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LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
No. 8 Vol. III \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Friday, February 23, 2024

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Sleigh and Cutter

SWCD Tree Order open house 8:30 to 4:30 Feb. 23

An open house will provide the opportunity to learn more about the county Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) "tree order" opportunities. Visitors will be able to acquire information and to place orders for trees to be delivered at a future date. More information is available from the SWCD office at (507) 835-0607.

Kids Try Hockey for Free February 24

Waseca Hockey Association is hosting its twice-annual "Try Hockey for Free Day" February 24 at 8:45 a.m. at the Waseca Community Arena. The event allows kids ages 4 to 9 to try ice hockey, regardless of experience level, with trained coaches. Register online at www.tryhockeyforfree.com/event_detail/2658. Questions contact Shannon Cliff at (507) 461-0985 or bsttcliff@yahoo.com.

Caucuses for local DFL and Republican parties February 27

Upcoming caucuses for local elections at the Minnesota State level are February 27 at various locations, beginning at 7 p.m.

The Republican meeting locations remains the same as previous years.

For DFL, the meeting place for all local towns has been moved to Hartley Elementary in Waseca.

More information about the Waseca County Caucuses can be found on Page 5.

CERT hosting breakfast 8 a.m. to noon at VFW Feb. 25

Waseca County CERT is hosting an "All you can Eat Breakfast" at the VFW on February 25 from 8 a.m. -noon. All proceeds go to aid in getting more equipment and training items for CERT Members. It also gives CERT Members the opportunity to explain to patrons what we do and recruit interested individuals to join in.

Junior Jays Preschool open house 5:30 pm Feb. 29

Registration for the 2024-25 Junior Jays preschool program opened on Feb. 1. The program is holding an open house from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Family Education Center in the Central Building at 501 E. Elm Ave., Waseca. Enter through door number W8 on the west side. For more information call (507) 835-2222 or email lacj@waseca.k12.mn.us.

DIY Tote Bags Workshop Feb. 27 and 29 at Janesville Library

Learn the basics of using a sewing machine from Barb Keith from the Mankato Makerspace at 4:30-6:30 pm on Tuesday, February 27th and 29th at Janesville Public Library. This two-part workshop will teach participants how to complete their first project—a tote bag!

Briefs continued on 4

A word from The Word

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

2 Peter 3:8

Sleigh and Cutter



Scenes from the 74th annual Sleigh and Cutter festival, including the parade, ice sculptures, and the unveiling of Larry Born as this year's Frosty
Photos by Deb Bently and Rachael Jaeggard

Sleigh and Cutter Parade anticipates year 75

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"Thank you to all of you for being here," announced Sleigh and Cutter planning committee member Scott Roemhildt. "With cold temperatures and that south wind, we know how easy it would have been to just stay home."

More than 20 animal-drawn units and dozens of mounted riders arrived at the Waseca County Fairgrounds the morning of Saturday, Feb. 17, to take part in the annual Sleigh and Cutter parade. The biting wind had participants sheltering behind their vehicles and trailers while pulling to-

gether the equipment and decorations to be used in the parade.

"It could be worse," was the byword of the day, with nearly every participant remembering past winter struggles.

A crowd gathered near the courthouse downtown to hear Roemhildt's introductions as parade units passed but, again thanks to the wind, the crowd seemed smaller than in past years.

"We can't control the weather," Roemhildt announced to parade participants as they enjoyed a dinner served after the parade by members of the Waseca Area Foundation. "But

we can control how we respond to it."

During the follow-up meal, members of the Law Enforcement Memorial Association, a state-wide organization which provides a horse-drawn "caisson" to carry the caskets of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, showed the crowd some of its new equipment and thanked the Sleigh and Cutter committee for donations which made it possible to purchase it.

"Doing what we do," said one representative, "our appearance has to reflect the honor and gratitude we feel toward each officer and his or

her family. Thank you to the Sleigh and Cutter committee for the help it provides."

Another focus of announcements made during the follow-up dinner was the planning committee's enthusiasm for the seventy-fifth anniversary of the event coming in 2025.

"Talk to all the folks you know who might be interested," encouraged Roemhildt. "You know this is a quality event. You know it's a great opportunity to show the public what we do. Invite everyone you see this year to come for next year's parade."

A creative society

Local group practices Thursday evenings in Waseca

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"We don't want to hurt our friends," comments Charles Adams, 28, during practice. "We only want to kill them."

The Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) is an international organization which, according to its website, has more than 30,000 members. The local chapter, dubbed the Shire of Rivenwood Tower, includes about 20 members who come from an area which spans much of southern Minnesota.

Through the winter, the group has been meeting most Thursday evenings in one of the gyms in Waseca's Central Education building. At practice, the participants—mostly male, but with a few females as well—hone their battle skills and test the quality of their "kits," the armor and weaponry they are currently using. Elements of the kit are customized to suit the "persona" they've adapted.

Adams, for example, is Altair Eleamin, a former member of the British Knights Templar who deserted while in the Middle East. Fellow member Jeremy Meyer, 41, has been in the SCA for 19 years. His persona is that of a fourteenth-century German nobleman, Mannfred von Falkenehegen. They, and all others present at the practice, are



Members of the regional Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) demonstrate their "kits," the armor and weaponry they use during SCA events. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

dressed in armor and carrying weapons appropriate to their time—although only occasionally constructed of period-accurate materials.

"You either have money or you have time," observes Shire Seneschal (think "mayor") Linda Prah, meaning that members either devote hours to building the elements of their kits, or they spend money to have them crafted. She and her husband

Mike have been SCA members for decades and have taken numerous leadership roles over time, holding key positions locally and in the Kingdom of Northshield. "It's a pretty big kingdom," observes Mike, mentioning that Northshield includes the states of Minnesota, South and North Dakota,

Society continued on 5

Peace officers share impressions

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"Crime doesn't stop at the borders of large metropolitan areas, and it doesn't stop when the sun sets," observes Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas. "Drugs and crimes continue to travel through Waseca County."

Between the sheriff's department and the police departments in Waseca, Janesville and New Richland, there are about 40 full- or part-time officers dedicated to protecting the welfare of Waseca County's citizens. The Pioneer asked representatives from all of those agencies about the status of their work.

Among the spokespersons, Waseca police chief Penny Vought has the longest history in law enforcement, having begun as a patrol officer in Waseca in the 1980s. "We've seen a lot of change," she says simply. She and Waseca police captain Kris Markeson remember a time when the city advertised a job opening and received 50 applications. "These days we're lucky to get two or three," said Markeson, who has been with the department since 1999.

Nearly all the department leaders interviewed commented they feel fortunate their officers tend to remain on staff. Janesville police chief Steven Johnson credited a recent pay increase which he said helped make working for his department "competitive."

Still, Sheriff Dulas observes, "Many officers have chosen to leave the field. The pay simply hasn't kept up with the responsibilities, expectations and pressures of the job." Between that attrition and a vast reduction in the number of people entering the field, there are hundreds of unfilled law enforcement jobs all over the state.

Here in Waseca County, only the Waseca department mentioned it is currently hiring.

While recent high-profile events may lead to the impression violent crimes are on the rise, local agencies have mixed responses. If "violent crimes" means shootings, armed robberies and the like, "there have always been occasional happenings," said Waseca's Vought. Janesville's Johnson, on staff in the city for 23 years, said the town actually experienced a decrease of such instances when state highway 14 was rerouted, thus reducing the amount of traffic moving through city streets.

Still, speaking of the shooting which occurred in Janesville's downtown last summer, he observed "It opens your eyes," he said of public perception. "We may think of ourselves as a peaceful little bedroom community, but we shouldn't convince ourselves things like this don't happen here."

New Richland police chief Tanyce Bruegger believes the widespread problem of substance abuse has fueled increases in violent crimes. "People are engaging in riskier behavior," she observed. "And they have the

Peace continued on 13



Compostings

by Al Batt

Dear Abby and Ann

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I wish I had enough money to buy an elephant.

What do you want with an elephant?

I don't want an elephant. I just want enough money to buy one.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. The weather had been uncomfortably nice, and the road was long. I was on my way to a meeting. I'm not a member of Sam's Club, Costco or AAA. Why not? I don't have time for any more meetings. Plus, I saved \$569 today by not going to Costco to buy blueberries.

On the way to the meeting, a driver ran a stop sign in front of me. I can't blame texting because I don't know if that's what she was doing. I watched to make sure the driver wasn't the White Rabbit from "Alice in Wonderland" singing "I'm late! I'm late! For a very important date! No time to say 'hello,' 'goodbye!' I'm late! I'm late! I'm late!"

The driver wasn't a rabbit. I strive to see the good. It was a good thing we didn't collide. I was driving 1 mph over the speed limit. Shame on me. I'm thankful I hadn't been driving 2 mph over the speed limit. That might have been enough for her to sink my battleship.

Later, I drove past a burial at a rural cemetery. I doubt I knew the deceased, but I waved. My father waved at tractors and barns in both support and sympathy. I reckon it's a family tradition.

I had time to wave because I wasn't late.

The White Rabbit sang, "And, when I wave I lose the time I save."

SCENES FROM A BOYHOOD ON MULE LAKE FARM

We couldn't have anything nice. The goldfish had died. It'd been a prize at the county fair and was taken home in a plastic bag. It might have drowned. I'd named it Dear Abby.

My mother loved reading Dear Abby's column in the newspaper, and the column by Abby's sister, Ann Landers. People had a lot of troubles they took to Abby and Ann. The twin sisters had their own problems. They were estranged. They were born in Sioux City, Iowa, and their first names were Esther (Eppie) and Pauline. Eppie became Ann Landers and Pauline became Abigail Van Buren (Abby).

One of my favorite songwriters,

John Prine, wrote a song titled "Dear Abby." A refrain in that tune is: "Unhappy, unhappy, you have no complaint. You are what you are and you ain't what you ain't. So listen up buster, and listen up good. Stop wishing for bad luck and knocking on wood."

I've never asked Ann, Abby, Esther, Pauline, Eppie, Abigail or John for advice. There's no need. The world is full of people willing to give advice without being asked.

I WONDER

When does a Christmas tree go from still up to already up?

Are day-old sundaes called mondaes?

If there are legal pads, are there illegal pads?

Are all pictures picturesque?

What do you send someone who has given you a box of "thank you" cards?

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

The world needs more humble geniuses. There are few of us left.

I graduated from clown college. That was no small feat.

How do you keep Canadian bacon from curling? Take away its broom.

NATURE NOTES

It was gray anatomies as juncos covered the ground, feeding on the millet I'd put out for them. Dark-eyed juncos flash white outer tail feathers in flight. I saw blue snow not far from the juncos. It looked as if someone had stepped on a Smurf, spit out mouthwash or spilled antifreeze. Rabbit droppings came out of the blue. When rabbits feed on the invasive plant buckthorn, they excrete a chemical in their urine that turns blue when exposed to sunlight. Rabbits have round droppings, while deer pellets are oval-shaped with one pointed end. I've heard that deer produce blue urine, but I've noticed deer avoid eating invasive species like buckthorn, garlic mustard and Japanese barberry. I'd never say they never sample those plants. They likely try it to see if they like it. Every kid had to try things, so why wouldn't deer? I'm not sure if foraging is discouraged because deer find the plants unappetizing or because buckthorn has thorns. Overbrowsing of native plants by large deer populations in some areas has enabled invasive species to flourish and displace native species. Deer don't bother ferns much, but extreme hunger tosses out the diet rulebook.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Kindness is the rent we pay for living on the planet.

An interesting story about tulips

Along the south wall of my house, I have one-inch tall green plants. I can easily recognize the tulips, hyacinths, and daffodils, some of which have been there for decades, others of which I planted last year.

Of course we can speculate until the cows come home about how our strange non-winter will affect them and whether a frost will come along to damage them. But I have decided to simply trust their judgment.

To put things simply, they're wonderful.

I repeat, they are only 1-inch leaf-tops pushing through the soil, but I recognize them as dear friends approaching from a distance. Who knows how long they will take to arrive? If the weather turns cold, they may be covered in snow numerous times. They may even have their tops nipped off by a harsh frost. Heaven knows that's happened plenty of times. But like the faithful friends I alluded to, they keep coming.

And here's something magical: they don't have to arrive for me to begin enjoying them. The mere sight



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

of that short, thick green stem has me remembering the remarkably beautiful scent of the hyacinths, the friendly nods of the daffodils, and the airy brightness of my multi-colored tulips.

I think back to last fall. I had planted a few dahlias, some moss roses and a few miscellaneous plants that struck my fancy. Along with those visitors were the permanent residents—the summer lilies. When it became clear summer was over and the dead plants needed to be removed, I kept coming across bulbs a few inches down in the soil. They were tiny bulbs, quite clearly the offspring of last spring's pollinations.

As I worked the soil, I pushed the

little bulbs back down in, completely uncertain how many of them would be viable after four months of winter. Now I'll get to see how that turned out.

An interesting story about my tulips.

Forty years ago or so, there was a large old building, known as the "Chard House" standing to the immediate north of the Waseca County courthouse.

The county had recently acquired the property and wanted the Chard House, which had once been a two-story hotel, removed. My husband and brother submitted a bid to do the work, then proceeded to dismantle the building manually, selling or

reusing many of the materials.

I took no part in all that, but I did notice the spring flowers growing around the building's foundation—tulips. They had clearly been growing there a long time, based on the size of their bulbs.

Knowing the property was destined to be paved over, I couldn't leave them there to be buried alive.

I dug them up, took them home, and they not only bloom every spring, but continue to reproduce. One little annoyance, they came in two colors—a deep red and a vibrant yellow. If I allow the red to cross-pollinate with the yellow, the next year's flowers are a variegated yellow-and-red. If I don't pick the yellow flowers before they can cross-pollinate, I will have only red tulips. Large, beautiful, striking specimens, of course. But they look much pretty when they are joined by the yellows.

In a way, I see those flowers as my little part in preserving history. Yet another way they are like old friends who come to visit every spring.

Springtime is only one week away



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

straight months, we get two days off for Thanksgiving and then it's right into finals. I'm actually working on a Daily story asking students if they would prefer to make winter break shorter in order to have a fall break, so it will be interesting to see what students think about breaks and such.

But enough of me complaining. It's my best friend's birthday on Feb. 22 and I'm excited - not just because she is turning 21. Along with that, her birthday is my half birthday; the flip side of that is my birthday is her half birthday (proof we are soulmates). But for her birthday, I bought a notebook and have been getting all of our friends to write messages in it to her, saying just how awesome she is and how she has impacted their lives. I even got her parents and

sister to sign it without her knowing (that's how sneaky I am). But I am super excited to give it to her because even though we all know how amazing she is, I know she sometimes fails to recognize it.

I've realized I love giving notes to people. In high school, instead of giving up anything for Lent, I would instead do something good every day. For example, one year, I took sticky-notes and wrote anonymous notes on them to people I knew telling them how great they were and to keep up the good work. I would then find a way to give it to them without them knowing it was me - sticking them in a locker, a folder, a backpack. It was a lot of fun and very fulfilling knowing that I had brightened someone's day anonymously.

Writers can't please everyone

Each person has a distinct voice.

When I read stories in the newspaper those voices are loud, clear and unique to each of the Pioneer's writers.

I sometimes wonder if others read in the same way I do. It's quite enjoyable.

I can always tell when Deb Bently has done significant work to a piece I have written. It's still mostly the same, but as I hear it inside my head, my inner "ear" recognizes that something has changed. Often the changes are very subtle; perhaps some people reading the "before" and "after" versions wouldn't even notice them. But I know at least some of the words on the page are not the ones I put there. Deb does a remarkable job working with my column, whenever I hand it in. The way she seamlessly integrates her editing and writing with my column is a thing of beauty. There are bits and pieces where her voice comes through, but often she does such a good job, I cannot distinguish my style from her editing.

Several weeks ago my dad gave Rachael Jaeger an "A" for a story she wrote about Waldorf's Restoration House. After hearing this I called Deb to ask how much work she did to the piece. I'm still learning Rachael's style of writing as she grows into the role of being a reporter. Deb sounded a little uncertain, but said she didn't recall doing a significant amount of re-writing.

Working with a new writer, Rachael, has been interesting. I'm brought back to my early days as a reporter and the many good and bad traits I exhibited while learning. "Growing pains" is the phrase that best fits those days for me.

In the same vein, last week I sent Amelia a couple corrections I saw in her column. I generally don't comment on column writing, but whatever concern I had wasn't content related. She, as she always does, welcomed the critique and again re-



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

quested any input I have that will make her column interesting and relevant for as many of our readers as possible.

I responded with something I've always said, which is that a column can be about anything: A person's day-to-day life, a lesson learned, a thought expanded upon, an interest or passion.

Last week I wrote about the elections and some of my interactions with folks. I try to use my column to give readers an "inside look" at what it takes to keep a newspaper operating.

Two weeks ago, I wrote about the awards bestowed upon Pioneer writers and provided general background information about each of the winning stories. Previously, I hadn't been able to share the stories behind those stories — because behind every story is another story.

Three weeks ago I wrote about loss.

I received numerous comments about that column. A reader stopped in the newspaper office yesterday to buy an extra copy of that paper to give to a friend.

Moments like that remind me of my purpose. It gives meaning to my life beyond the ordinary.

As a writer, I'm not going to please everyone. The same is true of life.

Each week I simply try to connect with a topic which can command my attention and focus "my all," if you will.

Throughout the week I'll make mental and, rarely, physical notes

about the topic germinating in my head as the days proceed. As deadline approaches (I aim for Sunday, Monday or Tuesday evenings), I sit down, collect my thoughts and start expressing them.

I enjoy writing in the evenings. Science claims the longer we are awake, the weaker our inhibitions. Maybe what that means is my brain is simply freed up from the day's stresses and distractions.

Other times, I'll feel compelled to stop what I'm doing in the middle of the day and write. On several occasions, the urge to write has been so strong that I've gotten out of bed at 2 or 3 in the morning to do so.

I know that I connect most strongly with works (whether written or in other media) which reflect the passion of the person who created them. Knowing this, I do what I can to be genuine and honest in what I say while also expressing my thoughts with some artistry and style. Few things done today have not been done before.

As for what other columnists do, I have heard several ideas.

Bob Hanson, a columnist for the Star Eagle, reportedly carries a small notebook around with him, jotting down ideas as he goes about his everyday business. At the conclusion, he takes said notes and hand writes his column. Sometimes, his columns are simply a "running of the words" as he puts it. In this case, it's quite literally a stream-of-consciousness—expression of thoughts which crossed his mind throughout the week.

Dick Herfindahl, another Star Eagle columnist, likes to find a scenic place to contemplate life. He often writes about family, friends, his travels and more than anything, fishing and the outdoors.

Mark Bernard is an agronomist who writes a weekly column for the Star Eagle. He sits down every Tuesday morning and recaps the previous week, forecasts the weather and gives farmers an idea of what to expect in the coming seasons.

Mark Domeier, a teacher at NRHEG, writes about many things, sometimes controversial topics such as what it's like to be a teacher. He has written about the use of different pronouns used by students and Donald Trump, to name a couple more "controversial" subjects. But generally he sticks to school, his personal interests, family, friends, and often, his students.

I almost always have to "encourage" Deb to write a column because she struggles the same way Amelia does coming up with topics. Both have done it enough now, however, that, from my perspective, they simply have to dedicate time for it while also feeling like it adds value to the newspaper.

There are times I write in my column with one person in mind. Other times, many people come to mind when I say this or that.

At the end of the day, this space is my opportunity for thoughtful conversations with our readers.

Thoughts from three writers: "I know, not everyone will like what I write, but writing is not about trying to please everybody. I am not here to please myself so don't expect me to please others. Doing the right thing even when no one is looking is easy if I remember that I am not in this life alone and that my task is to please God... not people."

— E.A. Bucchianeri

— Amit Abraham

— Sandra C. Bibb



SERVING THE WHOLE OF WASECA COUNTY
including the communities of Waseca, Janesville, New Richland, and Waldorf

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Waseca Sleigh and Cutter



Local festival celebrates 74 years

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

The Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Festival hosted a dinner, dance, and awards at the Waseca VFW the evening of Feb.16. The 2024 Festival began its events in January and will continue through March.

Festival President Ken Borgmann, who has been an event leader for about 30 years, shared some history: “Seventy-three years ago, local business owners wanted to do something different in the winter rather than sitting around. So they started the festival to get the town involved. The celebrations built from there.” According to Borgmann, the festival endured through the COVID-19 pandemic as the town and festival adapted to ensure everyone’s safety. The turnout for this year’s dinner was “better than last year,” he said, and when asked what brings people to the event every year, he responded, “Love of horses. Family atmosphere. Cowboys and cow-girls.”

Borgmann noted that this year’s unpredictable, highly variable weather alternating between temperatures in the teens and as high as fifty degrees made operating the festival more challenging than last year when it was bitter cold interrupted by winter storms. “It’s funny because last Friday, the night of the dinner and during the Saturday parade were the two coldest days of the month,” Borgmann said, adding that the lack of ice on Clear Lake forced the cancellation of races like the Vintage Snowmobile Race and caused the kite show to be relocated and rescheduled.

“Of course we always do the races on Clear Lake,” Borgmann said. “We get people from surrounding states and even Canada for those events. The cancellations were a big, big loss for them and for us.”

Borgmann has run the festival, according to him, “Twenty-seven years for sure, but it’s been closer to about 30...I’ve always been around during the festival and was happy to help when I could.”

When asked about the significance Sleigh and Cutter brings to him and the community, Borgmann pondered his answer briefly before stating, “Well, it’s because the business owners around here are so generous with their time and resources. It’s a real privilege giving back to them to show that this is a solid community organization. Having been doing this for so long proves that.” Although hesitant to name a favorite event, Borgmann noted he does his best to make every young woman feel special when he escorts them across the stage at the Sleigh and Cutter pageant.

After dinner, a brief intermission was given as Poor Cousin John, a band from Lakeville, began to set up for the dance portion of the night’s proceedings. Poor Cousin John has been together for 15 years since the band

played at All Saints Catholic Church and at Beverly Kosak’s birthday 14 years ago, according to John Northrup. The band started the night with “God Bless the USA” as the Sleigh and Cutter Pageant Royalty presented flags to honor the country and veterans. The band sparked plenty of action on the dance floor as members of the public busted a move or slow danced with their significant others or friends. The Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Pageant Royalty joined in, with especially Sleigh and Cutter Queen Jasmin Kotek who danced with two-year-old Kaymari Smith who rocked the stage. The members who compose the band are: Vocalist JoAnna Rose Collins, Guitarists John Northrup and Paul Joyce, Bass Guitarist Louis Naber, and Sam Northrup on the drums and Marv Goman who played the fiddle.

“This was our first time playing the Waseca Sleigh and Cutter festival and it was great!” John Northrup told The Pioneer. “The people were wonderful! We have played Waseca Club 57 a few times. The people of Waseca are kind, welcoming, and supportive.”

When The Pioneer asked Borgmann how he chose the band for this year, he said that one of the organization members, Shelly Cooper, had seen them perform. After the organization looked up a YouTube recording of Poor Cousin John, they decided to invite them to this year’s dinner and dance.

Borgmann also announced that he has already booked next year’s band, Chris Brooks, who works out of the Cities.

After the dance, Scott Roemhildt took the stage to announce the winners of the evening’s awards. Cash prizes of varying amounts were given to community-specific “grand prize” winners: Sandy Anderson from Janesville, Ivagene Kobylinski from Waseca, and Andy Hager were present to collect their winnings. There was another drawing for a section where attendance wasn’t necessary; the winners included: Pat Peterson, Terry Huber, Deb Dobberstein, Kelly Olmsted, and Paul Born. Roemhildt drew the name of the overall winner for identifying “Frosty,” Nancy Kelling. Kelling was drawn from among hundreds who, after receiving clues over several weeks, submitted an entry which correctly named the person selected as this year’s “Frosty.” The contest is an annual tradition for the Sleigh and Cutter Festival.

Borgmann revealed that quite a few residents from area communities correctly guessed Frosty’s identity. The costumed “Frosty” stood at center stage as Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Queen Jasmin Kotek removed his headpiece to reveal Larry Born of Waseca as this year’s Frosty the Snowman.

“With what we had, with the weather, we did the best we could,” Borgmann said.

The Sleigh and Cutter festival continues through March 30.



Pioneer photos by Deb Bently and Rachael Jaeger

DJ

Daniel J. Johnson
ACCOUNTING
LLC

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

Our Services

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Hours:

Mon - Thu
8 am - 4 pm
Fri
8 am - 12 pm

EMS launches recruitment program

MANKATO, MN – The South Central Minnesota EMS has launched a volunteer recruitment campaign in hopes of filling a significant need for emergency medical providers. The South Central Minnesota EMS supports emergency responder agencies in a nine-county region of Southern Minnesota and is looking for individuals to fill a variety of emergency medical provider roles, including ambulance drivers, first responders, EMTs and more.

South Central Minnesota EMS Executive Director Mark Griffith

said, “In addition to providing education and training to ambulance, fire, and law enforcement agencies in Southern Minnesota, we also help recruit new volunteers to serve those agencies. Right now, there is a need in our region for more volunteers. Most of our medical providers volunteer in their spare time, apart from their full-time jobs. But there are paid, full-time positions available as well. It’s a great opportunity to give back to the community in a very rewarding way. And the need is great.”

Positions are available in Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, and Watonwan counties. Emergency medical providers can be paid volunteers. And there are opportunities for full- and part-time employment. Training and education are required, however tuition reimbursement, up to 100 percent, is available. To find out more, interested individuals should visit the South Central Minnesota EMS website at sc-ems.org.

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Attention Woodville
Township Residents

The Annual Meeting will be March 12,
2024 at 7:30 PM in the Woodville Town
Hall located at 200 3rd Ave SW
Waseca, MN.

Topics to be discussed will be:
financial condition of the township,
financial statements of the cemetery,
township and Waseca rural fire district,
road reports, tax levies and any other
issues the residents wish to discuss in
regards to township business.

In case of inclement weather the
alternative meeting date is
March 19,2024

Andrew Miller, Clerk
Woodville Township

NRHEG Competition Cheer members watch as their Nationals performance is shown on the big screen in the NRHEG Secondary Site Gym, in New Richland, Friday, February 9, 2024. Photos by Eli Lutgens

NRHEG Cheer welcomed home Friday Eighth in the nation

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

The NRHEG Competition Cheer team took eighth place during the National High School Cheerleading Competition at the ESPN Wide World of Sports complex in Orlando, Florida., earlier this month.

After missing the national finals by a mere fraction of a point a year ago, and falling short of a fourth straight championship at the state level, this group of girls was determined to make the most of their trip.

“These athletes could have gotten down on themselves and called it quits, but they didn’t,” coach Joni Churchill said during a Friday-afternoon welcome home celebration in front of hundreds of students, fans and NRHEG faculty, at the secondary site. “These guys could have easily gone down to Florida, put out a mediocre performance the first day, and then spent the rest of the time at the beach and Disney, but they didn’t. They made a promise to themselves and to each other that they were going to reach their goals, and they did.”

This year’s event hosted 1,183 teams and 25,000 athletes from 34 states. In order to compete at the championship, the NRHEG cheer team had to qualify at a regional competition in the fall of 2023. After doing so, the group was credentialed in cheer safety and leadership training at a Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) camp, endorsed by the National Federation of High School Sports (NFHS), as well as in the areas of crowd leading, spirit raising, ambassadorship, athleticism, and entertainment.

Cheerleading teams are judged on their stunt-ing and tumbling skills, crowd-leading ability, and overall performance in a two-and-a-half minute routine.

“They went out there for their preliminary round and hit,” Churchill said. “They advanced to semifinals and went back out less than 12 hours later and hit again, putting out their best performance of the year and making it into finals for the first time ever.

“The next day, they went into finals - the last time ever performing this routine together as a team...” Churchill continued. “And they hit it one last time, earning themselves a jaw-dropping eighth place in the nation.”

The NRHEG competition cheer team consists of 13 girls from eighth through twelfth grades. After qualifying for national competition last fall, the group had been practicing and raising money for the five-day trip which began early this month. In addition to three days of competition, team members and many family members also enjoyed time at the Disney amusement parks in Orlando.

With their annual season, which began last July, now officially at an end, all participants have an exciting set of memories to share, including a third-place finish at the state competi-

“They made a promise to themselves and to each other that they were going to reach their goals, and they did..”

— Cheer Coach
Joni Churchill

tion and their nationals finish.

“In talking about this season, I’m not sure where to even begin,” Churchill said. “It feels like the way this season ended was nothing short of magical, but that takes all the credit away from the athletes on this team. Sometimes what seems like magic really isn’t magic after all. Sometimes magic is a disguise for a whole lot of hard work and determination.

“What makes these athletes successful, though, really isn’t the trophy they came home with, so big that we had to have a parent drive it home because we couldn’t bring it on the plane,” Churchill continued.

“What makes them successful is that they never, ever once counted themselves out and they never counted their team out. When you believe in yourselves and in each other, you can do anything: I think this team is proof of that.”

During the welcome home celebration Friday, three seniors reflected on their careers, trips and many, many memories.

Brenna Sommer has been in competition cheer for 11 years and a sideline cheerleader since she was a freshman. “If there is one thing that has motivated me to keep going, and to keep working hard, it is this team,” Sommer said. “We are about as close as it gets, and that is what I love most about cheer.

“I could not be more proud of the performance we put out [at Nationals],” Sommer continued. “They were the best three routines we’ve had all season. This was such an incredible feeling, and we all worked so hard for this moment. After the competition was over, we got to spend a day at Disney, which was pretty cool too. However, Disney was not the best part of the trip. The best part for me was each moment spent with my teammates, and performing with them for the last time. This is an experience that I will never forget, and I will miss this very much next year. I would encourage anyone to join cheer, and I promise that this program becomes like a second family.”

Isabel Stadheim has also been part of the competition program for 11 years. She said she’s proud to represent NRHEG and highlighted some of the group’s biggest achievements: three state championships, achieving the highest GPA in the state, and finally, the eighth-place finish at

Joni Churchill prepares to speak.

nationals.

“The first day we competed we put out one of our best performances; we were confident we would advance, and sure enough we did,” Stadheim explained. “Then we went back and did it again. As soon as the announcer said he had to spell out the name we all knew we were moving on to finals.

“When I started cheer I never would have thought I would be performing on a national stage,” Stadheim continued. “It wasn’t easy, and there were lots of morning practices, but we made it. I am beyond grateful for the time I’ve had with this team and all the memories we’ve shared.”

Senior Payton Bunn was the final cheerleader to speak on Friday. She thanked the many who made her career and the cheer program possible.

“I can confidently say this has been one of the best things that I have ever done,” Bunn said. “I started cheering because I thought it looked cool. I kept cheering because of the girls I met along the way.”

Bunn explained that cheerleading is not natural for most. It is a sport. “Above all else, we are athletes,” she said. “Our successes speak for themselves.

“For those who haven’t been a part of this program, you cannot fully know how much goes into being a cheerleader,” Bunn continued. “You cannot know how much blood, sweat, tears, and love have gone into this routine and every routine that we have ever competed. The love that I have for this sport and these girls cannot be condensed into just one speech. Every day, the NRHEG competition cheer program makes me proud to wear the word “panthers” across my chest.”

Bunn concluded saying it wouldn’t be a speech if she didn’t end it by saying, “Go Panthers.”

The competition cheer program is coached by Churchill, Brooke Berg, Jennie Bunn, Angela Gehrke, and Linda Stadheim.

■ Briefs

from Page 1

This free event is geared for adults. Register at the library or at waseca-sueurlibraries.com/getregistered.

World Day of Prayer Event at Grace Lutheran, Waseca, all day March 1

World Day of Prayer is an international event held annually. All are welcome to attend a twenty-minute time slot for prayer for the world, our country, and our community. Prayer slots begin at 10 am and continue through 10 pm at Grace Lutheran Church’s Third and Elm Chapel. There will be prayer stations and sug-

gestions for prayer and/or to walk the labyrinth. To sign up contact Robin at 507-835-1709 or link to this url: <http://tinyurl.com/2p83etv5>

Animal art at Waldorf Library Feb. 28

Calling all animal lovers! Create a one-of-a-kind animal with vibrant patterns and colors at Waldorf Public Library on Wednesday, February 28th at 4 pm. Ages 8-12.

Wayne Breitbarth Memorial Bockfest 4 to 10 pm March 2

Wayne Breitbarth was a Waseca County dispatcher who died unexpectedly in August. A fundraiser in his honor will be from 4 to 10 pm on Saturday, March 2 at the Waseca Ameri-

can Legion Hall. Gyros, chips and dessert will be served from 4 to 8. A silent auction and tastings will be from 4 to 8. Music by Los Tequileros from 8 to 10. Funds raised will benefit the Minnesota Invisible Wounds Project.

Lego story time at Waseca Library March 2

Kids ages 4-6 can join Waseca Public Library’s monthly creative Lego-building group, with an adult. This month’s Lego Story Time will be held on Saturday, March 2nd at 10 am. Each event will include a story to inspire the builders.

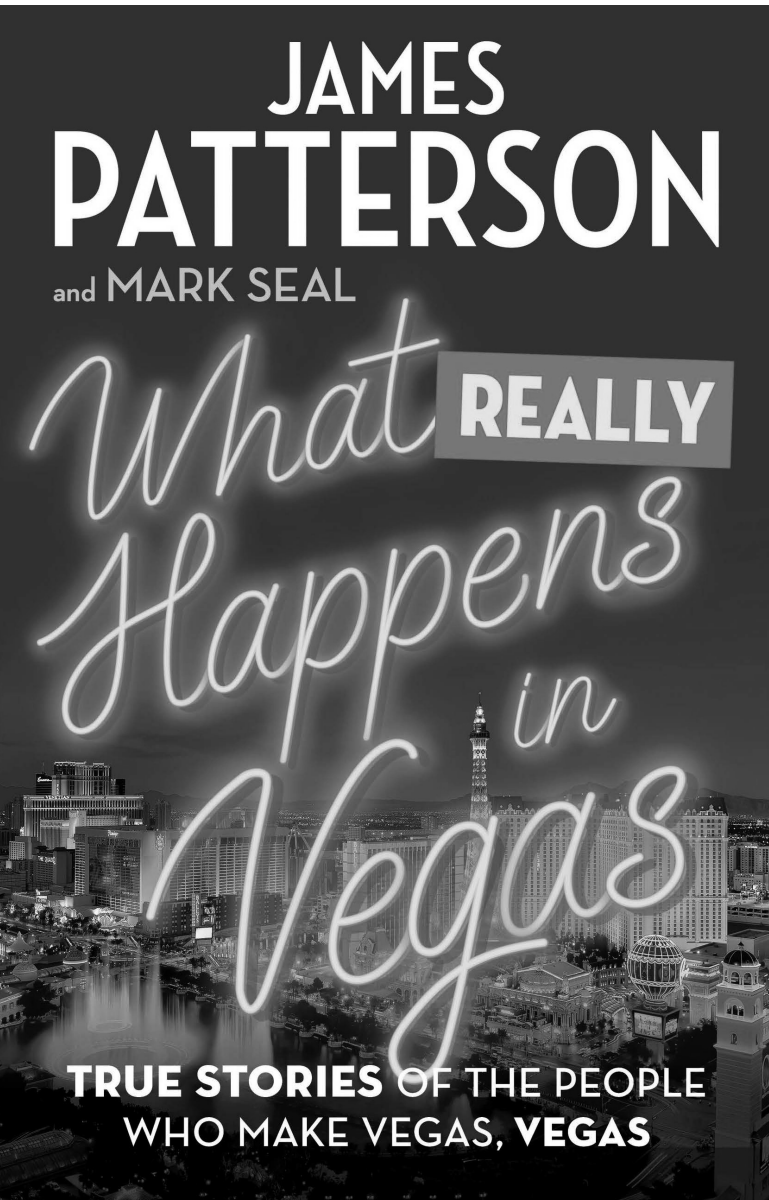
Blood Drive at Farmamerica 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 1

Visit Farmamerica.org to book an

appointment to donate blood during the March 1 donation event at Farmamerica’s main building, 7367 360th Ave, rural Waseca. For more information, contact Farmamerica at (507) 835-2052.

SKYWARN Spotter Training 6-8 pm March 5

“Skywarn” is a two-hour class meant to train volunteer spotters in recognizing and reporting the various features of severe thunderstorms. The March 5 class will be taught by meteorologists from the National Weather Service. All interested parties are invited to attend, whether they wish to serve as spotters or not. There is no cost; pre-registration is preferred at denise.wright@waseca-county.gov. Walk-ins will also be welcome.



'What Really Happens in Vegas' a book review

By TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER
The Book Worm

Hit that "spin" button.

Hit it again, one more time, move onto the next "one-armed bandit," take in a show, watch water dance, gawk all you want. A lot of people work hard to make your Las Vegas experience one you'll never forget. As you'll see in the new book "What Really Happens in Vegas" by James Patterson and Mark Seal, it takes a village to keep a city going.

It's 5:30 in the morning, Las Vegas time, and people are up and moving.

Some have been awake since the night before, sitting in front of a slot machine or at a card table with a pile of chips. Others, like the elite crew of divers who keep the Fountains of Bellagio running, are ready to go to work.

Vegas, as Patterson and Seal show, is not just glitz and glamour and lights and sounds. Las Vegas is also where some 52 million people arrive at the local airport to start their vacation – and, in some cases, they jump-start their bank accounts at the airport's slot machines.

Speaking of money – if you have it, you can get almost anything you want, as long as it's legal, just by asking. Want a private flight in? Your own limo? Big shopping? Before you drop the expected Big Bucks in a casino, want to relax in a secret suite that few are allowed to see? Or maybe you want to hear stories of "Sin City" legends, mostly men, but for one fierce woman who revolutionized the Strip.

You can see a circus in Vegas, one that was originally Canadian. Visit a downtown museum that tells the tale of this desert city. If

you win big, meet the people whose job it is to get your money to you at all costs. See how fine dining came to Las Vegas and who keeps it there. And find out how a famous slogan for this dazzling city came to be...

Pick up "What Really Happens in Vegas," read two pages, and you'll know one thing for sure: You've hit the jackpot.

In every city, there are stories and behind-the-scenes characters who keep the place lubricated but in Las Vegas, even those folks assume a certain (and deserved) mantle of glitter. Authors James Patterson and Mark Seal let readers in on secrets and into secret places, sharing out-loud stories of everyday folks, just doing their jobs.

Then there are the tales that feel like they should be told in whispers.

Sure, there are comments from comfort-makers who talk about the wealthy, and anecdotes of singers, stars, and mobsters in this book, just as you'd expect. But readers also become privy to the things nobody back home wants to talk about, the jobs that don't make your alumni profile, and the parties that... well, that stay in Vegas.

And that's what you'll want to do, once you start this fascinating behind-the-scenes peek. "What Really Happens in Vegas" is a book with a thousand stories and for fans, it'll be a hit.

Editor's note: This is a new feature the Pioneer plans to include once per month for the coming months. If readers enjoy this, please email the Pioneer at news@wasecacountypioneer.com or let one of our writers know. If we do not hear positive feedback on the book reviews, we will discontinue the series. Thank you!!

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Overwhelming generosity

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

More than 250 people from Waseca County and beyond attended the Feb. 17 benefit for Mike Coy, 71, a lifelong county resident who has been diagnosed with cancer of the liver.

Mike's wife Cindy says the couple is "overwhelmed" with the generosity of people in attendance who paid free-will donations for food being served at the event, with the liberal bids placed on about 100 different silent auction items, and the purchase of tickets for the 50/50 prize drawing.

When the winning ticket number

was drawn at the close of the day, the lucky individual continued the "half and half" theme by donating back about half of his winnings.

Waseca Music Store owner Jim Kozan provided music for the afternoon; the Coys' son Clifford also performed a few live numbers including the Chris Young song "Flashlight" and the Waylon Jennings song "Between Fathers and Sons."

The idea of "overwhelming" generosity continued on Sunday afternoon when an anonymous individual had a \$500 donation delivered to the Coys' home.



Mike Coy said his favorite part of the benefit was visiting with the many friends, family members and former coworkers who were in attendance. Here, one-time Kenworth employees Doug Stein (left) and Jacob Velzke (right), along with Jacob's father, Jeff, visit with Mike.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

■ Society from Page 1

Wisconsin, the upper peninsula of Michigan, and parts of Canada.

The goal of SCA events, members explain, is to create an immersive experience which carries a mood of being anywhere back in time from the fall of the Roman empire to the beginning of the Renaissance in the 1600s. Armor, battle techniques, skills and crafts may come from any culture.

While battle skills—Mike's specialty—are the focus of the weekly practices, Linda is quick to point out there is much more to the SCA than donning armor and whacking away at each other, although that is perhaps the most popular category.

Craftspeople from widely diverse fields including leatherwork, riveting, paper making, calligraphy, needlework, food preparation, dance, coin making, pottery, brewing, music, horsemanship and "feasting" also attend events to share their "anachronistic" knowledge and skills. "There is so much art and so much history in all of this," observes Linda. "It's really gratifying to see people preserving these traditions."

SCA members can attend organization events "nearly weekly," according to Linda and Mike. All, they say, are "family friendly" with activities for children and teens. Those attending decide for themselves how deeply to immerse themselves. "Some bring tents like you might see in medieval times," observes Mike. "Others stay in a nearby hotel."

Regarding family, the couple tells of having attended events all through their own children's upbringing. The experience was apparently positive since their oldest, Teresa, 30, partici-

pates in a shire in South Dakota while Thomas, 25, is a kingdom officer. William, 24, is currently in college in St. Cloud.

For some time, Linda has been the coordinator of Northshield's largest annual event, held in Wisconsin each year. She says up to 700 people typically attend. "I do it because I love throwing a party," she jokes regarding the many tasks and preparations. The largest "interkingdom" event occurs each year in Arizona where "thousands upon thousands" of people get together. That two-week gathering features a "peace week" focused around crafts and artisanry and a "war week" which revolves around fighting and battles.

At local weekly practices, the focus is very clearly on fighting technique. Armor is required and weapons are modified for safety. Mike, who has reached the level of "venerable Griffin" supervises and advises the participants. While "whacking away at each other" seems to be the order of the day, Mike points out there are many elements of chivalry and honor incorporated into SCA battle training.

"We take safety very seriously," he comments. "The safety of our fighters and that of any observers."

Fighters follow protocols and expectations which keep everything moving along smoothly. Perhaps the largest element of honor is that fighters decide for themselves how badly wounded they are by any hits. "If I say to myself, 'that was a glancing blow,' then I keep fighting the same way," describes Mike. "If, on the other hand, I know I've taken a good hit, for example on my right arm, then I stop using that arm. I put it behind me for the rest of the fight and do my best to continue with the battle."

While the practice space echoes with the sounds of shouts, clashing



Charles Adams, a member of the area Society for Creative Anachronism, takes a rest during practice. Beside him is the emblem for the "Shire of Rivenwood Tower."

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

armor and flying weapons, Mike says "Battle is really a form of high-speed, three-dimensional chess. You assess your circumstances and make choices accordingly."

Jeremy Meyer, 40, is among the evening's combatants. He says he has been in the SCA for 19 years and, over time, has developed four different "kits" for his persona. "I love building my skills," he comments. "The SCA gives a climate and environment where I can do that while truly enjoying myself."

Member Kurt Knapper, 41, agrees. "Martial arts are a piece of living history and a really fun sport," he comments. "We all recognize it as an art form."

"Besides, everybody I fight with is my friend. While I don't want to hurt my friends, I do want to 'kill' them in battle."

Meyer chimes in, "It's a place

where we can treat each other violently, but walk away discussing our technique or our armor."

Daniel Schenck, 33, has been an SCA member for 14 years and has so far developed four different kits. He says the money he spends on his equipment and his travels to SCA events is well worth it.

At practice for the first time is Elliot Brady, 37. A friend of Meyer's, he is observing rather than fighting. Still "From the first time swinging a stick, I wanted to know more," he comments. "I knew there was more to [the SCA] than just fighting, so I came to see what it's all about."

"The overall challenge is to build your skills," says Mike. "We may look like enemies, but we're really building each other up in the virtues of honor, gamesmanship, honesty and morality."

2024 Waseca County Republican Caucus locations, February 27, 2024

7:00PM start time, all locations, arrive early to register and get seated

Additional caucus documents online at: www.wasecarepublicans.com

Janesville High School, 110 East 3rd St., Janesville, MN 56048
Precincts: Alton Township; Elysian City; Janesville City; Janesville Township

New Richland High School, 306 Ash Ave. South, New Richland, MN 56072
Precincts: Byron Township; Otisco Township; New Richland City; New Richland Township; Wilton Township

Waldorf Community Center, 119 S. Main St., Waldorf, MN 56091
Precincts: Freedom Township; Vivian Township; Waldorf City

Waseca Jr. & Sr. High School, 1717 Second St. NW, Waseca, MN 56093
Precincts: all City of Waseca precincts, 1A,1B, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B

Waseca Intermediate School, 400 19th Ave. NW, Waseca, MN 56093
Precincts: Blooming Grove Township; Isoco Township; St Mary Township; Woodville 1 Township, Woodville 2 Township

Precinct	Location
Alton Township	Janesville High School
Blooming Grove Township	Waseca Intermediate School
Byron Township	New Richland High School
Elysian City	Janesville High School
Freedom Township	Waldorf Community Center
Janesville City	Janesville High School
Janesville Township	Janesville High School
Iosco Township	Waseca Intermediate School
New Richland City	New Richland High School
New Richland Township	New Richland High School
Otisco Township	New Richland High School
St. Mary Township	Waseca Intermediate School
Vivian Township	Waldorf Community Center
Waldorf City	Waldorf Community Center
Waseca 1 A	Waseca Jr. & Sr. High School
Waseca 1 B	Waseca Jr. & Sr. High School
Waseca 2 A	Waseca Jr. & Sr. High School
Waseca 2 B	Waseca Jr. & Sr. High School
Waseca 3 A	Waseca Jr. & Sr. High School
Waseca 3 B	Waseca Jr. & Sr. High School
Wilton Township	New Richland High School
Woodville 1 Township	Waseca Intermediate School
Woodville 2 Township	Waseca Intermediate School

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Waseca County DFL

2024

DFL CAUCUS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

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Townships: Alton, Blooming Grove, Byron, Freedom, Iosco, Janesville, New Richland, Otisco, St. Mary, Vivian, Wilton, Woodville

Prepared and Paid for by the Waseca County DFL

Donation



The Lions collected 444 bags of Goldfish crackers from their members and donated them to the Backpack program earlier in February. This was the second time the Lions have contributed snacks to the Backpack program this school year.

The Backpack program is based out of the Waseca Area Food Shelf. This program provides K-12 grade students that face food insecurity a bag of non-perishable food items to take home over the weekend during the school year. Each week approximately 275 bags are packed and taken to the schools for school counselors to discreetly distribute to students to take home. Studies have shown that this extra nutrition is vital to help students stay more focused and ready to learn.



The Pastor's Column

Strive to be more intentional, as Jesus was

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

Jesus turned His face to Jerusalem. This turning is both a literary technique used in each gospel to show a shift in Jesus' intention and purpose, and a specific action that indicated a willingness to go to the cross. He moves from gathering a crowd with healings, casting out demons, and popular teachings to challenging the authority of the Pharisees and Sadducees, delivering challenging teachings that called for transformation, and up-setting the social norms of the community.

In Matthew 16:21, From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

In Mark 10:32-34, 32 They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him.33 "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, 34 who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."

In Luke 9:51, "51 As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem."

In John 11:54-55, "54 Therefore Jesus no longer moved about publicly among the Jews. Instead he withdrew to a region near the desert, to a village called Ephraim, where he stayed with his disciples.55 When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, many went up from the country to Jerusalem for their ceremonial cleansing before the Passover."

During Lent we turn our face from the mundane things of life and strive to be more intentional like Jesus. Jesus turned His face to Jerusalem so that He would go and offer His life as a sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins of all those who would believe. Jesus intentionally walked towards the cross, it was not happenstance or chance, but a plan that was calculated.

I have struggled to identify how I will be more like Jesus in my preparation to celebrate His death, burial, and resurrection. Perhaps it is time to renew our intention and purpose to the foundational actions of our faith. To renew our commitment to follow Jesus in all areas of our lives. I would challenge you to return to those aspects of faith that may have become lax over the past year.

Take time each day to pray for your family, friends, and self that each may draw closer to Jesus. Read your bible with the intention of allowing God to speak to you, and then share what you have read with others. Call up a friend to engage in fellowship, offering to take their concerns to God in prayer. Turn on music or take actions that draw your heart to worshipping God for all He has done. Finally pause several times during the day, either in fasting or rest to contemplate what God has done for you.

In these activities may we all turn our faces to God and draw nearer to Him, just as Jesus turned His face to Jerusalem and ultimately the cross.

Zinkle calls for fair endorsement process

(Waseca, MN) Candidate for Minnesota House District 19B calls out Steele County Republicans Co-Chair Pam Seaser for acting as Campaign Manager to candidate Ditlevson, against tradition of Party Officer Neutrality.

When I served as Waseca County Republican Co-Chair from 2017-2019, one of the most important traditions of any endorsement process was the neutrality of all Party Officers. To maintain fairness to all candidates, we keep our personal support or opposition to ourselves until we have an Endorsed Candidate, who we then all support. Any candidate wanting to run for office

shouldn't expect to be groomed or have their hand held like it's the first day of Kindergarten.

I was saddened to see Steele County Republican Co-Chair Pam Seaser throwing ethics and tradition aside, offering quotes to the Owatonna People's Press and Waseca County News in praise of one candidate, Mr. Ditlevson, while stating she does not anticipate any further candidates from Steele County to challenge him, seeming to close the door to any others in the Steele County area, and stating all of this as Co-Chair of her local party.

I was further saddened to see Co-Chair Seaser recently attended a



Zinkle

be well served in St. Paul by a plastic, coached candidate who needs help to relate to his constituents.

And what of Pam Seaser? When I was Waseca County Republican Co-Chair, if I had felt to strongly for a candidate that I sang their praises to

the news as Co-Chair and to join their campaign, I would have been expected to resign or have the Executive Board remove me so I can pursue that passion. Anything else would be unethical, inappropriate, and paint pictures of smoky back rooms.

I look forward to speaking with delegates and voters this election year and hope we may get a debate with Mr. Ditlevson before the April Endorsement, just as long as Co-Chair Seaser doesn't have to teach him where to sit and what to say.

Waseca area caregivers receive grant

Last month the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging, Inc. (MNRAAA) has awarded Waseca Area Caregiver Services (WACS) a \$61,926 Title III E grant and a \$81,928 Title B grant. The awards are funded under Title III of the Older Americans Act (OAA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Kelly Boeddeker is the Executive Director at WACS.

OAA funds are administered by MNRAAA, the state-designated Area Agency on Aging in the 27 counties of southwest Minnesota. Title III OAA funds are awarded to

agencies and organizations that provide direct services for older people (age 60+) and their caregivers to develop a coordinated and comprehensive system of services for older adults and their caregivers.

ARPA was passed by Congress in 2021 to provide further relief to older adults and caregivers caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding under ARPA follows the guidelines established by the OAA.

"MNRAAA is excited to be partnering with Waseca Area Caregiver Services to continue and expand services to older adults and care-

givers in our 27 county area."

MNRAAA Executive Director Jason W. Swanson stated. "These services are integral to keeping older adults in their communities and as independent as possible."

About the Waseca Area Caregiver Services

It is our mission to provide a holistic approach in supporting aging



Boeddeker

adults and their family caregivers with the goal of maintaining community living and a positive quality of life. Learn more about WACS at wasecacaregivers.com

About the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging

MNRAAA's vision is to assist older adults to thrive. MNRAAA provides advocacy, information, resources, and assistance so that older adults in southwest Minnesota can maintain the lifestyle of their choice. Learn more about MNRAAA at www.mnraaa.org.

B Honor Roll

The following Waseca High School students from grades 7 through 12 earned Straight B's during the first semester: Avery Barto, Annabelle Benson, Oden Board, Jack Durisen, Dathan Elias, Madalyn Halla, Ethan Harwood, Aysia Ingram Bratts, Abigail Jackson, Jackson Janike, Kennedy Jansen, Ashton Kahnke, Liam Lewer, Ella Linnes, Cruz Lynch, Ahvah Maas, Emy Mann, Addison Monson, Jordan Neidecker, Kole Nelson, Connor Pena, Michael Petracek, Shakiyah Powell, Corbin Ristau, Gabriel Sanchez, Griffin Schlueter, Jace Selvik, Christopher Spotts, Enrique Tovar, Ava Trumbull, Carter Wernimont, Gianna Zak, Sophia Abrego, Valente Avalos, Claire Bartelt, Olivia Eaton, Kavita Ewest, Ligaya Howe, Calvin Kahnke, Aydan Kath, Kellen Klinger, Logan Konz, Aileen Lindsay-Brothers, Mia

Lynch, Landan Madsen, Dominik Marquez, Kaylee Matz, Mason Prescher, Gavin Reger, Madalynn Root, Oscar Slattery, Ella Swindle, Megan Thursdale, Alexandria Barnes, Brandon Bartz, Lucas Danner, Ilamay Draheim, Addison Epper, Lacey Frank, Amber Hagen, Josie Hager, Corbin Hanna, Eryn Harrison, Gavin Hinton, Trey Jensen, Tatyana Johnson, Amilya Lynch, Cash Lynch, Fushen Mei, Sylvia Mixteco-Perez, Emily Mumme, Mia Nesenson, Gahvin Nowacki, Stella Omtvedt, Trenna Peterson, Isaac Pfeifer, Daries Powell, Owen Rupe, Mallory Schulz, Avery Selvik, Tucker Thompsons, Justin Toapanta, Alexa Welander, Zachary Wilhelm, Jonah Worke, Eduardo Alarcon Ramirez, Nalani Allen-Haas, Brianna Avalos, Hunter Barnes, Liam Biddle, Ava Bruhn, Victoria Calderon, Teagan Collier,

Miya DeRaad, Kelsey Draeger, Khloe Fuller, Jayden Gehring, Jude Gehring, Destiney Gustafson, Dylan Hansen, Meraina Hiller, Wesley Hiniker, Emma Johnson, Jordan Johnston, Nathan Kaiser, Tailyn Kaput, Alyssa Kilmer, Blake Langager, Jayden Mann, Madisyn McClune, Boedy Mokoff, Kaden Peirce, Christian Possin, Madison Rasche, Jacob Root, Justice Root, Deron Russell, Miguel Sandoval, Joseph Schumacher, Amin Sharif, Roman Siler, Zane Staloch, Diego Toapanta, Joan Victorino, Jasmyn Villafuerte, Hunter Anderson, Ryley Bartz, Allison Chicos, Elias Crosby, Claire Dieker, Katy Eldeen, Tristan Godwin, Aiden Groskreutz, Keaton Gustafson, Liam Hagre, Karley Hamilton, David Hodgkins, Emma Ibarra, Brandyn Jascha, Cameron Karsten, Gabriela Lopez, Haley Madson, Camila Marquez, Jackson

McShane, Kaiden Miller, Gracie Morgan, Jason Murphy, Carson Ohnstad, Arpee Patel, Jameson Paulson, Keegan Peterson, Katelyn Robeck, Ashley Sanchez Pliego, Aiden Shoemaker, Ezra Skains, Nicholas Waldron, Isabella Wikan, Karissa Yerhot, Aliyah Barstad, Grace Below, Savanna Benson, Carter Ellis, Nathaniel Engel-Mueller, Shane Engel-Mueller, Alexandria Eustice, Makenzi Ferch, Carter Goins, Tristin Gross, Lola Guggisberg, Cyrus Guse, Logan Heyer, Zachary Hulscher, Kiera Landrum, Kaelyn Larrabee, Thomas Mens, Olivia Oestreich, Cheyenne Pilaczynski, Adele Possin, Stacy Reyna, Cody Sieberg, Jordyn Sturdivant, Paige Swenson, Joshua Teachout, Sebastian Teague, Zachary Theobald, Gulyan VanEngelenburg

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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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: l1waseca@hickory-tech.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
Father Glenn Ferichs
507-835-1222
Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5:15 p.m.
* * *
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 Glenn Ferichs
Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m.
Mass
Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m.
* * *
FIRST LUTHERAN
Missouri Synod
Waldorf, Minnesota
Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe
Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class
* * *
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Freedom Township
Sunday - 9:15 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 - 10:45 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



CAREERS — 7th and 8th-graders at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Middle School explored the world of careers in 1998. 7th-grader Marissa Brady is using a computer to check out different career opportunities.

Copywriting, career fairs

100 years ago

-In the fall of 1877 Waseca County witnessed a very spirited political contest. In those good olden days elections came every year and every year the politicians had rich picking. Towards the close of the campaign the editor of the Argus, C. E. Graham, and the editor of the Radical, J. E. Child, became very personal and very bitter. Child supported Warren Smith for treasurer. Mr. Graham opposed him. It will be remembered by those who were on earth at that time in this particular neck of the woods that Mr. Child was an ardent advocate of temperance and had espoused the cause of the prohibition party. Such being the case, his sincerity in supporting Smith was questioned by Graham. Smith himself was a temperance man and a man above reproach. But he had compromised himself not long previously by becoming a surety for a saloon-keeper on a saloonkeeper's bond. This gave an opening and in the eyes of Mr. Graham was inexcusable from the standpoint of the professions made.

-Through a combination of respective interests, including the village, Alton and Janesville township, the two cemetery boards and the churches, whose contributions cover the cost, the road from Main Street on Finley's corner to the Catholic cemetery is being graveled. E. T. Dieudonne has the contract and is now working it out with trucks and teams. The gravel is secured at Lake Elysian from Roy Keyes and from the Jewison point.

-Cris Dalton brings in the information that on Tuesday night last a large barn on the farm of Martin Convey was burned to the ground. The origin of the fire is a mystery. It was located in Freedom Township. Thirteen cows were destroyed and eight horses. There was an insurance of three thousand dollars, but the amount does not cover the losses.

75 years ago

-Outstanding community cooperation, the response to the tuberculosis Christmas Seal Sale, was praised today by Mrs. Fred W. Arnoldt, chairman of Janesville. "Janesville can be proud of the good work in the Christmas Seal Campaign," she continued, "and proud of the generous response of all its citizens." The Seal Sale for Janesville and surrounding community amounted to \$258.24.

-The Golden Bears suffered defeat Friday night at the hands of a tough, undefeated Claremont five, 38-6, before a record-breaking crowd of 400. The Claremont Parrots simply had too much drive and height over the Bears, and led by Theimann and Eggert, they scored almost at will to have the local quint another defeat.

-Rev. O. F. Krause, former pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville, now at Fairmont, has been appointed to the Advisory Committee for planning a statewide "Dr. Martin Luther Memorial Service" to be held in the Twin Cities.

-In spite of sub-zero weather, eleven 4-H club boys and girls braved the cold weather and got through the drafted roads to make the trip to Rochester. These boys and girls received this trip as an award for the special achievement in the 4-H club health activities.

50 years ago

-How do you solve the problem of kids going all the way through high school - and sometimes college - without having the slightest idea what kind of work they want to do in life? Nobody has all the answers to this complex question, but five area high schools are trying to fill this vocational gap through the establishment of the Waseca County Vocational Center. Norvin R. Rueckert, director of the proposed center, explained the idea to the Janesville Rotary last Thursday and said the purpose of the center will be to provide programs which the individual school districts have not been able to offer individually. "We hope to come up with a program that will make students aware of the jobs available and the actual demand for workers in each of the occupational areas," he said.

-Sixth graders of Janesville Public School tried their hand at copywriting this past week as they turned out the first in a series of student-prepared advertising messages for Janesville State Bank. The completed advertisements will be judged by bank officials this week and the three top advertisements chosen. Prizes of five, three and two dollars will go to three sixth graders placing advertisements in the top three. Other students will receive honorable mentions for their copywriting abilities.

-Births in the Village of Janesville were down by 13 and deaths increased by 13 during 1972 according to statistics released by Lawrence P. Krause, Clerk of District Court. Twenty three children were born to village residents in 1972, compared to 36 in 1971 and 32 in 1970. Deaths, on the other hand, took a dramatic jump from 12 a year in 1971 to 25 during this past year. From 1968 through 1971 an average of 14 people died per year. This almost doubled during 1972.

25 years ago

-A 10-point scoring advantage in the second quarter proved to the the difference for the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton girls' basketball team. The Lady Bulldogs outscored Waterville-Elysian-Morristown 19-9 in the second stanza, leading them to a 66-57 Gopher Conference victory at Waterville. The victory was the third straight for the Bulldogs, and their sixth in the last nine games.

-Trinity Lutheran School, Janesville, recently received \$5,300 from Lutheran Brotherhood through the Member Matching Gift program. The latest payment matches 53 gifts from Lutheran Brotherhood members made during the fourth quarter of 1997. Lutheran Brotherhood's Primary Partners program matches members' gifts of \$25 to \$100 per year to Lutheran elementary and preschools nationwide. Since the beginning of the Primary Partners gift program in 1987, \$42,359 has been received by Trinity Lutheran School.

-Mainstream Publications announced on Tuesday, Jan. 13 an agreement to sell its 25 Minnesota and Wisconsin publications include the Janesville Argus to James E. Huckle of Traverse City, Mich. the announcement was made jointly by Robert L. Bradford II, president and principal shareholder of Mainstream Publications and Huckle. A Saturday, Jan. 31 closing date is planned.

Waseca Archives

Waseca County History Center

Where'd It Go?



The Waseca County Historical Society Museum Log Cabin. "First home of the museum, Anderson/Olson Cabin Constructed on the Courthouse grounds. Dedicated October 6, 1940. It was a combination of two original homestead cabins. One was owned by John Oleson (a civil war veteran), and the other was owned by Samuel Anderson. The cabins were dismantled and transported to the courthouse grounds where the best of the logs were used and one cabin assembled out of the two. In 1957, the museum outgrew the cabin. A 24 x 60' cinder block addition was built. By 1962 more space was needed. Marvin, Edgar and Everett Johnson purchased the Methodist Church which remains the home of the WCHS Museum. In 1963, WCHS gave the Sheriff's office the cinder block building and in exchange, the County moved the cabin to the west end of the fairgrounds and built Hodgson Hall around it. WCHS owns Hodgson Hall and Waseca County owns the land.

25 Years Ago

Dinner Meeting serves up tough questions

-A light dinner and casual conversation turned quickly to serious talk about items which will require study and timely decision making by Waseca County and office holders. At Tuesday's evening dinner meeting, representatives of the city and county were joined by Waseca County Sheriff Tim Dann, Deputy Sheriff Lance Lehman, Waseca Police Chief Jim Staloch and fair board members.

Making connections in today's world

-The name "Waseca Women of Today" may sound like a political organization, but it's not. It's also not a club that is designed especially for working women. It's not an organization limited to a specific age group. It's not even limited to women. What it is, is a community service organization with a varied agenda of activities and projects. The group evolved 12 years ago from the local Jaycee Women. The limitation of that organization was that the woman had to be married to a Jaycee.

1995 fire dispute to be settled in court

-On February 2, 1995, Jerry's Inn outside of New Richland was severely damaged by fire. The claim made by owners Gerald and Aurdienne Kormann to their insurer, Tri-State Insurance Company of Minnesota, has never been settled. The Kormanns have filed against the insurance company claiming breach of contract. The plaintiffs seek to recover \$52,000 in damage to personal property and other items including an outdoor sign, debris removal, and loss of income.

50 Years Ago

-Members of the Waseca Volunteer Fire Department have donated \$120 to a special fund set up for the families of two firemen killed at a fire in Westport. The firemen were killed when they were fighting an LP gas fire. The money that Waseca donated was their pay for answering a false alarm fire call last week. The 30 men donated their \$4 to pay for the call.

No answers for shortage

-Waseca County farmers are beginning to feel the punch of the fertilizer shortage as the planting season nears. County Extension Roger Wilkowski told the JOURNAL recently that he had been approached several times in the past by farmers who can't purchase fertilizer from their regular dealer and have been told to find another supplier.

Fires reported at Amboy, Marshall, and Lake Elmo

-A fire that began in ammonia explosions destroyed the plant of a major ice cream manufacturing firm at Marshall, Minn., Saturday. Authorities estimated that damages would reach \$2.5 million or higher.

75 Years Ago

DP Family at Halstead Farm

-Four human ping-pong balls dropped off the Chicago and North Western train here Sunday. They are the Kruhlaks, a Ukrainian family who have come to America from a German displaced persons group to make their home at the Fred Halstead and L.J. Sheldon. Mr. and Mrs. Iwan Kruhlak and daughters, Emilia, 15, and Maria, 9, now feel that they have a place they can call home after five years of movement through the war and its aftermath.

Geo. Kleeman Hangs Self in Barn Hay Loft

-George Kleeman, 59, committed suicide by hanging in the barn hay loft on his farm 8 1/2 miles south of Janesville in Freedom township about 12:20 p.m. Tuesday. He was found by his brother, Louis, a co-owner of the farm. The two bachelors live out at the farm, and rent out the land. Deputy Sheriff Harvey Demy and deputy coroner Dr. Clifford Wadd of Janesville said there was no apparent reason for the suicide.

Emma Neidt Rites to be Held Today

-Miss Emma Neidt, 72, who has been spending the winter at the home of her sister, Mrs. D.A. Murray in Virginia, Minn., died at the hospital there Tuesday morning, Feb. 15. Death was due to her asthma. It had troubled her for several years but only seriously last week during which time she had been in the hospital.

Looking Back (New Richland)

100 Years Back - 1924

- The New Richland Independents swamped the Ellendale basketball team at Ellendale last Friday 43 to 6. Morrissey was the leading basket tosser for New Richland. He led the field with eleven field goals. Carl Jeddelloh was next with five baskets.
- There was a surprise party at the Frank Hansen home Monday evening in honor of their teacher, Miss Hazel McColley, it being her birthday. Forty-five were present and all had a merry time.
- A.W. Bethke has had a radio installed at his home. Now they will be able to hear a lot of interesting entertainment and music that they would otherwise miss.
- Marino Zarth went to Otisco Monday morning to drive back his car which he was compelled to leave there in a heavy snow storm several weeks ago.
- The Ellendale Eagle chronicles the sale of the Wm. Erdmann farm to Carl J. Anderson this week as a new record in shrinkage of land values. The place was sold for \$90 an acre with fair improvements.
- The following were entertained at supper at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G.S. Jacobson last Sunday: Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Babcock and family, Mr. and Mrs. C.O. Klingbell and son, Rolland, and Mrs. E.J. Paulsen.
- Miss Katie Kroeger of Waseca returned to her home Monday afternoon after visiting over Sunday at the Fred Proehl and John Kroeger home.
- Messrs R.C. Christensen and Leo Betchwars were over to Waldorf from New Richland Monday on telephone business.
- Mrs. Jellife taught Miss O'Brien's classes last Thursday, the latter having sprained her ankle.

76 Years Back - 1948

- Postal Inspector Austin, with the assistance of local postal employees, Saturday apprehended three youths who were charged with shooting up rural mail boxes in the area west of New Richland. In all 22 boxes were shot up. There is to be no prosecution in the case, authorities believing the youths have learned a lesson from the experience.
- Helmer Hendrickson has been named president; Merle Michaelson, vice president; Edgar Peterson, secretary; and Oscar J. Johnson, treasurer of the Hartland Creamery Association. Other directors are Ole Morstad, Art Horpedahl and Oscar Worke.
- Mr. and Mrs. I.C. Hinkley of Freeborn and Mr. and Mrs. Lester Young and children of Albert Lea were Sunday afternoon visitors at the Sam Jacobson home.
- Saturday afternoon Mrs. Lloyd Poplow, Mrs. Ike Bunting, Miss Florence Krueger, Mrs. Ray Wakefield, Mrs. Otto Neuman, Mrs. Helmen Grotsen and Mrs. Andrew Loken attended a valentine party at school Dist. No. 94.
- Miss Olga Hanson, Mrs. Mina Youngberg, Mrs. Alfred Youngberg and Merton visited Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Glenn Youngberg, Charles and Carol Ann.
- Mrs. A.M. Pierce visited from Thursday evening until Friday with her daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Johnson and family.
- Mr. and Mrs. M.H. Weydert and son, Clifford, Mr. and Mrs. Armin Becker and daughter, Vickie, and Fred Berg were visitors at the James Rohde home at Waseca Saturday evening.

50 Years Back - 1974

- Sunday dinner guests at the Jake Longnecker home to help Mark cele-

brate his eleventh birthday were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schwab of Janesville, Joe Longnecker of Mankato, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Meagher and Jack Meagher of Madison Lake.

- Mr. and Mrs. George Tukua, Mrs. Tom Lenort, Ronda and Jason of Clarks Grove, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Supalla, Sharra and Raquel of New Richland were Sunday dinner and afternoon guest of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Buchholtz at Goodhue. Roger Buchholtz, George Tukua and Mike Supalla's birthdays were celebrated.
- Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Sigurdson, Mrs. Tom Baas of Albert Lea, Mr. and Mrs. Merle Bartness and family of Ellendale were afternoon luncheon guests of Mrs. Minnie Bartness. Also stopping in the morning was her daughter, Mrs. Elvern Holland.
- On Tuesday and Wednesday Mrs. Wallace Demmer and Mrs. Nora Brekke were among those who attended the Freeborn county Extension Retreat at the Curtiss Hotel in Minneapolis.
- Daryl and Diane Wenzel, students at Mankato State College, spent the weekend at the home of their parents, the Lester Wenzels.
- Mr. and Mrs. George Jacobson, Sharon, Janice and Sandi were Sunday dinner and supper guests at the Ivan Hanson-Erna Mohs home at Owatonna.
- Weekend guests at the Herb Prescher home were Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Kinlund of Mable, Dennis Prescher and Kathy Madson of Minneapolis, Bruce Prescher of Mankato State and Debbie Prescher of Rochester.

25 Years Back - 1999

Panther Wrestling Team To State Meet, First Time Ever



For the first time in the long history of high school wrestling, the NRHEG squad earned the right to enter the Minnesota State High School Wrestling competition when they captured the Section 2A title Saturday at Waterville. Members pictured celebrating their victory are from left, front: Robert Sanders, Shawn Ebnet, Mr. Weber, Mr. Cyr, Chris Werth, Anders Mattson, David Halbakken, Andrew Routh, Marlin Beckman, James Petsinger; middle: David Kuglin, Nathan Schlaak, Tony Schlaak, Dan Petsinger, Patrick Petsinger, Zach Jacobson; back: Kellen Utpadel, Rob Routh, Joe Moon, Eric Anderson, John Rathal, Justin Berg, Chris Olson, Krister Mattson and Jamie Harshman.



PLENTY OF OFFENSE — That's what the Waseca High School boys' hockey team had in a Section 1A play-in game Tuesday night at Waseca Community Arena, where the Bluejays prevailed 9-1. Above from left: Waseca's Brayden Hesch-Priem (33) races to the puck against Austin's Naryk Rector (8); the Bluejays' Griffin Storey (22) gets off a shot; Keato Roeker (9) is chased by Elijah Krueger (11). Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Waseca icemen annihilate Austin

Jays dominate section opener, 9-1

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

On paper, the Waseca High School boys' hockey team was a heavy favorite against Austin in Tuesday's night's Section 1A tournament play-in game.

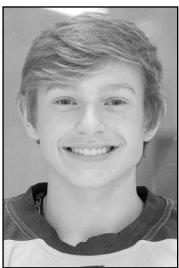
But you never know about a team like the Packers, who play in the Big Nine Conference.

Any doubts were erased early.

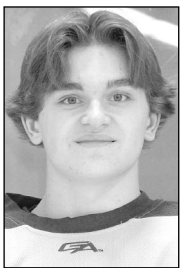
The seventh-seeded Bluejays scored the first three goals of the night on their way to a one-sided 9-1 triumph over No. 10 seed Austin at Waseca Community Arena.

It improved the Bluejays to 15-11. They advanced to the next round Thursday at No. 2 seed Dodge County.

Brayden Hesch-Priem put the Jays on the scoreboard first against Austin, scoring at 4:45 of the first period on assists by Griffin Storey and Jackson Dahl. Hesch-Priem lit



Anderson

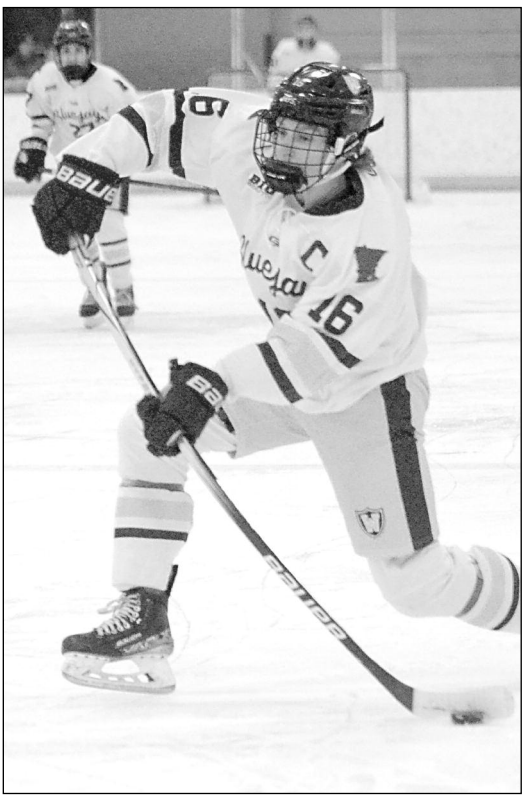


Hesch-Priem

the lamp again at the 8:30 mark, with Storey and Lucas Groll assisting. Jude Gehring scored at 9:19, assisted by Jayden Gehring the Keato Roeker, and Roeker scored at 9:38 an assist by Jude Gehring.

The Packers' lone goal came on a power play in the final minute of the first period, when Waseca outshot Austin 17-12.

Hunter Anderson scored twice, Otto Schoenrock and Roeker once each in the second stanza. Schoenrock and Henry Huttemier



SECTION ACTION — Looking to score Tuesday night against Austin are, from left, Beckett Srp (21), Hunter Anderson (16) and Jude Gehring (34).

each had two assists, with one apiece going to Easton Danks, Jude Gehring and Groll.

Huttemier closed out the scoring in the third on an assist by Hesch-

Priem.

For the game, Waseca outshot Austin 47-26. The Bluejays committed four penalties, Austin one.

Josiah Schmidtke was the Waseca

goaltender.

The winner of Thursday's game at Dodge County plays Friday at 7 p.m. at the Rochester Recreation Center. The section title game is

Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. at the Rochester Recreation Center. Northfield is the No. 1 seed. Dodge County is seeded second.

Lady Jays top Worthington in Big South Showcase

The Waseca High School girls' basketball team was victorious in last Saturday's Big South Conference Showcase at Blue Earth, defeating Worthington 40-37.

It was the third win in the last five games for the Bluejays, who improved to 7-18 for the season. They were 2-4 in Big South East play.

According to first-year Waseca head coach Anthony Jackson, defense decided it.

"The girls played great defense," said Jackson. "Holding Worthington to only eight points in the first half allowed us to build a lead with a little bit of cushion. Fortunately, we made enough free throws and got a few crucial stops in the final minutes after Worthington made a run. It's a nice win for our program, and we hope to continue to make strides."

Avery Gaul scored 13 points and Mia Kanewischer 12. Grace Guritz netted nine. Callie Dufault, Addie Weiseler and Lily Owens added two apiece.

After a Thursday game at Maple River, the Bluejays finish the regular season Friday at Belle Plaine.



Gaul

Two Bluejays advance to state

WHS gymnasts Wikan, Keith qualify

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Two Waseca High School gymnasts have qualified for the state meet.

Bella Wikan finished first on the balance beam and Layla Keith was third on floor exercise in last Saturday's Section 1A meet at Blue Earth, advancing them to state Saturday, Feb. 24 at Roy Wilkins Auditorium in St. Paul.

"What an amazing season for our gymnasts!" said WHS coach Kim Wendland. "These powerful, dedicated athletes handled a little bit of everything this season, and they made us proud in so many ways, always fighting until the end and coming out stronger!"

Last weekend, Wikan scored an 8.925 for first on the beam. Keith was third third on the floor at 9.25.

"Congratulations to Layla and



Wikan



Keith

Bella for earning individual trips to the state meet!" said Wendland.

Keith and Wikan will compete at state Saturday starting at 11 a.m.

Mankato West won the section team championship with 140.275 points, followed by Mankato East at 139.9, Martin County Area 136.375, St. Peter 135.1, New Ulm/MVL 135.525, Waseca 131.45, Blue Earth Area 129.85, St. James 108.525 and Faribault 32.5.

Keith finished eighth in all-



SENIORS — The Waseca High School gymnastics will graduate three seniors. From left: assistant coach Kara Doyle, seniors Haydn Lynch, Lindy Caldwell and Norah Schimming, and head coach Kim Wendland. Photo by Kennedy Lynch

around with 34.9 points. Haydn Lynch scored 32.0 all-around points, Hannah Parks 31.3, Katelyn Weber 30.25, Lindy Caldwell 23.625.

Other Waseca scores, by event:

Vault - Keith 9.0, Lynch 8.7, Weber 8.45, Parks 8.4, Caldwell 8.3.

Beam - Keith 8.55, Parks 7.525, Lynch 7.3, Weber 7.275.

Floor - Lynch 8.875, Weber 8.175, Caldwell 7.625.

"These powerful, dedicated athletes handled a little bit of everything this season, and they made us proud in so many ways."

— WHS coach Kim Wendland

NRHEG girls top Maple River in final regular season game

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva girls' basketball team is entering postseason play on a positive note.

The Panthers prevailed 69-62 against a good Maple River squad in the final game of the regular season Friday, Feb. 16 in New Richland.

NRHEG finished 11-5 in the

Gopher Conference West while improving their season record to 18-7.

"This was a huge team win for us," said Panthers coach Onika Peterson. "I'm extremely proud of this group. They continue to work and grind every day. We were able to take advantage of Thomas and McGregor being in foul trouble in the first half."

And while the Panthers led by 13 at halftime, 35-22, Peterson warned her players that this isn't a huge margin for a team like Maple River that likes to shoot three-pointers.

"Our defense really stepped up in the second half and met the challenge," said Peterson. "It was a great night."

Camryn VanMaldeghem, a sophomore, continued to put up great

numbers, totaling 32 points, 12 rebounds, four assists, five steals and one blocked shots.

Faith Nielsen and Kylie Olson also had a strong night, Nielsen netting 13 points, seven rebounds and a steal, Olson 13 points, 11 rebounds, two assists and a block.

Others: Quinn VanMaldeghem 5P, 4R, 3A, 2S; Izley Boerner 2P, 4R, 2A; Hallie Schultz 3P, 6R, 4A, 1S;

Addy Stadheim 1P, 1R; Presley Nielsen 4P, 1A, 1S.

Seeds are yet to be set for the Section 2AA tournament, which begins Monday, Feb. 26 at the higher seeded team, continues Feb. 29 and March 4 at Mankato East High School. The section champion and state tournament berth will be decided March 8 at 7:45 p.m. at Minnesota State-Mankato.

WHS boys can't recover from slow start at LCWM

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It's all but decided.

The Waseca High School boys' basketball team will, in all likelihood, be the No. 2 seed in sub-section play after a 60-46 nonconference setback at Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial Monday night.

"LCWM likely wrapped up the No. 1 seed in our sub-section with their win over us," said WHS coach Seth Anderson. "We will likely be the No. 2 seed now."

Two things led to the Monday's loss, a red-hot LCWM squad that improved to 21-3 for the season, and a distasteful start by the Bluejays, who trailed 12-2 to start the game.

After that, I thought we defended very well all game," said Anderson. "We just really struggled to score."

"Hopefully, we can win some playoff games and get another opportunity to play them."

— WHS coach Seth Anderson

Waseca shot 26 percent as a team. "That's not good enough to beat a top-tier team like LCWM," said Anderson. "I thought we played strong, but we didn't pass the ball or finish strong enough to win. Hopefully, we can win some playoff games and get another opportunity to play them."

The Russell brothers led the Bluejays. Damarius totaled 18 points, seven rebounds, two assists and two steals, Deron 15 points,

seven rebounds, four assists, two steals and two blocked shots.

Others: Laird Keeton 8P, 5R, 2A, 2S; Carson Ohnstad 4P, 4R, 3S; Zach Hulscher 1P, 2R, 1B; Jacob Thompson 2P, 7R, 3A, 3S; Andrew Robran 5R, 2S.

The Bluejays, 15-7 overall and 4-1 in the Big South Conference East, hosted Blue Earth Area Thursday and face New Ulm Saturday at 1:30 at Redwood Valley High School in the Big South Showcase.



TWO POINTS — The Bluejays' Laird Keeton goes up for a basket in a recent home game.
Pioneer file photo by Jim Lutgens

Dual-meet season ends for NRHEG wrestling

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Head coach Shawn Larson did not offer up any excuses why the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva wrestling team made a first-round exit from this year's Section 2A team tournament.

But he did make one observation.

Said Larson, "Medford had a better team than we did tonight."

The result was a 43-28 setback at Medford last Thursday, but the Panthers did not fall for lack of effort.

"It was nice to see our seniors all finish their team careers with falls," said Larson. "Parker Bunn, Reese Routh, and George Roesler went all out for our team and did all they could do for us in their last dual as Panthers."

The Tigers pinned Charlie Tufte at 107 pounds and Dakota Schlaak at 114, won by forfeit at 121 and pinned Eli Hendrickson at 127.

Bunn finally put the Panthers on the scoreboard with a second-period fall at 133. Deven Parpart scored a third-period fall at 139, and Routh followed with a pin in 2:57 at 145.

Harbor Cromwell dropped a 9-1 major decision at 152, and Devlin Hudson lost a first-period pin at 160.

Ryan Schlaak and Roesler kept the Panthers in it with wins by fall at 171 and 189, respectively, but Cole Hutchens was outpointed 5-1 at 215 and Jace Ihrke was pinned at 285.

"We will not be giving up on the season just yet," said Coach Larson. "We will try our best to be ready for individual sections next week. In the offseason, our push has to be on getting stronger, and getting as many athletes as possible to join us."

The Panthers travel to Blue Earth for the Section 2A individual tournament Saturday.

NRHEG senior Annabelle Petsinger has already qualified for the girls' state tournament.



POINTS IN THE PAINT — Above from left: the Bulldogs' Cole Schlueter (44) drives to the basket as Cleveland's Bode Bartell, left, defends; Austin Quast (42) goes to the hoop against Carter Barto.
Below right, JWP's Memphis James (15) outraces Blake Lyons to the hoop.
Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



Bulldogs set sights on overall conference crown

JWP boys to play Saturday at Blooming Prairie

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton boys' basketball team has won the West.

Now the Bulldogs get to go for the whole ball of wax.

The JWP boys defeated WEM in a Gopher Conference West game last Friday and dispatched visiting Cleveland in a nonconference contest Monday, improving to 20-5 overall and finishing 8-0 in conference play.

The Bulldogs travel to face Gopher East champion Blooming Prairie Saturday for the overall conference championship. The Blossoms, 23-2, won the East with an 8-1 record. They also won the first meeting with the Bulldogs 57-54 at Blooming Prairie back on Dec. 14.

"I'm proud of how the boys competed the last couple games," said JWP coach Nick James. "We have put teams away. These boys work really hard at getting better, so we're hoping we can end the year on a high note."

The Bulldogs put away WEM early, building a 46-22 halftime advantage while winning 85-52.

Gavin Bauer led JWP in scoring with 20 points, adding three rebounds, three assists, two steals and one blocked shot.

Others: Daulton Bauer 9P, 4R, 3A; Austin Carda 2P, 2R, 2S; Carter Miller 3P, 1A, 1S; Landon Johnson 8P, 2R, 1S; Caleb Quast 5P, 6R, 2A; Steven Dimmel 6P, 2R, 1A; Ryan Kronbach 6P, 4R, 5A, 1S; Memphis James 14P, 6R, 3A, 1S; Austin Quast 2P; Cole Schlueter 9P, 9R, 1A.

The Bulldogs subdued Cleveland 86-73 at Janesville. They led 46-35 at halftime.

Individually: Daulton Bauer 14P, 1R, 5A, 3S; Carda 3R; Miller 3P, 2R, 1B; Gavin Bauer 10P, 6R, 2A, 1S; Johnson 3P, 1R, 1A, 1S; Caleb Quast 7P, 2R, 6A, 1S, 1B; Dimmel 8P, 1R, 1A, 2S; Kronbach 11P, 6R, 3A, 1S, 1B; Memphis James 14P, 7A, 6S; Isaiah Berndt 6P, 2R; Austin Quast 6P, 1R, 1A; Schlueter 3P, 5R.

The Bulldogs have one game before Saturday's clash at Blooming Prairie, hosting United South Central on Friday. The Bulldogs have won 13 of their last 14 games.



WHS matmen fall in section's first round

The dual-meet season came to quick closure for the Waseca High School wrestling team last week.

But a few Bluejays still have their sights set on qualifying for state as individuals.

The WHS crew was eliminated 54-21 by Caledonia-Houston in the opening round of the Section 1AA team tournament at Kasson.

Posting victories for the Bluejays were Jacob Knutson, 121 pounds; Slade Barnett, 152; Lucas Selthun, 189; and Matthew Veroeven, 216. Also wrestling for Waseca were Oliver Staloch, Peyton Sommers, Jacob Root, Kellen Klinger, Braxton Nelson

and James Quade. The Jays forfeited three bouts.

Kasson-Mantorville took the section title, winning the final four matches to defeat Zumbrotta-Mazeppa 27-20 in the championship meet.

The opening round of the Section 1AA individual tournament starts at 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23 at the Rochester Mayo Civic Center. The tournament continues Saturday starting at 9 a.m. The top two individuals at each weight advance to state.

Veroeven is a returning state entrant.

Shorthanded NRHEG basketball boys humbled by Maple River

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

All you have to do is read the names in the scorebook to determine what kind of season it has been for the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva boys' basketball team.

Almost every name is different from the start of the season as the Panthers have dealt with a seemingly never-ending string of injuries and illness.

It was apparent last Friday at Mapleton, where the Panthers were humbled 70-16. That's not a misprint. The Panthers managed only 16 points against a good

Maple River squad.

"Once again, turnovers and rebounding killed us, along with our inability to finish at the rim," said NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt. "We turned the ball over 28 times, to go along with shooting 25 percent from the field, and getting outrebounded 35-13."

Dom Olson topped the NRHEG scoring charts with three points. Will Tuttle, Hudson Chrz, Jared Lee, Brooks Gilliland, Jase Knutson and AJ Deen netted two each, Greyson Schaefer one.

Cole Davis of Maple River led all scorers with 24 points, on 8-for-15 from the three-point line.

Wyatt Burr added 17 points and nine rebounds.

"It was pure dominance from Maple River from the opening tip," said Coach Schmidt. "You can always count on the Eagles playing tremendous defense, but we put ourselves in a hole with missed opportunities. We'll try to rebound against St. Clair on Tuesday."

The Panthers, 1-8 in the Gopher Conference West and 3-21 overall, traveled to St. Clair Tuesday and ended the regular season Thursday, Feb. 22 at LeSueur-Henderson.

JWP girls win at WEM

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton girls' basketball team had a tough test last Friday at Waterville-Elysian-Morristown.

The Bulldogs passed it.

JWP prevailed 54-48, improving to 19-7 for the season while finishing 6-4 in the Gopher Conference West.

Scoring at WEM: Nevaeh Weimert points, Kwynn Krause three, Presley James 10, Lilly Strauss 13, Ali Olson three, Katie Olson 10, Lexie Dahlberg two.

Next up for the Bulldogs is the section tournament that starts Monday.

STATE OF MINNESOTA

WASECA COUNTY AUDITOR

NOTICE OF PRESIDENTIAL
NOMINATION PRIMARY ELECTION

To the Clerks and voters of the County of Waseca
In the County of Waseca, State of Minnesota.

Notice is Hereby Given, That a Presidential Nomination Primary Election will be held in the Election Precinct at:

TOWNSHIP	POLLING LOCATION	VOTING HOURS
Alton Township	Alton Town Hall	7 am - 8 pm
Blooming Grove Township	Blooming Grove Town Hall	7 am - 8 pm
Byron Township	New Richland Town Hall	7 am - 8 pm
Freedom Township	Waldorf Community Center	7 am - 8 pm
Iosco Township	Iosco Town Hall	7 am - 8 pm
Janesville Township	Trinity Lutheran Church	7 am - 8 pm
New Richland Township	New Richland Town Hall	7 am - 8 pm
Otisco Township	Otisco Town Hall	7 am - 8 pm
St. Mary's Township	Waseca County Courthouse	7 am - 8 pm
Vivian Township	Waldorf Community Center	7 am - 8 pm
Wilton Township	Wilton Town Hall	7 am - 8 pm
Woodville Township	Woodville Town Hall	7 am - 8 pm

CITIES	POLLING LOCATION	VOTING HOURS
City of Janesville	Trinity Lutheran Church	7 am - 8 pm
City of New Richland	New Richland City Hall	7 am - 8 pm
City of Waldorf	Waldorf Community Center	7 am - 8 pm
City of Waseca 1A	Christ Community Church	7 am - 8 pm
City of Waseca 1B	Sacred Heart Treanor Campion Center	7 am - 8 pm
City of Waseca 2A	Faith United Methodist Church	7 am - 8 pm
City of Waseca 2B	St. John Lutheran Church	7 am - 8 pm
City of Waseca 3A	Waseca City Hall	7 am - 8 pm
City of Waseca 3B	Waseca County Highway Shop	7 am - 8 pm

on Tuesday, the Fifth (5 th) day of March, 2024, at which the polls will be open from the hours listed above for the purpose of voting for a presidential candidate.

The voter is choosing a candidate for their party to nominate as the candidate to be placed on the 2024 General Election Ballot.

Presidential nomination primary voters must be registered to vote pursuant to Minnesota Statute 201.054, subd. 1.

Nomination primary voters must also request the ballot of the major political party for whose candidate the individual wishes to vote. Polling place election judges must record in the polling place roster the name of the major political party whose ballot the voter requested. The county auditor must include the name of the major political party whose ballot the voter requested with the voting history of the nomination primary election.

The major political party ballot selected by a nomination primary voter is private data, except that it will be shared with the chairs of the major political parties in the State of Minnesota.

Tamara J. Spooner, County Auditor

Dated: December 18, 2023 Waseca County Minnesota

Publication Ballot

Presidential Nomination Primary Ballot
Legal Marijuana Now Party
Waseca County, Minnesota
March 5, 2024

Instructions to Voters:

To vote, completely fill in the oval next to your choice like this: ●

Minnesota Election Law permits you to vote for a candidate of only one political party in a Presidential Nomination Primary election.

Legal Marijuana Now Party

Federal Offices

President
Vote for One

☐ Vermin Supreme

☐ Krystal Gabel

☐ Dennis Schuller

☐ Edward Forchion

☐ Rudy Reyes

☐ Write-in, if any

Publication Ballot

Typ:03 Seq:0001 Spl:01

Publication Ballot

Presidential Nomination Primary Ballot
Republican Party
Waseca County, Minnesota
March 5, 2024

Instructions to Voters:

To vote, completely fill in the oval next to your choice like this: ●

Minnesota Election Law permits you to vote for a candidate of only one political party in a Presidential Nomination Primary election.

Republican Party

Federal Offices

President
Vote for One

☐ Donald J. Trump

☐ Vivek Ramaswamy

☐ Ron DeSantis

☐ Nikki Haley

☐ Chris Christie

☐ Write-in, if any

Publication Ballot

Typ:01 Seq:0001 Spl:01

Publication Ballot

Presidential Nomination Primary Ballot
Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party
Waseca County, Minnesota
March 5, 2024

Instructions to Voters:

To vote, completely fill in the oval next to your choice like this: ●

Minnesota Election Law permits you to vote for a candidate of only one political party in a Presidential Nomination Primary election.

Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party

Federal Offices

President
Vote for One

☐ Jason Palmer

☐ Joseph R Biden Jr

☐ Eban Cambridge

☐ Uncommitted

☐ Marianne Williamson

☐ Dean Phillips

☐ Frankie Lozada

☐ Gabriel Cornejo

☐ Cenk Uygur

☐ Armando "Mando" Perez-Serrato

☐ Write-in, if any

Publication Ballot

Typ:02 Seq:0001 Spl:01

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No. 81-PR-24-112
Estate of Thomas Frederick
Graham aka Thomas F. Graham, Decedent
NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS (INTESTATE) Decedent

Notice is given that an amended application for informal appointment of personal representative has been filed with the Registrar. No will has been presented for probate. The amended application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Registrar has informally appointed Kari B. Roepke, whose address is 1721 Shakopee Avenue East, Shakopee, Minnesota, 55379, as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed with the Court (pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-607) and the Court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the appointment of the Personal Representative must be filed with this Court and will be heard by the Court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated February 16, 2024

Deanna Verdick, Deputy Probate Registrar

Shannon M. Asselin, Court Administrator
Attorney for Personal Representative
Barbara J. Weckman Brekke

Brekke, Clybome & Ribich, L.L.C.
287 Marshall Road, Suite 201
Shakopee, MN, 55379
Attorney License No: 0349434
Telephone: (952) 402-9410
FAX: (952) 402 9410
Email: bbrekke@bcrlawyers.com
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on February 23 and March 1, 2024

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STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
COUNTY OF LINCOLN
IN CIRCUIT COURT SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
In the Matter of the Adoption of
AVA C. ANDERSON
Minor Child.
41 ADP. 24-6
NOTICE OF HEARING
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing on Petition for Adoption of

Child in the above captioned proceeding is scheduled before the Court, the Honorable Judge Jennifer Mammenga, presiding, at the Lincoln County Courthouse, located at 104 N. Main Street, Canton, South Dakota, 57013 for the 19th day of March, 2024, at the hour of 2:30 P.M., for a period of one hour.
DATED this 9th day of February, 2024.

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

Amber J. Eggert
Attorney for Petitioner
4420 South Technology Drive
Sioux Falls, SD 57106 (605)339-4500 Phone
amber@strangelaw.com
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer February 16, 23, and March 1, 8, 2024

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
COUNTY OF LINCOLN
IN CIRCUIT COURT SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
In the Matter of Termination of Parental Rights Over
AVA C. ANDERSON
Minor Child.
41 ADP. 24-5
NOTICE OF HEARING
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing on Petition for Voluntary Termination of Parental

Rights in the above-captioned proceeding is scheduled before the Court, the Honorable Judge Jennifer Mammenga, presiding, at the Lincoln County Courthouse, located at 104 N. Main Street, Canton, South Dakota, 57013 for the 19th day of March, 2024, at the hour of 2:30 P.M., for a period of one hour.
DATED this 9th day of February, 2024.

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

Amber J. Eggert
Attorney for Petitioner
4420 South Technology Drive
Sioux Falls, SD 57106 (605)339-4500 Phone
amber@strangelaw.com
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer February 16, 23, and March 1, 8, 2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WASECA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner's Room)
300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093
Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Request for an Amendment to Section 6.24 of the Unified Development Code.

Waseca County requests for an amendment to the Floodplain Overlay District Standards in the UDC. This amendment to the floodplain regulations will guide the development in a manner that complies with State laws and the standards of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and will reference the effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS).

Information on this item will be available at the Waseca County Planning and Zoning Office, 300 N State St., Waseca during regular business hours 8-4:30, and will be on the county website www.wasecacounty.gov at the agenda tab. Oral comments will be accepted at the meeting. Upon request, accommodations will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all Waseca County services, programs and activities.

Maame Quarcoo, Sr. Land Use Planner.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

The Waseca County Property & Election Services Office will test the electronic voting machines to be used for vote tabulation in the Presidential Nomination Primary Election on March 5, 2024.

The testing will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 29, 2024, in the Conference Room on the main floor of the Courthouse, 307 North State Street, Waseca, MN.

The public is invited to attend.

Tamara J. Spooner, Director of Property & Election Services

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

On **Thursday, March 14th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.**, the City of Waseca will open and review all electronic bids received for the **8TH AVENUE NE (CSAH 13) RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT (CITY PROJECT NO. 2024-01, SAP NO. 172-020-009, & SAP NO. 081-613-011).**

Estimated major quantities are as follows:

PIPE REMOVAL (STORM, SANITARY, & WATER)	LIN FT	7,522
CONCRETE PAVEMENT REMOVAL	SQ YD	17,708
7.5" THICK REINFORCED CONCRETE STREET PAVEMENT	SQ YD	13,002
CONCRETE CURB & GUTTER (B624)	LIN FT	6,474
6" THICK CONCRETE DRIVEWAY PAVEMENT	SQ YD	1,394
4"-6" THICK CONCRETE WALK	SQ FT	13,166
BITUMINOUS PAVING (1.5"-2.5" LIFTS)	SQ YD	3,388
BITUMINOUS TRAIL 3.5" THICK	SQ YD	816
6" PERFORATED PVC PIPE DRAIN	LIN FT	6,507
12"-44" RC STORM SEWER PIPE	LIN FT	3,462
SANITARY SEWER LIFT STATION IMPROVEMENTS	LUMP SUM	1
6"-18" SANITARY SEWER MAIN & SERVICE PIPE	LIN FT	4,034
4"-8" WATERMAIN	LIN FT	3,721
STORM SEWER STRUCTURES	LIN FT	181.6
SANITARY SEWER STRUCTURES	LIN FT	129.1

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

Complete Digital Bidding Documents are available at www.questcdn.com for \$22.00 by inputting **QuestCDN eBidDoc #8960981** on the website's Project Search page. The online bidding fee will be \$42.00. Bid Documents may also be viewed at the City of Waseca Engineering Department located at 508 South State Street in Waseca (507-835-9730).

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

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

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

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

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

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Finding Hope with Deb Hadley set for March 9

Finding Hope

SATURDAY, MARCH 9
Trinity Lutheran Church
Discipling Center
412 N Main St, Janesville

Doors Open - 9:00 am
Refreshments - 9:30 am
Speaker Deb Hadley,
from 10:00 – 11:30am

Followed by time to socialize with
Deb and fellow attendees.

Pre-registration preferred.
Scan the QR code or visit
Trinity's Church Office
before Wednesday, March 6.
Suggested free will donation of
\$10 per person (cash or check).



Limited seating available at the door the day of event.

Special Thanks to those who made this event possible:
Thrivent Financial, St. Ann's Catholic Foresters, Trinity Lutheran Church for use
of their Discipling Center, Trinity's Dorcas Society and Treble Clef, and St. Ann's CCW.



Please join us as we welcome
author and inspirational
speaker, Deb Hadley.

Deb will share her journey
since losing two children,
and how she has been able to
handle these tragedies with
grace and humility and bring
good from her hardships.
She will make you laugh and
cry, while giving you hope for
an amazing future.

Her message resonates
with all ages, young to old.
All are welcome to come
and partake in this
life-changing event.

Questions?
Email or text Judy Winter:
judywinter67@gmail.com
or 507-720-1068

Inspirational speaker and author Deb Hadley will be at Trinity Lutheran Church, 412 N. Main Street on Saturday, March 9. Doors will open at 9, followed by refreshments, music and her presentation "Finding Hope" at 10 a.m.

Deb is from Alexandria, MN. She is certified in Death and Grief Studies through the Center for Loss and Life Transition and travels nationwide as an inspirational speaker delivering a message of hope and healing. She is the founder of the KT Humble Hearts Foundation, author of the Morning God Boost, creator of the Facebook Video Blog, The Morning God Boost and a bereavement manager for hospice. Deb is a true servant of the Lord.

Deb has endured many hardships including the loss of both of her children but strives to find purpose and meaning in her suffering. With her solid faith, strong conviction, and incredible resiliency, Deb has found the strength to work through her adversity and become a beacon of hope for others. Deb believes that no matter your circumstances, no matter the hardships you face, you can still have an amazing life.

"Everyone has a story and Deb's philosophy has truly inspired me in my story and I am positive that she

can also inspire everyone who attends this event," said Judy Winter, Janesville, who is one of the organizers along with Carol Steinberg, Jenny Walz, Joanie Olson.

"All four of us have attended several of Deb's presentations and we all wanted to bring her amazing story of faith and resiliency to our community. We have all benefitted from her presentations every time we have attended one," said Judy.

She added "We could not have done this by ourselves and we are very grateful to Thrivent Financial, St Ann's Catholic Foresters and CCW, Trinity Lutheran Church for use of their facilities and Donita in the church office, Trinity's Dorcas Society and Treble Clef."

The event is open to the public (teenagers to senior citizens and everyone in-between). A suggested donation of \$10 from each person that attends (cash or check to Deb Hadley). All proceeds will go to Deb and her foundation KT Humble Hearts Foundation.

Pre-registration is requested at Trinity Lutheran Church office, using the QR code on the poster or you can email judywinter67@gmail.com.



Fire department funds questioned

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

Members of the Janesville city council were approached with questions during their Feb. 6 meeting from rural township board members regarding their handling of money paid in by the townships toward the cost of maintaining a fire department. Observing that the city had spent about \$40,000 less than was originally budgeted on fire coverage, Kurt Anderson from LeRay Township inquired whether the townships could receive a refund. But because the city council is in the final year of its three-year contract, it was claimed no refunds would be possible until the contract was renewed in 2025.

The room was crowded with fire department members who represented townships Alton, Janesville, St. Mary, and LeRay.

"If we're basing what we're paying on the adopted budget, there is \$170,000 for 2023 but the actual expenses are \$40,000 less. The \$40,000 has to be going somewhere," Anderson said.

When a councilmember clarified that \$40,000 hasn't been spent yet and goes back into the general fund which belongs to the City of Janesville, Anderson voiced that money should be placed into a reserve for the fire department. The councilmember also pointed out that grant money is a factor, saying that since fewer grants are becoming available, the city council must use discretion regarding cash outflow.

Anderson applauded the city council for trimming \$7,000 from the budget and acknowledged the impact of inflation and issues with staffing that may have affected expenditures.

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

"I think that the city council could be taking a better look at these numbers, so we don't have to raise taxes on our constituents to cover it," Anderson added.

After inquiring about when the council will discuss contract language, the council members informed the fire department board member that they would be doing so in August or September. Mayor Andy Arnoldt thanked Anderson for bringing up his concern.

In other matters, Boy Scout Evan Olson proposed a service project to landscape with rocks and verbena bushes around the new band pavilion in the city park. He explained that, by completing the project, he could earn the rank of Eagle Scout. Part of his plan is to gain permission from the park board and the city council, then gather a volunteer group to help with aspects of the project. This would include seeking donations from the public or local businesses, and asking suppliers to provide materials at discounted rates. When he and those involved finished the project, Olson said he would send thank you notes. Mayor Arnoldt praised Olson for his idea and provided his signature for approval.

In other business, the council approved hiring Sara Vulcan from New Richland as the city's new deputy clerk. The City Council approved the new squad for the police department and approved election judges for the presidential primary. The council accepted a donation from the John Schmidt family toward the Veterans Memorial award.



The Janesville Fire Department held its annual dance and fundraiser at the Purple Goose in Janesville February 10. Janesville Journal photo.

Five decades and counting Janesville fire department's annual dance

JANESVILLE JOURNAL - For over 50 years, the Janesville Fire Department has held its annual Firemen's Dance, bringing crowds of Janesville residents and other locals to enjoy a night of music along with a chance to win raffles and have fun with friends and family.

The tradition continued Saturday, Feb. 10.

Providing musical entertainment for the night was local band GTX, featuring Janesville native Tammy Seys on vocals. Even though the band might not have been as established as the Blue Ringers or Smokescreen — who provided the music at previous firemen's dances — it was a nice change of pace, according to firefighter Ann Gerdt.

"It's nice to have a band featuring someone from Janesville," she said.

She also remembered the past firemen's dances fondly. "I re-

member as a young kid, my parents would get the tickets for it almost yearly."

During the dance, many members of neighboring fire departments, including Madison Lake, Mankato, and Mapleton, supported the event. "It's always great to see fellow firefighters in other towns show their support," firefighter Sarah Johnson said.

The event is the fire department's biggest fundraiser of the year. All proceeds go toward the Janesville Fire Department Relief Association. Contributions to the fire department help them stay equipped with "the necessary tools and equipment to continue serving our community." Gerdt and Johnson claimed that other fire departments have supported Janesville through year-round donations to the relief association.

The night also allowed the Janes-

ville Fire Department to show off its new hand-crafted sign from Handmade Lines of Mankato. According to Ben March, the department won it in a Facebook contest against more than 50 other fire departments. "It's really well done and looks great," he said. "We're all thankful to everyone who nominated us and helped us win."

Winning the sign and seeing so many in the community attend this year's firemen's dance proves that Janesville proudly supports its firefighters. "It's good to see the Janesville community continue to show support for this event and our fire department," Johnson said.



Steve Fields
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Snow ordinance violations, state flag disputed

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

The New Richland City Council approved Resolution 24-03 in opposition to redesigning the state flag and seal during its first meeting of the month on Monday, Feb. 12. The resolution was drafted following a conversation at a January meeting regarding the newly designed state flag, when a council member requested the resolution be written.

Also approved was a banking resolution with Keen Bank before the council heard from a local resident regarding his living situation. The individual currently resides in a motor home on private property, which is against city ordinance. No fines or violations have been issued to the individual, and according to City Administrator Tony Martens, city staff has been working with the chief of police, city attorney, and county attorney on the matter. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

The ambulance report, submitted in writing, stated that the New Richland ambulance has had nine runs so far this year. The fire department report was also submitted in writing, stating that the NRRFD responded to one mutual aid call in January. A purchase request for new badges and name plates for new members at a cost of \$840 was approved, and both the ambulance and fire department reports were approved. Martens was also recognized for 20 years of service on the fire department.

NEW RICHLAND
CITY COUNCIL

The police report, presented by Chief Tanyce Bruegger, stated that the NRPD had 228 calls for service in January. It was noted that more than ten parking violations were issued during the last snow emergency, and the department has recently been seeing an issue with residents not renewing the license tabs on their vehicles. The report was approved.

A discussion was had regarding issues with the city’s Well #1; Martens explained a plan to swap pumps in two of the city’s three wells, among other work, in order to resolve the problem and keep the wells functional in the future. The council approved the project at a cost of up to \$33,837.

Pam Goehring addressed the council regarding a project the Historical Preservation Society is looking at for 2027 regarding repairs and other work to be done on the civil war era cannon in the city park. The council approved the society moving forward with the plan.

Also approved was a Home-Serve program which will provide service line warranty programs to local residents, providing coverage for water, sewer line, and indoor plumbing. The council agreed to adopt the plan and let citizens decide whether they would like to participate.

The administrator’s report was read and approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Five year vape detector plan approved

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

Members of the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (JWP) school board approved a five-year contract for a Halo Vape detector. By doing so, the school saved almost \$2,000 because of inflation and the expectation the detector will cost more in the future, according to Superintendent Jeremy Erler.

Last month, the school board requested that Erler investigate whether the vape detection service could be contracted for at a lower price if the duration of the contract were longer. After he figured numbers within that five-year contract, Erler realized how much the school would save. He added that they would pay an annual fee every year.

Board member Kevin Born inquired whether the equipment was included with the service plan or would have to be acquired separately; Erler responded that that was the case.

Vice Chair Laura Seyes commented that she and Erler also applied for a Hometown Health grant through the Mayo Clinic in the hope it would subsidize some of the expense. She said there is no specified amount that the school board could ask for, but said schools in southwest Minnesota are invited to apply any time. Seyes said she anticipates hearing back within a few weeks.

The school board also approved terms of employment contracts with groups including paraprofessionals, custodians, and office clerical groups.

In other business, the school board received a couple complaints about the food service: the lunch portions are too small and the students are charged again when they go back for seconds. It was also stated that, al-

JWP
SCHOOL BOARD

though the cafeteria is very full during the first lunch period, the second lunch period includes far fewer students.

An inquiry was made about balancing the numbers so the first lunch period wouldn’t be as congested. A school board member responded that it depended on the varying schedules, but agreed to investigate what could be done.

A clarification was made: USDA guidelines limit the main entrees but students can make unlimited trips to the salad bar and have as much fruit as they want. After some discussion, the school board members decided to look into creating a survey which will request input from students, then investigate what they could do from there.

On a similar note, the school board is in the process of hiring a food service director, but provided no further information.

There was a mention that Lisa Schroeder is no longer interested in being a community education director but would like to stay within the school district if there’s another position available.

“She has agreed to overlap but has also agreed to step back if somebody came into the role,” Erler said, clarifying that Schroeder’s term can end earlier if that happens.

In other business, the school district underwent a food audit and has thirty days to write action plans about correcting the findings. Erler added that those findings were minor when he and the board consulted with the state on February 12.

Huttemier gives Intermediate school update

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

In recognition of school board appreciation month, Waseca board chair Dave Dunn began the Feb 7 meeting by reading a statement from the Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA): “February is Minnesota School Board Association Month to build awareness and understanding of the vital function elected school board members play in our society. Strong schools help build strong communities and the school board devotes countless hours to make sure our schools are helping every child learn at a higher level.”

Members of the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC) were introduced by Dr. Brooke McGuire, the district’s director of teaching and learning, and Hartley school counselor Paulina Guse. AIPAC members shared information about the work they do reviewing the district’s curriculum and practices. McGuire informed school board members that any district with more than ten American Indian students is required to form an AIPAC; the committee meets annually to vote on whether the district is in compliance and is meeting the needs of the American Indian students. The Waseca school district currently has thirty students who identify as American Indian. Guse is the parent representative on Waseca’s committee. “Four of those children are mine, and I’m here to present the committee’s vote of concurrence that our district is meeting the needs in our schools,” Guse stated.

Intermediate school principal John Huttemier gave a report regarding the work toward the strategic plan and vision card. “We are the transition school. We have dependent learners and we try to get them ready to be independent learners,” he said. Huttemier presented his school’s vision card statements as they related to those of the district in a Google Slides format; the majority of

WASECA
SCHOOL BOARD

the students in grades 4-6 report “always” feeling safe at school or “most of the time.” More than 85% of students in each of the grades report “I know adults care about me and help me do my best at WIS” when asked by the school counselor.

Huttemier emphasized his next graphic; “This one is important to me—we implemented Habits of Mind (HOM) way back, but now it’s really become a part of our culture,” he said. HOM targets lifelong learning with the intent of engaging students in its principles; kids connect their learning with their future plans. “Perseverance, managing impulses, thinking flexibly, etc, are real skills students need in order to achieve, even if their end goal is to be an NBA star,” Huttemier claimed. Currently at least 63% of students in all grades report a perception that they are working on HOM. Huttemier shared that WIS is in the “green” for student support as well.

The implementation of the Amplify Language Arts curriculum is comprehensive for all students at WIS; Huttemier said in the near future staff will be able to look where their students’ scores are landing in regard to the academic vision statement, as well as the professional development survey for teachers coming in May. “We have a school I was happy to send my kids through,” Huttemier summed up. “It’s a spot where I’d want to be. There’s belonging, connection, and kids know who they need to talk to if they’re struggling.”

After taking care of all action items, the board moved to closed session to discuss negotiations. The next meeting will be the work session held March 7 at 5:30 p.m.

■ Peace from Page 1

perception there are fewer law enforcement officers.” Bruegger, who has been with the New Richland department since 2018, suggests unfavorable coverage of law enforcement in social and public media may have harmed the public’s perception of officers and the work they do.

“There’s always more to the story,” she said of such publicity. “It’s easy to manipulate a piece of video or items of information; people shouldn’t trust everything they hear or see.”

Along those lines, Bruegger mentioned that fraud and scams, often carried out over the phone or on the internet, seem to be on the rise. She cited phone calls received by area residents from someone claiming to be an IRS representative telling victims they had underpaid on their taxes and must make up the shortfall immediately to avoid criminal prosecution.

“Never give out private account information or your social security number unless you know for certain you are talking to someone reputable,” Bruegger advised.

Sheriff Dulas mentioned the chief objective law enforcement officers have as they carry out their daily duties is to support and protect area residents. “We know our community members,” he said. “We know their schedules, and so we usually know if something is out of place.”

“Just call,” said Waseca’s Vought. “If you ask any officer why they entered law enforcement, the answer is always the same: ‘To help people.’ So if you think something is odd or out of place, we want you to feel free to call us.” Though they are not “the rumor police” and cannot fix negative interactions on social media, she says officers will be sympathetic and may know of some resources that will be helpful.

Vought and Markeson say their department’s strong retention rate can be at least partly credited to the connection their officers build to the community and to each other. “We are truly grateful for the support and goodwill shown to us,” said Vought.

“We feel we’re respected and appreciated,” said Dulas.

“Sometimes law enforcement is painted with a broad brush,” observed Janesville’s Johnson. “It’s something for us to overcome if some of those negative images from the media overshadow our work with our citizens.”

When the topic of change is introduced, the response from law enforcement agencies is universal. “Change is constant for us,” said New Richland’s Bruegger, naming alterations in statewide laws as well as the on-going training law enforcement officers must take part in to keep their licenses current.

She also mentioned that cultural changes within a community lead to changed expectations from the people officers serve.

Waseca’s Markeson also pointed out changes within a community, saying increased mobility has led to greater diversity among the city’s residents. For everyone’s safety, he suggested, “We all need to do a better job of being neighbors. We should get to know each other, build connections. That sort of network can be really important when there is a problem or a crisis.”

“Law enforcement doesn’t make the laws,” said Janesville’s Johnson. “We enforce them.” He described his role as “ever-evolving,” saying it follows trends set by society and by legislators. He named changes in DUI laws, regulations involving the use of

one standing in the middle of the street shouting at cars,” he said. “Since you might not know anything about that person’s state of mind, you have to assess all the levels of danger happening at once.”

Many individuals being held in the county jail, Sheriff Dulas observed, are there for their own protection, or to give them time to recover from a “bad trip.” Jailers have observed every behavior from cowering quietly in a corner to screaming at loud volume, from mentioning a desire to commit suicide to threatening to kill others. Inmates have endangered themselves by trying to “dig bugs” out from under their skin or by remaining awake for days.

As officers county-wide respond to calls involving drug use or mental illness, Dulas pointed out, they must constantly assess the situation and any safety risks to themselves and other parties nearby.

Among possible sources for what every department named as “exponential” increases in cases involving mental illness, Janesville’s Johnson named homelessness, illicit drug use, financial difficulties and the isolation caused by the years of Covid lockdown. New Richland’s Bruegger named physical and emotional abuse, depression, anxiety, and financial struggles. Also suggested was the decrease in personal interactions which has come about because of electronic communication and the vulnerability of young people’s self esteem when insulted on social media.

In line with seeking “the best outcome for all parties,” Dulas said, officers do their best to reason with persons in crisis.

“But of course they’re not thinking straight,” commented Waseca’s Markeson. “The reason we’re talking to anyone is because they’re having a bad day. We may have been called for anything from a flat tire to an attempted stabbing.

“Our decisions often have to be made very quickly with the information we have available to us at the time.”

It is clear from these leaders’ observations that area law enforcement personnel face many demands. Those who choose the profession, and then choose to stay in it, “show tremendous regard for the people and communities they serve,” said Dulas.

“We’re very proud of our officers,” said Waseca’s Vought. “They come to work ready to face the challenges of the day. Things are always in motion.”

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4	5	6 Burger nite 5-7pm	7 6pm BAR Bingo	8 7pm HALL BINGO	9 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	10 Neighborhood Service Center Ham/Turkey dinner 5:30 to 7:
11 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your HOST SARA-CRED HEART	12 7pm Post & AUX. Meeting	13 Burger nite 5-7pm	14 6pm BAR Bingo	15 7pm HALL BINGO	16 Sleigh and Cutter Festival Dinner/Dance	17
18	19 COAST GUARD RESERVE Birthday	20 Burger nite 5-7pm	21 6pm BAR Bingo	22 7pm HALL BINGO	23 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm Lenten Meal	24
25 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your HOST COMMUNITY EMERGENCY Response Team	26	27 Burger nite 5-7pm	28 6pm BAR Bingo	29 7pm HALL BINGO		

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Sleigh and Cutter Festival



Pioneer photos by Deb Bently



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Mother, daughter book club at Waseca Library



Above, with her mom, Kirstin Barnes, Evie Griffin proudly displays her journal where she had thought up 51 questions for “Growing Pains,” the book she picked for last month’s book club choice. Below Lydia Barnes (on right) pauses and ruffles the hair of her mom, Abigail.

Pioneer photos by Rachael Jaeger



‘I liked it (the book) because it was a lot like me’

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

Moms gathered with their daughters at the Waseca Library on the evening of Feb. 15 to discuss the book, “Frizzy,” the current book club selection. Based on their greetings and conversation, participants seemed well acquainted.

Group members have been meeting regularly since September. Children’s Curriculum Coordinator Brianna Bleeker reveals that she chooses from 15 to 20 recently published books for “club” readings like this one.

“I let [participants] pick because they take turns hosting everyone and coming up with questions, activities, and snacks,” Bleeker said, adding that each mother/daughter group picks which month they plan to host.

“I picked a book about this girl who had buzzing thoughts,” said Evie Barnes. “The name of it was “Growing Pains.”” She showed her journal in which she had written over fifty questions to bring to the group. “I liked it because it was a lot like me,” she added.

The book was about a young daughter, Marlene, who had curly hair and hated going to the salon her mom chose because its social circle seemed judgmental about straight hair being the best kind to have. The theme centered around self-acceptance while exploring body image and its effect on personal relationships.

Some moms gave reasons why they attend the book club.

“It creates a depth of our familial bond,” said Kaitlyn Hoehn, one of the moms. “It’s a peaceful time to be still and enjoy time with [my daughter] Lily.”

“I like to be by her,” Lily said about Kaitlyn, her mom.

During the group discussion, Bleeker asked participants which character they related to most. Lily shared that her hair stands up in the morning and she has to wet her hair down so it stays.

“That’s a good question,” Bleeker commented. “Does anyone like their hair?”

The daughters gave varying responses: some wished their hair was curly; others said because their hair is curly, it can be frustrating to style it the way they want. Bleeker shared that she has hair as straight as it can be but her sister has curly hair. In the last couple years, the sisters realized their mom has curly hair, but their mom has styled it like it was straight.

Then Bleeker asked the flip question – what is something participants like about their hair?

Some responded they liked it because it was so straight, they could do anything with it. Others said they liked how they could experiment with their hair. Another mom, Vanessa Barr, noted that every female struggles with her hair, no matter it’s like.

“I don’t know anyone who just adores their hair all the time,” Vanessa added.

Evie commented about how boys don’t have to go through what girls do with their hair.

Vanessa recalled that when she was growing up, she had hair past her waist but all she would do was tie it back in a ponytail. She then said how she watched her brother spend minutes in front of a mirror, trying to perfect each curl.

Bleeker shared a funny story about a friend who had super long hair and who wanted to have it cut, but whose mom wouldn’t allow it. So, Bleeker added, her friend put gum in her hair at the place she wanted her hair cut



Piper Arines cuts up her puzzle pieces to mix up with the other participants who did the same activity. By the end of the evening, the participants put together a unique puzzle of the different pieces they colored.

Pioneer photo by Rachael Jaeger

and it worked. Bleeker asked anyone if they had a story like that.

One girl quietly said she cut her hair herself and hid it in a banana peel. Other daughters chimed in about how they had done something similar.

Bleeker brought up the point in “Frizzy” when Marlene mentioned that she didn’t feel like herself until she went to the salon with her Aunt Ruby and they tried something different. Then later on in the book, Marlene helped her mom with her hair and Bleeker asked the readers what they thought Marlene felt about doing that. Some said “better about

her dad,” “understood each other better,” and “closer to her mom.”

“I like getting to hear from the kiddoes about these questions and the questions they come up with,” Bleeker said later. “Tonight a lot spoke out but often when I ask a question, the moms and daughters will whisper to each other because the kiddoes are shy. It’s fun to see them hold a little conference.”

She added like she likes getting to read the new books that come in and have an excuse to read for work.

“I don’t get to read for work very much,” Bleeker said, “but when it’s especially a book I like, I love it!”

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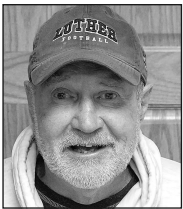
Awards, gopher coaching, and Wisconsin mining

Congratulations to Waseca County Pioneer writers Jim Lutgens, Eli Lutgens and Deb Bently for the awards they received at the Minnesota Newspaper Association’s annual awards banquet. For a newspaper in its first year of eligibility, 10 total awards is an impressive accomplishment. Eli Lutgens has put together an amazing team of writers and staff to produce a quality weekly paper for thousands of readers to enjoy.

I know many residents look forward to reading the Pioneer weekly and enjoy perusing human interest stories, information on art and entertainment, business profiles, Waseca County history and sports information in the newspaper. The Pioneer is always full of many professional, colorful photographs, separating it from other newspapers. If there had been an award for newspaper coach of the year, I think Eli Lutgens would have taken it home.

As it happens, he was named as one of “Editor and Publisher” magazine’s “25 Under 35” in the publishing industry. The magazine introduced its list of selected professionals saying “In some ways, it showcases our future—one that’s inspired, passionate and innovative—reinvigorated by fresh ideas and talent.”

As I’ve mentioned before, I enjoy watching the University of Minnesota teams, both boys’ and girls’. If this writer’s opinion matters, the



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



teams which will get the five-star rating are the hockey teams—both male and female. I especially look forward to the border battles—the games against Wisconsin or Iowa.

The last several years, the U of M has not been very competitive in border battle games. Wisconsin and Iowa consistently beat the U of M in football and basketball. The U of M even held a 20-point lead in men’s basketball the other night against Iowa, then ended up losing. Katilin Clark and the Iowa women’s basketball team are ranked second in the nation and will compete for a national championship. Wisconsin beat us in football and men’s basketball this season; the Wisconsin girls’ volleyball team beat our heralded women’s volleyball team and won a national championship.

Does the U of M need to hire new coaches who can handle the transfer portal, recruit, and offer NIL benefits? Does the U of M need to put better and higher-profile athletes on the big stage? I think I have the answer: the U of M needs a new mascot. Good riddance to the Golden

Gopher.

The mascot choice has its roots way back in the early 1800s. At the time, various public figures were presented in political cartoons with gopher heads on their bodies. Gophers—a small prairie rodent—became popular in Minnesota. Bernie Bierman was a great halfback for the Gophers a long time ago and won national championships for Minnesota when he became their football coach. A sportscaster back in 1934 associated Bierman’s players with “golden gophers,” and the team nickname was born.

In Wisconsin, mining was very important back in the early 1800s. Miners would literally live in their tunnels, taking their meals and sleeping there. They became known as “badgers,” animals famous for digging holes and tunnels and, according to Wind in the Willows author Kenneth Grahame, for loving their homes. The badger became the mascot for the Madison, Wisconsin, college football team in the late 1800s. During games, one was customarily placed in a cage on the sidelines next

to the team.

Badgers are well-armed creatures. They bear some resemblance to a woodchuck, but are bigger and have huge front claws for digging. An interesting note, badgers practice “symbiosis,” which means they work together with other animals to accomplish mutually important tasks. They team up with coyotes to hunt prairie dogs or gophers. Badgers dig out the prey while coyotes wait at the escape holes. Both parties enjoy delicious meals—at least by badger and coyote standards. Vital point: badgers eat gophers for lunch.

The Iowa teams waited until 1959 to choose their current mascot, the Hawkeye. Herky the Hawk is decorated in black and gold; if you know anything about hawks, you know they, also, enjoy a meal of gophers.

Goldie the Gopher is cute and would make an excellent children’s pet, but let’s be realistic. The U of M must compete with its border rivals. Let’s change our mascot to a flying eagle, or to the largest of the cats, a tiger. It’s time to take our furry, defenseless, cuddly gophers off the menu enjoyed by the Badgers and the Hawkeyes.

Our elected officials have spent a great deal of time presenting us all with a new Minnesota state flag. Now that the task of creating the flag is taken care of, they can go to work on a redesigned, intimidating mascot for the University of Minnesota.

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