 51.
www.stjohnsuccny.org
Pastor Rev. Scott Siefert 952-466-2080
Sunday Worship Service at 9:15 am
Communion 1st Sunday of month.

Rev Eric Zacharias
Services Sept-May 9:30
June-Aug 9:00
Kids Corner during church
Communion 2nd, 4th Sundays

New Germany
St. John's Lutheran of Hollywood
17725 53rd St.
Pastor Dean Mahlum
Sunday service, 9:30 am
Sunday School/Bible classes, 10:30 am

St. John's Lutheran
216 McLeod Ave. N. www.christ-4-u.org
Pastor Tyson Mastin 320-238-2550
Services: Sunday service 9 am,
Communion every 1st and 4th Sunday
Sunday School 10 am
Sunday Adult Bible Class 10:10 am
Wednesday: Confirmation 6 pm;
Thursdays: Bible Study 8:30 am

Cologne
St. Bernard's Catholic
212 Church St. E.
Fr. Abraham Kochuparackal 952-466-2031
Masses: Sunday 10 am.
Wed. and Thur. at 8 am

Hamburg
Emanuel Lutheran
18175 Co. Rd. 50
Rev. Ronald Mathison, Vacancy Pastor
Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. &
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
Every day, taped worship services are
broadcast on Cable 107.2 at 8:30 and 2:30
St. Paul's Ev. Reformed
Stpaulsrcus.org
Pastor Dan Schnabel 952-467-3878

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
500 E. Broadway
952-353-2464 or
952-353-2151 after hours
Pastor LeRoy LaPlant
Saturday Worship 5 pm with Communion
Sunday Worship 9 am with Communion
Bible Class 10 am

Lighthouse Assembly of God
10478 Bell Ave.
Pastor Dale Baker, Pastor
pastordale@firstlove.one
<http://lighthousechurch.one>
Sunday: Worship at 10 am
Tuesday: Small Group Study at 6:30 pm
Worship & Prayer: 6:30 pm, 1st Sunday
of the month

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St. Paul's UCC
308 1st St. N.E.
stjplato@embarqmail.com
www.platochurch.com

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Commissioners talk bonds, public works

BY AL LOHMAN

al.lohman@apgecm.com

Carver County commissioners talked bonds, property sales, human services and elections at their meeting June 14.

As approved last month, commissioners executed a \$2.5 bond sale to reimburse the county for an earlier cash investment it made on the Steiner Ketling mental health facility located in Chaska.

The \$2.5 million was the county's share in tandem with the state of Minnesota's \$1.25 million to expand and renovate what had been a hospice home there into a 12-bed mental health facility. With a

lease agreement in place with non-profit People Inc. to operate the facility, that payment of some \$166,800 annually will be used to pay off the bond over several years while the \$2.5 million can be put to other uses now such as helping fund the proposed Lake Waconia Regional Park waterfront services building.

Commissioners also authorized making a purchase offer for a parcel of property off Highway 5 between Highway 41 and Minnewashta Parkway deemed necessary for the proposed Arboretum Highway 5 transportation improvement plan.

Meanwhile, the county board approved settlement agreements for prop-

erty rights of way acquisitions for two county road projects – the Highway 25/ County Road 20 intersection project (\$91,000) and the Highway 24 project (\$12,500).

With regard to human services, commissioners approved a \$150,000 contract with non-profit His House Foundation to complement Public Health resources to provide or improve access to food security programs, mental health services, health promotion activities, educational and career preparation opportunities, and

pandemic mitigation and recovery services, among others.

The contract was approved with provisions that outcome metrics with measurable goals and objectives be established and reviewed for services provided.

During visitor presentations, commissioners heard from seven individuals who expressed concerns about election integrity as the 2022 election season approaches. Election integrity is the topic of a county board work session scheduled for July 19.



GOLF OUTING RAISES \$25K

In golf, low is a good score. In fundraising, higher is better. Earlier this month, Mackenthun's Fine Foods donated \$25,200 to Gather and Grow Waconia United Food Shelf from its 14th annual golf charity event held last month at Island View. That figure has grown annually. Since its inception in 2009, the golf event has raised \$171,500 for the Waconia United Food Shelf, according to Angie Cruzen, executive director. There were 40 teams at this year's golf event. There were also 36 hole sponsors and another \$10,000-plus was generated through a silent auction and raffle. (Submitted photo)

Norwood Young America Talk

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Pictured are some of the photos in Michael Deering's collection. (Submitted photos)

A LIFE IN PICTURES

Mayer man compiles a 'documentation of life and the human existence'

BY AL LOHMAN
al.lohman@apgecm.com

Michael Deering of rural Mayer speaks earnestly about taking an inventory of one's life.

"If you want to know where you're going, look back," he says. "Slow it down and take an inventory of what life shows you every single day."

Deering has been doing that for more than 25 years. His personal inventory consists of more than 9,000 print photographs he has taken every day since his 30th birthday – his "picture of the day."

His photos document everything from the mundane to the milestones – his son's birth, his father's funeral, even his own open-heart surgery, although that was one of only three pictures of the day over the years that he didn't shoot himself. Deering's surgeon took the photo of his heart outside his chest cavity.

Deering calls his photo collection a "documentation of life, death, highs, lows, joys, woes and the human existence."

He takes all his photos with a point and shoot film camera – a technology that approached obsolescence with digital devices, but oddly now is making a comeback, pushing up the price that Deering pays per roll of film.

Anyone can snap off a string of digital photos, Deering explains. His film print picture of the day is about creating rather than just snapping.

"Something has to speak to me," he said.

Sometimes he waits for the shot, other times it just appears. Like one morning a few years ago.

Deering seldom takes Highway 5 to his public relations agency office in downtown Minneapolis, but he did that morning. Passing Paisley Park in

Chanhassen, Deering spotted flashing lights and emergency vehicles. It turned out to be the day that Prince died and Deering captured a photo of the first bunch of flowers placed on a fence outside the famous artist's recording studio.

As he looks back, Deering notes that early photos revolved around him. He estimates that he is in 70 percent of those. In fact, you might say that his are some of the first selfies.

"I can make a tripod out of most anything," Deering says.

Now, he looks more outwardly – to his family now that he has children, but also beyond.

He happened to be in Jordan, Minn., on a day that 12 senior citizens were having coffee and made them his picture of the day. Another day he passed a farmer near Watertown tilling his field. Deering stopped, waited and captured a photo of

farmer and tractor on the green horizon.

"Some people never know they were a part of my life," he said.

Although he is a PR guy, Deering says he is not one to pitch his own story.

His picture project started out unassuming, but over the years a growing number of friends and acquaintances became aware of, or in his picture of the day. Eventually, it became the subject of a five-minute short documentary and the Minneapolis Star & Tribune carried a feature in its "Inspired" section last fall. And just over a week ago NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt aired the story.

"The producer of NBC Nightly came across the Strib piece and reached out way back in January, but they were on the verge of covering the Olympics, then Ukraine, etc. so it kept getting delayed," Deering said.

The NBC film crew finally descended on his farm south of Mayer in May.

"A 10-hour shoot for a two-minute segment," Deering marvels.

The TV segment shared a sampling of Deering's photos and a look inside the fireproof safe where he keeps them – all 9,600 photos marked with the date each was shot. One might call it the ultimate scrapbook.

"Besides my family this is probably the most important thing in my life," Deering said.

There are times he has come close to missing his picture of the day, and there are lots of nuances to keeping his project going, such as having film, camera and replacement battery, not to mention the challenge of sourcing film and developing prints.

Asked what's his favorite picture of the day, Deering replies, "It's the one I haven't taken yet."

Judge: Buffalo clinic attack ‘simply unthinkable’

BUFFALO, Minn. (AP) — A judge handed down a mandatory life sentence Friday to a man who stormed a medical clinic in Minnesota, fatally shot one person and wounded four others, saying the act was unfathomable.

Gregory Ulrich opened fire Feb. 9, 2021, at the Allina Crossroads Clinic in Buffalo, a city

of about 16,400 people, 40 miles (65 kilometers) northwest of Minneapolis. A jury earlier this month found Ulrich guilty of the 11 charges against him, including premeditated first-degree murder for killing Lindsay Overbay, a 37-year-old medical assistant.

Four other clinic staffers survived but

suffered serious injuries.

Wright County District Judge Catherine McPherson said during sentencing that the attack was “simply unthinkable.” McPherson said though “words are woefully inadequate,” that the court acknowledged the “strength and courage of those who testified” against Ulrich.

At trial, Ulrich, 68, admitted that he bought the gun, assembled pipe bombs and carried out the attack. However, he maintained that he was driven by excruciating pain that he said the medical team at Allina failed to properly manage and that he never intended to kill anyone.

Prosecutors argued that Ulrich knew what

he was doing that day. They played a pair of cellphone videos that Ulrich recorded of himself a couple of months before the attack. In the videos he said older people should grab their guns and go to their clinics to kill as many nurses as possible if cut off from pain medication.

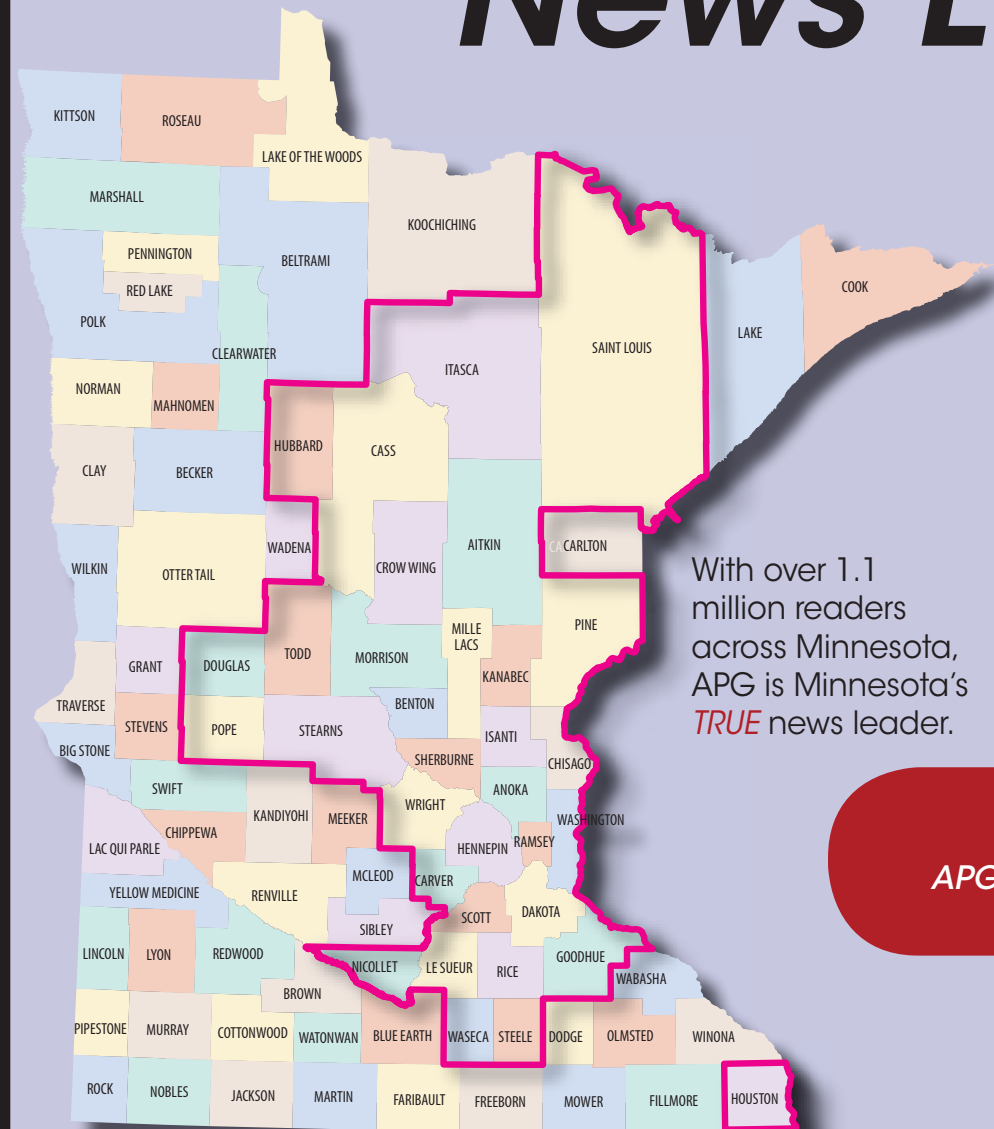
One witness testified that she heard the gun-

man call 911 and tell the dispatcher to “send a lot of ambulances. There are a lot of spinal injuries and I have bombs that are about to go off.”

Law enforcement said after the attack that Ulrich was known to them and had been angry over his medical treatment.

The sentence does not allow for the possibility of parole.

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Sources: US Census and APG Circulation Audits

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The Euclid Chemical Company is looking for a tanker truck driver to primarily operate from our Brett Admixtures facility in Albertville, MN. Will be delivering chemical additives to concrete producing batch plants throughout the Upper-Midwest (possibly beyond) and Manitoba. Must meet Canadian customs standards. CDL plus tanker endorsement. Non-hazardous. Assigned tractor and trailer. Home most weekends and some week nights.

Benefits Include: Medical, Dental and Vision coverage, Life Insurance, Employee Bonus, 401(k) with Company Match, Defined Benefit Pension Plan, Generous Vacation and Holiday Time



Contact: Jim Gubbin at
763-497-7351 or 800-989-0665
jgubbin@euclidchemical.com

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- RN; OB and Med/Surg - Full Time Nights
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Please refer to district website:
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The Stillwater Gazette, Stillwater, Minnesota, is seeking a managing editor to provide and oversee outstanding local coverage of the historic Stillwater area, located along the beautiful St. Croix River. The ideal candidate will have a college degree in journalism, experience in newspaper reporting and the ability to manage multiple tasks. Skills required include reporting, photography, InDesign layout, website and social media management, as well as the ability to write concise, compelling local stories. This is an exciting opportunity for somebody who wants to be part of a beautiful community at one of the oldest newspapers in Minnesota with a long history of award-winning community journalism.

Interested candidates should contact Keith Anderson, director of news, APG of East Central Minnesota at: keith.anderson@apgecm.com. Please submit a cover letter and samples.


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- Carry out accurately and precisely detailed instructions from job orders.
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- Follow process control and quality control procedures.
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- Previous press experience with a background in cold set web production and a strong understanding of the offset printing process and web press operations.
- Requires thorough knowledge of offset printing procedures, materials and specifications, equipment, and safety requirements and skills to perform assignments.
- Skill to read and understand job specifications and knowledge of press capabilities to determine the most appropriate press usage, press settings and materials needed to run the job successfully.
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APG

EAST CENTRAL MINNESOTA

Please submit resumes to Dave Watters at dave.watters@apgecm.com, or apply in person at ECM Publishers, 1201 14th Avenue South, Princeton, MN 55371.

HOW MUCH DO YOU LOVE YOUR COMMUNITY...ENOUGH TO WRITE ABOUT IT EVERY WEEK?



The Laker Pioneer is looking for somebody who knows the west Lake Minnetonka area and would enjoy covering it as a community editor. This job offers something new every week, but is especially rewarding since it allows you to share stories that leave a lasting impression and ultimately improve communication in your community. If you have strong writing skills, can be objective in your reporting, look forward to meeting new people and researching issues, enjoy photography and would like to be part of a team that produces a paper every week and posts daily updates, this may be your perfect job. Experience is a plus, but we can also train. This is a full-time position, but we would consider applicants looking for part-time options as well.

To apply send resume to editor Jason Schmucker at: jason.schmucker@apgecm.com. Past writing samples also welcomed.

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Full-time with benefits, including 401(k) and paid time off

Submit resume and clips (writing and photography) to Keith Anderson, director of news, keith.anderson@apgecm.com

Isle Minnesota

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Sun Newspapers is looking for a **community editor** to join our team in the west metro of the Twin Cities. This full-time position is based in our Osseo office and includes coverage of local government beats, business, breaking news, in-depth feature stories, photography and layout.

We are looking for someone passionate about community journalism who can share compelling stories that happen every day. Make a difference in the community where you work. Successful candidates must be flexible, attentive to detail, able to communicate concisely and capable in photography. New college graduates encouraged to apply.

To apply, please send your resume, cover letter and 3-4 examples of your work to Mandy Froemming at mandy.froemming@apgecm.com.

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- Knowledge of InDesign, Photoshop, Microsoft Office, AP Style and online content management systems would be helpful.
- Education or experience in journalism or a related field is preferred.
- A valid driver's license, reliable vehicle and driving record insurable by the company.

HOW MUCH DO YOU LOVE YOUR COMMUNITY...ENOUGH TO WRITE ABOUT IT EVERY WEEK?



The Laker Pioneer is looking for somebody who knows the west Lake Minnetonka area and would enjoy covering it as a community editor. This job offers something new every week, but is especially rewarding since it allows you to share stories that leave a lasting impression and ultimately improve communication in your community. If you have strong writing skills, can be objective in your reporting, look forward to meeting new people and researching issues, enjoy photography and would like to be part of a team that produces a paper every week and posts daily updates, this may be your perfect job. Experience is a plus, but we can also train. This is a full-time position, but we would consider applicants looking for part-time options as well.

To apply send resume to editor **Jason Schmucker** at: jason.schmucker@apgecm.com. Past writing samples also welcomed.

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DELANO – NEW LISTING



Fantastic 4 BR, 2 BA home feats open floor plan, kitch w/ SS appliances & center island, vaulted ceiling, 3 BR on one level, master suite w/ walk-in closet & full private BA. LL ready to be finished for instant equity. Low maintenance deck overlooks beautifully landscaped fenced yard & firepit. Inground sprinkler system & more!

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612-759-5054



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

JUNE 23 – The city of Waconia’s summer park concert series continues Thursday, June 23, at City Square Park with Echoes of Elvis. The evening features Nashville musician Paul Christian, who has rubbed elbows with musical artists Tanya Tucker, Maren Morris and Miranda Lamber, and been compared in performance to Chris Isaak and Roy Orbison. The city’s music in the park series July 14 with Just Dave & The Rocking All Stars. Concerts are at 7 p.m.

JENN BOSTIC ALBUM RELEASE CONCERT

JUNE 25 – Waconia-raised singer-songwriter Jenn Bostic returns to her hometown Saturday, June 25, 7 p.m., for an album

release concert at Faith Lutheran Church, 800 Waconia Parkway North. The full band performance will include stories behind the songs and will serve as a celebration in releasing it to the world. Tickets are available online at jennbostic.com.

WRITING WITH PICTURES CAMP

JUNE 29 - What could be older than the alphabet? Pictures! Come discover languages that used pictures to write! We’ll explore the Native American winter count and Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs while making fun crafts – no art skills needed! This camp offered by the Carver County Historical Society will be held at the Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead on June 29, noon to 4 p.m. For grades 3-6. Space

is limited to 10 kids. Price: \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members. To register, go to: carver-county-historical-society.coursestorm.com. For questions contact Jayna Hulleman, CCHS education and exhibits coordinator, 952- 442-4234 or email jhulleman@co.carver.mn.us.

MINNEWASHTA MUD RUN

JULY 9 – Register now for the Minnewashta Mud Run, sponsored by Carver County Parks and Minnetonka Schools, and take advantage of the early registration discount which ends on June 30. Event is July 9 at Minnewashta Regional Park in Chanhasen. Family friendly 1.7-mile loop that can be completed twice. Mini mud run begins at 8:30 a.m., full run at 9:15. The course has fun,

safe and family-friendly obstacles including the limbo, crazy maze, hay bale climbing, giant waterslide, sandcastle building. Register at: <https://www.minnetonkaschools.org/district/mcec/events/minnewashta-mud-run>

TAKE A KID FISHING

JULY 16 – The Waconia Lions 26th Annual Take-A-Kid-Fishing event is Saturday, July 16, at Mase’s In Towne Marina, 8 East Lake Street on Lake Waconia. For boys and girls ages 7-15. Morning includes breakfast starting at 7:30 a.m., fishing at 8 a.m., followed by cleaning at 10:30, and lunch and prizes at 11. Kids picked up at 11:30. Transportation must be provided by the participant’s family/friends.For more information call 952-442-1040, or email: jeff@jeffschulzteam.com.

Legals

CITY OF WATERTOWN
COUNTY OF CARVER
STATE OF MINNESOTA

ORDINANCE NO. 431

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
CHAPTER 58, ARTICLE III -
WATER OF THE MUNICIPAL
CODE OF WATERTOWN
BY AMENDING TO
ADDRESS OUTDOOR
WATER CONSERVATION

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF WATERTOWN DOES
ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.
That the Municipal Code of Watertown, Minnesota, Chapter 58, Article III. - Water is hereby amended as set forth below by adding the underlined language and deleting the ~~striketrough~~ language as follows:

Sec. 58-159. - Outdoor water conservation.

(a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to promote outdoor water consumption conservation measures, to conserve water resources, and to assist the City of Watertown in effective utilization of its annual water appropriation permit limits established by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

A reduction in the level of outdoor water consumption demand during peak demand periods will

assist in maintaining sufficient amounts of water storage for fire fightingfirefighting, and reduce the urgency for the construction of additional storage facilities, wells and water filter facilities.

(b) Conservation measures; time of day conservation. To conserve water resources and prevent the wasteful and harmful effects of irrigation and sprinkling during mid-day hours, no person shall irrigate or sprinkle using the public water supply or a private well water source between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on any day of any week. This conservation measure applies to established lawns, vegetation, shrubs, trees and gardens.

This conservation measure applies to new sod and seed as well as established lawns, vegetation, shrubs, trees, and gardens unless written permission for such use is obtained from the City Administrator or his/her designee.

(c) ~~Implementation of emergency conservation measures; odd/even conservation and temporary ban:~~

(c) (4) Odd/Even Conservation: To reduce demand, no personal shall irrigate using public water supply or a private well water source except on an odd/even basis as specified by the City Council. If a property address is an even number, irrigation can take place on the even numbered day of the week. If the property address is

~~an odd number, irrigation can take place on the odd numbered day of the week. If the city administrator in consultation with the public utilities director determined that a shortage of water exists, or in response to orders of the State of Minnesota consistent with Minn. Stats. § 103G.291, the city administrator is authorized to declare a water shortage emergency. In such situations, in addition to the time of day conservation, the city administrator may impose an odd/even conservation measure or a complete temporary ban on all irrigating, watering, sprinkling, vehicle washing or other non-essential uses as determined by the city administrator in consultation with the public utilities director.~~

~~(2) Notice of such emergency measures may be given by publication or posting or such other manner as determined appropriate for the situation. Such emergency measures shall continue until notice of discontinuance is given by the city.~~

~~(3) If an odd/even conservation measure is imposed to reduce water demand, no person shall irrigate or sprinkle using the public water supply or a private well water source except on an odd/even property address basis. If the property address is an even number, irrigation or sprinkling may take place on the even numbered day of the week. If the property address is an odd number, irrigation or sprinkling may take place on the odd numbered day of the week.~~

~~(d) Emergency Reduction Measures: The City Administrator is authorized to implement Emergency Reduction Measures at such a time as the water supply demand exceeds supply capabilities or reserve capacities are insufficient to protect the community. Emergency Reduction Measures may include, but not limited to, reduction in the time of day conservation measures up to and including a complete ban of outdoor water use. Notice of such Emergency Reduction Measures may be by posting, mail, hand delivered door hangers, or by social media.~~

(e)(d) Exceptions. Except for emergency conservation measures as may be determined pursuant to subsection (c), exceptions to time of day conservation are allowed as follows:

(1) Hoses that are hand held by a person.

(2) Employees and agents of the city, in such instances herein lawn, grass or turf used for play fields or areas owned and operated by the city need more frequent watering to prevent unreasonable damage thereto.

(3) Upon written request and approval by the city administrator, or his/her designee, and subject to such terms and conditions imposed by the city administrator, or his/her designee, with respect to such approval, any person owning or operating a commercial or business enterprise whose economic well-being is dependent upon sprinkling, irrigation or watering of lawn, grass, or turf owned, leased or operated by it, may be authorized to sprinkle, irrigate or otherwise utilize water from the city’s municipal water system.

(4) ~~Water toys or sprinklers that are used for children at play, provided children are present and actively playing. New sod and seed are exempt for a period of 30 days only from date of installation. An exemption for this purpose must be first obtained by calling the city utility department at 952-955-2856.~~

(e) Violations, fines and penalties. A violation of this section shall subject the property owner to the following fines and penalties:

(1) First offense. Citation and letter of warning indicating the violation and describing the remedy and fines for future violations.

(2) Second offense. Citation and fine of \$75.00 added to the property’s utility bill.

(3) Third and subsequent offenses. Citation and fine of \$250.00 each occurrence, added to the property’s utility bill.

(e) Appeals. Any person desiring to contest an administrative citation must appeal the citation in writing to the city administrator within five days of its issuance. The city council shall hear the appeal at the next regular scheduled city council meeting. The decision of the city council is final. Appeals must be mailed or personally delivered to City Administrator, 309 Lewis Avenue South, P.O. Box 273, Watertown, MN 55388.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.
This ordinance shall take effect upon the day of publication.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Watertown this 12th day of April 2022.

/s/ Steve Washburn, Mayor
ATTEST:
/s/ Jake Foster City Administrator

Published in the
News and Times
June 23, 2022
1237739

**CITY OF NORWOOD
YOUNG AMERICA
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
309 & 312 1ST STREET NE**

Notice is hereby given that the Norwood Young America Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at 6:00 PM or soon thereafter, in the Council Chambers at Oak Grove City Center, 310 Elm St. W.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider a Zoning Map Amendment and Comprehensive Plan Amendment for the properties at 309 1st Street NE and 312 1st Street NE. The properties are proposed to be rezoned from R-3 Medium Density Mixed Residential to C-3 Downtown District. The rezoning request requires a Comprehensive Plan Amendment from Low Density Residential to Downtown Mixed Use for both properties.

Pertinent information is available for review at City Hall between the hours of 8-4:30, Monday through Friday. If you have any questions regarding this matter or wish to make comment prior to the hearing, please contact the City Office at 467-1800 or in writing to: City of Norwood Young America, 310 Elm St. W.f PO Box 59, NYA, MN 55368, by no later than noon on Tuesday, July 5th.

BY: Norwood Young America
Planning Commission

ATTEST: Angela Brumbaugh,
City of Norwood Young America

Published in the
News and Times
June 23, 2022
1237968

**CITY OF COLOGNE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING VARIANCE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Cologne will hold a public hearing on Tuesday July 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter at City Hall, 1211 Village Parkway, Cologne, Minnesota.

The purpose for the public hearing is to consider a variance application to allow a wall sign to be installed that is larger than dimensions allowed in Cologne City Ordinances Chapter 153.077.

The property is located at 700 Lake Street West. The application is available for review at City Hall.

Interested parties are invited to attend the Public Hearing and comment, or written comments(s) can be submitted to the City Clerk’s Office, 1211 Village Parkway, PO Box 120, Cologne, MN, 55322.

By Order of the City Administrator
Jesse Dickson
City Administrator

Published in the
News and Times
June 23, 2022
1238052

**CITY OF COLOGNE
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
AMENDMENT TO
ZONING ORDINANCE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Cologne will hold a public hearing on Tuesday July 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter at City Hall, 1211 Village Parkway, Cologne, Minnesota.

The purpose of the public hearing is to consider a text amendment to Cologne City Ordinances Chapter 151 regulating swimming pools. Copies of the proposed text change can be obtained at City Hall.

Interested parties are invited to attend the Public Hearing and comment, or written comments(s) can be submitted to the City Clerk’s Office, 1211 Village Parkway, PO Box 120, Cologne, MN, 55322.

By Order of the City Administrator
Jesse Dickson
City Administrator

Published in the
News and Times
June 23, 2022
1238053

CITY OF WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA PUBLIC NOTICE ANNUAL DISCLOSURE OF TAX INCREMENT DISTRICTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 (MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 469.175(5))			
	TIF 5	TIF 2-6	TIF 2-7
Current Net Tax Capacity	\$1,704	\$16,372	\$1,570
Original Net Tax Capacity	\$3,497	\$2,716	\$1,427
Captured Net Tax Capacity	\$0	\$13,656	\$143
Principal and Interest Payment due in 2022	\$93,085	\$10,129	\$0
Tax Increment Received in 2021	\$0	\$11,256	\$190
Tax Increment Expended in 2021	\$93,309	\$10,129	\$171
Month / Year First Tax Incr. Receipt	July 2015	July 2020	July 2021
Date of Required Decertification	12/31/40	12/31/45	12/31/29
Additional information regarding each district may be obtained from: Jake Foster, City Administrator City of Watertown PO Box 279 Watertown, MN 55388 952-955-2690 Published in the News and Times June 23, 2022 1237744			

Special session unlikely on budget surplus

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — It appears chances are dead for a special legislative session that could have brought billions of dollars in tax cuts and new spending in Minnesota.

Democratic Gov. Tim Walz told reporters late Thursday that talks with Republican leaders had “reached an impasse,” leaving about \$7.2 billion of an original \$9.25 billion surplus unspent.

About a week before the end of the regular session last month, Walz and top legislators announced an agreement on a plan to use \$4 billion of the surplus over the next few years to cut taxes, \$4 billion to increase spending in a number of areas and to save another \$4 billion in case of an economic slowdown.

Democratic House Speaker Melissa Hortman told reporters that Republican Senate Majority Leader Jeremy Miller told her the budget surplus deal was no longer in force now that the regular session was over.

“If Minnesotans think we need to have a special session to finish this work, if Minnesotans think we need to invest in schools and nursing homes and roads and bridges and pass these tax cuts, they need to let Senate Republicans know,” Hortman said.

Miller blamed Democrats for the impasse, saying they wanted too much in spending and that the two sides were millions of

dollars apart on key budget and policy areas.

“Simply put, Governor Walz and the House Democrats have different spending priorities than Minnesotans,” Miller said in a statement. “After four months of session and four more weeks of discussions, the differences could not be resolved.”

Now that billions of dollars will remain unspent and taxes won’t be cut, next year’s Legislature and whoever wins the governor’s race will decide how to use the money. Control of both chambers is up for grabs.

Walz said he was open to restarting the conversation about a special session, but was not optimistic.



Clouds float over the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul, Minnesota, on Monday, May 23, 2022, hours after the divided Minnesota Legislature blew a deadline for passing a package of tax cuts and new spending using the state’s massive budget surplus, leaving the next steps uncertain for lawmakers and Democratic Gov. Tim Walz. (AP Photo)

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FROM LEFT: Craig Pexa is pictured chalking the field prior to a game. Pexa is pictured in The Shack. Pexa was honored by the Cologne Hollanders baseball program during the annual Fill the Hill event. (Submitted photos)



Pexa honored at Hollanders' 'Fill the Hill'

BY DEREK TELLIER
newstimes@apgecm.com

On June 10, Craig Pexa won the Cologne Hollanders' highest honor. He was named the team's Fill The Hill Honoree for his work in the concession stand, his construction efforts, and his nearly endless dedication as a player and manager.

Let's start with The Shack. The Shack is the concession stand at Robert G. Fritz Memorial Field, the home of the Cologne Hollanders, where people rave about the burgers and the cheese curds. Burger baskets sell for \$9.00 a pop, and the curds have their own hashtag, Best Curds in Baseball. Craig Pexa is the mastermind behind The Shack's success.

First of all, he built it, literally, back in 2011. He used his construction know-how, which he learned from his grandfather, to double the concession stand's size and give it the look of The Shack everyone knows today. And his contributions to The Shack did not stop there.

If you can use the word "culinary" in regard to a concession stand, and I think you can in the case of The Shack, Pexa is its culinary genius. Prior to 2011, for the sake of convenience, the team sold frozen hamburger patties. They were very concession-stand-like, but now, according to President of the Cologne Baseball Association, Jason Kuerschner, the team now uses fresh beef from Ruck's Meat Processing Center out of Belle Plain. If you sprinkle a little Lowry's Seasoning Salt on those fresh beef patties, you can create a \$9.00 burger basket that field-goers are happy to pay for. And according to Kuerschner, Pexa orchestrated the changes.



Craig Pexa is pictured delivering his Town Ball Hall of Fame speech. (Submitted photos)

And once again Pexa's construction ability played a role – he installed a new ventilation hood to suck out the smoke from the grill.

You don't just get a hashtag called Best Curds in Baseball without a little trial and error. Kuerschner and Pexa both explained that the cheese curd recipe and process took two years to perfect. At numerous points during this conversation, Pexa's secret curd recipe was compared to Colonel Sanders's secret blend of eleven herbs and spices. Few people know how to pull it off, but lots of folks enjoy the taste, and that's how the Hollanders want to keep it. They'll tell you – go figure – the cheese comes from Bongard's, but that's about it. According to Pexa, the real struggle was figuring out the cheese curds' batter. At first, it just didn't taste right, and the cheese kept flaring out. The two years of perseverance, however, paid off.

Now, carried mightily by the burgers and cheese curds, The

Shack earns the Hollanders enough money to fund the team on a yearly basis.

Craig Pexa is a very unassuming person, and this next quote illustrates this quality. Pexa said, in regards to Robert G. Fritz Memorial Field, "It's nice and looks good – it's like your own yard." What he didn't say, until I prodded him, is that he renovated almost the entire place himself. In addition to building to The Shack, he also built the fence, dugouts, and deck. Without Pexa's countless hours of free labor and ability to instruct other Hollanders how to help, the team probably would not have been able to afford these renovations. In addition, Pexa also built the current pressbox, which has played host to local sports dignitaries like Patrick Reusse and Judd Zulgad, not to mention the Fox 9 Town Ball crew.

And if that's not enough attention paid to the field, Pexa has also been known to chalk the baselines, maybe a time or

two.

Pexa played on the team from 1976 to 1996. He led the team in hitting several of those years. Pexa says one of fondest memories came in 1987 when his wife Kristi told him she was pregnant. Later that day, Craig hit three home runs for the Hollanders. You could do a lot worse than that in the course of a day.

He also remembers hanging out with the players. Every Sunday, they would go to someone's house to eat and drink beer. He says these days, the young bucks want to drink beer in the parking lot until 11:00, then go to the bar afterwards. But, he's too old for that, at least during the week anyway.

In 2000, after managing the team for a stint, he stepped away from The Hollanders to coach his son's little league team. Fourteen years later, after he had given all he could give to his kids' activities, he came back to The Hollanders as a manager.

Interest in the team was down for a few years, but by 2016, Pexa said it began picking back up – he didn't say this, but it was probably because the burgers and cheese curds were so good. In 2019, things got really good. The team qualified for the state tournament for the first time since 1972.

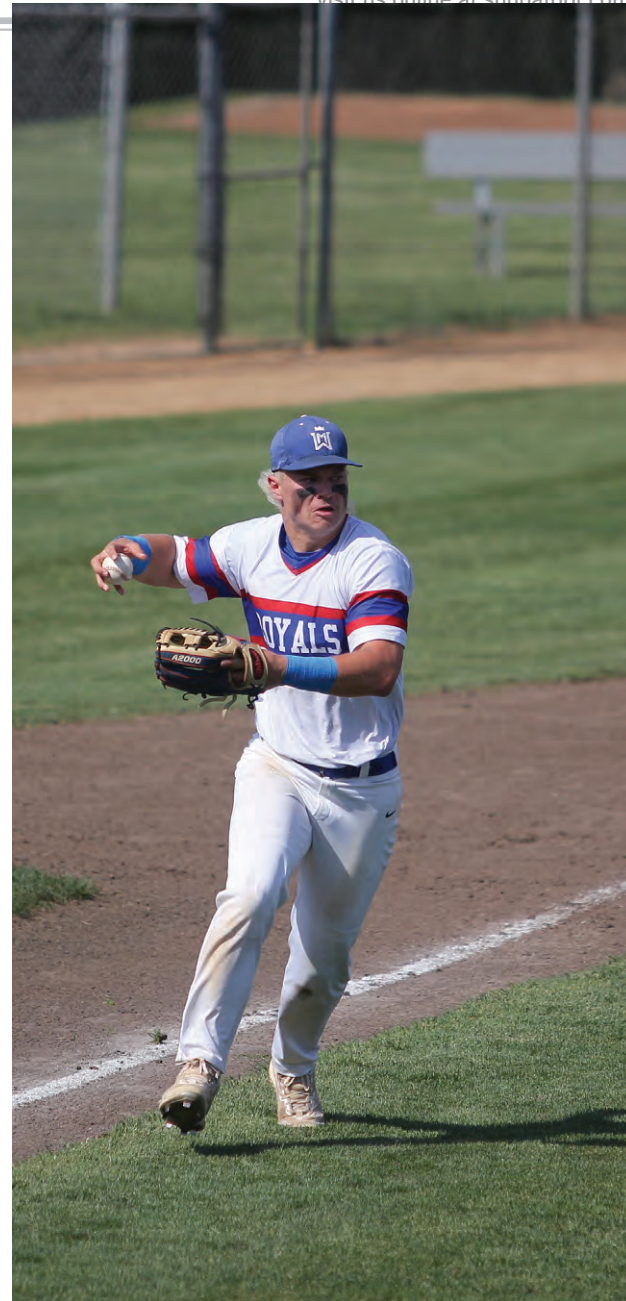
Another of Pexa's fonder memories occurred in 2019. At the end of a game against Spring Hill, Cologne and Spring Hill were tied. Spring Hill had played another game earlier, and they were low on pitching. Instead of playing extra innings, Spring Hill manager Gordon Barten proposed that he and Pexa have a beer drinking contest to decide the winner of the game. Pexa said

okay and walked out to home-plate with a Coors Light. Pexa proceeded to defeat Barten in the do-or-die beer drinking match, and thus sealed a victory for The Hollanders. At the end of the beer drinking contest, Pexa remembers Kuerschner getting on the public address system and announcing that Pexa had been inducted into the Minnesota Town Ball Hall of Fame.

Hall of Fame or no Hall of Fame, the state tournament awaited. Pexa met Patrick Ruesse there, and Ruesse has visited Robert G. Fritz Field every year since. Lots of Cologne fans followed the team to the tournament, and even though The Hollanders got beat by Bemidji, they managed to become the fans' favorite, and not just the Cologne fans either, all the fans at the tournament. When Cologne lost, Pexa remembers hearing a collective sigh from all in attendance.

So you can see why the team would want to honor such a person. Before the game at which he was recognized, Pexa threw the ceremonial first pitch to his son Brett. Then, Pexa's grandson, Colby Rhodes, threw a ceremonial second pitch to Brett. Pexa received a baseball cut-out, which will go on the back of the pressbox, amongst the baseball cut-outs of previous Fill The Hill Honorees.

Pexa also received a cut-out of a baseball jersey. He doesn't know where he'll put it. Even though he could put it anywhere he wants – for all practical purposes, he built the entire stadium – he says he'll let the team decide where they want it displayed.



Pictured, from left, Jaren Vogt holds up the ball after Nick Anderstrom threw out the baserunner. • Ashton Hecksel makes a leaping catch. • Ben Trucke makes a throw to first. (James Stitt/The Patriot)

Royals compete at state tournament

Watertown-Mayer baseball team battles back from deficits in pair of games

BY JAMES STITT
patriotsports@apgecm.com

After winning the Section 5AA Championship, the Watertown-Mayer baseball team traveled to St. Cloud to participate in the Class AA State Tournament, playing a pair of games. The Royals scored first in both matchups before falling behind, but never gave up despite steep odds, scoring late in both outings.

Earning the No. 2 seed for the state tournament, the Royals earned a first round matchup with St. Agnes June 14. Watertown-Mayer got off to a hot start with catcher Nick Anderstrom throwing

out a runner attempting to steal second base in the first inning, then the Royals scored a run in the bottom half of the inning. Connor Donovan hit a single in the lead-off spot and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt from Jaren Vogt, then scored on an RBI single by Ben Trucke to give Watertown-Mayer the 1-0 lead.

After some uncharacteristic errors had the Royals fall behind 3-1 through two innings, Vogt took to the mound and the Watertown-Mayer defense got back to its stout ways. The Royals turned three double plays to back up Vogt, who threw four scoreless innings using

few pitches to get the job done efficiently to keep Watertown-Mayer within striking distance.

Unfortunately for the Royals, the Aggies offense broke through in the seventh inning. Despite the 3-1 lead for St. Agnes, the Royals pitching staff had no earned runs before the seventh inning, when the Aggies sent five runners across home plate to jump out to an 8-1 lead.

To the Royals credit, Watertown-Mayer did not go down easily and battled to the end. In the seventh inning, the Royals rallied to score three runs and give them a chance at a comeback. Donovan started things

off by getting on first base and scored on a double from Trucke. Anderstrom then hit an RBI double of his own before scoring on a single from Logan Bullock. Michael Foley singled to put two runners on down 8-4, but the Aggies managed to get the final with the tying run on deck.

Trucke led the offense with two hits and a pair of RBIs to go with a walk and a run scored. Rylan Maas had two hits, Donovan scored two runs with one hit, Anderstrom had a hit with a RBI and run scored, Bullock had a hit and an RBI, Vogt had one hit, Foley had one hit and Tyler Thurston had one hit.

In the second game of the tournament, one bad inning again doomed the Royals in an 8-4 loss, this time with No. 3 seed Marshall scoring five runs in the third inning.

Watertown-Mayer again took a lead in the first inning when Donovan walked and stole second, scoring on a single from Albert Rundell.

After the Hilltoppers took a 6-1 lead in the third, the Royals got a pair of runs back quickly in the next half inning, with Trucke running out a ground ball and Rundell hitting a double to put two runners in scoring position. A passed ball scored the first run and

Anderstrom batted in the second to put the score at 6-3.

The Royals got their final run of the game in the seventh with Foley getting on base, moving to third off the bats of Thurston and Ashton Hecksel and scoring off the bat of Donovan.

Rundell led the offense with two hits an RBI and a run, Anderstrom had an RBI, Thurston had a hit, Foley scored a run, Trucke scored a run and Donovan scored a run.

The Royals end their season with a 20-7 record, a section championship and a second place finish in the Wright County Conference West standings.

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Whispering Willow promotes positive energy

BY DEREK TELLIER
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What, you don't know what a metaphysical shop is?

All right, let me explain. According to Whispering Willow's co-owner, Nicole Lueck, they sell ethically sourced healing gifts such as candles, crystals, stones, smudge sticks, and hand-made jewelry.

If you're feeling a little depressed, sluggish, irritated, or—let me rephrase that; if you're feeling emotionally or energetically compromised—you can stop in to Whispering Willow and purchase a spiritual pick-me-up.

Whispering Willow's niche in the marketplace is healing modalities. However, even if you aren't physically or emotionally ill, you can still shop there for fun little gifts. Most of the customers are women, but they do get a fair number of men. They get shoppers of all ages. Lueck says their customers often mention the joy they feel as they are looking for a heartfelt gift in the store.

Could that be because of all



The Norwood Young America Chamber of Commerce and the City of NYA recently welcomed Whispering Willow to the business community. (Submitted photo)

the positive energy in there?

It probably is. The healing aspects of the merchandise are what prompted Lueck and the other co-owner, Kortnie Ringate, to open Whispering Willow in the first place.

Lueck says, "We began the process in May of 2021 and opened the shop in March, 2022. We made the decision to open our shop based off of our years of love and passion for alternative healing practices and the natural healing abilities we hold." She adds, "COVID took a

toll on everyone, mentally, physically, emotionally, and one day we decided we wanted to share our knowledge and passion for alternative healing with others."

Along with the gifts they offer, Ringate, a certified Reiki master, also offers a variety of Reiki and energy-healing services. If you're not sure what Reiki is, don't worry. Lots of Reiki clients don't know exactly what it is, either. It's a bit different for everyone, but basically, Reiki is the Eastern art of healing through a person's flow of energy. Reiki masters

use gentle movements of their hands to guide a client's energy in hopes of reducing stress and promoting relaxation, balance, and overall well being.

Relaxation is the heart and soul of what Lueck and Ringate have to offer, even in extreme cases. Lueck is an end of life doula. Upon request, she will take on care-work for clients in need of emotional comfort as they begin the process of passing on.

They wish to make people feel right, and they also wish to do right. If you have ever seen a t-shirt or bumper sticker that read, "Be the change you want to see in the world," Lueck and Ringate actually walk that kind of walk. Their products, no matter if we're talking about crystals, herbs, or candles, come from ethically sourced vendors, vendors doing right by both the planet and the people on it.

"That's the beauty of us," says Lueck. "There are not many shops near us that choose products carefully or offer ethically sourced products who support other individuals in their small businesses."

As one might imagine, the

marketing budget for a metaphysical shop in Norwood Young America is not huge. Whispering Willow has relied on social media posts to let people know about their products, but what's worked the best is a group of handcrafted signs. Lueck says, "One day I decided to whip together some hand-made signs and put them around town. That made a huge difference. We also have a sign we put out in front of our building, so when people are out for their walk or driving by, they will stop in."

Whispering Willow has recently leant their positive energy to the Norwood Young America Chamber of Commerce. They celebrated the ribbon cutting on June 15, which will be a day Lueck and Ringate will both remember. They had people waiting in their cars at 1:15, and the store didn't open until 2:00.

Moving forward, Lueck and Ringate plan to have Whispering Willow open from 1:00 to 5:00 on Thursdays and Fridays. And on Saturdays from 10:00 to 2:00. You can look them up on Facebook to keep track of their promos and all the magic they do.

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