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LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
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Graduation

Waseca class of 2023 to graduate Sunday

Commencement exercises begin at 1:30 p.m.

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Staff Writer

The Waseca High School graduating class of 2023 takes the stage at the high school for commencement Sunday, June 4 at 1:30 p.m. This year's graduates number 142, up from 121 last year.

Instead of valedictorians and salutatorians, Waseca confers "Latin Honors," the type of recognition often used at colleges. Students are given titles such as Cum Laude (with honor), Magna Cum Laude (with great honor) and Summa Cum Laude (with highest honor) based on their grade point averages (GPAs). Under this system, all students in each grade range are recognized with no limits imposed by class rank or other systems of comparison.

At the ceremony, those with a GPA between 3.9 and 4 will be wearing white cords; those with a GPA between 3.75 and 3.89 will have blue and white cords; anyone with a GPA between 3.5 and 3.74 will have blue and gold cords. Plain gold cords will be around the shoulders of anyone with a GPA between 3.0 and 3.49.

Students who received a 4.0 GPA are, in alphabetical order: Leah Kathleen Bartelt, Hailey Louise Dettmer, Joseph Scott

Graduation continued on 2

Pat Utz benefit June 24 at Purple Goose

Pat Utz cancer benefit beginning at noon Saturday, June 24 at Janesville's Purple Goose.

Cash donations can be submitted to GoFundme - Utz Cancer Benefit. Donations also accepted at Elysian Bank - Pat Utz Fundraiser.

* * *

Fire Department fish fry June 24 at 4 p.m.

The Waseca Firefighters' fish fry and fundraiser begins at 4 p.m. Saturday, June 24.

Fish served until 7 p.m. or gone.

Use north doors of Waseca Fire Department, 303 S. State Street.

* * *

Waseca County Farmers Market opens June 3

Waseca County Farmers Market at 409 8th Ave. NE in Waseca will be opening for the season beginning June 3rd at 8 a.m. The market will be open Saturdays from 8 a.m. until noon until October.

A word from The Word

And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Luke 23:43

County leader, Nelson, dies suddenly

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Waseca County Board of Commissioners chair Blair Nelson died of a sudden heart attack Tuesday night. Nelson was 65 years old, the father of three grown children, grandparent to many more, and happily married to Deanne. He served Waseca County as a commissioner since 2011, was co-owner of Waseca's Remax Real Estate office with his brother Blaine, and a lifelong Waseca resident.

Senator John Jazinski posted his

condolences on Facebook, saying that Nelson's service to the public and his dedication to his family will both be missed.

Waseca Chamber of Commerce leader Ann Fitch posted similar sentiments, expressing gratitude for Nelson's generous way of sharing "his handshakes and his kindness."

Nelson's daughter Taylor Nelson Ziemke posted the following on Facebook Wednesday morning.

"It is with a beyond heavy heart to admit our loving dad passed away unexpectedly from a massive heart

attack last night. He was a husband, dad, papa, friend, community leader, role model, sports enthusiast both on and off the field and so much more. He had the kindest and most gentle heart and spirit. He was just an all around great guy and I was beyond blessed to call him my dad. We are so heartbroken. He touched the lives of many people. He will miss out on the retirement he looked forward to and worked so hard for, including growing old with my mom and all the plans they had together, as they approach their 40-year anniversary in

November. He won't be here to golf more this summer, swim with my babies, or enjoy the sunsets at the cabin. We are robbed, my kids, nieces and nephew don't get to know their papa as they grow up, be in the stands of every activity. He was there for it all, and he will be so missed. We are at peace knowing he is up in heaven playing catch with his son, Tyler, who he missed dearly."

Many messages of support were shared online the morning of Wednesday, May 31. A full obituary will follow in next week's edition.



Blair Nelson



CLASS OF 2023 - Fifty seniors, members of the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Class of 2023, threw their caps in the air in celebration the afternoon of Friday, May 27, at the JWP football field. Pioneer photos by Michael Roy

'Chase your dreams; know the road home'

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Coming in a mess, going out in style.

That wasn't the motto of the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Class of 2023, but it does fit how their high school years went. In 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic started, they were only freshmen. But they came out better students and individuals, as high school principal Jake Hager described throughout the May 26 commencement ceremony.

The real Class of 2023 motto is from country singer Tim McGraw: "Chase your dreams, but always know the road home." It was a theme mentioned often throughout the ceremony.

On Friday, May 26, the class of 50 seniors who had gone through an interesting high school journey to-

gether celebrated their graduation at the high school football field, where once again the weather was nearly perfect for the commencement ceremonies.

"This is one of my favorite times of the year," Hager said as he welcomed the class and the crowd. "This graduation holds a special place in my heart because it's my first as part of the JWP family."

Hager described the commencement ceremony as a time when "fellow students, family, and staff truly get together" to celebrate the accomplishments of the seniors.

"Everyone will be going on a different path from here," he said. "After today, there will be a lot of unknowns. But this is the one thing I know about each and every one of you: You all have the ability to do wonderful and amazing things on



Regan Asselin and Ian Barnes walk to their seats with their fellow graduates.

whatever path you choose to take.

"I can honestly say this for myself," he continued. "I am excited for what the future holds for all of you. You are all truly inspiring, and I can't say enough how very proud I am of each one of you."

The class speaker for this year's graduating class was none other than

senior Zach Groh, who has been involved in the National Honor Society, the student council, FFA, and is one of three 4.0 students.

"Today is our last hurrah on this chapter," Groh said. "We'd like to thank everyone here today. Without

JWP continued on 11

Memorializing

Veterans honor the fallen and deceased

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Staff Writer

As the flags were raised and billowed in the breeze, people gathered the morning of Monday, May 29 on the lawn of the Waseca County courthouse and lined the streets in Waseca for a Memorial Day Ceremony honoring all those who have died either in the service of our nation, or as veterans during the past year.

The morning started with a parade and continued with a program, led by American Legion Commander Shelby Barbknecht. After an opening

prayer led by Reverend Andrew Isker of Fourth Street Evangelical Church, the high school's sextet choir sang the "Star Spangled Banner" accompanied by the high school's marching band. Student Sadie Schimming recited Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and "America" was sung by Paul Stewart. With an a cappella improvised beginning after some technical issues, Stewart was soon joined by his accompaniment played by Bob Stephan on the guitar.

A speech given by Grant Whisse-

Memorial continued on 15



HONOR - Members of the Waseca American Legion and V.F.W. sponsored a Memorial Day program to recognize fallen members of the military and veterans who have died during the past year. Pioneer photo by Amelia Roessler

The Nelson effect

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

The Nelson effect. Everyone who met Blair knows what I'm talking about.

Blair could connect with anyone. I knew it from the first time he walked into my office "because he saw the light on."

"Is Jimmy around?"

Blair said in his high-pitched voice.

"Where's Jimmy?"

Or, when my dad started writing for the Pioneer, "Jimmy's back!"

I haven't known Blair as long as others. Based on the connection we made over the past two years, I can't imagine how much of a wreck I would be today if I had known him longer. It's difficult to transcribe pain, tears, and loss.

When I came into the office on Monday it was an automatic instinct to go talk to Blair, just as it had come to be every day. When he wasn't there, I had to recognize that it was a holiday, and I pictured him out enjoying the beautiful day and the ideal weather.

Sitting in my bed this morning reading the news of his passing I was in disbelief. I read the Facebook post a dozen times and it still didn't sink in.

Blair treated me like one of his own.

With a laugh and a smile I lost count how many times in the last month he talked about our game of catch in the office.

Blair gave me the nudge I needed to sign up for the Braves baseball team this season and encouraged me to bring two gloves in for us. The look on his face that afternoon when he came in was priceless. I don't know what he came into the office for that afternoon, but we spent the next 45 minutes playing catch.

His wife Deanne gave him a hard time about it when she found out.

"45 minutes!" Blair told me in his sarcastic high-pitched voice as he imitated her chastisement. Then he admitted with a smile that the game would have lasted even longer if I had not had to leave for a newspaper assignment.

Blair and Dee had a special relationship which he talked about a lot. And not only in the context of me getting him in trouble talking about our office shenanigans.

Blair was someone I could talk to for hours, and often did, about anything and everything in between. That kind of relationship is special. Blair connected

Nelson continued on 2



Compostings

by Al Batt
copyright © 2022 by Al Batt

MN is the seventh happiest state

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
Knock, knock.
Who's there?
The doorbell repairman.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. When I was a small boy, the older kids played hide-and-seek. I begged them to allow me to take part. They told me to bug off or to kick rocks. I wouldn't take "no" for an answer. I wore them down. They gave in because good hide-and-seek players were hard to find. They told me to hide and they would seek. I went across the rural road to Saint Aidan's Cemetery and hid behind a towering tombstone in the shape of a snag with a broken limb. I was a hotdog on the 4th of July for the mosquitoes, but I was a great hide-and-seek player. They never found me. It turned out they hadn't even looked for me.

THE CHURCH HAD ALARM CLOCK ELBOWS

Steve Bakken and I were acolytes at the new church, which creaked and groaned less than the old church. We were young people from the congregation who had assumed the responsibilities of lighting and extinguishing the candles before and after worship services. We helped with the offering and with communion. We did what we were told. We each wore a robe and we NEVER chewed gum. We sat behind the pastor as he gave the sermon and we couldn't help but look out at the congregation. People-watching is fun. We could tell the men who'd had a late night on Saturday. They fell asleep just as the sermon was getting exciting. They were punished for this behavior with a sharp elbow from a wife or girlfriend. Men who didn't have anyone else's elbow to wake them, experienced sleep jerks. Let me make it clear that they weren't sleep jerks. They experienced sleep jerks, also called hypnic jerks, hypnagogic jerks, sleep twitches or sleep starts.

We have a cat who loves to sleep on my lap while I'm working at my desk. When I'm not looking, she surprises me by pulling the tea bag from my cup. When she falls asleep, her head wobbles to one side like a dysfunctional bobblehead before she wakes up with a jerk. Humans wake up with a jerk at our desks or while watching the Vikings play on TV. It's as if our bodies had a hiccup.

AND IN THE RACE FOR THE HAPPIEST STATE

To determine what are the happiest states in the USA, Scholaroo (<https://scholaroo.com/report/happiest-states/>) compared the 50 states across seven key dimensions: Employment, leisure activities, mental health, personal finance, personal relationships, physical health and social policies. Scholaroo found Minnesota the 7th happiest and Iowa the 26th. Massachusetts was #1 and West Virginia #50.

I'VE LEARNED

I won the lottery by being born here.

I visited Switzerland once. I liked it there and the country's flag was a big plus.

Always carry a knife. You never know when there will be cake.

The band name I can never remember is The Guess Who.

NATURE NOTES

The indigo bunting is my wife's favorite bird and my late father called it a "blue canary." That makes this bird a big deal in my yard.

I know it's dawn when the ring-necked pheasant rooster crows "cow-cat" loudly outside my bedroom window. He follows it up with a loud, rapid beating of his wings.

I was parked on the highway, waiting for a pilot car to lead me down the road. I watched turkey vultures doing an aerial ballet. Killdeer dashed across the ground. A kingfisher made a metallic sound. They were comfort birds sent to ease the stress of getting nowhere fast.

Eastern bluebirds, also called the blue robin or the blue redbreast by settlers, are closely related to the American robin. Both are members of the thrush family.

Birds have systems in place to survive as long as the weather does what's expected. It takes a lot of insects to make one barn swallow. Barn swallows love lawnmowers because the grass munchers kick up flying insects. Oak trees have more caterpillars than most trees and provide a well-stocked pantry for many birds.

June bugs (also called May beetles or June beetles) are common beetles ½ to 1 inch long and vary in color from reddish-brown to nearly black. The adults are active after dusk in late May and early June, and are attracted to lights at night. The clumsy fliers collide with windows and cling to screens.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Kindness in ourselves is the honey that blunts the sting of unkindness in another."—Walter Savage Landor.

Memories, time, slipping by

One school graduation in our area down, two more to go. I always knew Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton graduated its students earlier than most schools. However, I didn't realize NRHEG graduated in June like Waseca.

Another school year passed by in no time. It only felt like two months ago that we were covering Waseca's homecoming and I did the Jay Walk. But no, that was late September into early October.

We are nearing a year since the Waseca Pioneer established itself as a newspaper. And what a year it's been. Covering all the theater productions has probably been my favorite part of starting this paper and covering the city of Waseca. Oh, and covering hockey regularly is an absolute plus.

As we make the official push to summer, things will start picking up again. There will be a lot of fairs, outside events, and a bunch of other things to cover. The big events for Waseca will be Lakefest and the Waseca County Free Fair.

Last year, our paper worked hard to let everyone know who we are and what our priorities would be. The county fair was an excellent opportunity to do that. It fared well for us, as we had a lot of interested people sign up for our paper while half of the following week's issue was strictly coverage of Waseca County Fair. Meanwhile, we had a photo booth where people could dress up in funny Vikings hats, wear weird glasses, and strike a pose on the throne.

I've enjoyed some semblance of a break from a demanding work schedule. You may notice that this



Music to my Ears

by Michael Roy
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week (and somewhat last week) has a lot less of my name on stories than usual. Part of it is because we got Jonah Stafford back earlier in May and Amelia Roessler has joined us once again after studying abroad in Spain. Another part of it is because I've focused more on family matters.

As many of you may remember, my grandma passed away in November. Around this time last year, she was diagnosed with stage five dementia, meaning that she had the most difficult time remembering things.

That led to her not only buying things she didn't need, but doing so repeatedly. This past weekend, we had an estate sale, and we couldn't even fit everything into the garage. Honestly, we probably needed two garages to fit all the stuff she had. To paint the picture, we had a dresser rack, a picnic table, and a coffee table full of just clothes from the past ten to 20 years. Never mind the several jackets my grandma owned that were sitting in the closet since his passing in 2019.

Also, many people pointed out the dozen reading glasses grandma gathered throughout the years. She nearly had as many glasses as Visionworks...okay, maybe not that much. But there were at least three

dozen pairs of glasses.

It gave me pause. We already knew she was going downhill fast: 2022 was a tough year for my grandma. But we never truly realized how bad her memory had become until we saw that she had a tote full of office supplies she didn't even need, which included 50 packages of Post-It notes. I don't know anyone who goes through one package in a year, let alone 50. Seeing all of her stuff in the garage was overwhelming.

Eventually, my mom will be selling my grandparents' house, and the place that we all knew for so many years as a second home will no longer be in our family. I think it's finally starting to sink in. The den where I hung out with Grandma, the family room where I watched Johnny Bravo with Grandpa at night and watched Top Cat in the morning, and the garage where we always spent time together as a family...all of that will be nothing but memories: We will no longer be able to reminisce while surrounded by the house itself.

My grandparents built their house in 1966 and finished it in 1967. It was a rural getaway from Mankato until about a decade ago, when their neighborhood was an-

nexed by the city. And now, another change will come. Someone else will own that place, possibly start a family, and make their own memories.

Life goes on. But I will hold those memories with me forever. We'll still have a few weeks until the house is for sale. Until then, I'll take it all in as much as I can.

I am saddened to hear the news of Blair Nelson's passing. Anyone who knew him knows he was a great man who was sometimes stubborn but was always hard working. He was a part-time comedian.

Perhaps you know that the County Pioneer office is behind the ReMax business Blair and Blain have run together for decades. I mean, you had to literally walk through ReMax to get to our space. Because of that, we had many opportunities to shoot the breeze. I think out of everyone in the office, Blair and I shared the most similar political views, so the debates and talks we had were hilarious and thought provoking. I often saw his family around the office and around town, which was a bonus. We talked a lot about football and hockey, especially the latter since his granddaughter is part of the Waseca girls' hockey team and his son-in-law is the head coach.

It's tough to think about him being gone and put it into words. He was one of the more active men in his sixties, that I knew. I can only hope he is in a good place now, talking with someone about politics or the Minnesota Golden Gophers girls' basketball team. Rest in peace, Blair. God bless.

Where have manners gone?

Well, I have finally started working at the paper again! No longer am I just writing columns from some far-away places telling about my adventures and what is happening in my life—which isn't much just now.

As some of you may know, along with working at the paper, I tend bar at a bar in Faribault. (It's owned by my aunt and uncle, otherwise I might not take the time to drive all the way over there a couple times a week.) This past week while working at the bar, a number of people said things to me that threw me off and even—at one point—made me uncomfortable. For example, one guy asked me what I was studying in school. I told him that I was going for my journalism degree. He then proceeded to rant angrily that journalism is brainless and that everything is fake and how stupid it is and such. Normally, I wouldn't mind, but he continued on and on and even started on me, asking how stupid I was for choosing that major and claiming



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler
copyright © 2022 by Amelia Roessler

I would never make any money or accomplish anything. I eventually had to walk away. I understand poking fun at someone's job when they tell you what it is, but seriously? It seemed a bit extreme to just immediately hate on not only the career field I was going into, but then on me as well.

Another time I had a couple of guys make some sexual comments to me and I had to walk away, but that got me thinking, too. These people somehow thought it was acceptable to say those things to me. What happened to manners? To respecting people and their opinions? Even the passive aggressive Minnesota behavior would have been better

than that.

But I'm also not saying that people shouldn't feel free to speak what is on their minds and how they feel about things, that's an important human right. I also recognize that I was in a bar, and folks may not have been completely sober. While that may provide some level of excuse, it doesn't make the behavior right.

Reflecting on that made me realize that I get yelled at (maybe not "yelled," but at least criticized) when I work as a journalist. Not in Waseca, but when I worked for the Minnesota Daily. On numerous occasions, people tried to tell me that I said something completely wrong or that I was obviously not a good journal-

ist because I didn't have all the facts. Those people are entitled to their opinions, but I know that what I included in my story was true because it was information I had gotten from credible sources and that no, it wasn't my fault. But harsh comments like those can still be a bit jarring to a beginning journalist.

I am not sharing this to gain pity or to show you how bad things can be. I only ask myself if this is a good thing or a bad thing that people like to speak so loudly about what is on their mind, even if they know it might be hurtful. As someone who does not usually like confrontation and cares about people's feelings, I shy away from saying rude things, especially directly to people. Although thinking about it, I guess saying it to their face is better than saying it behind their back.

My Determination: "Cruelty does not make a person dishonest, the same way bravery does not make a person kind." - Veronica Roth, Insurgent



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DEADLINES: Pioneer: Noon Tuesday
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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DEB BENTLY
JIM LUTGENS
TRISTAN JENSEN
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■ Graduation

from Page 1

Feldkamp, Cecelia Rose Huttemier, Jacob Phyl Koop Kehler, Lindsey Maria Kopetzki, Christian Matthew Rodriguez.

Musical selections to be performed by the Waseca High School band and choir include "The Awakening," "Found/Tonight," and "River of Life."

This year's class officers and representatives are: Aubree Hansen,

Lindsey Kopetzki, Avery Madsen, Jenaro Delgado Jr, and Christian Rodriguez.

Class speakers are Jenaro Delgado Jr, Senior Class Vice President; Lindsey Kopetzki, School Board Representative; and Aubree Hanson, Student Council President.

The senior class motto is "We have come a long way, but not half as far as we will go."

The class colors are Blue and Gold.

The class flower is a yellow rose. Presenting diplomas this year are Superintendent Eric Hudspeth and Board of Education members Dr. Julie Anderson, Mrs. Alyssa Bowers,

and Mr. Charlie Priebe. High School Principal Dr. Jason Miller will be reading the graduates' names as they receive their diplomas.

Minnesota Honor Society members include: Kyle Lee Ahlschlager, Samantha Mae Azure, Leah Kathleen Bartelt, Maia Jean Bartelt, Miranda Jo Breck, Jersey Jaymes Castle, Jenaro Delgado Jr., Hailey Louise Dettmer, Ella Anne Dufault, Joseph Scott Feldkamp, Isabella Sue Hadley, Aubree Grace Hansen, Charlet Ann Harguth, Alexander Richard Honstad, Kya Christine Hoof, Cecelia Rose Huttemier, Megan Marie Kanewischer, William Clay King, Lindsey Marie Kopetzki, Sophia

Catherine Krause, Griffin John Krautkremer, Thyme Jones Lang, Grace Katherine Lapidés, Avery Jean Madsen, Jacqlyn Faith Mathern, McKenna Grace Miller, Camille Elizabeth Ring, Christian Matthew Rodriguez, Jayme Genevieve Sandbeck, Chloe Grace Schumacher, Haylee Christine Sommers, Kloe Nell Wadd, Hannah Lydia Wilder

The 2023 escorts are Mr. John Hanson and Mr. Jake Nelson. The tassel turners are Mrs. Brenda Nelson and Mr. Dan Sharpsteen.

This year's graduates are pictured on Pages 4-8 of this week's Pioneer.

■ Nelson

from Page 1

with many people.

I call it the Nelson effect.

Sudden loss is called "sudden" for

a reason. It hurts. It's unexpected.

Today was unexpected. I was told today that when you picture someone walking through the tunnel to the other side toward the bright white light, that it's good emotions for the person passing through. For us, on this side, it hurts.

Don't ask someone who's hurting, "How are you doing?" You already

know. Instead, ask or tell, what can I do for you. You can talk to me or not, whatever you need. Be there for the Nelsons, their family, now, in the coming months, and the future.

Many benefited from the Nelson effect. My hope is this will continue.

"When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure."

Author unknown

"If tears could build a stairway, and memories a lane, I'd walk right up to Heaven and bring you home again."

Author unknown

"Although it's difficult today to see beyond the sorrow, may looking back in memory help comfort you tomorrow."

Author unknown

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

Flooding front and center

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

Several local residents, along with local and county officials, were present to address the major flooding that occurred on May 11 during the New Richland City Council's second meeting of the month on Monday, May 22. The meeting was held in the community room to accommodate the large number of guests: following discussions with officials, the council took questions and heard concerns from community members.

"What happened here was a significant rainfall event that overwhelmed the city," said Lance Loverink from the MN Rural Water Association. "It is a terrible event, and I'm very sorry it happened, but there is only so much that the city can do."

Loverink explained that the wastewater system is engineered to take a only certain amount of water.

"When you get rainfall like that, there's virtually nothing that can be done other than pumping directly out of the manholes, which we did," he said.

Loverink stated that local officials made use of an emergency response trailer, pumping a couple thousand gallons of water per minute out of numerous manholes in an attempt to relieve pressure from the overwhelmed sewer system. The pumping took place over roughly two days.

Loverink did have a suggestion for residents to reduce backup in basements, which is to insert a 3- to 4-foot tall vertical PVC pipe into their floor drain and seal around its bottom edge: This will raise how high the water has to get before it flows out, keeping water from leaking out at floor level.

Doug Christopherson, Waseca County Commissioner and representative for New Richland and southern Waseca, explained that the county board is responsible for managing all ditch systems in the county, but does not own the ditches in Waseca County. Therefore, improvements to the ditches usually need to be petitioned by the landowner. He explained that the ditch authority can petition a ditch, but it limits the ability to pay for it, as county levy money cannot be used for these purposes.

"There is a high degree of interest from the county to see something done here in town to try to eliminate these [flooding] issues," Christopherson said. He then listed steps that have been taken in recent years to try and deal with the issue.

In 2016, a water study was applied for to cover the city of New Richland. However, due to the fact that the grant was geared more towards water storage and protecting water quality through the Clean Water Act, no funds were allotted.

In 2018, an application was again submitted, this time written as a way to study the possibility of slowing water down coming into New Richland through Boot Creek. Grant money was received totaling \$57,000, which Waseca County matched at a total of \$14,250. A study was done in 2019 by Houston Engineering; results showed eight areas that could potentially hold water. The problem, however, was that the study didn't hit the targets the county wanted, though it did provide information that hopefully will be useful.

Flooding continued on 14

'Decoration day' at JWP

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

Janesville's Memorial Day service took place at the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School auditorium on Monday morning. Guests were greeted at the door by Janesville Scout Troop 89, who served as ushers and handed out the programs.

The program began with a few words from American Legion member Bob Carda, who recounted

the history of Memorial Day observances, which date back to the Civil War era "Decoration Day." Memorial Day gained its current name in 1967 and became a national holiday in 1971, to honor all of those who have died in service of the United States Armed Forces. Carda served as an announcer for all subsequent

Janesville continued on 15



The Janesville Boy Scouts perform the flag folding ceremony during the Memorial Day program on Monday, May 29 in the JWP auditorium. It is tradition for families to receive these folded flags as a tribute to the sacrifice their loved ones made as members of the armed forces. Pioneer photo by Jonah Stafford

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

County deals with flooding, taxes

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

At their May 16 meeting, the Waseca County Board of Commissioners declared a State of Emergency regarding the flooding experienced throughout the county which caused damage to both private and public property. With the State of Emergency in place, if total damages exceed \$42,000 state aid can be obtained.

A residential tax abatement for the construction of new homes was approved; a previous agreement between the City of Waseca and the county had expired in 2020 which created a property tax decrease for homes built within city limits; the agreement was reinstated and applies to homes valued less than \$500,000, although due to rising housing and construction costs the city is considering adjustments. The board was also presented with a tax abatement plan for rural development in Waseca County with similar language, placing the value cap for rural homes at \$1 million. The discussion on this plan was tabled until the June 20 meeting pending more information from county staff.

A Conditional Use Permit (CUP) was approved for a 4.5-acre yard waste compost facility to be built in section 8 of Otisco Township, south of the recycling center there. Evans Companies of Byron, won the project bid at \$288,000; more than 40% under the engineer's estimate. The project received \$250,000 in grant money from the Greater Minnesota Recycling and Composting Grant awarded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Remaining costs are to be paid by the Fund 19 Investment Account. The completion date for the project is September 2.

Another contract, for the bike trail project running from Janesville to the south of Lake Ellysian, was awarded to Nielson Blacktopping with a bid nearly \$139,000, almost 9% more than the engineer's estimate. The county is responsible for 70% of this cost according to the cooperative construction agreement, which is to be funded by road and bridge reserve funds. The project is expected to be completed by early September, though the schedule is not finalized. Commissioner DeeAnn Malterer noted that the City of Janesville should be contacted regarding the scheduling to avoid interfering with Hay Daze celebrations.

A request was also approved from Chris Howard of Land and Water Resources to spend Riparian Funds not to exceed \$110,000 for purchases previously approved by the board to be used for noxious weed spraying of 28 county ditches.

Got news?
507-837-6767



NEW PRINCIPAL - NRHEG 1998 graduate and teacher since 2004 has been selected the secondary school's principal for the 2023-24 school year. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Grant Berg named 2023-24 NRHEG principal

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Grant Berg, social studies teacher with NRHEG since 2004, has been chosen as the secondary principal, filling a position left open by the recent resignation of 10-year leader David Bunn.

Berg began the training necessary to become a school administrator last fall and will finish the final steps in the next few months.

This development, he admits, has been something of a whirlwind. "When I started the training, my objective was to acquire some new skills and be of use to the district in some new ways," he says. "It took me completely by surprise when this position opened up."

Still, he observes, if he was going to take on administrative tasks, he feels unusually well placed to do so. "I know the staff, I know the students; I know our facilities and our programs."

District superintendent Michael Meihak agrees: "Mr. Berg is a natural fit for the position. His experi-

ence and knowledge of the district will be a significant asset during his transition to this administrative role."

Long-time secondary teacher Robin Eder says that many staff members are also pleased regarding Berg's new position. "He's already been making many contributions to the day-to-day operation of the school," said Eder. "We've been grateful for his reliable, firm demeanor and his dedication to approaching each interaction in a way that will lead to a positive outcome."

Berg's training has been through Concordia University in St. Paul. He says that some of the most important "take-aways" he has gathered is that learning can continue best when a school is operated with reliable, smooth consistency. "The staff are the people who make that possible," he observes. "A central part of leading the school is making sure your staff is heard and understood."

Berg continued on 15

'Days that will never be forgotten'

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

About 75 people gathered in the NRHEG secondary gym the morning of Monday, May 29 to take part in a Memorial Day ceremony sponsored by the New Richland American Legion.

Speaker Kelly Delacruz told the crowd that history is peppered with "days that will never be forgotten" for their tragedy and their impact. Even remembering such days, she said, "seems to suck the oxygen out of our chests."

She shared her experience of being newly enlisted in the military during 9-11 22 years ago and remembered

the loss of a childhood friend who, having enlisted at about the same time she did, was later killed in an explosion in Iraq.

"Today I remember Ssgt Jacob Thompson," she said. "With a heavy heart I thank him and all others for their sacrifice. They are not forgotten."

The high school band and choir performed "America the Beautiful," "My Country 'Tis of Thee," and the national anthem. Band director Colin Zidlicky played Taps on the bugle.

High school seniors Sidney Schultz and Ethan Thompson read, respectively, "In Flanders Field" and the Gettysburg Address.



About 75 people gathered in the NRHEG secondary gym Monday, May 29 to take part in the Memorial Day ceremony sponsored by the New Richland American Legion. Photo by Deb Bently

Members of the band and choir had also accompanied representatives of the American Legion to five area cemeteries earlier in the day, where service members buried at each were honored and those who had died within the past year were

named. Cemeteries included Calvary, St. Peter, St. Olaf, LeSueur, and Vista Lutheran and Vista Covenant.

After the 11 a.m. ceremony, the legion sponsored a meal served in the high school commons.



Waldorf American Legion Post 587 led their annual Memorial Day parade in Waldorf, Monday, May 29. Photo by Michael Roy

'Let us not forget those who died'

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

Memorial Day is a time to honor those who died in the armed forces to preserve the freedom of the United States and to defend it in battle.

Waldorf American Legion Post 587 and its auxiliary put together a program to honor and remember those area veterans and military servicemen who died within the past year; the ceremony was held Monday morning at the Waldorf Com-

munity Center. The color guard presented the colors, and Rev. Michael Matthews of First Lutheran Church in Waldorf provided the invocation and benediction.

The program started off with some improvisation. The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Band was to perform the Star Spangled Banner, but was running late after appearing at the Janesville American Legion's

Waldorf continued on 16

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CLASS OF 2023

Waseca Public Schools

Commencement - Sunday, June 4 - 1:30 p.m.

Waseca High School Auditorium, Waseca, MN

To the Class of 2023
CONGRATS!

Jalysa Acevedo
Parents: Arturo Acevedo and Sara Dubon
Future plans:
Continue my education



Lucas Androli
Parents: Kevin and Jessica Androli
Future plans:
Going to Central Lakes College to study Natural Resource Law Enforcement



Ella Bartlet
Parents: Nick and Steph Bartlet
Future plans:
Attending Riverland Community College



Miranda Breck
Parents: Todd and Kelly Breck
Future plans:
Attend MSU Mankato to major in Business and minor in Psychology



Joseph Adamek
Parents: Todd and Katie Adamek
Future plans:
Attending University of Mankato for aviation



Elaina Andrs
Parents: Ken and Naomi Andrs
Future plans:
Attending the Minnesota State Mankato in the fall to pursue a future in Art and business



Leah Bartelt
Parents: Nathaniel and Janet Bartelt
Future plans:
Plan on becoming an Electrician



Brenden Brow
Parents: Jeremy and Kim Brown
Future plans:
I will be heading into the workforce



Ethan Adams
Parents: Daneil and Krista Adams
Future plans:
Joining the workforce

To the Class of 2023
CONGRATS!

Mason Armstrong
Parents: Jack and Cassandra Armstrong, Ashley and Ryan Schoon
Future plans:
Attending College



Maia Bartelt
Parents: Brad and Crystal Bartelt
Future plans:
Attending South Dakota State University for animal sciences and veterinary medicine



Shanece Brown
Parents: Stanley Brown and Latasha VanNote
Future plans:
Attending cosmetology school



Kyle Ahlschlager
Parents: Chris and Jill Ahlschlager
Future plans:
Carshield AAA Hockey Club in St. Louis, MO



Josh Azure
Parents: Sam and Jaime Azure
Future plans:
Joining the Air Force



Hussain Bhatti



Braelen Budin
Parents: Ellen Budin
Future plans:
Attending Alexandria Technical and Community College, for Law Enforcement



Emma Allen
Parents: Ben Allen and Kristi Kern
Future plans:
Continuing my education in Human Services/Social Work



Samantha Azure
Parents: Arturo Acevedo and Sara Dubon
Future plans:
Attending the University of Minnesota Moorhead



Elijah Biehn
Parents: Matthew and Kristie Biehn
Future plans:
Attending Riverland Community College



Logan Bultman
Parents: Paul and Carol Bultman
Future plans:
I will be going to Cinch and doing their CNC Apprenticeship Program



Brice Anderson
Parents: Ben and Andrea Anderson
Future plans:
Attending Mitchell Tech in Mitchell, South Dakota



Ashley Barrientos
Parents: Marisol de León
Future plans:
Continuing my education at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities



Erika Bowers
Parents: Mike and Alyssa Bowers
Future plans:
Attending MSU Mankato for Aviation, starting flight school May 15



Jersey Castle
Parents: Todd Beynon and Jenna Castle
Future plans:
I will be continuing my education at Winona State University to double major in Criminal Justice and Psychology, while minor in child advocacy studies

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Corbin Connors
Parents: Brad and Trudi Connors
Future plans:
Attending North Iowa Area Community College to pursue Tool and Die



Grant Cox
Parents: Eric Cox and Cori Fostveit Cox
Future plans:
My plan is to start an electrician apprenticeship out in Oregon



Ethan Davis
Parents: Maria Cole
Future plans:
Attending the University of Minnesota to major in Architecture



Veronica De La Fuente
Parents: Felipa Garza
Future plans:
Continuing my education



Jenaro Delgado Jr
Parents: Jenaro Delgado St and Alberta Delgado
Future plans:
Attending Winona State University to study Physical Therapy



Adam Deno
Parents:
Future plans:



Hailey Dettmer
Parents: Matt and Abby Dettmer
Future plans:
Attending Gustavus to continue my education in Environmental and Human Studies and Spanish



Jayde Donovan
Parents: Chris Donovan and Stacy Cassidy
Future plans:
I will be working for the next year and then going to cosmetology school



Mason Droog
Parents: Richard Droog and Amanda Riehm
Future plans:
Joining the workforce



Katrina Duciaume
Parents: Jarrett and Amanda Duciaume
Future plans:
Continuing my education and eventually going on to Medical School



Ella Dufault
Parents: Barry and Stacey Dufault
Future plans:
Attending Minnesota State University Mankato



Adam Eustice
Parents: Pete and Marya Eustice
Future plans:
Going to Riverland Community College for an Electrician



Bella Hadley
Parents: Mike and Jeannie Hadley
Future plans:
I will be majoring in business management and my minor is photography



Sophie Farris
Parents: Marnee White
Future plans:
I will be attending Nova Academy of Cosmetology starting in July



Joseph Feldkamp
Parents: Gregg and Jeannie Feldkamp
Future plans:
Attending Benedictine College



Anthony Fette
Parents: Dave and Diane Fette
Future plans:
My plan is to join the workforce before attending a trade school



Levi Flom
Parents: Trent and Laurie Flom
Future plans:
Go to college and then move to the work force



Hannah Fordham
Parents: Aaren Keilen
Future plans:
Gap year



Joel Frye
Parents:
Future plans:



Olivia Frye
Parents: Jeff Frye
Future plans:
I plan on attending South Central College in Mankato and getting my CNA then work my way up to being a registered Nurse then I plan on pursuing a career in Telemetry travel Nursing



Janeli Garcia
Parents: Edward Bethke and Maria Garcia
Future plans:
Attending Hibbing College or Riverland in Austin



Patyon Garza
Parents: Raul and Lacie Garza
Future plans:
Attending Rochester Community and Technical College to do generals and play baseball



Jaydyn Gaul
Parents: Stephen Gaul and Julie Nelson
Future plans:
Attending University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire



Alex Ginger
Parents: Jamie Giner
Future plans:
Will be joining the Air Force



Jakib Godtland
Parents: Krystal Malis
Future plans:
National Guard Reserves



Carson Grams
Parents: Jennifer Zabel
Future plans:
Going into the workforce



Alexis Guse
Parents: Benjamin Guse and LuAnn Guse
Future plans:
N/A



Payten Haack
Parents: Tom and Melissa Haack
Future plans:
I'll be working in the 563 labor union

To the Class of 2023

CONGRATS!

Hussain Farooq Bhatti
Parents: Farkhanda Atif and Atif Bhatti
Future plans:
Make more friends

Kami Hager
Parents: Christopher Hager and Jodi Morsching
Future plans:
Attending Nova Academy in Mankato

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Aubree Hanson
Parents: Steve and Barb Hanson
Future plans:
Attending Winona State University to study psychology



Ava Hansen
Parents: James and Melissa Hansen
Future plans:
Attending Minnesota State University-Mankato for Nursing



Logan Hansen
Parents: Tim and Beth Hansen
Future plans:
Work for a year out of high school and then go to college for engineering



Charli Harguth
Parents: Jerry and April Harguth
Future plans:
Attend the University of Minnesota State University-Mankato majoring in business management and marketing



Leo Harguth
Parents: Dan and Tara Harguth
Future plans:
I don't know



Abbie Hermal
Parents: Brad and Taia Hermal
Future plans:
I am joining the workforce



Eddie Herman
Parents: Jay and Sondra Herman
Future plans:
Attend the University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering to major in Mechanical Engineering and run track and field



Katelynn Hodgkins
Parents: Troy and Donna Hodgkins
Future plans:
Attending Minnesota State University Mankato



Grady Hoffman
Parents: Ronny Hoffman and Megan Hoffman
Future plans:
joining the workforce



Alexander Honstad
Parents: Rich and Amanda Honstad
Future plans:
Attending Winona State University



Kya Hoof
Parents: Scott and Dana Girtler
Future plans:
Attending Bethany Lutheran College to study nursing



Cecelia Huttmeir
Parents: John Huttemier and Kristi Hyink-Huttemier
Future plans:
Attending St. Olaf College for Biology/Environmental Studies



Cierra Ingalls
Parents: Tony and Rachael Ingalls
Future plans:
Continuing my education



Jacari Jellum
Parents: Mark and Kari Jellum
Future plans:
Attending MSU Mankato



Torrence Jeno
Parents: Marty and Mark Dvorak
Future plans:
Interning at United Prairie Bank



Cade Kalbow
Parents: Jedidiah Kalbow and Jackie Kalbow
Future plans:
I'm planning on doing trade school while working at Walmart



Megan Kane-wischer
Parents:
Aaron and Deanna Kane-wischer
Future plans:
I will be attending Gonzaga University where I will major in Biology



Eva Keck
Parents: Jesse and Erin Keck
Future plans:
Attending Winona State University



Jacob Kehler
Parents: Daryl and Bernadette Kehler
Future plans:
Attending the University of Minnesota Morris in the fall



Alicia Kelly
Parents: Julie Kelly and Jermie Kelly
Future plans:
Attending the University of St. Thomas



William King
Parents: Bradley and Kristine King
Future plans:
Attend the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Carlson School of Management for International Business



Sydney Kofstad
Parents: Melissa Kofstad, Gabe and Laurel Kofstad
Future plans:
Taking a gap year then community college



Samantha Kopecky
Parents: Jon and Krista Kopecky
Future plans:
Attending MSU



Lindsey Kopetzki
Parents: Craig and Tracy Kopetzki
Future plans:
Attending South Dakota State University to major in Political Science



Sophia Krause
Parents: Thomas and Christine Krause
Future plans:
Attending the Minnesota State University, Mankato



Griffin Krautkremer
Parents: Ryan Krautkremer and Amy Krautkremer
Future plans:
I plan to attend Iowa State to continue my education and study Engineering



Arianna Krogseng
Parents: Daniel and Kristina Krogseng
Future plans:
Attending Winona State University with a major in history



Thyme Lang
Parents: Scott and Kipling Lang
Future plans:
Attending Bethel University for Film and Media Production



Grace Lapides
Parents: Tony and Kris Lapides
Future plans:
Moving to the Twin Cities to pursue a career in theatre and acting



Ryan Leigh
Parents: Steve and Dawn Leigh
Future plans:
Attending Eau Claire and pursuing music



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Avery Madsen
Parents: Chris and Leslie Madsen
Future plans:
Attending Grand Canyon University to pursue a degree in Nursing



Madelyn Malecha
Parents: Ryan and Heidi Malecha
Future plans:
Attending Northwest Iowa Community College to major in radiology technology



Nathan Markeson
Parents: Kris and Karen Markeson
Future plans:
Take a year off then attend college for law enforcement



Jacqlyn Mathern
Parents: Luke and Bobbi Mathern
Future plans:
I'll be attending UW- La Crosse



Kevin McGuire
Parents: Matthew and Kerry McGuire
Future plans:
Not sure



Alexis Miller
Parents: Donald and Amy Miller
Future plans:
Attending Winona State University



McKenna Miller
Parents: John and Heather Miller
Future plans:
Attending Rochester Community & Technical College for Nursing



John Mlenek
Parents: Mark and Belinda Mlenek
Future plans:
I want to go to school for welding



Diego Montenegro
Parents: Mona Montenegro and Laura Flores
Future plans:
Undecided



Elizabeth Mortensen
Parents: Jeremy and Angela Mortensen
Future plans:
Attending Winona State University for Elementary Education/Special Education



Anna Mulcahey
Parents: Randy and Hilary Mulcahey
Future plans:
South Central College Mankato Office management



Colton Muntean
Parents: Janel Schmidt
Future plans:
I'm going to attend MSU Mankato to become a nurse



Grady Murphy
Parents: Shawn and Tammy Murphy
Future plans:
I will be attending Riverland for diesel technology



Maximillian Neaves
Parents: Salvador Neaves and Julie Green
Future plans:
I will be attending the College of St. Scholastica and playing football



Ava Norland
Parents: Jeffrey and Emily Norland Hanna
Future plans:
Continuing my education at South Central College



Kyrie Nusbaum
Parents: Steven and Jennifer Nusbaum
Future plans:
Attending Mankato State University to study nursing



Oliver O'Brien
Parents: Ben and Ria O'Brien
Future plans:
Attending Minnesota State University Mankato to study construction management and play football



Brooklyn O'Malley
Parents: Mark O'Malley and Aincia O'Malley
Future plans:
Attending Rasmussen University for Human Resource



Ruweida Osoble
Parents: Sebriye Osoble (father) and Seynab Jiinow (mother)
Future plans:
I will be attending Rochester Community and Technical College (RCTC) to become a Dental Assistant



Caliann Owens
Parents: Danny Owens
Future plans:
Continuing to work at Wal-mart



Devon Petersen
Parents: Josh Petersen
Future plans:
Unsure



Kyra Pfeifer
Parents: Joel and Missy Pfeifer
Future plans:
Attending Winona State University



Nolan Prescher
Parents: Sam and Steph Prescher
Future plans:
South Central Online



Eustice Raetz
Parents: Jerry and Jill Raetz
Future plans:
After highschool, I plan to attend college at Riverland Community College for Diesel Tech



Tyson Reger
Parents: Jason and Andrea Reger
Future plans:
Bethany Lutheran College and will play baseball



Kamryn Rice
Parents: Shane Rice and Melissa Olson
Future plans:
Joining the workforce



Camille Ring
Parents: Phil and Kara Ring
Future plans:
I will be attending Crown College



Sarah Robbins
Parents: Kent and Wendi Robbins
Future plans:
Taking a gap year adn then going to college in Florida



Ethan Yeater-Crosby
Parents: Kris and Cheryl Crosby
Future plans:
Thinking 'bout a brand new hope



Kaleb Robeck
Parents: Nate and Jamie Robeck
Future plans:
I am attending Alexandria Technical and Community college and plan to make a career in bolwing



Christian Rodriguez
Parents: Nathan and Debbie Rodriguez
Future plans:
Attending Gustavus Adolphus College to study computer science and play football



Britney Ross
Parents: Charles and Irma Ross
Future plans:
I plan on attending Minnesota State University in Mankato, majoring in business

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DJ

Daniel J. Johnson

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I'm Daniel J. Johnson. For the past 13 years, I've proudly served our community by offering personalized accounting services for you and your small business. From tax preparation and bookkeeping to financial planning, I'm here to provide you with professional, trustworthy, and reliable assistance. Let's work together and make your financial dreams a reality!



Riley Ruedy
Parents: Wesley and Sara Ruedy
Future plans:
Attending Minnesota State University, Mankato and continuing my education in Dental Hygiene



Addison Sampson
Parents: Gerald Raetz and Sarah Born-Raetz
Future plans:
Going to college and participate in track



Jayme Sandbeck
Parents: Douglas and Jennifer Sandbeck
Future plans:
Attending St. Olaf College



Kiana Sands
Parents: Ron and Lynn Sands
Future plans:
Attending Nova Academy in Rochester for advanced practice esthetician



Stormie Schmidt
Parents: Ralph and Amy Schmidt
Future plans:
Attending Laramie County college in Cheyenne Wyoming for Natural Resources and Criminal Justice



Blaze Schultz
Parents: Crystal McMaster - Mother, Shaun Marweg - Stepdad, Richard Schultz - Father
Future plans:
Make money



Cole Schultz
Parents: Rachelle Ohnstad
Future plans:
Attend Bethany College or join the Air Force



Chloe Schumacher
Parents: Joe and Andrea Schumacher
Future plans:
I will be attending the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities and majoring in Human Resources



Korbin Schumacher
Parents: Craig and Kari Schumacher
Future plans:
Attending Cnetral Lakes Community College for Law Enforcement



Ella Sexton
Parents: Michael and Melissa Sexton
Future plans:
Attending Lake Area Technical College for financial services



Ethan Sexton
Parents: Michael and Melissa Sexton
Future plans:
Air Force Cyber Security



Isaac Sipe
Parents: Larry and Angie Sipe
Future plans:
Enlisting in the Marine Corps



Haylee Sommers
Parents: Greg Sommers and Jenny Sommers
Future plans:
Attending MSU Mankato



Lexi Spielman
Parents: Clayton and Kimberly Evans
Future plans:
I will be attending Nova Academy of Cosmetology in October 2023



Piper Srp
Parents: Ben Srp, Kristin and Max Fox
Future plans:
Attending Rasmussen University for Nursing



Reagan Thompson
Parents: Brain Thompson and Stacy Bluhm
Future plans:
Attending Minnesota State University Mankato



Hannah Thursdale
Parents: Aaron Thursdale and Jill Thursdale
Future plans:
attending NIACC for sical work



Abbey Titus
Parents: Trevor Titus and Stacy Stenzel
Future plans:
Going to Central Lakes College to study Psychology and Social Work



Kelsey Tobon
Parents: Melissa Stoltz
Future plans:
Continue my education



Xavyer Torres
Parents: Serfin Torres and Lisa Preuss
Future plans:
I plan on going to Ridgewater College to get a certification in meat cutting and sanitation



Eduardo Trejo
Parents: Juana Garcia
Future plans:
Going to work as an electrician



Cassie Tuma
Parents: Chad Tuma and Julie Tuma
Future plans:



Humberto Victorino
Parents:
Future plans:



Kedrik Volkmann
Parents: Josh and Jill Volkmann
Future plans:
Playing baseball at Ridge Water College



Timothea Volkmer
Parents: Charles and Naomi Volkmer
Future plans:
I am going to be attending Liberty University in Virginia to get a bachelor degree in Environmental and Conservation Biology



Josie Von Bank
Parents: Tim Von Bank and Brandi Balk
Future plans:
Plan on getting lisenced to be a Certified Nursing Assistant for Assisted Living



Kloe Wadd
Parents: Trent and Kari Wadd
Future plans:
Attending University of Minnesota Crookston



Hannah Wilder
Parents: Jesse and Sarah Wilder
Future plans:
Attending Minnestoa State-Mankato to study Nursing



Emma Williamson
Parents: Derek Williamson and Jen Williamson
Future plans:
Attending MSU Mankato for Psychology



Michael Winter
Parents: Robert Winter and Terri Palmer
Future plans:
Undecided



Destiny Woitas
Parents: Donald and Bonita Woitas
Future plans:
Special Education paraprofessional



Joshua Wright
Parents: Laurie Murray
Future plans:
Joining the workforce

To the Class of 2023
CONGRATS!

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SCHOOL'S OUT — In 1973, it wasn't just the Janesville High School students that were happy about school ending for the summer So were teachers Kathy Mazza, Bill Burns, Elizabeth Haug, Arlene Pooley, Ellen Spies, Yvonne Mautka, Viola Anderson, Karen Barick, June Fell, Gary VanHoltum, Linda Hendricks, and Joey Gantke.

Picking Blossoms

1923

-Samuel Hodgkins, Jr., who resides southwest of town a mile or so out, called at this office Saturday morning and supplied the details of what might have proven a disastrous tragedy. He had started to town leading a two-year-old bull which had previously exhibited no signs of a belligerent attitude. When fairly started suddenly the animal turned upon him and the first whack out of the box sent him the full length of the top several feet away. Following it up the animal tramped him down and trod all over his form. Strange to say he was not badly injured, although very severely bruised.

-The annual school exhibit was held on Wednesday afternoon of last week. In many respects it was perhaps the most successful of any held in recent years. Especially was this true from the viewpoint of attendance. Over one hundred people attended during the afternoon, while the evening attendance although not quite so large, was very satisfactory. It was a pleasing evidence of increased interest in our schools on the part of the people of the community.

-The ball team has materialized. Last week those column gave an extended writeup of what several prominent businessmen had in view. It came about much quicker than we had anticipated. The new teams is composed of material wholly injured to the game each individual player being a product of well time probation followed by active service in the field. Each one is a well rounded youth, full of pep and ginger and amply capable of holding his own.

-The school year will be brought to a close Thursday evening when the graduating exercises will be held at the town hall. A class of twenty-three people, the largest class in the history of the Janesville High School, will be given their diplomas. Dr. Frank Nelson, President of Minnesota College, Minneapolis, will deliver the commencement address.

1948

-The Janesville H.S. baseball team did a real clean-up job of picking off the "Blossoms" at Blooming Prairie, Thursday afternoon, in a one-sided victory, the score reading 22-3. The Blossoms used up three pitchers to stop the onslaught, but they all looked alike to Coach Chiodo's gang. The Blooming Prairie chuckers were combed for 8 hits, including 2 doubles, a triple and a home run, and for good measure worked the opposing moundsmen for 14 free tickets. Janesville also pilfered 22 bases (a near record) during the afternoon track meet.

-Members of the Royal Neighbors lodge sponsored a farewell part for Neighbor Rose Janson at her home last Wednesday afternoon. Double deck snouse was played at three tables for the afternoon entertainment, with prizes going to Neighbors Dora Nyquist, Myrtle Christenson and Ruby McGovern.

-The Janesville baseball team lost a 11-9 decision to the Mankato Eagles at Northside Park on Sunday afternoon. Costly errors played a big part in the defeat for Janesville.

-The Waseca County cancer campaign organization closed its books this week with a total of \$1,943.28 on the county's contribution to the 1948 cancer fund for research and education in cancer. Totals to date show the following contributions by towns: Waseca \$1,263.33; New Richland \$348.45; Janesville \$294.50; and Waldorf \$35.00.

1973

-Townhome Developers, Inc., Crystal, Minnesota, are considering Janesville for the site of a 24-unit apartment building. The firm is presently building apartments in Le Center and Waterville. Rufe Korman, a Le Center real estate agent, is representing the developers. He spent a day in Janesville last week inquiring about the need for apartments here. He told the Argus that everyone he talked to stressed the need for more rental housing here.

-Seventy of the 250 are residents who were personally asked to give blood showed up at St. Ann's Catholic Church last Wednesday. Of these, 13 were deferred for medal reason and 57 gave a pint of blood. Mrs. Sylvester Priem, chairman of the program, told the Argus that she made over 250 telephone calls prior to last Wednesday. About one fourth of the people called responded. Of these, eight were first time donors.

-Dave Arnold, a native of Janesville, will assume coaching duties in track and assist in football this coming school year at ST. John's University, Athletic Director Jim Smith announced today. Arnold will be an assistant to his former coach, John Gagliardi, in football, while taking responsibility for building St. John's indoor track program made possible by the school's new athletic complex, and maintaining St. John's outstanding outdoor program.

-Senior Jerome Witt will compete in the Region Track Meet at Albert Lea Saturday by virtue of his third place finish in the 220-yard dash at the District Meet last Friday in Faribault. Rich Frank was Janesville's other scorer in the District meet. Rich finished fourth in the long jump with a leap of 19-feet-1.

1998

-1998 Janesville Waldorf-Pemberton Elementary's Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to June Fell on Monday, May 11. Fell has volunteered in the elementary media center twice a week since she retired. With a welcoming smile, she was spent countless hours each week assisting students and adults by shelving books, recommending and locating books for students.

-The boys' Sub-Section 5A Track and Field Meet at New Richland Thursday was virtually a repeat of last year's standings. United South Central topped its winning 184-point effort of a year ago by racking up 202 points this season. Charlie Lehman was a triple winner for the Rebels, who picked up eight first places in the meet, including two of the four relay races. JWP had one winner and will advance two individuals to the section meet, one less than a year ago. JWP's only two section qualifiers both came in the 800-meter dash. Mick Heinen won the race in 2:05.12, and David Jewison placed third in 2:07.2

-A contractor has come aboard for the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School District's construction project. During a special meeting, the JWP School Board accepted the base bid of \$10,240,000 from A.J. Lysne Corporation. A total of three bids were received for the district's project. The A.J. Lysne Corporation came in with the lowest bid. However, all three bids were within \$400,000 of each other. "The closeness of the bids shows it was a reputable company," said Allan Lynch, board chairperson.

Archives compiled by Michael Roy and Amelia Roessler

No mayor, TV growing fast

Waseca Herald, 1923

-The people of the Waseca community paid due tribute yesterday to those whose valor and patriotism preserved to our people the greatest and best country on earth — America. The graves of the soldiers and sailors in the cemeteries adjacent to the city were decorated with flags and flowers and their memory honored with appropriate exercises. The annual parade formed near the courthouse at 1:30 p.m.

-“Be our guests next Saturday afternoon,” is the invitation of the people of Waseca to farmers of this county, issued through the Waseca Chamber of Commerce. Beginning at 1:#0 p., next Saturday, June 2, a free show will be put on for the entertainment of farmers and their families at the Palace Theatre by the Chamber of Commerce. Tickets may be had from Waseca merchants. These tickets admit to the theatre and also give you an opportunity to win one of 75 prizes which will be given away are conservatively valued at \$150.

-Judge E. C. Dean of Fairmont has decided that George Goodspeed was not legally elected mayor of Waseca on April 2 last and that a new election should be called. The contest proceedings were held before Judge Dean at the courthouse in this city on May 8 and his decision was sent to the clerk of court here yesterday.

-Sheriff Wadd believes he has located a smooth individual who beat Chas. Woodhall of Janesville out of \$100 by passing worthless checks. The fellow is named H. D. Chler and he dropped into Janesville last month. He learned that Mr. Woodhall knew his brother and working on his lead he prevailed on Mr. Woodhall, who is a prince of good fellows, to cash his checks. Sheriff Wadd got track of the fellow through a Fairmont paper, which claimed he passed worthless checks in Fairmont; also at Estherville, Emmetsburg and Spencer, IA. He is now in jail at Primghar, Iowa, and County Attorney Spillane has notified the authorities there to hold him for Waseca County when they get through with him.

Waseca Herald, 1948

-The city council Tuesday night heard arguments on the closing of Fourth Avenue N.E. between Fourth Street and Eighth Street starting with the northwest corner of the football field and running west. Although no final action was taken by the council, a petition will be circulated among

property owners adjoining the avenue to have the city vacate at least that stretch of property. The part to be vacated would be divided equally between property owners north and south of the line.

-School ends for rural school members on Friday, May 28th, according to Miss Margaret Matson, and some 971 students will be through for another year. State examinations for seventh and eighth graders were held Tuesday and Wednesday. The school records this year show that 697 pupils attended the 52 open schools while 274 pupils in the 27 closed rural districts and five districts closed to seven and eighth graders are transported daily to open rural schools, public schools, and the parochial schools.

-The members of the Lions club heard S. O. Vaile, executive assistant of the Northwestern Bell Telephone, speak last Thursday night on television. “Television is coming fast,” Mr. Vaile told the group, “and is growing in leaps and bounds.” In three weeks, he pointed out, KSTP will have a transmitter in service and there are 13 in the United States now. Permits for television issued to cities since the first of the years are 67 in number.

-Waseca had a 100 year old train on display last Thursday evening, May 27, which must have brought back the memories of early traveling to older people even though the chances are they never saw one quite that old either. It was a Chicago Northwestern engine, caboose and a coach which first saw service out of Chicago in 1848, 100 years ago.

Waseca Daily Journal, 1973

-A record number of tornadoes dipped to earth from storm systems across the Midwest and South over the Memorial Day weekend, claiming at least 48 lives in multi-million dollar trails of destruction. Several small towns were all but obliterated as about 160 tornadoes turned the long weekend into a holiday of horror for thousands. Deaths were reported in 11 states from Oklahoma to Florida, and at least six other states reeled under heavy rains, high winds, and flash floods.

-The Waseca Bluejay baseball team won its opening game in district tournament play Saturday afternoon with a 3-1 victory over Kenyon at Owatonna. The Bluejays are now 14-3 for the season. The Jays now advance to the semifinals and meet the winner of the Janesville-Faribault game.

1923

-The Southern Minnesota Baseball association opened with a bang last Sunday and the New Richland Champs took the first game by shutting out Albert Lea 8 to 0. The game was played at Albert Lea before a record attendance for that city, which has heretofore been considered the poorest baseball town on the circuit.

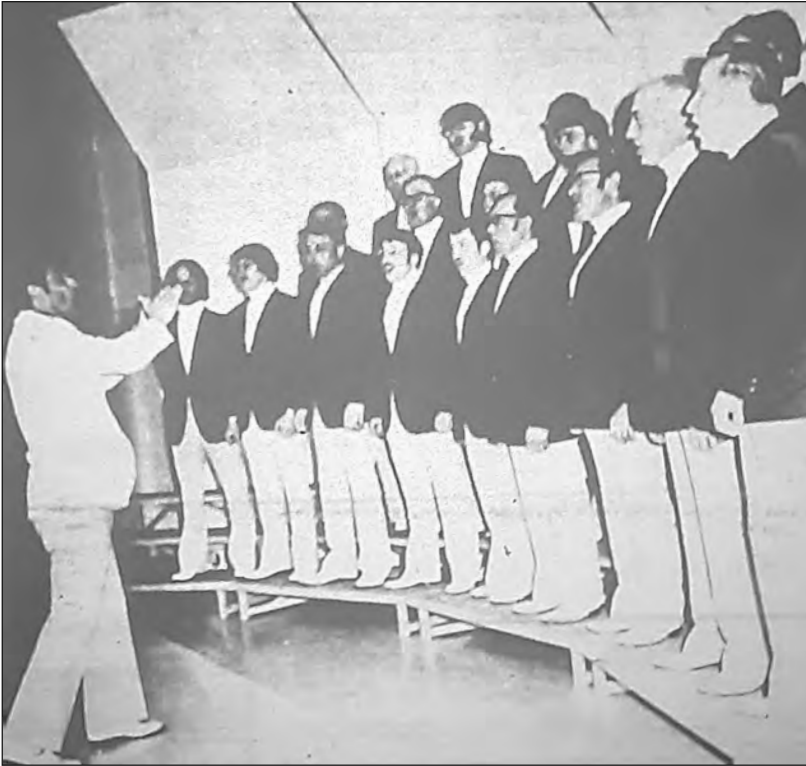
-Lack of a speaking acquaintance with the rules of woman suffrage and the high price of millinery make doubtful the propriety of assuming that a woman candidate “throws her hat in the ring.” At any rate Waseca county has her first woman candidate in the person of Miss Gertrude M. Guyer of Waseca, who announces in another column of this issue that she is a candidate for the office of treasurer of Waseca County.

-There was considerable excitement at Freeborn last Friday when a bear was reported to have been seen on the Dr. Butturlf farm near town. It was a good sized bruin, according to reports, that fearlessly wandered around the farm for a time and then ambled off in a southerly direction and headed for the lake woods.

-The latest efforts of the Sanity League have been directed toward wetting the dry vote. The bootlegger localizes his work by wetting the dry voter.

-Fear of consequences makes cowards of us all. They're not “fair, fat and forty,” nowadays, because they don't allow themselves to ever get fat nor be forty.

-FOR SALE- 15 choice Fall Gilts, bred for early fall litters. Sired by



MERILLY SINGING — In 1973, the Waseca Daily Journal claimed that singing was not to be forgotten as the Crossroads Chordsmen, directed by Ed Wirtz, performed a few selections at the banquet they sponsored for the area honor students.

-Minnesota's new age-of-majority law takes precedence over local ordinances and means 18-year-olds can buy and drink liquor, Atty. Gen. Warren Spannaus said. Spannaus said it was the clear intent of the legislature to give all adult rights to 18-year-olds, despite some local ordinances which retain 21 as the minimum drinking age. The ruling had been expected to follow those lines and appeared to erase any questions about the effectiveness of the new law.

-At a meeting of the overall advisory committee for UMW yesterday the members passed a resolution expressing appreciation to legislators for funding the Waseca college. Vice Chairman Robert Rupp said, “We still have an education job on our hands because some legislators are still convinced that some programs can still be moved to another college.

Waseca County News, 1998

-The Waseca baseball team committed six errors in its first two tournament games and survived. The Bluejays had four more miscues at Hutchinson Tuesday and did not. Waseca advanced in Section 2AA play with a second round 9-3 victory over Marshall Monday. The game had been rained out Saturday. The third-seeded Jays journeyed to second-seeded Hutchinson Tuesday in a winner's bracket game. Despite two good comebacks, Waseca fell 9-7 to the Tigers, knocking the Bluejays into the loser's bracket.

-Nothing lasts forever; all things come to an end. So have Mr. Roger Nelson's years of teaching math at Waseca High School. As of next year, Mr. Nelson will retire. For 33 years, Mr. Nelson has been teaching all levels of math through calculus in Waseca. He has also taught three



Waseca Bluejays pitcher Craig Miller

years before Waseca in Sheboygan, WI. As of the moment, Mr. Nelson says that Mr. Kottke will be taking over his pre-calculus and AP calculus classes, dropping tech math 2 to free up class time.

-Waseca resident Oscar Storlie is the proud new owner of a 1959 Edsel. Storlie won the vehicle through the Eagles' Cancer Telethon raffle. The telethon, which raised \$378,85, was held in Rochester. The Waseca Eagles Club raised \$11,100 for cancer research. The telethon was sponsored by the 10 Eagles Clubs in the area to raise money for cancer research. The vehicle was given away along with a number of other raffle prizes during the telethon.

-When Faith United Methodist Church receives its new pastor June 28, it will get even more than it thought. Not only will the church have a new pastor with the Rev. Katherine Horn, but also an emergency one — Horn's husband.

Fear of consequences makes us cowards

Royal Satisfaction and bred to Pathfinder Dale Sensation, out of Grand Model and Defender bred dams.

1948

-“50 Years Ago- Bachelors are increasing in number in this village. Uncle Luther Abbott is the earliest riser in town. He has the pump at the railroad pumping station going at 5 a.m.

-FOUND- a variety of license plates have been left at the Star office for the owners. Come and get yours. They are in our way.

-Observing Henry Knipp of the LeCenter Leader says: the \$1.00 federal duck stamp is going to be a goose stamp this year. The design showing two snow geese in flight, is the third goose stamp in the 14 years the series has been used. The others have all been duck stamps.

-FOR SALE- 18th century 8-pc. walnut dining room suite.

-“Faith of Our Fathers” is to be the topic of Rev. S. P. Hieb when he addresses the 1947 senior class at the high school in the baccalaureate services Sunday evening, May 25.

-Baseball played a bad quirk on Myron Munson, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Munson of New Richland. He operates a bakery at Howard Lake and in a ball game broke a bone in one of his legs. The fracture is below the knee and the leg is in a cast. My is an old ball player, putting in several seasons with the local Red Sox.

1973

-The Waseca County Commissioners hired five persons to canvass

the county for abandoned motor vehicles and scrap metal at their meeting, Wednesday, May 17.

-A class of 50 Seniors will graduate from Waldorf-Pemberton high school, Wednesday evening, May 31. Commencement exercises will begin at 8 p.m. in the high school auditorium at Waldorf.

-The New Richland FFA Soils judging team took fifth in the postponed state soils contest, last Friday in St. Paul.

-Two farm women from Freeborn county have returned from a four-day trip to Washington, D. C. where they began a campaign to influence Congressional leaders on rural problems.

-The barn on the Kevin Miller farm, northwest of New Richland burned to the ground Saturday afternoon. The New Richland volunteer fire department received the call about 1:30 p.m. When they arrived they found flames shooting from the top of the structure.

-Mrs. Reuben Miller, rural Wells, a member of the American Legion Auxiliary unit at Waldorf was elected First District president of the American LegionAuxiliary at the annual district convention at Owatonna, last weekend.

1998

-Five years ago on May 27, Gene Nelson, an employee at G.T.'s Gas & Groceries in New Richland heard a crackling sound, saw a flash of light, then saw flames and called the New Richland Fire Department. The fire caused extensive interior damage and destroyed the contents in the gas

and grocery building. Since that time the business has been out of operation.

-Selected Teacher of the Month for New Richland - Hartland - Ellendale - Geneva school in Ellendale was Frank Whitcomb, who is in his first year as Middle School Band instructor. Completing his seventh year of teaching music, he has taught in public and private schools, high school choir, beginning band and general music to grades 1-12.

-Baseball Nine- As they have done in most games this season, the Panthers came out hitting and scoring runs early in their 12-8 win over Blooming Prairie, last Thursday. “This is always nice,” Coach Jeff Reese said. “But in this game, we did not sit on the lead as we have at times, but continued to score.” The win earned the Panthers the Gopher Conference championship.

-The Social Security Board of Trustees announced that the Old Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI) Trust Funds, which support nearly 44 million Americans, are in good financial condition. They will remain so well into the next century.

-Commencement exercises for 87 New Richland - Hartland - Ellendale - Geneva graduating seniors will begin at 2 p.m., Sunday, May 25 in the high school auditorium at New Richland.

-POLICE REPORT- May 17-00:25 a.m. Car versus cow accident reported north of New Richland, called county.



The Pastor's Column

Like water, faith is refreshing

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS
I forgot to drink water this weekend. I didn't spend much time outside, so I didn't think it would bother me a whole lot. I stayed in the shade for the most part when I was outside, but I kept forgetting to drink water. Then I reached for the bottle that had been sitting in my motorcycle saddle bags.

I wanted a cold drink of water; I ended up with a 100 degree Fahrenheit squishy bottle of water. Apparently, water bottles in a black saddle bag when it is 80 plus degrees outside end up warm. I grabbed that water bottle with my gloves on, twisted off the top and took a couple big swigs. I would be lying if I told you I spit it out. The water was warm, but I choked it down.

When you get to the point of needing a drink more than caring about its temperature you are definitely thirsty. That is where I ended up on Friday, and again on Saturday. There are times throughout scripture where water is mentioned, more often than not it is surrounding a spiritual lesson that needs to be taught to the people.

Water is used to cleanse the earth through a flood with only Noah and his family surviving. God provides water to the Israelites in the desert, even as they grumbled. God withheld the water from Israel for three years then Elijah prayed and the rain came forth. Jesus was baptized in the Jordan, turned water into wine, and walked on water. His final lesson to us on water can be seen in the book of

Revelation in chapter 3.

15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

The lesson Jesus gives us is written to the church in Laodicea. They had relied on their own strength, abilities, and comfort rather than upon God. They had abandoned the truth of God's words and had become lukewarm in dealing with each other. Rather than pointing out sin, they allowed it to continue. Rather than trusting God, they trusted their own finances. Rather than recognizing their need for a savior, they relied on their own status in the church to assure them of salvation.

We are called to make a difference in our communities, to proclaim God's truth in love with compassion and respect. We are called to share our burdens with one another, bearing the trials of this life with grace and mercy. God is at work do not be lukewarm about anything, but rather reveal your refreshing faith in God to the world.



The Pastor's Column

Writing is a form of therapy

By SANTIAGO RAMIREZ OCAMPO
As I have said several times, writing is therapy.

After sharing with you how I felt back in Colombia, that last column helped me to put my ideas in the right place and in a way that relieved my feelings.

These days I feel more comfortable, somehow we have been able to rest more, and we have visited family and some friends we haven't seen for more than two years, which is a refreshment for the soul. I am still in the last weeks of the semester of studies, a responsibility that has not allowed me to feel completely rested, but now it is time to take a final breath and finish in the best possible way.

A few days ago, I talked to my sister, and she told me that her husband bought macadamia nuts for her daughter (my niece). She told me that they taught her to break the macadamias and that she was very judicious about it as if she had been given a great responsibility. Macadamias are a type of nut that comes covered by a hard shell; it is very common in the coffee states to go to the fruit and vegetable market and find them packed in green nets hung in the stores. My memories with macadamias must be at least two decades old; those were when my mom used to buy them and take them to my sister and me. I remember that my mom and dad taught my sister and me how to eat macadamias; eating them is not difficult; it's like eating

anything, you put it in your mouth, chew, enjoy, swallow, and that's it. Instead, they taught us how to open them because you must break the hard shell covering them.

So how do you open macadamias? Well, these days, there are special devices to break the shell, usually known as nut splitters, other people open them with pliers, but we were taught a different way. The streets, as is typical in many places, have cracks; well, it is those cracks that we were taught to use to open the macadamias. It is straightforward. First, you get a stone big enough to crack the macadamia; second, you place the macadamia in one of the cracks in the street so that when you hit it, it doesn't fly anywhere; third, you hit it with the stone once or a couple of times until you crack or break the shell entirely, take out the macadamia and eat it. It's that easy.

The intention of this column is not to be a tutorial on how to crack macadamias without a nutcracker but rather to share with you that I was very nostalgic when my sister told me that they bought macadamias for my niece and taught her how to crack them, just as our parents had taught us. It may border on the ridiculous, but I remember it was days ago, not decades ago, when my sister and I would sit on the street and finish the whole bag of macadamias. I still find it hard to believe that our children are now beginning to inherit this and many other of our customs.

For now, let me tell you something: I want to split macadamias.

New pastor, same mission

Harting joins Alma City and Smiths Mill

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

The congregations of St. John's and Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Churches (located in Alma City and Smiths Mill, respectively) welcomed their new pastor, Robert Harting, at an installation service on May 7 at St. John's.

Harting studied for a bachelor's degree in liberal arts at Concordia College in Ann Arbor, Michigan and then enrolled at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana soon after.

Harting enters this dual parish with 37 years of experience in the ministry, most of his congregations having been located in his native Michigan or Iowa. He has also worked as a teacher at Mayer Lutheran High School.

At his installation, Harting was accompanied by his wife Dawn; grown children Timothy, Michael, Abigail, and Hannah; and his four grandchildren. Many Lutheran pastors from



FAMILY SUPPORT — Pastor Harting was surrounded by his family after being installed at St. John's Lutheran Church, Alma City on Sunday, May 7. He was supported by his wife, Dawn, his four children Timothy, Michael, Abigail, and Hannah, their partners and spouses, and his four grandchildren.

around the midwest were in attendance as well, and each offered words of encouragement as part of the service.

Rev. Michael K. Smith of Bethany Lutheran Church in Ames, Iowa delivered the sermon as the guest preacher, while Rev. Emeritus Martin Hoesch (also of Ames, Iowa) was the lector. Rev. Jeff Enderle of St. John's Lutheran Church in St. Clair was the installing minister, carrying out the rite of installation.

At his new congregations, Harting looks forward to "doing what every pastor did before," in sharing the good news of the gospel.

He points to a favorite Bible verse, Hebrews 13:8, which reads "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Wherever he is, Harting says he is dedicated to his ministry's mission and looks forward to carrying out the Lord's work in our community.



Pastor Harting with his wife Dawn.

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CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * * 4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * * FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * * CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays 9 a.m., 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship * * * ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * * ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * * FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * * GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * * SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca 507-835-1222 Worship Saturday 5:15 p.m., Sundays 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., weekdays 8:30 a.m. Tues., Wed. and Fri., 7:00 a.m. Thurs. * * * REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-607-8245 Sundays 9 and 10:30 a.m. * * * CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. * * * CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * * ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * * ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * * TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * * FIRST CONGREGATIONAL New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Pamela Jensen Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * * LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting * * * VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m. 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass * * * FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor Sundays: Sunday School 9 a.m., Bible Study 9:20 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. * * * IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * * ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * * ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * * TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * * THE CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18 * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * * BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship * * * ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville Father Brian Mulligan 10 a.m. - Mass * * * FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * * ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Vacancy Sunday = 1 p.m. Worship * * * TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Vacancy Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * * NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday "Young at heart" Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation * * *
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JWP

from Page 1

their help, support, and especially their patience, we wouldn't be here today."

He further thanked the teachers and encouraged his fellow graduates to reflect on their time at JWP since preschool.

"Now that we've got the thank yous out of the way, I would like to apologize to many, if not all in the crowd, for our class projectile vomiting in elementary, waiting until the last minute to do a school project late at night, and possibly being strong-willed and stubborn," he joked. "But then again, we have character."

"I know we may have senioritis and want to move on," he continued. "However, I want to reminisce about the good times, be it at Eagle Bluff in elementary school or the hectic Zoom meetings during Covid. It established who we are here and during those times. I don't want us to lose sight of that."

He wrapped up his speech by

mentioning the importance of remembering who they were as a class even if locations and careers change over time. "Whatever chapter each of our fellow graduates decides to pursue, there is no doubt in my mind that it can happen. For the last time, thank you everyone, and congratulations to the Class of 2023."

After his speech and the recognition of the 4.0 students, all 51 students received their diplomas, threw their caps up in the air, and walked out to the recessional "Auld Lang Syne." Juniors Alexis Dahlberg and Lauren White were this year's honor escorts.

Recognitions and Accomplishments

Many students wore cords and pins with their gowns to represent their academic accomplishments and their participation in student organizations like the student council, JWP FFA, Minnesota National Honor Society, and other various groups.

Three students were specially recognized for maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA throughout their time in high school: Zach Groh, Karson Lindsay, and Faith Olson.

Minnesota Honor Society

members were Regan Asselin, Ian Barnes, John (Jack) Cahill, Raquel Fischer, Zach Groh, Karson Lindsay, Faith Olson, and Jessa Westphal.

Seniors who graduated with highest honors (3.67-4.0 GPAs) were Regan Asselin, Ian Barnes, James Bleess, John Cahill, Adalynn Davis, Kelton Erler, Raquel Fischer, Zach Groh, Kylee Hanks, Annabelle Hofteig, Karson Lindsay, Faith Olson, Isabelle Rider, and Jessa Westphal.

Seniors who graduated with high honors (3.0-3.66) were Trista Bonni-field, Cody Cowdin, Tyler Fleming, Zach Groll, Brady Hed, Nicholas Johnson, Autumn Joyce, Ashlin Keyes, Airianna Knuteson, Madison Kunst, Damien Kurtz, Blake Ready, Allie Shultz, Garrett Sobolik, Vanessa Terbeest, Ryder Thissen, Michael VanRavenhorst, and Dakota Waters.

Music

Senior Erik Schauer performed the Star Spangled Banner on guitar before the commencement ceremonies started. In other music entertainment, the choir performed Enya's "May it Be" and the band performed Gustav Holst's "Hymn from Jupiter."

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4	5	6 D-DAY	7 6pm BAR Bingo	8 7pm BINGO	9 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	10
11	12 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting WOMEN VETER- ANS DAY	13	14 6pm BAR Bingo ARMY BIRTH- DAY U.S. FLAG DAY	15 7pm BINGO	16 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	17
18 FATHER'S DAY	19	20	21 6pm BAR Bingo	22 7pm BINGO	23 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm COAST GUARD AUXILIARY BIRTH- DAY	24
25	26	27	28 6pm BAR Bingo	29 7pm BINGO	30 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	

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STILL IN IT — The Waseca High School baseball team, shown in their Section 2AA opener against WEM, dropped a 1-0, eight-inning decision at LeSueur-Henderson in round two. From left: Kendrick Volkmann hustles to make a play from his third base position; Sebastian Teague makes the throw while Oliver O'Brien awaits it; Volkmann greets Tyson Reger at home plate. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

Baseball Bluejays remain alive in section tourney

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

In the words of Waseca's Mr. Baseball, Tink Larson, "It was a great game. Both teams played well and pitched well."

But the Bluejays came up just short, falling 1-0 in eight innings at LeSueur-Henderson Tuesday in the second round of the Section 2AA Baseball Tournament.

Larson, longtime Waseca head

coach and now a volunteer coach, talked mostly about the quality of the pitching, praising starter Sebastian Teague's six shutout innings when he struck out six and walked one, the only walk of the game for either team.

After retiring the Giants in order in the bottom of the seventh, Tyson YReger took the loss in the eighth, when he surrendered two hits.

In what Larson called an "oddy," the Bluejays did not have a runner reach second base.

Reger went 3-for-4, with the only other Waseca hit going to Grant Cox.

The Bluejays played errorless defense.

"There were some well-hit balls by both teams, but right at people," said Larson. "Teague pitched well in his six innings on the mound."

The loss dropped the fifth-seeded Bluejays into the loser's bracket in the section tournament. They traveled to face No. 1 seed NRHEG on Thursday, with the winner there

"We still feel like we can come back and win the section." — **Tink Larson**

playing Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at Waseca against an opponent to be determined.

"We are looking forward to our next game," said Larson. "We still feel like we can come back and make a run at winning the section."

In their opening-round section

game, the Bluejays shut out No. 12 seed WEM 8-0 at Tink Larson Community Field.

Payton Garza, Max Neaves and Kendrick Volkmann had two hits apiece, with one each by Reger, Oliver O'Brien, Griffin Krautkremer and Keaton Roeker.

Colton Ruedy started on the mound and went three innings, allowing two hits and a walk, with two strikeouts. Teague got the win in relief, pitching ffour shutout innings.

"It's always nice to win the sudden death game and get into the double elimination part of the tournament," said Larson. "Ruedy and Teague pitched well and the defense played well."



END OF AN ERA — NRHEG softball coach Wendy Schultz hugs her daughter, Sidney, right, after the Panthers' season-ending loss to Medford in the section tournament. Also pictured are seniors Bree Ihrke, left, and Trinity Smith Vulcan. Photo by Judy Tweeten

NRHEG softball team exits early from section tourney

Wendy Schultz coaches final game for Panthers

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The season did not end as hoped for the NRHEG High School softball team.

But, as with most teams, it never does.

The Panthers, in their 25th and final season under head coach Wendy Schultz, made an early exit from the sub-section tournament last Tuesday, dropping their opening-round game 5-4 against Medford.

"We definitely had our chances to win this game," said Coach Schultz.

The Panthers scored first, plating single runs in the second and third inning and tacking on two more in the fourth for a 4-0 lead.

But the Tigers responded with two runs in the bottom of the fourth. They won it with three runs in the fifth.

The Panthers, meanwhile, missed some opportunities.

"Many innings, we left runners in scoring position," said Schultz. "We just couldn't string any hits together."

Faith Nielsen led the Panthers at the plate, going 2-for-4 with a double and an RBI. Bree Ihrke was 2-for-3 with a double a run and an RBI. Camryn VanMaldeghem tripled and scored. Heather Schultz, Addy Stadheim and Isabel Stadheim also hit safely, with Heather Schultz scoring twice. Presley Nielsen had an

"You never want your season to end." — **Wendy Schultz**

RBI.

Faith Nielsen pitched for the Panthers, giving up two earned runs on 10 hits, with one strikeout and two walks.

The Panthers, 6-5 in the Gopher Conference, finished the season with an overall record of 9-8.

"You never want your season to end," said Coach Schultz. "But I'm so proud of how hard the girls worked both at practice and during games. They were a joy to coach. I wouldn't have wanted to end my coaching career with any other team."

Coach Schultz gave a shout-out to the Panthers' three seniors, her daughter Sidney Schultz, Ihrke and Trinity Smith Vulcan.

"We are going to miss their leadership skill, and all that they bring to the team" said Coach Schultz. "We know the rest of the girls will work hard during the off-season and be ready to have a successful season next year."

Panthers advance 19 individuals to section track meet

Nydegger wins 300 hurdles, breaks school record held by her coach

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

When it comes time for the sub-section meet, NRHEG track and field coach Ducey Ferber does not concern himself with team scores. His goal is to advance as many athletes as possible to the section level.

In that regard, the Section 2A South Sub-section meet at Mapleton was a huge success for the NRHEG girls, who qualified 13 individuals for section while placing second among 13 schools.

"It was a fantastic day for the girls," said Ferber.

The biggest highlight for the Panthers was the 300-meter intermediate hurdles, where Evelyn Nydegger placed first in 47.69 seconds, breaking a longtime school record.

"Evelyn broke the record of Kim Johnson, her hurdle coach, who set the previous mark in 1998," said Ferber. "I don't know who was happier, Evelyn or Kim. It was amazing!"

Nydegger also advanced to section in the 110 high hurdles, where

placed second in 17.31. Chloe Riewer was second in the long jump at 14-7.5 while Lauren Cowell was second in the discus at 101-11.

Also qualifying for section: Quinn VanMaldeghem, 3rd, 1600 and 3rd, 800; Malonna Wilson, 3rd, shot put and 8th, discus; Strom, 8th, triple jump; 4x100 relay, 3rd (Josie Strom, Holly Bartness, Riewer, Paige Johnson; 4x400, 3rd (Keira Lenort, Nydegger, Sierra Misgen, VanMaldeghem; Kyra Spies, 5th, 200; Misgen, 6th, long jump; Cowell, 8th, discus; Anika Ladlie, 8th, high jump; and Gabby Schlaak, 6th, 100 hurdles and 300 hurdles.

"The hurdlers and throwers really showed up tonight," said Ferber. "Misgen and Riewer really scored some nice points in the long jump."

Other places for the NRHEG girls: 4x200 relay, 5th (Spies, Misgen, Riewer, Clara Buendorf); 4x800, 8th (Elise Aronson, Riewer, Bartness, Buendorf).

"In sub-sections we don't really focus on team scores, but rather to move as many athletes on to the section meet as we can," said Ferber.



ON TO SECTION — The NRHEG track and field teams qualified 19 individuals for the Section 2A meet Saturday at Mankato West. From left: Malonna Wilson throws the discus; Will Tuttle leaves the competition in his wake. Photos by Larry Nydegger

Jackson County Central took the girls' team title with 177.5 points, followed by NRHG with 89.5, Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial 81.5, St. Clair 71.5, Blue Earth Area 58, Windom Area 58, St. James 39, Mountain Lake/Comfrey 32.5, Martin County West/Butterfield-Odin 32, Maple River 29, USC/AC 23.5, Heron Lake-Okabena 7, MT/GHEC/ML 3.

Will Tuttle provided the most highlights for the boys, winning the 110 hurdles in 16.18 and finishing

first in the 300 hurdles in 16.18.

"Will has been amazing all season," said Ferber. "He really dominated tonight."

The Panthers' other gold medalist was Lucas Hanna, who threw the discus 149-3.

"Lucas had another great meet," said Ferber. "He has an excellent chance of qualifying for the state meet."

Other section-qualifying performances: Sawyer Prigge, 2nd, high jump; Levin Kitzer, 3rd, 110 hurdles



and 7th, 300 hurdles; Parker Bunn, 3rd, 300 hurdles; Aiden Deyle, 5th, 100 and 7th, 200; and Hanna, 6th, shot put.

"Our hurdlers really carried us on points tonight," said Ferber. "Aiden had a great meet, qualifying for sections in the 100 and 200."

The Panthers' top relay was the 4x400, where they finished fifth with Deyle, Harbor Cromwell, Prigge and Tuttle.

Boys' team standings: Maple River 143, JCC 89, Mountain Lake-

Comfrey 76.5, LCWM/N 72, NRHEG 69, St. James 50, Windom 63, MT/GHEC/ML 35, Heron Lake-Okabena 34.5, Blue Earth Area 29, St. Clair 26, USC/AC 0.

The Panthers compete in the Section 2A meet Saturday, June 3 at Mankato West High School. Field events begin at 9:30 with running preliminaries starting at 10. The first-place relays, top two individuals in each event and those reaching qualifying standards advance to state.

Rushford-Peterson eliminates JWP

By **MICHAEL ROY**
Staff Writer

Last season, the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton baseball team nearly upset Rushford-Peterson's squad in the Section 1A playoffs, but fell just short of the attempt with a 5-4 loss.

This season, they looked to get revenge on the Trojans as they had the higher seed, home field advantage, the better record, and their best season under coach Cory Jewison. But on Wednesday, May 24, the Bulldogs were upset once again as they took a 13-2 loss in the opening round of the Section 1A baseball tournament.

"It was definitely a tough loss," Jewison said.

Things didn't start off well. Junior pitcher Ty Melchior walked the first batter and hit the next two with a pitch. It put the Bulldogs in a bad situation off the bat and allowed Rushford-Peterson to plate two runs.

Senior Kelton Erler had a nice

"It was a fantastic season. We played well in every game."

— JWP baseball coach Cory Jewison

single, but a somewhat controversial out call by the umpire as he ran to second sputtered any offensive momentum the Bulldogs had in the first inning.

The second inning was plagued by a handful of uncharacteristic errors for JWP, which led to a triple and a run.

"It was one thing after another," Jewison said. "Everything spiraled down before the game even started."

The already substantial 4-0 lead by Rushford-Peterson was expanded in the third with two more runs for the Trojans before Jewison decided to make a pitching change from Melchior to senior Ryan Hanson. A throw that couldn't be settled down by Erler resulted in another run for the Trojans.

It was 8-0 before JWP responded in the bottom of the fourth. Senior Ian Barnes hit a double deep into the outfield, giving Nolan Morsching and Ty Melchior plenty of time to get home.

It looked positive from there, as Hanson continued throwing handfuls of strikes to keep Rushford-Peterson quiet. Unfortunately, the Bulldogs were quiet the rest of the game, and the Trojans threw salt into the wound in the top of the seventh, scoring five runs despite Hanson pitching two strikeouts.

The 13-2 loss ended an otherwise fantastic season on a tough note for the Bulldogs. It also marked the second time in a row that Rushford-Peterson kicked JWP out of the playoffs.

"Credit to them for playing a great game," said Jewison. "They did a good job at hitting and fielding."

If the baseball team could look upon only one thing, it's earning a 10-8 record, Jewison's first winning season in three years which included upsetting Hayfield, who at one point was ranked sixth in the state, and nearly upsetting the No. 1 ranked Class A team Randolph.

"It was a fantastic season," Jewison said. "We played well in every game."

Erler, Barnes, and Hanson graduated a few days after the loss. Erler and Hanson were part of the team since Jewison began coaching them, and Barnes was also a crucial part of the team in his two years on the varsity roster.

"I want to thank them for setting such good examples for the others on the team," he said. "It's been an honor coaching them."



FINAL GAME — Ryan Hanson starting pitcher Tyler Melchior in the final game of his career. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

Records fall again as JWP track teams win sub-section

By **MICHAEL ROY**
Staff Writer

JWP track and field athletes and fans alike have been getting used to seeing the phrase "school record broken" throughout the spring season.

So the Bulldogs thought, why not one-up that and break three school records in one meet?

This time, it was two relay teams that did it at the Sub-section 2A meet at Sibley East on Thursday, May 25.

The boys' 4x200-meter team of Isaiah Berndt, Alex James, Daulton Bauer, and Ryan Kronbach was 2/10ths of a second away from breaking the school record at the conference meet earlier in the month. With a time of 1:35.4, they finally broke it, taking the spot from 2007's team of Sam Hartfiel, Jesse Westphal, Nathan Roberts, and Ryan Schumacher who clocked 1:36.36.

Even more impressive was the girls' quad of Nevaeh Weimert, Katie Olson, Lilly Strauss, and Raquel Fischer breaking two records: one in the 4x100 with a time of 52.31 and the 4x200 in 1:49.49.

The 4x200 record was previously held by Callie Morton, Kara Southwick, Courtney Walter, and Kayla Sveen, who took the record in 2011 with a 1:50.06 time. The 2008 4x100 relay team of Alicia Bergman, Tenia Sonnek, Emily Mulcahey, and Courtney Walter clocked 52.57.

Both the boys' and girls' relay runners helped their respective teams take first place at the North Subsection 2A meet.

For most of the meet, both teams were in third place while River Valley sat comfortably in first. However, by the time all the scores were tallied from each event, the

girls narrowly took first with 117 while River Valley sat a point behind at 116. Sibley East took third with 113.5. Other teams were Waterville-Elysian-Morristown with 60.5, Loyola-Cleveland 55, Le Sueur-Henderson 46, Norwood-Young-America 43, Lester Prairie 42, Minnesota Valley Lutheran (MVL) 41, Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop 39, and Mayer Lutheran 22.

The boys took a slightly more decisive victory from River Valley, scoring 106 points to their 93. GFW placed third with 91. Other finishers were MVL and Sibley East 78 each, Loyola-Cleveland 71, Norwood-Young America 51, LSH 42, WEM 36, Mayer Lutheran 30, and Lester Prairie 28.

It ended up taking two record-breaking races from the relay team to get the win. The four took first in the girls' 4x100 and 4x200 in their record-breaking runs.

The boys' 4x200 team also had a record-breaking meet with a 1:35.4 time and took third place to MVL and Norwood Young America, who were a second and 1.5 seconds better, respectively.

Also taking first place was the 4x400 team of Weimert and Strauss with Ashlin Keyes and MaKenzie Westphal, Kronbach in the triple and long jumps, Strauss in the girls' long jump, and Westphal in the 1600.

Second-place finishers were the 4x100 boys' team of Bauer, Berndt, A. James, and Isaac Gahlon; Aubrey Weedman in the discus throw, Ashlin Keyes in the long jump, Jack Cahill in the pole vault, Fischer in the shot put, and Weimert in the triple jump.

Wrapping up the top-three performances were the first-place finishers Alex Kleve in the 1600, A. James in the long jump, Presley James in the

triple jump, and Gahlon in the pole vault.

The action for the Bulldogs is the Section 2A meet at Mankato West High School on Saturday, June 3. This year, six relay teams (including all the girls' teams) and 26 individuals qualified for JWP.

The following relay teams are moving on to the Section 2A: The 4x100 and 4x200 teams of Strauss, K. Olson, Fischer and Weimert; the 4x200 team of Berndt, A. James, Bauer, and Kronbach; the 4x100 relay team of Bauer, Gahlon, A. James, and Berndt; the 4x400 team of Weimert, Westphal, Keyes, and Strauss; and the 4x800 team of Kwynn and Ava Krause, Lauren White, and Faith Olson.

Individually moving on is Ava Appel in the girls' 100 hurdles, Isaac Gahlon in the boys' 100, MaKenzie Westphal in the girls' 1600, Alex Kleve in the boys' 1600, Michael VanRavenhorst in the boys' 400, Kaden Baker in the boys' 300 hurdles, Lauren White and Kwynn Krause in the girls' 3200, Luke Cahill and Derek Gustafson in the boys' 3200, Isaiah Berndt in the boys' 200, Ashlin Keyes in the girls' high jump, Lilly Strauss and Katie Olson in the girls' long jump, Ryan Kronbach and Memphis James in the boys' high jump, Kronbach in the boys' triple jump, Kronbach and Alex James in the boys' long jump, Raquel Fischer, Aubrey Weedman, and Caitlin Kleve in the girls' shot put; Nevaeh Weimert and Presley James in the girls' triple jump, I. Gahlon, Jack Cahill, and Luke Cahill in the boys' pole vault; Madeline Hoehn and Sarah Bulman in the girls' pole vault, A. Weedman in the girls' discus throw, and M. VanRavenhorst in the boys' discus.



SUB-SECTION CHAMPS — Showing off their title are Anne Adams, Ava Krause, Ava Appel, Presley James, Ashlin Keyes, Madison Kunst, Caitlin Kleve, Aubrey Weedman, Paige Walz, Ariana Aguilar, and Kylee Hanks. Photo courtesy of JWP Bulldog Activities



SUB-SECTION CHAMPS — The boys' track team shows off its Sub-section 2A hardware. Laying down: Daulton Bauer. Front row: Gavin Weedman, Memphis James, and Charles Adams. Back row: Shane Witts, Michael VanRavenhorst, Eric Daschner, Luke Cahill, Derek Gustafson, Tyson Johnson, Isaac Gahlon, Jack Cahill, Ryan Kronbach, Dylan McWaters, Nick Johnson, Alex Kleve, and Kaden Baker. Photo courtesy of JWP Bulldog Activities

Season ends at section individual tourney for WHS boys' tennis

The 2023 Waseca High School boys' tennis season came to an abrupt halt last Thursday.

The Bluejays trekked to Rochester for the Section 1A individual tournament, where they

logged just one victory in five tries.

The win was by eighth-grader Henry Huttemier, who defeated junior Isaiah Jensen 6-2, 6-3 in the opening round. He then faced the No. 1 seed, senior Marjan Veldic of

Rochester Lourdes, and lost 6-1, 6-0.

The Bluejays' other singles entrant, eighth-grader Otto Schoenrock, was defeated 7-5, 6-3 in the first round by senior Trey

Meinke of Lake City.

Waseca juniors Dominic Grunzke and Oliver Rohwer teamed at doubles, where they lost 6-4, 7-5 to eighth-grader Bethany Monson and freshman Hudson Zimmerman of

Schaeffer Academy.

The brother tandem of senior Jacari Jellum and sophomore Tyler Jellum faced No. 3 seeded juniors Jack Fitzgerald and Ethan Turja-Hubbard in the opening round and

lost 6-0, 7-6 (2).

No Bluejays advanced in the tournament.

Top-seeded Panthers upset by No. 8 BEA in tourney

By **ELI LUTGENS**
Publisher/Editor

It can't get any worse, NRHEG head baseball coach Mark Lee said after a 14-0 loss to 8-seed Blue Earth in the Panthers' first round of the section baseball playoffs

Tuesday night, May 30.

Starting pitcher Jackson Chrz lasted only a 1/3 of an inning, allowing 5 runs. Sam Olson pitched 3 2/3 innings in relief, allowing no runs. Freshman Jared Lee allowed nine runs over the final 2 innings.

The Panthers tallied six errors in the wet conditions. Only three of the runs allowed were earned. The game started late due to the rain, and included a 30 minute stoppage of play for lighting in the second inning.

The Panthers notched four hits. The top-seeded Panthers fell into the loser's side of the playoff bracket and hosted fifth-seeded Waseca Thursday.

Braves defeat Lake Crystal 14-2 in seven innings

The Waseca Braves amateur baseball team improved its record to 3-0 with a 14-2, seven-inning romp at Lake Crystal Sunday, May 28.

The Braves pounded out 12 hits, taking control early with four runs

in the top of the first inning on consecutive hits by Seth Anderson, Chris Glynn, Kelvin Nelson and Kyle Waugh. They added one in the third, two in the fourth and broke it open with a four-run sixth.

Waugh finished 4-for-4 at the plate, driving in six runs, stealing two bases and scoring once. Nelson went 2-for-3 with two RBIs, Glynn 2-for-3 with two doubles, and Jason Reger 2-for-4 with two RBIs. Also

hitting safely were Alex Feeney and Ben Schoenrock.

Danny Cromer was sharp on the mound while earning his second win of the season. He allowed one earned run on three hits.

WASECA BRAVES SCHEDULE – 2023				
Sunday	June 4	Eagle Lake	Away	2:00
Wednesday	June 7	Wells	Home	7:30
Saturday	June 10	Stewartville	Home	7:00
Sunday	June 11	Lake Crystal	Home	2:00
Wednesday	June 14	Eagle Lake	Home	7:30

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Regional library events scheduled

By JONAH STAFFORD
Staff Writer

This month, a variety of events for people of all ages will be held by Waseca-LeSueur Library system locations throughout Waseca County. The Summer Reading Challenge will open for young readers ages 3-18 on June 5. The theme of this year's summer reading program is "All Together Now," celebrating the way that reading brings people together.

The Waseca Public Library's summer concert series is returning to Trowbridge Park at 7 p.m. on Tuesday evenings in June. The first of these concerts, on June 6, will be Traveled Ground, an Americana and Roots-inspired band. Rocket Soul Choir, a rock band fronted by Leslie Rich of northern Ireland, will perform on June 13. Folk, protest, and Native Americana singer David Huckfelt will take to the stage on June 20. Closing out the series on June 27 will be The Gentlemen's Anti Temperance League, who play jazz- and swing-inspired music.

Other events at Waseca County's libraries are:

Waseca Public Library's Summer Reading Program Kick-off from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday, June 5, at Trowbridge Park in Waseca.

Vietnamese Music at 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 6, in the Trinity Lutheran School Gym (Janesville); 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 7, at the New Richland Public Library; and 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 8, at the Waseca Public Library.

Solar Printing at 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 6, at the Waldorf Public Library (ages 7-12).

Teen Nerf War at 1 p.m. Tuesday, June 6, at Trowbridge Park in Waseca (ages 13-18).

The Secret Science of Popcorn at 4 p.m. Thursday, June 8, at the Janesville Public Library (geared for ages 9-12).

Virtual Author Event: Mike Tucker at 3 p.m. Wednesday, June 7.

Circus Science Spectacular at 2 p.m. Monday, June 12 at the Waseca Public Library.

Book Cover Keychains at 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 13, at the New Richland Public Library.

Skittles Art at 1 p.m. Tuesday, June 13, at the Waseca Public Library (ages 13-18).

Mister Rogers' Neighborhood Party (ages 3-6) at 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 14, at the Waseca Public Library; at 3 p.m. Thursday, June 15 at the Janesville Public Library (ages 3-6).

Making Puzzle Piece Magnets or Necklaces at 2 p.m. Friday, June 16, at the Waldorf Public Library (ages 4+).

Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox Find The Blues at 1 p.m. Tuesday, June 20, at the Waseca Public Library.

Paper Beads (exclusively for ages 13-18) at 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 20, at the Janesville Public Library.

Anishaabe Bead Arts Workshop at 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 21, at the New Richland Public Library and 2 p.m. at the Waseca Public Library (ages 3-12 at New Richland, ages 9-12 at Waseca, registration required).

Preschool Fairy Tale Fun at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 21, at the Waldorf Public Library (ages 3-5).

Alice In Wonderland Party 10 a.m. Thursday, June 22, at the Waseca Public Library (ages 6-12).

Taylor Swift Party 1 p.m. Thursday, June 22, at the Waseca Public Library (ages 13-18).

Little Explorers 1 at 3 p.m. Thursday, June 22, at the New Richland Public Library (ages 2-5).

Swim and Story starting at 9:45 a.m. Saturday, June 24, at Waseca Water Park (ages 0-5, includes free admission to the park).

Kinder Konzert at 1 p.m. Monday, June 26, at the Janesville Public Library; 10 a.m. Thursday, June 29, at the Waldorf Public Library and 2 p.m. at the New Richland Public Library.

Paper Chain Hanging at 1 p.m. Tuesday, June 27, at the Waseca Public Library (ages 13-18).

Waseca Water Carnival from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, June 29, at Trowbridge Park in Waseca (free lunch included).

Dog Man Unleashed at 2 p.m. Monday, June 26, at the New Richland Public Library.

Friendship Pins at 3 p.m. Thursday, June 29, at the Janesville Public Library.

More information about each event can be found at the respective Waseca-Le Sueur Public Library System location.



RECRUITING - Climate by Design of Owatonna sponsored a career fair in Waseca. JoAnna Quade and Jane Lebert told area workers about their business, and about new jobs available because the company is expanding.

Area company recruiting staff

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

Climate by Design International (CDI), currently located at 2100 Park Drive in Owatonna, held a Waseca Career Fair at the American Legion May 18 and 19. JoAnna Quade, personnel recruiter specialist, and Jane Lebert, Personnel Director, staffed the event. Positions advertised included assembly, electrical test technician, electric wiring assembler, and fabricator.

The career fair comes in advance of CDI's move to their new building, which will be ready to open in October and is four times the size of their current location. "We want to have it staffed and ready before it's open," said Lebert.

CDI handles the full process, from design to manufacturing, of desiccant air conditioners, which dry the air as they cool and are used in a variety of settings such as food manufacturing, disaster relief, ice rinks, electric car batteries, and hospital surgical suites. CDI is a family-owned company celebrating thirty-two years of operations, which

opened in the basement of Owatonna's Tom and Sue Peterson in 1991. CDI was also the first company to participate in Owatonna's youth skills training program, and currently has two Waseca High School seniors interning with the company through a similar program.

■ Flooding from Page 3

"If we had put everything into place on that study," Christopherson said, "it would reduce a 100-year flood flow by 24%, which is significant, but, in a 100-year event, we'd probably end up with the same issues we've been having."

The reason for this was explained by Chris Howard, Waseca County Drainage Management Coordinator. Howard stated that, for example, County Ditch 47 was designed to move 300 cubic feet of water per second. In a 100-year rain event, it is estimated that the area would be getting about 1,700 cubic feet of water per second moving through town, or two semi loads of water per second—almost six times the capacity of the system.

"There is just nothing we have that is engineered to take that kind of water," Howard said.

Howard was hired in 2022, when the county decided that more resources needed to be put toward county ditch authorities. At this time, the Land and Resource Department Division was created to dedicate more time to the entire ditch system in the county.

In March of this year, Howard, New Richland City Administrator Tony Martens, New Richland Mayor Chad Neitzel, and New Richland city staff met to discuss the Houston study and what was needed to move forward with grants to help fix the flooding issues in town.

"We need a plan," Christopherson said, noting that any grant request is far more likely to be successful if it includes a plan which states what needs to be done, what it will cost, and how it will mitigate the problem. "We need something that we know will work and mitigate flooding."

This spring, Houston was asked to give a budget and the scope of a project on a complete hydraulic study through New Richland from Highway 30 from east to west. Details of that budget and project scope were received Friday, May 19, and hadn't been analyzed completely at the time of the council meeting. A meeting is

planned to discuss how to get the study on the ground as soon as possible, however.

"That study, we feel, will give us the detailed numbers and plan, so we can start applying for some money," Christopherson said.

The idea of upsizing culverts was discussed; officials said this is more easily said than done because issues of land ownership and beneficiaries often create complications. It was noted that most grants are meant to slow water down, not speed it up, which is what upsizing culverts would accomplish.

"I know it's frustrating," Christopherson said. "New Richland has a couple different issues. We definitely have water coming through town that we need to control; we have inflow and outflow systems that need to be addressed." Christopherson estimated a likely price tag for any sufficiently thorough project would begin at about \$1 million.

He stressed the importance of studies and having a solid plan, the process for which has been started.

"I don't want to stand up here and say, 'Why are we not further along in this process?'" Christopherson said. "I wish we were. When I was elected in 2017, it was a priority of mine to get something done here, and I feel like I failed a little bit. We're going to work together and work hard to see what we can get done here."

Howard went on to explain that ditch cleaning and maintenance, which was brought up by multiple local residents during the meeting, has been done. He also stated that, in looking at drainage records when the ditch system was petitioned in the early 1970s, there were complaints in the records and meeting minutes of flooding at the high school and homes of residents at the time.

"This is not a new problem, but it is happening with more frequency and more dire circumstances," Howard said.

He also explained that if culverts were to be upsized, a process would need to be followed: petition for the work, engineering and studies, and looking at where water passing through town will end up.

"If we fix the problem here and don't do anything to store or hold any of that water, it makes it that much worse for the next community,"

Howard said.

The council then opened the meeting for public comment. Larry Muff discussed options of studies, programs, and state funds that could help with the flooding issues in town. He expressed concerns he had with the initial Houston Engineering study, stating that, when he reached out to discuss said concerns, he never received a response. He also mentioned the possibility of city liability because of larger culverts/bridges upstream causing more pressure downstream, resulting in flooding. No answer was provided regarding that topic.

Randy Dokken, owner of the bowling alley in town, also brought up his concerns and frustrations with flooding issues which have impacted his property since 2010. Dokken stated that, since 2014, flooding issues have cost him about \$250,000 of his own money, having been flooded eight times since 2010 with anywhere from one to three feet of water. Dokken claimed that, taken in combination with losses experienced by other businesses and by many homeowners, these costs emphasize the importance of getting a study done in order to move forward with finally solving this problem.

"I've done everything I can do," Dokken said, noting that he has gone through five insurance companies, is unable to sell the property, and is unable to retire due to the funds he has had to spend repairing damage caused by flooding. He presented the council with three options. "Get some kind of study by this fall, or buy me out, or I'll have to get a lawyer."

It was noted that there are a lot of other towns that are dealing with the similar issues; Waldorf, for example, experienced difficulties with the last rainfall despite having new infrastructure in town.

"We're looking at what can be protected, improved, and what costs too much or is impossible to protect," Howard said.

"Is there anything we can do as residents and business owners to help?" one local resident asked.

Administrator Martens suggested reaching out to local legislators, and Christopherson stated that, once a plan is in place, it will be presented to state legislators. When asked if the council has ever approached the state legislature on this issue, Martens said

that, during his time on the city council and as city administrator, there has been no active participation on the part of the council or city staff in talking to the state legislature about the issue.

"We need to be putting more pressure on those people," Martens said. "We've been very good at communicating together and working through this process. There have been steps [taken], it's just not as fast as we'd like it to go."

The next steps will be to have the county and city meet, go over the study done by Houston Engineering, and keep the community updated on progress going forward.

Some residents asked about forming a community action committee to help raise funds and further discuss the issues, and it was stated that the council would be willing to work with such a committee if it were formed.

"It's hard for people to want to live here if they feel like there's not going to be change," one resident said.

"I pledge to you that we'll get the ball rolling, so we don't have to have this conversation again for at least a few years," Martens said. He also noted that a questionnaire is available on the city website and urged any residents affected by the most recent flooding to fill it out in order for the city to push for funding for individuals affected by the flooding.

It was also noted that council member contact information is available on the city website, and residents should not hesitate to reach out to their council members or contact city hall with questions or concerns. Residents are also encouraged to sign up for the city's text message alert system, for which information can be found on the city website or by calling or visiting city hall.

"Please look at the newsletter on the back of your utility bill," Martens added, explaining that it contains important information and is a good way to keep the public updated outside of public meetings.

Finally, it was noted that if any residents have private jetting service done at their property to contact the city, so wastewater personnel can visit the property and figure out where the problem is coming from.



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Clifford Brown Award winner Elias Nevalainen, director Devon Lawrence, and Louis Armstrong winner Hannah Wilder after the May 19 Waseca High School jazz concert. Pioneer photo by Tristan Jensen

Jazz concert features variety

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

Waseca's jazz bands, directed by Devon Lawrence, Paul Davis and Jay Downie, held their spring concert the evening of May 19. Two special acknowledgments also occurred during the concert. The Clifford Brown Award for leadership, attitude, and musicianship was given to Elias Nevalainen, a member of the Jazz Blue ensemble. The Louis Armstrong Award, a nationally recognized title, was presented to Hannah Wilder, a member of the Jazz One ensemble. Both winners were selected based on votes from their fellow musicians.

The evening's program began with the junior high jazz band presenting five numbers. They began with "Samba de Ronda" by Dean Sorenson, featuring soloists Ryan Yoder, Taylor Markeson, Megan Feldkamp, and Elliott Galle followed by "Danza para mi Hija," or "Dance for my Daughter," by Ethan Freier with soloists Yoder, Markeson, Megan Hudak, and Khloe Nelson. "Work Song" arranged by Terry White with soloists Galle and Sam Feldkamp, "Jive Samba" by Steve Parsons with soloists Violet Rohwer, Markeson, Sam Feldkamp, and Yoder, and finally "Moondance" arranged by Mike Story with soloists Markeson, Galle, Lillian Peterson, Jacob Harguth, Nelson, and Jameson Haley.

Next to perform was the high school's Jazz Blue ensemble, which meets twice weekly and performed four numbers. "Stolen Moments" by Oliver Nelson and arranged by Mark Taylor featured soloists Nevalainen, Andrick Balderas, Paige Dufault, and Patrick Howe. "Bye Bye Blackbird" by Mort Dixon and Ray Henderson and arranged by Dave Rivello featured Nevalainen as soloist, whom Director Lawrence referred to as "our own Miles Davis." The next tune was "Knockout!" by Erik Shepburne with soloists Balderas, Katie Olsen, Allen Kopetzki, and Ellery Waldron, and the group finished their performance with "Pollo Rojo" by Les Sabina, fea-

turing Olsen as soloist, which they were able to play this year at the Eau Claire Jazz Festival.

The Jazz Combo ensemble, a group which meets once each week and focuses on improvisational jazz, then performed. Lawrence called this ensemble "a select group of individuals who really enjoy the improv side of things." Jazz Combo consists of eight members: Noah Dahle on trumpet, Cyrus Guse on baritone saxophone, Ryan Leigh on trombone, Josie Perrizo on tenor saxophone, Hannah Wilder on alto saxophone, Tarun Ewest on bass, Corrick Medina on drums, and Norah Schimming on piano and vibraphone. They performed two numbers, "Short Stuff" by Cedar Walton and "Song for my Father" by Horace Silver which consisted largely of improvisational solos by every member of the group.

The last ensemble to perform was Jazz One, which meets three times weekly and performed four numbers. "Fascinating Rhythm" by George Gershwin and arranged by Paul Clarke opened their set, featuring solos by Wilder, Kya Hoof, Leigh, Ethan Davis, Dahle, and Medina, followed by "Truly" by Lionel Richie and arranged by Sammy Nesticco featuring Leigh as soloist, "Sir Duke" by Stevie Wonder and arranged by Michael Phillip Mossman with soloists Hoof, Perrizo, and Medina, and "Michelangelo" by Astor Piazzolla and arranged by Fred Sturm with soloists Guse and Dahle.

The show ended with a finale performed by the combined Junior High-High School Jazz Bands, playing "Watermelon Man" by Herbie Hancock and arranged by Chris Sharp. During this finale, students from all bands were invited to play improvisational solos and duets.

The Jazz Band directors give thanks to their fellow music staff, the JHHS administration, secretaries and custodians, the Band Boosters, and the parents and students who participate in and support the jazz bands..

■ Berg

from Page 3

The same extends to the community, to whom the school and its students belong. "I plan to do everything I can to build a smooth working relationship with the community and with the staff," Berg said.

"I'm going to give them the best I have."

Berg, a 1998 graduate of

NRHEG, lives in New Richland with his wife of 10 years, Trudy. They have 7-year-old twins, Zeke and Emerson. Many members of Berg's extended family also live locally.

"We are excited to have Mr. Berg leading our secondary school," commented Meihak. "His duties as secondary school principal will officially start on July 1. While the building will not be buzzing with students, July and August will fly by quicker than normal as he will be tackling the work that is needed to be done for the 2023-2024 school year."

TEAM sixth grade graduation

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

TEAM Academy Charter School held graduation for its sixth-graders, members of the class of 2029, as they leave TEAM Academy and join Waseca's Junior and Senior High School. Eleven sixth-graders were honored May 25: Jude Adams, Isaac Deleon, Bryndal Grams, Andre Hill, Gavin Hodgkins, Wyatt Partain, Erasmo Sandoval, Karime Solis, Allisun Sten-cel, Enrique (Ayovi) Tovar, and Carter Wenimont.

The graduation ceremony began with a welcome by Jill Courtney, director of TEAM Academy, during which she spoke about the honor of seeing the students grow and learn, many of whom joined TEAM Academy as kindergarteners, as well as her hopes that they would continue to learn and grow, make friends, and join sports and activities in high school. Under the leadership of music teacher and choir director Taylor Jones, the sixth-graders sang, "Carried Me With You" from the movie "Onward." The piece was written by Brandi Carlile, Phillip Hanseroth, and Tim Hanseroth and arranged by W. Jack, and spoke to the support re-



TEAM Academy sixth grade graduates were honored May 25. Pioneer photo by Tristan Jensen

ceived from a special individual in the singer's life.

Three sixth-grade students, Tovar, Grams, and Sandoval, read essays they wrote on the topic "What TEAM Academy means to me." The students talked about making friends and memories, receiving support from teachers, building confidence, and high school and college readiness.

Sixth-grade teacher Chris Hering then took the podium to give her graduation speech. "It seems as though you just walked through the door last week," Hering told her class. She spoke about how, every year, she is prouder of her sixth-graders than ever before, but struggled this year to find the words to express how proud

she was. "This class has exceeded my expectations and become the G.O.A.T.," she said, "and yes, Erasmo, I know what that means." Hering continued to talk about the way her students excelled, applying effort to all they did, developing their character, and becoming a family. She finished her speech by reading aloud When Things Aren't Going Right, Go Left by Peter H. Reynolds, a book about coping with worry, doubt, fear and frustration that can hold people back from doing their best.

The sixth-grade students were then called one by one to receive their diplomas. Along with their TEAM Academy diplomas, each received a medal of achievement and a wallet-sized copy of the TEAM Academy Creed.

■ Janesville

from Page 3

occurrences at the service.

His remarks were followed by the Posting of the Colors by members of the Janesville American Legion Post 281. After the American flag was stationed at the front of the auditorium, the audience joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. "The Star Spangled Banner," was then performed by the JWP band under the direction of Mr. Adam Hille.

The invocation was provided by Pastor Sarah Krolak of Faith Lutheran Church of Janesville and North Waseca Lutheran Church. She led a prayer for both fallen soldiers and their loved ones, "to whom this day is a burden."

Next up was Janesville Mayor Andy Arnoldt who greeted the crowd, but said that on this day of remembrance, it was time for him to "listen more and talk less."

2023 JWP graduate James Bleess read Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address," which was followed by the JWP band's performance of "Salute to America's Finest." That song was composed of the themes for each branch of the armed forces. Allie Hanks then read General John A. Logan's 1868 order calling for a day of remembrance for Civil War dead. This order provided the basis for Memorial Day as we observe it today.

This year's guest speaker was Purple Heart recipient Jason McNamara, who served in the Army during the Iraq war starting in 2004, until being wounded two years later. McNamara was born and raised in Mankato, but has lived in Janesville with his family for the past four years.

"Speaking on behalf of the fallen is very near and dear to my heart," said McNamara as he began telling his story. On March 13, 2006, during an assist mission, members of McNamara's unit were ambushed by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) while inside their truck.

After the attack, McNamara re-

called not knowing whether his legs were actually attached to his body, or only still inside his pants, as he had lost feeling. His unit encountered explosives a second time as they tried to escape the carnage and bring their injured to safety.

McNamara soon lost consciousness and woke up in a military hospital in Germany, where he was treated for second-degree burns, a traumatic brain injury, and fractured legs. At that time it was unclear whether he would be able to use his legs again, so McNamara was presented with the option to amputate them, but refused and managed to recover.

McNamara revealed he was "hesitant" to tell his story; after all, he survived his service and Memorial Day is set aside to honor the dead. He decided to speak because he wanted to share with a general audience what a sacrifice being a member of the military really is.

Speaking about the families of fallen servicemen and women, McNamara said "today is a day to re-

member their sacrifices as well." Previously, he had spoken about another member of his unit who had died in the attack and left behind his wife and a child he never got to meet.

McNamara's speech was followed by a recitation of the poem "I Am a Veteran," by Ann Carda. "In Flander's Field" was read by Eric Daschner.

The names of the deceased were read, followed by the playing of "Taps" by Eric Daschner on the clarinet.

After a moment of silence and reflection, "America The Beautiful" was performed by a quintet of musicians from the JWP band.

Members of Janesville Scout Troop 89 then took to the front of the auditorium for the flag folding ceremony. The service was closed by another benediction from Pastor Sarah Krolak.

Soon after Janesville's Memorial Day Service concluded, a 21-gun salute was performed by members of Janesville American Legion Post 281 in the street outside.

■ Memorial

from Page 1

more, American Legion and VFW member and chairman of the Waseca Memorial Day Committee, focused on the good history of Waseca and reminded us to "look out for the old guys" and their quickly disappearing generation.

"I think about the old guys," Wissemore said, "but now I am old and I'm really thinking about it. We do what we can and we try to have the town aware of it."

Whissemore said that now that he is the old guy, he thinks he "could've done more" and is always thinking about and looking out for the old guys like him.

Whissemore went through the history of some of Waseca's troops and talked about how "Waseca has a good history of supporting our troops in different wars." Ending his speech, he advised everyone to set aside some time to take care of our living vets.

The auxiliary chaplains laid wreaths and Barbknecht read the list of veterans who had died since May of 2022; a moment of silence was observed.

The high school choir sang "Homeward Bound"; the choir and band together performed "America (My Country, 'Tis of Thee)." Rever-



RECOGNITION - Waseca area Boy Scouts played an integral role in the Memorial Day program sponsored by the Waseca American Legion and VFW. Pioneer photos by Amelia Roessler

end Isker led the benediction and the rifles were fired. Taps was then performed by two members of the high school's band, trumpet players Joseph Feldkamp and Noah Dahle.

The VFW held a breakfast after the program.

Emma Keith, a junior in high school and a choir sextet member, said she felt honored to be in the program.

"It's very special to be a part of something so big," she said. "I didn't think that this many people came to this. I used to come when I was little with my mom."

The program will be played on TV, but will not be played over the radio this year.



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Physical education bronze award winners, front row from left: Danny Zetino, Ridley Pechacek, Georgia Courtney, Jayson Palmer, Zabella Wald, Alexia Trevino, Kenia Solis, Aaliyah Coleman, Keeva Rosenau, Bryson Pearson. Back: Joannamarie Hitchcock, Reggie Pickett, RJ Attenberger, Tennyson Rugger, Riley McGuire, Carter Wernimont, Bryndal Grams, Alayna Gifford, Ayovi Tovar, Kaylee Mondahl, Wyatt Partain, Liam Dagle, Sebastian Reyes, Elianna Flores.

TEAM awards

By TRISTAN JENSEN Staff Writer

TEAM Academy presented over 75 awards to students across all grades at the school's annual awards ceremony the morning of May 26. Awards were given for outstanding performance in art, music, physical education and Spanish as well as growth in math, reading, and citizenship. Also announced was the winner of the 2023 T-Shirt design contest, sixth-grader Erasmo Sandoval with his design featuring a wolf - the TEAM Academy mascot - with the statement "20 Years of TEAM Academy." The school holds a contest for the shirt design every year, asking students to submit their art. The winning design is used for the following year's official school T-Shirt.

In the afternoon the end-of-year celebrations continued with a school-wide picnic.

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Physical education gold award winners from left: Israwl Maldonado, Isaac Anderson, Jaxon Maznio, Zoey Wald.



Physical education gold star award winners, front from left: Ridley Pechacek, Kaylee Mondahl. Back row: Damaris Sandoval, Hailee Street, Riley McGuire, Samuel Flores, Karime Solis.



Art award winners, front from left: Elianna Flores, Aaliyah Coleman, Eve Nelson, Kenia Solis, Emerald Sawa. Back: Zoey Wald, Miia Caballero, RJ Attenberger, Ayovi Tovar.



Fifty JWP kindergarteners celebrated graduation on Thursday, May 26. By the time they are high school seniors, they will be the Class of 2035. Pioneer photos by Michael Roy



JWP class of 2035

By MICHAEL ROY Editor

On Thursday, May 25, 50 kindergarteners celebrated graduation from Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton in the school auditorium.

After elementary principal Jeff Adams welcomed everyone to the program, the graduates walked down the stairs and into their seats before singing and dancing for the audience. First off was "Who Let the Letters Out" based off of "Who Let the Dogs Out," followed by "I Like to Count It," a parody of "I Like to Move It," and "Tooty Ta."

When they let out most of their energy, the students were invited to sit down on the auditorium floor while a 20-minute long slideshow showed some of the highlights of

their just-completed year, including dressing up for Halloween and visiting the Janesville Fire Department to learn about fire safety.

Then came the moment everyone waited for; the students received their diplomas from their teachers, Ms. Kristin Bartelt, Mr. Cory Jewison, and Mrs. Amy Schmitz, before performing a graduation song and walking off to "Pomp and Circumstance."

The following 50 students became kindergarten graduates of JWP: Isabella Aasen, Kellan Ahlman, Madison Andrews, Korah Bartelt, La'Niah Boyd, Jadel Brito-Fuentes, Gavin Bronstad, Deegan Browning, Brycen Bruender, Derek Budahn, Bryce Bure, Amelia Burns, Rhylynn Danberry, Addison Dobberstein,

Matthew Dobberstein, Kaiden Ellis, Sawyer Fellows, Athos Francis, Piper Gerdt, Lucas Gunsolus, Ceanna Handt, Violet Janske-Roiger, Dominic Jentz, Roxanne Jentz, Silas Kirksey, David Lau, Jacob Luitjens, Breckyn Lynch, Mackenzie Lyons, Roslynn Mincks, Jaxson More, Taylynn More, Adeline Morsching, Christian Mulcahey, Gus Myhr, Tyler Nelson, Clara Place, Indi Quast, Wesley Rangel, Evan Riewe, Cora Schaezke, Liam Schlingmann, Harper Schmitt, Connor Schoenrock, Caden Trahms, Mason Trahms, Moses Waguk, Bennett Watts, Jayda Wheelock, and Kai Yirai-Blum.

The fifty students, dubbed the kindergarten Class of 2023, will be the Class of 2035 when they graduate high school.

Waldorf from Page 3

Memorial Day program. Rev. Matthews led in singing the national anthem while a volunteer from the

crowd read "General Order No. 11" written by Chief John A. Logan calling for a national day of remembrance for the Civil War dead.

When the JWP band did arrive, Claire Miller read the Gettysburg Address while Ellie Morsching read the poem "In Flanders Fields." The band performed "Salute to America's Finest" by Paul Lavender and followed that by leading a performance of "America the Beautiful."

The guest speaker at the Memorial Day Program was Duane Anderson, the vice commander for Minnesota American Legion districts 1 and 3, which Waldorf is a part of. Anderson spoke a few words about Memorial Day before sharing a poem about the American Legion, ending with the story of a fallen soldier who did not receive a 21-gun salute, who did not have a color guard provide them the

proper sendoff, and whose family did not receive a flag.

"Let us make sure we do not forget about those who died," Anderson said. "God bless America and those who served and gave the ultimate sacrifice."

Lucas Trumbull, a member of the American Legion, performed Taps before a silent tribute followed.

Following the program, there was a mini parade led by the Waldorf American Legion Color Guard. The crowd marched to the St. Joseph and First Lutheran Church cemeteries for graveside services in tribute to the deceased service members buried at those sites.

The Legion hosted a potluck lunch at around noon at the Waldorf Community Center to end the day's activities.



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