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# WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

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Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca

Friday, May 31, 2024

**■ Inside**

**Memorial Day**



**Grant Whissemore, right, received a certificate thanking him for 19 years of service with the Waseca Memorial Day Association.**

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

## Jackson serves as speaker during Memorial Day service

By **DEB BENTLY**  
News Editor

The bleachers of the Waseca Junior/Senior High School were filled most of the way to the top with spectators during the Waseca community Memorial Day Service, organized by the Waseca Memorial Day Association, chaired by Grant Whissemore. The program took place at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, May 27; it was moved indoors to the school because of rain, but would otherwise have been held on the grounds of the Waseca County Courthouse, its traditional location.

Speaker for the event was Air Force Colonel Abraham Jackson, a 1993 graduate of Waseca High School who is now the director of intelligence in Langley, Virginia. Jackson called his local roots to mind, mentioning how his one-time football coach Dave Zika had included an editorial about “game changers” in the most recent issue of the Pioneer.

He referred to military members who died in conflicts, and to veterans who have died in the past year as “nation changers,” whose service protected the rights to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” all American citizens enjoy.

Referring to the oath taken by

**Waseca continued on 3**



**Members of the Waseca V.F.W. and American Legion posts and their Auxiliary groups laid wreaths to honor the fallen from all conflicts in which American soldiers have fought.**

## Waseca class of 2024 to graduate Sunday

Commencement exercises begin at 1:30 p.m.

By **ELI LUTGENS**  
Publisher/Editor

The Waseca High School graduating class of 2024 takes the stage at the high school for commencement at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, June 4. This year’s graduates number 120, down from last year’s 142. There were 121 graduates in 2022.

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

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

Students who received a 4.0 GPA are: Lylah Bauman, daughter of Tim and Polly Klampe; Daniel Kohler, son of Toni Kohler and Agnieszka Sucharska; Ella Krautkramer, daughter of Amy Krautkramer and Ryan Krautkramer; Evelyn O’Brien, daughter of Ria and Ben O’Brien; Oliver Rohwer, son of Charles Rohwer and Anne

## JWP class of 2024

51 graduated on Friday

JANESVILLE JOURNAL - “Four years we will never forget, even if we did some things we regret.”

That statement from JWP graduate Katelyn Ziemke served as the motto for the Class of 2024. Beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, May 24, 51 JWP seniors enjoyed the tradition of hearing the band welcome them with “Pomp and Circumstance” as they walked to their seats, enjoyed musical performances dedicated to them, heard speeches from their class valedictorian and salutatorian, and received their high school diplomas. The class colors were royal blue and silver; the class flower was a white rose with blue tips.

Although the commencement ceremony is usually held on the JWP football field, storms from the night before and the early morning, followed by windy conditions at the time of graduation, forced the exercises to be moved to the high school gym.

With the JWP high school choir performing “The Star-Spangled Banner,” High School Principal David Rysdam gave the opening remarks.

“Over the last couple of days, it’s been a pretty common theme for me to try to explain to these young men and women that while today is about them, it’s not totally about them. It’s also about you folks...parents, teachers, grandparents...the community at large who helped mold these kids and give them the knowledge and skills they need to move on from JWP and find a life of their own.”



**CLASS OF 2024 - Fiftyone seniors, members of the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Class of 2024, threw their caps in the air in celebration Friday, May 24, in the JWP gym.**

He decided to take a “brief moment away from the kids” to thank the community. “This is a fantastic group of kids, and you did a great job with them all,” Rysdam said.

“The only thing I could really think about for opening remarks is this day is as much about this moment as it is about memories.”

He then shared three memories, one personal and one about the group. Rysdam reminisced on his first three years at JWP. The first year with the Class of 2024 was normal, he said, but in the second year, he saw a switch. “Suddenly, I knew nothing, and they knew everything about life,” he joked. “The other thing I thought about was that last year, I was faced with facts that they found on TikTok. And then I shake my head and think, ‘Why am I doing this?’”

The last one — a personal memory — was about driving lessons. He remembered a time when he and his son were driving south toward Wal-

**JWP continued on 11**

**WASECA CITY COUNCIL**

## Gaiter Lake project continues forward

By **ELI LUTGENS**  
Publisher/Editor

Three lengthy discussions pertaining to the future of Waseca were held during a Waseca City Council work session and meeting which, together, lasted about four hours the evening of Tuesday, May 21, in the council chambers of Waseca city hall.

The 6 p.m. work session addressed the Gaiter Lake land development project, a topic which touches on deep disagreement among council members. Their heated and far-ranging discussion was followed during the regular meeting by a 4-3 vote instructing city staff to continue working with consultants to “develop real property parcel ID” on property the city owns near Gaiter Lake.

Mayor Randy Zimmerman, council members Mark Christianson, Daren Arndt and Stacey Schroeder all voted in favor of the development; voting in the minority were John Mansfield, James Ebertowski and Jeremy Conrath.

City Manager Carl Sonnenberg clarified for all present that the vote doesn’t authorize the city to put a house on the ground, but does give city staff the authority needed to move forward with numerous elements of planning, including preparing plans for water and storm sewer work; applying for necessary approvals from the state Department of Natural Resources; working with the consulting firm Stantec to draft a development plan and request proposals from developers; and strategies for locating almost \$2 million in funds for the project.

Essentially, the resolution gives city staff authorization to move forward with many critical parts of the various planning phases.

The approved resolution states, “the Waseca City Council hereby determines that it is in the public interest for the City to pursue developing the property by installing public infrastructure on the property to support a residential development on the site.”

During the work session, it was acknowledged the city stands to be between \$110,000 and \$500,000 in the red on the

## County recieves news on jail

By **DEB BENTLY**  
News Editor

County commissioners were informed prior to their May 21 meeting that the Minnesota Department of Corrections has completed its scheduled inspection of the county jail facility and returned its findings. Although the county is awaiting clarification regarding a number of statements on the report, it appears law enforcement will be able to continue using its jail for the time being. A work session the morning of June 4 will share more information.

During administrative reports, reference was made to the “dramatic” conclusion of the state legislative session over the prior weekend. Leaders speculated it will take some time to clarify the repercussions of the many last-minute decisions published in an “omnibus” bill well over 1,000 pages long. County administrator Michael Johnson encouraged commissioners to log in to an approaching update being put together by the Association of Minnesota Counties to find out more.

Board members declared May 30 “Commissioner Blair Nelson Day” in Waseca County. May 30 is the first anniversary of then-chairman Nelson’s sudden death. In observance of the day, flags at the courthouse were flown at half staff; in the evening, the

Johnson said state statute allows for a nine-member board; how membership might overlap with EDAs already established by other agencies has yet to be established.

When public comment was requested at the beginning of the meeting, county resident Mark Schaezke took a few minutes to tell board members he believes it is wrong to place pieces of county-owned property up for sale to the highest bidder. He mentioned his family lives near one of the areas listed, and said he sees members of the public visiting

**County continued on 10**

**2024 continued on 4**

### A word from The Word

*Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.*

**1 Timothy 4:12**

**WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

courthouse was lit blue and yellow in recognition of Nelson’s status as an avid Bluejays fan.

After hearing information about the possibility of a county-wide Economic Development Authority (EDA), board members agreed to sign a letter of support for a grant request recommended by Johnson. The county administrator explained that, to be eligible for certain programs and funding opportunities, it is necessary that there be an officially established county EDA.

**Council continued on 11**





## Compostings

by Al Batt

### A story behind lilacs and country roads

#### ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

My wife said it was the most disgusting habit I have.

What did you say to that?

Nothing, but I almost choked on my big toenail I was chewing.

#### DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. I drove past Muskrat Lake. "Muskrat Love" was not playing on the radio. The psychologist Carl Jung defined synchronicity as a "meaningful coincidence of two or more events where something other than the probability of chance is involved." I led a birding trip to Rothsay, where we walked in a wet meadow to see greater prairie chickens. In the tall grass, I saw a phone screen glinting in the sliver of sun the day had given us. Water and sucking mud surrounded it, but the phone had fallen into a rare dry spot. I quickly found the owner. Just as the phone I'd found a week earlier, this one was brand new, too. What have I learned from these experiences? Synchronicity and that new phones want to run away from home.

Ken called to say that his father had died. Mickey Nelson of Clarks Grove passed away at the age of 103. I often hear at funerals that someone of Mickey's age had had a good run. Back when Mickey was a mere 99, he pledged to walk 100 miles before his 100th birthday. He did and raised well over \$100,000 for the Salvation Army. Mickey hadn't just had a good run. He'd had a good walk.

#### BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

What state is named after a color? Colorado.

What do you call the bunnies that live in your nose? Nose hares.

Does our language have a word containing all the vowels? Unquestionably.

I wanted to become a monk, but I never got the chants.

What four-member rock group never sings? Mt. Rushmore.

How do you fix frog legs? With tiny slants.

#### ADVICE FOR THE GRADUATES

Work hard at having good luck and call your mother.

#### IN LOCAL NEWS

My wife and I attended Austin Kehr's grad party. Austin was MVP in basketball and track, and an honor student at Belle Plaine. He's the great-grandson of Viola Rugroden Nolte, a local high school graduate. Austin will be on UMD's track team.

#### NATURE NOTES

Colorful spring birds are part of nature's sneaky plan to get us to pay attention. A concert performed by

whistling rose-breasted grosbeaks thrilled me. Those birds are said to sound like a robin that's had singing lessons. Scarlet tanagers landed and monarch butterflies fluttered by.

If you're on a country road and see random lilac bushes, there was likely a house or farm there once. George Washington and Thomas Jefferson grew lilacs in their gardens. Margaret Millar wrote, "The smell of moist earth and lilacs hung in the air like wisps of the past and hints of the future."

Air rushing over the Wilson's snipe's outspread tail feathers creates a haunting hu-hu-hu winnowing sound. They usually produce the sound when they dive.

I heard, "Look at me. Way up high. Over here. In a tree." That's a mnemonic for the red-eyed vireo. According to Guinness World Records, a red-eyed vireo holds the record for singing the most songs, with 22,197 sung in 10 hours.

Lake Sagatagan, in the St. John's Abbey Arboretum, has a surface area of 176 acres with a maximum depth of 40-42 feet. A natural kettle or pot-hole lake with no direct water inputs or outlets, it's recharged by underground springs plus rain and snow from the surrounding land. The lake was originally called Lake Saint Louis after King Louis of Bavaria and changed to Sagatagan, an Ojibwe word for the punk or fungus outgrowth on trees used for tinder. I walked the trails there and listened blissfully to sandhill cranes calling back and forth and wood thrush singing, "Frito-Lay." Aldo Leopold described the songs of a crane as, "High horns, low horns, silence, and finally pandemonium of trumpets, rattles, croaks, and cries that almost shakes the bog with its nearness, but without yet disclosing whence it comes." In Greek mythology, the alphabet was said to have been invented by the god Mercury while observing cranes. Thoreau described the sound of the wood thrush this way, "It lifts and exhilarates me. It is inspiring. It changes all hours to an eternal morning." I took the time to feed the mosquitoes. My blood will grow baby mosquitoes that might bite me someday.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED

In "Hey Jude," sung by The Beatles, the lyrics say, "Hey Jude, don't make it bad. Take a sad song and make it better."

That's pretty good advice. Then The Beatles go on, "Na na na nana-nana, nannana."

That's where everyone sings along, and that's when the Nananana to English app on my iPhone comes in handy.

Those words mean, "Be kind." Or they should.

# Each ceremony is special

I've been to a fair number of ceremonies over the past few days.

Last Thursday, I chased the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) and other volunteers as they set hundreds of 15-foot-tall flagpoles at Woodville and Calvary Cemeteries. I was there to get a good picture, one that would help show their dedication and the cheerfulness of their service.

Neither they nor the evening lighting made the task easy. As for the volunteers, they were in constant motion. It was clear they had a job to do, and they were going to get it done. No personal glory was necessary, making the photographer extraneous.

After an hour or more, I finally got a couple pictures that at least partially met my standards. That's not a complaint, though. The group was so congenial, and was taking so much pleasure in its target tasks, it was fun to be around them. For me, it became something like an Easter egg hunt—could I position myself in the right place at the right time?

On Sunday, at Eli's invitation, I attended the final service at First Congregational Church in New Richland. It was beautiful: Eli is not letting his sentimental attachment to the church and its members override his powers of observation.

The service was not the mourning of loss, but a celebration of accomplishment. Even to an outsider, it was deeply meaningful.

Monday, I found myself at Waseca's Memorial Day gathering at 9:30 a.m. As I entered the high school gym about 10 minutes before everything began, I was impressed by the number of people in



## In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently  
Contributing Writer

attendance. The band was there, fully outfitted in their marching outfits. People I had seen in jeans and t-shirts at the cemeteries a few nights before were now dressed in military uniforms; they seemed a bit more solemn.

Colonel Abraham Jackson, a 1993 graduate of Waseca High School and now a highly distinguished member of Army intelligence, gave a well-phrased, personable address that helped us all remember he is a home-town boy under all those insignia. I gave up on speaking with him after the program because he was surrounded by friends, one-time classmates, and well-wishers.

After seeing the many, many tasks and details Grant Whissemore, the chair of the Waseca Memorial Day Association, had taken care of over the previous weeks, I was touched by his humility as he received a certificate acknowledging his 19 years of contributions. Although he said he was stepping down from leadership of the Memorial Day events, I had trouble believing him. Time will tell.

As the Waseca Memorial Day program ended, it fell to this reporter to head over to the New Richland Memorial Day ceremony. I was cheerful and grateful to be

going. You see, I had written a preview story at the request of the New Richland American Legion post. Their speaker was city resident and Legion member Gordy Loverink, 74, a veteran of the war in Vietnam.

When I had interviewed Gordy a week or two before, he had shared engrossing descriptions of his experiences during his time in Vietnam during 1969 and '70. He had told me to go ahead and include as many vignettes in my write-up as I wanted. He assured me I would not be stealing the material he planned to speak about: no matter how many stories I used, he said, he had plenty more to share.

He carried through on his promise.

As I had described in my preview article, he shared stories with the power first to break, and then to mend the listeners' hearts.

If you want many details, you will have to invite Gordy over for coffee.

Right now, I can't keep myself from mentioning how, when his squad would want to clean up during their three weeks "in the field," they would find a river to bathe in. They had to set a spotter though—his job was to watch for pythons, which grew to be up to 25 feet long. One time when they made it to the

South China Sea and wanted to bathe, they still needed a spotter: this time, to watch for sharks.

He told of being one of two men on "surveillance" along the Ho Chi Minh trail, and how he and his companion were awestruck to discover hundreds, perhaps even thousands, of enemy soldiers were passing them. He said he credits his survival that night to his strict, impatient grandfather, who had always expected him to sit perfectly still in church.

When he became his company's "clerk," Gordy said he regarded all Army property as his own, to be acquired for his fellow soldiers to use as they needed. "The trick was to get it away from all those other people who were borrowing it," he joked.

This past Tuesday evening, I attended yet another ceremony. This time, the local Exchange Club was dedicating a "Freedoms Shrine," a display in the county courthouse which includes facsimiles of an array of documents regarding freedom and our country's founding principles.

Speaker Mikhail Rostislavovich referred to the documents as "windows" which allow us to see the determination and idealism brought to bear as our country came into existence, and then continued to grow.

I certainly hope everyone who finds themselves in the courthouse will take a few minutes to appreciate those precious windows to the past.

So, yes, I've been at a lot of ceremonies lately. I'm deeply grateful I had the opportunity to attend each of them.

# Out with the table, in with Lizzie's grad party

I don't know about you guys, but it really is starting to feel like summer. The sun is out (most days), my plants are growing strong and I've pulled out all the summer clothes that I don't like wearing but the weather forces me to do so. I only say that because I am a sweatshirt and pants person. I have so many sweatshirts that I have a closet dedicated to just them. I pick out and wear what I feel like fits the vibe for the day or goes best with my outfit. When being comfy is my chief objective, I choose bigger, baggier sweatshirts that usually are related to the University or Waseca; I have simpler, plainer ones when I want to look a bit nicer. But now of course I can't wear my sweatshirts, which makes me kind of sad. It's okay though, I keep my apartment cold so I can wear my sweatshirts when I'm home.

I see that I don't have enough to say about sweatshirts to fill this entire column, so I will switch the subject.

The Minnesota Daily has officially started again; it's been interesting.



## To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

Because summer is slow for news at the University, we cut down our staff numbers and do not require people to come into the office for meetings or editing like we do during the school year. That makes the office seem oddly quiet. I only come in because now I have my own fancy desk that I can use; it feels good to have that instead of the rickety, leaning conference table in the middle of the room where most reporters spend their time while they are in the office. The editor-in-chief and I are reorganizing and rearranging the office and taking that old conference table out for a couple of reasons. Not only is it old, but not all of our staff members fit at the table when they're here. Trouble with that is, anyone who is forced to

sit elsewhere can really feel left out. Because of that, the table has to go; we're all about inclusion.

In more local topics, the seniors at the high school are graduating this weekend! My sister will be one of them, so my family's weekend is going to be filled with party preparations, attending the ceremony and following party, and then the possibly dreaded cleanup. I am really excited for her and the other seniors - they have worked hard to get where they are today. Many of them have envisioned bright futures and will do well in life. A big memory for me is that my class's graduation ceremony in 2021 was the first day (that's right - day) that year we could be at the school without having to wear a

mask. It was wild.

As for the graduation party after, I don't remember a whole lot. My sister has been doing a lot of work for her party, hand making decorations and personally baking some of the sweets. I don't remember doing any of that, so I apologize for those who had to do that work for me. At her party, Lizzie is going to have pulled pork nachos which will be unique for a grad party but I am really excited. We test ran them a couple weeks ago ; they were really good. I extend my thanks to the food truck in Brainerd who gave her that idea.

A lot of our family is traveling to come to the graduation/party and I am also excited for that. It's kind of like a reunion for the family involved and I think it's nice. Let's hope the weather is good on Sunday for all the graduates and everyone has fun. I know I will.

My Determination: "Every time someone steps up and says who they are, the world becomes a better, more interesting place." - Raymond Holt, Brooklyn Nine-Nine

# Revelations at 3:30 a.m. on a Sunday

I couldn't sleep Saturday evening into Sunday. Finally, I got up and wrote the following.

I prayed a lot these last two months for the First Congregational Church in New Richland. I was deeply saddened when I learned my lifelong church was in the process of closing.

I can kindly report those prayers have been answered, just not in a way I expected.

No, the members of the church aren't going to continue to worship together. Sunday was our final service.

But in my seeking, I spoke with several fellow members.

It is a blessing we get to say goodbye to this piece of our lives on our own terms. I'm grateful pastor Pamela is the one leading us through this process.

I compare the process to grieving. Like someone who has lost a loved one, I've concluded my sense of "loss" is mostly for things I once assumed I would have. I expected the church and my membership in it to be continuing elements in my life—I pictured future services of thanksgiving for moments and events yet to come. I am recognizing how important those services would have been to me, and grieving they will never



## STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

happen. The things I'll miss most are the loss of future memories and moments I hoped and prayed and dreamed about.

I think that's part of the reason the grieving process is so difficult when we lose a loved one.

When I was 12 my grandmother passed away.

I've told the story often: My grandmother experienced a stroke and seemed lost to us. I prayed for my grandmother to recover enough from the stroke long enough to spend a day with my father. I really wanted the two of them to have one last chance to say their goodbyes. That prayer was answered. I remember my dad calling me from the hospital the next day.

My dad excitedly told me my grandmother was well enough that I could speak with her.

I said no.

I didn't visit Grandma in the hos-

pital because I wanted to remember her the way she was, not hooked up to machines in an unfamiliar place. I wanted to remember Grandma the way I still do to this day.

I'm fairly sure my dad was disappointed when I said no. In the background, I heard Grandma speak the final words I ever heard her say out loud, "No, no Jimmy. It's okay."

The message was sweet, and it put me at ease, but also made my 12-year old self want to cry. That was enough for me.

I remember walking around the funeral home during Grandma's wake. I didn't understand why everyone was so sad. According to everything I had learned, Grandma was in heaven. I just didn't understand. The grieving process didn't exist for me at that time. I didn't know what the word meant.

I always told Grandma I loved her every night when we would talk on

the phone. Oh, so many Twins games we talked about. I remember Dad taking me to see her earlier that year. She gave me \$200, the same amount she gave my siblings. I remember thinking, Grandma's probably going to die soon, that's why she's giving us a bonus. From that moment on, I tried really hard not to take any time I had left with her for granted.

And that's how I've felt this past six weeks with the First Congregational Church. I didn't want to take any of this time for granted.

It's difficult knowing we won't worship together again between those same walls, in the same pews, led by Pastor Pamela. But as my friend Paul told me, it's not the building that made our space special. It was the people.

I'm forever grateful for the impact those special people had on my life and how they helped shape my faith and—at least to a degree—my world view and my personality.

After putting my thoughts down on paper, I drifted off effortlessly into sleep early Sunday morning.

Monday, I added a closing thought.

All I have to say about the final service at First Congregational Church is this:

It was perfect.



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# Loverink delivers keynote at NR Memorial Day Program

**By DEB BENTLY**  
Staff Writer

Over 100 people gathered in the NRHEG Secondary gymnasium during a Memorial Day ceremony sponsored by New Richland American Legion Andrew Borgen Post 75 and its auxiliary at 11 a.m. Monday, May 27. Many Legion members had visited seven area cemeteries beginning at 8:30 that morning.

The 45-minute ceremony included “America the Beautiful,” “My Country ‘Tis of Thee,” and the “Star Spangled Banner” performed by members of the NRHEG band and choir, led by band instructor Seth Schaefer.

Emcee and Post leader Dan Economy read the list of veterans who had died during the past year.

Pastor Scott Williams of New Richland’s St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church delivered an invocation and closing prayer, and also played “Taps” as the ceremony concluded.

NRHEG students Hallie Schultz and Will Tuttle read “In Flanders Field” and Lincoln’s “Gettysburg Address.”

City resident Gordy Loverink, 74, delivered the main address.

Loverink told audience members he is occasionally approached by someone who notices insignia on his hat or clothing. “They tell me, ‘Thank you for your service,’” Loverink described. “But I realized they don’t have any way of knowing what they’re truly thanking me for, because I’ve never told them.”

As he shared in a previous Star/Eagle article, Loverink served as a “grunt infantryman” in Vietnam in 1969 and ‘70.

During his 15-minute speech, he told how, when his squad would be in the field, it was his job to carry the 25-pound radio, which had two antennae extending well over his head. “I was that guy everybody shot at,” he said, explaining that taking out the radio also took out the squad’s ability to call in assistance when under attack.

He told of never being sure “who our enemy was,” sharing the story of a 14-year-old boy who would sell his squad much-appreciated blocks of ice, and of a barber “who had had a razor at my throat the day before,” who were discovered among the bodies of the dead after two separate attacks.

His anecdotes included the story of a night when, because it was hot, he decided to take advantage of a privilege available to him and sleep in the cooler headquarters building rather than in the sandbagged bunker he normally shared with two squad members. An attack that night cost the two of them their lives.

“I thanked God for sparing me,” Loverink said. “But I couldn’t help wondering why He couldn’t have spared those two as well.”

Another task performed by the radio operator, he described, was determining the squad’s position and transmitting that information to a ship located in the South China Sea.

“That way, if we came under attack that night, we could call in missiles,” he explained, adding that, once the coordinates were shared there would sometimes be a test missile fired.

“One time a first lieutenant figured he wanted to be the one to determine our position,” Loverink shared. “I didn’t really trust him to do it right, but you don’t argue with rank.” When the test missile was flying in, he couldn’t help thinking “something didn’t sound quite right.” He told everyone to take cover; the missile landed dangerously close to camp.

“I took my equipment away from that corporal, and I told him he would never be using it again,” Loverink declared.

He described a night when he and one other soldier were sent to carry out silent surveillance along the Ho Chi Minh trail. “We had no radio, no flashlights. Only some ammo and a rifle we hoped we wouldn’t have to use.”

As he and his companion sat watching, they realized “hundreds or thousands of enemy soldiers were coming quietly through the dark.”

Loverink credited his survival that night to his strict upbringing in church. “I would sit near my grandfather,” he recalled. “And with him nearby, you didn’t look around, you didn’t cross your legs, you didn’t make any noise. If you did, he would let you know about it.

“So we managed to stay there undetected as those soldiers passed by.” Despite being a lifelong Minneso-



NRHEG area veterans stand during the Memorial Day ceremony held at the high school on Monday.

tan, Loverink said the coldest night he has ever spent was hiding from enemy soldiers during a monsoon. He and his squad members submerged themselves overnight in the water of a rice paddy with only their faces above the surface while the enemy searched for them.

He told of helping with “cleanup” after American forces had been attacked. “I wanted to be able to do so much more,” he said. “But all I could do was help carry the bodies on stretchers.”

He mentioned how, when “in the field” for three weeks at a time, he and his fellow squad members had no access to running water or showers, so when they would find a river, they frequently used it as an opportunity to bathe.

“We had to post a spotter, though,” he said. “His job was to watch for pythons, some of which were 25 feet

long.”

Once the squad had the chance to bathe in the South China Sea. For this occasion, the spotter’s job was to watch for sharks.

After a string of anecdotes lasting for most of the speech, Loverink told everyone there of the difference between his trip to Vietnam and his trip home less than two years later.

“On the flight over, we were noisy, chaotic, cocky soldiers ready to take on the world,” he described.

“On the way home, it was quiet.” Loverink speculated that each soldier in the plane was contemplating whether he would ever again “be able to put his life back together.”

Loverink’s closing thoughts recalled some of his opening words, in which he said he and others like him enlisted in the army because they were told the objective was to “combat communist forces” before they

Photo by Deb Bently

became strong enough to attack American allies or territory.

Though, he observed, “Vietnam was not a popular war,” he reminded the audience its soldiers, like nearly all American soldiers in all our country’s wars, were fighting with the ideal of defending the freedoms listed in the U.S. Declaration of Independence: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

“Guard those freedoms,” said Loverink.

“Don’t ever let anyone convince you to dislike a group of people so much that you’re ready to take those freedoms away.”

He finished by saying that, from now on, when someone tells him “Thank you for your service,” he will be using a new response.

“I did it for you,” he will say. “You were worth it.”



The Memorial Day program is introduced on Monday, May 27 at 9 a.m. at the Janesville Waldorf Pemberton high school.



Ruby Gunsolus reads “In Flanders Field” during the Memorial Day program on Monday morning.

# JWP celebrates Memorial Day

**By RACHAEL JAEGER**  
Staff Writer

Memorial Day was observed at the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (JWP) high school auditorium at 9 a.m. Monday, May 27. The program began with representatives of Janesville American Legion Post 281 posting the colors, followed by the JWP Choir, under the direction of band director Adam Hille, singing “The Star Spangled Banner.”

Pastor Kathy King from the Prairie Lakes Parish of the United Methodist Church provided the audience with a message centered around John 3:16 about how eternal love surrounds all people and their loved ones. She said the example set by military members who serve and have served the country reflects God’s love to all people in the nation. It’s with the sacrifice of the fallen military, King added, that

others unite in their love for each other.

Allie Hanks read Abraham Lincoln’s “Gettysburg Address.”

The JWP Band performed “Salute to America’s Finest” under the direction of Joshua Sorenson, the high school music teacher.

Eric Daschner read “General Logan’s Orders,” which were issued by General John Logan calling for a National Day of Remembrance for those who died in the Civil War. “Decoration Day” became the basis for what is now known as Memorial Day.

This year St. Clair native and JWP teacher Samuel Schruin, who served in the Middle East, was the speaker for the ceremony. He graduated from a local high school in 2016 and pursued a degree in social studies at Minnesota State University in Mankato. While studying, he

also joined the Army National Guard and became part of the Red Bull Sea Company. He served in combat operations in Africa; his current rank is staff sergeant.

“This is not just a holiday,” Schruin reminded those in attendance. “It is a solemn day of reflection, gratitude, and reverence. It is a time to pause and honor those who have given their lives to our nation so we can enjoy the freedoms we have today.”

Schruin asked audience members to keep in mind the courage, dedication, and selflessness of the fallen heroes who came from all walks of life but bonded for a purpose.

“Unity comes from a shared sacrifice,” Schruin ended.

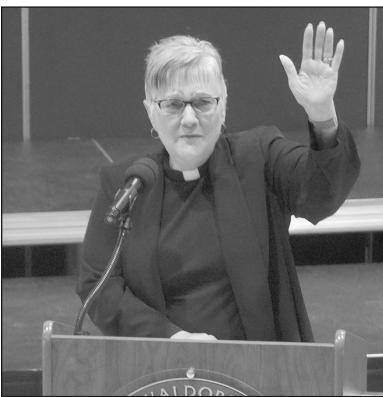
The JWP choir and band joined in performing “Sounds of America” together.

Next Ruby Gunsolus read “In Flanders Field ” which Canadian physician and Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae composed during World War I after he lost his friend, Alexis Helmer, who died in the Second Battle of Ypres.

Miles Kruger performed Taps, which was followed by a moment for silence and reflection. Members of Janesville Scout Troop 89 demonstrated the ceremonial folding of the flag.

The JWP band played “Amazing Grace,” a hymn written by John Newton, a former slave trader in rural Buckinghamshire and who later became a reverend.

The memorial service closed with King giving a benediction and then a simulated rifle salute from members of Janesville American Legion Post 281.



Pastor Kathy King



Army National Guard Veteran Samuel Schruin

## ■ Waseca

from Page 1

individuals entering the military, he said “it is our duty to honor” those who “raised their right hand.” Saying that means we are honoring “well over a million patriots from all walks of life,” he

went on to name soldiers from a number of different conflicts.

Jackson suggested it is “our honor and obligation” to recall and tell the stories of those honored for their service.

In his closing line, he expressed the hope “May they have a flag at their grave every Memorial Day.”

Under the direction of Waseca band teacher Devon Lawrence and choir teacher Megan Kreinbring,

members of the Waseca High School Band and the Male and Female Sextets performed a few times during the event, including the “Star Spangled Banner” and “America” (My Country, ‘Tis of Thee). The song “Travelin’ Soldier” was performed by Muriah Miller-Keith and Emma and Layla Keith, accompanied on the guitar by Jerome Broughton. Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address was read by

high school student Lucas Vasquez-Neigebauer.

Wreaths honoring soldiers from all conflicts fought by American forces were placed by representatives from the Waseca American Legion and V.F.W. posts and their auxiliaries. The names of those area veterans who died during the past year were read by V.F.W. Commander Blaine Brooks. An opening prayer and closing bene-

diction were offered by Father Glenn Frerichs of Sacred Heart Church. A rifle squad gave a simulated salute, since the gathering was held indoors. The ceremony closed with the playing of Taps and the removal of the colors.

Also near the end of the program, representatives of the V.F.W. and the American Legion presented an award to Memorial Day Association chair Grant Whis-

more, thanking him for nearly two decades of service with the association. Whisemore announced he is stepping down from his leadership role as of this year.

The program was videotaped and will be shown on Waseca’s PEG Channel. The link is <https://cityofwaseca.viebit.com/player.php?hash=KKAr9qnos2NtQ4TF>



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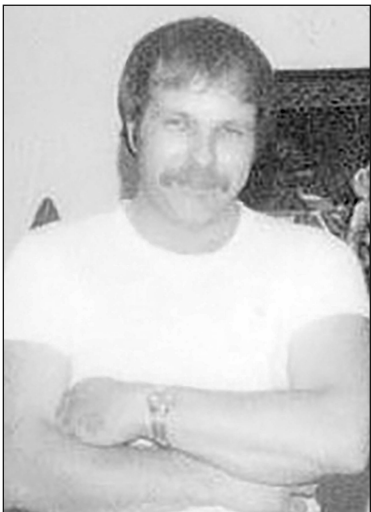
Dick Wallace

DICK EARL WALLACE, age 78, of Waseca passed away on the morning of Monday, May 28, 2024 at Lakeshore Rehabilitation Center in Waseca.

Born on July 4, 1945 in Iowa City, Iowa, Dick was the son of Marcella Wallace. He and his family traveled throughout his life until planting roots in Waseca. He worked various jobs, most notably truck driving and house painting for Century 21 until his retirement. In his free time, Dick enjoyed working on jigsaw puzzles and spending time with his life partner, Janice Hanson. He was a quiet, good hearted man who will be dearly missed.

Dick is survived by his life partner of 49 years, Janice Hanson; siblings, Ray (Janelle) Wallace, Leo (Lisa) Wallace, and Mona Quast.

He was preceded in death by his



Dick Wallace

parents, brother, and sisters, Sally Gruber and Kaye Wallace.

There will be no services for Dick at this time. Arrangements are being handled by Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca.

Robert Abbe

Robert “Bob” M. Abbe, age 74, of Owatonna, MN, passed away peacefully on May 24, 2024. Bob was born on December 2, 1949, in Waseca, MN, to Melvin and Ordena (Schley) Abbe. He attended Owatonna High School and graduated with the Class of 1967.

Bob earned the prestigious American Farmer Degree from FFA in 1971, reflecting his lifelong dedication to agriculture. Taking over the family farm at the young age of 14, Bob demonstrated an extraordinary work ethic and a deep commitment to his family's legacy. On September 12, 1976, Bob married the love of his life, Janis (Jan) Roemhildt. Together, they built their life on the family farm in Meriden, MN, where Bob's passion for farming flourished.

In addition to his farming, Bob worked for many years at Owatonna Concrete alongside his brother, Ron. Known for his hardworking and caring nature, Bob was a pillar of his community. He was also fun-loving and always enjoyed having a good time, bringing joy and laughter to those around him. His sense of humor and positive outlook were contagious.

Bob is survived by his daughter, Ann (Cort) Lundeen of Edina, MN; his cherished grandchildren, Chelsey and Bode Lundeen; his brother, Ronald Abbe of Owatonna; his sisters, Joyce (Borris) Mokoff of Northfield, MN, Marilyn (Doug) Pirk of Owatonna, and Linda Wilkenson of New Richland, MN; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Jan; his parents; his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Alvin and Blanche Roemhildt; his sister, Janet Priebe; brothers-in-law, Dennis Priebe and John Wilkenson; sister-in-law, Darlene Abbe; and nephew, Terry Priebe.



Robert Abbe

Bob's life was one of dedication to his family, his farm, and his community. His legacy is a testament to hard work, love, and resilience. As every farmer puts his land to rest for the winter and brings it back to life in the spring, God has put this farmer to rest. With a spring in his step, he walks the horizon to a new life.

Memorial service will be 2:00 PM Sunday, June 2, 2024, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, (2781 SW 92nd Ave Meriden, MN 56093). Friends may greet the family from 12:00-2:00 PM before the memorial service at church. A celebration of Bob's life will be held immediately following the memorial service from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM at the Mill Event Center (310 2nd Ave SW Waseca, MN 56093). This celebration will also honor his wife, Jan, who passed away on November 22, 2020. Due to COVID-19 restrictions at the time, a proper celebration of her life was not possible.

Rest in peace, Bob. Your legacy will forever be a part of the fields you nurtured and the hearts you touched.

For more information or to leave an online message of condolence, go to [www.megercares.com](http://www.megercares.com)

Josh Landrum

JOSH DAVID LANDRUM, age 44 of North Mankato passed away at his home on Wednesday, May 22, 2024.

Born on January 14, 1980 in Mankato, Josh was the son of Mike and Kay (Meister) Landrum. He attended Waterville-Elysian-Morristown school along with Waseca High School. Josh married Angie Rosenthal on April 30, 2005, and together they had two beautiful daughters, Kiera (17) and Kayla (11). They later divorced. Josh worked for Hy-Vee Grocery Stores for over 25 years, filling multiple positions at their locations in Waseca, Owatonna, and Mankato. Most recently, he was a baker at the Mankato location. Josh loved hunting, fishing, golfing, and his dogs, but more than those he enjoyed spending time with his loved ones and being a help to others in need.

Josh is survived by two daughters, Kiera and Kayla Landrum of Waseca; father, Mike Landrum of Owatonna; brother Ryan (Katie) Landrum of Waterville; nephew Taylor Landrum; niece Clare Landrum; and his former spouse Angie Landrum of Waseca. He was preceded in death by his mother, Kay Landrum; his maternal and pater-



Josh Landrum

nal grandparents; uncles; and an aunt.

Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 30, 2024 at Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca, with Rev. Jillene Gallatin officiating. Visitation was held at the church from 11:00 a.m. until the time of the service. In lieu of flowers memorial donations are preferred. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca is handling the arrangements. [dsofuneral.com](http://dsofuneral.com)

Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service Waseca ~ Janesville ~ Waterville

Patricia Born

PATRICIA ANN (SCHWINGHAMMER) (JENSEN) BORN, age 82, of Waseca, passed away Sunday, May 26, 2024, at Mayo Clinic Health System – Mankato, from her year-long battle with cancer.

Pat was born on February 10, 1942, in St. Cloud. She was the oldest of ten children born to Walter and Leona (Hiemenz) Schwinghammer. She attended a small country school for elementary school, then graduated from Belgrade High School. Following school, she married Ronald Jensen on August 5, 1961, who preceded her in death in October of 1994 after 33 years of marriage. She was a devoted military wife and mother for 23 years, they then moved to Waseca, MN and made their home. She later met Stanley Born of Waseca whom she married on November 28, 1998, they were married

for almost 5 years, she cared for him until he lost his battle with cancer in 2003. Patricia was a trained medical aide throughout her life and worked at Lakeshore Inn until her retirement then volunteered there until her health no longer allowed her to. She enjoyed bowling, traveling, ceramics, puzzles, piano and reading. Her biggest joy in life was spending time with her family. She was a member of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, Meals on Wheels, Sacred Heart Social Concerns, and was a chair for Relay for Life for many years. She was a long-time member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

She is survived by her mother, Leona Schwinghammer; children, Tom (Megan) Jensen, Annette (Peter) Zimmerman, Tim Jensen, Deb (Mike) Orchard, Jeff (Laura) Jensen; stepchildren, Rodney (Lori)

Born, Charlotte (Mark) McCabe, Gary Born (Donnie), Janice Born (Marcie); 14 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; five brothers, and one sister. She is preceded in death by her father, Walter; first husband, Ronald; second husband, Stanley; sisters, Judy Potter, and Rosie Houk; and brother Allen Schwinghammer.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held, Saturday, June 1, 2024, at 11:30 AM, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca with Fr. Glenn Frerichs as celebrant. Visitation will be held from 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM at the church prior to mass. Interment will be held at Calvary Cemetery in Waseca. In Lieu of Flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Sacred Heart Endowment Fund. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service is handling the arrangements. [dsofuneral.com](http://dsofuneral.com).



Patricia Born

Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service Waseca ~ Waterville ~ Janesville

Diane Ford

In the world of comedy, there are stars, and then there are icons. Diane Marie Ford, with her razor-sharp wit, lightning-fast humor, and unwavering spirit, was undoubtedly the latter. On April 30, 2024, the comedy world bid farewell to one of its brightest, bawdiest, and most irreverent luminaries as Diane passed away in Sarasota, Florida, at the age of 68, following a valiant battle with cancer.

Born on September 4, 1955, in the quaint town of Waseca, Minnesota, Diane's journey to stardom grew from seeds of tragedy. When Diane was just fourteen years old, she lost both her parents in a car accident. Her young life was quite difficult; she was moved from relative to relative, then to foster homes, and finally placed in a Catholic girls boarding school. This experience forced her to find humor and laughter in all parts of life, from the dark times to the joyful times.

In an interview with The Detroit News, Diane shared, “A lot of comics have known some personal tragedy in their lives. A lot of comedy comes out of pain. If you can turn it around somehow, and then laugh at it, it makes the pain easier to bear.”

Diane turned that energy into ribald, no-holds-barred humor where she skewered societal standards about men and women, sex, and often her home state of Minnesota, but always with a wry engaging wink that made you feel like you were in on the joke-an engaging technique that let her walk right up to the line of outraging her audience, while winning their admiration instead.

From her early days in the Midwest to the glitz of Hollywood and the bright lights of Las Vegas and Reno, Diane's comedic genius lit up the stage as well as the TV screen in her many televised appearances.

Her rise to fame was steady, a testament to her drive to succeed in a field where very few women had done so. Well-known for many years in the industry, but not as visible to the country as a whole, she was what the LA Times called “a comedian's comedienne.”

Her irrepressible spirit meant that national breakthrough was inevitable, and when it came, it came with gusto. In the late 80s and early 90s, she had a string of high-profile appearances, including starring roles in three HBO specials: “Women of the Night,” “One Night Stand,” and “Command Performance,”

and three shows recorded for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

Throughout her career, Diane amassed a staggering array of accolades, highlighted by her incredible eleven nominations for Comedian of the Year by the American Comedy Awards. She also had frequent recurring appearances on major televised programs, including thirteen appearances on ‘Comic Strip Live’ and thirteen appearances on ‘Evening at the Improv.’ Her eight appearances on “The Jerry Lewis Telethon” culminated in her serving as co-host.

Her later career included her own show in Las Vegas, “Diane Ford’s Cosmopolitan Comedy” at the Desert Inn, and an extended career as an in-demand performer on Carnival cruise lines. When not on-the-road, she loved to appear at McCurdy’s Comedy Theatre in Sarasota.

Les McCurdy, co-owner of McCurdy’s Comedy Club with wife Pam, recalls, “I first met her when I opened for her in Atlanta at the Punchline. She was the headliner, and I was so impressed with her strength as an independent woman. You're talking about the eighties, and she was in a very male-dominated industry. She wasn't intimidated by anyone; she only allowed you to get so close. Basically, a ballbuster,” “and other comedians respected her for that because she could back it up. She'd step up on that stage and rock.”

Les continues, “Diane was a great mentor to me as a comedian. She got me my first gig in Las Vegas, my first experience of riding down the Vegas strip and seeing my name up on a sign. She made that happen. Whenever I saw her, she was treating us to one of the most special memories of our entire life.”

Nothing filled Diane with more joy than riffing and laughing with her professional peers as well as her family. A casual dinner could turn into a collaborative comic tour de force with Diane leading the charge.

When actor and comedian Tim Allen was asked by Bon Appetit magazine which three comedians he would invite to dinner, Tim replied that one of his three, “would have to be a woman who wouldn't be afraid to tell us if we were being full of it, and it would be one of my contemporaries. I'd choose Diane Ford, who is a very funny comedienne.”

Diane's sharp wit and keen observations on love, marriage, and the human condition made her the natural choice when her friend Tim Allen wanted to find a fresh and funny approach to these for

his hit TV show “Home Improvement,” bringing Diane in to write an episode very much in the style of her humor.

A visit to Sarasota, Florida in 2001 introduced Diane to the town she would call “home” for the remainder of her life, and introduced her to the man who would become the love of her life, John Garner, a Sarasota-based Realtor. Together they traveled the world, wherever Diane's career led them; Europe, the Caribbean, Asia, Alaska, and more.

Diane enjoyed life in the sunny climate of Sarasota, quite the opposite of her white and snowy Minnesota childhood. As Diane quipped often from the stage, “you've got to have a good sense of humor to survive the winters in Minnesota ... the folks who came from Sweden and Norway all the way across the ocean to America to settle in a place just as cold and miserable as the one they left. They're not afraid to make fun of themselves.”

With Diane's humor being so focused on relationships and the observations about male/female dynamic, it was natural that her marriage made for constant fodder in her always evolving performances. Always self-deprecating, Diane made her and John the butt of endless humor, and John enjoyed being part of the show. He recounts night after night, standing in the dark, in the back of the theater; “I loved watching the audiences. See, I knew when the punchline was coming up, so I loved looking at the audience and watching their drinks come out of their noses at just the right at the right moment!”

Her husband, John, also brought a whole new rewarding dynamic into Diane's life with their blended family. Diane often joked that she worked hard at being a “bad influence” as a doting stepmother and grandmother to her sons John Rhett Garner and Travis Garner, and her grandchildren, Charles, Aubrey, Addison, Selkie, and Uhtred, as well as her numerous nieces and nephews. Diane's prowess in the kitchen brought her a different kind of fame, that which comes from the adulation of a procession of smiling grandkids, nieces, and nephews. Too young to watch her specials, the little ones would cheer to hear that “Aunt Diane” was bringing her sweet treats, especially pies and cakes, to Christmas or Thanksgiving dinner.

As her battle with cancer took its inevitable toll, one of the special joys for Diane was to visit the Big Cat Habitat, run by her dear friend, Kay Rosaire, and



Diane Ford

spend time with the animals, especially the lemurs. Kay says of Diane, “I miss her. It's the laughter, you know, and that's best thing you can do. I tell people this all the time, ‘We have one life, make it fun, make it happy, be joyful.’ And she was the personification of that. Even with all she was going through, right to the very end, she cracking jokes, she was still joking, you know? She was just amazing.”

She is survived by her husband, John, her cherished stepsons Rhett (Ashley) and Travis (Amy), their children, her brothers Jerry Waldron and Lyle Waldron, her sisters Connie Rupp, Carol Norton, and her adoptive sister Kolleen Felber. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Laura Roberts of Sarasota, and numerous nieces and nephews, and grand nieces and grand nephews.

In her memory, memorial contributions can be made to the Big Cat Habitat and Gulf Coast Sanctuary at 7101 Palmer Blvd, P.O.BOX 50217, Sarasota FL 34242.

Diane's passing leaves an empty space that cannot be filled and a somber silence, and even in sadness we know that the impact she made on the world rang with laughter. Our tears of sadness today are but a droplet compared to the buckets of tears from the laughter that Diane elicited during her life.

A Celebration of Diane's Life for friends and family, will be held on June 1st at 11am to 1pm, at Robert Toale and Sons Funeral Home at Palms Memorial Park, 170 Honore Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34232.

■ 2024 from Page 1

Gerber; Norah Schimming, daughter of Chris and Sadie Schimming; and Trista Stinehart, daughter of Todd and Heather Stinehart.

Musical selections to be performed by the Waseca High School band and choir include “Oread Farewell,” “Cornerstone,” and “River of Life.”

This year's class officers and representatives are: Addison Wieseler, Evelyn O'Brien, Hannah LaCroix, Tricia Cox, Sarah Haley, Emma Keith, and Trista Stinehart

Class speakers are Tricia Cox, Emma Keith, and Addison Wieseler.

The senior class motto is “Some-times you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.” Theodor Seuss Geisel (Dr. Seuss)

The class colors are Blue and Gold.

The class flower is a yellow rose.

Presenting diplomas this year are Superintendent Dr. Eric Hudspith and Board of Education members Dr. Julie Anderson, Mr. Dave Dunn, and Mr. Charlie Priebe. High School Principal Dr. Jason Miller will be reading the graduates' names as they receive their diplomas.

Minnesota Honor Society members include: Charlie Harold Androli, Sage Nevaeh Barnett, Lylah Anne Bauman, Grace Marie Below, Addison Marley Bomsta, Tricia Jolyn Cox, Noah Judson Dahle, Quinn Wesley Dahle, Tarun Isaac Ewest, Ahmed Muhammad Farooq, Tegan Lee Flatau, Carter Gerald Goins, Emily Mae Gordon, Sarah Nicole Haley, Emma Darla Keith, Daniel Benjamin Kohler, Ella Grace Krautkremer, Hannah Marie La-Croix, Kymberly Lopez Huerta, Haydn Elizabeth Lynch, Alison Michele Mumme, Preston John Jo-

hannes Miller, Evelyn Rachel O'Brien, Ava Lynn Omtvedt, Andrew Levi Robran, Elizabeth Edith Roessler, Oliver Karl Rohwer, Kayla Marie Schulz, Norah Jolene Schimming, Cameron Elizabeth Stagman, Ethan John Stenzel, Trista Desirae Stinehart, Lucas David Vasquez-Neigebauer, Addison Laura Wie-

seler, Isabelle Melissa Wilhelmi.

The 2024 escorts are Mr. John Hanson and Mr. Jake Nelson. The tassel turners are Mrs. Brenda Nelson and Mr. Dan Sharpsteen.

This year's graduates are pictured on Pages 5-9 of this week's Pioneer.



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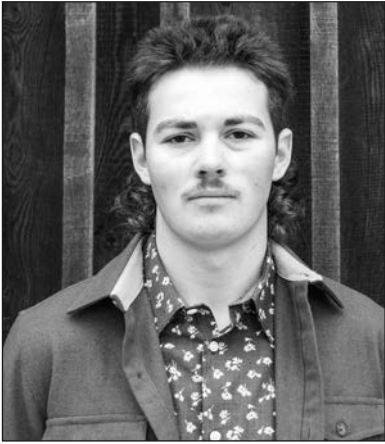




**Branden Busse**  
Parents: Nicole Busse  
Future plans:  
Attending Pine Technical and  
Community College for gun-  
smithing



**Aurora Cacchione**  
Host Family: Mark and Jen-  
nifer Pearce  
Future plans:  
Continuing my education



**Charlie Cariveau**  
Parents: Jewel &  
Chris Cariveau  
Future plans:  
Attending South  
Central College



**Talen Cliff**  
Parents: Ben & Shannon Cliff  
Future plans:  
Attending Minnesota West for  
Powerline Technician



**Samantha Corr**  
Parents: Lisa Corr  
Future plans:  
Continuing my education



**+Tricia Cox**  
Parents: Eric Cox & Cori  
Fostveit Cox  
Future plans: Attending Uni-  
versity of Sussex in Brighton,  
England for International Rela-  
tions and Development



**Jose Cruz**  
Parents: Charlissa Martin  
Future plans:  
Joining the Air Force



**+Noah Dahle**  
Parents: Teya Dahle & Chris Dahle  
Future plans:  
Attending the University of  
Wisconsin Madison



**+Quinn Dahle**  
Parents: Tim & Katie Dahle  
Future plans:  
Attending the University of  
Manchester to further my edu-  
cation



**Seth Eaton**  
Parents: Zach Eaton  
& Cassie Meister  
Future plans:  
Western Welding Academy



**Allie Eldeen**  
Parents: Jason Eldeen and  
Cathy Eldeen  
Future plans:  
Rochester Community Tech-  
nical College for vet technician



**Carter Ellis**  
Parents: Lisa & Chris David-  
son, Shaunta Ellis & Nate Ellis:  
Future plans: Rochester  
Community and Technical Col-  
lege, also playing football.



**Nate Engel-Mueller**  
Parents: Jesse Mueller  
and Jessica Engel  
Future plans:  
Further my education, I am just  
unsure where at the moment



**Shane Engel-Mueller**  
Parents: Jesse Mueller  
and Jessica Engel  
Future plans:  
I plan on getting my welder cer-  
tificate and welding



**Alexandria Eustice**  
Parents: Peter & Marya  
Eustice  
Future plans:  
Attending University of  
Northern Iowa to pursue my  
education in nursing



**+Tarun Ewest**  
Parents: Scott & Amy Ewest  
Future plans:  
University of Northwestern St.  
Paul and majoring in mechani-  
cal engineering



**+Ahmed Farooq**  
Parents: Atif Bhati and Fark-  
handa Atif  
Future plans:  
Attending Minnesota State  
University Mankato



**Makenzi Ferch**  
Parents: Michelle Ferch  
Future plans:  
I plan on taking a gap year to  
make sure I know for sure what  
I want to do



**+Tegan Flatau**  
Parents: Stephanie and  
Brady Flatau  
Future plans:  
Attending Attending Mankato  
State University



**+Eduardo Gallegos**  
Parents: Maria and Eduardo  
Gallegos  
Future plans:  
Continuing my education



**Carter Goins**  
Parents: Jason Goins and  
Shaundra Hadt  
Future plans:  
Heavy Equipment Operator



**+Emily Gordon**  
Parents: Steve and Linda  
Gordon  
Future plans:  
Attending NDSU



**Tristin Gross**  
Parents: Benjamin Gross and  
Lisa Mackey  
Future plans:  
Attending Minnesota State  
Mankato and majoring in Ac-  
counting



**Dominic Grunzke**  
Parents: Pam and Chris  
Grunzke  
Future plans:  
Attending the University of  
Minnesota, Mankato



**Lola Guggisberg**  
Parents: Jared and Brandy  
Guggisberg  
Future plans:  
Attending Penn Foster Online  
College to become a Veterinar-  
ian Technician



**Grace Guritz**  
Parents: Bianca Guritz and  
Ryan Guritz  
Future plans:  
Attending Winona State  
University



**Cyrus Guse**  
Parents: Benjamin Guse and  
Melissa Guse  
Future plans:  
University of Minnesota or a  
tech. school for welding



**+Sarah Haley**  
Parents: Dan & Lora Haley  
Future plans:  
Attending Minnesota State  
University - Mankato for a de-  
gree in the financial field



**Kadynce Hansen**  
Parents: Lana Vincent and  
Chris Hansen  
Future plans:  
Undecided



**Aiden Haslip**  
Parents: Cassidy Marquette  
Future plans:  
Undecided



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**McKyla Hasselquist**  
Parents: Katie Hasselquist  
Future plans:  
Attending Mankato State University



**Catrina Headline**  
Parents: Alicia Headline, Casey Headline  
Future plans:  
Taking a gap year then going to school for radiology



**Andrea Herrera**  
Parents: Carmen Garcia  
Future plans:  
Attend Owatonna Riverland College and work



**Logan Heyer**  
Parents: Jason & Jocelyn Heyer  
Future plans:  
Attending Riverland CC



**Bailey Hodgkins**  
Parents: Dave and Traci Hodgkins  
Future plans:  
South Dakota State for Pre chiropractics with the goal of being an animal chiropractor



**Zachary Hulscher**  
Parents: Stephanie and Jay Hulscher  
Future plans:  
Army National Guard and Attending Winona State



**Samuel Hyland**  
Parents: Kari Hyland and Kriss Hyland  
Future plans:  
Attending Minnesota State University, Mankato



**Mason Jes**  
Parents: Greg & Shannon Jes  
Future plans:  
Attending South Dakota State University to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering



**Jose Johansen**  
Parents: Matthew Johansen and Stacy Johansen  
Future plans:  
Joining the workforce



**Gaige Johnson**  
Parents: Amanda Holthus and Jacob Johnson  
Future plans:  
Continue to pursue my career as a diesel mechanic



**Kaeden Johnson**  
Parents: Linda & Larry Johnson  
Future plans:  
Attending University of Minnesota to study Kinesiology and play football



**Laird Keeton**



**+Emma Keith**  
Parents: Muriah Miller Keith and Joseph Keith  
Future plans:  
St. Catherine University for pre-physical therapy and hockey



**+Daniel Kohler**  
Parents: Toni Kohler and Agnieszka Sucharska  
Future plans:  
College of Science & Engineering at the University of Minnesota



**+Ella Krautkremer**  
Parents: Amy Krautkremer  
Future plans:  
Attending the Mayo PA Program at St. Mary's University



**Suzanne Kuhns**  
Parents: David & Deanna Kuhns  
Future plans:  
University of Minnesota Rochester



**+Hannah LaCroix**



**Kiera Landrum**  
Parents: Angela and Josh Landrum  
Future plans:  
Attending the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse



**Kaelyn Larrabee**  
Parents: Jamie Larrabee and Dana Larrabee  
Future plans:  
Attending the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire



**Kymberly Lopez Huerta**  
Parents: Saul Lopez and Erika Huerta  
Future plans:  
Continuing my education



**+Haydn Lynch**  
Parents: Sara & Jason Lynch  
Future plans:  
Attending University of Wisconsin- La Crosse to major in Radiation Therapy



**Josie Madson**  
Parents: Susan & Jason Madson  
Future plans:  
Attending Minnesota State University Mankato



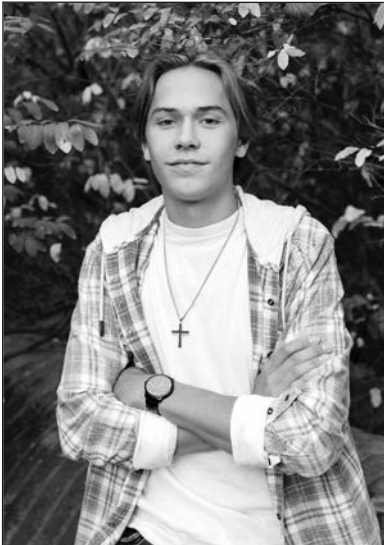
**Dominic McBeth**  
Parents: Jessica Robinson  
Future plans:  
Military or workplace



**Thomas Mens**  
Parents: Lisa and Brad Mens  
Future plans:  
Joining the Workforce



**Elijah Miller**  
Parents: Jason & Carrie Miller  
Future plans:  
Attending The University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire and majoring in marketing



**+Preston Miller**  
Parents: Jaala and Jeremiah Miller  
Future plans:  
Enlisting in the United States Marines Corps



**Titus Mokoff**  
Parents: Lisa Mokoff and Chad Mokoff  
Future plans:  
Undecided



**Bobby Mortensen**  
Parents: Jeremy and Angie Mortensen  
Future plans:  
Working full time at Wenger Corp.



**+Alison Mumme**  
Parents: Matthew and Michele Mumme  
Future plans:  
Winona State University



**Samuel Nelson**  
Parents: Jerit and Stephanie Nelson  
Future plans:  
Continuing my education



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**+\*Evelyn O'Brien**  
Parents: Ben & Ria O'Brien  
Future plans:  
Attending the University of Minnesota Rochester



**Olivia Oestreich**  
Parents: Tiffany Melcher  
Future plans:  
Attending Broken Arrow Community College



**Isabel Olson**  
Parents: Katie Olson and Heath Smith  
Future plans:  
Continuing my education



**Grayden Ortiz**



**Daniel Ramirez-Sotelo**



**+Ava Omtvedt**  
Parents: Carol and Aaron Omtvedt  
Future plans:  
Attending the University of Montana



**Lily Peterson**  
Parents: Roy and Andrea Peterson  
Future plans:  
Mankato State University for Early Childhood Education



**Cheyenne Pilaczynski**  
Parents: Nicole Pilaczynski  
Future plans: South Central Mankato college



**Gracie Possin**  
Parents: Jodi and Randy Possin  
Future plans:  
Attending Riverland Community College for Welding



**Melanie Quintero**



**Gabriel Riecke**  
Parents: Michael Riecke and Kari Peterson  
Future plans:  
Continuing my education



**Patrick Ritchie-Brady**  
Parents: Molly and Chris McGuiggan, Patrick Brady  
Future plans:  
I plan on enjoying my life however I want



**+Andrew Robran**  
Parents: Todd and Britta Robran  
Future plans:  
Lake Area Technical College and enrolled in John Deere Tech Knowledge program



**Keaton Roeker**  
Parents: Missy and Dustin Roeker  
Future plans:  
Attending Riverland CC to play baseball



**Stacey Reyna**  
Parents: Luis Campos  
Future plans:  
Joining the work place for bit then continuing my education



**Amanda Riecke**  
Parents: Theresa Riecke  
Future plans:  
Continuing my education!



**+Oliver Rohwer**  
Parents: Charlie Rohwer and Anne Gerber  
Future plans:  
Attending the Milwaukee School of Engineering to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering



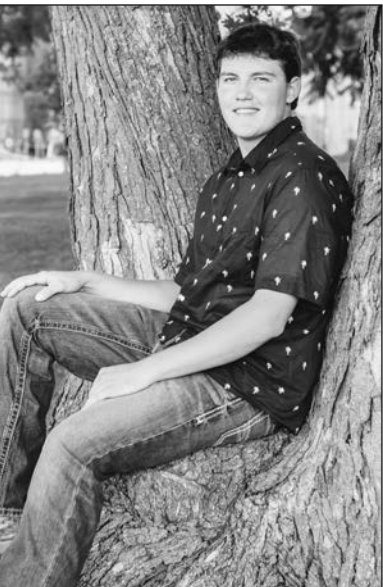
**Zach Schimek**  
Parents: Randy and Traci  
Future plans:  
Joining the workforce



**+\*Norah Schimming**  
Parents: Chris and Rebecca Schimming  
Future plans:  
Attending the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire



**Colton Schroeder**  
Parents: Anthony and Shari Schroeder  
Future plans:  
Working on becoming an electrician



**Carter Roemhildt**  
Parents: Bill and Stephanie Roemhildt  
Future plans:  
Attending my second year at South Central College



**+Elizabeth Roessler**  
Parents: Matthew and Shane Roessler  
Future plans:  
Attending Winona State University for early childhood and elementary education



**Kayla Schulz**  
Parents: Jordan Schulz, Christy Walker  
Future plans:  
Heading to Trade School



**Clarissa Seeley**  
Parents: Camron Michele Seeley and Gawn joy Hoehn  
Future plans:  
Working part time for 2 years, then training school for dog grooming

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*Tristin Gross*, who is graduating from  
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**Cody Sieberg**  
Parents: Brad Sieberg and Abbie Hanson  
Future plans:  
Attending University of Wisconsin-Stout



**Caitlin Slattery**  
Parents: Bridget Southwick and Jimmy Slattery  
Future plans:  
Attending Minnesota State University, Mankato



**Emily Slattery**  
Parents: Jude and Krystal Slattery  
Future plans:  
Continuing my career in child-care



**+Cameron Stagman**  
Parents: Jill Stagman  
Future plans:  
Attending North Dakota State University (NDSU), majoring in Biology



**+Ethan Stenzel**  
Parents: Lisa and Jason Stenzel  
Future plans:  
Attending the North Dakota State University for Civil Engineering



**+\*Trista Stinehart**  
Parents: Heather and Todd Stinehart  
Future plans:  
Attending the University of Northern Iowa



**Jordyn Sturdivant**  
Parents: Mike and Tonya Sturdivant  
Future plans:  
Attending discipleship training school in Maui, Hawaii through Youth With a Mission



**Paige Swenson**  
Parents: Tanya Schneider and David Swenson  
Future plans:  
Attending South Central College in Mankato



**Joshua Teachout**  
Parents: Jason and Melanie Teachout  
Future plans:  
Attend South Central in Faribault for carpentry



**Sabastian Teague**  
Parents: Kevin and Ruby Teague  
Future plans:  
Attending Hamline



**Zachary Theobald**  
Parents: Tammi Brooks and Michael Theobald  
Future plans:  
University of Wisconsin LaCrosse



**Cherilyn Thissen**  
Parents: Karen Hruska  
Future plans:  
Minnesota State University, Mankato for dental hygiene



**Jacob Thompson**  
Parents: Jodie and Isaac Thompson  
Future plans:  
Winona State University



**Noah Thompson**  
Parents: Jodie and Isaac Thompson  
Future plans:  
Winona State University



**Cody Vagts**  
Parents: Mark and Mandy Vagts  
Future plans:  
Attending Winona State University to study Finance



**Gulyan VanEnglenburg**  
Parents: Hunter Vanengelenburg, Angie Rodriguez  
Future plans:  
Winona State University



**+Lucas Vasquez**  
Parents: Katie and David Vasquez  
Future plans:  
Continuing my education studying political science



**+Addison Wieseler**  
Parents: Tania and Patrick Wieseler  
Future plans:  
Attending Occidental College



**+Isabelle Wilhelmi**  
Parents: Sam Langer  
Future plans:  
Attending the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire



**Lilianne Wulf**  
Parents: Rick Wulf and Jill Wulf  
Future plans:  
Central Lakes College



**Salvador Rivera**  
Parents: Dora Palacios and Salvador Salazar Rivera  
Future plans:  
Joining the work place for bit then continuing my education



**Javonn Rodney**  
Parents: Barbara Rodney and Carchious Rodney  
Future plans:  
Attending a tech school, and pursuing career in the trades



**Savanna Benson**

**\*Photos out of order were submitted after deadline**  
**\*Not pictured:**  
**Adele Possin**  
Parents: James and Lillah Possin

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Regional Exchange leader Katie Smith with Waseca Exchange Club president Mikhail Rostislavovich and vice president Amy Schmidt. Thanks to significant growth and accomplishments, the Waseca Exchange Club and Rostislavovich were acknowledged with two major awards.

## Waseca Exchange Club wins regional awards

**By DEB BENTLY**  
News Editor

Since 1982, Waseca has had an Exchange Club affiliated with the national organization whose declared mission is “Inspiring our communities to be better places to live.”

The local club had been on a bit of a downward slope in the past few years, however. July of last year, it had only five members, and signs seemed to indicate it would not last much longer.

Enter Mikhail Rostislavovich. Rostislavovich, 69, has lived in Waseca since 2022, after he and his brother acquired and renovated a 1916 brick house on North State Street. Retired from a career which reached national-level politics, Rostislavovich has worked for presidents. He tells that, as he considered retiring, he made a personal commitment “to give back.”

“I decided I was going to spend as many hours volunteering as I had spent working during my career,” Rostislavovich describes. “Doing so is my way of saying thank you for the life I have been able to live.”

Based on his interests and skills, he began joining area organizations, among them the Waseca Masons Tuscan Lodge No. 77, The Waseca Arts Council Board of Directors, Rotary, Waseca County Historical Society Board of Directors, and the Waseca Exchange Club Board of Directors.

He says the Exchange mission aligned with his own philosophy. He also felt a connection with each of the four “pillars” the organization has declared: supporting youth, community service, Americanism and the prevention of child abuse.

For all those reasons, he brought his leadership skills to the fading Waseca club and proceeded to make a gigantic difference. Since he joined last August, the club has gone from 5 to 18 members. It has performed numerous community service and support projects, including choosing high school youth as “students of the month,” making them eligible for local and national scholarships. The organization took part in the “Take a Bite Out of Hunger” campaign in April. It named Waseca police chief Penny Vought as its law enforcement officer of the year and arranged a ceremony to present her

with the award on May 16. A dedication ceremony was held May 28 to dedicate a “Freedom Shrine” at the county courthouse; displaying many of the nation’s founding documents, the shrine’s purpose is to strengthen and renew people’s understanding of our country’s fundamental principles.

All of these accomplishments garnered the local club two major District 10 awards: Rostislavovich was named “Exchangite of the Year” while the Waseca organization picked up “Outstanding Club of the Year.” There were 8 applications in the first category, 9 in the second. Winners were selected based on a scoring grid completed by leaders from all across the district.

According to regional leader Katie Smith, “Lakes and Prairies District 10” includes all clubs in Minnesota and Iowa along with some in Nebraska, a total of 17. The wins were announced during the district convention, held in Rochester from May 16 to 19. Plaques were presented to Rostislavovich and to recently installed Waseca vice president Amy Schmidt during the convention. A traveling banner will be in the club’s possession to display at meetings for the next year.

Smith commented that, having won the district awards, both Rostislavovich and the Waseca club are under consideration at the national level. That convention will be July 10 to 13 in San Antonio, Texas.

Of his decision to devote so much time to the Waseca Exchange Club, Rostislavovich said he feels a close affinity to all four of the organization’s “pillars,” perhaps especially to the prevention of child abuse. For much of his childhood, Rostislavovich was in the custody of caretakers who mistreated him cruelly. “That has to end in our lifetime,” he said. “It is a cause that deserves a great deal of attention.”

Regional leader Smith credited the club’s district title to the growth in membership and the variety of programs implemented under the guidance of Rostislavovich. She particularly complimented the club’s Facebook page, managed by Schmidt, saying national leaders have taken note of its timeliness and practical format.



Left to right Missy Donor, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Felix Kelzer, Bradly Donner, Brad Donner, Mady Skelly, Edward Deuine, Mia Laidlow, Mikhail Rostislavovich, and Missy Donner.

## Arts council 34th annual art exhibit

The Waseca Arts Council Hosted its thirty-fourth annual high school art exhibit at the Beckman Gallery in the Waseca Art Center from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Friday, April 19, 2024.

Twenty-six students from around the greater Waseca area and their art instructors participated in the juried show. The six high schools participating were Choice Academy from Owatonna, Blooming Prairie High School, Le Seuer-Henderson High School, Mankato East High School, Tri-City United High School, and Waseca High School.

The exhibit included 30 works of art in several different mediums including oil paints, watercolor, acrylic paint, colored pencil, clay, paper, and cardboard. The students’ work had been on display at the Art Center since March 16 and culminated with the Juried Exhibit and a watercolor class taught by Waseca artist Brad Donner. The exhibit was juried by Mikhail Rostislavovich, vice president of the Art Council and Donner, the executive administrator.



Left to right Missy Donor, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Felix Kelzer, Bradly Donner, Brad Donner, Mady Skelly, Edward Deuine, Mia Laidlow, Mikhail Rostislavovich, and Missy Donner.

## NRHEG to see major renovations

**By DEB BENTLY**  
Staff Writer

Members of the NRHEG School Board accepted the resignations of secondary media center paraprofessional Loren Skelton, elementary teachers Laura Garlow and Amy Johns, head cheerleading coach Joni Churchill and school nurse Rachel Schue during the monthly school board meeting the evening of Monday, May 20.

Representatives of the firm SiteLogIQ summarized the schedule and process for construction which will begin June 3 at both school sites and be complete by August 8. More than \$2 million worth of work will take place at the elementary building; about \$1.75 million at the secondary site.

Parking lot paving will be added, enlarged and/or upgraded at both locations. Considerable work will also be done inside the buildings, much of which has to do with air handling and electrical improvements. The fire alarm system at the elementary site will be updated; aging doors will be replaced at the secondary school.

Representatives promised school leaders would “never have any surprises” since the firm will have staff supervising all elements of the work. SiteLogIQ will not be carrying out construction, but has been in charge of putting the many tasks out for bids, selecting, and now supervising the contractors as work proceeds.

Nikki Cromwell was hired as administrative assistant to the secondary principal; she will be in the position held for decades by Teri Kormann. Secondary teacher Bailie Thom was hired as the new head cheerleading coach. Bethany Tennis will now be the head volleyball coach. Janae Janicke has joined the custodial staff.

An unpaid leave policy regarding staff absences introduced at an earlier meeting was revised by the district’s policy committee after staff representatives requested a review. The updated policy is now being advanced toward board acceptance, and received its second reading in its altered form.

The school district has purchased a new freezer unit for the secondary cafeteria at a cost of \$43,080.

School board members were notified 58 seniors will be taking part in the graduation ceremony set for 2 p.m.



Sunday, June 2, in the Secondary gym. Board members Rick Schultz and Rich Mueller volunteered to be among those who hand out diplomas during the ceremony.

Superintendent Michael Meihak told board members the district has had trouble finding affordable group insurance for staff. Faced with yet another substantial rate hike, the district has gone with an “individual choice health reimbursement arrangement” (ICHRA). Under this system, employees will be given the dollar amounts specified in their contracts toward insurance, and will then be expected to find their own providers. Meihak estimated about 80 percent of employees will be able to find less expensive insurance on their own than would have been acquired by the district.

Angie Aaseth, district technology coordinator, described the work under-

way to keep the many electronic devices used by staff and students up to current technological standards, while also building and maintaining the system infrastructure needed to keep them connected.

She mentioned the many “pieces” involved and described the process as “a bit of a puzzle.” She went on to say she is “deprovisioning” about 300 iPads used at the elementary school and replacing them with new equipment. She also mentioned that, going forward, third-graders will now have Chromebook computers rather than iPad tablets. Aaseth said she is also replacing a number of MacBooks used by staff, and that some of the “SmartBoards” installed in classrooms as much as 14 years ago are now being replaced with a new type of interactive Smartboard.

She also told school board members she has been looking for funding from outside sources; thanks to a program called Erate, she was able to acquire some equipment that would have cost \$15,000 for only \$4,000.

## New roof approved for JWP gym

**By RACHAEL JAEGER**  
Staff Writer

During the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (JWP) school board meeting on May 20, board members approved paying \$18,000 to replace some of the roof panels on the south side of the school building’s gym. Work on the project will begin June 3.

Superintendent Jeremy Erler said the school plans to replace the panels where there were once bricks so the whole roof matches and to prevent future worries about the tuck pointing. However, he explained that Jackson & Associates, LLC failed to include the fourth side of the roof when it placed the bid.

“We looked at our budget information and we have money in the

Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) to cover the cost,” Erler said. “This is the right time to get this done.”

One school board member inquired whether the oversight would amount to overspending on the project; Erler said there wouldn’t be that problem since the other three sides were included in the original bid.

After a confusing misunderstanding under which insurance company EMC first told the district it would no longer provide it with liability and property insurance, but later said it would, the district is renewing its coverage with the company.

District business manager Wendy Dieker, summarized what EMC had told her, namely that because of certain rules pertaining to policies held by public entities, it is a procedure

**JWP SCHOOL BOARD**

they follow routinely. “They said that this is something that EMC sent out to all the schools, government, and counties that they’ve been working with. Because of the nature of the government, they have to cancel our renewal sixty days before then so they can reinstate us. Fortunately, we take good care of our building so they had no issue taking us back up again.”

The school board also approved changes to the 2024-2025 District Calendar; the altered dates will allow teachers time for staff development regarding expectations of the Reading to Ensure Academic Development (READ) Act. By doing this, teachers would finish the training they need within the 2024-25 school year.

“It is mostly elementary staff, so the high school’s training will be different,” Erler added.

The new calendar has four fewer student contact days and has added four staff development days.

In other matters, school board members approved a 4:30 session on June 24 as the date for evaluation of the superintendent. They also established July 30 as the date to begin filing affidavits of vacancy for three school board seats, with filing closing at 5 p.m. on August 13. The general election is set for Tuesday, November 5, at which time three school board members will be elected to serve for the next four years.



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## ■ County from Page 1

the land to take part in recreational activities.

Schaetzke pointed out Minnesota is currently spending \$150 million on its “Get Out More” program, and suggested that converting the publicly owned property to private ownership is counter to that initiative. He further offered that Pheasants Forever and other habitat-oriented groups might be potential buyers.

During the board’s 8 a.m. work session, County Engineer Jim Kollar

summarized the capital improvement plan (CIP) he has devised for the county’s roads. Citing safety and the need to balance costs as two large factors in the decision-making process, Kollar listed projects underway this season, some he has planned for next season, and others under consideration in future years.

Commissioners used the session as an opportunity to ask questions, discuss strategies followed by past engineers, and generally speculate about the condition of roads in the county. Among topics raised were what can be done to keep gravel roads from becoming gradually wider and the effect it has on paved roads that, rather than using a farm truck to haul a number of smaller loads of grain or

other materials, many farmers now use a semi to haul a single, heavier load.

Commissioners complimented Kollar on his thoroughness in assembling the plan, thanked him for his many efforts to find outside sources of funding for various highway projects, and expressed pleasure that Kollar collaborates with city and township boards to help advance projects on roads which fall under the jurisdiction of more than one agency.

Hannah Buckland of the Minnesota Office of Broadband Development (OBD) presented a slide show which summarized the department’s purpose and philosophy. She said the office was established in

2013, currently has 13 staff members, and administers numerous programs intended to build “digital equity” for Minnesotans. She defined the term as meaning “the condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy, and economy.”

Among other tasks, she mentioned the office has the job of distributing federal funding based on nationally-established criteria. The National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) allotted about \$13 million to the state of Minnesota to be distributed through the OBD.





Post #587 Color Guard presents the American flag during a march around the First Lutheran Cemetery following the Memorial Day program at the Community Center in Waldorf on Monday, May 27, 2024. At left, Charlie Barnes. Pioneer photos by Rachael Jaeger



Ava Trumbull plays Taps in honor of deceased military members and their families at Waldorf's First Lutheran Cemetery on Monday, May 27, 2024.

# Waldorf honors on Memorial Day

**By RACHAEL JAEGER**  
Staff Writer

A ceremony observing Memorial Day was at the Waldorf Community Center the morning of Monday, May 27. Following the program, all participants were invited for social time during a potluck which was served at noon.

The program began with the Post #587 Color Guard posting the colors.

Reverend Larry Sipe from St. John's Lutheran Church in Danville township started the service with a short message.

Oliver Uhlenkamp read the tribute dedicated to Prisoners of War (POW) and those Missing in Action (MIA). As he read aloud, he called attention to a small table with various visuals that instill somber remembrance of those who have served and what it has cost them and their families.

The "Missing Man Table" is set for one, representing the isolation felt by prisoners of war. It has a white tablecloth signifying the purity of a soldier's intentions to respond to their country's call to arms. In a vase is a single red rose meant to tell the story of blood shed in sacrifice to ensure the freedom of the United States. The rose also reminds the audience of the family and friends of missing comrades who keep faith while awaiting their return. Decorating the vase is a red ribbon meant to signify unyielding determination to reach a proper accounting of absent comrades. On the plate is a slice of lemon as a reminder of the prisoners' bitter fate. There is salt sprinkled on the plate as a reminder of the countless tears cried by waiting families. The drinking glass at the place setting is inverted: There is no one there to drink from it. A lit candle is meant to represent the light of hope—hope that lives in the hearts of loved ones, hope that may illumi-

nate a way home, away from captors, to the open arms of a grateful nation. An American flag is displayed on the table, reminding that captured prisoners may never return, and have paid the supreme sacrifice for freedom.

After his summary, Uhlenkamp finished, "Let us pray to the Supreme Commander that all of our comrades will soon be back within our ranks."

Next Eric Daschner came to the podium and read "General Logan's Orders."

During the program Becky Borneke with her ensemble members – Daschner, Ariana Aguilar, Ava Appel, and Isaiah Berndt – performed the "Star-Spangled Banner" and "Remembrance." After that, the audience also participated in The Pledge of Allegiance. Later on, the audience joined Borneke with her ensemble members in singing "America."

Allie Hanks read Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address."

Ruby Gunsolus read "In Flanders Field."

Mary Hanson, a Navy veteran, gave a Memorial address, followed by Daschner, Aguilar, Appel, and Berndt taking turns reading from the poem "Old Glory."

Ava Trumbull played Taps while the audience stood in silent reverence.

Sipe gave a benediction while Post #587 removed the colors; everyone headed out to St. John's Lutheran cemetery where the rifles were fired. A cross stood in the cemetery in memory of deceased family members of Post #587.

Sipe presented a prayer over the loved ones lost, after which family members spent some minutes to remember their deceased loved ones before they returned to the community center for lunch.



From left Judy Thomas, Sue McIntosh, Angie Rodriguez and Diane Ytuarte. Photo submitted by Sue Harguth

# Catholic Daughters reach out to help Bethlehem Inn

**By SUE HARGUTH**

Bethlehem Inn is a short-term transitional home that provides a living environment for women and children in transition. The facility opened in January of 2019. Father Greg Leif and other faith and community leaders helped found the home after they had begun seeing the need a couple of years earlier. They perceived homelessness was becoming a growing issue in Waseca, but had fallen under the radar. Catholic Charities leases the brick building on the Sacred Heart Campus (formerly occupied by nuns) free of charge. Operating costs are funded by grant money and private donations.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Waseca Court Sacred Heart #1424, reached out to program director Sue McIntosh and shelter manager Angie Rodriguez to see what help could be provided. The organization ran a plea to parishioners asking for donations of items frequently needed at the facility.

Catholic Daughters hosted a "shower" for Bethlehem Inn at its regular May meeting. Members came with items requested by the facility: Personal items were included for women and children, diapers, baby wipes, shampoo, conditioner, toiletries, and paper products. Also requested were food items that could be prepared by adding only water. Waseca Catholic Daughters also gave a monetary donation to Bethlehem Inn to help with operating costs.

Prior to the shower the facility received many donations of rugs, area carpets, table lamps, blankets and other items.

In conjunction with this fundraiser, Jay Sopaowiak (who is also a Catholic Daughter) as a Thrivent member, requested a Thrivent Action Team. She received a \$250 Visa card with which she purchased shampoo, conditioner and body wash for all the women and children to have their own supply.

Bethlehem Inn currently has 13 residents, 8 women and 5 children. It houses senior citizens who have fallen into tough times and need temporary housing, the eldest current resident is 78 years old. Typical stays at the facility are up to 6 months.

There are rules and a respectable few they agree to. A lack of affordable housing in Waseca contributes to the problem of homelessness.

For anyone looking to donate items to the Bethlehem Inn, the facility is currently in need of dry erase board erasers, anti-bacterial wipes and are always in need of paper products, such as toilet paper, tissues and paper towels. They will always accept monetary donations for those who prefer.

Catholic Daughters extends its thanks to everyone who contributed to this mission of charity, including those who attend the "shower," and the many members from the parish who took contributions directly to the Inn.

## JWP

from Page 1

dorf and came to the sudden turns. "About a third of the way to the corner, my son finally understands why I tell him to slow down around corners: Centrifugal force is a thing, Newton's laws apply, and his science teacher was actually right."

The choir then performed Greg Gilpin's arrangement of "Irish Blessings," wishing seniors guidance as they graduated. Following their performance was a speech by Valedictorian Lauren White. She expressed her gratitude and pride for being part of the Class of 2024 and what they achieved.

"Our time at JWP has been filled with growth, learning, and discovery. Together, we navigated the highs and lows of growing up in this community, celebrated victories both big and small, and formed bonds that will last a lifetime.

"I want to take a moment to thank our amazing teachers and staff.

Teachers, thank you for your hard work and dedication. You have taught us so much and pushed us to become who we are today. Thank you for your support. Your contributions have made a big difference. Thank you for believing in us."

White concluded her speech by reflecting on the path that led her and her fellow students here. "As we approach a new beginning, the future stretches before us with endless possibilities." She shared a quote from Martin Luther King Jr. "If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then crawl. Whatever you do, you have to keep moving."

"Congratulations, Class of 2024," White said. "The world awaits us, and I do not doubt that together, we will rise to meet the challenges that lie ahead with courage and determination."

The band then performed a medley of music from Frozen, mainly featuring "Do You Want to Build a Snowman" and "Let It Go."

Salutatorian Alexis Dahlberg spoke shortly afterward, sharing some memories from elementary

school and the past school year. Among the memories she mentioned was a time when the class shot off bottle rockets during science class, and their sixth-grade trip to Eagle Bluff. Two memories came to mind from the trip: the team-bonding activities like the ropes course that challenged some more than others and the making of cornbread over a fire, which she made sure to thank her dad for cooking for her group.

"No matter what, we were always there to help each other," Dahlberg added.

She also remembered when the class had to learn square dancing and another dancing unit where she claimed the teacher took the phrase "break a leg" a little too literally and ended up with a sprained ankle.

Other memories she shared included the class's time doing virtual learning, a dress code protest, the homecoming and snow week pep fests, JWP's girls' basketball teams defeating NRHEG twice for the first time in years, the volleyball and football teams winning their homecoming games, and track athletes breaking school records.

"To my fellow seniors: this is a long journey, difficult at times, but rewarding in the end," Dahlberg said. "Cherish these memories we've made and look forward to creating new memories in the future. Congrats, Class of 2024. I know that every one of us has a bright future ahead, and I cannot wait to see what it holds for us."

The presentation of diplomas went more quickly than usual. All 51 students received their diplomas from school board chair Sherri Daschner (some of them received their diplomas from parents) and smiled for the camera. After handing out the diplomas, Rysdam was proud to present the graduated Class of 2024.

After honoring tradition by moving their tassels to the other side of their caps and throwing them into the air, the JWP graduates marched out of the gym to "Auld Lang Syne," leaving it and the school as students for the final time. The next time they walk through the front doors of JWP, they will be honored alumni.

## Council

from Page 1

subdivision, even after the 33 lots for single family dwellings and 17 lots for twin homes are developed and sold. This does not include the cost for sidewalks and other necessities not yet included in the approximate \$2 million project.

"This doesn't look viable," councilperson Mansfield said during the work session. "We're in the red for all of this. No viable developers have committed."

"If it were viable, I think we would have people stepping in and saying, 'We want to build this.'"

Councilperson Stacey Schroeder said people are paying more for lots in Foxdale than they would pay for lots at Gaiter Lake.

"This is the growth of Waseca," councilman Mark Christiansen argued.

"I also see it as an investment," Mayor Randy Zimmerman said. "The expense will be paid for in two years by the taxes."

Mansfield rejoined saying he sees the project as a gamble which isn't worth taking. If the lots don't sell, the tax dollars will not materialize.

"It's spending money on speculation," Mansfield said. "Builders and contractors aren't doing this because it's risky."

Schroeder countered saying new housing is necessary to make it possible for businesses to come to Waseca.

Ebertowski said it is not the government's place to be involved in areas he felt should be handled by the private sector.

Councilman Conrath argued the intended sizes of the lots are what makes this project unattractive. He said if lot sizes were smaller, more money could be made.

"I'm not going to change anybody's vote up here or get it tabled, I know that," Conrath said. "It's going

to take 40 to 50 years to get [this] money back."

Councilman Christianson challenged, "Don't you want to invest in your community long term?"

"Look larger and see what brings people to Waseca," Christianson continued. "No, it's not going to pay for itself overnight... We're hoping that if we take that first step, the best will happen... If they build it, they will come. That is the hope. We're trying to move Waseca forward."

Along with disagreement among council members on this controversial topic, there were many heated comments from members of the public.

City resident Jackie Dickey wanted to know why senior housing was not being planned as part of the Gaiter Lake development, claiming seniors are leaving the community because their housing needs are not being met.

One-time city council member Gary Dobberstein and his wife, Deb, spoke with council members between the work session and the beginning of the meeting, and during the time designated for public comment. The Dobbersteins voiced strong opposition to the project, saying there is no need to add lots near Gaiter Lake when lots elsewhere remain unsold. They also criticized the financial costs: "We need housing," Deb Dobberstein conceded. "You just don't need to put it in that field. All this debt in the hole. We're sick and tired of taxes and fees."

Calling attention to the claim that additional housing is needed to attract new businesses, she asked, "Why don't we hear about these businesses?"

Later in the meeting, City Manager Sonnenberg addressed this point, telling those in attendance businesses looking to expand usually begin by approaching city staff with basic questions.

He provided the example of one ag business which had contacted him recently. The planners were looking at locations for a facility which would employ up to 900 people; among their questions to the city was how much additional wastewater its treatment plant would be capable of handling in the immediate future and then five years from now. The city's response led the planners to continue their search elsewhere.

Sonnenberg explained questions from such businesses tend to center around the city's ability to provide necessary utilities, the amount of housing available for potential employees, and the number of qualified residents likely to consider joining the new company.

Sonnenberg stressed the importance of water supply and treatment to agriculture-based companies. He provided the example of ConAgra, which has told the city it must move to year-round operations to remain financially viable in its current location. He noted the city is working with ConAgra to help make the expansion possible.



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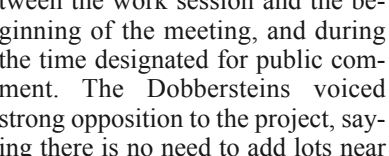
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Waseca

25 Years Ago

-The story of six-year-old Courtney Hermel is a story of survival. On the sunny afternoon of Sept. 27, 1997, Courtney was travelling by car with her mother, Jill Sorgatz, and her cousin, Tricia Scholljegerdes, to a family birthday party. Between Waterville and Waseca, along Highway 13, Courtney's life was changed forever.

-Has anyone forgotten the day, not so long ago, when a diagnosis of leukemia was a death sentence? Lowell Peterson, 44, a Omaha Policer, certainly hasn't forgotten. He knows for a fact that the cure facts for leukemia victims have gone up, way up. Peterson, who survived a bone marrow transplant, is a living reminder that research into saving victims of blood cancer has made giant strides.

-“For the last four years I’ve done my best to make this art center and the arts council in the forefront of the community and the community experience,” said Executive Director of the Art Center Steve DeLaitisch. “And I certainly do believe the arts have a huge role to play, and Waseca is very fortunate to have an organization like this that really weaves together a positive social fabric.”

50 Years Ago

-ED TESCHKE, Engineering Technician, Soil Conservation Service was surveying the center line area just below the wildlife structure area in the Janesville Watershed. Bill Kortum, S.C.S. aid was assisting him. This is the third reach of the watershed project. The project should be completed this fall.

-We are proud to present another former “Otisco Kid who has made a name for himself and has helped to publicize Waseca as a manufacturing center – throughout every state in the U.S. and in a dozen foreign countries. Meet Manley Youngberg, founder and general manager of Audio-Visual Research, the Waseca company that designs and manufactures functional educational devices.

- A dragline is being used to excavate the channel for the Janesville Watershed project. Men were excavating reach three of the project this week. This is the final branch of the eight mile long watershed.

-Joe Gabiou, District Soil Conservationist for Waseca County and Herb Adolphson, project engineer for S.C.S. looked over the grade control structure and carp barrier in the first reach of the Janesville Watershed project. The carp barrier is 8 ½ feet tall.

75 Years Ago

-HONORS FOR THE HONOR GRADS – Robert Sheran, featured speaker at the Exchange club’s banquet here last week, looks over the certificates of scholastic recognition presented by the club to 18 Waseca Honor graduates. Left to right on the picture are Mavis Muland, Central; Marjorie Groebner, Sacred Heart; Robert Sheran, Blue Earth county representative; Dale Kritzer, president of the Exchange club; Doreen Pilgrim, Central and Patty Barden, Sacred Heart. The four girls shown were among the top four senior students at their respective schools.

-A plaque, to perpetuate the memory of members of the school board who served during the planning and construction of Waseca’s Central school has been placed in the main corridor of the building. The building was built in 1924, 23 years ago, under the superintendency of S.C. Huffman. Board members were Henry Habein, W.A. Clement, Burr Gallagher, all deceased.

-Tom McHugo is walking around town today shaking hands with his pals who thought he was dead. Friday afternoon Tom collapsed in the Farmers National bank. He was taken to the Waseca Memorial hospital where he stayed for a day. Rumors spread like wildfire that Tom was dead.

Veterans honored during ceremonies at care facilities

By Tabitha Whissemore

Veterans at Waseca’s care facilities were honored before Memorial Day with flags, flag pins, poppies, and a round of applause.

On May 20, veterans living at Colony Court were recognized. Flags were presented to Veston Carter, Albert Denn, Galen Ewest, Paul Matthews, Richard Olsen, Cliff Strand, Mel Strand and Robert Tiede. Waseca Memorial Day Association Chair Grant Whissemore and Lamar Kuster with the American Legion performed a short ceremony. Colony Court staff Paje Douglas and Diane Cossette, who serves as director of activities, assisted with the program. Three other veterans and Colony Court residents Veston Carter, Cliff Strand and Mel



Veterans who are residents at Latham Place and Lakeshore Rehabilitation Center were honored during a brief gathering on Saturday, May 25.

Strand –were unable to attend.

Veterans residing at Lakeshore Rehabilitation Center and Latham Place on May 23 were honored in a program organized by Lakeshore’s therapeutic recreation director, Merrilee Byron.

Whissemore, assisted by Tabitha Whis-

more, spoke to a group of residents about the meaning of Memorial Day and how it has been celebrated in Waseca. The veterans recognized at that program were Ken Eaton, Ken Garness, Herb Guse, Cliff Mittelstaedt, Lowell Nelson, Dave Papke, Melvin Quiram and Dick Wallace.

Honoring local patriots with flags

By DEB BENTLY  
News Editor

Various organizations, including the Memorial Day Association, a number of local Boy Scout Troops, and representatives from area V.F.W. and American Legion posts mobilize each May to post flags on the graves of veterans at about 25 cemeteries all across Waseca County.

The names of all veterans honored by this flag posting, well over 2,000, are printed in a Memorial Day book which is distributed at Memorial Day programs and is available from the Waseca County Veteran Services office.

The smaller, individual flags are acquired by veteran organizations.

In addition to this, members of Waseca’s Sons of the American Legion (SAL), along with other volunteers from the American Legion, V.F.W., and Memorial Day Association, post more than 300 full-sized flags along drives within Woodville and Calvary cemeteries. The volunteers run an assembly line



A large crew of volunteers spent about 4 hours setting up the "Avenue of Flags" at both Woodville and Calvary cemeteries.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently which involves placing first, a five-foot base pole, followed by a 15-foot flagpole, in mounts which were placed in the cemeteries long ago.

This year, flags were put in place the evening of Thursday, May 23. Storms damaged a number of them within a few days of their being raised, but replacement poles and flags were installed before Memorial Day.

Once put on display prior to Memorial Day,

according to Memorial Day Association committee member Kevin Dickie, the flags continue to fly until shortly after July 4.

Most of the full-sized flags are marked with small plaques indicating who donated the funds needed to acquire them, or the names of the veterans in whose honor they were purchased.

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS  
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
CP 2024-081-001  
WILTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LAND SURVEY SYSTEM (PLSS) REMONUMENTATION

Sealed electronic bids will be received by the Waseca County Board of Commissioners until 10:00 AM on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, through Waseca County’s online electronic bid system (bidVAULT). At that time, the bids will be electronically opened, read publicly at the Waseca County Public Works building, 1495 5<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Waseca, MN 56093, and results posted online at <https://mn-co-waseca.app.rtvision.com/oneoffice/bidding> for the following project:

Contract # 812409  
CP 2024-081-001  
WILTON TOWNSHIP PLSS REMONUMENTATION

The work includes the following major items:

|                                     |     |      |
|-------------------------------------|-----|------|
| RECOVER & RE-ESTABLISH PLSS CORNERS | 133 | EACH |
|-------------------------------------|-----|------|

Complete digital project documents are available at <https://mn-co-waseca.app.rtvision.com/oneoffice/public/bidding>. To become a registered plan holder and to bid electronically, bidders must create an account at: <https://connex.uccs.com>. There is no cost to register or download the project documents. Project documents may be viewed at the County Highway Engineer’s office located at 1495 5<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Waseca, MN 56093.

Bids will only be accepted by submitting an electronic bid using bidVAULT at <https://bidvault.mn.uccs.com>. No hard copies will be accepted. Instructions on submitting a bid electronically can be found on the bidVAULT website. The cost to submit a bid is \$25.

A Performance Bond payable to Waseca County, in the full amount of the bid, shall be furnished by the successful bidder.

The Waseca County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive defects.

Jim Kollar, PE  
Public Works Director/County Engineer

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Friday, June 7, 2024  
Friday, June 14, 2024  
Friday, June 21, 2024

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Steve Simon  
Secretary of State



LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF WASECA  
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION  
Court File No.: 81-PR-24-352  
In Re: Estate of  
**DAVID ERVIN BORN**,  
Decedent  
**NOTICE AND ORDER FOR  
HEARING ON PETITION FOR  
DESCENT OF PROPERTY**

TO ALL INTERESTED PER-  
SONS:  
A Petition for Determination of  
Descent has been filed with this  
Court. The Petition represents that  
the Decedent died more than three  
years ago, leaving property in Min-  
nesota and requests the probate of  
Decedent's last Will and the descent  
of such property be determined and

assigned by this Court to the persons  
entitled to the property. Any objec-  
tions to the Petition must be filed  
with the Court prior to or raised at  
the hearing. If proper, and no objec-  
tions are filed or raised, the Petition  
may be granted. It is ordered and  
Notice is further given that the Peti-  
tion will be heard on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of  
July, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., by this Court  
via Zoom technology.  
1. Notice shall be given to all inter-  
ested persons (Minn. Stat. 524.1-  
401) and persons who have filed a  
demand for notice pursuant to Minn.  
Stat. 524.3-204.  
2. Notice shall be given by publish-  
ing this Notice and Order as pro-  
vided by law and by mailing a copy  
of this Notice and Order at least 14  
days prior to the hearing date.  
**BY THE COURT**  
Dated: May 16, 2024  
*/s/ Carol M. Hanks*  
Judge of District Court  
*/s/ Shannon M. Asselin*  
Deputy Court Administrator

**PATTON HOVERSTEN &  
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Keith L. Deike, #148635  
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|     |                               |     |                     |                      |                                               | 1   |
| 2   | 3                             | 4   | 5 6pm<br>BAR Bingo  | 6 7pm HALL<br>BINGO  | 7 MEAT Raffle<br>5:30<br>Horse racing 6:30pm  | 8   |
| 9   | 10 7pm Post &<br>AUX. Meeting | 11  | 12 6pm<br>BAR Bingo | 13 7pm HALL<br>BINGO | 14 MEAT Raffle<br>5:30<br>Horse racing 6:30pm | 15  |
| 16  | 17                            | 18  | 19 6pm<br>BAR Bingo | 20 7pm HALL<br>BINGO | 21 MEAT Raffle<br>5:30<br>Horse racing 6:30pm | 22  |
| 23  | 24                            | 25  | 26 6pm<br>BAR Bingo | 27 7pm HALL<br>BINGO | 28 MEAT Raffle<br>5:30<br>Horse racing 6:30pm | 29  |
| 30  |                               |     |                     |                      |                                               |     |

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# Together, one more time

New Richland's First Congregational holds final service

## ‘The little white church’

**By ELI LUTGENS**  
Publisher/Editor

As light rain fell, tears flowed freely among a large crowd of parishioners and guests gathering for the final time at New Richland's First Congregational Church on Sunday, May 26, 2024.

The final service of the 142-year-old institution was in no way rushed. The longest-serving pastor in the church's history, Pastor Pamela Jensen smiled warmly and greeted the congregation as she has every Sunday since she was first hired in 2004 as an interim pastor. Announcements followed. Church leaders Shelly Moxon, Kris and Loren Schlaak, and Ann Hagen took turns speaking and handing out gifts. Messages from the congregation were shared.

Letters inscribed to various members were read aloud: **"Shelly Moxon,** You have been a wonderful advocate for our church and active in so many, if not mostly all areas. Thank you for your dedicated and unwavering service where we could always count on you to the end. You're family, and will always be 'church family.' We love you and we thank you, sister in Christ. God's peace and blessing on the journey ahead."

**"Ann Hagen,** Thank you for being financial secretary for 30-plus years and active in many other areas of the church. Thank you. You were always there when we needed financial advice or questions. Thank you for serving so well. You are family and like my sister - a very faithful sister in Christ. With arms wide open, we thank you and love you."

**"Loren Schlaak,** (from his wife, Kris). As I write this about you, my husband, myself and our church are

so very grateful to have you serve the way you do. You are a disciple. The church is very blessed to have you as their brother in Christ and I am blessed to have you as my husband, serving God alongside you. Thank you so very much for all you have done for the church and church family. This list is endless! We thank you and love you. God's blessing and peace."

**Marilyn Smith** was thanked for her "many years as secretary."

**"Bruce Meyer,** When former church moderator Tom Smith decided he needed to resign the position due to health conditions, he wanted you to be next. He trusted you would lead with a kind, caring and respectful heart. Which you have.

Tom Smith and Lorraine Meyer worked (served) so closely while Tom was moderator and her the deaconess chair that when you became chair, she absolutely thought you were amazing. We thank you so very much for all the things you did behind the scenes. Often we would ask each other, 'Did you do it?' The answer was, 'No, it must have been Bruce.' From all of us, we thank you. We love you and God's peace blessing for ever and ever."

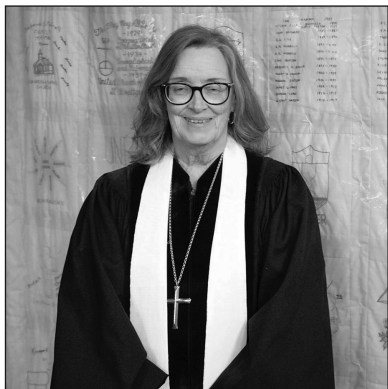
Following the presentations, parishioners joined in their final 'call to worship.'

"God, gracefully known in the hard places of our earthly life's journey, and who laughs and celebrates joyfully with us here, will remain with us," Pastor Pamela reminded everyone.

Organist Judy Wyrum and Flutist Kristin Malmberg accompanied the day's hymns, which included, in order, "Holy! Holy! Holy!"; "Rock of Ages"; "Blessed Be the Tie that Binds"; and "Here I Am, Lord." The



Members of the Ann Hagen family



From left, Pastor Pamela Jensen; Kris and Loren Schlaak, Shelly Moxon, and Ann Hagen.



New Richland's First Congregational Church, May 2024.

closing hymn was "The Church's One Foundation."

Since the death of longtime organist Barb Crumb, Wyrum has taken on the task for the past two years, splitting time between Cross of Glory in Hartland and the First Congregational. Though the shared position was meant to be temporary, Wyrum stayed through the end, filling the halls of the church with music.

Ron Weyrauch and Dale Young served as deacons for the final time Sunday, a role they've filled nearly every Sunday for more than two decades.

Lyle Jensen, Pastor Pamela's husband, performed special music with his guitar at intervals throughout the service. His musical appearances over the years, notably at Christmas Eve services, will not be forgotten.

No joys and concerns, "outside the obvious" were shared prior to the pastoral prayer, Lord's Prayer and Scripture readings, which were:

Isaiah 6:1-8, Romans 8:12-17, and John 3:1-17.

Pastor Pamela's sermon was memorable. It can be found in its entirety in this week's edition of the Star Eagle.

"The trouble is it's pretty hard to talk while you're crying," Pastor Pamela said in the weeks prior, regarding preparation for her message on that final day.

The sermon covered many topics, but centered around family. Pastor Pamela mentioned she did not grow up as a "small town girl." When she arrived at New Richland's First Congregational church twenty years ago, she expected to lead services only for a limited time, since she was brought in to serve only as an interim leader. Little did she know what fate and God had in store for her—a style of church and family worship she didn't know existed.

She recounted a time early in her tenure when parishioners Earl and

Kathryn Parriott "pulled me aside and told me they were going to miss next Sunday's service," she said. "They were going to the Cities to visit their children and grandchildren... Growing up in suburban Chicago, with 2,000 people in the congregation, it was far too easy to remain anonymous. I could walk out of worship, join the coffee hour fellowship, and not be greeted by a single person. I was so touched that they wanted me to know why we were going to miss them the following week. That was the first time I understood what it meant to be part of a family church like First Congregational Church."

Following the sermon, communion was shared.

In closing, Pastor Pamela delivered the closing blessing, as she has for more than two decades.

"May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

Star Eagle photos by Eli Lutgens

the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Amen." - Numbers 6:24-26.

As Deacons Dale and Ron ushered folks from their pews for the final times, parishioners were invited to a space known as the 'family' room for cookies, cake, coffee and good conversation. Following the delicious treats, church members met together at the Willows to enjoy lunch and further good company.

Pastor Pamela expressed gratitude for her time and ministry, not only to the First Congregational Church, but also to the parishioners at the New Richland Care Center, where Jensen performed service one Sunday each month.

As member Kris Schlaak concluded, "We hung on a long time.

"This will always be known as the little white church."

## The Pastor's Column

### Go out in joy and be led forth in peace

**By PASTOR KEN ANDRS**  
Waseca's First Congregational Church

Summer has officially started. We may not have had much winter, probably more than some people wanted, but not enough for me. Now though, it is time for summer. My summer plans include addressing the yard work that was left undone when I was away last summer and the garage work that resulted from the winter. I don't want to mention the fact that my basement flooring and baseboards are 90% completed now and need to be finished.

I spend a lot of time doing things in spring and fall, so summer is for chores and winter is for reading and planning. My life has similar patterns from year to year. The predictability is nice, but the reminder to do the mundane things like deep cleaning and more involved projects need time set aside with planning to get them done.

I love the change of seasons, but I am never ready for the next project or pattern of life. How we prepare for the change matters. God is concerned with our intentionality and planning, because His plans are far greater than our own. Have you invited Him into what you are going to do next? God speaks to us in Isaiah 55 about our plans.

8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.

9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my

thoughts than your thoughts.

10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

12 You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

We plan for big and small events in our lives, from graduations and marriages to dinner and movies. Just as we prepare for every change in the seasons of life, He speaks to us in our planning and wants to bless us. He wants to draw us into deeper relationship with Himself and teach us how to worship in any situation. God uses every task, frustration, and blessing to accomplish His purposes.

God speaks to us in ways that we understand as we go about our daily lives, are we listening? Are you focused on God's glory? He is leading us through the patterns of life to transform us into His people, that is part of His plan. He is teaching us about Himself, His instruction does not return void to Him, rather it accomplishes what God needs it to for His purposes to be made complete.

Let us praise God for His instruction, let us find joy in His purposes from whatever chores, projects, or events this next season in life brings.

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MOVING ON — Among the Bulldogs advancing to the Section 2A track and field meet are Daulton Bauer, left, and Ryan Kronbach. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

# Bulldogs advance several to section

## Kronbach breaks another school record

The JWP High School track and field teams had a strong showing in the Section 2A Sub-section South meet at Wells last week, advancing several individuals to section.

The boys won the 4x200-meter relay with Dylan McWaters, Isaiah Berndt, Dalulton Bauer and Ryan Kronbach.

Ryan Kronbach finished first in the triple jump, setting a new school record, first in the high jump and second in the long jump.

McWaters, Berndt, Bauer and Ethan Born took second in the 4x100.

Other JWP boys advancing to section: Isaiah Berndt 200; Alex Kleve 400; Kaden Baker 110 hurdles; 4x800 relay (Tyson Kronbach, Derek Gustafson, Kleve, Memphis James); Ethan Born shot put and discus; Isaac Gahlon pole vault; Luke Cahill pole vault; Memphis James triple jump; Alex James long jump; Bauer triple jump.

For the girls, MaKenzie Westphal won the 800 and Lilly Strauss took the long jump.

The Bulldogs also won three relays, the 4x100 with Brielle Bure, Nevaeh Weimert, Katie Olson and Strauss; the 4x200 with Weimert, Olson, Strauss and MaKenzie Westphal; and the 4x400 with Strauss, Ashlynn Wolff, Weimert and MaKenzie Westphal.

Madilyn Gustafson, Madeline Hoehn, Ava Krause and Kwynn Krause took second in 4x800.

Other section qualifiers: Bure 200; MaKaela Westphal 200; Paige Walz 400; Madeline Hoehn 1600; Onikia Herme 300 hurdles; Ava Appel 300 hurdles; Aubrey Weedman shot put; Olson long jump; Weimert triple jump; and Presley James, triple jump.

The Section 2A meet starts at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at Mankato West High School. The top two individuals in each event, first-place relays and those meeting qualifying standards advance to state.

# Larson’s inaugural first season concludes

**By ELI LUTGENS**  
Publisher/Editor

All things considered, it was a good first year under NRHEG’s new head baseball coach Shawn Larson. Coming off an 11-5 campaign in 2023 and four returning seniors expected to carry the load, the bar was set pretty high. A young team could have easily thrown in the towel when they learned no seniors would be returning this spring. In its place this Panther team fought and scrapped its way to an 6-11 record (4-6 conference), earning a home playoff game for the third consecutive year, all while playing a schedule fit for last year’s top-seeded playoff squad.

The Panthers did nearly everything they could to win Thursday night at Jeff and Carol Reese Field, falling 2-1 to Blue Earth.

“This was a good baseball game,” Larson said. “The pitching on both teams was very good, as well as strong defense. It was playoff base-

ball and they had the timely hit that won for them.”

The runs for Blue Earth came in the first two innings.

A leadoff walk was followed by a ground out, and three consecutive walks issued by sophomore left-hander Jared Lee. He recovered to strike out the final two outs of the inning, leaving the bases full.

A one-out walk in the second was followed by a stolen base and an RBI single from the Buccaneers.

After three innings and four strikeouts, Lee was gassed.

In four innings of relief work, Deven Parpart was nearly flawless, sending the Bucs down 1-2-3, twice. Parpart allowed only one hit and registered four strikeouts.

The Panthers were hitless until freshman Brooks Gilliland registered a sharp single to center in the third. After a sacrifice bunt from Jordan Brouwers, Ryan Schlaak grounded out and Lee struck out looking.



NOT A BAD YEAR — Coach Shawn Larson tells baserunners to hold up, as Deven Parpart does at third base. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

Parpart led off the fourth with a single and made it as far as third base after a stolen base was followed by a passed ball.

In the fifth, the Panthers threatened again. A two-out walk from Schlaak was followed with a sharp single to right by Lee. Rounding third, Schlaak was held up. Just as he put on the brakes, the Buccaneer right fielder bobbled the ball. As he did, Schlaak shuffled back to third. Parpart flew out out to left, strand-

ing two runners and ending the Panthers threat.

The Panther run came off the bats of Alden Dobberstein and Jace Ihrke. Dobberstein led off the sixth with a single and stole his way to third. Ihrke plated him with a fielder’s choice.

With the loss, the season comes to a close for the baseball Panthers. There will be no summer program for varsity-level players.

# Baseball Bluejays stay alive

Drawing the 10th seed and a first-round game at No. 7 Triton did not seem to matter to the Waseca High School baseball team.

The Bluejays won big anyway. Waseca put three runs on the board in the first inning and six more in the second on their way to a five-inning, 11-1 triumph at Dodge Center.

“We jumped out right away and just kept pouring it on,” said WHS assistant coach Tink Larson.

Sebastian Teague was outstanding on the mound, according to Larson, going the distance while allowing one hit, striking out five and walking two.

Shane Engel-Mueller played an outstanding game at second base. Keaton Roeker was 2-for-3 with two runs scored. Nate Engel-Mueller had one hit and scored three times. Also hitting safely were Carter Ellis, Mitchell, Garza, Thompson and Ruedy.

The win advanced the Bluejays to the second round Tuesday, May 28 at Belle Plaine, where they were humbled 11-1 by the Tigers.

“It was a close game until the bottom of the fifth when they erupted to end the game,” said Larson. “They have an outstanding pitcher and he was tough to hit.”

The Bluejays, 4-16, were slated to play Thursday, May 30 against No. 6 seeded TCU at LeSueur-Henderson.

The winner plays Tuesday, June 4 at 5 p.m. at LeSueur-Henderson. The loser is done for the season.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### JWP baseball team finally falls in section

The JWP High School baseball team made it interesting but was eliminated from the Section 1A tournament last week.

The Bulldogs, seeded ninth, knocked off eighth seed Blooming Prairie in the opening round, stunning No. 1 seed Southland 7-4 Saturday at Riverland Community College.

They were then edged 1-0 by No. 4 Hayfield and fell 5-3 to No. 10 Rushford-Peterson to end the season.

The Bulldogs finished 11-12. Seniors graduating from the team are Joshua Bengston, Cole Blomstrom, Austin Carda, Cole

Gartner, Gavin Krause, Ty Melchior, Nolan Morsching and Austin Quast. The sixth-seeded JWP High School softball team saw its season end last week with a 4-1 loss to No. 11 seed Madelia in section play.

### WHS softball team drops section opener

The Waseca High School softball team, seeded 15th, was eliminated 7-0 at No. 2 Belle Plaine in the Section 2A tournament last week. The Bluejays, who did not have a hit, ended the season 1-19.

### JWP softball team upset in section

The sixth-seeded JWP High School softball team saw its season end last week with a 4-1 loss to 11th-seeded Madelia.

The Bulldogs posted a record of 9-12.

### NRHEG 4th, 9th in conference golf

The NRHEG High School golf teams played their third 18-hole Gopher Conference meet at Waseca last Thursday.

The NRHEG girls placed fourth as a team. Scores: Meela Budach 100, Hallie Schultz 108, Elsie Schultz 127, Olivia Wilkenson 136, Gabby Nelson 144, Alexis Olson 146. Budach and Hallie Schultz earned all-conference honorable

mention.

The boys placed ninth. Scores: Matt Williams 108, Braydon Rollag 110, Carter Schlaak 123.

### Tennis block party set for Saturday

The Waseca Community Tennis Association kicks off summer with a tennis block party Saturday, June 1 from 1 to 3 p.m. on the Waseca High School courts.

The party promises fun for all ages, with free food and prizes, a variety of fun activities, and racquets available. You can also sign up for summer tennis programs.

To register, e-mail [mert@waseca.k12.mn.us](mailto:mert@waseca.k12.mn.us). Put "block party" in the subject line of the e-mail.

# Braves win one of two games to start season

The Waseca Braves amateur baseball team opened the season winning one of two games.

The Braves belted Cleveland 10-3 at Tink Larson Field in Waseca Tuesday, May 23.

Tyson Reger, Tim Loonan and Payton Garza had two hits apiece for Waseca. Kelvin Nelson and Ryan Krautkremer also hit safely.

Nelson started on the mound and pitched two innings. Scott Hanson, Reger and Chaz Verduzco threw in relief.

“It was nice to get the season started with a win, but it wasn’t the prettiest win we’ll see this year,” said Braves assistant coach Tink Larson. “Our pitchers walked eight and hit one, but they basically stayed out of trouble by striking out 18 batters, which might be the most I can remember for quite some time.”

Offensively, the Braves struck out 14 times, but received seven walks and one hit batter.

Waseca plated four runs in the first inning without a hit as the Braves walked three times and were hit by a pitch once, along with one Cleveland error.

“We were helped out by five wild pitches, three of which allowed runners to score in the inning,” said Larson.

On Sunday, May 26, the Braves traveled to Minnesota Lake and lost 11-5 in what Larson called a very sloppily played game.

The Braves had a 5-2 lead when errors led to two runs in the sixth and five in the eighth.

“We didn’t hit the ball,” said Larson. “Three hits. They also stole seven bases and that didn’t help us.”

# Season ends for NRHEG softball squad

## Panthers finish 6-13 in coach Kayley Cammerer’s inaugural season

**By JIM LUTGENS**  
Sports Editor

The season ended Saturday for the NRHEG softball team with a 3-0 loss to Maple River in the Section 2A tournament at Mankato’s Caswell Park.

The Panthers played well, according to first-year coach Kayley Cammerer, but could not generate enough offense, totaling four hits.

“We played a great defensive game today,” said Cammerer. “We struggled to get hits in key moments of the game and string some together. Overall, I am proud of how the girls played and persevered throughout the entire season. I want to thank everyone for their support of the Panther softball program this season.”

The Maple River game was far from a blowout, with the Eagles plating single runs in the third, fourth and sixth innings. They totaled eight hits and played errorless defense. NRHEG had one error.

Addy Stadheim had two hits, Aspy Stenzel and Preslie Nielsen one apiece. Stadhiem doubled.

Faith Nielsen went the distance in the circle, allowing two earned runs while striking out seven and walking two.

The Panthers’ first loss in the double-elimination tournament was Thursday, May 23, an 11-0 setback at Jordan.

“Jordan is a solid all around team,” said Cammerer. “They have a strong defense and make solid contact with the ball every time they put

it in play. Unfortunately, we struggled tonight defensively and couldn’t bounce back at the plate. Fortunately, we have practice tomorrow and can come back Saturday and look to bounce back.”

Izzy Stadheim had two of NRHEG’s five hits, with one each by Preslie Nielsen, Faith Nielsen and Erin Peterson, who doubled.

Faith Nielsen yielded six earned runs on nine hits in five innings, with two strikeouts and no walks. The Panthers had seven fielding miscues.

The Panthers opened section play with a 17-9 triumph at St. Clair/Mankato Loyola Tuesday, May 21.

“We came into today preaching to the girls to play loose but stay

focused on our goals,” said Cammerer. “That is exactly what we did from the start. We were able to capitalize on errors made by the defense. We were able to make solid contact throughout the entire game with contributions from the entire lineup.”

Izzy Stadheim led a 14-hit offensive attack by going 4-for-6 with three runs scored. Olivia Berg, Faith Nielsen, Izley Boerner and Addy Stadheim had two hits each, with Preslie Nilsen and Chloe Stork adding one each. Addie Stadheim doubled. Faith Nielsen had a double, triple and four RBIs. Boerner drove in two runs.

Faith Nielsen also pitched a good game, striking out six.

“Our defense behind her made



READY TO ROCK — The Panthers line up prior to one of their section tournament games at Caswell Park in Mankato. From left: Aspy Stenzel, Olivia Berg, Preslie Nielsen, Faith Nielsen, Izley Boerner, Addy Stadheim, Erin Peterson, Chloe Stork. Photo by Judy Tweeten

key plays when we needed to,” said Cammerer. “Overall, we are playing our best softball right now at the right time.”

The Panthers bid farewell to seniors Faith Nielsen, Preslie Nielsen, Peterson, Izzy Stadheim and Tayler Schmidt.

The Panthers finished 6-13 overall. They were 3-9 in the Gopher Conference.



# For Ferber, one final title

## NRHEG girls win sub-section, advancing 12 to section meet

**By JIM LUTGENS**  
Sports Editor

Coach Duey Ferber did not simply ride off into the sunset in his final season at the helm of the NRHEG track and field program. He had one more championship in him.

Ferber's girls' squad surprised a lot of people by claiming the title in last week's Section 2A South Sub-section meet at United South Central, totaling 125 points to second-place Jackson County Central's 122. Six-time conference champion JWP was third with 103. Twelve teams competed.

"I am so proud of these girls!" said Ferber. "Sub-section champions!"

The Panthers will be well represented in Saturday's Section 2A championship meet as a total of 12 girls advanced from sub-section.

Sub-section champions for NRHEG: Camryn VanMaldeghem, 100, 14.0; Quinn VanMaldeghem, 400, 1:03.65; Evelyn Nydegger, 300 intermediate hurdles, 48.8; Julieann Wobbrock, 3200, 12:29.08; and Kylie Olson, shot put, 34-1.75.

Silver medalists were Nydegger, 100 hurdles and 200, and Chloe Riewer, long jump.

Other section-qualifying marks: 4x200 relay, third (Sierra Misgen, Riewer, Clara Buendorf, Elli Clark; 4x100, third (Gabby Schlaak, Anika Ladlie, Riewer, C.VanMaldeghem; 4x400, third (Misgen, Buendorf, C. V a n M a l d e g h e m , Q.VanMaldeghem); Clark, fourth, 300 hurdles and eighth, 100 hurdles; Ladlie, fourth, high jump; Schlaak, fifth, 110 hurdles and eighth, long jump; Q.VanMaldeghem, fifth, 800; Malonna Wilson, fifth, discus and sixth, shot put; Misgen, seventh,



**ONE LAST TITLE —** The NRHEG girls' track and field team delivered a championship for retiring coach Duey Ferber, winning the Section 2A South Sub-section title at Wells last week. Front from left: Winter Pederson, Evelyn Nydegger, Quinn VanMaldeghem, Holly Bartness, Amelia Duryee and Ella Jenö. Back: Zoe Wilson, Sierra Misgen, Ellie Clark, Gabby Schlaak, Malonna Wilson, Camryn VanMaldeghem, Clara Buendorf, Annabelle Petsinger and Coach Ferber.

"I am so proud of these girls!"  
— NRHEG track coach Duey Ferber

long jump.

Placing seventh and missing the section cut was the Panthers' 4x800 relay team of Buendorf, Wobbrock, Holly Bartness and Ellen Jenö.

The NRHEG boys finished sev-

enth with 54 points. Maple River won with 106.

The Panthers advanced five athletes to section, led by Will Tuttle who won the 110 high hurdles in 16.75 and the 300 intermediate hur-

dles in 41.29.

Also qualifying for section; Levin Kitzer, third, 110 hurdles and fourth, 300 hurdles; 4x100 relay, third (Harbor Cromwell, Kitzer, Tuttle, Jaylin Raab); Raab, fifth, long jump; Parker Bunn, sixth, 300 hurdles.

Placing but not advancing: Raab, sixth, 100; 4x200 relay, sixth (Gavin Lewison, Wyatt Tuttle, Colton Conroy, Brenden Schmidt); 4x400 relay, sixth (Bunn, Gavin Sletten,

Cromwell, Raab); 4x800 relay, eighth (Lewison, Jacob Karl, Justin Beauvis, Sletten).

"The boys had some nice performances tonight," said Ferber. "Our hurdlers are impressive to watch."

The Section 2A meet starts at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at Mankato West High School. The top two individuals, first-place relays and those meeting qualifying standards advance to state.



**SPLENDID SPRINTERS —** Damarius Russell, left, and Gaby Lopez were among Big South Conference champions for the Bluejays last week.



# Waseca tracksters 4th, 5th in Big South

## Flatau, Sartori, Lopez, Russell, Mansfield win conference titles

The Waseca High School track and field teams ventured to Fairmont last week for the Big South Conference meet.

The WHS girls totaled 120 points, good for fourth place among six teams. Marshall won with 186.

Brooklyn Flatau led the girls in scoring, winning the 100-meter hurdles in 15.33 seconds while taking first in the long jump at 17-4.25. She finished second in the 300 hurdles.

Kalea Sartori swept the throws, taking the gold in shot put at 36-2 and winning the discus with a toss of 105-1.

Two more girls found gold, with Bella Wikan clocking 48.45 in the 300 hurdles and Gaby Lopez winning the 100 with a time of 12.98.

Kelsey Draeger, Maren Schimming, Reese Rodriguez and Evie O'Brien combined for third in the 4x800 relay - Kelsey Draeger, Maren Schimming, Reese Rodriguez, Evie O'Brien.

Damarius Russell led the WHS boys to fifth place with 87 points. Marshall won with 151.

Russell won two events, breaking his own school record in winning the 100 in 10.93. He won the long

"It was a good day overall."  
— WHS track & field coach David Abel

jump at 21-0.5. He took second in the 200.

William Mansfield went 13 feet, 5 inches for first in the pole vault.

Ben Ludwig, Jett Rohl, Jordan Johnston and Kaeden Johnson finished the 4x100 relay.

"It good day overall," said WHS coach David Abel. "We were hoping for a top-three finish for both teams and we came up a little short. We knew it was going to be tough. We had a good number of 4-8th place finishers. The girls' hurdlers were great. It was a good tune-up for sections next week."

The Bluejays started section competition Thursday at Bruce Smith Field in Faribault. The meet concludes Saturday at Faribault beginning at 11 a.m. The top two individual finishers, first-place relays and those meeting qualifying standards advance to state.

# NRHEG clay target team 3rd in close conference

## Eleven shooters finish among top 25 individuals in conference

In what was a hard fought and close conference, the trap team from NRHEG finished third. This despite rounds of 25 straight from Justin Beauvais and Keira Lenort and a 50-straight round from Alden Dobberstein to finish the regular season. Each of the top three teams in the conference had over 18K points and yet were only separated by 623 points in the end.

Individually, Keira Lenort took top honors for the ladies conference average. She was joined in the Top 25 Female category by Gracie Luna (2nd), Ciara Stenzel (4th), Abbie Viktora (9th), Faith Phillips (11th), and Nora Flatness (15th).

For the guys' Top 25 Dylan Schroht finished 9th followed by Alden Dobberstein (14th), Brody Mudgett (14th), Keegan Peterson (18th), and Reese Routh (24th). That's eleven of the team's forty



For all league results go to <https://mn.usaclaytarget.com/spring-trap-shooting-leaderboard/>



**FINISHED FOR THE SEASON —** Otto Schoenrock and his WHS boys' tennis teammates saw their season end in the section individual tournament last week.

# WHS tennis players eliminated

The Section 1A individual tournament was brief for 2024 Waseca High School boys' tennis.

All four of the Bluejays' entries - two each at singles and doubles - lost on the opening day of the tournament at Rochester and were eliminated.

Eighth-grader Armaan Bhatt, seeded third, defeated the No. 10 seed from Stewartville 6-3, 5-3 in the opening round at No. 2 singles, but was upset 6-1, 6-0 by the 12th seed from Red Wing in the quarterfinals.

Otto Schoenrock, a sophomore seeded No. 10, was

defeated 6-3, 6-3 by the No. 4 seed from Schaeffer Academy at No. 1 singles.

Tyler Jellum and Henry Huttemier, seeded fourth at No. 1 doubles, defeated Schaeffer Academy's 10th-seeded duo 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 before falling 6-1, 6-3 to the No. 5 seed from Rochester Lourdes in the quarterfinals.

The Bluejays' No. 2 doubles team of Dominic Grunzke and Oliver Rohwer, seeded seventh, was upset 7-6 (6), 6-3 by the 10th-seeded team from Winona Cotter.

# Two Jays advance in section golf

## Anderson, Vagts reach final round

The Waseca High School boys' golf team finished sixth out of 14 teams at the Section 2AA meet in New Prague last Tuesday.

The Bluejays were led by Hunter Anderson with a 73 that tied him for fourth in the individual scoring going into the second round. Cody Vagts shot a 76, which qualified him for the second round.

Holy Family, Southwest Christian, St. Peter and LeSueur Henderson were the four teams that moved onto the second round. The team and individual winners on the second day advance to the state tournament.

Other members of the Jays who didn't advance to the second round were Braiden Nelson, Brody Dufault, Preston Miller and Max Bodensteiner.

"Miller is the only senior, so the future looks bright for the Bluejays," said head coach Ted Hammond.