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WASECA
COUNTY
PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 2 Vol. IV \$2

Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca

Thursday, January 9, 2025



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Blood drive

Boundary Waters exhibit at the New Richland Library in January

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

Book Blizzard Reading Challenge at Waseca Le Sueur Regional Library system for January and February

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

“Book Bathing” at Waseca Public Library during all open hours in January

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

Steak and Shrimp Fry at the American Legion Friday, Jan. 10

The Waseca American Legion will have a steak and shrimp fry from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 10. Hosted by the Waseca Soccer Club. There will also be a meat raffle at 5:30 p.m. Musician Andy Tackett will be present from 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Gun and Knife Show at The Mill Friday and Saturday Jan. 10 & 11

The Mill will host a Gun and Knife show from 4-8 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 10 and from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 11. Dealers and vendors will be buying, selling and trading guns, ammo, tactical gear and other accessories. I.D. required.

Pajama Story Time at the Waseca Public Library Mon., Jan. 13

There will be a Pajama Story Time at the Waseca Public Library at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13. Get ready for bedtime with cozy stories, crafts and other activities. Kids are encouraged to wear pajamas. Geared for ages 0-5.

Jigsaw Puzzle Derby at the Waseca Public Library Wednesday, Jan. 15

There will be a Jigsaw Puzzle Derby at the Waseca Public Library at 10 a.m. Wednesday Jan. 15. Teams of up to four players for competition. First team to complete puzzle wins a prize and bragging rights.

*A word from
The Word*

And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons.
Romans 8:23

Bethlehem Inn receives \$39,000 in “homelessness prevention” funds

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Bethlehem Inn, a Waseca shelter which provides short-term housing for women and their children, received \$39,630 in unanticipated funding during a special meeting of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners Tuesday, Dec. 31, when commissioners approved transferring \$39,630 in “homelessness prevention aid” to the facility.

The funds had been issued to the county in 2023 under a Covid-motivated program which began in 2021 and will continue through 2028, according to county administrator Michael Johnson. One stipulation is that money received under the program must either be put to use by the end of the year following its receipt,

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

or be returned to the state. Johnson also explained the \$39,000 had originally been earmarked toward purchasing a small parcel of land within the city of Waseca’s boundaries, but an arrangement to buy the parcel for about \$63,000 had fallen through only days before. Johnson pointed out the circumstances left the county with two options: find another way to benefit local people and the local economy with the funds, or return them to the state.

Johnson went on to say Bethlehem

County continued on 4



Taking part in the special county board meeting on Dec. 31 were (back, from left) County administrator Michael Johnson, and commissioners De Malterer, Doug Christopherson, Brian Harguth, Brad Milbrath, Brad Krause, as well as Bethlehem Inn representatives (center row, from left) Gregg Johnson board of directors member; Angie Alvarez, shelter manager; Sue McIntosh, program director; Molly Erdman, board of directors vice president; Roger Ashland, board of directors treasurer; and (front) Diane Ytuarte, board of directors president.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Sleigh and Cutter celebrating three quarters of a century

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Having begun in 1950, the Waseca Sleigh and Cutter festival marks its seventy-fifth anniversary in 2025. To the best of anyone’s knowledge, the festival is the longest-running event of its kind in the country. Ken Borgmann, who’s been one of the event’s organizers since the early 1990s, says things have really come together this year. A slate of events begins Jan. 16 and will continue through the day of the parade, Feb. 22.

The Sleigh and Cutter observance begins with the “Find the Medallion” and “Identify Frosty” contests, each of which has a prize valued at \$1,500.

A silver medallion has been hidden somewhere in Waseca; starting on Jan. 16, clues to its location will be released once per week on the Sleigh and Cutter Facebook page and website (www.sleighandcutterfestival.org). Anyone who finds the medallion should report their success to the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce office at 210 North State Street.

The Frosty contest will also have clues released once per week as to the identification of a well-known Waseca area resident; guesses regarding Frosty’s identity should be submitted at the Waseca Music Company at 111 South State Street.

The pageant which will crown the Miss Waseca Sleigh and Cutter royalty will begin at 6:30 p.m. January 25 at the high school’s Performing Arts Center.

Ice sculpting by the Sakatah Carvers will be featured the evening of Feb. 19 in front of the Public Safety Building along South State Street.

The Sleigh and Cutter dinner and dance is open to everyone. It will take place from 5 to 10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, at the Starfire Event center. There will be basket dinners and a meat raffle from 5 to 7 p.m. A flag cere-

mony and introduction of the Miss Waseca Sleigh and Cutter pageant royalty will be at 7 p.m. Chris Brooks and the Silver City Boys will be performing from 7 to 10 p.m. The group is a Minneapolis based country band; their show is a combination of current and classic country hits and popular songs from Texas country to red dirt.

The seventy-fifth yearly Sleigh and Cutter parade will start from the Waseca County Fairgrounds at noon on Saturday, Feb. 22. The parade route begins at the county fairgrounds, circles through downtown and returns to the fairgrounds. Spectators can either stay in the shelter of their vehicles parked along residential streets on the route, or watch from the sidewalks along State Street. More information about the route is available online. The parade will feature animal-drawn and motorized units. A caisson owned by the Law Enforcement Memorial Association (LEMA) will be among the units: it is an authentic horse-drawn caisson which LEMA makes available for use in the funerals of any law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. The parade features various horse breeds, festival royalty and units of many different types.

A fireworks display will be shown over Clear Lake after dark, about 7:30 p.m., the evening of Feb. 22. According to Borgmann, the festival is sponsoring its largest fireworks display ever.

Throughout the 45 days or so of Sleigh and Cutter observances there will be numerous events for snowmobilers. The Waseca Sno-Secas will have a club ride starting at 10 a.m. on Jan. 18. The Annual Mike Filzen Memorial Ride will begin at noon on Feb. 1. The Toner’s Lake Vintage Ride begins at 11 a.m. on Feb. 15. The An-

Sleigh continued on 4



Scenes from the 74th annual Sleigh and Cutter festival held in 2024.



Pastor Andrs says farewell for Fertile

By ANN STALOCH
Contributing writer

With just enough sun to shine through the rich stained-glass windows, Pastor Ken Andrs delivers his final message with his sonorous voice. After nearly four years of ministry at First Congregational Church in Waseca, Andrs is moving on to serve as pastor of Hope Evangelical Free Church in Fertile, MN. He says his time in Waseca was marked by deep connections with parishioners, a commitment to building community, and a philosophy of ministry that places family at its heart. As he prepares for his new role, Andrs reflects on the experiences and lessons that have shaped his time in Waseca.

Andrs recalls he and his wife, Naomi, were drawn to Waseca by its multigenerational community, where

grandparents, parents, and children live and grow together; he says the emphasis on family mirrors their personal philosophy of ministry, which emphasizes involving children in worship and service. “One of the huge philosophies of our ministry life is that kids are the church,” Andrs said. “They have a place to serve and a need to be taught. They need to worship in a way that makes sense to them.”

The Andrs family—including Naomi and their children Kati, Elaina, and Nathanael—has been integral to his work. Naomi, a dedicated educator, has been pursuing a master’s degree in early childhood education, which she plans to complete this spring. Andrs said he hopes

Andrs continued on 4



Andrs family from left: Kati, Nathanael, Elaina, Pastor Ken, and Naomi.

Pioneer photo by Ann Staloch



Compostings

by Al Batt

Hartland Harold news

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I'm completely exhausted.
From opening all your Christ-mas presents?

No, from playing with all that bubble wrap.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Is it just me, or do we get winter every year? A weather forecast including freezing rain never draws applause. I had nothing to complain about except the weather. That's a good day. It had rained, and then it snowed, leaving ice. The ice was very realistic. I stood on some of it. I was dressed for the cold, and I'm used to the snow. When I was a boy, I had to walk three miles uphill through deep snow to change the TV channel. I wore a favorite pair of socks as I stood on the recent ice. What made them favorites? They were warm and they didn't fall down. I could hear what every basketball coach calls out to players on defense, "Move your feet!" I shuffled like I was wearing slippers many sizes too large for me. I had no desire to make an unintentional snow angel. Winter can be a cruel mistress.

I'd been driving when it rained and snowed. I didn't express any negativity, but I didn't once say, "This is fun." According to a new study, "Frosty the Snowman" is the most dangerous Christmas song to listen to while driving. According to Insuranceopedia, South China University of Technology conducted a study that found songs with over 120 beats per minute led to more dangerous driving habits. The 1950 hit, first recorded by Gene Autry, has a BPM of 172, which was higher than any other song they examined.

I'VE LEARNED

You push the door. You pull the door. If neither opens the door, the business is closed.

When you step on the scale, pretend the number is your IQ.

When seated in a dental chair, few things near you are decorative.

Minnesota has a blanket policy. The more blankets, the better. We all know this poem: Thirty days hath September, April, June and November. All the rest have 31, excepting February alone, and that has 28 days clear and 29 in each leap year. But January could have up to 300 days.

Wearing size 14 shoes is no small feat.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

What do you call a wolf that already knows? Aware wolf.

I wrote a step-by-step guide on how to fall down the stairs.

Peruvian owls hunt in pairs because they're Inca hoots.

If you think lima beans are good, you should try any other food.

NEWS FROM HARTLAND HAROLD

Minnesota State Mavericks senior football player Gabe Hagen was named to the AP All-American First Team. The tight end from Blooming Prairie is the son of Dave and Joan Hagen. Dave is a graduate of Ellendale-Geneva High School.

Joey Batt became the fourth Maverick women's basketball player to earn All-American honors. She was named to three All-American teams. Joey's parents are Brian and Laura Batt of New Ulm. Brian graduated from New Richland-Hartland High School.

I enjoyed reading "21 Siblings: Cheaper by the Two Dozen" by Helen Miller, which told the story of Alvin and Lucille Miller and their 22 children (all single births). The Millers began their married life on a farm near Hartland, Minnesota, in 1940 before moving to Waseca. When the 11th child was born, the oldest was 12. I suspect all 22 learned the abiding rule of large families, "Don't be late for supper."

I was ringing bells for the Salvation Army when Santa Claus came in to buy Hope Butter to put on his lefse.

Keith Kuiters of Clarks Grove is follicly challenged (there's a lot of that going around), but his sense of humor remains intact. He pulled the comb he always carries from his pocket and said, "I'll never part with it."

NATURE NOTES

The bald eagle is now officially the national bird of the US, after President Biden signed that into law on Christmas Eve. My thanks to Preston Cook of Wabasha for being the driving force in making this happen.

Duane Miller of Hartland asked how far a skunk can spray. Adults aim accurately within 15 feet, but the spray goes farther when wind aided. Skunk spray contains N-butyl mercaptan, a sulfur compound with a pungent rotten egg smell that a human nose can detect at 1 1/2 miles away. Skunks hold enough odororous liquid to spray 5-6 times before needing to replenish, and it takes 8-10 days to refill. When they're about three weeks old, a baby skunk's scent glands have developed enough to produce the spray, but not with the quantity or the velocity of an adult skunk.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Do you wish the world were happy? / Then remember day by day / Just to scatter seeds of kindness / As you pass along the way."—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

Artificial intelligence took his job



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

I began working as a high school language arts (think "English") teacher in the early 1990s. Back then, there were no stunningly portable laptops. If you had a computer, you needed a desk to keep it on. The "brains" were in a square (almost always) black box; communicating with the brains required a separate keyboard, monitor, and mouse. If you wanted to create a computer file and have access to it at another computer, you needed to save it to a "disk." This started out as a "floppy disk" became a "laser disk," and eventually became a USB "memory stick."

Obviously, the technology evolved over time.

Now, part of an English teacher's job is to help students become more skilled as writers. Clearly, that means we need to have students produce original pieces of writing and then provide feedback, hoping students will use that feedback to do better on the next assignment.

I'm sure I don't have to tell you, students are not fond of producing essays and papers. The task requires planning and concentration to decide what to say and a strong command of language to phrase the ideas well.

So, from time immemorial, one of the ways English teachers must analyze a piece of student writing is to determine whether it is original work or has been heavily modeled after some other piece.

The more complex computer technology grew to be, the easier it became for students to plagiarize. I'm sure you can imagine: it reached a point where students could go online, select some

text, copy it, then paste it directly into their work. Nowadays I believe all schools subscribe to some sort of plagiarism detection software.

The first priority of such programs was taking a piece of text, then looking all over the internet for anything that was nearly identical. The program NRHEG used was called "Turnitin." It not only checked the internet, but every time a student submitted a paper, that was kept in its data banks for future reference. I once had a younger sibling submit a paper that had been written a year or two before for my class by an older sibling. Though I would probably not have remembered the piece of writing, Turnitin did.

Next came artificial intelligence (AI). Perhaps you are aware that nowadays a person can access an online site and ask that nearly any digitally based task be accomplished. This includes requesting an essay 750 words long about the life and experience of a famous American writer. The most well-known of these sites is "ChatGPT," and at least up to a point, it can be used at no cost.

So now, in addition to checking for

here was composed in less than five seconds using artificial intelligence.

Write a paragraph about 200 words long about why people should embrace artificial intelligence.

Embracing artificial intelligence (AI) presents numerous advantages that can transform how we work, live, and solve complex problems. First, AI can dramatically enhance efficiency by automating repetitive tasks, allowing individuals and organizations to focus on more creative and strategic endeavors. This can lead to higher productivity, innovation, and ultimately economic growth. Additionally, AI has the potential to improve decision-making processes by analyzing vast amounts of data with unparalleled speed and accuracy, revealing insights that humans might miss. This is particularly valuable in fields like healthcare, where AI can assist in diagnosing diseases or predicting patient outcomes with greater precision. AI's ability to learn from patterns also leads to continuous improvement, ensuring that systems become more effective over time. Moreover, AI has the power to address some of the world's most pressing issues, from climate change to poverty, by optimizing resources and offering solutions based on data-driven insights. Far from replacing human capabilities, AI complements them, serving as a powerful tool that amplifies human potential. By embracing AI, we can unlock a future of greater convenience, equity, and advancement. The key is to approach AI responsibly, ensuring ethical guidelines are followed and that it is used for the benefit of all.

I will do better in '25

This week I figured I might as well sit down and try to write something substantial rather than just anything and everything that comes to mind. And maybe I'll read this one over again when I'm done to catch spelling and grammar mistakes. Maybe I won't.

You see, I spent a few days updating the entire year of 2024 in the new "Star Eagle" website. Every story and every column was manually entered by me. (So if you see a mistake, that's my fault. Sorry). But while I wasn't able to read every story I entered, I was able to skim over a few here and there and read some fun columns by Eli, Al Batt, Dick Herfindahl, Bob Hanson, and Mark Domeier. They all put such care and consideration into their columns that I feel I am doing you all a disservice. I apologize and will work to do better from now on. It will be my New Year's resolution!

Speaking of that, Happy New Year! (I realize I forgot to say it last week when I was writing the column. After all, it was still December at the time).

As for New Year's resolutions, I

tend not to do them anymore. In high school or in the past, of course I participated for the month or so I could remember or care to follow. Then, as it seems like the rest of society, I tended to let my resolutions go. Oh, well.

This past week the family and I spent our days lazing in the sun in Mexico. We went to a resort north of Cancun and spent five days alternating between the beach, the ocean, and the bar. Going to a resort is quite interesting to me because I find it fun to watch how people spend their days either lounging around, drinking, or eating. It's as if we humans aim to do the bare minimum while at an all-inclusive.

I personally do not find this lifestyle enticing. I would rather be doing something productive beyond simply deciding between eating, drinking, sleeping, or getting a tan (or like my family, sunburnt). No hate to those who do enjoy that approach: It was great fun the first couple of days, but I can only handle so much. Every day has been windy and I am starting to quite dislike the wind constantly



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

brushing my face.

We did travel to an island; unfortunately, my sister lost her phone on the journey leading to what was possibly amuch needed respite from the cellular device. Don't we all need a break? Hers, however, was an accident; her phone bounced down the only hole on the pier. For now, her Ipad will suffice. We spent the day renting a golf cart and riding up and down the small island, hopping from ruins to restaurants to shopping blocks. It was fun, but I was just reminded how little I like the practice of haggling with the Mexican shop owners. I am one total sucker and pay full price because I feel bad. Meanwhile my parents know otherwise and can see through the lies and selling points, getting to the true sales. That's why I have them shop for me.

I do find it weird how all-inclusives are designed to be a hotspot for alcoholism or continual drinking. It's all you can drink, any drink, at any time. As a 21-year-old, they always look at me with suspicion when I ask for a non-alcoholic drink—as if it's an oddity that one might go to an all-inclusive resort and avoid excess. Although I did try some fun new alcoholic drinks. Banana colada, the grasshopper, the mango tango. And yes, I did get my Miami Vice! To die for. Plus the weather was nice and warm while everyone in Minnesota was suffering single and negative digit weather (sorry, not sorry). I'll be back to freezing with you soon, don't you worry.

My Determination: "Chancho. When you are a man, sometimes you wear stretchy pants in your room. It's for fun." - Nacho, Nacho Libre

Don't ever forget the Golden Rule

I feel compelled to write about responses I've witnessed from folks this past weekend.

I believe strongly in the golden rule: "Treat others how you wish to be treated," or, phrased another way, "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you."

People who are insulted by another human being have different reactions. When someone you love is insulted, your response may be even stronger than if the slight were aimed at you.

Recently, I had the pleasure of having lunch with Deb Bently and her husband John. If you know John, you know that he is a brilliant, kind, caring and compassionate man. You may also know that he has numerous patents in the air duct cleaning industry.

Once, while attending a convention for his business, John had thousands of dollars of equipment as well as his truck stolen. The entire vehicle and its contents were "stripped" all the way down to the tires. This not only set his business back, but hurt his family because of the loss of revenue, time, and more. John made the comment, "Mess with me, that's fine, but don't ever hurt my family."

Love compels people to protect those they care about, sometimes by any means necessary.

I've written before about the game store I have frequented for the past eight years in Austin. Due to circumstances that astonished even me, my friends Kyle and Anastasiia generously gave me their game store when they needed to move away to take care of family.



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

Shortly after acquiring the game store in April of 2024, I parked behind the building, inadvertently blocking the neighbors' vehicle. I know the neighbors and am friends with their daughter.

As I got involved with work at the game store, I forgot I had parked behind him. The neighbor stumbled out of a bar next door, yelling profanity and demanding that I move my car. I apologized, moved my vehicle and assured him it wouldn't happen again. He appeared surprised at my calm response, because, to be frank, he had posed the question harshly and was obviously very intoxicated.

(Thankfully, he didn't drive anywhere after I moved my car.)

After he left, my friends were very upset.

"Eli is the nicest man in the world," one friend said. "We can't let someone talk to him that way."

There were similar comments from everyone. Then the conversation to my alarm turned to suggestions of physical retaliation. I had never seen my friends behave or speak so defensively. It was a harsh overreaction.

I had to stop everyone then and state emphatically, "One person's bad actions do not justify others to do the

same or worse."

If we retaliate, we lower ourselves to the level of the behavior which offended us. If we had taken retaliatory actions to this drunkard, we would only have justified his bad behavior by lowering ourselves to that standard.

This past weekend something similar happened; a customer left a bad review of the game store for no good reason. The story behind the review is rather meaningless at this point.

One of my friends went on a rant, defending the store; he couldn't believe someone would be so malicious as to leave a bad review online. More than one person echoed the sentiment. Then the group declared the culprit should be banned from the store. The person in question is only 17 years old.

No, the person shouldn't be banned. This is a teachable moment for a young adult who, from my perspective, was not raised with good role models. This is our opportunity to show him kindness. To show how responsible, respectful adults should conduct themselves. Not to show him more of what he's already seen: hate, discontent and further disrespect.

I believe he owes an apology to

one of my employees because of his actions, but aside from that, if we want to see him move toward being a mature, rational member of society, banning him from the store is the last choice we should make. My employees have been instructed if he comes into the store again that he is to talk to me. This will give me the opportunity to help explain what the consequences of his actions are or could have potentially been. And also be an example that hate or anger should not be met with more hate and anger.

Numerous times at the game store this past year, I found myself becoming annoyed with a few regular patrons. I found myself not wanting to interact with them, actively avoiding them, really not being their friend. I wasn't mean, but certainly wasn't treating them with love.

I prayed about what I should do.

The response I felt I heard was to treat them with love and kindness, the same way I would treat one of my best friends. In both cases, I changed my behavior and started asking many questions to get to know the person. In both instances the people in question have become very good friends I cherish and look forward to seeing. All it took was changing my behavior. I'm really grateful.

I'll repeat again: you often get out of the world what you put into it. And I will continue to do my best to put kindness out into the world.

"It's never the wrong time to do the right thing" - Mark Twain.

Or

"It's never wrong to do the right thing."



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After giving blood, Louise Hagey posed with a free t-shirt the Red Cross offered to every donor from mid-December into early January.

Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

Waseca Legion Red Cross blood drive

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

A blood drive at the Waseca American Legion on Monday, Dec. 30, drew 55 donors and collected 55 pints of blood according to Leanne Suttleif, who coordinated the drive with the American Red Cross. Four legion volunteers and four Red Cross phlebotomists staffed the six-hour event.

Sitting at tables amongst boxes of grape juice, fruit punch, cookies and single serving fruit snacks was

Drive continued on 4

Louise Hagey who was keeping the recuperation tables supplied, serving people and generally offering assistance. “Dominos was kind enough to donate pizza for the givers. When you give blood, the Red Cross now sends you a notice on where the blood was sent. They first check the local area and if there’s no need they send it wherever, hurricane victims, tornados in the south, whatever.” She



Red Cross phlebotomist Maddie Schwamberger helped Ryan Buchele give blood during the Red Cross blood drive on Monday, Dec. 30, 2024

Virtual Author Event featuring TJ Klune Wednesday, Jan. 15

Come have a magical moment with New York Times bestselling author TJ Klune as he chats about his Cerulean Chronicles at a virtual Waseca-LeSueur Regional Library System event at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15. This event will be recorded and people who register will be emailed a link to the recording. Register at the library or at wasecaleseurlibraries.com/registered.

Drawing Club at the Janesville Public Library Jan. 16

There will be a Drawing Club at the Janesville Public Library beginning at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 16. This club is for artists, teens of all skill levels. New techniques and drawing styles will be taught about fashion, anime, nature, objects, illustrations, doodles and portraits. For ages 12-18. Sponsored by Janesville Area Foundation and The Pope Family Fund.

Mother-Daughter Book Club at Waseca Public Library Thursday, Jan. 16

There will be a Mother-Daughter Book Club at the Waseca Public Library at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 16. Girls in grades 3-6 are invited to bring a significant adult female to join them as we discuss great new books, do activities, and enjoy treats. This month’s book, *Dress Coded* by Carrie Firestone.

Farm-to-Fork dinner at Farmamerica Friday, Jan. 17

Farmamerica will have a women’s Farm-to-Fork dinner at 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17. Keynote speaker Michelle Miller, cocktails and entertainment. Tickets are currently available online.

Sno-Secas snowmobile club ride Sat., Jan 18

The Sno-Secas snowmobile club will depart from the Waseca American Legion at 11 a.m. planning to return at about 6 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 18. Sign-up is at 10 a.m. Contact Jake at 507-451-2570 with questions.

The band Family Tradition will play at Indian Island Winery Saturday, Jan. 18

The Indian Island Winery will host the band Family Tradition at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18. They are known for their old and new hit country music.



Flames roll through an area of dry grass toward Waseca County’s Moonan Marsh wildlife refuge.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

A look back at 2024 part two

In the past year the Waseca County Pioneer has covered many exciting stories worth remembering. Here is a look back at the best highlights from the year that was 2024.

March

- The third annual Sleigh and Cutter Kite and Balloon Show drew a crowd which organizers estimate to be the largest yet, with spectators arriving as much as an hour early and staying well past the scheduled end time of 5 pm on Saturday, Feb. 24. No one seemed to mind.

- “Every show we give is better than the last one,” jokes pyrotechnician Tim Boese, leader of the five-person crew

putting together the Feb. 24 fireworks display which was part of the annual Sleigh and Cutter celebration.

The crew spent the afternoon placing firework “mortars,” filling them with “shells,” and then wiring them in preparation for electronic firing.

- Newly elected Waseca County Commissioner Brad Milbrath was sworn in to his seat on the county board during the group’s Feb. 20 meeting. Milbrath fills a spot left vacant by the sudden death of then chair Blair Nelson last year.

- ICAN Business Development Director Tiffany Lynch was honored for her service as a chamber ambassador

during a community awards banquet held at the Starfire Event Center in January.

- Ed Frederick, 94, who received the Don Eustice Award during the Community Awards Banquet last month, has a clear love for his community. Though others might take the opportunity to boast, Frederick credits his impressive list of personal and professional accomplishments to God and his community.

“When I hit 90 years old, I decided that since God had given me some extra time that he doesn’t give everybody, I took a week or two to pray about what I should do,” Frederick said. “Finally, what I came up with was that

I should be a cheerleader for God and his message on earth, the family, the community, and agriculture.”

- Nearly 2,000 acres of grassland in Waseca and Steele counties were burned Sunday, March 3, while fire-fighting agencies from around the state, including planes and helicopters dropping fire retardant material, fought against the high winds and dry conditions which had prompted the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to issue a “red flag” warning—meaning that the public should light no fires because of the high

2024 continued on 5

NRHEG School board organizes for 2025

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

In addition to completing legally required “organizational” steps, members of the NRHEG School Board accepted two retirements during their Jan. 2 meeting.

Secondary art teacher Cynthia Gail is now taking advantage of a Minnesota law which allows eligible teachers to be officially retired and receiving retirement benefits while also continuing to teach; Gail informs the Star Eagle she plans to continue in her position through the end of the school year, and will decide sometime in March whether she will stay with the district through the 2025-’26 school year. Woodworking and construction skills instructor Brad Root is also teaching under the

same program.

Barb Hagen, long-time secretary for the secondary guidance office, also had her retirement approved. Her last day working for the district will be Jan. 17.

The first element of the “organizational” portion of the Jan. 2 meeting was a ceremonial oath of office for re-elected members Loren Schoenrock and Pat Theuer and newly elected member Kelly Delacruz, each of whom is at the start of a four-year term scheduled to run through the end of December 2028. Board members Rick Schultz, Amy Ihrke, Aaron Phillips and Pat Theuer will complete their current terms in December of 2026.

Board chair for 2025 is Rick Schultz; Loren Schoenrock is vice



School Board
NRHEG

chair; Terri Engel will serve as clerk; Pat Theuer is the board treasurer.

Board members elected to keep the amount of pay issued to them at \$100 for meetings of a typical length or \$150 for all-day meetings or work sessions. In addition, the chair will receive a \$200 annual stipend; the clerk will receive \$150; the treasurer \$100.

The NRHEG Star Eagle will continue to be the district’s official newspaper, including that any legally required public notices regarding dis-

trict activities will appear in its pages. The State Bank of New Richland continues to be the official depository along with the Minnesota School District Liquid Assets Fund.

Board members made no changes to their schedule of monthly meetings taking place at 6:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month; when that Monday falls on a legal holiday, as it does this year in January, February, and April, the meeting will occur on the Tuesday following the regular meeting day. Board members alternate the location of their sessions between the elementary and secondary sites, always in the facility’s media center. For 2025, meetings will be in Ellendale during the months of January, March, May, September and November.

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

Board approves 1.6% levy increase

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

Members of the Waseca school board recognized visitor Ann Fitch at their regular business meeting on Dec. 19. Fitch, the outgoing Chamber of Commerce executive director, thanked the school district for its collaboration and partnership with the Chamber during her six-year tenure.

A spokesperson for the Cliften Larson Allen firm presented the financial audit for fiscal year 2024; a “clean” audit report was issued for financial compliance and reporting. The board will receive and approve the final document in January.

Business Director Sarah Cramblit presented “Truth in Taxation” information regarding payable in 2025. The total payable 2025 property tax levy is set to increase from the final certified payable 2024 levy by 1.63 percent. As the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) continued to make adjustments after the board approved the preliminary maximum levy in September, the final 2025 property tax levy is \$17,057 higher than the amount presented in September. There were no comments from the public after Cramblit’s report.

Superintendent Eric Hudspeth briefly discussed the January 9 organizational meeting where the induction of new board members, officer elections, committee designations and other district operations will take place. Hudspeth also passed out drafts of the 2025-’26 school year calendar and reported regarding feedback received from the community. In accordance with both feedback and calendar dates aligning, the school year will have a spring break at the end of the second trimester.

Board chair Dave Dunn presented members Julie Anderson and Edita Mansfield with plaques and thanked them for their time serving on the school board, as this was their final meeting.

All action items concluded, the board adjourned. The next meeting will take place in the Central Building second floor conference room at 5:30 p.m. on January 9.

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From left: Chamber of Commerce President Mikhail Rostislavovich, Dr. Jay Bulfer, Robin Dulas Executive Director.

Dr. Jay Bulfer joins Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce board of directors

Waseca, MN — The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the addition of Dr. Jay Bulfer to its board of directors. A graduate of Waseca High School, Dr. Bulfer is a proud Bluejay who has returned to his hometown to make a lasting impact on the community.

Dr. Bulfer and his wife, Dr. Lyndsea Bulfer, own and operate Growing Roots Chiropractic in Waseca. They specialize in chiropractic care that involves Department of Transportation physicals, workers’ comp injuries, as well as traditional chiropractic services. In addition to serving the community through his professional practice, Dr. Bulfer contributes his time and talents in various other capacities. He is an active soccer coach, a member of the Waseca Exchange Club, and has enjoyed participating on the Chamber’s Legislative Committee.

“Jay is an enthusiastic and thoughtful emerging leader who dives right into any initiative he’s part of,” said Chamber president

Mikhail Rostislavovich. “We are thrilled to have his energy, dedication, and vision on the board of directors as we continue working to enhance the Waseca area’s business and community environment.”

As someone who has returned to Waseca to grow roots—both personally and professionally—Dr. Bulfer embodies the spirit of leadership and commitment that strengthens the local community. His ability to connect with others, paired with his drive to make a difference, makes him a valuable addition to the Chamber board. Dr. Bulfer stated, “Being able to give back to the community that gave me so much truly fulfills me. The Chamber board is a perfect opportunity to help serve a wider audience of Waseca.”

The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce looks forward to the contributions Dr. Bulfer will make as he helps lead efforts to support businesses, advocate for the community, and foster opportunities for growth in Waseca.

■ Drive from Page 3

said that when people give blood it’s recommended that they sit for 15 minutes or so: If they do feel faint or need assistance, Hagey is there.

The Red Cross mission statement reads: We always aim to prevent and relieve suffering with every action. The Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to people affected by disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation’s blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families.

Dorothy Harguth, a fellow volunteer, was honored earlier in the evening, she received a bouquet of flowers, a certificate of achievement and a plaque that commended her for more than 20 years of helping support blood drives. When asked why she’s been at this for so long she replied, “I started doing it and I enjoyed it so much I

kept doing it.” She admits she is getting older but when asked about retirement she replied, “I will do this as long as I’m able.”

Donor Mary Jo Knudson, with red medical tape on her arm because she had just finished giving blood, sat down with some apple juice and some Cheese Nips. She said about giving blood, “It’s something I started in high school, I’ve known people who’ve needed it and it’s something good I can do.”

The phlebotomist in charge was Red Cross employee Amanda Reinarts, who says a blood drive in Waseca is a full nine-hour day for her. “Set up takes an hour when we get here, so does tear down. We do all over southern Minnesota and South Dakota. My district is based out of Mankato and we’re doing 6 to 8 blood drives a day. I’m only part time so I work three days a week and I love this job. If I had to recommend anything about giving blood it would be to make an appointment, things go so much faster that way.”

From Dec. 16 through Jan. 3, anyone who donated blood got a brand new “Chillin’ with my Snomies” t-shirt.

■ Sleigh from Page 1

nual Vintage Snowmobile Show/Ride will take registrations at the Boathouse beginning at 9 a.m. Feb. 22. Vintage Snowmobile Ice Drags are Feb. 22 at noon on Clear Lake.

Borgmann mentions that the balloon and kite festival will not be happening on Clear Lake this winter. The show has been rescheduled to July 5 at FarmAmerica. There will be an American Flag kite flown that’s so big it needs to be anchored down by a semi truck and will require a staff

MN Chaos softball bean bag toss fundraiser at the Mill

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

There was a bean bag tossing fundraiser for the men’s slow pitch softball team at the Mill on Saturday, Jan. 4. The temperature outside was a chilly two degrees but the spirits inside were warm and upbeat.

Matthew Olsem was keeping track of who was winning and who was losing up on the stage and he said, “This is a fundraiser for softball, but league play is usually played in the summer and fall months.” Nine teams, 18 people, were playing Saturday. MN Chaos is a softball league; this fundraiser for an Owatonna team was the only one the group had sponsored far this winter, but Olsem observed, “I don’t know when, but there will be more down the road.”

The Mill donated its space for the day, there were also a cash bar and free ice water. Dan Crow finished his first game and found a table to sit at while he sipped on a beverage; when asked why he was here, he said

quickly, “I’m just here to support the team.” The sign on the door said the event was a “bean bag toss” fundraiser for the softball team called MN Chaos. The sport is also known as “cornhole.” An online source describes: “Cornhole, also known regionally as ‘sack toss,’ or ‘bags’ is a lawn game popular in North America in which players or teams take turns throwing fabric bean bags at an inclined board with a hole in its far end.”

Two more players, Jim and Tony, sat down after their second game; both said they usually call it cornhole. There were 12 pairs of boards set up and Tony, who works for Kruger Home Inspections, said, “I built all of these boards after the Mill called me when their homemade boards started to fall apart.” The new cornhole boards have a nice shiny finish and display the names of Waseca businesses. Jim Priebe then asked, “Do you guys know why they don’t put corn in the bags anymore?” Tony did not know. Priebe continued,



Ashlynn Schwering and Jim Priebe were taking part in the MN Chaos Mens Slowpitch bean bag toss fundraiser at The Mill on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

“Because the corn when it’s moved and jostled around causes a lot of dust. It gets hard to clean after a while.” Instead, the corn has since been replaced with a type of resin that doesn’t create dust.

Michael Johnson sat down for a minute for a drink and to catch his

breath, his children were busy competing against each other. “We had to drive an hour to get here; it’s for a good cause. Bring the kids out and throw some bean bags. This was a big deal for us today, so we had to come.”

■ County from Page 1

Inn’s programs fall within the guidelines for acceptable use of the money; holding a “special” meeting on the final day of 2024 allowed the county to meet the “end of the year” stipulation which would otherwise have triggered returning the funds.

A group of six representatives for Bethlehem Inn attended the meeting, including four members of its advisory board, program director Sue McIntosh and shelter manager Angie Alvarez.

Board member Roger Ashland mentioned the shelter has a yearly operating budget of about \$140,000, with about \$100,000 needed to pay staff wages and meet expenses. He praised area residents and organiza-

tions saying “It’s amazing what this community donates,” and went on to say the funds would help expand and improve the facility’s services.

As summarized in a November article in the Waseca County Pioneer, Bethlehem Inn has been a homelessness prevention shelter for five years. Up to 16 people can live in its facility, formerly a convent for nuns who helped with the work of Waseca’s Sacred Heart Church. Women and their children are provided housing in a dormitory-like setting; typical stays are between 90 and 120 days.

McIntosh stated during the county board meeting that Bethlehem Inn has helped 440 women and children to date; most, she said, came from a region spanning from Austin to Mankato. She told commissioners the facility prefers to work with people who are reestablishing their roots in the local region because staff members are better acquainted with

the agencies and people who can be of support.

McIntosh said one goal is to help residents overcome any stigma associated with their homelessness. She emphasized Bethlehem Inn participants come from widely varying backgrounds. Some are overcoming abusive or controlling relationships or mental health issues or addiction. All are working toward establishing stable futures.

As Alvarez spoke with county commissioners regarding the newly designated funds, she particularly referenced the “transition” elements of Bethlehem Inn’s services, meaning the time during which shelter residents are encouraged to begin building more stable lifestyles, including finding reliable housing. She mentioned participants often have “barriers” as they contact landlords, including limited or damaged histories as renters. Along with that, she

pointed out, new renters are often expected to provide the first and last months’ rent as well as a damage deposit before being allowed to move in.

Program participants are expected to acquire those funds themselves, Alvarez went on to say, and so far Bethlehem Inn has provided financial assistance only toward the deposit. She stated, however, that the additional funds would offer some flexibility in making future decisions on a case-by-case basis.

Administrator Johnson told Bethlehem Inn representatives that its status as “aid” means the \$39,000 will not have to be repaid, and can be used at the facility’s discretion.

Representatives offered to provide a report sometime in the future regarding how the money is used, and invited county representatives to arrange a tour of the facility if they should wish.

■ Andrs from Page 1

the couple’s shared commitment to faith and service has created a powerful example for their children and the congregation. Naomi expressed, “This church and this community have been special for our whole family.”

Andrs’ children speak fondly about their father’s dedication to his calling and the parish. They all say they have enjoyed their time with Waseca’s First Congregational Church. Nathanael, the youngest Andrs, lights up as he talks about his time spent leading Sunday School for the youngest pupils of the pulpit. He expressed, “Being able to help with the music or teaching Sunday School, it brings us closer as a family.” Elaina said she felt a connection to the church community. “I just love the people here, and it truly is a family at FCC,” she shares. Eld-est child Kati is on the search for a new church while she is at college: “It is really hard to find a church of your own when you have the luxury of hearing your dad preach every week,” she said.

Andrs relates his path to ministry began in his youth, growing up in a Christian household where church

was central to family life. Originally envisioning a career in engineering, he found his true calling during his studies at Northwestern in St. Paul. “The only thing that I really enjoyed was the biblical studies,” he recalled. This led him to seminary and eventually to a life of ministry.

After serving as a pastor at a Baptist church in the Twin Cities for seven years, Andrs said he and Naomi felt called to start a church in Superior, Wisc. There, their focus was on reaching those who were not attending church and helping them grow in faith. “Our entire goal was to tell people about Jesus and to help them grow in faith and knowledge of Him,” he said. “We built relationships, loved people, disciplined them, and trained them up.”

During this time, Andrs also worked as a mental health practitioner, providing in-home support and serving on South St. Louis County’s treatment court team. He mentioned these experiences deepened his understanding of the challenges people face and strengthened his commitment to bringing light and hope into difficult situations.

Andrs and his family came to Waseca after a season of demanding ministry. “The work of church planting is really tough on a person, and being bi-vocational was really draining,” he admitted, going on to say the Waseca congregation offered a place

of recuperation and renewal for the Andrs family. “The healing that this Congregation offered to our family and the ability to be in the community...those things matter to us.”

In Waseca, Andrs said he appreciated the town’s stability and sense of community, which contrasted with the transient nature of Superior; he noted, “You see families actively involved in life here.”

Andrs’ said his ministry in Waseca also allowed him to connect with the community. Although balancing church events with the busy schedules of sports and school activities could be challenging, he says he saw it as an opportunity to engage with families on their terms. Andrs found a comfortable spot within the coaching ranks for the Bluejay football and track teams. With a grin obscured by his beard, he mentioned, “Lots of school districts are doing away with not having activities on Wednesday evenings to allow those who want to worship an opportunity to do so. I appreciate the Waseca community for continuing this unwritten tradition.”

Andrs’ next role will take him up to Fertile, where he will serve as pastor of Hope Evangelical Free Church, a younger congregation founded in the mid-1990s. He says the church’s mission aligns closely with his own values: helping people come to know Jesus, “That’s really

what fits us,” he said. “Seeing new people come to know Christ and having a faith that makes a difference.”

The transition comes with logistical challenges. For the first six months, Andrs expects to commute to Fertile three days a week while his son Nathaniel finishes his senior year in Waseca.

As Andrs prepares to leave Waseca, he reflects on the impact the community and congregation have had on his family and ministry. From the healing they experienced to the relationships they built, he says Waseca will always hold a special place in their hearts. “We really appreciate the opportunity to try different things and to serve a type of culture different from what we were used to,” he said.

Parishioners have praised Ken for his dedication and compassion, saying the way he connects with his church community is exceptionally personal. They offer the example of times when he speaks directly to parishioners, by name, from the pulpit. Joanne Bauman, lifelong Church member, said she is sad Andrs is departing: “He has been so good. Done so much. He has such a good Bible study for the older ladies. He understands us.” Tracy Pomeroy echoes the importance of Andrs’ tenure at First Congregational. “He loves on everyone immediately, where they are at.”

Briefs

Treasure Chest Bingo at The Mill Sat., Jan. 18
The Mill Event Center will have Treasure Chest Bingo at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 18. Beside bingo there will be meat raffles, horse races. Prizes include power tools, designer purses and more.

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

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

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

Chris Brooks Band will perform at Starfire Event Center Friday, Feb. 21
The Starfire Event Center will host the Chris Brooks Band from 7-10 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 21. They perform a combination of danceable, current and classic country radio hits. This is part of the Sleigh and Cutter Festival.

CredibleMind offers free mental health resources
All area residents are eligible to use free online access to mental

health resources available at MNPrarie’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

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.



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Farmamerica invites area residents to celebrate the start of a new year at the facility's second annual "Raise a Toast" event at 6 p.m. January 17, 2025.

Farm to Fork dinner series continues at Farmamerica

Second annual toast to women

(Waseca, Minnesota)- Ladies, it's time to unwind, and let Farmamerica treat you to an evening designed just for you! As the holiday rush fades, Farmamerica invites you to celebrate the start of a new year at our second annual "Raise a Toast" event on January 17th, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

This year's event promises to be even more memorable with an engaging evening of food, entertainment, and inspiration at Farmamerica, conveniently located just off Highway 14, 5 miles west of Waseca.

Highlights of this special evening will include:

- Red carpet treatment and time for relaxed conversation with the ladies
- A delicious four-course plated meal featuring local producers and paired with a complimentary signature cocktail.
- Special keynote by Michelle Miller, "The Farm Babe", sponsored by Crystal Valley. Farm Babe is an internationally recognized agricultural advocate; speaker, influencer, author, and podcaster
- Plus, exciting surprises and thoughtful touches throughout the night!

Kari Wadd, Farmamerica Program Coordinator, shared her enthusiasm for the event. "We are looking forward to our second annual Raise a Toast, farm to fork event! This special evening will celebrate and honor women with an evening of great food, wonderful company, and remarks from our fantastic keynote speaker, Farm Babe. Gather your friends and family and join us for this event on January 17th."

Tickets and additional information about this special evening can be found at farmamerica.org/events.

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U of M offers array of agribusiness seminars

BRAINERD, MN. (1/2/2025)— Do you have an agritourism business idea, but unsure if it'll be successful? Are you wanting to add value to your current farming operation, but not sure where to begin? Or perhaps you're new to farming, but have an awesome idea of how to connect the public with food production?

University of Minnesota Extension will present a roadshow of workshops, both online and in-person across the state January through February. Writing a business plan can dramatically increase the success of implementing your business ideas and goals.

In these workshops, participants will learn what an agritourism business is - the intersection of farming and tourism. Participants will learn the steps to writing a useful and effective business plan and will learn how using AgPlan, an online business planning software that can give tips and examples to make the writing process easier.

"Sustained business success doesn't come from chance, fate or good luck", says Susanne Hinrichs, Extension educator with the Agricultural Business Management team at University of Minnesota Extension. "To run a successful and profitable business, it is critical that a person understand, implement and value the process of effective business planning and this workshop will get you

started or jump start your existing plan."

These workshops are free and will guide you in creating a business plan to bring your agritourism vision to life.

- Jan. 14: In-person at Cambridge, 9-11 a.m.
- Jan. 15: In-person at Virginia, 2:30-5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 22: In-person at Pelican Rapids, 4-6 p.m.
- Jan. 27: In-person at St. Joseph, 4-6 p.m.
- Jan. 28: Webinar, 6-7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 28: In-person watch party at Cologne, 6-8 p.m.

To register or find out more about these 2-hour workshops, go to z.umn.edu/agritourism.

Also, a five-part agritourism business planning series will happen in February and March to give participants a more in-depth cohort experience. Each week a different section of AgPlan will be featured. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. To find out more information about any of these offerings, go to z.umn.edu/agritourism.

For more news from U of M Extension, visit www.extension.umn.edu/news or contact Extension Communications at extnews@umn.edu. University of Minnesota Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Community health assessment reports now available online

Le Sueur, Minn. – The Le Sueur County and Waseca County Public Health Departments announce that community health reports for the two counties are now available for review. The reports include the topics "Health Equity Data Analysis," "Community Health Assessment," and "Community Health Improvement Plan."

The reports address a range of important health issues and topics concerning Le Sueur and Waseca counties including mental health, access to healthy food, economic stability and more.

Waseca County Public Health Director Sarah Berry said, "We want to stress that everyone has a stake in community health and can contribute positively by working together toward the future they envision. This includes neighbors and friends reaching out to fill gaps or lift them up to

leaders if the gap is too wide." Le Sueur County Public Health Director Megan Kirby said, "These reports are very insightful and very important to our communities going forward. They help us understand where our communities desire change."

The community health assessment and subsequent reports are released every five years and help identify the top health concerns in both counties. The reports benefit county residents as well as the state of Minnesota by incentivizing funding for essential programs and services. The community health assessment allows local public health departments to identify gaps and barriers in overall community health and develop plans to overcome them.

Residents are encouraged to review the recently released reports on the Le Sueur Waseca Community Health Board website at lwchb.org.

■ 2024 from Page 3

potential they would spread.

– Waseca County schools sent six wrestlers representing Class A to compete in the Minnesota State High School League this past weekend, March 1-2.

Keegan Kuball of WEM-JWP won his second straight state championship at 285 lbs.

Carson Petry also of WEM-JWP medaled, taking fourth.

NRHEG had no place winner. George Roesler won two matches, but lost in the second round of the Consolation bracket. Annabelle Petsinger, coming off a state championship a year ago, was hurt during her first round matchup and did not wrestle again. Ryan Schlaak of NRHEG lost both of

his matches.

Avery Fall of WEM-JWP was also hurt in his first round matchup and did not wrestle again.

– The Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center (WANSC) Backpack program received a \$10,000 donation last week from the newly rebranded Blaze Credit Union. The Backpack program sends packets of food home with area children who might otherwise spend those days hungry.

Cindy Kolander, WANSC director, made clear the entire \$10,000 would be used in continuing the Backpack program, and not any other food shelf initiatives.

– The Minnesota Office of Broadband Development announced last week that Waseca County will be receiving a \$4.38 million grant toward the cost of expanding broadband access to the "least served" areas of the county.

2024 continued on 6

Thank you, and Happy New Year!

Near the end of 2024, the Waldorf City Council gathered for a photo to honor the 16 years of dedication and service by outgoing council member Kevin Lines. "We appreciated his leadership and wish him the best," Mayor Rob Wilkening stated.

Pictured front row from left: Councilwomen Missy Sorbo and Carrie Ferch. Back: Mayor Rob Wilkening, Councilmen Kevin Lines and Jim Majeski. On behalf of the City of Waldorf, "Happy New Year!"

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The Pastor's Column

Last day as pastor

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

My office is empty. I have spent the last 3 ½ years working out of this office. Now the desk is cleared, the shelves are empty, the only things that remain are supplies for the church that are used on a regular basis.

Today is my last day as Pastor of First Congregational Church, I have 5 things to do today, then I will go for a walk in the woods and settle into my mobile office. I start at my new church on Sunday, which means that I am doing sermon prep, planning, prayer and so on for a church I have been in twice. It is an odd experience to move on, but not move yet.

One of the things that I have struggled with through my ministry is to determine where I am called. It is an act of faith to know where to go or what to do. To know your calling, the call or the location are unique experiences to most ministers. A Ministers calling usually has to do with what they are lead to accept as a call by God, this call functions independently of the church and deals more with how God has prepared a minister to serve Him. The call deals with a church that is looking for a pastor, a church extends a call to a Pastor to serve God in their body of believers helping them fulfill their call to be disciples.

I have always been sure of my calling from God, the call and the location is what I have struggled with. At times God may lead a minister to a new location that does not have an organized body of believers, so the work of the ministry is centered around a location rather than a body of believers. Other times, the call is to serve a body of believers in a church. For me, the call to a body of believers gave me the opportunity to serve the community, or the call to a community was to form a body of believers.

This discussion of calling, call and location is a discussion of what God is doing next in all our lives. I believe my call is to make disciples by being faithfully committed to see all people grow in Christ. Sometimes that call is to a vocation, location, or body of believers, but always it is a call to follow Christ in every area of our lives. Jesus spoke to His disciples when He was leaving them and said to them in Matthew 28:18-20: 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

No matter where we go, or what we do we have been called to be disciples of Jesus and make disciples. I would encourage you all to look at your own lives and ask yourself if you are a disciple and if you are a disciple how are you making disciples? Is there an area of your life that you need to submit to God's will so people in your life can become better disciples? You will hear from me one more time before I focus completely on my new church, I hope I have helped you be a better disciple in my time here.

If you have any testimonies of how God has used this column to encourage you please send them to the editor and they will get to me.

■ 2024 from Page 5

- With a newly installed board of directors under the leadership of President Missy Donner and President-Elect Mikhail Rostislavovich, the Waseca Arts Council will continue to build on the recent year of rejuvenation which has given the Center a whole new look while also expanding its arts and education programming.

- It's official. After many years of serving Janesville, the Mayo Clinic facility located at 312 N. Main Street has closed permanently.

When the clinic stopped accepting visitors last August, the closure was said to be temporary, and to have been the result of a "staffing situation." All patients who had been using the clinic were instructed to call the Janesville office so they could be redirected either to the Waseca or Mankato facility.

- The Irish American Club of Southern Minnesota is preparing for its 56th annual St. Patrick's Day celebration at 7 p.m. March 16 at the Mill in Waseca.

- The Irish American Club of Southern Minnesota celebrated its fifty-sixth year on Saturday, March 16. Events started at 10:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church and ended around 8 p.m. when Layla Keith was crowned Miss Irish Rose and Ava Appel received the Miss St. Patrick title.

During the holy mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Joseph and Kathleen Groh became Mr. and Mrs. Emerald Isle. Karynn Fett was selected as Grand Marshall. While the congregation received communion, Irish songs were sung, including "Lady of Knock," "Irish Blessing," "Hail," "Glorious St. Patrick," and "Mother Machree."

- Rattling off four straight wins through the Class 2AA Section 2 playoff bracket, the Waseca Bluejays earned a trip to the 2024 State Tournament. The Bluejays defeated Blue Earth, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial, and Belle Plaine, improving their record to 20-10. On Wednesday the Bluejays play Breck in the State Quarterfinal. This year is Waseca's 12th appearance in the state boys' basketball tournament. They also went in 1918, 1919, 1948, 1974, 1975, 1987, 1988, 2002, 2016, 2019 and 2021.

- Good food, conversations, and stories were shared during the annual Farm and City Luncheon March 21, hosted by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce at the Mill in Waseca.

Following a lunch catered by the Pheasant Cafe and served by local FFA Chapters from Waseca, NRHEG, and Waseca, the following families, all from rural Waseca, were honored with awards: Farm Family of the year (FFOY); Sommers Brothers Custom Baling, LLC, Brian & Kirsten Sommers and Matt &

2024 continued on 7

OBITUARY

Richard Rohne

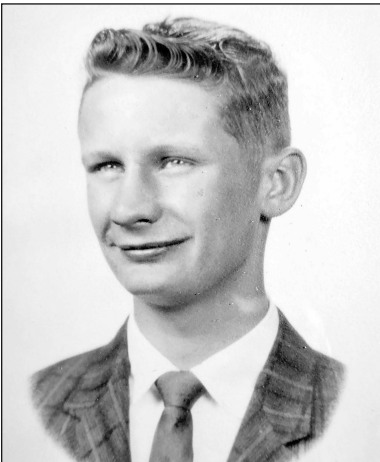
RICHARD MARTIG ROHNE, age 81 of Waseca, died Friday, January 3, 2025, at the Mapleton Community Home in Mapleton.

He was born on September 21, 1943, in Minneapolis. He was the son of Orville D. and Viola E. (Martig) Rohne. Richard served in the United States Navy from 1962-1968. Following his release from service, he attended the Colorado Barber College. He also attended Faith Bible College, Southern Baptist Seminary, and the Evangelical Church Alliance. He was the Proprietor of Northside Barber Shop on State Street. He also served as a guest speaker alongside many pastors and enjoyed spending a few years driving school buses for Clemons Bus Line and Palmer Bus Service. On March 15, 1980, he married Patricia Irene Crandell in Minneapolis. Richard was a member of a bowling league, enjoyed Taekwondo and was also part of Gideons International. He was a member of Christ Community Church.

He is survived by his daughters, Danella (Steve) Daniels and Holly Rohne; three grandchildren, Chelsey, Shaye, Dylan; six great-grandchildren, Chloe, Kaylee, Jameson, Ila, Liam, Dakotah, and his niece, Beth Gregerson and her family. He is pre-

ceded in death by his parents, his wife, and his sister Barbara Ann Hier.

Interment will be held, Friday, January 10, 2025, at 10:00 AM at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis where military honors will be accorded. Funeral service will be held, Saturday, January 11, 2025, at 11:00 AM at Christ Community Church in Waseca, with Pastor Rick Wulf officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service is handling the arrangements. dsfuneral.com



Richard Rohne

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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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: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net)
Worship Sunday 10 a.m.
* * *

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

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

REAL LIFE CHURCH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

412 N. Main Street, Janesville
Rev. Jason Wolter
Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:15 a.m. Worship
* * *

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

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

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

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

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

1925

- A business deal was consummated Monday morning in town whereby Mr. John Barden retires from the clothing business hitherto conducted under the firm name of Barden & Koplen. He has disposed of his interest to Mr. Julius Koplen and Mr. Ernst C. Werdin, the new firm name to be Koplen and Werdin. It is with genuine regret that the public learns of the determination of Mr. Barden to retire. He has always been considerate of the public interests and popular with the people as a result. But while they regret his departure and retirement, they are pleased also to note the good qualities of the successor, Mr. Wedin, who by strict attention to business and dint of hard work is enabled to take the position so ably filled in the past.

- Mrs. C Wegge informs us that the business transacted during 1924 by the bakery is highly satisfactory. It is known that the local bakery is one of the best with a standard as to bread, rolls, and pastry, second to no other bakery in the state. That it has been liberally patronized by the people in the city and surrounding country is known by everybody and that it has given satisfaction everywhere is also known.

- Sunday morning Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Ayars started for Waseca in their Overland sedan. Just at the edge of town they turned out for a car. In getting back into the road, the car skidded and started for the ditch at the side. Mr. Ayars attempted to run the car straight into the ditch but in doing so it skidded the other way and tipped over on a bank of snow. Neither one was hurt and the only damage to the car was a bent axle.

1950

- The Birds Eye-Snider division of General Foods has completed purchase of the Waseca, Minnesota, plant of the Fairmont Canning Company, it was announced today by G. O. Bailey, Birds Eye general manager. Mr. Bailey said that negotiations were now going forward for the purchase by his company of two other Fairmont units at Mapleton and Madelia, Minnesota. The Waseca Canning Company was a wholly owned subsidiary of Fairmont. The actual closing was made December 29.

- The Janesville Raiders invaded the St. Clair Saints’ court Thursday night and walked away with two victories, 80-31 and 52-38. Bernie Galler led the attack in the first game with 25 points and Len Guse led in the second game with 24 points.

- The wage and hour law applying to both employers and employees was amended in 1949 by Congress with a provision under the Fair Labor Standards Act that raises to 75 cents per hour and minimum wage in most kids of occupation. The change in the law becomes effective on January 25, 1950. It is expected that an explanatory pamphley will be distributed next week that will cover both exemptions and all persons coming under the new minimum wage regulation of 75 cents per hour.

1975

- Father Haberman and the ladies of St. Ann’s Catholic Church were working Tuesday to coordinate local efforts to help the Marland Goettl family. Mrs. Goettl told the Argus that she and her husband were so happy with the community response last spring and that they really don’t need that type of help this time. “We were caught short on insurance coverage when our other home burned,” she said. “It was a case of not having enough insurance on an old home to replace everything.” But that isn’t the case now, Mrs. Goettl said. The new home which burned last Friday was adequately insured as was its contents.

- Charles Born, 33, is one of the candidates the Janesville Jaycees have nominated for Outstanding Young Farmer. The son of Mrs. Edna Born and the late Charles Born Sr., Charlie was raised on his parents’ farm a quarter mile north of his farm located on Lake Elysian. Although he had helped on the farm all his life, Charlie took it over when his dad was killed in a 1956 automobile accident. Three years later he graduated from Janesville High School.

- Golden Bear wrestlers came out on the short end of a 26-20 meet here with Mankato Loyola last Tuesday night. Loyola was included on the list of the top twenty wrestling squads in Minnesota earlier this month. The Bears are now holding a 3-2 season record; the only other loss being to Nicollet. In B-Squad competition, Janesville bear Loyola 38-21 with pinsfrom Henry Eustice, Dave Trahms, Greg Jewison, and Don Goltz.

2000

- Eva Kaftellan is experiencing first-hand what life in America is all about, while staying in Janesville. Eva is from Sauerland, Germany where she lives in the town of Hagen. Eva arrived in Janesville on Thursday, Aug. 19, 1999, and has been staying with Linda and Wayne Prechel. The Prechels and their two daughters, Sara and Jamie will be Eva’s family for the duration of her stay, which is about one year. “Life is pretty different here,” said Eva, “expecially school.” In Germany the students are able to choose from a larger variety of subjects, and very different hours. For example, they may go to school for six hours one day, and three the next, depending on the subject and day of the week.

- The third time was the charm for the Janesville-WaldorfPemberton bond issue. The \$11 million bond issue finally passed during the Nov. 4 1997, election. About \$4000,000 of district funds were used to make technology improvements at both sites. The passage of the bond issue was the final step in the consolidation process. Construction began in May 1998 and wrapped in December 1999. The punch list is still being completed. JWP Superintendent Don Hainlen and JWP School Board Chair Allan Lynch are glad the project is finally over.

- The friendly confines of the Janesville gymnasium didn’t prove to be any advantage for the Janesville-WaldorfPemberton boys’ basketball team during its annual JWP Rotary Classic Wednesday and Thursday. The Bulldogs were soundly beaten twice to finish last in the four-team field. Park of Cottage Grove held the Bulldogs to just 14 points over the final three quarters on the way to a 61-26 victory in the opening round. St. Peter captured its first victory of the year when it outscored the Dawgs 67-35 over the final three periods and gained a 78-48 triumph in the third-place game. JWP, which entered the tournament after its only win of the year, fell to 1-5 for the season, 1-3 on its home court. Park edged Hayfield in Thursday’s championship game.

2024 from Page 6

Nicole Sommers.

The FFOY award goes to a Waseca County food producer involved in the community. This family has made significant short-term progress and/or innovative contributions with their agricultural endeavors and has demonstrated a commitment to enhancing and supporting the fields of agriculture and production. The Sommers will be honored and recognized among farmers across the state at Farmfest this summer.

The Waseca County Outstanding Young Farmer award is presented to a farmer between 21–39 years of age

who utilizes innovative methods, has made improvement in farming operations, and demonstrates service to community organizations and conservation practices. This year’s winner was Mike Singlestad.

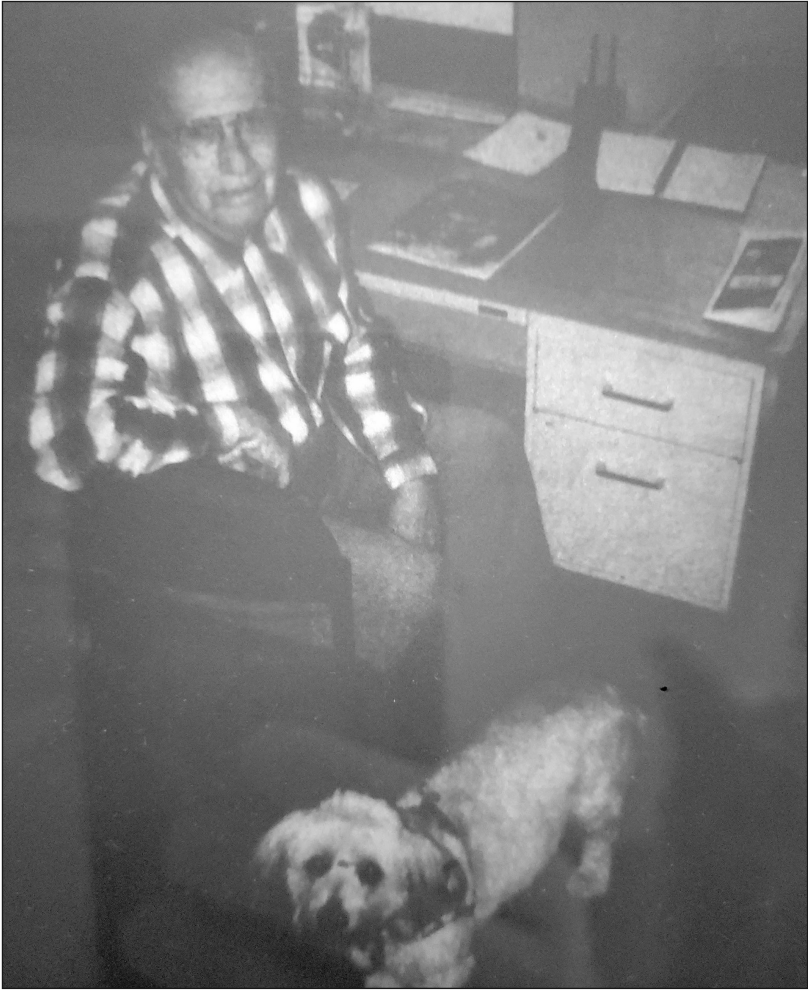
This year’s Waseca County Distinguished Agriculture Leadership award recognizes distinguished individuals who have dedicated their lives to the advancement of agriculture in Waseca County. Individuals will have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the community, place of business or employment, and the advancement of the agricultural industry.

This year’s award went to Kathy Guse.

- Tom Sexton of Waseca will run for the Republican nomination as a candidate for the Minnesota House of Representatives District 19B.

Waseca

25 Years Ago



-Frank Philipp and his dog, Spike, stopped in at the Waseca Art Center. They are regulars there, monitoring the gallery and encouraging people to register when they enter the gallery. It’s part of the RSVP program in Waseca County.

-Holiday Gathering – The Waseca Ministerial Association sponsored a Christmas dinner for the elderly and others alone on the holiday. It was held at noon on Christmas Day, Dec. 25 at the Waseca Senior Citizens Center. The event was hosted by members of the Evangelical United Methodist Church.

-Tyler Hayes was selected as a November Elementary Student of the Month as the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf in Faribault. Staff select Students of the Month based on the following criteria: the student is prompt, kind, cooperative, helpful, tries their best or has shown great improvement. Tyler, a fourth grader, is the son of Valerie Melchert and Joseph Hayes of Waseca.

-If you’re going to have a conversation with Estelle Rethwill, 99, be ready for a crisp exchange. It’s true, Estelle, who was born on the 28TH of September, 1900, has experienced 100 years of living. However, just because she has lived for a very long time, don’t assume that her faculties are faltering or she has become disgruntled or ill-humored. That’s not Estelle.



-Born in 1900, Estelle Rethwill looks forward to the year 2000.

50 Years Ago

-Dr. Harold Lorez stands in his office with his familiar dental equipment surrounding him. Dr. Lorenz will retire Jan. 1 following 35 years of dentistry in Waseca.

-Christmas treat – SENIOR CITIZENS received an extra treat at their noon lunch Christmas eve when Dorwin Peterson, Commander of VFW Post 1642, handed out bags of candy donated by the VFW club. Jo Ann Palm, Site Manager of the Nutrition Program, is shown holding the box and helping with the distribution.

75 Years Ago

-THE BIRTH OF THE CHRIST CHILD in a Bethlehem stable last night was hailed today as the re-birth of light and holy grace into a dark and waiting world. Above, at left, is Mary, mother of the Prince of Peace. At right of crib is Joseph, a carpenter of Nazareth and husband of Mary. At right foreground is Aaron, shepherd, who visited the stable. Center, the Son of God, lies in his manger crib.

-Three shepherds, all of rural Bethlehem, insist the Angel of God appeared to them last night and told them of the birth here of a baby who will be hailed the Prince of Peace. The shepherds, Aaron, Jonathan, and Stephen, told their stories this morning as they prepared to return to their flocks after visiting the baby and Mary, his mother, in the stable.

-Along with other unusual events which accompanied the birth of the Christ Child, reports of a great choir of heavenly voices singing throughout last night continued to come in this morning. It is now definitely established that a chorus of angels was present or at least sang their hallelujahs in the sky.

100 Years Ago

-Mrs. Gunhild Jackson, the only resident of Waseca county now living, has reached the age of 100 years. And the best part of the story is that Mrs. Jackson’s years rest lightly on her shoulders. She is able to be up and around the house, to enjoy her three square meals a day and a good night’s rest and appreciate the visits of relatives and friends.

-Bernard Coughlin of this city, a student at Notre Dame University and a member of the famous Notre Dame football team, is enjoying a three weeks trip to the Pacific coast and return with Coach Rockne and the members of the team. They were in New Orleans last Sunday and will eat Christmas dinner at Houston, Texas.

-The representatives of the Junior class won the high school interclass basketball championship last Friday when they won from the Seniors in a game featured by strong guarding, the score being 12 to 7.

New Richland

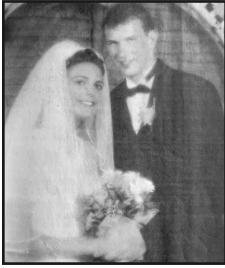
25 Years Back



- The real first Minnesota snowfall just before Christmas was just perfect for snowballing and erecting snowmen! These young fellows went all out as they fashioned a giant snowman, complete with Christmas lights in front of the Dennis Warke home in New Richland. They are from the left: David Root, Brian Bergland and Justin Lewer.

- Tuesday supper guests of Esther Bohm were Gerald and Bonnie Groskreutz of wells. John and Elaine Tesch were New Years supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Miller. On Friday, December 24, Herman and Grace Miller joined family members at the Steve and Ruth Vance home in Chanhassen for their annual family christmas party. They attend Christmas Eve services at the Church of the Living Christ in Chanhassen.

-Lisa Renae Kyte and Kyle Bert Schlaak were united in marriage June 12, 1999, at the Waseca Evangelical Free Church. Pastor Dan VanLoon officiated the 4 p.m. double ring ceremony. Parents of the couple are Joe and Bonnie Kyte and Lyle and Diane Schlaak, all of New Richland.



- Stacey Krause, who was named student of the month for December at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School was congratulated this week by the Science instructors, Sam Macklay (left) and Terry Anderson (right). Stacey Krause was named student of the month for December at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School by the Science Department. A daughter of Dennis and Sue Krause of rural New Richland, Stacey is the member of the high school's speech team and is a teacher's aid at the local school. She is a bible study leader at her church. Wehn Stacey was asked why she would like to be an Elk Student of the month, she explained she has worked hard to achieve a high grade point average. “The scholarship would help greatly in funding my college education” she added. Stacey has been accepted at Minnesota State University at Mankato.

50 Years Back

- Larry Spear is opening an accounting office in New Richland, Monday, January 20 in the Farm and Home Real Estate building, one half block west of the corner of Broadway and 2nd St. NW. A member of the Minnesota Association for Public Accountants, throughout the year he has attended monthly meetings which presented information on tax law changes, manual versus computer to ethics of the profession.

- The Dean's List for the fall semester at St.Mary's College of Winona, Minnesota has been announced by Dr. Ulric Scott, vice president for academic affairs. The list includes 103 students who have attained an academic grade point average of 3.8 or better on a 4.0 scale. Students from this area are: Robert J. Yerhot of New Richland and Thomas F. Clasen, both of Waseca.

- The New Richland-Hartland high school wrestlers defeated Alden, 22-21, Friday. After trailing Alden following the third match, 15-3, the Cards came back to win in the final match of the evening which found Rich Westland defeating Bob Scrabeck, 9-3. 98 lb - Brad Whelan(A) pinned Mike Wallin(NR) 3:11. 105 lb - Daryl Reimer(A) dec. Eric Espe(NR) 5-2.

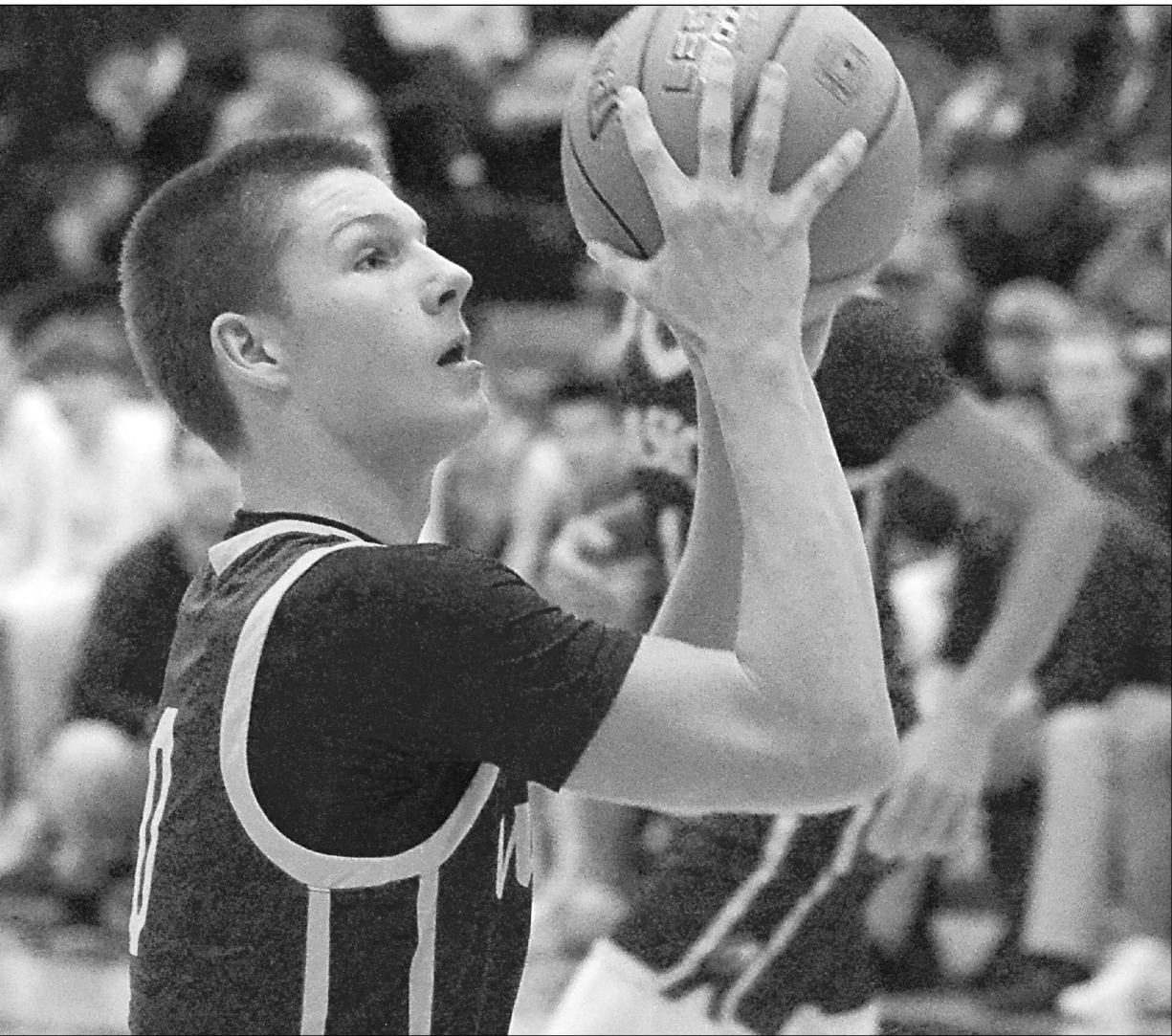
112 lb - Brian Wittmer(A) pinned Jim Battey(NR) 4:19. 119 lb - KEvin Knutson(NR) dec. Daryl Sanderson(A) 10-2. 126 lb - Scott Smith(NR) dec. Brian Whelan(A) 8-3. 132 lb - Randy Warke(NR) dec. Craig Whelan(A) 4-1. 138 lb - Hiroshi Nisiumaki(NR) dec. Cory Carlson(A) 16-4. 145 lb - Burton Berg(NR) dec. Steve Lindeman(A) 3-2. 155 lb - Randy Whelan(A) dec. Keith Root(NR) 11-9. 167 lb - Gordy Ebnet(NR) dec. Rick Newman(A) 9-1. 180 lb - Clair Drescher(A) dec. Al Bartholmey(NR) 5-2. Hwt. - Rich Westland(NR) dec. Bob Scrabeck(A) 9-3.

75 Years Back

-Theron Johnston Former New Richland man, son of Mrs. W.R. Johnston, who sold his Coast-to-Coast store in Canton, S. D. last summer, made a deal last week at Waterville taking over the Ford Agency garage there. Mr. and Mrs. Johnston and son have been living in Owatonna the past few months. Mr. Johnston will change the name of the garage to Waterville Motor Co. and will have a grand opening soon.

- Mr. and Mrs. John E. Wallace of New Richland became the parents of a daughter on February 9, born at the Naeve hospital, Albert Lea. Mrs. Wallace is the former Vivian Hanson.

-The League of Women Voters will be entertained at the home of Mrs. Edwards Silvers, Tuesday evening February 14. Guest speakers are to be Hope Washburn and Barbara Stuhler of Minneapolis, president and secretary respectively, of the State Organization Committee of League of Women Voters. They will discuss state economic problems.



ANOTHER WIN — The Bluejays' Ethan Hiller had seven points and six rebounds as the WHS boys' basketball team won 71-52 at Marshall. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

Jays cruise at Marshall

Deron Russell scores 26 as WHS boys remain unbeaten

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Head coach Seth Anderson doesn't know for sure if his Waseca High School boys' basketball team scored on a jump shot in the entire second half at Marshall last Friday. But it didn't much matter. The game was essentially over by halftime.

Despite being outscored 28-24 in the second half, the Bluejays turned a 47-24 halftime advantage into a 71-52 victory, improving their record to 2-0 in the Big South East and 11-0 overall.

"We played a great first half," said Anderson.

The Bluejays put it in cruise control after that and coasted to the win.

"We had a few more turnovers than usual and didn't shoot particularly well in the second half," said Anderson. "I'm not sure if we made a jump shot the whole second half, but we defended well enough to get the job done."

Sophomore Deron Russell continued to lead the Bluejays, registering 26 points, 10 rebounds, two assists,

"I'm not sure if we made a jump shot in the second half, but we defended well enough to get the job done."

— Waseca coach Seth Anderson

four steals and one blocked shot.

His older brother Damarius, a senior who'll attend South Dakota State on a football scholarship, totaled 15 points, seven rebounds, six assists and four steals.

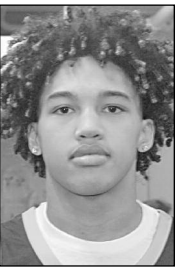
Others: Ethan Hiller 7P, 6R, 1A, 4S, 1B; Cyrett Long 1R, 1A; Caden Danner 4P, 1R, 1S; Carson Ohnstad 6P, 7R, 4A; Logan Reger 1R; Isaac Feldkamp 11P, 3R, 1A; Wyatt Hager 2P, 1R, 1A, 1S.

Alexander Thomas Franson scored 12 points Marshall.

The Bluejays shot 42.2 percent from the floor, including 3-for-18 from three-point range. Marshall shot 35 percent for the game and made three of 11 threes. Waseca was 14-for-18 at the free-throw line, Marshall 7-for-12. The Bluejays held a 41-36 edge on the boards,

scoring 27 points off 22 Marshall turnovers.

After hosting St. Clair Tuesday, the Bluejays entertain Glencoe-Silver Lake Monday and face Sibley East at home the following night.



De.Russell

Big South East		
	W-L	Overall
Waseca	2-0	11-0
Jackson Co. Central	3-1	8-1
Belle Plaine	2-1	5-2
Blue Earth Area	1-2	6-3
Fairmont	1-1	7-3
Tri-City United	0-4	0-9

Tough competition



Last Friday was a tough one for the Waseca High School girls' basketball team, which lost 65-22 to Marshall at home. Above, the Bluejays' Mia Kanewischer brings the ball up the court as Taleigh Bigler presses. At right, Lily Owens dribbles the ball as Katelyn Leibfried defends. Below right, Callie Dufault drives as Avery Schneekloth defends. Below, Katlyn McMurphy takes a shot. Dufault and Kanewischer led the Bluejays with nine points each. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



Veroven leads WHS grapplers in tourney

The Waseca High School wrestling team finished sixth among 12 squads in Saturday's Norwood-Young America Central Invitational.

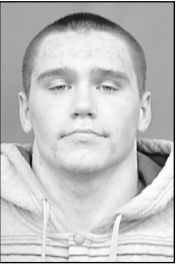
Matthew Veroveen led the Bluejays, finishing first at 215 pounds.

S l a d e Barnett also reached the finals, finishing second.

J a c o b Knutson was third at 133, Ben Hagen third at 285. Finishing fourth were D e v e n Parpart at 139 and L u c a s Selthun at 189.

T e a m standings: WEM/JWP 1 4 7 . 5 , Paynesville Area 138.5, Norwood-Young America 129, Mound-Westonka 124.5, Glencoe-Silver Lake/Lester Prairie 124, Waseca 110.5, Ogilvie 72, St. Clair/Mankato Loyola 61.5, Sibley East 39.5, Faribault 30.5, Robbinsdale Armstrong 27 and New Century Academy 0.

The Bluejays are in action Saturday with the Big South Conference meet at Jackson County Central at 10 a.m.



Veroveen



Barnett

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Dominant performance

WHS hockey boys overwhelm Worthington

The Waseca High School boys' hockey team registered its seventh consecutive victory Friday, overwhelming Worthington 15-1 at Waseca Community Arena. The Bluejays improved to 10-1-0 for the season.

Henry Huttemier scored three goals for Waseca. Cash Lynch, Brayden Hesch-Priem and Jude Gehring scored two goals each, with one apiece for Beckett Srp, Jayden Gehring, Hunter Anderson, Anthony Selvik and Otto Schoenrock.

Schoenrock, Jackson Tesch and Griffin Storey each had three assists, with two each by Anderson and Jude Gehring. One assist apiece went to Huttemier, Anderson, Hesch-Priem, Srp and Selvik.

The Bluejays outshot Worthington 57-22.

Waseca goalie Josiah Schmidke totaled 21 saves. Both teams served four minutes on two penalties.

The Bluejays improved to 6-0-1 in the Big South while Worthington fell to 2-3 in the conference and 3-9 overall.

After playing Tuesday at Red Wing, the Bluejays host Minnesota River tonight. They travel to Worthington Saturday, New Prague Jan. 14 and at Rochester Lourdes Jan. 16.

Big South Standings

	WLT	PTS	Overall
Luverne	6-0-1	13	9-2-1
Waseca	6-0-1	11	10-0-1
New Ulm	3-2-0	6	5-6-0
Windom	3-4-0	6	3-9-1
Minn. River	2-1-0	4	4-6-0
Worthington	2-3-0	4	3-9-0
Marshall	2-4-0	4	4-10-0
Redwood V.	1-5-0	2	2-9-0
Fairmont	0-6-0	0	0-8-0



ACTION AT THE NET – There was plenty of activity around the Worthington goal as the Waseca boys' hockey team skated to a 15-1 victory last Friday. Above, the Bluejays' Otto Schoenrock (10) shoots, with Jude Gehring (34) in the background. Below left, Henry Huttemier (5) shoots off a pass from Hunter Anderson (16). Below right, Cash Lynch scores.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



Flyers fall to MN River

The South Central Flyers started the game in grand fashion against Minnesota River at LeSueur last Friday.

Unfortunately, it did not continue as Big South co-leader Minnesota River scored four unanswered goals to defeat South Central 4-1.

Mckenna Mortenson scored the Flyers' lone goal in the first period, unassisted.

Minnesota River went on to outshoot the Flyers 51-8 on the day.

Ilamay Draheim was in goal for Waseca.

The Flyers fell to 2-7-0 in conference play and 6-10 overall while Minnesota River improved to 7-0-1 and 13-2-1.

After playing at Mankato West Tuesday, the Flyers are at Worthington Saturday for a 1 p.m. contest. They have a home game Jan. 14 against New Ulm and play Jan. 16 at Austin.

Big South Standings

	WLT	PTS	Ov.
Marshall	7-0-1	13	16-1-1
MN River	7-0-1	12	13-2-1
Luverne	6-2-0	12	11-5-2
Fairmont	5-3-0	10	9-6-1
So. Central	2-7-0	4	6-10-0
New Ulm	1-4-0	2	6-9-1
Worthington	1-5-0	2	3-8-0
Windom	0-8-0	0	4-12-0

NRHEG boys keep it close at Kenyon

The NRHEG Panthers went to Kenyon last Friday looking for their first win of the season.

They almost got it.

The Panthers jumped on top 6-0 early and led 62-60 late before eventually falling 71-66 in a Gopher Conference boys' basketball matchup.

Owen Wayne scored the first points for the Panthers on a three-pointer and an old-fashioned three-point play. The home team responded and led 36-24 at halftime.

The Panthers staged a furious second-half rally, taking a three-point lead with about five minutes to play.

Then Kenyon-Wanamingo made three three-pointers to put it away.

"I can't say enough how proud I am of the way the guys battled back in the second half," said NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt. "Before Christmas, we may have folded in that situation. But we never got down on ourselves. We moved the ball better than we have all season and got ourselves some really good looks at the basket. We shot better from the floor than we have because of that."

Hudson Chrz had an huge night for the Panthers, totaling 31 points. Wayne scored 17.

"We got some key contributions off the bench as well," said Schmidt.

And the Panthers won some little battles that they have not previously this year, limiting KW to 6 points in transition. NRHEG scored 23 points off 18 turnovers, while limiting KW to 14 off of 18 turnovers.

"They pressed us a good amount of the game, and we handled it extremely well," said Schmidt. "Hopefully, we understand now why limiting our open-court turnovers is so huge. If we can continue to do these little things, we can continue to hang around and be competitive in games."

Individual totals: Hanna 5P, 4R, 3A, 1S; Greyson Schaefer 2P, 2R; Wayne 17P, 2R, 3A, 3S; Brendan Schmidt 3P, 6R, 3A, 3S, 2 blocked shots; Jewison 4P, 5R, 1B; Dom Olson 3R; Chrz 31P, 5R, 1A, 1S; Gavin Lewison 2P, 1R, 1A; Jase Knudson 2P, 1R, 2A, 2S; Brouwers 3R.

The Panthers, 0-1 in the Gopher Conference West and 0-8 overall host Hayfield at 6 p.m. Friday in a boy-girl doubleheader.

Foul troubles cost NRHEG girls at Goodhue

Loss to state-ranked Wildcats ends winning streak for basketball squad

It was a break-even week for the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School girls' basketball team, which lost 82-61 at Goodhue Saturday, following a 76-43 home-court victory over Kenyon-Wanamingo on Friday.

The Panthers, who trailed Goodhue 33-29 at halftime, got themselves in foul trouble from which they did not recover.

"Unfortunately, there was about a four-minute stretch in the second half where we had too many turnovers and they used that to their advantage," said NRHEG coach Onika Peterson.

Goodhue scored 32 points off turnovers, compared to 14 for NRHEG.

"That stretch hurt us," said Peterson. "We were right there and all of a sudden down by 17. I was extremely impressed with our girls fight. They never backed down the whole night and kept going at them."

Peterson said the Panthers had a great night rebounding, with 44 to Goodhue's 33.

"It was fun to see how we could match up to a very good state-ranked team," said Peterson.

The Panthers were led by Quinn VanMaldegheem with 21 points, 14 rebounds, 2 assists and 2 steals.

Others: Gabby Schlaak 2P, 3R, 3A, 2S; Ezra Boerner 4P, 1R, 1A; Izley Boerner 14P, 3R, 2A, 1S; Clara Buendorf 6R, 2A, 1S; Camryn VanMaldegheem 14P, 2R, 3S, 1 blocked shot; Cloie Stork 4R; Kylie Olson 6P, 9R, 1A, 2S, 1B.

In a rematch of the state championship game oh so many years ago, the Panthers led Kenyon-Wanamingo 29-19 at halftime while cruising to victory.

"It was great to get a win at home," said Peterson. "After the game, it's easy to critique what we

"They never backed down the whole night and kept going at them."

— NRHEG coach Onika Peterson

did well and identify areas where we can continue to improve. Tonight highlighted a couple of things we need to focus on next week to keep getting better. That said, I'm constantly impressed with my girls. Their competitiveness, effort, hard work, and heart are never in question."

Individually: Schlaak 5P, 5R, 1A; E.Boerner 2P, 1R, 2A, 2S; Q.VanMaldegheem 8P, 7R; I.Boerner 13P, 3R, 5A, 2S; Buendorf 5P, 1R, 2A; C.VanMaldegheem 21P, 11R, 2A, 1S; Savannah Farr 1R; Stork 2P, 3R, 2A; Olson 20P, 10R, 1S, 3B.

The Panthers took the championship in a holiday tournament at Norwood-Young America, defeating Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial 77-38 and Minnesota Valley Lutheran 83-37

"Our girls had two great games," said Peterson. "They moved the ball well on offense, making the extra pass to find their open teammates. Defensively, they caused havoc and effectively anticipated the next play."

Individually against LCWM: Schlaak 7P, 4R; E.Boerner 1R, 2S; Q.VanMaldegheem 25P, 3R, 1A, 14S, 3B; I.Boerner 10P, 4R, 1A, 1S; Buendorf 1S; C.VanMaldegheem 23P, 9R, 4A, 5S; Farr 1R; Stork 2R, Olson 12P, 7R, 1A, 1S; Alex Estrada 1S.

Camryn VanMaldegheem had the



PLENTY OF POINTS — Above, the Panthers' Kylie Olson scores two of her 20 points as the NRHEG girls' basketball team defeated Kenyon-Wanamingo 76-43 in New Richland last Friday. Below, Camryn VanMaldegheem drives for two of her game-high 21 points.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

hot hand against MVL, totaling 32 points while going 8-for-11 on three-pointers. She added 7R, 2A, 5S, 1B.

Others: Schlaak 6P, 7R, 1A, 1S; E.Boerner 4P, 5R, 3S; Q.VanMaldegheem 19P, 10R, 6A, 5S, 3B; I.Boerner 2P, 3A, 1S; Kenley Gehrke 1S; Farr 3P, Stork 2R, 2A, 2S; Estrada 1S.

The Panthers, 2-0 in the Gopher Conference West and 7-4 overall, host Hayfield Friday in a boy-girl doubleheader and play Jan. 14 at JWP in another doubleheader.

Gopher Conference West

	W-L	Overall
NRHEG	2-0	7-4
JWP	1-0	9-2
WEM	1-0	7-5
United South Central	0-2	5-6
Medford	0-2	0-9



Grizzlies take team title in NY-A tourney

Richards, Kuball win championships

The WEM/JWP High School wrestling team captured the championship in last Saturday’s Central Raider Invitational at Norwood-Young America High School.

The Grizzlies finished with 147.5 points, followed by Paynesville Area with 138.5, Norwood-Young America 129, Mound-Westonka 124.5, Glencoe-Silver Lake/Lester Prairie 124, Waseca 110.5, Oglivie 72, St. Clair/Mankato Loyola 61.5, Sibley East 39.5, Faribault 30.5, Robbinsdale Armstrong 27 and New Century Academy 0.

The Grizzlies had two wrestlers with a championship day, Trey Richards at 121 pounds and Keegan Kuball at 285.

Reaching the finals and finishing second were Carson Petry at 127 and Brady Murphy at 139. Brendan Masso took third at 114, Avery Fall thiurd at 189.

Finishing fourth were Zach Quast, 145, and Maddox Moreno, 172. Fifth place went to Reed Sammon, 145, and Lucas Morsching, 152.

Also wrestling but not placing were Charles Adams, 152; Tarek Tolzman, 160; Luke Cahill, 172; and Kavan Sheehy, 215.

The Grizzlies wrestle tonight at 5 p.m. at Kenyon-Wanamingo. On Saturday, Jan. 17, the WEM/JWP girls are at the St. Croix Lutheran Invitational at 5 p.m. while the boys host Maple River and USC at 7.

Individual results at Norwood:
114: Brenden Masso (WEM-JWP) - 3rd

Varsity - Round 1 - Deacon Ramthun (Mound-Westonka) over Brenden Masso (WEM-JWP) (Fall 1:56)

Varsity - Round 3 - Brenden Masso (WEM-JWP) over Albino Almanza (Saint Clair-Mankato Loyola) (Fall 5:31)

Varsity - Round 4 - Jamison Meagher (Paynesville Area) over Brenden Masso (WEM-JWP) (Fall 1:29)

Varsity - Round 5 - Brenden Masso (WEM-JWP) over Cody Bratz (Central Public Schools) (Fall 2:35)

121: Trey Richards (WEM-JWP) - 1st

Varsity - Round 1 - Trey Richards (WEM-JWP) over Dreyden Voigt (Glencoe - Lester Prairie) (TF 18-0 3:38)

Varsity - Round 2 - Trey Richards (WEM-JWP) over Chase Flicek (Faribault) (Fall 2:25)

Varsity - Round 3 - Trey Richards (WEM-JWP) over Judd Pauly (Central Public Schools) (Fall 4:17)

127: Carson Petry (WEM-JWP) - 2nd

Varsity - Champ. Round 1 - Carson Petry (WEM-JWP) received a bye

Varsity - Quarterfinals - Carson Petry (WEM-JWP) over Wyatt Guennigsmann (Glencoe - Lester Prairie) (Fall 0:41)

Varsity - Semifinals - Carson Petry (WEM-JWP) over Julio Alejandro (Sibley East) (Dec 5-2)

Varsity - 1st Place Match - Roman Roberg (Paynesville Area) over Carson Petry (WEM-JWP) (For.)

133: Carson James (WEM-JWP) - 5th

Varsity - Champ. Round 1 - Carson James (WEM-JWP) over Odin Kehn (Robbinsdale Armstrong) (TF 17-0 4:38)

Varsity - Quarterfinals - Parker Honl (Central Public Schools) over Carson James (WEM-JWP) (Fall 3:56)

Varsity - Cons. Round 2 - Carson James (WEM-JWP) received a bye

Varsity - Cons. Round 3 - Carson James (WEM-JWP) over Lucas Fradette (Ogilvie) (Dec 6-0)

Varsity - Cons. Semis - Jacob Knutson (Waseca) over Carson James (WEM-JWP) (MD 8-0)

Varsity - 5th Place Match - Carson James (WEM-JWP) over Brock Neubarth (Central Public Schools) (MD 11-3)

139: Brady Murphy (WEM-JWP) - 2nd

Varsity - Champ. Round 1 - Brady Murphy (WEM-JWP) received a bye

Varsity - Quarterfinals - Brady Murphy (WEM-JWP) over Isaac Mergen (Paynesville Area) (Fall 2:41)

Varsity - Semifinals - Brady Murphy (WEM-JWP) over Deven Parpart (Waseca) (MD 16-6)

Varsity - 1st Place Match - Brody Ruschmeier (Glencoe - Lester Prairie) over Brady Murphy (WEM-JWP) (Dec 7-5)

145: Zach Quast (WEM-JWP) - 4th

Varsity - Round 1 - Nick Ojeda (Central Public Schools) over Zach Quast (WEM-JWP) (MD 12-2)

Varsity - Round 2 - Cole Munstersteiger (Mound-Westonka) over Zach Quast (WEM-JWP) (Fall 1:27)

Varsity - Round 3 - Deegan Birkaker (Ogilvie) over Zach Quast (WEM-JWP) (TF 17-2 2:46)

Varsity - Round 5 - Zach Quast (WEM-JWP) over Reed Sammon (WEM-JWP) (For.)

145: Reed Sammon (WEM-JWP) - 5th

Varsity - Round 1 - Cole Munstersteiger (Mound-Westonka) over Reed Sammon (WEM-JWP) (Fall 1:05)

Varsity - Round 3 - Nick Ojeda (Central Public Schools) over Reed Sammon (WEM-JWP) (Fall 5:49)

Varsity - Round 4 - Deegan Birkaker (Ogilvie) over Reed Sammon (WEM-JWP) (Fall 1:40)

Varsity - Round 5 - Zach Quast (WEM-JWP) over Reed Sammon (WEM-JWP) (For.)

152: Charles Adams (WEM-JWP) - DNP

Varsity - Champ. Round 1 - Charles Adams (WEM-JWP) received a bye

Varsity - Quarterfinals - Kaden Felde (Ogilvie) over Charles Adams (WEM-JWP) (Fall 0:58)

Varsity - Cons. Round 2 - James Stenzel (Saint Clair-Mankato Loyola) over Charles Adams (WEM-JWP) (MD 17-4)

152: Lucas Morsching (WEM-JWP) - 5th

Varsity - Champ. Round 1 - Lucas Morsching (WEM-JWP) received a bye

Varsity - Quarterfinals - Ryan Neubarth (Central Public Schools) over Lucas Morsching (WEM-JWP) (Dec 3-0)

Varsity - Cons. Round 2 - Lucas Morsching (WEM-JWP) received a bye

Varsity - Cons. Round 3 - Lucas Morsching (WEM-JWP) over Sam Selthun (Waseca) (MD 10-2)

Varsity - Cons. Semis - Kaden Felde (Ogilvie) over Lucas Morsching (WEM-JWP) (Fall 4:24)

Varsity - 5th Place Match - Lucas Morsching (WEM-JWP) over Mason Merritt (Mound-Westonka) (Fall 4:34)

160: Tarek Tolzman (WEM-JWP) - DNP

Varsity - Champ. Round 1 - Ian Sommer (Robbinsdale Armstrong) over Tarek Tolzman (WEM-JWP) (Fall 1:53)

Varsity - Cons. Round 1 - Tarek Tolzman (WEM-JWP) received a bye

Varsity - Cons. Round 2 - Henry Cronin (Robbinsdale Armstrong) over Tarek Tolzman (WEM-JWP) (Fall 1:38)

172: Luke Cahill (WEM-JWP) - DNP

Varsity - Champ. Round 1 - Daniel Flint (Paynesville Area) over Luke Cahill (WEM-JWP) (Dec 6-0)

Varsity - Cons. Round 1 - Luke Cahill (WEM-JWP) received a bye

Varsity - Cons. Round 2 - Maddox Moreno (WEM-JWP) over Luke Cahill (WEM-JWP) (Dec 5-0)

Varsity - Cons. Round 3 - Maddox Moreno (WEM-JWP) over Jack Kloempken (Central Public Schools) (Fall 4:27)

Varsity - Cons. Semis - Maddox Moreno (WEM-JWP) over Devin Hufstelder (Ogilvie) (MD 14-4)

Varsity - 3rd Place Match - Jackson Wischnack (Glencoe - Lester Prairie) over Maddox Moreno (WEM-JWP) (Fall 1:43)

Varsity - Cons. Round 2 - Maddox Moreno (WEM-JWP) over Luke Cahill (WEM-JWP) (Dec 5-0)

Varsity - Cons. Round 3 - Maddox Moreno (WEM-JWP) over Jack Kloempken (Central Public Schools) (Fall 4:27)

Varsity - Cons. Semis - Maddox Moreno (WEM-JWP) over Devin Hufstelder (Ogilvie) (MD 14-4)

Varsity - 3rd Place Match - Jackson Wischnack (Glencoe - Lester Prairie) over Maddox Moreno (WEM-JWP) (Fall 1:45)

189: Avery Fall (WEM-JWP) - 3rd

Varsity - Quarterfinals - Avery Oseth (Robbinsdale Armstrong) over Avery Fall (WEM-JWP) (Dec 2-0)

Varsity - Cons. Round 1 - Avery Fall (WEM-JWP) over Preston Sprengeler (Central Public Schools) (TF 15-0 1:59)

Varsity - Cons. Semis - Avery Fall (WEM-JWP) over Lucas Vaughan (Saint Clair-Mankato Loyola) (Inj. [time])

Varsity - 3rd Place Match - Avery Fall (WEM-JWP) over Lucas Selthun (Waseca) (Dec 10-8)

189: Trenton Huber (WEM-JWP) - DNP

Varsity - Quarterfinals - Peyton Hemmesch (Paynesville Area) over Trenton Huber (WEM-JWP) (Fall 1:26)

Varsity - Cons. Round 1 - Lucas Selthun (Waseca) over Trenton Huber (WEM-JWP) (TF 16-1 2:39)

215: Kavan Sheehy (WEM-JWP) - DNP

Varsity - Champ. Round 1 - Kavan Sheehy (WEM-JWP) received a bye

Varsity - Quarterfinals - Austin Symanitz (Central Public Schools) over Kavan Sheehy (WEM-JWP) (Dec 12-10)

Varsity - Cons. Round 2 - Kavan Sheehy (WEM-JWP) received a bye

Varsity - Cons. Round 3 - Cooper Garlow (Saint Clair-Mankato Loyola) over Kavan Sheehy (WEM-JWP) (MD 17-9)

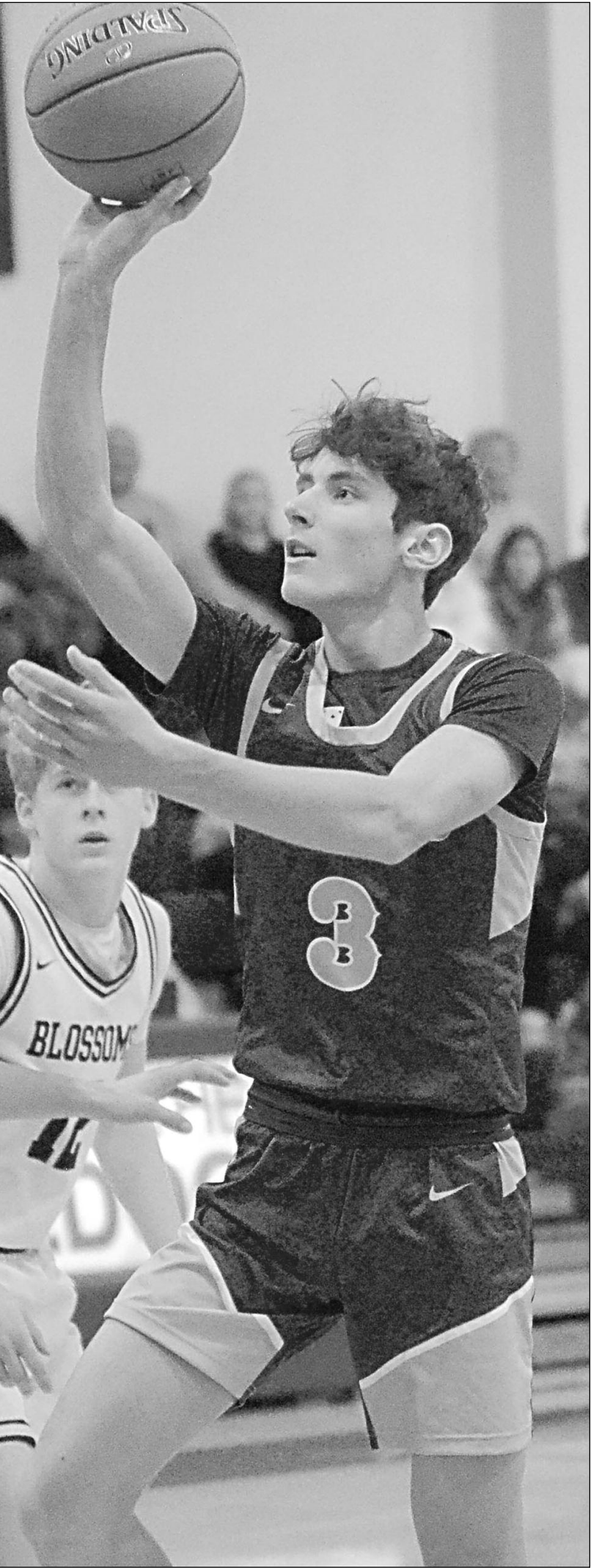
285: Keegan Kuball (WEM-JWP) - 1st

Varsity - Champ. Round 1 - Keegan Kuball (WEM-JWP) received a bye

Varsity - Quarterfinals - Keegan Kuball (WEM-JWP) over Axel Cardenas (Sibley East) (Fall 1:18)

Varsity - Semifinals - Keegan Kuball (WEM-JWP) over Phillip Pisarchuk (Mound-Westonka) (Fall 2:48)

Varsity - 1st Place Match - Keegan Kuball (WEM-JWP) over Carter Storms (Central Public Schools) (Fall 1:26)



EASY WIN – The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School boys’ basketball team defeated Bethlehem Academy 73-43 at Faribault last Friday. Above left, Caleb Quast brings the ball up the court. Right, Parker Geariety goes up for a basket. Below left, Gavin Bauer.
Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Bulldogs win handily at BA

There was a time when Bethlehem Academy was one of the toughest places to play for visiting basketball teams.

Last Friday was not one of those nights.

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton boys led from start to finish while dismantling BA 73-43 at Faribault. The Bulldogs improved their record to 6-3 for the season.

Daulton Bauer had a big night for JWP, totaling 27 points, four assists

and eight steals. His brother Gavin finished with 10 points, three rebounds, two assists and two blocked shots.

Others: Parker Geariety 2P, 2A; Landon Johnson 5P, 7R, 1A, 1S; Caleb Quast 8P, 4R, 3A, 1S; Jaxon Wolf 3P, 1A; Seth Dahlberg 1A; Tyson Kronbach 2R; Jeffrey Simonson 5P, 4R, 1B; Isaiah Berndt 4P, 7R; Gavin Weedman 5P, 1R; Jaxon Miller 1S; Ethan Born 3R, 1A.

Caden Dokkestul led the Cardinals with 16 points.

The Bulldogs shot 46.2 percent from the floor, making 21 of 36 two-pointers and nine of 29 threes, compared to 32.7 percent, 12-for-27 and 4-for-22 for BA.

The Bulldogs scored 25 points in transition and 26 off turnovers, outscoring the Cardinals 38-16 in the paint. JWP held a 38-35 edge on the boards and committed eight turnovers while BA totaled 20.

The Bulldogs host Triton tonight at 7:15 and face NRHEG at 5:45 Jan. 14 in the first game of a boy-girl doubleheader at Janesville.

Gopher Conference West		
	W-L	Ov.
United South Central	1-0	2-7
JWP	0-0	6-3
WEM	0-0	4-4
Medford	0-0	0-5
NRHEG	0-1	0-8

A purple legend



Former Minnesota Vikings legend Chuck Foreman made an appearance at The Mill in Waseca Sunday night for a watch party of the Vikings’ big game at Detroit. He shook hands with several people and signed autographs during the course of the evening.
Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

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FILING NOTICE
ELECTION MARCH 11, 2025

TO ELECT:

1 – SUPERVISOR – TERM OF THREE YEARS

1 – TREASURER – TERM OF TWO YEARS

Filings open January 2, 2025 and closes at 5:00pm on January 16, 2025.
Those wishing to file must do so with:

Deb Westphal, Clerk
1711 370th Ave
Janesville MN 56048
507-461-3245

Filing must be done prior 5:00pm on January 16, 2025 with the \$2.00 filing fee.
A copy of this notice will be posted in the office of the clerk.

Deb Westphal, Clerk
Alton Township

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To Whom It May Concern: Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Waseca will meet at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, to consider Municipal Project No. 2025-01 – 2nd Street NW Reconstruction, a street and utility improvement project in the following location:

2nd Street NW from Elm Avenue West to 7th Avenue NW

The total estimated cost of the project is \$5,842,370, a portion of which is proposed to be assessed to adjacent properties. A reasonable estimate of the impact of the assessments will be available at the hearing. Such persons that wish to speak in reference to the merits of the proposed project will be heard at the meeting. Questions may be directed to the City Engineer, Nathan Willey, at 507-835-9716.
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on January 2 and 9, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To Whom It May Concern: Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Waseca will meet at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, to consider Municipal Project No. 2025-02 – 4th Street SW (CSAH 4) Rehabilitation, a street improvement project in the following location:

4th Street SW (CSAH 4) from 5th Avenue SW to Johnson Avenue

The total estimated cost of the project is \$485,469, a portion of which is proposed to be assessed to adjacent properties. A reasonable estimate of the impact of the assessments will be available at the hearing. Such persons that wish to speak in reference to the merits of the proposed project will be heard at the meeting. Questions may be directed to the City Engineer, Nathan Willey, at 507-835-9716.
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on January 2 and 9, 2025

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

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.

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642 JANUARY 2025

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

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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
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