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Pinewood Derby

Mother Daughter Book Club Waseca Public Library Thursday Feb. 20

There will be a Mother Daughter Book Club at the Waseca Public Library at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20. Geared for girls in grades 3-6.

Lunch and Learn event at Minnwest Bank Thur., Feb. 20

There will be a Lunch and Learn event at Minnwest Bank, 200 2nd Street NE Waseca, at noon, Thursday, Feb. 20. Learn the ABCs of insurance, A= Affordability, B= Best coverage needed, C= Connect with an agent. Register at info@waseca-chamber.com, or call the Chamber at 507-835-3260, must RSVP to attend.

Drawing Club at Janesville Library on Thur., Feb. 20

There will be a Drawing Club at the Janesville Public Library at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 20. This is for children ages 10-18. This month the focus will be how to draw different types of mushrooms.

Knights of Columbus Burger Fry at the Legion Friday, Feb. 21

The Waseca American Legion will host a burger Fry for the Knights of Columbus from 5:30-7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21. \$10 for a hamburger or fish sandwich with fries.

Sons Glow Dance at the Central Building Friday, Feb. 21

The Waseca Community Education departments sponsoring a Mother-Son Glow Dance at the Central Building in Waseca from 6:30-8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21. The first son is \$22, each additional son \$12. Tickets are available online

Chris Brooks Band will perform at Starfire Event Center Friday, Feb. 21

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

Waseca Sleight and Cutter Parade at noon in downtown Waseca Saturday, Feb. 22

The Waseca Sleight and Cutter parade route begins at the county fairgrounds at about noon, circles through downtown and returns to the fairgrounds. Spectators can either stay in the shelter of their vehicles parked along residential streets on the route, or watch from the sidewalks along State Street.

Waseca Vintage Snowmobile Ice Drags at Clear Lake Feb. 22

Waseca Vintage Snowmobile Ice Drags will be at Clear Lake Saturday, Feb. 22. Registration is at the Boathouse from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Races start at noon. Questions call 715-556-6345 or 612-296-2043.

A word from The Word

To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.

2 Peter 3:18

Sleigh and Cutter



The Waseca Sleight and Cutter Festival medallion hunt has concluded. In the first iteration of the hunt, the medallion was found by Jeremy Sikel, above left, at Loon Lake Park. In the spirit of the 75th anniversary, the medallion was hidden again and discovered last week in some bulrushes on the path at Loon Lake by Jadyn Harty, Molly Zak and Aidan Haslip.



A recent meeting included members of both the city and county "economic development authority" groups. One purpose of the gathering was to begin finding ways all area communities can work together to encourage businesses to locate their new development within the county. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

City, county discuss economic progress

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

About 25 community leaders and advocates met the morning of Feb. 12 to collaborate regarding the ways the city and county of Waseca can work together toward shared economic progress. Present for the discussion was a combination of people from the fields of business, government, and civic organizations; nearly all are also members of the economic development authority (EDA) for either the city or county of Waseca.

City EDA president Ann Staloch opened the meeting stating the local region has many strengths, and sug-

gesting those assets could be better leveraged if area agencies work together and share resources.

The joint meeting was requested by the city EDA, whose spokesman was city planner Jon Froke. Joining him as co-facilitator was county community development coordinator Tina Wilson.

Wilson reported on two projects already underway. One is a workforce development center, to be constructed using mostly federal grant money in the lower floor of the county public services building at 1100 W. Elm Avenue in Waseca. Another, a program dubbed "For-

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ward," provides resources for area students as they consider their future career paths, making sure the information includes local options which might encourage them to stay in their home communities.

After preliminary introductions, an open discussion addressed ways shared resources could help advance common goals. Among topics touched on are the reasons some businesses have chosen not to locate in the region and what area agencies can do to overcome those reasons.

Among strengths named during the conversation were the quality of life in area communities and strong access to available land, transportation, and, along the Highway 14 corridor at least, power. A shortage of available housing and the city's limited infrastructure for delivering water and sewage disposal for any large facilities were mentioned as barriers.

City manager Carl Sonnenberg

Meeting continued on 4



Identify Frosty for share of \$1,500

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

Who is Frosty?

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

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

Contest rules

1. Clues are published by the Waseca County News and Face-book; Waseca County Pioneer; NRHEG Star Eagle; Waseca Chamber of Commerce; and KOWZ/KRUE radio.
2. One guess allowed each week.
3. Each entry must have a name and complete address. Entries without complete information will not be entered.
4. Entrants must live in Waseca County and be over 18 years of age.
5. If there are multiple correct guesses, a drawing will be made to determine the winner.
6. If there are no correct guesses, a drawing will be made

Frosty continued on 6

JWP Snow Week

Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton snow week concluded last week with crowning of Brielle Bure and Eric Daschner. Members of the court are pictured above and include: for the ladies: Queen Bure, Madeline Hoehn, Presley James, Ella Stenger and Claire Walz. For the men: King Daschner, Isaac Gahlon, Derek Gustafson, Carter Hoehn and Eli Rolfson. The evenings prince and princess were Ayla Morsching and Eddie Roesler.





Compostings

by Al Batt

Make a small corner of the world better

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I'm thinking of taking some night classes.

Red Cross is teaching a class. Do you know CPR?

Of course. I know the entire alphabet.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Harry Lillesve was my driver's training instructor, and he told me that all his students had turned into good drivers. I thought, "Look out, good drivers, we're turning."

I thought of Mr. Lillesve when I was driving through town and saw a driver's training car tipped over onto its roof. A friend, the instructor, was wearing a neck brace and being helped to an ambulance. "Look out, good drivers. We're turning."

A PEREGRINATION

I went for a hot air balloon ride in Arizona. The captain complained about his overhead expenses. I hoped he'd paid them.

I visited a thrift store. I enjoy looking at the books in used goods stores. As I did that, part of the ceiling fell on me. It was just bits, so I had no concussion-like symptoms. For some reason, I felt the need to buy something, but I couldn't find anything I wanted. I ended up paying \$1 for a cassette recording of Aunt Nellie's funeral service. I didn't know Nellie, but it sounded as if she would have been worth knowing.

I saw a small slice of an Iowa-Penn State basketball game on the Big Ten Network. The game was played at the Bryce Jordan Center in State College, Pennsylvania, the home court of the Penn State Nittany Lions. One commentator said that the arena had been taken over by the Ohio yellow of the Ohio Hawkeye fans. Oops. It's difficult for a human to go more than a few minutes without making a mistake, but I could hear Hawkeye fans wincing. Iowa won the game.

I'VE LEARNED

The Powerball jackpot is up to two dozen eggs.

There is so much divisiveness in the world. We need togetherness. That's why we need to eat more hotdish. There's togetherness found there.

There are days when news-caneeling headphones sound like an excellent idea.

This country has won every Super Bowl ever played.

Gloves are a handy invention.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

Someone broke into a house, stole the eggs and left a pan of water behind. Police believe it's the work of poachers.

What did Attila the Hun and Winnie the Pooh have in common? They had the same middle name.

Three conspiracy theorists walked into a bar. You can't tell me that's a coincidence.

A man heard a knock on his door and when he answered, he didn't see anyone. Then he looked down and saw a snail looking up at him. The guy became angry at being bothered by a snail. He picked it up and threw it across the street and into the woods. Seven months later, the same guy heard another knock at his door. He opened the door and saw the same snail again. The snail said, "What was that all about?"

NATURE NOTES

Why is a flock of turkeys called a rafter? Perhaps it's derived from the word "raft" in its meaning of a large or motley collection of people and other things. Maybe it's because when early European settlers in America built houses and barns, turkeys perched in the rafters of the unfinished buildings. Or because when turkeys roost in trees, the trees resemble the rafters of a building. Another theory is that the word "rafter" came to imply "stitch together" in Medieval English and was used for groups of turkeys. I visited with a fellow who thought a flock of turkeys should be called a gobbler. Male turkeys are called "gobblers" because of their famed call. It fits the mold—a group of geese is called a gaggle, but a gobble brings to mind scenes of gluttony from a Thanksgiving table.

February is the breeding season for cottontail rabbits, skunks, raccoons, squirrels, great horned owls, bald eagles, coyotes and foxes.

Where I live, which is inside a house, we get little snow there other than what I track in. The yard gets more snow. On average, we receive more snow from October to January than we do from February to April.

We all know the sound of a bird. It might be the quack of a female mallard duck, the honk of a Canada goose, the haunting calls of a loon or the voice of a robin. Robins sing "cheerily, cheer up, cheer up, cheerily, cheer up."

MEETING ADJOURNED

Make a small corner of the world better by filling it with kind words.

More blue jays this year than in the past

I've mentioned more than once, I believe, how much I enjoy roller coaster rides, and how I travel to Six Flags Great America in Illinois because my sister-in-law lives near that park and we enjoy riding together.

These past few weeks, however, have let me know there are plenty of "roller coasters" much closer to home. I've been commenting for the past few weeks about the hills and valleys of our temperatures, and how quickly we seem to go from extremely cold to unseasonably warm. For a few sharp curves on our ride, we have weather systems which begin with freezing rain and shift over to blowing snow.

Something of a roller coaster for me is helping care for my mother-in-law who, at age 91, has dementia and is living in a local care facility. Naturally I am glad to be of service to her and understand she is no longer the person I have had a great relationship with for about 45 years. My heart goes out to her—what must it be like to think it's breakfast time and then be told she actually just had supper?

The roller coaster comes in because I never know as I walk in for a visit which version of my mother-in-law I will be seeing. There are days when she is introspective and gentle—almost the same person I have



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

known so long—and others when she scowls at the sight of me. I don't take it personally, but it certainly has a tendency to shorten the length of my visit.

One of the biggest "hills" of this particular ride are the people who work at the care facility. I have always believed one must be a compassionate, patient, dedicated individual to work at a nursing home—but my understanding of how compassionate and dedicated has definitely been enriched.

Another set of ups and downs goes on in my own yard, at my bird feeders. It is rather astounding how much the birds can consume when the temperature is particularly cold.

A red-tailed hawk has recently figured out there is "feed" for him, too. We know he must be around when the usual crowd of birds is nowhere to be seen. The hawk is a majestic-looking bird, and I acknowledge he's also needs to eat, but when he's

around, I miss the energy and drama of the smaller birds, which is essentially constant when the hawk's not there.

I have more blue jays this year than in the past. This year they've shown me how much they must like corn. A bird will go through all sorts of acrobatics to line itself up where it can pluck off a kernel. That one will no sooner fly away than the next one will come and do the same little hopping dance from one branch to another to get in position.

Cardinals are always a delight thanks to their bright red color. As thousands of calendar and greeting card photographers have demonstrated, they are particularly striking with a background of snow. Unlike the jays, who push and squawk at each other and also bully the smaller birds, the cardinals seem polite.

The nuthatches are a source of wonder. Somehow they walk directly up or down a tree as if taking a stroll.

It makes a person think of certain silly cartoons—I'm happy it works for the birds, but I can't help speculating about all the ways it would go wrong for any of the rest of us.

Oh, and one final, celestial roller coaster.

The sun is definitely ascending toward its summer "hill."

It's begun to be that, on sunny days, my parked car is being kept warm by the solar radiation coming in through the glass. Even on a couple of our coldest days, I have gotten into my car expecting to take a seat in a freezer only to meet with the pleasant surprise that it is comfortably warm.

It's a reminder of the annual roller coaster of seasons that right now I am seeking out parking spaces in the sun, when in a few months the spots in the shade will be the desired prize. I remember noticing with wonder, on one of our barely-above-zero days, that the sun has enough power right now to melt the snow on the highway even though the temperature is well below freezing.

It's a pleasant indicator we are, indeed, riding on a celestial roller coaster.

Thinking about it all, anyone who ever finds life boring is quite simply not paying attention.

Words are abstract, numbers are not supposed to be

As it turns out, I am not great with numbers. Or, for that matter, using Google Sheets.

Last semester I worked really hard on my thesis. A major project was going over what I wanted to research, why, and then explaining in 30 pages with more than 20 outside resources defending my topic.

This semester, I get to work on reporting the results I found and then explaining what it means in probably ten more pages. But the issue I'm running into is that compiling all the data I collected led to a very large spreadsheet, a chart showing all my numbers and the trends they represent. I have more than 150 columns and 26 rows—3,000 cells of information that I hand collected. This is not meant as a personal pat on the back to me, but to give reference as to how much data I now have the task of analyzing.

You see, I haven't had a math class since high school. I limit myself to



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

simple math, like that I use when I work the bar trying to add up prices; even that can be difficult sometimes. Now, I have to review statistics and analyze data, all while trying not to overthink what the numbers mean and whether they prove my point or not. Also, making pivot tables with so much data is confusing. Or maybe it's just Google Sheets that's confusing, because the professional data people tend to use Excel.

But I don't know what it is with me and numbers. My dad is like a numbers whiz; I see little scratches of angles and numbers and stuff

written in his notebook, the backs of envelopes, and scraps of paper around the house. He was the one to help with my elementary/middle school math homework where it got too complicated and different from the way they used to teach it, leading to some difficult conversations.

But I've always been more of a words person. Numbers are supposed to be factual, easy, but then they get confusing. After the easy equations that were fun puzzles in middle school, I gave up hope. Like the $2x = 8$ or $x - 5 = 10$. Those are my jams, the equations that I love.

Words are known to be abstract. So if numbers are supposed to be concrete, why are they so confusing? You look at it in different ways then you get different things, but there's only one right answer? It just doesn't make sense.

So that's what I've been ruminating on the last couple of days, worrying my professor is going to see the draft of my results and tell me I did my numbers wrong. Another reason why I chose to work with words, not numbers (at least not easy numbers). Are some folks just numbers people and while others are word people? Or is it possible to be good (or bad?) at both? Who knows. Not that it matters really, I just like to think about it. Or overthink about it.

My Determination: "Jake, piece of advice: Just give up. It's the Boyle way. It's why our family crest is a white flag." — Charles Boyle, Brooklyn Nine-Nine

Greater Mankato Area United Way hits '25 goal Campaign for \$2,350,000 funds 65 programs and initiatives

MANKATO—For the tenth straight year, Greater Mankato Area United Way has reached its campaign goal to fulfill the funding needs of its 65 partner programs and key initiatives throughout the region.

On February 3, Greater Mankato Area United Way CEO Barb Kaus announced the 2025 Greater Mankato Area United Way campaign has reached \$2,350,000.

She stated, "This goal amount was

a benchmark to meet the essential funding for our programs and initiatives, all of which were vetted by teams of community volunteers." Kaus said the campaign will continue for the next few months as many community needs remain, stating that funds above the campaign goal will continue to go toward improving the lives of those in need.

Greater Mankato Area United Way serves Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Nicollet

and Waseca counties. In 2025, Greater Mankato Area United Way is supporting 65 programs and initiatives that were approved through last year's application process. These programs serve more than 65,000 people annually through the impact areas of basic needs and health and education. The full list is available at the Greater Mankato Area United Way website.

Agencies must apply for United

Way funding each year and undergo a thorough review process carried out by impact teams made up of more than 90 community volunteers who make final funding recommendations.

Last year, more than 1,700 volunteers supported Greater Mankato Area United Way's year-round work.



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SUBSCRIBE

Vintage Snowmobile Show/Ride at Clear Lake on Sat., Feb. 22
The Annual Vintage Snowmobile Show/Ride will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22. Registration is from 9 to 11 a.m., with show from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Clear Lake near the Boat-house. Contact Seth at 507-837-9230 or Marissa at 507-451-4501 with questions.

Waseca Sleigh and Cutter fireworks display on Clear Lake after dark Sat., Feb. 22
The Sleigh and Cutter festival is sponsoring its largest fireworks display ever. The show will be fired at about 7:30 p.m. from the ice on Clear Lake.

In a Bind at Indian Island Winery Saturday, Feb. 22
Music group In a Bind will be performing at the Indian Island Winery from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22. They play a variety of hit music.

Teen Book Club at Waseca Public Library Tuesday, Feb. 25
There will be a Teen Book Club meeting at the Waseca Public Library at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25. This is for students 7-12 grades.

Greeting Card Club at Janesville Public Library Tues., Feb. 25
Each month a Greeting Card Club will meet at the Janesville Public Library at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25. Learn to use stamps, embellishments and coloring techniques to create beautiful greeting cards.

Waseca High School Choir Concert 7 p.m. Feb. 25
Waseca's choir participants in grades 9 to 12 will present a concert at the high school beginning at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Pottery wheel, watercolor painting classes at Waseca Art Center in February
The Waseca Art Center is beginning new classes in February, including Pottery Wheel Ceramics (8 weeks for \$200) and Atmospheric Watercolor Flowers (4 weeks for \$100). For times, dates and to register visit wasecaartcenter.org.

Children's Dreamcatcher, silent auction and bingo at Starfire Event Center Mar. 1
There will be a Children's Dreamcatcher event, a live and silent auction and bingo at the Starfire Event Center from noon till 3 p.m. on March 1.

St. Paul Quilters fundraiser meal 11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 2
A midday pork chop and scalloped potatoes meal will begin at 11:30 on Sunday, March 2, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 314 Fourth Ave. NE, Waseca. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 10 and under. Tickets must be arranged for by Feb. 21 by calling the church office at 507-835-2647 or Judie at 507-835-7414. Funds raised will benefit the quilting group, whose work supports Lutheran World Relief.

Jamie Beckstrand, new Waldorf city council member

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Newly elected and installed Waldorf city council member Jamie Beckstrand, 28, is a lifelong area resident and 2015 graduate of NRHEG High School. She says she decided to enter politics because she would rather "do something" than waste time complaining.

"Some of the things in Waldorf I wasn't happy with," she observed, going on to say she hopes she can help steer city decisions according to residents' wishes. She feels she has strong community support, since with 200 people voting, she defeated her opponent by 40 votes. "In a town this small, that is a big number," she observed.

Beckstrand says she recognizes her first step is to acquire more understanding of her new role. "I want to learn about government office

from other people holding office," she explained.

"I am just getting started. I would like people to be open to me learning."

In the meantime, though, "I want residents to feel comfortable coming to me with concerns. If I can't make a change, I certainly want to give it my best effort. If this works out well, then I will decide if I should try to run for something else."

She suggested she is open to a long-term role in leadership, perhaps even someday becoming mayor.

Beckstrand received her Bachelor of Science degree in Agribusiness with minors in economics and animal science at South Dakota State University in 2019.

She started working for United Prairie Bank after college graduation, the past three and a half have been at the branch in Waseca as a Re-



NRHEG 2015 graduate Jamie Beckstrand is sworn in as the newest member of Waldorf's city council. Photo by Ben Revermann

lationship Manager.

Of her childhood, she said, "I grew up on a small cow/calf farm and we raised show cattle. My family travels exhibiting our livestock all over the country."

In her free time, Beckstrand men-

tions she is on a bowling league at Trapper's Lanes in New Richland and plays sand volleyball at Papa Ollie's Bar in Waldorf. She also enjoys spending time with her dogs, Croix and Eddy, and her family and friends.

ALC students attend suicide awarness event

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The student body of the Waseca Alternative Learning Center heard from Emma Benoit, now in her twenties, who became wheelchair bound after a suicide attempt that took place when she was 16. The Feb. 3 event took place in the school district Central Building in Waseca.

The event began with the film "My Ascension" which summarized Benoit's story and experiences which propelled her on a mission to use her painful experience to help others find hope and stay alive.

The screening was followed by a live question and answer session with Benoit.

The film also shares the stories of two young people who tragically did not survive their attempts, and firsthand discussions from their families, friends, school officials and

suicide prevention experts about the devastating effects of suicide and what can be done to prevent it.

According to national statistics, about 20 young people attempt suicide each day in the United States. The Feb. 3 event was meant to alert students to the severity of the mental health and suicidality pandemic among the adolescent population in the United States.

The event was hosted by Aidans Light. Aidan's Light, a non-profit organization that was formed after Kasson Mantorville Student Aidan Hegge died by suicide on July 27, 2020. Aidan had written a poem for a classmate entitled "The Light Inside" that inspires the organization's founders to continue to shine on, bringing awareness to mental health

ALC continued on 6



Emma Benoit speaks during a suicide prevention presentation. She survived a suicide attempt in 2016 at the age of 16.

SWCE examines strengths, demands of renewable energy

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"We are very open to renewable energy," observes Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) systems technician Steve Nordahl. "It has an important place in our future."

As evidence of the cooperative's commitment, Nordahl mentions its "community solar garden," a set of solar collector panels located near the cooperative's headquarters in Owatonna. Working with Great River Energy, the organization built the one-third acre structure in 2015, and has been incorporating its output into its power grid ever since.

Nordahl and SWCE safety coordinator Jack Schwab have been part of the energy generation and distribution industry since before the large-scale use of solar and wind-powered generators, and have numerous observations to share.

What energy grid managers must

compensate for, the two explain, is inconsistency. Nordahl mentions the "PV Watts calculator," an online resource offered by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). Using it, someone planning a solar array can get a reliable prediction regarding the amount of energy the sun is likely to transmit to any given location on the planet over the course of one year.

"So we can see how much power a solar collector is going to be able to generate," he points out. "But we don't know when it will do it."

He notes there are predictable elements: the increasing number of daylight hours in the summer ensures the vast majority of output will occur in the summer. Sunny days will provide more energy than cloudy ones. No energy, obviously, will be produced at night, or even in the earliest and latest hours of daylight when the sun is very low in the sky.



A "community garden" solar facility is located near the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric facility in Owatonna. The field of solar panels is about one-third acre in size, and provides electricity for SWCE members. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Wind generators, he points out, can continue to produce energy after sunset as long as the wind continues to blow, but air movement, too, has large elements of unpredictability.

Something which is very predict-

SWCE continued on 4

WALDORF CITY COUNCIL

Daycare, sewer, updates provided

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

During their Feb. 10 regular meeting, members of the Waldorf city council gave preliminary approval to a city zoning ordinance which allows a "zero lot line" for twin homes that share a wall; the law exempts such structures from the "five foot setback" required of other types of property. The approval came after a brief public hearing, and is dependent on final review by the city attorney.

A work session to address the topic of pay rates to be provided to council members when they perform tasks for the city was set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Council members learned the city website has been updated and now includes a QR link intended to streamline the process of paying water and sewer bills.

City resident Luke Cordes informed the council that, after a month of slow drainage in his residence, he contacted a commercial company to clean his drain lines. The company fed a camera down the pipes and reported the source of his problem is most likely a collapsed section which is located just where his lines connect to the city system located under the street. Cordes observed the city had recently done work on those lines and suggested that might be the source of the damage; he asked what the city is willing to do about the broken line. City mayor Ron Wilkening said that since it is on Cordes' property, it is officially his responsibility, not Waldorf's. However, Wilkening went on to suggest the council should review the footage before making a decision. Cordes said he would have to request the footage from the company; further discussion was suspended until it can be attained.

City maintenance worker Ron Fischer reported that, after numerous water meters throughout the city were replaced, the removed meters, a major portion of which was made of brass, were taken to a salvage company for recycling. The city received nearly \$680 for the metal.

Fischer also reported a local company has removed all requested trees in the city except for one which the company says requires special equipment. Two additional estimates have been attained for that removal. Gordy's Total Tree of New Richland gave a price range of \$1,200 to \$1,500. Suemnick's Final Cut Tree Service of Elysian bid \$1,000 to remove the tree, \$200 to grind the stump, \$200 to clean grindings and \$200 for replacing black dirt.

City council members decided to keep Minnwest Bank as the official bank of Waldorf. The city requires two signatures on all checks; authorized signers include the city clerk, treasurer, mayor, and all council members.

The \$99 registration cost for Wilkening to attend an upcoming

Waldorf continued on 4

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From left: Tarin Kuball and Bambi Jes were enjoying Jes's first birthday of the year at Katie O'Leary's Sweetheart Bingo on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 2025.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Katie O'Leary's sweetheart bingo

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Katie O'Leary's bar in Waseca was filled nearly to capacity the evening of Friday, Feb. 14. A number of special activities were underway, including annual rounds of "Sweetheart Bingo," which featured prizes up to \$214 and even \$500 for blackout.

Shannon Cliff and Kellie Moseley were busy getting the Bingo game started; helpers Shelly Kuster and Jen Smith delivered Bingo cards and accepted payment. Cliff said, "I've been doing this since...let's see..." She had to think for a moment before she continued, "Yes, since 2005. Wow, has it been that long?" These four volunteers are active with the Waseca Hockey Association, which helps local hockey teams with gear, transportation and other expenses.

In addition to Bingo, the evening featured simulated horse races, Gimme5, and Wiste's Meat Raffle. Regarding the horse races, Cliff explained patrons select a name and photo of a horse from an offered list. "People buy a ticket, that ticket is scanned, entering the horse into the race. When there are enough entries, a video plays and an animated version of a horse race is shown, with the winners selected at random." With five large video screens around the bar, all patrons have a clear view of the "race."

Customers Bambi Jes, Tarin Kuball and some friends were celebrating Jes's birthday, "I'm 45 years old today," said Jes. On the table were big red and pink balloons, cocktails and some freshly prepared food. Given Jes's Valentine Day birthday, the group explains they have turned this celebration into an annual event, said Kuball, "For Jes's birthday we do Sweetheart Bingo, this is how we start off the birthday bingos for the whole year."

Still busy delivering Bingo cards, Kuster took a moment to say she began volunteering for the Waseca Hockey Association because her children Mando and Lilly were in the sport. "Now I do it for fun and to help out because it's a good cause," she explained, noting she's been at this for eight years as a part-time job. Besides the meat raffle and Bingo, she also helps out with pull tabs, e-tabs, the regular raffle, the outdoor bash in the summer and the Blue Earth County Fair.

Near the door at the end of the bar, quietly playing Bingo and enjoying each other's company were Brandon and Naomi Milbrett, husband and wife. The two share that they have been coming for Katie O'Leary's Valentine's Day bingo for the past three years. Brandon added the two come most Friday evenings, saying "It's a cozy place to come, get some drinks, and eat. And I get to do that with my wife."

Valentine Performance



Local musician Jim Kozan performed for residents of the Lakeshore Inn Rehabilitation Center and their guests the afternoon of Valentine's Day.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

SWCE advises research before adding private solar

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"We want members to make an informed decision," says Steve Nordahl, systems technician with Steele/Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE), based in Owatonna.

"Some who install private solar arrays have good results; some are less pleased."

Nordahl shares that, among the SWCE members who have been less pleased are some who have installed solar panels based on the possibility they will not only do away with their electric bills, but will have a consistent source of income as solar energy is delivered into the distribution grid.

He mentions some are unpleasantly surprised when that is not necessarily the case.

essarily the case.

"Some have been very disappointed," he recalls, speculating that sales staff from some of the solar companies may not be supplying complete and accurate SWCE information while trying to make a sale.

"We want to see renewable energy as a significant part of our production," says Nordahl. "But we don't

want to see our members disappointed

if they don't get what they expected."

He encourages any SWCE members who are interested in installing solar panels to be sure they know the full picture before making a significant investment; he invites them to find an unbiased advisor, including, if they wish, the staff at SWCE.

SWCE

from Page 3

days, and when the wind's not blowing," comments Nordahl. At times like that, he says, the energy has to come from traditional, more consistent sources.

He offers a comparison with open channels of water. Various "streams" pour into the power grid: power suppliers persistently watch to see how much capacity is being supplied by renewable energy, but when the level falls too low, they must increase inputs from coal, nuclear, or natural gas sources.

He and Schwab estimate that, at

this time, SWCE members are getting 25 percent of their power from renewable sources; in keeping with the "we don't know when" nature of the power, the number is higher on sunny or windy days and lower at other times.

He points out that Minnesota legislators have issued requirements that power companies incorporate increasing amounts of renewable energy into their grids, and that companies are working to comply. "Many people don't understand the complications created by the sporadic way that power is supplied," he observes.

He and Schwab go on to say they are impressed by the many ways the technology of renewable energy continues to advance. Growing numbers of electric vehicles take advantage of

the ability to store energy in a battery and then deliver that power on demand: Schwab mentions not only cars, but school buses, large-scale trucks, and drones, all of which are seeing increased use.

Both Schwab and Nordahl express optimism that solutions to more and more of the complications with renewable energy will continue to be found.

They mention numerous encouraging examples. A large warehouse in the region generates a considerable amount of its own electricity with a gigantic solar array mounted on its roof. Numerous area residents are dedicated to a "zero-carbon" lifestyle, and have made renewable, non-polluting elements central to their decisions and actions.

Nordahl offers a range of ways

SWCE members can strengthen their connection to renewable energy, including taking part in programs that can affect their bill credit. One is purchasing panels in the "community array" already in place at SWCE. Panels there are currently priced at \$800 each; their energy is contributed to the grid, and their output is credited to the owner, including reducing the cost of their bills or, when enough energy is generated, providing credit.

Schwab and Nordahl express pride that SWCE can be of assistance. "We're a cooperative," says Nordahl. "We're member-owned. We really invite members to come in, get their questions answered, and make use of our knowledge and resources."

"It's what we're here for."

Meeting

from Page 1

summarized some main themes from the discussion when he said, "The community needs to determine how it's going to invest in itself, so that we can send a clear message to developers."

Staloch suggested the combined groups might form what she called a "development response team" whose members could provide expertise

and perspective across a wide range of topics. She stated the idea would be to have such people ready to meet with potential developers on short notice. They could help potential developers connect with helpful people and resources, and provide guidance to make various applications and processes easier to complete. Among her suggestions was that the city and county should have shared application forms when feasible, for example for zoning permits, so that applicants would need to fill out only one document.

Group member John Fossum suggested the response team members

should represent "expertise across the board," and that responding members would be selected based on the nature of each individual developer's needs.

The far-ranging discussion occupied nearly two hours. By the end of the meeting, an agreement was reached to work toward a second joint meeting sometime in June; Wilson said she would arrange the session, offering to invite additional representatives from the Janesville, New Richland and Waldorf EDA groups.

As the conversation wound down, Staloch proposed matters to be fo-

cused on at future sessions. She suggested group members should give thought to a shared narrative for city and county development priorities; the composition and procedures for a development response team; hearing a county-wide perspective regarding focus areas for development; and overcoming what she called a "blight" on area communities, namely buildings which are standing empty and unused, with owners who show no apparent interest in improving them or selling them to others who will.

Waldorf

from Page 3

ing League of Minnesota Cities event, the "City on the Hill" conference on Thursday, March 6, was ap-

proved.

Wilkening shared that Waldorf is currently accepting applications for the Youth Job Training Program for ages 14-24, established by the Minnesota Valley Action Council as the 'Back-Up Buddy' program. The Back-Up program hires an extra person, who gets licensed to cover for

city employees when they are gone from work because of illness or while taking a vacation.

Wilkening reported he is working to make it easier for a potential local daycare provider to fulfill needed licensing requirements. The mayor also would like to remind everyone, "If you do something to your sewer,

even if it's an emergency, call us, please." He stated there are many legal elements to sewer work, so notifying the city can help avoid fines, legal fees, and the like.

For January there were 5 no pay water bills, 6 partial payments. \$1,534.73 was not collected and 102 and 43 received shut-off notices.

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The Pastor's Column

What I think about

By PASTOR RICK WULF
Hello! Let me introduce myself. I am Rick Wulf, Lead Pastor at Christ Community Church in Waseca. One thing you need to know about me is that I think a lot. It's just who I am. The problem is, most of what I think about is silly. Like if a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled? Or why is the person who invests your money for you called a broker? Why are wise guys and wise men opposites? Why do overlook and oversee mean different things? Do Roman paramedics refer to IVs as "4s"? See told you, silly stuff. Don't hold these things against me and please, keep reading.

We all know we're going to have to think about stuff. But not all stuff is silly. We sometimes have to think about serious stuff, things we'd rather not have to think about. Maybe the doctor called and he'd like to get more tests. Or maybe the kids called and they have some news that they don't want to share over the phone. Or perhaps you watched the news and well, we all know what that is like nowadays. When things come into our lives that are outside our control, what do we think about?

Some of us would rather just not think about hard things. So we do things that avoid this thinking. Some people turn on the TV, or scroll social media. Some go to further lengths and try to forget via self-medication. It's our human nature to try and avoid thinking about things that seems too big, too hard, too deep, too scary. Others dive in really deep and just simply become anxious and scared, maybe even paralyzed. So, whichever is your habit, this tells me you are a good human being. But it's not God's desire for you.

Let me tell you that I have good news for you. We weren't created to dwell on the bad thoughts. We weren't created to be anxious. We weren't created to let fear rule our hearts and our minds. We were created for joy, peace, freedom, and to experience God's faithfulness. So what do we do when our brain gets overwhelmed thinking about the stuff that happens in our lives?

I'll tell you where I go and what I do. And maybe it will help you when you can't stop thinking about stuff.

First, I know who my Father is. God has promised me as His child, that He is a God who loves to give good gifts to His kids. Jesus told His disciples this in Matthew 7:14. And it is God's heart for us that we do not let anxiety, worry, and fear rule our lives. I gotta keep reminding myself I Am. His.

Second, I have to change the way I think. I ask myself whether the things I am thinking about at this moment are helping or hurting my spirit. If they are things of worry, fear, anxiety, or the things that gratify the sinful nature, I have to capture those thoughts and remind them that they have been fully settled by Jesus' work of the cross (2 Corinthians 10:5). I have to consciously reject these thoughts and confess them to God, agreeing with Him that they do not have the power over me that they claim they do.

Third, I have to change what I think about. In Philippians 4, Paul says to think about only good things, lovely things, excellent things. And just before those words, Paul tells us that God's peace comes from praying to Him against anxious thoughts. So if I'm going to make any headway in this journey, I've got to rely on God's peace and change what I think about.

The question may be, if I do 1, 2, 3 will this solve my thinking problem? In case no one has ever told you before, never trust anyone who says, "in just 3 easy steps...". So, I will not be one of those people. The Christian life is very seldom do 1, 2, and 3. Instead, God says to trust Him in all things. We have a God who is fully trustworthy and loves us more than we could ever imagine. Once we understand who we are to Him, we can begin to realize that we are not the sum total of our thoughts. We can begin the journey of finding freedom from the chronic thoughts that rule our mind. And when the acute thoughts come—the ones that are situational and immediate, we can use skills and tools we are learning now to avoid letting them dig in deep.

Let's just recap: God desires you to know Him and be known by Him. Let His thoughts fill your mind. As you do that, you'll begin to change the way you think, giving over those thoughts you have to Jesus as soon as they enter your mind. And then you begin to think new thoughts, thoughts that come from the mind of God. These thoughts are greater and stronger and way more beautiful than the thoughts you are currently having.

So the next time you can't stop thinking of something, whether it be something silly or serious, go to God. Go to His Word. Talk to Him. Trust Him. As you learn to trust Him, you will experience freedom in your mind. And where we experience freedom is where we find peace.

I wish nothing more for you than to experience His peace in your mind. God bless you.

*Some are big and bright,
Some are small and dull.
Some just turned on,
Some are old and going out.
But it's there.
That light is beautiful,
No matter who owns that light.
It's there for a reason.
Don't forget your light.
-Aidan J. Hegge*

Waseca Art Class teaches pinch pots and dirty fingers

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Around 20 people—young and old—took part in a creative opportunity to craft simple clay items at the Waseca Art Center (WAC) on Saturday, Feb. 15. Participation was at no charge thanks to a donation from the Sleigh and Cutter Festival.

In the basement workshop at the WAC, instructor Jamie McShane guided learners in making small-scale pinch pots. Said McShane, "I've done clay off and on for years working on my bachelor's degree in fine arts and ceramics." Participants were supplied with a workspace and tools. Among them were loop wires to cut and shave the clay, wooden utensils for smoothing, and fine detailed metal tools for piercing and modeling. Said McShane, "The goal here is to make two little pinch pots, stack them on top of each other and make little monsters to take home." It didn't take long before people's hands were coated in clay.

Missy Donner, who was helping anyone who needed it or doing a little cleanup on the side said, "We wanted to do a hand clay class for kids who are too young for the pottery wheel. You have to boss the clay around on the wheel, it's not for little kids." Naomi Milbrett was pres-



The Waseca Art Center put on a free hand clay class on Saturday, Feb. 15 thanks to a generous donation from the Sleigh and Cutter Festival. There will be a second, similar class March 1.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

ent with her daughter Penelope who said, "We came here to do pottery; my grandma Sherry Jacobson teaches here and she told us about it."

The WAC has its own kiln, so the projects will be fired over the next couple weeks and ready for pickup on March 1. From 3 to 5 p.m. that day will be an additional free class, again

thanks to the support of the Sleigh and Cutter Festival. Registration for the March 1 class can be arranged at https://www.wasecaartcenter.org/booking-calendar/free-for-children-clay-handbuilding?referrer=service_list_widget.

■ Frosty

from Page 1

from all entries received.

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

8. Submit entries to:

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

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

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

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Frosty: Week 1 Clue

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

*Coming again this year,
In their white Frosty Hue*

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

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

Frosty: Week 2 Clue
*A northerner from the start,
Frosty moved South for school
The major of study initially unknown
But a degree was the general rule*

*Completing classes at Gustavus
And taking credits as MSU
A 1983 college graduate
History was a favored study too*

*Far out of school now
But to help pass the time*

*Frosty enjoys putting together words
Possibly a limerick or a rhyme*

Frosty: Week 3 Clue
*Do you think you have Frosty
Narrowed down or found out?
Have you passed them around town
While strolling out and about?*

*A lover of the arts
And items that are unique
Catch Frosty at the local stores
Browsing, and taking a peek*

*A supporter to all businesses
Big or small, or community driven
Donating time, talent or special items
With their contribution, a unique display given*

Frosty: Week 4 Clue
*Frosty patiently awaits the 21st,
For that date is the identity reveal
Money is on the line for guessers
Sweetening the guessing appeal*

Details have been given,

*But has it been enough?
Putting all the clues together
The sleuthing can be tough.*

*More information to go off of
That frosty along with their spouse
Have both been enjoying retirement
Spending time both in and out of the house*

2025 Week 5 Frosty Clue
*One last clue to put it together,
Giving you one last chance
Put in your final guesses
Answers accepted only in advance*

*A wealth of information has been
Divulged and given to narrow it down
Do your research and
Study the people of the town*

*I'll leave you with this, a career
40 years all together,
Frosty aided in serving the community,
No matter the situation or weather*

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Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m.

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
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507-835-9176
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ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
314 4th Ave NE, Waseca
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Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m.

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503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net)
Worship Sunday 10 a.m.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 E Elm Ave, Waseca
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507-835-2213
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Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship

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Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship

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

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

VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota

Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship

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

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Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m.

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Waldorf, Minnesota
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

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Waldorf, Minnesota
Father Brian Mulligan
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship

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

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Brad Donner, Branch President
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www.lds.org
Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages

12-18

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Four Seasons is sold



The following was posted to Facebook last week.
Exciting News for Four Seasons
After 11 incredible years of serving our community, we are excited to announce the sale of Four Seasons Apparel & More to Heather and Travis Blake effective April 1. From the day we bought the store in August 2013, we have cherished every moment of helping you with your team, organization, and business apparel needs. As we plan for an upcoming chapter of our lives in Alabama, we want to thank everyone for their support and loyalty over the years.
Heather and Travis, long-time residents and passionate community members, are thrilled to carry on the legacy of 4 Seasons Apparel & More. Since its founding by Tom and Cindy Piche in 1976, the store has been a pillar of the Waseca community--and the Blakes are excited to continue its tradition of quality and service. Please join us in welcoming the Blakes as the new owners of Four Seasons Apparel & More effective April 1, 2025!

Economic Development Authority seeking community input

An "economic development authority" works to support and grow the vitality of its community. It can do this in many ways, including working toward adding businesses or community elements that are needed or by seeking out ways to overcome circumstances that might be a barrier to growth, for example, increasing the capacity of the electric grid or access to affordable housing.
Waseca County community development coordinator Tina Wilson is seeking input regarding community priorities and would like to receive responses to a four-question survey. She says her intent is to create a "big picture" view of public opinion, and so no names will be connected with any information she uses.
Anyone wishing to respond to Wilson's four questions can do so by emailing her at Tina.Wilson@wasecacounty.gov.

Question 1: If you could tell a new business only one reason why they should be located in Waseca County, what would that reason be?

Question 2: If you could tell a new business only on reason why they should NOT locate in Waseca County, what would that reason be?

Question 3: If you could recruit one new business to Waseca (not retail or grocery) what would that business be?

Question 4: What do you think the top community and economic development focus should be? (Examples: jobs, housing, workforce, infrastructure improvements, others)

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Waseca

25 Years Ago
-The search for Thomas A. Grant, 59, of Waseca that began on Jan. 25, ended without incident Monday. He appeared in Waseca County District Court with his attorney, John McLoone IV, at 11:20 a.m., on a body only warrant. Grant's wife, Linda, called the Waseca County Sheriff's Office on Jan. 25, and said that Tom Grant left with a Bible and a handgun. He had not been seen until Monday.
-Ron Schara and his dog, Raven, prepared to lead the 50TH annual Sleigh & Cutter parade.
-Jeff Kagemeier of Kagemeier Skaar and Asleson (KSA) Architects of Mankato presented the refined plan of the proposed Waterville-Elysian-Morristown (WEM) outdoor athletic facility Thursday night at a special WEM School Board meeting. The plan includes a 200,000 square foot K-12 building on site, a perimeter road system for access, 800 parking stalls, a new football stadium, track, a practice softball field, the possibility of two soccer fields and fencing around the entire facility.

50 Years Ago
-Chorus girls? IT LOOKS LIKE a professional chorus girl line-up but it's only members of the Bluejay Pom-Pon club doing their part to cheer their team into another victory. The club is directed by Tom Case and performs during half time at home basketball games. The Bluejays, undefeated and South Central Basketball champions, will play at Fairmont Friday night.
-Exhibitors at the Waseca County Fair could have a new livestock building this year, if fair board members are able to get it built by July. Members of the fair board met Wednesday night to discuss plans for constructing another livestock building on the fairgrounds.



-DHIA officers – BOARD MEMBERS for the Waseca County DHIA were elected at the annual meeting Wednesday night. Pictured left to right: Gary Mittlesteadt, secretary, Janesville; Lloyd Mundt, vice president, Waseca; Bob Vogelsang, president, Wells; Ron Orth, county agent; and former officers, John Gilster, Minnesota Lake and Vincent Kahnke, Waseca.



75 Years Ago
-RURAL SCHOOLS WITH TOP DENTAL RECORDS – Shown above are district 11 (left) and district seven rural Waseca county schools which have had all their dental health cards in. All the children in both schools have seen their dentist once since the beginning of the school year.
-Gigs, comedy and stunts – and a special tribute to the Waseca – will be the order of the day here Saturday, March 5, when WCCO originates its "Our Own Bob" show from Mahler's Hardware, member of the "Our Own" hardware organization in this city. The program will get under way at 8:45 a.m.

100 Years Ago
-Sheriff Alfred Wadd has been notified that the Ford touring car owned by Stewart Root and which was stolen last September has been recovered by the Pittsburg, Kansas, police and is being held by them. Last summer Mr. Roo employed a stranger by the name of Roy Madison. The latter worked for him until September 16.
-Waseca has been fortunately blessed with many great business enterprises and resources, with many greater institutions of learning and worship, but the greatest organization in Waseca is the Boy Scouts. Other cities of this nation can boast of Boy Scout organizations, but Waseca people feel confident that none can compare with the spirit that has been instilled into organization in the city.
-The Minnesota Association of Community Secretaries held their winter meeting at the Curtis hotel in Minneapolis Thursday and Friday. The organization includes both full and part time secretaries of civic and community organizations and about 100 of the members were present at the meeting. The program included the regular business session and the election of officers, together with a banquet on the first evening.

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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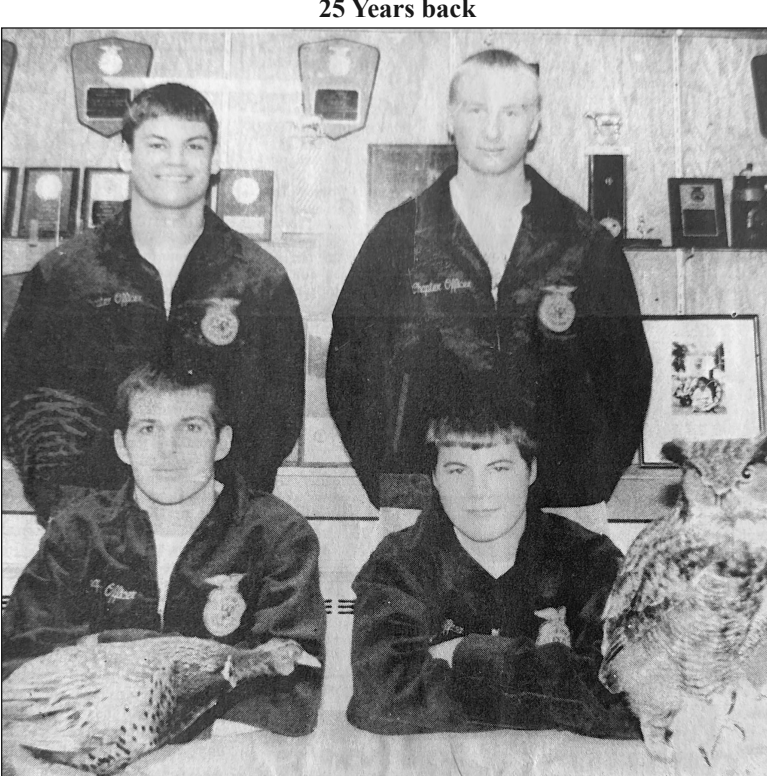
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New Richland



25 Years back
- Local Future farmers of America Wildlife Judging team will enter state Wildlife judging in St Paul in April for the 34th Consecutive after placing first in Region VII competition last saturday. Members of the winning team are from left: seated, Tony Schlaak, Nick Misgen, standing is Nate Wayne and Brandon Johannsen. Another year, another FFA Wildlife Contest and another local FFA team has gained the right to enter the State Wildlife Judging competition in St Paul in April. The local team placed first in competition on Saturday with 1890 points. All of the members of the local team placed in the top ten individually. Leading the team was Nick Misgen who came in first with 665 points. Tony Schlaak got 615 with third place, Brandon Johannsen with 610 points for fourth and Nate Wayne was sixth with 590.



- Pins flew on the front and back sides of Neil Roesler at the Waseca County Pork Producers Banquet on Saturday evening. Incapable hands, Steve Russel and Kobi Shaw professionally juggled the pins as Neild nervously stood in center stage. He had little to be nervous about especially for any pin contact with his head. A safety helmet, slightly resembling a soup kettle, was provided for Neil by the jugglers.
- Martin Tesch of Waldorf recently received recognition from Accelerated Genetics for having the highest animal health product dollar volume among membership sales representatives in the region. He also was honored distributing the most units of PACE young sire semen to new program participants.
- Brittania Panuska. Brittania, a new NRHEG eighth grade student has been selected to perform in the Minnesota Band Director Association middle level honor band. More than 500 students from 100 schools throughout Minnesota auditioned for a chair in the band. Only 75 were selected for the honor and Brittania was one of them. Brittania has excelled in every area in her school's instrumental music program, according to Frank Whitcomb.

50 years back
- A forty acre tract in northeastern Waseca county has been given to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for wildlife management purposes by its former owner, it was announced today. The land wonder, Hugo John Pawek is a former Minnesotan and a 1930 graduate of the College Of Forestry University Of Minnesota. Pawek, now the President of a lumber company in West Virginia, inherited the tract from his father. It is a part of 120 acre farm owned by his grandfather.
- The New Richland Jaycees organized last Wednesday evening at a meeting of 23 new members at the American Legion clubrooms. Pictured here left to right seated are: officers Dale Krueger, secretary treasurer; Jim Finseth, president; Bob Frisk, vice president Bruce Davison, director, standing; Dennis Roesler state director and Jeff Jensen, director. Attending the TYOM (ten outstanding young men) convention at the Radisson South in Minneapolis this week are Jim Finseth, Kermit Scheonrock and Randy Vogt.
- Fluid Power Demonstration by a Mankato AVTI student at a recent Hydraulics workshop at the vocational school for Waseca County Vocational classes. Boys present are: Brad Wallace, Wayne Hanna, Lee Christenson, Mark Williams and Randy Warke of New Richland-Hartland High School.
-Mr. And Mrs. Gerald Groskreutz of rural Wells announce the engagement of their daughter, Judith to James S. Schwerin, son of rev. And Mrs BurtonSchwerin of Wells. Judy graduated from Wells Easton High School in 1972. She attended Augustana College in Sioux Falls, S.D., where she is studying nursing and psychology.

75 Years Back
- C. S. Shurson of New Richland was elected Director of Land O'Lakes Creameries Inc. From district 8 at the twenty ninth annual meeting of the cooperative marketing association held at the Land O'Lakes plant, Minneapolis March 8 - 10. Several thousand dairy and poultry farmers and plant operators attend the meeting to hear reports on operations for 1949 and plans for 1950.
- Lyn Allen, second son or Mr. and Mrs. Lester Recknor, was baptized at Sunday Morning services at the Lutheran Church at Waldorf. Reverend C. J. Gundermann was the officiator. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Bluhm, Howard Nelson of Waldorf and Delores Krueger of Waseca, were sponsors.
- An enjoyable evening was spent at the Earl Schlaak home Sunday when a group of relatives gathered at the Schlaak home to assist him with observing his birthday anniversary. Following an evening of cards a birthday lunch was served to the following guests: Mr. and Mrs. Jermit Iverson and Carol, Mr. and Mrs. George Kampen, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Kampen and sons, Mrs. A. A. Kampen of Waseca, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Kampen and son, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kampen of Otisco, Mr. and Mrs. Merlin Krueger, Roger and Dale, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Schlaak and Miss Leona and Leonard Schlaak.

Bluejays remain unbeaten

No. 2-ranked WHS boys improve to 24-0

By JIM LUTGENS Sports Editor

The game plan for Windom was clear early on: shoot as many three-pointers as possible.

It worked for one half.

Windom came to town last Tuesday to face the undefeated Waseca High School boys' basketball team, which rallied from a 46-44 halftime deficit to win going away, 97-74.

"Windom is a really talented basketball team," said WHS head coach Seth Anderson. "They have multiple players who can shoot the ball from very deep, and a really skilled big guy who could score and protect the rim. It took us a long time to figure out how to guard them and how to play without fouling. We had trouble adjusting to how the game was being called and it was evident by all five of our starters having at least two fouls going into halftime."

Damarius Russell, a senior bound for Washington State on a football scholarship, led the Bluejays in scoring with 31 points, adding 2 rebounds, 5 assists and two steals. His little brother Deron, a junior, totaled 30 points, 8 rebounds, 6 assists and 4 steals.

Others: Carson Ohnstad 8P, 5R, 3S; Ethan Hiller 6P, 9R, 2A, 6S; Caden Danner 6P, 2R, 1A; Brandyn Jascha 5P, 5R; Cyrett Long 5P, 2R, 1S; Wyatt Hager 4P, 3R, 1S; Isaac Feldkamp 2P, 4R; William Mansfield 1R; Riley Mitchell 1R.

Quintin Tietz led Windom with 22 points, including six three-pointers.

"I'm really happy that we figured out how to adjust in the second half and got a lot of defensive stops, and that opened up our freedom offensively to start gaining some separation as the game went on," said Coach Anderson.

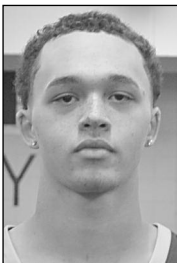
The Bluejays went on to win Friday at St. James, improving their overall record to 24-0.

The Bluejays travel to NRHEG tonight for the final game of the regular season. Section preliminaries are March 4, with the quarterfinals March 6 at the higher seeded team. The semifinals are March 10 and the championship game March 13 at Minnesota State-Mankato.

Big South East		
Waseca	W-L	Overall
Jackson Co. Central	6-3	20-3
Belle Plaine	6-2	15-6
Fairmont	5-3	14-8
Blue Earth Area	2-7	10-13
Tri-City United	0-9	0-23



NOT TONIGHT – The Waseca High School boys' basketball team remained undefeated last week, defeating Windom at home Tuesday and winning Friday at St. James. Above, the Bluejays' Deron Russell (1) takes the ball to the hoop against Windom. Below, Waseca's Brandyn Jascha sets up for a jump shot. Far below, the Bluejays' Ethan Hiller hustles to keep the ball from going out of bounds.



Da. Russell



Hiller

Big South West		
	W-L	Overall
Luverne	6-2	15-7
Redwood Valley	5-3	16-9
Windom	5-3	12-11
St. James	2-6	11-11
Pipestone Area	2-6	9-13

Big South Big		
	W-L	Overall
Marshall	6-0	17-7
St. Peter	3-3	11-12
Worthington	2-4	5-17
New Ulm	1-5	7-14

Class 2A state rankings By Minnesota Basketball News Week 11, Feb. 12, 2025

1. Albany	19-0
2. Waseca	24-0
3. Caledonia	21-2
4. Jackson County Central	20-3
5. Breck	11-9
6. Blake	18-1
7. Montevideo	18-2
8. Mora	19-1
9. Cannon Falls	19-3
10. Esko	17-4



STRONG SHOWING – Above, the Bluejays' Bella Wikan, right, is greeted by a teammate after her balance beam routine during the Section 2A gymnastics meet Thursday. Below from left, Hannah Parks, Avery Carda, Katelyn Weber and Wikan established a new school record on the beam.

Photos by Nora Flatness



On to state

Wikan advances in all-around as Bluejays set school record on beam

By JIM LUTGENS Sports Editor

Entering the Section 2A gymnastics meet Thursday, Feb. 13 at Mankato East High School, Waseca High School senior Bella Wikan was fairly confident of advancing to state in the uneven parallel bars or maybe one other event.

She did better than that. Wikan scored 36.45 points in all-around, reaching state in the coveted event.

As a team, the Bluejays finished fourth in a tough section with a season-best 134.275 points. Mankato East won with 143.625, edging Mankato West for first. Nine teams competed. Waseca's score was its third-best in school history.

Wikan finished third in all-around, first on bars with a 9.25, ninth on vault with an 8.95, eighth on the balance beam at 8.875 and fourth on floor exercise with a 9.375.

The Bluejays established a school record of 33.875 on the balance beam, the second time this season they accomplished the feat.

"This is the first time since I have coached at Waseca that this has happened at a section meet," said WHS head coach Kim Wendland.

Katelyn Weber was Waseca's second-best all-around finisher with 33.45 points. She scored 8.725 on vault, 8.6 on floor, 8.45 on the beam and 7.7 on bars.

Next was Hannah Parks, who totaled 32.775 all-around points which included an 8.6 on beam, 8.45 on vault, 8.325 on floor and 7.4 on bars.

The Bluejays' Avery Carda scored 31.5 all-around points, with an 8.25 on vault, 8.075 on floor, 7.975 on beam and 6.85 on bars.

The Bluejays' other senior, Brooklyn Flatau, totaled 30.775 points on all-around. She scored 8.7 on vault, 8.025 on floor, and 6.7 on bars.

"We started off the year losing eight gymnasts, with only five girls on the varsity," said Coach Wendland. "This makes it very challenging when there are injuries or illness. These girls showed up for practice, worked hard and gave it 100% every meet. We had one of the most memorable seasons; They set so many personal records on each event and broke their team goal three times. I am just super proud of them. They define the word team."

The state meet is Feb. 21-22 at Roy Wilkins Auditorium in St. Paul.



SO CLOSE – The Bluejays' Mia Kanewischer brings the ball up the court against St. James' full-court press during a 52-49 buzzer-beating loss Friday night.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

Buzzer beater

WHS girls fall on game's final shot

So close, yet so far. That's the way the night ended Friday for the Waseca High School girls' basketball, which lost 52-49 to St. James on a game-winning three-pointer at the buzzer.

For the Bluejays, Callie Dufault finished with 18 points, Gracie Morgan 11 and Reese Rodriguez 10. Lexi Kanewischer added 5, Mia Kanewischer 3 and Lily Owens 2 for the Bluejays.

Reese Maligne hit the winning three for the Saints.

On Tuesday, the Bluejays traveled to Windom and lost 74-40. Dufault finished with 17 points, Morgan 9, Mia Kanewischer 6, Lexi Kanewischer 4, Katelyn McMurphey 2 and Belle Miller 2.

The Bluejays hosted St. Peter Monday and fell short 57-32.

Scoring: Rodriguez 9, Morgan 7, Dufault 5k, Mia Kanewischer 3, Gaby Lopez 3, Owens 2, Hannah Sommers 2 and Lexi Kanewischer 1.

The Bluejays, seeded 13th, open the Section 2AA tournament

Monday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. at fourth-seeded Glencoe-Silver Lake. The winner plays Feb. 27 against No. 4 Norwood-Young America or No. 7 Minnesota Valley Lutheran, with the high seed hosting. The section semifinals are March 3 at Minnesota State-Mankato and the championship game is March 7 at Mankato.

Big South East		
Jackson Co. Central	7-2	19-6
Tri-City United	7-2	17-6
Fairmont	6-3	16-7
Belle Plaine	4-5	10-14
Waseca	1-4	5-21
Blue Earth	0-9	0-23

Big South West		
Redwood Valley	6-2	17-8
Windom	6-2	19-6
St. James	5-3	18-6
Pipestone	3-5	13-12
Luverne	0-8	4-20

Big South Big		
Marshall	6-0	23-1
New Ulm	3-3	16-7
St. Peter	3-3	13-10
Worthington	0-6	1-24

Dual-meet season ends for Waseca wrestling squad

The dual-meet season came to a conclusion for the Waseca High School wrestling team Thursday with a 49-24 loss to Caledonia/Houston in the Section 1AA tournament at Pine Island.

The results, by weight: 107 - Walker Kohlmeyer (Caledonia-Houston) over Owen Sommers Fall 1:06; 114 - Aiden Burns (Caledonia-Houston) over Lucas Selthun TF 20:4; 215 - Matthew Veroeven (Waseca) over Logan Kinster Fall 1:11; 285 - Ben Hagen (Waseca) over Rae' Shaun Smith Fall 1:14.

Next up for the Bluejays is the Section 1AA individual tournament Feb. 21-22 at the Rochester Mayo Civic Center.

JWP girls claim conference title

Bulldogs defeat Triton, 64-57

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton girls' basketball team knew it would be a tall task to upend Triton Saturday at Dodge Center for the outright Gopher Conference championship.

Mission accomplished.

The Bulldogs, who finished first in the Gopher Conference West, handed the Cobras their first conference setback with a 64-57 victory.

For the Bulldogs, Katie Olson finished with 23 points, 4 rebounds and four steals. Nevaeh Wiemert totaled 19 points and 4 rebounds, Mikayla Wheelock 12 points and 5 rebounds. Adding eight points apiece were Presley James and Hope Dimmel. James also pulled down 11 rebounds.

Earlier in the week, the Bulldogs defeated WEM 79-53 in their final conference game of the season at Janesville.

Individually for JWP: Olson 24P, 6R, 3A; Kwynn Krause 11P, 6R, 1S; Weimert 19P, 5R; James 7P, 4R; Austum Thissen 4P; Wheelock 8P, 6R; Dimmel 3P, 4R.

"The team did a lot of things well," said Bulldogs head coach Brandon Goebel. "We defended at a high level, played with high energy and effort, and played for each other. We have another big test on Saturday for the conference championship at Triton."

The Bulldogs concluded the regular season Tuesday at Cleveland.

Seeded No. 1 in Section 2AA, JWP opens the section tourney Feb. 27 vs. No. 8 Maple River or No. 9 St. Clair at 7 p.m. The semifinals are March 3 at Minnesota State-Mankato and the championship game is March 7 at Mankato.

Gopher Conference West		
	W-L	Ov.
JWP	7-1	22-3
NRHEG	7-1	19-5
WEM	4-4	13-12
United South Central	2-6	14-12
Medford	0-8	0-25
Gopher Conference East		
	W-L	Ov.
Triton	10-0	23-3
Bethlehem Academy	7-3	13-11
Hayfield/Schaeffer Ac.	7-3	15-10
Randolph	3-7	9-17
Blooming Prairie	2-8	7-18
Kenyon-Wan.	1-9	7-19



BIG WIN – The JWP High School girls' basketball team captured its biggest win of the season Saturday, defeating Triton 64-57 at Dodge Center for the outright Gopher Conference championship. Front from left: Onikia Herme, Kwynn Krause, Ellie Morsching, Lilly Strauss, Katie Olson, Nevaeh Weimert, Mikayla Wheelock and Presley James. Back: assistant coach Emily Olson, assistant coach Andrea Kronbach, Autumn Thissen, Paige Walz, Claire Walz, Aubrey Adams, Hope Dimmel, head coach Brandon Goebel and assistant coach Liz. Kvebak.

Photo by LeAnn Kavitz

After two wins, dual season ends for Grizzlies

After defeating Medford 48-21 and Westfield 38-27, the dual meet season ended for the WEM/JWP wrestling team with a 40-24 loss to LCWM in the Section 2A tournament Thursday.

Next up for the Grizzlies is the Section 2A individual tournament at Blue Earth Saturday at 10 a.m.

The results vs. Medford:

- 107: Kyle Witter (MEDF) over Jacksten Knish (TF 25-8 5:40) 114: Brenden Masso (WEJW) over (For.) 121: Trey Richards (WEJW) over Elliot Jones (Dec 9-8) 127: Carson Petry (WEJW) over Wyatt Moorman (TF 18-0 3:16) 133: Brady Murphy (WEJW) over Boe Wilson (Fall 0:56) 139: Kaden Harfmann (MEDF) over Carson James (Fall 1:04) 145: Zach Quast (WEJW) over Chase Balzer (MD 14-6) 152: Lucas Morsching (WEJW) over (For.) 160: James Wegner (MEDF) over Luke Cahill (MD 12-2) 172: Maddox Moreno (WEJW) over Aiden Hunt (Fall 1:19) 189: Luther Johannes (MEDF) over Carter Hoehn (Fall 1:08) 215: Avery Fall (WEJW) over Conor Wilson (Fall 0:47) 285: Keegan Kuball (WEJW) over Mason Degrood (MEDF) (Fall 2:46)

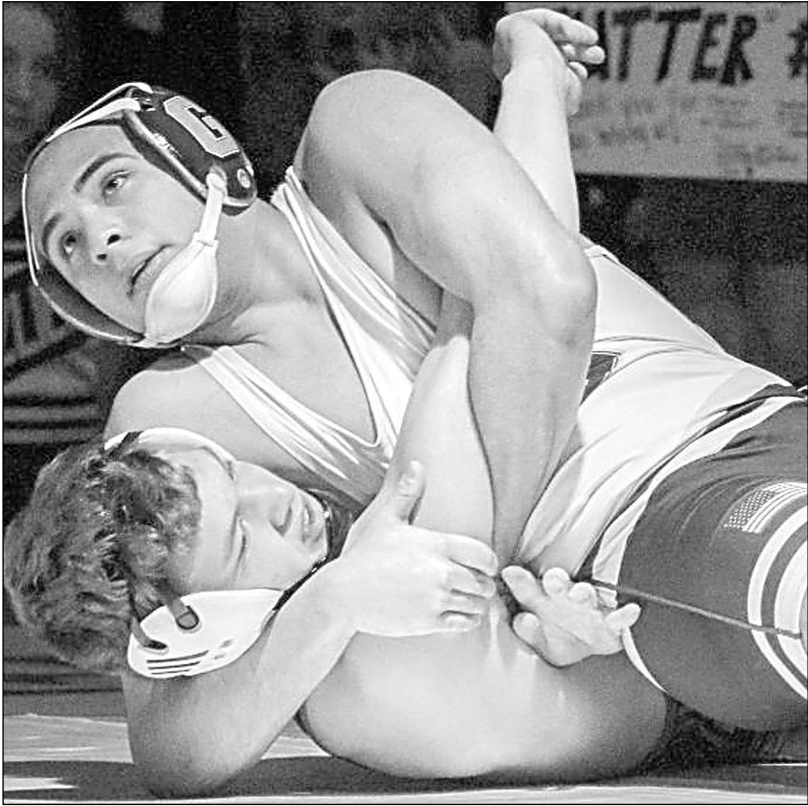
Against Westfield:

- 107: Elijah Butteris (WERA) over Jacksten Knish (Fall 2:27) 114: Brenden Masso (WEJW) over Derek Miner (Dec 15-11) 121: Trey Richards (WEJW) over Peyton Lembke (MD 14-1) 127: Carson Petry (WEJW) over Isaac Fort (Fall

1:19) 133: Brady Murphy (WEJW) over Cayden Maly (Fall 2:14) 139: Bo Zwiener (WERA) over Carson James (Fall 2:16) 145: Gage Mullenbach (WERA) over Zach Quast (WEJW) (Fall 1:26) 152: Cannon Wacek (WERA) over Lucas Morsching (SD-14-1) 160: Luke Cahill (WEJW) over Jaxon Meier (MD 9-0) 172: Maddox Moreno (WEJW) over Chase Kiser (Fall 3:48) 189: Avery Fall (WEJW) over David Clennon (Dec 7-1) 215: Alex Lea (WERA) over Lawrence Pietz (Fall 1:12) 285: Keegan Kuball (WEJW) over Wyatt Arndt (Fall 1:10)

Against LCWM:

- 107: Brody Herbst (LCWM) over Jacksten Knish (Fall 0:56) 114: Ryder Antony (LCWM) over



SIX FOR A FALL – The Grizzlies' Maddox Moreno, left, and Brendan Masso, right, put away their opponents in recent action for the WEM/JWP wrestling team, which saw its season end Thursday with a 40-25 loss to LCWM in the Section 2A team tournament Thursday. Below, the Grizzlies' Carson James battles.

Photos by LeAnn Kavitz



JWP boys win two, improve to 19-4

The JWP boys' basketball team won twice last week, defeating Minnesota Valley Lutheran 70-50 Tuesday and winning 50-46 at WEM Friday.

Against MVL, Daulton Bauer finished with 26 points, four rebounds, four assists and three steals. Gavin Bauer totaled 15 points, five rebounds, four assists and two steals.

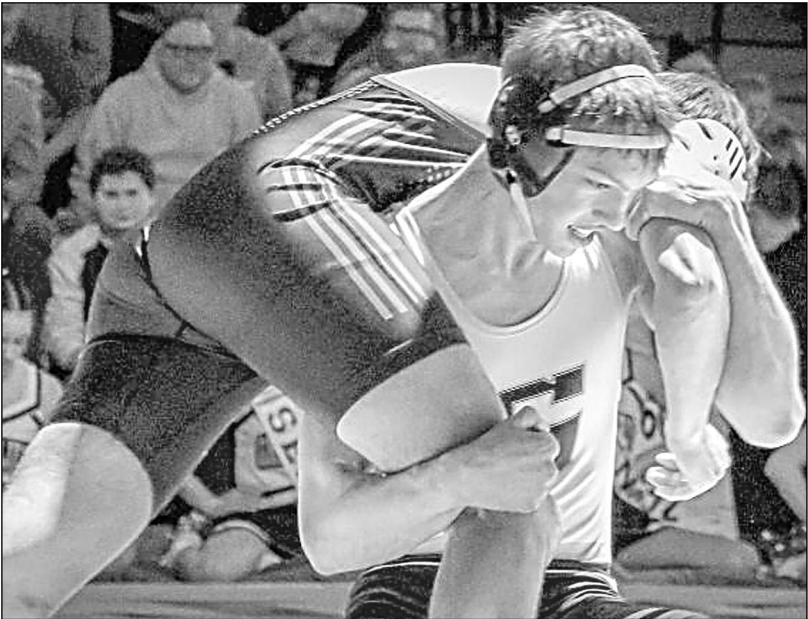
Also: Gavin Weedman 10P, 1S; Landon Johnson 8P, 4R, 1A, 2S, 1 blocked shot; Ethan Born 3P, 6R, 3A, 3S; Parker Gearity 2P, 4R; Caleb Quast 2P, 5R, 4A, 2S; Jason Wolff 2P; Jeffrey Simonson 2P, 1R; Isaiah Berndt 3R, 1A.

On Friday, the Bulldogs won 50-46 at WEM after leading 25-19 at halftime.

Individually: Quast 16P, 7R, 5A, 2S; G.Bauer 13P, 6R, 2A, 2S, 1B; D.Bauer 10P, 4R, 3A, 3S; Johnson 6P, 2R, 1S; Gearity 2P, 1R; Born 2P, 8R, 1A, 3S, 2B; Berndt 1R; Weedman 1P, 4R.

The Bulldogs play Friday at USC and end the regular season Feb. 25 at Albert Lea.

Gopher Conference West		
JWP	7-0	19-4
WEM	5-2	11-11
United So. Central	4-3	9-15
NRHEG	1-6	3-20
Medford	0-6	0-22
Gopher Conference East		
Triton	9-0	18-6
Blooming Prairie	6-3	16-6
Randolph	6-3	10-14
Kenyon-Wan.	5-4	13-12
Hayfield	1-8	7-17
Bethlehem Acad.	0-9	2-20



Reunion held for 2004 NRHEG state tourney team

A reunion of the 2004 NRHEG High School girls' basketball team was held prior to the Panthers' game against St. Clair Monday, Feb. 10.

All three coaches of the team - Mindy (Sparby) Chevalier, Jackie Schultz and Brian Hanson - were there, along with players Erin (Anderson) Holland, Emily (Hagen) Anderson, Lynsi (Espe) Romportl and Alison (Anderson) Ricketts, and managers Kyree (Wobbrock) Worley and Onika Peterson, the Panthers' current head coach.

Unable to attend were former players Chelsy Quiram, Jessica (Grunzke) Haakensen, Jessica (Brouwers) Hanna, Lisa Demmer, Traci Nelson, Jasmine (Brouwers) Schumack and the late Stephanie Hanna.

The 2004 Panthers were:

- * The first team in school history to make it to the basketball state tournament.
- * The first team in school history

to make it to any girls' state tournament.

- * Finished the season with a record of 26-3 prior to the state tournament, with a final record of 27-5.

The unranked Panthers defeated Belle Plaine, Triton, and Hayfield before upsetting LeSueur-Henderson at Gustavus Adolphus College to send the team to the first-ever basketball state tournament with their point guard on the bench with five fouls.

At state, the Panthers defeated Crosby-Ironton by two points before falling to eventual state champion Breck in the semifinals.

The Panthers lost to Albany in the third-place game to finish fourth in the 2004 state tournament.

The team, according to many, was a spark for the NRHEG youth basketball program. Ten years later, the Panthers made another state tournament run. Coincidence?



REUNITED – A reunion was held for the 2004 NRHEG girls' basketball state tournament team Monday, Feb. 10 prior to the Panthers' game against St. Clair. In attendance were, from left, Onika Peterson, Jackie Schultz, Brian Hanson, Mindy (Sparby) Chevalier, Alison (Anderson) Ricketts, Erin (Anderson) Holland, Emily (Hagen) Anderson, Kyree (Wobbrock) Worley, Lynsi (Espe) Romportl.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens



THREE-WIN WEEK — At left, the Panthers’ Chloe Stork (15) and Quinn VanMeldeghem (4) disrupt the Alden-Conger/Glenville-Emmons offense during Thursday’s victory in New Richland. At right, NRHEG’s Clara Buendorf (10) draws the foul while driving to the basket. It was part of a three-win week for the Panthers, who defeated St. Clair on Monday and Randolph Friday.



Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

A three-win week for NRHEG basketball girls

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School girls’ basketball team went 3-for-3 last week, with victories at Randolph Friday, at home against Alden-Conger/Glenville-Emmons

The Panthers started strong at Randolph, taking an early lead and never giving it up. They led 40-27 at halftime.

“Three games in a week at the end of the season is always tough,” said NRHEG head coach Onika Peterson. “To pick up three wins in a week showcases the team’s resiliency.”

Camryn VanMaldeghem was red hot, finishing with 39 points, 12 rebounds, an assist, 2 steals and a blocked shot.

Her twin sister, Quinn, finished with 16 points, 12 rebounds, 4

Regular season concludes this week; section tournament starts Feb. 24

“Three games in a week at the end of the season is always tough.”
— NRHEG coach Onika Peterson

assists, five steals and 1 block.

Others: Ezra Boerner 5P, 2R, 1S; Clara Buendorf 6P, 2R, 1; Savannah Farr 5P, 1R; Chloe Stork 5R, 2A; Julieann Wobbrock 2R; Kylie Olson 6P, 6R.

The Panthers were without the services of starting guard Gabby Schlaak, who missed the game with illness.

The Panthers never trailed against AC/GE and won handily.

Individually: C.VanMaldeghem

24P, 5R, 1A, 3S; Boerner 11P, 3R; Olson 11P, 8R, 1S; Q.VanMaldeghem 8P, 4R, 1A, 4S, 1B; Schlaak 6P, 2R, 1S; Farr 3R; Stork 1R; Joey Rossing 3P, 1R; Emilia Stadheim 1R; Alayna Groskreutz 1R.

“It was a great night to get a lot of kids playing time,” said Coach Peterson.

A reunion of the 2004 NRHEG girls’ basketball team was held prior to Monday’s lop-sided 69-42 victory

over St. Clair. It was 35-17 at half-time.

Individually: C.VanMaldeghem 32P, 10R, 2S; Olson 12P, 9R; Q.VanMaldeghem 9P, 12R, 1A, 3S, 1B; Schlaak 5P, 7R; Boerner 2P, 2R, 1A; Buendorf 3P, 1A, 1B; Farr 1S; Stork 3P, 2R, 3B; Rossing 3P.

“St. Clair is a solid team,” said Peterson. “They hit a couple big threes to get them going. We came out a half step slow and a tad cold on our shooting. Once we started going we really pulled away. The kids moved the ball well on offense, finding the open shooter, and our rebounding was solid, which gave us a lot of second and third-chance shot opportunities”

The Panthers concluded the regu-

lar season Tuesday at Tri-City United. The Panthers, seeded No. 2 in Section 2AA, open tournament play Feb. 24 at home against No. 15 Medford. The winner plays Feb. 27 against No. 7 WEM or No. 10 Sibley East.

Gopher Conference West

JWP	7-1	22-3
NRHEG	7-1	19-5
WEM	4-4	13-12
United South Central	2-6	14-12
Medford	0-8	0-25

Gopher Conference East

Triton	10-0	23-3
Bethlehem Academy	7-3	13-11
Hayfield/Schaeffer Ac.	7-3	15-10
Randolph	3-7	9-17
Blooming Prairie	2-8	7-18
Kenyon-Wan.	1-9	7-19

NRHEG boys fall short at Target Center

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva boys’ basketball team ventured to Target Center in Minneapolis last Monday to take on Blooming Prairie.

The Panthers lost to the Blossoms, 88-39.

Individually for NRHEG: Greyson Schaefer 7 points, 5 rebounds, 1 block; Calvin Nissen 9P, 1R, 3 assists, 1 steal; Owen Wayne 5P, 2R, 3S; Brendan Schmidt 4P, 3R, 1S; Justin Beauvais 3P; Mack Gilliland 2A, 1S; Sean Lassahn 3P, 2R, Brock Holland 2P, 1R; Jase Knudson 1A.

After a Monday home game against Tri-City United, the Panthers host unbeaten Waseca Thursday at 7:15 p.m. They face Medford at home Friday at 7:15 and conclude the regular season Feb. 28 at Martin County West.

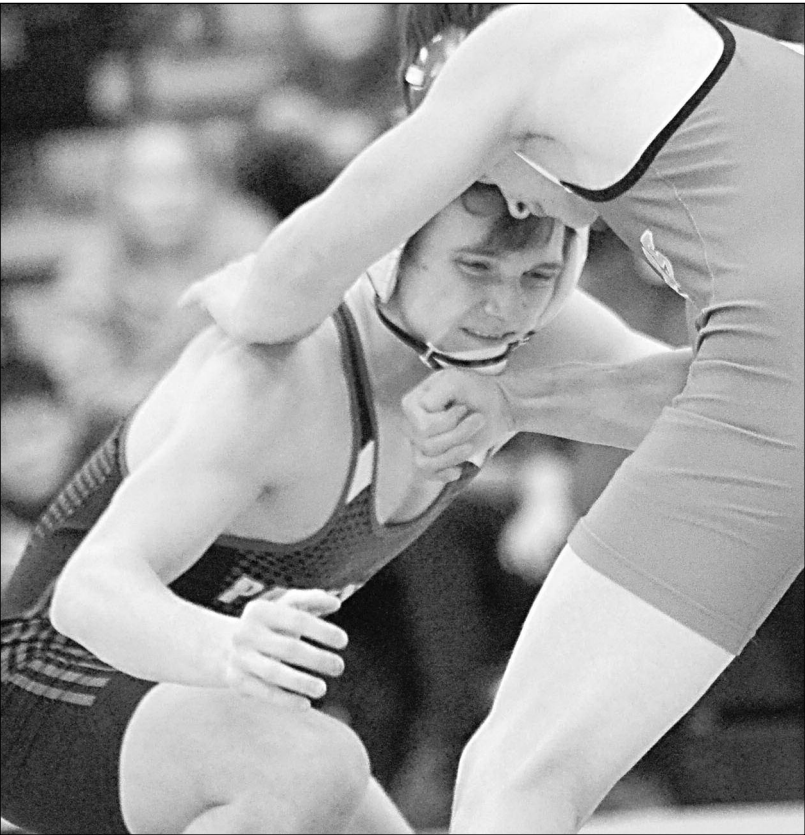
The section tournament starts March 4, with the quarterfinals set for March 5, the semifinals March 10 at Mankato, and the championship game March 11 at 8 p.m. at Mankato

Gopher Conference West

	W-L	Overall
JWP	7-0	19-4
WEM	5-2	11-11
United So. Central	4-3	9-15
NRHEG	1-6	3-20
Medford	0-6	0-22

Gopher Conference East

	W-L	Ov.
Triton	9-0	18-6
Blooming Prairie	6-3	16-6
Randolph	6-3	10-14
Kenyon-Wan.	5-4	13-12
Hayfield	1-8	7-17
Bethlehem Acad.	0-9	2-20



ALMOST – The NRHEG High School wrestling team almost knocked off Westfield in the Section 2A tournament at Blooming Prairie Thursday. Post victories for the Panthers were Harbor Cromwell, left, and Grahm Jacobson, right.



Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG wrestlers end dual-meet season

Panthers fall to Westfield despite holding lead with two matches remaining

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School wrestling team – in its final dual meet of the 2024-25 season – saved its best for last.

It was almost good enough for a victory.

The Panthers saw their dual-meet season end Thursday at Blooming Prairie with a 41-30 loss to Westfield in a meet they led 30-29 with two matches remaining.

“This was a bittersweet night for us,” said Panthers head coach Shawn Larson. “We wrestled about as well as we could in this dual. It is bitter because this is the last time that our seniors will compete with the team, however those seniors can be proud of the fight the entire team

brought.”

It was a big improvement from when the Panthers met the Razorbacks earlier this season.

“The last time that we competed with Westfield, the match was very one-sided in their favor,” said Larson. “It was a good feeling to be winning the dual with two weight classes left. Even though we were not able to get the win, that was pretty close to the best that we could be at that moment. We are proud of our team, and we are going to work making a better run next season.”

Winning for NRHEG were Grahm Jacobson, 107 pounds; Charlie Tufte, 121; Chase Johannsen, 133; Harbor Cromwell, 160; Ryan Schlaak, 172; and Wyatt

Larson, 189.

The Panthers forfeited at 139 and 285.

NRHEG’s next competition is the Section 2A individual tournament. This event takes place in Blue Earth on Saturday, Feb. 22, starting at 10 a.m.

Match-by-match results at Blooming Prairie:

- 107 Grahm Jacobson (NRHEG) over Bentley Miller (MD 11-2)
- 114 Derek Miner (Westfield) over Tucker Flatness (Fall 0:48)
- 121 Charles Tufte (NRHEG) over Peyton Lembke (Dec 8-5)
- 127 Isaac Fort (Westfield) over Dakota Schlaak (Fall 1:08)
- 133 Chase Johannsen (NRHEG) over Cayden Maly (Fall 1:33)

- 139 Bo Zwiener (Westfield) over Unknown (For.)
- 145 Cannon Wacek (Westfield) over Khaiden Madson (TF 17-0 4:30)
- 152 Gage Mullenbach (Westfield) over Noah Weller (TF 16-0 4:10)
- 160 Harbor Cromwell (NRHEG) over Jaxon Meier (Fall 3:00)
- 172 Ryan Schlaak (NRHEG) over Chase Kiser (Fall 2:38)
- 189 Wyatt Larson (NRHEG) over David Clennon (Fall 3:40)
- 215 Alex Lea (Westfield) over Cole Hutchens (Fall 2:31)
- 285 Wyatt Arndt (Westfield) over Unknown (For.)



BIG WEEK – The Bluejays’ Griffin Storey (22) had a big week as the WHS boys’ hockey team finished the regular season with three wins, earning the No. 2 seed behind Northfield in Section 1AA.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

WHS boys’ hockey team wins 3 more

Jays end regular season 20-3-2, draw No. 2 seed in Section 1AA

Three up, three down.

That was the story of the week for the Waseca High School boys’ hockey team, which completed a 3-0 week with a 5-2 triumph at Marshall Saturday.

The Bluejays jumped on top 3-0 after one period and led 4-1 after two. They outshot the Tigers 24-20. Waseca was penalized five times for 10 minutes, Marshall three times for six minutes.

Scoring goals for Waseca were Beckett Srph, Avery Selvik, Lucas Groll and Brayden Hesch-Priem, with assists going to Groll, Hesch-Priem, Henry Huttemnier, Srp, Griffin Storey and Jayden Gehring.

In goal for the Bluejays was senior Carter Martens, who registered 18 saves.

Two nights earlier, the Bluejays ventured to New Ulm and came home with a 6-1 victory, outshooting the Eagles 33-27. Penalties for both teams were for eight minutes..

Storey, Hunter Anderson, Jude Gehring and Jackson Tesch put the puck in the net for the Bluejays, with assists by Anderson, Cash Lynch, Storey and Otto Schoenrock.

Winning goaltender Martens made 26 saves.

On Friday, the Bluejays won 4-1 over Dodge County at Kasson.

After a scoreless first period, the Bluejays tallied three goals in the second period to take a 3-0 lead into the third.

Waseca drew 14 penalty minutes on seven infractions, Dodge County eight on four. Shots on goal were 27-23 in favor of the Bluejays.

Scoring for Waseca: Storey, Anderson, Groll and Lynch. Assists were registered by Selvik, Dahl and Tesch.

The Bluejays scored two power play goals and one shorthanded.

Josiah Schmidtke was in goal for Waseca, totaling 18 saves.

The Bluejays finished the regular season 20-3-2 overall and 14-1-1 in the Big South Conference, second to Luverne by one point.

The Bluejays earned the No. 2 seed in the Section 1AA tournament, earning a first-round bye. They’ll host Faribault or Austin tonight at 7 p.m. in the opening round. The semifinals are Saturday at the Rochester Recreation Center and the championship game is Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Rochester.

Big South Standings

	WLT	PTS	Overall
Luverne	14-0-2	30	19-4-2
Waseca	14-1-1	29	20-3-2
New Ulm	7-5-0	22	10-12-2
Marshall	9-7-0	18	11-14-0
Minn. River	6-5-1	17	10-13-0
Worthington	6-10-0	12	7-18-0
Windom	6-11-0	12	6-18-1
Redwood V.	4-13-0	8	5-19-0
Fairmont	1-15-0	2	1-23-0

LEGAL NOTICES

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
Certificate of Assumed Name
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: Dalgamoni Electric
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 819 2nd St. NW Waseca, MN, 56093

APPLICANT(S):
Name: Nyle Ahmad Dalgamoni
Address: 819 2nd St. NW Waseca, MN, 56093

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supercedes the data referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: Nyle Dalgamoni

MAILING ADDRESS: None Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: ndalgamoni@gmail.com

Work Item 1523531400024
Original File Number 1523531400024

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
12/19/2024 11:59 PM
Steve Simon Secretary of State

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on February 20 and 27, 2025

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STATE OF MINNESOTA
WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ACTING AS THE DRAINAGE AUTHORITY UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 103E
FOR WASECA COUNTY DITCHES 48 & 27

In the matter of the Petition to Use Waseca County Ditch 48 as an Outlet & to Remove Benefitted Acres from Waseca County Ditch 27 (Berg Trusts)	PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
---	------------------------------

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Board of Commissioners of Waseca County, acting as the public drainage authority under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103E, for Waseca County Ditches 48 & 27, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, sections 103E.401 & 103E.805, shall hold a public hearing on the petition of the Neil E. Berg Revocable Trust and the Ranae L. Berg Revocable Trust to use CD 48 as an outlet for agricultural drainage. The petition requests authority to use CD 48 as an outlet for drainage of approximately 58 acres within the South Half of the Southwest Quarter (S½SW¼) of Section 15, Township 105 North, Range 22 West (New Richland Township), Waseca County, Minnesota. The 58 acres subject to the petition are currently within the benefited area of CD 27, and the petition requests to remove those acres from the benefited area of CD 27 and outlet those acres into CD 48.

The hearing shall be held at 9:30AM on March 6, 2025, in the Commissioners’ Room of the East Annex, 300 North State Street, Waseca, MN 56093. All interested parties may appear and be heard.

/s/ Doug Christopherson, Chair
Waseca County Board of Commissioners
CD 48 Drainage Authority
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on February 13, 20 and 27, 2025.

Date: January 21, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
The Waseca County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing at the Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner’s Room), 300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.to consider the following item:

Request for a variance to have a dwelling within 1,000feet of a registered feedlot. David M. Krampitz request for a variance of 425feet to have a proposed building approximately 575feet from a registered feedlot of PID 08.018.0110 in Section 18 Township 106N Range 22W in Otisco Township. The applicant’s parcel, with PID 08.018.0200, is in the A-1 Agricultural Protection Zoning District. The requested proposal is pursuant to the requirements of Sections 6.06 and 6.08 of the Waseca County Unified Development Code.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WASECA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
The Waseca County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner’s Room), 300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.to consider the following items:

A. Request for Amendments to Section 6.06 of the Unified Development Code (UDC). Waseca County requests amendments to Table 6.4 of Section 6.06. This amendment will change the side and rear yard setback requirements from 80feet to 50feet and delete a footnote under the table.

B. Request for Amendment to Sections 6.07, 6.08 and Article 8 of the Unified Development Code (UDC). Waseca County requests amendments to the UDC to include specific standards and requirements for Organized Farm Colonies under Section 6.07. The amendment will include the aforementioned use as a Conditional Use in Section 6.08 and the definition of Organized Farm Colonies under Section 8.03 of the UDC

C. Request for a Conditional Use Permit to operate an automobile service station. Crystal Valley Cooperative is requesting a Conditional Use Permit to venture into retail sales of Gasoline, Diesel and Deisel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) on its property in Section 5 Township 107N Range 23W of St. Mary Township. The applicant’s property with the address 7800 Old US Hwy 14, Janesville, MN 56048 and PID 09.005.0500 is zoned I-General Industrial District and HO Highway Overlay Districts. The request is pursuant to the requirements of Sections 6.19 and 6.16 of the Waseca County Unified Development Code.

D. Request for a Conditional Use Permit Amendment to add a Compressor Building to an existing Essential Service use. CenterPoint Energy Resource and Minnegasco Inc. are requesting a Conditional Use Permit Amendment to add a new compressor building on the east side of their property located in Section 6 Township 108N Range 22W of Blooming Grove Township. The request is pursuant to the requirements of Section 6.08 and 6.16(J) of the Waseca County Unified Development Code. The applicants’ property, with the address 12510 440th Ave., Waterville, MN 56096 and PID 02.925.0100 is in the A-1 Agricultural Protection Zoning District.

E. Request for a Conditional Use Permit to Transfer Development Right between two owners and into another Township. Roy & Sally Keyes and Mitchell J. & Emily Jewison are requesting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to Transfer a Development Right (TDR) pursuant to Section 6.09 of the Waseca Unified Development Code (UDC). The UDC requires development rights transferred between two owners and into different Townships within Waseca County be completed by CUP. The residential Density in A-1 Agriculture Protection District in Waseca County is one (1) unit per Quarter-Quarter. Increases are allowed by TDR. The proposal is to transfer development right from a sending site in the NE¼ of the NW¼ of Section 14, T.108N R.24W (PID 06.014.0300) to a 3.84 acre receiving site in the SW¼ of the SW¼ of Section 30, T108N R23W (PID 05.030.1150). Both the sending site, located in Janesville Township, and the receiving site, located in losco Township are in the A-1 Agriculture Protection District.

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

Maame Quarcoo, AICP, Sr. Land Use Planner.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on February 20, 2025

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Brilliant Bluejays

Brilliant+ BlueJAYS



JACK
Kindergarten

Jack is a brilliant bluejay in so many ways. Jack leads by example, has a wonderful work ethic in all areas, and comes to school ready to learn. Because he is such a good listener, he follows directions the first time they are given and has A+ work all the time. He is kind, respectful to all, and a great helper in the classroom to all of his classmates. Way to go, Jack!



EIZA
1st Grade

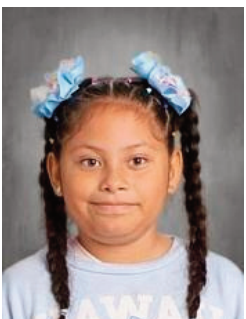
Eiza shows the Bluejay Way by always working hard, studying optimistic, keeping her desk and areas around her tidy, supporting her classmates, listens thoughtfully, and is always excited to do her best! Eiza, keep up the great work and continue to work hard! Way to show the Bluejay Way!



Layne
2nd Grade

Layne has worked really hard in second grade to become a Brilliant Bluejay! He has shown the Bluejay Way by working hard and trying his best in class, doing neat work, and complementing others for their successes. I'm very proud of you, Layne! Keep up the GREAT work!

Brilliant+ BlueJAYS



Valentina
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.



PIPER
3rd Grade

Piper shows the Bluejay Way each day. She leads by example and demonstrates what Respecting Self looks like by trying her best, keeping her space clean, following directions and showing persistence.



Phoenix
3rd Grade

Phoenix is always kind and helpful. He is a Brilliant Bluejay with a heart of gold!



Younger Lions, Tiger, Wolf Cub Scouts (kindergarten, first and second grade) From left, back row: Mitchell Petsinger, AJ Hinkhouse, Astrid Millington, Marrick Boeckman, James Bouressa, Alex Lustig, Elliott Langr, Tobiathan Garrison. Front row: Coyle Bauer, Naveah Lustig.



The older Bear and Webelo Cub Scouts (third and fourth grades) Back row from left: William Bouressa, Hayden Villwock, Luke Landru, Asher Huper, Michael Petsinger, EJ Langr, Cullen Baxter. First row: Julian Grunwald, Liam Cory, Piper Arens. Not pictured: Evan Miller.



Open class participants (parents and siblings), back row from left: Kevin Cory, LeaAnn Cory, Josh Boeckman, Luke Landru, Josh Langr, April Miller, Dacia Hinkhouse. Front row: Bjorn Baxter, Matilyn Petsinger, Julian Grunwald.

Heartwarming



Rick and Sheila Morris of Waseca Greenhouse and Floral took a moment prior to Valentine's Day to stand among the hundreds of flowers waiting to be made into bouquets and other gifts. The couple is hoping to find a buyer who will continue the legacy of their business after they retire.



First- through fourth-place winners of the Bears and Webelos. From left: First place Liam Cory, second place Asher Huper, third place Hayden Villwock, fourth place Evan Miller.



The first- through fourth-place winners among the Lions, Tigers, and Wolves were (from left) fourth place AJ Hinkhouse, third place Elliot Langr, second place Coyle Bauer, first place Marrick Boeckman, Cubmaster Donald Landru.

Pinewood derby classic

The annual Cub Scout Pinewood Derby was held the weekend of Feb. 15 and 16 at the Scout building on the Waseca County Fairgrounds. Awards were given for fastest cars first through fourth place. According to organizers, derby cars built this year were some of the fastest the competition has ever seen. Local derby competition features a 35-foot, polished aluminum track with a built-in timer. Winning cars made the trip down the Pinewood derby track in 3 seconds or less, traveling approximately 160 miles per hour. Cub scouts in kindergarten through grade four create handmade, unpowered cars for the competition. Family members, including parents and siblings, are allowed to compete in an "open class" and can use more modifications with heavier cars. The winning open class car had an average speed of 164 miles per hour. In addition to speed, Derby cars were evaluated on design and other characteristics. Titles included Best Design, Best in Show, Most Imagination, Most Unique. Among the design winners were a fire engine car, a yellow Pikachu car, a carrot shaped car with Bugs Bunny, shiny paint jobs, flame decals, multi colors and Lego figures as drivers. Cub Scouts had a great time cheering on their own cars and those of fellow scouts. Parents were excited too and often trading tips and hints for speedy derby cars. The Pinewood Derby track will be in action again from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Waseca County Early Childhood Fair at the intermediate school gym on March 28. At that time, anyone in kindergarten through fourth grade is welcome to practice racing cars down the track and experience the excitement of this event. Contact Beckypetsinger@gmail.com for Waseca Pack 86 Cub Scout information.

