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Paint and sip



Whitey's workshop bench with some of the paintings he has been creating to memorialize area residents who have passed on.



Whitey Thompson with his daughter and youngest grandchild, Danielle and Slader Hasselquist. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Memorials

Public display Friday
from noon to 7:30 p.m.

By **DEB BENTLY**
News Editor

"This is all heartstring stuff," says Whitey Thompson, proprietor of WET Signs and Murals in Waseca since the 1980s. "I can't explain why I do it, but it's something I do."

In 2022 after the death of Dean O'Neal, Thompson began painting portraits of recently deceased Waseca area residents using photographs as his guide. He presented a number of them to family members during last summer's county fair.

"We've lost so many good people," says Thompson. "I just wanted to create something that honored who they were and how much they meant to their families and their community."

Memorials continued on 4



These paintings and other works Whitey has created will be on display at the Mill this Saturday. At the end of the show, the memorial pieces will be given to family members.

Dr. Charles Karuku at Nation's Glory Barn 6 p.m. April 19

Charles Karuku is the Founder and President of International Outreach Church, a growing diverse multi-racial congregation in the Twin Cities. He will be speaking at Nation's Glory Barn at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 19. More information is available by email at thenationsglorybarn@gmail.com.

"How-To Festival" 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 27, at Waseca Library

Courses covering 16 "How to" topics will be offered free of charge at the Waseca Library on Saturday, April 27. Each hour, four new topics will be addressed, ranging from first aid to raising chickens. Various courses are intended for participants of various ages, ranging from 6 to adult.

Waldorf Veterans Memorial Fund Drive

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

A word from The Word

But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.

Hebrews 8:6



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

Whose got talent? ICAN holds 17th annual show

By **RACHAEL JAEGER**
Staff Writer

ICAN hosted its seventeenth annual talent show the evening of Wednesday, April 10 at the Waseca Central Building. ICAN, serves children and adults with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities and those with an array of mental health challenges and diagnoses.

On that Wednesday evening, the full auditorium showed clear support of the ICAN talent show. Thunderous applause resounded after each act finished its performance. During intermission, ICAN individuals were heard congratulating and praising each other.

Since the ICAN talent show is open to the public, the organization's chief operating officer, Jen Williamson, said anyone is welcome to attend. The crowd typically includes case workers, family members, friends, and co-workers.

"The talent show was started when a person served was encouraged to sing at her high school talent show and she was too nervous to participate at school," said Williamson, who started with the organization in 2004 as a professional support team member. "[The participant] has a beautiful voice and great dance moves."

Williamson went on to say that this student sparked the ideas and indirectly set planning for the first talent show in motion.

"It was a hit," Williamson added. "ICAN is fortunate to have the support of Mike Jevning, the CEO and 'all' the employees."

Williamson, program operations director Megan Johanneck, and personal support director Carey Root



ICAN hosted its seventeenth annual talent show at the Central Building auditorium in Waseca last week. Photo by Rachael Jaeger

planned this year's talent show. The ICAN clients are invited to fill out a form naming the type of act they would like to present. From there, Williamson said, she and the other coordinators set up practices and support performers with ideas, things to work on, and anything else that comes up.

"Sometimes they change their song or add extra people to their act," Williamson said. "Anyone that signs up to

Talent continued on 12



Norm Gehring displays the plaque he received acknowledging 54 years of service as the Wilton Township clerk. With him are fellow township leaders, Denny Hoehn, Lester Kroeger, Curt Johnson and Todd Stencil. Photo by Rachael Jaeger

Gehring honored during 37th annual banquet

By **RACHAEL JAEGER**
Staff Writer

Waseca County held its thirty-seventh annual County Township Association Banquet at the American Legion on Wednesday, April 10. Andy Miller awarded Norman Gehring with a plaque recognizing him for 54 years of service as the Wilton Township Clerk.

In attendance were a number of county commissioners and board members from Alton, Freedom, Iosco, New Richland, Janesville, Otisco, St. Mary's and Woodville townships. Jason Forshee, fire chief in Waseca, reported there had been 304 fire calls in 2023 – about forty fewer than the previous year. "Obviously, it's been a busy start to this year with the big fires," he added. "I have to give a shout out to the local farmers who helped haul water. We had so much help from helicopters and airplanes to twelve fire departments."

DeAnne Malterer, Waseca County Commissioner for district 2, was also invited to the podium. She told those in attendance how encouraging it was to attend the lobby days in St. Paul and meet the senators and representatives.

"I keep hearing from people who say they're not going to go because it doesn't do any good," Malterer said, adding that she recognizes the division up in the Cities is frustrating, that there is a

lobbyist who firmly stated that showing up matters. Malterer recalled the lobbyist saying, "All I have to do is walk into their office with one of their constituents. They sit up straighter and they are much more responsive. They want to hear what your views are. If you can't go, email them, call them. They're there to serve you."

The night began with a social hour from six until seven, with Andy Miller welcoming all the township clerks and thanking others for attending. Among those who were present included Joan Mooney, Director of the Waseca County Historical Society and her board members: Gregg Johnson from Waseca, Dale Groskreutz from New Richland, Carol Raimann from New Richland, Linda Finley from Janesville, Dawn Halgren from New Richland, Marty Buum from Waseca, Dan Forrest from Waseca, and Brian Harguth from Waseca. She thanked all the townships for supporting the historical society.

"Whenever we've visited the township halls, you've got a real take on the American government and where it all starts," added Mooney. "It's a humbling experience and you have our utmost respect."

For dessert, twelve pies were

Gehring continued on 5



Compostings

by Al Batt

Everything went according to plan

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

My family was poor while I was growing up, but we didn't know it. How could you not know that? We were terrible at math.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I'm not a hurkler-durkler. To hurkle-durkle is a Scottish term meaning to lie in bed or to lounge around when one should be up and about. I was up early and gadding about the countryside when I walked into a noisy convenience store in Nebraska and was reminded that music comes out of everything today. "Would you like a pickle card?" said the friendly cashier.

I thought she was asking me if I wanted a baseball card featuring a picture of a dill pickle or of the catcher who had five seasons in the major leagues, Pickles Dillhoefer. His best year was as a backup catcher for the St. Louis Cardinals in 1920. The pickle card had nothing to do with baseball. Pickle cards are better known as pull-tabs to the rest of the country. The uniquely Nebraska origin of the term "pickle card" comes from the days when they were sold illegally in taverns and bars in Nebraska. The cards were kept in large, empty "pickle jars," which could easily be hidden when the situation demanded.

A PERIPATETIC GUY

It had been a long drive, all uphill, but at least I wasn't Prometheus, the mythical god of forethought, who had his ever-generating liver eaten by an eagle. I don't require luxury accommodations. I like a bed, a bathroom and no liver-eating eagles.

"We heard you were coming. Your room is ready for you and it's just the way you like it," said the hotel clerk with a smile wider than her face.

"Do you say that to every guest?" I asked.

"Yes."

"Keep it up. I like it," I smiled back. It all went according to plan. The room was lovely.

I'VE LEARNED

Eric Annestad of St. Peter is part of a Norseland Community Preservation Association crew that volunteers to clean ditches of trash. He has found the most popular beer based on tossed cans is Keystone Light. I pick up trash from the local ditches and find that Busch Light is the commonly discarded can. I don't know what that says about the local taste or economy.

To enjoy the scenery on a detour. Sweatpants can make you look athletic or lazy.

You don't need a parachute to go skydiving. You need a parachute to go skydiving twice.

Every mirror sold is a used one. You can kiss yourself in a mirror, but only on the lips.

Your socks are wearing shoes, too.

I was once pi years old. Making trophies would be a rewarding career.

A penny should have a joke on the back. A cents of humor.

Selfies have replaced autographs.

We are rarely what another driver thinks we are.

A swear jar is any jar you can't open.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

A farmer with a parrot on his shoulder walks into a bank. The banker said, "Where did you get that thing?" The parrot replied, "In Iowa. They're everywhere there."

What's red and invisible? No ripe tomatoes.

"Dad, could you tell me what an eclipse is?" "No sun."

What month has 28 days? All of them.

If I have seven apples in one hand and eight apples in the other hand, what do I have? Really big hands.

NATURE NOTES

A reader said there was a headless rabbit in his yard. Was the perpetrator Colonel Mustard in the library with a candlestick? I'd put nothing past Colonel Mustard, but when folks encounter such a sight and perform a thorough crime scene investigation, they come up with a list of usual suspects (cat, the mob, celebrity chef and Colonel Mustard). I'd take Colonel Mustard off that suspect list and guess that the culprit was an owl. A great horned owl's signature method when dealing with large prey is to behead the victim before it's taken to the owl's nest or eating perch. Out of 28 owl kills in a study conducted in Kansas, 60% of the prey items were decapitated. A great horned owl has a deadly grip and uses its bill and talons to cleave a bunny head as fast as a world-champion rodeo cowboy can rope a steer. Apparently, rabbit brains and eyes are a delicacy for owls and are nutritious by being full of fats and proteins.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Kindness in ourselves is the honey that blunts the sting of unkindness in another."—Walter Savage Landor.

Ruminations as the seasons change

I noticed long ago that I spend all summer wondering why I bother to keep my winter clothes, then all winter wondering what use I can possibly ever get out of those summer outfits. Only in spring and fall do I remember the merits of both.

Along with that, the 80-degree temperature last week brought other very season-related thoughts to mind.

There are more reasons than heat conservation to dress in layers.

Fifty degrees is not really all that warm.

There are some very good reasons why we rake leaves away in fall.

Sometimes "wind chill" can be a good thing.

Hard work can be a pleasure,



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

especially as you anticipate its results.

Free time is improved with the freedom of movement warm weather brings.

It can feel really good to get your hands dirty.

No matter how closely you watch them, the flower bulbs will still find a way to surprise you with their blooms.

Springtime snow may not stay on the ground long, but it sure can

leave a mess.

If everyone waited to plant until their neighbors were planting, there would be no seeds in the ground.

Millions of migratory birds can't be wrong: Minnesota is a great place to spend the summer.

The bright sunshine whose company we seek all winter becomes something to hide from as summer approaches.

A long drive can be a science

lesson.

The days become longer, but not always long enough.

Oak trees look much more friendly with leaves.

There are more reasons than catching fish to go fishing.

In winter, we think of a tree's roots as giving them strength to withstand the forces of nature; in spring we think of them as delivering life.

Winter months seem longer than those of any other season.

The difference between a fireplace and a firepit is much more than only size.

Variety really is the spice of life.

A rainy day is a reminder how lucky we are to have solid roofs and transparent windows.

'No charm equal to tenderness of heart'

I can now cross "attend a professional conference" off my list. This past weekend I attended the "Northern Exposure" a gathering of visual journalists held here at the University.

I will preface this by saying I was encouraged to attend for reasons other than personal. My multimedia production and storytelling professor actually ran the conference and offered extra credit to her students who attended. So there was that. And I was invited to go by the new editor-in-chief of the Minnesota Daily, since the paper is trying to expand our visual department. That meant, of course, the visual journalism conference filled with photojournalists was the place to go.

Despite having only exterior motives for attending, I had a good time. The first day was filled with speakers talking about their journey in the field and how they got to the professional positions they now hold. Many of them are now freelance journalists, which was interesting to learn about. One guy told us "you're not your degree," as he explained he had a degree in biological science or engineering or



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

something, but now is a documentary style video journalist. One of the other photojournalists got a job working with the New York Times because she lived a couple blocks from the George Floyd incident and posted pictures on Facebook. Next thing she knew, she was getting a phone call from the Times. That's just crazy. Many of the speakers also talked about how you don't need experience with cameras of photojournalism to become a photo or video journalist. The technical aspects can be learned. They claimed the most important skill is being able to connect and communicate with people—which is exactly what journalism is all about.

The second day was one I enjoyed more. We started the morning off with a keynote speaker, an older woman who happened to be in Ukraine when everything went

down. She stayed and took many photographs of the aftermath and wrote stories on it. And because this was a photojournalism conference, she showed us all the pictures. With no content warning, we were shown photos of dead, charred, and wounded bodies. I couldn't believe what I was seeing at first. But as the pictures of bodies in the street, stuck under the rubble, bloody in a bag were clicked through, it started to sink in. I don't think I'll ever forget those photographs: Well done, but scarring.

This lady also came back to the U.S. and prepared a story about gun violence in the United States. The pictures for this story weren't as graphic, but the audio she included was heart wrenching. She had followed a mother whose son was caught in crossfire, I believe. The son was thankfully saved. The whole audience and I were

moved to tears as we listened to the mother screaming and crying in the back of the ambulance. Then there was the driver who interrupted his prayers just long enough to assure her everything was going to be alright.

After that emotionally harrowing morning, we had social time. We all just ended up sitting in the room sipping our coffees and occasionally saying something like, "Wow. So that just happened."

On a lighter note, I spent the afternoon in a presentation from an older couple who worked at a small town paper in Iowa; they talked about community journalism. After spending my time working for Waseca's lovely small town paper, this presentation was my forte. I even sent a picture of it to Eli and remarked how our paper was better than the one this couple was working at. It's just facts, no one can deny it.

All in all, it was a good conference, although I would say I learned more about life and being a reporter than specifically about photojournalism.

My Determination: "There is no charm equal to tenderness of heart." - Emma, 1815

The opposite of déjà vu

Numerous times this week I thought of someone, and they either called me, texted me, or walked in my front door moments later.

First, I was driving to work and thought of my friend Jake. I intended to give him an update on a life situation (positive) and hadn't stopped to see him. As I was driving, I thought of what I would tell him. At the conclusion of my thought, my phone lit up with a text message from him asking me the very question I had just answered in my head.

Ben Schlaak in New Richland walked into my office on Monday. Weeks prior I had told him I would set aside an NRHEG activities poster and calendar for him, but had forgotten. About an hour before he stopped in, I remembered and brought them up front. As it would happen, he stopped in that afternoon and had no idea I had forgotten, again, for weeks.

I find incidents like these happening quite a bit lately, but those are the two that stick strongly in my mind.

It's almost like de javu, but in reverse.

I genuinely believe all of us are connected in some way—so either my theory is proving itself or just maybe I like to find reinforcement for my obscure ideas in my daily travels.

Life has been a rollercoaster this month.

Brandon Schlaak, who was once a photographer for the newspaper and was a good friend, died unexpectedly last week. That was difficult to process. I felt a strong sense



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

of "that can't be true" the day I learned. I wouldn't write anything in the paper that day because I simply couldn't convince myself that it was "that Brandon."

For those who knew Brandon, he enjoyed conversation. Famously, so do I. Our visits were never short: When he would come into my office he would usually stay for an hour or two. He was a very kind and caring individual.

My childhood church is closing. The First Congregational Church in New Richland will hold its final service Memorial Day weekend, next month in May 2024.

I did not write a column last week because I learned of both of these events and I was far too grieved to write something I felt was appropriate for print.

I have many strong memories of church.

Pastor Pamela is the most prominent.

I love Pastor Pam. She's been here a long time. I was the only person in my confirmation class and I felt I really benefited from the one-on-one teaching. I learn best in smaller groups.

I'll never forget my first homework assignment from her.

I turned in a sheet with literally a one-word answer to her question

about her sermon. "Baptism" was my answer.

She didn't question it at all.

She didn't have to. Maybe it was the look in her eyes or maybe it was God, but something told me to do better. From that moment forward I reflected on the sermons she delivered and provided much more detailed responses.

The church owned the house next door to mine all through my childhood, so I acquired many, many fond memories growing up with our pastor for a neighbor.

Among them is running over to show the pastor my "Yu-gi-oh" cards or other trinkets. My siblings and I used to use the large hill in that backyard for winter sledding. We also used to rollerblade in the long, flat, paved driveway.

The First Congregational Church, its pastors and members taught me Christianity is friendly and open. I was encouraged to ask questions and never felt pressured to believe anything simply "because I should" or "because I said so," or "out of fear of going to Hell" or "tradition."

Learning about all of this last week I felt truly overwhelmed. How does one grieve the closure of their church?

One of my favorite traditions of our church growing up was the

Christmas Eve service. Oh, how I enjoyed the candles. There was also the guitarist who came down to play special music for us. And Ruth, who sat in front of my dad and I, at our regular pew. Or Barb Crumb, our longtime organist.

And Earl, who I liked to run up and hug as a kid attending church.

Oh, and Shelly Moxon, our postal carrier who also is a member. And so many more.

My brother and I used to play "Yu-gi-oh" with each other during services when we were really little. I also remember being allowed to stay in the Sunday School room and play if I didn't want to attend the service afterwards. Dad really did whatever he could simply to ensure that I had a good time while I was in church. The two lessons my dad told my siblings and me that we had to learn while growing up were:

Love God

Get married and have kids

I'm still searching for the words, but I feel I must write something because of the many emotions that have affected me over the past two weeks. Each time I sat down to write, these issues have come flooding to my mind.

Of course the newspaper continues 'newspapering.'

As I think about things that have slipped away from me, my thoughts turn to how badly we all need each other—to those connections. Treasure one another. Be kind. Don't take the good parts of life for granted. And perhaps most importantly, let the people who are important in your life know how you feel about them.



SERVING THE WHOLE OF WASECA COUNTY including the communities of Waseca, Janesville, New Richland, and Waldorf

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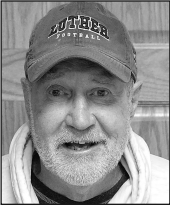
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Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



Time has brought a collection of collections

Putting together a collection of something can be a healthy proposition for anyone. Collecting helps us cope with stress, anxiety, boredom, or loneliness while also giving comfort and satisfaction. People may be driven to complete a set, learn a great deal about something, or just assemble a bunch of beautiful objects to look at.

Anything goes when it comes to putting together a collection; we've all seen collections of dolls, Christmas villages, thimbles, duck decoys, vinyl records, antiques, rocks, seashells, and many other selected items. I've collected a few things over my years and would like to share a few.

Back in my little boy days, I had a wonderful collection of marbles. Kids in the neighborhood would get together to play, and certain colors or styles could be real status symbols. Marbles came in two sizes, small and big. I don't remember the exact rules; I think rules were negotiated between players. The big marbles offered to the victors inside a circle. I also recall playing by a rule called "dropsies." Steelies, cat's eyes, and eye glass were the different kinds of marbles we played for. I was a good player and won a huge number of marbles. I had many marbles I saw as nearly sacred—they were beautiful objects to look at. These were never offered to the victor in the marble battle arena. I had jars of them tucked away on shelves in our basement. As I grew older and lost interest in playing marbles, my former treasures sat in jars, collecting dust. Really don't know what happened to them.

In fifth grade, I developed a passion for collecting insects which continued collecting through seventh grade. I had collection nets and put several collecting cases together with Dad's help; I even read book after book about insects. I'm pretty sure if you knocked on my door with a six-legged creature, I could tell you what it was. I always carried a jar with cotton balls soaked in carbon tetrachloride, CC14, to put insects to sleep the moment I captured them. I'm pretty sure this potent cleaning agent is now banned. The wings of gorgeous butterflies now remained intact upon capturing them. Every day, all summer long, I went to the "Old Road" at the end of our block and hunted creatures with three body parts: a head, thorax, and abdomen.

I put together cases with huge rare moths that had a five- to seven-inch wingspan. When they flew, they looked like a bird. Cecropias, polyphemus, lunas, and ceanothus were trophies in my collection. Swallowtails, black and tiger, morning cloaks,

painted ladies, monarchs, vice-roys, red admirals, and others were collected in a case and displayed; at least in my mind, they rivaled rainforest insects for their variety and beauty.

Walking sticks, giant water beetles, dragonflies and cicadas were also displayed as unique and interesting insects we seldom observe up close. I won first-place ribbons at many county fairs and even one at the state fair. As I grew older, I became consumed with sports and athletics and lost interest. Don't know what happened to the cases of insects collecting dust on shelves in the basement.

Every now and then, when talking about collecting cards, someone will say, "I wonder what happened to my old shoebox filled with bubble gum cards?" "I know I had a Mickey Mantel in there." People collect cards of many varieties: football, baseball, basketball, hockey, soccer, and even Pokemon. The right collectors will buy single card sets or full collections. The idea, of course, is to turn collectible cards into dollars.

When my son was younger, we collected baseball cards together. We gathered names like Topps, Fleer, Dohruss, Score, and Upperdeck. I remember for his birthday one year his wish was an Eric Davis rookie baseball card. I paid \$10 for one in a card shop located in Mankato. We regularly attended shows around Waseca to trade, buy, or sell with other collectors; the library was a hot spot on Saturdays. One of my students, Marshall Cawley, specialized in cards. We met with him frequently in our quest for cards. Some of the best times I spent with my son were the countless hours we used putting piles of cards into sets. Marc and my grandsons now have the rights to all of the sets and cards. I'm quite sure some of them are valuable.

Just a few years back, I started a collection of old fishing lures. Garage sales and old time fisherman and antique shops were my sources. I quickly found out it can be very difficult to find vintage fishing lures that haven't become rusty old junk. I collected a number of very special, unique, old fishing lures. They are now displayed in a case, hanging on the wall at our Tetonka cabin. I get many positive remarks about the collection.

Maybe after reading this, you'll fire up to resurrect an old collection lying around the house or perhaps be creative and start collecting something with a passion. If you'd like a starter, maybe collect shopping coupons. One hundred dollars' worth of items in your shopping cart has inflated to \$130 in just one year. Good luck!



As these photos from last year show, the LakeFest event in Waseca is a diverse, fun-filled celebration. Planning and preparations for this summer's festival have been ongoing since last summer.

Preparations for Lakefest 2024 underway

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

By the time Waseca resident Tom Sexton's efforts in planning the 2023 Waseca LakeFest event brought him the local Exchange Club's "Book of Golden Deeds" award during the Chamber of Commerce banquet this January, he was already deep into the process of preparing for the July 4, 2024 celebration.

He told Exchange Club members during a recent meeting that his motivation to take on leadership again comes from a variety of sources.

"The level of enjoyment I saw in Clear Lake Park that day made it clear to me the event should continue," he observed. "People came and stayed for hours, or even for the whole day."

"It seemed to be making Independence Day special for everyone involved."

A retired member of the military, Sexton was pleased to see the holiday receive the attention it deserves.

In April of last year, Sexton attended a meeting of the Waseca Lakes Association. On the agenda was an announcement from president Trevor Kanewischer that no one had been found to serve on the LakeFest planning committee, and so the long-standing annual event—which included music and numerous activities in Clear Lake Park, along with a "boat parade"—would not be held in 2023.

Distressed at the idea of losing the opportunity for the community, Sexton spoke up.

He looks back at last year's event as having been successful, as well as a foundation for his team of volunteers to build on as the 2024 festival is planned.

First of all, he wanted to be clear about his role: "I prefer the word 'facilitator,'" he told Exchange Club members.

Just as he had during his January acceptance speech, Sexton claimed "I have no talent," and declared the preparations to be "a team effort."

The focus of Sexton's presentation at the Exchange Club meeting was on some of the ways his team wants to see the event improved.

One particularly positive sign, the facilitator said, is that food truck businesses which had been at the park in 2023 made a point of contacting him to indicate their interest in returning. Already on board, and willing to make some requested additions to their menus are Riveras MFU, Lucia's Cocina, Kuchenbecker's Mini Donuts, Waseca Sno-Biz, Caribbean Jerk, Sweet Cravings,

and The Mill.

Also already scheduled from noon until the 9:45 fireworks are musicians Melissa Schulz, Miller-Denn, Gary West Band, Los Tequileros, and AZBY Band featuring Carter Quast. In addition to providing acoustic services throughout the day, KSL Sound will play recorded patriotic music during the 3 p.m. boat parade and the fireworks.

As it has for more than 20 years, the annual Freedom Run will begin early in the day, and will both start and finish at the park.

Children's entertainment is scheduled to include a number of activities including face painting and games.

Adults can take part in events including the bean bag and volleyball tournaments, along with others yet to be determined.

Sexton pointed out the contracts for companies performing summer construction on Eighth Avenue Northeast include clauses to help assure any disruptions to the festival are minimized as much as possible.

Costs for the event are estimated to reach about \$8,500. Sexton expressed gratitude that the Waseca Area Foundation and an area Arts Council may support the event, but stated more income is required to assure all planned activities can take

place.

He informed Exchange Club members that more than 400 people attended last year's event and that, with expanded programming, the 2024 version will not only bring back previous participants, but attract new ones.

He pointed out that Waseca's over-the-lake fireworks draw visitors from a wide area. The boat parade, the music, and the community involvement will help keep them coming back, bringing economic benefits to the region.

Acknowledging that area businesses and organizations are asked to support many causes, he said, "We hope the local, unique nature of this event will help everyone see its value."

Sexton noted there is a LakeFest Facebook page and encouraged community members to visit it, both to find out more about planning efforts, and to offer input or suggestions.

"We're looking for a good event," he stated. "It will represent our values, our patriotism, and our sense of community."

"We want to have something that will create memories for the next generation and strengthen their ties to their roots here in the Waseca area."



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Skelton, Gehrke sworn in as mayor and councilman

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

Two major changes were made to the New Richland City Council during its first meeting of the month on Monday, April 8. Loren Skelton was sworn in as mayor following the resignation of Chad Neitzel from the position last month, and the council approved the appointment of local resident Ryan Gehrke to the open council seat left by Skelton's appointment as mayor. Gehrke was approved via a 2-1 vote, with Councilperson Jason Casey voting against due to the lack of communication with other individuals who submitted letters of interest for the position.

The ambulance report, submitted in writing, stated that the New Richland ambulance has had 29 runs for the year as of April 4. Two applications for new members were received as a result of flyers going out with resident water bills last month, and the council approved the applications along with the report.

The fire department report stated that the NRRFD responded to two medical calls in March. The purchase of new helmets for members at a total cost of \$2,242.40, to be paid out of the equipment fund, was approved. The council also approved the raising of annual retirement pay, which is ac-

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

crued over 10-20 years, to \$1,500 per year of service. The report was approved.

The police report, presented by Chief Tanyce Bruegger, stated that the NRPD had 297 calls for service in March, bringing the total for the year to 816. It was noted that the department's LEXIPOL subscription was renewed at a cost of \$3,173.07 as well as the South Central Drug Investigation Unit Membership at a cost of \$3,750. Squad maintenance was also performed at a cost of \$1,277.30. The report was approved.

In new business, a purchase request for media for a water filter was approved at a cost of \$2,020. Resolutions 22-06 and 22-07, accepting donations of \$1,000 to St. Olaf Lake's lifeguard and swimming lesson program and the fire and ambulance departments.

The administrator's report stated that the city's new utility payment vendor went live last week, and information about this year's citywide cleanup day will be included in water bills this month. The meeting then went into closed session before adjourning at 7:38 p.m.

Memorials from Page 1

This Saturday, April 20, paintings of nearly every Waseca area resident who died between January of 2023 and March of 2024 will be on display from noon until 7:30 p.m. at The Mill in Waseca. There is no admission cost for the event; Blake's Better Spread will have food for sale.

Beginning at 7:30, families of the deceased will receive the original 11x14 framed paintings as a gift. Thompson's daughter, Danielle Hasselquist, 34, has been contacting families via Facebook to invite them to the event.

"Nobody knew these memorials were being painted," she explains. "Most families are only finding out the paintings exist as we get ready for the show."

As a service, Hasselquist will be receiving orders for reproductions of any of the paintings. Hasselquist's business, Lone Pine Prints, will be offering high quality reproductions on fine art, heavyweight paper. Prints 5 x 7 inches will be \$5; the 8 x 10 size will be \$10. The pricing is special due to the nature of Saturday's event. Lone Pine Printing offers quality reproductions of any of Thompson's paintings, which can be seen all around the Waseca community. Some will be on display at the Mill alongside the memorials.

Thompson says it takes anywhere from a half day to two days to create each of the memorials. He and Hasselquist find the photo chosen by the family online and make a print of it. Then Thompson visualizes the person in three dimensions and paints his or her picture: all of the works created for this week's show are in black and white.

He blames his impulse to create the paintings on his own brush with death after a heart attack and quadruple bypass in 2013. He jokes, "They fixed my heart, but they may have hit some of the wiring on the way past."

"But seriously, when you've knocked on [death's] door, you

know how close by it is.

"Here are these people who've left this life, I guess I feel a desire to honor their legacies, their accomplishments, and all the connections they made. They faced challenges and they made an impact along the way. They were moms, they were volunteers, they were one of us; some of them didn't get a chance to say goodbye."

"These paintings were not created for the people who are going to end up with them. They were created for the people who have left us behind."

The task of painting the portraits was richer than a simple "job" for Thompson, he says, because he knew or had personal connections of some type with nearly every one of the 70 subjects. Those associations enriched his perspective as he created each piece.

"There was never any master plan," Thompson says regarding the paintings. His motives, it seems, had much more to do with compulsion and compassion than with financial gain.

"You don't take any money with you when you leave this earth," he says lightly, "so I knew better than to expect I would get any pay."

"But this isn't a profit thing; nobody's ever accused me of being a businessman."

Hasselquist says that, as she has been contacting people to let them know about the paintings, she has received reactions of delighted surprise and gratitude. "They say things like, 'I can't believe you're doing this,' and 'What a great thing for the community,'" she recalls.

More information about the memorial paintings and the process of creating them can be viewed online at the WET Signs and Murals Facebook page.

Thompson and Hasselquist say they hope many community members take some time on Saturday afternoon to stop by The Mill and see the memorials.

"It will be a chance to see and remember the people who have gone on ahead of us," Thompson suggests. "It will be a chance to remember those relationships and connections."



At right: Kelsey Quast, Elva Walker, her mom Mary Quast, and her mother-in-law Amy Ripka. Above that photo are sisters Karie Rutz and Stephanie Lorsung. Directly above are Kara Birch and Elizabeth Sartor. Also shown are group photos from the April 13 event.

Pioneer photos by Rachael Jaeger



'Paint and Sip' at Indian Island Winery

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

Forty participants of many different ages gathered at Janesville's Indian Island Winery from 1 to 3 p.m. this past Saturday while Suzanne Schwichtenberg provided instructions for designing and painting pictures of flowers. The atmosphere came across as lively and free, which is exactly what Schwichtenberg says she hopes for when others join her for a painting event.

In some cases, groups of family members used the event as an opportunity to create deeper bonds while still getting their relaxation time. A few little girls learned how to have fun with painting and discovered natural talents. A group of friends needed "a girls' day" and sought out the session so they could learn a few artistic skills and enjoy some wine.

As Schwichtenberg went around the room and took note of what each individual was doing, she gave advice about how to liven various paintings. Every so often, she encouraged the participants to explore with colors and styles out of their comfort zone. One time she suggested using shorter brush strokes to create shapes resembling leaves or petals.

Schwichtenberg says she intends her comments to be only advice and suggestions.

"I prefer when you can take your

own interpretation where you want to take it," she told the Sip and Paint group.

During the session, Schwichtenberg clarified that she doesn't think of herself as necessarily a teacher, but more as an entrepreneur and someone who provides hospitality, a trait both her parents shared. She credits her parents regarding her interaction style with people participating in her event.

"My mother was a hospitality queen; she taught me so much about creativity and making your guests feel wanted," Schwichtenberg said. "My father was also very creative."

While her parents weren't artists themselves, Schwichtenberg remembers how they appreciated beauty in simplicity like flowers and music. Later, she shared that she doesn't like to call what she leads "classes," but rather events. She expressed that she likes to think of herself as someone who gives others opportunities simultaneously socialize and create.

In her life, she said she was never taught to be an artist. She described herself as self-taught and as someone with a creative flair and the ability to take anything and make something out of it. At the same time, she wanted to ensure that when she hosts these painting events, they center around the participants rather than her.

"I'm here to give people grace, glory, joy, and opportunities," Schwichtenberg said.

In the past, she's had participants who have dementia, are blind or autistic, or deaf, so she's learned the importance of relationships.

She added that it brightens her time at an event when the children who come are eager to sign their paintings or when families take pictures of each other and their paintings at the end. It's a sign to her that they loved their time and were proud of their work.

During these events, Schwichtenberg says she likes to think of everyone as an artist, so she sees it as her task to "bring the Picasso out in everyone." She said she also factors in the various dynamics of those who attend an event like hers because she wants everyone to feel comfortable.

For her, that also means taking the time to pause from their painting and take in their vision.

"I don't want people to think that [art] is hard," Schwichtenberg said. "Someone can paint something that doesn't look like yours or mine. But it's okay. It's their own take on it."

While plans are still up in the air, Schwichtenberg expects to return to the Janesville Indian Island Winery sometime in the future. She mentioned she will probably do something with a red, white, and blue color scheme to commemorate Me-

morial Day or July Fourth. After that, she will come back in the fall and winter for different themes.

If anyone would like to keep updated, Schwichtenberg invites them to look at the Indian Island Winery Facebook page or call her at 507-339-1770. Her studio is in Faribault at the Upper East Side, inspired by New York City's Upper East Side and her love of Central Park.

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South central EMS recruiting staff for area services

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

Mark Griffith, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Executive Director for South Central Minnesota, is searching for part-time and full-time employees, and for volunteers willing to serve as ambulance drivers, emergency medical technicians, first responders, and other medical care providers for agencies across the nine-county region. Potential employees could be placed in Waseca, Le Sueur, Brown, Blue Earth, Sibley, Nicollet, Watonwan, Faribault, or Martin counties. South Central EMS is a joint powers board governed by a county commissioner from each of the nine counties in the region. Griffith's office is in Eagle Lake.

Griffith said he has been encouraged by a recent increase in calls asking about working as part of EMS. When asked who could become part of the system, his ready answer was, "Anybody." Then, he added, "They just have to be curious – and at least 18 years old."

That's one thing he stresses in the medical field – if workers are curious, they will likely excel. He reveals that, among the teams he works with, about 80 percent of the staff are volunteers, while only a few are paid part- or full-time wages. Because of this, Griffith works mostly with staff members who have regular jobs and are with EMS when they can be.

This circumstance makes it difficult to be consistent. He says it is one reason why the EMS field is in desperate need of help. As Griffith explained, there are barely any rural communities which are not searching for EMS workers as populations get older and smaller.

Burnout is also a significant factor in keeping EMS teams staffed. Griffith says communities saw many EMS workers quit during the covid pandemic. Since people were so divided over the covid issue, Griffith shared that one of the challenges was that patients often viewed EMS workers as "the bad guys," although they wore masks and followed other stipulations. In addition to public misconception, the pandemic required workers to take on extra training.

A third reason is that leaders in the EMS field have been so busy keeping their teams in operation, they haven't been able to make extra time to recruit – even though it's an important task.

Despite these challenges, Griffith emanates passion and excitement when he speaks about the EMS field. He provides whole lists of reasons people should consider applying for and advancing a career helping others. It comes down to his own experience when he first started.

Griffith has worked in EMS for two full decades and became executive director in 2012. He formerly worked as an accountant at North Star Foods, a processing plant in St. Charles, Minnesota, where it might be said his career in EMS found him. The ambulance service in St. Charles was staffed entirely by volunteers. Consequently, the group struggled to find people who could work regular hours during the day.

The ambulance service asked North Star Foods whether Griffith could become a first aid team for the plant; North Star agreed. At that time, neither worker knew anything about

what it would take to be an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

"We were both curious, for sure," Griffith said. Once he and the other worker got in the door, he added, they started the three-month EMT training program which consisted of evening and occasional weekend classes. Griffith remembers taking and passing a cumulative test as he finished the course, but before he was even finished with it, he realized he needed to know more.

"It's a license to learn," he added. "Twenty years later, I'm building on what I already know."

In 2009, Griffith began training other workers joining the first aid team. The training seemed particularly timely, since emergency first aid workers were able to help during a tragedy: The North Star plant caught fire and burned down. Fortunately, everyone was able to follow an evacuation plan and all 200 employees made it out safely.

"We went out on a high note," Griffith said. "It was also a direct result of teamwork and what we learned in EMS." He pointed out that anyone, in any job, can use EMS training and experience to benefit others.

He points out that central elements of EMS training are evaluating and responding to a situation – often an emergency. Training, planning and teamwork are vital. He goes on to say those skills and traits can lead to facets of the field beyond direct patient care. He offers becoming a CPR trainer, managing a website or social media page, or planning events and gatherings as examples.

For those who want to stay in the medical field, the knowledge and experience are also very useful for anyone becoming a paramedic, nurse, or doctor.

"You can take your education as far as you want," he claimed.

For anyone who feels interested but is uncertain about the challenges, Griffith pointed out EMS workers are part of a medical team which collaborates to ensure new staff members are supported. During health emergencies, for example, Griffith said there is always a doctor or nurse who can clear up any confusion; follow up will be offered to provide assurance for future tasks.

He also said collaborative teams with as many as four members are structured to align individuals' strengths. As EMS teams receive a call, members discuss what they will do as soon as they arrive so the process will flow smoothly. When the call is completed, members usually review their response and discuss any useful improvements or adjustments that would improve their performance.

"Chances are, in a small town you'll know who you'll be working with," Griffith added.

As Griffith has observed different EMS teams, he says he has been pleased to see individuals become more capable and confident, and so better able to contribute; that growth helps others grow. Whether a worker in EMS or a patient, Griffith emphasized one important thing to remember: "You're never alone."



Griffith

A jazzy time at Waseca High School

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

Waseca Jazz Fest, going strong for 27 years, hosted another program on April 13 at 7 p.m. at the Waseca High School. The Jazz Fest has a combination of two high school jazz bands – Jazz Blue and Jazz One – which also featured Elaine Burt and The Real Big Band.

"It has been a long-standing tradition for the Real Big Band to play at this event because historically, someone from the Waseca music department has played in the group," stated Devon Lawrence, Waseca High School Band Director, who has been actively playing the trumpet since 2004. "We use [Jazz Fest] as an opportunity for our students and families to hear what a professional big band sounds like and a learning opportunity for students for what they can strive to be."

Lawrence shared that he personally performs regularly in various groups, including the Real Big Band, pit orchestras, concert orchestras, concert bands, cover bands, and church events.

"I think it's important for me to have that outlet and for my students to also see that they can keep performing even after they are done with school," Lawrence said. "I practice and perform as much as I can to show my students that even after playing for almost 20 years, I still have things to learn."

Before Jazz Blue's performance, Lawrence announced the group will be going to a jazz festival in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, for an April 20 event. Jazz One, another Waseca High School jazz band, is also going along to perform and receive feedback.

Jazz Blue played three songs the group will be sharing at Eau Claire: "Oink Joint Rumble," "Chasing the Clouds Away," and "No Matter." Megan Hudak played the alto saxophone and Mason Jes performed on the guitar while Elaine Burt appeared as a special guest playing trumpet.

The Junior High Jazz Band also performed "What Came First?" with Ava Trumbull and Quinn Yoder on alto, Ella Linnes on the flute, and Gianna Zak on the clarinet; "Fat Cat" with Khloe Nelson on Tenor with Sam Feldkamp and Max Malouff on their trombones.

Lawrence introduced Burt, who is formerly from Texas and now lives in the Twin Cities area after living for 23 years in New York City where she shared the stage with well-known performers



Waseca Jazz Fest was held for the 27th time on April 13 at Waseca High School.

including Bernadette Peters, Reba McEntire, and Idina Menzel. He mentioned that while she played commercially in clubs, she also performed on Broadway hits, national programs, and premier jazz orchestras.

"She gave some clinics to our GMS and high school students as well as worked with the Real Big Band," Lawrence said. "She's just been fantastic and we're so glad we have her here."

Jazz One also played "Ladybird" which consisted of Jes playing on the trumpet, Cyrus Guse on the alto saxophone, and Taylor Markeson on the tenor saxophone; as well as "Soft Lights," "Island Breeze," and "Once In the Land of Bela."

Burt expressed her gratitude to the Real Big Band for inviting her to play with them at the Waseca High School. She also said how fantastic the students were who she had the opportunity to work with and what a good time they all had. She gave the background behind "Once in the Land of Bela," a song her friend Adi Yeshaya arranged. In the past, Yeshaya also helped Prince arrange some of his music and toured with Whitney Houston.

"I had the pleasure of playing with Yeshaya in the Twin Cities," Burt said. "He was originally from Israel; he came over to the States to the Berkley school in Boston, Massachusetts. Like so many of my friends, he met a girl from Minnesota."

That prompted a laugh among many of the audience members.

"Now he's lived in Minnesota for many years," Burt continued. "He's also based here. Nowadays he does a lot of rearrange for the show, The Voice."

"This coming September we're going to be at Birdland in New York City, and I'm really excited for that," Burt said.



Later Lawrence said that he met Elaine through one of his college buddies, Quentin Volk, who is also an incredible trumpet player.

"So she and I haven't known each other long, but I am so glad we had her come down and I got to meet her," Lawrence commented. "She is such a kind, generous, talented, and down to earth individual. We are so lucky to have had her at our event!"

Lawrence said Waseca used to host other schools for a jazz festival, but had to stop during the covid pandemic. Next year, he shared that Waseca High School is putting together a plan to invite other schools to join them in the event again.

■ **Gehring**
from Page 1

brought to the American Legion hall to signify the twelve different townships.

"Thank you to all the townships that showed up tonight," Harguth said. "The townships are what make up the county."

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Members of the Waseca Exchange Club visited local businesses and organizaitions inviting them to join in the Blue Ribbon campaign to help prevent child abuse. April was proclaimed Child Abuse Prevention Month by both the city and county of Waseca.



Blue ribbon campaign aims to prevent child abuse

The Blue Ribbon symbolizes more than 3.2 million reports of child abuse received by Child Protective Services (CPS) each year said Mikhail Rostislavovich President of the Waseca Exchange Club. In an effort to address this problem and create greater public awareness and participation, our club is participating in Exchanges National Blue Ribbon Campaign for the prevention of child

abuse. We will be distributing hundreds of blue ribbons and asking the businesses, organizations, and Churches in our community to wear these reminders of abuse on Mondays known as “BLUE MONDAYS” to bring attention to this atrocity. Many of our businesses, organizations, and Churches have joined us by placing Exchanges Child Abuse Prevention posters in their business,

and places of worship putting a jar of Blue Ribbons on their counters for the public to wear. Both the Mayor and Council of the City of Waseca and our County Commissioners have agreed to Proclaim April Child Abuse Prevention Month, said Rostislavovich. Our club has placed multiple yard signs in our community with the statement. Help Prevent Child Abuse said Jessica

Stuckmayer Co-Chair of the project. On behalf of the Waseca Exchange Club I want to say thank you to the community of Waseca for participating in this project, Waseca is a community we can all be proud to live in. said Rostislavovich. Child abuse prevention was adopted in 1979 as a national project of the Exchange Club. Since then our club's national foundation has organ-

ized a nationwide network of more than 100 Exchange Club, Child Abuse Prevention Centers and has helped approximately 1.3 million children and 545,000 families break the cycle of child abuse and neglect. Each center participates in the parent-aid program. Parent aides are trained individuals who enter the homes of families at risk of abuse or where abuse has occurred. The sup-

portive relationship that develops between the parent aide and the family helps break the cycle of abuse. Waseca help make a difference in the life of a child wear a blue ribbon and remind people around you of child abuse and its horrendous effects on our children concluded Rostislavovich.

Eighth ‘how-to’ festival set for April 27 at Waseca Library

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

The Waseca Public Library is hosting its eighth How-To Festival, an event which offers sets of activities chosen to engage participants of nearly any age. During the three-hour time slot, twelve different skills will be covered. The event, funded by Friends of the Library, will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 27; a light lunch will be provided.

The Waseca Public Library hosts the How-To Festival; knowledgeable community members or individuals from businesses are invited to be presenters or provide demonstrations to guide participants through the sessions. This year's schedule includes

Red Rocks Pediatric Sleep Coaching, Abbi Richards from Bomgaars, Robert Tackett, Mankato Makerspace, Stacey Weichert, Understudy Foods, The Handcrafted Buffalo, Barefoot Lane, Greater Mankato Bike and Walk Advocates, and Jessica Peters.

Library director Stacy Lienemann mentioned that the library partners with different businesses every year to create variety among the offered activities. She also clarified that Friends of the Library is a non-profit group of area citizens who raise money, volunteer, and advocate for the library.

The day's schedule has been divided into time slots, with four topics offered during each at different loca-

tions throughout the library. During the first half hour, for instance, library staff will teach about making body butter in the meeting room. While that is going on, Help Your Child Sleep will be in the New Adult Books area, Richards will educate about raising chicks in the Teen Area, and a staff member will show others how to create an origami fortune teller in the children's area.

Other topics on April 27 will include learning to can, making soup in a blender, performing first aid, creating a paper airplane, creating a kokedama, growing mushrooms, making a felt ball diffuser, making a tissue paper flower, creating a terrarium, eating local, learning basic

bike maintenance, and making polymer clay bookworms.

Lienemann shared that putting on an event like this encourages the library staff to look at the nonfiction books for trendy topics.

“Staff are checking the books out and learning new skills themselves and being able to showcase the collections we have,” she said.

When planning events like the How-To Festival, director Lienemann said Afton Finley, organizer of the event, brainstormed with the staff about an assortment of topics, hoping to choose a set which will meet community interests and needs.

“People really enjoy making things, and so we look for those op-

portunities,” Lienemann observed. “Food-related activities go really well.”

Planners must also consider the time frame available for each activity, so staff members do their best to pick something that's a quick skill most could learn and be successful in. Before the day of the event, Lienemann says that all session leaders practice the activity they will teach to assure they can cover it within their time limits.

The part she most enjoys about the how-to festivals, she added, is when she sees whole families come and participate together at learning the same skills.

“It's one of the most energizing at-

mospheres I've ever been a part of,” Lienemann noted. “People are excited to get out and move around and learn new things, especially since we do these festivals around the time when it's the first hint of spring.”

Since she's become a librarian, she expressed how she's loved seeing libraries evolve into community-building, interactive learning centers for all ages.

As always, Lienemann said she's appreciative of the volunteers and the Friends of the Library who support the How-To Festival.

“We couldn't do this without them,” she said. “I know they enjoy the event as much as those who participate.”



The Pastor's Column

Hope and faith in every situation

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS
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Brown paper packages tied up with strings
These are a few of my favorite things
In the 1965 film The Sound of Music, Julie Andrews sings beautifully of her favorite things to comfort the children in the midst of a thunderstorm. Roses, kittens, kettles, mittens and packages have an appeal of special, everyday things that have extra value when you are surprised by them. When you need a touch of brightness in your everyday life some things transform your thoughts and emotions.
There are days when I don't want to read my bible, there are days when my spiritual practices feel more like a chore than refreshing. Yet, I persist in my reading and prayer, I join in the fellowship and spiritual discussions, I ask God to speak to me and use me to be a blessing to others. It is my desire to be used by God and sometimes He surprises me with my favorite things.
There was one day when I was struggling with things outside of my control, I was in praying and reading my bible when God used a passage to bring me comfort and hope. He used that passage to prepare my heart for the future and build my faith in Him. He gave me a meaningful passage that

spoke to my heart, when life is hard this verse from Matthew 11:28-30 comes to mind.
28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."
When I re-read this passage it enlivens my heart to God's movements, the passage reminds me that God speaks to me and builds my faith even if this passage doesn't apply to my current situation. God has spoken and continues to speak to us in ways that we understand. This care from God is one of my favorite things.
God desires to be in relationship with us, He desires to speak to our situation to give us hope and faith. Knowing that He loves and cares for us is important, it is my hope that you would experience, "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us" from 1 John 3:1. God is wanting to meet you in your daily life and remind you of His love.
Take time now to think back on a verse that God used to speak to you and your situation. Remember how He has spoken to you in the past and ask to reveal Himself to you again, then open your bible to see His words to you. Discover anew a few of God's favorite things for us and be surprised how He meets us in the normal parts of our day.

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CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m.	Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m.	Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m.	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m.	Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m.	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class	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)
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m.	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship: 10:45 a.m. contemporary service	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Orisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m.	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	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Wyrship
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m.	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	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: lwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m.	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Interim Pastor Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:15 a.m. Worship	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
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m.	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		
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca Father Glenn Ferichs 507-835-1222 Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m.	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Ferichs		
REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-607-8245 Sunday worship 10 a.m.			
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.			
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213			

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Butch Nash Award



Waseca assistant Eric Teders was a recipient of this year’s Butch Nash Award which honors the best assistant football coaches in the state.

Janesville

1923

-This office received a friendly visit from Mr. H.C. Hansen on Thursday forenoon. Mr. Hansen will be remembered as the man who made butter for the patrons of the Smiths Mill creamery several years. So successful was his career at that time that his name became the symbol of the best quality that attaches to a creamery industry and in consequence thereof he was made State Dairy and Food Inspector. He informed us that his work is confined exclusively to creameries and then he does not begin to cover all the ground. He has two hundred and fifty creameries under his care.

-Postmaster F. G. Fratzke informs us that on Saturday Postoffice Inspector M. Hughes of Minneapolis was in town for the purpose of posting bids for the future housing of the post office. He will be here again on the thirtieth when the bids will be opened. The contract with Strunk Brothers expires July 24th. The contract calls for either a five or ten year lease of building to include fixtures, light and heat.

-The Trinity German Lutheran church building is on its new location. The members made a sort of bee and put in their time to good advantage. They were fortunate in having good weather which admitted of almost continuous work. The removal was accomplished with expedition, considering its magnitude. The first stroke was taken Monday morning and the last given was Friday night when the structure was in place on the new location.

1948

-Presentation of a charter from the National Exchange Club of Janesville was made on Monday evening, April 12, at the school auditorium. Representing the National Exchange Club in the presentation was Walter C. Forde of Mankato, member, National Extension Committee. Acceptance was made by John C. Koehler, president of the new club.

-The Junior choir of the Methodist church of Janesville, who made a recording which was used over WCCO in 1940, are planning a reunion on Sunday, May 2. At the time this recording was made, George Grim of the Minneapolis Star came here and made the recording. Invitations have gone out to all choir members, George Grim and Rev. Shields, who was pastor at the time.

-The Northwestern trains, halted by the recent coal strike, have been restored to service this week. The time will be the same as before. No. 508 going East at 7:25 a.m. and No. 501 going West at 10:26 p.m.

-Barbara Johnson of New Richland was chosen as the new president of the Minnesota Future Homemakers of America at the group’s annual convention at the Curtis Hotel in Minneapolis. This organization is composed of junior and senior high school girls and has a membership of 1,448 in the state.

1973

-The District Four Small Group (Solo-Ensemble) Music Contest was held April 10 at Morristown. The Vocal department entered six solos and two ensembles. Vocal soloists receiving starred ratings, the highest award for perfection in District Competition, were Judy Menk, Vic Wolff, Margaret Johnson, Janet Manthey, and Patti Zimmerman. A vocal duet by Vic Wolff and Gail Westphal also starred.

-Seventy years may seem a long time for many people. The weather observer and writer for the Argus will have lived that many years on April 26, 1973. This period in history changed drastically from the horse and buggy age, 1903, to that of the tumultuous jet age of 1973. Transportation and methods of communication have revolutionized our living habits. 1903 to 1973 has been a period of 11 different presidents from Theodore Roosevelt to Richard Nixon and each have left their dent or scar on American History.

-Republican National Committeeman Rudy Boschwitz has described farmers are “one of America’s most mistreated minorities.” The observation came in remarks at three Republican district conventions last weekend. “The inconsistency of politicians and the way they relate to farmers galls me,” Boschwitz said. “When they’re out stumping the rural areas, they bemoan the passing of the family farm. But as soon as those same politicians get back into town, they’re beating the drum about high food prices.”

-The Golden Bears had the “first game jitters” as they committed nine errors and were shut out 5-0 by Owatonna in their opener April 11. But the JHS nine came right back last Saturday to gun Glenville twice, 9-2 and 9-1. Owatonna scored only one earned run against the Bears, but the errors paved the way for four more tallies. Last Saturday the Bears pounded out two decisive wins over Glenville on the home field.

1998

-Building plans for the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School District have taken shape. During a special meeting on Thursday, April 16, the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School Board reviewed and accepted building plans to be submitted for bidding. Dave Asleson, architect with Kagermeier Skaar Asteson of Mankato, reviewed the designs and answered board members’ questions concerning both the interior and exterior plans of the Janesville and Waldorf Buildings.

-Ready to make gifts for any occasion, Londa Soderfelt can turn your favorite photo into a treasured keepsake. Soderfelt, a Janesville resident, began working with computer video imaging in August 1996. Today, she has created her own business, “Undeniably YOU,” which features an assortment of gift ideas from personalized t-shirts and sweatshirts to mugs and mouse pads.

-The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton baseball team wasted a strong pitching performance by number two pitcher Trey Anderson to lose its third consecutive game without a win. Blooming Prairie scored two runs off of Joe Johnson in the last of the eighth inning to pull out a 6-5 Gopher Conference victory over the Bulldogs at Blooming Prairie last Tuesday.

Speech Team



At recent section competition, the JWP Speech Team qualified three members for the MSHSL state speech tournament scheduled to take place in Shakopee this weekend. At sections, six individual team members advanced to the final round. The three competing at state are Madyn Holland in the category of Original Oratory; Rachelle Oelke in Informative Speaking, and Eric Daschner in Humorous Interpretation.

Waseca

25 Years Ago

-Rep. Henry Kalis of Walters was successful in his attempt to block the establishment of a legislative committee that would have given that committee control of prioritizing all highway projects over \$5 million in the state. The action came last Thursday during a House Transportation Committee debate.

-Julie Gehrig, a veteran advertising sales manager and trainer, has been named Publisher and Editor of the Waseca County News and Area Shopper. She starts her new job Wednesday.

-The democratic process was at work Wednesday at Waseca High School. Representatives from Minnesota Sen. Paul Wellstone’s office visited Chuck Ayres’ cultural and political perspective class to find out students’ feelings on the nature of education in the nature.

-City crews were kept busy Saturday night through Sunday morning repairing downed power lines throughout Waseca. Winds hovering around the 65 mile per hour mark Saturday night raised havoc with trees, which in turn ripped down numerous power lines. Besides the high winds, another interesting note is that the Southern Experiment Station measured 500 miles in winds traveling through the area over the weekend.

-The Bluejay tennis team traveled to Blue Earth Friday afternoon for their first conference match of the season and came home with a 4-1 loss. The Buccaneers are defending South Central Conference Champions and look like the team to beat this year, according to Bluejay coach Paul Andrejewski.

-Aliens and naturalized United States citizens must prove their citizenship or legal alien status to get a social security number when applying for the first time according to Emil C. John, social security district manager in Mankato.

75 Years Ago

-Although two weeks behind last year, Waseca county famers are completing their small grain seedling this week almost on schedule. Last year’s spring seedling weather was ideal. This season late snow and slush kept farmers out of the fields until after the first week in April. Fields are now comparatively dry with some water still standing in low places.

-The Senior class of Central High school will present “Anne of Green Gables” at the high school auditorium Friday, April 29. The play, a dramatization of L.M. Montgomery’s novel, is the work of one of America’s leading dramatists, Slice Chadwicke, who specializes in turning famous novels into plays.

-Eight steel baseball light towers arrived Wednesday from Winsted, Minn., city engineer Ervin Hill said today. Hills says it will be ten days to two weeks before the erection of the towers will start. Omar Dahle’s crew are digging some of the footings now. Six of the towers are 80 feet in height and two are 90 feet.

100 Years Ago

-By a four to three vote, the city council Tuesday evening rescinded a resolution passed November 11, 1923, donating \$500 to aid the Waseca County Agricultural Society. It will be recalled that the donation was held up at the time by Alderman Wobschall on the ground that there was no city fund from which the money could be drawn.

-The selection of a candidate for the job of county weed inspector was one of the tasks imposed on the members of the county board at its meeting Tuesday. Seventeen good men and true offered their services to exterminate weed pests of the county, for a monetary consideration. The job is to last from the first of May to the first of October.

-The demand for live poultry, particularly fowl, has been especially active on account of the approaching Jewish holiday, known as Last Passover, which occurs April 25-26TH. After this holiday has passed the demand will be much lighter and the market quotations probably lower.

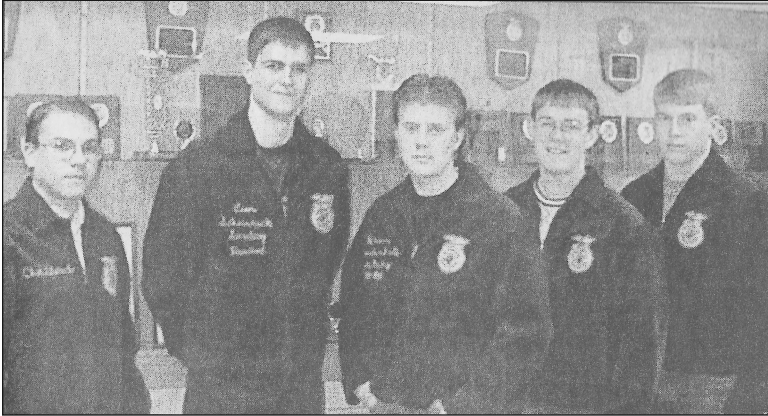
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Looking Back (New Richland)

25 Years Ago – April 8, 1999



- On Holy Thursday members from the First Lutheran Church in Ellendale performed the Living Last Supper. After learning that there was someone in their midst who would soon betray Jesus each apostle shared his disbelief as they wondered if they were the one. It was a very special performance that served to remind everyone of the true meaning of the Easter Season. Pictured from L-R Butch Kruckeberg (Nataniel), Jeff Schmidt (James the less), Ross Sletten (Andrew), Kevin Hamor (Judas), Steve Engle (Peter), Ron Langlie (John), Dean Reiter (Jesus), Don Anderson (Thomas), Gene Helland (James the Elder), John Christenson (Phillip), Chuck Crabtree (Matthew), Steve Halverson (Thadeas), Wayne Schimek (Simon the Zealot). Directors were Norine Jensen and Marj Rossing, with narration done by Paster Halbakken, and a son sung by Eric Eden.



- FFA Mechanics team members from the left: Lyndon Pederson, Cory Hoerler, Luke Wiersma, Tony Foster and Jeff Theuer. The 1999 Region 7 Ag Mechanics contest was held March 26, at South Central Technical College. NRHEG Team members placed first overall with 437 points. Individuals from the team also did well. Tony Foster placed 1st overall with Luke Wiersma placing 2nd and Lyndon Pederson 8th. The boys were tested on problem solving in each of these areas – Arc welding, construction with metal and wood, shop, tractors, corn planters electrical, motors and sensing devices.

- Twenty years ago, members of the First Baptist Church of Clarks Grove believed there was a need to provide a time where pre-school children and their parents could come together for a time of learning for children and for parents to share ideas on parenting. The program has grown over the years and is staffed entirely by volunteers, who are willing to give time, talent, and energy in working with parents and children, because they love the Lord and His plan for the family. WEE School (Weekday Early Education School) is a non-denominational preschool designed for the young child and their parents. There is no tuition fee to attend WEE School. “In working with the children we strive to remember play is “child’s work”, and for learning to take place is through play, whenever possible” said Carol Nelson, school director.

37 Years Ago – April 8, 1987



- HONOR SOCIET INDUCTEES: (first row) Angie Brekkeke, Sarah Deml, Vonda Humburg and Jodie Lee. (back row – previous members) Kim Anderson, Mayro Leak, Shari Johnson, Gary Hanson, Sharon Deml, Wendy Lerberg and Stacy Wallace. Wednesday of last week, four local students were inducted into the National Honor Society. Those receiving this honor were Angela Brekke, sophomore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arlen Brekke; Sarah Deml, sophomore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Deml; Vonda Humburg, junior, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Verdell Humburg; and Jodie Lee, junior, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Lee. To be chosen for membership to the National Honor Society a student must have a B average or above. Those qualifying scholastically are then put on a list that is circulated to the teachers for input on three other areas: leadership, service and character.

- The Heart-aid Fund Drive that is underway in Ellendale for the Ambulance Service has received approximately \$1500 in donations in its first week. Donating to this most worthy cause was the Ellendale Municipal Liquor Store, with a contribution of \$1000. Two memorials were given in memory of E.B. (Speed) Nelson and Mrs. Mary Heger, plus other gifts, to bring the \$10,000 target closer to home.

102 Years Ago – April 6, 1922

- We live in an age when one cannot afford to cling long to precedent for guidance or rely on preconceived ideas for information. The time honored hedge hog prognosticating the proximity of spring on the second day of February has long been held up as an object of popular scorn. Even the first robin is greeted with the same distrust that the present generation impartially exhibits toward all established institutions. As he hops about in the snow the thought uppermost is that he was not a wise robin at the best and those more uncharitably inclined resort to the common vernacular to observe that he must be nutty. But a man's a man for all of that and he wouldn't be half a human without his signs and portents. We must have some harbinger of the change of seasons and even modern conditions cannot deny us of some visible sign to denote that the great change has taken place. “Spring's here,” yelled a delighted citizen to the world one day this week. “What makes you so sure about it?” said another who had heard the remark and was hoping for some substantial evidence that his own convictions that we would probably have another snowstorm or two before the weather settled down, were wrong. “Oh, it's plain enough. Can't you see for yourself. Look down there. He's just putting up the last one.” Down the street a man was unloading something from a wheel cart and putting it up in the middle of the square. He set it out carefully and then stood back to take a squint to see that it stood fairly to all points of the compass. It was Policeman Gardner. After one more adjustment he seemed to be satisfied and started off with the empty cart, his face wearing even a more genial smile than usual. The object left behind faced the world in all directions and loudly proclaimed in bright, red letters: “Keep to the Right.” “By thunder, you are right,” exclaimed the second citizen. “Spring is here for sure.”

- Mrs. Chris Thompson of Geneva has purchased the dwelling next to where her parents live from her brother, Thenus Jensen. She will take possession of the place as soon as it is vacated by Mrs. C. A. O'Malley and daughters, who have been residing there for about a year and a half. Mrs. O'Malley expects to leave about the middle of this month from Blooming Prairie, where she will make her home with her brother, Will Dugan, who owns a large residence in that village, which he has been renting out as he has been a widower for some time. Mrs. Thompson is at present at the Carl Loven farm, where she is nursing Mrs. Loven through her illness.



STILL UNBEATEN — The Waseca High School boys' tennis team improved its record to 6-0 with three more wins in the past week. At left, the Bluejays' Keenan Collins hits a forehand against Blue Earth Area. In the middle, the No. 1 doubles team of Tanner Hanson and Allen Kopetzki await a serve. At right, Kopetzki hits a forehand. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Waseca boys' tennis team improves to 6-0

After six matches, the Waseca High School boys' tennis team remains undefeated. Coach Kyle Collins' Bluejays won three times in the past week, stopping St. James 5-2, beating Blue Earth Area 4-3, and ripping Redwood Valley 6-1. The Bluejays won at St. James last Thursday. Henry Huttemier prevailed 6-2, 7-5 at No. 2, Otto

Schoenrock rallied 4-6, 6-2, 6-0 at No. 3, and Armaan Bhatti gutted out a 7-6 (2), 6-3 victory at No. 4. Tyler Jellum fell 6-1, 6-1 at No. 1 singles. The No. 1 doubles team of Dominic Grunzke and Oliver Rohwer won 7-6 (3), 6-1, while Ahmed Farooq and Keenan Collins triumphed 6-2, 0-6, 6-2 at No. 3. Allen Kopetzki and Tyler Hanson were defeated 6-2, 6-4 at No. 2.

Bluejays soundly defeat St. James, Redwood Valley, nip BEA 4-3

Waseca's junior varsity won 4-3. The next day, the Bluejays nipped visiting Blue Earth Area 4-3. It was 3-3 with only the No. 2 singles match remaining, and Huttemier won by tiebreaker to decide it. It was close, but the Bluejays won in straight sets at doubles, with Kopetzki and Hanson at No. 1, followed by Bhatti and Collins, and Lucas McQuery and Brighton Rugger. Jellum, Schoenrock and Rohwer lost in straight sets. Waseca's JV won 3-2. The Jays triumphed 6-1 at

Redwood Valley Tuesday. Huttemier, Schoenrock and Collins posted singles victories, while Jellum lost. Victorious doubles teams were Grunzke and Rohwer, Hanson and Kopetzki, and Farooq and Bhatti. The Jays' JV won 4-0. After a Thursday match at Fairmont, the Bluejays host New Prague Monday, play at Rochester Lourdes Tuesday and host Schaeffer Academy April 25.



BASEBALL ACTION — At left, Carter Ellis legs out an infield single as New Ulm's third baseman tries to throw him out. At right, the Bluejays' Colten Ruedy delivers a pitch. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Keeping it close

WHS nine edged by New Ulm, 3-2

The Waseca High School baseball team took what looked like a blowout loss into a close game, but fell just short 3-2 to New Ulm Monday and Tink Larson Field. The perennially strong Eagles scored single runs in the first three innings, but the Bluejays answered with one in the fourth and one in the sixth. WHS head coach Taylor Phelps reported that starting pitcher Colten Ruedy had a good outing, giving up two earned runs on four hits through six innings. Reliever Shane Engel-Mueller had a great closing inning, responding well to adversity through an unforced error. The Bluejays totaled four hits, two from Carter Ellis and one each by Nate Engel-Mueller and Shane Engel-Mueller. Last Friday, the Bluejays lost 5-1 to Sibley East at Gaylord. After hosting NRHEG Thursday, the Bluejays play Tuesday, April 23 at St. Peter and April 26 at Fairmont.

Softball Panthers bounce back

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

From the first inning on, it was an uphill battle for the NRHEG softball team. The Panthers, who saw United South Central take a 3-0 advantage, never could catch up and lost 8-0 at Wells last Thursday. The Rebels, who totaled 11 hits and one error, added single runs in the fourth and sixth and three in the fifth while holding the Panthers to two hits. Izley Boerner and Faith Nielsen singled for the Panthers, who committed five fielding errors. The Rebels doubled and hit a home run. Nielsen pitched for the Panthers, allowing three earned runs while walking two and striking out one. M. Anderson, the winning pitcher, struck out 12 and walked none while going the distance. The Panthers kept it close through five innings Friday against

"Our bats came alive from the top of our lineup to the bottom."
— NRHEG coach Kayley Camerer

Blooming Prairie, but fell 5-2 at Legion Field in New Richland. The Blossoms plated three runs in the second and one in the fifth, adding an insurance run in the top of the seventh. Boerner, Isabel Stadheim, Olivia Berg, Addie Stadheim and Chloe Stork hit safely for the Panthers. RBIs went to Stork and Preslie Nielsen. The Panthers fanned three times and walked once. Faith Nielsen pitched seven innings, allowing two earned runs with five strikeouts and one walk. NRHEG had six errors. "Blooming is a tough hitting team," said Panthers coach Kayley Camerer. "They were able to hit in

key moments of the game. Our goal today was to attack each at-bat and make solid contact with the ball. We were able to make solid contact through the entire game and our defense continues to grow and improve from game to game." On Monday, the Panthers put nine runs on the board in the top of the first and never looked back while defeating Granada-Huntley/East Chain/Martin Luther/Truman 16-0 at Truman. The Panthers led 12-0 after three innings and 16-0 after four. NRHEG leaders: Isabel Stadheim 3-for-3 with three runs; Berg 2-for-4 with three runs; Preslie Nielsen 2-for-3 with three RBIs; Faith Nielsen

2-for-4 with two RBIs; Boerner 2-for-3. Erin Peterson doubled and drove in four runs while walking twice. Faith Nielsen pitched for the Panthers, finishing with nine strikeouts and no walks in four innings. The Panthers had one error. "Our bats came alive from the top of our lineup to the bottom," said Camerer. "It was great to see everyone get involved, pass the bat down the order and continue to attack each individual at-bat. Defensively, we are continuing to gain experience and confidence with every play. Faith Nielsen pitched a fantastic game and our defense behind her continues to play great." The Panthers host BA Thursday and Waseca Friday at 4:30.



P.Nielsen



PLAY AT THE PLATE — NRHEG catcher Adalyn Stadheim prepares to tag a sliding Blooming Prairie baserunner during the Panthers' 5-2 loss last week at Legion Field. Photo by Johnnie Phillips/Steele County Times



ONE-SIDED WIN — The NRHEG baseball team 10-runned United South Central 13-3 in five innings last week at Jeff and Carol Reese Field. From left, Seth Staloch slides safely into third; Carter Martens prepares to put the tag on a baserunner at third; Alden Dobberstein dives and scores. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

Nine-run inning lifts baseball Panthers past USC

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

All things considered, last week was not a bad one for the NRHEG High School baseball team. Especially when you consider the Panthers have a first-year head coach and a squad with no seniors.

That didn't seem to matter last Tuesday as the Panthers traveled to Blue Earth Area and toughed out a 4-3 victory.

"The last couple of days of baseball could not be any more fun and exciting!" said NRHEG coach Shawn Larson. "We were walked off yesterday in extra innings, and today we were able to close out a one-run game in the seventh inning."

It was close most of the day. The Panthers led 3-0 after the top of the sixth inning, but the Bucs scored three in their at-bat to tie it.

The Panthers scored the winning run in the top of the seventh, when Carter Martens delivered a clutch two-out single to drive in Alden Dobberstein.

Martens, Dobberstein and Devon Parpart collected one hit apiece as the Panthers capitalized on seven Blue Earth Area fielding miscues. Dobberstein had two RBIs, Martens and Brooks Gilliland one apiece.

Parpart stole three bases, one more than Dobberstein and Jared Lee.

Gilliland started on the mound and got the win. He gave up three earned runs on three hits through 5 2/3 innings, striking out three and walking five. Parpart pitched 1 1/3 inning of hitless relief. NRHEG had only one error.

"We were able to take advantage of a couple of errors early in the first inning," said Coach Larson. "The game remained a tight, fun game with both teams having opportunities. Our team is really coming around and I could not be any prouder. I am especially proud of freshman Brooks Gilliland who got the start pitching for us today. We are currently running short of available pitchers due to having four games in a short span. Brooks was fantastic, sticking to the strike zone and the defense had his back!"

The Panthers 10-runned visiting United South Central 13-3 in five innings Thursday.

"For the third time this week, we were in a close exciting game for the first four innings," said Larson.

As luck would have it, NRHEG got into a rhythm with the bats and combined that with some defensive errors by the Rebels, plating nine

runs in the bottom of the fifth to end it early.

Four Panthers had a multi-hit game. Dobberstein was 2-for-4 with three RBIs and two runs. A.Deen 2-for-4 with an RBI, Martens 2-for-3 with two RBIs, Jordan Brouwers 2-for-2 with two RBIs. Adding one hit each were Lee, Jace Ihrke, Gilliland and Seth Staloch.

Lee, a left-hander, pitched all five innings, allowing one earned run on four hits, with six strikeouts and three walks.

The Panthers had two errors, USC one.

According to Larson, the Panthers have played better because they've hit the ball better.

"We had 12 hits in this game, which is a major reason we had better results than we have been having," said Larson. "We are really starting to get moving in the right direction."

The Panthers traveled to Truman Friday and took a 12-1 nonconference loss to Madelia-Truman/Martin Luther/Granada-Huntley-East Chain.

The Panthers managed only one hit, a single by Aaden Hanna They struck out seven times, walked twice and had six fielding errors. Hanna



A WELCOME SIGHT — Former head coach and current NRHEG assistant Jeff Reese watches from the dugout as the Panthers prevailed 13-3 over United South Central.

started and took the pitching loss, with Wyatt Larson throwing an inning in relief.

"Today was a day showing that we are young and inexperienced compared to some teams," said Coach Larson. "We had too many errors tonight. That combined with

them hitting where we weren't, and us striking out or hitting the ball right to the defense. It is safe to say that we are capable of playing better than that. Hopefully we can use next week to get back in the groove."

The Panthers host Blooming Prairie Monday, April 22 at 4:30.

Kronbach continues assault on Bulldog school records

Versatile senior breaks mark in every jumping event

To say that Ryan Kronbach is making the most of his final athletic season at JWP High School would be an understatement.

The multi-talented senior, who set a school record for receiving yards in a football game last fall and was a basketball starter, appears intent on making a much bigger mark in track and field.

Kronbach, who earlier this season broke school records in the high jump and triple jump, went 21 feet, 1 inch in the long jump at the Kenyon-Wanamingo Invitational, setting yet another school record.

It earned him first place in the long jump and helped buoy the Bulldogs to first as a team with 187.5 points. Blooming Prairie was second with 104.5. Eight schools competed.

Kronbach teamed with Isaiah Berndt, Daulton Bauer and Alex James for first in the 4x100-meter relay. Other firsts were by Derek Gustafson in the 3200 and Memphis James in the triple jump.

Taking second were Ethan Born, shot put; Berndt, 100; Alex James, long jump; Luke Cahill, 3200. Third place went to Bauer in the 100, 200 and triple jump; Memphis James, 400; Charles Adams, 3200; Leighlan Harris, 110 high hurdles; Kaden Baker, 300 hurdles; Kronbach, high jump.

The 4x800 relay team of Carter Hoehn, Teagan Mulder, Cahill and Alex Kleve finished second.

The JWP girls were even more dominant than the boys, posting 179.25 points to 91 for second-place Wabasha-Kellogg.

The Bulldogs finished first in five events, including three relays. Katie Olson won the 100, MaKenzie Westphal took the 3200 and Aubrey Weedman won the shot put.

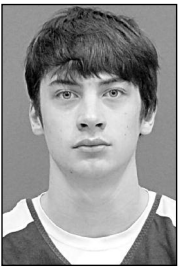
Brielle Bure, Nevaeh Weimert, Olson and Onikia Herme won the 4x100 while Ashlyn Wolff, MaKela Westphal, Madeline Hoehn and MaKenzie Westphal took the 4x800.

Other JWP places: Lilly Strauss 2nd 100; Olson 2nd 200; Weimert 2nd triple jump; Wolff 3rd 400; Autumn Thissen 3rd shot put; Hoehn third pole vault.

Later in the week, the Bulldogs hosted the JWP Invitational, with the boys taking third and the girls finishing first.

Kronbach won the long jump and triple jump.

Firsts for the girls were Olson, 200; Wolff, 400; and Aubrey Weedman, shot put.



Kronbach

Big win



Freshman Braiden Nelson lines up a putt during Monday's WHS boys' golf match against Owatonna. The varsity and JV both won. Junior Hunter Anderson led the varsity with a 42 and Max Bodenweiser was the JV medalist with a 48. "We don't usually beat Owatonna, so it was a good win in windy conditions," said coach Ted Hammond, who was in Mankato as his wife underwent surgery. Hammond said assistant coach Maren Peterson took over and should be commended for the fine coaching job. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

Both WHS track squads take second at Mankato West

Several key athletes were missing, the competition was tough, and the weather was windy as the Waseca High School track and field teams competed at Mankato West last Thursday. Both the boys and girls settled for second place.

"The kids did very well in the windy conditions," said WHS head coach David Abel. "We had lots of personal records in the distance events despite the windy conditions. It was good to get outside and get a feel for outdoor track."

Mankato West's boys topped a four-team

field with 85 points. The Bluejays scored 38.

Isaac Feldkamp, a junior, had a fine start to his season, winning the 800 meters in 2:14.5 - more than five seconds ahead of second place - and the 1600 in 4:52.31.

Other firsts for the boys were by Wyatt Hager in the high jump, 5-8; William Mansfield, pole vault, 11-6; and Ethan Stenzel, discus, 128-11. Stenzel took third in the shot put.

Other Bluejay placewinners: Carson Ohnstad 2nd 400 55.42; Javonn Rodney 2nd discus 127-9 and third shot put 43-4.25;

Tristan Godwin fourth 3200 11:56.94 and 4th pole vault 9-0; Zane Staloch 4th 300 hurdles 54.76; Wyatt Hager fourth discus 120-8; Michaelaiah Grannis 4th 110 high hurdles 22.2; Godwin, Schroeder, Hager and Tovin Grannis combined for third in the 4x800 relay with a time of 9:38.32.

Mankato West's girls totaled 99 points, with Waseca second at 39.

First-place finishers were Maren Schimming 800 2:37.1; Callie Dufault 3200 12:25.6; Brooklyn Flatau 100 hurdles 17.01; Kalea Sartori shot put 39-10.25; and the 4x800 team of Dufault, Evelyn O'Brien, Stella Omvedt and Schimming in 10:42.42.

Other places: Flatau 2nd 300 hurdles 55.21, 5th long jump 14-2; Omvedt second 3200 12:43.25; Gaby Lopez 4th 100 14.4, 4th 200 29.59; Reese Rodriguez 4th 400 1:09.39; Violet Rohwer 5th 1600 6:49.79; Vivian Mader 3rd 100 hurdles 19-06; Sartori 2nd discus 99-4; Camila Marquez third high jump 4-6.

Flatau, Lopez, Bella Wikan and Marquez combined for second in the 4x100, clocking 55.04

NRHEG track girls 2nd at BP

Coach Duey Ferber did the math, and it added up to a great meet for the NRHEG girls' track and field team.

"Six first places and four second places," said Ferber, "equals a good night."

The Panthers finished second in USC/AC's Kent Viesselman Invitational at Wells last Tuesday. LCWM/Nicollet won with 295.5 points. NRHEG had 275. Six teams competed.

Three of the Panthers firsts belonged to senior Evelyn Nydegger, who won the 100-meter high hurdles in 17.48 seconds, the 300 intermediate hurdles in 50.42, and the triple jump at 32 feet, 3 inches.

Quinn VanMaldeghem won the 800 with a time of 2:34.67. Anike Ladlie took the high jump at 4-10.

Kiera Lenort, Sierra Misgen, Chloe Riewer and Camryn VanMaldeghem teamed to win the 4x200 relay in 1:59.46.

Other NRHEG places: Malonna Wilson, second, shot put, 32-8 and fourth, discus, 90-0; Riewer, second, long jump, 15-3 and fourth, 100, 14.10; Lenort, third, 200, 29.5 and second, high jump, 4-8; Gabby Schlaak, third, 100 hurdles, 18.05 and fifth, high jump, 4-6; 4x800, fourth, 12:47.52 (Aranson, Holly Bartness, Ella Jen, Julieann Wobbrock); Kylie Olson, fourth, shot put, 30-11; Jen, fifth, 1600, 6:42.76; Camryn VanMaldghem, fifth, 400, 1:11.13; Ellie Clark, fifth, 300 hurdlrs, 56.81; Clara Buendorf, fifth, 800, 2:55.53; Wobbrock, fifth, 3200, 14:20.09; Zoe Wilson, sixth, 200, 31.24.

The NRHEG girls and boys compete at Blooming Prairie Monday, April 22.

NRHEG boys third at BP

Thank goodness for the hurdle races.

That's what coach Duey Ferber was thinking after his squad's third-place finish in United South Central's Kent Viesselman Invitational at Wells last Tuesday.

Will Tuttle won the 110-meter high hurdles in 15.52 seconds. He finished first in the 300 intermediate hurdles in 42.35.

Other points in the hurdles were Levin Kitzer, third, 110 highs, and third, 300 intermediates; and Parker Bunn, fourth, 300 intermediates.

Finishing second were Gavin Sletten, 800, 2:31.17; Jacob Karl, 3200, 11:34.74; 4x100 relay, 46.5 (Kitzer, Will Tuttle, Harbor Cromwell, Jaylin Raab); 4x400 rela, 3:58.96 (Bunn, Sletten, Wyatt Tuttle, Raab). Lavon Jewison cleared 5-6 for third in the high jump.

Other Panther places: Devon Nelson, fourth, 1600, 5:34.51; Cromwell, fourth, pole vault, 9-0; Raab, fifth, long jump, 17-8' 4x200, fifth, 1:50.4 (Beauvis, Sletten, Wyatt Tuttle, Conroy); Brendan Schmidt, sixth, pole vault, 8-6.

Budach wins again

The NRHEG High School golf teams competed at Waseca Tuesday.

For the second consecutive meet, the Panthers' Meela Budach took medalist honors with 44 strokes for nine holes.

Hallie Schultz shot 49, Alexis Olson 67 and Elsie Schultz 68.

For the boys, Daxter Lee shot 61, Hudson Chrz 62, Jackson Chrz 65, Carter Schlaak 66 and Shan Hanson 67.



Budach

Melchior, Carda lead JWP baseball team past WEM, St.Clair

The JWP baseball game won a pair of games last week, defeating WEM 10-7 Thursday and topping St. Clair 15-5 Friday.

The leader against WEM was Ty Melchior, who went 2-for-4 at the plate and got the pitching victory, allowing four earned runs on 12 hits, with seven strikeouts and four

walks. Josh Bengston also had two hits.

Trailing 4-1 in the bottom of the fifth inning, the Bulldogs plated eight runs, with WEM rallying for three in the sixth.

"The boys never gave up," said JWP coach Cory Jewison. "They kept fighting unhtil the end and

won."

In what Coach Jewison called an up and down game with St. Clair, the Bulldogs won by the 10-run rule.

"The boys kept fighting," said Jewison.

Austin Carda got the pitching victory, going 4 1/3 innings allowing four earned runs. He strike out seven

and walked two.

Carda also earned the team's Golden Helmet award for his prowess at the plate, where he collected three RBIs on two hits.

"We got our 'Golden Helmet' as a gift at our challenge course in Florida," said Jewison. "All the boys signed it."

Bengtson and Cole Blomstrom each had three hits, with Gavin Krause, Carda and Nolan Morsching added two apiece. Austin Quast and Chase Gerds also hit safely. Caleb Quast stole two bases.

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**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE/MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION**

Estate of AnneMarie Burgess, Decedent
Court File No. 81-PR-24-273
NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF TESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on May 29, 2024, at 9 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at via Zoom, 307 North Main Street, Waseca, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Garrett Burgess, whose address is 2034 Sundance Lane, North Mankato, MN, 56003 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an unsupervised administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate. See notice of remote hearing.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated 4/12/2024, 10:08:52 a.m.
BY THE COURT
Carol Hanks
Judge of District Court

Dated: 4/12/24
Shannon Asselin
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner Sabrina A. Dolan
P.O. Box 386056
Minneapolis, MN, 55438
Attorney License No: 0237887
Telephone: (952) 994-5768
FAX: (952) 835-3011
Email: sadolanlaw@msn.com

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on April 19 and 26, 2024



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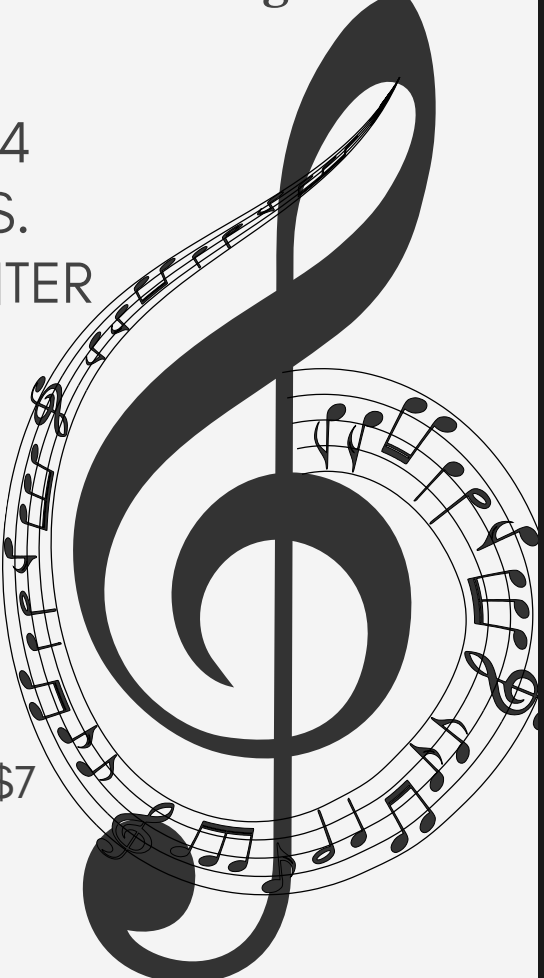
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21	22	23 Burger nite 5-7pm	24 6pm BAR Bingo	25 7pm HALL BINGO	26 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	27
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Kolton Flitter and family perform a short skit to Oompa Loompa from Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory on Wednesday, April 10 at the Central Auditorium.



Todd Krueger, Camyrn Bartz, Sydney Bartz, Abby Christopherson, Tara Harguth, and Paula Priebe sing and dance to the YMCA theme song.

Talent

from Page 1

be in the talent show, is very comfortable and loves to participate in this night. There are a few nerves the night of the show, but they push through it.”

She shared that what she loves most about the show is observing people display their talents and abilities, as well as the smiles on the faces of the friends and families who come watch.

Williamson also says that ICAN does its best to encourage a variety of types of performances; she mentions she personally served as emcee during the first years.

“Now we have the persons we serve to be the emcees,” Williamson added.

She said she also helped write this year’s script for the show with Jake Lieser, a person served and this year’s emcee. ICAN also showed commercials during the show made and recorded by a person served; a few persons served performed and recorded their talent acts in advance , then had them played during the show. Two persons served vol-

unteered as the behind-the-scenes stage crew.

Williamson also mentioned that the ICAN talent show has sometimes included art displays. “ICAN cannot make the talent show happen without the support of ICAN employees Megan Johanneck and Carey Root,” Williamson said. “Or Marsha Chicos, Chuck Polluck, sound technician, the Central Building Maintenance crew, or stage decorator Sue Sather.”

Williamson also wanted to thank the Mill for providing space for practices and the talented individuals who showed their talents, speaking skills, dance moves, and humor.



Thank you to our sponsors and all the participants at the first annual Blair Nelson 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament. You made this event a huge success! Your act of kindness, support and generous financial support will always be remembered.



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