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Kindness Booth

**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.

**Waseca High School
Choir burger fry at the
Legion, Friday, Jan. 17**

The Waseca High School Choir will have a burger fry hosted by the Waseca Sons of American Legion from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 17. It will be \$10 for a hamburger or fish sandwich with fries.

**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.

**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.

**Beginner Embroidery
Class at C & D
Designs Wed., Jan. 22**

There will be a Beginner Embroidery Class at C&D Designs at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22. Learn to embroider at 208 North State Street in Waseca.

*A word from
The Word*

*Better is the end of
a thing than its be-
ginning, and the pa-
tient in spirit is
better than the proud
in spirit. Be not
quick in your spirit
to become angry.*

Ecclesiastes 7:8-9



Third Judicial District Judge Carol Hanks swore in Doug Christopherson as one of the start-of-year organizational matters handled during the Jan. 7 county board meeting. Commissioners Christopherson and Brian Harguth were re-elected to their seats on the board this past November and are now serving terms in office which will continue through 2028.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

County board organizes for 2025

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Waseca County commissioners took care of numerous organizational matters during their first meeting of the year on Jan. 7. Of the five members of the county board, Doug Christopherson and Brian Harguth had won re-election this past November and were sworn into new terms scheduled to last through 2028. Members De Malterer, Brad Milbrath and Brad Krause are currently midway through terms scheduled to end in 2026.

Christopherson, who had been vice chair, was elected to be this year's chair; Malterer became vice chair. Board members also confirmed their places on various com-

mittees including planning and zoning, labor relations, public works, Minnesota County Prairie Alliance, and many more.

The board's meeting schedule will continue to be at 9:30 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the county annex building along North State Street across from the courthouse. Work sessions will be set as needed, frequently occurring at 8 a.m. prior to regular board meetings.

The Waseca County Pioneer was selected as the county's official newspaper, meaning that public notices will appear in the publication's

County continued on 5

Waseca's Ken Borgmann

The man who saved Sleigh and Cutter

Local festival celebrating
three decades this year

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Festival is celebrating 75 years of winter spectaculars in 2025. A full schedule of contests, prizes, fireworks, food and much more begins Jan. 18 and continues through March 1. Ken Borgmann, who has led the committee which organizes the Sleigh and Cutter Festival since the early 1990s, is stepping down after this year.

Originally from Sauk Center, about an hour west of St. Cloud, Borgmann first heard of Waseca during a strike at the printing company he was working at up north. He filled a position at Brown Printing for about three months, then returned home. He recalls, however, that leadership at Brown Printing loved his work so much they wouldn't stop calling him, so he ended up moving to Waseca in 1979. Borgmann and his wife Pug had married in 1965; their three children began attending Waseca schools and eventually graduated as Blue Jays. Monique lives in Waseca, Michon lives in White Bear Lake and Chad lives in Janesville.

Borgmann, now 80, lives on about 22 acres along Snake Trail Drive. His involvement with Sleigh and Cutter began when his daughter, then a student at the University of Waseca, pointed out to him, "Sleigh and Cutter is falling apart, no one wants to take charge of it." Looking into it himself, Borgmann concluded, "There wasn't a lot of community involvement, same with the horse people, so I started to dig in. I asked the question, 'Who comes to this and who supports it?'"

Borgmann continued on 12



Sleigh and Cutter Festival organizer Ken Borgmann

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Council holds first meeting of 2025

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

The Waseca City Council's first meeting of the year was largely organizational. During the Jan. 7 meeting, the first order of business was to issue the oath of office to all council members, both continuing and newly elected.

Gary Conrath was the only new member sworn in; Stacey Schroeder, Mark Christiansen and Mayor Randy Zimmerman also took the oath.

During a discussion about local board and commission appointments, Conrath made a remark which left the council chamber silent and resulted in a verbal reprimand from councilperson Schroeder.

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

"I'm probably the only one up here who is retired," Conrath said before correcting himself to say he didn't intend to say he was *****.

After the meeting Schroeder said she was upset and appalled that Conrath used the socially unacceptable word which refers to individuals with special needs.

"As elected officials, city council members carry a profound responsibility," she said. "The language we use as council members carries sig-

Council continued on 5



Members of the Waseca city council, front from left: Mark Christiansen, Daren Arndt, Jeremy Conrath; back Mayor Randy Zimmerman, James Ebertowski, Stacey Schroeder and Gary Conrath.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Local option sales tax supports county transportation

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Since being approved by local voters during the 2018 general election, a "local option sales tax" of half a percent has consistently provided for about \$1.1 million worth of local highway upgrades and repairs in recent construction seasons, according to county highway engineer Jim Kollar.

In Minnesota, statewide sales and use taxes total to about 6.875 percent of the value of taxable items sold. Food, clothing, and medications used by humans are not subject to tax. Due to the local option tax, the rate in Waseca County is 7.375 percent, meaning that if exactly \$100 in taxable items were purchased, the buyer would pay \$107.38.

Businesses forward the sales tax they collect to the Minnesota Department of Revenue (DOR). The state's share is deposited in the general fund. The county's share is reimbursed to the county in the form of monthly payments. Under the terms imposed by state law, all local option transit taxes must be used toward transportation. An updated agreement the county recently entered into with DOR shows that the department keeps about one percent of money collected under the local tax option as a processing fee.

Waseca County also imposes a "wheelage tax" of \$20 per vehicle registered in the county. This leads to roughly \$190,000 in income for his department each year, according to Kollar. The two local taxes, he says, have led to a reduction of about \$1.3 million in the amount the county must levy in property taxes to support his department's yearly operations.

Kollar points out the county receives funds from a number of sources. For example, much of the funding used to repair or upgrade "county state aid" roads comes from the highway users tax distribution fund (HUTDF). Money collected statewide for license fees and on the sale of motor vehicles, auto parts and fuel is distributed to state agencies and to municipalities, townships and counties. According to the state department of transportation, these sources led to nearly \$2.7 billion in statewide income in 2024; Kollar's figures show about \$6.4 million was distributed to Waseca County by HUTDF. He explains the amount received is reliant on the anticipated cost of eligible projects submitted to the state.

Regarding the local option sales tax, it is interesting to note that during 2020, the most recent year whose figures have been fully analyzed, nearly \$351 million in recorded sales of goods and services were recorded within Waseca County. Of that amount, more than \$108 million in sales were taxable. These numbers led to a total of \$7.8 million in sales tax being collected. One-half percent of that amount resulted from the local tax.

Figures in 2019 were slightly higher, leading to a total of nearly \$8 million in sales tax.

Of the 32 listed business types on the DOR report, the categories which brought in the most revenue were "general merchandise" with nearly \$25 million in taxable income followed by "food service/drinking places" with more than \$12.5 million in taxable sales.



Compostings

by Al Batt

No small act of kindness

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I had lunch with the county's chess champion.
How did that go?
It was good, but it took him 20 minutes to pass the ketchup.
DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I've encountered the occasional fellow wearing shorts while I was in stores or attending basketball games this winter. The guy dressed for the weather he wanted, not the weather he had.

I wasn't quite in the same pond with the other ducks, so I watched mallards float on open water on an otherwise iced-covered lake. Ducks have dense layers of insulating, waterproof feathers, countercurrent heat exchange where arterial blood is cooled by venous blood (reducing heat loss through feet and legs), and carry fat reserves. My mind traveled to Mallard, Iowa, which is south of Curlew and north of Plover. The town has 265 residents and used to have a high school with a memorable school cheer: "Black and Gold, Gold and Black, Mallard Ducks go quack, quack, quack." In Minnesota, I grew up playing "Duck, duck, gray duck." In Iowa, they played "Duck, duck, goose." I wonder if they played "Duck, duck, bear" in Alaska? They probably didn't.

A CONVERSATION WITH MY NEIGHBOR CRANDALL
My Uncle Clarence died. He left my Aunt Clara \$100,000 from his life insurance, but she sure misses him.

I don't doubt that. They were married for a long time.
They were hitched forever. Al. She misses seeing his attempted smiling and finishing all his sentences for him. Why, she misses him so much, she'd give \$1,000 of that \$100,000 just to have him back.

I WAS THINKING—IN THE BATHROOM
I opened the box and slid a new tube of toothpaste from it. It was a bittersweet occasion. I was happy to have made it through another tube of toothpaste, but—Wow! I went through another tube of toothpaste. I wonder what my toothpaste tube lifetime total is? A tube of toothpaste is magical. The first 90% of the toothpaste lasts one week. The last 10% lasts three months.

I'VE LEARNED
Matt Dillon of "Gunsmoke" was shot 56 times, knocked unconscious 29 times and stabbed 3 times in 20 years. Doc Adams was a miracle worker.
The worst part of parallel parking is a witness.

It's easier to write in cursive than it is to read cursive.
The birthplace of Kool-Aid is Hastings, Nebraska.
"Absolutely nothing" spelled backwards is "gnihton yletulosbA," which means absolutely nothing.
The word "short" is shorter than "shorter."
Just because something is edible doesn't mean it should be eaten.
ASK AL
"Why is it called a funny bone?" Because everyone laughs when you hit it.
"What do they put on the roads in Minnesota and Iowa during the winter?" Artificial snow.
"Where do squirrels go during a tornado?" Everywhere.
"I have mice in my house. How do I get rid of the pests?" Stop calling them pests. Call them pets instead.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
The inventor of the knock-knock joke won the No-bell Prize.
I crossed a boomerang with a piranha and got something that will come back and bite me.
What is made of leather and sounds like a sneeze? A shoe.
Why did the crab cross the road? It didn't. It used the sidewalk.
How many people with no sense of humor does it take to screw in a lightbulb? One.

NATURE NOTES
Some starlings show yellow on their bills in January, changing from black as the breeding season gets closer.
"How can one blue jay tell if another is a male or a female?" In ways that we haven't a clue. They likely see differences in each other's feathers in the ultraviolet spectrum.
"When did opossums show up in Minnesota?" They arrived in the southeastern part of the state around 1900. They aren't well-equipped to survive cold winters.
"How does a blue jay swallow so many sunflower seeds on a visit to a feeder?" They have a throat sac called a gular pouch, which they can fill and cough up the seeds later to eat or cache.

"What do boxelder bugs eat while in my house?" They suck the juices from the leaves and developing seeds of boxelder and maple trees, but not enough to hurt the trees. While they're happy to spend the winter in the cozy confines of your house, they eat nothing during that time. They're generally inactive but might become mobile on sunny days, moving toward windows.

MEETING ADJOURNED
"There is no small act of kindness. Every compassionate act makes large the world."—Mary Anne Radmacher.

Privileged, honored to share stories

As Eli may have mentioned, the Waseca County Pioneer will be receiving 14 statewide awards at the Minnesota Newspaper Association's awards banquet on Jan. 30. A number of them are for overall quality of the weekly publication. To be considered in categories of this type, participating publications were given five randomly selected dates, then instructed to submit newspapers printed on or near three of them. The Pioneer has received awards for overall quality and for the quality of its sports coverage. We know we have been ranked in the top three among newspapers similar in size to ours, but we don't know which place we've been ranked in. That will be announced during the banquet.

The awards cover items published between Sept. 1, 2023 and Aug. 31, 2024.

Since this is my column, I am going to address the two awards I personally have been notified about. Like the newspaper in general, I know I am in the top three in these categories, but do not know which ranking I have been given.

In the category of "social issues," the story which caught the attention of judges was titled "A real second chance." It summarized Dwight Tosen-



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

tenson's enterprise named the "Redemption Project," which supports prison inmates as they finish their sentences and try to reintegrate back into society. Dwight gave a presentation on the program to the local Rotary Club last February. I attended and summarized the information he shared.

In the category of the "the arts," my selected article was about a book—specifically Patty Wetterling's "Dear Jacob: A Mother's Journey of Hope" which was published in October of 2023. Wetterling and her co-author Joy Baker gave a talk and book signing at the Waseca Library in November of 2023.

If you should wish to review either of these stories, you can find them on the Waseca County Pioneer website.

Thinking back to the process of writing the two selected pieces, as well as a number of others which

were submitted for consideration but did not receive recognition, I remember sitting down to write the stories after hearing and taking notes on the presentations. I also remember staring at my computer screen wondering where to begin.

There are rules about writing news: The first is to include all the fundamental information—the "who, what, where, when, why, and how" of the occurrence. Another is that any statements included must be attributed to someone—they cannot seem to come directly from the news writer because the writer is not a "source," he or she is simply a conduit for the information.

What you are reading right now is not technically a news article, it is a "column," a set of personal thoughts and observations which, for the sake of differentiation, is published only on the "opinion/editorial" page of the

newspaper.
Anyway, there I was, staring at my computer wondering where to begin. Here were two complex situations each involved with an immensely important set of social circumstances. Somehow, one word at a time, it was my job to help readers feel almost as well informed as if they had attended the event. In both cases, my high personal regard for the presenters added to my sense of responsibility. I not only needed to relate the information, I needed to do it in a way which reflected the integrity and human connection I had seen during the event.

I am proud to have written news items which garnered me an award, but the point I have been meandering toward all through this column is that I am even more pleased to have had the privilege of providing a "conduit" which informed the public about the good, dedicated, profoundly important work of Dwight, Patty, and others. The news pieces would not have turned out so well if people had not provided inspiring stories. I often state I feel privileged to share about the people and occurrences here in Waseca County. Being selected for awards only reminds me how important their stories are.

How was I not going to get emotionally invested?

As I have mentioned previously, I have a problem sitting still. Or perhaps the better way to say it is I have a problem not being productive. My mom speculates my body is constantly in fight or flight mode, stressed about life. That very well could be. But if I don't do at least one productive thing, then I find myself feeling guilty for doing unproductive things like reading or binge watching tv.

So with my glorious days off, I find myself prowling the house, bothering the dogs, cleaning, trying to get in exercise, and then reading.

I had forgotten how wonderful and glorious reading can be.

My love for reading started earlier than I can remember, but all I know is wherever I went anywhere, I always had a book with me. This was true up until college.

In the car, whether the trip was hours or ten minutes, I always read as much as I could. A funny side effect is that, when I started learning to drive, I didn't know how to get anywhere. You could ask me where Kilkenney, Janesville, Faribault, or Owatonna were, but even though I had been to those towns many times, perhaps the best I could do was point in a general direction. My head was always in a book so I never paid attention to the route we were traveling. Once, driving my mother home from Faribault taking the back roads, she said, "I'm not going to tell you where to turn, you have to figure out how to get home." Needless to say I freaked out a little bit and with some trial and error, we eventually found our way.



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

Whether it was Harry Potter, Percy Jackson, classics like "Fahrenheit 451" or "The Outsiders" or even the Harlequin Romance books (the clean ones of course), I was always swept away into whimsical worlds.

Oddly, my love of reading even got me into trouble at school. During a second-grade spelling test, the wait between words seemed so long to me, I set my book on my lap out of sight under my desk and proceeded to read while I waited. I got caught and was in trouble because of course people didn't believe I wasn't trying to cheat. I was just bored and wanted to read.

My favorite part was after every

test, whether it was middle school or high school, I would finish with enough time to pull out my book and appreciate a guaranteed silent room of students.

Unfortunately, I have found one problem I wrestle with whenever I find a book I love: I get too emotionally invested.

Some might say it is a good thing, a good sign, to be able to be emotionally invested in a book, and I would agree. Except I get so worked up—I cry, I dance, I squeal.

In junior high, I started reading the "Hunger Games" series. My mother stopped me after the first book though, because I got too emotionally wrecked by the first one. The main character almost died, and there was romance. Come on, how was I not going to?

I read "Fifty Shades of Grey" (I don't want to hear any remarks, I didn't read it for that), and I cried at the end, which I find a bit funny con-

sidering what it's known for.
But it had been a long time since I found a book I became emotionally attached to. Don't get me wrong, I've read some fantastic books I haven't been able to put down, but there's a difference between a well-written book you appreciate for academic reasons and a book that makes you giggle, makes you smile, makes you put down the book just to take a breather.

I started reading the "Throne of Glass" series by Sarah J. Maas recently and I feel like a kid again. I text my friend who introduced me to it to catch her up on where I'm at and share thoughts. I text my boyfriend, "She has magic and just defeated the villains and then found out the faerie helping her loves her back. I'm dead." And he responds, "Sounds interesting."

I know reading isn't for everyone, and that's cool, I get it. I've had my times of not enjoying reading, not picking up a book for a long time. But a good book can change your daily life, can improve your mood. So don't give up hope.

My Determination: "It was a long story, and sometimes she grew quiet and cried - and during those times he leaned over to wipe away her tears."
— Sarah J. Maas, Heir of Fire

Last week's column has a happy ending

I have a happy update from last week!

An upset patron who left the unhappy review at my game store in Austin returned. He apologized not only to me, but my employee. All is right in the world.

I was grateful for the opportunity to talk about the consequences of one's actions and to talk about how the situation could have been handled differently from each party's perspective.

This weekend I was not in a particularly good mood when my father asked me something simple. My father and I have a very comfortable relationship, and can be very frank with each other. So sometimes, often, if we're upset about something else, our emotions are reflected in our interactions.

A few months ago I lost my temper with my dad for the first time in a long time. Instead of getting upset, he told me I was upset about something else and that I should call him to talk about it later. It was a really surprising interaction. I had previously done the same exact thing with my father months earlier when the roles were reversed. It's just a neat thing to see each other grow as



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

people. Tonight I found myself upset when he asked me about how to download a picture from an email. I explained verbally how to do it before getting up to help when he couldn't understand. Oh technology!

As I got up, I realized I wasn't mad at him at all; my harsh tone resulted from a personal matter. I apologized for sounding grouchy and explained I was in no way upset with him, to which my dad smiled and said I had nothing to worry about. I do love my dad.

After this interaction my frustration dissipated rather quickly. My dad always told me, growing up, that the key to not being in a bad mood is figuring out what caused the distress and addressing it.

The point I'm making is twofold.
1. You never know what someone is going through so treat people with

kindness.
2. Sometimes, oftentimes, when someone is upset or expressing frustration or anger, they are mad about something completely unrelated to that situation.

On another note, it was recommended to me that I write about why we choose to capitalize only the first word of headlines in the paper. We follow Associated Press (AP) styling/formatting rules.

Reed Waller, the former production manager at the Star Eagle who taught me a great deal, told me my dad knows that rule book backward and forward. Between the two of them, I learned a few things.

To this day, if my dad spots a formatting mistake, he will point it out to me. Growing up, the number of times he repeated himself, it felt relentless. I started as the editor of the

Star Eagle when I was 19 after four years of working for my dad as "editorial assistant."

So when I say "grew up," I mean it in the literal sense.

There are numerous design rules I've altered or created over the years, but nearly all of what we do follows the AP guidebook. My mother insists the rules are there to be broken. I believe they are there for a reason.

One example is that my dad and the AP believe headlines must be entirely connected to the body of a story. A headline, for instance, cannot sit directly over a photo with no printed text beneath. After repeatedly seeing how the Mankato Free Press designs its front page, I decided we could follow suit. My dad immediately pointed it out to me. I told him, "If it's good enough for the Mankato Free Press, it's good enough for our paper."

He didn't argue with me after that. "It is always important to know when something has reached its end. Closing circles, shutting doors, finishing chapters, it doesn't matter what we call it; what matters is to leave in the past those moments in life that are over."
— Paulo Coelho

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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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.

OBITUARIES

Lori Keyes

LORI ANN KEYES, formerly of Isosco Township, passed away on January 8, 2025, at Centra Care in Redwood Falls, MN. Recently she was a resident of Franklin Restorative Care in Franklin, MN.

Lori Ann was born November 27, 1967, to Dale & Goldie Keyes of rural Janesville. She was the first-born child of the couple. She was a joy to the family from the start. She grew up on the family farm with her paternal grandparents living nearby. She went to Waseca Public Schools for her education and graduated in 1986. In 1986, she was a Milk Maid to the Waseca County American Dairy Association Dairy Princess. After schooling she held several different jobs throughout the area. She milked cows for a few dairy farms in the area, which she enjoyed very much. After the milking career ended, she followed in her father's footsteps and learned to drive semi, hauling freight across the country. She enjoyed this very much as she was able to see a lot of the United States, but she didn't care much to drive in New York or New Jersey. She would often tell stories of the things she would see on the highways. After leaving the trucking industry she went to work for Mediacom cable in Waseca where she was a dispatcher and customer service representative. She loved her job there and the many coworkers who knew her as "Pete." In 2013, she moved to Arizona for a short time to spend time with her father who was a resident of Apache Junction and was enjoying his retirement there. In 2015, she moved back home to help take care of her mom and work from home for a private company. She loved taking care of her mom in her final years and keeping an eye on her brother who she lovingly called "GAWD". She enjoyed seeing him working the fields and watching the hawks circle above. They both believed that the hawks were the spirits of their father and grandfather watching over the farm. She loved this so much she had our neighbor Robin carve a hawk sitting on a telephone pole. It is a beautiful reminder that we have loved ones watching over us always. She was an avid animal lover throughout her entire life with many dogs, cats, and 3 horses. She carried a special love for all the animals that she cared for. She was very happy as a young girl riding her Shetland pony that was a gift from her grandparents. In her teens she had an Appaloosa, named Buckshot, that she would ride throughout the farm and surrounding area.

In 2010, she adopted a quarter horse that was a purebred and was named Raven, but that name has changed through the years by her brother. Ms. Tude was the first name change, and to the most recent name of "Glue Stick." She was not a fan of that name for the



Lori Keyes

horse but would shake her head when she would see the horse respond to that name when called across from across the pasture. She loved all her animals more than life itself. Lori also enjoyed creating items for family and friends in her later years. She would crochet blankets for friends and family and had an extensive collection of yarn. After she fell at home in July of 2023, she took up the hobby of painting rocks and giving them to people that she encountered. She loved seeing people's faces when she would give them these items and it gave her great joy to see them smile. She even gave rocks to Kim Olstad to put in various locations to be found by strangers. She had a heart that was full of love. She will be missed by anyone that she knew throughout her life. I am sure that when she crossed over to heaven, she was greeted not only by loved ones that have gone before, but also by her animals that she loved so very much. What a reunion that must have been.

She is survived by her brother Curt, cousin Stu (Kim) Olstad and family, Aunt Evelyn Pierce of Washington, Eve's daughters Nancy, Wendy, Yvonne, Kay, Randy (Marlys) Wobschall, Barb (Kevin) O'Hara and many extended family members. She also has a large group of friends that she would consider family. She is preceded in death by her parents Dale & Goldie, a sister Julie, Paternal Grandparents Gordon & Leona Keyes, Maternal Grandparents Alvin & Helen Siebert, Lyle & June Olstad, Del & Betty Jordahl, Paul & Donna Neuendorf, Gordon & Dorothy Wobschall.

Rest in peace dear sister, you're free of your earthly bonds and your angel wings hopefully have a few purple feathers in there as well.

Visitation will be held from 1:00 – 2:00 PM on Sunday, January 12, 2025 at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Sharing of memories will take place at 2:00 PM at the funeral home. Following the service, interment will be at St. John – Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Isosco Township, Waseca County.

Dsofuneral.com

Ruth R. Smith

Ruth Rosalie Smith (née Purcell) – or as her friends and family called her "Toddy" – passed away on January 11, 2025. Born on April 3, 1938, Toddy grew up in Waseca, Minnesota. She was a gloriously independent spirit. Toddy met her future husband Kent Smith in the Fifth Grade. She saw some boys playing baseball and she wanted to join. Kent wouldn't let her because she was a girl – so Toddy beat him up. They became fast friends ever since. At Waseca High School, Toddy was a Drum Majorette for the Blue Jays and also played French Horn in the school's orchestra and band. In 1960, Toddy graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education. While at the "U" – Toddy was also a member of her beloved sisterhood: the Delta Delta Delta sorority.

Kent and Toddy raised three children – Trisha, David and Scott – and several Dandie Dinmont Terriers. When the kids were little, they lived in Terrace Park, Ohio. Toddy danced in musicals for the "Terrace Park Players," and coached the gymnastics team and girls' soccer and softball teams. She drove her little athletes around in a blue Volkswagen bus that would be the envy of every surfer dude in the world! Toddy also

led her little athletes in the Terrace Park Labor Day Parade as festive clowns who did cartwheels and other gymnastic feats for the cheering crowds. In 1973, Toddy and Kent moved the family to Newport Beach, California.

After Kent passed away in 1991, Toddy decided to return to Waseca and be closer to her family and friends. She bought the "George Herter House" on Clear Lake and transformed it into a breathtaking yet warm and welcoming home. In 2007, The Waseca Historic Preservation Commission presented Toddy with a Community Preservation Award for preserving the George Herter House. Toddy also enjoyed doing extensive family research and amassed an incredible library of family history that has enriched us and future generations beyond measure. Toddy was also an avid Twins and Vikings fan – but she always supported Trisha's cookie business with the New York Yankees nonetheless.

Toddy will be missed by everyone who knew her. She loved you all – she adored you!! And she enjoyed every precious moment that she shared with you. Toddy is survived by her devoted sister Mona Ripka and family, sister-in-law Patricia Purcell and family, brother Robert Mackey and family, her son Scott Smith, Scott's beautiful wife Purvi Smith

and their two boys Shailen and Milan Smith and the amazing Kobawala family, Toddy's son David Smith, her daughter Trisha Smith, several Dandie Dinmont Terrier puppies, and her extended family. Toddy also has the world's best group of friends and neighbors that she has always considered to be a part of her family. Toddy was preceded in death by her mom Ruth Rosalie Mackey, her brother Ronald Purcell, her beloved Aunt Ruby Bartz and her husband Kent Gregory Smith.

Toddy's family will hold a Celebration of Life in the spring – her favorite time of year – when the flowers start to bloom, the birds start to sing and life begins again.

In lieu of flowers, Toddy's family requests instead that anyone who wants can make a donation to Benedictine Living in Shakopee, Minnesota.

Please send a check and in the re: section on your check, you can reference

"In Loving Memory of Ruth Rosalie Smith" and mail it to the following address:

Benedictine Living Community-Shakopee
St. Gertrude's & The Gardens
c/o Dulce Linares Cortes
Business Office Manager
1850 Sarazin Street
Shakopee, MN 55379



Ruth Smith

You can also make your donation online at <https://www.benedictine-living.org>.

Benedictine's St. Gertrude's and Gardens Living Community gave Toddy – or as they called her "Miss Ruthie" – beyond exceptional care and love during her final months. Toddy's family thanks Chelsea, Blue, Dulce and the entire St. Gertrude's and St. Croix Hospice Teams for taking such loving care of our mommy.

Rest in peace, Toddy. You are now free to fly and sing with the blue jays.

Thank you for your partnership in supporting our students

Thank You for Your Partnership in Supporting Our Students

As the calendar flips and we find ourselves well into the school year, I want to thank our families and the community for their ongoing engagement in our schools and unwavering commitment to our students. Your partnership is important to our success, and I am constantly reminded that education is at its best when it is a collaborative effort.

This school year, I've continued to witness the many ways families support their children's educational journey. From attending parent-teacher conferences to cheering on your children at athletic events, concerts, and performances, your presence sends a powerful message to our students: their education matters, and they are surrounded by people who believe in their potential.

As we transition into the middle part of the school year, this is often a time when routines feel more estab-



Superintendent's Corner

by Eric Hudspeth

lished, but challenges can also emerge. Students may begin to feel the weight of academic expectations or social pressures. It's a time when your continued involvement and encouragement are especially critical.

I encourage you to take a few moments to check in with your children about their experiences in school. Ask open-ended questions like, "What's something interesting you learned today?" or "What's been challenging for you lately?" These conversations can provide valuable insights into their world and help build their confidence so they can

tackle both their successes and struggles.

Our schools are here to support you in this journey. Whether it's through parent-teacher partnerships, access to academic and social-emotional resources, or extracurricular opportunities for students, we are committed to fostering an environment where every child can thrive. As a school district, we also focus on creating spaces where families feel welcome and connected. If you have questions or concerns about your child's progress, I urge you to contact their teacher or school. Our staff is

here to listen, guide, and work together with you.

This time of year is also an important opportunity to reflect on the progress we've made and the work still ahead. Together, we have the shared responsibility of preparing our students not only for academic success but also for life beyond the classroom. Whether your child is mastering early reading skills, exploring career pathways, or preparing for graduation, your encouragement and involvement provide the foundation they need to succeed.

Thank you for trusting us to educate, inspire, and care for your children. Your dedication fuels our work and reminds us why we do what we do. As we move forward into the second half of the school year, let's continue to work together to ensure every student in our district feels supported, challenged, and celebrated.

Sesquicentennial and century farm applications due March 3

Minnesota Farm Bureau's Sesquicentennial Farm program will honor Minnesota families who have owned their farms for at least 150 years. The Sesquicentennial Recognition Program began in 2008. The program recognizes family farms according to the following qualifications:

1) The farm must be at least 150 years old this year (2025) according to the abstract of title, land patent, original deed, county land records, court file in registration proceedings or other authentic land records. Please do not send originals or copies of records.

2) Your family must have owned the farm for 150 years or more. "Family" is defined as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, first cousins and direct in-laws (father, mother, brother, sister, daughter, son-in-law).

3) Continuous residence on farm is not required, but ownership must be continuous.

4) The farm should consist of 50 or more acres, and currently be involved in agricultural production.

The Century Farm program recognizes family farms according to the same qualifications as the Sesquicentennial except that the farm must be at least 100 years (2025) old and must have been owned by the family for 100 years.

A commemorative certificate signed by the Governor of Minnesota, the Commissioner of Agriculture of Minnesota and the Minnesota Farm Bureau President will be awarded to qualifying families, along with an outdoor sign signifying Sesquicentennial Farm recognition. The Century Farm families will receive a commemorative certificate that will be signed by the Governor of Minnesota, the President of the board of the Minnesota State Fair, and the President of Minnesota Farm Bureau, along with an outdoor sign signifying Century Farm recognition.

Applications are available for either the Sesquicentennial or Cen-

tury Farm recognition on the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation website, www.fbmn.org and going to "In Action" across the top of the website. Applications are also available by contacting the Regional Farm Bureau Office at 634 West Bridge Street, Owatonna, 55060, or email to maryjo.schoenfeld@fbmn.org or calling the Regional Farm Bureau office at 507-455-0745. Applications must be received at the respective addresses on the applications by March 3, not postmarked by that date. Previously recognized families should not reapply.

Century Farms are not automatically recognized as Sesquicentennial Farms. Families must apply to receive Sesquicentennial Farm recognition. County Farm Bureaus are encouraged to work with county agriculture societies and county fair boards on local recognition of recipients. Recipients will be announced at the beginning of June.

Minnesota Farm Bureau – Farmers - Families – Food is comprised of 78

local Farm Bureau associations across Minnesota. Members make their views known to political leaders, state government officials, special interest groups and the general public. Programs for young farmers and ranchers develop leadership skills and improve farm management. Promotion and Education Committee members work with programs such as Ag in the Classroom and safety education for children. Join Farm Bureau today and support efforts to serve as an advocate for rural Minnesota. www.fbmn.org



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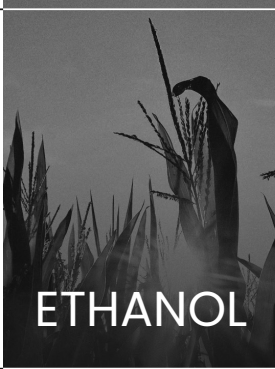
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Brilliant+ Bluejays



Amina
3rd Grade

Amina is a great example of someone who is always respecting property. She not only keeps her own items neat and organized, she also regularly helps to clean up the classroom, organize our class library and picks up after others.



Remmy
Kindergarten

Remmy shows the Bluejay way by taking care of things in the Music Room. Remmy plays instruments with respect and safety, and cleans up when he is done.



Aeyro
2nd Grade

Aeyro shows the Bluejay way by always being kind to her classmates. She keeps her area clean. She is always willing to help her classmates. She also always listens to her teachers. Keep up the great work Aeyro!

Brilliant+ Bluejays



Brynn
Kindergarten

Brynn shows the Bluejay Way by modeling what it means to respect property. Whether it be academic tools, classroom materials or learning space, she sets an example for others. Brynn demonstrates responsible use of classroom property by helping to keep our classroom clean and ready for learning. Way to go Brynn!



Morgan
1st Grade

Morgan is a excellent example of what the Bluejay Way should look like in our classroom. She does a great job showing respecting property each day by always using classroom materials properly and putting things away when after she is done using them. Keep up the great work showing the Bluejay Way!



Tori
2nd Grade

Tori is a wonderful example of following the Bluejay way! She keeps our classroom tidy and organized. She is always showing respect with materials being used! Keep up the great work!

Council

from Page 1

nificant weight and impacts our entire community. Every word we speak represents not just our personal views, but the values and character of our city government. This requires us to be mindful and intentional in our communication, avoiding any derogatory terms or language that could marginalize or diminish any member of our diverse community.”

The meeting, largely organizational, also had two other incidents involving Conraths, Gary and his son, fellow council member Jeremy.

Jeremy was the lone vote against the appointment of Mark Christiansen as Mayor Pro Tem for 2025.

Gary questioned Mayor Zimmerman after the vote.

“Do we follow Robert’s rules?” he said, asking why the mayor hadn’t asked three times whether there were more discussion on the subject.

City Manager Carl Sonnenberg clarified that the city has not for-

mally adopted Robert’s Rules of Order.

A representative from Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership gave a presentation about a grant program available to homeowners who wish to make improvements to their homes. Near the conclusion of the presentation, she stated firmly that she does not recommend the program, first because of how difficult it is to be approved due to the regulations involved and second, because the program is coming to an end.

At the end of the meeting Mayor Zimmerman announced he had attended a positive meeting with Xcel Energy; he summarized that this spring the company intends to present a new project involving running 345 kilobolts of power through new lines along the Highway 14 corridor. This would be an alternative to an earlier plan to use the Highway 60 corridor. If this were to come to fruition, Zimmerman claimed there is “potential for great things to happen.”

He concluded, “This could be a fundamental change for Waseca.”

The meeting concluded at 7:29 p.m.; the council’s next regular meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21.

County

from Page 1

pages. The highway department will have the county website as its official publication; county public works director Jim Kollar explained contractors from all around the state refer to bid requests and other types of information he routinely shares; he also observed turnaround times and deadlines on some interactions require a shorter publication schedule than is allowed by a weekly publication. He went on to say the newspaper will be used when members of the public are the chief intended audience.

Commissioners also approved the “bridge replacement priority list.” This list is submitted to the state annually for the sake of planning future construction and ar-

anging for funding. In 2025, Waseca County plans to replace two bridges located along county road 54 which runs north and south near the county’s western border. The bridges are in Freedom Township to the west of Waldorf: one crosses the Little Cobb River, the other Bull Run Creek. Also slated for replacement this year is a bridge over Joint Ditch 11 along county road 55, which runs east and west in Janesville township.

Two bridges are scheduled for replacement in 2026; both are along county state aid highway 14 (CSAH 14). In 2027, one bridge, on CSAH 15 over the LeSueur River, is on the schedule. Two will be replaced in 2028, one along CSAH 6 over the LeSueur River and another on CSAH 1 over an unnamed stream. A bridge over an unnamed waterway on CSAH 9 is on the schedule for 2029.

Community shows gratitude for Staloch's contributions

Janesville Journal - On Friday, Dec. 20, Tony Staloch, a well-known Janesville resident, passed away at 71 in Rochester due to injuries from a car accident the day before.

Although any loss in the community is a tragedy, no words can sufficiently explain Staloch’s impact on Janesville.

Staloch was a courier for UC Laboratory, which is next door to the Janesville Journal. Many also knew him for his service to the Janesville Food Shelf; he was one of their busiest volunteers and could be seen either at Trinity Lutheran Church,

where the food shelf is based, or at several events the food shelf participated in.

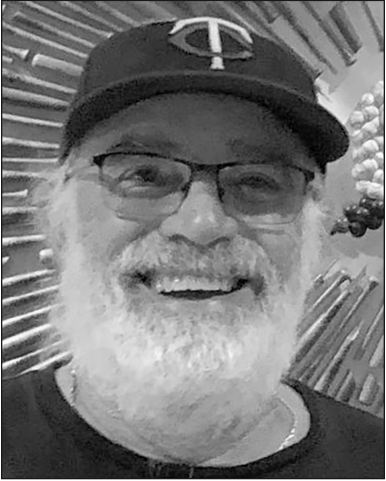
Staloch arguably had the most impact on Janesville through his faith. Staloch was one of the most involved parishioners at St. Ann Catholic Church, where he served as a Lay Minister, served communion, and taught catechism.

His impact was clearly shown when congregation members banded together for a rosary rally for him and the Staloch family on Saturday, Dec. 28, the morning of the funeral, at the adoration chapel.

Staloch’s impact on St. Ann students was also apparent when the seventh- and eighth-graders gathered in the church to honor him during his funeral. He was their teacher, and they wanted to show appreciation for him and his dedication to the Catholic faith by being there for the family.

Tony Staloch may have been born in Albert Lea and grown up in Minnesota Lake, but judging from his limitless giving spirit within the community, he is as much a Janesville resident as anyone raised in town.

The community lost a fantastic



Tony Staloch

human being whose impact will be felt for many years. May his family find closure and solace from his sudden passing, and may he be resting in peace up in heaven.

2024

from Page 3

The Waseca and surrounding area had a lot to do with it.

Waseca High School graduates Malik and Kyreese Willingham, as they have been all season, were key components as Minnesota State-Mankato defeated Nova Southwestern 88-85 for the men's championship Saturday afternoon at Evansville, Ind.

The inaugural Blair Nelson Memorial 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament was Saturday, April 6, at Waseca Junior and Senior High School.

On Wednesday April 10, 2024 the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton National Honor Society welcomed nine new members. Recognized for their outstanding scholarship, leadership, service and character were: Tiera Anderson, Alexandra Hanks, Brielle James, Kwynn Krause, Ellie Morsching, Katie Olson, Abigail Sobolik, Nevaeh Weimert and Mikayla Wheelock.

ICAN hosted its seventeenth annual talent show the evening of Wednesday, April 10 at the Waseca Central Building.

Bailey Hodgkins, a senior at Waseca High School, holds two titles – 2024 Miss Minnesota United States Agriculture and 2024 Minnesota People’s Choice Miss United States Agriculture. In July, she will travel to Alabama for the National Enterprise pageant, where she and other title holders will have a chance at winning national titles.

May

About 300 junior high students visited Farmamerica near Waseca on May 1 and 3 to learn about a range of diverse careers in the field of agriculture. The students came from Waseca; New Richland Hartland Elendale Geneva (NRHEG); Janesville Waldorf Pemberton (JWP), and United South Central (USC) schools.

James Brothers Construction had an open house Saturday, May 11, to celebrate the grand opening of its new location just north of Waseca along county road 5.

In a gathering on May 15 which was meant to be a surprise, the Waseca Exchange Club presented

Waseca Chief of Police Penny Vought with its 2024 “Law Enforcement Officer of the Year” award.

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

June

They stood together for the final time.

One by one, they walked out into the world.

The 120 members of the Waseca High School class of 2024 graduated Sunday afternoon, June 2, 2024 in a packed gymnasium in Waseca.

The 57 members of the NRHEG class of 2024 graduated Sunday afternoon in a packed high school gymnasium in New Richland.

About 275 young football players ages 6 to 14 took part in a 2-hour football camp the morning of June 6 at the Waseca Junior/Senior High School football field. The free event

was sponsored by the Vikings football organization and Hy-Vee stores, and was one of 16 such camps scheduled between June 4 and July 16 in Minnesota, Iowa, and North and South Dakota.

Tim Condon and Leslie Wells were recognized for their decades of service to the city of Waseca and its public schools during the regular meeting of the Waseca City Council, June 4, 2024.

Condon and Wells have served as local crossing guards for 32 and 25 years, respectively. With the conclusion of the 2023-24 school year came the announcement of their retirements.

Flooding that Minnesota Governor Tim Walz has described as “catastrophic” has taken over much of the state, leaving “entire communities under feet of water.”

Officials in Waterville said their area is experiencing the worst flooding in its history and that the Minnesota National Guard has been activated to assist with alleviation efforts. Walz declared a peacetime emergency for the state over the weekend, which allowed the National Guard to deploy.

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St. Paul’s all-you-can-eat breakfast VFW fundraiser

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church put on an all-you-can-eat breakfast fundraiser at Sweet Sommers VFW Saturday, Jan. 12. This was to help fund an upcoming summertime mission trip the church’s youth members are planning to Washington DC. There were 21 people total volunteering but as Mark Pehrson said, “Some of those people couldn’t stay all morning so some have been coming and going.” Pehrson was in charge of the Jan. 12 fundraiser; he revealed he’s been leading similar efforts for the past 10 years. Before he started helping the Mission Youth program, Pehrson used to organize wrestling meets and matches for the

high school, “I would help when they made it to nationals and such, set up lodging and arrange for getting to meets on time.” Pehrson estimated 170 people came to breakfast and had their fill. As he was speaking, a 14-year-old girl named Makayla passed by and said, “I’m here to support the church.” The fundraising is for the Mission Youth to take a trip to Washington, DC. “We’re going to tour the White House and as much of the capitol as we can. Then we get to do some volunteer work at a food shelf in our nation’s capital,” Pehrson described. “We work those kids hard and play even harder.” The kids pay a \$300 fee, but the entire cost is actually between \$1,200 and \$1,300. What the church can’t cover, they try

to make up in fundraisers. The trip is scheduled for July 28 through Aug. 5. “The kids that are going aren’t just from St. Paul’s Church, there are some from Sacred Heart and from almost every church in the area, and you have to be at least 14 years old to sign up,” Pehrson mentioned. There are 34 souls going on this summer’s trip. Young customer Elora Grannis evaluated the meal: “French toast is one of my favorite meals. If I had gone back for seconds, it would have been French toast.” She gave this answer a lot of thought, it was between the French toast and the pancakes. Last year’s trip for the Youth Mission was to Florida, once there the kids volunteered at the Give the Kids a World Village.



From left: Sheila Root, Lola Owen, Linda Cone, Joey Schumacher, David Ziegler, Mark Pehrson and Levi Root were among the volunteers helping raise money for an upcoming youth mission trip being coordinated by St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Waseca. The fundraiser took place Sunday, Jan. 12, 2025 at the Waseca VFW. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

A roast beef commercial dinner will be offered from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 17 at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. The meal will be \$10; a slice of pie will cost \$2. On Feb. 21, St. Paul’s Church is also going to have a Valentines’ Day Dinner and program. Food for the Jan. 12 breakfast was supplied by the VFW with a percentage donated to St. Paul’s. There were pancakes, French toast, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy, coffee, orange juice or milk.

School from Page 3

of per diem rates take place more frequently in the future and a discussion about when that would occur took place.

The payment of claims schedule for 2025 was established, as well as a consideration of resolution for investments and payment of claims by roll call vote. School superintendent Eric Hudspeth gave a brief legislative update and a summary of upcoming school business. The next regular meeting will be Jan. 23..

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Janesville

1925

- Reports are that seed houses are contemplating raising the price of seed corn. There is corn that will make seed corn in Waseca County. In fact there is plenty of good seed providing one knows where and how to find it and right at home in your own crib. I figured that in this great corn section of Minnesota farmers knew everything from the first to the last letter in seed corn selection, but find here and there one or two that have not learned it all and I am one of the minority myself. It is true that Waseca County farmers do know a lot about seed corn, but these are critical times and from my observation through the county, the seed corn question is going to be a serious one next spring.

- Thursday and Friday the semester examinations will be held. There will be finals in higher algebra, industrial history, American history, economics and public speaking. The tests in higher algebra, American history, and economics are state board examinations. The state Inspector of Industrial Training visited school Friday. He rated the Industrial department very high. In making his rating there were an even 100 questions relating to different phases of the department. On organization, aim and work accomplished, the department was given a perfect score. He asked that the drawings be sent up to the state department.

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

1950

- The Janesville high school basketballers walloped Waterville H. S. 43-28 in a game played here Thursday night. It was a non-conference tilt for Janesville who now have won four and lost two for this season. Janesville held an 11-6 lead at the first quarter mark and maintained a 21-16 margin at intermission. An outburst in the third period lengthened the county to 33-22 in favor of the home five.

- Kenneth Roemhildt, 4-H safety reporter of the Four Leaf Clover 4-H Club has reported two accidents that happened in his community during the past week. On December 30, Tony Slechta, Iosco township, caught his index finger in the belt on a motor on the cream separator. This required several stitches to the injured finger. The other accident was that of Len Brase, who slipped on the ice while climbing a fence, and as a result, he fell on the fence, fracturing a rib. Len is a little stiff and has to take it easy for a short time.

- Slippery roads and poor visibility were present in a majority of the traffic accidents which brought death to forty-nine persons in Minnesota in December, reports compiled by the Minnesota Highway Department indicate. Although weather conditions created hazards, apparently they were not bad enough to slow up traffic or make all drivers cautious. December deaths were eleven more than in December, 1948. In spite of the increase in December and November, last year's total now stands at 536, or 16 less than in 1948.

1975

- Some people would say that Fred and Betty Arnoldt have it made in the shade. Both had long, satisfying careers. They own a beautiful house in the country. And they both enjoy good health. As the new year gets underway, the Arnoldts can look forward to peaceful months of reading, relaxing and enjoying their hobbies.

- Joe Brossard, 26, is the new fertilizerplant manager for Janesville Creamery Association. He replaces Robert Hildebrandt who has been promoted to assistant manager of the association under Bob Griffith. A native of West Concord, Minnesota, Brossard is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Brossard. After graduating from Kasson-Mantorville High School in 1966, he attended St. John's University for a year before enlisting in the Marine Corps.

2000



In 2000, Roger Wilmes shows off the pillows he made by using a technique called "snipping," using snippets of fabric. The pillows were made for St. Andrew's and St. Ann's Catholic Church groups.

- The old tune goes, "Kids, that's the matter with kids these days?" It may be hard to find an answer to that one, when you hear about what four local Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Elementary students did over their winter break. Having formed a club called "Flower Bell," Megan Bartelt, Ashley Jewison, Chelsey Gersh, and Krista Conlon decided they wanted to do something good for their community. The girls went door to door asking for donations for charity. "We told them they could give if they wanted to, but that they didn't have to," said Jewison. The girls collected \$7.25, and said they gave a little gift bag with some candy and a poem in it to those who donated. They then wrote a note to the Janesville Nursing Home and said that they could have this \$7.25 to use however they see fit.

- To snip is to cut off by bits. Therefore, when you snip a piece of fabric, you get a "snipple." Yes; that's s-n-i-p-pl-e. Roger Wilmes of Janesville is an expert in snipples. His snipples are an important part of continuing a history of pillow making by area church groups. St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Elysian and St. Ann's Catholic Church in Janesville have been making snipple pillows for over 20 years.

- It's been a while since the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton girls' basketball team trailed in a game. The Bulldogs faced a first-quarter deficit on the road Thursday, but outscored Kasson-Mantorville 40-27 over the final three quarters to post a 56-48 victory. It was the eighth consecutive victory for the Bulldogs, and their third without a loss on the road. JWP raised its record to 8-1 for the season.

Waseca

25 Years Ago

-Standing in Unity – The Waseca Ministerial Association organized a community Christian workshop service on New Year's Eve that brought church members and clergy from differing denominations together. The service was followed by a community social in the commons area of the Waseca High School. On exhibit in the commons were the Waseca Historical Society's display of Waseca Churches and Waseca during the 1900s.

-“What is affordable housing? How do we achieve it?” In an effort to answer those questions, and in response to a growing concern among Waseca businesses about housing for potential employees, a Waseca Housing Summit is planned for Jan. 25.

-The mild fall weather is delayed the freeze of Waseca County lakes this winter by a few weeks, and now that the calendar has turned to the year 2000 winter enthusiasts are finally able to venture out on the lakes because of the recent stretch of cooler weather. But before you fire up the snowmobile or the all terrain vehicle, or get the itch to do a little ice fishing, Waseca County Sheriff's Deputy Trevor Kanewischer and Local Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Officer Joe Frear are urging Waseca County residents to use caution before going out on the lakes.

-Benefit Breakfast – A benefit breakfast was held Sunday at the Waseca Eagles Club for Marly Kreutz, pictured, who lost his home to a fire the day before Christmas Eve.

50 Years Ago



-Green winter – TWO HORTICULTURE evening classes are offered to the public winter quarter at UM-W. Landscaping Practices or Floral Design could help make your winter a little greener. Here UM-W students try out their green thumb.



-Preschoolers class – CREATIVE ACTIVITIES for Children is one of many evening courses available to the public this quarter at UM-W. Here Jackie Draheim works with preschoolers. Classes begin Jan. 6.



-Honorary chairman – JOHN DENVER, who has accepted the Honorary Minnesota Heart Fund chairmanship for 1975 is thanked by Lyle Schumacher, 1975 State Heart Fund Chairman, for giving of his time and talents to help combat heart and blood vessel diseases, the nation's number one killer. "Help the Minnesota Heart Association reach its goal of \$1,100,000 this year," said Denver. "Help your Heart Fund help your heart... you can't love without it."

75 Years Ago

-TYPICAL OF THE MANY FINE FARM TEAMS in the sleigh and cutter parade last Thursday was the fine span of blacks and drive by Martin Runge of rural Waseca. At left above, is Mrs. Ernest Holtz, 73, believed to be the oldest lady riding in the procession. Mrs. Runge is at right.

-DRESSED FOR COLD WEATHER and riding in a snappy little rig, Bill Weckwerth finds there's plenty of life left in the old mare yet. Bill enjoyed the drive in the parade last Thursday and so did his lively "spot."

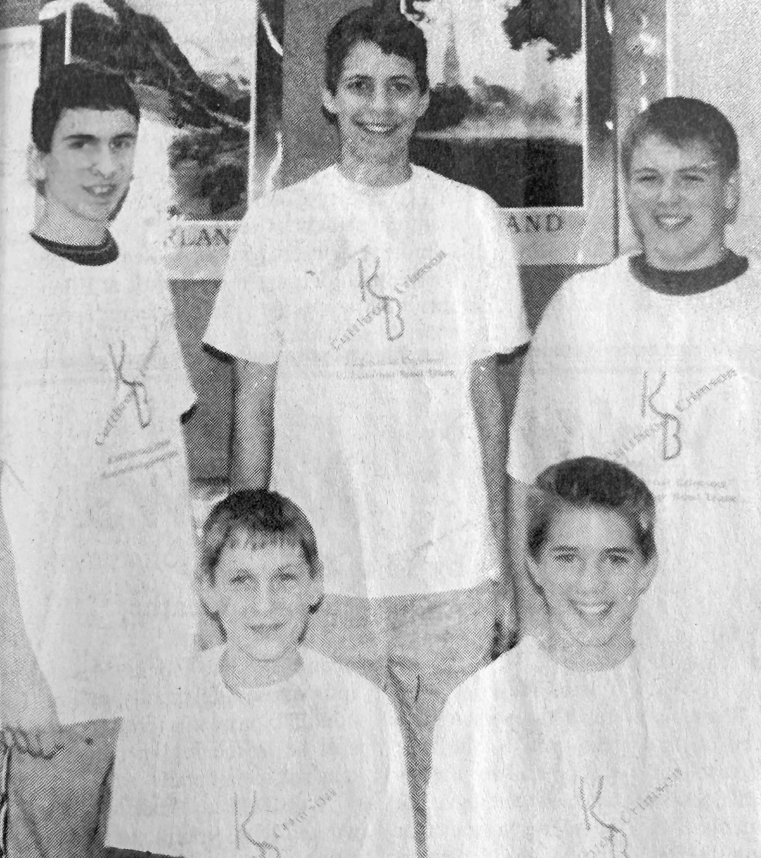
100 Years Ago:

-The Waseca Public Skating Rink will open for all who care to avail themselves of the opportunity of enjoying a real skating rink next Sunday afternoon. The street commissioner and several interested local boys have been working day and night for the past week getting things in shape. The warming house will be steamed up and no one need fear the winry blasts no matter how they come.

-Several Waseca lawyers attended a joint meeting of the four counties comprising of the Fifth Judicial District, held at Owatonna Tuesday afternoon, to discuss the proposed new law which would compel all lawyers practising in this state to become members of the Stae Bar Association. They disapproved o the law by adopting the following resolution by a vote of 14 to 7.

New Richland

25 Years back



- THESE BOYS ARE THE MEMBERS of the new Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Knowledge Bowl Team which will be entering region competition at Mankato Loyola., Thursday, January 13. They won the right when they placed 13th out of 57 teams at a sub-region meet in December. They are from the left: seated, Jacey Reese and Zak Tracy; standing, Tyler Halgren, Don De-Jong and Zach Hacker. The shirts they are wearing were designed by Tyler Halgren.

- The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton boys basketball team defeated Glenville-Emmons. Friday night 68-48 at Glenville. The bulldogs led 20-12 at the end of the first period and had an 11 point lead at the half. After three they claimed a 53-37 advantage. JWP out-rebounded their opponents 42-30 and shot 59% (17-29) from the free throw line. The Wolverines turned the ball over 17 times and scored on 7 of 12 free throws for 58% success.

- Chris and Traci Prindle of Apple Valley are the parents of a son born Friday, December 10, 1999. Alex Robert, as he has been named, weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz. and was 20 ¼" in length.

- DARE Graduates From the fifth grade class taught by Duane Ferber at the elementary school in New Richland Participated in the graduation program, here, Tuesday, January 4. They were from the left: front, Karla Lewer, Nicolette Pilon, Andrew Warner, Joe Hetcher: Middle row, Krystal Landers, Laura Manthey, Kevin Lynne, Brandon Schlaak, Justin Kormann, John Brechen: Back row; Joseph Johnson, Taylor Holland Tyler Clayton, Mitch Brekke, Matt Crumb and dare Officer DeeAnn VonWold.

- D. Darwin Jacobs, son of Don Jacobs of rural Alden, is the author of the recently published 'Wisdom and Wealth' "7 Ancient secrets of King Solomon' The book was published by Solomon Press and has been endorsed by nationally known Motivational Speaker Zig Ziglar, as well as Coach Lou Holtz and Ruth Stafford Peale, wife of the late Dr. Norman Vincent Peafe.

50 Years Back

- Scenes Like this on Third Avenue Northwest resulted from the week-end blizzard and resultant plowing. The city plow crew were unable to get through the huge drifts blown into block long section of the avenue from the west. The County plow opened one lane for traffic and residents of the street began to dig out their automobiles. More than 40 persons died in the severe blizzards and storms that raged through the midwest last weekend. Eleven were dead in Minnesota in the aftermath of the storm which is being called the 'storm of the century'. According to meteorologists, the winds were higher and the weather more severe than in the infamous Armistice Day storm of 1940. Policeman Nissen rescued one woman from the mobile home court and took her to stay with Debbie Witt, who lives nearby.

- JODI BERGNER shoots a free throw for the Cards in New Richland-Hartland Girls basketball win over Janesville, Tuesday night, 31-17. The New Richland-Hartland High School Girls Basketball team won 31-17 to remain in second place in the Gopher Conference. The Cards Led 10-4 at the end of the first quarter and kept building their lead with a half-time score of 20-6. At the end of the third quarter with the score 30-8, Coach Marcia Caneff began to substitute and the game ended 31-17. It was expected that Janesville might be tough competition, but the Cards handled them easily. According to Coach Caneff everyone played well considering that this was the first game the girls played since December 17.

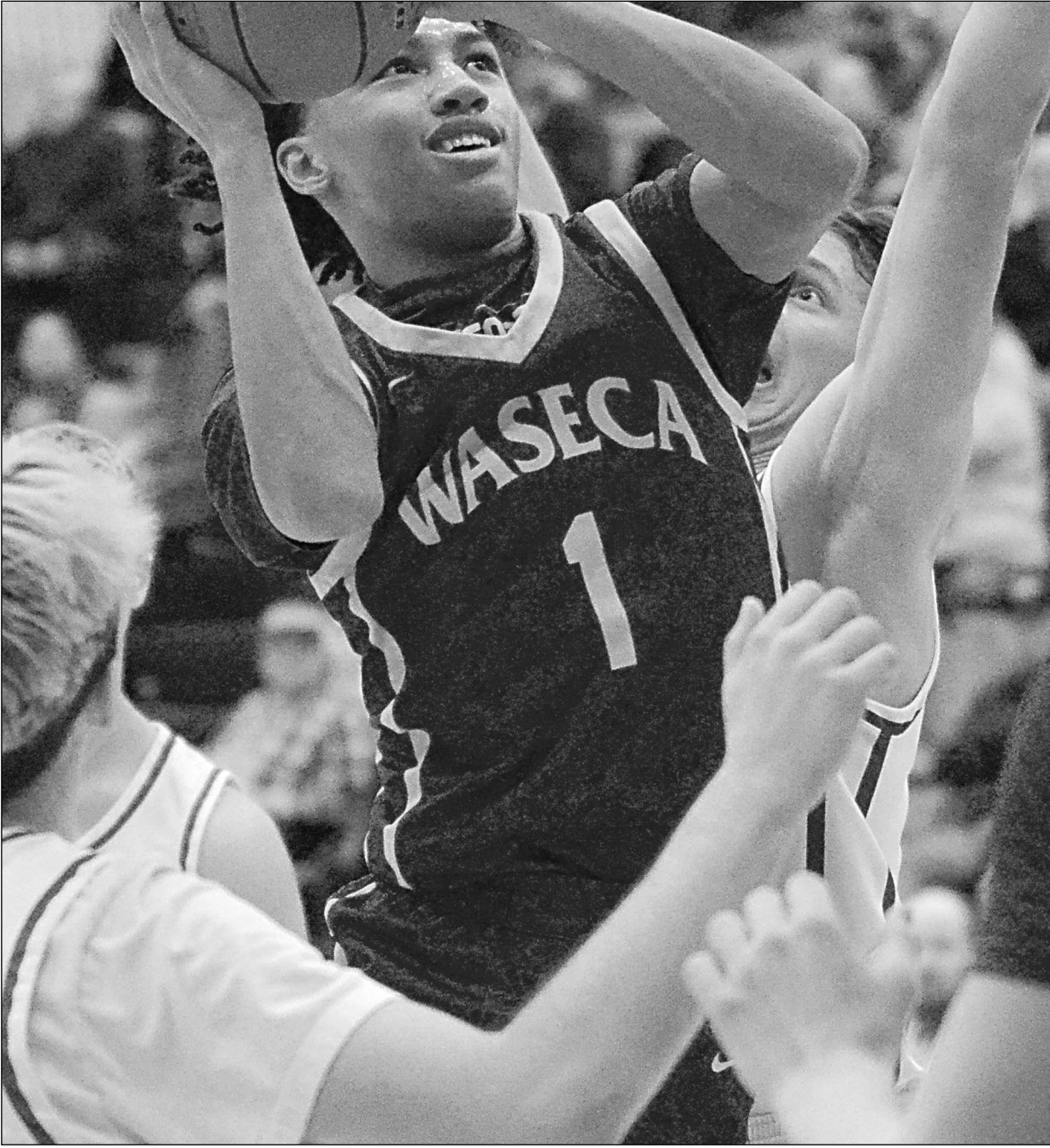
75 Years Back

- Matawan Cooperative Creamery association held its annual meeting lasting Thursday, February 9, and at the election of officers re-named all the old board. The Matawan Creamery elects all its officers each year. Those re-elected were Wrvin Miller, president; John Crumb, vice presidents; August Groskreutz, and Johri Olson, directors; Lester Reckmor was renamed secretary as well as operator-manager of the creamery. The creamery had a good year with a 10,000-pound increase in the amount of butterfat taken in over the previous year, a condition which is general in the creamery's hereabouts.

- The first annual meeting of farmers cooperating with the Waseca County Soil Conservation District will be held on Thursday, February 23 at 10:30 a.m. in the New Rich;and High School. Sponsor of the first meeting of this kind in Waseca county is the New Richland Commercial Club. This meeting will start with an annual report followed by nominations for three board supervisors whose terms expire in March.

- Ramona I. Coy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Coy of New Richland, exchanged marriage vows with Lawrence Hanks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hanks of Kilkenny, on Wednesday, January 25, at 9:30 a.m. Rev. James MacCormac performed the single ring ceremony at the Holy Trinity parish house at Waterville. Only the members of the immediate family was present.

The family of Gladys Bauman wish to express their sincere thanks to those who sent cards, messages, and phone calls. Your acts of kindness are deeply appreciated.



DRIVE TIME – Taking the basketball to the hoop against Fairmont Friday are Carson Ohnstad (5), left, Deron Russell (1), right, and Damarius Russell, below. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

WHS boys remain undefeated

Deron Russell pulls within 6 of 1,000-career point milestone

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

So far this season, the Waseca High School boys' basketball team has been pretty predictable.

All they do is win.

The Bluejays tacked on three more victories in the past week, most recently an 86-56 triumph at Glencoe-Silver Lake Monday. It improved the Jays, 3-0 in the Big South East, to 14-0 for the season. They're rated No. 3 in the state in Class AA in the most recent poll.

The Bluejays yielded 35 first-half points Monday before hitting their stride in the second half to win going away.

"Glencoe really gave us some issues early in the first half," said Waseca coach Seth Anderson. "We really had trouble getting stops early on. We really buckled down and defended great in the second half."

The Russell brothers, sophomore Deron and senior Damarius, continued to lead the Bluejays, with Deron totaling 29 points, 9 rebounds, 8 assists and 4 steals. He made 13 of 18 field goals. Damarius had 20 points, 6 rebounds, 4 assists and 2 steals.

After Monday, Deron was six points short of the 1,000 career points milestone and was expected to get there Tuesday when the Bluejays hosted Sibley East. He also earned Player of the Week honors from KEYC.

Others: Ethan Hiller 2P, 4R, 2S; Caden Danner 4P, 1R, 4S; Carson Ohnstad 14P, 2R, 3A, 1S; Logan Reger 1R, 1A, 1S; William Mansfield 2P, 3R; Isaac Feldkamp 8P, 3R, 2A, 1S; Amin Shariff 1S; Wyatt Hager 5R, 1A; Brandyn Jascha 6P, 2R.

Ethan Sonju led GSL with 25 points.

The Bluejays made 35 of 53 field goals, 3 of 18 threes and 6 of 19 free throws, GSL 19-for-40, 3-for-16 and 9-for-19.

Waseca held a 27-14 edge in points off turnovers and 52-26 in the paint. The Jays outrebounded GSL 42-39.

Last Friday, the Bluejays hosted a tall Fairmont team and prevailed 70-40. It was 36-22 at halftime.

"Fairmont has some really big, athletic guys who play their 3-2 zone really well," said Anderson. "They are difficult to score at the rim against. We did a good job of

"Glencoe really gave us some issues early in the first half."

— WHS head coach Seth Anderson

only committing 6 turnovers during the game while causing 28 turnovers. That was definitely the difference in the game."

Waseca made 51.5 percent from the floor, the Cardinals 40.7 percent. The Bluejays outscored Fairmont 18-2 on transition points, 33-2 in points off turnovers and 42-20 in points in the paint. The Cardinals outrebounded the Jays 40-33. The Bluejays registered 20 steals.

Individually: Hiller 9P, 6R, 4A, 1S; De.Russell 13P, 7R, 2A, 3S; Cyrett Long 3P, 2R, 1A; Da.Russell 21P, 6R, 5A, 3S; Danner 7P, 2S; Ohnstad 12P, 2R, 4A, 5S; Reger 1S; Mansfield 1A; Feldkamp 8P, 3R, 2A, 3S; Hager 2P, 2R, 1S; Riley Mitchell 1R; Max Howard 3P; Jascha 2R, 1S.

Fairmont's top scorer was Harmon Schrunck with 12.

Last Tuesday, the Bluejays host-

ed St. Clair in a boy-girl double-header and won handily, 82-44. Waseca led 53-25 at halftime.

"It was a fun atmosphere in the second part of a girls and boys doubleheader basketball game," said Anderson. "The pep band was playing and the crowd was full. I thought our guys did a good job of going out and taking care of business. We passed the ball well and created nice shots."

Individually: Da.Russell 17P, 10A, 5R, 5 three-pointers; De.Russell 15P, 3R, 5A; Hiller 12P, 5R; Ohnstad 11P, 4R, 5S; Danner 8P; Feldkamp 6P, 5R, 4S; Hager 4P, 5R; Jascha 4P; Howard 3P; Long: 2P.

Waseca 53 on field goals, 10-for-26 on threes.

The Bluejays play Friday at 7:15 p.m. and host New Ulm Jan. 21 at 7:30.



Big South East			2. Caledonia	10-1
	W-L	Overall	3. Waseca	14-0
Waseca	3-0	14-0	4. Breck	5-5
Jackson Co. Central	3-1	10-1	5. Lake City	7-1
Belle Plaine	3-1	8-2	6. Jackson County Central	9-1
Fairmont	2-2	8-4	7. Montevideo	9-1
Blue Earth Area	1-3	6-6	8. Blake	7-1
Tri-City United	5-4	0-12	9. Warroad	12-0
			10. Rockford	10-0
Class 2A state rankings				
Week 6, Jan. 8, 2025				
1. Albany			10-0	

WHS girls drop three

The Waseca High School girls' basketball team dropped three games in the past week, 32-14 at Fairmont Friday, 65-47 to United South Central Thursday and 58-27 to St. Clair two nights earlier.

Scoring vs. Fairmont: Callie Dufault 4, Mia Kanewischer 2, Reese Rodriguez 3, Gracie Morgan 3, Gaby Lopez 2.

Three players reached double digits against USC, Dufault with 18, Kanewischer with 10 and sophomore Reese Rodriguez with 10. Morgan scored 5, Lily Owens 4.

No one reached double figures in the St. Clair game. Dufault scored 8, Morgan 6, Kanewischer 3, Rodriguez 3, Lopez 2 and Maren Schimming 2.

The Bluejays, 1-14, host NRHEG Friday and play Jan. 21 at New Ulm. Game time both nights is 7:15.

Big South East		
Tri-City United	4-1	10-2
Fairmont	3-1	8-3
Belle Plaine	3-1	7-6
Jackson Co. Central	2-2	7-6
Waseca	0-3	1-14
Blue Earth	0-4	0-11

Wikan wins all-around as WHS gymnasts edged at Austin

The Waseca High School gymnastics team traveled to Austin last Tuesday and was edged 133.325-130.45 at the Austin YMCA.

The Bluejays' Bella Wikan took the all-around title with 36.0 points. She had the eighth-best score on vault, 8.3, while winning the balance beam at 8.65 and the floor exercise with a score of 9.35.

Katelyn Weber was fourth in all-around with 32.1 points. Brooklyn Flatau was sixth

at 30.525, Avery Carda seventh at 29.075, Hannah Parks 10th with 23.0. Enja Francois-Saint Cyr scored 7.15 all-around points.

Other scores:

Vault – Flatau, second, 8.85; Weber, third, 8.7; Carda, ninth, 8.0; Parks, 10th.

Uneven parallel bars – Weber, sixth, 7.525; Parks, seventh, 7.35; Carda, eighth, 7.1; Flatau, ninth, 6.3.

Balance beam – Weber, sixth, 7.525;

Parks, seventh, 7.35; Flatau, eighth, 6.3.

Floor – Flatau, fifth, 8.2; Weber, sixth, 8.2; Carda, ninth, 8.025.

The Bluejays compete tonight at 6 p.m. at St. James. They travel to the Kasson-Mantorville Invitational Jan. 25 at 11 a.m.



Wikan



Flatau



Parks

NRHEG basketball boys still looking for first win

It was another tough week for the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School boys' basketball team, which lost Tuesday 80-23 at WEM and Friday 70-46 in New Richland.

Against WEM: Aiden Hanna 2 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist; Greyson Schaefer 3P, 4R, 1 block; Deshawn Jones 1R; Owen Wayne 2P, 1R, 2A; Brendan Schmidt 1A, 1S, 1B; Justin Beauvais 1S; Lavon Jewison 2P, 2R; Dom Olson 5P, 1R; Gavin Lewison 2P; Jordan Brouwers 5P, 3R.

NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt was expecting a closer game with Hayfield.

"The boys never quit once again, but we had some lapses trying to run the offense."

— NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt

"On paper, this should've been a good game," he said. "The boys never quit once again, but we just had some lapses on offense while trying to run the offense. We continue to be a work in progress, while we scratch and claw for that first win. We need

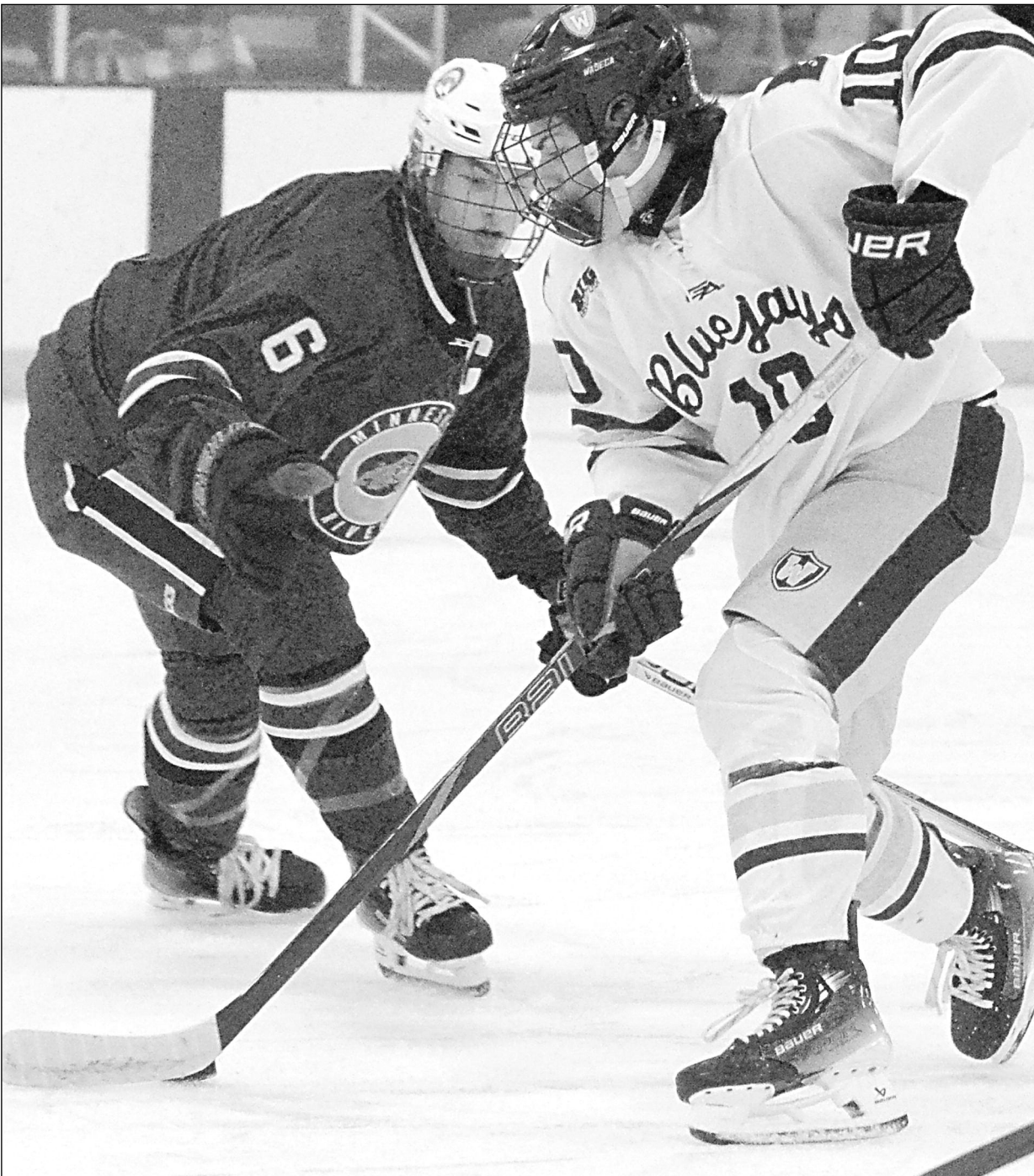
to take advantage of the matchups, though, so we can get there."

Individually: Hanna 5P, 2R, 1A; Schaefer 9P, 8R, 1S 1B; Wayne 14P, 3R, 1A, 1S; Schmidt 4P, 6R, 1A, 1S; Beauvais 1S; Jewison 2P, 3R, 2A; Olson 1R; Hudson

Chrz 9P, 2R, 1A; Jase Knudson 3P, 6R, 2A; Brouwers 1R.

The Panthers, 0-2 in the Gopher Conference West and 0-10 overall, play Friday at 7:15 p.m. at Blooming Prairie. They play Monday at LCWM at 7.

Gopher Conference West				
	W-L	Ov.		
JWP	1-0	7-4		
United South Central	1-0	3-9		
WEM	1-0	7-4		
Medford	0-1	0-8		
NRHEG	0-2	0-10		



LIGHTING UP THE SCOREBOARD – At left, the Bluejays’ Cash Lynch (12) looks to score against Worthington Saturday during Waseca’s 15-0 victory. At right, Otto Schoenrock (10) works the puck against a Worthington defender. Below right, Brayden Hesch-Priem (33) is congratulated by Jayden Gehring after a first-period goal. Below left, Henry Huttemier (5) puts the puck past Worthington goaltender Anders LeDell.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

WHS hockey boys blank Worthington

Bluejays improve to 13-0-1, await showdown with Luverne

It may very well be worth the price of admission for Waseca High School boys’ hockey this season. The Bluejays are unbeaten and ranked No. 15 in the state in Class A, the most recent conquest a 15-0 shellacking of visiting Worthington on Saturday. Waseca led 5-0 after one period and 11-0 at the end of two, outshooting Worthington 52-10.

Josiah Schmidtke registered the shutout in goal for the Bluejays.

Cash Lynch, a sophomore, found the net four times for Waseca. Brayden Hesch-Priem recorded a hat trick while Griffin Storey and Otto Schoenrock scored two goals apiece, with one each by Hunter Anderson, Jayden Gehring, Jackson Dahl and Avery Selvik.

Gehring assisted on four goals, with three assists apiece going to Anderson, Easton Dahks, Lucas Groll and Schoenrock. Storey, Tesch and Beckett Srp each notched an assist.

No penalties were called.

The Bluejays defeated Minnesota River 5-4 Thursday at Waseca Community Arena, leading 4-2 after one period and 4-3 after two.

Waseca was outshot by Minnesota River 35-26. The visitors were 2-for-7 on power plays, the Bluejays 1-for-4.

Hesch-Priem and Huttmier scored two goals each, Selvik one.

Assists went to Jayden Gehring, Selvik, Huttemier, Jude Gehring and Dahl.

Schmidtke was in goal, making 22 saves.

Two nights earlier, the Bluejays faced Red Wing at Prairie Island Arena and skated to a 6-0 shutout, outshooting the Wingers 58-18.

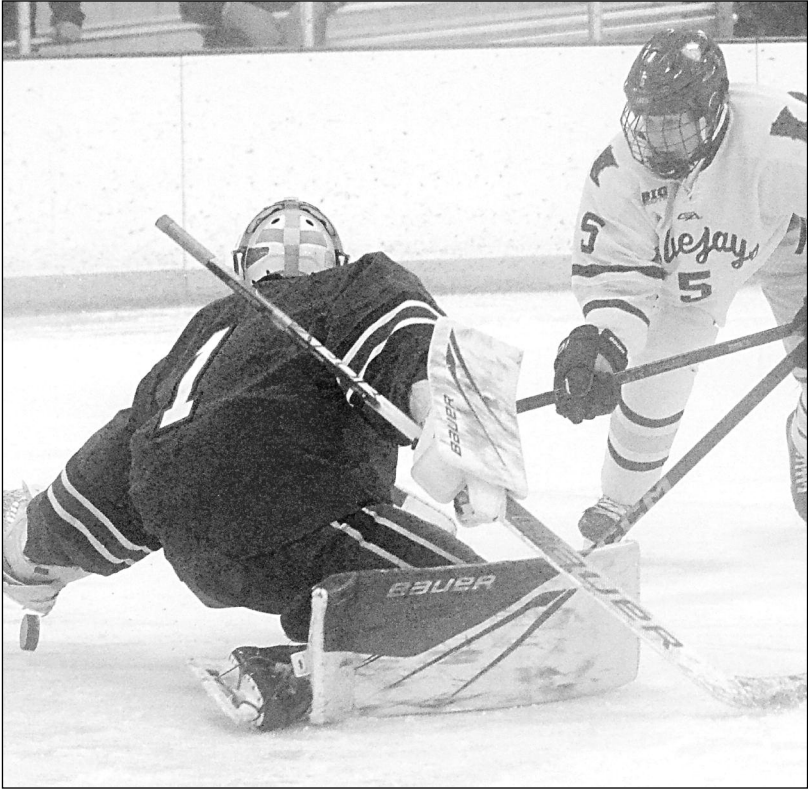
Groll, Schoenrock, Lynch, Jude Gehring and Jayden Gehring scored on assists by Huttemier, Selvik, Storey, Anderson, Srp and Hesch-Priem.

Carter Martens was in goal, stopping 18 shots for the shutout.

The Bluejays improved to 8-0-1 in the Big South Conference and 13-0-1 overall while Worthington fell to 3-5-0 and 4-11-0.

After facing New Prague Tuesday, the Bluejays play tonight at Rochester Lourdes at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 18 is a showdown at Waseca Community Arena when Luverne — which tied the Bluejays



earlier this season at Luverne — comes to town for a 3 p.m. game. The Jays face Dodge County in Kasson Jan. 21 at 7 p.m.

In recent milestones, Hesch-Priem scored his 100th career goal and backup goalie Martens registered his 1000th career save.

Big South Standings

	WLT	PTS	Overall
Waseca	8-0-1	17	13-0-1
New Ulm	5-2-0	16	8-6-0
Luverne	7-0-1	15	12-2-1
Windom	4-4-0	8	4-9-1
Minn. River	2-1-0	4	4-6-0
Marshall	3-4-0	6	6-7-0

Worthington	3-5-0	6	4-11-0
Redwood V.	1-7-0	2	2-11-0
Fairmont	0-8-0	0	0-10-0

Class A Boys’ Hockey Rankings – 1/7/25

Compiled by Let’s Play Hockey

Team	Sect.	Rec.	L.	Week
1. Monticello	5A	11-0-1	1	
2. Hermantown	7A	7-4-2	2	
3. Cloquet/E/C	7A	12-1-0	3	
4. Hibbing/Chis.	7A	9-4-0	4	
5. Warroad	8A	8-3-1	5	
6. Northfield	1A	9-2-1	6	
7. St. Cloud Cath.	5A	7-4-2	7	
8. E. Grand Forks	8A	6-6-1	9	
9. Delano	2A	5-7-0	8	



10. Mahtomedi	4A	4-8-1	10	16. Detroit Lakes	8A	6-5-1	13
11. Orono	2A	7-6-2	11	17. Luverne	3A	9-2-1	17
12. Minneapolis	2A	8-3-3	12	18. Proctor	7A	8-6-0	18
13. No. Lakes	6A	6-3-0	14	19. River Lakes	5A	8-2-2	19
14. Little Falls	5A	5-3-1	15	20. Chisago Lakes	4A	6-4-1	20
15. Waseca	1A	0-0-1	16				

Flyers shut out Worthington, 1-0

The South Central Flyers girls’ hockey team shut out Worthington 1-0 Saturday at Worthington Hockey Arena.

The lone goal of the day was scored in the second period by Emma Huelsnitz, assisted by Madalyn Benson.

Ilamay Draheim got the shutout in goal, totaling 17 saves.

South Central was 0-for-3 on power plays, Worthington 0-for-1.

The Flyers held a 24-17 advantage in shots on goal.

The Flyers improved to 3-7-0 in the Big South Conference and 8-10-0 overall while Worthington dropped to 1-8-0 and 3-11-0.

After facing New Ulm Tuesday at Waseca Community Arena, the

Flyers play Thursday at 7 p.m. at Austin and Saturday at 11 a.m. against Luverne at Waseca Community Arena. The Flyers face Rochester Century/John Marshall Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Rochester Recreation Center.

Big South Standings

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

NRHEG matmen fall to Westfield

Youngsters perform well for Panther wrestling team

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School wrestling team traveled to Blooming Prairie last Thursday and lost 43-26 to Westfield.

According to coach Shawn Larson, it was a good night for some of NRHEG’s younger wrestlers.

Freshmen Noah Weller, 160 pounds, and Dakota Schlaak, 127, each went out and pushed the pace and earned pins in their matches.

Another freshman, Charlie Tufte at 121, won a nice hard-fought match.

The other Panther points came from two seniors Harbor Cromwell, 172, won with a very dominant technical fall. Cole Hutchens worked with good technique and position to win.

“It has been a while since we

have taken the mat,” said Larson. “We have made improvements in our time off, but there is still work to be done. When we stick to the techniques that we have been practicing, we do well, and when we go off script we learn why we should stick to the basics.”

The Panthers were in action Saturday for the Darrell Jaeger Tournament in Stewartville.

The Panthers had four place winners: Grahm Jacobson, 4th, 107; Cromwell, 5th, 172; Charlie Tufte, 6th, 121; and Khaiden Madson, 6th, 145.

“This has become a tough tournament for our inexperienced team,” said Coach Larson. “As a team, we were a little off. Match preparation is going to be a point of

“When we stick to the techniques we’ve been practicing, we do well. When we go off script, we learn why we should stick to the basics.”

— NRHEG head coach Shawn Larson

emphasis for our team in the next couple of weeks.”

Again, the Panthers got strong performances from some of their younger wrestlers.

“Grahm Jacobson, Charlie Tufte, and Khaiden Madson all showed that they are making strides in the right direction,” said Larson. “Even though these wrestlers were taking

losses, they showed that they can score points and compete differently than earlier in the season.”

Rochester Mayo won the tournament with 167.5 points. The Panthers placed 10th with 31.

The Panthers return to the mat Friday when they host Medford and St. Clair/Mankato Loyola at 5 p.m. in New Richland.



TWO MORE – The NRHEG High School girls' basketball team won twice last week, defeating WEM Tuesday and Hayfield Friday. At left, the Panthers' Quinn VanMaldeghem passes as McKenna Schuster defends. In the middle, the Panthers' Gabby Schlaak goes in for a lay-up. At right, NRHEG's Camryn VanMeldeghem defends against Hayfield's against Betsy Gillette. Below, the Panthers' Clara Buendorf goes to the hoop against WEM. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG girls hold off Hayfield

It's usually a close game whenever the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva girls' basketball team squares off with Hayfield. It was more of the same last Friday.

The Panthers grabbed a 24-17 lead and held off the Vikings 68-60 in New Richland.

"Tonight was a game of runs," explained NRHEG coach Onika Peterson. "At one point we were up by 15. Hayfield hit a couple of big 3-pointers and a couple of their kids got hot and that lead started to dwindle."

But the Panthers, according to Peterson, stepped up and held their composure.

"It was a great team win," she stated.

The VanMeldeghem twins, junior guards Camryn and Quinn, contin-

ued to lead the Panthers, with Camryn registering 27 points, 5 rebounds, 4 steals, 3 assists and one blocked shot. Quinn had 17 points, 16 rebounds, 4 assists and 4 steals.

Others: Gabby Schlaak 1P, 3R, 1S; Ezra Boerher 2P, 2R; Izley Boerner 3P, 2R, 1A, 1S; Clara Buendorf 6P, 5R; Chloe Stork 6R, 2A, 1S; Kylie Olson 12P, 6R, 2A, 2B.

Three nights earlier, the Panthers defeated visiting WEM 62-30 in New Richland. It was 32-21 at halftime.

"We started out cold, but were able to push the lead to over 10 going into the half," said Peterson.

The second half saw the Panthers start strong and extend their lead.

"We continued to rebound well, which gave us second and third-chance shot opportunities," said

"We had some great moments tonight and saw some things that we will need to adjust."

— NRHEG coach Onika Peterson

Peterson. "We had some great moments tonight and saw some things that we will need to adjust."

Camryn VanMaldeghem totaled 21 points, 8 rebounds, 5 steals and 1 blocked shot while Quinn recorded 12 points, 13 rebounds, 5 assists, 3 steals and 2 blocks.

Others: Schlaak 5P, 6R, 1A, 1S; E.Boerner 7P, 1R, 1B; I.Boerner 5P, 5R, 1A, 1B; Buendorf 2P, 4R, 1A, 1S, 1B; Stork 3R, 2A, 1S, 1B; Olson 10P, 10R, 1S, 3B.

After a Tuesday boy-girl double-header at JWP, the Panthers play tonight at home against Blooming Prairie and Friday at Waseca.

Gopher Conference West		
	W-L	Overall
NRHEG	3-0	9-4
JWP	2-0	11-2
WEM	1-1	9-6
United South Central	0-2	8-6
Medford	0-3	0-12



JWP boys overpower Medford

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School boys' basketball team defeated visiting Medford 79-21 in Janesville last Tuesday.

The Bulldogs led 45-13 at halftime.

Individually: Gavin Bauer 22 points 3 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 steals, 3 blocks; Daulton Bauer 18P, 4R, 3A, 3S; Parker Gearity 2R; Landon Johnson 5P, 3R, 5A, 2S; Caleb Quast 6P, 5R, 8A, 3S; Jason Wolff 2P, 2R, 1S; Seth Dahlberg 1A;

Zander Terbeest 2R; Tyson Kronbach 2P; Jeffrey Simonson 6P, 6R, 1S, 2B; Isaiah Berndt 6P, 7R, 2S; Gavin Weedman 5P, 2R; Jaxon Miller 1P 4R, 1S; Ethan Born 6P, 8R, 1A, 2S.

The Bulldogs hosted Triton Thursday and fell 70-65 after leading 35-30 at halftime.

Individually: D.Bauer 31P, 3R, 3A, 6S; G.Bauer 26P, 9R, 9A, 2A, 1S; Quast 2P, 6R, 4A; Simonson 1A; Berndt 1A; Born 4P, 4R, 4A, 1S.

The Bulldogs, 1-0 in the Gopher Conference West and 7-4 overall, play Friday at 7:15 p.m. at Randolph. They host WEM Monday at 7:15.

Gopher Conference West		
	W-L	Ov.
JWP	1-0	7-4
United South Central	1-0	3-9
WEM	1-0	7-4
Medford	0-1	0-8
NRHEG	0-2	0-10

Another win



Katie Olson of the JWP High School girls' basketball team registered 27 points and 5 assists as the Bulldogs defeated Medford 70-27 last week. Presley James had 18 points, 15 rebounds and 5 steals, Nevaeh Weimert 7 points, 4 rebounds and 9 steals, Mikayla Wheelock 7 points and 5 rebounds. The Bulldogs host Randolph tonight at 7:15 and play Tuesday at 7:15 at WEM.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

WEM/JWP WRESTLING

01/07/2025 WEM-JWP (WEJW) 52.0 Blue Earth Area (BEA) 21.0

107: Jason Casey (BEA) over Anaelyse Skidmore (WEJW) (Fall 1:58) 114: Brenden Masso (WEJW) over Cody Tolzmann (BEA) (Fall 1:44) 121: Trey Richards (WEJW) over Drake Engelby (BEA) (TF 15-0 4:12) 127: Avery Asmus (BEA) over (WEJW) (For.) 133: Timmy Nagel (BEA) over Carson James (WEJW) (Fall 1:33) 139: Brady Murphy (WEJW) over Colin Alfson (BEA) (Fall 2:00) 145: Zach Quast (WEJW) over Layden Bassett (BEA) (Fall 1:10) 152: Lucas Morsching (WEJW) over Colton Tolzmann (BEA) (TF 18-1 3:18) 160: Will Weerts (BEA) over Reed Sammon (WEJW) (Dec 10-6) 172: Maddox Moreno (WEJW) over (BEA) (For.) 189: Avery Fall (WEJW) over Johnathan Nelson (BEA) (Fall 1:31) 215: Kavan Sheehy (WEJW) over Jacob Gambell (BEA) (Fall 3:09) 285: Keegan Kuball (WEJW) over (BEA) (For.)

01/09/2025 Kenyon-Wanamingo (KEWA) 45.0 WEM-JWP (WEJW) 19.0

107: Liam Sommer (KEWA) over Bre' Ana Masso (WEJW) (Fall 1:03) 114: Gabriel Ramirez (KEWA) over Brenden Masso (WEJW) (TF 17-0 2:32) 121: Bryan Jacobson (KEWA) over Trey Richards (WEJW) (MD 11-3) 127: Reed Sommer (KEWA) over Carson James (WEJW) (Fall 1:26) 133: Ryan LaCanne (KEWA) over Isaac Miller (WEJW) (Fall 0:50) 139: Masyn Hanson (KEWA) over Brady Murphy (WEJW) (Dec 7-2) 145: Luke Johnson (KEWA) over Zach Quast (WEJW) (Fall 2:58) 152: Logan Trump (KEWA) over Reed Sammon (WEJW) (Fall 1:50) 160: Myles Thompson (KEWA) over Lucas Morsching (WEJW) (Dec 10-7) 172: Maddox Moreno (WEJW) over Brennan Floterud (KEWA) (Dec 5-0) 189: Avery Fall (WEJW) over Ryan Rechtzigel (KEWA) (MD 16-4) 215: Kavan Sheehy (WEJW) over Knute Ronningen (KEWA) (Fall 2:56) 285: Keegan Kuball (WEJW) over Charles Koncur (KEWA) (Fall 2:46)

01/09/2025 Fillmore C-Lanesboro-M-C Wolves (FCLM) 37.0 WEM-JWP (WEJW) 30.0

107: Ben Norby (FCLM) over Bre' Ana Masso (WEJW) (TF 15-0 4:48) 114: Brenden Masso (WEJW) over August Pfeffer (FCLM) (Fall 2:39) 121: Trey Richards (WEJW) over (FCLM) (For.) 127: Brady Arnold (FCLM) over Carson James (WEJW) (Fall 5:58) 133: Charles Guma (FCLM) over Isaac Miller (WEJW) (Dec 16-12) 139: Brady Murphy (WEJW) over Grant Daniels (FCLM) (Inj. [time]) 145:

Zach Quast (WEJW) over Ashton Newman (FCLM) (DQ) 152: Quinci Kaase (FCLM) over Lucas Morsching (WEJW) (Dec 9-8) 160: William Boettcher (FCLM) over Reed Sammon (WEJW) (MD 15-5) 172: Kane Larson (FCLM) over Maddox Moreno (WEJW) (TF 19-3 2:29) 189: Cole Sass (FCLM) over Avery Fall (WEJW) (Fall 4:31) 215: James Cullen (FCLM) over Kavan Sheehy (WEJW) (TF 20-4 5:54) 285: Keegan Kuball (WEJW) over (FCLM) (For.)

01/07/2025 Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial Area (LCWM) 49.0 WEM-JWP (WEJW) 23.0

107: Anaelyse Skidmore (WEJW) over (LCWM) (For.) 114: Brody Herbst (LCWM) over Brenden Masso (WEJW) (Fall 3:14) 121: Ryder Antony (LCWM) over Trey Richards (WEJW) (MD 19-7) 127: Connor Othoudt (LCWM) over (WEJW) (For.) 133: Brody Wieland (LCWM) over Carson James (WEJW) (Fall 0:47) 139: Carson Othoudt (LCWM) over Brady Murphy (WEJW) (TF 18-2 5:50) 145: Logan Quade (LCWM) over Zach Quast (WEJW) (Fall 1:43) 152: Talan Osborne (LCWM) over Lucas Morsching (WEJW) (MD 12-0) 160: Ryan Palmer (LCWM) over Reed Sammon (WEJW) (Fall 0:57) 172: Maddox Moreno (WEJW) over Nathan Sickler (LCWM) (TF 17-1 2:26) 189: Nick Slater (LCWM) over Avery Fall (WEJW) (Fall 0:55) 215: Kavan Sheehy (WEJW) over Colin Peterson (LCWM) (Fall 0:51) 285: Keegan Kuball (WEJW) over Mason Adams (LCWM) (Fall 3:42)

01/07/2025 WEM-JWP (WEJW) 52.0 Blue Earth Area (BEA) 21.0

107: Jason Casey (BEA) over Anaelyse Skidmore (WEJW) (Fall 1:58) 114: Brenden Masso (WEJW) over Cody Tolzmann (BEA) (Fall 1:44) 121: Trey Richards (WEJW) over Drake Engelby (BEA) (TF 15-0 4:12) 127: Avery Asmus (BEA) over (WEJW) (For.) 133: Timmy Nagel (BEA) over Carson James (WEJW) (Fall 1:33) 139: Brady Murphy (WEJW) over Colin Alfson (BEA) (Fall 2:00) 145: Zach Quast (WEJW) over Layden Bassett (BEA) (Fall 1:10) 152: Lucas Morsching (WEJW) over Colton Tolzmann (BEA) (TF 18-1 3:18) 160: Will Weerts (BEA) over Reed Sammon (WEJW) (Dec 10-6) 172: Maddox Moreno (WEJW) over (BEA) (For.) 189: Avery Fall (WEJW) over Johnathan Nelson (BEA) (Fall 1:31) 215: Kavan Sheehy (WEJW) over Jacob Gambell (BEA) (Fall 3:09) 285: Keegan Kuball (WEJW) over (BEA) (For.)

WASECA WRESTLING

1/07/2025

Maple River/USC (MRUSC) 48.0 Waseca (WASE) 22.0

107: Austin Niebuhr (MRUSC) over Zander Rahe (WASE) (Fall 1:52) 114: Alex Walser (MRUSC) over (WASE) (For.) 121: Riley Sparks (MRUSC) over Archer O'Brien (WASE) (Fall 1:17) 127: Noah Gonzalez (MRUSC) over

(WASE) (For.) 133: Jacob Knutson (WASE) over Jace Ignaszewski (MRUSC) (MD 8-0) 139: Isaiah Gonzalez (MRUSC) over Deven Parpart (WASE) (Fall 0:43) 145: Wyatt Walters (MRUSC) over Jaiden Schafer (WASE) (Fall 1:38) 152: Sam Selthun (WASE) over Brayden Mithun (MRUSC) (Dec 8-4) 160: Kolt Bullerman

(MRUSC) over Oliver Staloch (WASE) (Fall 1:21) 172: Byron Getchell (MRUSC) over Ton Bethke (WASE) (Fall 3:28) 189: Lucas Selthun (WASE) over Max Fuller (MRUSC) (Fall 1:02) 215: Matthew Veroeven (WASE) over (MRUSC) (For.) 285: Ben Hagen (WASE) over Dizel Butler (MRUSC) (Dec 6-0)

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- news@wasecacountypioneer.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

The following is a summary of the operating budget for the 2025 fiscal year for Waseca County. This summary is published in accordance with Minn. Stat. 375.169. The detail of the County Budget is on file in the County Administrator's office at the Waseca County Courthouse, Waseca MN, and may be reviewed during normal business hours.

WASECA COUNTY BUDGET SUMMARY STATEMENT

Budgeted Governmental Funds	2024 Current Budget	2025 Adopted Budget
Revenues		
County portion of Tax Levy	\$17,832,821	\$18,075,313
State paid portion of Tax Levy	\$1,351,154	\$1,316,402
Total Tax Levy	\$19,183,975	\$19,391,715
Licenses and Permits	\$37,340	\$28,990
Intergovernmental Revenues		
Federal	\$376,760	\$1,076,054
State	\$10,765,316	\$10,379,206
Other	\$0	\$0
Charges for Services	\$1,830,675	\$1,956,230
Fines and Forfeits	\$700	\$0
Interest on Investments	\$400,000	\$623,086
Miscellaneous	\$3,656,956	\$3,685,578
Other Sources		
Proceeds of Bond Sale	\$0	\$0
Budgeted use of available fund balances	\$0	\$0
Transfer In	\$3,135,786	\$2,773,044
Total Revenues and Other Sources	\$39,387,508	\$39,913,903
Expenditures		
General Government	\$7,727,775	\$8,127,439
Public Safety	\$6,159,870	\$6,455,175
Highway and Streets	\$14,835,140	\$14,362,995
Human Services/Welfare	\$3,152,179	\$3,291,999
Health	\$2,163,023	\$2,425,310
Culture and Recreation	\$737,783	\$599,107
Conservation of Natural Resources	\$2,402,457	\$2,256,601
Economic Development	\$259,866	\$172,250
Debt Service	\$547,133	\$424,450
Other/Solid Waste	\$1,208,485	\$1,438,375
Other Uses		
Transfer Out	\$193,797	\$360,202
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	\$39,387,508	\$39,913,903

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on January 16, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

2025 OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

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

Contacts:

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

State of Minnesota

District Court

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

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

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

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

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

BY:

Dated January 8, 2025

Waseca County
Court Administration
307 N. State Street

Waseca MN 56093
507-308-7002

INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

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

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Janesville’s Trinity Lutheran welcomes Pastor Wolter

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Trinity Lutheran Church of Janesville installed its newest pastor, Jason Wolter, in November. Pastor Wolter was born Sept. 15, 1972: He grew up in Waconia, Minnesota, which is a suburb of the Twin Cities. “It used to be a farm town; now there are so many businesses up there I got lost in my own town, had to drive through a farmer’s field to find my way.” He has served in Benson, Minnesota, for the past seven years. He and his wife Tracy, 52, have three children. Their oldest, Jacob, 23, married to Abby. Daughter Isabella, 21, is a junior and a member of the softball team at Concordia University in Sew-

ard, Neb. Zerubbabel, or Zeb for short, is 13. Zerubbabel is a name from the bible, according to Wikipedia, “a governor of the Achaemenid Empire’s province of Yehud.”

Lutheran churches have a practice of “calling” their ministers. In Wolter’s case, Trinity Lutheran provided its 1800 members with a list of options. Wolter was the group’s first choice. Wolter now resides in the parsonage next to the church. There are three services per week, one on Saturday and two on Sunday.

Also nearby, (New Richland) is Pastor Rudy Maurer, he is retired but once a month he will be taking over services to give Paster Wolter a chance to serve else-



Pastor Jason Wolter with family members who attended his recent installation at Trinity Lutheran in Janesville.
Front from left: Christa Felt; Zerubbabel (Zeb) Wolter, (youngest son); Jacob Wolter (oldest son). Middle row: James Wolter Sr.; Pastor Jason Wolter and his wife Tracy; daughter-in-law Abby. Top row: Ava Wolter (niece); Jacob Wolter (nephew); Derek Wolter (brother); Beth Wolter (sister-in-law). Not pictured is the Wolters' daughter, Isabella.

“God has placed people because they are the best place for them to be.”
— Pastor Jason Wolter

where. They will also take turns visiting nursing homes and people who are homebound. Said Pastor Wolter, “It’s been a long time since there has been a senior pastor. I always respect the rules on the books, but if ever possible, I would like to see confirmation changes. Just because something is ‘the way we’ve always done it’ doesn’t mean that’s the correct way. But always, always the congregation has to agree before changes are made. God has

placed people because they are the best place for them to be. I don’t see myself as a boss, I don’t even like that word, I am a servant of the church and will work towards that.”

Wolter says he and Tracy are considering buying the parsonage next to the church, and will give church first rights to buy it back. “God willing,” he says, “we’re going to be here for the rest of our lives.”

■ Borgmann

from Page 1

“I went to the Rotary Club, spoke at one of their luncheons and gave them my vision. Afterward several businesses approached me and said, ‘We didn’t realize how much was involved.’

“We started the Frosty and Medalion contests, and everything has grown from there.” Borgmann was

adamant about how important that first meeting was.

Sadly, this will be Borgmann’s last year as leader of the 14-member Sleigh and Cutter committee. Later this spring, he and Pug plan to move north to their hometown of Sauk Centre. “I’ve got a lot of family up there—cousins, extended family. So does my wife, and we want to go back.” A retiree for the past 18 years, he spent 26 years as a customer service manager for Brown Printing before the company closed.

His replacement as head of the Sleigh and Cutter committee will be

“I went to the Rotary Club, spoke at one of their luncheons and gave them my vision. Afterward several businesses approached me and said, ‘We didn’t realize how much was involved.’

— Ken Borgmann

Scott Roemhildt. Jen Burt is Gambling Manager, Madeline Johnson Assistant Gambling Manager and Kelly Miller CEO.

Borgmann emphasizes he does not want any locals to think he doesn’t

love their town. “Waseca’s support and friendship has been phenomenal. This town has been off-the-charts good to me: a lot of that has been because of Sleigh and Cutter, but not all.” He says his wife always tells him, “You can’t walk down the street without saying hi to somebody.” He would like to point out how helpful Susan Eberline and Jolene Gundersman have been with Sleigh and Cutter.

Since his retirement at 62 years old, Borgmann has occupied his time both with Sleigh and Cutter and as a member of the Waseca County Sher-

iff’s Posse. He recently lost a Quarter/Paint horse after 32 years and the sorrow could be heard in his voice. He says there’s never been a time in his life he hasn’t cared for animals or had pets. He also loves spending time outdoors.

To Borgmann’s knowledge, Waseca’s Sleigh and Cutter Festival is the longest running festival of its kind in the country. He reveals 2025 will feature the biggest fireworks show the event has ever sponsored, and says he’s grateful he gets to be a part of it—even if it is for the last time.



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—Thomas Merton

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CHEERS TO A NEW YEAR

As I look back on this year, I'd like to thank the people of this community for being such an enjoyable part of it.

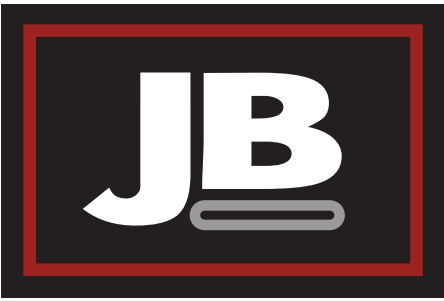
We wish you a safe and prosperous year!



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JANUARY 2025

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

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