

WHAT A SHOW!

Crowds gather to watch marching bands

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MAKING MEMORIES

Longtime Patriot columnist retires

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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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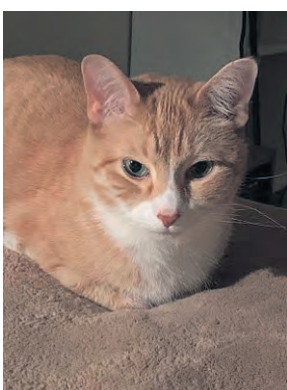
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CELEBRATING MARCHING BANDS

Waconia welcomed 11 bands to its Lake Waconia Band Festival last Saturday night. It was a great night to open up the lawn chairs and see some of the finest marching bands in the state, and the 728 Cadets out of Elk River came away with top honors. Meanwhile, the Waconia Marching Band earned its own grand champion honors last week at parades in Benson and Milaca, and superior ratings Saturday in Owatonna. The band was also recognized for best drums and best winds in Benson; best color guard and best drum majors in Milaca; and best winds, best color guard and best drum majors in Owatonna. (Photos by Al Lohman and submitted photos)



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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 narcissistic 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.

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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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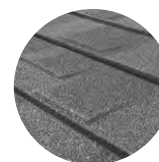
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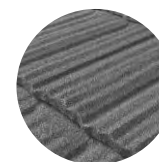
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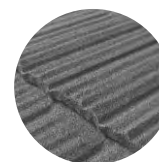
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Pictured are some of the Explore Nature spaces at Children of Tomorrow in Waconia. (Submitted photos)

Children of Tomorrow enjoy the great outdoors

Children of Tomorrow Learning Center Waconia, located at 410 East Tenth Street in Waconia, has earned recognition as a Certified Nature Explore Classroom from the Nature Explore program, which is a division of non-profit Dimensions Educational Research Foundation.

This certification confers on Children of Tomorrow Learning Center Waconia a number of benefits, including membership in an ever-expanding network of more than

500 like-minded spaces. Certified Nature Explore Classrooms foster highly effective, nature-based outdoor learning.

“Children of Tomorrow Learning Center Waconia’s commitment to providing research-based and nature-rich learning offers a wonderful example to programs and educators throughout the country,” said Heather Fox, director of communications and outreach for the Nature Explore program. “These spaces inspire hands-on activity, creativity, play

and plenty of time exploring the natural world for children of all ages.”

These unique outdoor classrooms offer interactive, open-ended materials and elements that allow them to use their creativity, imaginations and initiative. Research consistently shows that children who learn and grow in Nature Explore Classrooms

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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 Lambert, 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 HOMETOWN 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 Chanhassen. 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. Registration required. Deadline to register is July 9.

Obituaries**Mary A. Steffen**

Mary Ann (Surprenant) Steffen passed away on June 10th, 2022, at Auburn Home in Waconia, MN after a brief battle with lung cancer.

Mary was born on October 17, 1941, in New Ulm, MN to Ralph and Augusta (Dresow) Surprenant. She was baptized and confirmed at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Currie, MN and she graduated from Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School in Currie, MN in 1959.

After graduation, Mary enrolled in the 3-year Registered Nursing Program at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, MN, receiving her RN degree in 1962. She was always proud of her strong nursing skills and was looking forward to a long career in this important profession.

Mary always had a strong, independent spirit, and enjoyed the life of a young, single, nurse while living in Rochester, Minneapolis, and Sleepy Eye. She enjoyed nights out on the town and road trips, long and short. One of her travel memories was when she was able to travel to Arlington National Cemetery and other National Monuments in Washington, DC. She stood in line for 5 hours to see the eternal flame at the grave of President John F. Kennedy.

Mary married Jim Steffen at IHM Catholic Church in Currie on June 10, 1967, and together they raised two sons, Philip and Kurt. They lived in Cottage Grove, Eden Prairie, and Minnetonka MN. Unfortunately, Mary suffered from a brain aneurysm and stroke in her mid-thirties that prevented her from continuing in her career and significantly affected her, both physically and mentally, for the rest of her life. The death of her eldest son, Philip, in a plane crash in 1990, brought significant sadness to her. Her Catholic faith was always a strong part of her life, during both the good and challenging times.

Mary introduced her sons to the family farm way of life, visiting their grandparents and her siblings. After her children were grown, Mary lived in Tracy, MN and Brookings, SD, before eventually moving to Waconia, MN where she lived independently and then at the Auburn Home after a fall and hip frac-

ture.

Mary is survived by her son, Kurt Steffen (Becky), of Houston, TX; grandchildren Philip, Penelope, and Charlotte; her siblings, Doris Peterson of Blaine, MN, Ralph Surprenant of Tracy, MN, Phyllis Ahrndt of Ham Lake, MN, Jim Surprenant (Barb) of Slayton, MN, Leo Surprenant of Redwood Falls, MN, Bernadette Koester of Mitchell, SD, Fr. Paul Surprenant of Hartford, SD, Joan Surprenant of Tracy, MN, and Mike Surprenant of Currie, MN, sister-in-law, Mary Jo Surprenant of Kansas City, MO; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; ex-husband Jim (James) Steffen; son Philip Steffen; sister Louise Gervais, brother Ken Surprenant, brother Fr. John Surprenant; brothers-in-law Hugh Gervais, Stephen Koester, Vern Ahrndt and Floyd Peterson and sister-in-law, Myrna Surprenant.

The family wishes to sincerely thank all the staff at Auburn Home for the compassionate care provided to Mary over the last 5 years of her life. Mary showed that, "the finger" could be used in anger and happiness and relished the pleasure of a loud belch after enjoying good food, for all her life. Mary enjoyed keeping up with her grandchildren's activities and enjoyed watching the Minnesota Vikings and Minnesota Twins.

Visitation, memorial service, and reception will be at the Johnson Funeral Home in Waconia on Friday, July 1, 2022. Visitation will begin at 9 a.m., and will continue until the memorial service, officiated by Father Paul Surprenant, begins at 11 a.m. The reception and luncheon will immediately follow the memorial service, at the funeral home. At Mary's request, her remains will be placed next to her son, Philip, at Resurrection Cemetery. A graveside service, at Resurrection Cemetery, 5555 Covington Road, Shorewood MN will begin at 1:30 p.m., following the memorial service and reception.

Arrangements are with the Johnson Funeral Home in Waconia. 952-442-2121 www.johnsonfh.com



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Impact

No COVID-19 'hero pay' upsets child care providers

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Child care providers across Minnesota are upset that they're not eligible for the state's COVID-19 "hero pay" program.

Gov. Tim Walz signed the program into law in April. It enables people who were employed for at least 120 hours in at least one front-line sector job outside their homes between March 15, 2020, and June 30,

2021 to apply for state-funded bonuses. State officials have estimated about 667,000 workers will receive about \$750 each.

But the St. Paul Pioneer Press reported Sunday that about 6,450 child care providers who operate out of their homes are likely ineligible if they are sole proprietors rather than limited liability companies. The Minnesota Department of Labor

and Industry has said sole proprietors and independent contractors aren't eligible because they're not considered employees.

Julie Fees, who runs an at-home day care in St. Paul, says it's "infuriating" that child care providers like her aren't eligible, especially since by watching their children they enabled other workers to keep the economy

functioning during the pandemic.

"When COVID happened, at the very beginning, everyone was petrified," Fees said, noting that state leaders, including Walz, asked day cares to stay open so doctors, nurses and others could go to work. "To be specifically called out and asked to step up and then be eliminated

because we are sole proprietors?"

State lawmakers were aware of the issue with the program but were unable to fix it before the legislative session ended May 23.

As of Thursday, about 626,000 workers have applied for the bonuses. If they're all eligible, that would cost the state almost \$470 million.




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Board gets update on ISD 110's fiscal health

BY AL LOHMAN

al.lohman@apgecm.com

The Waconia School Board heard a report at its meeting June 13 on a forensic audit conducted recently of school district financial operations.

Despite the onerous term, there was no smoking gun or evidence of malfeasance

discovered from the forensic audit; however, auditors did suggest improvements in reporting, more detail in spending rationale and policy-related suggestions.

The school board determined last spring to conduct the audit to evaluate discrepancies between preliminary and final budgets over the

past few years, and to identify and address potential inefficiencies in the budget process. The board last fall enlisted a firm called Intellex Forensics Inc. to conduct the audit.

Intellex representatives last Monday shared an overview of their three-month review. Discussion also touched on

conditions around District 110's statutory operating debt situation, capital expenditures, and the complexities of school funding. A written report is expected within the week.

Board member Luke DeBoer said he expects the board will address the audit in further detail once members re-

ceive the written report. He said some actions could be centered around procedural fixes and/or policy adoption, while calling the audit maybe also an opportunity for the board to reflect on its level of oversight.

The forensic audit cost the district about \$20,000 to conduct.



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Signs pay homage to farmers as rural landscape disappears

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 – Laketown 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 – Watertown Township

Some other fun facts about farms:

- Roughly 30 percent of Carver County land is tillable agriculture.
- Roughly 65 percent 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

"Fish On" Fishing Photo Contest



Enter your favorite fishing photo and become eligible to win great prizes!

HOW TO ENTER:

Upload your favorite 2022 fishing photo to our website <https://www.hometownsource.com/contest> starting Sunday, May 15th through Sunday, June 19th. One photo per day.

HOW TO VOTE:

Starting Monday, June 20th through Sunday, July 10th readers will be able to go to our website, <https://www.hometownsource.com/contest> and vote for their favorite photo. Winners will be announced the week of July 13th.

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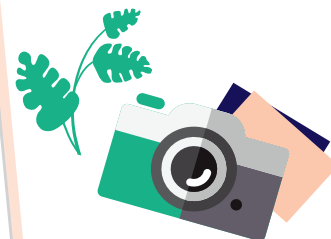
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Pictured are Carver County commissioners with an example of the signs dedicated to farming. (Submitted photos)

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CLASSIC DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH ELSIE MACHTEMES**15 YEARS AGO – JUNE 21, 2007**

The Waconia High School Marching Band captured grand champion at Albert Lea on Sunday.

The Lake Waconia Triathlon will attract 550 competitors this Sunday for the 18th year. The race combines a ½ mile swim, starting at the Lake Waconia Regional Park, a 20-mile bike ride and a 4-mile run. The transition for all the exchanges is the beach area.

Waconia's annual summer Music in the Park series begins this week featuring the "Whitesidewalls" with music from the 50s and 60s.

The steeple of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Waconia was given a maintenance job this week. The current building was erected in 1900, but sustained major damage when a tornado ripped through downtown Waconia in 1904. Those repairs were made and 107 years later the church still stands as a landmark downtown.

ON CAMPUS: Noah Schwalbe of Waconia was named to the spring quarter dean's list at Milwaukee School of Engineering. Janelle Joy Zimmerman of Cologne earned cum laude honors at Carleton College graduating exercises.

A 50th wedding anniversary open house for Mick and Shari Giesen will be held on Sunday July 8 at the Waconia American Legion. The event is being hosted by their children.

Waconia Wildcat All Conference softball players Meghan Durkin, Jessica Grinnell and Kelsey Robling were honored. Honorable mention went to Stephanie Reif, Jami Reinke and Cat Zimmermann.

30 YEARS AGO – JUNE 18, 1992

Temperatures in Waconia reached 90 degrees this past weekend.

Five new teachers were offered jobs at Waconia High

School for the coming year. They are: Lydia Thometz, Barb Danger, Rick Hilber, Clark Machtemes and Peter Bjorland.

Mackenthun IGA (KMC) was given the thumbs up from the Waconia city council to expand their store between First and Main St.

Ray Rindahl, staff pharmacist at Ridgeview Medical Center and a Waconia resident, has been selected as the 1992 recipient of the Syntex Hospital "Preceptor of Year" Award. As a preceptor Rindahl works with senior pharmacy students on a one-to-one basis, teaching them to evaluate medication orders for proper dosage, potential interactions with other medications and possible duplication of therapy along with other skills necessary for a hospital pharmacist.

Jodi Rademacher was the winner of the First Bank High School Award as a graduating senior. She is the daughter of Adrian and Mary Ann Rademacher.

55 YEARS AGO – JUNE 22, 1967

St. Bonifacius -Richard Weiland

received his high school diploma from the Waconia High School School Board Clerk Ruben Weinzierl. Richard was having home-bound study from his teacher, Mrs. Audrey Evans, for two years. The presentation was made at Richard's home. Superintendent Robert Mayer and others were in attendance.

The Waconia Women's Softball Team is sponsored by Vic & Elsie's Resort. The team is managed by Jim Schrempp and Ray Notermann. Team members are: Doris Moonen, Carol Hilgers, Annie Theis, Donna Goetz, Clara Hilgers, Bev Biaer, Judy Wacholz, Vi Winkler, Linda Manteuffel, Gail Schwalbe, Glenny Hilk, Annette Williams, Bernie Segner, Monica Schneider, Ruth Teschendorf and Mary Paal.

The Clover Leaf 4-H Club met at the home of Stephanie Precht. Ann Hasse presented a demonstration on "This is the Way I Wash My Clothes". Carolyn Wigan planted a begonia. Lloyd and Tom Sudheimer demonstrated on "Preparing Vegetables for the Fair". Brian Hasse gave a "Flower Quiz" using a Magnajector.

Cologne – Jean V. Willems, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Willems, graduated from the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology.

Mayer – Twenty-seven friends and relatives gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Tesch to listen to a piano recital presented by their children Douglas and Jeanne.

80 YEARS AGO – JUNE 18, 1942

Several Waconia young folks were injured early Monday morning when two cars crashed south of Cologne on the Cologne-Gotha road. Cars involved were driven by John Johnson of East Union and Jerome Kelzer of Waconia. Jerome received a nose injury. Herbert Kelzer broke his ankle, Hildegard Kelzer injured her jaw. Janet Kelzer injured her cheek bone and left leg. Harold Kelzer sprained his ankle and Florian and Frank Fischer were shaken up.

The Waconia ball team won over Glencoe by 13 to 3. Some of the fans seem to have the idea that the local boys are weak with the stick. But one thing

is for sure the locals wasted few base blows last Sunday.

Victoria – I M P O R T A N T NOTICE: Our government is in urgent need of scrap rubber and has asked everyone to gather up all discarded rubber material of every description. Bring it in to any filling station for which we are authorized to pay you one cent per pound.

Mayer – The Auto and Tractor School was concluded after ten weeks in which the boys attending made real mechanical progress. A mechanical efficiency test will be held at the Mayer Airport in the near future.

105 YEARS AGO – JUNE 21, 1917

Cologne – William, the thirteen-year old son of Adam Mohrbacher, was run over by a train here

late Tuesday morning. Both feet were severed at the ankles.

A dandy boy was left at the Chas. Gramith home Wednesday afternoon. Mama and child are doing well and Charlie promised us all a good smoke.

A light frost visited this section last week Thursday night and the crops in low places were visibly affected. Potatoes, tomatoes and other garden crops were blackened and will set them back several weeks.

Henry Osterfeld, Mrs. F. Peitz, M. Aretz, Martin Laumann and M. Jorgenson paid their \$1.50 for their year's subscriptions to the Patriot.

A National Food Saving Day will be held in the United States on Sunday. Every clergyman in the country will preach sermons that day on the conservation of food stuffs.

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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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- Follow process control and quality control procedures.
- Practice safe work habits. Understand and follow company and industry safety rules.
- Follows instructions carefully and accurately.


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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.
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- 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.
- Quality-conscious and production-oriented
- Capable of setting priorities and attention to detail
- Able to work without supervision
- Good mechanical aptitude and skills
- Demonstration of professional conduct and cooperative behavior with co-workers





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

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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.

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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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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 property 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)

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NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT LIEN FORECLOSURE SALE

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

1. Default has occurred in the terms and conditions of the Laketown Community Declaration (hereinafter the "Declaration"), Common Interest Community Number 92, which was recorded as Document No. A407909 on February 14, 2005, in the Office of the County Recorder for Carver County, Minnesota, as amended and supplemented, covering the following property:

Legal Description: Lot 2, Block 8, Laketown 2nd Addition, CIC No. 92, Carver County, Minnesota
Street Address:
9156 Fox Court,
Victoria, MN 55386
Tax Parcel Identification Number: 653180340

2. Pursuant to said Declaration, there is claimed to be due and owing as of May 24, 2022 from Bendickson Family Limited Partnership LLLP, title holder, to Laketown Community Association, Inc., a Minnesota non-profit corporation, the amount of \$13,270.05, for unpaid association assessments, late fees, attorneys' fees and costs of collection, plus any other such amounts that will accrue after May 24, 2022 including additional assessments and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of collection and foreclosure which will be added to the amount claimed due and owing at the time of the sale herein.

3. No action is now pending at law or otherwise to recover said debt or any part thereof.

4. All preforeclosure requirements have been met.

5. The owner has not been released from the owner's financial obligation to pay said amount.

6. The Declaration, referenced above, and Minn. Stat. §§ 515B.3-115 and 515B.3-116 provide for a continuing lien against the property.

7. Pursuant to the power of sale contained in the same Declaration and granted by the owner in taking title to the premises subject to said Declaration, and pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 515B.3-115 and 515B.3-116, said Lien will be foreclosed by the sale of said property by the Sheriff of Carver County at the Carver County Sheriff's Office, 606 East 4th Street, Chaska, Minnesota 55318, on the 14th day of July, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at public auction to the highest bidder, to pay the amount then due for said assessments, together with the costs of foreclosure, including attorneys' fees as allowed by law.

8. The time allowed by law for redemption by the unit owner, the unit owner's personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

9. The date and time to vacate the property is 11:59 p.m. on January 14, 2023, if the account is not reinstated or the owner does not redeem from the foreclosure sale.

REDEMPTION NOTICE

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

10. THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

Dated: May 24, 2022
Smith Jadin Johnson, PLLC

By: /s/ Evan C. Leach
Evan C. Leach (#0395490)
Attorney for Laketown Community Association, Inc.
7900 Xerxes Avenue S, Suite 2020
Bloomington, MN 55431
(952) 855-7139

Published in the
Waconia Patriot
June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, July 7, 2022
1232663

NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT LIEN FORECLOSURE SALE

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Legal Description: Lot 2, Block 10, Laketown 2nd Addition, CIC No. 92, Carver County, Minnesota
Street Address:
9172 Fox Court
Victoria, MN 55386
Tax Parcel Identification Number: 653180420

2. Pursuant to said Declaration, there is claimed to be due and owing as of May 24, 2022 from Bendickson Family Limited Partnership LLLP, title holder, to Laketown Community Association, Inc., a Minnesota non-profit corporation, the amount of \$13,036.20, for unpaid association assessments, late fees, attorneys' fees and costs of collection, plus any other such amounts that will accrue after May 24, 2022 including additional assessments and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of collection and foreclosure which will be added to the amount claimed due and owing at the time of the sale herein.

3. No action is now pending at law or otherwise to recover said debt or any part thereof.

4. All preforeclosure requirements have been met.

5. The owner has not been released from the owner's financial obligation to pay said amount.

6. The Declaration, referenced above, and Minn. Stat. §§ 515B.3-115 and 515B.3-116 provide for a continuing lien against the property.

7. Pursuant to the power of sale contained in the same Declaration and granted by the owner in taking title to the premises subject to said Declaration, and pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 515B.3-115 and 515B.3-116, said Lien will be foreclosed by the sale of said property by the Sheriff of Carver County at the Carver County Sheriff's Office, 606 East 4th Street, Chaska, Minnesota 55318, on the 14th day of July, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at public auction to the highest bidder, to pay the amount then due for said assessments, together with the costs of foreclosure, including attorneys' fees as allowed by law.

8. The time allowed by law for redemption by the unit owner, the unit owner's personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

9. The date and time to vacate the property is 11:59 p.m. on January 14, 2023, if the account is not reinstated or the owner does not redeem from the foreclosure sale.

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Dated: May 24, 2022
Smith Jadin Johnson, PLLC
By: /s/ Evan C. Leach
Evan C. Leach (#0395490)
Attorney for Laketown Community Association, Inc.
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Bloomington, MN 55431
(952) 855-7139

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1232747

CITY OF WACONIA, MN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Waconia, MN, will hold a public hearing on July 7th, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., at the Waconia City Hall, 201 South Vine Street, Waconia, MN, to consider a proposed amendment to the Waconia City Code which would regulate docks on public waters.

The language proposes a definition for seasonal and permanent docks and proposes prohibiting permanent docks in public waters.

Pertinent information pertaining to this request is available at City Hall. Interested persons may submit written or oral comments pertaining to this matter any time prior to the hearing, or at the hearing on July 7th, 2022. Written comments will be distributed to the Planning Commission for review and consideration. Please submit written comments by mail, email or in person as follows:

Mail/in person:
Attention: Lane L. Braaten,
201 South Vine Street
Waconia, MN 55387
Email: lbraaten@waconia.org

By: WACONIA
PLANNING COMMISSION
ATTEST: Lane L. Braaten,
Community Development Director

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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."



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, Nakia Abdel-Khaliq slows down an opposing player. • Heather Winkels fights off a defender. • Signe Aleckson races past the Shakopee defense. (Photos courtesy of Tim Kruse)

Girls lacrosse takes big step forward

Waconia girls lacrosse team starts to see results of hard work on the field

BY JAMES STITT
patriot sports@appgcm.com

Much like any other program, the Waconia girls lacrosse team faced their share of struggles since the onset of COVID-19. But as a new program that started just before the Spring shutdown of 2020, the Wildcats have not have been afforded the continual growth that helps a fledgling program. Yet despite numerous hurdles, the tide is beginning to turn in Waconia's favor, as the 'Cats saw potential turn into positive results this past season.

"I've always preached that the scores aren't the end all thing, we set goals, we want to work on things, we want to see if we reach those goals and have improved each game, each week and by the end of the season, and thats how we set if we've had a successful season,"

said coach Elisabeth Doran. "And we saw a lot of improvement from every player and even in our scores at the end of the season. We were getting clobbered at the beginning of the season and those scores got closer. And at the end of the season we're getting five or six goals a game and maybe preventing a few goals, so we are starting to see those signs of success."

With their first season in 2019 and their second season canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19, the Wildcats had to hit the reset button with the experienced players lost to graduation and start building the program from the ground up once again. But by the end of the 2022 season, the Wildcats had seen a big breakthrough for the sport of the lacrosse in Waconia.

"For everybody with the exception of one player on our team,

this is only their second season," said Doran. "Not just looking at scores, if we look at what we put out to do, we accomplished some of those goals."

The scoreboard did not look great at the beginning of the 2022 season, with Waconia allowing about 20 goals a game while scoring just two goals in the handful of games in the month of April. Yet Doran said those results were not discouraging.

"Lacrosse is a very high scoring game, if you have two competitive teams, their scores are 17-18, 20-18, so allowing 16 or 17 goals is completely normal, thats what makes it exciting," Doran said. "Now we just have to work on gaining more possession and us getting more goals. Sometimes it is hard to look at the scoreboard and to see how many goals we let in, but those are very normal scores. We

just need to adjust the amount we're getting. But there's definitely a big difference from where we started to the end of the season, which is nice."

After a tough April, the Wildcats kicked off May with a bang, scoring six goals against New Prague. Then after a lopsided loss to Bloomington Jefferson, the 'Cats bounced back in a big way by nearly defeating Rochester Lourdes in a 8-7 loss. Then in their next game, Waconia got the program's first victory when besting Robbinsdale Cooper 6-5.

"Coming off a close game, we knew we could get a few goals," said Doran. "Our defense was doing well, so we knew going into our next game, playing the way we had been playing and doing the sort of things that we had been practicing, that we sort of felt we could come away with the win if we did every-

thing we needed to do and we did."

The win was much needed validation after plenty of hard work had yet to produce results on the scoreboard.

"That came at a really nice time," said Doran. "We were down on ourselves a little bit. We were seeing a little more success and getting a few more goals, but that really helped solidify that hey we have been putting in a lot of hard work and we're finally starting to see that little glimmer of success."

After being shut out in four of their first five outings, the Wildcats scored in each of their final nine contests, including five games with five or more goals. After years of hard work, the bright future is finally on the horizon.

"It's nice to see the sport grow and more kids getting into it and we had two teams this year, which was a really

big step into continuing the program," said Doran. "To get some of those kids into the program and develop, and get to know the game in a less pressured situation is nice as last year they were all thrown into varsity and it was welcome to varsity lacrosse. Coming back next year we have a nice base of returning varsity players and we'll have a lot of kids with a year under their belt and we'll see what they can contribute to the varsity team next year. And some of the ones who are on the JV team will be the leaders to bring in new kids and teaching them the ropes, so I'm excited because we're not only getting more success on the field with the scores and things like that, but being able to build the program and make it stronger is nice to see."

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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)

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 car-

ried 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 be-

fore 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 gunman 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.”



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Columnist takes one last trip Down Memory Lane

BY AL LOHMAN

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Elsie Machtemes was not born and raised in Waconia, but her roots here run deep.

She has been affiliated with the Waconia Patriot newspaper for nearly 40 years – ever since a former staffer approached her on the street and asked if she wanted to be a reporter.

At the time, Machtemes was Waconia Marching Band Boosters parent president and an active volunteer. She has a business degree, but had never done any reporting until she was “discovered,” as she says, by then Patriot ad executive Bob Ackers.

Machtemes served as a feature writer for decades filing stories like the one about Happy Days TV mom Marion Ross who is originally from Waconia although Albert Lea claims her; television’s “Mr. Wizard,” also from Waconia; also, more serious features like a series on the Iraq conflict from a local angle. She earned several Minnesota Newspaper Association awards for her work.



Former Patriot columnist Elsie Machtemes is pictured with her husband, Ron, in Waconia. Machtemes formally retired in May. (Submitted photo)

During the same time, and beyond her days as a regular feature writer, she has authored a column called Down Memory Lane, sharing snippets of events, stories and people of the community from 10 years, 25, 50, 75 and 100 years ago.

She filed her last column a few

weeks ago. Machtemes is a young 80 years old and is ready to move on to the next chapter of her life.

“Not the final chapter, I hope,” she laughs. Machtemes has grandchildren she would like to see grow up and wants to stay active in community events like walks for charity, book club and

morning coffee conversations.

Ironically, Elsie’s son Clark Machtemes, a Waconia High School teacher for 33 years, retired this spring too, while two grandsons recently graduated from WHS.

In her columnist role, Elsie Machtemes has been a frequent

visitor to the Patriot office, lugging out past volumes (no else is allowed to that) and poring over past issues for 4-6 hours a week while compiling highlights from those editions. She did it with little monetary compensation and the past few years for free, by the way.

Many readers have called her column one of their favorite features of the paper, “a must-read every week,” and take great joy recalling past news and events – also seeing their own names in print.

Some of Elsie’s “best of” past columns will be filling the void for now (see page 13 in this edition).

Machtemes says it has been a delight researching and recalling stories from Waconia’s past, and hearing from readers who spot their name and remember that chapter of their lives.

Her byline has appeared at least a couple thousand times on these pages, so anyone doing research or writing a future history column is going to see the name Elsie Machtemes a lot.

In other words, her name will go down in history.



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