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WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 4 Vol. IV \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, January 23, 2025



■ Page 3



‘Check Please’



Above left: Waseca County dairy princesses McKenna Eichhorn, Katy Eldeen, and Allie Eldeen greeted guests as they arrived at "Raise a Toast." Above center: Farmamerica staff members took a moment Friday evening to be photographed with the event's speaker, Michelle Miller, who posts online as "Farmbabe." Pictured here are (from left) Rachel Berry, site and grounds assistant; Kari Wadd, program coordinator; Jessica Rollins, executive director; Michelle Miller, online influencer; Morgan Mudgett, communications and engagement coordinator, and intern Teagan Tietje. Above right: Staff members from Janesville's Infinity Catering were kept very busy serving more than 90 guests for the Farmamerica Event. Pioneer photos by Deb Bently, center photo submitted

Farmamerica ‘Raise A Toast’ celebrates women in agriculture

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Nearly 100 women gathered at Farmamerica the evening of Jan. 17 to celebrate the central role women have always fulfilled in agriculture and to look at some ways that could change moving forward.

For the organization's second annual "Raise a Toast" event, Farmamerica staff worked with Janesville's Infinity Catering to deliver a "farm to fork" meal comprised of locally sourced foods and ingredients nearly all of which came from providers located within 70 miles of Waseca, according to program coordinator Kari Wadd.

The culinary experience began with a frosted pineapple cocktail and was followed by three different types of appetizers including herb-infused goat cheese tomato bites, turkey cranberry crostini and glazed pineapple and sausage bites.

A spinach salad with fresh greens and "everyday" sourdough bread from Waseca's Barefoot Lane introduced the main course, which included smoked tri tip with garlic aioli sauce, hasselback potatoes with rosemary asiago goat cheese and roasted green bean bundles with a bacon wrap. Hydroponically grown fresh strawberries were joined by shortbread cookies from Dueling Grandmas Shortbread of Little Canada, Minn., for dessert.

As diners enjoyed their meal, they heard from internationally recognized online influencer Michelle Miller, who writes under the name "Farmbabe." Her podcast boasts hundreds of thousands of followers, reaching an audience of millions each month.

As Miller shared her experiences with the group, she encouraged everyone present to consider ways they can "advocate" for farms and farmers. She listed numerous organizations and bloggers who, she said, were promoting their own agendas—and often their own finances—by attempting to discredit or raise alarm regarding practices used in agriculture.

Telling those present they have "the most trusted voice," she suggested that women in agriculture have the authentic experiences and practical outlook which will give authority to information they share.

She told the story of her own beginning as an influencer. Married to a farmer, she read some claims by the blogger "Foodbabe" regarding the dangers of pesticides used on typical food crops. Curious about the in-

formation, she did some research which led to the fact that, really, only about "two beer cans" worth of the active ingredient reached the crop on each acre of land.

When she shared this information with "Foodbabe," rather than receiving a receptive response, she was banned from the site.

This led to her becoming more determined than ever to "advocate." During the pandemic, she was distressed by an online advertisement posted by Burger King which suggested feeding cattle lemon grass—a plant native to southeast Asia and Australia—would reduce the amount of methane cattle release during the digestive process.

Toast continued on 4

Ice fishing class at New Richland Public Library, Jan. 23

Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame winner Terry Tuma will teach ice fishing techniques at the New Richland Public Library at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23. Bait to rod selection, slab crappies to monster gills.

Virtual Author Event, Amanda Montell Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System Thursday, January 23

Amanda Montell will put on a Virtual Author Event for the Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System at 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23. Her book is, *The Age of Magical Overthinking: Notes on Modern Irrationality*. This event is recorded and people who register will be email a link to the recording. Register here: waseca-le-sueurlibraries.com/getregistered.

Johnny Frost and the Heatseekers at Indian Island Winery Saturday, Jan. 25

The Indian Island Winery is hosting band Johnny Frost and the Heatseekers from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25. They perform up to seven decades of music.

Pinnacle Pro Wrestling's 'Winter War' at The Mill Saturday, Jan. 25

The Mill Event Center will have Pinnacle Pro Wrestling perform Winter War from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25. Tickets are available online.

A word from The Word

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Matthew 6:12



Putting Waseca on the map WHS Senior delivers winning speech

First state winner in the history of VFW Sweet-Sommers Post 1642

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

There are 200 Veterans of Foreign Wars posts (VFWs) in the state of Minnesota. This year marked the seventy-eighth annual "Voice of Democracy" and "Patriot's Pen" youth scholarship competitions. Waseca High School senior Ashton Jenzen helped put Waseca on the map this year by winning the state-level competition and being advanced to national consideration. Jenzen has a chance at the national prize, a \$35,000 college scholarship. Her accomplishment also marks the first time Waseca VFW Sweet-Sommers Post 1642 has had a state winner.

The Voice of Democracy (VOD) competition is open to students in grades 9 to 12. Jenzen has entered since her freshman year. She won the regional competition in 2024, but did not win state. After setting her sites even higher this year, she succeeded. The local VOD competition is coordinated by VFW Auxiliary member and chair of the committee, Barb Klampe, and high school advisor Karen Pfarr Anderson. Pfarr says she has worked with the VFW for 21 years on their scholarship programs as an advisor first for Patriot's Pen, then an advisor for the Voice of Democracy. Jenzen received her local award during the Veterans Day program at the high school on Nov. 11.

The Voice of Democracy contest requires students to write a speech which lasts no more than 5 minutes, so about 700 words long. They are required to submit both an audio recording and a printed version of the talk. This year's theme asked "Is America today our forefathers' vision?" Of all the things she chose to take inspiration from, Jenzen selected the Federalist Papers, a collection of 85 articles and essays written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay under the collective pseudonym "Publius" to promote the ratification of the U.S. Constitution.

A Waseca resident her entire life, Jenzen's dad grew up in Springfield, MN. Her mother grew up



Ashton Jenzen, a senior at Waseca High School, placed first in the Minnesota Voice of Democracy speech contest, sponsored by the VFW. Jenzen first won the local competition in November. Earlier this month she attended a banquet for all the state finalists where she was announced as the state-wide winner. She will go on to compete against the winners from each state in Washington D.C. in March.

In Washington D.C., there will be Voice of Democracy Parade of Winners and the national champion and runners-up will be announced. The top prize for the national competition is a \$35,000 scholarship.

Jenzen has competed in the Voice of Democracy speech contest all four years of high school. Last year, she won the regional competition but did not win state. This year, she says she set the goal of taking first at the state level and is gratified to have achieved it. While Waseca has had students win the regional competition in the past, there had never been a state winner in the 21-year history of the local program.



Identify Frosty for share of \$1,500

It's time again for the annual Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Identify Frosty event. This year's event is the 27th installment of the annual contest.

Who is Frosty?

Identify FROSTY and win some cash! Prize money totaling \$1,500.00 is waiting to be won. FROSTY is a Waseca County resident chosen to be an ambassador for the Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival. Follow the clues and guess FROSTY'S name.

Grand prize is \$300.00. If you are at the official unmasking at the Star Fire Event Center @8:30 p.m., on Friday, February 21, 2025, you will win an additional \$50.00. First correct guess from Janesville, New Richland and Waseca wins \$150.00; and if you are at the unmasking, you will win an additional \$50.00. Only five names will be drawn for \$100 – must be present. Five names win \$50.00 – attendance is not necessary.

Contest rules

1. Clues are published by the Waseca County News and Facebook; Waseca County Pioneer; NRHEG Star Eagle; Waseca Chamber of Commerce; and KOWZ/KRUE radio.

2. One guess allowed each

Frosty continued on 4

Jenzen continued on 2

“Check, Please!” is high school one-act play

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Contest “One Act” plays are a Minnesota State High School League statewide activity whose state-level competition will take place the second weekend in February. Sub-section and section level contests take place in the second half of January. Productions typically enter the beginning phases—selecting the play, choosing the cast and crew, creating the stage set and planning the technical elements—in November.

Waseca Junior Senior High School (WJSHS) presented its first full-run performances of its 2025 contest play “Check Please Take 3” on Saturday and Sunday afternoons in the high school performing arts center. About 50 people attended on Saturday; shows ran about 30 minutes in length.

Director Anna Pollock introduced the performances, letting the crowd know the version of “Check Please” they were about to watch is actually the final third—“Take 3”—of a longer piece. Saying it is “the most-produced one-act in the nation,” she said the Waseca cast and crew are “in good company” in their selection.

Pollock also let the crowd know the play would be “on the road” Jan. 20 for a performance in St. Peter and would be taking part in sub-section competition in Maple River on Saturday, Jan. 25. She invited all interested parties to attend the Jan. 25 contest, then went on to say WJSHS is scheduled to host section-level competition on Feb. 1. Regarding that event, she invited interested individuals to sign up as volunteers to help the day go smoothly, and also mentioned performances that day will be open to the public.

The WJSHS cast and crew include 19 students.

““Check Please” is a set of humorous vignettes which cast member Eden Eads suggests could also be named “The dangers of blind dates.”

Fellow lead Nathanael Andrs describes the play as one the audience can “just sit back, relax, and enjoy.”

Eads and Andrs play a pair of friends who once dated but have now become “just friends.” The audience is treated to alternating blind dates experienced by the two, each of which is filled with humorous elements. A politician, a know-it-all on-line spy, a man who has done so many movie trailer voiceovers that he can no longer speak normally, and someone who presents his case for romance as a business proposal are only a few of the characters who brought the audience to laughter.

Eads and Andrs also mention that, as seniors with at least four years of experience in one act play competition, they enjoyed the opportunity director Pollock gave them to be “student directors” early in the production. Both say that, thanks to the vignette structure of the piece, it has been a fun one to put together. Though they do not yet know how the play will do in competition, they say that’s relatively unimportant, since the work has allowed all participants to grow as actors while working together to make the production as strong as possible.

Cast members are Eden Eads, Nathanael Andrs, Ashton Jenzen, Pablo Avarez-Reyes, Jude Robinson, Sadie Schimming, Khloe Nelson, Aiden Harrison, Alexander Kotz, Brayden Hoof, Eryn Harrison, Amber Hagen, Mason Wadd, Elliott Galle, Adian Androli, Megan Tegmeier, and Collin Dettmer. Student sound technician is Allen Kopetzki; lights technician is Madilyn Larrabee.



Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

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TULIP SALE

OBITUARIES

Dorothy Gross

Dorothy Agnes Gross, age 94, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Friday, January 17, 2025, at Timberdale Trace Memory Care in Owatonna, MN.

Friends may greet the family Thursday, January 23, 2025, from 4:00-6:00 PM at Brick-Meger Funeral Home (1603 Austin Road, Owatonna). A Catholic Daughters of the Americas rosary will be recited at 4:00 PM at the funeral home. Mass of Christian Burial will be Friday, January 24, 2025, at 10:30 AM at St. Joseph Catholic Church (512 S. Elm Ave, Owatonna) with visitation from 9:30 until the time of service at the church. Interment will follow at Holy Trinity Cemetery at Litomysl.

Dorothy was born on July 20, 1930, at Owatonna Hospital to Walter and Agnes (Skalicky) Kubista. She graduated from Owatonna High School in 1948. After high school, she began working at 1st National Bank and continued until 1976.

On June 30, 1954, she married the love of her life, Linden Gross, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Litomysl, MN. They built a house and raised three children together. Dorothy enjoyed her family - her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Dorothy and Linden enjoyed many fun hours together with their friends square dancing, playing card games, fishing and camping. As they got older, they made many great memories with their grandchildren and great-grandchildren during the holidays, on fishing trips, during birthdays, and for many other occasions.

In addition to spending time with her family, Dorothy also enjoyed gardening, knitting, crocheting, quilting, bird watching, and being around flowers. She spent many hours taking care of her beloved cats. Dorothy volunteered many hours at church, was a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, and served as treasurer and president for both the Ambitious Homemakers group and Extension Club over the years.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband Linden Gross. They shared 58 wonderful years of marriage. She was also preceded in death by her parents Walter and



Dorothy Gross

Agnes (Skalicky) Kubista of Somerset Township; brothers Jerome (Annette) Kubista, and Bernard (Fran) Kubista; sister Judith (Theodore) Staley; sisters-in-law Celia Marini, LaVonne Gross, Evelyn (Lowell) Trom, and Erma-dell (Theodore) Knutson; brothers-in-law Alvin (Dorothy) Gross, and James Whitcomb; and granddaughter Crystal Pete.

Dorothy is survived by daughter Gail (Robert) Pete of Onamia, MN, sons Dale (Debbie) Gross of Bradenton, FL, and Kevin Gross of Byron, MN; grandchildren: Benjamin Gross of Owatonna, Joseph (Katelyn) Pete of Cottage Grove, MN, Robert (Megan) Pete of Champlin, MN, Katie Born of Owatonna, Amber Pete of Onamia, Jeffrey (Alanda) Gross of Bradenton, Zachary Gross of Rochester, MN, and JiaYin Gross of Rochester; great-grandchildren: Alan Rischmiller, Tristin Gross, Gabriella Needham, Elliott Pete, Aubrey Pete, Owen Pete, Evelyn Pete, Wyatt Voss, Jeremy Born, Andrew Gross, and Jackson Gross; sister-in-law Joanne (James) Whitcomb; brother-in-law Ronald Gross; and many loved nieces and nephews.

The family of Dorothy Gross would like to thank the wonderful staff of Timberdale Trace and St. Croix Hospice for all of the love and care they showed Dorothy during her time with them.

The family requests memorials be made to the Alzheimer's Association, American SIDS Institute, or St. Joseph Catholic Church.

For more information or to leave an online message of condolence, go to www.megercares.com

Steven Melcher

STEVEN VERNON MELCHER, age 71 of Janesville, passed away from heart complications on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at Mayo Clinic Health System – Mankato.

He was born on March 24, 1953, in Sacramento, California, a son of Ervin and Charlotte (Hutter) Melcher. He graduated from Waseca High School – Class of 1971. On June 15, 1974, he married the love of his life, Elizabeth Conway, in Waseca. Steve worked in construction as well as a variety of odd jobs, until he opened his own chimney sweep company in 1982, Melcher's Power Vac, which he worked very hard to build, including going door to door trying to build his clientele. He was very people oriented and never met a stranger. In 1985, Liz began working for the company. In 1989, Melcher's Power Vac began dryer vent and HVAC cleaning, built

on to their home office and hired more employees to help the business thrive and to always stay busy. Steve and Liz continued to own the company until they sold the business and retired in 2019. He was a great father, a loving husband and extremely dot-ing of his wife Liz. His family was one of the most important things to Steve, especially his grandchildren. He enjoyed traveling and taking vacations, a naturist at heart, geocaching, camping, local VARS Viking Amateur Radio Society (ham radio-ing), tractors, and hobby farming. He was a volunteer at Farmamerica, in Waseca. He was a member of the Minnesota Valley Corvette Club, Waseca CERT Community Emergency Response Team, and Christ Community Church.

He is survived by his wife, Liz; his children, Timothy Steven (Tiffany) Melcher of Janesville, Daniel Richard (BrieAnna) Melcher of Owa-

tonna, Kathryn Louise (Trent) Anderson of Janesville; grandchildren, Madison (Grant Huinker) Melcher, Victoria Podratz, Jahdyn Melcher, Isaac Melcher, Olivia Oestreich, Chase Melcher, Gavin Anderson, Maci Anderson, Colton Anderson; siblings, Dave Melcher (Jeannie Olson), Ron Melcher, Don (Susan) Melcher; brother-in-law, Terry (Laurie) Conway Jr., as well as several nieces, nephews and extended relatives. He is preceded in death by his parents, parents-in-law, Terrance Sr. and Marcella Conway.

Funeral services will be held, Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 11:00 AM, at Christ Community Church in Waseca. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. In Lieu of Flowers, please make donations to the Janesville Fire and Rescue or Waseca CERT. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service is handling the ar-



Steven Melcher

rangements. dsofuneral.com
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Nina Carlson

Nina W. Carlson passed away on January 18, 2025 at her apartment at Monarch Lakeshore Assisted Living. She was 101 years old.

Nina was born the seventh child of William L. Marshall and Nina M. Marshall (Clarke) in Osage City, Kansas on April 13, 1923. Nina's father had a full service dairy, so Nina spent part of her early years cleansing the used milk bottles and placing the newly filled bottles in a water bath to cool. She was blessed with an abundance of athletic abilities. She was best known for being one of the better fastpitch softball pitchers in the state of Kansas. In her best season, her record was 23-2, taking the Osage City team to the finals of the state championship. After high school Nina attended Washburn College in Topeka, Kansas. After her first year, World War II broke out,

and she served her country in a civilian role at Forbes Field Air Base in Topeka.

In 1951, she married a handsome turkey farmer from Arkansas. Arthur Jr. and Nina lived in a number of towns in Arkansas and Kansas as they brought three boys into the world - Arthur III, Kurt and Don. In 1963, they moved to Waseca, MN where they lived their remaining years. Through those years they were active members of St. John's Lutheran Church. Nina was employed at Audio Visual Research, then at the Neighborhood Service Center, and finally for the Minnesota Valley Action Council, arranging transportation for senior citizens.

In 1968-9, the Carlson's hosted David Salter, a foreign exchange student from New Zealand, who has long been seen as part of the family. During their retirement years, Art and Nina traveled to all 50 states and

several locations around the world. They especially enjoyed the times that they could spend with the boys and their spouses. They treasured every moment with each of their nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Nina was preceded in death by her parents, all of her eight brothers and sisters, her husband, Arthur Jr. and her oldest son Arthur III. She is survived by her two remaining sons - Kurt Carlson (Jane) of Rochester, MN, Don Carlson (Shar Paquette) of Bemidji, MN, a daughter-in-law, Sheila Hoffman of St. Paul, MN, as well as her nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Nina's memorial service will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church on Friday, January 31, 2025 at 11:00 AM. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. Any memorials may be directed to St. John's Lutheran Church.



Nina Carlson

Nina will be interred with her beloved husband Art at Woodville Cemetery on the outskirts of Waseca, MN.

Waseca SAL and Choir Boosters burger feed

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Business seemed brisk at the Waseca American Legion during the Jan. 17 burger feed where volunteers from both the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) and Waseca High School choir boosters were working in tandem to feed the crowd and raise money for choir activities. A total of 201 total burger baskets were sold.

With the meat raffle going on at the bar, the food for sale in the ballroom seemed to draw a crowd. Ten SAL volunteers cooked away in the kitchen. Out by the dining tables, 20 high school choir members worked in shifts clearing away plates and cleaning surfaces. In charge in the kitchen was Bruce Tappe; he works with the high school choir

director to help raise money. Said Tappe, For the past three years, the one in charge of the Choir Booster organization has been Beth Hanson.

Tappe said, "We are here for the Waseca High School Choir, to help raise funds. What we do is assist in cooking and we help to serve. We've done the choir for so many years." He had to think for a moment before coming up with a number, "I think it's been 25 years I've been at this."

Waseca choir director Megan Kreinbring shared that she in her tenth year as a director: "The first eight years I was working for Waterville, Elysian and Morristown school district before I came over to Waseca; this will be my second year here." When asked why the choir needed to raise funds, Kreinbring replied, "Right now



From left: Randy Prange, Kevin Dickie, Mike Sutlief, Larry Chicos, Mike Anderson, Mark Ulferts, Doug Knoll and Bruce Tappe, Sons of the American Legion were present for the WJSH School's Choir booster burger feed on Jan. 17, 2025.

we are in need of new choir robes. The old ones are wearing out. Every three years, the Waseca choir takes a trip, the last one, for 2024, we went to New York City; there we saw Broadway, Ground Zero and Times Square. The next trip will be in 2027; we don't know where the destination is yet, but I personally

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann hope it's warm." Kreinbring has two children of her own, Harper, 5, and Hadley, 1.

Kreinbring wanted Waseca to know the next High School Choir Concert will be at 7 p.m. Feb. 25: it will feature grades 9-12. There will also be a pancake breakfast next April, with the date to be announced later.

■ Toast

from Page 1

The idea that importing a non-native grass to feed cattle would be beneficial seemed utterly ridiculous to her, Miller said. In response, she contacted the public relations department of Burger King, invited representatives from the company to tour "real midwest farms" and see the many ways sustainability is already central to agricultural production.

Miller encouraged all ladies present to consider raising their voices when they see cases of misinformation regarding agriculture. She told them becoming an influencer is easier than it might seem, then offered some advice as to how to go about it.

Among her suggestions was "be

approachable. Treat anybody like you would a best friend." She also said they should maintain an online personality consistent with who they really are: "Be yourself," she said. "Show an authentic voice."

She suggested networking and collaborating with others who share similar interests, varying content, sharing personal stories and moments of humor, and "always tagging" online work as important steps. She offered that "something as simple as a beautiful sunrise on the farm with your cows out to pasture" could catch people's interest and go viral.

For those not interested in electronic media, Miller suggested farmers markets, agritourism, and other settings where members of the general public meet with "advocates" can be very beneficial.

"Alone you might not feel like much," she said. "But together we can move mountains."

■ Frosty

from Page 1

week.

3. Each entry must have a name and complete address. Entries without complete information will not be entered.

4. Entrants must live in Waseca County and be over 18 years of age.

5. If there are multiple correct guesses, a drawing will be made to determine the winner.

6. If there are no correct guesses, a drawing will be made from all entries received.

7. Entries must be received before 3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 21, 2025.

8. Submit entries to:

A. WASECA: Submit entry at Waseca Music; 111 South State, Waseca, MN 56093; or via mail.

B. JANESVILLE: Mail or drop off at Waseca Music; mark your entry as Janesville.

C. NEW RICHLAND: Drop off at NRHEG STAR EAGLE NEWS; or mail to Waseca Music - mark your entry as New Richland.

Frosty sponsors: CULLIGAN, iWEALTH – Brad Connors, DOMINO'S, MEDIACOM, SUBURBAN FURNITURE, and XCEL ENERGY. Please thank these sponsors for supporting the 28th Annual

Frosty: Week 1 Clue

Much like the legend,
The 2025 Sleigh and Cutter Frosty is anew.

Coming again this year,
In their white Frosty Hue

A Waseca transplant,
But ties they did bind,
Here the greater part of 40 years
A love match they did find

A local friend, and
A supporter of the arts,
Who will it be this year?
The answer, the clues will impart.

Medallion: Week 1 Clue

How quickly again,
The time of the year is here,
Another winter season bringing
the Sleigh & Cutter Community Near

In our 75th year, the medallion
Once again is hidden
Bundle up for your search,
Perhaps you need a lucky mitten?

Hidden within the town
Easy to find but not in plain sight
The medallion is secured
Protected and strapped in tight.

Medallion Hunt Rules

The medallion is hidden outdoors, on public property within the Waseca city limits. A \$1,500 prize of Chamber Dollars will be awarded at the Star Fire Event Center at 8:30 on Friday Feb 21, 2025. Bring the medallion to Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce or Waseca Music. Clues will be published each week in the Waseca County News, Facebook,

Waseca County Pioneer, NRHEG Star Eagle, and Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival. Clues will also be broadcast on KRUE and KOWZ Radio and will be available online at Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce at info@wasecachamber.com.

The hunt is sponsored by: Waseca County News, KEEN Bank, Xcel Energy, KOWZ/KRUE Radio, Waseca VFW Club 1642, and M Peters Enterprises. Please thank these sponsors for supporting the 28th Annual Medallion Hunt!



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Relay for Life all-you-can-eat breakfast at the VFW Sun., Jan. 26
Relay for Life will be having an all-you-can-eat breakfast at the VFW from 8 a.m. till noon on Sunday, Jan. 26.

Lighted Tulip light class at C&D Designs Wednesday, Jan. 29
There will be a Lighted Tulip light class at C&D Designs at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29. Learn to make lit tulip designs at 208 North State Street in Waseca.

“Adult Carnival” at Waseca American Legion Jan. 31
The Waseca American Legion’s annual “adult carnival” will begin at 5 p.m. Friday, January 31. The evening will include adult-themed games and activities, both silent and live (9 p.m.) auctions, and food for sale including coney dogs, onion rings, and more.

Boundary Waters exhibit at the New Richland Library in January
Learn about the Boundary Waters Canoe Area at the New Richland Library, its wildlife, and how to visit in this pop-up Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System exhibit. This will be available during the month of January.

Book Blizzard Reading Challenge at Waseca Le Sueur Regional Library system for January and February
Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System will be holding its annual adult winter reading challenge in January and February. To encourage reading and thank patrons who use our booksReaders over the age of 18 can read to win prizes, this year with bonus reading challenges! See your local library for more details.

“Book Bathing” at Waseca Public Library during all open hours in January
The Waseca Public Library will host a “Book Bathing” experience during any open hours in January. To participate, bring headphones, a smart phone, and imagination to Waseca Public Library. Adult coloring books, a word search, and other activities will also be available to help in stress reduction and relaxation.

Cookie Decorating Class with Sweet Q’s Cookie Co. at WJSH room 327 Sat., Feb. 1
There will be a cookie decorating class at the Waseca Junior Senior High School room 327 from 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 1. Price is \$50, no baking or icing prep included.

DIY Doormat class at the Indian Island Winery Sat., Feb. 1
There will be a do-it-yourself doormat class at the Indian Island Winery at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1.



From left: City Manager Carl Sonnenberg, Mayor Randy Zimmerman, Legislative Committee Secretary Eli Lutgens, Chamber President-elect Mikhail Rostislavovich, Adam Knewtson, Legislative Committee Vice Chair Ann Fitch, Chamber Executive Director Robin Dulas, Representative Tom Sexton, Former Representative John Petersburg, Councilor Stacey Schroeder, Senator John Jasinski, Waseca City Planner Jon Froke, Dr. Jay Bulfer, and Commissioner Brian Harguth.

Waseca attends MN Chamber Session Priorities event

St. Paul, MN – The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee, alongside local stakeholders, sent numerous representatives to the Minnesota Chamber’s annual “Session Priorities” event and dinner the evening of Jan. 16 in St. Paul. Representing a broad spectrum of interests from business, agriculture, tourism, and government, Waseca sent its largest-ever delegation of 12 attendees to this gathering.

The event, which marks the commencement of Minnesota’s legislative session, is renowned for bringing together business leaders and elected officials from across the state to discuss the legislative agenda and the vital role of businesses in

shaping Minnesota’s quality of life.

“We are thrilled to have such robust representation from Waseca this year,” said Mikhail Rostislavovich, president-elect of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and chair of its legislative committee. “The diversity of perspectives from our delegation reflects the unique strengths of our community and underscores the importance of collaboration between our local industries and state leadership.”

The agenda featured a mix of issue briefings, networking opportunities, and discussions with legislative leaders. A live taping of Minnesota Public Radio’s “Politics Friday” podcast with Representative Andrew Myers from the GOP serving the

Minnetonka area and Senator Judy Seeberger from the DFL serving the Lake Elmo area, kicked off the event. They provided a unique, civil, and juxtaposed outlook for the legislative session. The areas they both agreed on were the need to protect clean water in Minnesota and putting safeguards in place to combat fraud in state programs.

Waseca attendees connected with peers and policymakers to discuss priorities and challenges impacting the community. Governor Tim Walz welcomed attendees, followed by Bill Keegan, chair of the Minnesota Chamber board of directors, and Doug Loon, president and CEO of the Minnesota Chamber, sharing their vision for Minnesota’s business

community and priorities for the economy. Tom Hauser of KSTP-TV moderated a dynamic discussion with senate majority leader Erin Murphy, senate minority leader Mark Johnson, DFL House leader Melissa Hortman, and current speaker of the house Lisa Demuth, providing a bipartisan preview of the 2025 session.

The Waseca delegation engaged in energetic discussions, sharing perspectives from their respective sectors. “Having the needs expressed from rural Minnesota represented in this forum is critical,” noted Waseca city councilor Stacey Schroeder. “Our participation ensures that the needs of small-town businesses and

Priorities continued on 8

Waldorf City Council



From left: Missy Sorbo, Cody Schnepf, Rob Wilkening, Jamie Beckstrand and Carrie Ferch attended the first Waldorf City Council meeting for 2025 on Jan. 13. Photo by Ben Revermann

WALDORF CITY COUNCIL

Waldorf council organizes for 2025

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas attended the Jan. 13 meeting of the Waldorf city council; it being the first meeting of the year, Dulas helped with the swearing-in of Rob Wilkening, who was elected to his fourth two-year term as the town’s mayor during the November election. Since Waldorf does not have its own police force, it relies on the county sheriff’s office for patrols and responses: Dulas assured council members the town’s citizens are in good hands.

Once Wilkening was officially installed, he took over swearing in council members Jamie Beckstrand and Cody Schnepf, who were elected to their four-year terms in November. Schnepf stated he would like to see some things cleaned up in town and, while he is also, “hoping to see the town expand some.” Beckstrand said, “I agree with Cody. One of the things I’m concerned with is adding more accuracy to town property lines.” Council members continuing in their offices also shared some priorities. Carrie Ferch said she would like to see a new fire hall, but admitted she “likes to dream.” Missy Sorbo would like better cohesion for council members and would like to see the town “finally getting around” to fixing the playground equipment.

Wilkening gave a short speech saying he would like to “continue working with the Sheriff’s office.” Along with that, he hopes to “work with other cities like Minnesota Lake to get mosquitoes sprayed in the summer.” He also stated, “Our financial budgets need to be maintained; we need new streets in town, and anything we can do to avoid raising taxes. Networking is the key to finding the money, and you can print that in the paper! Right now, Waldorf is growing at a rate of 18 percent, it’s got the largest rate of growth in the state of Minnesota percentage-wise. Whether it’s the park committee or the economic committee, we are always looking for volunteers.”

The Fire Relief Association (FRA) donated \$45,000 to the city for the Fire Department’s Capital Project Fund. The FRA wants to change the retirement amount paid out yearly \$1,150 to \$1,350. The Community Center has a supply closet that needs to be emptied; staff mentioned they would like to repaint the kitchen. There has been a \$20,000 down payment made for a gazebo to be placed in the Waldorf Veterans Memorial Park: The structure is scheduled to be installed in April or May.

The Waseca County Pioneer

Waldorf continued on 8

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Sacred Heart first-graders with Waseca Rotarians (from left) Gregg Johnson, Amy Potter, Marcy Buchele, Molly Erdman, and Jamie Sammon.



Ann Fitch reads "The Kindness Booth" to Hartley Elementary first-graders.



TEAM Academy first-graders with Rotarians (from left) Jamie Sammon, Ann Fitch, Amy Potter, and Molly Erdman.

Rotary Club distributes ‘The Kindness Booth’ to Waseca first-graders

Waseca, MN – The Waseca Rotary Club, in partnership with the Greater Mankato Area United Way (GMAUW), recently distributed copies of the book *The Kindness Booth* to every first-grade student in Waseca Schools—including Sacred Heart, TEAM Academy, and Hartley Elementary. This initiative reflects the Rotary Club’s ongoing commitment to promoting education and literacy in the community.

"Supporting education and literacy is one of the core values of what we do," said Amy

Potter, co-president of the Waseca Rotary Club. "We believe fostering a love for reading at an early age can have a lasting impact on a child's future, and *The Kindness Booth* is a wonderful story that promotes empathy, understanding, and kindness."

The book, authored and illustrated by Lizzy McGregor, delivers a powerful message about the importance of kindness and community—values closely aligned with Rotary’s mission of “Service Above Self.” The distribution event included a special reading

of the book at Hartley Elementary by Ann Fitch, further engaging students in the joy of storytelling.

This is the second year the Waseca Rotary Club has carried out a large-scale book distribution. Last year, every fourth-grade student received a copy of *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein, sparking excitement and enthusiasm for reading among older elementary students.

"We are incredibly proud of this partnership with the Greater Mankato Area United

Way," said Potter. "By working together, we are helping to create a culture of learning and kindness in our schools." Karli Swearinger, the Office and Program Manager and Sarah Buesing, the Community Impact Director for GMAUW were on hand to help explain what United Way does and how it serves the area.

The Waseca Rotary Club’s dedication to education is rooted in its long-standing tradition of serving the community. The club continues to engage in numerous initiatives aimed at empowering youth and fostering

leadership skills. Their efforts reflect Rotary International’s broader goals of supporting education, promoting peace, and building strong communities.

For more information about the Waseca Rotary Club and its community projects, please visit www.wasecarotary.com to learn more about *The Kindness Booth* and its partnership with the Greater Mankato Area United Way, visit [<https://www.mankatounitedway.org/book>].



Arturo Navarrete of B-Lo Zero Sno Cones and Minnie Donuts spent Jan. 16, 2025 vending treats in the Waseca Walmart parking lot. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

B-Lo Zero Sno Cones & Minnie Donuts

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Albert Lea based food vendor Emily Navarrete said having the “B-Lo Zero Sno Cones and Minnie Donuts” trailer in the Waseca Walmart parking lot from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16 was a way to introduce her business to Waseca area residents while also perhaps laying some groundwork for warmer weather.

“2025 is expected to be a really big year,” she reported, “and we’re here for it. The culture here is beautiful, people are excited to have a taste of summer, even when it’s cold out. They get their food and find someplace warm. We may only have sold 10 sno cones today, but no complaints.”

Navarrete says she owns three food service units which are licensed to sell food in both Minnesota and Iowa. Along with the “B-Lo Zero” trailer which was set up in Waseca, she also owns MAMI Churros and Creamery, and a smaller unit which sells only sno cones.

Showing evident pride in her brightly-decorated trailer with its detailed illustrations, she claimed, “This artwork can still draw people in, even as cold as it is.” She made a point of mentioning the detailing was done by Tint-N-Wrap out of Prior Lake.

Navarrete says she hopes to establish connections in most of the communities in the vicinity of Albert Lea. One pleasure of owning the portable sales venues is being able to hire family members, including her brother Arturo Navar-

rette who had manned the trailer all day, and her nieces and nephews.

Minnie donuts were available with toppings like strawberry and cream cheese, churro flavored mini donuts, Oreo with vanilla and chocolate drizzle. Cinnabon and cinnamon sugar, mini-M&Ms, Fruity Pebbles w/vanilla drizzle and Dulce de Leche. Sno cone flavors were blue raspberry, strawberry, Sour Patch Kids or rainbow.

Before becoming a business owner, Navarrete used to manage GNC stores in the Twin Cities area where she really learned the ins and outs of business. She earned her bachelor’s degree in Supervisory Management from Riverland College. In her journey to become an owner, she really wants to focus on employee satisfaction and communication with them. Through this she is able to employ her brother and other members of her family, they in turn help her with new ideas, said Navarrete, “The learning curve is always there.”

Getting an early start on 2025, Navarrete’s B-Lo Zero Sno Cones and Minnie Donuts will be at the Social-Ice event in downtown Rochester Feb. 7 and 8, where the whole town dresses up their bars to create an icy oasis. Not long after that she’ll be at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds on Saturday, Feb. 22 from 2-6:30 p.m. for Minnesota’s biggest and best winter beer fest, the Beer Dabbler.

To schedule B-Lo Zero Sno Cones & Minnie Donuts for an event call 507-210-3878.

Janesville library drawing club meets once a month

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

A few of the younger kids were playing with a pile of stuffed teddy bears in the corner, Pooh Bear was there, so was Piglet. At the reading table were a scattering of papers, markers, pencils and sketch pads. The Janesville Public Library hosted its very first Drawing Club at 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16.

There were seven girls and one boy, all silently watching head librarian Kelly Koplen as she set up a YouTube video at 4 p.m. sharp. A video played, enticing the kids to focus not on drawing a person, but to draw an outfit a person would wear. It was clear in the beginning that some of the younger ones had trouble keeping up pencil wise, the video was slowed down and the drawing continued. Let it be known that all of the eight children were very well behaved, all had heads down and all were concentrating. Results and quality of the pictures drawn were mixed, but there was no fighting and every child was polite. Koplen said

that if any more kids attended, “I would have had to move this down into the basement and use the projector.”

The Drawing Club was Koplen’s brainchild, “They won’t be doing this [activity] at other libraries, just Janesville.” She said the only club more popular than drawing is the Lego Club. Drawing Club is sponsored by the Janesville Area Foundation and The Pope Family Fund: students make use of supplies including a sketchbook, markers, loose drawing paper, pencils, and rulers. Said Koplen, “This will be the second Thursday of every month; the kids get to keep the sketch books provided.” They were professional level sketchbooks. She said she hopes participants make use of the book during the month and come back next time with a book full of sketches.

Koplen’s hope was, “We wanted to find a nice club and apply a different theme each and every time we meet.” As she said this, she turned to the kids and asked, “We need some ideas for



Janesville's head librarian, Kelly Koplen, instructed eager young artists to create fancy outfits for drawing on Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

what to draw next month.” Each of the kids thought it through before a little guy named Marin spoke up, “I want to learn to draw cool looking mushrooms.” As his words sank in, all the children at the table slowly nodded yes. A second voice said, “Yeah, mushrooms.” Then another, “Mushrooms sound cool, can we do that now?”

A woman named Jackie was hovering nearby, looking for a book to check out, she had brought her two children, Evelyn and Marin. She commented, “They’re really into art and making things, they were excited to add figures and clothes to drawings. They can also talk and learn from the other kids, Kelly Koplen is

really doing something good here.” Jackie found out about the drawing club from Facebook, “It was one of those things where I clicked on something to show I was interested in it; then it reminded me it was happening today.”

The whispers at the table continued as the kids compared their drawings; a girl named Juniper had drawn a black champagne dress, another girl drew a light blue pantsuit. High end Broadway style clothing. Koplen said the next Drawing Club with a mushroom focus will be on Feb. 20. Young participants ages 9 to 15 are eligible. Drawing tools will be provided.

Norovirus cases increasing

The Minnesota Department of Health has announced cases of Norovirus infection, commonly referred to as the “stomach flu” are on the rise, having so far reached nearly double the rate of infection from last year. Common symptoms are vomiting and diarrhea.

Health professionals report most people contract Norovirus about five times in their lifetime, and suggest the best way to keep that number to a minimum is to understand the dis-

ease. The Waseca County office of public health offers this advice:

Norovirus spreads from person to person and is very contagious. Poor handwashing is the most common reason for outbreaks and illnesses. The “good news” is that a simple but thorough handwash can help keep illness at bay. Here are some other expert tips:

Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before handling food and after using the bathroom

and changing diapers.

Do not prepare food for others if you are sick. Wait three days before touching other’s food if you had vomiting or diarrhea.

Vomit and diarrhea clean up should be accomplished with soap and followed by a household bleach solution immediately. A suitable mixture can be made from about a capful of bleach mixed with a gallon of water.

Most hand sanitizers do not kill

norovirus, so use soap and water before eating.

Waseca County Public Health recommends that, as with any illness, seek medical care if you’re not recovering or have difficulty breathing, pain or pressure in your chest or belly, are not urinating or become dehydrated. Waseca County Public Health cares and wants to see everyone out and about this spring. These tips might even prevent a long-lasting date with the toilet.



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Janesville

1925

- Waseca County is richer yearly by \$300,000 because of the soil fertility produced as a by-product of dairying, according to the Blue Valley Creamery Institute. The figure is based on data resulting from many carefully kept record on a considerable number of farms. The average quantity of manure recovered for use on the crop lands in the area studied was 7.4 tons per cow, and since the fertilizing value of a ton of manure is \$2.60 the by-product value of each cow is approximately twenty dollars. The application of this figure to the 15,000 dairy cattle in this county brings the total added value to the soil fertility here to the almost unbelievable figure given above.

- The secretaries of farm clubs and township units have received an offer of help from the Agriculatural Department of the State University in planning and putting on programs for the various meetings that are held throughout the state. The Old Town Club expects to have a Lincoln's birthday program in February. This is as it should be, only more people should participate in it. Why can we not have a community club in which town and country people can join together and put on plays and programs of all kinds, thereby developing those latent talents that are to be found among the people, and also foster and develop the spirit of friendship and community feeling that should prevail among us.

- The following clipping from the Farm Bureau News should be of interest to any farmers whose land is in any degree infested with Canadian thistle: Canadian thistle may be eradicated by seeding alfalfa. David Zimmerman and his son, L. P. Zimmerman, of Woodville Township, have given this method a good trial the past two years."

1950

- Charles H. Bailer, former country auditor of Waseca County, died Saturday in Waseca at the age of 88 years old following ten days of serious illness. His death was caused by complications due to his advanced years. C. H. Bailer was born March 19, 1861, in Schuylkill, Pa., and came to Minnesota, March 17, 1884, first stopping at Mankato but soon after coming to Janesville. Here he entered of the store of J. E. Cordry as clerk and afterwards as partner. He remained in Janesville until the fall of 1900 when he was elected county auditor. He was reelected twice.

- The number of claimants receiving payments under Old Age and Survivors Insurance increased over 16 percent for this area during 1949, according to Emil C. John, manager of the Mankato Social Security office. The Mankato office, which served 14 counties in southern Minnesota has 3,460 beneficiaries in current pay status who receive over \$61,000 monthly, or an annual amount of about \$732,000. John pointed out that there are few government programs that so vitally affect the lives of as many people as the program of Old Age and Survivors Insurance. It is fast becoming a source of real security against the hazards of old age and death.

- The layoff of seasonal construction workers normally experienced in November and December has now materialized throughout the five counties served by the Mankato Office of the Minnesota State Employment Service, according to a statement issued today by Ben A. Iverson, Mankato Local office Manager. The supply of labor at all offices – full-time and part-time – throughout the entire area has increased sharply. One result of the increase has been the necessary resumption of service to New Richland, Waterville, and Le Center together with a shifting of hours at other points to enable the complete handling of all work at each point.

1975

- The Smiths Mille-Janesville Sportsment's Club is asking area residents to help keep pheasants and small birds alive this winter. "The snowstorm left the feathered creatures with a very serious problem," said Sportsman Mel Schmidt. "Everything is snow-covered and food is very hard for them to find." Schmidt said the Sportsmen Club needs help in getting food distributed for the birds. "We will help by furnishing corn and grit if you wil take a little of your time to pick it up and put it out," he said. "The corn and grit can be picked up at the Janesville Hatchery at no charge."

- Kevin Johansen led the Bears with 26 points in a strong comeback to win over the New Richland Cardinals Friday night with a score of 54-52. This game now leaves Janesville with a conference record of 6-1. The Bears are now tied with New Richland and Ellendale for the conference.

- Charlie Born will represent the Janesville Area in the Outstanding Young Minnesota Farmer competition Saturday at Waseca. The 33-year-old Janesville man received the local O.Y.F. Award this week after last Saturday's blizzard caused the postponement of the local Jaycee AG-STAG. Since the state competition is this Saturday, Janesville Jaycees had to go ahead with the local award without a banquet.

- The Janesville-WaldorfPemberton School Board Negotiations Committee, the JWP Teachers' Negotiations Committee and a mediator met Tuesday, Jan. 4, to hold continued contract discussions. "We brought in a mediator because we knew we were close, and wanted that third party there to help us reach an agreement in an unbiased manner," said Dr. Don Hainlen, superintendent of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Schools. A tentative agreement was reached, in which there were offers made, and then counter offers were made. The teachers' negotiations committee will then take the counter offer to the teachers' bargaining unit. Here the offers will either be accepted or rejected.

- Other than a few minutes to start the game, the JanesvilleWaldorf-Pemberton girls' basketball team had no problems in continuing its winning streak. Mike Meihak's Bulldogs stretched their winning streak to nine with a 62-43 Gopher conference triumph over Glenville-Emmons at Janesville Friday. The Bulldogs, who beat GE 64-42 and 56-23 last season, remained in a first-place tie with Blooming Prairie at 5-0 in the conference.

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Waseca

25 Years Ago

-The gift of life. This is what Pat Purcell of Waseca has been giving since she was 13 years old. Over her lifetime she has donated more than 122 pints or 14 gallons of blood. According to the North Central Blood Services, each day more than 1,000 volunteer blood donors give blood to save the lives at 140 hospitals served the Red Cross in western Wisconsin, Minnesota, northern Iowa, and eastern South and North Dakota.

-Access to criminal history is a vital part in today's crime prevention efforts. It's a link that has taken a large step forward with the purchase and installation of mobile data computers (MDCs) in the patrol cars of the Janesville police department.



-Pat McGinnis of Joint Services for Mankato/Blue Earth County and Boddle Engle of Choice Solutions in Wichita, KS., installed Waseca County's portion of the regional shared records system in December as Waseca County Coordinator Bruce Boyce and Waseca Sheriff's Department Administrative Assistant Colleen Howard look on.

-A group of local artists are currently showing the fruits of their labors at the Waseca Art Center. Several members of the group have been producing art, which they have been doing in and around Waseca, for a number of years. Most of the works on display are offered for sale.



-An exhibition at the Waseca Art Center entitled "Women Who Work in Art" opened on Thursday evening. Artists exhibiting included in the front row from left Joan Mansmith, Grace Galvin, Helen Spitzack, Elaine Schwarz and Pat Beckmann. Back row from left Char Harguth, Diane Forsythe, and Irene Jeddelloh. Not pictured was Jeanne Welna.

50 Years Ago

-“We’d like to say we have a perfect math program, superior students, and everything is great,” said Howard Lundeen, Middle School math teacher. “But it’s unrealistic and I would be deceiving you!” Lundeen went on to say that the math department’s strongest point may be well on their self-critical attitude and willingness to constantly work toward betterment of the math program.

-Extra help – LAST NIGHT’S board meeting was a special tour, the middle school facilities pointing out plans for renovation, problems, and focusing on the math department. At right is teacher Susan Moore. Listening from left board members Martha Arveson, Dr. Al Rieck, and Mary Lou Sahlstrom.

-Waseca area residents battened down the hatches again today in anticipation of blizzard conditions said to be heading into the area today. The city escaped heavy snow predicted in warnings Thursday, though at least two meetings were called off and a number of schools closed. Intermittent rain and light snow was reported in the area today.

75 Years Ago

-Mrs. F.D. Scholljegerdes was re-elected president of the Waseca County Historical society at its annual meeting here Saturday evening. Other officers named were Herman Peterson, vice president; Art Brisbane, treasurer; and Herman Panzram, secretary.

-Waseca Sacred Heart Council of the Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a testimonial gathering in honor of one of their members, ex-Chief Justice Henry M. Gallagher, to be held on Sunday night, January 15, at the Sacred Heart auditorium. He will be honored as the recipient of the Knighthood of St. Gregory – an honor bestowed by Pope Gregory in 1831.

-A cut of \$2,800 in the county appropriation for 1930 makes it almost certain that the Waseca County Fair will have to trim its sails to stay out of the red. At the annual meeting Saturday evening the prospects were discussed. Reports showed that the Fair about broke even in 1949.

100 Years Ago:

-Several Waseca veterans of the World war received their adjusted service certificate the first of the week. The first one arrived Saturday and each incoming train is bringing more certificates to the boys in this community, who were among the first to send in their applications.

-In a decision handed down last Friday, Judge Senn makes the township of Woodville and the county of Waseca parties to the \$19,100 suit brought against the city of Wseca by six farmers who reside northeast of this city. The suits were brought to recover damages, due to the overflowing of their land, following the heavy rains last summer.

-At the regular meeting held Monday evening the Board of Education approved a plan presented by Supt. S.C. Huffman, looking to the Art decoration of the new building. Under the plan Mr. Harrington Beard, Director of the Beard Art galleries of Minneapolis, is to be employed to suggest and outline a comprehensive plan for the Art decoration of each room and corridor of the building.



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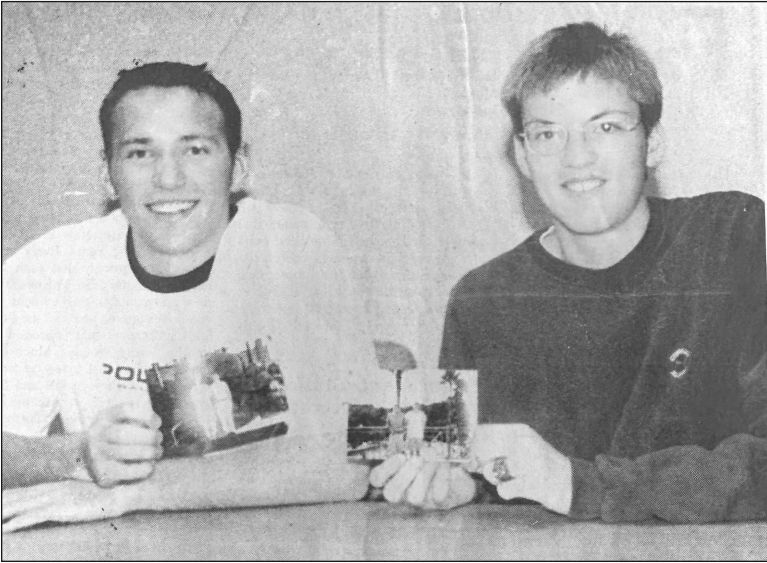
**JANUARY 31
FEBRUARY 1**

Xcel Energy Center.

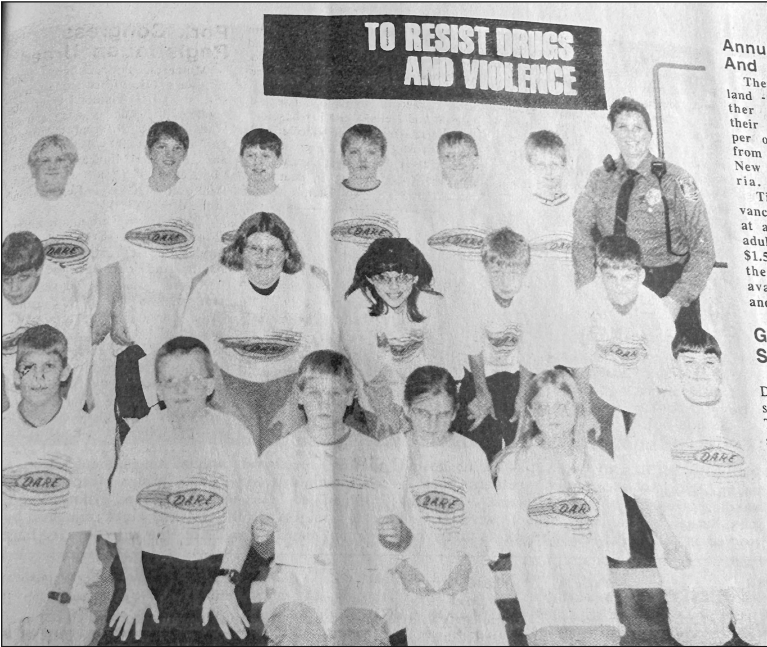
New Richland

25 Years Back

- The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Education Association and School board approved the Master Contract Agreement for 1999-2000 this week. According to members of the board, administration and education association, both groups are pleased with the outcome of the process and the settlement.



- It was an interesting time for Gavin Berg (left) and Blaine Bo-verhuis from December 28 until JAnuary 2. The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School sophomores spent those days in the warm temperatures and sun at Orlando, Florida. In June Gavin and Blaine earned the opportunity for the trip and perform in the Intergalactic Show of Wonders at the half-time of the Michigan State and University of Florida Citrus Bowl on New Year's Day. Gavin performed with the drum majors and Blaine with the rifle colorguard.



- These Fifth Grade Students from George Kails class at the Elementary school at New Richland graduated from the dare program, Tuesday, January 4, in a special ceremony at the elementary school gymnasium in New Richland. They are from the left: front, Dustin DeJong, Jackson Purdie, Matt Economy, Amanda Wenzel, Karen Reese, Keith Anderson; middle row, Raymond Elkins, Molly Hacker, Gina Quiram, Adam Routh, Caleb Hagen; back row, Dylan Ashles, Joe McGuire, Carter Routh, Derek Olson, Nic Barnett, Alex Routh and DARE Officer DeeAnn VonWold.

- Anne Phillips, daughter of Dale and Valerie Phillips of Hartland, has earned the distinction of being named to the Dean's List for the 1999 fall semester at the College of Saint Benedict / Saint John's University, St. Joseph, Minnesota. Phillips is a first-year student at CSB.

50 Years Back

- Members of the New Richland FFA's first place district Wildlife contest team are pictured here with some of the stuffed birds which help them to learn about wildlife. They are from left, seated: Greg Swenson and Scott Smith; standing: Don Pederson and Mark Besser. The team took top honors in the District and Region Wildlife contest Saturday. This is the eighth consecutive year that the local chapter has received top honors in this particular contest. Greg Swenson placed second with 679 points, Scott Smith and Don Pederson, third and fourth with 668 and Mark Besser, sixth with 601.

- Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Lundberg of New Richland announce the engagement of their daughter, Donna Marie to Keith Hullopetter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Hullopetter of New Richland. Donna is a 1974 graduate of New Richland-Hartland High School and presently attending the Golden Valley Lutheran Church.

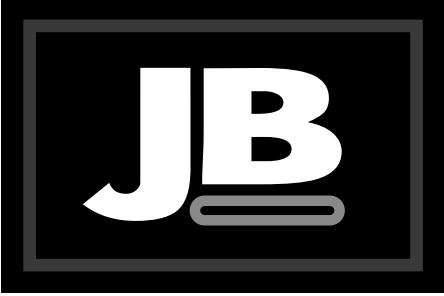
75 Years Back

- Mr. and Mrs. William Wallace celebrated their silver wedding anniversary February 21 with a dance which they gave at the Casa Loma, near Silver Lake. Mrs. Wallace was lovely in a navy blue dress and wore a corsage of white chrysanthemums and roses.

- Friday afternoon Mrs. Nels Olson, Mrs. Swenson Espee, and Mrs. Virgil Johnsonassisted Mrs. Russell Swenson with tying a quilt.

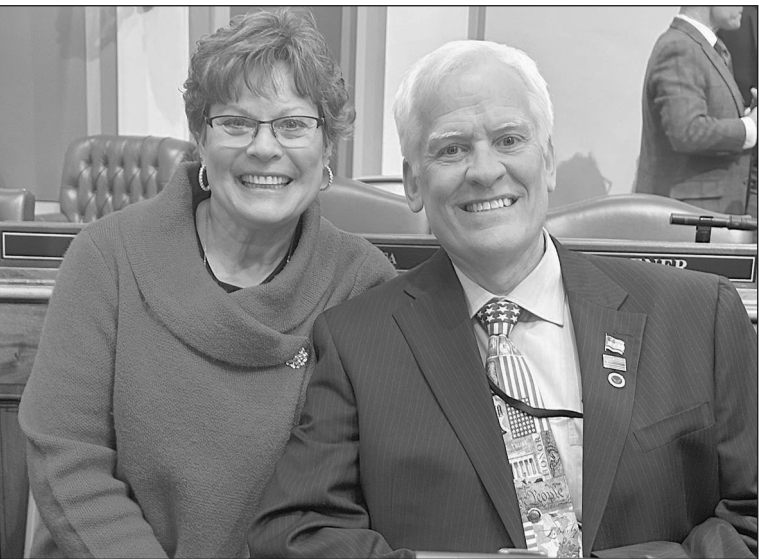
-Mr. And Mrs. Ray H. Mille, Dale and Shirley, and the lady's mother, Mrs Helen Rocene of Spring Valley were entertained at Sunday dinner at the Raymond Peterson home east of Otisco.

- Many relatives and friends of John Kelleher called at the Kelleher home during the weekend to honor him on the event of his 79th birthday anniversary. Friday evening the visitors brought oyster stew and all the trimmings and surprised Mr. Kelleher at his home. Mr. and Mrs. August Rollenhagen, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Rollenhagen of wells, Mr. and Mrs. Eiroy Verplank and family and their guest, Mrs. Helen Cunningham, Mrs. Verplanks sister, of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, Miss Agnes Sutlief and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bolduan were the people to accompany him.



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Tom and Jeanne Sexton in the capitol building on the day of his swearing in.

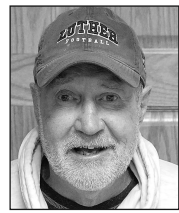
Sexton officially sworn in, shares committee assignments

St. Paul, MN – Minnesota’s 2025 Legislative Session officially began January 14 as Rep. Tom Sexton, R-Waseca, and 66 other state representatives took the oath of office during an official ceremony at the State Capitol in St. Paul.

Sexton will be starting his first term in the House of Representatives this week. He says he is ready and excited to work for the people of district 19B and Minnecota at large.

In his first term, Sexton has been assigned to serve on the following committees: capital investment, energy finance and policy, and state government finance and policy. He says much of his work these first few weeks will take place in these committees.

To contact Rep. Sexton, call 651-296-5368, email him at rep.tom.sexton@house.mn.gov, or send mail to 2828 Centennial Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155.



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



CWD reaches endemic status

Thank goodness the Covid epidemic we experienced just a few years ago is now under control. We still get our; shots and hear about cases, but it's no longer the central element of the news, and not threatening thousands of lives every day. Unfortunately wildlife is now experiencing its own biological threat, one which is all around us, including here in southern Minnesota.

Chronic Waste Disease (CWD) is killing deer we hunt all throughout the state. CWD has now reached endemic status in southeast Minnesota, a popular deer hunting destination. Roughly half a million people hunt deer in Minnesota each year, including both adults and youth. These sportsmen look forward to a wonderful day in the woods, fresh venison, and perhaps a trophy buck.

CWD is a fatal neurological disease that affects the brain and nervous system of deer. Signs the deer has it include weight loss, a lack of coordination, and drooping ears. Unfortunately, a deer in the first stages looks completely healthy.

The DNR has staged special hunts the past few years in the southeast trying to reduce the herd number-known as "culling"--so the deer don't congregate together in large numbers, especially in winter. In many zones, hunters are required to bring the lymph nodes of harvested deer to DNR testing stations. The problem is, the DNR needs some time to get results back to the hunters.

An old high school friend of mine has hunting property and a cabin in southeast Minnesota. It's a special event every fall when his two sons and grandchildren come to deer hunting camp; everyone looks forward to family time and a week in the woods! It was a great hunt this fall and a couple of trophy bucks were harvested. It was warm, so the group had to immediately cut up their deer, steaks, roasts, and ground hamburger, and package the venison. Unfortunately one buck tested positive for CWD; they found out a week later. Scientists have come to the conclusion that CWD isn't a threat to human health. Who knows, it's relatively new, they opted not to eat the meat from the infected buck.

A couple of notes about CWD: the disease does not appear to naturally infect cows, other livestock, or pets. Your Big Macs and Whoppers are still safe to eat.

Along with the CWD epidemic, birds in our area are being infected and dying from the bird flu. Avian influenza is a viral infection that

primarily spreads between birds. Healthy birds become infected from direct contact with sick birds or contact with areas or objects contaminated by sick birds. Unfortunately birds of a feather flock together.

Numbers of turkeys have been reduced the past couple years. Chickens on midwest chicken farms have experienced an outbreak just recently. The evidence: the price of a dozen eggs at the grocery store has more than doubled.

Canadian Geese will stick around if they have some open water and snowless farm fields to feed in. Geese flock together in large numbers and rest on ice shelves. A month ago there were numbers of dead and disabled geese on ice down by Fairmont. Just yesterday, the DNR reported a significant kill of waterfowl in Owatonna on sections of open water of the Straight River. In both cases, a great number of birds have perished from the virus. We have a number of eagles who spend winter in our area and are gliding high overhead searching for a meal. Dead geese on the ice make for an easy, tasty temptation. One can surmise that some eagles will die from the flu.

Eggs from chickens are always safe to eat when boiled. Personally, with an epidemic of the bird flu, I don't recommend eating a raw egg to cure a hangover.

Lisa and I eat hard-boiled eggs nearly every day: I even give one to Sammy, our wonder dog, once in a while. I'm a master at hard boiling eggs. I've boiled thousands and thousands of them. I had boiling eggs in a big pot down to a science, with an 80-percent good peeling rate. Lisa surprised me with the best Christmas gift ever a couple years ago, the express cooker. It makes healthy hard boiled eggs for breakfast or lunch fun to make. The cooker is a plate with a plastic bubble top. Just add the amount of water to the plate, place a pinhole in the fat end of the egg, place seven eggs in a rack, turn on the machine and wait for it to play some music which lets you know they're ready. You still have to run cold water over them and place them in ice water.

I boil 2 dozen eggs once a week. Who cares if they are expensive, it's my time to relax. I load the machine and read the Pioneer or Outdoor news, waiting for the music to play; and oh yes I'm up to a 95-percent perfect peel rate!!! All of this writing has made me hungry for one of my favorites. Tomorrow I'm making a batch of hard-boiled eggs!!



Members of the Waseca Chamber of Commerce welcome their newest member Tom Sexton. From left: Larry Johnson, Bernie Gaytko, Amy Potter, Tiffany Lynch, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Kevin Walter, Representative Tom Sexton, Theresa Sunde, Abby Clemons, Jodie Thompson, Kristie Biehn, Katie Gonzales, and Marcy Buchele.

Ambassadors welcome Sexton to Chamber

Waseca, MN. – The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that Minnesota State Representative Tom Sexton has officially joined the Chamber. The organization’s ambassadors recently welcomed Sexton, highlighting his commitment to supporting our local business community and fostering economic development in Waseca and surrounding areas.

Sexton, who was elected to serve House District 19B, brings a fresh and dedicated perspective to his role as a legislator. His experiences in the United States military, the private sector, local government, and as a

long-time resident of Waseca equip him with a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing local businesses.

Abby Clemons, Chamber president and membership committee member, said, “We are excited to have Tom as a part of our Chamber family, and we look forward to working with him to continue building a thriving business environment in Waseca.” Chamber president-elect and ambassador Mikhail Rostislavovich stated, “Having a sound leader like Tom Sexton join our Chamber strengthens our collective voice and ensures that Waseca’s ubusinesses and

residents will continue to be heard in St. Paul.”

During the Ambassadors’ visit, Sexton expressed his gratitude for the warm reception and reiterated his dedication to maintaining an open line of communication with the business community. He emphasized the importance of public-private partnerships and pledged to support efforts that strengthen the local economy; “Every elected official should be a member of their local Chambers of Commerce, it aids in closing the loop between our communities and the State Capital.” Sexton went on to say, “I plan to make myself available

to the Chamber membership and the greater community as often as I can.”

The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors play a key role in welcoming new members and fostering connections within the business community. Their goal is to promote collaboration and ensure all members feel supported in their business endeavors.

For more information about Representative Sexton’s work or the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce, please contact the Chamber office at 507-835-3260 or visit www.wasecachamber.com

Priorities

from Page 5

industries are part of the conver-

sation shaping state policies.” Newly minted representative Tom Sexton agrees, “Having the voices of greater Minnesota in the ears of the legislators is powerful. This degree of advocacy is remarkable by Waseca.”

The event not only provided at-

tendees with exclusive insights into the legislative process but also emphasized the critical role local communities play in driving statewide initiatives.

The Waseca Area Chamber encourages local stakeholders to join

future legislative events to continue building momentum for the community. For more information on the Chamber’s legislative committee, opportunities to get involved, and to become a Chamber member, visit www.wasecachamber.com.

Waldorf

from Page 5

was named as Waldorf’s official publication. Acting as city attorney is the Mankato-based firm Kennedy & Kennedy. Sheri Sandry, city clerk, was approved to attend the Municipi-

pal Clerks and Finance Officers Association (MCFOA) annual conference. Rehabilitation work on the city office bathrooms and hallway was approved up to a cost of \$1,500.

In December, 11 Waldorf residents did not pay their water bills, 7 paid partial amounts, leading to \$2,333 remaining uncollected for the month.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
111 4th St NW, Waseca
Father Glenn Ferichs
507-835-1222
Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m.
* * *

REAL LIFE CHURCH
620 W Elm Ave, Waseca
507-607-8245

Sunday worship 10 a.m.
* * *

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
* * *

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 - 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1
* * *

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
Pastor Jason Wolter

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. Wprship
* * *

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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TOUGH OUTING – The Waseca High School boys’ hockey team took a 5-2 loss to Luverne Saturday at Waseca Community Arena. Above, the Bluejays’ Henry Huttemier (5) handles the puck. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

WHS icemen suffer season’s first losses

After not losing all season, the Waseca High School boys’ hockey team dropped two games in three days.

The latest was the costliest.

The Bluejays, two days removed from a 3-2 nonconference setback at Rochester Lourdes, lost 5-2 to Luverne in a battle of Big South Conference leaders Saturday at Waseca Community Arena.

The Bluejays scored first, on a goal by Griffin Storey assisted by Hunter Anderson, but the Cardinals knotted at 1 after one period and outscored the Jays 3-1 in the second period. Jayden Gehring scored the final goal for Waseca, with assists going to Otto Schoenrock and Storey.

Luverne outshot Waseca 37-30. Carter Martens started in goal for the Bluejays, allowing four goals. Josiah Schmidt was in the net for the third period.

The loss dropped the Bluejays to 8-1-1 in the Big South and 13-2-2 for the season while Luverne improved to 9-0-1 and 14-2-1. New Ulm holds the top spot in the Big South with 20 points, to Luverne’s 19 and Waseca’s 17.

On Thursday, the Bluejays lost 3-2 to Rochester Lourdes at

Rochester’s Graham Arena.

After a scoreless first period, it was tied 2-2 after two.

Each team had 31 shots on goal. Schoenrock and Anderson scored for the Bluejays, with assists by Anderson and Lucas Groll.

Schmidtke made 28 saves.

The Bluejays skated to a 1-1 overtime tie at New Prague Jan. 14.

Waseca outshot New Prague 38-30. Scoring for the Jays was Brayden Hesch-Priem, assisted by Storey and Groll.

Martens made 29 saves.

After a Tuesday game at Dodge County, the Bluejays host Windom Friday at 7 p.m. at Waseca Community Arena. They play Jan. 28 at Redwood Valley.

Big South Standings				
	WLT	PTS	Ov.	
New Ulm	6-2-0	20	9-7-1	
Luverne	9-0-1	19	14-2-1	
Waseca	8-1-1	17	13-2-2	
Marshall	5-5-0	10	7-11-0	
Minn. River	4-2-0	8	8-8-0	
Windom	4-6-0	8	8-8-0	
Worthington	3-7-0	6	4-13-0	
Redwood V.	1-8-0	2	2-13-0	
Fairmont	0-9-0	0	0-12-0	

JWP boys blow out visiting NRHEG, 75-33

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School boys’ basketball team manhandled visiting NRHEG 75-33 in a Gopher Conference game last Tuesday in Janesville.

The Bulldogs were on top 37-18 at halftime.

Individually for JWP: Daulton Bauer 17 points, 4 rebounds, 7 assists, 5 steals; Parker Gearity 3R, 3A; Gavin Bauer 16P, 6R, 6A, 3S; Landon Johnson 10P, 6R, 6A, 1S; Caleb Quast 13P, 1R, 1A, 2S; Jaxon Wolf 1R, 1A; Seth Dahlberg 2P, 1R, 1A, 1S; Zander Terbeest 1S; Tyson Kronbach 6P, 2R, 2A, 1S; Jeffrey Simonson 2R, 2A, 2S; Isaiah Berndt 6P, 2R, 2A;

Gavin Weedman 1R; Jaxon Miller 3P, 1R, 1A; Ethan Born 2P, 8R, 1S.

The Bulldogs, 2-0 and tied for first atop the Gopher Conference West, improved their season record to 9-4. They host Kenyon-Wanamingo Friday at 7:15 p.m. and face United South Central in Janesville Jan. 27 at 7:15.

Gopher Conference West		
	W-L	Ov.
JWP	2-0	9-4
United South Central	2-0	4-10
WEM	2-0	8-5
Medford	0-1	0-11
NRHEG	0-3	0-12

WHS gymnasts top St. James

The Waseca High School gymnastics team was victorious last Thursday, coming home from St. James with a 113-05-112.7 triumph over the Saints.

The Bluejays’ Bella Wikan had a big night, winning the all-around title with 36.0 points. She was first in vault with a 9.225, first on uneven parallel bars at 9.45, first on the balance beam at 9.5 and first on floor exercise with a score of 9.175.

Other Bluejay scores:
All-around – Katelyn Weber

32.425; Hannah Parks 31.175, Avery Carda 30.9, Brooklyn Flatau 29.45.

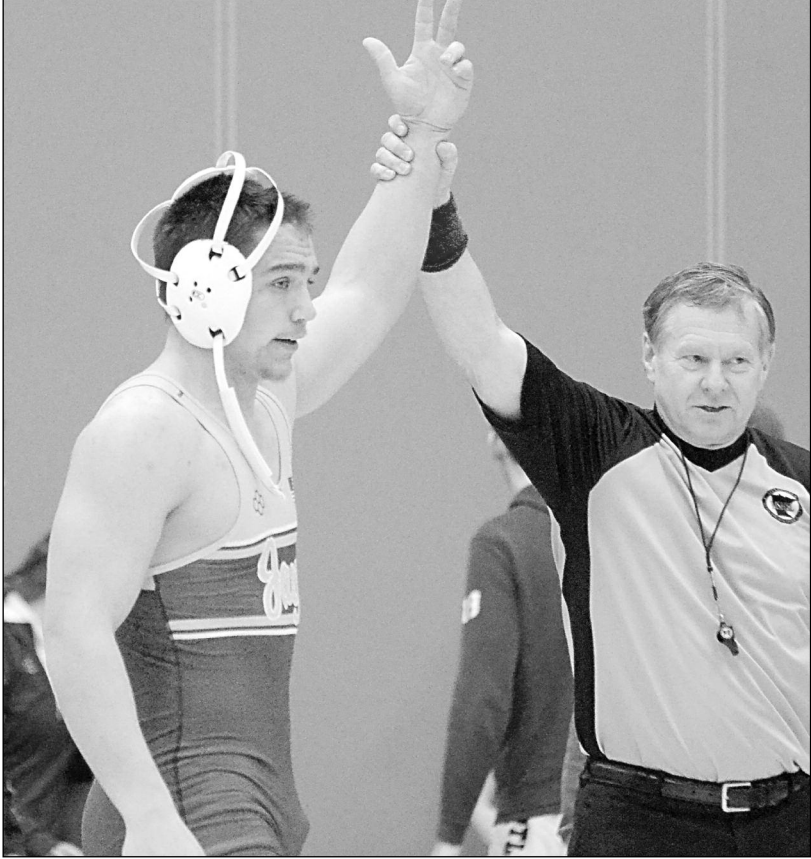
Vault – Weber 8.5, Flatau 8.45, Parks 7.95, Carda 7.9.

Bars – Weber 7.825, Parks 7.6, Carda 7.25, Flatau 6.05.

Beam – Parks 7.75, Carda 7.725, Weber 7.6, Flatau 7.3.

Floor – Weber 8.5, Carda 8.025; Parks 7.875; Flatau 7.65.

The Bluejays compete Saturday in the Kasson-Mantorville Invitational at 11 a.m. They host Fairmont Jan. 28 at 6.



AND THE WINNERS ARE – At left, Waseca High School wrestler Matthew Veroeven has his hand raised high after winning by fall over his New Ulm opponent last Thursday. At right, the Bluejays’ Sam Selthun handles his New Ulm foe.

Pionner photos by Jim Lutgens

WHS grapplers fall to St. Peter, New Ulm

Barnett, Hagen, Selthun reach finals at Hutchinson Invitational

The Waseca High School wrestling team hosted a triangular Thursday and dropped two dual meets, 46-28 to St. Peter and 56-17 to New Ulm.

Waseca winners against St. Peter were Jacob Knutson, 133 pounds; Slade Barnett, 160; Lucas Selthun, 189; Matthew Veroeven, 215; and Ben Hagen, 285.

The Bluejays forfeited four bouts, giving the Saints 24 free points.

“We had some wrestlers out of the starting lineup, but the kids wrestled well,” said Bluejays head coach Jake Janike.

Waseca victories against New Ulm were by Sam Selthun, 152; Barnett, 160; Veroeven, 215; Hagen, 285. The Bluejays again forfeited four matches.

The Bluejays competed in the Hutchinson Invitational Saturday, where they finished seventh out of 10 teams with 86 points. Marshall won it with 178.5.

Individually:

- 139 Deven Parpart (15-13) place is unknown and scored 0.0 team points.
- Champ. Round 1 - Deven Parpart (Waseca) 15-13 received a bye () (Bye)
- Quarterfinal - Max Martin (Hutchinson) 25-8 won by fall over Deven Parpart (Waseca) 15-13 (Fall 1:07)
- Cons. Round 2 - Deven Parpart (Waseca) 15-13 received a bye () (Bye)
- Cons. Round 3 - Wyatt Cruze (Willmar) 11-12 won by fall over Deven Parpart (Waseca) 15-13 (Fall 1:43)
- 145 Jaiden Schafer (0-19) place is unknown and scored 0.0 team

“We had some wrestlers out of the starting lineup, but the kids wrestled well.”
— Waseca coach Jake Janike

points.

- Quarterfinal - Tyson Louwagie (Marshall) 22-6 won by fall over Jaiden Schafer (Waseca) 0-19 (Fall 1:16)
- Cons. Round 1 - Dylan Romero (Minnetonka) 12-15 won by fall over Jaiden Schafer (Waseca) 0-19 (Fall 0:58)
- 152 Sam Selthun (10-18) placed 6th and scored 7.0 team points.
- Champ. Round 1 - Sam Selthun (Waseca) 10-18 received a bye () (Bye)
- Quarterfinal - Parker Jackson (Watertown Mayer- Mayer Luth.) 16-3 won by fall over Sam Selthun (Waseca) 10-18 (Fall 1:28)
- Cons. Round 2 - Sam Selthun (Waseca) 10-18 received a bye () (Bye)
- Cons. Round 3 - Sam Selthun (Waseca) 10-18 won by fall over Wyatt Rothrum (Anoka) 14-10 (Fall 3:48)
- Cons. Semi - Bradyn Penard (Amery) 21-10 won by fall over Sam Selthun (Waseca) 10-18 (Fall 1:29)
- 5th Place Match - Drew Chandler (Marshall) 18-10 won by fall over Sam Selthun (Waseca) 10-18 (Fall 2:42)
- 160 Slade Barnett (31-4) placed 2nd and scored 19.0 team points.
- Champ. Round 1 - Slade Barnett (Waseca) 31-4 received a bye
- Quarterfinal - Slade Barnett

(Waseca) 31-4 won by major decision over Cameren Champagne (Willmar) 11-7 (MD 14-6)

- Semifinal - Slade Barnett (Waseca) 31-4 won by decision over Brayden Chandler (Marshall) 24-3 (Dec 7-4)
- 1st Place Match - Luke Hoag (Hutchinson) 26-2 won by tech fall over Slade Barnett (Waseca) 31-4 (TF-1.5 4:23 (19-3))
- 172 James Quade (7-12) place is unknown and scored 0.0 team points.
- Quarterfinal - Steven Cruze (Willmar) 9-4 won by fall over James Quade (Waseca) 7-12 (Fall 0:44)
- Cons. Round 1 - Oliver Ollman (Anoka) 14-17 won by fall over James Quade (Waseca) 7-12 (Fall 1:30)
- 189 Lucas Selthun (20-11) placed 2nd and scored 20.0 team points.
- Champ. Round 1 - Lucas Selthun (Waseca) 20-11 won by major decision over Isaiah Gunderson (Anoka) 4-12 (MD 15-1)
- Quarterfinal - Lucas Selthun (Waseca) 20-11 won by major decision over Sky Hansen (Willmar) 2-6 (MD 17-7)
- Semifinal - Lucas Selthun (Waseca) 20-11 won by decision over Connor Olson (MAHACA) 13-6 (Dec 12-11)
- 1st Place Match - Lawson Anez

(Willmar) 14-8 won by fall over Lucas Selthun (Waseca) 20-11 (Fall 1:59)

- 215 Matthew Veroeven (15-1) placed 3rd and scored 20.0 team points.
- Champ. Round 1 - Matthew Veroeven (Waseca) 15-1 received a bye
- Quarterfinal - Matthew Veroeven (Waseca) 15-1 won by fall over James Dickman (Willmar) 3-12 (Fall 1:19)
- Semifinal - Kyler Burmeister (Watertown Mayer- Mayer Luth.) 15-6 won by fall over Matthew Veroeven (Waseca) 15-1 (Fall 4:49)
- Cons. Semi - Matthew Veroeven (Waseca) 15-1 won by fall over Dominic Lyons (Superior) 25-6 (Fall 4:00)
- 3rd Place Match - Matthew Veroeven (Waseca) 15-1 won by fall over Jacob Lyons (Superior) 9-2 (Fall 1:50)
- 285 Ben Hagen (25-8) placed 2nd and scored 20.0 team points.
- Champ. Round 1 - Ben Hagen (Waseca) 25-8 received a bye () (Bye)
- Quarterfinal - Ben Hagen (Waseca) 25-8 won by fall over Ethan Cameron (Anoka) 0-2 (Fall 3:15)
- Semifinal - Ben Hagen (Waseca) 25-8 won by decision over Brice Maass (Watertown Mayer- Mayer Luth.) 12-12 (Dec 6-2)
- 1st Place Match - Preston Hinrichs (MAHACA) 16-4 won by decision over Ben Hagen (Waseca) 25-8 (Dec 10-3)

The Bluejays are home tonight for a 5 p.m. triangular and wrestle Jan. 28 in a 6 p.m. triangular at Blue Earth.

Flyers skate to draw with New Ulm

The South Central Flyers girls’ hockey team skated to a 1-1 tie with New Ulm Jan. 14 at Waseca Community Arena.

Maddy Benson scored for the Flyers, with an assist going to Katelyn Schueler.

South Central had Ilamay Draheim in the net. The Flyers were outshot by the Eagles 51-21.

The Flyers played Jan. 21 against Rochester Century/John Marshall at 7 p.m. at the Rochester Recreation Center. They play Jan. 24 against Marshall at 7 p.m. at Marshall’s Red Baron Arena.

Big South Standings			
	WLT	PTS	Ov.
Marshall	8-0-1	17	17-1-1
MN River	8-0-1	17	14-2-1
Luverne	7-2-0	14	12-5-2
Fairmont	6-4-0	10	10-7-1
So. Central	3-7-0	6	8-10-0
New Ulm	1-4-0	2	8-10-1
Worthington	1-8-0	2	3-11-0
Windom	0-9-0	0	4-13-1



RACE TO THE PUCK – Allison Drager (22) of the South Central Flyers girls’ hockey team races to the puck against a New Ulm opponent at Waseca Community Arena last Tuesday.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

Waseca hosts archery regionals

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff Writer

The Minnesota State Archery Association conducted its Regional Indoor Qualification this past week-end using five separate host sites around Minnesota: the Duluth Archery Club, Southwest BowBenders of Worthington, Bwana Archery of Little Canada, Alexandria Shooting Park and The Waseca Archery Club. The Waseca Archery club, 409 8th Ave. NE Waseca at the fairgrounds, met Saturday, Jan. 18 at 9 a.m. and Sunday, Jan. 19 at 10 a.m. There are 32 Waseca kids involved in this club.

The sound of arrows landing was in the air inside the archery building at the Waseca fairgrounds. A line of kids was all standing with bow strings stretched tight, all competing to see who qualifies. Lennon Guse,

7, who received his first bow when he was 4 years old, was present, this will be his third year shooting. His mother, Paulina, and father Brandon were there cheering him on. The Waseca Archery Club hosts six week-long classes Monday nights with an eight-student limit. They also have league play with varying schedules. The Junior Olympic Archery Development program is open to any youth 8 to 20 years old, and this class has a 16-student limit.

Gabiel Hanson, an impressive 11-year-old with bow in hand, took a quick break. He was a humble young man who had time to speak for a moment. When asked about his adventure in archery, he said, “I really wasn’t able to do any other sport. My mom and I saw a bow at Goodwill and we bought it. Then my dad got into it, and I don’t get hurt, so we all really like it.” Hanson was wearing glasses, but he still

wanted to point out, “What I like best about it is even kids with disabilities can still do archery. My eyes aren’t so good. I use scope instead of pin sight.” Zeb Sell, 12, a member of the club, goes with his mother, Angie Wilson. Wilson is also treasurer of the Waseca Archery Club. She wanted to call attention to world class archer Zoie Thompson, who is mentioned on the www.rstringsandcables.com website: Zoie Thompson-Staff Shooter, her greatest archery achievement to date breaking a world record in the 150 Elimination Match at the Buckeye Classic in July of 2021.

Regarding Zoie Thompson, Wilson said, “To give credit where credit is due, Zoie is here and she’s so talented, and all the kids look up to her. She gives them something to shoot for.”

Those who shoot last weekend go to the state tournament in April in



Lennon Guse, 7, who received his first bow when he was 4, was at the Waseca Archery Club Regional Indoor Qualification on Jan. 19, 2025.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Carlton, MN.

Technically there were no winners. They place the results from all five host sites in Minnesota for the weekend and they place people after all scores are entered.

NRHEG boys can’t contain JWP, BP

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School boys’ basketball team traveled to Janesville last Tuesday and lost 75-33.

“We took on a tough JWP team tonight,” said NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt. “I thought we played a solid first half, despite some issues with their press.”

JWP went on a run to end the half up 37-18.

“Once again, the boys played hard for both halves, and I can’t say enough about that effort,” said Schmidt, whose team is still looking for its first win in 2024-25. “We still need to work on trusting the offense, as we did give ourselves some good looks within it. But we have a tendency to go away from it when we can’t get that initial action, and then we scramble.”

And the Bulldogs play tough defense.

“JWP is so good at exposing teams on the weak side with their ability to get into the paint,” said Schmidt. “If you get caught watching your guy, they’ll pick you apart, and tonight proved no exception.”

There was some progress made by the Panthers.

“We saw some good things from some guys in effort, and some decision-making situations,” said Schmidt. “I’m still looking at those little improvements as being key for us as we go along. We just need to turn the corner one of these days.”

Individually for the Panthers: Greyson Schaefer 1P, 3R; Owen Wayne 3P, 3R, 4 assists; Brendan Schmidt 3R, 1 blocked shot; Justin Beauvais 3P, 2R; Lavon Jewison 2P; Dom Olson 3P, 1R; Hudson Chrz 11P, 1R, 2A, 2B; Gavin Lewison 4P, 7R, 2A; Jase Knudson 4P, 4R, 2S, 4B; Jordan Brouwers 2P, 5R.

The Panthers lost 59-24 at Blooming Prairie Friday after trailing 38-12 at halftime.

Individually: Brouwers scored 9, Chrz 5, Jewison 3, Schaefer 2, Beaufaus 2 and Knudson 2.

Gabe Staloch and Brady Kittleson scored 17 each for the Blossoms.

Gopher Conference West		
	W-L	Ov.
JWP	2-0	9-4
United South Central	2-0	4-10
WEM	2-0	8-5
Medford	0-1	0-11
NRHEG	0-3	0-12



BOUNCING BACK – The NRHEG High School girls’ basketball team rebounded from a setback at JWP to defeat Blooming Prairie and Waseca. In action against Blooming Prairie are, from left, Clara Buendorf, left, and Gabby Schlaak. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



NRHEG basketball girls rebound

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School girls’ basketball team won two of three games in the past week, defeating Waseca 69-43 and Blooming Prairie 72-31 after falling 71-63 to Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton.

“Tonight was an interesting game,” said Panthers coach Onika Peterson of Friday’s nonconference contest at Waseca.

There was never a good flow to the game, according to Peterson, with the Panthers on top 30-10 at halftime.

“You can tell this was the third game of the week for us in January, said Peterson. “We are happy to pick up a win on the road. Next week we will be able to break some things down and get back to basics, and come back with only one game at Faribault Bethlehem Academy on Thursday.”

Individually vs. Waseca: Gabby

“These girls always step up to the challenge.”
— NRHEG coach Onika Peterson

Schlaak 1 point, 6 rebounds, 5 assists, 3 steals; Ezra Boerner 3P; Quinn VanMaldeghem 17P, 9R 2A, 6S; Clara Buendorf 10P, 5R, 2S, 2 blocked shots; Camryn VanMaldeghem 24P, 10R, 1A, 4S, 3B; Savannah Farr 1R, 1A, 1B; Chloe Stork 3R, 2S; Kylie Olson 14P, 4R, 1A, 2B.

For the Bluejays, Gracie Morgan scored 12, Reese Rodriguez 10, Callie Dufault 9, Lily Owens 2, Mia Kanewischer 2, Hannah Sommers 2, Maren Schimming 1.

The previous night, the Panthers hosted Blooming Prairie and won 72-31. It was 50-17 at intermission.

Individually: Schlaak 4P, 1R, 1A, 1S, 1B; E.Boerner 5P, 1A; Q.VanMaldeghem 12P, 8R, 5A; I.Boerner 6P, 1A, 2S; Buendorf 14P, 5R, 1S; C.VanMaldeghem 21P, 7R, 3A, 4S, 1B; Stork 6R, 3A; Olson 10P, 6R, 2A, 1S, 2B.

“It was a great team win,” said Peterson. “We were able to get kids a lot of playing time.”

The Panthers lost 71-63 at Blooming Prairie Tuesday. The home team led 38-30 at halftime.

Individually: Schlaak 3P, 3R, 1A, 1S; E.Boerner 1R, 1A; Q.VanMaldeghem 12P, 9R, 3A, 5S, 1B; I.Boerner 3R, 2A, 1B; Buendorf 1A; C.VanMaldeghem 28P, 8R, 4A, 4S; Stork 1R, 1A, 1S, 1B; Olson

20P, 12R, 2B.

“I am extremely proud of this group of girls,” said Coach Peterson. “They never give up. They always continue to step up to the challenge and compete. In the first half we gave them too many opportunities to get second, third, and even fourth-chance shot opportunities. In the second half JWP went on a bit of a run at one point, pulling away by almost 14. The girls cut their lead to four, but in the end we couldn’t get over the hump. JWP is a great team, we are excited to get to play them again in a couple of weeks at home.”

Gopher Conference West		
	W-L	Ov.
JWP	3-0	13-2
NRHEG	3-1	11-5
WEM	2-0	11-6
Medford	0-3	0-15
United South Central	0-3	9-8

NRHEG wrestlers break into win column

In a span of two days, the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School wrestling team wrestled five dual meets.

Yes, one of them was a victory.

“First of all, it is nice for our team to get a win after the efforts they have made to improve this year,” said Panthers head coach Shawn Larson. “We wrestled well and matched up well with Medford and executed well enough to earn a win.”

The Panthers defeated the Tigers 47-30. Then came a 38-26 loss to St. Clair-Mankato Loyola.

On Saturday, the Panthers lost 56-15 to Dover-Eyota, 68-6 to Albert Lea Area and 61-5 to Westfield.

“We have some underclassmen wrestling fairly well right now, and if they continue to develop the way they are, they have bright futures,” said Coach Larson.

Eighth-grader Owen Schlaak (107

“We have families that love us, and we are not going to stop working with these kids we believe in.”
— NRHEG coach Shawn Larson

pounds), seventh-grader Grahm Jacobson (114), and occasionally others have been showing they can compete and score at a varsity level, and they are also showing improvement, according to Larson.

Upperclassmen have also been contributing.

“We have a couple seniors that are giving a senior effort, and if they gather confidence they can compete with absolutely anyone,” said Larson. “Harbor Cromwell (172) has been exciting to watch, as he is often in high-scoring matches. Cole Hutchens (215) has been attacking

and competing at a rate that is clearly higher than what he used to be.”

Cromwell, according to Larson, has been wrestling with intensity, being aggressive, and giving maximum effort.

“The seniors, however, need to believe in the training they have received and execute what they know,” said Larson. “Although we have bright spots, our team is at a tough spot right now. We have athletes that are ill. We have others that are out from injury. On top of that, right now we lack confidence everywhere in the lineup. When I say

everywhere in the lineup, I am not being figurative.”

But the Panthers’ coaching staff and the community continue to be supportive.

“We have families that love us, and we are not going to stop working with these kids we believe in,” said Larson. “They say when the going gets tough, the tough get going. I know that the Panthers are going to be helped and coached through these tough times, but it remains to be seen if they want to get going, I believe in what they can do, just like you do. All that is left for them is just to start living it.”

The Panthers travel to St. James Area tonight for a 5 p.m. quadrangular.

They wrestle Jan. 28 at 5 p.m. at Triton and Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. against WEM/JWP in Waterville.

Grizzly grapplers top 13-team field at St. Croix Lutheran

The WEM/JWP High School wrestling team finished first in Saturday’s St. Croix Lutheran Invitational.

The Grizzlies amassed 164.5 points to top the 13-team field.

Individually for WEM/JWP:

- 121 Trey Richards (14-9) placed 2nd and scored 20.0 team points.
- Champ. Round 1 - Trey Richards (WEM-JWP) 14-9 received a bye () (Bye)
- Quarterfinal - Trey Richards (WEM-JWP) 14-9 won by fall over Nathan Yaklin (St. Croix Lutheran) 0-4 (Fall 0:21)
- Semifinal - Trey Richards (WEM-JWP) 14-9 won by decision over Jason Olson (St. Croix Lutheran) 18-7 (Dec 10-6)
- 1st Place Match - Hser Klee Poe (St. Paul Como Park) 20-4 won by tech fall over Trey Richards (WEM-JWP) 14-9 (TF-1.5 4:58 (16-0))
- 133 Brady Murphy (18-4) placed 1st and scored 27.5 team points.
- Champ. Round 1 - Brady Murphy (WEM-JWP) 18-4 received a bye () (Bye)
- Quarterfinal - Brady Murphy (WEM-JWP) 18-4 won by fall over Johnny Hudson (St. Paul Como Park) 10-10 (Fall 1:51)
- Semifinal - Brady Murphy (WEM-JWP) 18-4 won by fall over Abel Zachary (Robbinsdale Armstrong) 4-3 (Fall 0:43)
- 1st Place Match - Brady Murphy (WEM-JWP) 18-4 won by tech fall over Caiden Walrod (Cannon Falls) 16-13 (TF-1.5 4:00 (18-1))
- 139 Carson James (7-9) place is unknown and scored 2.5 team points.
- Champ. Round 1 - Carson James (WEM-JWP) 7-9 received a bye () (Bye)
- Quarterfinal - Jonathon Opelt (Cannon Falls) 29-5 won by fall over Carson James (WEM-JWP) 7-9 (Fall 2:51)
- Cons. Round 2 - Carson James (WEM-JWP) 7-9 won by tech fall over Leo Hernandez/Lopez (Cannon Falls) 1-5 (TF-1.5 2:58 (15-0))
- Cons. Semi - Brody Smith (Ogilvie) 28-9 won by fall over Carson James (WEM-JWP) 7-9 (Fall 2:25)
- 145 Zach Quast (13-14) placed 3rd and scored 18.0 team points.
- Champ. Round 1 - Zach Quast (WEM-JWP) 13-14 won by fall over Zach Kuhlamer (St. Croix Lutheran) 6-7 (Fall 0:46)
- Quarterfinal - Zach Quast (WEM-JWP) 13-14 won by major decision over Kevin Moua (St. Paul Highland Park) 5-10 (MD 10-0)
- Semifinal - Ethan Kester (North Branch) 15-7 won by fall over Zach Quast (WEM-JWP) 13-14 (Fall 0:56)
- 3rd Place Match - Zach Quast (WEM-JWP) 13-14 won by fall over Yovanni Arellano (St. Paul Highland Park) 7-10 (Fall 2:24)
- 145 Reed Sammon (6-11) place is unknown.
- Champ. Round 1 - Reed Sammon (WEM-JWP) 6-11 received a bye () (Bye)
- Quarterfinal - Deegan Birkaker (Ogilvie) 30-2 won by fall over Reed Sammon (WEM-JWP) 6-11 (Fall 2:53)
- Cons. Round 2 - Reed Sammon (WEM-JWP) 6-11 received a bye () (Bye)
- Cons. Semi - Bram Hetteen (Robbinsdale Armstrong) 5-6 won by tech fall over Reed Sammon (WEM-JWP) 6-11 (TF-1.5 4:44 (15-0))
- 152 Lucas Morsching (11-11) placed 2nd and scored 21.5 team points.
- Champ. Round 1 - Lucas Morsching (WEM-JWP) 11-11 received a bye () (Bye)
- Quarterfinal - Lucas Morsching (WEM-JWP) 11-11 won by tech fall over Pho Tha Bol (St. Paul Humboldt-Open World Learning) 4-15 (TF-1.5 2:00 (18-0))
- Semifinal - Lucas Morsching (WEM-JWP) 11-11 won by fall over Elias Schmitt (St. Paul Highland Park) 12-4 (Fall 4:55)
- 1st Place Match - Griffin Peterson (Cannon Falls) 21-7 won by major decision over Lucas Morsching (WEM-JWP) 11-11 (MD 11-1)
- 152 Ben Root (2-2) placed 6th.
- Champ. Round 1 - Kaden Felde (Ogilvie) 25-10 won by fall over Ben Root (WEM-JWP) 2-2 (Fall 2:43)
- Cons. Round 1 - Ben Root (WEM-JWP) 2-2 received a bye () (Bye)
- Cons. Round 2 - Ben Root (WEM-JWP) 2-2 won by fall over Abraham Beckert (Robbinsdale Armstrong) 1-6 (Fall 3:22)
- Cons. Semi - Ben Root (WEM-JWP) 2-2 won by decision over Charles Adams (WEM-JWP) 8-7 (Dec 6-2)
- 5th Place Match - Henry Cronin

(Robbinsdale Armstrong) 12-15 won by fall over Ben Root (WEM-JWP) 2-2 (Fall 1:57)

- 152 Charles Adams (8-7) place is unknown.
- Champ. Round 1 - Griffin Peterson (Cannon Falls) 21-7 won by tech fall over Charles Adams (WEM-JWP) 8-7 (TF-1.5 3:18 (19-2))
- Cons. Round 1 - Charles Adams (WEM-JWP) 8-7 received a bye () (Bye)
- Cons. Round 2 - Charles Adams (WEM-JWP) 8-7 won by fall over Pho Tha Bol (St. Paul Humboldt-Open World Learning) 4-15 (Fall 2:15)
- Cons. Semi - Ben Root (WEM-JWP) 2-2 won by decision over Charles Adams (WEM-JWP) 8-7 (Dec 6-2)
- 160 Luke Cahill (5-4) placed 6th and scored 6.5 team points.
- Champ. Round 1 - Luke Cahill (WEM-JWP) 5-4 received a bye () (Bye)
- Quarterfinal - Braxton Bender-Ehlke (Chisago Lakes) 12-8 won by fall over Luke Cahill (WEM-JWP) 5-4 (Fall 1:13)
- Cons. Round 2 - Luke Cahill (WEM-JWP) 5-4 received a bye () (Bye)
- Cons. Semi - Luke Cahill (WEM-JWP) 5-4 won by tech fall over Elvis Placencia Pesantez (Columbia Heights) 10-11 (TF-1.5 5:00 (15-0))
- 5th Place Match - Ian Sommer (Robbinsdale Armstrong) 9-9 won by fall over Luke Cahill (WEM-JWP) 5-4 (Fall 0:23)
- 172 Maddox Moreno (14-10) placed 3rd and scored 17.0 team points.
- Champ. Round 1 - Maddox Moreno (WEM-JWP) 14-10 received a bye () (Bye)
- Quarterfinal - Maddox Moreno (WEM-JWP) 14-10 won by fall over Jacob Hexum (Brooklyn Center-Concordia Acad) 16-9 (Fall 1:46)
- Semifinal - Evan Pommier (North Branch) 28-0 won by tech fall over Maddox Moreno (WEM-JWP) 14-10 (TF-1.5 1:54 (17-1))
- 3rd Place Match - Maddox Moreno (WEM-JWP) 14-10 won by fall over Robbie Geleto (St. Paul Highland Park) 10-6 (Fall 3:33)
- 189 Avery Fall (12-10) placed 1st and scored 27.5 team points.
- Champ. Round 1 - Avery Fall (WEM-JWP) 12-10 won by tech fall over Aydan Loren (North Branch) 8-13 (TF-1.5 3:52 (18-3))
- Quarterfinal - Avery Fall (WEM-JWP) 12-10 won by fall over Will Krusemark (Benilde St. Margarets) 4-15 (Fall 1:40)
- Semifinal - Avery Fall (WEM-JWP) 12-10 won by fall over Carter Magaard (Ogilvie) 24-5 (Fall 3:22)
- 1st Place Match - Avery Fall (WEM-JWP) 12-10 won by decision over Avery Oseth (Robbinsdale Armstrong) 20-9 (Dec 4-2)
- 189 Trenton Huber (10-7) placed 6th.
- Champ. Round 1 - George Kunel (St. Croix Lutheran) 19-8 won by major decision over Trenton Huber (WEM-JWP) 10-7 (MD 17-5)
- Cons. Round 1 - Trenton Huber (WEM-JWP) 10-7 received a bye () (Bye)
- Cons. Round 2 - Trenton Huber (WEM-JWP) 10-7 won by fall over Will Krusemark (Benilde St. Margarets) 4-15 (Fall 3:37)
- Cons. Semi - Trenton Huber (WEM-JWP) 10-7 won by fall over Soren Matascallio (St. Paul Highland Park) 5-11 (Fall 3:29)
- 5th Place Match - George Kunel (St. Croix Lutheran) 19-8 won by decision over Trenton Huber (WEM-JWP) 10-7 (Dec 4-1)
- 285 Keegan Kuball (22-1) placed 2nd and scored 24.0 team points.
- Champ. Round 1 - Keegan Kuball (WEM-JWP) 22-1 won by fall over Matthew Rabin (Chisago Lakes) 3-5 (Fall 1:22)
- Quarterfinal - Keegan Kuball (WEM-JWP) 22-1 won by fall over Joshua Lay (Brooklyn Center-Concordia Acad) 4-12 (Fall 1:17)
- Semifinal - Keegan Kuball (WEM-JWP) 22-1 won by fall over Moses Ochoa (North Branch) 13-14 (Fall 1:07)
- 1st Place Match - Logan Bender (Chisago Lakes) 15-0 won by decision over Keegan Kuball (WEM-JWP) 22-1 (Dec 4-1)
- 285 Avery Breyer (2-2) placed 6th.
- Champ. Round 1 - Logan Bender (Chisago Lakes) 15-0 won by fall over Avery Breyer (WEM-JWP) 2-2 (Fall 0:55)
- Cons. Round 1 - Avery Breyer (WEM-JWP) 2-2 received a bye () (Bye)
- Cons. Round 2 - Avery Breyer (WEM-JWP) 2-2 won by fall over Joshua Lay (Brooklyn Center-Concordia Acad) 4-12 (Fall 1:53)
- Cons. Semi - Avery Breyer (WEM-JWP) 2-2 won by fall over Marcus Tupy (St. Paul Highland Park) 6-7 (Fall 1:37)
- 5th Place Match - Anthony Benson (Brooklyn Center-Concordia Acad) 20-4 won by tech fall over Avery Breyer (WEM-JWP) 2-2 (TF-1.5 4:39 (17-1))

Political Science Class Field Day



Early this month Waseca High School students participated in an annual University of Minnesota Political Science Class Field Day. Over 500 students from around the state gathered at the U of M to hear speakers, discuss/debate with each other and experience life on campus for a day. The special guest was Secretary of State Steve Simon. The main topic was the Electoral College.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

2025 OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Waseca County has designated its website, www.wasecacounty.gov, as the 2025 Official Publication for Transportation Projects, as allowed by MN Statute §331A.12. Waseca County will publish any transportation project advertisements for bids on its website.

Contacts:

Jim Kollar, Public Works Director/County Engineer, (507) 835-0661
Michael Johnson, County Administrator, (507) 835-0631
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer January 16, 23 and 30, 2025

State of Minnesota

District Court

County of: Waseca	Court File Number: 81-JV-24-851
Judicial District: Third District	Case Type: CHIPS - Permanency

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of: Brittany Gade, Mother and Nathan Zirbes, Father.

Summons and Notice
Termination of Parental Rights Matter (CHP-115)

NOTICE TO: Brittany Gade, Above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s).

- A Termination of Parental Rights Petition has been filed in the Juvenile Court alleging that parental rights of the above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s) to the child(ren) named in the petition should be permanently severed.
- This is your notice** that this Termination of Parental Rights case is scheduled for a remote hearing before the Juvenile Court located at 307 N. State Street Waseca MN 56093, on February 24, 2025 at 9:15 AM or as soon after as the case can be heard. Please contact court administration to get the remote hearing information.
- YOU ARE ORDERED** to appear before the Juvenile Court at the scheduled time and date.
- You have a right to be represented by counsel.
- If you fail to appear at the hearing, the Court may still conduct the hearing and grant appropriate relief, including permanently severing the parental rights of the above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s) or taking permanent custody of the child(ren) named in the Petition.

BY:

Dated January 8, 2025

Waseca County
Court Administration
307 N. State Street

Waseca MN 56093
507-308-7002

INSTRUCTIONS

PUBLICATION TO BE MADE ONCE PER WEEK FOR THREE (3) WEEKS, with the last publication to be made not less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the hearing.

CHARGE PUBLICATION COSTS TO: 307 N. State Street Waseca MN 56093

MAIL AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION TO: 307 N. State Street Waseca MN 56093
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on January 16 and 23, 2025

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093
Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 9:30 p.m.
Notice is hereby given that the Waseca County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing to consider amendments to Sections of the UDC following a series of work sessions by the Waseca County Board of Commissioners and subsequent Public Hearings by the Planning Commission.

The County Board Memo 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, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all Waseca County services, programs and activities.

Maame Quarcoo, AICP, Sr. Land Use Planner.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer Thursday January 23, 2025

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642
JANUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 7pm HALL BINGO	3 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	4
5	6	7 Burger nite 5-7pm	8 pm BAR Bingo	9 7pm HALL BINGO	10 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	11
12 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host St. Paul Lutheran Church	13 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	14 Burger nite 5-7pm	15 pm BAR Bingo	16 7pm HALL BINGO Desert Strom began (1991)	17 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm YOUR	18
19	20	21 Burger nite 5-7pm	22 pm BAR Bingo	23 7pm HALL BINGO	24 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	25 Mash Burger 5:30 pm MDHA Gun Bing 7 pm
26 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host Relay for life	27 Vietnam War Cease Fire (1973)	28 Burger nite 5-7pm	29 pm BAR Bingo	30 7pm HALL BINGO	31 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm Panama Campaign Ended (1990)	

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

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET (EAW)
AVAILABILITY, COMMENT PERIOD, AND PUBLIC HEARING
FOR THE GAITER LAKE LAND DEVELOPMENT

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Notice is hereby given that the City of Waseca intends to develop a residential subdivision on City-owned property adjacent to, and immediately west of, Gaiter Lake (Parcel ID No. 170170850). The proposed residential subdivision will consist of the phased development of buildable lots for 67 total market-rate housing units (33 single-family homes and 17 twin homes) over the next 5-10 years.

In accordance with Minnesota Rules 4410.1000, Subpart 3, an **Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)** for this development has been prepared for public review and comment.

The required 30-day EAW public comment period began on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, and will conclude at 4:30 PM on Thursday, February 20, 2025.

A hard copy of the EAW is available for public viewing in the office of the City Clerk located at Waseca City Hall, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093. The EAW can also be viewed online on the City's website at: <https://www.ci.waseca.mn.us/engineering/pages/gaiter-lake-land-development>

During the comment period, written comments should be submitted to:

City of Waseca
Attn: Nathan Willey
508 South State Street
Waseca, MN 56093

Electronic/email comments should be submitted to Nathan Willey at natew@ci.waseca.mn.us with **Gaiter Lake Land Development EAW** in the subject line. If submitting comments electronically, please include your name and mailing address.

Public comments may also be submitted at an **EAW Public Hearing** to be held at the regular **Waseca City Council meeting at 7:00 PM on February 4, 2025**, in the Council Chambers of Waseca City Hall located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota. At this hearing, verbal comments can be made, and written comments can be submitted on provided comment forms. **No responses to any comments will be made at the hearing.** However, members of the public who submit written comments will receive a response within sixty (60) days of the end of the EAW public comment period.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Thursday, January 23, 2025

Rotary Pickleball Classic Tournament



Feb 8th
@ The Mill
Teams of 2
Must be 16 to participate
\$100 Entry per Team



WASECA AREA FOUNDATION
GENEROSITY • COMMUNITY • GRATITUDE

SIGN UP

Proceeds go to local Rotary projects

HELP WANTED

AGE 55+ WORKERS

needed for part-time custodial work at rest areas in Minnesota. Apply online at greenviemn.com or call 651/639-1913

ENTERTAINMENT

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Waseca Sleigh & Cutter FESTIVAL 2025

FOR MORE DETAILS
AND A FULL LIST
OF WINTER EVENTS
IN THE WASECA AREA,
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

sleighandcutterfestival.org



GUESS WHO FROSTY IS!

Use clues to guess who the well-known member of the Waseca community is. Clues are published weekly starting Jan. 16.

WIN
UP TO
\$1,500!

Frosty's identity will be revealed and awards will be presented on February 21 at 8:30PM during the Sleigh & Cutter Festival dinner and dance held at Starfire Event Center.

Contest rules and additional information found on our Facebook page and www.sleighandcutterfestival.org.

FIND THE MEDALLION

Use clues to find the medallion that is hidden somewhere in Waseca. Clues are published weekly starting Jan. 16. When medallion is found, it must be brought to one of our official dropoff points: Waseca Chamber of commerce 210 North State Street or Waseca Music company 111 South State Street.

Crowning of Miss Waseca County Sleigh & Cutter Royalty

January 25 6:30 Waseca Junior/Senior High Performing Arts Center

DINNER FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21 & DANCE 5PM STARFIRE EVENT CENTER • WASECA

5-7 PM Selection of basket meals available for purchase from Starfire restaurant

Try your luck at the meat raffle featuring pork by local Fischer Family Farms

7 PM Flag ceremony and introduction of Miss Waseca County Sleigh & Cutter pageant royalty

7-10 PM Kick up your boots to Midwest favorite, high energy country rock band

Chris Brooks & The Silver City Boys

8:30 PM Frosty winners drawn & Medallion prize presented

9:30 PM Complimentary sandwiches and cake served by the Sleigh & Cutter Festival Committee

SLEIGH & CUTTER PARADE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22 NOON, DOWNTOWN WASECA

The nation's longest running **Sleigh & Cutter** parade features various horse breeds, mounted law enforcement groups, festival royalty and many others.

❄️ **ICE SCULPTURES by SAKATAH CARVERS** on display at the Public Safety Building starting Feb 19

❄️ **FIREWORKS DISPLAY** after sunset over Clear Lake Wrap up the day enjoying an impressive display of fireworks compliments of the Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival and our local sponsors.

Snowmobile Trail Rides & Events In The Waseca Area

Sno-Secas Club Ride • January 18th 10am

Annual Mike Filzen Memorial • February 1 Noon

Snowmobile Safety Riding Course • February 16th

Toner's Lake Vintage Ride • February 15 11am

Annual Vintage Snowmobile Show/Ride • February 22 9am

Vintage Snowmobile Ice Drags • February 22 Noon

THANK YOU, SPONSORS!

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WASECA MCDONALDS • WASECA WALMART • WASECA VFW CLUB • XCEL ENERGY

DISCLAIMER: The Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival Association, Inc. does not assume or accept duty or responsibility for safety at this event in regard to participant, any third parties, animals or other property thereof.