

DREAM GARDEN

Fortney's flowers catch the eye of the Wadena Garden Club, CHECK THEM OUT ON PAGE 2



Wadena Pioneer Journal

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Photos by Michael Johnson / Pioneer Journal

Mauricio Gutierrez, holding Ivan Gutierrez and Fabiola Zuluaga are the owners of a new Mexican restaurant in Wadena, Crazy Burrito.

CRAZY BURRITO OPENS IN WADENA

Michael Johnson
Wadena Pioneer Journal
Wadena
A new Mexican restaurant is in town that's owned by a husband and wife

duo looking to create a bright future for their growing family. The couple, Mauricio Gutierrez and Fabiola Zuluaga, opened the doors to Crazy Burrito

on June 30 and have been working to get a feel for operating the business out of their location at 500 Ash Avenue West of Wadena, at the former location of

El Mariachi. While the name might have you thinking this place is strictly about burritos, think again. **BURRITO:** Page A14

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The Crazy Burrito, the meal the restaurant is named after, is paired with tacos and a margarita at Crazy Burrito in Wadena.

Wadena County Ag Society president jailed following felony theft charge



Michael Johnson
Wadena Pioneer Journal
WADENA — The president of the Wadena County Ag Society, 38-year-old Darin Lehmann, has been charged with two counts of felony theft, allegedly using Ag Society funds for personal use. After missing a court

hearing, he was jailed Tuesday, July 12. A bail hearing was held the same day for his release. His next upcoming court date is an omnibus hearing on August 15. In a criminal complaint filed Tuesday, May 3, in Wadena County District Court, it alleges that from about October 2021 to April 2022, Lehmann **THEFT:** Page A14

WEEKEND WEATHER

H: 87 L: 65 FRIDAY		H: 86 L: 64 SATURDAY		H: 88 L: 66 SUNDAY	
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WDC takes closer look at facility upgrades totaling \$7.2M

Michael Johnson
Wadena Pioneer Journal
WADENA — While still in discussion phases, the Wadena-Deer Creek School Board is getting a better grasp on future possible updates to the school facilities following the release of a detailed report in June from ICS, a consulting firm the school is working with on planning these projects. The list of projects added up to about \$7.2 million and is largely focused on sports related infrastructure. They included mostly maintenance projects, but some were new additions to the grounds that the district could pay for largely without needing to pass a referendum. Items as presented include:

replace them with metal poles and add new LED lighting. Cost: \$452,000
Football bleachers: Bleachers are old wooden seating and steps. Not ADA compliant. It's proposed to replace this structure with a 700-seat grandstand and a new press box. The visitor seating would include a 300 seat bleacher. Both would have a concrete base and ramping. Cost: Home \$607,800; visitor: \$98,700.
Baseball bleacher: Existing bleacher is old, not ADA compliant and includes wood seating and steps. It's proposed to replace it with a 150 seat covered bleacher with a new concrete base and accessibility. Cost: \$97,000
Softball bleachers: These are old, not ADA compliant, with wood seating and steps. A proposal would replace this with a 150 seat, covered bleacher with a concrete base and ramping. Cost: \$97,000.
Concession stand and storage: Current concessions stand is undersized. Plan is to expand or remodel to code. They could build a cold storage shed to make up for lost space at the concessions stand and under the

Track surface: The existing track surface is at or beyond its life expectancy. The proposed solution is to remove and replace the existing surface, including the high jump, long jump and pole vault areas. Cost: \$502,000
Track and field/football lighting: Current lights are inefficient and outdated. They are placed on wooden poles. A solution was to **FACILITY:** Page A15



A longtime fixture at the heart of many football and track and field events is the home bleachers. They are aging and the wooden structure is on a list to be replaced among other long term facility upgrade ideas.

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Photos by Michael Johnson / Pioneer Journal

Diane Fortney hangs out in her inviting yard, where wildflowers bloom throughout the season.

Fortneys have a flowering fortress on Howard Avenue

By Michael Johnson
Wadena Pioneer Journal

WADENA — The home of Diane and Gary Fortney is becoming increasingly vibrant thanks to their efforts to establish a garden in place of grass in southwest Wadena.

Their work has garnered them the Wadena Garden Club's Yard of the Month for July. It's the first yard to be recognized for 2022.

Taking a drive by you may catch a glimpse of the colors that dot the front and side of the yard. A closer look reveals the Fortneys have been busy turning their rectangle of grass into something they can enjoy and share with others.

There are oodles of flowers including hostas, sea holly, candytuft, lilies and many more. There is a raised strawberry bed, honey berry and raspberry bushes. Trees include cherry, apple and hawthorne. There is even a water lily tank with two goldfish. You can hear it burbling away as a turtle fountain keeps the water moving.

Her husband has certainly left his mark on the yard. You can spot his tennis shoes near the walkway, which are now home to hen and chicks, a succulent variety. They seem to have gained a good footing there.

Work began on the yard when the couple moved here in 2019. The couple



A honeybee goes to work on a flower in the Fortneys' flower garden on July 5.

have a history of moving about the country, always leaving the place better than they found it.

"Wherever I go, I always have a garden," Diane said. "It's therapeutic and helps bring me close to the Lord."

In a previous property Diane worked extensively to replant over 100 feet of shoreline with native vegetation to improve the health of the shore and water. While she's been dealt health concerns with a recent back surgery, she and her husband continue their "on the ground" work of building up the yard and garden.

The year 2020 was a big year for work to get done in the yard as is shown by the abundance of plants that bear that year. One of the other unique features of the yard is that each planting has a plaque that tells

visitors the plant name and when it was planted. It's a very valuable addition to help the owners remember what everything is and how long it's been around.

As Diane walks about her garden she's reminded of all the friends who have offered her plants, or places she's plucked them from. Each has a bit of a story to go with them.

"I like a variety of different things," she said.

You'll find that in the side yard, where she has a bee friendly wildflower patch. There's even bee houses. She tries to have such a variety that something is blooming throughout our entire growing season.

"I just spread them all over here," she said. "Other than that, I just let come up what wants to come up."

Her efforts in the garden are apparent as she is a regular submitter of flowers to the Wadena County Fair. She garnered 11 blue ribbons this year.

She's very much an organic gardener and enjoys being down to earth, pulling weeds and smelling the flowers surrounding her. You may find her or Gary here if you pass by their home at 210 Howard Avenue Southwest. Look for the Yard of the Month sign that should remain there through the month of July.



Tiger lilies dress up the front of the Fortney Home on Howard Avenue in Wadena.

Crazy Burrito celebrates grand opening

WADENA — The Crazy Burrito celebrated a grand opening, ribbon cutting and "First Dollar Award" with a visit from the Wadena Chamber of Commerce on June 30.

The momentous occasion wel-

comed the new business, which is now serving at the former El Mariachi location at 500 Ash Ave. NW in Wadena.

Reach the new business at 218-430-0099.



Contributed photo

The Crazy Burrito was visited by the Wadena Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Committee, which presented them with a "First Dollar Award" on June 30. Crazy Burrito is located at 500 Ash Ave. NW in Wadena. Pictured are Renee Frethem, left, Fabiola Zuluaga, Triana Gutierrez, Mauricio Gutierrez and Kent Schmidt.



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Admission to WDC events to increase

By Michael Johnson
Wadena Pioneer Journal

WADENA — Rising costs of running events at the Wadena-Deer Creek School District brought the school board to approve increased admission fees during their regular board meeting July 6.

WDC Superintendent Lee Westrum noted that after discussing the topic with area school superintendents and activity directors it sounds like fee increases are going to be seen across the region to counteract the increase in costs. Some of those costs include increased pay to pull in officials and other staff and the eventual addition of a shot clock operator.

“We’ve been at \$5 and \$3, and our neighbors are bumping up \$1,” Westrum said during the regular monthly meeting.

The school board agreed that the increase was the right move.

The new admission fees will include the following:

- \$6 for adults. (An increase from \$5.)
- \$4 for visiting students. (An increase from \$3.)
- Seniors 62 years old or older from the WDC School District may pick up a free “Golden Pass”

at the high school office. ► Season passes will increase from \$50 to \$75.

► 10-punch passes are to increase from \$30 to \$50.

WDC students remain free to attend. Westrum noted that this was a good offering to help expose youth to these activities though it does at times result in parents dropping kids off unsupervised.

Board member Barb Tumberg, who has worked the ticket table, said she has been asked about visiting senior citizens also getting a discount. They have not received a discount in the past and that trend will continue. She also supported continuing to provide free admission to district students as many would never attend if not for that offering.

Westrum made mention of an exciting idea that could be coming next fall, where the elementary school may host a weekday matinee game that would allow the entire elementary school to step out of class to take in a ball game or some type of sport. To fill that up with screaming students could be an exciting time.

Hot lunch prices

With free lunch the last two years, it may be



File photo

WDC students cheer for their team.

a surprise to go back to paying for school lunches again for 2022-2023 school year. The costs for those lunches is not changing much over previous years, though there is an actual decrease for those in 5-8.

The board approved the following hot lunch prices:

- K-4 at \$1.95
- 5-8 at \$2
- 9-12 at \$2.05

While there may be added costs in food prices Westrum noted that they have enough money in the food reserves to handle a deficit they may experience.

Enrollment looks strong

Westrum indicated that their conservative enrollment outlook was indeed conservative as it appeared the school district will see 20-28 more students than expected. He expects an enrollment around 1,080 students starting in September.

With two of the smallest classes now graduated, the upcoming grades are showing significant increases in numbers.

Deer Creek School

Westrum expected to have a check in hand for the Deer Creek School this week and the ownership transferred out of the district’s hands. He said the action was able to occur without a quiet title.

In other actions, the board approved:

- Hiring: Paul Ridge, MS/HS custodian; Mark Johnson, bus driver; Angela Donnay, Elementary SPED teacher; Heidi Brandt, elementary paraprofessional; Jaymie Lockwood, elementary paraprofessional; Kristin Schock, preschool paraprofessional; Dominique Browne, elementary paraprofessional; Melissa Stevens, 4’s preschool teacher

Retirements/Resignations: Trent Becker, Transportation Director; Tasha Steffens, elementary paraprofessional; Sherry Dean, elementary paraprofessional.

Related to the transportation director position, the board was pleased to hear that the school has many applicants with several highly qualified ones that were to be interviewed this month.

Farm Service Agency seeking nominations for county committees

WADENA — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) is now accepting nominations for county committee members. Elections will occur in certain Local Administrative Areas (LAA) for members. LAAs are elective areas for FSA committees in a single county or multi-county jurisdiction. This may include LAAs that are focused on an urban or suburban area.

County committee members make important decisions about how Federal farm programs are administered locally. All nomination forms for the 2022 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 1, 2022, according to a Farm Service Agency news release.

For Wadena/Hubbard County they are looking for producers that farm/reside in the following townships: Wadena- Wadena, Aldrich and Thomastown; Hubbard – Helga, Farden, Guthrie, Hart Lake, Hendrickson, Lakeport, Steamboat River, Thorpe, Mantrap, Akeley, Nevis, White Oak, Crow Wing Lake and Badoura.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in a USDA program and reside in the LAA that is up for election this year, may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation to FSA, even if they have not applied or received program benefits. Individuals may nominate themselves or others and qualifying organizations may also nominate candidates. USDA encourages minority producers, women, and beginning farmers or ranchers to nominate, vote and hold office.

Nationwide, more than 7,700 dedicated members of the agricultural community serve on FSA county committees. The committees are made up of three to 11 members who serve three-year terms. Producers serving on FSA county committees play a critical role in the day-to-day operations of the agency. Committee members are vital to how FSA carries out disaster programs, as well as conservation, commodity and price support programs, county office employment and other agricultural issues.

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OBITUARIES

Douglas Anderson

Douglas Anderson, age 78 of Henning, Minnesota passed away peacefully at his home on July 6, 2022, surrounded by family and friends after a brief battle with Leukemia. Funeral Services will be held on Friday, July 15, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at Wadena Alliance Church in Wadena, Minnesota. Visitation will begin at 12:00 noon prior to the service at church, with Pastor Brian Malvig and Pastor Vaughn White officiating. The hymns will be sung by the congregation, accompanied by Gwen Anderson. The pallbearers will be Derek Anderson, Travis Anderson, Sarah Anderson, Caitlyn Anderson, Hallie Bockoven and Nick Bockoven. Douglas will be laid to rest at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery, Camp Ripley, Little Falls, Minnesota.



Douglas Harry Anderson was born on May 19, 1944 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His parents were the late Harry James and Lena (Brown) Anderson. He attended Hopkins High School, graduating with the Class of 1962.

On September 17, 1962 he enlisted in the United States Air Force, serving his country until his honorable discharge on June 21, 1966.

Douglas was united in marriage to Jeanette Ardell Moen on June 1, 1968 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Henning, Minnesota. Their marriage was blessed with two sons: Nathan and Anthony. They made their home in Deephaven, Minnesota while Douglas attended Brown Institute specializing in computer software. He was employed at Munsingwear as a computer programmer.

After several years in Christian Ministry and Mission Work, Douglas and Jeanette decided to settle in Long Lake, Minnesota where they lived for 30 years. He was employed as a computer programmer and later as a systems analyst at St Paul Companies and Blue Cross Blue Shield. During this time, he became active with Habitat for Humanity and the MS bike rides. He participated in the Habitat for Humanity Ironman, riding his bike across Minnesota 10 consecutive summers and multiple MS rides. When he retired in 2011, he and Jeanette moved to Henning, Minnesota to be closer to Jeanette's family. He helped with the Moen Family Reunion and created a book of the Moen family history which he continued to edit as he received more information. His sons got him hooked on collecting baseball cards which lead to other collections of Raisinets, Crayola Crayon Sets and shot glasses of places they had visited.

Preceding him in death are his parents: Harry and Lena; brother and sister-in-law, Ronald and Jackie Anderson; sister and brother-in-law, Marilyn and Orv Loftmess; and sister and brother-in-law, Barbara and Lee Riddle.

Douglas is survived by his loving wife: Jeanette; children: Nathan (Jennifer) Anderson and Anthony (Sherry) Anderson; grandchildren: Hallie, Justine, Caitlyn, Sarah, Travis and Derek; great-grandchild, Payton; brothers: Rogers (Barbara) Anderson and Greg (Sally) Anderson; many other relatives and a host of friends.

Please visit www.karvonenfuneralhome.com to leave memorials and condolences on Douglas' Tribute Wall.

Arrangements provided by Belmont-Karvonen Funeral & Cremation Service of Henning, Minnesota.

Nat Eugene Erckenbrack

Nat Eugene Erckenbrack was born on April 4th, 1948 in Wadena, Minnesota. He was the oldest of 10 children born to Cleon and Phyllis Erckenbrack (nee Utermarck). Nat died on June 11, 2022 at St. Vincent's Hospital in Billings, Montana at age 74.



He graduated from Wadena High School in 1967, where he enjoyed playing football, and was a successful Golden Gloves boxer. After high school he was drafted into the U.S. Army. Upon graduating from basic training in Fort Lewis, Washington, he was sent to Chu Lai, Vietnam in April, 1969, where he served with the Battery G, 55th Artillery, American Division. He returned to the U.S. in March, 1970, and moved to Red Lodge, Montana in 1974 where he worked for many years as a carpenter. Nat enjoyed hunting, fishing, golfing, and spending time with family and dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his father Cleon, his mother Phyllis, his sister Becky, and his brother Danny. He is survived by his brothers Bruce, James, and Patrick, his sisters Barbara, Robin, Kim, and Debbie, and his children Sam, Jake, and Sophie, as well as numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, friends, and his beloved dog, Maggie.

A memorial service will be held on July 16th 1pm-3pm at 215 1st St NW, Wadena at the home of Kim & Henry Roggenkamp.

NEW ARRIVALS



Hayden Dean Engle

Baby boy Hayden Dean Engle was born on June 28, 2022, to Yvette Torres and Kris Engle of Frazee. He weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces and was 20 inches long. He was delivered by Dr. Shaneen Schmidt at Tri-County Health Care in Wadena. Proud siblings are Hank and Hunter. Proud grandparents are Don and Donna Engle; and Robin Stauty.



Cove Robert Jackson

Baby boy Cove Robert Jackson was born on June 29, 2022, to Alyssa and Aaron Jackson of Wadena. He weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and was 19 inches long. He was delivered by Dr. Laura DuChene at Tri-County Health Care in Wadena. Proud grandparents are Jay and Jonelle Jackson; and Val; and Lee.

DEATHS

Rita Price

Rita Price, age 82, passed away with family at her side, on July 5, 2022, at The Meadows in Wadena, MN

The Mass of Christian burial for Rita Price of Wadena will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 16, at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Wadena.

Visitation will be held at St. Ann's Parish Hall in Wadena on Friday, July 15th from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. with a Christian Mother's rosary at 5:00 and prayers at 6:00 p.m. Visitation will resume at the church on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the Mass. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Wadena, MN.

Arrangements by Schuller Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Wadena, MN. (www.SchullerFamilyFH.com)



Jack Windels

Jan. 25, 2006 - July 7, 2022
WADENA, Minn. - Jack Windels, 16, Wadena, Minn., died Thursday, July 7, in Wadena.

Services were previously held. Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home.

Dean Eckhoff

May 26, 1948 - July 9, 2022
ST. CLOUD, Minn. - Dean Eckhoff, 74, Deer Creek, Minn., died Saturday, July 9, in St. Cloud.

Services were previously held. Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home.

Douglas Anderson

May 19, 1944 - July 6, 2022
HENNING, Minn. - Douglas Anderson, 78, Henning, Minn., died Wednesday, July 6, in his home.

Visitation will be from noon to 2 p.m., followed by a funeral at 2 p.m., Friday, July 15, at the Wadena (Minn.) Alliance Church. Burial will be in the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Camp Ripley in Little Falls, Minn.

Arrangements by Karvonen Funeral Home.

Ross Beaumont

March 3, 1965 - June 19, 2022
PARK RAPIDS, Minn. - Ross Beaumont, 57, Menahga, Minn., died Sunday, June 19, in St. Joseph's Hospital Park Rapids.

Visitation will be from 10-11 a.m., followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m., Saturday, July 16, at Hubbard (Minn.) United Methodist Church.

Arrangements by Jones-Pearson Funeral Home.

Lola Puckett

Lola Jean (Koranda) Puckett was born July 7, 1945 in Wadena, Minnesota. She was one of seven children raised by Donald and Ave Koranda. She met her husband Dennis while he was stationed at the air force base in Wadena.



They were married on April 11, 1964. Lola and Dennis moved to Des Moines, Iowa after Dennis completed his military service. They were proud parents of three children: Laurie, Denny, and Trishia. Lola was a wonderful wife and homemaker while the children were being raised. She later worked for over 20 years at Bank of America. After retirement, Lola and Dennis split time between Green Valley, Arizona and Des Moines. Lola passed away peacefully on July 1, 2022 after a courageous battle with blood cancer.

She will be lovingly remembered by her surviving family members and friends. She is survived by her husband Dennis; children Laurie Puckett, Denny (Heidi) Puckett, and Trishia (Richard) Perez; 10 grandchildren - Donny (Kari) Puckett, Kelsey (Logan) Hurd, Dustin Perez, Grant (Madison) Puckett, Danielle Perez, Emily (Alex) Wilson, Noah Perez, Hank Puckett, Cole Perez, and Ethan Perez; and 9 great grandchildren.

She was also survived by her siblings Pat Scott, Sandy (Phil) Leighty, Jim (Annie) Koranda, and Kermit (Mary) Scott. She was preceded in death by her parents Don and Ave; siblings Donald Koranda and Harsey Scott, and grandchild Christian Perez.

Visitation will be held at Dunn's Chapel, 2121 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA on Tuesday July 5th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., with a funeral service on Wednesday July 6th at 10:00 a.m. at the Bridge, 10025 NW 62nd Ave., Johnston, IA. Internment will follow at Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery.

POLICE BLOTTER

Pioneer Journal staff

Wadena County Sheriff's Office

June 30
► 8:18 p.m.: Received a call from an intoxicated male party who wants a brain scan because he can't stop drinking.

► 10:28 p.m.: Received a call from a person who wanted to talk about past criminal cases and life in general.

July 1
► 1:43 p.m.: Responded to a crash in which the vehicle rolled eight times. The driver was checked out by an ambulance crew but was uninjured.

► 8:27 p.m.: Stopped a driver for speeding. The driver said he knew his speedometer was off by at least 15 mph, but he wasn't exactly sure how far off it was. A deputy advised the driver to get the issue fixed as soon as possible.

July 2
9:19 p.m.: Responded to a report of a female laying in the middle of the street who said she had been walking too long. She told a deputy she'd gotten into an argument with her boyfriend, got out of the vehicle to walk home and became light headed. She was checked out by an ambulance crew and taken home.

July 3
► 8:56 p.m.: Received a report of a truck and camper stolen from a residence.

► 3:15 p.m.: Received a report of a woman assaulted by a

male in her garage.

► 3:47 p.m.: Received a report of a domestic assault. A woman told a deputy her husband had changed the locks on their house, was at the house with his girlfriend trying to take her things and the confrontation became physical.

July 4
2:50 a.m.: Assisted the Wadena Police Department with a report from a man saying there is a person in his yard threatening him and saying he has a gun in the vehicle.

July 5
1:51 a.m.: Received a report from a man who was hearing a lot of noise coming from the woods. The noise appeared to have been from a bear that was in a dumpster. The responding deputy found bear tracks but did not see the bear. The man was advised to make loud noises, like clapping or hollering, and the bear would leave.

Wadena Police Department

July 1
► 8:39 a.m.: Received a report of two gunshots. Officers were unable to locate the source.

► 9:08 a.m.: Responded to a report of a single-vehicle crash at the intersection of First Street and Dayton Avenue Southwest. The driver reported having a medical event, losing consciousness and colliding with a telephone pole and stop sign.

► 4:18 p.m.: Received a re-

port that a storage unit had been broken into and several items were stolen.

July 3
10:53 a.m.: Received a report that someone stole the taillights off a pickup.

July 4
1:51 p.m.: Received a report of a two-vehicle collision at the intersection of Jefferson Street North and Birch Avenue Northwest.

July 5
► 11:36 a.m.: Received a report someone had tried to break into the horse barn at the Wadena County Fairgrounds.

► 6:45 p.m.: Received a report of parts missing from equipment.

July 6
4:09 p.m.: Received a report of a \$37 gas drive off on the 100 block of Ash Avenue Northeast.

July 7
8:25 a.m.: Received a report of a bike seat stolen off a bicycle on the 700 block of Second Street Northwest.

CLIP AND SAVE

Granite Memorials

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John Frederick Husband

John Frederick Husband, age 81, passed away peacefully on Thursday, June 30th, at Primrose

Alzheimer's Assisted Living Facility in Santa Rosa, CA. John was born and raised in Rochester, Minnesota. After earning a degree in architecture John attended Seabury Western Theological Seminary in Chicago. He then became part of an ecumenical team ministry working with university students at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. At the same time, he was asked to be a parish priest at St. Andrew's by the Lake. That lake was Lake Superior and John discovered the joy of sailing. It was here that John's children, Ann and Sara, were born and raised. He later continued parish ministry in western Minnesota where he lived on a pristine, prairie lake for 30 years with his beloved wife, Mary. John expanded his passion for ecumenism and inclusivity. He joined with other denominations and the White Earth Tribal Nation to create a greater sense of community in which there would be no outsiders. If John was asked about a central tenet of his faith, he would often say "grace happens." He used this phrase until he was no longer able to say the words. John was a priest in the diocese of Minnesota for 50 years. John is survived by his wife, Mary Stein-Husband. He is also survived by his daughters, Ann Kraker (Michael), Sara Johnson (Jason), his first wife, JoAnn Carmack, stepdaughters, Kendra Date Schleiker, and Caroline Date (Paul Alexander) and stepson, Paul Date (Robyn). He is also survived by grandchildren, Arleigh, Scotland and Finn Kraker, William and Molly Johnson and Aria Schleiker. There will be a Eucharistic service to celebrate John's life on Saturday, July 16th, at 1 p.m. at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 9000 Sonoma Highway, Kenwood CA, 95462.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be sent to Memorial Hospice, 439 College Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401.



COMMENTARY

LETTERS

Gallant: Who can I be and what can I give back to Wadena?

Editor's note: This essay was submitted and selected as the top essay as part of the 2022 Miss Wadena Pageant. The essay portion of the pageant is a separate entry that earns the writer a \$600 scholarship provided by past Miss Wadena members Tracy Adams Kooman, Miss Wadena 1983; Leslie (Lundquist) Werden, PhD, Miss Wadena 1984; Maria (Moore) Clarys, Miss Wadena 1985; Jennifer (Swenson) Health, Miss Wadena 1986



Gallant

and had lemonade stands to help her.

Being an active volunteer didn't stop in my early teen years. In fact, those were the years I really figured out the impact just one small person could have in their community. I started singing in church, at the Empty Stocking fundraiser, and sang the National Anthem at some local events in middle school. I also became a Vacation Bible School Leader and coached some youth basketball. At this point in my life I started to value all of the connections volunteering was helping me make. Not only was I making friends and acting as a role model for younger kids, I was learning about and making friends with the adults in the community as well. Many of the relationships I built in those years are still important to me today.

In my later high school years I became a member of WDC's NHS and BPA chapters. My role in those was primarily to help our town. As the BPA president I was able to help organize a

quickly spread to her classmates, and it became our mission too. I remember making a ton of wallets to help fill all of Jane's orders. On my own I also made wallets

holiday toy drive, bringing over 800 toys to Someplace Safe in Wadena. In NHS I volunteered to take free senior pictures for those who couldn't afford them, which ended up being more kids than I could've imagined. It was incredibly rewarding to be able to give my classmates an opportunity that they otherwise might not have gotten. I also assisted with numerous blood drives and other projects, including Caleb's Run and Day of Caring. My eyes were opened through these projects and I began to see that there are people in our community that need help, and I can do something, even if it's something small, to help them.

I'm newly out of high school now, and I'm excited to see how Wadena will continue to be a part of my life in the coming years. Volunteering in our community has taught me how to be a more compassionate individual, among many other important things, that I will take with me wherever I go. Even if I don't end up staying in Wadena, the town will always have a big place in my heart. Because of this, one of my main goals is to establish a scholarship once I'm into my career to help WDC students with the cost of college. This town has given so much to me, and I would love to repay what others have done to get me this far in life.

Photos of the class of 1951 available

Tony Kuefler, Beverly Savaloja, Maxine Erickson
Dear Editor,
The class of 1951 celebrated their 71st year at the All School Reunion.

God's gift of continued friendship of those who could attend and those who no longer can. If locals had to go as far as many coast to coast, we'd probably not make it either.

Over the years we have portraits of those gone on made for our memorial table and have a few left we would like to give to family. If anyone has addresses of families of the following, please call 218-629-1376 (Maxine). We would be very thankful.

Helen (Silver) Halliwell, Juanita Harper, Joan (Schmidt) Wells, Gary Muehler, Kenneth Hulbert, Beverly (Ratcliff) Dahlke.

Thankful for WPJ advertising all of the planned fun times for everyone by the committee. Thanks be to our Lord God for favorable weather etc, for the parade and all.

1951 Committee: Tony Kuefler, Beverly Savaloja, Maxine Erickson.

Respect the Constitution and the revocation of Roe v. Wade

Jerry Miller
Sebekka

To the Editor:
Respecters of our Constitution, whether pro-life or not, should applaud the decision to revoke Roe vs. Wade. Anyone with average reading comprehension would understand that access to abortion is not guaranteed by that amazing document. Such decisions clearly belong to the legislative branch.

Our Constitution can be amended by a two-thirds majority of both houses of Congress if it is ratified by three-fourths of the states. Amending the Constitution requires a broad consensus. It cannot be done by the whims of a simple majority. Since President Eisenhower made the mistake of appointing Chief Justice Earl Warren we have been plagued by an activist court that has made the Constitution say whatever it wanted it to say. Instead of a super majority of congressmen and legislators it now takes only five lawyers on the Supreme Court to make de facto amendments. I hope that the current court will change that.

Grace Gallant Miss Wadena 2022

As someone who was born and raised in Wadena, my role in giving back to the community has been evolving and ever-changing and will continue to be for the rest of my life.

My first glimpse of giving back to the community was when my friend Jane was diagnosed with cancer. Despite having awful circumstances, she was committed to helping others. At just 8 years old I remember how determined she was to make and sell as many duct tape wallets as possible so that the money could go towards finding a cure for cancer. Jane's mission

PAID POLITICAL LETTER POLICY

The Pioneer Journal is publishing paid political letters to the editor on Opinion.

The rate is 10 cents per word, with a 200-word limit. Those 200 words are the body of the letter, not the signature.

Paid political letters must be submitted online through the website modulist.news.

Any election-related letters that advocate for or against a candidate, ballot measure or political party will be considered paid advertising as a political letter.

Here are a few other things that are important to know:

- ▶ Payment for political letters must be made in advance.
- ▶ Writers are limited to one letter publication per 30 days, paid or not.
- ▶ All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number for verification (only the writer's name and city are published).
- ▶ Paid political letters will be published on the Opinion page as space allows. They will be noted as "paid" on the page.

Regular letters to the editor have a higher word limit, and there is no charge for their publication.

Source or Taglinexxx

How do I warn others that my child is now a driver?

Question: I have a question as a dad who wants to alert other drivers that my newly licensed daughter is on the road. I would like to put a "student driver" decal on the vehicle. Can I do that? If so, does a student need to be driving?



SGT. JESSE GRABOW
Ask a Trooper

Answer:
First of all, let me say congratulations on having a newly licensed driver. As a parent, it brings mixed emotions to see your child with this newfound responsibility. As the father of three young boys, I can understand how you are feeling. I once read somewhere, "To have a child is to decide forever

when a teen gets their license. Teens shouldn't be driving alone the first time they hit the road when it snows. Parents should practice with their teens in different types of scenarios before their teen hits the road solo.

My best advice:
▶ Train the teen on a variety of road types (urban, rural) and in different conditions (nighttime, rain, snow).
▶ Provide significant supervised driving experience for the teen — use a driving skills checklist.
▶ Talk with the teen to reinforce teen driver laws and set limits (such as passengers, nighttime driving) — use a driving contract between parent and teen.
▶ Continue to monitor and train teens during the period of greatest crash risk — the first

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six to 12 months after licensure.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trooper Jesse Grabow — Minnesota State Patrol at 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-2205. (You can follow him on Twitter @ MSPPIO_NW or reach him at, jesse.grabow@state.mn.us).

LOCAL OFFICIALS

WADENA CITY COUNCIL
Mayor George Deiss (218) 639-2097
gdeiss@wadena.org
Mark Lunde (218) 639-5662
mlunde@wadena.org
Bruce Uselman (218) 639-0610
buselman@wadena.org
Wade Miller (218) 639-6649
wmiller@wadena.org
Jessie Gibbs (218) 639-2626
jgibbs@wadena.org

WADENA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Dist. 1: Sheldon Monson (218) 631-5712
Dist. 2: Mike Weyer 218-894-1028
Dist. 3: Bill Stearns (218) 631-2351
Dist. 4: Murlyn Kreklau 218-837-5352
Dist. 5: Jon Kangas (218) 255-1952

WDC SCHOOL BOARD
Melissa Seelhammer (218) 371-1622
Kent Schmidt (218) 631-3019
Ryan Damlo (218) 371-6701
Peter Hayes (218) 631-1031
Barb Tumberg (218) 341-0535
Dan Lawson (218) 631-7206

STATE OFFICIALS

STATE CAPITOL
For legislative info, go to www.leg.mn
Sen. Paul Gazelka - Dist. 9
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg.
Room 3113
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-4875
Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen, Dist. 8
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg.
Room 3207
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-297-8063
sen.bill.ingebrigtsen@senate.mn
Rep. John Poston Dist. 9A
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-4293
Rep. Mary Franson, Dist. 8B
303 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-3201
rep.mary.franson@house.mn

CONGRESS
Sen. Amy Klobuchar
425 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-3244
klobuchar.senate.gov
Sen. Tina Smith
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-5641
smith.senate.gov
Rep. Pete Stauber
126 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-6211
stauber.house.gov
Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach, Dist. 7
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As good parents or good grandparents, once close to your adult children & grandchildren, have you been "erased" from their lives for no valid reason? This extreme form of child & elder abuse, is becoming epidemic in our society.
Call the Wadena Chapter of AGA for free support and information anytime
218-398-2077

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Screen 1: **"WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING"**
Fri. thru Thurs. July 15 - 28
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 7:00 & 9:30
Sun. thru Thurs. 1 Show at 7:00
Matinee Sun. July 17 at 1:15 pm
Screen 2: **"LOVE & THUNDER"**
Fri. thru Thurs. July 15 - 28
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 7:15 & 9:30
Sun. thru Thurs. 1 Show at 7:15
Matinee Sun. July 17 at 1:25 pm
Screen 3: **"THE RISE OF GRU"**
Fri. thru Thurs. July 15 - 28
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 7:15 & 9:30
Sun. thru Thurs. 1 Show at 7:15
Matinee Sun. July 17 at 1:30 pm
Tuesday Bargain Night - All Seats \$5.00
Matinee Admission - All Seats \$6.00
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YOUR LETTERS AND OTHER VIEWS POLICY
The Pioneer Journal encourages letters to the editor as a critical piece of community dialogue. Letters are limited to 300 words or less and must be the original work of the author. Letter writers are limited to one published submission every 30 days.
With rare exception, the Pioneer Journal does not publish letters that are anonymous, libelous or personal attacks on private individuals; consumer complaint letters; thank you letters; or letters generated by political or special interest campaigns.
Other View columns of 600 words or less will be considered. These letters should have unique insight and demonstrate greater knowledge of the subject matter than letters.
Include your name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Only your name and hometown will be printed with your letter. We reserve the right to edit for length or refuse letters. For questions, call 218-631-2561. Drop off or mail your letters to Wadena Pioneer Journal, 320 Jefferson Street South, Wadena, MN 56482 or email letters to editorial@wadenajournal.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, July 15 and Saturday July 16

▶ Hewitt Pickle Fest includes food, fun games throughout two days. Lions Feed and Historical Society treats from 5 - 7 p.m. on Friday. Parade is scheduled for noon on Saturday.

▶ Prairie Fire Children's Theatre performances of *Wizard of Oz* will be performed at Wadena's Memorial Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Friday and 11 a.m. on Saturday.

Sunday, July 17

The Music in the Park Series in Staples kicks off at 7 p.m. with the classic country band Alan Godage & Sundown. This is the second concert in the series which will run for five Sundays.

Monday, July 18

Interview training at Wadena Career Force from 10 a.m. to noon.

Tuesday, July 19

Learn some tools about creating a stellar resume from Wadena Career Force online class from 10 - 11 a.m.

Thursday, July 21

▶ Firearm safety class starts in Verndale. Class dates: July 21, Thurs. July 26, Tues. July 28, Thurs. Aug. 1, Mon. Aug. 2, Tues. Aug. 4, Thurs. Aug. 5, Fri. Class time: 6 - 8 p.m. Field

Day: Aug. 6, Saturday at 8 a.m. - Knob Hill 3334 Knob Hill Rd, Wadena. To register or for questions contact Darin Wegscheid at 218-639-2922 or email dwegsc@gmail.com. Must be 11 years of age before class start date listed above in order to be eligible to take this class.

▶ Lions Annual BBQ serving from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at BN Park. Advance tickets can be purchased from members.

Standing dates

▶ Cards and Farkel 1-4 p.m., Monday - Thursday at the Wadena Senior Center. Closed Friday-Sunday. Call 218-631-4077 for more information.

▶ Celebrate Recovery program will be held

at the Verndale Family Life Church, 402 Clark Dr. NE, from 6-8 p.m. every Sunday. For more information please call 218-445-5568.

▶ Wadena Open Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at 8 p.m. Tuesdays (book meeting); 7 p.m., Wednesdays; and 10 a.m. Sundays, at 421 NW 4th St, Wadena.

▶ Narcotics Anonymous meeting at 7 p.m., Tuesdays, at 421 NW 4th St, Wadena.

▶ Wadena City Library preschool storytimes on Wednesdays are on Facebook at 9 a.m. and in-person at the library at 10 a.m. You can listen to a few stories and make a craft or eat a snack.

▶ Wadena Area Food Shelf open 10 a.m. to noon, Mondays and Thursdays. Contact them at 218-631-7605. Located at 205 Aldrich Ave SE, Wadena.

▶ Verndale Area Food Shelf is open 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Thursday; and 5-7 p.m. every first Thursday at 402 NE Clark Dr. Contact the director at 218-445-5568.

▶ Wadena County Republicans meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at Pizza Ranch in Wadena. Dinner and visiting at 6 p.m. with speakers and a business meeting at 7 p.m. Call 218-894-1899 for more information.



Would you like to advertise on the calendar of events? Contact the Wadena Pioneer Journal at 218-631-2561 for information on advertising!

Classic Country comes to Staples on July 17

STAPLES — Classic country band Alan Godage & Sundown will perform at the Music in the Park Series in Staples on Sunday, July 17, at 7 p.m. Bring a lawn chair.

Expect to hear music from country legends such as Charley Pride, Merle Haggard, George Jones, Conway Twitty and Hank Williams, Sr. In addition, the band has been praised for their performances of country rock; as well as 50's, gospel and old-time music. "Our show is suitable for all ages," Godage said in a press release.

Front man Alan Godage hails from Pierz. A classic country singer/songwriter, Godage grew up listening to country music. "By the time I was eight, I was playing guitar and



Godage

singing with a band on week-ends. At that young age it was clear to me that I wanted to play country music the rest of my life."

Over the years, Godage has performed throughout the United States and recorded several albums, including, "An Inside Look," recorded in Nashville, which features his original music. Godage has performed on cable television programs; and has opened shows for Bobby Bare, Jack Greene, Tanya Tucker, Bill Anderson, Jim Ed Brown and Johnny Rodriguez. The Sundown Band has backed the great Stone-

wall Jackson, Jean Shepard and Leona Williams. Godage has also appeared on two Grand Ole Opry sanctioned shows along with Little Jimmy Dickens, Hank Thompson, Johnny Paycheck, Del Reeves and Faron Young.

The Music in the Park Concerts are held in the Northern Pacific (NP) Park on Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. and will run through August 7. For more information on the Music in the Park series, check out www.staples-motlearts.org.

Northern Pacific (NP) Park is located at 625 6th St. NE. Go north on 6th Street at the junction of Hwy 10 and 210 and go six blocks. In case of rain, the concerts will be moved to Faith Lutheran Church in Staples.

Jackie Och joins Tri County Health Care Board of Directors

WADENA — Todd County Health & Human Services Director Jackie Och recently joined the Tri-County Health Care Board of Directors. She comes to the board with over a decade of hospital experience. Och also serves on the Todd and Wadena Community Health Board and Tri-County's Bertha Clinic Advisory Committee.

Och will have her first official board meeting on June 27. Like other board members, she will provide strategic direction and leadership through policy



Och

planning. "I am honored to have the opportunity to represent the communities served. I will work to represent all individuals by practicing Tri-County Health Care's mission, vision and core values," said Och.

Tri-County Health Care has an 11-person board of directors made up of a diverse set of community members from around our region. The purpose of this volunteer board

is to provide oversight to executive leadership while also being responsible for the overall guidance of the organization.

Och joins 10 other board members including; Dave Fjeldheim, Matthew Van Bruggen, Terry Davis, Ryan Anderson, Jolene Johannes, Paul Drange, Dave Quincer, Shaneen Schmidt, Stephen Davis and Rachel Redig.

Learn more about Tri-County Health Care's Board of Directors at TCHC.org/board-of-directors.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide to Local Houses of Worship

Schedules are subject to change. Please contact your church to confirm.

- ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**
- VERDALE FAMILY LIFE CHURCH, VERDALE**
Sunday Worship Service: 10 a.m. Wednesday: Supper at 5:45 p.m. and program at 6:30 p.m. Rev. Amos Self, Rev. Kenneth Kjeldergaard and Rev. Tahna Rurup 445-5568
- WADENA ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH, WADENA**
Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship service: 10:30 a.m. Bus rides are available. 631-2896 Rev. Mike Maroney: 631-2896
- BAPTIST CHURCHES**
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, HENNING**
Sunday Worship Service: 10 a.m.; (218) 583-2161
- FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, WADENA**
Sunday Worship Service: 11 a.m. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship: 5 p.m. Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6 p.m. Rev. Ed Lewis, 218-632-5019
- GRACE CONNECTION**
56303 US Highway 10, New York Mills, MN 56567 Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Jeff Heisler 640-0107 mygraceconnection.com
- SOUTHBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH, WADENA**
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Wednesday: 6 p.m. Kids and Youth Group Rev. Jake Heppner: 218-639-9990
- CATHOLIC CHURCHES**
- ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY CATHOLIC CHURCH, MENAHGA**
Mass: 7:30pm Saturday Father Aaron Kuhn Phone: 218-445-5786 Parish Office 218-445-5204 Email: vbmcatholic@wcta.net Web site: marysacc.org & facebook.com/marysacc
- ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, WADENA**
Mass Times: 10:00am Sunday (livestream via Facebook.com/MarysACC) Father Aaron Kuhn; 631-1593
- ST. EDWARD CATHOLIC CHURCH, HENNING**
Weekday Mass: Fridays 8:30 a.m. Holy Hour 9 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m. Confessions: 30 minutes prior to Mass; Rev. LeRoy Schik; 583-2490
- ST. FREDERICK CATHOLIC CHURCH, VERDALE**
Mass: 5:00pm Saturday; Father Aaron Kuhn Phone: 218-445-5786 Parish Office 218-445-5204 Email: vbmcatholic@wcta.net Web site: marysacc.org & facebook.com/marysacc
- ST. HUBERT CATHOLIC CHURCH, BLUE GRASS**
Mass: 7:00 p.m. on Saturday Father Aaron Kuhn Phone: 218-445-5786 Parish Office 218-445-5204 Email: vbmcatholic@wcta.net Web site: marysacc.org & facebook.com/marysacc
- ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH, BLUFFTON**
Mass Times: 4:30pm Saturday Father Aaron Kuhn; 385-2608
- ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH, BERTHA**
Mass Times: 8:00am Sunday Father Aaron Kuhn; 218-924-2144
- ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH, CLARISSA**
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Fr. Mitchell Bechtold; (218) 756-2205
- STS. PETER & PAUL CHAPEL OF THE ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH at St. Mark's Major Seminary, MOTLEY**
Divine Liturgy of the Mass Sundays, call for times (218) 352-6796
- NON-DENOMINATIONAL**
- BLOWERS CHAPEL**
Pastor Jay Tolleson Bluffton: 42772 Co Hwy 19, Sebeka, MN 56477 Sunday Worship Service: 10 a.m. 837-5923

EDITOR'S NOTE: BECAUSE OF THE RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, SOME SCHEDULED MEETINGS OR SERVICES MAY HAVE CHANGED OR BEEN CANCELED. CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM THAT EVENTS ARE TAKING PLACE AS SCHEDULED.

- EPICENTER CHURCH**
Pastor Robert Segovia 119 SE 1st St, Wadena 218-631-5986 Sunday Worship Service: 10 a.m. Wed. Children and Student ministries, KNECT Kids 7-12 6:30-8:00
- THE OLD COUNTRY CHURCH, SEBEKA**
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. Jerry Miller, 837-5690
- CHURCH OF GOD**
- NEW LIFE CHURCH OF GOD, BERTHA**
Sunday worship 10 a.m. Wednesday Kids for Christ and youth group 6-8 p.m. Senior Pastor Jason Knoll, Children's Pastor Sarah Collins, Youth Pastor Mike Quance; (218) 924-2085
- EPISCOPAL CHURCHES**
- ST. HELEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, WADENA**
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m. Church: 631-3928 Senior Warden, Michael Craig; 320-761-6740

- BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**
52943 140th Street 218-538-6531 Menahga MN 56464 Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. Guest Pastor
- IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**
403 2nd St SE 218-631-2738 Sunday Worship 9:30 am Rev. Nate Loer Rev. Megan Clapp
- FRIENDS IN CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH (L.C.M.C) 405 BECKER AVE N, SEBEKA**
Sunday Worship: 9:30amFellowship following worship 218-837-4660 friendsinchrist@wcta.net
- GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH**
Missouri Synod 500 Wells Ave N Sebeka Rev. Timothy Schmeisser Phone: (218) 837-5565; email: gracesebeka@wcta.net Divine Service Worship at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays (June, July, August); Holy Communion on the 2nd & 4th Sundays.
- ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**
North Germany Township Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod Rev. Timothy Schmeisser, (218) 837-5565 Sunday Divine Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. (June, July, August) Holy Communion celebrated on 1st & 3rd Sunday.
- NIMROD EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH**
Missouri Synod, Nimrod Rev. Timothy Schmeisser Phone (218) 837-5565; email: gracesebeka@wcta.net Divine Service Worship at 8:00 a.m. on Sundays (June, July, August) with Holy Communion on the 1st & 3rd Sundays.
- OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA), SEBEKA**
Sunday School Classes: 9 a.m. Sunday Worship Service: 10 a.m. Rev. Eric Clapp, 837-5831
- ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH (MISSOURI SYNOD)**
710 Franklin Ave SW, Wadena, MN Sunday Worship Service: 9:00a.m. Monday Worship Service: 6:00p.m. Sunday School & Bible Study 10:00am Email: stjohnwadena1@yahoo.com Website: www.stjohnwadena.org Rev. Stephen Meltzer 631-3000
- ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, BERTHA**
Sunday Worship Service: 9 a.m. Rev. Blake A. Rickbell; (218) 924-4051
- TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (MISSOURI SYNOD), HEWITT**
6:00 P.M. Saturday Night Worship Pastor Kirk Douglas

- TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (MISSOURI SYNOD), DEER CREEK**
Sunday Worship Service: 9:00 a.m. Pastor Donald Wagner; 462-2465
- ZION FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH-WADENA**
602 SOUTH JEFFERSON, WADENA Worship: 10:30 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday of the month 3rd Friday of the month at 1pm WMS Meeting.
- UNITED METHODIST**
- CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, VERDALE**
Sunday Worship Service: 9 a.m. Rev. James Middendorf 218-639-4225
- HENNING UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,**
(Affiliated with Wrightstown UMC), HENNING Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. Pastor Mark Bateson, 631-7997
- HEWITT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, HEWITT**
Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. Rev. Ken Uhren
- UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SEBEKA**
Sunday Worship Service: 10:15 a.m. Rev. Steven Koehne 837-5840
- UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, VERDALE**
Sunday Worship Service: 9 a.m. Pastor Ken Uhren 445-5108
- JOYFUL SPIRIT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
PO Box 446 - Wadena, Minnesota 56482 Worship at: 61847 State Highway 29 Time: 11 a.m. Pastor Ricardo Alcoser joyfulspiritmcmc.org
- PHYSICAL OFFICES**
Pastor's Office and Church Office located here: First Congregational Church of Christ, in the attached building, facing Colfax Avenue: 110 Colfax Ave SW , Wadena, MN 56482
- CONTACTS:**
Main Office: joyfulspiritmcmc@gmail.com Pastor Ricardo Alcoser 218-367-2270 218-631-4646, Donna Mayo-Fearing, Church Assistant Lay Leader: Kathy Techam - techam1@arvig.net
- YOUTH PROGRAMMING**
Young Disciples meets during worship when we worship at UCC in Wadena; All are welcome! On the 5th Sunday of the month, youth play hand bells during worship; Marilyn teaches all children how to pay in 30 minutes! Come and join the fun!

- WRIGHTSTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, HEWITT**
Sunday Worship Service: 10 a.m. Pastor Mark Bateson, 631-7997
- CHRISTIAN & MISSIONARY ALLIANCE CHURCHES**
- HOPE CHAPEL ALLIANCE CHURCH, VERDALE**
Sunday Worship Service: 9 a.m. Wednesday evening Bible Study: 5:30 p.m. Pastor Neal Malcore; 445-5643
- OYLEN CHRISTIAN & MISSIONARY CHURCH, OYLEN**
Sunday Worship Services: 11 a.m. & 8 p.m. Pastor Neal Malcore; (218) 472-3440
- VERDALE ALLIANCE CHURCH, VERDALE**
Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m. Rev Tony Stanley; 445-5619 Pastor Heath Belnap "Student Ministry Pastor"
- WADENA ALLIANCE CHURCH, WADENA**
wadenaacma.com 218-631-3563 Pastor Brian Malvig Sunday School 9am Adults and Children Sunday Worship Service 10:30am Wed Night Awana Ages 3-Grade 6, 6:30-8pm Wed Night Youth Group Gr. 7-12 6:30-8pm Youth Leader Matt Sweere Visitation Pastor Vaughn White
- OTHER CHURCHES**
- CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE, HEWITT**
Sunday Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. Pastor Wayne Hoeffert; (218) 924-2028
- THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTERDAY SAINTS**
14711 125th Ave., Wadena Sacrament meeting, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. Relief Society and Priesthood meetings, noon
- THOMASTOWN COVENANT CHURCH, STAPLES**
15940 251st Ave., Staples 218-894-3923 Pastor Scott Jorgenson Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Wed. Eve Children & Youth 6:30 Wednesday - 6:30-7:30
- WADENA CONGREGATION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, KINGDOM HALL, WADENA**
Sunday Public Meeting: 10 a.m. Wed. meeting: 7 p.m.; 631-1006

Do you have changes for the directory? Drop them off at the Wadena Pioneer Journal office or email them to brentz@wadenapj.com.

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Michael Johnson / Pioneer Journal

The Wadena Elks Lodge is now open Tuesday- Saturday from 3 p.m. to close.

New Wadena Elks Lodge now open

By Michael Johnson
Wadena Pioneer Journal

WADENA — The new Wadena Elks Lodge is officially open and ready for business.

The new location at 210 Jefferson Street South is a remodeled space in the former All Around Divas building or some may remember it as the Cyber Cafe. It features a new bar offering cold beer and cocktails. They also serve pizza daily and have four TVs keeping visitors entertained. The plan is to eventually expand food offerings and offer the space for use outside of their regular business hours.

Some Lodge members gathered on July 1 for a soft opening and things went well, so the lodge reopened to the public on July 5.

Projector manager, and one of several Elks members who helped with carpentry work at the site, Dan Sartell said it's a large relief to be done with building — though he was still hard at work setting up some fixtures last week.

He's excited about how things turned out and feels the idea of creating a place that's a bit different, not in competition with existing businesses, but working in concert with them, has been fulfilled. They have plans of eventually serving both Little Round Still and Drastic Measures drinks at this location.

While the lodge serves as the home base for Elks members, it's also

open to all, as all are potentially Elks members. They offer handouts to those interested in finding out more about the club.

Sartell and other Elks members see this new site as more than just a new place. This relocation offers them a chance to rebuild the club and begin returning to the many community projects they are known for.

"The biggest sense of accomplishment is the fact that the Elks organization is now revitalized," Sartell said.

He noted that some past members were hesitant to return as members because they were unsure if the Elks would have a lodge again.

Well, they have a beautiful location now. Smaller than the last one for sure, but one that better fits their needs and within their means.

They will continue to serve drinks and food. They offer charitable gambling opportunities that help the organization put money back into the community.

Many may have fond memories of the Elks Lodge at its former location on Hwy 71 north, in the building now used by El Mariachi Authentic Mexican Restaurant. The Elks sold that building and moved out in June 2021. Now in their 54th year as a club, they are pleased to once again have a place of their own.

You are welcome to become a member of

Elks Lodge No. 2386 and attend their monthly meetings on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. Inquire inside for more information on membership or seek out a club member.

The club also has plans to hold a grand opening in the future, though no date has yet been announced.

Who are the Elks?

The Wadena Elks is a charitable organization composed of 210-plus local members. It once had over 350 members. Since its beginning, the Wadena Lodge has given over \$3 million back to the communities it serves. The lodge sponsors many fundraisers each year and also gives back through the efforts of charitable gambling.

The Elks take the lead on the local Hoop Shoot; a Flag Day ceremony; drug awareness and they regularly give scholarships to area graduates. They send youth to the Elks State Youth Camp in Brainerd; every year give presents to youth for Christmas and candy for Halloween. They've served veterans through their giving and hosting them at their location.

The Elks organization was founded in New York City on Feb. 16, 1868 under the name "Jolly Corks" by 15 actors, entertainers and others associated with the theater. In ensuing years, membership expanded to other professions. There are now around 2,000 groups across the country.

STUDENT NEWS

Local college graduates and honorees announced

WADENA — The following students were recognized for their accolades in college education.

NDSU honors

Summer Pettit, daughter of Cory Pettit and Sarah Resch, Wadena, received the NDSU Development Foundation Honor Scholarship and the NDSU Presidential Honor Award at North Dakota State University. The NDSU Development Foundation Honor Scholarship recognizes students with high academic achievement, and the NDSU Presidential Honor Award recognizes students who scored a 29-31 on the ACT and have a 3.5 or higher high school GPA.

Pettit will enter NDSU in the fall and major in nursing. In high school, she was active in band, choir, basketball, volleyball, Fishing League, Knowledge Bowl and National Honor Society. She also was a baseball manager.

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Minnesota State University, Mankato spring dean's list includes:

- Bertha:** Allison Asfeld, High Honor List
- Deer Creek:** Jordan Brink, Honor List
- Menahga:** Kayla Waa-raniemi, High Honor List

Alexandria Technical & Community College

2021-2022 graduates include:

- Menahga**
 - Daniel Aman, Associate of Arts Degree, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Summer 2021
 - Sarah Butler, Associate of Applied Science Degree, Law Enforcement, Spring 2022
 - Brian Keranen, Associate of Applied Science Degree, Mechanical, Summer 2021
 - Jon Kicker, Associate of Applied Science Degree, Mechatronics, Spring 2022
 - David Pietila, Diplo-

ma, Law Enforcement: Career Transition, Summer 2021

New York Mills
Paul Fisk, Associate of Applied Science Degree, Mechanical Drafting, Design Engineering Technology, Fall 2021

Blake Keskitalo, Diploma, Welding Technology, Summer 2021

Ryan Kickhafer, Diploma, Practical Nursing, Spring 2022

Justin Leaderbrand, Diploma, Welding Technology, Summer 2021

Aaron Will, Diploma, Law Enforcement: Career Transition, Summer 2021

Sebeka
Grace Olson, Diploma, Welding Technology, Summer 2021

Verndale
Christina Wright, Certificate, Law Enforcement Skills, Summer 2021

Wadena
Jason Carpenter, Certificate, Professional Truck Driver, Spring 2022

Zebra mussels found in Ottertail's Buchanan Lake

News Staff
Perham Focus

PERHAM — The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed a report of zebra mussels in Buchanan Lake, in the city of Ottertail in Otter Tail County.

A lake property owner contacted the DNR after finding an adult zebra mussel attached to a native mussel shell. A DNR invasive species specialist found an adult zebra mussel shortly after entering the water near the public access, about one mile from the site of the initial report.

Whether or not a lake has any invasive species, Minnesota law requires people to:

- Clean watercraft, trailers, and equipment to remove aquatic plants and prohibited

invasive species.

- Drain all water and leave drain plugs out during transport.

- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

- Never release bait, plants, or aquarium pets into Minnesota waters.

- Dry docks, lifts, and rafts for 21 days before moving them from one water body to another.

These additional steps reduce the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species:

- Decontaminate watercraft and equipment. Find free stations on the courtesy decontamination page of the DNR website (mndnr.gov/Decon).

- Spray with high-pressure water or rinse with very hot water — 120 degrees for at least two minutes

or 140 degrees for at least 10 seconds.

- Dry watercraft and equipment for at least five days before using in another water body.

Zebra mussels can compete with native species for food and habitat, cut the feet of swimmers, reduce the performance of boat motors, and cause damage to water intake pipes.

People should contact a Minnesota DNR aquatic invasive species specialist (mndnr.gov/Invasives/AIS/Contacts.html) if they think they have found zebra mussels or any other invasive species. More information is available on the aquatic invasive species page of the DNR website (mndnr.gov/AIS).



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MKT-P0253

Palmer retires after 43 years in lending

By Michael Johnson
Wadena Pioneer Journal

WADENA — Throughout Mike Palmer's long career in the bank lending industry he got to see the fruits of his labor helping farm families reach for their dreams.

Some wanted to buy the farm from grandma. Some sought to grow an operation of their own. Others just wanted to maintain life on the farm. He was at their side helping to make it happen.

Palmer recently retired from banking after 43 years. The last 15 have been at Mid-Central Federal/Mid-Central National Bank in Wadena, where he most recently served as vice president.

Palmer said his background in banking could be traced back to his dad who worked for the Federal Reserve, often gone for several weeks at a time inspecting banks across the country.

"It was not conducive to raising a family," Palmer recalls. "Sometimes we'd have to wait two weeks to get our punishment."

Eventually his dad got a job at a bank in New Ulm and became its president. Not long after, Mike's career was taking off after he graduated from college and took a job at a finance company in East St. Paul.

"I hated the job," Palmer recalls. "The rates were so high."

Helping people make the purchases they needed to grow was made hard when he saw how much it cost them. He made a move to a smaller operation in Danube and worked at a bank while starting to grow his own family.

"It was a rough time to be a banker," Palmer said. This was when the farm crisis of the 1980s was growing and if you needed a loan, it came with an 18.5% interest rate — an amount that helped drive people to bankruptcy.

While Palmer did a little bit of everything, his job was mostly focused on ag lending as that was the bulk of the customers in Renville County. While Palmer learned a great deal in his time there, he soon found that there was little the place had to offer for planning out his days towards retirement. He started a new search in 1988, which landed him in Staples at what was Staples State Bank. After his wife's (Gloria) teaching contract was up, she also made the move with the kids to Staples. Upon buying a home in Staples, the family was welcomed shortly after moving in by robbers that cleared out their house.

"The welcome wagon came and left — with everything," Palmer said. Their belongings

were never found.

Palmer worked through some unique times at his new gig in Staples before that bank went into receivership and his job was cut. Tough at the time, but Palmer believes it was the best thing that could have happened as he got out with his retirement funds before some other employees lost theirs. At 50 years old, he had kids in college and was back in search of a new job. That's when he was hired at Mid Central Federal Bank in Wadena.

"It's been a great marriage the last 15 years," Palmer said.

Palmer has enjoyed the career and plans to remain involved in community service as a Wadena Rotarian and member of the Friends of the Library. He was instrumental in helping bring a new library to Staples. Palmer has also been an active member of the Staples Lions Club, where he received the Melvin Jones award.

Mike and Gloria have some bucket list plans to work through including continuing to make it to all Major League Baseball stadiums in the country. They've made it to 18 of 30.

"My wife and I are a team," Palmer said. "We like to do things together."

They celebrate 40 years of marriage this month. Togeth-



Michael Johnson / Pioneer Journal
Mike Palmer, vice president at Mid-Central National Bank in Wadena, retired on July 1.

er, they have three very successful daughters, Kate, Abby and Anne. They look to be all the more present with them and their many grandchildren as they move into retirement.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS AND MARRIAGE LICENSES

Property transfers

► Jon T. Christenson and Brenda L. Christensen, h&w, hereby conveys to Lynn M. Mesteth and Robert L. Mesteth as jt ten w/right of survivorship, part of Government Lot 9, Section 11, Twp. 134, Rg. 33, lying easterly of a described line; AND part of Government Lot 9, Section 11, Twp. 134, Rg. 33, commencing at the SE corner of said Gov Lot 9, thence S 89 deg 30 min 12" W a distance of 317.51'; thence N 04 deg 51'21"W 264.75'; thence NWtly 147.33' along a tangential curve concave SW with a radius of 200' and a central angle of 42 deg 12' 23"; thence N 47 deg 03' 44" W tangent to said curve 33.06'; thence NWtly 219.12' along a tangential curve concave northeast with a radius of 250' and a central angle of 50 deg 13'104"; thence Ntly 96.33' along a tangential curve concave W with a radius of 160' and a central angle of 34 deg 29'04" to the point of beginning; thence continuing NWtly 91.43' along last described curve with a radius of 160' and a central angle of 32 deg 44' 2"; thence N 64 deg 04' 42" W tangent to said curve, 137.31'; thence NWtly 188.36' along a tangential curve concave northeast with a radius

of 282.06' and a central angle of 38 deg 15' 46"; thence N 46 deg 22 min 33"W not tangent to said curve, 80.73'; thence S 28 deg 21' 14" E 75.66'; thence SEtly 205.06' along a non-tangential curve concave NE with a radius of 307.06' and a central angle of 38 deg 15' 46" the chord of said curve bears S 44 deg 56' 49" E 201.27'; thence S 64 deg 04 min 42" E tangent to said curve, 137.31'; thence SEtly y0.23' along a tangential curve concave SW with a radius of 135' and a central angle of 25 deg 33' 47"; thence S 88 deg 25' 38" E not tangent to said curve 31.04' to point of beginning, together with and subject to 33' perpetual ingress/egress easement across part of Gov Lot 9, Section 11, Twp. 134, Rg. 33.

► City of Staples hereby conveys to Zieton LLP, Lots 17 and 18, Block 1, Valley view Neighborhood.

► City of Staples hereby conveys to Staples/Motley Housing Group, LLC, Lot 26, Block 1; Lot 15, Block 1; and Lot 1, Block 1, all in Valley View Neighborhood.

► Thomas F. Olson, Atty in fact for Marlin R. Olson, single person, hereby conveys to Leroy Hoffman and Linda Hoffman, as jt ten, Lots 11, 12 13, 14, 15, 16 and Lot 17, Block 5, Borchardt's Addition to the City

of Wadena, EXCEPT that part of Lot 17, Block 5, Borchardt's Addition, described as: commencing at the SWtly corner of said Lot 17; thence Ntly along the Wtly line of said Lot 17 a distance of 34'; thence Etly and parallel with the Stly line of said Lot 17 a distance of 140' to the Etly line of said Lot 17; thence Stly along the Etly line of said Lot 17 a distance of 34' to the SEtly corner thereof; thence Wtly along the Stly line of said Lot 17 a distance of 140' to the point of beginning.

► Daric R. Kako and Sheila D. Kako, married to one another, hereby conveys to Dennis Trimble and Jennifer Trimble, as jt ten, Lot 2, Block 10, Townsite of Menahga.

► Paul E. Eiswald and Mavis D. Eiswald, married to each other, hereby conveys to Jane M. Merickel, as Trustee of the Jane M. Merickel Living Trust, Lot 3 and the S 50' of Lot 4, Block 1, Rowe's Addition to Wadena.

► Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, hereby conveys to John Steigerwald and Cynthia Steigerwald, as jt ten, Part of Reserve Lot C of Tappe's Sunset Beach described as: beginning at a point 150' S and 166.75' E of the NW corner of said Reserve Lot C; thence E parallel with the N line of said

Lot C a distance of 250.25' to the W line of Blueberry Drive in the Plat of Blueberry Lake View Addition; thence in a Stly direction on W line of said road 150'; thence in a Wtly direction parallel with the N line of said Lot C a distance of 360.0'; thence in a NEtly direction 184.95' to the point of beginning.

► Colleen Tarrell, single person; Brian Dempsey, single person; and Cheryl Dempsey and Larry Kennedy, married to each other, hereby conveys to Tracy Thompson, Lots 1 and 2, Block 1, Smith's Addition to the Town-

site of Verndale.

► Karen L. Rach, unmarried, hereby conveys to H & M Farms, LLP, W 11 rods of E 20 rods of N 115.5 rods of NW1/4 NE1/4 of Section 11, Twp. 134, Rg. 35.

► Jeffrey D. Schindeldecker and Monica P. Schindeldecker, Trustees of the Trust Agreement of Jeffrey D. Schindeldecker, hereby conveys to Rebecca M. Taylor and Justin M. Taylor, as jt ten, NW1/4 SW1/4, Section 10, Twp. 137, Rg. 35, EXCEPT the E 250' thereof; AND that part of the SW1/4 NW1/4, Section 10,

Twp. 137, Rg. 35, lying and being Stly of the centerline of Cat Creek, EXCEPT the E 250' thereof.

► Addy Upton, FKA Addy A. Moson and Jake D. Upton, married to one another, hereby conveys to Infinity, Inc, W 75' of Lot 1, Block 2, Powers Third Addition to Menahga. Marriage licenses

► Jordan Michael Hasselstrom and Jennifer Elizabeth Portillo, both of Wadena.

► Roger Patrick Reichel, Staples, and Barbara Marie Wielinski, Motley.

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Contributed photo

The cast of a previous Camp Madhatter performance in Wadena.

Camp Madhatter seeks campers for 22nd event

WADENA — Camp Madhatter 2022 is titled “One Voice” and is inspired by the lyrics of a song by Ruth Moody of the Wailin’ Jennys.

Camp Madhatter will weave together songs from the musical theater genre that reflect the theme of being unique, being one of a kind, and being part of the whole of humanity. The campers will experience the music of five time Grammy award winner, Jon Batista using dance and vocal selections will include excerpts from the musicals: *Shrek The Musical*, *Matilda*, *Seussical The Musical*, *Frozen II* and *Book of Mormon*. Most of the vocal selections will be songs the campers can relate to on a personal level. Dancing will include basic partnering and learning the basic dance steps that are used in musical theater.

Drama will also focus on the basic skills of an

actor. How to use focus, gesture and use your voice to create a character.

Characters will be age appropriate and easily accessible to the camper. Each camper will receive a scene to work on. The scenes will be chosen from well-known young people’s works and contemporary scenes used in the drama classroom.

Dramatic improvisation and ensemble work will include drama games that teach ensemble awareness and activities that stretch their creative minds. Lots of work with words as well as physical play will be explored.

Because of our generous sponsors and community members, no camper is ever turned away for lack of funds. Many campers return every year, and a few campers have been to drama camp for more than 10 consecutive

years. The camp has become a key part of their theatrical training!

2019 summer marked the 20th consecutive summer of Camp Madhatter since 1999, and Camp Madhatter has 21 years of camp under its belt! Ages 8-12 meet from 9-12:30. Ages 13-18 meet from 1:30-5 p.m. Campers meet at Memorial Auditorium Monday-Friday. All campers are required to attend the entire day of August 5. Showcase performance will be at 7 p.m. on Aug. 5.

Camp tuition is \$100 with some partial sponsorships available. Sponsorships are a first-come/first-serve basis.

Contact Deb Fitzsimmons, Executive Director, at 218-371-1703 debfitzsimmons6@gmail.com. Forms are available in the school offices and at www.madhattersinc.org

New partnership means equipment coming to emergency response teams

LITTLE FALLS — Emergency responders across central Minnesota will soon have the equipment they need thanks to a partnership between Good Neighbors EMS Fund and Sourcewell.

Good Neighbors EMS Fund is a newly established nonprofit with a mission to serve emergency response teams in Morrison County as an equipment buying and distributing resource.

Leadership at Sourcewell, the regional service cooperative based in Staples, learned of Good Neighbors EMS Fund’s mission and cooperative model. They felt the nonprofit’s mission and method could benefit emergency responders throughout Sourcewell’s assigned

five-county service area of Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena counties.

Sourcewell awarded Good Neighbors EMS Fund \$175,000 in Emergency Services Equipment Funding, according to a Good Neighbors EMS Fund news release. Good Neighbors EMS Fund will use the one-time award to buy and distribute essential equipment to volunteer responders throughout the five-county area. Items include medical response bags and AEDs.

“This is a huge boost for local emergency responders,” said Pat Boone, Good Neighbors EMS Fund board member. “The need for equipment is great; so many teams in our rural area are drastically

under equipped. This is a good start to making sure our teams have the basic equipment they need.”

Paul Drange, Sourcewell director of regional programs, views the partnership as an effective way for the local service cooperative to support local communities.

“We’re grateful for the expertise and support Good Neighbors EMS Fund provides in our region and happy to support this work,” Drange said. “This partnership is an effective way to get our region’s emergency crews the life-saving supplies and equipment they need.”

The equipment is expected to arrive mid-to-late summer.

Sebeka Historical Society scores big with Operation Round Up

SEBEKA — With renovation of the pioneer log schoolhouse in Sebeka’s City Park nearing completion, the Sebeka Area Historical Society is attending to the other two buildings in the historic compound – a log barn and log sauna. The barn is especially critical with a leaky roof threatening the structure and artifacts inside. Funds were needed to purchase roofing boards, shingles, and labor.

Todd Wadena Electric Coop’s Operation Round Up came to the rescue with a timely \$4,500 grant for the building material component.

Like the schoolhouse and sauna, the 1906 log barn was donated from a local Finnish farmer and moved to the City Park. Once restored, the wealth of tools, equipment, machinery, and common pioneer farm items will be displayed to enlighten younger generations and nudge memories of old timers. Roofing work begins this week and, with luck, items will be on display at the dedication of the schoolhouse on July 30, 2022.

Operation Round Up is a voluntary, member-driven program for local community projects spearheaded by Todd Wadena Electric Coop. With the consent of about 4,400 members, TWEC rounds up electric bills to the nearest dollar, which averages \$6 per year. Since the program’s inception in 2002, TWEC members



Contributed photo

Carpenters work on roofing in the Sebeka Park. A log barn and sauna are the remaining structures to be restored in the three-building pioneer compound.

raised and donated over \$590,000 to community service projects.

The Sebeka Area Historical Society’s grant application was convincing, complete, and critical enough to defy the odds and merit yearly back-to-back funding, according to Nancy Benson, chair of Operation Round Up. “We grant funds three times a year,” says Nancy. “Last year, the Historical Society received a \$1,000 grant. This year, we were impressed with the thoroughness of the application and critical timeliness of replacing the roof before winter. We evaluate all applications against a common rubric, and this one scored very high.”

Restoration of the schoolhouse, barn, and sauna proceeds under the watchful eye of Frank Eld, Finnish historian and log construction practitioner.

Wherever practical and possible, authentic materials and methods are employed. The His-

torical Society is considering applying for inclusion of the schoolhouse in the National Registry of Historic Places.

On Saturday, July 30, at 1 p.m., the Historical Society will host a short dedication program of the schoolhouse, part of Red River Days. The public is cordially invited to attend. The program will include a brief history of the building and renovation process, a personal remembrance of the schoolhouse builder August Mattila, comments from Frank Eld, and entertainment.

The Historical Society is eager to show off the finished schoolhouse project, complete with replaced and resurfaced logs, split cedar shake roof, new windows and doors, new floor, finished logs and ceiling, and one-room country schoolhouse furnishings. They invite you to join at this newest Sebeka attraction.



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The Trust Project

Home blood pressure monitoring extended

A program that began during the COVID-19 pandemic to make it easier and more convenient for Tri-County Health Care (TCHC) patients to track their blood pressure and monitor/treat hypertension will be extended.

The program provides at-home blood pressure monitors for patients who are discharged from the hospital and have been newly diagnosed with or dealing with poorly managed congestive heart failure, and for patients (in the clinic setting) when hypertension medication changes are being considered in the clinic.

This program was initially implemented due to limited clinic access related to COVID-19 and patient hesitations to be seen in the clinic at that time. Paying for clinic visits due to job loss and other factors was a concern for patients, and home blood pressure monitoring lessened this issue,

according to a Wadena County Public Health news release.

Tri-County Health Care wanted to provide patients with an innovative way to conveniently track their blood pressure and treat/manage hypertension without frequent visits to the clinic. The program has worked well in not only achieving its initial goals, but also in supporting the overall health of patients. They have also found that at-home blood pressure monitoring helps identify “white coat syndrome,” which occurs when a person develops high blood pressure in a health-care setting. It also gives them the confidence to partner with their healthcare provider in making the choices they need to make to take care of their health needs.

RN Health Coaches have found that patients using the at-home blood pressure monitoring devices are more will-

ing to make lifestyle changes, seek help, and begin taking blood pressure medication.

“Some individuals have been able to prove their blood pressure is at goal or lower at home and are then able to decrease their blood pressure medication dose or discontinue their medication altogether. Checking home blood pressures at different times of the day has also been helpful to identify the best time for a patient to take their medication.” Missy Spandl, RN Health Coach at Tri-County Health Care.

When a patient receives a new blood pressure machine in the clinic, they are sent home with educational handouts on the proper use of the device, ways to obtain an accurate blood pressure reading, and a blood pressure recording card. An RN calls the patient the next business day to ensure they could set up and use the

machine. RN health coaches reach out to patients periodically to obtain their blood pressure readings and, if necessary, route them back to their primary care provider for advice and further directions.

The blood pressure machines were funded, in part, by a grant from Wadena County Public Health. The Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) grant is a state-based program that works at the local level to reduce the leading causes of chronic diseases, including cardiovascular disease.

“We are proud to partner with Tri-County Health Care to help support a highly effective program that is having significant and positive health impacts on local residents with hypertension,” Carrie Schreiner, Wadena County Public Health SHIP Coordinator.

From August 2021 to March

2022, 48 self-monitoring blood pressure machines have been distributed locally. There have also been 39 educational materials provided during that time period.

Schreiner said that Wadena County Public Health SHIP will continue to meet with Tri-County Health Care quarterly to monitor successes or challenges faced with the self-monitoring blood pressure machines, and provide guidance or assistance along the way if necessary.

“Tri-County Health Care and the patients we serve have been greatly impacted by the funds received from the SHIP grant. This opportunity has allowed us to meet the needs of our community and their health-related concerns regardless of their financial status,” Jessica Hamman, RN Health Coach Tri-County Health Care.

Veterans, Gold Star Families get free entrance to National Parks

WADENA — Entrance fees for the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and standard amenity recreation fees for the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sites are waived for current Military Service-members and their dependents, Veterans and Gold Star Families, according to the National Park Service website.

They now have free access to approximately 2,000 public locations spread out across more than 400 million acres of public lands, which host activities to fit any lifestyle.

Are you eligible?

For purposes of this program, a Veteran is identified as an individual who has served in the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, and is able to present one of the following forms of valid (unexpired) identification:

- ▶ Department of Defense Identification Card
- ▶ Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)
- ▶ Veteran ID Card
- ▶ Veterans designation on a state-issued U.S. driver's license or identification card.

Gold Star Families are next of kin of a member of the United States Armed Forces who lost his or her life in a “qualifying situation,” such as a war, an international terrorist attack, or a military operation outside of the United States while serving with the United States Armed Forces.

The America the Beautiful the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass (Interagency Pass) Program. The Interagency Pass Program already includes a free annual pass for active duty members of the U.S. Military and their dependents. Current Military Service-members must show a valid (unexpired) Department of Defense ID. Dependents of current Service-members must show a valid (unexpired) DD Form 1173 AD or DEC.

The annual Military Pass has been expanded to include Veterans and Gold Star Family members.



Steve Kuchera / 2021 file / Duluth News Tribune

A cow moose and her calf feed along Hidden Lake on Isle Royale National Park in August. Researchers have found what may have been the oldest wild moose on record, an Isle Royale cow that lived 22 years.

Other free or discounted passes, including some lifetime passes, are available for persons with permanent disabilities, fourth grade students, volunteers, and senior citizens age 62 years or older.

Interagency passes can be obtained in person while visiting a participating site. Visit “Places to Get Interagency Passes” for a searchable list and be sure to contact

the site before you go, to make sure they are open and have passes in stock. In addition, military passes, as well as those for seniors and persons with permanent disabilities, are available online through the USGS Online Store. For more information about eligibility and passes, visit “Free Entrance to National Parks for Veterans and Gold Star Families” at nps.gov.

The participating agencies also offer several fee-free days for everyone throughout the year to mark days of celebration and commemoration. Examples of fee-free days include the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., National

Public Lands Day, Veterans Day, and the signing of the Great American Outdoors Act.

Fee-free days and fee policies vary among the agencies, so it's best to check the agency website or contact the site you plan to visit in advance

of your trip.

If you have questions, your local Wadena County Veterans Service Officer can help. You can contact your local VSO at (218) 631-7617 or by email at david.anderson@co.wadena.mn.us.

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LEGION BASEBALL

BACK IN ACTION

Post 171 picks up right where WDC left off

By Jared Rubado
Wadena Pioneer Journal

Wadena

The Wadena Legion baseball team is revving up for another deep postseason run just weeks after Wadena-Deer Creek competed in the Class 2A state high school baseball tournament.

Post 171 picked up a pair of convincing wins over Park Rapids on Monday night in a doubleheader sweep. After winning the first game 7-1, Wadena made quick work of Park Rapids in a 10-2 five-inning win in game two.

"We had fun in the first game," Wadena head coach Justin Dykhoff said. "I let one of the players make the lineup, and we were still able to get a win, so that's good. In the second game, we played with the varsity team they'll have next year without seniors. They came out and hit the ball in that one too."

After Park Rapids scored a run in the top of the first inning, Wadena was quick to answer. Connor Davis tied the game with an RBI triple before Evan Lunde brought him home with a sacrifice fly.

Gunner Olson doubled in a pair of runs later in the inning before Simon Kreklau made it 5-1 with an RBI single. Tyson Barthel added another run in the bottom of the second inning with a single.

Post 171 kept rolling in the fourth inning, adding four more runs on a Barthel single, Kreklau's bases-loaded walk and an error. The game ended after five innings due to darkness.

Wadena's two wins moved its record to 8-2 this summer.

"It's tremendous," Dykhoff said of the growth throughout the high school and legion season. "Their defense has really come around after struggling. We had a ton of fun up in Ely last weekend and came away 2-1. We lost to a good Wisconsin team that's played 40 Legion games. We've played 10."

Post 171 has jammed a lot of legion baseball games into a few short weeks. After WDC advanced through three rounds in the Class 2A state baseball tournament, the Legion season was put on the backburner.

"They started right where they left off in the varsity season," Dykhoff said. "They hit the ball well. We struggled defensively to start the season, but it's come around now. With Legion being summer ball, everyone gets their chances to show they can play if need be. They've done that."

Summer baseball is a time for developing the next wave of varsity baseball players. Even though graduated seniors like John Dykhoff and Payton Rondestvedt are playing in their final eligible year of Legion baseball, nights like Monday were reserved for future Wolverines.

"There aren't a lot of challenges with this team as a coach," Dykhoff said. "They all love baseball quite a bit. Coming out here and playing this many games is easy for them."

The Legion playoffs begin this weekend, and Wadena will look to go to another state tournament. Now that the dog days of summer are over, coach Dykhoff hopes to see the same rejuvenated group that competed for a high school state championship.

"I want them to keep playing ball the way they have been but with a little more fire," Dykhoff said. "I feel like in Legion, they slack off a little bit, but they're coming off of a state tournament, so it's OK. They'll come back around and get more dialed in for playoffs."

GAME ONE
PARK RAPIDS 000 001 2-3-5-1
WADENA 401 200 X-1-10-2
WP: Tyson Barthel 6IP, 5H, 1R, 0ER, 1BB, 8K
LP: Johanning 3IP, 7R, 5ER, 3BB, 1K
WADENA HITTING- Josh Dykhoff 2B

GAME TWO
PARK RAPIDS 100 01X X-2-1-6
WADENA 510 4XX X-10-9-0
WP: Connor Davis 5IP, 1H, 2R, 1ER, 3BB, 6K
LP: Morris 4IP, 9H, 10R, 3ER, 2BB, 4K
WADENA HITTING- Gunner Olson 2B, Connor Davis 3B

Contact Jared Rubado:
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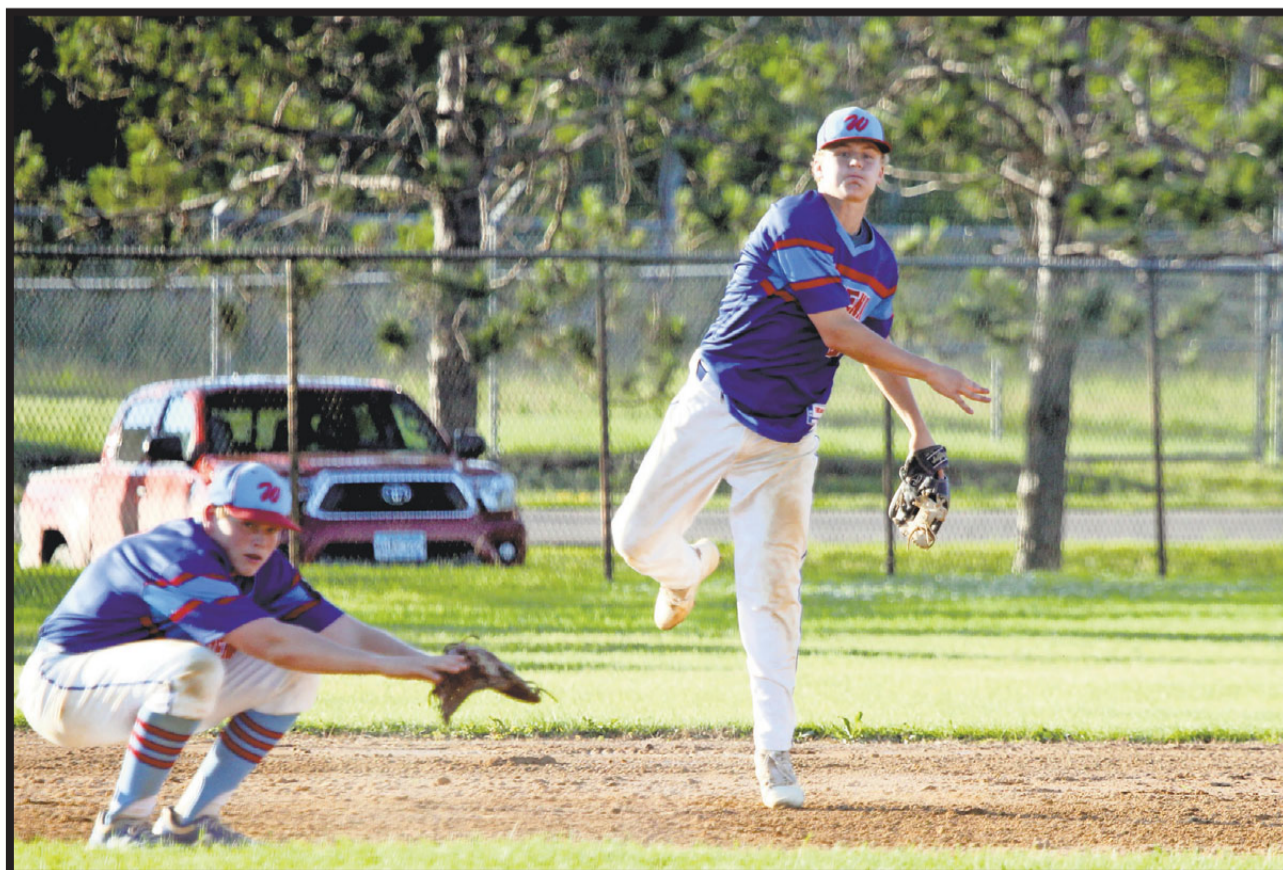


Photos by Jared Rubado / Wadena Pioneer Journal

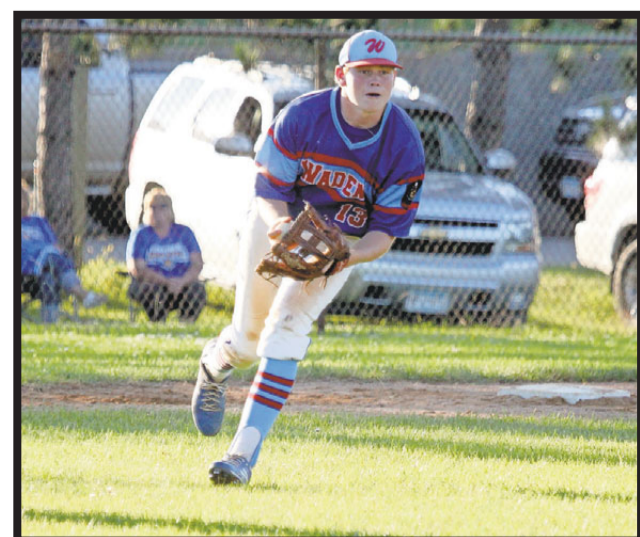
Wadena's Chad Dickey waits for the pitch in Post 171's 10-2 win over Park Rapids in game two of a doubleheader sweep on Monday.



Wadena's Connor Davis pitches in Post 171's 10-2 win over Park Rapids on Monday in game two of a doubleheader sweep.



Wadena's Isaac Hamann, right, throws out a runner at first base Monday in Post 171's 10-2 win over Park Rapids in game two.



Wadena's Brandon Wheeler makes a nice play at third base in Post 171's 10-2 win over Park Rapids in game two of Monday's doubleheader sweep.

Life is a Highway



Photos by Michael Johnson / Pioneer Journal

Left: A steaming hot plate of fajitas is set before guests at Crazy Burrito on July 6 in Wadena. Right: The dining area inside Crazy Burrito is ready for customers.

BURRITO

From Page A1

The menu is filled with Mexican delights like enchiladas, quesadillas, fajitas, salads, and some American options. While they were without alcoholic drinks for the first few days of operation, they received their license and are now stocked with those drink options. The couple took a

leap of faith to start their own business after working with numerous restaurants and finally deciding it was time to run their own place. It was their background at these various locations, in Wisconsin and Missouri, that helped them understand how to create a great experience and meal for their own customers. "We got tips at every location," Zuluaga said. "We take the best things of all the places," Gutierrez said. They began seeking

out a place of their own about three years ago, not long after their first child, Ivan, was born. He is now joined by little sister Triana, who is 1 year and 7 months. When they heard about the spot in Wadena, they made a visit and made their decision on the same day. They say the COVID virus brought them to move to Minnesota. The couple is looking forward to growing this business and creating a future for their family.

"I make this business for my family," Gutierrez said. The couple is in need of staff right now as they are currently working in all areas of the business to keep things running smoothly. As they grow their business, they have plans of giving back. Gutierrez said he hopes to make a donation from a percentage of profits one day a week. It's his way of showing kindness in the community.

"I would like to help more people," he said. The owners hail from Mexico, but met while on the job in America. They both say they are a big support for each other as they branch out on their own together. "He's the nicest person I know," Zuluaga said. While Zuluaga said she was not sure she was fully prepared to step out into this new adventure she told her husband it was a good idea and offered her full

support. "I support him," she said. "I can't make the decision myself," he said. "I need her." And now the couple and the business just needs customers to come see what Crazy Burrito has to offer. They currently open everyday at 11 a.m. They close at 9 p.m. on Monday-Thursday; 9:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; and 8:30 p.m. on Sundays. They offer dine in and take out options.

THEFT

From Page A1

has been "charging to the (Fair) Board's account" to fill his personal truck with diesel about 20 times, totaling \$1,624.42. These expense receipts were signed by Lehmann, and he is seen pumping fuel into his personal vehicle in available footage since March 2022. The charges came forward after at least one Wadena County Fair Board member noticed a significant increase in fuel costs since last October. The charges include felony theft by swindle and felony theft. The level of charge includes a value of more than \$1,000 but less than \$5,000. The Wadena Police Department, the investigating department on this case, looked further to find that the Ag Society funds are commingled with funds that Wadena County provides to the Ag Society for operational costs.

The criminal complaint states that Lehmann spoke with Wadena Police in April concerning the allegations and Lehmann said that the majority of the expenses were legitimate, either for a skid steer used for snow plowing at the fairgrounds or for transporting Amish who were completing construction projects at the fairgrounds. Based on the fuel capacity of the skid steer it appeared that the expenses were over and above that amount, according to the complaint. In interviewing the Amish construction company, the police were told that Lehmann only transported them one time out of five to seven trips to the fairgrounds. Lehmann states in the complaint that he became "greedy with charging for fuel especially towards the end." He admitted that he started charging some fuel to the Ag Society due to personal hardship but intended to pay it back. He estimated he owed \$500-\$600. In reaching out to Lehmann

about the charges, he maintains that most of the expenses were legitimate as he spends many hours working at the Wadena County Fairgrounds, where he volunteers year round for their extensive event schedule. He said he has to run back and forth to the grounds to open and lock up after others that work on the grounds. Lehmann, in May 2022, said that he shared with the fair board members that he was charged with theft of the fuel. Despite being charged with felony theft, he remained as the board president. He said the charges were brought by fair board members that want to get him off the board. He maintains that there should not be a problem because the fair board approved the fuel expenses, even though at least one member questioned the increase in expenses. "I'm not going to say that it was kosher, it was the right thing ... but I've also put in a lot of time and effort and work into here," Lehmann said. He added that he's worked

hard over the last 7-8 years to improve the Wadena County Fair and does not want to see this issue blemish what the fair has become in the county. He feels this issue should have been resolved among the board rather than someone pressing criminal charges. "I don't think I've done anything wrong," Lehmann said. The criminal complaint notes that Lehmann has on record former charges for issuance of a dishonored check on three separate occasions. Lehmann had his first appearance in June. **Other fair board concerns** At the first meeting of the Fair Board after news of Lehmann's charges were shared, on May 10, round table discussion had at least half the board members sharing frustrations about the behavior of other board members. Without specifically saying who was doing what, they referred to the behavior as childish.

Numerous shared that they were excited to join the board but were on the brink of resigning if others didn't stop acting like children. A previous plan to bring in youth to serve as a junior fair board was put on the back burner as a couple fair board members said the adult fair board was not acting mature enough to be an example to the youth. The board addressed concerns over reporting of expenses or charges to the Ag Society account, directly related to the charges against Lehmann. There was some agreement that they all needed to better track their expenses and save paperwork. The discussion also centered around getting their expenses to an accountant. Former board member Larry DeWald shared that the two past accountants that the board has tried to work with have called him because they were not receiving the information they needed to complete the accounting work they were hired to perform.

FACILITY

From Page A1

home bleachers. Cost: Concessions stand work, \$257,400; new cold storage \$121,600.

Outdoor fencing: For about \$362,000 the school could replace old rusting fencing around the baseball field, and two softball fields. The new fence would be black vinyl coated. Other plans were to move some sprinklers to avoid water spray on the fence.

Tennis courts: Old surface on the seven court area needs replacement. Options were to replace the existing or resurface the existing. Resurface cost was \$93,000, while replacement cost is \$664,600. New fencing is also mentioned in the plan.

CTE space: The existing space would grow with a remodel and 3,000 square foot addition off the east side of the school towards the greenhouse. Cost: \$1.96 million.

High school parking lot and parent loop: They identified a need

for additional parking and that the existing loop is congested. A solution was to add a 100 stall parking lot to the west and move the parent pick-up/drop-off to the east. Cost \$1.35 million. This topic had support from board member Ryan Damlo who called the current loop “absolute nonsense.” Board member Kent Schmidt was favorable to a drop off area that was one way only as opposed to two-way traffic.

High school awning: The existing patio area has no covering. Proposal is to add either permanent attached structure or free-standing metal covering. Cost: Metal cover at 1,500 square feet, \$75,000. Or attached awning, with 2,250 square feet, \$353,900.

Playgrounds: Old playgrounds on the west side of the elementary were identified as in need of replacement. The wood chip base was also considered for replacement for ADA compliance. The playground equipment at M-State was also considered in this proposal. A proposal is to replace

the equipment and base. Cost: At the elementary this would cost \$364,700 and \$158,700 at M-State.

Paying for it

The cost of these projects was derived from recent bid projects that ICS was aware of. There have been no estimates or bids sought yet. The plan was to have ICS present options to the board in August.

A budget summary looked at using \$1.347 million in abatement dollars; over \$3 million in Long Term Facilities Maintenance and \$2.89 million from a referendum

Wadena-Deer Creek Superintendent Lee Westrum shared that if the district were to sell \$5 million in bonds to pay for some of these projects, it would be about a \$50 cost annually for a property owner with a home valued at \$125,000.

As stated before, this is in the early stages. If this were to involve a referendum, the public would be brought in to be a part of the process through a public review of the options.



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