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**WASECA COUNTY PIONEER**

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 51 Vol. III \$2      Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca      Thursday, December 19, 2024

■ **Inside**



**Christmas**

**Pioneer won't publish Dec. 26**  
As we have done each year since we opened, the *Pioneer* will not publish a newspaper the final week of the year. Publication will resume with the Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025 edition.

**Waseca high school Band Booster chili feed 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20**  
The Waseca high school Band Boosters will host a band booster all-you-can-eat Band Booster chili feed in the high school commons from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20. Presale tickets are \$9; Cost at the door \$10; 5 and under are free.

**Melissa Schulz at New Richland Liquor Company Dec. 20**  
Local Musician Melissa Schulz will be performing at the New Richland Liquor Company from 6-9 p.m. on Friday, December 20. She plays keyboard with drum tracks and performs pop, rock, and country covers from the 50s to today's hits.

**Indian Island Winery will host the Wendt Sisters Saturday, Dec. 21**  
The Indian Island Winery will host music duo Wendt Sisters from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21. They play a wide variety of music from the 50s to the 90s, country and gospel.

**Santa Anonymous Program receiving applications**  
The Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center (WANSC) is now taking applications for the Santa Anonymous Program. This annual event provides gifts, toys or clothes to Waseca families in need. Parents of newborn children through grade 12 who are income eligible, and who are residents of Waseca County may apply. Additional details can be found at the WANSC building at 203 Third Avenue Northwest in Waseca to make an appointment or inquire about eligibility requirements. Applications can also be picked up at the County Health building, 1000 West Elm, or at the Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) office, 108 Tenth Avenue Southeast, in Waseca. Further information is also available by calling Cindy Kolander, WANSC Executive Director at 507-833-4119.

**CredibleMind offers free mental health resources**  
All area residents are eligible to use free online access to mental health resources available at MNPrairie's "CredibleMind" website. The site offers interactive, evidence-based ways to explore local and national mental well-being resources. Free and anonymous at [www.mnprairie.crediblemind.com](http://www.mnprairie.crediblemind.com)

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

*A word from*  
**The Word** 

*And you will have joy and gladness.*  
**Luke 1:14**

# New Chamber leader

## Dulas announced as Waseca executive director

**New role begins Jan. 2, 2025**

Waseca, MN – The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that Robin Dulas has been appointed as its new executive director, effective January 2, 2025. Robin, a long-time Waseca resident and dedicated community leader, brings an abundance of experience in organizational management, strategic planning, and community engagement to the Chamber. "Robin commands a wealth of knowledge and expertise for the role of executive director. Her vision and commitment to excellence make her the ideal choice to support the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce as we continue on a path of progress," commented incoming resident and transition officer, Mikhail Rostislavovich.

Robin's professional background highlights her exceptional skills in communication, financial management, and event coordination. She has served as the secretary/treasurer of the Waseca County Free Fair since 2013, where she has been instrumental in budget management, grant writing, and marketing. Her leadership has helped elevate the Free Fair's success year after year. Additionally, Robin has been the church administrator for Grace Lutheran Church since 1999, demonstrating her ability to manage complex schedules, finances, and communication initiatives effectively. Kristie Biehn, Chamber Administrator Assistant says, "Robin will be an exciting fit for the Chamber. I cannot wait to have her part of the team."

Robin's educational achievements include a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, as well as an Associate of Science in Sales, Marketing and Management. Her dedication to professional development and community involvement is evident given her roles on the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, President of the Discover Waseca Tourism Board, and Co-Chair of the Holiday Lights committee.

"We are thrilled to welcome Robin Dulas as the new executive director," said Abby Clemons, Chamber Board President. "Robin's extensive experience, dedication to our community, and proven leadership skills make her the perfect choice to guide the Chamber into the future."



**Celebrating the announcement of Robin Dulas as the new executive director for the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce were, from left, Kristie Biehn, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Dulas and Abby Clemons.**

Robin will succeed Ann Fitch, who has served as executive director for the organization since 2018. Ann's leadership has been instrumental in strengthening the Chamber's role as community connection in Waseca and regional collaborator. Ann will remain an active Chamber member and continue her work within the Waseca community.

Robin stated, "I am honored to take on this new role and look forward to building on the strong foundation that the Chamber team and Ann have established. I am excited about working for our members; they make our organization thrive."

**"I am excited about working for our members; they are what makes our organization thrive."**  
— Robin Dulas



**From left: Allie and Katy Eldeen and McKenna Eichhorn, Waseca's Dairy Princesses were at Farmamerica's Santa Experience on Dec. 14, 2024.**  
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

## Farmamerica's Santa Experience

**By BEN REVERMANN**  
Staff writer

Randy and Mason Wadd were supervising the outdoor fire in a big black caldron outside the front doors of Farmamerica the evening of Saturday, Dec. 15. Families entering for the Santa Experience were accompanied by the smell of burning pine and oak. Said site manager Randy, "I hope the kids have a lot of fun seeing Santa, that's what we're here for." Within the first 20 minutes, the parking lot was about 30 percent full, with another vehicle pulling in every few minutes.

Aimed at youthful area citizens, the Santa Experience also included President Joe Biden's pardoned turkeys Blossom and Peach, as well as Santa. Activities included cookie decorating, picture coloring and ornament craft building. Food and treats were for sale and of course, hot chocolate and candy canes. Waseca County Dairy Princesses Allie and Katy Eldeen and McKenna Eichhorn said their reason for being there was to "spread Christmas cheer and promote the dairy industry."

Behind them were a full-size model cow for demonstrating milking, as well as goody bags to be passed out, filled with stickers and other kid stuff.

The Respet family was busy painting and decorating holiday cookies; father Matt and mother Karly were watching their little lady Elliott create, and eat, her cookie decorations. When four-year-old Elliott was asked why she was here, she replied, "To have fun." Baby Calvin was in his stroller so he didn't say much, but father Matt said they came here because, "With the cold weather we needed something fun to do. With this up until Christmas Day we don't have much going on besides visiting family. We're here for the kids."

For the ornament/craft room there were two teenage volunteers, Andy Basquez and Ava Bruhn who said, "This is our first time volunteering here, we love it." They are members of the Waseca High School chapter of the Minnesota Honor Society. Inside the crafts

**Santa continued on 9**



**From left: Mikhail Rostislavovich, school board member Grant Scheffert, Mayor Randy Zimmerman, Dr. Julie Anderson, Dr. Jay Bulfer, Waseca City Council member Stacey Schroeder, school board member Charlie Priebe, Ann Fitch, Dwight Tostenson and Dr. Eric Hudspith.**

## State of Education address highlights strategic vision and community engagement

The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Committee successfully facilitated the State of Education Address, featuring Waseca Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Eric Hudspith. Held as the final installment of the inaugural State of the Community Addresses, this event provided a unique opportunity for residents to gain insights into the school district's strategic vision and engage directly with school officials.

Dr. Hudspith delivered a comprehensive 30-minute presentation outlining the District's Strategic Plan, Mission, Core Values, Priorities, and the desired daily experiences for students and staff. Following his address, School Board Members Dr. Julie Anderson, Grant Scheffert, and Charlie Priebe joined Dr. Hudspith to answer questions

## Power of Produce serves hundreds

**By DEB BENTLY**  
News Editor

The "Power of Produce" (PoP) Club offered anyone 18 or younger the chance to register for a \$5 voucher at the Waseca farmers market from mid-July to mid-September this year.

The program exists under a partnership among the Waseca County 4-H program, the County Public Health department statewide health improvement partnership (SHIP), the University of Minnesota Master Gardeners, and the Waseca Library. Participants could use the voucher to buy eligible food items, including fresh fruit or produce; canned, pickled, freeze-dried or dehydrated vegetables; herbs or eggs.

According to a report presented by Waseca County 4-H Extension educator Amy Nelson during a recent meeting of the Waseca County board of commissioners, 604 young people from as many as 41 communities participated at least once in this, the second year of the program.

What's more, survey responses indicate that children take a stronger interest in selecting and preparing the foods their vouchers purchase, and become more interested in trying new fruits and vegetables.

Thanks to generous contributions, PoP vouchers were offered to senior citizens on "Senior Saturday" this summer: 62 eligible individuals took part. PoP vouchers were redeemed with 32 participating vendors; nearly \$6,000 worth of vouchers

**Produce continued on 8**

**School continued on 8**

What do you want from Santa this year? What is your favorite winter time activity? Second-grade students at Team Academy school speak out in their letters to the Jolly Old Guy.



December 4, 2024  
Dear Santa  
I go to a home  
can I please  
get a toy  
for Christmas?  
Have you ever  
seen a reindeer?  
Love,  
Liam

December 4, 2024  
Dear Santa  
I want a book  
I need you to  
bring me a book  
for Christmas  
Love  
John

December 4, 2024  
Dear Santa  
Can you get  
me a Barbie?  
I want a dog please  
How many elves live at  
the north pole? I am thankful  
for my parents and food.  
Love  
Marisol

December 4, 2024  
Dear Santa  
You are so nice!  
how old are  
you? can I have  
robux? What is your  
favorite color? Can  
I have a sister?  
Love  
Aaliyah

December 4, 2024  
Dear Santa  
How many elves  
make the toys?  
I would like a  
book please  
for Christmas  
Love  
Jaspre

December 4, 2024  
Dear Santa  
How old are you?  
who is your  
favorite elf?  
I am thankful for  
my family and  
my teacher  
Love,  
Tae-Vyus

December 4, 2024  
Dear Santa  
Can you please give me ten  
books. what is your  
favorite kind of cookie?  
you are the best!  
Love  
Keena

December 4, 2024  
Dear Santa  
Please can I get a book?  
Nike shoes  
I want a  
WWE toy  
Love  
Tremont

December 4, 2024  
Dear Santa  
Can you bring  
me books?  
How tall are you?  
your elf you gave  
me is crazy!  
I love you Santa  
Love,  
Kaylee

December 4, 2024  
Dear Santa  
Thank you for  
watching my family  
I am thankful  
for you  
can I get  
a new toy?  
Love  
Ethan

December 4, 2024  
Dear Santa  
I want one of your elf  
How many elves live at  
the North pole?  
I want a reindeer and  
a little toy for  
Christmas and  
Love,  
Liam

# MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS



## FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT

115 North State St,  
Waseca, MN 56093  
(507) 201-2484

**DJ**  
**Daniel J.**  
**Johnson**  
**ACCOUNTING**  
LLC

**Hours:**  
*Mon - Thu*  
8 am - 4 pm  
*Fri*  
8 am - 12 pm

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

**Our Services**

- Tax Planning & Return Preparation Services
- Estate and Trust Planning & Tax Preparation
- Financial Planning • Accounting Services
- Bookkeeping • Payroll Services



# LETTERS TO SANTA

What do you want from Santa this year? What is your favorite winter time activity? Second-grade students at Hartley Elementary school speak out in their letters to the Jolly Old Guy.

12-10-24

Dear Santa,

I have been working extra hard in school. This year I want a camera, Rainbow corn, and a t-shirt. My elf Sparkles have been really fun lately. Thank you for my elf.

Love,  
Charlotte

12-10-24

Dear Santa

I was good today I was good I hope you bring me a gift on christmas day. If you bring me a gift I want a 2nd grade book. I hope my elf stay here. If you bring me two gifts I want a Stach state. Thank you for bring pept prisms.

Love,  
Emily

12-10-24

Dear Santa,

I been trying my best at school. I want a person for a present. I am so excited.

Love,  
Rory

12-10-24

Dear Santa,

I have been good this year. I really want a spa kit. I love christmas merry christmas.

Love,  
Charlotte

12-10-24

Dear Santa

I have been kind to everyone. I want a indoor bike and a bike to my toy. How many elves do you have?

Love,  
Oliver Jensen

12-10-24

Dear Santa,

I have been good in school. I want a merry for my X box. I Hope you get this note.

Love,  
Steven

12-10-24

Dear Santa,

I want to be on the nice list because I want to get ugly slippers. Can I see your ruler? ruler and kittens are my favort animals.

Love,  
Tentley

12-10-24

Dear Santa,

I want a tote staking on christmas day. My bad. In my staking I want ugly tassmans. and if they don't fit in my staking you can put them next to my staking. Are let's all people on the nice list.

Love,  
Benny

# LETTERS TO SANTA



What do you want from Santa this year? What is your favorite winter time activity? Second-grade students at Hartley Elementary school speak out in their letters to the Jolly Old Guy.

12-10-24

Dear Santa,

I know that you asked me what I want for Christmas. I want a P.S.S. and a football, and a Lego set, and Kevin Love's books. Enjoy your Christmas.

Love,  
Fynn

12-10-24

Dear Santa,

This year I want snow scales for Christmas. I also want a park up stick. I want a hockey stick and a hockey net.

Love,  
Maveric

12-10-24

Dear Santa,

This year I have been being good. Thank you for letting the elves come. What I want for Christmas is more slime and I also want some makeup. Something that I really want for Christmas is some of gummy slime.

Love,  
Scarlett

12-10-24

Dear Santa,

I have been extra nice this year. I hope you like me. I hope you like my favorite book. I hope you like my favorite book. I hope you like my favorite book. I hope you like my favorite book.

Love,  
Avel

12-10-24

Dear Santa,

I have been really nice and can't have the new smart watch. Make sure for Jesus to have a great birthday. And I wish you a merry Christmas.

Love,  
Izzah

12-10-24

Dear Santa,

This year I have been good. I want a trip to the park. I want a park up stick, and a new football, and Kevin Love's books. Enjoy your Christmas.

Love,  
Piero

12-10-24

Dear Santa,

I have been good this year. This year I want a gummy watch, and a P.S.S. I hope your chugging warm at the North Pole.

Love,  
Drew

12-10-24

Dear Santa,

I have been really good this year. I want a trip to the park. I want a park up stick, and a new football, and Kevin Love's books. Enjoy your Christmas.

Love,  
Jaxxon



# Compostings

by Al Batt

## Cost-saving actions are family tradition

### ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

It's better to give than receive. That's true, but I never thought I'd hear you say that. That way, you don't have to send "thank you" notes.

### DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. The members of the Loafers' Club gathered at the Eat Around It Cafe, hoping to put on winter weight. My phone sounded. I dislike doing it, but several times a year, I say, "I have to take this." That was one of those times. I wandered away from the table to a corner where I wouldn't bother anyone. The caller asked about the weather, which is obligatory.

"It's a lovely day—it's up to 3 below," I said.

The caller was from a southern state and might have, for a moment, thought the weather was on sale at a Five Below store. I was wearing a mild winter coat. It's the time of the annual surprise found in a coat pocket. I always leave something in a pocket when I hang up my winter coat when the warm temperatures arrive. Usually, it's a petrified cookie wrapped in a napkin or an unidentifiable goodie that had become compost. This time, it was a \$20 bill. Whoopee! I wonder how much money Elon Musk would have to find in his coat pocket to have that rich-for-a-moment feeling?

### THE OLD SHOPPING CART WRANGLER

On a blustery day filled with people rejoicing while shopping in retail stores, I saw a runaway shopping cart intent on headbutting a Honda and I grabbed the cart and saved a Honda. I didn't rope it because I had no rope. I had no rope because my Swiss army knife had no rope function. The lady who had unloaded the cart into the wayback of her car had let it go feral as she closed the liftgate of her vehicle. She thanked me for corraling it. All in the day's work for a parking lot cowboy. Yippee-ki-yay.

### CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT A CLAW MACHINE

The women wanted little me to stop listening to them. They had lady stuff to discuss. An aunt gave me money to play the claw machine in the restaurant. The claw machine was an arcade game where a joystick-controlled claw could pick up a prize. The game

offered a bunch of stuffed animals as prizes, none of which I wanted, but there was a big fly in it. I heard a home run called a big fly, so I tried for a home run. I attempted to catch a flying insect with a claw, but I failed. I should have gone for a stuffed zebra for my mother's Christmas present.

### I'VE LEARNED

Many family traditions began as cost-saving actions.

I don't fly first class. I fly coach. Actually, I fly assistant coach. I have to help the flight attendants pass out the little bags of pretzels.

Our seasons are all different. Summer warmer than others.

Gloves don't mate for life.

Reality is what we get when we take a break from watching reality TV.

I saw a compact car with a Christmas tree strapped to the roof. It looked like an air freshener on wheels.

### NATURE NOTES

I keep looking. Yogi Berra said, "You can observe a lot by just watching." I watched a chickadee enter a dead tree cavity. On a chilly night, a chickadee roosts in a cavity or dense vegetation. It caches food. Being a bird is hard work, but a chickadee displays a jauntiness. A joy of being among the living.

Some of the wind-driven leaves had become cardinal-wannabes and flew past as I filled the feeders where chickadees and cardinals are valued customers. I want them to turn the feed into feathers and flights.

Jerry Viktora of Ellendale asked why he hadn't seen any cardinals in his yard since the summer. By late summer, when nesting is over and cardinals relax the defense of their territorial boundaries, the birds sing less and flocks form. They don't migrate but can expand their range while foraging for food. They determine where to spend the winter. The flocks are ever-changing and dependent on weather and available resources. If you continue to offer food and water, they're likely to make return visits.

"It doesn't have to be the blue iris, it could be weeds in a vacant lot, or a few small stones; just pay attention."—Mary Oliver.

### MEETING ADJOURNED

"We live in a perpetually burning building, and what we must save from it, all the time, is love."—Tennessee Williams. Be kind.

# Appreciating energy, selflessness

Thanks to my job writing for both the NRHEG Star Eagle and the Waseca County Pioneer, I have heard a lot of live holiday music over the last month.

It started with the Waseca Chorale right away on the first of December. The setting—Waseca's Sacred Heart Church—is beautiful with rich acoustics. Because I was trying to capture good pictures, I listened to part of the concert from the balcony above and part from down on the main floor. The music was enchanting, the lyrics were enriching. I was deeply grateful to be there.

I was doubly blessed on Dec. 7. At 5 p.m. and after, the group Mariachi America provided liturgical music during a service and entertainment during a meal served afterward for the celebration of the feast day for Our Lady of Guadalupe at Sacred Heart Church. The six men filled the space with the energy and vitality of the musical style.

At 7 p.m. that same day was the New Richland Area Foundation's "Home for the Holidays" concert which featured home-grown talents—not only Gavin Berg and Adam Moen, who graduated from NRHEG prior to 2005 and have built careers in music in the Twin Cities, but non-professional talents Ellen Johnson and Eva Wayne. Called to the stage



## In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

during the concert were two musical mothers—Gratia Johnson and Jodi Wayne—both of whom have been part of the regional music scene for decades.

Right away on Dec. 9 was the NRHEG secondary school's combined band and choral concert. Directors Krista Reeder and Seth Schaeffer had made some very enjoyable selections, and the students performed them with energy and enthusiasm. At high school musical performances, I of course admire all the young musicians; I get particular pleasure out of the dynamic movement of the members of the percussion section. It seems impossible to predict where they will be or what they will be playing next.

On Dec. 12, I arrived for a concert at First Lutheran Church in Waldorf to discover there had been a program change. The Twin Cities musicians Ash St. John and Kurt Weber had offered to provide music at the church

for all who cared to come listen; the pair play piano and violin duets.

At the front of the church, however, were 10 familiar faces, the members of the "Just Friends" tenor and baritone harmony gospel singers, a group based out of New Richland. It was explained one of the Twin Cities musicians had experienced a death in his family, and the pair had regrettably been forced to cancel their appearance. By astounding coincidence—and probably much more than coincidence—the ten members of "Just Friends" were able to be at First Lutheran Church in Waldorf, with their equipment, a holiday repertoire, and even accompanist Gratia Johnson all with a little more than 24 hours' notice.

I wrote news articles and took photos representing all of these performances; you may well have read them all.

But here, in my column, I get to tell you how privileged I felt being

present at each of them. All of the musicians I have described are talented, dedicated, and well prepared. I suppose they wouldn't be presenting concerts if that weren't the case.

But what stays with me, what lifts my heart each time I think of it, is the self-evident joy they exuded as they performed.

I think of the broad smiles, energy, and complete synchrony with the music. I picture the enthusiasm, the comfortable delight, the impression they would gladly keep singing or playing forever if circumstances would allow it.

I appreciate the way they gave themselves over to the performance and the music, seeming to leave all thoughts of self behind.

And the reason I appreciate it is because that energy, that selflessness, transported me. Yes, I was "at work" in each case. Yes, I had given up my evenings and braved the dark and cold to be there. None of that mattered, though, because by being invited to engage so completely with the music and the holiday spirit, I was part of the performance...or more accurately, the performance became part of me. As I said, I still smile broadly each time I think of each of those concerts.

So thank you, musicians. Don't ever stop loving what you do.

# I don't have to be funny this year...

I survived, I finally did it. The semester is over! I am free! It's like the University masters have given student Dobby a sock. They will take away the sock in a month when student Dobby is forced to work again, but for now, freedom. And it feels good.

But I won't try to rub it into the faces of those who are forced to work all day everyday on the grind, no stop, no break, just one holiday vacation a year. Am I going to miss the days of the causes of my stress being school-work? Am I going to miss the childish drama of friends whose frontal lobes have still not connected? The fact that the things I do now technically have very little impact on my overall life? (It feels like a huge impact at the time, I promise.)

But now it's time to actually buy all the Christmas presents I've been putting off for various reasons. One being that I'm not great at giving gifts, but I feel like I am improving every year.



## To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

Maybe I will start telling people it's a learned skill and I'm making my way.

My sister got her wisdom teeth out on Monday and I was fortunate enough to be home to witness it. She wasn't loopy or anything, which was a bummer, but I wasn't loopy when I got mine out last year either so it makes sense. Poor girl was feeling the pain before her meds kicked in and I felt bad, but once they did she was feeling a lot better. I remember my swelling being really bad too and sometimes I was self-conscious about for a long while. I'm sure she will recover quickly. My mom thinks

it's cute that my sister and I are bonding. Yippee.

My fantasy football team is doing a lot better this year. For those who don't remember, last year I lost my fantasy football league, meaning I came in dead last. I was the best of the losers in what they call the toilet bowl. As punishment, I had to do five minutes of stand up comedy. The original plan was to have it be in a comedy club in Minneapolis, but thankfully that fell through and we just hosted everyone over at my apartment and I just did it there in front of everyone. I learned I had lost and had to do stand up comedy the night of

Christmas last year. So yeah, feel bad that I cried on Christmas because I had to do five minutes of stand up comedy when I'm not that funny. I did my best during stand up, but honestly it was a rough five minutes for everyone.

So thankfully this year my team is pretty average and there is no way I am going to lose — there is a girl in our league who picked all her players based on their looks, doesn't change her lineup, and has not won a single game in these past fifteen weeks. Lucky for her though, the punishment this year is heating hot wings while she has to answer all our questions honestly. At least it's not me, trust me when I say I'm not funny enough to do that twice.

My Determination: "It was like coming home or being born or suddenly finding an entire half of herself that had been missing." — Sarah J. Maas, Crown of Midnight

# Fond memories of Christmas past

I have many fond memories of Christmas past. I attended Holy Cross Lutheran School in Austin. Every Christmas Eve, the students put on a big Christmas pageant at the church. We dressed in robes, marched into a church filled with an overflow crowd, and for an hour and a half spread Christmas joy to the parish.

Dad would always sneak home at the intermission and plant our gifts under the tree. If there was snow, he even made reindeer tracks on the driveway. Mom and Dad always worked hard to provide and always gave us a memorable Christmas. I remember some of the special gifts I received from Santa. The Alamo set was a fort complete with action figures. It included Mexican soldiers, cannons, ladders and general Santa Anna. Davey Crockett, Daniel Boone and Jim Bowie were placed behind the walls defending the Alamo. My brothers and I played with the fort all winter long. Future Christmases brought me a real Wilson basketball, a three-speed Schwinn bike and my first hunting shotgun.

Lisa and I would always have a date to celebrate Christmas with her parents, the Schneiders, in Redwood Falls. Grandma Jean prepared a fantastic Christmas meal: She called me "Hoover" because my job was to get rid of the leftovers. Our children Marc and Katie were always spoiled with a carload of gifts. Before the gift opening, Grandpa John would always lead us in the singing of the



## Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



"Twelve Days of Christmas." Grandma Jean's line was to sing "six geese a laying." Jean had a terrible, loud, raspy, high singing voice and we'd all laugh with tears running down our cheeks when it was her turn to sing.

The Christmas pageants at Sacred Heart Church put on by the school brought joy to parents and others. Marc or Katie would have a special part bringing joy to their, oh-so-proud parents. Attending "Christmas Time's-A-Comin'" or the Chorale concert gave us a special Christmas feeling.

Lisa always had a special day with friends baking Christmas goodies. A group of ladies would come over, I'd clear out and they'd spend the day making Christmas candy. Specialties included fudge, nut goodie bars, peanut butter balls and Lisa's famous toffee. She made the best—didn't use a cooking thermometer but instead could tell it was ready when it reached a particular brown, caramel color. The chocolate never came loose from the top of her toffee. It always gave me great joy to deliver a tin full of Lisa's goodies to friends. Their first question was usually, "Is there toffee?"

Time to move on to Christmas

present. Toys for Tots, Santa Anonymous, the Waseca Food Shelf, the Salvation Army and other charities are busy preparing for deserving families. Lisa just returned from Eucharistic adoration and picked the names of a couple of needy families off a Christmas tree. I've picked up a couple of gift cards and have dropped them off at the Sacred Heart rectory.

The Christmas tree is up and the lights are shining. All of the gifts ordered from Amazon have arrived, Black Friday shopping is a distant memory and all of the neatly wrapped presents are anxiously waiting under the tree. The cashew crunch has been made and is ready for action in a huge Christmas bowl. Lisa's sister Suzie always sends a Christmas package of goodies from Costco every Christmas, candy and fruit. This season I was fortunate enough to bring the box into the house before the fruit froze. Lisa's Christmas parties with the Olivettes and book club are over. I'm enjoying the leftover treats she brought home.

A few things remain to be done for our Christmas celebration. We still have to go over to Mankato with Sammy the wonder dog to view the spectacular light display

at Sibley Park. We don't do Christmas candy any longer, but a couple of my grandchildren still demand peanut butter balls. I think four dozen should be more than sufficient.

Christmas will be celebrated on Christmas Day with Marc, Shannon and four grandsons. Lisa and I try to add a new twist and tradition each Christmas. This year we will begin present opening with a toast of Welch's grape non alcoholic champagne. As the family opens gifts, I plan to play the role of an emcee, providing commentary as we shine a spotlight on each family member while he or she opens a selected special present. I'm such a shy, quiet guy, I hope I can say some nice things. Lisa is in charge of opening the money given to all. Everyone in the family covets big green bills and cash. She has invented a very creative opening.

We will remember our beautiful daughter Katie who we lost in a car accident nine years ago. She loved Christmas and would call Lisa every night of December, sharing crazy little gifts she'd purchased for family. Before hanging up she'd always say, "Make sure Dad is watching 'Elf' and 'The Christmas Story' on TV."

Almost forgot, I'll be reading "The Night Before Christmas" to our family. My wishes for you: Have a blessed Merry Christmas with family. Don't forget to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas: Bethlehem and baby Jesus, lying in a manger.



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OBITUARIES

Warren D. Routh

WARREN DEAN ROUTH, age 87 of Waseca, died in the early morning of Sunday, December 15, 2024 at his home surrounded by his family following a difficult battle with Alzheimer's Disease.

Warren was born in Albert Lea on December 26, 1936 to parents Glen and Alma (Amundson) Routh. He went to school in New Richland and graduated with the class of 1954. In 1955 he began his service to the United States Army and was honorably discharged in 1957. Warren was married to Sharon Bartz and they began a family together before later divorcing. In 1993, after being together for years before, Warren was married to Susan Friesen in Waseca and they have made their life together with both of their families for the last 45 years. Warren was an employee in various positions within Brown Printing Company in Waseca for 39 years, and he was instrumental in helping to rebuild that business following the infamous roof collapse in 1988. The many colleagues he developed and came to know at Brown remained his close friends in the years since his retirement. Warren enjoyed horses, gardening, camping, his season tickets to Minnesota Gopher Football, working on the family farm, spending time with his grandchildren, and sitting on his deck and soaking up the joys of his property. He was a member of the Waseca County Sherriff's Posse for 40 years, the Wilton River Riders Saddle Club, and often volunteered with Waseca High School Wrestling tournaments. He was also a lifetime member of Grace Lutheran Church and recently attended First Baptist Church in Waterville.

Warren is survived by his devoted wife of 31 years, Susan Routh of Waseca; six children, Bart (Rochelle) Routh of Stafford, VA, Bruce (Rhonda) Routh of Waconia, Brian (Nicole) Routh of



Warren D. Routh

Thornton, CO, Todd (Natalia) Erlandson of Cortez, CO, Erin (Phil) Marick of Bloomington, and Aundé (Guadalupe) Reyna of Owatonna; fourteen grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; four siblings, JoAnn (Steve) Eaton of Venice, FL, Allan Routh of Owatonna, Mark (Brenda) Routh of New Richland, and Kristine Fischer of Coon Rapids; one Aunt, Jean Wilkenson of Arizona; two brothers-in-law, Marty Gora of Onalaska, WI, and Paul Arnfelt of Owatonna; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; and two sisters, Gail Arnfelt and Fay Gora.

Visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca, and will continue for one hour before the service at the church on Friday. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be directed to the Alzheimer's Association and/or Mayo Hospice.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 20, 2024 at First Baptist Church in Waterville, with Rev. Gene Witte officiating. Following a luncheon, interment will take place at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca. dsoufuneral.com

Phyllis J. Bartelt

PHYLLIS JEANE BARTELT, age 95 of Waseca, died on the afternoon of Thursday, October 10, 2024, at Mayo Clinic Health System, in Mankato.

Phyllis was born in Bertha, MN, on February 20, 1929, to parents George and Selma (Piere) Johnson. Her family moved to Otisco while she was yet an infant when her father began working as the only butter-maker at the Otisco Creamery. She attended District 46 Country School before finishing at Waseca Public Schools, graduating with the class of 1947. Two years later, on November 16, 1949, Phyllis was married to Charles W. Bartelt at Trinity-Wilton Lutheran Church where she had been confirmed years earlier. Her very first job was making and selling ice cream cones at the Pheasant Café in Waseca. She went on to work for the E.F. Johnson Company and Montgomery Ward before attaining her Real Estate License. Phyllis went to

work for Donahue Real Estate in 1966, and she was proud to be the first female realtor in Waseca County. Phyllis ended her working years with a 22-year career as a school nurse for Waseca Public Schools, retiring in 1994.

She was a long-time member of St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca where she participated in the altar guild, Ladies Aid, mission groups, and the Welca Quilters. She had served as a past leader in the Boy Scouts, regularly volunteered at the Waseca Neighborhood Service Center, and was a member of the Waseca American Legion Auxiliary for over 50 years. Phyllis was also the proud recipient of the WCCO Good Neighbor Award in 2009 in recognition of her volunteer work. She enjoyed cross-stitching and working in her kitchen. Phyllis took full advantage of any opportunity to make friends and care for others, and she will be sorely missed by those that loved her.

Phyllis is survived by two sons, Mark (Jane) Bartelt of Waseca, and Craig Bartelt and his partner Nick Mercado of Los Angeles, CA; two grandchildren, Jayme (Justin) Jackson of Islamorada, FL, and Reid (Michelle) Bartelt of Appleton, WI; four great-grandchildren, Jace and Avea Jackson and Lucy and Maisie Bartelt; one brother-in-law, Willard Kormann of New Ulm; several nieces; and one nephew. She was preceded in death by her parents, George and Selma Johnson; her parents-in-law, Charley and Cecelia Bartelt; her husband, Charles Bartelt; sister, Marlyss (Wayne) Halle; and sister, Irene Kormann.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 26, 2024 at St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca. Visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service at the church. A private family interment will follow at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and



Phyllis J. Bartelt

Cremation Service in Waseca is handling the arrangements. dsoufuneral.com  
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Russell Weir

RUSSELL ARTHUR WEIR, age 89, of Waseca passed away on Monday, December 9, 2024 at Milestone Senior Living in Faribault.

Born on October 28, 1935, in Kellogg, MN, Russell was the son of Cecil and Gladys Weir. He grew up in Kellogg and graduated from the local school before continuing his education at Rochester Vocational Technical College, where he studied welding. Russell worked as a welder at Crenlo and he taught welding in the evenings. He spent the majority of his career at Corchrans, rising to upper management before his retirement.

On July 11, 1969, Russell was united in marriage to JoyAnne Wil-

cox at a small brown church in Iowa. Together, they enjoyed 55 years of love and partnership. Following his retirement, Russell worked part-time at Cabela's, a job he cherished. He was known for his love of hunting, fishing, and woodworking. Russell enjoyed entertaining others and was often the life of the party, especially during neighborhood garage parties, where he could always be counted on to tell a joke or share a story. Russell could often be found in his garage, greeting neighbors with a smile while enjoying a pipe. He had a deep affection for the dogs he cared for over the years. He was a current member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca.

Russell is survived by his wife, JoyAnne Weir; children, Vicki

(Allan) Reese of Mesa, AZ, Kim (Rick) Louks of Finlayson, MN, Melody (Bill) Travis of Aurora, CO, Terry Whitaker of Waseca, Holly Arrington of Dothan, AL; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great great-grandchildren and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Mary Whitaker; brothers, Raymond, Arnold, Jack, Marvin; sister, Louise; and four infant brothers.

Funeral Service will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, December 13, 2024 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will follow the service at Woodville Cemetery. Dsoufuneral.com



Russell Weir

Sergio Esquivel

SERGIO OVIEDO ESQUIVEL, age 64, of Waseca passed away on Monday, December 9, 2024 at Lakeshore Rehabilitation Center in Waseca.

Born on August 28, 1959, in Tamaulipas, Mexico, Sergio was the son of Jesus and Maria (Esquivel) Oviedo. He was united in marriage to Martina Rosales on December 18, 1979, in Monterrey, Mexico. Sergio's journey to the United States began when he was 20 years old, and through hard work and determination, he became a U.S. citizen. At the age of 25, he founded his own construction business in Texas, a testament to his entrepreneurial spirit.

Sergio later moved to Minnesota, where he worked at several companies, including Birds Eye Foods, Seneca, Lakeside, and Faribault Foods. He enjoyed the simple pleasures of life, including hunting and fishing, and he was known for his sociable, bubbly personality that brightened the lives of those around him.

A devout member of La Joya Baptist Church, Sergio took great pride in his faith and the community he was a part of.

Sergio is survived by his wife,



Sergio Esquivel

Martina Oviedo of Waseca; children, Jesus J. Oviedo of Waseca, Claudia Oviedo of Eden Prairie, Nellie Gonzalez of Waseca, Sergio Oviedo Jr. of Texas; thirteen grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and sister, Norma L. Chavez.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation for Sergio will be from 2 - 4 PM on Monday, December 16, 2024 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service.

By BEN REVERMANN  
Staff writer

It was below freezing and windy outside the Scout building on the Waseca fairgrounds, Nov. 30. Wise scout Hailey Proehl brought her hat. Proehl, a 13-year-old local resident, received her Order of the Arrow badge from the Wahpekute Lodge and also received her sash earlier this spring from the National Honor Society of Scouting. Proehl is a Star Scout working toward being a Life Scout; she hopes to become an Eagle Scout after that. She is the first youth female in Waseca to achieve the "Order of the Arrow" designation.

The Boy Scouts of America organization was founded in 1910. The Order of the Arrow was founded in 1915; earning the award requires sleeping outdoors in the open overnight, community service, 24 hours of silence, and much more. To be eligible for the award, participants must be nominated; Proehl was nominated last April along with other members, and was one of about 25 participants

from around southern Minnesota working to complete the expectations. Nicole Busse, Scout Master for Waseca troop 1085—which has about 7 members—said, "The Order of the Arrow is a great way to meet other like-minded scouts who want to do service for others and their community. We're all proud of Hailey."

As of now, Proehl is still on the first step of her Order of the Arrow journey, known as "Ordeal." Next will be "Brotherhood," and after that "Vigil," with each step requiring more accomplishments, accountability, and responsibility. Her white sash and badge will show her accomplishments by displaying red bars over her arrow sash to indicate her rank. These white sashes are only to be worn during special occasions, this tradition has been taken very seriously. Proehl is also in the process of earning the title Eagle Scout. When asked what her favorite part about all this is, she said it is the other participants: "The other Orders of the Arrows, they're very nice, al-



Hailey Proehl, 13, was the first female member of the Waseca Scout Troop to reach the Order of the Arrow. Proehl (left) is pictured with Scout Master Nicole Busse.

ways happy to help and very friendly."

Next year the Wahpekute Lodge, care of the Twin Valley Council, will be organizing the parade on the first

night of the Kiwanis Lights in Mankato's Sibley Park.

Come February, the Scouts will be called Scouting America.

■ Produce

from Page 1

were distributed and used across the summer.

According to Extension educator Nelson, the eight members of the PoP committee are working toward another successful year for the program in 2025. This will include meeting with vendors from

the Farmers Market sometime early in the year, and reaching out to businesses and interested individuals who might be willing to serve as sponsors.

Donors to the 2024 PoP program were Cinch, the Barb Penny Fund for Youth grant program through the Waseca Area Foundation, Mayo Health Clinic of Waseca, the Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Association, Minnwest Bank, Blaze Credit Union, All American Foods and the American Legion Auxiliary.

■ School

from Page 1

for questions empowers constituents and strengthens community dialogue." Dr. Hudspith, pleased with the event stated, "I certainly enjoyed the evening and always welcome a chance to speak about the great things we're doing in Waseca public schools."

The State of the Community Ad-

resses series, executed by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce, has offered residents valuable understandings of their local government, education, and community initiatives. This final installment further highlighted the importance of fostering open communication between public officials and the citizens they serve. All of the Community Addresses can be found on the Chamber's YouTube channel. For more information about this event or future Chamber initiatives, please visit [www.wasecachamber.com](http://www.wasecachamber.com)



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Janesville

1924

- Good roads prospects for next year, which will depend almost entirely on the new gasoline tax and perhaps motor vehicle tax laws, are being much talked hereabouts following the adoption of Amendment No. 1 to put gas taxes on highways. Discussion was stimulated also by figures recently printed showing that less than a third of the average annual improvement of the last three years can be done next without new favorable legislation, also that every \$1 of tax paid by the average car owner means \$500,000 of extra good roads. Later reports from the capitol indicate that Gas Tax Amendment No. 1 received nearly 500,000 votes yes and less than 200,000 votes no, some 87,000 more than the necessary majority of the 830,000 votes cast.

- Last year, through the generous cooperation of the press, the movies and other advertising mediums, Christmas mailers were induced to dispatch their Yuletide presents earlier in the month than ever before in the history of the institution of gift exchanging in the holiday season. As a result, the spectacle of the last minute rush of former years, with its attendant heartbreaking labor on the part of wearied and nerveworn store clerks and postal employees was avoided. This year Postmaster General New and First Assistant Postmaster General John H. Bartlett have determined to make an even better record and to banish for all time the suffering undergone in past years by those engaged in the sale of transportation of gifts. They hope to make "Shop Early" and "Mail Early" a habit with the American people.

1949

- Emmons high school, located on the Iowa-Minn. Border line, traveled all the way up to Janesville, Friday night, only to be sent back as victims of a 47-36 defeat administered at the hands of a smooth working Golden Bears' cage team. The Bears put on a 19-point splurge in the second period to send them on their way after a closely battled first quarter of play. With a 28-21 lead the Bears had the game well in their own hands the rest of the way. The only time that Emmons came close at the end of the third quarter when the lead was cut to a five-point disadvantage, 37-32. Opening the fourth Pete Wolff and Ton Nolan each hit for the Bears to practically sew up the game.

- Frances Magnes, violinist who was recently singled out by Newsweek Magazing as one of the six outstanding artists of the 1948-49 season, will appear in Waseca on Tuesday, Dec. 13, in a concert sponsored by the Waseca Concert Association. The concert will be heard in the high school auditorium at 8:15 p.m. This young star in the musical firmament has been extravagantly acclaimed by the New York critics after both her 1946 and her 1948 Carnegie Hall appearances for her superior technical equipment, outstanding imagination, breadth of style and unusually attractive stage presence.

1974

- Mrs. Joe Archambault, Janesville, is all ready for the "sniffing season" after the first Christmas drawing Friday night. She won a package of cold remedies from Simon's Pharmacy. Mrs. Archambault was one of 23 Janesville shoppers to win gifts in the first of three merchandise drawings. Two more gift drawings will be held December 6 and 13. All of the registration slips deposited in December will be eligible for the turkey drawing December 20.

- Central Telephone Company customers in Minnesota will soon see the effect of a rate increase granted by the Minnesota Public Service Commission, Central's Vice President, A. E. Lindekugel said, "An Order has been received from the Commission authorizing an additional \$981,554 in revenues. This amount is 57.79% of the \$1,699,532 requested by the Company and will contribute \$428,252 requested by the Company and will contribute \$428,252 towards earnings of the Company after taxes and other anticipated effects of earnings erosion."

- The Golden Bears scored heavily in the lighter weights here Tuesday night as they opened their Gopher Conference season with a 28-22 win over always tough Morristown. Although inexperienced in the heavy weights, the Bears had a 21-9 lead before the Comets started their comeback. Freshman Mike Jewison and senior Co-captains Tom Burke both got pins for the Bears. Jewison got his fall in 1:48 over Al Swartz in the 104 pound class. Burke pinned Dennis Felix in 3:18 at 132 pounds. Greg Steinberg showed improvement over last year as he decisioned Bruce Schulz 12-1 at 145 pounds. Steinberg held his opponent to a one-point escape in the second period. The four-point decision gave the Bears a 25-9 lead.

1999

- Waseca area legislators were happy to learn of yet another projected state budget surplus. State officials on Thursday released an amazing projected budget surplus (\$1.6 billion) that nearly assures of another rebate and more tax relief in 2000. "This is great news for Minnesota, our people are working hard and our economy keeps booming along," said said Republican Senator Don Ziegler of Elmore. "Now, I am hopeful that families, no government committees will decide how to spend this extra money." The surplus is the amount expected to come in above the Finance Department's February 1999 forecast. The money would be available at the end of the two-year budget cycle, June 30, 2001, if revenue and spending stayed on track.

- A young an inexperienced Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton wrestling team managed to win one of three matches in the season-opening Mankato West Quadrangular Dec. 4. The Bulldogs, who are coming off a 5-15 season, lost to Byron and Mankato West, but defeated Fairmont. The Bulldogs finished with an overall record of 19-20 during the three matches. Three falls and three forfeits were too much for JWP to overcome in a 44-28 defeat to the Byron Bears in the opening match of the day. The Bulldogs lost 37-27 to Byron at last year's tourney. JWP won six of 13 matches against Mankato West in the second round, but still dropped a 37-29 decision to the Scarlets. West hammered the Bulldogs 48-18 at last year's tourney. The two winless schools (JWP and Fairmont) met in Saturday's finale with JWP winning eight of the 13 matches to pull out a 4524 victory. The Dawgs pounded Fairmont 42-23 a year ago.

Waseca

25 Years Ago

-Looking out on the window of her 49TH floor graphic arts studio in the elegant IDS skyscraper overlooking downtown Minneapolis below, having a glass of wine with her fellow worker after a creatively productive say, Sheila Chin thought, "Isn't this great?" She had it made. Her colleague said, as they continued to sip wine and take in the spectacular view, "If we ever lost this, it would be fine, because we had this once. We won't ever regret it.

-Working in her main street studio/office at her computer, Sheila Morris turns out top notch graphic designs for well-known clients. At right, some of the most recent publications, whose covers and contents Morris has designed, make a varied collage of stunning graphic designs.

-It was a November to remember in Waseca County as far as the unreasonably mild and sunny weather is concerned. That comes on the heels of a warm November in 1998. "We thought last year was nice, but this year blew the socks off of last year," said University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center Soil Scientist Gyles Randall.

-Lobbying to change the laws in regard to the current state sexual offender registration process is what sent Connie Larson, mother of slain 12-year-old Cally Jo Larson, and Police Chief James Staloch to the Minnesota State Capitol last Friday. They met with State Attorney General Mike Hatch to discuss the matter. "We wanted to let him – the most powerful man (in the justice system) – know how things are going here in the real world," Larson said.

50 Years Ago

-PATCHES OF BARE ICE five inches thick in some places glisten under a low December sun Wednesday afternoon as Andy Lembke jiggles his fishing rig on Clear Lake. Ice angling has been reported poor here so far this year but the 81-year-old Wasecan, who recently spent 48 days hospitalized following an operation, joined a handful of open-air fishermen trying their luck during the past two day's springlike weather.



-UM-W tour – AGRI-GROWTH COUNCIL official Joe Rossillon toured UM-W facilities Wednesday. Provost Dr. E.C. Frederick, right, described the capabilities of the LRC television studio prior to taping an interview for Cable TV at the technical college.



-Money for D.A.C. – KEN HAUGEN, right, president of the Waseca Jaycees presented Stu Miller, left, director of the Day Activity Center with a check for \$50. The money will be used for purchasing more educational materials for the center. The money presented to the center is cash ordinarily used to sponsor a Christmas lighting contest in Waseca. The contest will not be held this year in effort to conserve energy. This is the second year the contest has not been held.

75 Years Ago

-SANTA CLAUS MADE HIS FIRST APPEARANCE in Waseca last Wednesday when he showed up for a brief visit with his young friends at Wolf and Habein's store. Above, the old gent poses for a quick shot, along with a group of admirers. Santa probably will be making numerous visits in this area from now until his final one Christmas Eve.

-Miss Marv Sheeran, last surviving member of one of the pioneer families of Freedom township, died Friday, Nov. 30 at Fairview hospital, Minneapolis. She had undergone surgery on Nov. 23. She has been hospitalized the major part of the time since breaking her hip four years ago and was a patient at the local hospital for several months following the injury. She was 89 years old at the time of her death.

-WITH HER PRIZE-WINNING RECHS safely ticked away in her bag and two of her pet mixing bowls along, Mrs. George Young of Morristown left on the "400" last Friday evening bound for New York where she was to compete Monday in Pillsbury's \$25,000 contest. Mrs. Young won her all-expense trip in a preliminary contest. She and 99 other winners from all over the nation will do their stuff at the Waldorf Astoria hotel in New York. Above Mrs. Young waves goodbye to Mr. Young and other well-wishers.

100 Years Ago

-The Waseca County Poultry Show opened at New Richland yesterday morning and attracted hundreds of visitors. Owing to Monday's storm which blocked the roads, a great many exhibitors were unable to get their exhibits to the show on time and some from a distance were not able to exhibit at all. One Janesville exhibitor, who had a big truck load of birds ready to ship, had to unload, and then ship part of his birds by express via Waseca.

-The first snow storm of the season did not prevent a good turn-out at the monthly meeting of the Waseca Parent-Teacher Association at the high school auditorium Monday evening. The program opened with a vocal solo by Ralph Clayton, with Miss Mildred Murphy accompanist.

-Highway improvements in Waseca county were discontinued last Monday as a result of the storm. It is now doubtful if any further road work will be done before spring.

New Richland

25 Years Back

- Infants Remembered in Silence, Inc. (IRIS) will be hosting its 5th Annual Holiday Service of Remembrance called "Remembering With Love" on Sunday, December 5th, 1999 at 2 P.M. This service will be held at the Chapel Of The Good Shepherd, 1,000 Shumway Ave NE, Faribault Minnesota. This special Candle Lighting Service of Remembrance is designed to meet the unique needs of parents, family, friends, and care-providers who have experienced or have been touched by the death of a child in early pregnancy or from miscarriage, stillborn, neonatal death, SIDS, birth defects and other types of infant death.

- The Church of Christ-Christian, 1705 SE Marshall, Albert Lea, MN, will be presenting their sixth annual live nativity drive-through on December 10th and 11th from 7 to 9 p.m. From your car you will see characters, realistic sets and animals portraying various scenes from the Christmas story.

37 Years Back



- Local Girls Win Gold Award at FHA Competition. Michelle Eaker (right), daughter of Steve and Donnavon Eaker, and Carrie Thompson (left), daughter of Jerry and Ginger Thompson, all of Ellendale, won the highest award at the FHA competition in Waseca on Thursday, March 12. They competed in Action Activity Events along with many other FHA'ers from District 13. Michelle and Carrie gave their AAe on the importance of CPR, the warning signs of a heart attack and demonstrated the proper technique of CPR.

- The Ellendale-Geneva school board accepted a bid for a new 72 passenger school bus from the Hogland Bus Company for just over \$35,000. The bus is a Thomas body with a Thomas chassis underneath. The board plans to put one bus out of full-time service and use it as a back up vehicle next year.

- Kimberly Jayne Roberts of rural Ellendale, was one of 958 students at St. Cloud State University to be recognized for her scholastic achievement.

■ Santa

from Page 1

room was Braxton Sylvester, 7, who was stuffing ornaments. Next to him was Stetson Deling, 4, who

was just figuring out how to stuff ornaments.

For 2023 there were over 500 people who visited Farmamerica's Santa Experience. For 2024 there were 150 people pre-registered and plenty filling the parking lot. Children were \$5, adults were free.

■ Oliver

from Page 7

rich selection of pieces and decided he could join his mother, Christa, who sells baked goods and craft items, as a vendor.

Especially once he started selling items in spring, Oliver says his printer works nearly 24 hours a day—so much so, in fact, that the smaller, simple one he first received wore out. His sales business has allowed him to buy a higher-end replacement with larger capacity—that is, capable of making larger pieces, and of printing more pieces at a time.

He says he has a lot of fun selecting patterns and colors, trying to create combinations people will find appealing enough to buy. His prices—which range from about \$1 to \$10—are based on his costs. Some filaments are more expensive than others, and some items require more material. He also tries to figure in wear and tear on his printer, knowing it will need to be replaced someday.

His low prices and intricate novelties, though, draw the interest of quite a variety of people.

"Kids like to pick things up and look at them," he comments of some of the many-jointed, fanciful "widgets" he offers. He says he makes a fair number of sales when kids run get their parents and grandparents to request the toy-like pieces.

And, he says, many adults find items that catch their fancy. He points to a brightly-colored turtle of a size to fit in the palm of an adult's hand.

"One lady bought six of those," he says. "She bought one, then came back and bought five more. She said they were for her [adult]

kids." The fanciful piece can easily be carried in a pocket, and when set on a flat surface acts as a prop to keep a smartphone standing upright.

Older people, he says, have fun selecting items as gifts for their grandchildren.

Income at the farmers market, where he set up his booth nearly every weekend through the warm part of the year, he says, ranged from about \$50 to \$150 each time.

Oliver comments it's taken "a lot of trial and error" as he improves at all the elements involved with making three-dimensional printing into a business. He has found, for example, that glow-in-the-dark items tend to be very popular, as do pieces printed using multi-colored filaments. He also hopes to keep improving by learning more about the materials, the processes, and customer interest.

One step he said he's already gotten started on is learning to make his own designs—the input and specific information the printer uses to make shapes. He has sought advice from other, more experienced users, and has made use of some online sources. He is also curious about a related process called "resin printing," and hopes to find out more.

For now, he says, he is satisfied with the way things are working out. Especially since his friend Levi Collier, 14, is usually available to assist at shows and events, the two of them enjoy spending time together and watching the different reactions as people come by the booth and look at the wide variety of items on the tables. They answer customer questions and, every now and then, they rearrange things, including a set of stackable figures.

"We just chill together," observes Oliver. "It's a good way to spend some time."



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Holiday Open House



From left: Emily Nelson, Jaelyn Herbert, Jon Butler, Megan Wobschall and David Trcka were present for the FM Bank's Christmas open house on Dec. 12, 2024. Cookies, coffee and hot chocolate were served. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

The Giving Season



Volunteers helped distribute iWealth Christmas Baskets to 236 eligible households the morning of Dec. 14 and the afternoon of Dec. 16. Volunteers are (in no particular order, with some not pictured), Mariya and Roger Bergquist, Wyatt, Jon and Amanda Partain, Cindy Kolander, Mike and Alex Lewandowski, Hailey and Vicki Proehl, Reed Anderson, Diego deVisscher, Nicole Busse, Scott Deml, Jessica, Josh and Chris Ryan. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Spirit of Christmas



Michaiah Grannis, Grant Hawains, Linda Seifert, Debbie Roemhdt and Pam Rudolph were warm in spirit at Waseca's St. Paul's Live Nativity on Dec. 14, 2024. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

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■ **Janesville**  
from Page 7

She said she had received an email from Rogers about water damage to the ceiling tiles and received clarification that the city would repair them in next year's budget as well as the gutters.

"I had a complaint earlier this week that there is no changing table in the bathroom and I understand that is a small area but that's something that needs to be addressed for mothers, fathers, or guardians," Koplen said.

She ended her requests by saying she would like to do a walkthrough with any of the city staff before she made a more detailed list of what needed to be done.

Rogers and Maas promised to take part in a walkthrough.

■ **New Richland**  
from Page 7

fisher Eli Lutgens had \$8,000 worth of damage done to his car by minors who stated the reason for their crime was "boredom." They reportedly threw rocks at the car damaging many panels of the vehicle.

A neighbor to Lutgens, reportedly had their house damaged in November when vandals threw rocks, damaging the siding.

In the Care Center report, the average census for November was given as 34.9.

In the maintenance report it was announced that the ice rink is open for the season.

The council approved use of Do-

cuWare for scanning and document retention for another year at a cost of \$4,040. After conversations with former assistant city administrator SaraJo Vulcan proved fruitful, the council may choose to use different software in 2026.

The regular meeting closed at 7:20 p.m. as the council went into closed session to discuss labor negotiation and strategy.

■ **McLoone**  
from Page 7

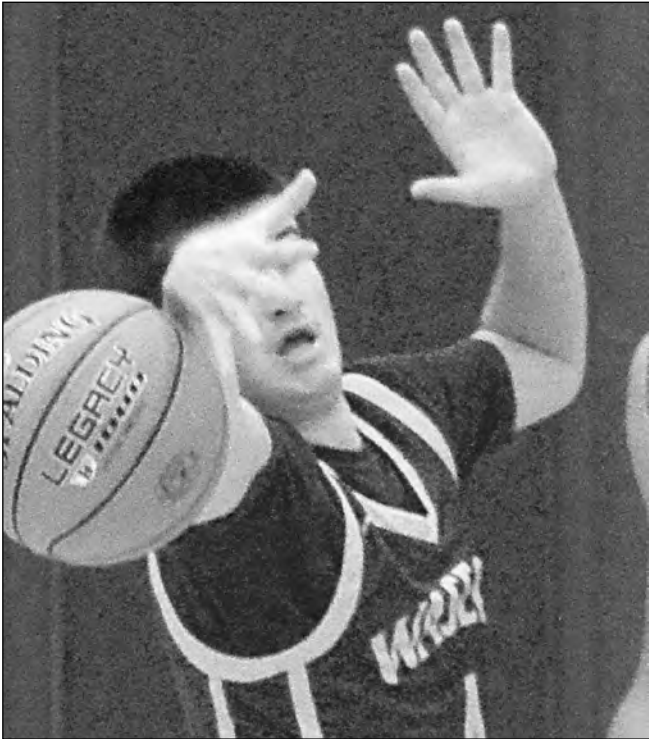
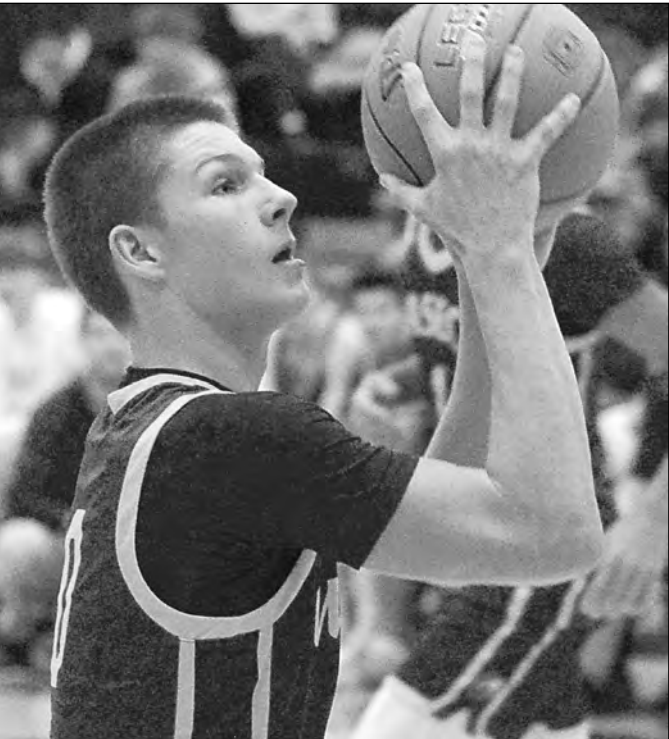
Craig Schuster, another born and bred Wasecan, said of McLoone, "He has the energy of Mick Jagger; his nickname from his bandmates was that he moves like he's the Energizer Bunny, because he'll just keep going and going." Every person in Minnesota who lived through the eighties and nineties knows the Twins song, "We're going to win Twins, we're going to score." McLoone helped write and perform the song; he can be heard and recognized on the original track. While mixing music at American Studios, Prince once said about his music, "Nice turn McLoone." McLoone learned later that "turn" means "bridge" in music lingo. His favorite Prince song is "Diamonds and Pearls," released in 1991. It was the last Prince song to hit number one in the charts.

The list of famous people McLoone has met begins with Dr. Famous Amos from the David Letterman Show. He's also met Lou Rawles, whose biggest hit was, "You'll Never Find." At A&M records he met the well-known brother and sister group The Carpenters; think "Close to You." He met Carol King and was asked to yodel on the Merv Griffin Show. He says he "partied" with Tom Petty. He learned some of his dance moves from James Brown. He was not a fan of REO Speedwagon, the words he used about that group are best left unprinted. His sister helped with the song "Magnet and Steel" by Walter Egan. Frank Stalone was, in McLoone's words, "Nice as hell."

McLoone said some of his online work from earlier this year has received a total number of views around 81,000—which netted him around \$18. But when asked whether he would ever do anything else, he replied, "Never, I would never do anything else, even if forced." When asked why he would have his party in Waseca and not some more famous venue in the Twin Cities, McLoone said, "Because it's always been Waseca for me. This is where I'm from, this is where my best friends are, this is home." The project he is most proud of would be when he worked with Solomon Witherspoon on the song "Starlight" which can be found on Youtube. In that song, children from Sacred Heart School are heard in the background. The project was to help during the tragedy of Sandy Hook, "That's what I'm most proud of." He also helps to sponsor an orphanage in Africa called Ultimamission.

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**NOT MUCH OF A REMATCH** — The Waseca High School boys’ basketball team overwhelmed Belle Plaine in a rematch of the section championship game at Waseca last week. From left: Ethan Hiller takes a shot; Caden Danner steals a pass; Damarius Russell dribbles. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

# Bluejays turn rematch into blowout

When the Waseca High School boys’ basketball team hosted Belle Plaine in a rematch of last year’s section championship game, most folks expected a close contest. They didn’t get it. The Bluejays briefly trailed in the early going but went on to an 85-56 victory last Tuesday. “I thought we defended at a really high level and shared the ball well,” said Waseca coach Seth Anderson,

whose team remained unbeaten. “I don’t think anybody anticipated this game ending up in running time, but our guys were really focused and competed well that night.” The Bluejays led 42-28 at half-time. Deron Russell led Waseca with 27 points, five rebounds, five assists, three steals and one blocked shot. Damaruis Russell totaled 14 points, 10 assists and three steals, Carson

## WHS boys’ basketball team dominates Belle Plaine

Ohnstad 12 points and two steals. Others: Ethan Hiller 4P, 8R, 3A, 1S; Cyrett Long 2R, 2A; Caden Danner 4P, 3R, 1S; Logan Reger 3P, 3R; William Mansfield 2P, 4R; Isaac Feldkamp 6P, 1R, 2S; Amin Shariff 1A, 1S; Caleb Wulf 1A; Wyatt Hager 7P, 2R, 1S; Riley Mitchell 3P; Max Howard 3P, 1R, 1S. Reger, Mitchell and Howard all

hit threes as the Bluejays cruised in the second half. The Tigers were led in scoring by Ethan Martin with 14. The Bluejays, 6-0 overall and 2-0 in the Big South East, won 80-64 at New Ulm last Friday. After hosting LCWM Tuesday, the Bluejays face Worthington at home Friday at 7:30.

| Big South East      |     |         |
|---------------------|-----|---------|
|                     | W-L | Overall |
| Jackson Co. Central | 2-0 | 4-0-0   |
| Waseca              | 2-0 | 6-0-0   |
| Belle Plaine        | 1-1 | 3-2-0   |
| Fairmont            | 0-0 | 2-2-0   |
| Blue Earth Area     | 0-1 | 2-2-0   |
| Tri-City United     | 0-3 | 0-5-0   |

## NRHEG girls 3rd at Maple River

The NRHEG High School girls’ basketball team finished third in last week’s Maple River Invitational, defeating Sibley East 60-37 in the opener while falling 60-58 to Winona Cotter in the championship game. The Panthers played a strong game against Sibley East, taking a 32-13 halftime advantage. “We had a long break between our last game on the 5th and tonight,” said NRHEG coach Onika Peterson. “It was nice to see the girls come ready to play with confidence, hustle, and determination.”

Individually for NRHEG: Gabby Schlaak 10 points, 8 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals; Ezra Boerner 1P, 1R, 1A; Quinn VanMaldeghem 6P, 11R, 5A, 1S; Izley Boerner 5P, 3R, 1A, 1S; Clara Buendorf 6P, 1A, 1S; Camryn VanMaldeghem 17P, 6R, 3A, 4S, 1 blocked shot; Savannah Farr 4P, 3R; Chloe Stork 1R, 1A, 1S; Kyrie Olson 11P, 2R, 1B. “We have a tough matchup tomorrow with Winona Cotter and their man jump press,” said Coach Peterson. “We are looking to make the extra pass and keep our turn over low.” The Panthers again played well but fell just short. They led 31-30 at halftime. “It’s never easy playing back-to-back days, let alone on a Saturday,” said Peterson. “The girls came out swinging against a tough Winona Cotter team. They were physical and added a man jump pressure defense the whole game.”

The Panthers sank two three-pointers to start the game, and it was back-and-forth all night. “We have made progress since game one vs. Triton with the pressure, cutting down our turnovers, something we continue to work at,” said Peterson. “The girls never backed down and continued to attack all night. This was the best we have played this year against a great team. It will be fun to keep this momentum rolling into next week and the holiday break.” Individually: Schlaak 6P, 5R, 3A, 5S; E.Boerner 1S; Q.VanMaldeghem 8P, 8R, 2A, 1S; I.Boerner 7P, 3R, 1A, 2S; Buendorf 7P, 1R, 1S; C.VanMaldeghem 19P, 10R, 3A, 5S; Stork 1P, 1R; Olson 10P, 5R, 1B. The Panthers play Friday at 7:15 p.m. at USC and Dec. 27-28 in the Norwood-Young America tournament.



**ALL THEY DO IS WIN** — After falling behind 1-0, the Waseca High School boys’ hockey team went on to a 7-2 victory over visiting Marshall last Saturday. Above, the Bluejays’ Brayden Hesch-Priem (33) takes a shot while Marshall goalie Nathan Lenz (1) makes the save. Also pictured: Griffin Storey (22) and Marshall’s Luke Ehlers (15). Below left, the Bluejays’ Beckett Srp fires a shot. Below right, Srp checks a Marshall opponent into the boards. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



## WHS hockey boys remain undefeated

### Bluejays handle Marshall 7-2, improving to 5-0-1

The Waseca High School boys’ hockey team remained unbeaten with a 7-2 victory over Marshall Saturday at Waseca Community Arena. The Bluejays, coached by Chris Storey, improved their record to 4-0-1 in the Big South and 5-0-1 overall. After falling behind 1-0 to Marshall, the Bluejays led 3-2 after one period and 5-2 after two. Jackson Tesch and Jude Gehrong scored two goals apiece for Waseca,

with one each by Jude Gehring, Otto Schoenrock and Henry Huttemier. Griffin Storey, son of Coach Storey, assisted on four goals, giving him a team-high 24 points for the season. Huttemier, Beckett Srp and Lucas Groll contributed one assist apiece. Waseca drew 13 penalty minutes on five infractions, Marshalls six on three penalties.

Josiah Schmidke was the Waseca goaltender, totaling 20 saves. Waseca hosts LaCrescent-Hokah Saturday, Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m. The Bluejays play Friday, Dec. 27 at 1 p.m. at Thief River Falls and Dec. 28 at noon at Crookston.

| Big South Standings |     |         |  |
|---------------------|-----|---------|--|
| WLT                 | PTS | Overall |  |

|             |       |    |       |
|-------------|-------|----|-------|
| Luverne     | 5-0-1 | 11 | 5-0-1 |
| Waseca      | 4-0-1 | 9  | 5-0-1 |
| New Ulm     | 3-1-0 | 6  | 4-2-0 |
| Minn. River | 1-1-0 | 2  | 3-3-0 |
| Worthington | 1-1-0 | 2  | 1-4-0 |
| Marshall    | 1-3-0 | 2  | 3-5-0 |
| Fairmont    | 0-3-0 | 0  | 0-4-0 |
| Redwood V.  | 0-3-0 | 0  | 0-6-0 |
| Windom      | 0-3-0 | 0  | 0-6-0 |

## Gymnasts reach goal, top BEA

### Wikan, Flatau pace Bluejays

The Waseca Bluejays set a goal for last week’s gymnastics dual meet against Blue Earth Area. They reached it. And got a victory to boot. “It was a great win for us!” said Waseca coach Kim Wendland. “The girls set a team goal of 127 and reached that!”



Wikan

The final: Waseca 127.9, BEA 125.2.

Seniors Bella Wikan and Brooklyn Flatau led the Bluejays.



Flatau

Wikan won the all-around with 36.1 points, winning the uneven parallel bars at 9.35, the balance beam at 9.1 and the floor exercise with a score of 9.15. She was fifth on vault at 8.525.

Flatau was first on vault at 9.0. She was seventh on bars at 6.7 and third on beam at 7.425.

Other Waseca places: Katelyn Weber, 4th, all-around, 30.825, 2nd, vault, 8.85; 8th, bars, 6.45; 6th, beam, 7.25; 4th, floor, 8.275; Hannah Parks, 6th, overall, 29.3, 7th, vault, 8.25; 10th, bars, 5.525; 7th, beam, 7.2; 3rd, floor, 8.325; Avery Carda, 5th, overall, 29.475, 8th, vault, 8.2; 9th, bars, 5.825; 4th, beam, 7.4; 7th, floor, 8.05; Enja Francois-St. Cyr, 9th, floor, 6.825.

The Bluejays compete tonight at 6 p.m. at St. Peter.



Parks

## Big South leaders shut out Flyers

### Waseca/Faribault girls fall to 5-6-0

The South Central Flyers girls’ hockey team ran its record to 5-6-0 with a 6-0 loss to Big South Conference-leading Marshall Saturday at Faribault Arena.

The Flyers play Thursday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. at Visitation and Dec. 26-28 in the the Frozen River Holiday Classic at Winona’s Bud King Arena.

| Big South Standings |       |    |        |             |
|---------------------|-------|----|--------|-------------|
|                     | W     | L  | T      | PTS Overall |
| Marshall            | 6-0-0 | 12 | 13-0-0 |             |
| MN River            | 6-0-0 | 12 | 10-1-0 |             |
| Luverne             | 5-2-0 | 10 | 8-5-0  |             |
| Fairmont            | 4-2-0 | 8  | 6-3-0  |             |
| So. Central         | 2-5-0 | 4  | 5-6-0  |             |
| Worthington         | 1-4-0 | 2  | 2-7-0  |             |
| New Ulm             | 0-4-0 | 0  | 2-8-0  |             |
| Windom              | 0-7-0 | 0  | 1-10-0 |             |

## NRHEG wrestlers drop duals

The NRHEG High School wrestling team lost twice at Lakeville Friday, falling 48-18 to host Lakeville South and 64-6 to Goodhue.

The Panthers wrestle tonight at Blue Earth Area and Dec. 20-21 in the Redwood Riot in Redwood Falls.

Bulldogs top 10th-rated Blooming Prairie

The Blooming Prairie High School boys' basketball team was rated No. 10 in the state entering last Friday's game at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton.

Don't look for them to be there this week.

The Bulldogs won handily, 67-43.

Gavin Bauer led JWP with 24 points, with Daulton Bauer totaling 18 and Landon Johnson 10. Caleb Quast, Gavin Weedman and Ethan Born added three each, with Michael Walker, Seth Dahlberg and Zander Terbeest contributing two apiece.

Brady Kittelson led the Blossoms with 18 points.

The Bulldogs, 3-1, return to action Dec. 26 when they face Minnesota Valley Lutheran at 6 p.m. in the Kwik Trip Holiday Tournament at Mankato's Bethany Lutheran College.



CALL IT AN UPSET IF YOU WANT — The JWP boys' basketball team made short work of 10th-rated Blooming Prairie last Friday, winning 67-43 in Janesville. At left, the Bulldogs' Daulton Bauer (1) shoots as Cooper Cooke defends. At right, JWP's Landon Johnson (5) drives.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



Lady Jays still seeking first victory

The Waseca High School girls' basketball team saw its record fall to 0-7 with a 76-21 loss to New Ulm last Friday.

Scoring for Waseca were Callie Dufault with 12 points, Gracie Morgan with six, Maren Schimming two and Addie Kelm one. Dufault and Morgan made three-point baskets.

Previously in the week, the Bluejays lost 76-21 at Belle Plaine.

The Bluejays play tonight at Worthington and Dec. 27-28 in the Lewiston Auto Holiday Classic at Winona State University.

| Big South East  |     |         |
|-----------------|-----|---------|
|                 | W-L | Overall |
| Belle Plaine    | 2-0 | 4-3     |
| Tri-City United | 2-1 | 5-2     |
| Jackson CC      | 1-1 | 3-3     |
| Fairmont        | 0-0 | 4       |
| Blue Earth      | 0-1 | 0-4     |
| Waseca          | 0-2 | 0-7     |

WEM/JWP WRESTLING

Scharberg Duals at Byron Dec. 14, 2024

**WEM-JWP 52, Byron 20**

107: Jacksten Knish (WEJW) won by forfeit; 114: Brenden Masso (WEJW) won by forfeit; 121: Landon Schaudenecker (BYRO) over Bre' Ana Masso (fall 1:23); 127: Trey Richards (WEJW) won by fall 3:11; 133: Carson Petry (WEJW) won by fall 0:53; 139: Brady Murphy (WEJW) over won by forfeit; 145: Parker James (WEJW) won by fall 3:35; 152: Zach Quast (WEJW) won by fall 1:31; 160: Lucas Morsching (WEJW) won 10-2; 172: Brayden Lorentzen (BYRO) over Maddox Moreno (TF 19-3 4:51); 189: John Paul Lorentz (BYRO) over Avery Fall (MD 15-6) 215: Thadeus Zabel (BYRO) over Kavan Sheehy (TF 19-3 4:00; 285: Keegan Kuball (WEJW) won by fall 1:20

Rochester Mayo 43, WEM-JWP 21

107: Jacksten Knish (WEJW) won by forfeit; 114: Blake Steffes (ROMA) over Brenden Masso (TF 17-1 2:26); 121: Juan Cobarruvias (ROMA) won by forfeit; 127: Victor Peterson (ROMA) over Trey Richards (fall 4:41); 133: Petry won 14-2; 139: Murphy won 15-2; 145: Cameron Werneberg (ROMA) over James (Fall 1:54); 152: Calder Sheehan (ROMA) over Quast (Fall 1:15); 160: Morsching won 12-5; 172: Deandre Swancutt (ROMA) over Moreno (Dec 6-2); 189: Carter Funk (ROMA) over Fall (TF 20-4 4:22); 215: Sean Maloy (ROMA) over Sheehy (fall 1:25); 285: Kuball won by fall in 2:37 over Caleb Loomis.

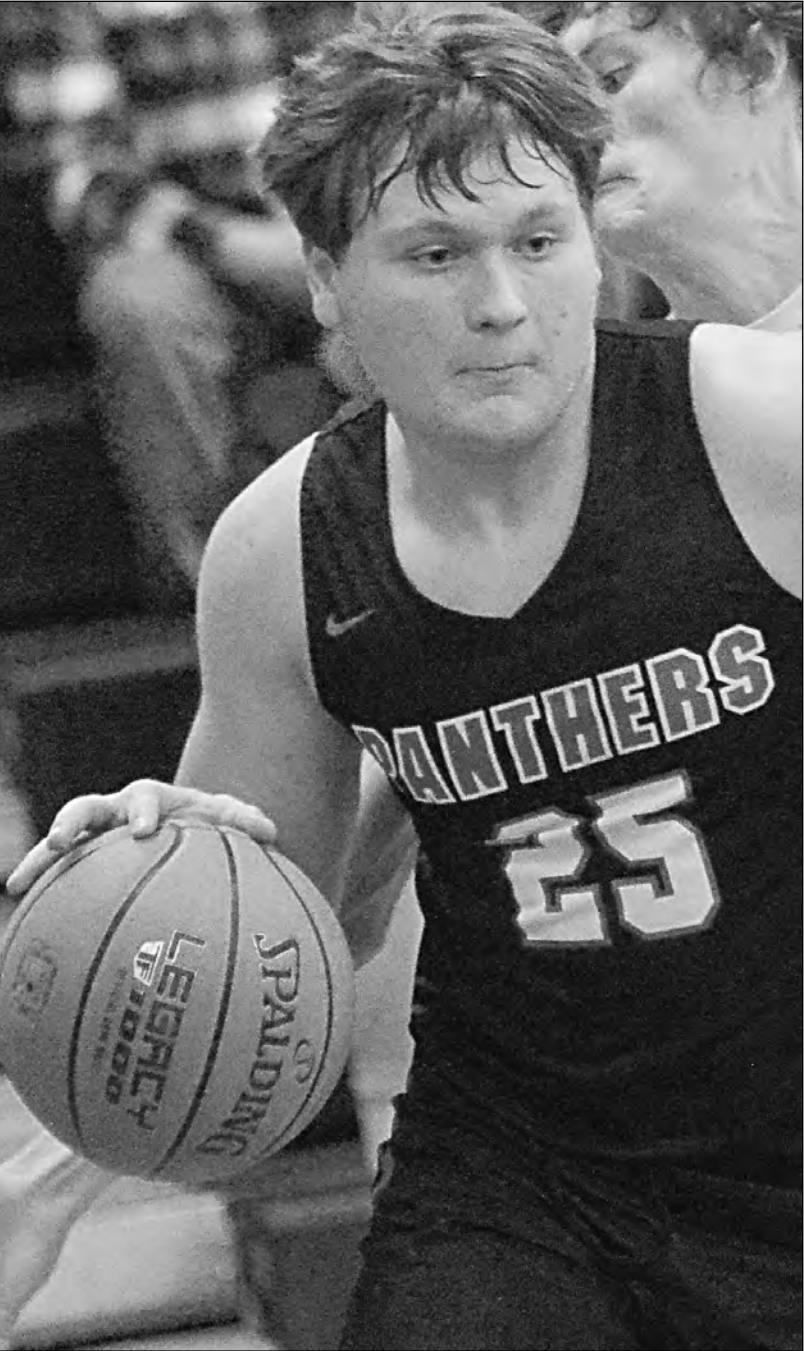
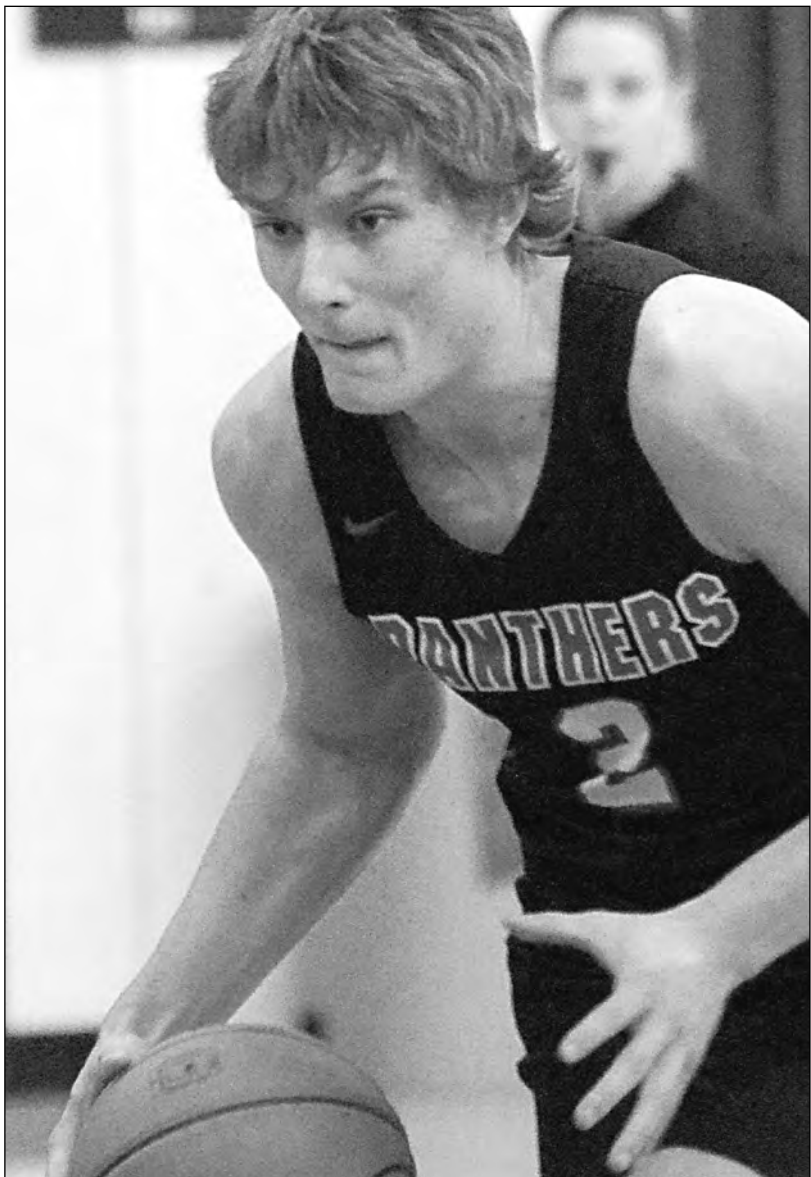
WEM-JWP 53.0, Dover-Eyota 17

107: Knish over Derek Bye (DE) (fall 1:07); 114: Masso over Bennett Shea (Fall 1:05); 121: Max Loftus (DE) over Masso (fall 0:40); 127: Richards over Gavin Deutmeyer ((fall 2:51); 133: Petry over Bronson Shea (DE) (TF 17-1 1:25); 139: Murphy over Caden Haag (Fall 3:09) 145: Carter Shea (DE) over James (Fall 3:37); 152: Quast over Cooper Hanson (Fall 2:16); 160: Morsching over Owen Ihrke (Dec 6-1); 172: Talen Rabe (DE) over Moreno (TF 22-5 3:09); 189: Fall over Tayden Ludescher (DE) (Dec 4-2); 215: Sheehy over Josh Wingert (Fall 3:17); 285: Kuball (WEJW) over Pierce Allen (Fall 0:54)



GETTING BETTER — According to coach Dan Schmidt, the NRHEG boys' basketball team showed improvement despite two losses last week. At left, the Panthers' Hudson Chrz drives to the basket against St. Clair. At right, NRHEG's Grayson Schaefer (2) brings the ball up court.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



DRIVE TIME — NRHEG's Jase Knudson (25) drives to the hoop against St. Clair.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG basketball boys improve despite losses

Coming off of two disheartening losses, NRHEG boys' basketball coach Dan Schmidt talked a lot about attitudes and trying to stay positive this past week.

"What a difference a week can make," said Schmidt.

The Panthers came out and left it all on the court last Thursday in a 73-51 setback to visiting St. Clair.

"To people outside the locker room, it might not show it by looking at the scoreboard," said Schmidt. "But it was a totally different team out on the court. We set small goals for ourselves going into this game to help turn some things around, and we met or exceeded those goals."

At one point, the Panthers trailed by 20 points, but closed the gap to 12 with some good runs in the second half.

"It was a real team effort in that we had balance on offense and we ourselves within the offense," said Schmidt.

The Panthers had three starters in double figures, with Jase Knudson and Hudson Chrz scoring 11 each. Owen Wayne chipped in 10 points and 6 assists. Greyson Schaefer had a strong game with 7 points and 12 rebounds. And Gavin Lewison came off the bench to play a great second half scoring all 7 of his points in that half.

NRHEG also got sparks from Jordan Brouwers, Deshawn Jones, and Lavon Jewison, providing some

"All we can do is keep working hard in practice and bring the right attitude."

— NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt

hustle plays along the way.

"Communication was much better than our first two games as well," said Schmidt. "We'll look to try to keep building off this."

Individual totals for NRHEG: Schaefer 7P, 12R; Wayne 10P, 6A, 3R; Brendan Schmidt 2P, 4R, 3S, 3B; Chrz 11P, 4R; Knudson 11P, 3R, 1S, 1A; Jewison 3P, 1R, 1B; Jones 1A, 1B; Brouwers 3R.

A night later, the Panthers ran into what Schmidt called another buzz saw as they fell 77-38 to Randolph in New Richland.

According to Schmidt, it wasn't for lack of effort.

"The boys never quit," he said. "And when we talked about it after the game, we all took ownership in how things went. We just kind of 'freaked out' against their press and their zone and turned the ball over way too much."

Individually: Schaefer 10P, 7R; wayne 12P, 3R, 4A; B.Schmidt 2R, 4A, 2S; Chrz 5P, 2R, 1A; Knudson

3P, 1A, 1S; Jones 8P, 1R, 3S; Jewison 4R; Dom Olson 1A, 1S; Lewison 2R, 1A, 1S; Brouwers 1R, 1S.

"When we hit the middle of their zone, we had a lot of opportunities that we just couldn't capitalize on," said Coach Schmidt. "Randolph plays at such a fast pace on both ends of the floor, and despite being ready for that, we just couldn't handle it. I'm hoping that we see fewer and fewer games like this as the season goes along and some of the guys start to get more and more comfortable playing at this level."

The Panthers, still looking for their first win of the season, won't be throwing in the towel any time soon.

"All we can do is keep working hard in practice and bring the right attitude, and I know there will be good things to come in the future for these guys and this program," said Schmidt. "The JV and C-squad teams both played great games and the support that these kids show for each other is growing more and more each day. The kids took it upon themselves to sit behind the benches during each other's games, and give them their full support. I'm very proud of the way these guys are rallying around each other right now."

The Panthers host USC tonight at 7:15 and end and play Friday at 7 p.m. at LeSueur-Henderson.

Story idea?  
507-837-6767





# The Pastor's Column

## Christmas is a busy season

**By PASTOR KEN ANDRS**  
Hope, Peace, Joy, Love. Advent is a preparation of the heart for the birth of Christ. I love hearing from people how they prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. I heard from one person that, "Christmas comes and goes." And then from another, "We celebrate with family often and repeatedly."  
In my own life, the Christmas season is busier than most people expect. As a Pastor, I try to make allowances for people to be able to celebrate the birth of Christ in a way that is meaningful to them. If it is a children's program, a candlelight service, decorations, singing all the Christmas carols or lighting the candles in a specific way. Each person that attends a church service has different expectations of how to celebrate the birth of Christ that is very personal and specific.  
Throughout the month of December, I, personally, am trying to prepare my heart and mind to celebrate the birth of Christ as well. I was told last year by a friend that "Easter was my Super Bowl," if that is the case then Christmas must be opening day and Advent is my pre-season. The birth of Christ brings a promise of His resurrection, so Advent and Christmas are the start of my intense focus on the work of Christ to save

our souls.  
In Philippians 2:5-8 Paul writes, 5 Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, 6 who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. 7 Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, 8 he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross. Jesus' work was a humble task, He limited Himself in taking on the form of man and being subject to time and space. In His humility He served humanity by being obedient to His Father going to the cross. His birth promises His death, the greatest gift we could ever receive is the gift of salvation. This Christmas ask your family how they prepare to celebrate the promised Savior. Take the focus off what you will give and receive and turn it to the greatest gift you could ever receive salvation through the messiah who humbly came to die for us. Praise God for His provision of Salvation.

# "Just Friends" saves the day

**By DEB BENTLY**  
News Editor  
"We called everybody and they said 'yes,'" is the simple answer to how it happened. Leadership at Waldorf's First Lutheran Church felt a bit confounded upon receiving the news that Ash St. John and Kurt Weber, a piano and violin duo from the Twin Cities area, could no longer perform the evening of Dec. 12 due to a personal emergency. Their performance had been widely publicized, especially among area churches, and leadership was uncertain what to do. Church pastor Larry Sipe commented their reaction was, in football parlance, to "drop back 10 yards and punt."  
Remembering the well-known area gospel group "Just Friends," leaders contacted New Richland area member Dean Buendorf to see whether there was any chance the 10-member tenor and baritone group could put together a performance with less than two days' notice.  
By an astounding coincidence—or perhaps something more than coincidence—all group members were available—and fully prepared, since they had recently performed a Christmas-themed program at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Richland—the venue which gives them space for their all year, weekly practices.



**Members of the harmony group "Just Friends" performed at First Lutheran Church in Waldorf on Dec. 12. Group members are Dean Buendorf, Larry Crabtree, Paul Hanson, Dale Krueger, Randy Lewer, Dennis Maurer, Doug Riskedahl, Brad Stencil, Brian Vairma, and Vern Wilker.**  
Many of the 40 or so audience members arriving for the 6:30 performance at First Lutheran the evening of Dec. 12 were taken completely by surprise to find 10 harmony singers at the front of the church, rather than the two instrumentalists who had been named in the advance publicity.  
In his announcements shared periodically during the performance, spokesman Randy Lewer commented the group members love to sing and love to share the good news about Jesus, and so were delighted with the opportunity to perform—even on short notice. By equally surprising coincidence Gratia Johnson, who accompanies the group during practice, was available to serve as accompanist for those numbers singers did not have recorded accompaniment for.  
It was also shared that eight of the ten active group members were among those who first formed the group 22 years ago. Present on Dec. 12 were Dean Buendorf, Larry Crabtree, Paul Han-

son, Dale Krueger, Randy Lewer, Dennis Maurer, Doug Riskedahl, Brad Stencil, Brian Vairma, and Vern Wilker.  
Among the numbers they performed were "Hear the Good News," "Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy," "One Pair of Hands," "Angels Among Us," and "Christmas Lullaby" and an a capella version of "Let There be Peace on Earth." The song "Celebrate the Child" included the words "No more wandering in the night, celebrate the child who is the light."  
It was also announced the group will be taking part in the Rochester KTC telethon to raise money for cancer research on January 18 and 19. They have not yet been informed of their time slot, but remembering that, as gospel singers, they were placed on Sunday morning during last year's telethon, they suspect that will be the case again. They encouraged anyone interested to watch for further information on Facebook and in the Star Eagle.

# Council approves 3% increase for 2025 levy

**By BEN REVERMANN**  
Staff writer  
The Waldorf City Council meeting was Monday, Dec. 9, at the community center. Posted to the Waldorf Facebook page was: "On behalf of the City of Waldorf, we would like to thank Kevin Lines for his 16 years of service on the city council."  
Council members determined the final tax levy for 2025, increasing it by 3 percent, about \$4,760, over 2024. The city's total property tax revenue for 2025 is expected to be \$163,641.60.  
Council members approved using the company American Legal Publishing to have all its ordinances made available online. Doing so will entail a one-time cost of \$800, a set-up fee of \$250, and a \$195 annual fee. The company will not only display all existing ordinances, but

agrees to add any new ones as they are adopted. The laws will be in a pdf format, available for perusal at any time. As required by state law, ordinance changes will also be published in the council approved "legal newspaper," the Waseca County Pioneer.  
Zoar's United Church of Christ had a toilet running for an unspecified amount of time, causing them to lose 54,657 gallons of water and leading to a water bill of \$686. Church representatives requested an opportunity to negotiate the number downward. Council members decided to allow a one-time decrease. The church was asked to pay the amount of their "average" monthly water bill, \$86.25. The church is in the process of closing; its last service will be Christmas Eve of this year.  
The Fire Department continued its request for a replacement exhaust fan

## WALDORF CITY COUNCIL

in the garage area. The company carrying out the repair will now be Vinson Plumbing and Heating out of Janesville. Quotes have been requested. Regarding Christmas lights, five are up and four are working. Some lightly used lights from Janesville have been purchased but not hung.  
Mayor Rob Wilkening reported he is working on a \$50,000 grant request and a \$150,000 grant for street lighting; he is hoping to implement a solar lighting project for Waldorf. The new type of streetlights are somewhat experimental but are expanding in popularity, Minneapolis has 40 of them.

Wilkening also reported having met with Tina Wilson, Waseca County Community Development Coordinator; he told council members to expect a community meeting in February. This will be for the 2050 (or 25 year) City of Waldorf Comprehensive Plan as required by State Law.  
In other discussion, it was brought up that the creamery building is unused and very dilapidated, and even has a large hole in an exterior structural wall, etc. The owner has had several dumpsters filled with garbage in back for many months, one filled with tires, violating current ordinances regarding debris. Council members have not decided what to do, but feel the matter will call for attention soon.

## Brilliant Bluejays



**KYLIE**  
3rd Grade  
Kylie is an incredible leader in our class who strives to show the Bluejays Way every day. She always makes sure to do her very best work and is never afraid to offer help to others. Keep up the great work Kylie, I am so proud of the amazing student you are!



**COLT**  
Kindergarten  
Colt is a great example of a respectful learner. He listens well, asks questions and always does his best work. He enjoys the stories and activities in the media center. He is kind to others and is wants others to learn too! Colt is an amazing Bluejay!



**EVERETT**  
Kindergarten  
Everett always does a great job with listening to and following directions. He takes pride in his learning and always does his best. He has learned so much already this year. Keep up showing the Bluejays Way Everett!

## Brilliant Bluejays



**OLIVER**  
Kindergarten  
Oliver is a leader during learning time. He listens with his whole body and does his very best! He is resourceful and wants to make sure that his work is done correctly. Way to go!



**MORGAN**  
1st Grade  
Morgan is a super respectful bluejay! She takes her time working to always do her best and is kind to others. She stays in her own space and starts each day with a smile. Keep working hard!



**LYDIA**  
2nd Grade  
Lydia does an awesome job at showing the Bluejays Way and respecting learning in the classroom. She works hard even when things may be difficult and always stays persistent in trying again when she makes mistakes! Keep up the great work!



**Steve Fields**  
Minnesota Attorney

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**REAL LIFE CHURCH**  
620 W Elm Ave, Waseca  
507-607-8245  
Sunday worship 10 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
New Richland, Minnesota  
Pastor Dan Kordahl  
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting

**VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
New Richland, Minnesota  
Pastor Dan Kordahl

Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship

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

**ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
New Richland, Minnesota  
Father Glenn Ferichs  
Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass  
Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m.

**FIRST LUTHERAN**  
Missouri Synod  
Waldorf, Minnesota  
Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe  
Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Freedom Township  
Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship

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

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

**TRINITY LUTHERAN**  
Wilton Township  
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor  
Sunday - 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1

**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**  
Brad Donner, Branch President  
Waseca, Minnesota  
[www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org)  
Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School  
Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
412 N. Main Street, Janesville  
Interim Pastor  
Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship  
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:15 a.m. Worship

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

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

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

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
300 Owen St., Janesville  
Pastor Sarah Krolak  
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship

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

**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Smiths Mill, Minnesota  
Pastor Robert Harting  
Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship  
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship

**NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
ELCA  
404 30 120th St. Waseca  
Pastor Sarah Krolak  
507-234-6463  
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday "Young at heart"  
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation

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



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**SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642**  
December 2024

| Sun                                                                       | Mon                        | Tue                                                                                   | Wed              | Thu                                                      | Fri                                                                                | Sat                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1                                                                         | 2                          | 3 Burger nite 5-7pm                                                                   | 4 6pm BAR Bingo  | 5 7pm HALL BINGO<br><u>Somalia Campaign began (1992)</u> | 6 MEAT Raffle 5:30<br>Horse racing 6:30pm                                          | 7 <u>Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</u>     |
| 8 <u>ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am – Noon Your Host BOY SCOUTS</u> | 9 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting | 10 Burger nite 5-7pm                                                                  | 11 6pm BAR Bingo | 12 7pm HALL BINGO                                        | 13 MEAT Raffle 5:30<br>Horse racing 6:30pm<br><u>U.S. National Guard Birth-day</u> | 14                                        |
| 15 <u>Official End of War in Iraq (2011)</u>                              | 16                         | 17 Burger nite 5-7pm                                                                  | 18 6pm BAR Bingo | 19 7pm HALL BINGO                                        | 20 <u>WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm Panama Campaign began (1989)</u>        | 21 <u>TOM AND JERRY NIGHT 4PM TO 7 PM</u> |
| 22                                                                        | 23                         | 24 <b>CLOSED</b>                                                                      | 25 <b>CLOSED</b> | 26 7pm HALL BINGO                                        | 27 MEAT Raffle 5:30<br>Horse racing 6:30pm                                         | 28                                        |
| 29                                                                        | 30                         | 31 Burger nite 5-7pm NEW YEARS EVE BIN-GO 7 PM<br><u>Kosovo Campaign ended (2013)</u> |                  |                                                          |                                                                                    |                                           |

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

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
WASECA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner's Room)  
300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093  
Thursday, January 2, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Request for Amendments to Articles 6 and 8 of the Unified Development Code (UDC). Waseca County requests these amendments following a series of work sessions by the Waseca County Board of Commissioners. Proposed changes can be found under the Zoning Code Amendments tab on the Planning and Zoning Department page. You can also request a copy of the proposed changes from Planning and Zoning during regular business hours.

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

Maame Quarcoo, AICP, Sr. Land Use Planner.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Dec. 19, 2024

**CITY OF WASECA PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE** is hereby given that the City of Waseca **Economic Development Authority (EDA)** will consider a **FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAM** at their meeting to be held at **12:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 8, 2025**, in the **COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL**, located at 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN.

Purpose:

The Waseca Economic Development Authority (EDA) was created in 1997 to promote economic growth within the City of Waseca. The EDA has also been given Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) duties for the City. A key function is the further development of business and industry in the City of Waseca, and being able to provide housing for the owners and employees of these businesses, including the availability of affordable housing.

The EDA also recognizes that the construction of multiple-unit housing developments provides for the creation of short-term construction jobs. The Waseca Economic Development Loan Program for the Creation of Multiple Family Housing is designed to stimulate private investment in high-quality housing that will be attractive and affordable. Therefore, this funding program is being established by the Waseca EDA to assist private business owners in their efforts to address the housing needs of Waseca businesses and residents, and enhance the overall economic prosperity of the community.

A complete copy of the Forgivable Loan Program is available in the office of the City Clerk, Waseca City Hall, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer 12/19/24 and 1/2/25

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) is considering a request for Federal assistance from Waseca County to construct a workforce development center in Waseca, MN for the purpose of promoting economic growth in the community by connecting job seekers with employers, providing resources for pre-employment training, and supporting individual career advancement. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, EDA is conducting an environmental assessment (EA) of the proposed project.

The proposed project includes remodeling the basement of the Waseca County Community Services Building, dividing the space into three classrooms, a larger meeting space, bathrooms, a break room, and an administration area. In addition to the remodel, a small (528 sq. ft.) above-ground addition will be constructed to provide the working space for a computer numerical control (CNC) machine. The project will be located at 1000 Elm Avenue West, Waseca, MN 56093. The purpose of the project is to assist residents with career planning, skills development, and job search strategies. Project information is available for review at Waseca County Economic Development Authority, 300 North State Street, Waseca, MN 56093, phone number: (507) 835-0538.

If you have any information regarding potential environmental impacts associated with this proposed project, please provide it in writing to:

Kyle Darton  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economic Development Administration  
Chicago Regional Office  
[KDarton@eda.gov](mailto:KDarton@eda.gov)

A copy of the NEPA/NHPA decisional document will be available upon request at the above EDA Regional Office.

Comments received in the EDA Regional Office by 5:00 pm on January 17, 2025 that will be considered.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on December 19, 2024

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# LETTERS TO SANTA

What do you want from Santa this year? What is your favorite winter time activity? Second-grade students at Sacred Heart Elementary school speak out in their letters to the Jolly Old Guy.

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Amyah 8 years old. I have been a little naughty and nice. I kicked my sister I am sorry. I have been nice to my cousin. I would like some makeup. I want a new water bottle. I want slime. I want sticky notes. I want a book. Love Amyah

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Faith I am 7 years old. I have been a little naughty and good. Santa I am sorry for kicking my brother. I have read a lot and I did all of my homework. I would appreciate if I could have a lot of girlie clothes, A real life puppy, A Nintendo switch with a couple games, And finally I want a lot of stich things. Love, Faith

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Caleb. I'm 7 years old. I have been good this year. I do my homework. I go to bed on time. At school I listen to my teachers.

I would appreciate a camera, a pizza scooter, monkey bars and a drone.

Love, Caleb

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Elaina I am 8 years old. I have been a little naughty this year. I also been nice. I have screamed at my parents but I did all my homework and spelling words but I fight with my brother. I would like a pink bike, coral shoes. I also want Jesus to come back to Earth. I also Love Christmas. Love, Elaina

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Anggie. I am 7 years old. This year I have been nice. I help my parents with the dishes. And I hold the door for people. I would appreciate a drone with a camera on it. and can I please have Madden 25 and a Xbox so I can play college football. Love Anggie

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Evelyn. I am 7 years old. I have been a little bit naughty and a little bit nice. I kicked my brothers they are Caden, Owen and James. This is how I been nice I help my grandparents do stuff. I would want whatever you want to give me. Love Evelyn

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Ben I am 7 years old. I have been nice this year. I help my mom with the dishes. I also take out the garbage. I would appreciate if you would make a bag without a dog on it but can you make it like a real ruff, a moose, a snowman. Can the color blow and I will be carter for the rafter.

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Mason. I am 7 years old. I have been a good boy. I help my mom with the dishes. I would like a drone with a camera on it so I can fly around the house and see everything. and a cron book and a present with a snow machine. Love Mason

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Henry I am 7 years old. I have been nice. I been respectful in church. I hold the door for people. I want a camera, a drone, and a Chromebook. Love Henry

LETTERS TO SANTA



What do you want from Santa this year? What is your favorite winter time activity? Second-grade students at Sacred Heart Elementary school speak out in their letters to the Jolly Old Guy.

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Gavin. I am 8 years old. I have been good this year. I am saying please. I do my homework. I to bed on time. I go to school. I listen to my teacher. I want a camera and want a Nintendo switch. I like Christmas. I like when we take pictures.

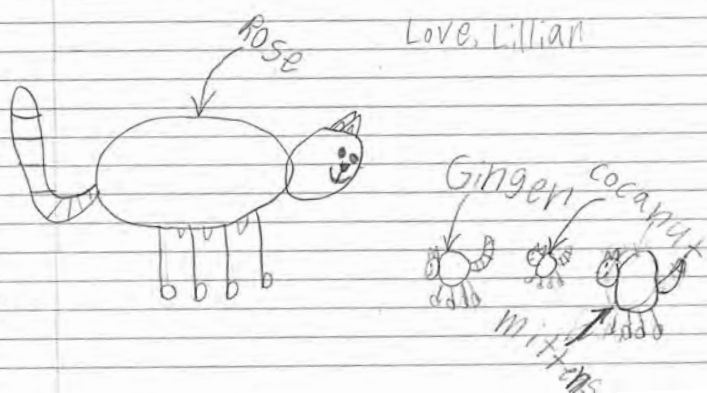
love, Gavin



Dear Santa,

Hi! My Name is Lillian. I am 8 years old. I have been good this year. I helped my mom with the dishes. I helped my Dad getting my brother off his bus. I would appreciate if you would give me a momma cat and three baby cats.

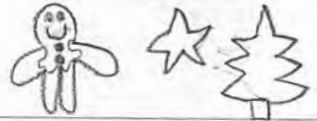
Love, Lillian



Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Nolan. I am eight years old. I have been a little naughty and nice this year. I Karatey chopped and kicked my sister. But I also helped alot this year. I would appreciate a ballpythan, monkey or a tarantald and a phone, tablet, Switch Games and maybe some cookies from Mrs clouse. dont let the elfs get to mutch suger!

love Nolan.



Dear Santa,

hi my name is Adelyn I am 7 years old. I have been good. I have been kind. I have done all my chores. I feed all my pets.

I would appreciate a camera and a tablet and a good Christmas.

Love Adelyn



Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Leighton. I am 8 years old. I have been nice this year and little naughty. I try to listen to my parents and my teacher. I am not nice to my dog. I would like a Nintendo switch, phone, mini brand, chromebook, yellow Stanley whith a cuts tope, a real life hedgehog, a real life bunny, a real life cow.

Love Leighton,  
Merry Christmas



Dear Santa

Hi I'm Roberto I'm 7 years old. I been a little mean but I been a little nice. I pickup the garbage in my classrom. I want for Christmas Lego train set, a Nintendo switch And a Nerf gun. And I want one black vitter cat.

Love Roberto



Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Lina. I am 7 year old. I have been nice and naughty this year. I almost once bit killi but I didnt. And I hit killi and Tristan. The nice thing I did I help my mom and babe.

I want winter dresses and winter shoes. And camera, take cake maker and take kitchen.

Love Lina

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Mitchell. I am 7 years old. I have been both naughty and nice. I have washed the dishes. I help my mom.

I want a Nintendo switch with a camera and a gun.

Love Mitchell



Dear Santa

Hi! My name is Parker I am 8 years old. I have been good this year but I have kicked my brother and hit him. I am sorry.

I would appreciate football socks and a PS5 and chromebook and a Viking jersey and xbox and a foot ball. Nerf gun and a canish mellow and a drone with a camera.

love Parker



ALL THE  
BEST TO OUR  
CUSTOMERS  
AND FRIENDS  
AT THIS  
HOLIDAY SEASON

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Caleb Kaduce, owner

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Christmas Greetings  
To You & Yours

WASECA, MINN  
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A Joyous  
Holiday!**

Jodie Thompson  
REALTOR

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jodiethompson.edinarealty.com  
jodiethompson@edinarealty.com

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*and a happy New Year*



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At Year's End*  
...And many thanks for your kind and loyal support.  
Have a wonderful holiday!

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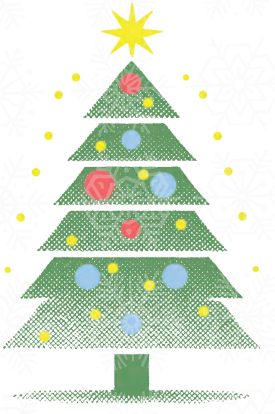
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*merry  
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**SEASON'S  
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**MERRY  
Christmas**  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



*jd* **Jenifer Dvorak**  
**Edina Realty**  
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# GLAD TIDINGS TO ALL • AND A SAFE HOLIDAYS!



Happy Holidays

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and Yours  
the Happiest  
of Holidays

May you and your family enjoy  
a joyous Christmas and a  
prosperous New Year.

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Merry Christmas



FROM

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON  
PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL TAX ABATEMENT**

Waseca County will conduct a public hearing pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 469.1812 to 469.1815 for the purpose of receiving oral and/or written comments for a proposed Residential Tax Abatement (Resolution 2025-06) for the County portion of property taxes for a new residential structure to be built on property within the City of Waseca, as described as follows: Lot Four (4) and the East 37.50 Feet of Lot Three (3), Block Two (2), Fox Meadows 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition. The Parcel Identification number is 17.285.0240.

The public hearing will be held at approximately 9:30 A.M., Tuesday January 7, 2025, in the Waseca County Board Room, 300 North State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

The County's abatement term cannot exceed 50% of the County's share of annual taxes for up to ten years. The total abatement of the County's share of taxes on this parcel described above shall not exceed \$11,348.90. in total.

Waseca County held a hearing on and approved the City of Waseca and Waseca County Residential Tax Abatement Program on May 16, 2023.

Pertinent information is on file at Waseca County Planning & Zoning. Any person wishing to make a written comment may do so by mailing them to Waseca County, 300 North State Street, Waseca MN 56093. Waseca County.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Thursday, December 26, 2024 and Jan. 2, 2025

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON  
PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL TAX ABATEMENT**

Waseca County will conduct a public hearing pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 469.1812 to 469.1815 for the purpose of receiving oral and/or written comments for a proposed Residential Tax Abatement (Resolution 2025-07) for the County portion of property taxes for a new residential structure to be built on property within the City of Waseca, as described as follows: Lot Ten (10), Block Two (2), Fox Meadows 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition. The Parcel Identification number is 17.285.2100.

The public hearing will be held at approximately 9:30 A.M., Tuesday January 7, 2025, in the Waseca County Board Room, 300 North State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

The County's abatement term cannot exceed 75% of the County's share of annual taxes for up to six years. The total abatement of the County's share of taxes on this parcel described above shall not exceed \$6218.92 in total.

Waseca County held a hearing on and approved the City of Waseca and Waseca County Residential Tax Abatement Program on May 16, 2023.

Pertinent information is on file at Waseca County Planning & Zoning. Any person wishing to make a written comment may do so by mailing them to Waseca County, 300 North State Street, Waseca MN 56093. Waseca County.

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Waseca County will conduct a public hearing pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 469.1812 to 469.1815 for the purpose of receiving oral and/or written comments for a proposed Residential Tax Abatement (Resolution 2024-05) for the County portion of property taxes for a new residential structure to be built on property within the City of Waseca, as described as follows: Lot Six (6) Block Five (5) Pondview of Waseca, Waseca County, Minnesota

The Parcel Identification number is 17.535.0340.

The public hearing will be held at approximately 9:30 A.M., Tuesday January 7, 2025, in the Waseca County Board Room, 300 North State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

The County's abatement term cannot exceed 50% of the County's share of annual taxes for up to ten years. The total abatement of the County's share of taxes on this parcel described above shall not exceed \$8,342.40 in total.

Waseca County held a hearing on and approved the City of Waseca and Waseca County Residential Tax Abatement Program on May 16, 2023.

Pertinent information is on file at Waseca County Planning & Zoning. Any person wishing to make a written comment may do so by mailing them to Waseca County, 300 North State Street, Waseca MN 56093. Waseca County.

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