

Library renovation question will not be on ballot

Jay Schneider
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The current and possible new location of the Waterville Library was heavily discussed during the Tuesday, July 7 Waterville city Council meeting.

Stacy Lienemann, the Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library Systems Director started the dialogue with information about the current library space, the possible renovation of a space in the new city hall building (The Village), and funding which could be obtained.

There have been prior meetings discussing movement from the current location into the city-owned property, but Lienemann has many concerns, as do a number of citizens who also got their chance to speak to the council.

There was discussion at one of the last meetings to possibly place a question of the Waterville City Ballot in November asking about approval from the public on dollars to be spent on renovations and whether or not the public would approve this. The council agreed that this would not be feasi-

ble at this time, since they would only have until August 11 to place it on the ballot and total financial needs for renovation could not be acquired by that date.

Here are some of the things which Lienemann presented in a power-point display Tuesday evening:

Waterville Library Use in 2025

- 6,208 people visited the Waterville Library
- 7,935 patrons checked out items
- 1,947 of those patrons checked out digital items
- Computers were used 805 times
- Staff answered 1,773 research questions
- 1,722 kids played with educational toys
- 63 community meetings were held
- The library has 3,962 children's, young adult, and adult items-Including books, magazines, newspapers, audio books, music, adventure packs, movies, video games, and board games

Space Concerns

- The current space of the library is 2,448 square feet and the future space is 1,232 square feet.

Included in this space deduction are radiators surrounding the perimeter of the room on three sides so shelving could not be attached to the walls in the city building. The majority of the current shelving in Waterville is attached to the walls. The radiators would block the current book drop.

- To move into future space without an expansion would result in the estimated loss of 187 of the current 433 shelves and their contents (43% of the collection would be lost).

In addition the new spot would eliminate all of their tables, display shelves, and all of the educational toys, and the book drop. In 2025, 1,722 kids played with educational toys and 63 community meetings were held in the library space at the tables.

- Every single event would require the library to hold the event in the community area at the city hall, which is space

Library to 4



Pictured left to right with a number of Legion Auxiliary State Awards are Elysian Unit 311 Delegates Edna Thayer, Kelly Kauss, and Tamara Thayer.

Elysian Legion Auxiliary wins State Awards

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A number of Elysian Legion Auxiliary Unit 311 members attended the Minnesota Auxiliary Convention July 8 through 11 in Willmar.

Those three, who also served as delegates, were Kelly Kauss, Edna Thayer, and Tamara Thayer.

In addition to voting on issues at the business meeting, all three delegates had other special duties at the convention. Kelly Kauss was a member of the Finance Committee which met on Wednesday, July 8. She also attended the department Executive Committee meeting on Wed. and assisted with the Auxiliary Emergency Fund Silent Auction which raised \$5,079.

As Third District Chaplain, Tamara Thayer said the prayers at both Third District Caucuses. As Department Americanism chair, she led the Pledge at the department meeting and signed the National Anthem in American Sign Language. She also chaired the Americanism committee meeting for which Edna Thayer served as secretary.

There are 16 major programs of service in the Auxiliary and there are 20 top award plaques, ranging from 0 to 3

State awards to 6

Elness attends Girls State

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WEM 17-year-old Natalie Elness had the opportunity to do something which is only afforded to specific females and she decided to take part.

Elness was selected by the Elysian Legion Auxiliary to take part in the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program, which is for high school girls finishing their junior year.

She took part in this special program June 14 through June 19 at Bethel University.

Delegates are selected by local Legion Auxiliary Units to participate in a hands-on, mock-government simulation which covers city, county, and state political processes.

Elness wasn't exactly sure what the program was about, but she did have a couple of family members who also attended the same event when they were her age. Her mother Aubrey attended in 1996 and her father Alec attended in 1995 in the Boys State Program.

"I knew it was to learn about government but that was it," Elness said. "I first heard about it from a friend when she went last year and she talked to me about going, then Sonia (Ziemer) reached out to me."

Girls are selected using the following criteria: she must be a U.S. citizen, must have high moral character, strong leadership qualities, and must have an interest in the government workings.

Girls from all over the state of Minnesota, up to 400, were

Elness to 5



Natalie Elness

Le Sueur County Relay for Life breaks fundraising goal



Honorary survivor Mike Meyer, center, and his family lead the first lap of the 2026 Le Sueur County Relay for Life, held at the Le Sueur County Fairgrounds Friday.

Mike Mallow
mmallow@montgomerymn-news.com

Le Sueur County's 33rd Annual Relay for Life filled the buildings and lined the pathways of the Le Sueur County Fairgrounds on Friday.

The four-hour event raised funding for the American Cancer Society (ASC). The nonprofit is the largest funder of cancer research grants in the United States besides the federal government.

Around \$76,000 has been raised in the county so far this year, which is well beyond the goal of \$70,000.

The money raised helps support patients undergoing cancer treatments and their families.

But the fundraising isn't finished yet. Co-Chair Amy Sellner says there are a couple more fundraisers to go, and a few payments they are still waiting for.

Opening Ceremony

Emcee for the event, Bette Traxler, began the ceremony with a presentation of colors by the Le Sueur County Color Guards, the national anthem, and words by Le Center Mayor Christian Harmeyer.

Traxler introduced the year's honorary survivor, Mike Meyer.

Meyer told the story of the two times in his life he had cancer, including at age 5 and age 30. His speech weaved in themes of faith and positivity.

"My parents and family always stayed positive," Meyer said when he spoke about his cancer at age 5. "I never knew, or at least, never understood the severity of what I was going through. They kept me focused on being a

Relay to 8



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WATERVILLE POLICE REPORT

Monday, July 6: Directed patrol; directed patrol; traffic stop; welfare check; juvenile problem; suspicious activity/person/vehicle; and traffic stop.

Tuesday, July 7: Noise complaint; directed patrol; alarm; directed patrol; and theft.

Wednesday, July 8: Directed patrol; animal complaint; funeral escort; Waterville City Ordinance; background check; welfare

check; and animal complaint.

Thursday, July 9: Directed patrol; agency assist; administrative detail; and property damage.

Friday, July 10: Burglary; agency assist; civil matter; Waterville City Ordinance; directed patrol; medical; and medical.

Saturday, July 11: Directed patrol and welfare check.

Sunday, July 12: Directed patrol; assist; and directed patrol.

SENIOR DINING MENU

Monday, July 20 – Tuna noodle casserole, green peas, hot spiced peaches, dinner roll with margarine, vanilla pudding with whipped topping, and milk.

Tuesday, July 21 – Sloppy joe on a hamburger bun, country vegetable blend, fruit crumble, summer pasta salad, and milk.

Wednesday, July 22 – Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes with brown gravy, green beans, dinner roll with margarine, lemon Jello with Mandarin oranges, and milk.

Thursday, July 23 – Tater tot hotdish, whole kernel corn, wheat bread with margarine, apple crisp, and milk.

Friday, July 24 – Chicken Cordon Bleu, sliced carrots, rice pilaf, applesauce cup, wheat dinner roll with margarine, and milk.

Your Waterville Lutheran Social Services Meals on Wheels (LSS MOW) Site Coordinator is Amber Sufka. Please call her at 507-405-5202 by 1 p.m. the day before for menu changes and cancellations, or call anytime to inquire about receiving meals or about volunteering to deliver meals once or twice a month. The LSS MOW program operates Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, delivering meals primarily to adults age 60 and over. LSS MOW asks all participants to consider making a financial contribution to help meet their cost to prepare quality meals. However, participant eligibility is not dependent on ability to contribute towards the program. EBT (SNAP Vouchers) and county waivers are accepted.

OBITUARY

Ralph Edward Gregor

Ralph Edward Gregor, age 76, of rural Waterville, died on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at his home.

Born on November 16, 1949, in Faribault, Minnesota, he was the son of Donald and Delores (Harriman) Gregor. He graduated from Waterville-Elysian High School in 1967 and went on to serve in the US Army from 1969 until his honorable discharge in 1971. Following his discharge, Ralph returned home and married Betty Slechta. They later divorced. Ralph retired from Brown Printing Company in Waseca after 30+ years. In his retirement he worked a variety of jobs in the area. He enjoyed working

outside as well as traveling with his friend, Joan.

He is survived by his daughter, Angela (John) Groehler of Mankato; one grandson, Cree Groehler; three sisters, Linda Fetchenhier of Elysian, Carol Gregor of Seattle, WA, and Anita Hillstead of Green Bay, WI, as well as several nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his friend, Joan Trahan of Faribault. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers-in-law, Larry Fetchenhier and Scott Hillstead.

A private graveside service will be held at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis.

Waterville woman charged with Felony Motor Vehicle Theft

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A Waterville woman was charged with two counts of theft following an incident which occurred Tuesday, June 23 in downtown Waterville.

Megan Renae Martinez, 36, of Waterville, is accused taking a motor vehicle and a hoodie from a parking lot at the Corner Bar.

The Le Sueur County complaint stated Waterville Police were dispatched to a motor vehicle theft of a 2008 Silver Chevrolet Silverado owned by Richard Esser.

Esser told the police officer he left the keys in the ignition and the truck was unlocked. He stated he last saw the vehicle in the rear parking lot of the corner bar at approximately 3:50 p.m. and sometime between 3:30 p.m. and 4:32 p.m. He went out to his truck to roll up the windows and realized it was not there.

Waterville Police began their investigation after receiving the missing vehicle call.

Police returned to the Corner Bar at 7:41 p.m. after the vehicle had returned to where it went missing.

Corner Bar owner Bill Conlin said he was outside and noticed the Esser vehicle was backing into the parking spot where it was previously parked. He saw the brake lights come on and observed a female exit the driver's door area. Conlin said the female took off running down the alley toward the west. He said she had a black zip-up hoodie that said "c=Corner Bar" on it. He gave chase and ended up locating her.

Conlin then advised the female that he knew what she did and the female subject simply replied, "What did I do?"

According to the criminal complaint, Conlin gave a description of the female and it was believed likely to be Megan Martinez, who lives in close proximity to the location of the theft.

The Le Sueur County Sheriff's Department prepared a photo line-up of six people and Conlin was presented the line up and picked out Martinez as the female he interacted with.

Esser was then asked some follow-up questions, stating he did have a "Corner Bar" hoodie in the truck and did not give Martinez permission to take it or use his truck.

Waterville Police went to Martinez's apartment in an attempt to speak to Martinez about the stolen truck and hoodie. She would not answer the door after being asked by the officer several times. The office placed his head on the door to see if he could hear anything inside and he did hear movement. It was believed that Martinez was intentionally failing to respond.

A warrant was then requested as to her whereabouts. She was later taken into custody.

Martinez also has the following cases pending:

- Theft and motor vehicle tampering in Dakota County, June 15, 2026.
- Theft in Rice County - June 2, 2026.
- Receiving stolen property in Rice County - May 23, 2026.
- Driving while impaired in Le Sueur County - December 23, 2025.

The charge of Motor Vehicle Theft, a felony, carries a maximum sentence of five years in jail and/or a \$10,000 fine.

The charge of Theft, a misdemeanor, carries a maximum sentence of 0-90 days imprisonment and/or 0-\$1,000 fine.

Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library Events

Old MacDonald Had a Farm Party!

Oink! Moo! and Cock-a-Doodle-Do! Enjoy farm-themed activities, from a farm relay to a horse round-up, at Waterville Public Library on Monday, July 20 at 6 p.m. This free event is geared for ages 3-6.

Dream of Owls

Seth Eberle performs this puppet show about a boy learning how to overcome his fear of owls by learning information about what he fears. All ages. The events will begin at the following locations:

Tuesday, July 21 @ 2 p.m.: Waterville City Hall

Wednesday, July 22 @ 6 p.m.: Main Street Venue, Elysian

Thursday, July 23 @ 1 p.m.: JWP Auditorium

These events are made possible in part with a grant from the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund of the Minnesota Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment through the Traverse des Sioux Library System.

Wood Slice Birds

Craft colorful birds using wood slices at 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 23 at Waterville Public Library. In this hands-on event, kids will use a natural wood slice as their canvas to design and create bird-inspired artwork. Ages 7-12.

Boho Disco Ball Workshop

Teens will create a chic mini disco ball with boho vibes at Elysian Area Library on Friday, July 24 at 10 a.m. Exclusively for ages 13-18.

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Sunday, July 19

8:00 a.m. - Noon

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\$4.00 Kids 6-10, Preschool FREE

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70th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Poehler (Roslyn Androl) of Waterville, Minnesota are celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary. The couple were united in marriage on July 21, 1956, at St. Canice Church in Kilkeny, Minnesota. They will be celebrating this platinum milestone with their children and grandchildren.

Their children are: daughter Laurie Poehler, daughter Jennifer (Poehler) Volkman and husband Gerry, daughter Jill (Poehler) Ruder and husband Dave. They are blessed with four grandchildren, Hannah Volkman, Michael Volkman, Elizabeth (Ruder) Maple and Mathew Ruder. The secret of their successful marriage is mutual respect, patience, keeping a good sense of humor and giving each other space now and then to relax, reflect, and enjoy each other on this journey in life. Their children and grandchildren are thankful and fortunate to receive their steadfast love, guidance and generosity.

Seal coats on several highways in South Central Minnesota begin July 20

MANKATO - Motorists are advised to expect delays on Highways 5, 13, 15, 30, 19, 22, 59 and Interstate 90 in south central Minnesota beginning July 20, weather permitting, as crews apply a seal coat.

The impacted highways include:

- Highway 5: from Green Isle to Highway 212
- Highway 13: through Montgomery
- Highway 15: north of Truman to the Highway 30/60 intersection (one day ramp closures)
- Highway 30: from Highway 15 (south of Lewisville) to Watonwan County Road 24
- Highway 30: Highway 169 (north of Amboy) to Blue Earth County Road 40
- Highway 19: east of Henderson to west of Henderson Station Road
- Highway 22: from Mapleton to Wells
- Highway 59: from Iowa border to Highway 60 (north of Bigelow)
- Interstate 90: from Sherburn to Fairmont (watch for flagging operations)

Traffic will be controlled with flaggers and a pilot car. Motorists should expect delays, drive with caution, and watch for workers, equipment, and traffic control devices.

The seal coat is a preventative maintenance measure that provides a protective layer, reducing deterioration due to sun and moisture. Drivers are encouraged to slow down and be alert for loose gravel and oil in these areas.

The sealcoating process for each highway segment will take approximately a week. Crews will then return a couple weeks later to paint temporary striping, which will be done under traffic. The project is expected to be complete by early September, depending on weather and material availability. Crews will return next summer to apply permanent pavement markings.

For real-time traffic and travel information in Minnesota, visit www.511mn.org or get the free smartphone app at Google Play or the App Store.

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OPINION

When we think of a city and what it is known for, we often think of the big things. It could be a factory, a tourist attraction, a school, a restaurant, or its summer celebration. For the people who live in the city, sometimes it's the little things, the seldom-mentioned things, that give more meaning to our hometown. Here are some examples of what I mean.

If you were shopping in Waterville on a hot day in July, coming out of this store and going into that store, you would eventually make your way to the drinking fountain on the northwest corner of Main and Third Street in front of the post office. The water was free, and you merely had to turn a chrome-plated knob to get a cool drink.

I don't know when the water fountain last served anyone. It could have been when they put in curbs and gutters and blacktopped the streets in town for the Centennial. For passersby, it was hard not to stop at Waterville's only outdoor water fountain.

The brass school bell on the school's front lawn originally hung in the old schoolhouse, which stood where the football field is now. How many students have sat on the piece of cement that holds the bell? How many have touched the bell? How many have ever thought to read the inscription on the bell? We just kind of take it for granted. Yet to all of us who attended the Waterville Halls of Ivy, it welcomed us back each year. It remains one of my favorite things to see when I visit Waterville.

If you desired to catch chickens that flew the

Waterville, as I remember

John Eggers



coop from Backman's Produce, Charley Backman would give you a wooden chicken catcher with a wire hoop on one end to hook onto the leg of a chicken whose neck had not been slit. Many kids were chicken bounty hunters who received five cents from Charley for bringing in a live chicken. There was one caveat to this whole business of chicken catching. It didn't keep kids off the streets; it kept them on the streets.

The nickel fastened to John O'Leary's gas station floor was probably the best marketing tool for bringing kids into his station that anyone could ever imagine. Even though we knew it was impossible to pick up, we all had to try. Come to think of it, John had one of the earliest convenience stores in the state. Pop, candy, chips, you name it, he had it. Yes, he sold Conoco gas, too. I wonder what ever happened to that nickel?

The smell that greeted you as you climbed the stairs to Dr. Rieke's dental office was worse than the novocaine he was about to give you. There was no fluoride in the water or in the toothpaste. Most everyone had cavities. If I really think about it, my nostrils can still faintly detect the odor leading to the Temple of Doom.

Many of you may not remember this, but on the west side of town, at the northwest corner of Hoosac and Reed

Street, across the old railroad tracks, sat Fritz Taylor's junkyard. It served as Waterville's playground for the kids who lived in that part of town. It was filled with old, old cars and just about everything else you might imagine. Fritz eventually moved to Mankato and opened a successful restaurant called the Broiler Cafe. Fritz, or Fred, had an interesting career. He owned and operated a roller skating rink in Waterville, and his wife, Audrey, managed a diner east of the Cities Service Station. Fritz was a charter member of Waterville's Sportsman Club.

The Red Top Cafe steps served as a meeting place and hangout for most Waterville teens at one time or another. There were only two steps, but in my imagination there were more. Kids would mingle in front, leaning on a car, sitting on the cement foundation, and just hanging out. Kids cruising around the block would honk their horns and wave. Kids would come and go. It was the place to be. It's interesting how a couple of cement steps can attract so many kids.

To my readers. Thanks for reading this column for the past couple of years. I hope to have another book ready this fall, "Waterville, As I Remember It." I am beginning to run out of memories. If you have something to share that took place in the 40s, 50s, and 60s, email me the story or anecdote and I will try to fill in any gaps. My email is: envision@paul-bunyan.net. Again, thanks for reading. I hope to see you in September.

That's the Waterville I remember.



THOSE WERE THE DAYS

**100 Years Ago
July 14, 1926**

Ninety percent of the farmers approached in Woodville, Blooming Grove, and Otisco Townships have signed the petition for an area test in Waseca County.

There is no question that June is truly the month of brides. Fourteen marriage licenses were issued by Clerk of Court C.J. Brisbane last month.

C.D. Bliss in Waterville is closing out sales on lawn mowers. For between \$11.75 and \$14.95 you can purchase a 14-inch to an 18-inch mower.

Mr. William Hering has sold his farm north of Waterville to his father Mr. Ernest Hering. The consideration was \$18,000. The deal was negotiated by O.H. Spooner. Mr. Hering will devote all his time to the Waterville Hatchery, which is growing into a fine business.

The Waterville Oil Company has added a draining and washing pit to its filling station in Waterville, east of the post office.

**75 Years Ago
July 11, 1951**

High winds Saturday night did considerable damage to some buildings, crops, and trees in the vicinity of Waterville. The winds were followed by heavy rains. The storm covered a rather wide area. Damaged homes were reported in the Morristown, Warsaw, and Kenyon areas.

Waterville played Kilkenny in Waterville Sunday in a South Le Sueur County League game, and Kilkenny picked up their first win of the season, 6-5. All star players this summer from Waterville featured Chase, Rohl, and Rohrer.

Marzahn Motor Co., your Plymouth dealer in Waterville, brings you for the first time, on special display, an entirely new kind of utility automobile. The Plymouth Suburban, all metal and all purpose gives you three-in-one value of the low price field. The comfort of a fine sedan, the spacious cargo carrier, and small car advantages will be shown July 16 in the show room.

**50 Years Ago
July 8, 1976**

Dr. Frank Pribyl, a former Elysian resident, will be the

visiting lecturer in Marketing at the New South Wales Institute of Technology in Sydney, Australia.

A reception honoring Roger and MarDee Preuss was held at the Le Sueur County Historical Society in Elysian, climaxing Preuss' Bicentennial Wildlife Exhibition. The one-man showing featured 24 watercolor originals from the Wildlife of America Collection, including several from the upcoming 1977 edition.

Michael LaFrance has been named Chairman of the "Breath of Life" campaign for Elysian. Ron Magers, CF State Campaign Chairman, called LaFrance the "Community Anchorman" for alerting our Elysian residents about the symptoms of lung damaging diseases.

The Waterville Post Office announced the retirement of Waterville-Elysian rural carrier Melvin Jepsen. Jepsen served as a substitute and then as a regular carrier on the Waterville City Route 1 before transferring to the rural route upon the retirement of Jim Hruska. Robert Sherrett served as his replacement.

Citizens State Bank of Waterville is offering a free candy jar with a deposit or addition of \$250 to savings account or a new certificate of deposit.

**25 Years Ago
July 12, 2001**

Mayor Larry Meskan and Waterville City Administrator Nickie Roberge received a formal letter of resignation from Waterville City Council Member LaRae Ross. Ross, who was elected to the council nine months prior, said she and her family will be moving out of state, thus forcing the resignation.

The City of Waterville has just one applicant for the Waterville Chief of Police position. But this was one with significant ties to Waterville and an extensive background in law enforcement. Max Venero was appointed as the Waterville Chief of Police. Three inquiries were made for the position but Venero was the only official applicant.

A five generation picture was included in the Lake Region Life Newspaper. The picture included Celia Hermel Stoering Schwartz, Ken-

dra Connors, Trudi Nelson Connors, Connie Pittman Van Eman, and Donna Stoering Pittman.

Zachary Culhane of Waterville claimed the top prize in the North Elysian Silver Lakers Sportsmen's Club 4th of July raffle, winning either a Remington 870 Express of \$250 in cash.

Jay Harriman of Waterville assembled his troop members, family, and friends to assist him in constructing 50 wood duck houses for the Waterville Sportsmen's Club. He has been working towards his Eagle Scout Award.

Despite clinching the 13-60 League, Black Division Championship with a 15-1 record, the Waterville Indians are a wounded team, with six players sidelined due to injuries. These players may be out of action for the playoffs: Joe Grose (prior pull), Doug Harmon (pulled hamstring), Jeff Boran (pulled hamstring), Chad Atherton (pulled quad muscle), Billy Bartelt (arch injury), and Timmy Bartelt (back issues).

Receiving First Dollar awards from the Waterville Chamber of Commerce were Ginny Hermel of The Angle Inn and Andrea Jewison of The Flower Basket.

**10 Years Ago
July 14, 2016**

A benefit will be held July 8 in support of the Tim and Patty Wolter family of Elysian. Tim underwent open-heart surgery in April and will undergo another heart surgery in July.

2011 WEM High School graduate Caleb Curran won one of the nation's highest awards for digital cinema at the 2016 SkillsUSA Championships held in Louisville, Kentucky. This is Curran's second time earning top honors at the contest, having claimed the gold in 2015 with fellow South Central College Mankato student, Dylan DeMarce.

Connie Van Eman retired after 45 years in banking. She worked for many of those years at the bank in Waterville, including being the bank's president.

Miranda and Jordan Pelant of Waterville have qualified for the Junior Gold Championships Bowling Tournament, which will be held in Indianapolis, IN.

ASK A TROOPER

Question: My kid just received their driver's license. It was during this time that I found out they are limited on their passengers. They want to give their friends a ride but I think more people should know about this on the limitations.

Answer: Teen drivers are only allowed to have one passenger under the age of 20 for the first six months they have their provisional license, unless there is also a parent or guardian in the vehicle.

For the second six months

**Sgt. Troy Christianson
Minnesota
State
Patrol**



they have their license, teen drivers are limited to no more than three passengers under the age of 20 without a parent or guardian also in the vehicle.

The limit does not apply for passengers under age 20 who are members of the driv-

er's immediate family.

You can avoid a ticket - and a crash - if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson - Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)

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Letters should be 400 words or less and include name, address and daytime phone number of the writer.

Letters cannot be from a candidate for office and must be received no later than 3 p.m. Monday.

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LifeEnterprise

- Established in 1883 -
Published weekly by Suel Printing Co., Inc.
at 115 S. 3rd Street, Waterville, MN 56096

SINGLE COPY PRICE: \$1.75

Official newspaper of the City of Waterville,
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown School District
#2143, Le Sueur County second legal paper,
City of Elysian, City of Morristown,
and City of Kilkenny

CONTACT INFO
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www.lifeenterprisemnnews.com

Managing Editor: **Jay M. Schneider**
Staff: **Mike Malloy**

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Display Advertising.....\$11.50 per column inch
Classified Display.....\$12.00 per column inch

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\$60 per year in *Le Sueur, Waseca, Rice and Blue Earth Counties*
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Periodicals postage paid at
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Send address changes to:
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The Daisy Chain Flower Shop by Laurie Gilmore
Fever Dream by Elsie Silver
Our Perfect Storm by Carley Fortune
Harvest Season by Brynne Weaver
My Killer Vacation by Tessa Bailey
Harbor Pointe by Irene Hannon
Lighthouse at the Cove by Amy Clipston
Villa Coco by Andrew Sean Greer
The Night We Met by Abby Jimenez

These items and many more are available through the Traverse des Sioux Library System at wasecalesueur.tdslib.org and can be picked up at the Elysian Area Library.

SPORTS



The Morristown Warriors 15A baseball team placed 4th in the Minnesota State Baseball Tournament last weekend. The Warriors won three of the five games they played over three days. front row, left to right: Head Coach Steve Hoppe, Weston Florea, Jacksten Knish, Bentley Kiker, and Isaac Hoppe. Back row, left to right: Reid Hopkins, Bailey Iverson, Brody Filan, Ryder Hughes, Gavin Williams, Charlie Hebl, Jack Barry, Assistant Coach Cody Williams, and Assistant Coach Ryan Knish.

Morristown Warriors place 4th at State

The Morristown Warriors 15A baseball team competed in the Minnesota State Tournament last weekend in Rochester and finished 4th overall.

They picked up two wins in pool play and one win in bracket play before dropping a pair of games, also in pool play.

The Warriors finished the season with a record of 14-8-2, and regular season conference record 8-5. They played several exhibition games as well as exhibition against Junior Legion teams where they held their own.

Their first pool game was against the #1 seed Cottage Grove. The Warriors won 6-3. Isaac Hoppe had the mound the first game pitching 4 innings, giving up one run, and striking out four. Bailey Iverson came in for the save giving up two runs and striking out three. Cottage Grove managed to score their three runs on six hits total. Offensively Brody Filan went 1-4 with one RBI. Isaac Hoppe went 3-4 with one RBI, Ryder Hughes went 3-4 with 1 RBI, Gavin Williams went 4-4 with 2 RBIs, Weston Florea went 2-4, Bentley Kiker went 2-4, Bailey Iverson went 2-4, Charlie Hebl went 2-4 with 1 RBI. Jacksten Knish went 3-4.

Cottage Grove scored first in the second inning off of two base hits and then again in the 4th and once in the 5th. Morristown scored in the 3rd off of a lead off double by Filan and a bat hit by Hoppe to knock in Filan. They then scored four runs in the 4th starting with a single by Iverson, a Knish walk, Hoppe then singled and Hughes also drew a walk.

I. Hoppe had two RBIs and Williams had one. Hoppe knocked in Iverson on his single in the 4th. Williams hit his double then driving in Knish, Hoppe, and Hughes. Williams had 3 total RBIs, Hoppe had 2RBIs and Hughes stole home on a wild pitch to score our 6th run in the 6th inning. Hoppe and Williams had RBIs.

In their 2nd pool game against Edina the Warriors won 6-4 with Williams on the mound to start. He went 5 and a 1/3 innings. He struck out 5 giving up 3 runs in the 1st on a bumpy start and their only other run in the second. Edina’s runs came off of 3 walks and 4 hits. Edina only had 4 hits total the rest of

the game. Reid Hopkins came in on relief pitching the remainder of the 5th before Brody Filan came in to close out the last two innings with two additional strike outs.

Offensively Filan went 2-4 with 1 RBI, Hoppe went 4-4 with 2 RBI’s, Hughes went 0-4 with 1 RBI, Williams went 1-4 with 2 RBI, Florea went 1-4, Kiker went 2-4, Iverson went 1-3 and Hopkins went 1-3. The first run came in the first inning with Filan hitting a double and Hoppe hitting a double knocking in the first run. Morristown didn’t score again until the 5th when both Filan and Hoppe singled and Williams hit a single to drive them both in. In the 6th the Warriors struck again with Kiker and Iverson starting us off with singles. Hebl was then hit by a pitch. They were able to steal home twice and Filan ground out knocking in a run.

The first round in bracket play the Warriors drew a bye and their second round was against Goodview Sandlot, a Gopher State team. Final score was 2-1 with Morristown winning. This was their only Saturday game after playing two on Friday. This game was a defensive battle. Iverson started on the mound and went the distance only allowing one run, 3 hits, one walk and a hit batter. Offensively Filan went 4-4, Hoppe 2-2, Hughes 1-3, Williams 1-2, Florea 0-3, Iverson 2-3, Hebl 2-3, Knish 0-1, Kiker 0-2, Barry 0-1, Hopkins 1-3. Morristown struck in the 6th finally after trailing by 1 that they scored in the 4th by a series of a Hughes walk and an Iverson base hit. Hebl then singled getting an RBI knocking in Hughes. In the bottom of the 7th both Hopkins and Filan singled to get on base and with Hopkins on 2nd, Hughes hit a bomb to the fence in right knocking in the winning run scored by Hopkins.

This sent Morristown to the semifinal game for Sunday morning. Hoppe started the game making it 3 1/3 innings before hitting pitch count. Hoppe struck out 4 and only gave up one hit. A series of errors in the field led to 4 runs being scored by Rochester Spartans in the 3rd. Hoppe finished the tournament at 130 pitches as did Iverson the previous game. Williams then came in to try and finish the game. He got 1

strikeout and gave up four runs before Filan came in to finish the game. The Warriors were shut out this game and held to two hits and three walks. A few times they threatened but could not convert. Rochester’s pitcher threw some of the best pitching the Warriors have seen this year. Morristown lost 8-0.

Morristown then played Cottage Grove again immediately after the Rochester game. Filan started on the mound and ended up loading the bases before injuring his arm. The heat started to get to all of the kids as they had no shade and cooked in the dugout, and on the field they were out of their team’s normal pitchers due to injuries and pitch counts.

In the third inning they lost Hoppe to heat stroke and by the 4th they had their only two subs in the game. Morristown did score in the 2nd innning after a wild pitch that allowed Knish to score. They had bases loaded in the 4th, 5th and 6th but only managed to score one more time in the 6th when Filan flew out to left allowing Knish to advance to 3rd and on a wild cut-off throw back to third from their pitcher Knish took home. Final score was 13-2 getting 10 runned in the 6th.

The Morristown Warriors 14A team heads to state in Lakeville this weekend.

Indians remain on top of 13-60 Baseball League

Jay Schneider
lrlife@frontiernet.net

Two wins in three games will keep the Waterville Indians amateur baseball team on top of the 13-60 League.

The Indians now have a 9-2 league record after defeating Cleveland, 14-1, Wednesday, July 8, losing 4-1 to Blue Earth Saturday, July 11, and defeating Albert Lea, 8-7, Sunday, July 12.

Waterville is tied for the top spot in the 13-60 League with Minnesota Lake. The Royals have lost only one game this season in the league and overall. Waterville is 10-6 overall.

In the win over Cleveland, Sam Stier pitched a complete game, allowing one run on two hits, both in the third inning. He walked two and struck out eight.

Nolan Grose had a perfect day at the plate finishing 4-for-4 with a double and three runs scored. Stier, Dalton Grose, and Josh Cook each added two hits.

The Indians scored nine runs in the top of the seventh inning to end the contest.

Blue Earth starting pitcher Lee Hodges limited the Indians to one run on nine hits. He struck out seven in earning the victory.

Ben Boran and Sam Stier each finished with three hits. Jackson Jirik scored the lone run in the fifth inning.

Dalton Grose pitched the complete game for the Indians, allowing four runs, three earned, on nine hits. He struck out eight and walked two.

In the win over the Albert Lea Express, the Indians scored four runs in the opening inning on the strength of a three-run homer by Dalton Grose. They added single runs in the second and fourth, and ended their scoring with two more in the fifth inning.

Sam Stier, Josh Cook, and Jacob Androli added RBIs. Cook had three hits. Androli, Stier, and Jack Mellstrom each added two hits.

Cook started and pitched half the game. Nolan Grose pitched the second half. Luke Sellner came in late and picked up the save in the ninth inning.

The Indians played Minnesota Lake Thursday, July 16 for the 13-60 League title. They will play a non-league game at Owatonna Friday, July 19. They return home for a 2 p.m. game Sunday, July 19 against Waseca. They will end their regular season with a July 25 game at

Library from 1

which is in high demand from other community groups. Every event held in this space would also require additional staffing since staff could not run the circulation desk and the event at the same time due to how far the spaces are from each other. This would require more county tax dollars.

Last year Le Sueur County taxpayers paid \$770,000 to fund the five Le Sueur County Libraries.

Other Concerns

- There is nothing directing air flow to various parts of the city hall space so they won’t be able to control air flow. The book collection could be compromised.
- The sidewalk going to the door nearest the location is dangerous. There is also a visibility concern with the library hidden from street/unattractive entrance, with visibility and curb appeal needed to be improved.

Building Grants for Public Libraries.

- Eight different grant opportunities were listed by Lienemann, including a Library Construction Grant, which have been approved for up to \$750,000 last year. These grants are a matching fund grant.

Fundraising

- The Friends of the Waterville Library fundraise, advocate for, and volunteer at the Waterville Public Library. They are waiting for an estimate on the

project so they can start fundraising.

Lienemann said in her presentation they want to get started in seeking out grants and donations but they need an approved architectural plan and an estimate of the project so they can fill out the applications and pitch the project to donors.

Following Lienemann, the council discussed the possibility of placing a question on the ballot asking for the community to give their input on dollars they would see appropriated for the renovation.

All the council members were in agreement the time frame to finalize everything that needed to be done before the questions would need to be turned in would not work.

They also all agreed that the library is a very important thing to have in the community. But how many dollars they would be willing to allocate for renovations of the city hall location or the current location, which has some major problems, is still in the air.

“So how are we going to proceed on this,” Mayor Bill Conlin said. “Should we do it in phases?”

There were also some community questions about rather or not they should even move to the city hall location and try and renovate the current spot.

Council member Tim Smith said they have always talked about expanding in the current location and questioned what would need to be done in order to expand that space.

Waterville resident Gary Schott asked the council if they have looked at all the options.

“We have to look at all the options,” Schott said. He stated the amount of \$450,000 to renovate the city hall location.

While discussing the library, Schott also felt the city may want to back out of their current deal to purchase The village and move the police department and city offices into the old fire hall.

“To get out of this we might lose some money,” he said. “We need to figure out the best solution.”

Schott’s comments came after the council announced during the opening portion of the meeting the fire hall purchase agreement has been cancelled and the city still retains that location.

Zella VanderVort, a Waterville resident, questioned Schott’s \$450,000 renovation number and felt this number was way too high.

“Basic soft costs would be around \$180,000 to \$225,000,” she said, also mentioning she felt that number is misleading and would be on the high end for renovations.

“It is a tough situation,” Council member Scott Potter said.

At this point the only thing which was decided during the hour long discussion was there will not be a ballot question about the Waterville Library improvements on the November 3 ballot.

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13-60 League Baseball Standings		
	League	All
Waterville Indians	9-2	10-6
Minnesota Lake Royals	7-1	8-1
Blue Earth Pirates	6-4	7-9
Albert Lea Express	5-5	5-5
Waseca Braves	4-3	6-6
Morristown Morris	2-6	2-7
Janesville Gators	1-3	2-6
Cleveland Spiders	0-9	1-13

Minnesota DNR lowering Lake Henry in Le Sueur County for habitat improvements



In support of wildlife while improving habitat quality, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is lowering water levels at Lake Henry in Le Sueur County.

Lake Henry is a 360-acre shallow lake, south of Cleveland. Because of its importance to resident and migratory wildlife, it was designated as a wildlife lake in 2026 after a public input process in 2025. It is one of only 61 such lakes in the state. This designation allows DNR staff to manage water levels through temporary drawdowns to help mitigate factors affecting water and habitat quality.

The drawdown process began in June. Plans are to gradually lower water levels up to 6 feet over the course of this summer to encourage important food and cover plants to grow. The low levels will be

maintained through the winter of 2026-27.

The lake's average depth is 4.8 feet and its maximum depth is 6.3 feet, meaning the drawdown will likely drain most of the water.

"Lake Henry could potentially get completely dry all the way to the bottom, but that depends on rain and other natural factors," said Tori Drake, DNR wildlife lakes specialist.

"Reaching that dry stage is good for shallow lakes, because it consolidates bottom sediments and prepares the substrate for good vegetation growth the next year. Historically, this drying and consolidation was a naturally recurring process, but it doesn't happen often now unless we deliberately lower the water."

The main benefits of the drawdown is to get the lake to improve water clarity and quality, improve aquatic plant growth, and reduce undesirable fish species, including carp, bullheads and minnows.

"We hope to get a strong plant response and lower or eliminate the number of undesirable fish in the lake," Drake said.

DNR staff will also use the drawdown to enhance the outlet structure and clean the

channel from the lake edge to the outlet structure.

The lake will begin to refill in spring 2027. It may take time for the basin to naturally refill from precipitation. If, due to precipitation or other factors this summer and fall, the initial drawdown does not produce the anticipated results, the DNR may do another drawdown through the winter of 2027-28.

The project's funding is provided by the Game and Fish Fund, with sources including hunting and fishing license dollars (mndnr.gov/licensedollarsatwork) and proceeds from the Minnesota State Duck Stamp (mndnr.gov/stamps). Revenue from stamp sales is dedicated to waterfowl research, management and habitat work. Stamp sales generate about \$700,000 per year for waterfowl habitat enhancement projects on state wildlife management areas and shallow lakes.

For more information on the DNR's shallow lakes program, visit the DNR shallow lakes webpage (mndnr.gov/shallowlakes). Comments and questions about the Lake Henry drawdown can be sent to Tim Koppelman at tim.koppelman@state.mn.us.

Jeanette Kuball Served as the 2026 Grand Marshal in North Morristown



Kuball

Jeanette Kuball was honored to be named this year's North Morristown 4th of July Grand Marshal. When learning of this year's selection, Jeanette recalled, "I was very, very excited. I was shocked! I never expected this." Jeanette continued with comments about this year's 4th, "Everyone made me feel so special, from the lovely corsage, the convenient parade car, to the golf cart that the committee provided for me to travel in around the grounds. I was so honored. My parents were so proud when they were chosen many years ago. I can relate. It's quite the honor."

Jeanette loves supporting the 4th because the proceeds go to her grade school alma mater, Trinity Lutheran School, North Morristown. Jeanette attended Trinity for 8 years and so did her younger siblings, John and Janice, where they all got a quality Christian education. Jeanette and her siblings grew up just one mile southwest, as the crow flies, from the school.

This isn't the first time that Jeanette was honored at the 4th. When she was in high school, Jeanette was crowned Miss North Morristown and represented the celebration for a year. She recalls the young ladies be-

ing escorted by the 8th grade boys from Trinity. Jeanette added, "Many years later there was a shortage of high school girls to be the queen, so the committee switched to having ambassadors. Now both young men and women in high school may represent the celebration."

Jeanette's volunteer service in the 4th of July food stands began when Jeanette was around 10-12 years of age. Her parents, Mary Ann and Arnold Kuball worked in the popcorn stand where Jeanette helped out where she could. With a grin on her face, Jeanette vividly recalls how crowded the stand was, "Four ladies at a time stood around some sort of hot stove popping the popcorn. They each brought their black poppers from home and busily got to work cranking the red knob on the tops of the poppers, literally cranking out the popcorn for the day." Today there's a big wall mounted popper that pops large batches. Jeanette described it as a pop n' pour kettle that's tipped and dumped into a large metal bin.

Then, around 4 years later, Jeanette and her family's duties called them north, just a few feet north to the next stand that used to be known as the Beer Stand. Jeanette

recalls having cattle water tanks positioned under the counters filled with water and ice. Glass bottles of beer and pop were placed in the tank for cooling. At some point the glass bottles went away and fountain pop was served. Then later in time, pop was served in cans, and now it's sold in plastic bottles. Bottled water was added to the refreshment list a number of years ago. For a few year, slushies were served, but they didn't last long. A beer truck has now replaced the bottles and cans to offer cold tap beer. Coolers now keep the pop cold. When it comes to the lemonade, no water combined with a powdered drink mix is ever served. The 4th of July lemonade comes from real squeezed lemons that several people wash, roll, and then squeeze. The lemonade has survived generations and is still ladled out of large crock pots.

Roughly 35 years ago when brothers Ron and Gordon Saemrow took over the stand, roast beef and barbecued port sandwiches were added to the menu and are served out of large crock pots. Recently grilled brats were added to the menu.

For many years Jeanette would arrive two hours before the grounds opened to heat up the pork and beef for the sandwiches. She loved working in the Beer Stand until she gave that up a couple of years ago.

When asked what Jeanette did for a living she shared, "I retired after being a lifelong CNA at Pleasant Manor in Faribault." Jeanette, however, is thoroughly enjoying here retirement years. In her free time she loves reconnecting with fellow co-workers and going on excursions with her retired sister, Janice. They relish their time together, sharing adventures, and not being time crunched to get back soon because they have to get to work.

When asked what her favorite thing is about the North Morristown 4th of July, Jeanette gazing in to the horizon, thinking of all the good times, and replied, "I love seeing people I haven't seen in awhile, running into family, classmates, and acquaintances." Jeanette concluded with "I look forward to greeting more people at the 134th Annual North Morristown 4th of July in 2027. See you then, if not before!"

Elness

from 1

selected to attend this event which is held every June. It has been sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary for more than 70 years.

According to Elness, she said it was a real cool experience. "I have no idea what I am doing in the future but I learned a lot from (Girls State)," Elness said. "I think it was a fantastic experience. I learned a lot about government and how it works and now have a greater understanding what goes into passing bills and voting."

According to the Amercian Legion Auxiliary, the program stressed the following things:

- **The Experience:** Participants build mock cities and political parties ("Federalists" and "Nationalists"), run campaigns, draft and debate legislation, and engage with elected officials.
- **Eligibility:** High school juniors in Minnesota who are in the top of their class and display strong leadership qualities.
- **Cost:** Sponsorships are typically covered by local American Legion Auxiliary units, making it essentially cost-free to the student.

Why Attend?

- **Civic Education:** It provides a practical, textbook-free approach to understanding the American system of government and individual civic responsibilities.
- **Networking:** Delegates connect with hundreds of high-achieving young women from all over the state.
- **College & Career:** The program is highly regarded by college admissions boards and offers scholarship opportunities.

How to Get Involved

1. **Talk to your Counselor:** Reach out to your high school guidance counselor at the end of your sophomore or beginning of your junior year to express interest.
2. **Contact Local Auxiliaries:** Use the American Legion Auxiliary Unit Directory to locate and contact the Auxiliary unit in Elysian or a nearby Minnesota community to ask about sponsorship and application deadlines.

Girls State brings together a diverse group of young ladies from around the state and they all learn about Americanism and good citizenship training which can be brought back to their peers and communities to inform them about the rights and responsibilities of government as it is used in a democratic society

Elness had a chance to live for the week with girls from Delano, Winsted, Rapidan, and Battle Lake. She enjoyed her time meeting others and learning with girls who have now become her new friends.

"One of the greatest parts was every person in my pod were completely different," Elness said. "Everyone had the sense of empowerment and everyone was always lifting someone up. Everyone really got along."

Elness had a chance to serve on a few committees, met some individuals who worked at the Capitol, and was in one of two groups that got a chance to sit on the House Floor. She said this was really special and she actually sat in one of the Representatives' chairs.

"I was kind of nervous going to the Capitol," she said. "We saw some of the Representatives looking over a balcony and watching us while we were there. That was a really cool experience."

Throughout the week the girls studied the structure and function of city and state government, formed fictional cities and political parties, campaigned for different offices, and everyone held either a government office or served as a member of the House of Representatives or Senate.

Elness was on the Rules Committee, was put in the House of Representatives, and served as the Chair of the Resolutions Committee.

Elness said following the experience, which was an amazing experience for her, she is not sure if she is going into government following high school but she learned a lot and will be able to use her experiences as a senior this year at WEM High School.

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Area Church Schedule	
Thurs., July 16 - Wed., July 22, 2026	
--WATERVILLE-- Cannonville Community 20092 Tetonka Lake Road 623-332-2535 Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Worship.	United Methodist Pastor Dean Wolf 201 4th St. N.W. Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship
Evangelical United Methodist 319 Main St. E. Pastor Kathy King Sunday, July 19: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service First Baptist 14534 State Hwy 60 Sunday, July 19: 8:30 a.m. Prayer time, 9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages, 9:30 a.m. King's Cafe Opens, 10:30 a.m. Worship and Kingdom Kids.	St. Andrew's Catholic E. Main St. Fr. Andrew Stueve Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Mass.
N. Waseca Lutheran ELCA 40430 120th St., Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-837-0878 Sunday: 8:45 a.m. Worship.	--MORRISTOWN-- Bethlehem Lutheran 404 W. Franklin St. Pastor Weslie T. Odum Thursdays: 6:30 a.m. Bible Breakfast Saturday: 9 a.m. A.A. mtg. Sunday: 9 a.m. Divine Service w/ HC; 10:30 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class, Confirmation Class. Tuesday: 10 a.m. Tuesday Ladies; 6:30 p.m. Elder's Meeting Wednesday: 7 p.m. Vesper Service.
St. Peter (Bell) Lutheran 21377 Tetonka Lake Rd. Pastor John Pasche Sunday, July 19: 10 a.m. Service with Holy Communion	Peace United Methodist 205 Division St. N. Pastor Derek Harvey Sunday, July 19: 10:30 a.m. Service
Trinity Lutheran LCMS 415 Lake St. W. Rev. David Mumme Sunday, July 19: 9 a.m. Divine Service, 10:15 a.m. Family Bible Class	Trinity Lutheran North Morristown Pastor Juan Palm Sunday, July 19: 9 a.m. Divine Service; 10:30 a.m. Bible Class Tuesday, July 21: 10 a.m. Tuesday Ladies
--ELYSIAN-- Bethlehem Lutheran 200 Park Ave NE Pastor John Pasche Sunday, July 19: 8:30 a.m. Service	--CLEVELAND-- Church of Christ 900 State Hwy 99 Pastor Rob Perry 507-931-5924 Sunday: 10:15 a.m. Worship.
	St. Paul's Lutheran German Lake ELCA 10 mi. west of Waterville or 10 mi. NW of Elysian Pastor Carrie Chatelaine 612-298-0407 Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship.



Members of the Elysian Legion SAL held a french toast breakfast last week. In front of table: Walter Fellows. Left to right: Anna Fellows, Sawyer Fellows, Sue Wehr, Renee Moravec, Tim Moravec, Denny Wehr, Tyler Fellows, Brennan Cooney, Todd Moravec, Sam Carlson, Donald Carlson, Norm Volkman, Felix Fellows, and Rick Childs.

State awards from 1

for these programs. There are 381 Auxiliary Units in the State of Minnesota.

Elysian received seven of these award-winning plaques. Pictured in the top row of the picture with the awards from left to right are the Pierce J. Clark plaque for the Americanism program, (Tamara Thayer, program chair); Vanlandingham Plaque for the Poppy Program, (Brenda Domonoske and Mandy Moravec program chairs); Starr Lauck Americanism for Junior Activities Plaque, (Brenda Domonoske, program chair); Department Community Service Plaque, (Tamara Thayer, program chair); Dorothy Pearl Civil Preparedness National Security Plaque, (Cheri Winegar, program chair); and the Women's History Activity Plaque, (Edna Thayer, historian). The 7th plaque is the third one from the left in the bottom row and is the Stickley-Gifford Junior History Plaque, (Ireland Cooney, Junior Historian).

The other three awards in the

bottom row of the photo are President Awards. President Robin Dorf gave one award for most of the major programs to the chair who has done the most for that program. This award is the certificate with the blue border on the bottom row plus a memorable gift. This year the gift was an engraved insulated container as seen in the photo.

From left to right, in the photo these three President's Awards were given to Pat Nusbaum for the Legislative Program, Lisa Becker for the Education Program, and Tamara Thayer for the Americanism Program.

In addition to the top awards and President's awards, Unit 311 had two winners in the Americanism essay contest. Ireland Cooney won 2nd place for Class I and Jackson Cooney won 1st place for Class VI.

The new department president is Linda Kelly from Pine Island. She is a popular member of 3rd District, to which Elysian also belongs.

New Laws Effective July 1, 2026

The following is a list of select new laws passed during the 2026 legislative session, and a provision from one passed in the 2025 special session, that take effect July 1, 2026. The asterisk following the bill number denotes language that became law. Summaries of laws passed by the 2026 Legislature are available online from nonpartisan House Public Information Services at house.mn.gov/newlaws/search/2026.

CIVIL LAW

Termination of contracts for deed modified for victims of domestic violence

A right to petition the court to remove someone from a contract for deed when they have committed domestic violence, sexual assault or harassment against another owner or their child is the focus of a new law.

Taking effect July 1, 2026, it will allow an unmarried person to petition the court to terminate another person's interest in a contract for deed when that person has been the victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or harassment from the other person, and the person who committed the assault or abuse has not resided at the property and the person petitioning has been making payments for the home or other real property that is under contract.

Rep. Kelly Moller (DFL-Shoreview) and Sen. Heather Gustafson (DFL-Vadnais Heights) are the sponsors.

EDUCATION

School districts must adopt anonymous threat reporting system

The board of a school district or charter school must adopt a policy to implement the use of an anonymous threat reporting system by June 30, 2027, and implement a system by July 1, 2028.

The law taking effect July 1, 2026, establishes requirements for anonymous threat reporting systems, including a 24-hour mobile application, website or toll-free hotline that can receive anonymous tips regarding dangerous, violent, threatening, harmful, or potentially harmful activity that occurs, or is threatened on, school property or relates to an enrolled student or school personnel.

School districts or charter schools that do not implement their own system must provide information to students, families, employees and the school community about the Department of Public Safety's statewide anonymous threat reporting system.

Active data collected with anonymous threat reporting systems will be permitted to be shared among a school district, charter school, the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Education, law enforcement agencies and noncriminal justice partners.

Data will become inactive when the school district or charter school, the Department of Education, or a law enforcement agency has determined it is no longer connected to a potential risk or threat, or two years have passed following the last associated report of potential risk or threat.

The law will appropriate \$4 million in Fiscal Year 2027 for grants to schools for the development, purchase, implementation, operation and maintenance of anonymous threat reporting systems. It will also appropriate \$1 million in Fiscal Year 2027 to the Department of Public Safety and Bureau of Criminal Apprehension for staffing and operating costs related to threat assessment and investigations.

Additionally, the law will provide \$10 million statewide in additional compensatory education revenue for Fiscal Year 2027 for school buildings scheduled to receive less compensatory circumstances revenue in Fiscal Year 2027 than in 2026. It'll also adjust general education aid from Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028.

Rep. Cheryl Youakim (DFL-Hopkins) and Sen. Steve Cwodzinski (DFL-Eden Prairie) are the sponsors.

February forecast adjustments law features miscellaneous educational provisions

A new law adjusts budgets for the Department of Education, Department of Human Services, Department of Children, Youth, and Families and Metropolitan Council to match the February 2026 forecast data and contains various educational provisions.

Non-budget educational provisions taking effect July 1, 2026, are paraprofessionals who have demonstrated work skill competencies satisfy state and federal requirements for paraprofessionals; establishing a General Fund aid program for the state's four tribal contract schools, equal to the amount apportioned to school districts and charter schools from the permanent school fund; and authorizing school districts to use operating capital revenue to pay utility service costs starting in Fiscal Year 2027.

Rep. Cheryl Youakim (DFL-Hopkins) and Sen. Mary Kunesh (DFL-New Brighton) are the sponsors.

Mandatory teacher reporting requirement

Effective July 1, 2026, a police department or county sheriff must notify the appropriate licensing board when a teacher is criminally charged with an offense that triggers automatic license denial, refusal to renew, or revocation without a right to a hearing, or with any other offense that requires the person to register as a predatory offender.

This provision is included a larger law mostly taking effect Aug. 1, 2026, that makes grooming of a minor a felony.

Rep. Peggy Bennett (R-Albert Lea) and Sen. Erin Maye Quade (DFL-Apple Valley) are the sponsors.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Mental health care funding for young children

Included in the human services policy law is a provision that, effective July 1, 2026, will establish an early childhood mental health consultation grant program to support the delivery of specialized mental health care to children age 5 or younger.

Eligible applicants include mental health clinics, community mental health centers, an Indian health service facility or one owned by a tribal organization, providers of children's therapeutic services and supports, and agencies with expertise in infant and early childhood mental health.

Per the law, funds must be used to provide consultation that includes, but is not limited to:

- early identification of social, emotional, and behavioral concerns through observation, screening support, and guidance to early childhood professionals;
- creating and providing training to early childhood professionals that includes evidence-based or evidence-informed clinical practices related to infant and early childhood mental health, and train-the-trainer models to build capacity for grantees to train their staff; and

- providing direct or reflective consultation to early education professionals.

The law is sponsored by Rep. Mohamud Noor (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. John Hoffman (DFL-Champlin).

Social media mental health warning

A health and human services policy law passed in the 2025 special session includes a provision that, effective July 1, 2026, social media platforms must have a mental health warning that appears each time a user accesses the platform and only disappears when the user either exits the platform or acknowledges the potential for harm and chooses to proceed.

The warning label's text must warn the user of potential mental health impacts from using social media and provide resources to address potential mental health impacts, including the national suicide hotline number and website.

Social media platforms will be banned from allowing a user to disable the warning label, providing the warning label in only the platform's terms and conditions and including extraneous information in the warning label that obscures its visibility or prominence.

Rep. Robert Bierman (DFL-Apple Valley) and Sen. Melissa Wiklund (DFL-Bloomington) sponsor the law.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Funding boost to Fostering Independence Grants

Taking effect July 1, 2026, additional biennial appropriations in the higher education supplemental policy and finance law are \$3 million to the Minnesota State system to implement an identity verification system to combat "ghost student" financial aid fraud; \$2.7 million — \$1.5 million from the General Fund and \$570,000 from the Workforce Development Fund — to address a funding shortfall in the Fostering Independence Higher Education Grants program; and \$5,000 to Bemidji State University for a grant to replant trees lost in last summer's derecho.

Rep. Dan Wolgamott (DFL-St. Cloud) and Sen. Omar Fateh (DFL-Mpls) sponsor the law.

STATE GOVERNMENT

Fund established to upgrade county human services program technology

Minnesota is among a few states that administer their human services programs at the county level.

In recent years, urgency has grown to upgrade the information technology used to administer those programs — some of which has not been updated in decades — especially since federal mandates were signed into law in 2025 requiring states to develop more stringent oversight of human services programs.

A new law taking effect July 1, 2026, establishes a state fund to modernize the IT systems used by state agencies, counties and tribal nations to administer human services programs. It also creates a Human Services Modernization Advisory Council and a Legislative Commission on Human Services Systems.

The law includes General Fund or new modernization fund appropriations in Fiscal Year 2027 of \$27.94 million to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families; \$15 million to advance fraud prevention and detection; \$11.46 million to the Department of Human Services; \$11.42 million to Minnesota IT Services; and \$10 million for priority upgrades to the IT systems that counties use to administer state human services programs.

Minnesota Management and Budget officials must also transfer just under \$50 million in Fiscal Year 2027 from the General Fund to the newly created Human Services Systems Modernization Fund, and must transfer money to the new fund if its balance at the end of a biennium is less than \$50 million.

Funds must be used only for eligible multiyear modernization activities that replace, modernize, consolidate, integrate, migrate, or substantially enhance legacy human services systems and shared technology infrastructure used by the Department of Human Services; Department of Children, Youth and Families; counties; federally recognized Indian Tribes located in Minnesota; providers; beneficiaries; and other program partners.

Minnesota IT Services must develop a preliminary multi-year modernization plan by March 1, 2027, and — beginning Feb. 1, 2027, and annually thereafter — submit a report to the Human Services Systems Modernization Advisory Council and the Legislative Commission on Human Services Systems.

The council is tasked with providing recommendations on the planning, prioritization, governance, financing, development, implementation, integration, replacement and modernization of current and future human services systems. Its work will be supported by a \$3.9 million Fiscal Year 2027 appropriation.

To provide legislative oversight, monitoring and recommendations regarding the planning, financing, procurement, development, implementation, operation and modernization of human services systems, a Legislative Commission on Human Services Systems is established. Its Fiscal Year 2027 appropriation is \$559,000.

Rep. Paul Torkelson (R-Hanska) and Sen. Erin Maye Quade (DFL-Apple Valley) are the sponsors.

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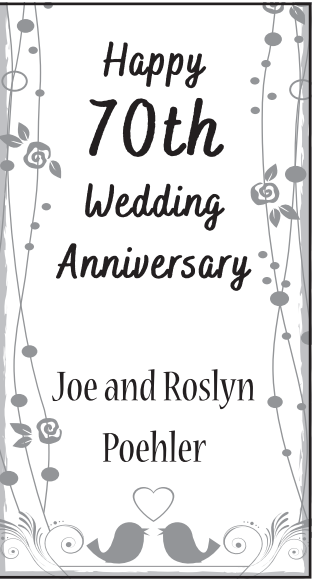
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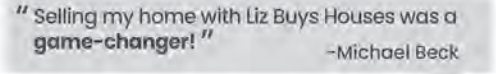
PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Waterville City Council
August 4, 2026 Council Meeting Date Change
The Waterville City Council meeting scheduled for August 4th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. has been changed to Thursday, August 6th 2026 at 6:00 p.m. due to Night to Unite.
Teresa Hill, Administrator-Clerk
Dated: July 8, 2026
(Published in the MN South Lake Region LifeEnterprise, Thursday, July 16, 2026; No. LE1054-7-16)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Le Sueur County Board of County Commissioners
88 South Park Ave, Le Center MN 56057
(507) 357-2251
PUBLIC NOTICE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
A public hearing was held on **TUESDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2026**, at **10:00 AM**, at the Le Sueur County Government Center, Commissioner Board Room, located at 88 South Park Ave, Le Center, MN 56057. The purpose of the public hearing was to hear testimony from interested parties regarding the proposed Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
At a regularly scheduled County Board meeting on **TUESDAY JUNE 23, 2026 at 9:00 AM** at the Le Sueur County Government Center, Commissioner Board Room, located at 88 South Park Ave, Le Center, MN 56057, the County Board of Commissioners were informed of the last round of public comments related to the proposed Comprehensive Land Use Plan. After considering those comments, the Board voted to approve the proposed plan with no additional changes.
The County Board of Commissioners hereby repeals the Land Use Plan adopted July 24, 2007 in its entirety and replaces it with the Vision 2050 Comprehensive Land Use Plan, adopted June 23, 2026.
The adopted Plan shall become effective upon publication of this notice and is available for review during regular office hours at the Le Sueur County Environmental Services Department located at 88 South Park Ave, Le Center, MN 56057.
Joseph Martin
Le Sueur County Administrator
Daniel O'Keefe
Le Sueur County Board of Commissioners Chairman
(Published in the MN South Lake Region LifeEnterprise, Thursday, July 16, 2026; No. LE1053-7-16)

PUBLIC NOTICE
City of Kilkenny, MN
A public hearing will be held before the Kilkenny City Council on Monday, July 27, 2026 at 6:30 PM at 288 Laurel Ave S, Kilkenny, MN 56052 (Kilkenny Library/Community Center)
Topics of discussion will be a proposed increase of the base water rate, a variance application for the property located at 186 Oak St. W, an ordinance amending ordinance 1050-prevention, reduction or elimination of blight. An ordinance prohibiting the residing inside of motor vehicles, accessory structures, storage containers, tents or recreational vehicles, and an ordinance regulating shipping containers within the city's corporate limits.
Interested parties are invited to voice their interest and/or objections.
City of Kilkenny, City Council
PO Box 135, Kilkenny, MN 56052
(Published in the MN South Lake Region LifeEnterprise, Thursday, July 16, 2026; No. LE1055-7-16)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Planning and Zoning Commission
July 28, 2026 - 6:30 p.m.
There will be a public hearing of the Waterville Planning and Zoning Commission on Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at Waterville City Hall, 205 1st Street North, to hear the request of Rodney Wessels, 616 Tetonka View Drive, Waterville MN for a side yard setback variance of 6 inches allowing for a 9.5-foot side yard setback to construct a 1200 square foot garage. Current zoning allows for a side yard setback of 10 feet.
The property is zoned Single Family Residential (R-1) and is described as follows: Parcel ID #.24.581.0030, Address: 616 Tetonka View Drive
Legal Description: HILEMAN SUB-DIV #2 (TETONKA) LOT-003 BLOCK-001
Teresa Hill, Administrator-Clerk
Dated: July 9, 2026
(Published in the MN South Lake Region LifeEnterprise, Thursday, July 16, 2026; No. LE1056-7-16)

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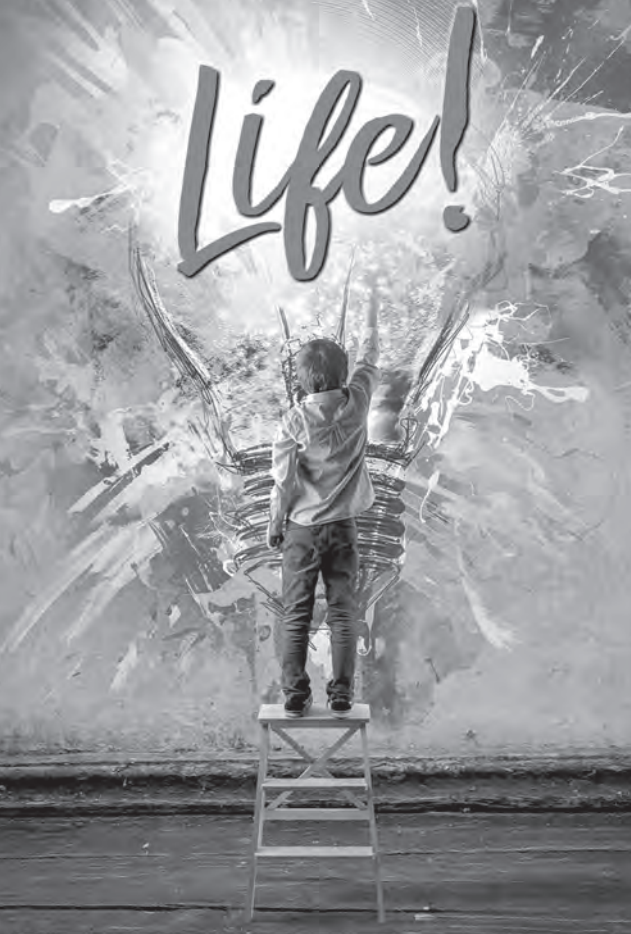
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Relay from 1

kid and having fun.”

New to the opening ceremony this year was an honorary caregiver. Mary Parkin-Krenik was chosen for the inaugural honor.

Parkin-Krenik was a caregiver for her husband, David, for more than eight years.

“Your road is not an easy one, but know that you’re not alone,” Parkin-Krenik said to survivors and those still fighting cancer. “Show your caregiver your appreciation. To caregivers: you are capable of doing amazing things. You are stronger than you think.”

The relay began with an inaugural lap by cancer survivors. It was followed by a lap with family and/or caretakers of cancer survivors. The third lap took place outside along a track lined with luminaria bags. The bags are customized with the name of a cancer survivor or a loved one lost to cancer. A candle

inside each bag is lit for the closing ceremony as night falls.

The luminaria bags are just one of the ways funds are raised through Relay for Life. In addition, 50/50 drawings were sold, raffles were held, and dozens of vendors sold specialized items throughout the evening, ranging from soap to 3D-printed goods.

Fundraising also went on well before the event, with 11 teams from around the county registered to raise funds.

Many of the buildings in the fairground had their own event taking place, from silent auctions to bingo. The 4H building had a dinner with a free-will donation.

There is still plenty of time to raise funds this year. Of the \$87,000 raised in 2025, only \$58,000 was raised by the conclusion of last year’s relay.



Mike Mallow photos

Survivors, caregivers, and participants complete the first outdoor lap of the 2026 Relay for Life. Numerous luminaria bags lined the track, which wrapped around the Le Sueur County Fairgrounds.





SCOTT COUNTY FAIR

Don't miss all of the fun!

July 22-26 2026

Visit the Scott County Fair Website for a list of all the fun!
scottcountyfair.org

THE 5 BEST DAYS OF SUMMER are BIGGER THAN EVER at the SCOTT COUNTY FAIR in Jordan! ★

This year's events open an exciting NIGHT OF DESTRUCTION on Wednesday, July 22 in the Grandstand!

Plus
The Johnny Holm Band in the Beer Garden

THURSDAY, see the power and grace of the **DRAFT HORSE SHOW!** A new day and time has been added!

This year's **GRANDSTAND EVENTS** include a **TRUCK & TRACTOR PULL** on THURSDAY and the **NTPA PULL** on FRIDAY!

SATURDAY the action continues with the **DEMOLITION DERBY!**

Don't forget to stop by the MIRACLE of BIRTH ★ to possibly witness a live birth! ★



This year, the 250th. Birthday Celebration of our County, the Elysian Area Chamber of Commerce would like to give a big “Thank You” to all who helped make this year’s July 4th. Celebration a huge success. Thank you to all the volunteers who took some hours of their time to help in all capacities.

Thank you to all of the Chairpersons who worked tirelessly to accomplish what was needed to be done, to include the Pageant, Beer Garden, Vendors, Parade, Car Show, Kid’s Fishing Contest, Pageant, Cribbage Tournament, Arm Wrestling, Flea Market, Bean Bag Tournament, Dances, Kid’s Bingo, Pancake Breakfast, Turtle Races, and Medallion Hunt. Thank you to all who offered monetary contributions for the sponsorship of the celebration including fireworks.

Sponsors included: James Brothers Construction, Elysian Bank, Fischer’s Corner Bar, Main Street Venue, Nu Chek Prep, Elysian Agency, JT’s Hookup Bait & Tackle, Thirsty Beaver Bar, American Legion Post #311, James Home Team/ Realty Executives, Elysian Archery, Rent & Save Equipment & Event Rental, Silver Lake Sportsman Club, Phil & Margie Slingsby, and Southern Lakes Angling & Spearing. Many individual donations were also received for which we are grateful.

We, also, want to thank all the hard work of the Lake Francis Association, who sponsored the boat parade, the Farmers Friends 4-H Club, who managed the Pancake Breakfast, and the Lake Area Women’s Fishing Contest along with the help from the Elysian Fire Department.

Thank you to the City of Elysian Public Works Department for all their help in preparation for the event and clean up following, and to the City Council allowing streets to be closed, and granting a liquor license. The Elysian Community has wonderful and generous people, we thank everyone, including all who participated in and those who attended the various events. It is our hope that we can continue to uplift the Elysian Community and to continue to be able to sponsor various activities throughout the year.

Anyone who would like to make a helpful comment or a suggestion for next year, please contact members of the Chamber Board. **They are:** Pam Glende, Jake James, Jeanne Zwart, Tasha Hering, Mark Sybilrud, Pam Glende, Mc Kenzie Bonogofsky, Brian Mielke, and Pat Nusbaum, who were instrumental in decisions made regarding the celebration. Many comments were made by visitors and military units that Elysian’s July 4th Parade is the most patriotic parade.

Pat Nusbaum

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

BRYNLEE BEMIS' BENEFIT

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-LIVE AUCTION - 4:30 PM

-SILENT AUCTION - 5:30 PM



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On March 17th, 2026, three-month-old Brynlee daughter of Nick and Sarah Bemis, was admitted to Children's Hospital and diagnosed with NTRK1 fusion high-grade glioma. Brynlee is currently receiving daily oral treatment along with regular physical, occupational, and speech therapy at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN, a leader in treating this rare cancer.

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO DIRECTLY TO SUPPORT BRYNLEE BEMIS

GENERAL DONATIONS:

Sarah Bemis
@Sarah-Bemis-345



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