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Fish or Seafood Dinner at Waseca VFW 5 to 7:30 pm March 29

Waseca VFW Lenten Friday dinners will be offered each Friday until Holy Week. Fish, shrimp, and alternatives will be offered beginning at 5 and continuing either until sold out or until 7:30 pm. Cost is \$15.

Christ the King Easter schedule for March 29-31

Christ the King Lutheran Church of Waseca is hosting a Good Friday service at 6:30 p.m. On Saturday an easter egg hunt will be at 9:45 .m., followed by worship at 10:45 a.m.

Egg Hunt at Clear Lake Park March 30 11 a.m.

Southern Minnesota Pageants is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt at Clear Lake Park near the basketball courts. There are categories for ages 0-3, 4-6, and 7-10. There will be 10,000 eggs hidden, prizes, and a visit from the Easter Bunny.

Faith United church hosting luncheon April 3 at 11 a.m.

Faith United Methodist Church, at 801 4th Ave NE, is hosting a Sandwich Luncheon Wednesday, April 3, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a free-will donation. Menu includes sloppy joes, egg salad sandwiches, macaroni salad, sides and cakes. Take-out is also available.

Waseca Area Foundation accepting Grant Applications due

Attention all nonprofit organizations or government agencies serving in Waseca County. Waseca Area Foundation and the New Richland Area Foundation are now accepting grant applications. March 31st is the deadline for grant applications to be submitted. Applications can be found online at wasecaareafoundation.org. You may submit your application using the online application, email your application to pota@waseca.k12.mn.us or mail to 501 E Elm Ave, Waseca MN. If you have any questions, please call the Waseca Area Foundation office at 507-835-5990.

Matawan Grain and Feed open house April 3 at 10 a.m.

Matawan Grain and Feed is hosting an open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 20820 Matawan Ave., New Richland on Wednesday April 3. One day Spring Sales will good only on the day. Refreshments will be served. Chicken orders, along with sales on wood shavings, softener salts, pet food, and much more also featured.

Burger Fry and Silent Auction April 4 5 p.m. at The Mill

TEAM Academy Charter School is hosting a burger fry and silent auction benefit Thursday, April 4 from 5-7 p.m. at The Mill Event Center. Meal tickets are \$8.

Briefs continued on 6

A word from The Word
But the one who endures to the end will be saved.
Matthew 24:13

Farm and City Luncheon



Area FFA volunteers served a lunch catered by the Pheasant Cafe during the annual Farm and City Luncheon held in Waseca. From left: Dacoda Malakowsky, Max Davis, Cole Schlueter, Cameron Stagman, Lester Bronstad, Kaiya Stagman, Avary Hopper, Sydney Lewer, and Bailey Hogkins. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



Three different awards were given during the annual Farm and City Luncheon. Middle left, Kathy Guse accepts her award; To her right, Kirsten Sommers and family. Left: Matt Sommers and his youngest son. Immediately above: Matt Singlestad is congratulated by Mark Scharf. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

Area ag leaders honored during annual program

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Good food, conversations, and stories were shared during the annual Farm and City Luncheon March 21, hosted by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce at the Mill in Waseca.

Following a lunch catered by the Pheasant Cafe and served by local FFA Chapters from Waseca, NRHEG, and Waseca, the following families, all from rural Waseca, were honored with awards: Farm Family of the year (FFOY); Sommers Brothers Custom Baling, LLC, Brian & Kirsten Sommers and Matt & Nicole Sommers.

The FFOY award goes to a Waseca County food producer involved in the community. This family has made significant short-term progress and/or innovative contributions with their agricultural endeavors and has demonstrated a commitment to enhancing and supporting the fields of agriculture and production. The Sommers will be honored and recognized among farmers across the state at Farmfest this summer.

The Waseca County Outstanding Young Farmer award is presented to a farmer between 21–39 years of age who utilizes innovative methods, has made improvement in farming operations, and demonstrates service to community organizations and conservation practices. This year's winner was Mike Singlestad.

This year's Waseca County Distinguished Agriculture Leadership award recognizes distinguished individuals who have dedicated their lives to the advancement of agriculture in Waseca County. Individuals will have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the community, place of business or employment, and the advancement of the agricultural industry.

This year's award went to Kathy Guse. The annual Farm and City luncheon has been a staple in Waseca County, recognizing local farmers and their achievements since 2011.

"It's an opportunity for businesses to see all the awesome things our farmers are doing," said

Luncheon continued on 2

‘People tell me I had a hard life’
Lifelong area resident celebrated birthday in February

Lois Anderson reaches century milestone

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

Lifelong Waseca area resident Lois Anderson turned 100 on February 22. She freely admits her longevity has surprised her as much as anyone else. She was born at home in New Richland to parents Helmer and Jessie Anderson; not only is she a centenarian but she's approximately 36,525 days old.

When asked whether she ever pictured herself reaching the age of 100, her immediate response was, "No." She quickly explained no other member of her family has done so, and she didn't expect to be the first.

"So, I thought, 'Why should I?'" Anderson added.

Indeed, after her husband Leonard died in 1994 at age 72, she went on to live independently for nearly two decades. Her daughter, Judy, reveals Anderson had a boyfriend for a while.

"I just live," Anderson said simply. Anderson's 100 years have overlapped some very significant historical events. Two world wars. A husband with polio. But from Anderson's gentle but resilient attitude, no one would know it.

She was the second-youngest of seven siblings and is the only one still living. After Anderson turned two, her parents moved from New Richland to Otisco, where she spent the rest of her childhood. Her father owned a grocery store in Otisco, which worked out well for the family during the depression, since her family always had food.

Anderson also remembers that, during that time, everyone she knew wore homemade or hand-me-



Lois Anderson, 100, holds some of the hand-crocheted snowmen which she enjoys making as a pastime. The centenarian has lived a busy, varied life which has included residences in New Richland, Otisco, and Waseca.

Pioneer photo by Rachael Jaeger attempting to court Lois's younger sister, who didn't want anything to do with him since they shared the same last name. Lois decided she would give Leonard a chance. She says she was glad about her choice, since the two of them "really hit it off."

She remembers their first date was a silent movie. In the two years Lois and Leonard dated, they also often went to the roller-skating rink. Both before and after marrying, she remembers they often went dancing together at the Kato Ballroom near Mankato. Among their favorites were waltzes and polkas.

"We did a lot of that," Anderson said. After marrying on November 17, 1944, the couple rented a farm for a while. In 1950, they moved

Anderson continued on 4

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

\$2.1 million in funds received

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

On March 19, after some discussion about progress on the comprehensive plan for the proposed "Marketplace" construction, the Waseca City Council approved deferring the comprehensive plan until July 1 as City Manager Carl Sonnenberg suggested. Sonnenberg said waiting would allow the city's recently-hired certified planner, Jon Froke to provide input and join city engineer Nathan Willey in advising the city's planning commission.

During Sonnenberg's regular report, he announced Waseca has received a grant of \$2.1 million in federal Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funds to be used in improving watershed infrastructure in the vicinity of the Waseca hospital. Waseca has also received \$750,000 for proposed work on the west water storage tower.

"As we learn more about how those grants are provided to the city and what requirements surround them, I'll be bringing those back to the city for further conversation and authorization," Sonnenberg said.

He mentioned he is inquiring about additional state funds which "are under conversation."

Council continued on 5



Compostings

by Al Batt

Yarding is a powerful deer term

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I never know when it's raining hard enough to turn on my lights.

By law, you have to turn on your headlights when it's raining in Sweden.

That's a good law, but how do I know when it's raining in Sweden?

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. The weather was unusual, as it usually is. When it comes to weather, we're always waiting for the next shoe to drop. The weather is like us, it sometimes has difficulty making up its mind. My car became covered with snow while parked overnight at a hotel. I used a plastic discount card to scrape the ice off my windshield and got 10% off.

The song on the radio played, "In the jungle, the mighty jungle, the lion sleeps tonight." There were a bunch of "A-weema-weh, a-weema-weh, a-weema-weh, a-weema-weh." I guess the song was saying that March's lion is only a whim away.

Once the glass was as clear as my mind during a physics test, I headed home. The car ahead of me weaved all over the road. "Get a loom!" I growled.

I waved at a rural mail carrier. I like those good people. Ours delivers magazines periodically. It's a stressful job. Too many red flags.

Hunger hit me like a tax bill. I stopped at a bakery to ask a baker to bake my day, but it was closed, so I made my way to a cafe where I had biscuits and gravy without the biscuits and gravy. It was the special, so that dish found its way to most of the restaurant's tables, but I went with waffles. Biscuits and gravy made me think of circus peanuts. I didn't want either. Each year, my lovely mother gave me a bag or two of circus peanuts. I don't care for circus peanuts. My beloved brother Donald loved them, so I passed them along to him and told him that Mom had gotten the doubtful delights for him. The banana-flavored, peanut-shaped circus peanuts are as polarizing as black licorice, lutefisk, candy corn and the Green Bay Packers. You either love them or hate them. Why are they called circus peanuts? I'm not sure. Nobody wanted to admit they were responsible for the name. It would be a giant leap for me to eat a circus peanut. During extreme winter weather, pheasants can go up to

two weeks without feeding. If I were a rooster pheasant that hadn't eaten for two weeks and chanced upon a circus peanut, I might nibble on it.

I'VE LEARNED

Less than 5% of the population makes over 95% of the laws necessary.

The louder you listen to music, the louder you'll have to listen to music. Daytime skies are most interesting with clouds. Night skies are most interesting without clouds.

A car windshield is a big pane to install.

A gym provides factory work to those who don't work in a factory. If you want a reason to get out of bed in the morning, drink a gallon of water before going to bed.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

Why can't humans hear dog whistles? It's because dogs can't whistle.

What do you call people who sleep in their socks? Tiny.

Where do watermelons go on their summer vacation? To John Cougar Melon Camp.

Why did Saint Patrick drive the snakes out of Ireland? Because it was too far for them to slither.

NATURE NOTES

Yarding is a term used when deer congregate in one area and demonstrates the power of food. It occurs during times of severe cold and decreasing food sources. Familiar places to see deer yard up are south- and east-facing slopes, agricultural fields with waste grain, late-season food plots, cedar thickets and anywhere they can find food and shelter from the elements. Deer reduce their food intake during the winter by 30% and activity by 50%. A deer with an injured foot fed under the bird feeder. A starling landed on the deer's back. The bird wanted a pony. Starlings are mimics and can be taught to talk. I imagined it saying, "Giddy up!"

I filled the feeders with black oil sunflower seeds. I've found the nutritious seeds to be appealing to the birds. If house sparrows overwhelm your feeders, you might switch to the larger striped sunflower seeds, with shells more difficult for house sparrows to open. Cheap birdseed isn't economical. It doesn't have enough active ingredients. It has too much filler that birds don't eat.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Enjoy your weather and be kind.

The words I'm looking for are 'thank you'

Someone close to me ended up in the emergency room this past weekend, then needed to be admitted to the hospital.

But it wasn't "the" hospital, it was "a" hospital.

When my family member experienced unexplained pain and was taken into the Waseca Hospital emergency room, it required a number of different medical image types to learn she had experienced (unexplained) internal bleeding and ended up with an internal bruise that was putting pressure on some of her nerves.

The only "medication" for the bruise, it was determined, is time. It must heal itself.

The pain would decrease as the healing progressed, but for the time being, it needed to be "managed." Thus, my relative needed a hospital bed.

Many of you already know this,



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

but beds in hospitals are hard to acquire these days. Thanks to staff shortages, hospitals (and other health facilities) do not have enough people to support and care for the number of patients their structures are physically capable of holding. I had heard about this, but had only considered it on-let's call it-an "academic" level.

So when the emergency room staff at the Waseca hospital told me my 90-year-old relative would be admitted, I felt a sense of relief: she would be made comfortable in a stable environ-

ment.

The next words after "admitted" were "at New Prague."

When I asked "Why so far away?" the spokesperson looked somewhat insulted and responded, "Actually, that's pretty good."

That's when I remembered the experiences that had been shared with me. Someone who was to be "hospitalized" but ended up in a long-term care facility because there was no "hospital" bed available anywhere in the state. Someone whose medical

bills were accompanied by hotel costs because the only available bed was more than a hundred miles from home. Measured against those barometers, absolutely, the 40 miles to New Prague were completely manageable.

So what I want to say right now is, "Thank you, medical professionals."

I have always known your job is demanding. Watching as you cared for my 90-year-old, I was reminded of your professionalism, your compassion, and your thoroughness. I witnessed your versatile range of skills, from delivering medication to calming fears. I admired your willingness to perform even undesirable tasks in a way which put the patients' needs first.

You are people with busy brains, big hearts, and soft hands. Thank you for the tasks you perform, the words you say, and the blessings you share.

Spring, Easter, snow, God and camping

Happy Spring? I don't know about you, but it is now pretty snowy up here in the Cities. I'm writing this on Tuesday, and it has snowed all day long. It was even bad enough that my one class for today moved onto an online format rather than meeting in person, which never happens. That is the one thing I miss about high school-snow days. It feels like the University never shuts down, and with online formats like Zoom, there now seems to be no excuse for skipping or not having class. Boo.

But my roommate and I still ventured out in the cold and snow to get coffee because coffee is life and the brief period of suffering during a chilly walk to Caribou will always be worth it. This time I switched it up from my usual order of one of the "nitro" drinks and got a matcha cold press with lavender and honey foam; it was pretty good.

This week is a busy one for me



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

with midterms, homework, and work, but I am looking forward to going camping and seeing my family this weekend. It will be the first time camping in our fish house, as my parents sold our fifth-wheel camper and bought one of those fancy big ice houses that has the beds and kitchen so people can sleep in it (a somewhat uncertain choice in my opinion, I loved the camper). It will be interesting for sure. Four people and three dogs in one of those things - it's going to be tight.

My family goes camping every year for Easter, and if I'm completely honest, I like it a lot better than staying home. Yes we are a (mostly) religious family, and we would go to church if we were home, but I like to think we find God in the nature we surround ourselves in. Usually there is no one else camping because it is still cold out, so it is just the state park and us, surrounded by either trees or bluffs depending on where we go. And I love it. Instead of dressing up and having to look nice, eat-

ing our share of whatever Easter meal is served and sitting on the couch, we hike and spend time with each other around the fire. It couldn't be better.

I think I heard once somewhere that Easter and Christmas churchgoers are who save the church, that is, keep the church going. I don't know how true that is, but I find it an ironically funny thought. The people who go to church only twice a year are the ones that keep it going. Is it because it is a holiday so they not only attend, but donate? Besides that, I always thought it was a little hurtful to those who go regularly, whether that be every weekend or every day. Oh well, it was just something I heard. I hope everyone has a fantastic Easter.

My Determination: "One man's ways may be as good as another's, but we all like our own best."

— Jane Austen, Persuasion

March madness at every level of play

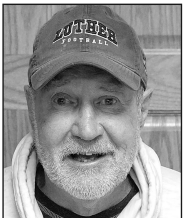
March is a great month. St. Patrick's Day. The first day of the long-awaited spring season. Easter. And, of course, March Madness.

For me, the madness begins with the Minnesota state girls' basketball tournament. I have refereed high school girls' and boys' basketball, and have watched girls' basketball grow into a sport that is every bit as competitive and entertaining as the boys'. The girls have come a long way since their first state tournament in 1976, when the girls joined the boys in the bright sunshine of gender equity. The first official boys' state tournament was held in 1913 at Carleton College.

Girls now participate in their town basketball associations alongside the boys. So why were this year's girls' and boys' basketball tournaments so much fun to watch? What made them the wealth of talent and entertainment they have become? Parents, high school coaches and others now dedicate impressive resources to teaching basketball skills to girls and boys at a very early age.

In Waseca, for instance, fourth- and fifth-graders might play in six tournaments and a total of as many as 60 games. Young girls and boys may have participated in more than 100 basketball games in grades four to seven. They have experienced impressive levels of coaching, practices, games, and travel to weekend tournaments in Rochester, Owatonna, Lakeville, Janesville, Mankato and more. Thanks to all this, there are some very good basketball players entering eighth grade. Throw in the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), basketball camps, open gyms and summer leagues, and you have girls and boys playing high school varsity at a very early age.

The addition of the 35-second shot



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



clock and seeding the teams in each class contributed to a high-quality Minnesota state girls' basketball tournament. In all four classes, the number one seed ended up playing the number two seed for the championship; you could not wish for a better script. In the past, a thousand-point scorer was a big deal; now it's a two-thousand-point scorer. Why? Because girls are playing varsity at a very early age.

There was great defense, as always; watching the young ladies drive to the basket with physicality, or drain a 30-foot three-point shot was great entertainment. I really enjoyed watching Goodhue win in the smaller class; their best player, a two-thousand-point scorer, is headed to MSU next season. Also, watching the Minnetonka girls win the 4A championship to be followed by the boys winning the 4A crown was something special.

The boys' state tournament was fantastic because the Bluejays qualified. Unfortunately, due to the seedings, they had to open against the number 1 seed, Beck. It's legal to transfer to another school in Minnesota; probably the best player in the state transferred from a city school to an already talented Beck team. Next year he will be another Minnesota talent to play for the Wisconsin Badgers. Somehow it just doesn't seem fair: The Bluejays lost the game by a wide margin. In the consolation round, the Jays lost to Pe-

quot Lakes, a face-off they could have won: They led the entire game, then lost in the final minute. It was fun listening to Kugie and Don White on the radio. Once again, they did an exceptional job calling both games.

In class 3A, I rooted for Mankato East, the number two seed, against Totino Grace, the number 1 seed. Totino Grace displayed eye-popping talent that was too much for East in a close game. I watched a game in class 1A where a team won in triple overtime; the next day they ran out of gas and were trounced by Cherry, a small town north of Duluth. Cherry has a wonderful young player headed to the Gophers next season; I'm anxious to follow his progress.

I rooted for Lake City, a really fun team to watch; they lost in their final game against Beck by four points. As a coach, I've seen hundreds of out-of-bounds plays, but I saw Lake City score on a play I had never seen before. Even the TV commentator was impressed: power dunks galore, great drives to the basket, and long three-point shots were tournament highlights.

As I watched both tournaments, I took a special interest in the officiating; high school games now require three officials. My, how the athletes have gotten faster and stronger. An official must always be able to make a split-second decision on a call. To me, the charge or offensive foul is the most difficult. If the defensive

player is set and has established position, foul on the offense. In today's game, players drive hard to the basket; some of them may extend their arm. Defensive players can be leaning or shuffling to establish position-it makes for a very tough call. Thank you, officials. We will always need you to manage basketball games.

I attended two of Mankato State's regional basketball games to watch the Willingham's play. Many fans from Waseca attended to cheer them on. The boys won and had a miracle finish to take the championship game on a last-second shot. Malik and Kyreese were both all-tournament selections; Kyreese was most valuable player.

The MSU girls also won their regional contest and are on to the nationals. It would be very special if both MSU's boys and girls won a national championship.

I'm picking the University of Connecticut to win the Division I men's college national basketball championship. Caitlin Clark, the superstar women's basketball player from Iowa, has been a national sensation all season long. She makes long-distance three-pointers, set the all-time college scoring record, is seen frequently on television commercials, and is a role model for every young boy and girl. Sorry, Caitlin, I'm picking South Carolina, which has a 34-0 record.

March Madness generates \$2.7 billion dollars every year with bracket betting: bigger than the Superbowl!

Thanks, boys' basketball tournament: the action lived up to the tradition of great basketball-accompanied by snow. We appreciated the snowballs and rain Sunday! All of Minnesota really needed it.



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■ Luncheon

from Page 1

Ann Fitch, Chamber executive director, "and to award leaders in agriculture in the county, the region and the state.

"Farmers do much more than farm the land," Fitch continued, explaining that, historically, Waseca County

farmers have propelled Minnesota agriculture to the forefront

The Farm and City Luncheon is a time to acknowledge those achievements. "It's amazing hearing all the stories," Fitch explained. "It's time to recognize them."

The program started with a presentation from Waseca and Janesville chapters of Future Farmers of America, followed by the awards portion around 12:30 p.m.

Vicky Singlestad, Mark Scharf and Christy Kallevig introduced the award

winners.

Articles about each of the awards given out during the program can be found in this week's edition.

The annual luncheon was made possible through the generous support of the following sponsors:

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Kathy Guse speaks after accepting her distinguished ag award during the annual Farm and City Luncheon. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

Guse is ‘stalwart’ in local ag community

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

The Waseca County Distinguished Agriculture Leadership award recognizes distinguished individuals who have dedicated their lives to the advancement of agriculture in Waseca County. Individuals will have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the community, place of business or employment, and the advancement of the agricultural industry.

This year’s award went to Kathy Guse and was awarded during the annual Farm and City Luncheon, held at the Mill in Waseca on March 21, 2024.

“Alongside her husband Marvin, Kathy dedicated 42 years to farming,” Vicky Singletad said as she introduced Guse. “Kathy’s upbringing on a dairy farm instilled in her a lifelong passion for agriculture... Kathy is a testament to how important and impactful women in agriculture are.”

Singletad talked about Kathy’s continued involvement in the agriculture community following her retirement in 2016. In 2011 she initiated Farm Camp, which over the years has educated thousands of children about modern farming practices.

“Thank you to everyone,” Kathy said as she accepted her award. “It is important for all children to think about agriculture and about how and where their food is produced.

“Thank you for your support,” Guse continued. “If you ever have a chance to teach about ag, please reach out to us and take part.”

Kathy’s Story

Kathy Guse was described by the selection committee as a stalwart figure in both the agricultural and wider community, having dedicated her life to both farming and public service. For 42 years, alongside her husband Marvin, she tirelessly tended to their farm, cultivating corn, soybeans, and raising hogs and beef cattle. Kathy’s hands-on approach to farming saw her alongside Marvin in the fields during planting and harvest, skillfully maneuvering tractors, trucks, and other farm equipment. In 2016, health considerations led Kathy and Marvin to transition away from active farming, opting to rent their land while continuing to reside on the farm. Despite re-



tiring from the day-to-day operations, their passion for agriculture remains undiminished. They remain actively engaged in the farming community, attending meetings and staying abreast of developments in the industry.

Kathy’s connection to farming runs deep, having grown up on a dairy farm herself. This lifelong involvement spurred her to take action in educating others about agriculture. In 2011, she founded Farm Camp, a program aimed at bridging the gap between urban communities and agriculture. Through her leadership and the support of dedicated volunteers, Farm Camp expanded to three locations in Minnesota, reaching hundreds of children each year. Kathy’s commitment to volunteerism extends beyond agriculture. She served on the Waseca County Board of Directors for over a decade, including a four-year tenure as president. Her involvement in organizations like the Waseca County Farm Bureau Home & Safety Day and Farm America demonstrates her dedication to promoting safety and education within the community.

Her contributions have not gone unnoticed, with Kathy receiving accolades such as the President’s Club award from the Minnesota Farm Bureau, the Southern Minnesota Ag Ambassador award, the Director’s Award from Farm America, and the Minnesota State Commodity Challenge Advisor Award.

Outside of agriculture, Kathy has been actively involved in various community initiatives, including serving on school boards and volunteering with organizations like Junior Achievement. Her passion for educating the public about farming and ensuring the safety of rural communities shines through in her numerous endeavors. Kathy’s tireless dedication to agriculture and community service has left an indelible mark, enriching the lives of countless individuals and leaving a legacy of education, advocacy, and stewardship.

Waseca farm family of the year

Sommers named to county’s most distinguished award

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

The most distinguished agricultural award given out Thursday at Waseca’s Farm and City Luncheon went to Sommers Brothers Custom Baling, LLC, operated by Brian & Kirsten Sommers and Matt & Nicole Sommers.

“It was easy for the committee,” Christy Kallevig said as she introduced the Sommers. “Strong farm families have an impact not only on agriculture, but also their community as a whole. And so do the Sommers.”

Sommers Brothers Custom Baling LLC started in 2006; the company specializes in preserving fodder in large, square bales for customers in and around Waseca County. Founders of the Waseca based business were brothers Brian and Matt Sommers. The Sommers were selected for this honor in November of 2023, prior to the sudden death of Brian in January. In addition to operating the baling service, the families operate 525 acres, raising corn and soybeans. Until 2022 they also operated a dairy farm with their father, Mark Sommers.

Both brothers have been involved with the South-Central College Farm Business Management program.

Brian was and Kirsten is an active volunteer in programs including Waseca County 4-H, Waseca County American Dairy Association Board, Waseca Youth Football, Waseca Youth Wrestling, Waseca Community Education Baseball/T-Ball and Sacred Heart School Board. Brian and Kirsten have four children, Owen, Caden, Evelyn and Jameson.

Matt was elected for District 2 Waseca County Soil and Water District board. Matt and Nicole have two children, Danielle and Henry.

After accepting their award, Matt simply gave an emotional, “Thank you,” before passing off the microphone.

Kirsten expressed her gratitude for the honor.

“For those of you who are customers of the baling business, you would primarily be in contact with Brian over the years as the contact for baling jobs and running the



FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR - The Sommers Family was named Waseca County’s Farm Family of the Year for 2024. To the left are Kirsten Sommers and her children: Owen (the oldest), Caden, Evelyn and Jameson (the youngest). On the right side are Matt and his wife Nicole and their children Danielle and Henry. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

baler,” Kirsten said. “He was the face behind the tractor baling your hay, grass, or corn stalks.

“As Brian and I had more children, and the older they got, Brian might have passed over the reins a time or two to our kids, especially Owen and Caden,” Kirsten continued. “The six of us enjoyed interacting with all of the customers as we were baling for you while you were picking up bales. We always had to have that done before the rain came.”

Kirsten talked about Brian’s passion for 4-H and how much he enjoyed showing dairy cows at the county fair.

“Owen, Caden, Evelyn, Jameson, Brian and I were all in the show ring together this past summer,” Kirsten continued. “It was a memory to hold onto forever because all six of us won’t be there in person together again. We will continue to make in-



Cousins Danielle and Jameson Sommers hold hands during the awards presentation made at the annual Waseca County Farm and City Luncheon.

credible memories at the fair. It will just look a little different.”

Brian was a regular attendee at the annual Farm and City Luncheon.

“I know Brian would have been

very honored to receive this award,” Kirsten concluded. “We know he would be proud of us and our accomplishments. I know he is smiling down on all of us today.”

Filling the Bluejay ‘buck-o-meter’

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

Hartley Principal Ben O’Brien shared highlights of recent and future spring events happening in his building as he spoke to Waseca School Board members during their March 21 regular business meeting. O’Brien described a masked reader and staff training in the Blue Jay Way. O’Brien explained that while the presentation occurred at Hartley (and is available on the Hartley website), the Blue Jay Way is the name given to district-wide behavior expectations for students. “We need to teach behavior just like we need to teach reading and math,” O’Brien said while running through the Google slide presentation. “We teach it at the beginning of the year, and then throughout the year.”

O’Brien emphasized that the

program is about recognition as well as instruction, highlighting the many activities students can earn with Blue Jay Bucks, including Fine Dining Fridays and hot chocolate on the playground. O’Brien said the whole school is working toward filling the Blue Jay “buck-o-meter” and earning something big at the end of the year. Superintendent Eric Hudspeth stated he is excited to see all the goals set in the strategic plan implemented at the building level.

Hudspeth reported receiving good feedback from teachers regarding the professional development (PD) required for the new state reading initiative, due to the large grant Dr. Brooke McGuire received in order to fund the PD. Intervention days continue to be scheduled at the high school once a month for students to get “caught

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

up” or get ahead. Public Health recently shared findings regarding mental health needs among youth and the community; Hudspeth told the board the district will be partnering with the agency to find additional support methods.

The second part of Hudspeth’s report included feedback on the tax increment financing (TIF) application made to the city. “I do want them to consider congestion management. Minimal disruption is a priority for us,” Hudspeth said. The structure whose eligibility for TIF is under discussion will be built on the open property to the east and north of the junior/senior high and intermediate schools. There were no other significant concerns from

the board.

Business Manager Matthew Moline presented the final Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget, highlighting the \$19 positive difference between revenues and expenditures. “We made it,” he chuckled. Board Chair Dave Dunn commented he finds it interesting when people say their property taxes are what pays for the school. “They do, but it’s actually less than ten percent of all dollars received for the school,” he said, gesturing to the pie chart in Moline’s presentation. “The vast majority of it comes from the state.” The financial details are available for the public to view on the school’s website.

Other business items included committee reports, recognitions, and approvals of reviewed policies and Master Agreements. The next work session will be April 4.



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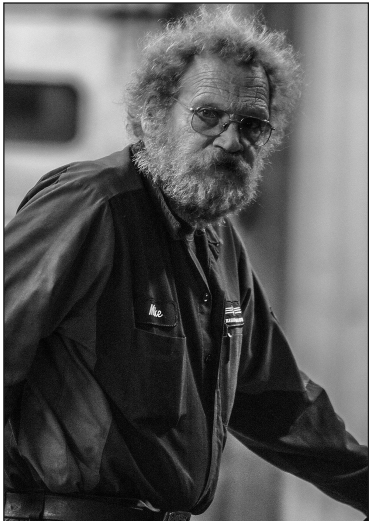
Michael C. Coy

Michael Charles Coy, age 71, of rural New Richland, died at his home with his family by his side the morning of Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

Mike was born in Wells on February 28, 1953 to parents Clifford and Sue (Weaver) Coy. He graduated from high school in Waldorf before continuing his education at Albert Lea Vo-Tech, where he studied diesel mechanics. He worked various jobs over the years, including construction, Bird's Eye Foods, Brown Printing, and as a Diesel Mechanic. He also had a lifelong great love for farming.

On June 23, 1984, Mike was married to Cynthia Rene Siems at the Evangelical United Methodist Church in Waseca. His first priority was always his wife, children, and grandchildren, who knew him as "the tickle monster." He loved all things John Deere, hobby farming, cars, motorcycles, snowmobiles and horses. During his quiet times he liked John Wayne movies, music and musicals, and reading Louis L'Amour novels.

Mike is survived by his wife, Cynthia, of rural New Richland; children Sierra (John Bently) Coy of Mankato, Clifford (Rachel) Coy of Lake Crystal, and Erin Coy of Waseca; nine grandchildren: Anwyn, Kannon, Isabel, Skyler, Cillian, Alistair, Eston, Lillian and Gabriel; and three siblings, Pam Coy, Kim Born and Dan Coy. He was preceded in death by both of his parents; a brother, Jeffy Coy; and a sister, Kathy Frantum.



Michael Coy

Mike's family will host a memorial service at the Ellendale United Methodist Church at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, 2024. They will greet friends for one hour before the service at the church. Interment services will be the afternoon of Sunday, June 23. "In lieu of flowers, the Coy family would like individuals to donate to the Feeding Our Communities Partners (FOCP) non-profit organization. Their mission is to engage our community in solving youth hunger. You can help feed local kids by submitting a donation to FOCP at <https://www.feedingourcommunitiespartners.org/donate.html>

Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Services in Waseca is assisting Mike's family with their arrangements. [dsfuneral.com](https://www.dsfuneral.com).

Patricia Borst

PATRICIA ELLEN (NELSON) BORST, age 85, of St. Peter passed away on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at Ecumen Prairie Hill in St. Peter.

Born on August 30, 1938 in Faribault, she was the daughter of Joseph and Jennie "Ruth" (Davis) Nelson. As a young girl, Pat worked at Kresge Five and Dime and Piggly Wiggly Grocery. She graduated from Faribault High School with the class of 1957. She was united in marriage to Francis Borst on April 11, 1959 in Vallejo, California. After getting married, they were stationed in Hawaii for a year before returning to Faribault. They lived most of their lives together in Waterville. Pat worked at Livingoods Bakery in Waterville as a cook. Guests would come from all around for her perfect eggs and to see her incredible smile. She owned B&B Bait Shop for 35 years with her husband.

The past nine years Pat lived at Ecumen Prairie Hill in St. Peter. She made many friends with her kindness and radiant smile. You could always find her helping another resident or staff. While there, Pat loved playing bingo, cards, arts and crafts, and singing karaoke. More than anything, Pat loved spending time with her family. She taught many grandchildren how to play Yahtzee, Sorry, Cribbage, and Rummy. Farkle was her latest favorite. She also enjoyed reading, puzzles, and crosswords. Pat will forever be remembered for her delicious



Patricia Borst

chocolate chip cookies, long hugs, beautiful smile, and kindness.

Pat is survived by her children, Guy (Leah) Borst of Waterville, Diane (Bradley Casper) Borst of Waterville, Scott (Lisa) Borst of Waterville, Kim (Stephen Morsching) Borst of Madison Lake; eleven grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren, and sisters-in-law, Kathleen Borst, Sherry Martinez, and Charlene Hagle. She was preceded in death by her husband, both parents, four brothers, and one sister.

At Pat's request, her remains have been donated to the University of Minnesota Anatomical Bequest Program. Visitation will be held from 4 - 7 PM on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at the Waterville Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service. [Dsfuneral.com](https://www.dsfuneral.com)

Paul Dressler

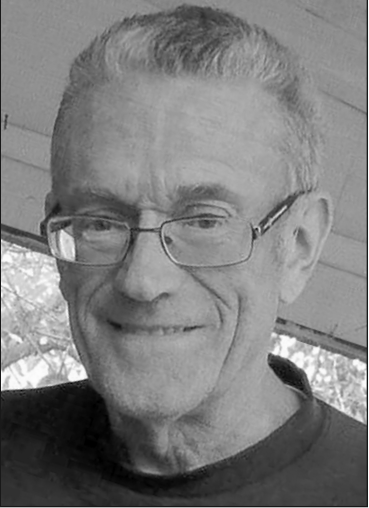
PAUL DRESSLER of Waseca passed away on March 20, 2024 at 77.

Paul Dressler was born on October 22, 1946 in Duluth. He graduated from Robbinsdale High School in 1964. He received degrees from Macalester College, the University of Minnesota, and William Mitchell College of Law.

Paul lived most of his adult life in Waseca and worked as an attorney in the Waseca County Attorney's office. Paul was an avid baseball fan and involved community member in Waseca.

Paul married Carol Bungert in 1973 and they had two sons.

Paul is survived by his wife Carol of Waseca, his sons Daniel (Ariel) of Saint Paul and David (Karen) of Blue Earth, and grandchildren Hazel, Anna, Greta, and Andrew. His sister Connie Harrison of Crystal and his brother John



Paul Dressler

(Linda) of Lockport, NY. Funeral services were held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment was at Woodville Cemetery.

Marlyn Denn

MARLYN PAUL DENN, age 88 of Waseca died on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at Colony Court.

Born on May 12, 1935, in Beauford, Minnesota, he was the son of Aloysius and Esther (Koch) Denn. He grew up on a farm near Janesville and attended Janesville Elementary School and rural Waseca County School. He later moved with his family to Waseca where he attended Sacred Heart High School before graduating from the Southern School of Agriculture in 1955. While at a dance at the Kato Ballroom, Marlyn met Mary Lou Goettl and they were united in marriage on April 9, 1958, at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Mankato. Together they made their home in Waseca where they raised their six children.

Marlyn began his long career in carpentry. Within a few years, he joined his brother-in-law, Don Kalbow, and the two of them formed D&K Construction Company. For over 30 years, this partnership built

hundreds of homes in Waseca and surrounding communities. When Don retired, Marlyn continued using his carpentry skills and began working as the custodian for 13 years at Sacred Heart Catholic Church and School. He continued remodeling homes well into his 70's. Outside of being a hard-working father and husband, Marlyn enjoyed being the chauffeur for the Country Denn's Band where he would make guest performances from time to time. This band consisted of all his children. Marlyn enjoyed gardening, telling stories, playing cards, especially Pfeffer, singing karaoke and dancing. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca and was a founding member of the Waseca Eagles Club Aerie 3753. He cherished his family and always looked forward to their Sunday gatherings after church. Marlyn will be remembered as a hardworking, God loving husband, father, and grandfather. Blessed be his memory.

Marlyn is survived by his children,

Marlys (Curt) Froehle of Waseca, Michelle (Patrick) Kelly of Hudson, WI, Mary Jo (Steve) DeLaitsch of Waseca, Michel Denn (Angie Storvick) of Minneapolis, Mark (Nancy) Denn of Waseca, and Monty (Hilary) Denn of New Prague; 17 grandchildren; 18 great grandchildren and one on the way. He is also survived by his brother, Albert Denn of Waseca; sister-in-law, Elaine Goettl; and brothers-in-law, Louis (Donna) Goettl and Richard Goettl.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; siblings and in-laws: Lowell and Helen Denn, Edna Mae and Don Kalbow, Lorraine Kalbow, Marilyn and Dwain Nelson, Vernice Denn, Julian and Mary Goettl, Bernie and Delores Goettl, Clete Goettl, Lorraine and Jerry Frederick, Willie and LaVonne Goettl, Adeline and Curt Sieberg, Roger and Sandra Goettl, Elaine and Ike Sweiger, Phyllis Goettl.

Funeral Mass was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 1:00 PM at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in



Marlyn Denn

Waseca. A luncheon to followed. Visitation was held on Tuesday from 11:00 AM until the time of services at the church. Burial is at Calvary Cemetery in Waseca. [DSOfuneral.com](https://www.dsfuneral.com)

Paul Donovan

PAUL MARK DONOVAN, age 71, of New Richland passed away the evening of Monday, March 18, 2024 at Mayo Clinic Health System in Rochester.

Born on September 21, 1952 in Colorado Springs, CO, he was the son of Willis and Winefred (Gravitt) Donovan. He attended Titusville High School. He enlisted in the US Army and Marines on February 8, 1970 where he served in the Vietnam War. He was honorably discharged. He was united in marriage to Lynn Nelson on October 22, 1974 in Titusville, FL. They later divorced.

Following his military career, Paul worked in the construction field as a

sandblaster. He went to work as a service manager for a Chrysler dealership. After he moved to Minnesota, Paul worked for Ford Motor in Mankato as a service advisor until his health declined. In his free time, Paul enjoyed watching WWE wrestling. He had an impressive collection of hand-blown glass and a special cat, Rosco. He was able to fulfill one of his lifelong dreams of visiting the John Wayne Museum a few years ago. He will be dearly missed.

Paul is survived by his children, Jay Donovan of New Richland, Paul (Liz) Donovan of Mankato, Christopher (Stacy) Donovan of Waseca; grandchildren, Brandon Williams-

Donovan, Jaden Donovan, Cody Donovan, Caylee Donovan, Conner Donovan, Trinoty Donovan, Mayson Donovan, Andrew Donovan, Jayde Donovan, Makya Donovan; great-granddaughter, Juno Donovan; brother, Robert Donovan of Florida; sister-in-law, Cindy (Paul) Pfannebecker of Waseca; close friend, Chad Edwards of Northern Minnesota.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Willis and Winefred Donovan; step-mother, Jeanette Donovan; and brother, Timothy Donovan.

A private family graveside service will be at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. A celebration of Paul's life will take place at a later date. [dsfuneral.com](https://www.dsfuneral.com)



Paul Donovan

■ Anderson from Page 1

to Waseca, making their home and raising their family there. Her father, Helmer, eventually sold his grocery store to Lois and Leonard.

Fortunately for Leonard, he never had to leave his family behind to serve in World War II; although he took the physical examination that would have begun the process of joining the military, the war ended before he was drafted. It was about the same time they had their first child, Bert. They went on to have two other children, Cathy who came next, and Judy, the youngest. Lois expressed she would've gladly had even more children - "enough for a baseball team" - but Leonard was diagnosed with polio.

He spent over a year in a hospital in the Twin Cities: The polio spread from his right arm, through his stomach, and into his left leg. Lois said Leonard had a hard time getting up from sitting.

"He had to really push himself," she remembered.

"He was right-handed, so he couldn't move his arm to write," Lois's daughter Judy remembered. "He used his left hand to move his right hand around and write with a pen."

Judy observed Leonard got around pretty well for most of the years of his life; she doesn't remember him spending time feeling sorry for himself.

"He could walk," Judy said. "[A doctor] told him he wouldn't walk without the use of a cane, but he did, for years. It was only the last year he

was in a wheelchair."

He was also able to get a driver license under the condition he kept certain equipment in his vehicle. For one thing, he was required to have a handle on his steering wheel, since he could only drive with one arm. He was also required to have an easily accessible emergency brake in case he needed it. But, according to Judy, Leonard seldom used the equipment.

Lois also didn't allow misfortunes to hold her back, even when her grocery store burned down while Leonard was still in the hospital and Judy was just two months old.

After Leonard returned home, he took care of the children while Lois got a job; the couple also received some support from a government program. Judy mentioned she remembered Lois working all day, then coming home to sew clothes for her and her siblings.

"It made me stronger, I guess," was all Lois said about the circumstances. "Somebody told me once I had a hard life; I told them I didn't think so. It was all just something I had to do and I did it."

Eventually, the state set Leonard up with a popcorn wagon which he and the children used to earn income. The family owned it from 1951 to 1971 before he sold it to someone in Waterville. In turn, that person sold it to a museum in Mason City, Iowa.

For the 20 years he operated his popcorn business, Leonard typically used it during the Waseca County fair. Judy said he ended up buying a second popcorn wagon which also had a cotton candy machine she and her siblings usually ran. She also remembered her mother was in charge of and made caramel corn and caramel apples sometimes.

Leonard also took the popcorn

wagon to special events in the region including at the Steele County fairgrounds in Owatonna and Kolacky Days in Montgomery. When it wasn't at fairs, Judy recalled that she and her siblings or cousins ran the second popcorn wagon at Clear Lake Park, which often stayed open until ten at night.

Judy remembers that Lois and Leonard purchased a home when she was six years old; the house had an apartment which they rented out for additional income. The money helped them pay off the house, and even eventually purchase a cabin on French Lake near Faribault.

Before Leonard died, he and Lois enjoyed spending time at their cabin with their six grandchildren and nine great-grandkids. They fished, rode on their pontoon, spent time in the water, and had bonfires once in a while. They would also often have fireworks on the Fourth of July. Judy mentioned there was a tire swing the kids liked to play on.

Lois was 92 before taking up residence in Colony Court; despite the move she continued to be very independent. She would travel to Arizona to see her sister each winter and stay through the coldest part of the Minnesota year. For a while, she even owned a condominium in Coolidge, near Casa Grande.

Yet another irony in Lois's life was having always taken precautions against falling on ice; yet, while traveling at age 89, she broke her hip while playing shuffleboard. Another major injury occurred when she fell in the bathroom, hit her head, and re-

alized she was bleeding badly. She held a towel against the wound and called a friend to tell her about the incident. After hanging up, she says, she realized she should call 911.

"The EMTs told her that if she wouldn't have put anything over her head, she would've died," Judy added.

In the fairly recent past, Lois woke up without any feeling in her left leg, then discovered she couldn't get up no matter how hard she tried. She was sent to Rochester but was walking again the next day. Mayo Clinic kept her for three days before sending her home.

Up until then, Lois would travel and visit family in California, Florida, and Washington.

She entertains herself playing card games like hearts or spider solitaire, two of her favorites, on an iPad. Among other pastimes she enjoys are word games, knitting a family of snowmen for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and crocheting afghans which she has donated to her local church. She makes sure to use the Colony Court exercise room and take walks at least twice a week.

Lois still strives to have as much of a social life as possible. Bert calls her just about every day, Judy shared. When Judy visits Lois, she takes her mom out to eat at Burger King where she enjoys the chicken nuggets. Lois also has a social media account where she keeps in touch with family members and friends.



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New grading system at JWP

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (JWP) school board approved the use of “weighted” grades and grade point averages (GPAs) for the 2024-2025 Academic School Year during its March 18 meeting. Principal David Rysdam opened the floor for discussion, explaining a “weighted” grading system gives students who want an opportunity to achieve the chance to do so.

Rysdam stated, “It’s a way for them to write their own story. So for me, celebrating academic achievement is what we should do. It’s something they can have fun with and be competitive about.”

Part of Rysdam’s presentation included a list of College in the Schools (CIS) classes: The CIS program allows students to earn credit for certain classes both at their high school and at a participating post-secondary institution. Since it’s also a path for students to gain access to scholarships, school board member Kevin Born wondered how these classes would qualify for scholarships compared to regular classes. Rysdam noted, as an example, that a C+ in a CIS course still contributes to strong ratings.

Born also inquired whether it would still be appropriate for JWP to select a valedictorian given how the weighted grades are calculated. Rysdam responded there is no rule which explicitly states that a school can’t have multiple candidates; he noted he has four students in his mind who seem promising.

In other matters, the school board approved a single contract employee for a one-year trial for Lynnae Nelson, Special Education Case Facilitator, so she could continue working remotely with the school. This new contract involved her working the same hours as the other teachers in a day when she is physically present in the district, which would be a total of forty school calendar days.

The separate contract is acceptable because Nelson is moving to Rochester, and so won’t be part of the union starting this year.

Earlier in the meeting, student council member JWP junior Eric Daschner, relayed complaints from students about slow internet on their Chromebooks. After Daschner said he and a few others studied possible causes, their research led to the conclusion it had nothing to do with the wi-fi connection. Instead the security locks have contributed to the lack of speed.

Daschner shared that “it takes about a minute” for him to get into the Google classroom or sometimes he’s blocked from sites because of certain keywords when he needs to read a story for American Literature. At the same time, he’s observed that there’s no issue for students to get into other sites such as to play games.

He also mentioned that it was promised to the students that they could access Spotify while doing their homework, but some were having a hard time.

JWP SCHOOL BOARD

Superintendent Jeremy Erler said some students might have a lock because they might have abused their privileges. Erler added that Adam Mateske, the Director of Technology and Integration, would look into the connection problem since the servers have recently been slower than in the past.

“We do have the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) tests coming up, so we’ll need it for that,” Erler said, telling board members he would report back on the topic once he consulted with Mateske.

Daschner expressed that students have experienced confusion with the new phone policy for a few different reasons. He stated certain staff members have become complacent; simultaneously, there are classes that have assignments asking students to make a video with their phones or Instagram posts.

Daschner also reported that the band recently performed at Maple River and was ranked as “excellent,” which he said is the second-highest rating.

During Erler’s report, he addressed a complaint Daschner made earlier about lunch: Erler said he and Wendy Dieker are doing their best to find solutions. One day, Erler mentioned, he was in the cafeteria for lunch when the first option for an entrée ran out; there was a 15-minute wait before the second option was brought out. Since students are allotted only twenty minutes for lunch, he went on, it doesn’t give them much time if something like that happens.

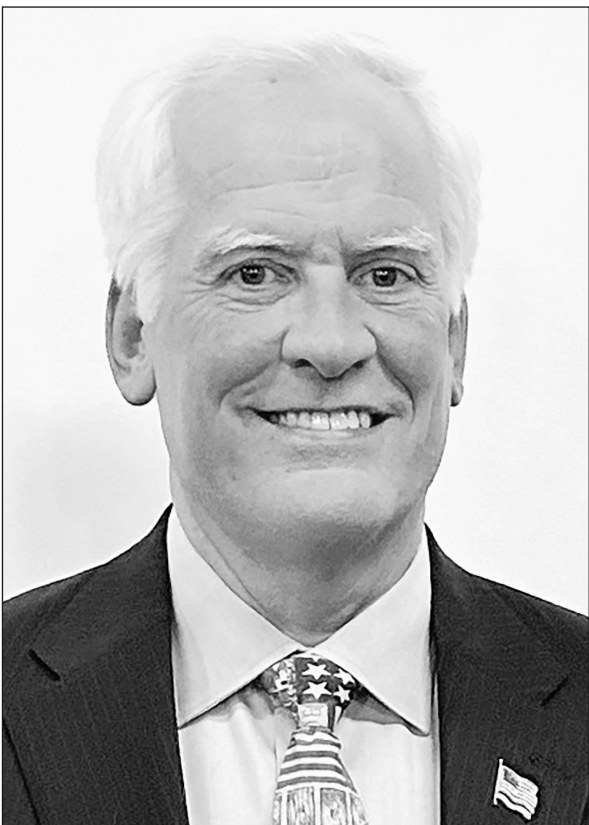
On a positive note, Erler also mentioned that he was receiving feedback about the Minnesota Reading to Ensure Academic Development (READ) Act for students. He said there is a plan in place for three teachers – Stephanie Watts, Casey Rose, and Tammy Seyes – to be trained in it over the summer. In turn, those three will train others next year.

“So we’ll have a lot more flexibility on when we can do our trainings,” Erler said. “But we’re still learning about all this.”

He said that high school math is implementing a new program which he said “has been good.”

In other business, the school board members approved Tim Burke as head high school golf coach, Jon Dascher as junior high basketball coach, and Emily Olson as junior high track coach. The school board also accepted numerous donations from the Bulldog Packers for a total of \$7,713.15; \$300 from Nancy Howard; \$100 from Mankato Motors; \$500 from Crystal Valley; and \$100 from the JWP Palmer Bus Service.

During the meeting, the school board also approved several policies: 618 – Assessment of Student Achievement Policy, 708 – Transportation of Nonpublic School Students, and 709 – Student Transportation Safety Policy.



Tom Sexton

Tom Sexton announces run for House District 19B

Tom Sexton of Waseca will run for the Republican nomination as a candidate for the Minnesota House of Representatives District 19B.

After careful consideration and overwhelming support from his spouse, Jeanne Sexton, Tom is announcing his intent to run for the position currently held by Representative John Petersburg, District 19B.

Sexton is a graduate of the University of Minnesota’s Carlson School of Management, with a B.S. in Business Administration. He earned his first Master of Science degree in Aeronautical Sciences from Embry-Riddle University, his second M.S. in National Securities Studies from the US Air Force Air Command and Staff College, and his third M.S. in Strategic Studies from the US Army War College. He is also a graduate of the hand-selected National Security Policy Program.

Colonel Tom Sexton is a command pilot, former squadron commander, combat veteran, and former US Army War College instructor who retired from the US Air Force after more than 26 years of active service in September 2012. Following his US Air Force retirement, he briefly returned to Waseca, before starting work in heavy construction where he led numerous projects as a construction project manager. Next, Tom accepted an executive management position in Houston, TX, where he held the role of Vice President of Construction Management for a noted engineering, procurement, and construction firm.

Retiring again in 2021, Tom returned to Waseca where he took on volunteer roles as the co-chair of the City of Waseca Planning Commission, member of the Waseca County Planning Commission, chairman of LakeFest starting in 2023, the Waseca American Legion Honor Guard, and active involvement as a member of the Knights of Columbus (Sacred Heart), Waseca American Legion Post 228, Waseca VFW Post 1642, and the Waseca Lakes Association.

Tom and Jeanne will celebrate their thirty-eighth wedding anniversary in September 2024. They have two sons who are both US Air Force officers and married, as well as two wonderful grandchildren.

A top-down explanation of increased ag property taxes

By Waseca County Commissioner Doug Christopherson

I mentioned to Eli a while back that I was considering periodically writing an article in his paper to let our residents know what is happening at the County level. He was in favor of this idea, so here I am! For my first effort, I figured what better topic to cover than the historic move in Ag land assessed values? In the next few paragraphs, I will try to address some frequently asked questions and misconceptions from a high level. The complexity of some of these laws has a tendency to create as many questions as I could answer, so my hope is not to add further confusion.

2024 Ag land saw, in general, nearly a 50% increase. This is largely due to significantly higher sale prices of property that were sold between October 2021 and September 2022. The sales data that is collected in the above time period is aggregated by the State of Minnesota, and then is used to calculate a sales ratio for our county area. Very simply put, a sales ratio simply compares what the County appraises property values as compared to what they sell at in the private market. For example, the County was appraising tillable acres at \$7,200 per acre in the date range mentioned above. When this compares to several sales that exceeded \$13,000 per acre, this generates a sales ratio around 55%. This is important because the State of Minnesota requires a sales ratio to fall between 90% and 105% for the County to be in compliance. When the private market experiences significant increases in sale prices in a short period of time, it will often clash with what the County has maintained for their appraisals. This is of particular interest because in a fast-moving market, values and sale prices could start to go down and the County may not realize that downturn for 2 years. This is a result of how the law is written.

I cannot stress enough that the Commissioners have very little control over property values. It is primarily dictated by State regulations. The Commissioners can make small adjustments when warranted, such as, when there is not a representative sample of sales in the County for the State to be able to determine a sales ratio or an administrative error has been made. This must be done through a process called the County Board of Appeal and Equalization – a meeting that is held every June. This is, in my opinion, the proper way to have checks and balances built into the tax system. If too much control was given to the Commissioners in setting land values, it could lead to some concerning practices across the State. Primarily, because the Commissioners are in control of what the property tax levy is that is certified. If values were able to be manipulated at the local level, it could create a conflict of interest with how the levy is spread to landowners.

As mentioned, what the Commissioners do have control over is the overall budget of the county. We set the dollar amount or levy that we need to collect to run the county for that particular year. Over the past 4 years we have been able to hold our levy increases to 2% or less. This past year our levy increase was only 0.5%, the 3rd lowest in the State. Our levy in 2023 was \$17,744,110 and in 2024 it is \$17,832,831 – an \$88,721 increase. So, you are probably saying, “that can’t be right, then why did my taxes go up so much?” There are a couple of reasons for this, the biggest factor is the valuation difference between Ag, Residential, Commercial, and Industrial. While Ag values went up by approximately 50%, the other 3 property types increased anywhere from 0% - 15%. This shifted the burden of the property tax over to the Ag sector by 35% - 50% in some cases. For the majority of residential owners, they will be able to enjoy a decrease in their County property taxes in 2024. This is a much-needed relief because, for the past several years, residential owners have been taking more of the burden when Ag values were fairly stagnated. The other factor that could cause an increase in your overall property tax bill is your homestead exclusion. With the large increase in property values in recent years, legislation has not kept up with the market and has resulted in your exemption to phase out quicker. We will see some relief in 2025 when the State will increase the dollar amount of your exclusion for both Ag and Residential property types.

My goal in this article was to hopefully give people a better understanding of the ebbs and flows of property tax and how the burden can shift from one property type to another depending on market values – even with very little shift in the levy. If you have further questions or other concerns, I welcome your call at 507-456-3927.

Doug Christopherson is the District 1 elected representative to the Waseca County Board of Commissioners. District 1 covers rural residents living in Alton, Freedom, Byron, New Richland, Otisco, and Vivian townships.

■ Council

from Page 1

warning any state funding remains tentative.

“Because this is a 100-year-old problem – literally, not figuratively – it’s going to take many, many years of counsel, persistence, and help from federal partners,” Sonnenberg stated. “As I’ve said before, taxpayers can’t afford seven to eight figures.”

A major item of discussion during the March 19 meeting were proposed plans for the city sponsored development on property it owns near Gaiter Lake. Council members were able to evaluate a number of possible plans. Sonnenberg addressed a question from councilmember Jeremy Conrath about one proposal (option 1) which included a 48-apartment complex as well as smaller lots for single-family housing.

“Let me say it this way – it’s simply there as a math exercise,” Sonnenberg said. “So when we look at a concept plan, it’s about what’s feasible for the land that’s there and what’s feasible based on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requirements.”

With that, he also said there’s been conversation at public meetings about other multiple-family housing options including twin homes, townhouses, or patio homes. He added that whenever the issue is brought back to the city council members for further discussion before they decide and vote on the type of housing they see best for their city.

“It’s not any more complicated than that,” Sonnenberg stated and opened the floor for discussion.

Conrath spoke up in reference to recent work sessions held at the public safety building which were attended by a room-full of people.

“If anybody thinks that I’m giving wrong information, they can certainly chime in,” he said. “But it was overwhelmingly clear the public did not want apartment buildings in this development.”

Mayor Randy Zimmerman thanked Conrath for speaking his mind and asked the city council to return its attention to the handouts Sonnenberg had distributed with two options, one that has smaller lots and the other, bigger lots.

“Do they both include, in that math, an apartment building?” Zimmerman inquired, adding he sees more benefits for bigger lots with no apartments.

“No. Option two does not include an apartment complex or any other multi-family housing other than twin homes,” Sonnenberg clarified. He also said the option included lots 20,000 square feet in size. Based on recent conversations with the DNR, Sonnenberg also said both concepts comply with the agency’s restrictions. “Just to be clear, there’s an approval process to go through the DNR,” he further added. “The 48-complex in option one is there so you can look at the difference in the math.”

In saying all this, Sonnenberg made it clear he was not proposing an apartment complex but provides perspective on what a reasonable lot price is.

In the two concepts presented for the Gaiter Lake Development, the city would simply be providing the infrastructure and shaping the land so that area builders and homeowners could acquire property and arrange for construction. Sonnenberg defined “the math” as the research he and engineers are working on to ensure the city breaks even on its initial investment, and in doing so, expand the tax base for the foreseeable future.

During the forum for public comment, Deb and Gary Dobberstein, a couple whose home is located near the proposed site of the Gaiter Lake project, expressed their belief their concerns weren’t being heard. They also asked about tax liabilities city residents may be burdened with.

In other business, the council approved a contract with Rochester consulting firm Stantec for the Second Street Northwest reconstruction project and approved the report of bids and award for the Eighth Avenue Northeast reconstruction project. The council authorized and approved a contract for insulation in the Waseca Airport four-unit hangar project.

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Morgan's



Many good things happened for Morgan's Meats of Waseca during the March 14 to 16 convention of the Minnesota Association of Meat Processors. Lyla Bauman, daughter of Morgan's employee Tim Klampe, was selected for a scholarship from the organization.

Morgan's Meats was acknowledged for an array of exceptional products.

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- CHAMPION
Old fashioned summer sausage; bone-in ham.
- RESERVE CHAMPION
Bacon, Red-Neck bacon, ring bologna.

The Pastor's Column

My favorite title during Holy Week

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS
Holy week is upon us. Growing up we spent very little time focusing on the days of Holy Week except for Palm Sunday and Resurrection Sunday. Occasionally we would attend a Good Friday service, but it wasn't until I grew up that I started learning the tradition of Holy Week.

Throughout the gospels we get to explore the life and events of Jesus, but the vast majority of the gospels focus the most time on the final week of Christ's life. The details give us a further understanding of His plans and purposes as He approaches the cross. Let's go over some of those details.

Palm Sunday starts Holy week for us, Jesus enters into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The people shout Hosanna and wave palm branches in hopes that Jesus will set them free from their oppressors. Jesus' triumphal entry is recorded in Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, and John 12:12-19.

Holy Monday, you will see that a lot of the days this week start with Holy, is that day that Jesus re-enters Jerusalem and proceeds to the temple complex. On His travels He becomes hungry and notes a fig tree without fruit and uses it as an example of how the new covenant results in fruitful followers. Once in Jerusalem Jesus is in the temple complex and drives out the money changers. Monday's events are recorded in Matthew 21:12-22, Mark 11:15-19, Luke 19:45-48, and John 2:13-17.

Holy Tuesday, see the pattern, Jesus travels into Jerusalem again and discusses spiritual matters with the religious authorities. The Sadducees and Pharisees attempt to set logical and argumentative traps for Jesus so they can stone Him as He leaves Jerusalem, but He evades their questions and then escapes their presence miraculously. Jesus then instructs His disciples about the end times, His second coming and the final judgment. The tumultuous events of Tuesday and the Olivet Discourse are recorded in Matthew 21:23-24:51, Mark 11:20-13:37, Luke 20:1-21:36, and John 12:20-38.

Spy Wednesday is the day where we know the least amount, tradition says that on Wednesday Judas negotiated the price of Jesus' betrayal and planned with the Sanhedrin how to turn Him over. This

tradition is not clear though, it has been argued that after three days Jesus is tired and took time to rest outside the city away from those who sought His life and waited for the proper time. Judas betrayal can be read in Matthew 26:14-16, Mark 14:10-11, Luke 22:3-6, and John 13:2.

Maundy Thursday, which is my favorite title during Holy week, is the day that Jesus and the disciple celebrate the Passover. The word Maundy is derived from the Latin word "Maundatum" which means commandment. The new commandment we are given is to celebrate the Lord's Supper by taking the bread and cup as followers of Jesus. Jesus is anointed by Lazarus' sister Mary and His preparation for death is completed when Judas leave the gathering to betray Him. Thursday's events are recorded in Matthew 26:17-75, Mark 14:12-72, Luke 22:7-62, and John 13:1-38.

The details of Good Friday take the most time. Jesus is betrayed by Judas, Peter denies Christ, the disciples abandon Him and He is lead like a lamb to the slaughter. Jesus silently receives beatings, scourging, accusations and is nailed to the cross and dies. During this time He speaks His Seven Last Words and finishes His work. Friday's events are recorded in Matthew 27:1-62, Mark 15:1-47, Luke 22:63-23:56, and John 18:28-19:37.

Silent Saturday starts after Jesus is buried in the tomb and we wait for Sunday. Saturday's events are recorded in Matthew 27:62-66, Mark 16:1, Luke 23:56, and John 19:40.

Resurrection Sunday is the day where hope returns. The tomb is found empty, angels proclaim Jesus' Resurrection. Jesus rises from the dead, the disciples are gathered, and He appears to them. There is much hope in His resurrection. Sunday's events are recorded in Matthew 28:1-13, Mark 16:1-14, Luke 24:1-49, and John 20:1-23.

Take time to think about what you have done this past week, and dwell upon Christ's actions on each day. We can recognize our own sin and need for a perfect sacrifice and then celebrate our risen Savior. My this Holy Week, draw you closer to God and you find new joy in His work this week.



Mike Singlestad alongside his parents, Vicky and Scott. Right, Ed Frederickson congratulates Mike.

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

Singlestad, Waseca's outstanding young farmer

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

The Waseca County Outstanding Young Farmer award is presented to a farmer between 21-39 years of age who utilizes innovative methods, has made improvement in farming operations, and demonstrates service to community organizations and conservation practices. This year's winner was Waseca area farmer Mike Singlestad. He was recognized during the annual Farm and City Luncheon Thursday, March 21.

"He's come to excellence: It is evident in every facet of his work," Mark Scharf said of Singlestad as he introduced him.

"Thank you to all of those close family and friends who have supported me through all of my farming activities," Singlestad said. "Especially my parents: Before I could walk, they would take me out to the barn in the stroller and let me sleep outside while they helped the mother cows give birth."

Mike grew up on a farm just north

of Waseca, harvesting corn and soybeans and also operating a farrow-to-finish hog operation. He is the fourth generation to farm on the acreage which was purchased in 1946 by his great-grandfather Sever Singlestad and his grandfather Geb Singlestad.

Growing up, he was active in 4-H and FFA. He graduated from high school in 2003 and went to college at SDSU in Brookings, South Dakota, graduating with a degree in environmental management. While there, he was on a soils judging team.

During college in the summer and a few years after, he worked at the Southern Minnesota Research and Outreach Center in Waseca. In 2012 he started contract finishing hogs with Big Gain in Mankato. A year later, in 2013, his parents sold him part of the family building site and the old farmhouse. He liked working with pigs; in 2015 he tore down some of the first hog barns his parents owned and replaced them with a new wean-to-finish barn.

Mike raises about 3800 head of wean-to-finish pigs each year. When purchasing the family swine operation, he made significant remodeling investments in the facilities to ensure long-term viability for his operation. One of his most recent investments has been the integration of solar power to improve the energy efficiency of his swine operation.

In 2018, he started renting land from his parents. He raises corn and soybeans and farms with his parents Scott and Vicky and his brother-in-law, Craig Baxter.

He is also willing to make significant changes in his cropping operation. He works with McPherson Crop Management, an area independent crop consulting organization, to utilize his manure production to its maximum extent and to implement best environmental practices in his production methods.

He has also worked part-time at the Costco Depot near Owatonna for 3 years as an equipment operator. Working with his Farm Business

Management Instructor, Mark Wehe, Mike has learned record keeping methods which utilize modern computer systems, including PC Mars. Mike has grown his operation and has matured as a manager. He is always open to new ideas and methods.

Mike is very active in the community. He currently serves on the Waseca County Farm Bureau board, where he was vice president for four years and president for four years. In his role, he works with a very progressive group of Waseca County producers advocating for farm policies that benefit the progressive agricultural community. He is currently a member of the Minnesota Soybean and Corn Growers organizations.

Mike is also active in the Tuscan Lodge, the area Masonic Lodge; He is currently the group's secretary but has served in many other important roles in the lodge. He has been a mason in the lodge for more than 20 years.

Briefs

from Page 1

Barbeque and Broadband Information Session April 4, 4 p.m.

Bevcomm is hosting a "Broadband Bash" for residents of Vivian, Freedom, Byron, and Wilton townships, where attendees will be able to learn

about the fiber internet construction project coming soon to the area. A complimentary barbeque meal will be catered by Prairie Pride Farm. The event will also include door prizes.

Paradise Theatre performance April 5th through 14th

Paradise Community Theatre is pleased to announce the opening of their spring play "Reaching Orpheus." This is an original play written by local playwright Dan Rathbun.

"Reaching Orpheus" is the story of Alex, played by Innana Antley, who moves to Colorado to restart her life after a tragic loss. She meets Sean, played by Samuel Temple, who helps her rediscover herself and her inner strength through rock climbing. Jessica Bastyr plays Abby, a friend of Alex who is trying to help her. Dean Lamp, plays Sean's father Ian. He runs the local bar, The Wonky Leg Brewing Company.

Also, in the cast is Jason Meyer, who plays James and Paula Jameson who plays Sara. Show dates are April 5, 6, 12 and 13th at 7:30pm and April 7 and 14 at 2:00pm. Tickets

are available at www.paradisecenter-forthearts.org or at the Paradise Center for the Arts, 321 Central Ave. Faribault. Or call 507-332-7372 for more information.

Shepherd's Robe Free store Tuesdays from 1-3 and 5-7 p.m.

The Shepherd's Robe free store offers clothing, supplies, and much more for free to all interested parties. The store is located at Vista Covenant Church, 14679 275th Avenue, New Richland.

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4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * *	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 * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Interim Pastor Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:15 a.m. Worship * * *
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 traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Ferichs Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m. * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St, Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.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 * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Vacancy, Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe Sundays: Worship 8 a.m., 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * *	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 * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickory-tech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * *	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Pamela Jensen Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * *	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 * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * *
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca Father Glenn Ferichs 507-835-1222 Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m. * * *	REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-607-8245 Sunday worship 10 a.m. * * *	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 * * *	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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Janesville

1924

Since the fire Monday morning, a large number of people have inquired as to the date of the great fire in Janesville. We recall the date as April 12, 1887. If you wish to be convinced, see the year in big figures on the Schafer building. That building was erected the summer after the fire by a man named Selover, who had run a hotel there for some years after the building was erected. Another reminder may be verified by Mr. Gust Santo.

A meeting of the members of the Trinity Lutheran Church Sunday afternoon decided by a unanimous vote to retain the present pastor at an increase in salary. Mr. Winter had received a call from his former congregation in Nebraska and accordingly the matter of his acceptance was under consideration when the congregation took action. Mr. Winter has served his people and the community nineteen years with ever increasing acceptability. His work and mission is in Janesville. Irrespective of creed or church affiliations, the people are highly gratified.

1949

The lowest death rate in Minnesota's history was recorded in 1948. Figures just released by the State Department of Health indicate that last year's death rate was only 9.4 per 100,000 population. The lowest previous record was made in 1921, when the rate was 9.5. In 1947, the death rate was 9.8.

John Sheldon of Waterville has done such a splendid farming job on his 200 acres near Waterville that 10 midwestern farm leaders have chosen him winner of the W. G. Skelly award for superior achievement in agriculture. The Sheldon family and farm are Minnesota traditions. Wade, Ina and Gary, children of Mr.

Sheldon and his wife, Merle, are of the fifth generation of the family to live there. It was homesteaded by the great, great grandmother of these three in 1855.

1974

He's been living on the South Prairie (North of Waldorf) for over 80 years, but he still looks forward to coming to town for St. Patrick's Day. His name is Terry Holmes, one of the few old timers who can recall St. Patrick's Days of the early 1900s and is still well enough to get out for modern-day Irish clan celebrations.

Patrons of the Janesville Creamery Association turned out by the hundreds Saturday to learn that cooperative sales and profits were up considerably and to reelect Herb Guse and Francis Schultz to their second term on the board of directors. Guse defeated Charles Born 54-44 and Schultz outpolled David Mittelsteadt by the same vote in the directorship race. Directors of the Janesville Creamery Association are elected for three-year terms.

1999

The Janesville Nursing Home's new administrator has an exciting project proposal to address when he comes aboard. Hired Monday night by the Janesville City Council, Gene Nelson of St. Paul will be looking into a proposed living facility in Janesville. This priority in projects came after the council's review and discussion of a 1998 research study conducted by the Health and Planning Management Resources (HPMR) of Edina.

Modify or eliminate the Profile of Learning. That was the main message delivered by teachers in the area school district of Waseca, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown (WEM), New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG), and Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (JWP), in response to a survey on the Profile of Learning. The purpose of the five question anonymous survey was to find out how area teachers felt about the Profile of Learning after the Minnesota House of Representatives voted 92-35 to eliminate it and the impending Minnesota Senate vote on the Profile of Learning.

A total of 203 of 381 teachers in the area district responded to the survey.

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Back in the day

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1951- Spring Flood
Flooding on 4th. Street in Waseca.
Northeast, Southeast, Northwest or Southwest?



1942 - Flooded area near Miller and Douglas Places. Unidentified men surveying a flooded area; identified as an area between the Fred Miller place and Ed Douglas' on 8th Street N.E. near Clear Lake. Ed Douglas lived on the 500 block of 8th St.NE.

Waseca

25 Years Ago

Labor shortage in Waseca County, as well as statewide, is a reality. According to data released in 1998, through the Humphrey Institute by State Economist Tom Sinson and State Demographer Tom Gillasp, Minnesota is experiencing the trend toward labor shortage ahead of the rest of the nation. The trend, though, is national.

Law enforcement agencies in Waseca County are teaming together to address the issue of underage alcohol consumption. "It is a major issue in Wase County that needs to be addressed," said Janesville Chief of Police Michael Schumacher.

Waseca Medical Center – part of the Mayo Health System – recently announced that Douglas L. Wood, M.D., present and CEO, has been appointed by the Mayo Clinic Board of Governors of the Department of Internal Medicine in Rochester.

50 Years Ago

The City Council last night authorized the purchase of three pieces of property in the city. Two of those involve the future possibility of a location for a new City Hall. For the past few months, the city has been discussing the possibility of constructing a new City Hall to replace the present structure which is continuing to rise in maintenance costs.

Air Force Sgt. Dennis Conrad, Waseca, was uninjured Tuesday night when an airliner he was in caught fire at Anchorage, Alaska. Sgt. Conrad, who had left here for a 13-month tour of duty in Thailand, landed at an airport just outside of Anchorage Tuesday night for refueling.

The drawing for the big bicycle giveaway will be held Saturday at 3 p.m. on 2ND Ave. N.E., beside Penney's. Over \$1,000 in bicycles will be given away by Waseca merchants.

75 Years Ago

Residents of the Waseca county area began looking for their overshoes this morning and pondered the problem of putting their knobby tires back on the family buggy. A heavy slushy snow that started as sleet last night has covered the area with 5 inches of snow.

Daniel John Rux, 78, died, Monday, March 28 at his home in Alton township near Janesville. Death was due to a lingering illness of eight years. Mr. Rux was born April 28, 1870, in Germany. He came with his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. August Rux, to the United States at the age of six. Since then, he has been a resident near Janesville.

"Returning home was just wonderful and a great thrill," says Francis Swenson of Otisco (with a beaming face), who just recently moved to the home of her father, C.O. Swenson. You see, Francis hasn't been home to stay for a long time, as she stayed with her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Swenson, Rural Route 2, New Richland, following her confinement at the Sister Kenny Institute.

100 Years Ago

It appears likely that Waseca will be one of the thousands of communities throughout the United States to observe Music Week, May 4-11. Music is an art, and as such it is to be encouraged in every possible way. Besides, every community has talent which on occasion give pleasant surprises to its people.

A large delegation of Elks appeared before the council last evening and asked for some assistance from the city in equipping the bathing beach they had opened up on the north shore of Clear Lake. In presenting the matter Chas. Spillane and Ernest Zimmer called attention to the fact that this was the best bathing beach on the lake and it was the only one everybody was invited to use free of charge.

The members of St. Paul's Lutheran church had a meeting last night and voted to build a new church to take the place of the Swedish Lutheran church on North street which they purchased last fall. A committee of ten was appointed to get estimates and preliminary plans and specifications. It is planned to build a brick church to cost around \$18,000.



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GENERAC

New Richland

1923

- A 2,000 pound, four year old Shorthorn bull was received by Francis McGrath at this place Monday of this week. The animal was purchased of Geo. Lingren at Hallock, Minn., and was sired by an animal that has twice won the grand championship at the Minnesota and North Dakota State fairs and at the Crookston Midwinter Show. His granddam was an imported cow and was three times grand champion milking Shorthorn at the International show at Chicago.

- Mr. and Mrs. P. D. Breilein were very pleasantly surprised by about fifty relatives and friends last Tuesday evening, it being their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. The evening was spent at cards and other amusements. A delicious lunch was served at midnight. Mr. and Mrs. Breilein were presented with a purse of silver and other gifts as a token of their regard. Rev. Herbst, who was to have been a guest of honor, for some reason could not be present, but sent a letter of blessing and good cheer, which was read by Mrs. Herbst.

- Sig. Haugdahl, famous automobile racer who holds several world's records for speed; passed through Hartland Saturday in a Ford sedan. Saturday, as all car drivers know, was not an ideal day for joy-riding. In fact, Sig and his Ford were the only ones known to be out skidding the rough places and bucking the snow drifts and the driver was getting through the same as he wins races and smashes records in the good old summer time, regardless.

1948

- New Richland's new fire truck on order for many months arrived Wednesday. It is a Dodge and comes from Stav Motors, Waseca, the low bidders. Art Stensrud, Ethan Allen, Russell Peterson, and Fred Sable, with Allen's car in which to return, took the truck to Lindstrom, northeast of St. Paul, where the fire fighting equipment will be attached. It will still be some time before the truck is complete and ready for use. It is a greatly needed addition to the fire fighting apparatus of New Richland.

- Richard Tyrholm of Crumb & Tyrholm informs the Star that his company will definitely move its factory to Hartland and by April 15 may be doing business in the new location. The firm has made the purchase of what has been known as the Community building in the main part of Hartland. Arrangements have been made to move the building from its present location to a spot along the railway track, across the street from the Standard Lumber Co.'s lumber yard. The building is 40 x 68 feet, ample size for the tile making business and will have the advantage of trackage for receiving materials and shipping out tile manufactured.

1973

- Members of the New Richland FFA chapter's Crops judging team took first in the district and regional crops contest this weekend. They are Allen Miller, Orlen Modene, Gary Hagen and Randy Hagen. The first three boys were one, two, and three individually in the contest and Randy was fifth. Waldorf-Pemberton's FFA chapter's Crops team placed second in the district and third in the region. They are William Marzinski, fourth individual; Dan Geary, sixth individual and Mark Meyer, seventh individual. These boys took care of most of the top ten places.

- The hearing on the construction of County Ditch 47, south of the village of New Richland with outlet into the creek running through the village was continued to a future date by the Waseca County Commissioners, Monday, after two hours of discussion at which no agreement could be reached. The adjourned hearing will be called when the engineers for the project complete an amended report and do further checking into the ditch route through property owned by Eugene Warke, where the ditch would outlet into the natural stream running through the village of New Richland.

- Three junior girls, Cheryl Waknitz, Clarann Drager and Cathy Blashack, waited anxiously last Thursday evening for the members of the auxiliary of the Thomas Madden American Legion Post 587 to choose Waldorf's Girl Stater for the year at their meeting at the clubrooms at Waldorf. These girls were selected by candidates by the high school faculty at the Waldorf-Pemberton high school. They were judged on leadership, character, honesty, cooperation and physical fitness. Each of the girls was given an opportunity to speak to the meeting, telling them why they would like to attend. Cheryl Waknitz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Waknitz, was chosen.

1998

- Dennis and Virginia Roesler and family of rural New Richland were selected as the 1998 Waseca County Farm Family of the Year. The Roesler family was nominated by Waseca County Extension Educator Jurgen Peters and chosen by the Extension Service for their achievements in farming and contributions to local civic and agricultural organizations. Outstanding farm families were honored at the 18th annual banquet and recognition program held at the University of Minnesota Ballroom Atrium on Thursday evening, March 19.

-The Panthers', Bulldogs', and Blossoms' girls basketball teams each had three members named to the Gopher All Conference squad recently. Named from the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva squad were seniors Heidi Crabtree and Lisa Kyte and junior Amanda Moon. Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton's all-conference players were seniors Angie Sheehan and Mandi Wolff and sophomore Lindsay Wolff. Named from Blooming Prairie were seniors Kristen Olson and Katie Skala and sophomore Andrea Banton. The Blossoms' Jana Peterson, a sophomore, received honorable mention.

-Cathy Stringfield from New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School District was among the 600 delegates to the Minnesota Education Association Representative Assembly the weekend of March 7 in Bloomington. Delegates heard from gubernatorial candidates, passed business items and reaffirmed their commitment to public education.

NOTICE OF DELINQUENT TAXES

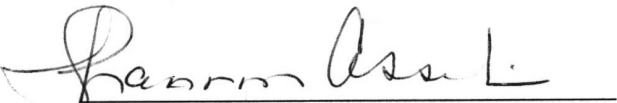
STATE OF MINNESOTA)
)SS
COUNTY OF WASECA)

TO: ALL PERSONS WITH A LEGAL INTEREST IN THE PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE DELINQUENT TAX LIST.

A list of real property in Waseca County on which delinquent property taxes and penalties are due has been filed with the District Court Administrator of Waseca County. This list is published to inform all persons that the listed property is subject to forfeiture because of delinquent taxes.
The property owner, taxpayer, or other interested parties must either pay the tax and penalty, plus interest and costs, or file a written objection with the District Court Administrator. The objection must be filed by April 18, 2024, stating the reason why the tax or penalty is not due on the property. If no objection is filed, a court judgment will be entered against the property for unpaid tax, penalty, interest and costs.
For property under court judgment, the period of redemption begins on May 13, 2024. The period of redemption means the time within which taxes must be paid to avoid losing the property through forfeiture. The redemption period is three years.
You may also enter into a confession of judgment as an alternative method to paying off the delinquent tax amount and avoiding forfeiture. This allows you to pay the delinquent balance in equal annual installments, with a down payment due at the time you enter into the confession.
If you have homesteaded property, you may be eligible for a Senior Citizens's Property Tax Deferral.
It should also be noted by property homesteaders that you are ineligible to receive the Property Tax Refund while you owe delinquent property tax.
To determine how much interest and cost must be added to pay the tax in full, contact the Waseca County Property & Election Services Office, Waseca County Courthouse, 307 North State St, Waseca, Minnesota 56093. The Telephone number is (507) 835-0610.

District Court
3rd Judicial District




Shannon Asselin
Court Administrator

Dated: 2-26-24

The following table contains a list of Real property located in WASECA COUNTY on which taxes and penalties became delinquent on January 2, 2024. Interest calculated from January 1, 2024, and county costs must be paid along with the total tax and penalties in order for a parcel of Real property to be removed from the delinquent tax list.

Names of Owners, Taxpayers & Interested Parties	Parcel # Description of Property	Year	Total Tax + Penalties
ALTON TOWNSHIP			
EDITH H HOGAN TRUSTEE PO BOX 565 BETHANY BEACH DE 19930	RP 010030100 SECT-03 TWP-107 RANGE-024 - 16.01AC NE1/4 OF NE1/4 EX W17.70AC & EX NE 1/4 OF NE 1/4 SEC 3 SHOWN AS PARCEL #20 ON MNDOT RIGHT OF WAY PLAT #81-28	2023	\$630.26
RYAN M ERDMAN 780 380TH AVE JANESVILLE MN 56048	RP 010060200 SECT-06 TWP-107 RANGE-024 - 5.30AC W350FT OF E1369 FT OF N660FT OF NE1/4	2023	\$4,981.30
CHERYL TRAHMS CHAPMAN TRUSTEE ETAL 116 JOSHUA CT MANKATO MN 56001	RP 010331000 SECT-33 TWP-107 RANGE-024 - 78.00AC E1/2 OF SW1/4 EX 2AC	2023	\$2,787.86
KARY M BREMER 5921 320TH AVE WASECA MN 56093-4806	RP 010360500 SECT-36 TWP-107 RANGE-024 - 7.00AC BEG AT A PT 233.44FT W OF SE COR OF E1/2 OF SE1/4; THEN W 452.83FT; THEN N723.35FT; THEN E393.13FT; THEN S TO BEG	2023	\$2,265.47
BLOOMING GROVE TOWNSHIP			
KEVIN L O'CONNOR 3637 250TH ST W FARIBAULT MN 55021	RP 020030300 SECT-03 TWP-108 RANGE-022 - 80.00AC S1/2 OF NE1/4	2023	\$2,535.41
MICHAEL & AMELIA MCQUERY 40099 150TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 020210250 SECT-21 TWP-108 RANGE-022 - 6.97AC COM SE COR OF SE1/4 OF SEC; THEN N 89.10FT PT OF BEG; THEN N 726.66FT; THEN N85DEGW 541.57FT; THEN S 382.04FT; THEN S53DEG E 626.80FT; THEN S81DEGE 27.44FT TO PT OF BEG	2023	\$3,387.68
RAYMOND ROSACKER PO BOX 631 WASECA MN 56093-0631	RP 020310400 SECT-31 TWP-108 RANGE-022 - 1.00AC BEG AT SE COR OF NE1/4 OF SE1/4; THENCE N10RDS; THENCE W 16RDS; THEN S10RDS; THENCE E 16RDS TO PT OF BEG	2023	\$703.25
ELYSIAN CITY			
KLEMMENSEN PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC 10282 44TH AVE SE BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	RP 130020210 SECT-02 TWP-108 RANGE-024 - 1.91AC COM AT S1/4 COR OF SEC 35-109-24; THENCE E 413.01FT TO PT OF BEG; THEN W 320.61FT; THENCE S 4DEG W 87.12 FT; THENCE S26DEGE 62.70FT; THEN S58DEGE 51.48FT; THEN S88DEGE 50.82FT; THENCE S 195.19FT; THENCE N 71DEG E 247.47FT; THENCE N SDEG W 296FT +/- TO PT OF BEG	2023	\$138.29
FREEDOM TOWNSHIP			
ZACHARY K STROM HILLARY STROM 2070 320TH AVE JANESVILLE MN 56048	RP 041010010 ALMA CITY - LOTS 1 THRU 4 BLK 1 & N1/2 OF ADJOINING VACATED ALLEY	2023	\$840.04
ZACHARY K STROM HILLARY STROM 2070 320TH AVE JANESVILLE MN 56048	RP 041010030 ALMA CITY - LOTS 5 & 6 BLK 4 & N1/2 OF ADJOINING VACATED ALLEY	2023	\$89.69
JOSEPH ROEKER ETAL 101 BLACE AVE EAGLE LAKE MN 56024	RP 040050100 SECT-05 TWP-106 RANGE-024 - 2.15AC 360' X 260' PARCEL IN THE NE1/4 OF NE1/4 OF NE1/4 FORMERLY KNOWN AS BLK 15 ALMA CITY	2023	\$989.39

QUINTON KOLLOS 1501 265TH AVE MINNESOTA LAKE MN 56068	RP 040320200 SECT-32 TWP-106 RANGE-024 - 5.00AC BEG AT SW COR OF NE1/4 THENCE N1951.10FT; THENCE E 179.45FT; THENCE S369FT; THENCE S21DEGE 368FT; THENCE S64DEGW 302FT; THENCE S1111.60FT; THENCE W40FT TO PT OF BEG	2023	\$1,079.97
JANESVILLE CITY			
VICTORIA L & MICHAEL S KIRKSEY 600 W FIRST ST JANESVILLE MN 56048	RP 142010080 CARPENTERS FIRST ADDITION - E1/2 OF LOT 4 EX E 41/2 FT BLK 1	2023	\$87.71
TSB JANESVILLE LLC 704 PARKWAY AVE EAGLE LAKE MN 56024	RP 142110110 CIC #14 NORTHWOOD MEADOWS - OUTLOT A	2023	\$88.90
TSB JANESVILLE LLC 704 PARKWAY AVE EAGLE LAKE MN 56024	RP 142110120 CIC #14 NORTHWOOD MEADOWS - OUTLOT B	2023	\$88.90
JOSE A & MARYA R DE LOS SANTOS 337 KINGSWAY DR N MANKATO MN 56003	RP 142300010 EASTWOOD ESTATES - LOT-001 BLOCK-001	2023	\$1,012.35
TERRANCE W SARGENT PO BOX 18 208 ELM ST S JANESVILLE MN 56048	RP 141011060 FIRST ADDITION TO EAST JANESVILLE - LOTS 11 & 12 BLK 30	2023	\$2,537.71
SARAH MARIE VAN HOUDT 311 MAIN ST N JANESVILLE MN 56048	RP 141000840 ORIGINAL PLAT - LOT-006 BLOCK-007	2023	\$3,228.30
TMP REAL PROPERTY LLC 348 E MAIN ST BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	RP 141001760 ORIGINAL PLAT - MIDDLE 1/3 OF LOT 3 BLK 14	2023	\$505.55
GARY D RYKHUS WENDY K RYKHUS 115 PARK RD MADISON LAKE MN 56063	RP 141001430 ORIGINAL PLAT - N 1/3 OF LOT 3 & S1/3 OF LOT 4 BLK 11	2023	\$1,409.38
ANDREW P & SARAH E ARNOLDT 38962 ELYSIAN LAKE RD W JANESVILLE MN 56048	RP 145650225 PEARSON ACRES - BEG SW COR OF OUTLOT B PEARSON ACRES; THEN S12DEGE 51.26FT; THEN EASTERLY TO PT S OF SE COR OF OUTLOT B; THEN N51.93FT; THEN S89DEGW 203.29FT TO PT OF BEG	2023	\$32.48
ANDREW P & SARAH E ARNOLDT 38962 ELYSIAN LAKE RD W JANESVILLE MN 56048	RP 145650210 PEARSON ACRES - OUTLOT B	2023	\$392.70
MICHELLE L PRIEM 1034 NW 121 LN CORAL SPRINGS FL 33071	RP 145800300 ROLLING ACRES OF JANESVILLE #2 - 6.24AC OUTLOT B	2023	\$1,103.92
ANDREW P & SARAH E ARNOLDT 38962 ELYSIAN LAKE RD W JANESVILLE MN 56048	RP 140280700 SECT-28 TWP-108 RANGE-024 - 6.76AC IN N PART OF GOVT LOT 5 EX .24AC	2023	\$8,333.40
NEW RICHLAND CITY			
GARY G & PATRICIA J PETERSON 50411 127TH ST AMBOY MN 56010	RP 151080170 AUDITORS PLAT # 1 SEC. 20 - LOT-009 BLOCK-002	2023	\$2,327.39
JANICE C OLSON PO BOX 172 NEW RICHLAND MN 56072	RP 151001470 ORIGINAL PLAT - W60FT OF LOTS 13 14 & 15 BLK 12	2023	\$975.00
JOHN J KITZMAN 504 2ND ST SW NEW RICHLAND MN 56072	RP 156010010 SMITH ADDITION - LOT-001	2023	\$1,777.20
CARTER S ROUTH 10902 205TH AVE NEW RICHLAND MN 56072	RP 150170410 SECT-17 TWP-105 RANGE-022 - .38AC COMM AT A PT OF INTERSECTION OF W LINE OF CENTRAL AVE & S LINE WELLES ST; THEN W 162.90FT TO PT OF BEG, THEN S 226.87FT; THEN W ON LINE PARALLEL WITH & 90FT N OF N LINE OF WASHBURN ST TO A PT 9. 0FT FROM CENTER LINE OF SPUR TRACT NO.120; THEN NORTHERLY 227.71FT TO PT INTERSECTION WITH S LINE OF WELLES ST; THEN E 80FT TO PT OF BEG	2023	\$1,475.94
NEW RICHLAND TOWNSHIP			
13188 24TH AVE NEW RICHLAND LLC 75 W VEUM AVE APPLETON MN 56208	RP 070170505 SECT-17 TWP-105 RANGE-022 - .39AC COMM NE COR OF NE1/4 OF NW1/4 OF NW1/4; THEN N90DEGW 420.76FT; THEN S 435FT; THEN N90 DEGE 20FT; THEN S 227.01FT; THEN S89DEGW 139.67FT; THEN S89DEGW 113.20FT; THEN N 205.34FT TO PT OF BEG; THEN N150.29FT; THEN E113.20FT; THEN S 134.34FT; THEN N89DEGW 14.34FT; THEN S01DEGE 16.60FT; THEN N89DEGW 99.30FT TO PT OF BEG	2023	\$234.35
13188 24TH AVE NEW RICHLAND LLC 75 W VEUM AVE APPLETON MN 56208	RP 070170400 SECT-17 TWP-105 RANGE-022 - .83AC BEG 528FT W & 355.63FT N OF SE COR OF NE1/4 OF NW1/4 OF NW1/4; THENCE N257.72FT; THEN W125.17FT; THENCE S257.72FT; THENCE E125.17FT TO PT OF BEG	2023	\$1,212.01
13188 24TH AVE NEW RICHLAND LLC 75 W VEUM AVE APPLETON MN 56208	RP 070170520 SECT-17 TWP-105 RANGE-022 - 1.03AC COMM AT NE COR OF NE1/4 OF NW1/4 OF NW1/4; THENCE W 420.76FT TO PT OF BEG; THENCE S 408FT; THENCE W 119.56FT; THEN N 101.40FT; THENCE E 11.97FT; THENCE N 306.60FT; THENCE E 107.40FT TO PT OF BEG	2023	\$245.82
OTISCO TOWNSHIP			
RH RENTAL LLC 29039 132ND ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 086010080 SUBDIVISION A TO VILLAGE OF OT - LOT-003 BLOCK-002	2023	\$67.40
BRUCE E WOLFE 31999 180TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 080010100 SECT-01 TWP-106 RANGE-022 - 8.54AC COM NE COR OF SEC; THEN S 448FT; THEN S 33.01FT; THEN N 88DEGW 1150FT; THEN S20DEGW 414.98FT PT OF BEG; THEN S20DEG W 58.02FT; THEN N80DEGW 402.95FT; THEN N 855.90FT; THEN S88DEG E 422.96FT; THEN S 859.61FT TO PT OF BEG	2023	\$1,776.66

EDWARD C BETHKE 15209 315TH AVE WASECA MN 56093-5719	RP 080030200 SECT-03 TWP-106 RANGE-022 - 60.00AC N1/2 OF SW1/4 EX E20AC	2023	\$1,715.36	BAMBI J JES 114 6TH AVE NW WASECA MN 56093	RP 171520330 BENNETTS ADDITION - E85FT OF LOTS 9 & 10 BLK 3	2023	\$1,988.93
ROBERTA LYNN HEINRICHS 29351 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 080180710 SECT-18 TWP-106 RANGE-022 6.30 AC COMM AT NE COR OF SE1/4;THENCE N89DEGW 1376.42FT THENCE \$445FT TO PT OF BEG;THENCE \$410FT;THENCE \$89DEGW 669.50FT; THENCE N410FT;THENCE N89DEGE 669.50FT TO PT OF BEG	2023	\$195.84	RH RENTALS LLC 29531 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 171550530 BROUGHTONS ADDITION - N 1/2 OF LOT 21 BLK 4	2023	\$136.23
BRADLEY D & CRYSTAL D BARTELT 27570 160TH ST NEW RICHLAND MN 5607	RP 080260900 SECT-26 TWP-106 RANGE-022 - 8.40AC \$600 FT OF W610 FT OF SW1/4 OF NW1/4	2023	\$1,409.39	STACY M THOMPSON 411 10TH AVE SE WASECA MN 56093	RP 171550720 BROUGHTONS ADDITION - W55FT OF LOT 39 EX N70FT BLK 4	2023	\$2,174.71
KEVIN L O'CONNOR 3637 250TH ST W FARIBAULT MN 55021 KEVIN L O'CONNOR 3637 250TH ST W FARIBAULT MN 55021	ST MARY TOWNSHIP			RANDY L RITCHIE 900 LAKEVIEW AVE WASECA MN 56093	RP 172090140 CLEAR LAKE HEIGHTS - LOT 10 EX W10 FT & LOT 9 BLK 5	2023	\$313.24
	RP 090250700 SECT-25 TWP-107 RANGE-023 - 80.00AC S1/2 OF SW1/4	2023	\$2,547.76	RANDY L RITCHIE 900 LAKEVIEW AVE WASECA MN 56093	RP 172090280 CLEAR LAKE HEIGHTS - LOT-016 BLOCK-006	2023	\$169.37
	RP 090360550 SECT-36 TWP-107 RANGE-023 - 25.25AC NW1/4 OF SE1/4 EX 1AC & EX 13.43AC	2023	\$813.14	RANDY L RITCHIE 900 LAKEVIEW AVE WASECA MN 56093	RP 172090260 CLEAR LAKE HEIGHTS - LOT-017 BLOCK-006	2023	\$184.86
JOHN KLUGHERZ 27774 755TH ST HAYFIELD MN 55940	VIVIAN TOWNSHIP			LEON E RITCHIE 4495 340TH AVE WASECA MN 56093	RP 172090250 CLEAR LAKE HEIGHTS - LOTS 8,9 & 10 BLK 6	2023	\$532.70
	RP 100230400 SECT-23 TWP-105 RANGE-024 - 3.00AC COM NE COR OF NW1/4; THEN N89DEGW 173.99FT PT OF BEG;THEN N89DEGW 426.31FT;THEN S07DEGE 320.48FT;THEN S88DEGE 385.25FT;THEN N 326.77FT TO PT OF BEG	2023	\$987.10	RANDY L RITCHIE 900 LAKEVIEW AVE WASECA MN 56093	RP 172090150 CLEAR LAKE HEIGHTS - W10 FT OF LOT 10 & ALL LOT 11 BLK 5	2023	\$127.31
STEPHANIE KAUPA 610 COMMON ST WATERVILLE MN 56096	WALDORF CITY			CRYSTAL LYNN MYERS ETAL 3043 TOWNSGATE RD # 200 WESTLAKE VILLAGE CA 91361	RP 172762080 FIRST ADDITION - LOT-007 BLOCK-017	2023	\$809.12
LAC LINDELAND DEB BEZDICEK 206 N 4TH AVE WALDORF MN 56091	RP 166760140 VOGELSANG'S ADDITION - S1/2 OF LOT 4 BLK 2	2023	\$89.69	JESSIE ALVARADO 28940 133RD ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 172762270 FIRST ADDITION - LOT-010 BLOCK-018	2023	\$590.47
ROBERT D RUBLE 51718 170TH ST AUSTIN MN 55912	RP 160342000 SECT-34 TWP-106 RANGE-024 - BEG 33FT N & 33FT E OF SW COR OF SE1/4;THENCE E68FT;THENCE N 100FT;THENCE W68FT;THENCE S100FT TO PT OF BEG	2023	\$1,104.15	VIOLA A BUSKE 805 LEXINGTON AVE N NEW PRAGUE MN 56071	RP 173760330 JENKINS ADDITION - LOT-004 BLOCK-013	2023	\$52.96
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA C/O CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES LLC 1600 S DOUGLAS RD SUITE 200-A ANAHEIM CA 92806 ARARAT LLC 408 7TH AVE SE WASECA MN 56093 RACHEL H BETHKE 700 5TH ST SE WASECA MN 56093 CARLY JOHNSON MAIL TO: MICHAEL ANT 27197 170TH ST NEW RICHLAND MN 56072 JACOB PATRICK PILGRIM 408 11TH ST SE WASECA MN 56093 JESSIE JOHNSON 801 2ND ST NW WASECA MN 56093 JASON LEE WEIMER 209 7TH AVE NW WASECA MN 56093 WOODLAND INVESTMENTS LLC 39801 MORAVIAN DR CLINTON TOWNSHIP MI 48036 DIANA S WELANDER ETAL 205 10TH AVE NE WASECA MN 56093 JOSE V DOMINQUEZ REBECCA A DOMINQUEZ 304 5TH AVE SW WASECA MN 56093 ROBERTA HEINRICHS 28351 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093 GARY L TETZLOFF PATRICIA ANN JONES-TETZLOFF 304 4TH AVE NW WASECA MN 56093	WASECA CITY			RH RENTALS LLC 29531 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 173760440 JENKINS ADDITION - N 1/2 OF LOT 12 EX E 150FT BLK 13	2023	\$113.54
	RP 171230220 AUD PLAT OF ALL LAND IN CIT LI - S144.43FT OF N147.43FT OF W 165FT OF LOT 11	2023	\$1,478.15	RH RENTALS LLC 29531 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 173760430 JENKINS ADDITION - S 1/2 OF LOT 12 EX E150 FT BLK 13	2023	\$108.10
	RP 171070170 AUD PLAT OF LARGE LOT 1 BLK 5 - LOT-017	2023	\$933.54	WILLIAM F SHOUTS MARY J SHOUTS 625 3RD ST NE WASECA MN 56093	RP 173780140 JENKINS SUBDIV OF BLKS 15 & 17 - \$29FT OF E100FT OF LOT 1 & N28FT OF E1/2 OF LOT 2 BLK 15	2023	\$1,097.66
	RP 171070180 AUD PLAT OF LARGE LOT 1 BLK 5 - LOT-018	2023	\$2,809.97	MAM INVESTMENTS LLC 108 8TH ST NW WASECA MN 56093	RP 174530820 MCNAMARAS ADDITION - LOT-006 BLOCK-006	2023	\$5,609.52
	RP 171070370 AUD PLAT OF LARGE LOT 1 BLK 5 - LOT-037	2023	\$4,677.48	ROMAN GONZALEZ 506 ELM AVE W WASECA MN 56093	RP 174530310 MCNAMARAS ADDITION - LOT-015 BLOCK-002	2023	\$631.23
	RP 171080040 AUDITOR'S PLAT OF GOODSPEEDS A - S 68 FT OF LOT 23 BLK 2	2023	\$728.36	WOODLAND INVESTMENTS LLC 39801 MORAVIAN DR CLINTON TOWNSHIP MI 48036	RP 171000550 ORIGINAL PLAT - LOT 7 & N 6 IN OF E 90 FT OF LOT 8 BLK 5	2023	\$1,452.07
	RP 171120360 AUDITOR'S PLAT OF NE1/4 OF SE1 - \$4FT OF LOT 9 & 10 BLK 2	2023	\$807.85	RH RENTAL LLC 29351 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 171002810 ORIGINAL PLAT - N 1/2 OF LOT 2 BLK 17	2023	\$136.09
	RP 171130080 AUDITOR'S PLAT OF SE1/4 OF SE1 - BEG 104FT E OF NW COR OR LOT 1 THEN SOUTHERLY 164.7FT TO A PT ON SOUTHEASTERLY LINE OF LOT 1 122.3FT NE OF MOST SOUTHERLY COR OF LOT 1;THEN 43.7FT NE TO S LINE OF LOT 1;THEN E23.6FT; THEN N132.4FT;THEN W66FT TO PT OF BEG & ALL THAT PART OF LOT 4 W OF LINE: BEG 170FT \$89DEGE & 132.40FT S OF NW COR OF LOT 1;THEN \$66.6FT & THERE TERMINATING BLK 2	2023	\$1,656.05	ROBERT DICKERSON CARA DICKERSON 12929 410TH AVE WASECA MN 56093	RP 171003140 ORIGINAL PLAT - W 1/2 OF LOT 7 & E 1/2 OF LOT 8 BLK 19	2023	\$1,299.22
	RP 171130030 AUDITOR'S PLAT OF SE1/4 OF SE1 - LOT-003 BLOCK-001	2023	\$2,996.39	THE CARIVEAU FAMILY TRUST 105 W MINNESOTA ST LECENTER MN 56057	RP 175350570 PONDVIEW OF WASECA - LOT-010 BLOCK-007	2023	\$392.33
	RP 171200100 AUDITOR'S PLAT OF SE1/4 OF SW1 - E1/2 OF LOT 3	2023	\$1,011.85	NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY 414 NICOLLET MALL MZ MINNEAPOLIS MN 55401	RP 176160030 SOUTH INDUSTRIAL PARK - LOT-003 BLOCK-001	2023	\$953.90
	RP 171511080 BARNEYS ADD - ALL THAT PART OF LOTS 7,8 & 9 & ADJOINING VAC ALLEY BLK 13 DESC AS: BEG AT INTERSECTION OF N LINE OF 5TH AVE SW & CENT OF VAC ALLEY;THEN S76DEGE 89.14FT;THEN N13DEGE 120.97FT; THEN N89DEGE 8.24FT;THEN N 72.35FT TO WESTERLY ROW OF RR; THEN NORTHERLY TO SOUTHERLY ROW OF RR;THEN N76DEGW 41.82FT THEN \$95.36FT;THEN N87DEGW 72.13FT;THEN \$69.56FT;THEN \$89DEGW .84FT;THEN \$29.97FT TO PT OF BEG	2023	\$1,136.54	CHRISTIAN T STEWART 1104 8TH ST SE WASECA MN 56093	RP 176070400 SOUTH VIEW ADDITION - LOT 013 BLOCK-003	2023	\$2,790.05
	RP 171510550 BARNEYS ADD - LOT 4 & THAT PART OF LOT 3:BEG AT NW COR OF LOT 3;THEN S106FT THEN E24FT;THEN S27FT; THEN E36FT;THEN N TO N LINE OF LOT 3; THEN W TO PT OF BEG BLK 6	2023	\$114.20	RH RENTALS LLC 29531 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 177040110 WINONA & ST PETER LAND CO 1ST - E 50 FT OF LOT 4 BLK 2	2023	\$85.57
	RP 171520630 BENNETTS ADDITION - E1/2 OF S150FT OF LOT 6 BLK 5	2023	\$54.97	GABRIEL SANCHEZ PORRAS 508 4TH ST NE WASECA MN 56093	RP 177120090 WOODS EDGE SUBDIVISION - LOT 1 BLK 2 EX E 108FT	2023	\$1,085.79
				LIFELONG HOLDINGS LLC 1421 STATE ST S WASECA MN 56093	RP 170203100 SECT-20 TWP-107 RANGE-022 - .028AC IN NE COR OF NE1/4 OF NW1/4 N OF HWY	2023	\$67.36
	WILTON TOWNSHIP			AUSTIN BRECZINSKI 11365 316TH AVE WASECA MN 56093-5521	RP 110010300 SECT-01 TWP-106 RANGE-023 - .97AC W 324FT OF E 1017FT OF N 117FT & S 24FT OF N 141FT OF W 170FT OF E 1017FT OF SW1/4 & W1/2 VACATED ROSE ST ADJACENT VACATED LOT 1 BLOCK 3	2023	\$959.74

RESEARCH FARMS INC 1329 N RIVERFRONT DR NORTH MANKATO MN 56001	RP 110060300 SECT-06 TWP-106 RANGE-023 - 30.91AC S27.26AC OF NW1/4 OF NW1/4 & BEG AT NW COR OF NW1/4 THENCE E349FT;THENCE S372FT; THENCE S87DEGE 697.60FT; THENCE E270FT;THENCE S6FT;THENCE W 1300FT;THENCE N416FT TO PT OF BEG	2023	\$906.27
JARON CHILDS W3045 COUNTY ROAD A TOMAHAWK WI 54487-9113	RP 110240400 SECT-24 TWP-106 RANGE-023 - 2.50AC N1/2 OF W1/2 OF NW1/4 OF SE1/4 OF SW1/4	2023	\$83.84
RH RENTAL LLC 29351 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	WOODVILLE TOWNSHIP RP 122510060 ELKS PARK - LOTS 3 & 4 BLK 2	2023	\$99.68
RH RENTAL LLC 29351 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 120110710 SECT-11 TWP-107 RANGE-022 .58 AC COMM AT SE COR OF NW1/4 THENCE E270FT;THENCE S186FT; THENCE E362.05FT TO PT OF BEG;THENCE E442.46FT TO N LINE OF HWY;THEN SOUTHWESTERLY ALONG HWY 466.13FT;THEN N TO PT OF BEG IN GOVT LOT 3 IN SE1/4	2023	\$101.85
JACK ROGER ZIMMERMAN 35300 170TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 120140320 SECT-14 TWP-107 RANGE-022 - 5.00AC COMM AT NE COR OF S1/2 OF NE1/4;THENCE N89DEGW 1080.10FT;THENCE S30FT TO PT OF BEG;THENCE S50FT;THENCE S89DEGE 114.16FT;THENCE S330FT THENCE N89DEGW 588.18FT; THENCE N380FT;THENCE S89DEGE 474.02FT TO PT OF BEG BEING PART OF GOVT LOT 3	2023	\$235.33
EUGENE J & JANET K WOOD 14333 355TH AVE WASECA MN 56093	RP 120160410 SECT-16 TWP-107 RANGE-022 - 1.21AC COMM AT SE COR OF SW1/4;THENCE N2144.99FT;THENCE N 82DEG W 691.80FT TO PT OF BEG;THENCE N 82DEG W 185.50FT; THENCE N SDEG E 301.55FT;THEN S 86DEG E 148.75FT; THENCE S 1DEG E 315.05FT TO PT OF BEG	2023	\$1,726.06

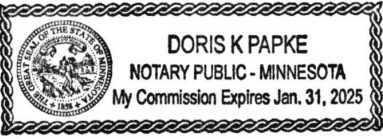
STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF WASECA)

SS
)

Tamara J. Spooner, being by me first duly sworn, deposes, and says that she is the Director of Property & Election Services of the County of Waseca; that she has examined the foregoing list, and knows the contents thereof; and that the same is true and correct.


Tamara J Spooner, Director of Election & Property Services

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of February, 2024.


DORIS K PAPKE
NOTARY PUBLIC - MINNESOTA
My Commission Expires Jan. 31, 2025


Doris K. Papke
Notary Public

Filed in District Court
State of Minnesota
FEB 20 2024
81-CV-AD-24-3

LEGAL NOTICE

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State Certificate of Assumed Name Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME:
Lone Pine Printing
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS:
310 5TH ST NE WASECA MN 56093 USA

APPLICANT(S):
Name: Danielle Ray Hasselquist
Address: 310 5TH ST NE WASECA MN 56093 USA

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, I, the undersigned,

certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: Danielle Hasselquist

MAILING ADDRESS: None Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES:
lonepineprinting@gmail.com

Work Item 1465269200023
Original File Number 1465269200023

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED

03/22/2024 11:59 PM
Steve Simon Secretary of State
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on March 29 and April 5, 2024

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Freeborn
Counties**
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PUBLIC NOTICE
City of Waseca
508 South State St., Waseca, MN, 56093
April 2, 2024, 7 p.m.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Waseca City Council will hold a public hearing on **TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.** in the City Hall Council Chambers, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093, to consider the following Ordinance:

RESOLUTION 24-17 – Proposed Modification of Municipal Development District No. 1; The Adoption of a Modification to the Development Program for Municipal Development District No. 1: The Proposed Establishment of Tax Increment Financing District (Housing) No. 1-29 (Marketplace Apartment Project) within Development District No.1; and the Proposed Adoption of a Tax Increment Financing plan

A complete copy of the proposed modification of Development District No.1 and the proposed adoption of the Tax Increment Financing plan is available for public inspection at the office of the City Manager at City Hall, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Published in the *Waseca County Pioneer* on Friday, March 22nd, 2024, and Friday, March 29, 2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE
City of Waseca
508 South State St., Waseca, MN, 56093
April 2, 2024, 7 p.m.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Waseca City Council will hold a public hearing on **TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.** in the City Hall Council Chambers, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093, to consider the following Ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 1114 – Authorizing Sale of City Property

A complete copy of Ordinance No. 1114 is available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Published in the *Waseca County Pioneer* on Friday, March 22nd, 2024, and Friday, March 29, 2024.

**City of Waseca
Board/Commission Vacancies**

Openings exist on the following City Advisory Boards

**Economic Development Authority
Planning Commission**

Applications are accepted until April 30th, 2024.

Most groups meet on a monthly basis.
Anyone interested in serving on one of the board may submit an application to City Hall, 508 South State Street.
Applications can be obtained at City Hall or online from the City’s website ci.waseca.mn.us or call 835-9700

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on March 29 and April 5, 2024

Got news?
507-837-6767


Rick's Appliance
ricksappliancewaseca.com

AMANA
Speed Queen
MAYTAG
Whirlpool

Sales & Service
507-461-9615

Hours
M-F 7:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Sat 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Sunday Closed

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405 West Elm Ave, Waseca MN

**SPRINGTIME SANDWICH
LUNCHEON**

Faith United Methodist Church
801 4th Ave. NE., Waseca, Mn 56093

**WEDNESDAY
APRIL 3rd
11 am-1 pm**

***SLOPPY JOES**
***EGG SALAD**
***SANDWICHES**
***MACARONI SALAD**

***CHIPS**
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Store hours: W-T-F: 10 am – 6 pm,
Sat: 9 am – noon

Contact Tina Mittelsteadt
507-351-4608
tina@wasekersonlineauction.com

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507-833-SEEK(7335)

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
COUNTY OF LINCOLN

IN CIRCUIT COURT
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

NOTICE OF HEARING
41 ADP. 24-5

In the Matter of Termination

of Parental Rights Over
AVA C. ANDERSON,
Minor Child.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE
that a hearing on Petition for
Voluntary Termination of Pa-
rental Rights in the above
captioned proceeding is
scheduled before the Court,
the Honorable Judge Jennifer
Mammenga, presiding, at the

Lincoln County Courthouse,
located at 104 N. Main Street,
Canton, South Dakota, 57013
for the 30th day of April,
2024, at the hour of 1:30
P.M., for a period of one hour.
DATED this 20th day of
March, 2024.

STRANGE, FARRELL,
JOHNSON & BREWERS,
P.C.

Amber J. Eggert
Attorney for Petitioner
4420 South Technology Drive
Sioux Falls, SD 57106
(605)339-4500 Phone
amber@strangelaw.com

Published in the Waseca
County Pioneer on March 22,
March 29, April 5 and April
12, 2024

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
COUNTY OF LINCOLN

IN CIRCUIT COURT
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

NOTICE OF HEARING
41 ADP. 24-6

In the Matter of the Adoption

of
AVA C. ANDERSON,
Minor Child.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE
that a hearing on Petition for
Adoption of Child in the
above captioned proceeding is
scheduled before the Court,
the Honorable Judge Jennifer
Mammenga, presiding, at the
Lincoln County Courthouse,

located at 104 N. Main Street,
Canton, South Dakota, 57013
for the 30th day of April,
2024, at the hour of 1:30
P.M., for a period of one hour.
DATED this 20th day of
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(605)339-4500 Phone
amber@strangelaw.com

Published in the Waseca
County Pioneer on March 22,
March 29, April 5 and April
12, 2024

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Wednesday, April 3, 2024
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One Day Spring Sale! *Prices Good Only During Open House*
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\$5.75 per bale of Wood Shavings - 6 cu. ft. when buying a pallet
\$5.40 #50 Softener Salt Crystals
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10% off Pet Food
Buy 4 gal of Synergizer Disinfectant Get one FREE
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20820 Matawan Ave • New Richland, MN 56072
507.465.8418

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

On Thursday, April 11th, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., the City of Waseca Director of Engineering will open and review all electronic bids received for the **2024 SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**.

Estimated major quantities are as follows:

432 L.F.
1275 S.F.
2352 S.F.
796 EA
265 S.F.
2352 S.F.
984 S.F.
432 L.F.
100 S.F.
6 EA

REMOVE CURB & GUTTER
REMOVE CONCRETE WALK
REMOVE CONCRETE WALK AND DECORATIVE BRICK
DRILL & GROUT REINFORCEMENT BAR (EPOXY COATED)
4" CONCRETE WALK
5-8" CONCRETE WALK
6" CONCRETE WALK
CONCRETE CURB & GUTTER DESIGN B618
TRUNCATED DOMES
INSTALL TREE GRATE

Together with other related items of work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

Complete Digital Bidding Documents are available at www.questcdn.com for \$22.00 by inputting **QuestCDN eBidDoc #8963051** on the website's Project Search page. The online bidding fee will be \$42.00. Bid Documents may also be viewed at the City of Waseca Engineering Department located at 508 South State Street in Waseca (507-835-9730).

Bid Security of 5% of the amount of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The successful bidder must be a "responsible contractor" as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 16C.285, subdivision 3.

The City reserves the right to retain the deposit of the lowest Bidder until the Performance Bond and Payment Bond have been executed and approved. No bidder may withdraw a Bid within sixty (60) days after the bid opening date.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, waive irregularities and informalities therein, and award the Contract to the best interests of the City.

Direct any inquiries to Nathan Willey, the Waseca Director of Engineering, at (507) 835-9716.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on March 29, 2024

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

On Wednesday, April 10th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., the City of Waseca Director of Engineering will open and review all electronic bids received for the **11TH AVE NW REHABILITATION PROJECT (SAP NO. 172-115-005 & CITY PROJECT NO. 2024-02)**.

Estimated major quantities are as follows:

11,354 SY
1,643 TON
320 SF
346 SF
402 LF
10,987 LF
7,196 LF

Mill Bituminous Pavement
Type SP 9.5 Wearing Course Mix (2;C)
4" Concrete Walk
6" Concrete Walk
Concrete Curb and Gutter B618
4" Solid Line White Latex
4" Solid Line Yellow Latex

Together with other related items of work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

Complete Digital Bidding Documents are available at www.questcdn.com for \$22.00 by inputting **QuestCDN eBidDoc #8901292** on the website's Project Search page. The online bidding fee will be \$42.00. Bid Documents may also be viewed at the City of Waseca Engineering Department located at 508 South State Street in Waseca (507-835-9730).

Bid Security of 5% of the amount of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The successful bidder must be a "responsible contractor" as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 16C.285, subdivision 3.

The City reserves the right to retain the deposit of the lowest Bidder until the PERFORMANCE BOND and PAYMENT BOND have been executed and approved. No bidder may withdraw a Bid within sixty (60) days after the bid opening date.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, waive irregularities and informalities therein, and award the Contract to the best interests of the City.

Direct any inquiries to Nathan Willey, the Waseca Director of Engineering, at (507) 835-9716.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer March 29, 2024

Waseca Early Childhood Fair



Waseca Intermediate School was host to the 40th annual Waseca Early Childhood Fair on Friday, March 22. Families and kids under six years old enjoyed games, pets, crafts and good company!
Pioneer photos by Tristan Gehring

Waseca, Steele, and Freeborn County
Area Farmers!
Losing soybean yield to white mold?
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PLANT PROTECTANTS INC.

HOLLAND AUCTION

Farmers Machinery Consignment
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Saturday, APRIL 20, 2024 - 9:30 A.M.
LOCATION: East of Beaver Lake, Ellendale MN
Taking consignments: Tractors • Combines • Haying Equip. • Tillage Equip. • Planters • Wagons • Farm Pickups & Trucks • Construction Equip. • All Types of Farm Machinery • Recreational Items Welcomed (No car or truck tires)
Call early to take full advantage of advertising.
Always a large auction, running two auction rings all day.
Limited Rack Items Accepted!
Delivery of Consignments will be on April 14, 15, 16, 17, 2024 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
NO Consignments on April 18th and 19th!
To consign, call: Holland Auction at (507) 684-2955 or Tracy Holland, 507-456-5128 (cell) or e-mail hollandauction@frontiernet.net

Boys’ Hockey

**Big South Conference
2023-24 Boys’ Hockey
All-Conference Team**
Tyler Arends 12 Luverne
Elliot Domagala 12 Luverne
Patrick Kroski 12 Luverne
Owen Sundenga 12 Luverne
Drew Simonette 12 Minnesota
River
Talan Plante 12 Marshall
Owen Renslow 11 Marshall
Bryer Lang 12 New Ulm
Kaden Larson 12 New Ulm
Austin Uecker 12 New Ulm
**Brayden Hesch-Priem 11
Waseca**
Griffin Storey 9 Waseca
Sonny Heil 12 Windom

HONORABLE MENTION
Blaik Bork 11 Luverne
Landyn Lais 10 Luverne
Riley Kamm 10 Minnesota
River
Travis Kotek 12 Minnesota
River
Bryer Hoffman 12 New Ulm
Hunter Anderson 11 Waseca
Caden VanBriesen 12
Worthington

2023-24 Final Standings	
Luverne	16-0-0
New Ulm	14-2-0
Minnesota River	11-5-0
Waseca	10-6-0
Marshall	9-7-0
Windom	5-11-0
Worthington	4-12-0
Fairmont	2-14-0
Redwood Valley	1-15-0

Girls’ Hockey

**Big South Conference
2023-24 Girls’ Hockey
All-Conference
First team**
Isabella Larson, Sr., Fairmont
Payton Behr, Jr., Luverne
Tenley Behr, Fr., Luverne
Ellie Van Batavia, 8, Luverne
Brooklyn Mauch, Fr., Marshall
McKenna Andresen, Fr.,
Minnesota River
Makenna Mueller, Sr.,
Minnesota River
Malorie Anderson, Sr., New
Ulm
Afton Hulke, Sr., New Ulm
Michelle Smith, Sr., New Ulm
**Illamay Draheim, Fr.,
Waseca**
Emma Keith, Sr., Waseca
Maizee Storey, Fr., Waseca
Honorable mention
Macie Edstrom, Fr., Luverne
Abbey Foley, So., Marshall
Eliza Holmgren, Sr., Marshall
Olivia Penske, Sr., Marshall
Noelle Simonette, Fr.,
Minnesota River
Ava Brennan, Jr., New Ulm
Marissa Becker, Sr., Windom

Wrestling

**Big South Conference
2023-24 Wrestling
All-Conference**
EAST DIVISION Champion:
New Ulm
WEST DIVISION Champion:
JCC
JCC over New Ulm 35-28
Jackson County Central —
Nolan Ambrose 12; Kayden Eller
8, Kyler Thier 8, Seth Stai 12,
Isaac Rodriguez 10, Ryan Haley
11, Ben Dahlin 11
New Ulm — Elijah Rieser 10,
Winsten Nienhaus 11, Evan
Thompson 12, Kane Johnson 9,
Wyatt Pollard 11 New Ulm
Pipestone — Carlos Perez
Garcia 10, Miklo Hernandez 8,
Brayden Burnmeister 12, Hudson
Burnett 12, Haden Mulvihill 10,
Jackson Melcher 12
Fairmont/MCW — Berent
Kosbab 11, Pierce Rohman 9,
Torrey Paplow 10, Taylor Austin
12
Luverne — Sam Rock 12
**Waseca — Matthew
Veroeven 10, Slade Barnett 10**
Marshall — AJ Haas 12, Tyson
Louwagie 10, Lincoln
Christenson 10, Dylan Louwagie
12, Tate Condezo 12, Landon
Marthaler 12, Tucker Fiene 12,
Aiden Mattison 11, Gavin
Schaefer 11, Brayden Chandler 9,
Dawson Decamp 10
St. James Area — Julio
Esqueda 12, Willie Curry 12,
Levi Miest 12, Kollin Anderson
12
Windon/Mt. Lake — Preston
Xayachak 12, Matthew Voehl 10
St. Peter — Brock Guth 10,
Nakiye Mercado 12, Elijah
Mercado 9, Evan Walter 11,
Deontre Torres 10, Charlie Born
11, Ryan Moelter 9
Redwood Valley — Zac
Guggisberg 11, Lucas Fuhr 9
Blue Earth Area — Kade
Gaydon 12



SCENES FROM STATE — At left, the Bluejays’ Damarius Russell eyes the hoop against Breck in the quarterfinals of the state boys’ basketball tournament at Williams Arena in Minneapolis last Wednesday. In the middle, Waseca’s Deron Russell works inside in the consolation round against Pequot Lakes at Concordia College of St. Paul last Thursday. At right, the Bluejays’ Laird Keeton drives against Breck. Pioneer photos by Eli and Jim Lutgens

Tough end to a stellar season

Waseca boys fall twice at state

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor
For the Waseca High School boys’ basketball team, the 2023-24 season did not wind up as hoped. But, seasons seldom do.

The culmination for this year’s Bluejays was on the biggest stage they could reach, the state tournament. The unseeded Jays drew the worst possible opponent in the opening round and lost 76-42 to top-seeded and eventual Class AA state champion Breck, led by Wisconsin-bound Daniel Freitag. The Bluejays then dropped a 51-48 heartbreaker to Pequot Lakes, a team they led until the final moments of the game. Pequot Lakes went on to take the consolation title. The Bluejays finished with a record of 20-12.

While the Jays were 0-2 in last week’s state tournament, played at Williams Arena and Concordia College, it’s generally agreed that they showed they belonged among the top eight teams in Class AA.

Both opponents were physical, but Breck certainly got the best of it Wednesday.

It was also a factor in Thursday’s consolation game against Pequot Lakes.

“That consolation game was a game only to be played by tough men!” said Waseca head coach Seth Anderson. “I thought we were really tough guys throughout the entire game. We did everything we were supposed to do from an effort and defensive standpoint.”

The Bluejays led 25-19 at half-time and held a 46-40 advantage with 1:50 to play, but missed free throws eventually cost Waseca and Pequot Lakes finally connected on some long three-pointers.

“I think the physicality of the game gave us some problems on the offensive end,” said Coach Anderson. “Our guys came down with so many strong rebounds, and we deserved to win that game. A couple bad possessions and a couple deep threes by Pequot Lakes, and all of a sudden we trailed. It was a tremendous effort. We were very good mentality all game long!”

According to Anderson, the 2023-24 Bluejays are a good example of what can happen when a team never stops believing and endures adversity.

“This was a team that gradually kept getting better as the season went along,” said Anderson. “We kept believing in the process. That’s a huge credit to the kids to trust the process because there were some very adverse moments during the season. I thought guys did a good job of knowing what they did well and trying to do those things to the best of their ability. That’s probably what had us playing our best ball at the end of the

“It was a very special season with tremendous adversity.”
— WHS coach Seth Anderson

season. Nobody tried to play outside of their skill set.”

The Bluejays will return some starters next season, including brothers Damarius and Deron Russell, who led them in most categories throughout the season and at state. Also returning will be Ethan Hiller, Caden Danner, Carson Ohnstad, Tauston Rupe, Cameron Karsten, Wyatt Hager and Max Howard.

The squad will graduate seniors Laird Keeton, Cody Vagts, Noah Thompson, Zach Hulscher, Jacob Thompson, Sebastian Teague, Andrew Robran, Rudy Moncada and Geo VanEnglenburg.

“This senior class was a tremendous group,” said Anderson. “They certainly led by example all season long, but even before that I thought our senior class did a great job of getting into the gym all summer long. That’s probably what got us to the finish line if I look at it from a big picture.”

When he looks at the future big picture for the Bluejays, he sees success.

“I think the future of the team is very strong!” said Anderson. “We have some really good pieces on the perimeter going forward.”

His biggest concern is big men.

“The difficult thing for us going into next year will be replacing our big, tough, strong guys around the rim,” said Anderson. “The Thompson twins, Robran, and Laird Keeton gave us a tremendous paint presence all season long. It will be difficult to replace what those guys brought to our team from a rebounding and toughness standpoint. Zach Hulscher, a senior, is probably the guy who gave more effort the past few years of putting time in during seasons and during summers to put himself in our starting lineup and be a captain this year. Losing his constant presence of valuing basketball will be difficult to replace.”

Anderson said you can never replace the memories made by the 2023-24 Bluejays.

“It was a very special season with tremendous adversity, but we got to state when nobody really expected us to be there,” he said. “This is a team that reached their best ability and played their best basketball when their best was needed. As I told them, I’m very very proud of everything they were able to accomplish this season.”



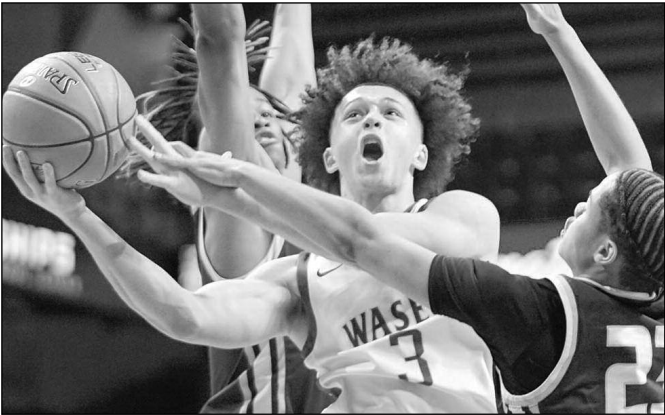
THE SILVER LINING — About the only silver lining in the Bluejays’ opening-round loss to eventual state champion Breck was that everyone got to play in the second half. Waiting to enter the game are, from left, Cody Vagts, Logan Heyer, Sebastian Teague and Geo VanEnglenburg. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens



STATE TOURNEY TOUGHNESS — The Bluejays played a pair of physical games in last week’s state tournament. At left, Carson Ohnstad drives against Breck. At right, Ethan Hiller eyes the basket against Pequot Lakes. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



SCENES FROM STATE — At left, the Bluejays’ Jacob Thompson takes the ball to the hoop against Pequot Lakes. At right, Waseca’s Zach Hulscher passes the ball against Breck. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



STATE TOURNEY TOUGHNESS — At left, the Bluejays’ Damarius Russell takes the ball to the hoop against two Breck defenders. At right, Waseca’s Carson Ohnstad grabs a rebound against Pequot Lakes. Pioneer photos by Eli and Jim Lutgens



Anna Burns-Whooley and Andrew Whooley celebrate their first official St. Patrick's Day together. Andrew and Anna met while Anna studied abroad in Ireland, Andrew's home country, at a party mutual friends asked them to.

Pioneer photo by Rachael Jaeger

Burns tells story of meeting husband in Ireland

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

Anna Burns-Whooley, 27, who is half Irish and grew up in Janesville but currently lives in Mankato, certainly scored a pot of gold when she studied abroad in Ireland and met her future husband, Andrew Whooley, 28, who is full-blooded leprechaun – Irish, that is. Her sister, Laura, originally ran the Miss St. Patrick and Miss Emerald Isle pageant in the 2000s, but now Burns-Whooley has taken over since 2017.

Anna's grandparents, Matt and Mary Burns, were two of the original founding members of Southern Minnesota in 1968. They also were voted Emerald Isle couple that same year. In the past, Anna's parents, Bob and Joan, served as club presidents and were awarded the title of Mr. and Mrs. Emerald Isle. In 2014, Anna was also awarded as Miss St. Patrick.

"So, growing up, my Irish heritage was super, super important," Anna stated.

Although she had academic reasons for traveling to Ireland, she also had a deep desire to learn more about her Irish heritage and increase her understanding about it. Before she left, Mary half-joked to Anna not to find an Irish man in that country since plenty of Irish people live in the Janesville and Waseca area.

But that's exactly what happened.

So it was in 2018 when Anna and Andrew met at a pub after Anna's housemates asked her if it was okay if a friend joined them. When Anna said yes, she didn't realize what the future held for her. As Anna and Andrew became acquainted that night, they started to discuss their heritage which led to a conversation about their families. Ultimately, it led them to the understanding about how much family meant to both of them and was one of the core values they shared.

"We very much dove head-first into the relationship and committed 100%," Andrew said, with Anna adding that they dated for the rest of the summer of her stay.

When Anna's parents and an aunt picked her up, her new special friend surprised them. Anna's family was able to also get to know Andrew since they had planned for an Irish family vacation before they headed home.

"I like to think my Irish charm won them over," Andrew joked.

During the dating phase when back in Minnesota, Anna noted that communication was important and had to hone that skill, especially because of the six-hour time difference. It helped that Anna was more of an early morning bird and Andrew was more of a night owl, so Anna called Andrew as soon as she got up.

"We made the most of the time we had together," Andrew said, which he went on to say included texts and Zoom calls. Both Anna and Andrew also traveled across the seas every few months to physically see each other during college breaks and holidays – up until covid, that is, which put a halt to their trips.

It was only four weeks ago that Andrew said he became a United

States resident on February 17. After the couple decided to marry in 2022, the act ironically put up barriers to Andrew acquiring his residency visa. In all, it took Andrew six years until he was able to get it.

"It's been an adjustment getting used to not being with my family constantly," Whooley said. "Anna's family has made it easier."

Ironically, Whooley has a brother named Simon who is also a Dublin native. He married a woman from Boston, Massachusetts. Among the four, they have formed a tighter bond because of their similar situation. Whooley appreciates that his brother has given him advice when he needs it. Anna and Andrew have summer plans in Ireland to spend with Whooley's family and attend a wedding for a close friend of theirs, which Andrew is looking forward to.

Andrew called the new life in rural Minnesota refreshing and said he prefers it to Dublin.

"It's quieter and quaintier," he added. "The hustle and bustle of the city of Dublin was absurd."

Also, when Andrew lived in Dublin, he helped manage retail businesses like grocery stores or suit shops, but he noted the difference in culture because of how agriculturally focused it is. Now Andrew works with Anna's family in their agriculture business which not only involves farming, but they also buy and sell farm equipment as well as repair it.

The couple shared that they also had an adventurous spirit and like to travel and explore new cultures as much as they can. Those adventures include, of course, the different foods. Sushi remains a general favorite, but the couple likes to experiment with their taste buds. For instance, the couple went to Greece for their honeymoon and tried and loved dolmades, which are grape leaves wrapped in cooked rice and steamed or baked meat.

"Travel is a priority so we don't do as many date nights or dinners out," Andrew said. "When we do travel, we make sure we're savvy with our budget, so we don't spend a ton of money when we go places."

Both Anna and Andrew have different approaches to travel, however, which ends up meeting in the middle – no pun intended. Anna likes to plan out and research their travels, but Andrew is content to be spontaneous.

"I have no shame admitting that," Andrew smiled.

When the couple travels, they like to pack lightly which includes snacks they munch on while they sightsee. At the end of the day, they eat a big meal somewhere.

When the couple start their own family, both stated that they have agreed to continue to travel as often as they can. They've also decided to grow their roots in Minnesota.

While their journey has been a winding path, one can tell from the glow in their sea green eyes and rosy cheeks that it hasn't affected their life for each other. Anna and Andrew, indeed, have the luck of the Irish.

NRHEG winter sport athletes celebrated

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

NRHEG Activities Director Dan Stork extended many statements of gratitude as he opened the 2023-24 Winter Sports Banquet ceremony Tuesday night, March 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school gym in New Richland.

All NRHEG winter sports were recognized: Coaches from boys' and girls' basketball, wrestling, and cheerleading all spoke.

Stork recognized co-op sports, including gymnastics and hockey with Waseca, in which Carter Martens had a terrific campaign playing goalie, earning a letter for a second straight year. Nora Flatness was the one gymnast participating with Waseca. She had an excellent year, Stork said, participating with the Junior Varsity.

In total, 18 senior athletes were recognized: Faith Nielsen, Hope Nielsen, Preslie Nielsen, Hallie Schultz, Payton Bunn, Julia Churchill, Brenna Sommer, Isabel Stadheim, Malonna Wilson, Parker Bunn, George Roesler, Annabelle Petsinger, Reese Routh, Dexter Lee, Jackson Chrz, William Tuttle, Sam Olson and Levin Kitzer. Many well-deserved awards were handed out during the evening. A sense of gratitude encompassed the room as speakers, coaches and players reflected on their memorable seasons, and for some, entire careers.

As the program wound to a close, Stork paused to recognize Mark Domeier for earning a "Distinguished Service Award" to be awarded during this week's MNI Triple A Conference. The award will be presented in St. Cloud during a banquet attended by activity directors from across the state.

"Each year we have the opportunity as AD's to nominate someone," Stork said. "Mark began here in 1996 and has done just about everything here."

"Known as the voice of the Panthers, Mark has officiated just about every sport you can imagine, has run the scoreboard and does whatever it takes for these kids to compete... Thank you for your years of support."

The banquet concluded with photos and good conversation among the hundreds of students, parents, family members and coaches in attendance.

Cheerleading		
Spirit Award		Ariel Anhalt
Most Valuable Cheerleader		Isabel Stadheim
Most Improved		Orianna Degen
Most Valuable Back		Malonna Wilson
Most Valuable Base (2)		Brenna Sommer, Julia Churchill
Most Valuable Flyer		Isabel Stadheim
Girls Basketball		
Most Valuable Offense		Camryn VanMaldeghem
Most Valuable Defense		Quinn VanMaldeghem
Rebound Award		Quinn VanMaldeghem
Sparkplug Award		Hallie Schultz
Most Improved Player		Kylie Olson
Captain Awards		Hallie Schultz, Faith Nielsen, Preslie Nielsen
All Gopher Conference		Camryn VanMaldeghem
All Gopher Conference		Quinn VanMaldeghem
Honorable Mention		Faith Nielsen
Honorable Mention		Hallie Schultz
Sportsmanship Award		Hope Nielsen
Boys Basketball		
Panther Award		Jared Lee
Most Valuable Player		Will Tuttle
Most Improved Player		Greyson Schaefer
Defensive Player of the Year		Will Tuttle
All Gopher Conference 2nd Team		Daxter Lee
Sportsmanship Award		Jared Lee
Wrestling		
Most Valuable Wrestler		George Roesler
Most Improved Wrestler		Khaiden Madson
Most Team Points		George Roesler
Most Take Downs		Harbor Cromwell
Most Falls		George Roesler
Most Wins		George Roesler
Captains		Annabelle Petsinger, Reese Routh, George Roesler
All Gopher Conference		George Roesler
Sportsmanship Award		Reese Routh

State Tournament ready



Waseca's seventh- and eighth-grade dual meet wrestling team recently qualified for the National Youth Wrestling Association (NYWA) state tournament set for April 4 to 7 at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester. Team members from left, front row: Sawyer Ellis, Zander Rahe, Keegan Glynn, Kole Nelson, Owen Arndt, Colton Madson, Kellen Klinger. Back row: Coach Kevin Malecha, Oliver Staloch, Sam Selthun, Landon Madson, Jacob Knutson, Payton Sommers, Braxton Nelson, Aidan DeRaad, and coach Greg Sommers. Wrestlers also qualifying for the individual portion of the state tournament are Kole Nelson, Keegan Glynn, Sam Selthun, Landon Madson, Kellen Klinger, Braxton Nelson, and Payton Sommers. An injury prevented Jacob Knutson from competing in the individual qualifying tournament.

A little bit country and rock and roll

JANESVILLE JOURNAL - "A Little Bit Country, A Little Bit Rock and Roll" was what everyone expected when they saw the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Swing Show March 14-17. And the performers delivered.

After one year of not having a swing show, the 14 students in this year's show picked up where they left off in 2022 and put on a spectacular performance. The show included the whole group performing two songs, smaller groups performing together, solos, duets, and even skits in between the vocal performances.

This year's production was made possible thanks to the following behind the scenes: directors Borneke, Seys, and Morrow; set designer Leo Powell; choreographer Brook Ling; musicians Doug Berndt, Josh Berndt, and Chad Pfeifer; sound and light technicians Kelton Erler and Gary Pfeifer; and members of the JWP staff.



This year's swing show featured a smaller cast of performers than in previous years with 14 students participating from grades 8-11. Front row: Claire Loeter, Ryleigh Onner, Kayleigh Onner, Ma'liyah Petersen, and Abby Balzotti. Middle row: Claire Miller, Ariana Aguilar, Ava McNair, and Ava Appel. Back row: Travyn Shoultz, Isaiah Berndt, Eric Aschner, Ethan Born, and Tyson Johnson.

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New ‘Miss St. Patrick’ ready to inspire

By **RACHAEL JAEGER**
Staff Writer

Ava Appel, junior at Janesville-Pemberton-Waldorf, won the title of Miss St. Patrick on Saturday, March 16. She says the last two years have helped prepare her for the title, as she’s learned to become confident in herself and her ability to put herself in front of others. Now, she says, she hopes to help someone else grow in the same way.

Her grandmother, Carol, is of completely Irish heritage and is also from Janesville. Her grandfather and her mother, Sheila Jewison, are both half Irish, which makes Appel one-fourth Irish.

While Appel said she’s had fun with the pageant, when it came down to the day, she admitted “nerves got to her.” She was determined to keep any anxiety from spoiling the day, though, and followed through on her preparations.

She also shared that she has worked with Becky Borneke, who is a Swing Show leader since her freshman year in high school. The Swing Show includes solo auditions but also involve putting on skits with other classmates and coordinating choreography in big groups. “It has definitely played a big part in building my confidence,” Appel said.

Appel has also occasionally entertained with Borneke at the Indian Island Winery in Janesville as a soloist.

Appel recalled attending St. Patrick’s Day celebrations since she was a little girl. She mentioned it is meaningful to her to interact with family or friends within her heritage, since she only gets occasional chances to see them. She also remembers how the annual St. Patrick’s Day celebrations built her enthusiasm to someday enter the pageant and possibly win the title.

“Watching older girls run for this got me excited,” Appel shared. “It got me thinking about a goal to set for myself so I could work my way up to someday be Miss St. Patrick.”

“I’m very blessed to have the opportunity to be Miss St. Patrick because I feel like if my great-grandma was here, she would be very proud I’m doing this,” Appel said, full of emotion. “I ran in her honor; I want to let her know

“Watching older girls run for this got me excited. It got me thinking about a goal to set for myself so I could work my way up to someday be Miss St. Patrick.”

— Ava Appel

my Irish heritage still means a lot to me.”

In fact, Appel says she chose to sing “Lady of Knock” for her March 16 talent performance because the song reminds her of Rosie Jewison, her great-grandmother—both because of her beauty and her personality.

Appel also credits her mother for boosting her confidence.

“She tells me to keep working at it, that I’ll get better, and she’s always complimenting me,” Appel said. “She’ll tell me what other people say about me – that I have a good voice because of how confident I sound.”

During the year Appel is Miss St. Patrick, she hopes to instill confidence in others, especially those who are younger.

“I want to show little kids it’s okay to do things other people wouldn’t normally do,” she said, “that it’s okay to do things that get you out of your comfort zone. If you get judged, you shouldn’t care what other people think. If it makes you happy, go for it.”

She also hopes that, in the course of this year, she’s able to encourage other girls to run for the titles of Miss St. Patrick or Miss Irish Rose, Waseca County Sleigh and Cutter Queen, Miss Janesville, or others that might suit them. Before she was Miss St. Patrick, she had also been honored with the title of Miss Janesville in 2022.

“It’s an opportunity everyone should have,” Appel said.



Ava Appel, Miss St. Patrick, and Layla Keith, Miss Irish Rose. Pioneer photos by Rachael Jaeger



Above: Layla Keith is crowned Miss Irish Rose. Below: Ava Appel expresses delight as she receives the "Miss St. Patrick" title. Pioneer photo by Rachael Jaeger



Miss Irish Rose expresses pride in her heritage

By **RACHAEL JAEGER**
Staff Writer

Layla Keith, sophomore at Waseca High School, was awarded the title of Miss Irish Rose during the Southern Minnesota Irish American Club’s events on Saturday, March 16. She expressed her gratitude for her heritage, as well as the connection and support she feels as part of the family-oriented organization.

“I’m so lucky and so blessed my mom got me into this from when I was a little girl,” Keith said. “I’ve been dreaming about this for a long time.”

Although Keith doesn’t remember, she’s been told she attended her first St. Patrick’s Day celebrations when she was less than a year old. She’s also been informed her mother, Muriah Miller-Keith, has taken leadership roles for some of the music and annual rallies at previous St. Patrick celebrations.

“My mom is my best friend,” Keith said. “Having this amazing, strong woman in front of me in my house and being able to watch her – she’s the reason I am who I am.”

Keith’s grandparents, Alvin and Donna Miller, were the Emerald Isle couple in 2008. Emma, Keith’s sister, was Miss St. Patrick last year.

“I remember when my sister had me quiz her to help her learn about literally everything,” Keith said, adding that experience motivated her to dig more deeply into her heritage and the history of St. Patrick. “It was important to me to represent the Irish club well.”

She and the other four contestants were asked to circulate during the celebration and sell chances to win raffle items. Hers was the Claddagh ring which features hands holding a heart topped with a crown. The heart symbolizes love; the crown denotes loyalty; the two hands signify friendship.

Since Keith has seen the symbol often, she says she had never really considered its intended meaning. This year, though, it truly hit home as she showed the ring around. She said it amazes her how many connections her Irish heritage provides, citing the example of Anna Burns-Whooley – who coordinates the pageants – and found her husband Andrew, while visiting Ireland.

“This celebration to me and to everyone is pure joy,” Keith said. “It’s joy in that we don’t have to celebrate it only this one day of the year. It

“This celebration to me and to everyone is pure joy.” — Layla Keith

gives me a family. I have so many supporters helping me along the way.”

Like Ava Appel, who was titled Miss St. Patrick, Keith also sang “Lady of Knock.” She says she chose the song because she grew up listening to it. Over time, she noted, the lyrics have taken on new layers of meaning. She talked about the passion and emotion she was able to draw on as she sang, saying she would not have had that same foundation with any other number.

“When I sing that, I feel the song go through me like I’m preaching Ireland and the Queen of Ireland and my whole heritage,” Keith shared, then mentioned how she felt herself tearing up during mass at Sacred Heart Church when a musical group had performed “Lady of Knock.” Keith also expressed gratitude for the friendships she has formed with the other girls throughout the last year.

“We had such a great group of girls with such diverse talents,” Keith observed. “We told each other, whoever wins Miss St. Patrick, we’re going to rip the crown off and pass it to everyone like in the movie ‘Mean Girls.’ We didn’t want to have to split up.”

Keith said she wishes the other girls could ride in the parades with her and recognizes how loving and supportive they all have been.

“I know we all will find a way to stay close,” she said.

Keith mentioned her gratitude that an Irish heritage connects families and individuals. “The family you get through this club is unlike anything I’ve experienced,” Keith added. “You have sports teams, you have friend groups – but this is a pure family – because of the pure love we share through our heritage.”

Keith also enjoys how it seems like the Irish Club continues to grow every year and how families, through multiple generations, continue to bring their children. She said she hopes she will be able to get younger girls excited about running for the titles of Miss Irish Rose and Miss St. Patrick.

Commissioners consider parks, grants, construction

By **DEB BENTLY**
News Editor

A number of important projects were considered during the March 19 meeting of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners.

Courthouse Park: Perhaps the longest discussion surrounded county parks. Facilities management director Brian Tomford received board approval to move forward with a grant application to complete about \$216,000 worth of construction and upgrades at Courthouse Park. Under the terms of the “50/50” grant, the county would pay half that amount. If the grant is approved, the project will include building a much larger pavilion than the one already on site, a pickleball court, a sidewalk and a retaining wall.

When commissioners expressed concerns about whether anything in the new construction would interfere with the long-established equine activities in the park, Tomford described plans to relocate the “tie-ups” to an area which will be more convenient for horse trailers and have improved access to riding trails.

Upon learning Courthouse Park is 172 acres in size, commissioner DeAnne Malterer expressed gratitude that “staff is being thoughtful about avoiding bottlenecks,” while also observing that the improvements will benefit the county’s intent that Courthouse Park will serve as “one of the premier places for people to go out and enjoy some of our county’s rural character.”

“No hunting” designation at Blowers and Eustace Parks: Tomford also requested board approval to designate Blowers and Eustace Parks as “no hunting” zones, and to

post signs to that effect. Tomford said the two sites have become popular for walking and other outdoor recreation incompatible with the use of firearms.

Board members noted that some families have been hunting on those park lands for generations, and that they expect to hear some complaints. Tomford said the “no hunting” change will be posted on social media and on the county website. Signs will also be posted in the two parks. The county’s “no hunting” ordinance, Tomford said, prohibits people from hunting, trapping or pursuing wildlife. It also forbids using or carrying any type of firearm, including paintball guns; hunters are also prohibited from firing into the parks from outside their boundaries. Bow and arrow target

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

shooting will continue to be allowed.

Floodplain Overlay: Also on March 19, the universal development code was amended to include a new “floodplain overlay” map. Senior Land Use Planner Maame York informed board members the change is mostly to comply with a new national floodplain ordinance. She said even though nothing about floodplains within county-administered territory has changed significantly since elevations in the county were mapped first in 1887 and then in 1985, the new maps should become part of official county record.

She also observed that, because

of the new map, some residents might receive notice from their insurance providers that they “need flood insurance.”

This, she suggested, might be because part of the property owners’ land might be within—or even only touching on—the designated floodplain. Anyone receiving such a notice, she suggested, might want to communicate with the insurance provider that, although property boundaries might include land prone to flooding, insured structures are not within the floodplain.

Highway Construction: County Engineer Jim Kollar reported bid results from two significant upcoming highway construction projects.

He told board members the county’s share of the \$5 million contract for Eighth Avenue North-

east in Waseca will be \$2.17 million. The city will be responsible for all “underground” work to drains and other utilities, and for the remainder of above-ground costs. Kollar revealed work on the road will take place “in two major phases.” The contractor has agreed to have the avenue “up to gravel grade” by July 3, and then “take a two-week break” while the fourth of July “LakeFest” celebration and the county fair take place. Kollar anticipates work will begin as soon as

possible in April in order to meet that obligation.

Commissioners also approved the “concrete pavement rehabilitation” of nearly 8 miles of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) number 5, from County Road 19 to Through Highway 13. The project will cost about \$1.5 million: anticipated start of work will be “on or after June 15,” with work finished in October. Kollar mentioned he intends to seek bids on the next five miles of CSAH 5 in 2027 or 2028.

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