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Teen Journals Workshop 1 p.m. December 1
A Waseca Library workshop will focus on helping teens create interactive journals. This 1 p.m. December 1 event is free and open to all interested teens. More information is available from library staff, 507-835-2910.

Lego Story Time at Waseca Library 10 a.m. Dec 2
Children ages 4-6 are invited to bring an adult to a monthly event which asks them to create a Lego scene meant to illustrate a story. Get more information by visiting the library or calling 835-2910.

Holiday Cookie Dazzle 9 a.m. until noon Dec. 2
Achieving Dreams for Disabilities will host a “holiday cookie dazzle” at the Waseca Senior Citizen Center on Saturday, December 2 from 9 a.m. to noon. Plates of 12 cookies will be available for \$7 with breads and other treats priced individually. To donate baked goods, contact Kari Haslip in advance at 835-2058. All proceeds go towards programs for those with disabilities.

St. Paul Lutheran Christmas Bazaar 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 2
St. Paul Lutheran of Waseca will be offering Christmas items for sale and also serving meals during its bazaar from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2. On the menu are sloppy Joes, hot beef sandwiches, and homemade pie.

History Center Bootlegger’s Ball 5:30 p.m. Dec. 2
The Waseca County History Center is sponsoring a “Bootlegger’s Ball” at its Second Street NE address. Live jazz music, 1920s dances and a costume contest will be among the highlights.
Tickets are \$20; admission is free to members. RSVP required.

Breakfast to Benefit NRHEG Music Department 8 a.m. to Noon Dec. 3
The NRHEG Lions Club is hosting a breakfast to raise money toward purchasing choir robes and band uniforms for the NRHEG music department. Full breakfast menu at New Richland City Hall. Free will donation.

Grief Group from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursdays through December 7
Real Life Church, 620 Elm Ave W, will be the site of a weekly grief support group, Grief Share, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays through December 7. Contact Janiece Bull at bull.jm@gmail.com or 507-384-2181 for additional information, and register at grief-share.org/findagroup.

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A word from The Word

Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ John 7:38



A network of help

Waseca native intervenes for animals

Chasity Marquette is trained rehabilitator

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Though most don’t know it, there’s a network of people and resources waiting to provide knowledgeable, professional assistance to wild animals which have been injured or for young animals separated from their parents.

For most of southern Minnesota, the entry point to that network is Chasity Marquette, a Waseca native willing to drop everything and do what she can to help.

Working out of her 15-acre country homestead, Marquette has been qualified in animal rehabilitation for three years. This means where it might be illegal for most people to approach or interfere with a wild animal in distress, she is qualified and authorized to do so.

Though frankly, it’s hard to know that by looking at her.

Petite, beautiful and fashion conscious, she carries herself and speaks like a member of high society. It is very difficult to picture her in the settings she describes, including kayaking across a lake to catch a pelican, walking up to and lifting an emaciated beaver, and—even with a photo to prove it—holding a swan, a breed of waterfowl which can be more than 5 feet long from head to tail. Yet she has done all that and more. “I take anywhere from zero to 15 calls a day,” she says.

During the just-ended animal rescue “busy season” which runs from May to September, she says she was the animal rescue point of contact for 31 squirrels, 47 rabbits, 4 raccoons, 84 waterfowl, 7 woodchucks, 33 songbirds, 10 possums, 5 bats and 5 chipmunks.

“I don’t help them all myself,” she’s quick to qualify. “I just do what I can to make sure they get the help they need.”



Chasity Marquette with Lloyd, a steer who was badly neglected before being brought to Asyn Acres.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Marquette seems to have a nearly encyclopedic knowledge regarding various animals. Just as an example, she tells of ducklings and how, if one or a few should become trapped in a window well, the mother will not wait long or try to assist them. Once separated from their mother, very young ducklings are not likely to survive, either because

Marquette continued on 14

“I don’t help them all myself. I just do what I can to make sure they get the help they need.”
— Chasity Marquette



Students and judges who took part in a Minnesota State Court of Appeals session at Waseca High School November 21.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

A whole new angle to justice

State Court of Appeals holds session at Waseca High School

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Members of Waseca High School’s American Government class were able to see their subject from a whole new angle on Nov. 21.

The State of Minnesota Court of Appeals held a session on the school’s performing arts center stage. The session began just before 10 a.m. and, with the question and answer session which followed, lasted about an hour.

Planning for the session had been underway for months; Waseca High School graduate Renee Worke, who is now one of the 19 judges on the state court of appeals and who served as Waseca District Court judge for

more than a decade, assisted in coordinating the event, as did high school social studies teacher John Hanson. All high school students—roughly 300—attended.

As the session was about to begin, Worke described the procedures and expectations usually followed at appellate proceedings. Unlike the court trials many may regard as “typical,” no witnesses are called during an appeal.

An appeal, she explained, happens when either the prosecution or defense in a trial feel that some circumstance led to someone’s constitutional rights being violated—in essence, that the trial was not fair in some way.

“It was truly impressive how much respect the students showed for the proceedings.”
— Teacher John Hanson

The appellate court gives a panel of three judges the task of hearing the two sides of the case and deciding whether the expectations of a fair and speedy trial were met. Judges are provided with full transcripts of court proceedings for reference, and are expected to acquaint themselves with the circumstances of the hearing in advance.

Worke told the assembled group that the appellate court usually meets

in the Minnesota Judicial Center in St. Paul, but occasionally meets elsewhere for the sake of outreach or to reduce litigation costs. Such was the case with last week’s session.

Students in Hanson’s government classes had spent a few class days familiarizing themselves with the circumstances of the case.

The “appellant,” that is, the party

Court continued on 3

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Stennes shares story of damages with county

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

New Richland area resident Paul Stennes, 96, has been looking for answers since 2015.

Based on what Stennes told Waseca County commissioners during their 8 a.m. work session on Nov. 21, a heavy rainstorm that year caused flooding in a storage building on his property—one whose floor was about 2 feet above surrounding terrain and which stood in a location that had never previously experienced flooding. As rainwater pooled, levels inside the building reached an estimated 3 feet in depth.

Stored in the shed was a collection of vintage snowmobiles, most of which had been in operating condition. All were covered by water, and their engines ruined. Also covered in water were a number of vehicle motors, a number of vintage tractors, and a nearly new lawnmower. Adding insult to injury, a number of barrels holding oil were raised and tipped, leaving residue on many surfaces.

Stennes did not have flood insurance on the property, since it had never, in the many years he had owned it, been subject to flooding. Essentially everything—Stennes says roughly \$100,000 worth of machines and equipment—was a loss.

Stennes told commissioners the cause of the flooding was obvious: a berm had been constructed near State Highway 13 to reduce the amount of water going into the city of New Richland. That same berm had steered the water onto his property.

Stennes told commissioners he had tried to follow up on the damage fairly immediately. He said he approached the New Richland city council, but was told the city had not built the berm and so was not liable. Knowing Hwy 13 to be a state highway, he also contacted state offices in Mankato, where he met with another dead end.

Uncertain where to go from there, he had stopped reaching out. But the financial costs and personal sense of loss had stayed with him.

Stennes found himself in front of the county board on Nov. 21 thanks to the intercession of soil and water conservation district (SWCD) worker Larry Muff, who had spoken at a prior meeting requesting that Stennes be given a chance to speak his piece.

Muff told commissioners his intervention had nothing to do with his job with the SWCD, except that he learned of Stennes’ plight during a “one watershed one plan” meeting held this past March.

Stennes told board members he could remember three times in his past when farmers had built structures to prevent flooding on their own property which led to damages on someone else’s land. He pointed out that state law placed liability on the property owner who built the structure, then asked whether the county was somehow exempt from those laws.

County commissioner Doug Christopherson, who represents the New Richland area, said he felt considerable personal anguish over the situation. He

County continued on 5



Compostings

by Al Batt

Thanksgiving is the taste of memory

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
My doctor says I need to listen to my body.

That's a good idea.
Not really. All I get are complaints.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. The wind blew with a villainous gusto. Its voice had been a demanding one all night. It was cold but not cold enough to be a bother. Sharp-ened corn leaves flew across the road like machetes thrown by the wind. The woman ahead of me ordered coffee by giving the barista a dozen modifiers. I had a short order, "Breakfast tea. Hot."

Thanksgiving is the taste of memory. We had some Thanksgiving leftover lefse this year. How sweet that is. Lefse is an entrée, a dessert, a napkin and is available for emergency note-taking. It's just the thing to resurrect an appetite in need of rebooting after feasting like a king. Life is good. I missed Black Friday sales again this year. I've never made purchasing a flat-screen TV a traditional part of Thanksgiving.

It's the Christmas season. I know because I heard Burl Ives singing, "Have a holly jolly Christmas. It's the best time of the year." I drove home in some nasty weather. It wasn't raining cats and dogs, it was snowing weasels and snowy owls. Some of our species of weasels don a white coat in the winter and become ermine.

A PERIPATETIC GALOOT
A fellow airline passenger was wearing his good luck socks. I know because when he removed his shoes, his socks read, "Good Luck Socks."

I walked around Juneau, the capital of Alaska, with no roads connecting the city to the rest of Alaska or North America. There were suits (men wearing suits and ties), but it was apparent that backpacks are replacing briefcases. I seldom hear that impressive clicking like the door of a Mercedes when briefcases are opened or closed.

A young woman carrying a clipboard near the multi-user, all-gender restroom at Sea-Tac Airport. I'm not certain, but I suspect she was a survey taker asking questions about what people thought of the large restroom that opened this year. I've encountered no survey takers outside a men's restroom at an airport. If I did, I'd assume they were from the Pew Research Center. Later, I read a newspaper referencing a survey of

white-tailed deer. It surprised me the deer would respond to a survey. It didn't involve restrooms.

I strolled around Haines, Alaska, late at night. Haines is where pedestrians have the right-of-way. The town was quiet. I wanted to applaud the silence. For a Minnesotan, Haines is a bit out of the ordinary. There are mountains. I walked alone with my thoughts and those mountains. Anne Lamott wrote, "Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you."

I'VE LEARNED
Each time I ring the bells for the Salvation Army, I find inspiration in others.

As we age, our bones soften and our arteries harden, so it evens out. The electrician hadn't shown up. I wondered why until I saw his picture on a milk carton.

You should do something every day that frightens you. So answer your phone.

BAD JOKE DEPARTMENT
Who was that ladle I saw you with last night? That was no ladle, that was my knife.

A dollar store wig is a small-price toupee.
What is benign? It's what you are after you be eight.

Lena fell into a wishing well. Ole said, "I didn't think it would work that fast."

Ole and Lena were walking down the street when Lena said, "Look at the dog with one eye." Ole covered one of his eyes and said, "Where?"

NATURE NOTES
Some oak and ironwood trees hang onto their brown and curling leaves in winter. This is called marcescence and usually occurs on the parts of the tree that haven't yet formed flowers. Commonly, trees exhibit marcescence when young, but lose this characteristic when older and usually the rattling leaves remain on the branches closest to the ground. Younger oaks may keep a full complement of dead brown leaves. People speculate the retained leaves may deter browsing animals, such as deer. The dried leaves may conceal buds from browsers or make them difficult to nip from the twig. Research has found the dried leaves less nutritious. Another reason trees might give for holding their leaves is it allows them to keep and recycle their nutrients themselves. During winter, birds perch among marcescent leaves, finding refuge from the wind.

MEETING ADJOURNED
Tell others what you love, not what you hate. Be kind.

A real pair of dingalings



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

foods from all sorts of large-scale suppliers, divides them out and sends them to "pop-up" pantries all over a five-state area.

Folks pay \$25 for an "order," then drive down a line where we volunteers set items into their cars. I jokingly call it a "food lottery," because there's no way to predict what you'll get—but it will easily be much more than \$25 worth of food. Many of the items are donated because they're nearing their expiration date, though, so they may need to be put into the freezer or eaten right away. For anyone who's curious, you can give it a try this week, it's always on the first Saturday of the month beginning around 8:45 a.m. Many, many people arrive before 8 and line up in the middle school parking lot across the road from the United Methodist Church.

When I learned about "Register to Ring," I called Cindy and asked her

our usual question: "Are you crazy?" She assured me she is, and that's how we found ourselves outside Walmart over the lunch hour on Black Friday ringing bells. During the 2.5 hours we were there, people put about \$360 in the kettle.

What Cindy and I liked about our time that day was the people watching. We stood there, chatted, and observed the action as folks arrived, then left the store with their Black Friday treasures.

We saw and greeted people we know, we said good morning (or afternoon) to nearly everyone.

We understood when people did not have "loose" cash—but we also noted a fair number of people who purposely acquired cash when they were in the store to put in the kettle.

More than once, we saw people across the parking lot take note of us and immediately begin reaching for money. One of our favorites was a

woman who had probably five children with her. She pointed us out, then handed each child a few dollars to put in. Another time a vehicle came to a surprise stop next to us—a young girl hopped out, walked very deliberately to the kettle, and tucked some money inside.

I had learned from our local Salvation Army chair John Petersburg that nearly all the money which goes into "Waseca's" kettle is kept for charitable purposes in Waseca County. Funds were used this past year for emergency fuel and heat, among other things, so I was able to answer some of the questions we heard.

Overall, it was definitely an adventure and Cindy and I are glad we did it.

So, as you see, anyone—even retired English teachers—can "ring the bell" for the Salvation Army. Just search for "register to ring" and sign up.

Cindy and I recommend dressing warm and having a group of three or more. This IS Minnesota and December is upon us. If there are three of you, it will be easy to rotate bell ringers so they can take turns going inside the store to warm up. Cindy and I had a great time; we're sure you will, too.

The Gophers tried and succeeded at losing



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

started walking she would drag me forward fast enough to get me jogging again. So it is thanks to her that I completed the three miles staying sane.

Of course Thanksgiving meant all of the good food, which I gladly gobbled up (haha). Juicy turkey, mouth-watering sweet potatoes, creamy gravy and potatoes, crispy green bean casserole, and my weakness of deliciously fresh King Hawaiian buns. I am learning an important advantage of living away from my family is that they love to send leftovers with me so I am fed in college.

However, I can't mention Thanksgiving without providing the obligatory list of things I am thankful for. Skip to the next paragraph if you don't want to read the list. First off, my family - my continuously supportive and loving parents, my beautiful sister, my caring grandparents. I am also thankful for my friends, my coworkers and everyone in my life. I'm thankful for Diana Gabaldon writing the Outlander series and I'm thankful for breakfast burritos, my everyday breakfast.

Okay, that was Thanksgiving. I spent time with my family on Friday and part of Saturday until I had to return to campus to watch the Minnesota Gopher football team lose the game and the axe to the annoying

Wisconsin Badgers. It was a tragic game to watch as my toes froze, I spent the entire time shivering, had to listen to annoying Badger students invade our student section, and then had to watch our Gopher team try and lose.

So while we were recovering from the sad loss, school decided to come knocking. With three weeks left in the semester, it's time for us students to buckle down and grind out all the homework, projects, and exams we are left to deal with. Coming back from break into this mindset is an incredibly unpleasant transition. I'm sure others find it difficult to go back to work or continue on with a routine as they return from a break such as Thanksgiving, but don't worry, I'm struggling along with you. We got this.

My Determination: "For where all love is, the speaking is unnecessary. It is all. It is undying. And it is enough." - Diana Gabaldon, Outlander

Weekend brings ful“fill”ing holiday



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

the mail, I feel, gives a person motivation to pick it up, read and look at all the photos.

Our main demographic at the paper are readers over 50. My friend, the one who made the comment, is a millennial and thus, not your general newspaper reader.

I generally feel print newspapers will be fine until those 50-year olds are no longer reading the newspaper 20 or 30 years from now. The question, then, is whether millennials will

start picking up the paper to read.

If not, then I imagine they had little connection with their local community to begin with. Our focus is community newsing. Local stories that matter to the people in our local area. The only real reason a newspaper wouldn't be successful is if it stopped writing stories that interested local readers.

Deb Bently and I interviewed a new writer this week. She has multiple years of experience writing for

different publications and I'm very optimistic. I gave her her first writing assignments, and, if they go well, we will officially have a new writer to introduce.

It was refreshing to see a new face so enthusiastic about journalism. It's been a couple months of talking with applicants looking for the right hire. I've made the mistake of hiring someone too quickly in the past. I've performed every job I ask others to do who work for me at the newspaper. I enjoy all of them. (Some more than others.) It is difficult for me to ask someone to do a job (in the newspaper world) if they don't find enjoyment in it. After all, I would be happy to do it. Alas, there are only so many hours in a day.

"Kindness is one thing you can't give away. It always comes back." — George Skolsky



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Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



True meaning of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is an expression of gratitude, especially to God. In North America, it's an annual national holiday marked by religious observances and a traditional meal that commonly includes turkey. We commemorate the festival held by the Pilgrims in 1621 every fourth Tuesday in November. It's a special time to gather with family and friends, share a traditional meal, exchange some laughs and stories, and express gratitude for the good things in life. Thanksgiving 2023 is now history; I hope all of you had a wonderful gathering with the people close to you.

According to information from USA Today, This year's holiday set a record number for air travel. The cost of a traditional family sit-down meal was less than last year. Many families are now dodging many hours of hot cooking in the kitchen or days of cleaning in advance or spending hours washing dishes afterward—nearly 50 percent of Americans now order their meal in or go to a restaurant open on the holiday.

Very interesting detail: The Friday after Thanksgiving is the busiest day of the year for plumbers. The culprits are clogged sinks and garbage disposals.

Thanksgiving is also a signal for my best friend Lisa and me to do some Christmas shopping: Black Friday has arrived. A few years ago, I followed the Black Friday stereotype. I waited in line beginning at 5:30 a.m., rushed through the open doors at 6 a.m., and grabbed the hunting video game the grandchildren had requested for Christmas.

No more early shopping for this guy! I've grown older and wiser.

Black Friday is now open to shoppers before and after the traditional time frame. Go figure, "black Wednesday," "black Saturday" and many days thereafter—until the merchandise is gone, I'm guessing.

Our daughter-in-law Shannon sends us a summary of our four grandchildren's wish lists. Shannon is always thrifty and finds the best deals online. If the item isn't on sale, who cares? It's Christmas and they are our beloved grandchildren. Many packages have already been delivered to our door, only one left to arrive. Almost all our Christmas shopping is now done by Lisa online. It still feels a bit wrong: This old-fashioned guy still likes to see the product, hold it, feel it, and smell it.

I enjoy going out for coffee in the early morning at McDonald's. The place is full of senior citizens who gather for friendship and good old start-of-day conver-

sation. I've met many new folks and also enjoy talking with people I've known for years. I had a couple of great experiences sitting down and visiting with a group of senior ladies who get together every Tuesday for coffee. They call themselves "McBuddies." Phoebe Praxl, Lois Johnson, Marla Rohl, Alice Waligowski and Colleen Frederick are all long-time Waseca residents. Diane Mann and Joyce Tramp lived in Waseca for many years, but now reside in Mankato to be nearer to family. I'm told that, when the two of them drive to Waseca to be with the Tuesday-morning group, Joyce insists on being the driver. She says she doesn't trust Diane to drive them safely down Highway 14 for their meeting—reportedly her driving skills have gone by the wayside...

The first time I sat down with the group—can't remember whether they asked me to join them—I spent three hours listening to their stories and conversation.

Great entertainment—they could produce their own television reality show with all the laughs they inspire. It was a real hoot. One of the ladies informed me she had to have someone show her how to open the trunk of her car. Another stopped for gas, couldn't find the gas cap, and had to have someone show her how to fuel up her car. I learned that Bock's still has someone come out and pump your gas—no self service for that lady. One member had pictures on her phone of her face after she'd taken a fall—a real digger.

The group talked about being at the mercy of constant rising costs from their cable providers. They also addressed the fact that, if you don't have a smart phone, you don't have the applications to order discounts and deals—a clear case of discrimination against seniors. If you have any questions about your property tax increase for 2024, just ask the McBuddies.

I wish the ladies happiness, friendship, laughter, continued camaraderie and good health for many more years to come.

We have an author in the Zika family. My daughter-in-law Shannon wrote her first children's book entitled "There's Magic in the Woods." It tells the story of a squirrel as he journeys through the forest. Shannon wrote the story, took photographs and published the book. It might be a great Christmas gift for your young grandbabies. The book is available on Amazon: search for "There's Magic in the Woods" by Shannon Zika. I think the book is just plain wonderful, and I'm sure you'll agree.

Preparing for truth in taxation

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

During their 6:30 p.m. work session the evening of Nov. 21, Waaseca city council members reviewed information to be shared during the upcoming December 5 state-required "truth in taxation" meeting. City finance director Alicia Fischer reminded council members they had previously approved levying \$5,588,000 in property taxes; compared to the previous year's levy, this

was an increase of .8 percent.

Council members mentioned having already received their property tax statements; two stated that their taxes are lower than in previous years. Another, however, commented that his had gone up.

Fischer mentioned that a major factor in tax amounts is the assessed value of the property: the higher the value, the higher the taxes. Those residences experiencing a tax increase, she offered, may have been

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

assessed at a higher value than in the previous year.

Residents wanting more of an explanation about their city taxes, Fischer said, can attend the truth in taxation meeting.

Also part of the work session discussion was the detail that, where the city had expected an increase of

close to \$400,000 for the health insurance it provides its employees, the actual amount had turned out to be almost \$85,000 lower than anticipated.

City Manager Carl Sonnenberg asked city council members how they would like to respond to this change from the anticipated budget. He offered that the money, which

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■ Court

from Page 1

requesting the appeal, is Olmsted County resident Elvis Porte who was placed on trial earlier this year and convicted of possessing an illegal substance and of fleeing a police officer on foot.

On the night he was arrested, Porte and three others were in his vehicle, which an Officer Crabtree had stopped for having overly dark tinted windows. During the stop, Crabtree had asked for and been granted permission to search Porte's vehicle. While the four occupants stood off to the side supervised by additional officers, Crabtree began his search. He noticed an unusual looking can with a twist-off lid. When he removed the lid and looked inside, he reported seeing a leafy substance divided into small plastic bags.

Crabtree set the can on the roof of the car and was about to continue his search when Porte suddenly dashed to the vehicle, grabbed the can, and ran down the street, tossing the can into a yard along the way.

Officers apprehended Porte and recovered the can. Porte was placed on trial and convicted. The audience in the performing arts center was told Porte could otherwise have been present at the proceedings, but because he is currently incarcerated, was watching via live streaming.

Following typical court of appeal proceedings, Porte's lawyer, Roy

Sperbeck, was given 15 minutes to address what he perceived as the violation of Porte's rights.

During Sperbeck's presentation, the audience learned Porte had accepted the services of a public defender after being arrested. The trial had begun and the police officers who were present the night of Porte's arrest were questioned.

Shortly after all police officers were excused from the court, Porte announced that he was "firing" his attorney and intended to take up his own defense. Porte then requested that Officer Crabtree, who had already been examined and cross-examined, be called back to the witness stand.

The judge in the case pointed out that Crabtree had let the court know in advance that he would be leaving on vacation, and, after a brief exchange with others in the court, the judge declared he was not going to "go backward" with the proceedings.

Lawyer Sperbeck made the case that, even if it had meant a delay in continuing the court proceedings, Porte should have been given the right to recall Crabtree to the witness stand. Sperbeck claimed Crabtree had apparently contradicted himself during his testimony, at one point stating he did not process and weigh the evidence on the evening of the arrest, and at another point seeming to claim he had. Sperbeck suggested Porte had "fired" his public defender because he had not called attention to this contradiction. He further suggested that, if Crabtree had been established as an unreliable witness, the jury might not have convicted

Porte.

Assistant Olmsted County Attorney Jim Haas was given 15 minutes to present the county's side of the appeal. Haas stated that Porte had no one but himself to blame for the outcome of the trial, suggesting that his sudden decision to "fire" his lawyer left him with no understanding of proper court procedures. Haas made reference to some of Crabtree's statements in the transcript and claimed none of them would "impugn his authority" as a witness.

When both lawyers had completed their statements, the court of appeals adjourned.

The three judges, who had been dressed in robes throughout the proceedings, left the stage and returned dressed in street clothes. They and Worke accepted questions from the crowd, with the understanding that the judges would not be discussing the case they had just heard.

Questions from students regarded what steps students should follow if they wish to pursue a career in law, what it was like to transition from being an attorney to being a judge, and even how the judges managed to stay interested even when the topic being discussed might seem uninteresting.

Five members of Hanson's government class, Jacob Thompson, Ava Omtvedt, Grace Below, Evelyn O'Brien and Ella Krautkremer, shared their thoughts regarding the appellate proceedings in a later discussion.

All five complemented defending attorney Sperbeck for the quality of his arguments.

"He did a good job," said Jacob Thompson. "After what he said, I felt more like the defendant deserved another chance."

Ava Omtvedt made a similar observation, saying that, although her opinion had been against Porte after studying the case, she now felt he "might as well get another trial."

Grace Below concurred, saying the appellate proceedings seemed thorough and fair. She also expressed gratitude for the judges' willingness to answer questions from the audience.

Ella Krautkremer said the proceedings had led her to a complete change of opinion, from "not a chance" to "he definitely deserves a retrial."

Evelyn O'Brien, who was among the eight students who acted as escorts and assistants to the judges, said it was a privilege to take part. She commented that being the first high school to host a session of the Court of Appeals helps show that Waseca is a progressive school which finds new ways of accomplishing things.

All five students said they were grateful for the opportunity the day's proceedings had presented, and said they look forward to seeing what other programs they can take part in.

Teacher John Hanson also expressed his gratitude for the opportunity the day brought his students. "It also has to be said how well the students behaved," said Hanson. "It was truly impressive how much respect they showed for the proceedings."

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OBITUARIES



Robert and Teri Pearce

Robert and Teri Pearce

ROBERT “Bob” EDWARD PEARCE died on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at his home in Waseca, surrounded by his family. TERI JEAN PEARCE died on November 9, 2023 at St. Mary’s Campus of Mayo Clinic in Rochester surrounded by her family.

Bob was born in Santa Monica, California on May 12, 1944, to Gene Edward and Jeanne Ellen (Halsey) Pearce. Teri was born in Owatonna, Minnesota on September 3, 1944, to Toivo Emil and Martha Eileen (Lageson) Harinen.

Bob and Teri graduated from John H. Frances Polytechnic High School in Sun Valley, California, where they were high school sweethearts. Following high school, Bob attended Stanford University. He left Stanford early to enlist in the Coast Guard and later finished undergraduate and graduate studies. Teri graduated from California Lutheran College.

On March 9, 1967, Bob and Teri were united in marriage in San Francisco, California. They began their married life together in Hawaii where Bob was first stationed. They moved to different locations around the country as part of his Coast Guard service before making Minnesota their home in 1996.

On May 23, 1966, Bob enlisted in the United States Coast Guard and was quickly promoted to rank of Chief Electronics Technician. During his twenty-one years of military service, he was awarded the Coast Guard Medal for Heroism before being honorably discharged as a Commander in 1987.

In Bob’s civilian life he taught seventh grade math at Parks Junior High, taught engineering at California State Polytechnic University Pomona, and worked as a Technician at Onan and a Test Engineer for Itron. After retiring Bob enjoyed volunteering for Waseca Public Schools, was a talented Skywarn storm spotter for over fifteen years, and also volunteered

for the Red Cross travelling around the world to help provide relief.

Teri was an elementary school teacher in various schools around the country. She was Teacher of the Year in 1995 at Laguna Road School in Fullerton, California. Her last teaching position was at North Intermediate School in St. Peter, Minnesota. Teri enjoyed sewing and reading. She also directed the Bell Choir at Christ Community Church.

Bob and Teri were both devoted followers of Jesus Christ. They were long-time active members of Christ Community Church in Waseca where they enjoyed involvement with Bible study and volunteering in the sound booth.

Bob and Teri are survived by their three sons: Gregory (Smruti) Pearce of Los Angeles, CA, Jonathan (Jodi) Pearce of Waseca, and Mark (Jennifer) Pearce of Waseca; four granddaughters, Mikayla (Casey) Cayer, Eleanor Pearce, Esme Pearce, and Cordelia Pearce; two grandsons: Raahi Pearce and August Pearce; Teri’s two siblings: Andrea Juhl of Pittsburgh, PA, and Mark (Judy) Harinen of Waseca; and seven nephews.

They are preceded in death by both of their parents and Bob’s younger brother, James Pearce.

Visitation was held from 4-7 p.m. on Friday, November 17, 2023, at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca and will continue for one hour before the service at the church on Saturday.

Funeral Services for Bob and Teri were 10:30 AM on Saturday, November 18, 2023, at Christ Community Church in Waseca with Pastor Rick Wulf officiating. A luncheon followed the service. A private family graveside service took place at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Bob and Teri’s memory may be directed to the Red Cross, US Coast Guard Foundation, and American Cancer Society.

Peter Madel Jr.

With his wife of 66 years at his side, R. Peter (“Pete”) Madel Jr., 93, of Waseca, passed away on November 22, 2023. Pete left an enduring impact on his family, friends, and the broader community.

Born in Evanston, Illinois on August 29, 1930, Pete moved to Waseca with his parents on July 4, 1937. Because his father owned and operated small hotels, Pete lived in the Waseca Hotel from 1937 to 1947. Desiring to follow in his father’s footsteps, Pete attended, and graduated from, the Ivy League’s Cornell University with a degree in Hotel Administration in 1952.

While attending Cornell, Pete received a Reserve Officers’ Training Corps commission and spent two years serving in the United States Army. Pete’s service included a tour in Korea, where he worked as an Aide to General Maxwell Taylor. A man of few compliments, General Taylor provided Pete with two letters of commendation.

Following his discharge from the Army, Pete went to West Point, Montana, to operate his family’s Sherman Hotel. He then operated the Great Falls Hotel in Montana for a year, and then the Burke Hotel in Vermillion, South Dakota, for another year. While in South Dakota, he met Mary Ann Schumacher in 1956. They married on August 31, 1957, and ultimately had four children.

In 1960, Pete’s family acquired some land on Loon Lake and built Lake Shore Inn Nursing Home. Pete served as its Owner/Administrator for approximately 37 years. Known for his unwavering commitment to the elderly and vulnerable, Pete was a driving force behind numerous initiatives aimed at enhancing the standards of care within the nursing-home industry. In 1985, Pete was selected as the Minnesota Ad-

ministrator of the Year by the Minnesota Chapter of the American College of Health Care Administrators. In addition to several other awards and accolades, Lake Shore Inn was designated as a “Teaching Nursing Home” by the University of Minnesota in 1993. Pete’s leadership, foresight, and advocacy played a pivotal role in creating a more compassionate and dignified environment for residents and their families. He was proud that his oldest son, Pete III, assumed Lake Shore’s Administrator role in 1998.

Pete’s love of Waseca shaped the community in which we live today. In 1967, after Waseca found itself with only one doctor in a community of six-thousand people, Pete, with two friends, lobbied and obtained funds to build the local hospital; funded and built a clinic next to the hospital; and convinced three young doctors to come to Waseca, each of whom practiced in Waseca for almost all their respective careers.

In 1969, Pete was instrumental in the passing of the Waseca High School Bond Issue, which led to the construction of today’s Waseca High School. Before Pete was involved, the Bond Issue failed twice. But as part of his efforts, Pete arranged for the Waseca newspaper to run “Man on the Street” squibs supporting the effort, persuaded Commanders of the Legion and VFW to co-sign letters of support, and convinced every minister in town to endorse the initiative the Sunday before the election. The third time, it passed by a wide margin.

Pete was a charter member of Waseca Hospice, a charter member of the Waseca Players, a member of the Waseca-Steele County Drug Court Steering Committee, and was the third person to win the Don Eustice Community Service Award. His love of golf led him to serve in nu-

merous positions at Waseca Lakeside Golf Club, including as President, where he helped raise thousands of dollars to redesign the course. Driven by his sons’ love of hockey, Pete established the Waseca Hockey Association with a friend in 1971, which ultimately led to Waseca schools’ formal recognition of the sport. And when his son showed an interest in the law, Pete funded, and helped establish, the Waseca High School Mock Trial Law Team. Years after his children graduated from Waseca High School, he funded the Law Team when budget cuts threatened its existence.

In short, Pete’s legacy is woven into the fabric of Waseca’s community.

In addition to Waseca, Pete devoted years of his life contributing to the betterment of the State of Minnesota. Working for free, he worked tirelessly to improve the quality of care and support for those in need through his 20+ year participation in Minnesota’s leading trade association for nursing homes, Care Providers of Minnesota. After serving on numerous committees and other posts, Pete was elected Chairman of Care Providers’ Board of Directors. The organization also elected him Member of the Year in 1991 and provided him with the Life Achievement in Education Award in 1992.

Pete’s unwavering commitment to the elderly and vulnerable also led him to serve as Adjunct Faculty at Mankato State University for 16 years, teaching long-term care administration for its nationally recognized healthcare program.

In June 1992, Governor Arne Carlson appointed Pete to serve on the Minnesota State Board of Public Defense, and in February 2003, Governor Tim Pawlenty commissioned Pete to serve as its Chairman. His tenure established the district-by-dis-



Peter Madel Jr.

trict Board of Public Defense that exists today.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Pete cherished the moments spent with his family. Pete is survived by his wife, Mary Ann, his children, Elizabeth, Pete (Liz), Barry, and Chris (Paula), his grandchildren Patrick, Mike (Kristi), Drew, Zach (Carissa), Parker, Abby (Ryan), Haley, Nate, Bridget (Daniel), Olivia, and Bella, and great-grandchildren Jameson, Jackson, Easton, T.J., Blake, Braydon, Tinley, Cullen, Wren, and Everett.

In honoring Pete’s memory, Pete’s children strive to continue his legacy of kindness, compassion, and service. The world is undoubtedly a better place because of his contributions, and his spirit will live on through the positive changes he initiated and the lives he touched.

After a private family ceremony, there will be a Celebration of Life at Lakeside Country Club, 37160 Clear Lake Drive, Waseca, Minnesota, in January. All are invited.

Mavis Wedner

MAVIS M. WEDNER, age 88, of Waseca, MN died on Friday, November 24, 2023 at Immanuel St. Joseph’s Hospital in Mankato, MN with family at her bedside.

Mavis Maxine, was born July 20, 1935 to John and Lydia (Grunwald) Papke in Waseca. May was baptized on August 18, 1935 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wilton Township. She reaffirmed her faith through confirmation on June 5, 1949. She attended rural country school and then Waseca High School graduating in 1953. After graduation she moved to Minneapolis where she attended beauty school and worked for 20 years.

She was united in marriage to James Wedner of Eagle Bend, MN

on April 7, 1956 at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Wilton Township. In 1973 they moved to Charles City, IA. There, Mavis worked in various high-end retail stores. She also enjoyed the acreage near her home where she had many rescue animals including miniature horses, goats, lots of homeless cats and two guard dogs.

She remained in Charles City for a time after Jim’s death in 1984, but eventually sold her home in 1996 and moved closer to her family in Waseca. Here, she volunteered at Lakeshore Inn and her church for many years. She continued her passion for animals, especially her dogs and cats. She enjoyed the many activities of her extended family as well.

Mavis is survived by her sister Janis Drahiem of Mesa, AZ and sister-in-law, Sally Wedner of Keizer, Oregon. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, and great-great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Lydia Papke; her husband, Jim; her sister, Lois (Orlando) Wood; her brothers-in-law, William Draheim and Roger Wedner; and brother and sister-in-law, Jay and Betty Wedner.

Funeral service was at 11:00 AM on Thursday, November 30, 2023 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wilton Township, Waseca County. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will be at Woodville Cemetery.



Mavis Wedner

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■ Briefs

from Page 1

Holiday Train to visit Waseca, Janesville, December 6

The Canadian Pacific “Holiday Train” will be stopping in Waseca at 5:30 p.m. near the city safety building parking lot and in Janesville near Veterans’ Memorial Park at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, December 6. More information available at <https://www.cpkcr.com/en/community/HolidayTrain>

Waldorf Community Christmas Dinner at Noon, December 7

A community Christmas dinner will be at noon on Thursday, Dec. 7 at the Waldorf Community Center. Cost for the meal, which includes “turkey and all the trimmings,” is \$10. Take-out meals can be arranged for by calling 507-461-0115, and will be available for pickup beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Christmas Time at the Mill 1-7 p.m. Dec 9

Free admission to the Mill for crafts, cookie decorating, Santa letter writing, games and more. Local choirs will be performing. Food truck from Lucia’s Cocina available. Live music from Bryce Leppert from 8 to 11 p.m.

All You Can Eat Breakfast 8 a.m. to noon, Dec. 10

All you can eat breakfast to benefit Waseca Boy Scouts Troop 85 at the Waseca V.F.W. Cost is \$12 for adults, \$7 for youth, preschool free. Menu includes pancakes, French toast, biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, beverages.

Concert to Benefit New Richland Foundation Dec. 9, 10

A concert featuring local musicians Adam Moen and Gavin Berg will be at 7 p.m. Dec. 9 and 2 p.m. Dec. 10 at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Richland. All proceeds benefit the New Richland Area Foundation. Free will offering.

■ County

from Page 1

pointed out, however, that the berm was built because a prior flooding incident had forced the evacuation of about 30 elderly residents from the New Richland Care Center—placing their health and safety at risk.

Commissioner DeAnn Malterer expressed deep personal sympathy for Stennes’ situation. She pointed out that the government’s responsibility to protect people’s lives and safety is greater than its mandate to protect property.

“A decision to compensate, that’s not something we can do lightly,” she said, noting that any payment the county might make to Stennes might be viewed as a precedent in future cases.

County attorney Rachel Corne-

Christ the King Live Nativity, light meal beginning 5:30 p.m. Dec. 13, Dec. 20

Prior to its 6:30 p.m. advent services on Dec. 13 and 20, Christ the King Church will present a live nativity scene beginning about 5 p.m. at its address: 309 Sixth Street NE, Waseca. A light meal of soup, bread and dessert will be served from 4:45 to 6:15 p.m. Donations will be accepted.

Live Nativity at St. John Lutheran Church Dec. 15 and 16

A live outdoor nativity scene will be on display at St. John Lutheran Church (401 Third Avenue NE, Waseca) the evenings of Dec. 15 and 16. Viewers may drive or walk past. There is no cost to attend.

Starfire Event Center Holiday Craft Show 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 16

The Starfire Event Center is presenting a craft show with more than 50 vendors from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3 at its location at 206 Second Ave SW.

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.

Waldorf Veterans Memorial Fund Drive

Donations are requested to support the construction of the Waldorf Veterans Memorial. Checks written to WVMP Fund Drive can be mailed to WVMP Fund Drive; Judy Joecks, treasurer; P.O. Box 55; Waldorf, MN 56091. Questions can be directed to Charlie Barnes at (763) 286-2246.

Waseca County Stagecoach History

Judy Joecks is compiling a history of stagecoach routes in Waseca County. She would appreciate hearing from anyone who has information regarding stagecoach trails or stops. (507) 317-1345.

lius called attention to the eight-year time delay as a complication when it came to questions of precedent and liability.

County manager Michael Johnson asked Stennes what dollar amount he was requesting.

Stennes’ reply was, “Well, I don’t want to be unreasonable.” In the end, he asked for \$30,000 in compensation to cover the cost of the essentially new mower and another pull-behind mower which had been in the shed. There was also the problem of documenting Stennes’ losses, since many of the ruined items had been disposed of long ago.

Muff pointed out that information he had submitted to the board included only those losses which could be documented.

Board members assured Stennes they would investigate the questions of liability and precedent further, and would be in touch with him in the future.

Waldorf sets 2024 levy at 6%

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

The city of Waldorf set its final tax levy at 6% for 2024 and also approved a new ordinance allowing residents to keep up to six chickens (only hens) to be housed in an enclosure.

The levy amount approved last year was an 8% increase from the year before. Council members discussed the possibility of a 5% levy increase or 8% and agreed 6% was an appropriate amount to not only allow a little “breathing room” but also not be as big a tax burden as other surrounding towns.

Another animal ordinance was also agreed upon, this one limiting the number of cats in a household to three and also the number of dogs to three. Residents are asked to register their animals with city hall. This new rule replaces previous licensing procedures which required residents to pay money for a licensing fee. Now, simply put, residents are asked to inform the city they have animals. This is important in the case of missing animals. If a reg-

istered pet is reported missing and is found, it can be returned rather than being taken to the local vet in Waseca. If brought to the vet, fees, including housing and care are charged by the clinic. If pet owners do not register their animals, a fee can be assessed following a written warning. The fine amount had not yet been agreed to.

Many miscellaneous topics were discussed.

Fall leaf pickup is done for the season.

There is no time frame established yet for work on the Kathy Hodgkin property.

Numerous checking account summaries for various city of Waldorf accounts will now be included in the city’s monthly meeting minutes, per the state auditor’s suggestion.

Fog sealing was approved for the most recently paved, city owned, Waldorf streets. The county agreed to do the streets along North, East and Main Streets.

On Nov. 28 the state bonding bill committee stopped in for a

would stay in that fund.

A summary report showed that runs made by the JFD were down for 2023. “Saying that out loud usually means more runs in the future,” one board member joked.

However, everything across the board from fire calls to mutual aid is down. “We’re closer to our ten-year average than the past three years, which were high,” Rogers said.

He then updated the fire board on the JFD’s new brush truck. According to him, everything was up and running except the tank and pump on the truck. “We opted not to transfer the old pump and tank,” he explained.

One modern hiccup that came with the new truck is its fuel efficiency feature that shut off the vehicle if it was left idle for 20 minutes. If the firefighter using it left the vehicle, it would shut itself off, meaning that the emergency lights would go out as well. “We messed with the computer inside,” Santo said. “We hope that’s taken care of now.”

He expressed annoyance about the progress of the new pumper truck. Despite it being mostly built, it has no chassis yet, and it won’t even be available in January. “It was pushed so hard to get the contract signed because of the price of the chassis, and we don’t have it yet. I heard a rumor that it’s been at the dealership for the past month and a half.”

Anderson pointed out that it was

WALDORF CITY COUNCIL

visit. Two guest speakers, including Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas spoke. The city is hoping to get funding for its fire station. Mayor Rob Wilkening spoke with representative Peggy Bennett, who, after some convincing from Wilkening, appears to be in support. Wilkening reported he had to do extensive research to find another community in the state of Minnesota which had previously received state assistance in order to build their fire hall.

An answer has been found to questions regarding agricultural property located within Waldorf City limits. The amount is set by the state at 1.5% for agricultural land located within city limits and 1% outside city limits.

The city is required to create a plan for emergency power outages in relation to public safety. The plan must include providing a shelter with heat or air conditioning if needed. At this point there is no funding available and thus, it is “not happening anytime

soon.”

Council members approved posting the job “cleaning the community center”; pay was set at \$25 per hour. It was also agreed that if renters of the community center did not clean up after themselves, then pay for cleaning services could be taken from the renters’ security deposit.

Special assessments for townships which didn’t pay for assistance from the Waldorf Fire Department were approved to be tabled until the Nov. 27 special meeting.

The city of Waldorf placed \$100,000 in a CD with an interest rate 5%.

Six new chairs were purchased for the community center.

A pay increase of 5% was approved for all hourly employees of Waldorf beginning in 2024.

The tax levy approved at 6% higher sets budgets at the following amounts:

- General \$125,492.98
- Fire \$33,382.37
- Total \$158,875.40

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Fire department budget scrutinized

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

not uncommon for this to happen. “We bought a new plow truck, and we had to send a guy to Texas to drive it back,” he shared. “It had been sitting down there for six to seven months.”

The fire board meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

There was not a lot of business outside of the fire board meeting. Rogers reported that the recent city cleanup in the fall cost \$5,100, which was more than last year, but similar to what it cost the city in 2020. He informed the council that he and City Attorney Jason Moran will be looking at personnel policies needing changes concerning sick leave and other policies due to a change in state statutes.

The council approved an investment opportunity presented to them by Janesville State Bank. The opportunity involves the council investing money from various city funds into a mixture of different savings accounts and bonds. City staff suggested \$500,000 from funds like storm sewer, sanitary sewer, the golf course, and playground equipment to invest in these opportunities. With variations of 5.1 to 5.2 percent interest for either six to 12 months, the city could make an estimated \$77,190 in earnings.

The council approved a resolution allowing the city to pursue payments on public nuisance spe-

cial assessments which involved the city completing work on various properties. If the property owners don’t pay the special assessments, the city can assess those on their property taxes.

The council briefly talked about the progress of finding a new police chief. Rogers said that three candidates signed up for the position (two of them currently work for the city) and that all three of them met the needed qualifications. He suggested forming a committee to perform the first round of interviews and then decide whether a second round is necessary.

“In a perfect world, they can either determine if they want a second interview or make a recommendation as soon as November 27,” he said.

The council then approved the following items: a payment of about \$90,000 for the 2022 Street and Utility Improvement project that covers work through September 8; a donation of \$147.10 from the Janesville Area Golf Association to Prairie Ridge Golf Course to cover costs of a sign installation; and an \$80 donation to the Veterans Memorial Fund.

The council members closed the meeting at about 8 p.m. to go over the city administrator’s performance review before reopening and adjourning the meeting shortly thereafter.

Electrical bid saves NRHEG \$80,000

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

During the October NRHEG school board meeting, board members asked Rusty Ray, the site manager for next summer’s construction projects, to go back to contractors and request new bids for the electrical work to be performed at both the Ellendale and New Richland sites.

Their request rested on the fact that the lowest bid, from Albert Lea Electric, had been rejected on a technicality—namely that, rather than submitting separate dollar amounts for each site, the contractor had submitted a single number for both.

Thanks to the resubmitted bids, the electrical portion of next summer’s work will be about \$80,000 less expensive. Albert Lea Electric’s bid was for somewhat more than \$810,000. The electrical work was one of five elements for which bids had been received. Next summer’s \$4.2 million construction projects call for replacement of doors, especially wooden ones, which no longer meet state standards; up-

grades to the heating and cooling systems at both sites; and grading and paving of numerous parking areas, notably including the large “student” lot to the east of the New Richland building.

Elementary teacher Katie Knudson told the board about the after-school program “Camp Panther,” which she has organized at the elementary site. The program takes advantage of additional funding available for programs which offer “social, emotional learning” opportunities for children who are eligible for “targeted services.”

Camp Panther meets for 2 hours after school on Wednesday afternoons. Through the fall, Knudson reported having 61 students who are supervised by 5 teachers. Students take part in group activities including “rocket math,” group challenges, cooking, board games, and more—all aimed at expanding their skills for everyday tasks and interactions.

“It takes a lot of planning and preparation,” said Knudson. “And it’s my first year, so I’m



learning as we go.” Still, she reports, the program has seen some important successes. “Kids are helping more at home. They’re less afraid to try new things and to try new foods.”

School board member Amy Irlke stated it was a “no brainer” that the program should be continued. “The kids are having fun, and learning from the fun they’re having,” she observed.

District Teaching and Learning Coordinator Jason Toupenue informed board members that the annual World’s Best Workforce (WBW) report must be submitted to the state by Dec. 15. The WBW is a set of expectations imposed on school districts with the intent that it will provide motivation to keep strengthening the educational programs. When WBW was implemented, the intent was that students would be “workforce ready” as they earn

their high school diplomas, and thus ready either to go on to further education or to enter the workforce. WBW has benchmarks which range from ensuring preschool programs are in place to help students be “kindergarten ready” to whether students are reading at grade level in third grade, to closing the “achievement gap” between students of different socioeconomic levels. For all the goals listed, Toupenue reported mixed results. About 73% of the district’s kindergarteners are “ready” as they begin their time in the district. While another 73% of students advanced their reading skills by at least one grade level over the past year, fewer than 40% of third-graders were reading at state-prescribed “grade level.” Most of these figures, Toupenue pointed out, were typical of districts statewide. He also reported that steps are being taken to improve the numbers, including updates to textbooks and other teaching materials.



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The Pastor's Column

Meeting God in quiet moments

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

It was one of the most beautiful nights. There are not many like it. I would say that it came close to being perfect, only a few things could have made it better. It was one of the most beautiful of nights.

What makes a night beautiful? To me it has to deal with silence, sight and weather. Last night I stood out in a field in the middle of an oak forest, the wind drowned out any other sound, but in this field it was silent. I could hear the wind above the trees, but it did not blow around me. The moon was bright, no light was needed to see the soft snow of the cold night fall. The snow twinkled as it landed on and around me. It was one of the most beautiful nights.

In this moment, I cried out to God in worship. It was Him and me, all cares and concerns had left me, and I turned to Him as God and praised Him. I focused on Him and the balance of the power He holds, to create wind that would destroy, but safe harbors to guard us. I focused on His great love for meeting me where there would be no distractions. I focused on His provision of all my needs from my wife and children to the home and warmth He has given me.

I felt great joy in God's love for me, contentment in my relationship with Him, peace at His forgiveness, and all of these provisions from God strengthened my faith. It was beautiful

not because of weather, although that helped, but what God was doing in my heart and in my faith. I can imagine David, as a shepherd, feeling the same thing as he watched the sheep on the fields held the same feelings and remembered those times as he wrote the words of Psalms 100.

1 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

2 Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

3 Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving

and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

5 For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;

his faithfulness continues through all generations.

For all that God has done for me, I turn in worship to Him. It is His work in my life that strengthens me for the next day. The memories of one of the most beautiful nights will remain with me, but it is not the weather that I will dwell upon; rather how God met me in those moments bringing me strength for today, courage for tomorrow and hope for all eternity.

Let us choose to focus on God's goodness, His provision, His forgiveness, and how He meets us in the quiet moments.

Area Girl Scout organizes winter clothing drive

Alexis Olson, an 8th grader at NRHEG Middle School and a New Richland Girl Scout, organized a winter clothing drive to benefit the Shepherd's Robe in New Richland. After learning that the local organization was in need of winter clothing for all ages, Alexis partnered with NRHEG elementary school and Wagner Foods grocery. For the month of October she collected donations from the collection bins she had placed there. Alexis wasn't sure what kind of turnout she was going to have, but was overjoyed by the display of kindness each week. She says the community really needs to be recognized for how they stepped up to the challenge. The students of NRHEG elementary stuffed the bin on a weekly basis as well as the residents of New Richland at Wagner Foods grocery store. The generosity

of the people of our community really is overwhelming! Our community should be proud of itself! From boots to hats, coats and scarves, the bins were stuffed. She even received many other articles of clothing, such as new with-tag items and unopened shoes in boxes. By the end of the month, Alexis had collected two stuffed SUVs worth of donations! Alexis also wishes to recognize the immense work that the kind volunteers of the Shepherd's Robe do in order to supply needed clothing to anyone in need at no charge. The organization also offers some housewares, towels, bedding and toys. According to a volunteer, Patricia Miller, the organization served 1,560 people in 2022. She said that people come from all around. New Richland, Waseca, Owatonna and Ellendale. If anyone



Pictured in front is Alexis Olson with half of her donations. Back row from left: Pastor Brian Schanil, volunteers Pat Miller and Sandy Prechel.

is in need or wishes to donate or volunteer, they are open every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. Located at Vista Covenant Church rural New Richland at 14679 275th Ave. I also

want to recognize Alexis for her kind heart and desire to help others in her community. She hopes that through her work she was able to make others lives a little bit easier this winter.

Raimann joins fire department

By JESSICA LUTGENS Staff writer

The New Richland City Council approved the addition of a new member, Ashton Raimann, to the New Richland Fire Department during its first meeting of the month on Monday, Nov. 13. Fire Chief Josh Moen was present to give the council updates on the department's activities in recent months, noting that calls throughout the year have been normal.

In October, the department responded to two fire calls. Equipment and gear were briefly discussed, and Moen stated that everything is in good condition.

"I feel we're very safe with what we have now," he said. The report was approved.

Sarah Sundve presented the ambulance report, stating that at the time

of the meeting, the ambulance had 141 runs for the year, which is down from last year. Two members of the ambulance resigned, and Sundve said she would be looking into putting out flyers to the community in the hope of gaining new members for the ambulance. Issues with the ambulance rig, which have since been resolved, were discussed, and the report was approved.

Chief of Police Tanyce Bruegger presented the police report, stating that the NRPD had 202 calls in October, bringing the total number of calls for the year to 950. Officer Madden and Joel Jandt began field training, and uniforms and equipment were purchased for new hires. The council approved the purchase of new tires for the 260 squad at a cost of up to \$1,000.

Council member Loren Skelton

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

brought up the matter of minors vaping on school property, asking what the department's process was for handling that kind of situation. Bruegger said that most police departments leave it up to the school, but that if a student is caught using a vaping device on school grounds, the police department is usually contacted and a report is then written and sent to the county attorney's office. From there, the county attorney decides if the matter goes to a citation. The police report was approved.

An update was given on the utility billing situation, and it was agreed to wait until January of 2025 to switch to a different utility billing provider.

The council approved the final bill for fencing at Legion Field at a cost of \$32,918.50 along with beam installation for the new scoreboard at Legion Field at a cost of \$3,225. Also approved was the annual PeopleService CPI increase.

A lengthy discussion was had regarding the 2024 budget, which will be approved during the last council meeting of the year in December.

The administrator's report stated that work continues with department heads on the capital plan and the 2024 budget, conversations continue with Intellicents regarding 2024 health insurance, and the new city website is up and running, among other items. The report was approved, and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

■ Council

from Page 3

constitutes more than 1 percent of the city's annual expenditures, could be removed from anticipated expenses and the levy amount for 2023 taxes payable in 2024 could be reduced—leading to a "negative levy increase." The other option he offered was leaving the \$85,000 in the budget and continuing with the approved .8 percent increase.

"Managing the budget is always a balancing act," observed Sonnenberg. "It's nice to have a little bit of leverage in our favor."

After a brief discussion, council members voted to leave the proposed budget as it stands, and to set the \$85,000 aside as "a hedge" against future cost increases.

As the 7 p.m. council meeting began, Deb Dobberstein, who lives near Gaiter Lake, addressed the council with a series of questions regarding conceptual plans currently being developed for the city by the Minneapolis engineering company Stantec. Dobberstein asked a number of questions about whether water and sewer lines currently in place are adequate for the proposed number of dwellings. She made mention of a "buffer" area proposed between current neighborhoods and any new development.

"Who owns those buffer areas? Who has control?" she asked. "Are they a place where kids will ride four-wheelers dangerously fast?" She also asked why the DNR had not made an appearance at any of the planning meetings she has attended.

City manager Sonnenberg told Dobberstein that the plans she has seen at meetings are "conceptual," that is, they have not been approved—or even yet seen—by the council members as a group. Sonnenberg stated that, yes, the capacity of drainage and sewer lines would be adequate for the anticipated increased use and that the DNR has been consistently informed about proposed development. He said that, although a DNR officer had intended to be at the most recent presentation, she

had become ill and was unable to attend. Finally, Sonnenberg said the buffers would be owned and controlled by the city, and that the city would have the same level of control it does at parks and other public lands.

The lone action item on the evening's agenda was to approve a bid of just over \$700,000 from Keys Well Drilling of St. Paul. Although the city had previously received three or four bids when planning well clean-out projects, Keys was the only company which responded to the city's request during this round.

Despite this, Sonnenberg recommended approving the company for the project of inspecting, maintaining and cleaning the city's five wells across several months in 2024. Sonnenberg stated that the bid was in line with engineer estimates for the project, with one exception—the removal of sand which may have collected at the bottom of the wells—each of which is at least 700 feet deep. Since there may not even be a collection of sand, and since the bid included several contingency elements which could be used to mitigate costs, Sonnenberg suggested the single item should not be regarded as discrediting the company's bid.

Also during the Nov. 21 meeting, council members heard from Paul DeMorett, the Waseca school district's community education director. DeMorett summarized the programs offered through community ed. The city council provides \$100,000 each year to supplement costs for the city's youth recreation programs.

Other sources of revenue for community ed, DeMorett shared, are fees paid by participants, contributions from the city and a number of townships, charitable donations, grants, and income paid as rental for the use of school facilities. For example, roughly one birthday party a week takes place in various locations on school grounds.

"We couldn't do it without you," said DeMorett. "We appreciate the partnership."

More than one council member expressed support for community education and summer recreation programming saying it "contributes to the quality of life."

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH
2200 4th St NE, Waseca
507-835-2235
Service times 9:30 a.m.
* * *

4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH
605 4th St NE, Waseca
507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker)
Worship Sundays 10 a.m.
* * *

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
801 4th Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-3167
Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m.
* * *

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 6th St NE, Waseca
507-835-9176
Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service
* * *

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca
507-833-1703
Sundays 9:00 a.m.
* * *

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
314 4th Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-2647
Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m.
* * *

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-4548 (office email: lcwaseca@hickorytech.net)
Worship Sunday 10 a.m.
* * *

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 E Elm Ave, Waseca
507-835-1709
Worship Sunday 9 a.m.
* * *

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
111 4th St NW, Waseca
507-835-1222
Worship Saturday 5:15 p.m., Sundays 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., weekdays 8:30 a.m. Tues., Wed. and Fri., 7:00 a.m. Thurs.
* * *

REAL LIFE CHURCH
620 W Elm Ave, Waseca

507-607-8245
Sunday worship 10 a.m.
* * *

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS
1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca
507-835-4640
Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.
* * *

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
1221 8th St SE, Waseca
507-835-2213
Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
* * *

CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY
900 14th Ave SE, Waseca
507-833-1082
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m.
* * *

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship
Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship
* * *

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Otisco, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship
* * *

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Mary Iverson
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee
Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting
Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting
* * *

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Pamela Jensen
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship
* * *

LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting
* * *

VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
* * *

VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Brian Schanil Pastor
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m. 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark
* * *

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Father Brian Mulligan
Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass
* * *

FIRST LUTHERAN
Missouri Synod
Waldorf, Minnesota
Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor
Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class
* * *

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Freedom Township
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
* * *

ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Pastor Ava Adams-Morris
Waldorf, Minnesota
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
* * *

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC
Waldorf, Minnesota
Father Brian Mulligan
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship
* * *

TRINITY LUTHERAN
Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
* * *

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Brad Donner, Branch President
Waseca, Minnesota
www.lds.org
Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18
* * *

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
* * *

JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
401 N. West St., Janesville
Pastor Kathy King
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship
* * *

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
43089 180th St., Morristown
Pastor Kathy King
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter)
* * *

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH
307 W. 2nd St. Janesville
10 a.m. - Mass
* * *

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 Owen St., Janesville
Pastor Sarah Krolak
* * *

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH
Alma City, Minnesota
Pastor Robert Harting
Sunday - 10 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
* * *

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
* * *

NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.

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Argus Archives

1923

Dennis E. Hogan whose death was briefly noted in these columns last week, was born in Covington, Kentucky on July 9th, 1862. He died at Faribault on Sunday, October 21st at about ten o'clock in the forenoon. Death was due to heart failure from over exertion from cranking a car. His age was 59 years, 3 months, and 12 days. When about ten years of age he came to Minnesota with his parents who settled on a farm near Janesville. This place for th emost part since that early day has been his home although for some years he resided in St. Paul and more recently in Faribault.

On Tuesday last Father S. Condron courteously gave us an opportunity to view the contents of the corner stone box taken from the Catholic Church. In building the church the box was unearthed. Its contents are of vast historical interest. The church was erected in 1887. In the box was a copy of the Northwestern Chronicle dated June 23, 1877, a copy of the Janesville Argus dated June 19, 1877, and papers giving the historical record of the church up to that date.

Last week we gave the data at that time in evidence as to the observance of Armistice Day, November 11th. We are requested to again remind the public that the day will fall on Sunday and that the program will be carried out on Monday. It is expected that to all intents and purposes the day will be observed in the same form and manner as is customary.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Wilkinson will spend the winter in Los Angeles, California. They have made the necessary reservations and will leave about the first of December. They expect to be away at least four months. They will be demiciled at a popular apartment house and during the time they will leisurely take in side trips as the spirit moved and in the meantime see the city and its noted places, including the play studios at Hollywood and all the theaters.

1948

Coach Art Chiodo's lads continue to knock off Gopher Conference competition as they defeated the New Richland Cardinals 13-6 to climax their Homecoming festivities. This game, being almost a replica of the Blooming Prairie game, was won in the final 35 seconds as a result of a 60-yard march.

Having completed its 75th year of service in the Janesville community, the Janesville Argus is quietly celebrating its Diamond Jubilee, within the confines of its establishment. The Argus was established in 1873 by C. E. Graham who operated this newspaper for seven years when it was taken over by John A. Henry who was its publisher for 47 years.

Under the tutelage of Coach Art Chiodo, the Golden Bears have shared top honors in the Gopher Conference League with Blooming Prairie. This is the first football championship ever won by the boys of Janesville High. Although the team in 1925, then called the Dodgers, had an undefeated season under Coach Bernie Cole, they were not a member of any league and thus were deprived of a championship trophy.

The highest yield reported by a 4-H club member is the corn project this year that was reported by Donald Keller. Donald is 10 years old and a member of the Waseca Go-Getters club. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Keller. Donald helped his father with all the corn, but he had three acres which he called his own. His corn was planted on May 15 and harvested on October 9. Donald's total yield per acres was 140 bushels of corn in 16% moisture basis.

1973

Every Minnesotan must be registered in order to vote under a new law passed by the last state legislature. This law is now in effect, which means it applies to the Janesville Municipal Election, Tuesday, November 6. Voters already registered under the old law need not register again.

The two best teams in the Gopher and the Wasioja conferences will meet head-on here in the inter-conference playoffs Friday night. The game will match the New Richland Cardinals and Goodhue High School.

Three Janesville businesses suffered glass breakage Halloween night at the hands of vandals. Two large front window panes were broken at Simon Pharmacy and Tetzloff Variety. The glass in the front door of Janesville Hatchery was also broken out. Insurance covered the breakage at Simons and Tetzloffs. Deputy Sheriff Jerry Splett estimated the damage to windows and property at \$600 for the Halloween vandalism here.

Janesville voters turned thumbs down on Sunday Liquor for the second time Tuesday, defeating the referendum 213 to 190. The 23-vote margin in Tuesday's election compared to an 18-vote difference in the Special Election held here May 6.

1998

A \$1.2 billion railroad expansion project proposed by the Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad Corporation (DM&E) is raising many concerns for residents and communities along the rail line. So much concern, in fact, that a grassroots group has formed in the Mankato area in opposition to DM&E's coal train expansion. This group is called Coal Train Issues Coalition of Mankato (CTIC-Mankato).

Excitement and activity filled the halls of the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Middle School as students and parents arrived for the Oktoberfest celebration on Friday, Oct. 30. Oktoberfest is the middle school's major fundraiser for its student council. Proceeds from this even will be used to fund field trips throughout the year.

Some uncharacteristic missed serves gave the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton volleyball team some hope in the opening round of Subsection 5A play at Mapleton Monday. But after blowing six serves in the opening game and still surviving, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown got its game back on track and swept a stubborn Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton club in the quarterfinals. JWP, the seventh seed, ended its season at 9-13 losing for the sixth time in its final eight matches.

This past June a group of students had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., to discover their nation's heritage. The fifth through seventh-grade students were representative of Both Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton and Trinity Lutheran Schools. "It was nice to have a connection with both schools," said Shelley Schultz, middle school principal and chaperone.

Back in the day (Waseca)

100 Years Ago – Waseca Herald

- Defying a downpouring rain, and puddles of water and mud over one thousand people turned out to pay honors to Judge Senn Thursday evening after his election to the district judgeship. The fight had been one of the hottest in years and almost every one in the city and county took a personal interest in it and considered Judge Senn's victory, their victory. At 7:30 the Waseca band assembled at the court house and a torch light procession was formed. About two or three hundred men carried torch lights. The procession started down Second street, the band playing the music for which it is famous and the crowds surged the street. After marching up and down the street they turned on Lake avenue and went down to the high school grounds. A huge bonfire was started and in a minute or two it was crackling and leaping in flames. It was a time of jubilee everywhere, for Waseca county has just won the judgeship for the first time since the district was created.

- The total cost of the West Elm St. drain was reported at the city council meeting lasts evening to be about \$1261, figuring in interest charges and publication costs up to date. It was decided to make the assessments at \$20 a lot where there is but one house on a lot at \$35 where there are two houses, or a total of \$595 for the abutting property owners, excepting the C. & N. W., which was assessed \$200, making a total of \$795.

- Fifty years of married life is something of a record in these days when the divorce courts are working overtime and when the word home has lost some of its former charm. Yet Mr. and Mrs. Peter McLin celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary at their home in this city last week. This was an event long looked forward to in the lives of these people. Fifty years of happy married life these days is an achievement.

75 Years Ago – Waseca Herald

- The number of Waseca county deer hunters topped all previous records, according to County Auditor Art. Brisbane, who announced that 397 Waseca people had purchased licenses to hunt deer. Reports from other counties show similar gains over last year and some 200,000 are hunting this season. Hunters returning from up north state that many have had trouble getting their deer, although this year there is snow on the ground. Far north the snow is heavy enough to make walking a hard process.

- Waseca may have had a fine fall, but snow and cold weather caught many farmers with soy beans and corn still in the field and the loss is liable to be sizable. Losses will run higher in soy beans than in corn. Cletus Murphy estimated, since soy beans will take less punishment than corn. Farmers waiting for combines and corn pickers will have trouble cleaning their fields. The first snow on November 7 brought ice and softened the fields so that farmers could not get out to finish work on soy beans and corn. The last snow of seven inches has increased the trouble for farmers as far as getting out in the fields and a weather report today forecasted four more inches on the way.

- The Waseca public schools at their annual open house entertained almost 500 parents last Thursday night who came to inspect the schools, watch different demonstrations by students and check exhibits prepared to show what their children are doing as they get an education. Parents numbered about 70 more than last year and about 150 more than open house in 1945, the first year the plan was started. There were 700 booklets mailed out to parents explaining the open house plan and urging them to attend, talk with the teachers and check points on education with which they are not familiar. esides regular income tax problems.

50 Years Ago – Waseca Journal

- The Journal learned in a telephone call from the State Department Saturday that Dave Kunst should be home by Thanksgiving. Dave was to have left the American Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan today (Monday) for his journey home to Waseca. Jan Kunst, Dave's wife, told the Journal today that Dave tires easily and his flight home will be "broken up" to allow him plenty of rest. Jan said she has no idea how Dave is coming home whether on a military or commercial flight. She also doesn't know if he is traveling on his feet or on a stretcher. Dave had been in the hospital 13 days and was given an average of two x-rays a day.

- Sunday was a cold bleak day in Waseca, but a great day for the elderly citizens of the Waseca area as groundbreaking took place for the new "Maple Terrace" housing project. Reverend Paul Knutson, present chairman of the Waseca Housing Authority, thanked the Sacred Heart Parish for what he termed "the best site in town" for the project.

- Dr. Loren L. Braun, a professor of chemistry at Idaho State University, has published a textbook on "Essentials of Organic Biochemistry." He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. August Braun, Janesville, and a brother of Mrs. Grove Brown, Waseca. He graduated from Waseca Central High School in 1947. "This book presents an over-view of the fields of organic and biochemistry," Dr. Braun wrote in the preface.

25 Years Ago – Waseca County News

- Two Waseca residents were taken to the Waseca Area Medical Center and treated and released for smoke inhalation Sunday after a fire broke out in their kitchen. Waseca Fire Department investigators said the fire broke out in the kitchen of the Andersons' residence at 7:56 p.m. Waseca Fire Chief Bob Johnson said the cause of the fire was grease from a pan on the stove.

- Two goals by Kristi Petersen and the shutout goal-tending of Jessie Rose sparked the Waseca Junior Gold girls' hockey team to a 3-0 victory over the Mankato East Junior Varsity at Mankato Thursday and played a penalty-free game. The Waseca girls will be competing as an independent club team this winter and next, before becoming a high school team in 1999-2000. Seventh-grader Mandi Swenson got Waseca's first score of the year when she converted a pass from Katie Benson five minutes into the game. Petersen gave Waseca some breathing room in the middle period with two goals. Rose, who had plenty of help from her defense, was forced to make only 12 saves in the contest.

- With one fell swoop, over a century's worth of history came tumbling down. On Saturday, Nov. 8, a crane knocked down the granary that stood at the corner of State Street and Fifth Avenue Southeast for over 102 years. Gary Isker, who cares for the property with his wife Sally, said that the building needed to come down because it had become a liability. The property has been in the Isker family since this 1930s. They have no plans for the property at this time. According to a 1930 Sanborn fire insurance map, the granary was built in 1895 as part of the Everett, Aughenbaugh & Company's numerous grain elevators in the area. The building hasn't been in service since the mid-1970s. The granary had been a victim of arson twice in 1996, once in April and again in June.

Looking Back (New Richland)

100 Years Back - 1923

Robbers one night last week broke into the post office at Faribault and secured around \$317 in stamps and in cash, and the government will get them sure as preachin'. A charge of explosives was set off, but it had no effect on the vault doors.

Miss Leona Wrede entertained a number of friends at a six o'clock dinner last Sunday in honor of Louis Pedersen, who leaves Friday for a visit to his old home in Denmark.

Erland Hanson was a Hartland visitor Saturday. He is justifiably elated over the recent arrival of a son and heir at his home. With two sisters preceding him the new arrival fills out the family circle very nicely.--Hartland Herald

The walls and ceiling of School House Dist. No. 21 were papered last week. Some of the old blackboards were also taken out and new ones replaced.

Alfred Bowen and Fred Burger of Wels were business callers in Matawan on Friday and Saturday of last week.

The Fred Jensen family is now occupying the Mrs. J.O. Sunde residence in New Richland. Mr. Jensen has become manager of the local Standard Oil station.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dagley, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dunnett and family and "Just Herb" were Sunday visitors at the Henry Weckwerth home.

77 Years Back - 1946

When the fire siren sounded Tuesday evening, the fire department rushed to a house in the north part of town which was found to be on fire with little hope of saving it. It was a bird house at the Theodore Haugan home.

Mr. and Mrs. Len Dinneen of Matawan entertained the following for dinner Thanksgiving Day: Mr. and Mrs. Francis Dinneen of Rochester, Mr. and Mrs. William Bushow of Freeborn, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Darg of Albert Lea, and Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Redmund.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Klessig, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Martinson, Mr. and MRs. Ted Lee and daughter, Adlyn, Mrs. George Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Rugroden and daughter, Ingaborg and Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Berg helped Mr. and Mrs. William Jacobson observe their 20th wedding anniversary at their home Sunday evening.

Friday afternoon the Southeast No. 2 home project group met at the home of Mrs. Oscar Berg. Mrs. Wm. Jacobson and Mrs. Marvel Hendrickson, who are leaders, gave the lesson. Those who attended were Mmes. Orvin Hatle, Carl Brecke, Helmer Warke, LeRoy Armfelt, Max Twisselman, Clarence Reese, Enock Verplank and Buddy Berg.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Esklund entertained Mr. and Mrs. Donald Mahler and children at dinner Sunday. Guests in the afternoon included Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Johnson and sons and Mrs. Chester Johnson and son, Ronald.

Mr. and Mrs. Anton Madson and family of Hayward, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Finseth, and Nels Hatle spent Thanksgiving Day at the Wilbert Wagner home at Hartland.

50 Years Back - 1973



Terry Hansen of the New Richland FFA chapter was the winner of the District 14 Creed Speaking contest this month. Placing second was Tim Gossman of Waldorf-Pemberton.

Service stations in New Richland will close Sundays, according to the order given by President Nixon. Although none of the service stations in New Richland have had much difficulty in obtaining fuel, they will all lock their pumps on Sundays until further notice to help conserve energy during this crisis.

Sunday noon dinner guests at the George Eichhorst home were Mr. and Mrs. John Adams, Charlotte, Kelly, and Bruce; Mr. and Mrs. LaVerne Ewert, Becky and Rex, Gale, Garvin and Greg Eichhorst.

25 Years Back - 1998



The NRHEG High School Jazz Band has been honing their musical skills prior to presenting a concert Monday. Members pictured here are from left, seated: Holly Matthies, Tim Coyer, Amy Sack and Jason Johnson; standing: Kristin Jessen, Courtney Omann, Josh Jacobson, Janda Lewer, Joel Eastvold and Angela Boldt.

New coach takes over for WHS girls' basketball

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

With four starters graduated, first-year Waseca High School girls' basketball coach Anthony Jackson knows the 2023-24 season will present its share of challenges.

But he's ready for it.

"We expect to compete and grow as the season progresses," said Jackson. "We expect to be a feisty and gritty defensive basketball team. We expect to be fully prepared tactically for games."

Jackson replaces longtime coach Joan Conway, who resigned after last season.

The Bluejays, 16-10 overall and 8-3 in the Big South Conference last year, return five letterwinners; seniors Addie Wieseler, a 5-7 guard, Ella Krautkremer, a 5-4 guard, and Grace Guritz, a 5-10 post player, and juniors Mia Kanewischer, a 5-7 wing, and Callie Dufault, a 5-4 guard.

The rest of the roster includes juniors Lexi Kanewischer (5-6 guard), Alexis Brinkman (5-7 guard), Addison Kelm (5-6 forward), Gracie Morgan (5-9 forward), Lily Owens (5-7 forward) and Avery Gaul (5-7 forward).

"Our strength is our defensive tenacity and discipline," said Jackson. "Our offense will be an area of focus throughout the season."

Defensively, Jackson hopes to cause some turnovers, allowing the Bluejays to feel more comfortable on the court.

"We need to find ways to force turnovers and to get out in the open court as much as possible," said Jackson, who's assisted by Ashlyn

"Our strength is our defensive tenacity and discipline."

— WHS coach
Anthony Jackson

Rosenberg.

Jackson aims to have the Bluejays playing their best come tournament time.

"Although we cannot boast like some other schools that we are returning several starters from the previous varsity team, we are going to progress to become a team that won't be an easy 'out' come section play," said Jackson, who has an impressive career win-loss record of 63-14 in three seasons.

Jackson pegs Marshall as the Big South favorite, with Glencoe-Silver Lake looking to lead the way in the section.

The Bluejays opened the season at home Saturday with a 50-19 drubbing of Medford on the WHS court. Dufault led the way with 14 points, nine rebounds and five steals, with Mia Kanewischer totaling six points, 10 rebounds and five steals. Others: Lexi Kanewischer five points, Krautkremer two points, Wieseler 10 points, Morgan two points, Owens two points, Gaul four points, Guritz five points. Olivia Ward led Medford with 12 points.

"I am pleased with my team's willingness to play unselfishly on offense and play with high energy and discipline on defense," said



SEASON OPENER — New head coach Anthony Jackson, second from left, surveys the action during the Bluejays' season-opening victory Saturday, Nov. 25.
Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Jackson. "We did a great job moving the basketball and getting everyone involved on offense. We had nine players score tonight, which is a testament to their willingness to share the ball, turn down contested shots, and valuing the weakside of the court. We also did a nice job forcing turnovers and getting out on the open break."

Waseca High School 2023-24 Girls' Basketball

Sat., Nov. 25 vs. Medford, 3 p.m.
Tues., Nov. 28 vs. Blooming Prairie, 7:30
Thurs., Nov. 30 vs. Cannon Falls, 7:30
Tues., Dec. 5 at NRHEG, 7:15
Fri., Dec. 8 at Fairmont, 7:30
Sat., Dec. 9 Glen. SL at Mpl. R. 11:45 a.m.
Tues., Dec. 12 vs. WEM, 7:15
Fri., Dec. 15 vs. Jackson CC, 7:30
Tues., Dec. 19 vs. Rochester Lourdes, 7:30
Thurs., Dec. 21 at Glencoe-SL, 5:30
Wed., Dec. 27 Tournament at Winona, 4:30
Thurs., Dec. 28 Tournament at Winona, 1:15
Fri., Jan. 5 at New Ulm, 7:30
Sat., Jan. 6 at Chatfield, 2:30
Tues., Jan. 9 at Tri-City United, 7:15
Thurs., Jan. 11 at JWP, 7:15
Fri., Jan. 12 at Blue Earth Area, 7:30
Sat., Jan. 19 vs. Fairmont, 7:30
Sat., Jan. 20 at St. Clair, 5:45
Fri., Jan. 26 at Jackson County Central, 7:30



FULL-COURT DEFENSE — Waseca's Mia Kanewischer (12) and Ella Krautkremer (3) apply full-court pressure against Medford.

Mon., Jan. 29 vs. LCWM, 7:30
Fri., Feb. 2 vs. Blue Earth Area, 7:30
Tues., Feb. 6 vs. New Ulm, 7:30
Fri., Feb. 9 at St. James Area, 7:15
Tues., Feb. 13 vs. St. Peter, 7:15
Fri., Feb. 16 at Marshall, 7 p.m.

Thurs., Feb. 22 at Maple River, 7:15
Fri., Feb. 23 at Belle Plaine, 7:15
Mon., Feb. 24 Section play-in game
Thurs., Feb. 29 Section quarterfinals
Mon., March 4 Section semifinals
Fri., March 8 Section finals

Full-speed ahead for Waseca gymnasts

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The 2022-2023 Waseca High School gymnastics season was one of solid individual performances and successful meet outcomes.

Head coach Kim Wendland has no reason to believe 2023-24 will be any different.

The Bluejays, comprised of athletes from Waseca, NRHEG, WEM and JWP, came together last year to field a full squad at the varsity and junior varsity level. They finished 4-1 in the conference, tying for first place, and registered a season-high 129.35 at the Section 2A meet, where Waseca's Layla Keith placed third on floor exercise to advance to state as a freshman.



Keith



Lynch



Caldwell

Keith, senior Haydn Lynch and WEM senior Lindy Caldwell are the captains. Lynch, who missed most of last season because of injury, is expected to make a big impact.

The rest of the roster includes seniors Macy Anderson and Nora Schimming, junior Isabella Wikan, sophomore Nora Flatness, freshmen Elli Hoban, Angelica Lopez, Hannah Parks and Katelyn Weber, and eighth-graders Miley Anderson and Avery Carda.

"Look to our three captains to stand out this year and lead our varsity," said Wendland.

The coach also expects good things from Wikan and Parks.

"Bella moved into Waseca this past year, and Hannah comes to us from New Richland," said Wendland. "They both came in with club experience and are ready to compete."

Wendland, in her 10th year as a head coach, eighth at Waseca, will be assisted by first-year coach Kara Doyle.

"We definitely have a small but mighty team this year," said Wendland. "We have lots of depth from varsity to JV. We should have a great season if everyone stays healthy!"

Waseca High School 2023-24 Gymnastics

Thurs., Nov. 30 vs. Byron, 6 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 7 at New Ulm, 6 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 9 at Mankato, 1 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 12 at New Ulm, 6 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 14 vs. St. Peter, 6 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 6 at Fairmont I., 10 a.m.
Thurs., Jan. 11 vs. SJ, 6 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 13 Big South Conference at Marshall., 10 a.m.
Tues., Jan. 16 vs. Fairmont, 6 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 20 at K-M Inv., 11 a.m.
Tues., Jan. 23 at Fairmont, 7 p.m.
Fri., Jan. 26 at St. Peter, 6 p.m.
Thurs., Feb. 1 at BEA, 6 p.m.
Tues., Feb. 6 vs. Austin, 6 p.m.
Thurs., Feb. 15 Section finals

Waseca hockey girls expect more in 2023-24

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Last year was a solid inaugural season for Waseca High School girls' hockey coach Chas Benson.

But he expects more in 2023-24.

Only two key players, leading defenseman Cece Huttmier and top-line forward Madelyn Malecha, graduated from a squad that finished with an overall record of 12-12, including 5-9 in Big South Conference play.

"I expect us to be competing for a Big South title this year," said Benson. "We have some good competition in the conference with Luverne and New Ulm. With our large number of returning players as well our solid goaltending, we should be in the mix."

Returning varsity players include seniors Izzy Slechta, Emily Gordon and Emma Keith, juniors Ryley Bartz, Katlyn Schlueter and Stevie Johnston, sophomores Maddy Benson and Kaylee Lawson, and freshmen Emma Huelsnitz, MacKenna Mortenson, Makayla Forthun, Maizee Storey and Ilamay Draheim, the team's goaltender.

The rest of the season-opening varsity roster includes freshman Joelle Weasler and seventh-graders Zoey Gibson, Ava Hopkins and Maddie Halla.

"Goaltending and our top two lines will for sure be our strengths this year," said Coach Benson. "We lack depth, so as long as we are conditioned and work hard, we should be competitive."

According to Benson, Luverne and New Ulm look to be the top



IN CONTROL — The Bluejays' Maizee Storey (26) maneuvers the puck during the Bluejays' 4-0 victory over Worthington, in which Storey scored twice. At right, the Bluejays' Emily Gordon (10) fires a pass.
Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

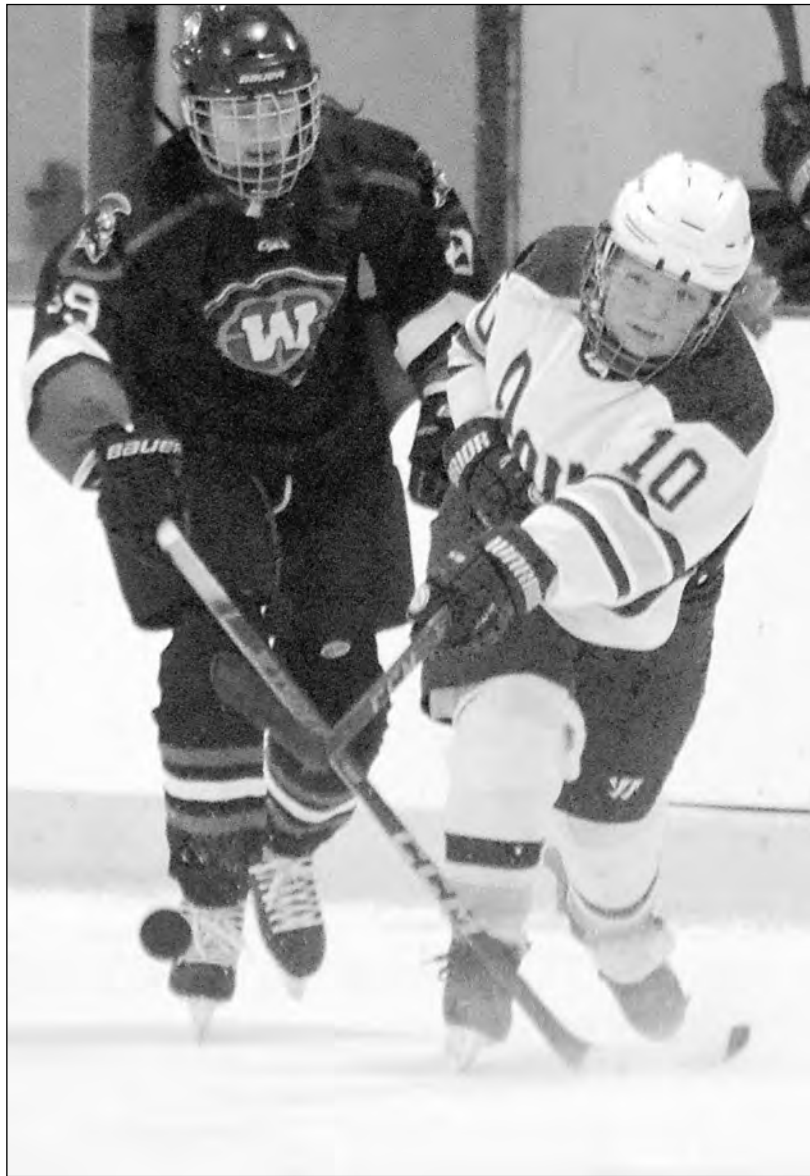
teams in the Big South Conference, while the Section 1A favorite is Albert Lea.

The Bluejays defeated Worthington 4-0 Saturday, Nov. 18. Draheim secured the shutout for the Bluejays. Storey scored the first and final goals for Waseca, with Benson and Keith adding one goal apiece. Keith had two assists, with one apiece by Gordon, Forthun, Slechta, Lawson and Benson.

The Jays fell 4-3 to Windom in overtime Tuesday, Nov. 21. Keith, Storey and Benson scored, with assists by Forthun, Gordon and Keith. Draheim was in goal.

The Bluejays were impressive over Big Nine Conference foe Austin Saturday, Nov. 25, winning 6-1 on the Packers' ice.

Storey scored four goals, Schueler and Keith one apiece, with assists going to Bartz, Slechta, Gordon and



Schlueter. Slechta had three assists. Draheim was in goal.

Waseca High School 2023-24 Girls' Hockey

Sat., Nov. 25 at Austin, 12 noon
Thurs., Nov. 30 vs. Fairmont, 7 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 2 at Luverne, 12 noon
Tues., Dec. 5 at Red Wing, 7 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 7 vs. Minn. River, 7 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 9 vs. Marshall, 2 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 12 at Rochester Mayo, 7:15
Sat., Dec. 16 vs. Winona, 1 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 28 vs. Roch. Century, 7 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 29 at Rochester Century, 3 p.m.
Tues., Jan. 2 vs. Hutchinson, 7 p.m.
Fri., Jan. 5 at New Ulm, 7:15
Sat., Jan. 6 at Worthington, 1 p.m.
Tues., Jan. 9 vs. New Ulm, 7 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 13 vs. Luverne, 11 a.m.
Fri., Jan. 19 at Marshall, 7 p.m.
Tues., Jan. 23 vs. Mankato West, 7 p.m.
Mon., Jan. 29 at Windom, 7 p.m.
Thurs., Feb. 1 at Minn. River, 7 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 7 Section quarterfinals
Sat., Feb. 10 Section semifinals
Thurs., Feb. 15 Section finals

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VARSITY VETERANS — Carter Ellis, left, and Peyton are two of several returning letterwinners for the Waseca High School wrestling team in 2023-24. File photos

WHS wrestling team looks to replace seven seniors

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

When you scan the roster of the 2023-24 Waseca High School wrestling team, one thing stands out. There sure aren't many upper-classmen.

The Bluejays' lone senior is tri-captain Carter Ellis, who wrestled to a record of 14-23 last year. The other captains are sophomore Matthew Veroeven, a state entrant who finished 30-10, and junior Ben Hagen, who did not wrestle last year because of injury.

"These wrestlers had success last season," said Waseca head coach Jake Janike. "Their records show the dedication they have and how they are constantly trying to improve. The others are wrestlers that had a good season last year, but just ran into quality competition last year in the section individual rounds."

Also returning for the Bluejays are sophomore Lucas Selthun, and eighth-graders Jacob Knutson, Sam Selthun, Peyton Summers and Kellen Klinger.

"All of the athletes that are returning have already had a little varsity experience," said Janike. "We do have some athletes that are new to us or returning after being gone for a period of time that will help our

"These athletes know they have some big shoes to fill."
— WHS coach Jake Janike

lineup."

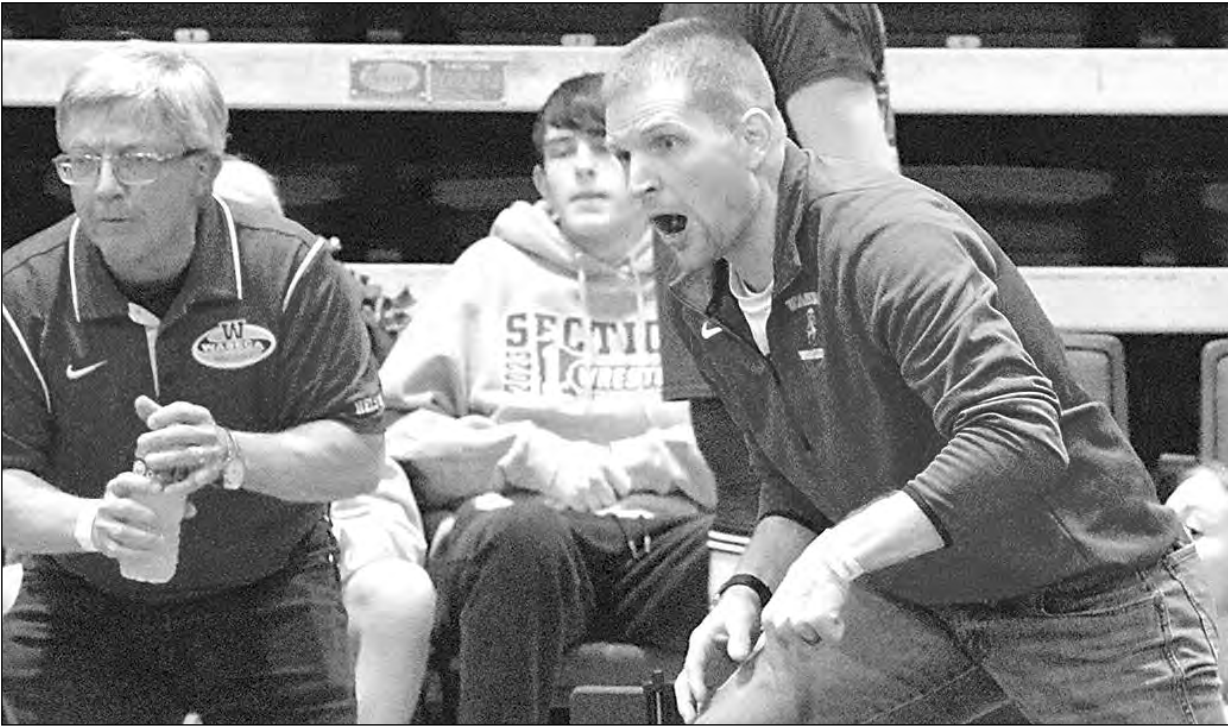
The rest of the varsity roster includes junior Nick Waldron, sophomores Slade Barnett, Jaden Schaffer and Logan Britton, freshman Jack Kuhns, eighth-graders Archer O'Brien, Oliver Staloch, Sawyer Ellis and Landon Madsen, and seventh-graders Kole Nelson, Zander Rahe, Jackson Janike, Michael Goodlander Oden Board, Alex Bethke, Braxton Nelson, Kelton Pierce, Colton Madson and Andrew DeRaad.

Coach Janike enters his 12th year in coaching, seven of them as head coach. He's assisted by junior high coach Curt Yess and volunteer coaches Blaine Nelson, Charlie Root and Brandon Hannam.

The Bluejays finished 5-14 in dual meets last season.

"Most matches we wrestled with a number of open weights due to injuries," said Coach Janike. "After the beginning of the new year we had most of the athletes back. However, getting them going again after a late start was a little difficult. These young men had to continuously get moved around to different weights as we battled injuries. This way we could try our best to make a full lineup. No matter what, every time they stepped on that mat they gave their team the best performance they could. Going into section individuals we did not get the seeds that we hoped for but, in the first round of team sections these wrestlers made a huge push, only falling short by one point to advance to the quarterfinals. The following week we had three wrestlers qualify for state. Two were seniors and one was a freshman. This senior group was an outstanding class to coach. They never complained, only pushed harder for the team and themselves. It is tough though to lose seven seniors in your lineup."

The Bluejays' motto for the season, according to Janike, is "Believe."



INTENSITY — Waseca coach Jake Janike, right, and Blaine Nelson, left, get caught up in the action.

"We have a really young team this season since we had so many seniors last year," said Janike. "I believe that we will be close to filling a lineup, but may have some empty weights. These young athletes know they have some big shoes to fill from the graduating seniors and they are willing to try and step up for us. Many did tremendous amounts of offseason work."

Janike looks for the Big South Conference to be very competitive.

"We will be wrestling with teams like St. Peter, New Ulm, Marshall,

and Fairmont Martin County West in our conference," said Janike. "Those are all great teams that defeated us last season. Then in Section 1 we will be wrestling against Kasson, Zumbrota, and Caledonia who are all either ranked in the state or are teams that are consistently great. Waseca's wrestlers know they need to perform at their best any time they are stepping foot on the mat."

Waseca High School 2023-24 Wrestling
Thurs., Nov. 30 at LeSueur-Henderson Quad, 5 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 2 at Blue Earth Area Inv., 10 a.m.
Sat., Dec. 9 at Jackson CCI Inv., 9:30 a.m.
Thurs., Dec. 14 vs. St. Peter, MktroE., 5 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 6 at Norwood-YA Inv., 9 a.m.
Thurs., Jan. 11 at St. James, 5 p.m.
Tues., Jan. 16 Triangular at Mktro. W., 5:30
Sat., Jan. 20 at Hutchinson Inv., 10 a.m.
Tues., Jan. 23 vs. Fairmont, 6 p.m.
Fri., Jan. 26 Tri. at Plainview, 5 p.m.
Thurs., Feb. 1 Triangular at Waseca, 5 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 3 at Cannon Falls Inv., 8 a.m.
Thurs., Feb. 8 Tri.at Lake City, 5 p.m.
Thurs., Feb. 15 Section tournament
Sat., Feb. 17 Section at Rochester
Fri., Feb. 23 Sect. Ind. at Rochester
Sat., Feb. 24 Sect. Ind. at Rochester

WHS boys ramp for another season of challenges

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

There are certain things you can count on this time of year.

One of them is the optimism exuded by the Waseca High School boys' basketball team.

In that regard, this year is no different.

The Bluejays, 21-7 last season, have almost everyone back, graduating only Tyson Reger, Addison Sampson, Alexander Honstad and Jacari Jellum.

Reger, who broke a state record by going 8-for-8 on three-pointers in one game last season, will be

missed, but head coach Seth Anderson is concentrating more on his returning players.

The 2023-24 roster includes seniors Laird Keeton (6-3 forward), Zach Hulscher (6-0 guard), Andrew Robran (6-3 forward), Noah Thompson (6-2 forward), Jacob Thompson (6-2 forward), Sebastian Teague (6-2 forward) and Cody Vagts (6-0 guard), juniors Damarius Russell (5-11 guard), Carson Ohnstad (6-0 guard), Tauston Rupe (5-10 guard), Brandyn Jascha (6-3 forward), Cameron Karsten (6-4 forward), Max Howard (6-2 forward), Caden Danner (6-1 guard) and

Jameson Paulson (6-0 guard) and sophomore Deron Russell (6-0 guard).

Damarius Russell, one of the Bluejays' most dynamic players, is expected to miss time early in the season recovering from a football injury that may require surgery.

Nonetheless, Coach Anderson again has high hopes.

"We expect to compete in our section and conference this year," said Anderson. "We expect to be in every game and improve off of last season. We should be a fairly deep team that can play a lot of guys."

The Bluejays' key to success,

according to Anderson, is playing tough defense and rebounding. He likes what he's seen so far in practice.

"We have a really fun group of guys who get along well and play hard," said the coach. "Every day at practice is fun watching these guys compete."

Anderson picks New Ulm, Worthington and Marshall as the teams to beat in the Big South Conference, with section leaders expected to be LCWM, Minnesota Valley Lutheran, Maple River and Glencoe-Silver Lake.

Anderson enters his eighth-season

as head coach of the Bluejays, who have compiled a record of 177-76 under his tutelage. He's assisted by Austin Nagel, Brian Rupe and Richard Guse.

Waseca High School 2023-24 Boys' Basketball
Sat., Dec. 2 vs. Pine Island, 1:30
Tues., Dec. 5 vs. Tri-City United, 7:30
Fri., Dec. 8 vs. Fairmont, 7:30
Fri., Dec. 15 at Jackson CC, 7:30
Tues., Dec. 19 at WEM, 7:15
Thurs., Dec. 21 at Glencoe-SL, 7 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 22 vs. JWP, 7:30
Thurs., Dec. 28 at Roch. Lourdes Inv., TBA
Fri., Dec. 29 at Rochester Lourdes Inv., TBA
Tues., Jan. 2 at Jordan, 7 p.m.
Fri., Jan. 5 vs. New Ulm, 7:30

Fri., Jan. 12 vs. Blue Earth Area, 7:30
Tues., Jan. 16 at Belle Plaine, 6 p.m.
Fri., Jan. 19 at Fairmont, 7:30
Sat., Jan. 20 at St. Clair, 7 p.m.
Tues., Jan. 23 at St. Peter, 7:15
Fri., Jan. 26 vs. CC, 7:30
Mon., Jan. 29 at Sibley East, 7:15
Tues., Jan. 30 vs. NRHEG, 7:30
Fri., Feb. 2 at Blue Earth Area, 7:30
Tues., Feb. 6 at New Ulm, 7:30
Fri., Feb. 9 vs. St. James Area, 7:15
Monday, Feb. 12 vs. USC 7:30
Fri., Feb. 16 at Marshall, 7:15
Mon., Feb. 19 at LCWM, 7:15
Thurs., Feb. 22 vs. Maple River, 7:30
Sat., Feb. 24 Big South Showcase, 10 a.m.
Mon., Feb. 26 Big South championship
Tues., March 5 Section play-in game
Thurs., March 7 Section quarterfinals
Mon., March 11 Section semifinals
Thurs., March 14 Section finals



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IT WAS ALL WASECA — Action from the WHS boys' hockey team's season-opening 11-1 victory over Worthington. At left, Beckett Srp (21) takes aim at the net. Middle, Brayden Hesch-Priem moves the puck up the ice. At right, Henry Huttemier (5) in front of the net. In the background: Griffin Storey (22).
Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

WHS icemen skate past Redwood Valley in opener

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Early on, there was no doubt who would win the Waseca High School boys' hockey 2023 season opener. The Bluejays were that dominant. Waseca netted four goals in the first period, four in the second and three in the third while dismantling visiting Redwood Valley 11-1 Saturday, Nov. 25 at Waseca Community Arena. The Jays outshot Redwood Valley 57-18.

Henry Huttemier got the Bluejays rolling with a goal just 1:50 into the

first period on an assist from Otto Schoenrock. Brayden Hesch-Priem scored two first-period goals, one unassisted and the other assisted by Lucas Groll and Hunter Anderson. Jayden Gehring scored on a Groll assist to round out the scoring in the first period, when Waseca held a 22-3 margin in shots on goal.

Redwood Valley's Thomas Fischer scored a power-play goal at 4:12 of the second period. The Bluejays answered with goals by Hesch-Priem, Huttemier, Groll and Gehring with assists going to Groll,

Easton Danks, Keaton Roeker and Gehring.

Groll, Schoenrock and Danks found the net in the third period. Assisting were Huttemier, Griffin Storey and Danks.

Carter Martens was in goal for the Bluejays, stopping 17 of 18 shots.

The Bluejays were penalized four times for eight minutes. Redwood Valley drew one penalty.

The rest of the Bluejays' varsity roster includes seniors Charles Cariveau, Almando Balderas and Preston Miller, juniors Solomon

Wilson, Maximus Bodenweiser and Jackson Tesch, sophomores Cade Srp, Jackson Dahl and Jude Gehring, freshmen Cash Lynch, Beckett Srp and Josiah Schmidtke.

The Bluejays are a young squad that includes freshmen Huttemier, Schoenrock and Storey. Martens is a junior.

The captains are Anderson, Groll and Hesch-Priem. Managers are Jordan Sell and Cece Storey.

The Bluejays are coached by Chris Storey. He's assisted by Brad Dushaw, Dan Pumper and Ben Srp.

Waseca High School
2023-24 Boys' Hockey
Sat., Nov. 25 vs. Redwood Valley, 1 p.m.
Tues., Nov. 28 vs. Mound-Westonka, 7 p.m.
Thurs., Nov. 30 at Fairmont, 7 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 2 at Luverne, 3:45
Tues., Dec. 5 vs. Worthington, 7 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 8 at Windom, 7 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 9 vs. Marshall, 12 noon
Tues., Dec. 12 vs. New Ulm, 7:30
Thurs., Dec. 14 vs. Red Wing, 7 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 19 vs. Austin, 7 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 21 at LaCrescent, 7 p.m.
Thurs., Jan. 4 vs. Minn. River, 7:15
Sat., Jan. 6 at Worthington, 3 p.m.
Thurs., Jan. 11 vs. Dodge County, 7 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 13 vs. Luverne, 3 p.m.

Tues., Jan. 16 vs. New Prague, 7 p.m.
Thurs., Jan. 18 vs. Roch. Lourdes, 7 p.m.
Fri., Jan. 19 vs. Windom, 7 p.m.
Tues., Jan. 23 at Redwood Valley, 7:15
Thurs., Jan. 25 Thief R. F. at Warroad, 5:30
Tues., Jan. 30 at Minn. River, 7:15
Thurs., Feb. 1 vs. Fairmont, 7 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 3 at St. Paul Johnson, 6 p.m.
Tues., Feb. 6 at South St. Paul, 7 p.m.
Thurs., Feb. 8 at New Ulm, 7:15
Tues., Feb. 20 Section play-in game
Thurs., Feb. 22 Section quarterfinals
Sat., Feb. 24 Section semifinals
Wed., Feb. 28 Section finals

JWP boys have lots of varsity veterans

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It's definitely not a rebuilding year for 2023-24 JWP High School boys' basketball team.

The Bulldogs had no seniors last season.

So what does that mean?

It means eighth-year head coach Nick James can't wait to see what happens on the court.

"It gives us something we haven't had in a few years, experience," said Coach James. "I think it is very important in high school basketball. I like to think our experience wins us a couple extra games throughout the season."

The Bulldogs finished 14-14 last season, 7-9 in Gopher Conference play.

Returning from a season ago are seniors Mamphis James, Cole Schlueter, Ryan Kronbach, Austin Quast, Carter Miller, Steven Dimmel and Austin Carda, juniors Isiah Berndt, Ethan Born and Landon Johnson, sophomores Dalton Bauer, Caleb Quast and Michael Walker, and eighth-grader Gavin Bauer.

Memphis James was selected first team all-conference last year, when he was the Bulldogs' MVP and their co-Offensive MVP. Bauer, the Bulldogs' quarterback in football was honorable mention all-conference year and shared the Offensive MVP award.

"As always, our main goals are to improve through out the season," said Coach James. "We are hoping to compete for a conference title. We would like to put ourselves in a position to win a couple playoff games."

James feels the Bulldogs' varsity experience and depth will help them compete.

"We will have multiple kids that could help us on the court this season," he said. "They all have different skill sets that will give us some flexibility on the court this season. I do feel we have the capabilities to be able to put out many different line-ups to give teams different looks. We can go big, we can go small. It depends on what gives us the best chance to compete. Our ball handling and shooting will also be strengths."

Where would the coach like improvement?

"We need to get better on the defensive end, which also includes our physicality," said James. "We need to be consistently getting more stops. Rebounding better is also something we need to improve on."

The key to success, according to James, is, "If we can defend and rebound better. We need to improve on the defensive side of the ball to compete with the top teams. I feel our schedule is really tough this season and it will be a challenge every game."

James named Maple River as the



BOYS' BASKETBALL — The 2023-24 JWP High School boys' basketball team. Front from left: Tyler Nelson, Eloi Flo, Jaxon Miller, Daulton Bauer, Steven Dimmel, Luke Cahill, Ethan Born, and Caleb Quast; back: Austin Carda, Isiah Berndt, Gavin Bauer, Landon Johnson, Ryan Kronbach, Austin Quast, Cole Schlueter, and Memphis James. Missing: Carter Miller. Photo courtesy Janesville Journal

favorite in the Gopher Conference West, with NRHEG and WEM returning a lot of players. The East division has a number of contenders including Triton, Kenyon-Wanamingo, Randolph and Blooming Prairie.

James feels Minnesota Valley Lutheran, Waseca, LCWM, Maple River, Belle Plaine and Norwood-Young America to lead the section.

"Our section has a lot of teams I feel could win it," said James.

After playing two years in Section 2A, the Bulldogs return to Section 2AA.

"These are the teams that are at the top," stated James. "We play them during the season so we will find out where we are at. I know you don't compete with teams like those if you don't play well."

James, who has an 85-96 record in seven seasons as a head coach, is assisted by Connor Morton, Ben Holden, Matt Dahlberg, Lenny

Krohl, Andy Dimmel and Gabe Hauer.

JWP High School
2023-24 Boys' Basketball
Mon., Dec. 4 vs. LCWM, 7:30
Fri., Dec. 8 vs. Hayfield, 7:15
Tues., Dec. 12 vs. Lester Prairie, 7:30
Thurs., Dec. 14 vs. LeSueur-Hen., 7:30
Fri., Dec. 15 at Blooming Prairie, 7:15
Tues., Dec. 19 at Maple River, 8 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 22 at Waseca, 7:30
Fri., Dec. 29 at St. Eye St. Mary's, 6 p.m.
Tues., Jan. 2 vs. Belle Plaine, 7:30
Fri., Jan. 5 vs. Bethlehem Academy, 7:15
Tues., Jan. 9 at Medford, 7:15
Thurs., Jan. 11 at St. Clair, 7 p.m.

Mon., Jan. 15 at Blue Earth Area, 7:30
Tues., Jan. 16 vs. NRHEG, 7:15
Fri., Jan. 19 vs. Randolph, 7:15
Tues., Jan. 23 at WEM, 7:15
Fri., Jan. 26 at Kenyon-Wanamingo, 7:15
Mon., Jan. 29 at United South Central, 7:15
Mon., Feb. 5 vs. Maple River, 7:15
Fri., Feb. 9 at NRHEG, 7:15
Mon., Feb. 12 at Sibley East, 7:15
Thurs., Feb. 15 at Triton, 7:15
Fri., Feb. 16 vs. WEM, 7:15
Mon., Feb. 19 vs. Cleveland, 7:15
Fri., Feb. 23 vs. United South Central, 7:15
Sat., Feb. 24 Conf. champ., TBA, 7 p.m.

Optimism reigns for WEM/JWP wrestlers

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

When it comes to WEM/JWP High School wrestling, optimism reigns.

And there's more than one good reason.

The Grizzlies return no less than 15 letterwinners, led by Keegan Kuball, who captured a state championship last season, and Brady Murphy, who finished fourth in the state tournament. Perhaps the most impressive part of that is neither is a senior. Kuball is a junior, Murphy a sophomore.

They definitely supplied the highlights for the Grizzlies, according to co-head coaches Adam Roesler and Skyler Petry, but injuries prevented the team from fulfilling expectations.

"We had a few injuries that overshadowed the ending of the season that could have been a record-setting

finish, but wound up leaving us with feelings of what could have been," said Roesler, a 16-year head coach. "The guys made the section semifinals as a team with a nail-biter of a dual victory over Westfield before falling to the eventual state-qualifying team in Medford," stated Roesler.

That said, the Grizzlies look forward to the return of some of those who suffered injuries and no doubt will contribute to the success of this team this year.

Junior Carson Petry was another all-state (sixth place) performer from the 2022 state tourney but had his season cut short last year in late January. Gavin Krause, a senior, also was held up last season after really gaining traction and being a major contributor to the team before going down in mid-December.

"Both Gavin and Carson are back and ready to pick up where they left



FULL HOUSE — The 2023 WEM/JWP High School wrestling team has both quality and quantity.

Photo courtesy Janesville Journal

off and achieve the lofty goals that were left on the table a year ago," said Roesler. "These guys will lead a group that returns more than 400 wins."

The other returning lettermen are seniors Isaac Quast, Maddox Mareno, Patrick Adams and Aric Williams, juniors Carson James,

Lucas Morsching, Max Davis and Avery Fall, and sophomores Zach Quast and Charles Adams.

Kuball has 87 varsity victories under his belt, Petry 55, Murphy 54, Krause 52, Morsching 48.

The Grizzlies look to replace graduated seniors Jack Cahill, Ethan Greenwald, Kelton Erler and Jaxson

Hulsing.

"Jack Cahill was a team leader in every way possible," said Roesler. "He was in the wrestling room every morning and led those workouts while being a fantastic student in the classroom. He was one of the guys who showed many of the others that the only thing stopping success from

following you is you. It is a conscious decision to become a good wrestler and there is no replacement for being a hard worker. He helped establish a winning culture and left just one match short of becoming all-state. Kelton Erler and Jaxson

Grizzlies continued on 11



GIRLS' BASKETBALL — The 2023-24 JWP High School girls' basketball team. Front from left: Chloe Kaiser, Ellie Morsching, Kwynn Krause, Mikayla Wheelock, Katie Olson, Neveah Weimert, Ali Olson, Lilly Strauss, and Ray Blasing; back: Hudson Miller, Jaidenn Mulder, Hope Dimmel, Lexie Dahlberg, Presley James, Autumn Thissen, and Aubrey Adams. Photo courtesy Janesville Journal

Plenty of talent returns for JWP girls' basketball

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Expectations are up for the 2023-24 Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton girls' basketball team.

With good reason.

Only one senior, Faith Olson, graduated from last year's squad, which finished 13-15 overall and 4-10 in the Gopher Conference in Brandon Goebel's first season as assistant coach.

This year, Goebel moves up the ranks to head coach.

"My goal for the year is to continue to help the girls grow as players and as people," said Goebel. "I would like to see all of my players become more confident in them-

selves and their teammates. I feel my experience assisting last year will help me because I feel I have a great relationship with the girls on the team, and I believe they understand that everything I do is with a purpose and in their best interest."

The Bulldogs return Lexi Dahlberg, Ali Olson, Lilly Strauss, Presley James, Autumn Thissen, Onikia Herme, Hope Dimmel, Katie Olson, Kwynn Krause, Neveah Willmert, Mikayla Wheelock, Aubrey Adams and Ellie Morsching. Goebel feels good about the Bulldogs' overall team speed.

"We are a quick and versatile group that is willing to run and play fast," said Goebel. "We have many

girls who can shoot the three pretty well and others who are able to use their speed and attack downhill. One advantage I believe is our speed again. I believe the pace we will be able to play will give us an advantage against most teams."

Goebel's biggest concern is height, or lack thereof.

"We are a pretty small group as far as height goes," he said. "We are going to have to find ways to guard bigger teams by using our athleticism and speed."

The Bulldogs' key to success, according to Goebel, is to continue to come together as a team.

"If we are able to trust each other and believe in each other, we have a

"We are going to have to find ways to guard bigger teams by using our athleticism and speed."

— JWP coach Brandon Goebel

much better chance of being successful," said Goebel.

Goebel, assisted by Liz Kvebak, Emily Olson and Andrea Kronbach, picks Hayfield, WEM, JWP and Maple River as the top teams in the conference. Section 2AA favorites are LCWM, Glencoe-Silver Lake and WEM.

JWP High School
2023-24 Girls' Basketball
Tues., Nov. 28 at New Ulm Cathedral, 7:30
Thurs., Nov. 30 vs. Triton, 7:15
Fri., Dec. 1 at United South Central, 7:15
Tues., Dec. 5 at Nicollet, 7 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 8 at Hayfield, 7:15
Sat., Dec. 9 at Maple River Inv., 11 a.m.
Tues., Dec. 12 vs. Lester Prairie, 5:45
Fri., Dec. 15 vs. Blooming Prairie, 7:15

Tues., Dec. 19 at Maple River, 6 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 29 at Sleepy Eye St. Mary's, 7:30
Tues., Jan. 2 vs. Sibley East, 7:15
Thurs., Jan. 4 vs. Blue Earth Area, 7:15
Fri., Jan. 5 at Bethlehem Academy, 7:15
Tues., Jan. 9 vs. Medford, 7:15
Thurs., Jan. 11 vs. Waseca, 7:15
Tues., Jan. 16 at NRHEG, 7:15
Fri., Jan. 19 at Randolph, 7:15
Mon., Jan. 22 at Mankato Loyola, 7 p.m.
Tues., Jan. 23 vs. WEM, 7:15
Fri., Jan. 26 vs. Kenyon-Wanamingo, 7:15
Tues., Jan. 30 vs. United So. Central, 7:15
Thurs., Feb. 1 vs. Maple River, 7:15
Mon., Feb. 5 at Medford, 7:15
Fri., Feb. 9 vs. NRHEG, 7:15
Tues., Feb. 13 at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 16 at WEM, 7:15
Sat., Feb. 17 Conf. champ., TBA, 7:30

■ Grizzlies

from Page 10

Hulsing were both gems in the rough within the graduating class. They came out as juniors in high school, which can be a humbling experience in this sport. It did have those growing pains, but they were guys who were reliable in the morning and they both worried less about the final result and more about their personal growth - characteristics we want in all athletes and future employees. They were huge contributors as they again helped establish the winning culture for the future of Grizzly wrestling. Greenwald was another one of the guys who had unfortunate health circumstances that prevented him from really even getting started with the season."

Wrestlers who could step up and surprise some people this season are Fall and freshman Parker James.

"The 2023-24 season will be Avery's second full year out for wrestling," said Roesler. "Last year he had success, but with having two offseasons to perfect some additional technique I expect him to be a hard out for any foe. We look forward to him taking even more command of the mat. Last season was Parker's first year returning to wrestling after a couple of years of hockey. He is a natural wrestler and moves like a veteran on the mat. Last year he was a little undersized and saw some matches that he was competitive in get away. With an offseason under his belt and a return to the lower weights in the lineup, this should result in some big wins



SENIOR — WEM/JWP senior wrestlers, from left: Gavin Krause, Isaac Quast, and Patrick Adams. Photo courtesy Janesville Journal

for the 2023-24 team. Avery Fall is entering his second full season of wrestling. We saw him become more and more reliable as the season went on. I think he could potentially crack the state tournament if he continues to progress."

Roesler looks for Kenyon-Wanamingo as the team to beat in the Gopher Conference, with several teams vying for second. LCWM is favored in Section 2A.

What about the Grizzlies?

"A season ago we did see a change in the way we competed," said Roesler. "When we were out-matched, the guys continued to fight for the other guys. A culture shift

has taken place with the student-athlete leaders we currently have in the program. They believe in themselves and are holding each other accountable. This is evident in the morning workouts. Everyone knows the way to get the team better is to improve each individual. We have the right people in place to help the group control more of the controllables of athletics. Personal growth is the focus from the coaching staff. We expect to challenge and be a factor in both the Gopher Conference and section final standings."

The captains are Kuball and Krause, with a third rotating based on practice.

"The kids are excited for the challenges of the season and now have the veteran savvy to navigate whatever the season throws at us," said Roesler. "They understand the relationship between quality workouts and success. This group will not shy away from the work that is in front of them."

This year also marks the Grizzlies' inaugural season having girls' wrestling.

"We currently have four girls signed up for wrestling," said Roesler. "We will be on a steep learning curve with the girls, but we are confident that we can produce a great experience for the girls and



TRAIL BLAZERS — WEM/JWP girl wrestlers, from left: Lilly Ewert, Bre'Ana Masso, and Kayle Langford. Photo courtesy Janesville Journal

"A culture shift has taken place with the student-athlete leaders we currently have in the program."

— WEM/JWP co-coach Adam Roesler

help them to progress quickly."

WEM/JWP High School
2023-24 Wrestling
Sat., Dec. 9 at Byron Invitational, 10 a.m.
Thurs., Dec. 14 at Spring Lake Park, 5 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 19 at St. James, 5 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 21 at Westfield, 7 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 6 at Norwood-YA Inv., 9 a.m.
Thurs., Jan. 11 vs. Kenyon-Wana, 7 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 13 at St. Croix Luth., 9:30 a.m.
Thurs., Jan. 18 at Maple River, 7 p.m.
Fri., Jan. 26 vs. Medford, 6 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 27 at Sibley East Inv., 10 a.m.
Thurs., Feb. 1 at NRHEG, 7 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 3 WEM/JWP Inv., 10 a.m.
Thurs., Feb. 8 Home Quad, 5 p.m.
Thurs., Feb. 15 Section 2A quarterfinals
Sat., Feb. 17 Section 2A tournament, 2 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 24 Section 2A Ind. at BE, 10 a.m.

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WASECA

Led by Lee, eight lettermen return for NRHEG boys

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It's a pretty safe bet that second-year head coach Dan Schmidt expects improvement for the NRHEG boys' basketball team.

Last year's Panthers finished with a record of 3-24, including 3-13 in the Gopher Conference and 3-13 against section opponents.

The Panthers graduated three seniors from that squad, Sawyer Prigge, Brady Schlaak and Dylan Ingvaldson.

Eight letterwinners return, led by four-year starting guard Daxter Lee, a top-five scorer in school history who was second team all-conference, team MVP and MVP in the Kwik Trip Holiday Tournament. He averaged 18.5 points, five rebounds and three assists last season.

"He can create his own shot," said Coach Schmidt. "He has a great inside and out game."

Also back is senior Jase Knudson, the Panthers' Most Improved Player and their Defensive MVP.

Six more varsity veterans are back.

"We have a lot of potential if we can put all the pieces together."
— NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt

Will Tuttle, a 6-foot-6 senior center, enters his third year on the varsity, having averaged 7.4 points and 7.5 rebounds last season. He was a state medal winner in the hurdles last spring.

Senior Sam Olson, a third-year varsity player, is described by Schmidt as tough and athletic. He averaged 6.7 points a year ago.

Senior Jackson Chrz is a 6-6 athletic froward/center who averaged 4.7 points. Greyson Schaefer, a 6-5 junior, can play guard or forward and, according to Schmidt, was a great leader on the junior varsity team last year.

"He's an athletic player who can play on both ends of the floor," said



UPPER CLASSMEN — Juniors and seniors for the 2023-24 NRHEG High School boys' basketball team. Four-year starter Daxter Lee is second from left in the front.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Schmidt. "He can score at three levels."

Junior guard Aaden Hanna is an excellent defender and leader, according to Schmidt.

"He's tough all over the court," said Schmidt. "He's willing to do the dirty work to help the team."

Levin Kitzer, a senior forward, is looking to contribute this season after working hard the last couple years.

"We have a lot of potential if we can put all the pieces together," said Coach Schmidt. "I expect our seniors to step up and be great leaders this season, as most of them are now in their third year on varsity. We want to take advantage of our size and athleticism on both ends of the court."

Schmidt's assistant coaches are Aaron Gilliland and Tyler Schlaak.

NRHEG High School 2023-24 Boys' Basketball
Tues., Dec. 5 at Blue Earth Area, 7:30
Fri., Dec. 8 vs. Triton, 7:15
Thurs., Dec. 14 at Kenyon-Wanamingo, 7:15
Fri., Dec. 15 at Randolph, 7:15
Mon., Dec. 18 at STEM Academy, 7:15
Fri., Dec. 22 at United South Central, 7:15
Wed., Dec. 27 at Bethany Tmt., 6:30
Thurs., Dec. 28 at Bethany Tmt., TBA
Fri., Dec. 29 at Bethany Tmt., TBA
Fri., Jan. 5 vs. Kenyon-Wanamingo, 7:15
Tues., Jan. 9 vs. WEM, 7:15
Fri., Jan. 12 at Hayfield, 7:15
Mon., Jan. 15 at Tri-City United, 7:15
Tues., Jan. 16 at JWP, 7:15
Fri., Jan. 19 vs. Blooming Prairie, 7:15

Tues., Jan. 23 vs. Maple River, 7:15
Fri., Jan. 26 at Bethlehem Academy, 7:15
Mon., Jan. 30 at Waseca, 7:30
Fri., Feb. 2 vs. United South Central, 7:15
Tues., Feb. 6 at WEM, 7:15
Fri., Feb. 9 vs. JWP, 7:15
Mon., Feb. 12 at St. James, 7:15
Tues., Feb. 13 at Maple River, 7:15
Tues., Feb. 20 at St. Clair, 7 p.m.
Thurs., Feb. 22 at LeSueur-Henderson, 7:15
Fri., Feb. 23 at Medford, 7:15
Sat., Feb. 24 Conf. championship, TBA

NRHEG wrestling team aims for top half of Gopher Conference

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Last season was not a terrible one for the NRHEG High School wrestling team.

But coach Shawn Larson and the Panthers are shooting for something better in 2023-24.

"We are expecting to make a strong attempt at regaining a top-three finish in the conference," said Larson. "We are hoping to learn from our setbacks from last season, and have a winning season this year."

The Panthers, as usual, had a challenging schedule last season, when they finished 1-5 in the Gopher Conference and 5-19 overall, reaching the section semifinals before falling to LCWM. Larson is back for his 11th season as head coach, assisted by Nate Jensen and Erik Olson. Jensen has been with the program for 26 years while Olson is in his first season with the junior high wrestlers. The Panthers have went 79-108 under Larson's guidance.

The Panthers will miss Aden Berg and Makota Misgen, who graduated last spring.

"Aden was a help for us last sea-

son at 195 and 220, and we will miss his experience in the upper weights," said Larson. "Makota was a three-time state tournament entrant and a two-time placewinner, second at 285 in 2022 and third at 285 in 2023. Makota had over 100 wins for our program. It will be very difficult for us this season not having him in that anchor spot in our lineup."

As usual, this year's Panthers have a number of wrestlers with a lot of varsity experience.

Senior Reese Routh (152/160 pounds) reached the state tournament last year, while senior Annabelle Petsinger (130-136) captured a girls' state championship at 120 after placing third as a sophomore.

The rest of the returning letterwinners are seniors Parker Bunn (133) and George Roesler (172/189), juniors Harbor Cromwell (160), Jace Ihrke (215/285) and Aidan Schlaak (145/152), sophomores Deven Parpart (133/139), Jacob Karl (127/133) and Wyatt Larson (172/189), and freshman Ryan Schlaak (152/160).

Two former Panthers are

wrestling at the collegiate level, Misgen at Minnesota State-Mankato and Nikolas Petsinger at Rochester Community College. Annabelle Petsinger has signed a national Letter of Intent to wrestle at Iowa Central Community College.

According to Coach Larson, the Panthers have been doing what it takes to prepare in the offseason.

"We had several wrestlers who were able to get some work in with clubs where they practiced and competed in freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling," said Larson. "Also, we had 13 wrestlers attend a team camp last summer at Fort Dodge, Iowa."

Larson's biggest concern this season is the same as it has been: fitting everyone into the lineup and fielding a full lineup.

"Our team's strength comes from having underclassmen who have had experience on the varsity, and therefore know what is expected of



S.Larson



READY TO RUMBLE — Although two-time state placewinner Makota Misgen will be missed at the bottom of the lineup for the NRHEG High School wrestling team the Panthers, as usual, have plenty of returning letterwinners.
Pioneer photo Deb Bently

them," said Larson. "We had a decent season last year, and we are optimistic that we can be better this year because we brought almost everyone back. We are a bit older and more experienced from our last season, and ready for competition. Our main issue will be maintaining a full lineup as we have several wrestlers in the same weight range."

Larson also looks for the Panthers to eliminate bonus points for their opponents and, hopefully, score some for themselves.

"We need to get athletes to wres-

tle full matches," said Larson. "Last season, our downfall was giving up too many bonus points. If we can eliminate that, we will be much more competitive. We also need to take risks to score points in situations where we have been tentative in the recent past. If we focus on scoring instead of the winning and losing, the wins should come as a result."

In Larson's opinion, Kenyon-Wanamingo appears the favorite in the Gopher Conference, while several teams are expected to compete

for the section title, led by LCWM.

NRHEG High School 2023-24 Wrestling
Sat., Dec. 2 at St. James Inv., 9:45 a.m.
Thurs., Dec. 7 vs. Maple R., USC, 7 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 14 Tri. at Lkvl. So., 5 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 15 at Redwood Riot, 4 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 16 at Redwood Riot, 9 a.m.
Thurs., Dec. 21 Tri. at Medford, 5/7 p.m.
Fri., Jan. 12 vs. Westfield, 7 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 13 at Stewartville Inv., 8 a.m.
Thurs., Jan. 18 vs. Triton, 7 p.m.
Sat. Jan. 20 at Hayfield Inv., 10 a.m.
Thurs., Feb. 1 vs. WEM/JWP, 7 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 3 at Maple River Inv., 10 a.m.
Thurs., Feb. 8 at Kenyon-Wana., 5 p.m.

NRHEG girls look to continue their winning tradition

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The NRHEG High School girls' basketball team did not graduate a ton of individuals from last year's highly successful season.

But they made quite an impact.

All-conference selections and longtime starters Sidney Schultz and Erin Jacobson are gone, as is last year's Panther Award winner Trinity Smith-Vulcan. Schultz finished third in NRHEG history with 1,831 points, second in career three-pointers with 259, third in career assists with 601 and ninth in steals with 273. Jacobson totaled 278 points and 195 rebounds last season, finishing 12th in NRHEG history with 598 rebounds and 14th in points with 943.

They helped last year's Panthers to an overall record of 21-6 and 12-2 in the Gopher Conference, 8-1 within their division. They fell to Hayfield in the conference championship game. The Panthers, who seem to be perennial contenders for a title or two, were 20-10 the previous season.

The Panthers have a record of 146-96 in nine seasons under head

coach Onika Peterson, who's assisted by former Panthers Kayley Camerer and Betsy Schoenrock.

The Panthers return all-conference selection Faith Nielsen, who totaled 309 points and 92 rebounds a year ago. Also back are Hallie Schultz, who had 135 points and 164 rebounds, twins Quinn and Camryn VanMaldeghem, Presley Nielsen, Chloe Stork, Adalyn Stadheim and Isley Boerner. Quinn had 177 points and 149 rebounds last year, when she was chosen the team's MVP on defense, while Camryn totaled 158 points and 132 rebounds.

"I'm excited for the group of girls that I have this year," said Coach Petersno. "We are bringing back a couple of kids who played big minutes for us last year, and two seniors who have been on varsity since their eighth-grade season. We are also going to be relying on some athletes who will be making the jump from junior varsity to varsity. We are hoping to continue to improve all season so that we are playing our best come playoff time."

The rest of the varsity roster includes senior Hope Nielsen,



LADY PANTHERS — The 2023-24 NRHEG High School girls' basketball team is looking for continued success this season, coming off years with 20 and 21 wins, respectively.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

sophomores Chloe Riewer and Adalyn Stadheim, freshmen Isley Boerner, Savanna Farr and Kylie Olson, and eighth-grader Ezra Boerner.

The Panthers' strength is obvious with a strong nucleus of athletes who played a lot of minutes last season.

Their weakness could be overall numbers.

"Numbers across the state are down for girls' basketball, unfortunately," said Peterson. "A weakness

would be losing kids due to sickness or injury."

The key to success for the NRHEG girls?

"Rebound and run the floor every chance we can," said Peterson. "Defensively, we need to be smart and aggressive. We have a solid core of returning athletes, but are looking for who will be stepping into some holes that we still need to fill from last season."

Peterson picks Hayfield and WEM as the favorites in the Gopher

Conference, while WEM figures to reign in the section.

NRHEG High School 2023-24 Girls' Basketball
Thurs., Nov. 30 at Blue Earth Area, 7:15
Fri., Dec. 1 vs. Medford, 7:15
Tues., Dec. 5 vs. Waseca, 7:15
Fri., Dec. 8 at Maple River, 7:30
Sat., Dec. 9 vs. N-YA at Maple River, 2 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 12 vs. Belle Plaine, 7:15
Fri., Dec. 15 vs. Randolph, 7:15
Thurs., Dec. 21 at St. Clair, 7 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 22 vs. United South Central, 7:15
Wed., Dec. 27 at St. James Inv., 6 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 28 at St. James Inv., 6 p.m.

Fri., Jan. 5 at Kenyon-Wanamingo, 7:15
Tues., Jan. 9 at WEM, 7:15
Thurs., Jan. 11 vs. Hayfield, 7:15
Tues., Jan. 16 vs. JWP, 7:15
Fri., Jan. 19 at Blooming Prairie, 7:15
Mon., Jan. 22 vs. Tri-City United, 7:15
Tues., Jan. 23 at Maple River, 7:15
Thurs., Feb. 1 vs. Bethlehem Academy, 7:15
Mon., Jan. 29 at Medford, 7:15
Thurs., Feb. 1 at Triton, 7:15
Fri., Feb. 2 at United South Central, 7:15
Tues., Feb. 6 vs. WEM, 7:15
Fri., Feb. 9 at JWP, 7:15
Fri., Feb. 16 vs. Maple River, 7:15
Sat. Feb. 17 Conf. championship, TBA

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November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NATIONAL VETERANS & MILITARY FAMILY			1 6pm BAR Bingo	2 7pm BINGO	3 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	4
5	6	7 Burger nite 5-7pm	8 6pm BAR Bingo	9 7pm BINGO	10 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	11 VETERANS DAY
12 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host	13 7 PM POST & AUX MEETING	14 Burger nite 5-7pm	15 6pm BAR Bingo	16 7pm BINGO	17 CATFISH MEAL 5:30-7pm Meet Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30	18 Turkey Bingo 7pm
19	20	21 Burger nite 5-7pm	22 6pm BAR Bingo	23 THANKSGIVING DAY	24 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	25
26	27	28 Burger nite 5-7pm	29 6pm BAR Bingo	30 7pm BINGO		

HOURS OF OPERATION
SUN.- MON. CLOSED
TUE.- WED.-3pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady's nite 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm.
THUR.-1pm to 11pm
FRI.- SAT.-11am to 1 am
POST & AUX MEETING 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license number 00385

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"Holiday Cookie Dazzle"
Let us do your Christmas baking for you!
Saturday December 2nd, 2023 9 a.m to Noon
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308 N. State St, Waseca
Christmas Cookies \$7 per dozen, other treats available
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The CPKC Holiday train travels across the US and Canada.

Holiday train to give two shows in county

The Holiday Train sponsored by CPKC railroad will be stopping in Waseca at 5:30 p.m. and in Janesville at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 6.

In Waseca, the stop will be along the parking lot of the city’s public safety building, located at 308 S. State Street. The brightly decorated train will arrive around 5:15 p.m. A concert about half an hour long will include country music performers Breland and Tenille Townes.

A similar program will be presented at the Janesville stop: the train is likely to arrive about 7 p.m. at its stop near the Veterans’ Memorial at 235 Front Street.

CPKC says the program will have a “family friendly atmosphere.” There is no admission fee; people attending are encouraged to bring donations of food or money which will benefit local food shelves. This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the holiday train. According to company representatives, its tours have led to collecting more than 5 million pounds of food and \$22.5 million dollars for food banks over the past 24 years.

“Our railroaders take great joy in joining communities across our network as they come together in the giving spirit of the holidays,” said CPKC President and CEO Keith Creel. “I am grateful to all the railroaders and community members who have supported the Holiday Train over the past quarter

century and made it such a success.”

Award-winning singer, songwriter and musician Tenille Townes hails from Grande Prairie, Alberta. Her acclaimed debut album was named Country Album of the Year at the 50th JUNO Awards and Album of the Year at the 2021 Canadian Country Music Awards. Townes also earned her third consecutive Female Vocalist of the Year trophy. Additionally, she has raised over \$2.5 million for Big Hearts For Big Kids, a non-profit she started when she was 12 years old to benefit a youth shelter in her hometown, which has grown to support organizations such as Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee, S.A.F.E. Animal Haven, and the Manna House.

BRELAND is an American singer-songwriter and record producer. The hip-hop and country hybrid hit number one on Spotify’s Global Viral 50 in 2019 and was featured on best-of-the-year lists from NPR to The New York Times. The Jersey-born-and-raised artist has been hailed as the “symbol of country music’s ongoing evolution,” on Rolling Stone and has amassed over 1 billion career streams. BRELAND has scored high-profile looks on ABC’s Good Morning America, ABC’s Jimmy Kimmel Live!, CBS Mornings and more.

More information about the train and its schedule is available on their website.

Project benefits rescue farm

Eagle Scout candidate enlarges shelter at Aspy Acres

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

“It’s nice to find a place where I have a shared connection,” says Reed Anderson, a junior at Waseca High School and a candidate for Eagle Scout through Waseca Boy Scout Troop 85.

Anderson has been working for the last few months on a project to insulate and expand the enclosure of a poultry building at Aspy Acres, an animal rescue farm located about 5 miles north of Waseca.

When Anderson decided it was time to begin his Eagle Scout project, he had the examples of fellow troop members who had completed theirs. His brother Jack had built storage units for use at the Waseca school district’s Alternative Learning Center. Sam Ryan had built picnic tables and done some work on a building at Janesville’s Lakeview Park.

Since projects must be for nonprofit organizations, the idea of doing some work for Aspy Acres appealed to Anderson—he says he saw it as a chance to help people and animals at the same



Members of Waseca Boy Scout Troop 85 who helped with the project at Aspy Acres are, from left, Oliver Haekenkamp, Conner Britton, Sam Ryan, Daniel Sipe, Jon Bergquist, Wyatt Partain, Reed Anderson, Ezra Skains, and Jack Anderson.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

time. He approached Aspy Acres proprietor Chasity Marquette, who suggested improvements were needed on the small poultry building meant for housing chickens, ducks, geese, and whatever other poultry arrives. Specifically, it could use some insulation and a larger, more sturdy outdoor enclosure.

Since the facility had no budget for the project, Anderson’s first task was fundraising. He spoke with acquaintances, family members and area businesses requesting funds and also took part in Kwik Trip’s “Car Wash Card” fundraiser, eventually acquiring the needed \$1,000.

According to the Boy Scouts of America website, expectation for the Eagle Scout project is that the candidate show leadership by planning and developing a project, then recruiting and guiding workers who help complete it.

In Anderson’s case, he communicated with Marquette regarding her needs for the improved structure, then paid for and gathered the needed supplies. He, many fellow members of Troop 85, and a few leaders gathered at Aspy Acres the afternoon of Nov. 26 to perform the work. With preliminary preparations taken care of, actually installing the insulation and removing and replacing the outdoor enclosure required roughly four hours.

Chickens, geese and ducks wandered into and around the workspace throughout the project, almost as if checking on its progress.

“I’m glad I can help,” said Anderson. “This will give the animals a better, safer place to stay. If they’re injured, they will be able to heal more quickly if they’re not in the cold.”

■ Marquette from Page 1

they will be caught by predators or because they do not know how to care for themselves. Surprisingly, unfledged ducklings can become waterlogged and drown if they stay in water too long.

Ironically, despite the ducklings’ helplessness, people who decide to “save” wild animals by treating them as pets are causing great harm by interfering with their understanding of their place in the natural world. Knowing all this helps qualify Marquette to keep the young birds alive and—when they come of age—return them safely to their habitat.

Although she has always felt a connection with animals—her first job as a teenager was at a veterinary office—Marquette says it has been a long journey to learn what she knows. She has worked with a number of mentors and still maintains a list of contacts, each with his or her own area of expertise. When a new intake occurs, Marquette assesses the animal’s state of health and determines its needs.

If she has the necessary resources, she will likely keep the animal in her facilities. If she lacks needed knowledge or resources, she contacts other “rehabbers” to discuss the best path forward. In fact, people perusing Facebook can occasionally find a request from Marquette to transport an animal or bird to some other facility. A raptor for example—a hawk, an owl, or another protected bird—is likely to need a ride to the University of Minnesota’s raptor center in the Twin Cities.

Other types of requests are also sometimes shared online: Marquette might be looking for someone to provide funding to purchase medicine or some needed supplies for an animal, for example.

Such requests are necessary, she explains, because there is no government funding for any part of the

work she does. She frequently spends some of her own money or solicits private assistance for short-term needs. Donations to her facility, she wants everyone to know, are tax deductible.

She has received grants and assistance from a number of businesses and organizations sympathetic to her cause. Scheels sports store, for example, supplied fencing used on her Aspy Acres. Federated Insurance has a program through which it will pay employees their usual wage for a certain amount of time spent volunteering. Marquette prepares grant requests and seeks funding for special projects. Neighbors and farmers help with transporting hay and grain.

“I couldn’t do what I do without that support and goodwill,” she says.

In addition to the demands of her dedication as a “rehabber,” Marquette has also ended up with some rescued domestic animals. Many Waseca area residents are familiar with Aspy Acres, which invites the public to visit and see the animals, or to take part in special events.

Marquette mentions “Pumpkin carving with the animals,” during which visitors created fall decorations while some of the more mild-mannered animals mingled among them and others watched from their yards. Many of the animals have interesting histories, including the gigantic, mild-mannered steer Lloyd who, Marquette tells, was so neglected by his original owners that she feared he would not survive being transported to her property.

There is a beautiful black and white sheep who, though she cannot see, will approach and interact with people who stamp their feet. There’s the wacky goose Kramer who, perhaps because he survived a fever, is blind in one eye and occasionally walks about honking for no apparent reason.

Each animal has its story and, thanks to Aspy Acres, a home.

The farm animals provide an opportunity for outreach and education that the wild animals—since they need



RESCUE ANIMAL - Aspy Acres owner Chasity Marquette with a swan that required rescue. Inset shows size of swan’s foot compared to Marquette’s hand.

to have limited human interaction—cannot.

Marquette also observes that the “help” can go both ways. “You’d be surprised how many people come out and volunteer because they say it grounds them to work with the animals. With the cattle and the sheep and the goats, the relationship is simple: you know what they need and you know how to give it to them. So you just...do.”

In fact, the Waterville organization “Unique Abilities,” which works with mentally handicapped individuals, has a whole set of workers who are among Marquette’s most active volunteers. She tells of one participant who claimed that, if he could not come as part of a group, he would find a way to get to the farm and volunteer on his own. “He really looks forward to being here,” she comments.

Unique Abilities owner Jennifer

Cassidy says the handicapped individuals who take part in her programs enjoy Aspy Acres on a number of levels, all the way from “scooping poop” to simply walking the farm’s trails to “enjoy nature and the animals.” Unique Abilities volunteers also make soft tie quilts for use in caring for rescue animals.

“I’m not a sentimental fool,” says Marquette of her willingness to help wild and debilitated animals. “I don’t believe I can save every creature no matter how hopeless its case might be. There are plenty of moments that are difficult and challenging. I get grabbed, I get nipped. Sadly, sometimes I have to euthanize animals. I know better than to think everything about what I do is going to be roses and rainbows.

“That’s why I make it my priority to use every day to be kind and understanding, and to help in whatever way I can.”

The Mankato Riverblenders & Minnesota Valley Chorus present

Holiday Harmony

Saturday, Dec 9, 2023
7:00 p.m.

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