



■ Inside:

- 3 - Local FFA
- 4 - Dave Zika
- 5 - Local government
- 6 - Board of Directors
- 7-9 - Sports
- 10-11 - Classifieds
- 12 - Sleigh and Cutter
- 13 - Archives
- 14 - State Bound

**WASECA
COUNTY
PIONEER**

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 9 Vol. IV \$2

Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca

Thursday, February 27, 2025

■ Inside



State Bound

End of Winter Multi-Family Sale at the Mill Thursday, Feb. 27

There will be a multi-family sale at the Mill from noon till 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 27. This will contain items from multiple households. This sale will continue from 9 a.m. till 2 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28.

Children’s Dreamcatcher, silent auction and bingo at Starfire Event Center Mar. 1

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

Frank Roche comedy at Indian Island Winery Sat., March 1

Comedian Frank Roche will be performing his act at the Indian Island Winery at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 1. This Detroit native does celebrity impressions, improv and rapid-fire antics.

St. Paul Quilters fundraiser meal 11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 2

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

Laser-Engraved Keychains Workshop at Janesville Public Library Tuesday, March 4

There will be a laser-engraved keychains workshop at the Janesville Public Library from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4. Blend modern innovation with old-world craftsmanship to create a wooden keychain, for adults. Register at the library or wasecalesueurlibraries.com/registered.

Celebrate National Oreo Day at the Janesville Public Library on March 6

There will be a National Oreo Day celebration at the Janesville Public Library at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 6. There will be challenges, taste tests and more. This event is free for kids 13-18.

Celebrate National Oreo Day at the Waseca Public Library on March 6

There will be a National Oreo Day celebration at the Waseca Public Library at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 6. There will be challenges, taste tests and more. This event is free for kids 13-18.

*A word from
The Word*

*Trust in the Lord
with all your heart,
and do not lean on
your own under-
standing. In all your
ways acknowledge
him, and he will
make straight your
paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

Sleigh and Cutter



Ken Borgmann (holding plaque) was honored and thanked for about 30 years of leadership with the Sleigh and Cutter committee. Borgmann announced during January that this would be his final year in the role. Pictured are, from left, Scott Roemhildt, Brad Milbrath, Tom Sexton, Robin Dulas, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Borgmann, and Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas. Photo by Amy Roemhildt

Sleigh and Cutter could ‘hardly have gone better’

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

After more than 30 years as the head of the 15-member Sleigh and Cutter committee, Ken Borgmann is well acquainted with all the things that can go wrong on the day of the Sleigh and Cutter parade.

This year, he says cheerfully, “It could hardly have gone better.”

The seventy-fifth Sleigh and Cutter parade followed its route through Waseca beginning at noon on Saturday, Feb. 22. Its 40 units included color bearers, an honor guard, and animal-drawn vehicles of many different kinds, as well as groups of riders varying in number from a few to about 10. Participants came from across southern Minnesota and from Iowa.

According to Borgmann, the number is one of the highest the event has seen in 10—and likely even 20—years; he credits the good weather—with temperatures in the 20s and plenty of sunshine—for the strong turnout, along with the loyalty of some participants who wanted to be sure and recognize the 75-year anniversary.

“I had a fair number of people say, there was ‘no way’ they were going to miss this one,” stated Borgmann, who explains that most participants

Sleigh continued on 4



Miss Waseca County Sleigh and Cutter May Naudidy, Miss Owatonna Teen Kaylee Smith, Miss Waseca County Sleigh and Cutter Teen Paige Johnson, Miss Owatonna Jasmin Kotek, Miss South Central's Teen Amaya Rath and Miss Great Lakes Maura Erickson were in the Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Parade on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann



Waseca Area Foundation Board members, including Penny Vought, who was revealed as Frosty, enjoyed serving lunch to the Sleigh & Cutter parade participants Saturday.

And Frosty is.. Penny Vought!

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Bit by bit across three weeks, the clues revealed that Penny Vought, the 2025 “Frosty,” was not a Waseca native, but has lived in the area for 40 years, that she is a friend and supporter of the arts, that she earned college credits at both Gustavus and Mankato State universities, and graduated college in 1983. Finally, that she enjoys writing rhymes and limericks, that she enjoys collecting unique items, shopping at local businesses, and that a “display” was created using one of her collections.

Of the \$1,500 set aside as prize money for the “Identify Frosty” contest, the largest single amount went to Ivan Anderson of Janesville, who received the \$300 grand prize when his name was drawn at random from among all correct submissions, and a bonus \$50 for being present at the Sleigh and Cutter dinner and dance the evening of Feb. 21 at the Starfire Event Center, where Frosty’s identity was officially revealed. As a stroke of surprisingly good luck, Anderson won another \$100 for having his name drawn at random in another element of the contest.

Prizes of \$150 were set aside for the first person from Janesville, Waseca, and New Richland to submit correct guesses, also with a bonus \$50 for being present on Feb. 21. Ivagene Kobylinski of Waseca received \$150; Sandy Anderson of Janesville received \$200—and also had the good fortune to win \$100 in another element of the contest. No correct guesses were submitted from New Richland.

According to event organizers, a near-capacity crowd gathered at Friday’s event. Live music by the Chris Brooks Band drew people of all ages to the dance floor.

Frosty continued on 4

County addresses legislation, jail, and court services

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Along with numerous items of business, Waseca County Commissioners and county administrator Michael Johnson spent some time during their Feb. 18 meeting addressing the question of “legislative priorities.” Commissioners had visits scheduled with state-level representatives during the week of Feb. 24 to 28, and had worked with Johnson in creating a docket of 11 items which either are under consideration during this year’s session and would cause difficulties for counties, or which aren’t being addressed even though they are already known to create difficulties.

On the list along with property tax

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

relief and a request that funding for road and bridge construction and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) be increased is the topic of how the process of licensing cannabis retail and production is being imple-

mented. The county’s observation is that a set of recent changes “does not give county governments comfort that we are partners in this process.”

Commissioners will also be asking state leaders to modernize the statewide Social Services Information System (SSIS), which, although it is used by hundreds of workers, is notoriously inefficient, persistently re-

quiring about eight minutes to come online at workstations. Johnson speculated the statewide cumulative value of all that wasted time in so many offices is roughly \$24,000 a day.

Commissioners expressed concern

County continued on 6



Don Rudeen of Kenyon Minnesota was in town for the 75th Waseca Sleigh and Cutter festival parade on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025. His horses were brother and sister, Luminator, 6, and Seraphina, 5. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

‘Toast of the town’

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The morning of Feb. 22, participants in the parade began arriving well before the noon start time. Across the fairgrounds, many different forms of preparation were underway—four-wheeled carriages were being hooked up, riders were adjusting their saddles. Among the thirty or so horse trailers and trucks parked and scattered around the fairgrounds was former Waseca area resident Don Rudeen, now of Kenyon. He was among those using vehicles; he has two Welsh Ponies, brother and

sister. The male horse, 6, is named Luminator; his sister, 5, is Seraphina. Already wearing their unit numbers for the parade, the horses were loosely tied to the trailer, but they were both very well behaved and patient. One horse was to be driven by Rudeen and his granddaughter Reese on their two wheeled carriages. The other was driven by Rudeen’s son Justin and Angela Rudeen.

Don Rudeen said his carriages were “firecrackers” back in the day, “These two-wheeled carriages were the toast of the town long ago for single men.” He pointed to the seat

wide enough for two and said, “Guys who were doing their courting would show up to a lady-in-waiting’s house with a single horse in the lead. They would go on their date and be home before dark.” No doubt with a watchful future father-in-law keeping excellent track of time at home. “These carriages were the fastest way to get around for guys back then. These were like the fanciest cars you could own and were a real status symbol.” He’s owned his two-wheeled car-

Horses continued on 5



Compostings

by Al Batt

Congratulations on your 12th hall of fame

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I had a rough morning. What happened? I got up.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I'd put some blueberries on my oatmeal because I wanted the blueberry of happiness to visit me for breakfast. I needed it to recover from a Minnesota goodbye in Iowa. That's where you say "goodbye," but you never leave. You spend a long time at the exit door. It's called "doorknob" therapy.

Out the door, I went for a long walk before climbing into my car. Life encourages us to walk as little as possible. We have drive-thru everything. Bank, food and pharmacy. Growing up, we had drive-ins—the root beer stand and the Passion Pit. Now we can shop without leaving the couch.

THE CLINIC CHRONICLES

I looked at my watch. There were no clocks on the wall because they don't want you to know how long you've waited. I miss having a watch that I needed to wind. Those watches from my past have all gone with the wind. I was in the clinic, filling out a form. One of the questions asked who my closest relative was. I couldn't answer it. I wasn't sure if they meant from the clinic or my house.

The guy seated next to me was procrastinating on his form-filling duties. He told me he had some concerns with his liver and had asked his doctor if he had anything for his liver. The physician recommended fried onions.

I'VE LEARNED

Time flies when you're procrastinating.

I've known a lot of men named "Lefty," but I don't know a single one named "Righty."

I was in the breakfast food aisle of a grocery store, checking cereal numbers, when a friend told me about a recent oil change to his car. He worried because there was no next-oil-change-due reminder sticker placed on the inside of his windshield. "Are they going out of business?" he wondered. "Don't they want my business?" "Didn't they change the oil?" That's how rumors start.

Stopping the production of pennies makes no cents.

At least 37.8% of people who use statistics make them up.

One for the road means a visit to the bathroom.

HeadBox analyzed noise levels across the country using 10 key factors, from packed streets and heavy traffic to buzzing bars and constant

flight activity. These factors highlighted daily noise exposure and gave a clear picture of the states with the highest sound levels. The noisiest state was New Jersey, followed by Florida. Alaska was the quietest, followed by Minnesota. Iowa was the 45th loudest.

I had a Shetland pony when I was a boy. Little horse on the prairie.

Dizie is a bad dizzy spell.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

If you placed a blue whale on a regulation-sized basketball court, you'd have to postpone the game.

Wolverines paint their claws red so they can hide in cherry trees. Have you ever seen a wolverine in a cherry tree? That's because its disguise works.

I have a cousin named Grandpa. It's a family name. He's from Iowa and says Minnesota is a lovely state, but it's full of Minnesotans.

How do lumberjacks work from home? They log in.

IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to Tink Larson of Waseca, who has played long enough to be nearly everyone's teammate. Tink overcame the painful setback of being my former teammate long enough to be named to the National High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. It's his 12th HOF induction. Wow!

NATURE NOTES

It wasn't "Love Train," a 1982 hit by the O'Jays. What I heard were blue jays, handsome birds with substantial vocabularies. The vocal birds like to hear themselves squawk. What I heard were pumphandle calls or queedling. "Queedle, queedle." The musical call has been likened to the sound of a squeaky clothesline, whistles or a complaining pumphandle. Jays learn the call of a hawk species that inhabits an area, and then mimic it when they near a feeding station. That often causes the birds at the feeders to scatter in panic, allowing the jays to have their pick of the food. An aggressive blue jay uses its loud calls ("jay," "jeeah," "queedle, queedle") to alert others to danger. It's unknown whether jays develop this ability to warn others that a hawk is close or as a manipulative device. Many blue jays might be named Jay or Jake. The purpose of pump handle calls is to communicate distress or alarm. Blue jays emit these calls when they sense danger and when they want to alert other members of their flock to a potential threat. The nature of the call catches the attention of other birds and prompts them to be alert.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Life is mostly froth and bubble, / Two things stand like stone, / Kindness in another's trouble, / Courage in your own."—Adam Lindsay Gordon.

An act of kindness or cruelty?

When my computer boots up, some ghost in the machine—I believe I'm referring to Microsoft—delivers a screen-sized photo which is usually striking both for its beauty and for some exotic quality. Sometimes it features land, sometimes water. On occasion I am greeted by man-made accomplishments, often the picture depicts only landscape or geography. Now and then there will be an animal or a scene from the night sky. Often, one might be tempted to believe the picture is fabricated, since it hardly seems a set of boulders could be stacked like that, or that any tree could grow so tall.

Sometimes one might start to wonder whether the pictures are an act of kindness or cruelty: having a frigid winter day outside my window and a serene tropical beach on my computer "window" could clearly make me want to exchange the one for the other—sorely tempting me to



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

take on the expense and complications of travel.

But as for me, I'm grateful for the "flights" of fancy the pictures inspire. Even if I had a bank account that would never run out, I still couldn't visit all the places the hundreds of photographers have gone to collect all those pictures. And even for the ones I might get to, the day might turn out to be overcast or awkwardly windy, keeping me from seeing the beauty recorded by the photographer.

As one who does her best to cap-

ture beautiful pictures, I know how long one might have to stay in a single spot to catch just the right angle or lighting—or how many mosquito bites or other discomforts may have to be endured. The trail might be winding and steep, the footing uncertain.

Yes, as one who has behaved quite impulsively in the pursuit of beautiful images, I believe I can confirm that a picture is, indeed, worth 1,000 words—some of which are downright vulgar.

What I appreciate about the slow-

motion travelog that unfolds on my computer day by day is the momentary, delighted intake of air it inspires, one photo at a time. Finances, political boundaries, physical obstacles will keep me from seeing nearly any of these wonders in person, but I am being given a chance to see them through my "window." The locations, accomplishments, histories and wonders which they portray can inspire awe, spark speculation, and engender curiosity at no expense to me.

That makes the occasional pang of bitter jealousy acceptable. No, though I wish I were, I am not in that appealing place. But I have gotten a glimpse of what it's like, and enriched my appreciation of the temporal plane. Besides, the picture is just plain pretty to look at.

Observations from a partyless 22-year-old

It's been a while since I've used my column to share some observations and thoughts I've had in my life recently—day to day things, bigger things, you'll get it all.

Some of my plants like to look like they're dying and make me sad, but I've convinced myself they only look so miserable because it's winter. Just like the rest of us, plants can't look great all the time, all year round.

When you hit 22, you might want to go out and party, but your friends will feel old and will only go out because it's your birthday. Is being this age the end of party years? Who knows.

People in the Cities still don't know how to drive.

Putting seasoning and flavoring in food actually makes it a lot more interesting. A recipe I recently tried included fresh ginger, green onions, and some other seasonings with chicken; my midwest taste buds found it surprisingly good.

Having warm weather actually makes a huge difference in the way we feel, think, and act. Seasonal de-



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

pression is real. The cure? Sun and weather that doesn't make you want to shrivel up into a ball and cry whenever you go outside.

Searching for new apartments is fun. Searching for new jobs is not as much fun, and is arguably much more difficult.

Some people are type A and are on time for everything, anxious about planning and details. Type B people are more likely to be late, and also more fluid in their decisions. It's funny to see them interact and hear them complain about each other.

McDonald's at 1 a.m. is always a great decision. Especially if it means I can have the new shamrock oreo McFlurry, which is incredibly deli-

cious even as a dipper for a chicken nugget. It's like fries and ice cream in a different font: I dare you to try it.

Hot showers can act as a makeshift hot tub if you're cold and don't have access to a hot tub. Also, hot showers are much better than cold showers—no one will ever convince me otherwise.

The "New York Times" Connections game needs to be easier.

Not saying this in a negative connotation at all (I promise), but older people tend to be super passionate about local journalism and having a print paper. I am also a passionate person about local and print journalism, I have just noticed that older

generations love it, and it's awesome. I'm here for it.

Do slow walkers realize they're annoying the fast walkers trying to get by them? I always wonder.

How do grownups get through their day without taking a nap if they've had a terrible night's sleep? Thank goodness I don't work a 9-to-5 job yet; I don't know what I'd do without the option of taking a nap. Also, when does someone become an official adult? I graduate in a couple months, but does that make me an actual adult now? I definitely don't feel like I'm close to being one.

Hockey will forever be a better sport than basketball when you live in Minnesota. At least when it comes to college or professional teams, because I'm losing faith and interest in going to watch basketball games.

My Determination: "Never underestimate the power of destiny. Because when you least expect it, the littlest thing can cause a ripple effect that changes your life." - Ted Mosby, How I Met Your Mother

Briefs

Magna-Tile Villages building at Waldorf Public Library Friday, March 7

There will be a Magna-Tile Villages sets at the Waldorf Public Library at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, March 7. The mayor needs a village up and running as soon as possible! Create design plans and speed build. Geared for ages 7-12.

The Wendt Sisters at Indian Island Winery Saturday, March 8

The musical group the Wendt Sisters will perform at the Indian Island Winery from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 8. The group plays a wide variety of music from the 50s to the 90s, country and gospel.

Bridal show at the Mill

Sunday, March 9

The sixth annual free bridal show will be at the Mill starting at 11 a.m. on Sunday, March 9. There will be vendors from all over southern Minnesota, swag bags will go to the first 25 brides; there will be door prizes, drawings and a grand prize. RSVP on Facebook at The Mill Bridal Show 2025.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration at the Mill Saturday, March 15

There will be a St. Patrick's Day Celebration at the Mill from 10 a.m. till 11 p.m. on Saturday, March 15. There will be an Irish mass at Sacred Hearth Church at 10:30 a.m. day of. The Parade of Clans head to the Mill at noon, followed by the Irish rally from 12:30-2 p.m. Mulligan Stew and corned beef and cabbage by Blake's Food Truck.

Johnny Frost and the Heatseekers at Indian Island Winery Saturday, March 15

Music group Johnny Frost and the Heatseekers will be performing at the Indian Island Winery from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 15. They will be performing seven decades of music.

Waldorf Fire Department St. Patrick's Day fundraiser, March 16

The Waldorf Fire Department will host a pancake breakfast fundraiser on St. Patrick's Day from 8 a.m. till noon on Sunday, Mar. 16 at the Waldorf Community Center.

Waseca County Farm and City Luncheon at the Mill Thursday, March 20

The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce will hold a Waseca County Farm and City Luncheon at the Mill from 11:45 a.m. till 1:30 p.m. on Thursday March 20. Must RSVP by Monday, March 10, cost is \$18 per person. Call 507-835-3206 or email info@wasecachamber.com.

Pizza and Puzzles at Farmamerica on Friday, March 21

There will be pizza and puzzles at Farmamerica from 5:45 p.m till 8:30 p.m. on Friday, March 21. Gather friends and family for a jigsaw puzzle contest. Each team of two to four people will have 120 minutes to complete. Cash prize to the winner.



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

PHONE: 507-837-6767

email: news@wasecacountypioneer.com
Address: Office at 111 Elm Avenue West
Mail: PO Box 578, Waseca MN 56093

DEADLINES: Pioneer: Noon Monday
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

ELI LUTGENS	Publisher
DEB BENTLY	News Editor
JIM LUTGENS	Sports Editor/Dad
JON LUCCA	Ad Design
BEN REVERMANN	Staff Writer
TERESA ROSACKER	Advertising Sales
JESSICA LUTGENS	Staff Writer
MELISSA DUNN	Staff Writer
AMELIA ROESSLER	Editorial Assistant

Contributing writers/photographers: Dave Zika, Al Batt

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$59 Per Year, Waseca County Residents
\$69 State of Minnesota • \$79 Outside Minnesota

Waseca County Pioneer (USPS permit #25304) is published weekly on Thursday, by Pioneer Publications Inc., 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca, MN, 56093. Entire contents copyright © 2025 PIONEER Publications, Inc., and respective authors. Opinions expressed in editorials or letters to the editor are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Waseca County Pioneer or PIONEER Publications, Inc. Letters may be edited for content or length. Periodicals Postage at New Richland, MN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to Waseca County Pioneer, P.O. Box 578, Waseca, MN, 56093.



WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

WASECA'S ONLY LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED NEWSPAPER!

\$59 IN WASECA COUNTY
\$69 ... IN STATE OF MINNESOTA
\$79 OUTSIDE STATE

NEWS FOR LOCALS
BY LOCALS

CALL, EMAIL,
OR STOP IN
OUR OFFICE!

111 WEST ELM AVE, WASECA, MN
(507) 837-6767
NEWS@WASECACOUNTYPIONEER.COM

SUBSCRIBE

WASECA
CITY COUNCIL

Loon Lake island damage due to bird droppings

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

A central topic of discussion at the Feb. 18 Waseca City Council's second meeting of the month was the damage done to trees on the island in Loon Lake by the acidic droppings of double-crested cormorants, a species of bird known to cause significant environmental damage. Present to discuss how the situation can be addressed was Waseca County Commissioner for District 3, Brad Milbrath.

"We're looking at trying to mitigate the problem," Milbrath said, explaining that the county is working with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) wildlife services due to the federally protected status of the birds to determine the best plan of action for their removal.

A letter from Heritage Preservation Commission chair Julie Anderson was read, which explained the priority of preserving the island on Loon Lake for environmental and ecological reasons as well as because of its historical significance.

An additional letter from Mikhail Rostislavovich, president of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, was read to the council requesting the city carry out efforts to remove the birds from the island. Milbrath noted that a strict timeline of between April and May was given by the USDA, assuring the council that further details of plans and notice to the public will be provided.

Present for the public comment portion of the evening's meeting was Joshua Langr to notify council members of plans to hold a May 17 nonprofit 8k run with the help of Firefighters for Healing at Clear Lake Park. So far, the Waseca County Sheriff's Office, Waseca Police Department, and Waseca Fire Department have expressed approval for the event. Langr said further details will be provided as the planning process continues.

Following a commendation to the city's finance department following a recent certificate of excellence awarded to the city, noted by city manager Carl Sonnenberg in his report, council member James Ebertowski described highlights of recent economic development authority (EDA) meetings, including one held jointly with the county.

"I think we're headed in the right direction," he said, explaining that collaboration with a recently-formed county EDA, along with potential future involvement with neighboring Janesville and New Richland boards, will help the overall goal of population and economic growth for the city and county as a whole.

In a park board update, council member Mark Christiansen invited the public to reach out regarding interest and/or future plans for Oak Park skate park, which is one of many projects the board discussed in a recent meeting.

Council Member Stacey Schroeder updated the council on recent happenings with the tourism board, which is currently working through a restructure as well as a membership with the Chamber of Commerce and plans to meet monthly moving forward.

Approved consent agenda items included appointments of Tom Glaser to the planning commission and Aaron Casterton to the EDA, along with finalized approval to seek bids for a reconstruction project on Second Street Northwest. It was noted that the Historical Society and Food Shelf boards have open seats for those interested in applying. The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Got news?
507-837-6767

FFA breakfast honors local farmers

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

There was a special appreciation breakfast put on by the Waseca Junior Senior High Schools FFA chapter the morning of Friday, Feb. 21 in room 601. The smell of cooking bacon crept its way down the halls of the high school. The room where the breakfast was held filled up so quickly additional tables had to be used to make way for more breakfast goers.

Brenda Harguth, Assistant FFA helper was assisting said, "This FFA event is free and is our way of thanking the farmers from this area for all they do for us. This was sponsored by the Waseca County Corn & Soybeans Growers Association." Hannah Eckblad, a Waseca Agri-science instructor and FFA Advisor was present, she said, "Last year we had 100 people come through our lines, this year we had 102." Room 601 is also known as the Agriculture Room which focuses on Ag. Education.

But there wasn't just breakfast, there were also raffle items being called as people dined. One of the prizes of the day was a gallon of popcorn seeds, left over from the last FFA popcorn fundraiser. Molly Volovsek, an FFA reporter who was also helping out said, "We have a jar full of soybeans. People can guess how many soybeans were in there for a prize. They can win FFA apparel, or



The Waseca County Corn and Soybean Growers donated \$100 toward the Waseca FFA Chapter breakfast. Pictured from left: Molly Volovsek, FFA Reporter; Mandi Root, FFA Treasurer; Addie Kelm, FFA Vice President; Adian Androli, FFA President; Craig Baxter, President Waseca County Corn and Soybean Growers and Scott Singlestad, Treasurer Waseca County Corn and Soybean Growers.

you can win a Visa gift card or a gift card to a local Waseca store." Adian Androli, a senior who is the 17-year-old FFA President and has been for the past year said about the breakfast, "This is our chance to say thank you for all your support. We conduct this service through donations from our farmers and we can't thank them enough." Androli said once he graduates, he is going to attend either MSU Mankato or Madison, Wisconsin. I am going to major in Zoology."

Addison Kelm, FFA Vice President also added, "We have to do things like this for the community, we should be doing even more because we've gotten so much from them and we just wanna give back." Addison's father was present, Mr. Kelm

said while enjoying his breakfast, "I'm here to support our local FFA members. My daughter is doing so great here. After breakfast I have to drop my son off at school and then go to work but I don't want to forget my nephew, Ryan Harguth who is also a member, I don't want to forget him." There are over 30 FFA Waseca members in 7-12 grades and nine of those students qualify for the state convention.

On the menu were pancakes, bacon, sausage, granola with yogurt, coffee and decaf coffee, orange juice and coffee. Look for this event next year around this time.

Waldorf Veterans Memorial Park expected in 2026

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Veterans Memorial Garden, the first portion of the Waldorf Veterans Memorial Park (WVMP) has been completed. Development for this project began in early June 2024, intended completion is set for August of 2026.

Actual cost to complete the garden reached nearly \$15,000, exceeding the original estimate by almost \$3,000. A \$5,000 grant from the Waseca Area Foundation along with private donations made it possible to complete the project last November. An estimated \$2,500 worth of labor was donated by volunteers.

The Veterans Memorial Garden is located at the front right entry area of the WVMP on Waldorf's Main Street. It occupies an oval area approximately 24 feet wide and 15 feet deep. Central to the garden are three flag poles: the center pole is 30 feet tall, the two on either side are 5 feet shorter. Flag poles were purchased from Harold Flags and Flagpoles out of Rochester, Lighting provided by Minnesota LED illuminates the flags at night. Each pole features a gold anodized aluminum ball ornament and beaded retainer rings. The flag foundations were installed by Craig Joecks of C.J. Masonry. Installing the flag poles were Charlie Barnes, Ron Fischer and Todd Levine. Charlie Meyer donated his time and his boom truck; he also trimmed a nearby tree to accommodate the poles.

The center flagpole features an American flag donated by Harold Flags and Flagpoles. On the other two are the POW flag and the traditional Minnesota State flag. Because they will be lit during hours of darkness, it is acceptable under the flag code to keep them on display 24 hours a day. Electrical work supplying 120 volts of power was donated by Roger Witts of Witts Electrical and Charlie Barnes. Ditch Creek Landscaping leveled the soil and placed the rocks. Locally sourced

black dirt was donated by Tom Phillips and Perry Mortensen.

Granite edging is provided around the garden perimeter. The landscaping of the garden is a base of landscape fabric covered with rock; galvanized containers for plants provide accents. Four circular ground-level planting areas are edged with galvanized steel. The 'Waldorf Petal Pushers' garden club has offered to help manage planting, watering and weeding of these gardens during summer months with funding from the WVMP. Other rocks or boulders may be added from local farm piles in the future as needed.

The dedication boulder, a gift from Ditch Creek Landscaping, is a large, distinguished stone with a flat-topped surface that will display an 18-inch by 24-inch aluminum plaque featuring a statement to veterans, visible to patrons to appreciate their veterans' sacrifice. The plaque is a gift from Thomas L. Madden, American Legion Post #587.

Eight more projects are planned for the WVMP: the park gazebo (To be built spring 2025); park benches; park lighting; a brick 'Walk of Honor' path; an honor statue for first responders; park landscaping; park signage; and additional small projects such as bike rack or other feature.

"Our park is very important to us here in Waldorf," stated Barnes. "With funding provided by wonderful donors and grantors, we hope to complete the Waldorf Veterans Memorial Park by August of 2026 for Waldorf Days." Barnes states additional donations are absolutely needed to complete all intended components of the park. 'Those Who Helped' are to be recognized for their participation, effort, and valuable donations. "Simply put, we cannot do this without you," said Barnes of donors and volunteers. He notes that all donations are tax-exempt, and can be submitted to Donations to WVMP at P.O. Box 55, Waldorf, MN 56091.



The Waldorf Veterans Memorial Park has completed the first stage of completion. The park should be finished in August of 2026.



JB

JAMES BROS.
CONSTRUCTION

507.267.4789
jamesbrosconstruction.com

Local Decisions for Farmers,
Businesses and You!

FMB

FM BANK
Waseca

220 Elm Ave. East, Waseca, MN • 507-571-3130 • MYBANKFM.COM

Member
FDIC



Insurance agent Jenny Johnson instructed a Lunch and Learn event in the basement of Minnwest Bank on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Minnwest Bank’s "Lunch and Learn" covers insurance fundamentals

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Waseca’s Minnwest Bank hosted a “Lunch and Learn” event at its facility at 200 Second Ave. NE on Feb. 20. Guests were invited to a lunch catered by Oscar’s American foods, and to learn the “ABCs of Insurance,” namely affordability, best coverage needed and connect with an agent. Participation was free, but pre-registration was required.

Insurance agent Jenny Johnson instructed the class for the day. On the tables were note pads, pens and a notebook as a small gift for attending. As guests settled into their seats while enjoying lunch, Johnson began her class. “Minnwest Agency has two support staff, one in Waseca and one in Dawson, Minn. We have ten agents, one each in Lake Wilson, Tracy, Slayton, Ortonville, Montevideo, Dawson, Waseca, Farmington, New Prague and Waldorf.” She also reported there are 37 Minnwest Banks in Minnesota.

Said Johnson, “Right now insurance is crazy, we’re all paying the price for California, Florida, and other areas that have been hit with claims. In the Midwest there have been a lot of storms and those are hitting us as well.”

When it comes to auto insurance, Johnson mentioned older drivers can complete a “55 Alive” program; completing the four-hour class can earn a 10- percent discount. She said the course is offered online, but Wasecans have a chance to take it in person. Another money-saving practice is “bundling” home and auto insurance. Doing that, she said, can help bring prices down as well.

“Some insurance companies are upping their deductibles, for example, for a long time the typical

deductible for a home was \$1,000; now \$2,500 is becoming more common. A few companies are even moving to percentages, said Johnson, “one company recently told us they are starting deductibles at \$10,000 for property over \$800,000 in value. For example, if they have a building that is worth \$800,000, they will have a \$10,000 deductible that is across everything, like a tool shed that isn’t even worth that much. But there are ways around it, it just gets tricky: Agents are here to help find the best coverage at an affordable price.” For example, a person who purchases a \$10,000 life insurance policy was given a large discount on their home and auto because they had life insurance.”

Some points Johnson made were: “You can most generally get flood insurance no matter where you live. Even if there are no floods in your area. But depending on where you live, the price will be different, sometimes very high. Having water and sewer back up is a different coverage and everyone should remember, if you have a toilet, water can come back up it. Bundling is using the same company, not necessarily the same policy. ATVs, four wheelers, golf carts, campers, motorcycles, we encourage people to put them on separate policies, so it doesn’t affect your home and auto if there’s an accident.

“If you have your camper on your auto policy, I’ve never seen a company that will give vacation liability or personal property, so the camper is covered by itself.” Anyone who wishes to contact agent Jennie Johnson, set up an appointment and stop by the Minnwest Insurance Office, or call her at 507-837-4836.

A full house for breakfast hosted by CERT at the VFW

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Hosts of the Feb. 23 breakfast fundraiser for the Waseca County Emergency Response Team (CERT) were grateful for the day’s surprisingly warm 42-degree temperature; the end of the frigid cold of the previous six or seven days apparently encouraged people to be out and about town, leading to a fairly full house at the Waseca Sweet Sommers VFW.

According to CERT volunteers who were working at the breakfast, the response team works behind the scenes on numerous aspects of public safety and emergency preparedness. While volunteers offer their skills at many levels, including acting as “spotters” during severe weather alerts, some choose to take part in extensive training to become “certified.” Classes are taught by trained emergency personnel, including firefighters, law enforcement officers, paramedics and emergency management professionals.

Like all volunteers for the breakfast, Cheri Brummund, was wearing a blaze yellow vest and CERT trucker hats. Brummund has been fully trained and certified since 2018, she also said, “When there is an emergency, a tornado or when there was that missing child, we showed up at 7 a.m. and didn’t leave until well after midnight.”



CERT members from left: Sean Hillsman, Lydia Rux, John Coulombe and Shawn Pomey were volunteering at the CERT VFW's all-you-can-eat breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 23. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Nine worked at the breakfast, but according to information shared, the organization has 65 volunteers ready to respond when disaster strikes. Denise Wright is the Emergency Management Director and Administrator; Michael Johnson serves as the deputy director.

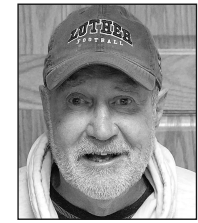
The breakfast included pancakes, French toast, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy, coffee, orange juice or milk. Brummund said, “We want to thank everyone for turning out and supporting us, that’s from all the CERT members.”

Big egos and high pay interfere with fun of basketball

I recently had a nice visit with Swami Dale Kugath and Don White, the voice of the Blue Jays. I had to remind him that the Swami is never 100 percent correct—after all, he picked Kansas City to win the Super Bowl. We both agree, professional sports are getting harder and harder to watch: it’s all about the money.

There was a time when the focus was on the team, the players, and their accomplishments. We remember names like Wilt Chamberlain, Larry Bird, Kevin McHale, Magic Johnson, Kareem Abdul-Jabar, Michael Jordan and so many other great NBA players. We remember the players, how they stayed together, were well coached, and won championships. To these players it wasn’t about the millions of dollars. An example: The Boston Celtics won seven championships in a row. We will never forget players like Bird, McHale, Bill Russell, Sam Jones and Robert Parish who stayed together and made Boston a special NBA team.

Kugie and I agreed; we have had a hard time watching any NBA games these days. The players seem to be most focused on money and their own egos, demanding trades to wherever. That kind of mentality seems to have taken over the NBA. Kugie said he’s tired of watching the superstars go one on one, with no team play and little coaching. I totally agree and now watch very little Timber Wolves Basketball. A couple of Wolf games I watched this season were close at the end. The T-Wolves had the ball for the last shot of the game. In both games, superstar Anthony Edwards had the ball, was



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika

double teamed, and threw up prayers at the buzzer.

Ant’s shots didn’t go in. Where was the coaching? How about the other four teammates? Any basketball fan knows another player is open when a player is double or triple teamed. I know if Kugie has a choice between watching the T-Wolves, or an old Gun Smoke episode, he’ll be watching Matt Dillion.

On the women’s side, I am excited to watch the Lynx professional basketball games. They are a breath of fresh air, are well coached and play together as a team. Oh yes, they also win championships.

Kugie and I both remember our Minnesota Twins baseball heroes: Bob Allison, Earl Battey, Camillio Pascual, later on Carew and Herbeck. Harmon Killebrew, a gentle, quiet, all-time great Twin led the league in homeruns six times, was an MVP, elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame; had a peak salary in 1972 of \$120,000. We both shared how much we enjoyed watching our Twins win two world series in 1987 and 1991 and the special play of Kirby Puckett.

Baseball is still America’s game and the game of summer, many seniors in health care will have their radios tuned to Minnesota Twins

broadcasts.

We will listen to baseball games that have a different twist from the past. Baseball also has become a game of money. The high-profile teams—Yankees, Dodgers, and others—continue to sign players for millions upon millions of dollars. Example: This offseason Jaun Soto signed a baseball contract to play for the New York Mets.

The contact is a 15-year, \$755 million dollar deal. That equates to \$89,000 dollars per at-bat and about \$318,000 dollars a game.

For me and my team of experts, along with Kugie, this inspires some questions: will Soto stay healthy? Will Soto go out and play hard every game, being he’s now a very rich man, set for life, at his relatively young age? Do his teammates believe they should be receiving comparable amounts? How can any team, any management, pay any one player that much money? Mind Boggling!

Spring training has begun for us “We’re Gonna Win” Twins fans. With the start of a new season, we are usually filled with hope from the Twins’ front office telling us that their highest paid players—Byron Buxton and Carlos Corea—are healthier than ever before. Pablo Lopez, Bailey Ober, and Joe Ryan are

healthy and ready to pitch into the seventh inning of a ballgame with a quality start. Since no pitcher ever seems to pitch that late in the game anymore, the Twins bullpen is loaded with quality relievers. With the new pitch clock in place, Twins games will be faster and more exciting than ever.

The Twins ended last season losing many games after a successful first half of the season: they were officially out of the playoffs on Sept. 2. Kugie and Zeke do see some red flags going into season 25. Byron Buxton has never, ever been healthy for any major time during a season. The Twins big offseason signing was Harrison Boder for \$6.25 million. He figures to be Buxton’s lead back-up option. Carlos Corea, along with Buxton, missed over half the season with “owies.” He had plantar fasciitis, an inflammation in tissue on the bottom of a foot. Don’t bet on the Twins superstars staying healthy.

One nice thing about baseball is that occasionally a low profile team with a low payroll makes the playoffs, maybe the world series: there is hope for our Twins.

It’s also fun to watch players who were developing their Twin careers last season. Royce Lewis hit four grand slams in 20 days, unbelievable, then went into a season-ending slump. Matt Wallner, a homegrown outfielder, hits with tremendous power. Brooks Lee, an infielder, has the potential to be a good hitter.

The Hamm’s Beer Bear will soon be coming out of hibernation. One of the first things he’ll do is raise his mug to toast the Twins and the new baseball season.

Rick's Appliance
ricksappliancewaseca.com

AMANA
Speed Queen

Sales & Service
507-461-9615

MAYTAG
Whirlpool

Hours
M-F.....7:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Sat.....7:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Sunday.....Closed

Visit our new Showroom!

405 West Elm Ave, Waseca MN

Waseca Music
C O M P A N Y

YOUR LOCAL MUSIC STORE
Band Instruments • Repairs
Guitars • CD, DVD, & Vinyl

507-835-2980

111 South State Street

PH & B

www.phblawoffice.com

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, PA
A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION / ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Waseca Office
215 Elm Ave E
Waseca, MN
507-835-5240
888-835-5244

Janesville Office
216 N Main St
Janesville, MN
507-234-5106
888-980-1210

Owatonna Office
150 W Park Sq
Owatonna, MN
507-451-9000
866-451-9010

Faribault Office
415 2nd Ave NW
Faribault, MN
507-332-7425

Your Trusted Local Law Offices for Over 50 Years

PHEASANT CAFE
• SINCE 1942 •
Great Home Cooking • Catering
Full Breakfast Menu • Daily Lunch Specials
104 State Street, Waseca MN • 835-1259

BATTENFELD LAWN CARE
Lawn Maintenance & Residential Snow Removal
Zach Battenfeld
507-521-0226
zachbattenfeld@gmail.com

■ Sleigh
from Page 1

register their intent to be in the parade in advance, but may make a decision not to come based on weather or safety conditions.

Borgmann mentions that a popular aspect of the Waseca parade is a hot, catered meal served to all participants and volunteers afterward. He points out that “horse people” don’t

often have a chance to gather from across a large area and socialize, so the camaraderie and companionship are prized. Well over 200 guests were served at this year’s lunch. “We didn’t quite run out of food,” Borgmann observes. “But one of our volunteers who lives nearby went to her house to get some additional paper plates and some plastic utensils.” Thanks to some anonymous donations, parade participants each received a \$25 thank you gift from the Sleigh and Cutter Association. Another source of fun made possible

by the extra funds was acknowledging some stand-out participants. A \$100 prize for the “most unique” entry went to Eugene Jacobson of Kiester, who brought a self-made coach meant to resemble something from the 1800s or earlier, which Borgmann referred to as a house to get some additional paper plates and some plastic utensils.” Thanks to some anonymous donations, parade participants each received a \$25 thank you gift from the Sleigh and Cutter Association. Another source of fun made possible

attractive and durable. For the parade, Jacobson invited a number of the Sleigh and Cutter royalty representatives to ride in style. Also recognized during the lunch was Rodney Eggink, who had brought his bright red carriage and two horses from Long Prairie, Minn., a distance of about 200 miles. “He was a first-timer,” Borgmann observed. “He had heard about our event and said he just decided he wanted to be part of it.”

■ Frosty
from Page 1

In addition to the “speed” categories, the names of all persons who

submitted a correct guess were placed in two random drawings. To be eligible to win a \$100 prize, those whose names were drawn had to be present at the evening event. Only a total of five names were drawn: receiving the \$100 prizes were Betsy Koble, Leo Koble, Ivan Anderson

and Sandy Anderson. In the second random drawing, individuals did not need to be present to win. Receiving \$50 in this category were Sherry Root, Emily Vought, Chris Cords, Roger Koblinski and Arlo Koble. According to organizers, 2025

GUARDIAN ENERGY
AMERICAN MADE, FARMER OWNED
www.guardiannrg.com

DENNIS STEFFEL OMTVEDT FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICE
109 3RD STREET NE, WASECA, MN 56093
WASECA • JANESVILLE • WATERVILLE



NRHEG district looking to add on-line component

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

During their regular monthly meeting the evening of Feb. 18, NRHEG school board members received preliminary information regarding district superintendent Michael Meihak’s intent to pursue establishing a district-managed set of online courses.

“Open enrollment” is a statewide practice which allows the families of students to register their children at schools other than in the district where they reside. For example, at this time, 61 of NRHEG’s elementary students do not live within district boundaries; correspondingly, 53 elementary-age learners who do live in the district are attending school elsewhere.

“We’re doing something right,” stated elementary principal Craig Kopetzke. “We have more students coming in than we have going out.”

During the school board meeting, it was reported there is a statewide trend toward online schooling. A significant portion of the NRHEG secondary-level learners who have enrolled outside of the district apparently did so for the sake of following a “virtual” curriculum.

Principals Kopetzki and Grant Berg explained the first step of Meihak’s intended plan is to gather information—surveys will be sent to area families, and especially to those whose children are now online learners.

Because the amount of state funding a school district receives is based on its “annual daily membership”—in essence, the number of students who attend—every student who enrolls elsewhere represents a decrease in funding, somewhere around \$6,000 a year. Administrators estimate that creating programming which would convince students to remain with the district could preserve well over \$100,000 in income a year.

Meihak could not be present at the Feb. 18 meeting, but information he provided promised ongoing updates as the possibility continues to be explored.

Elementary principal Kopetzki reported that the annual “Green Eggs and Ham” breakfast, with an anticipated attendance of 600 or more, is scheduled for March 7. He also shared that, after most of the elementary student body created handmade valentine cards, a small group of fifth-graders was sent to the Whispering Oaks senior housing facility to deliver the cards in person. He further shared that participation in recent parent-teacher sessions was “100 percent.”

Secondary principal Berg reported that, during the quarter which ended in mid-January, 68 percent of students at his site achieved inclusion on the A or B honor roll. He mentioned that winter parent-teacher conferences are approaching, and that a number of DECA members will be competing at state competition in the early part of March.

Community Education director Macy Whiteside shared that the preschool will be holding an open house in mid-March. She also shared that the “School Age Care” and other programs are implementing new software which makes it easier to record whether and when students are taking part in certain sessions; the same software, she said, increases opportunities for parents to provide or review information regarding their children.

During a comment period near the end of the meeting, school board member Terri Engel stated she is “very impressed” with the organization of “I Love to Read Month” activities at the elementary site, and with the opportunities provided to students in the “Smart” room—a designated space which allows students to incorporate

NRHEG continued on 6



From left; Rebecca Maas, Kim Maas, Joy Gottshalk, Charlie Priebe, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Rep, Tom Sexton, Dwight Tostenson, Doug Olson, Dave Melchert, Daryn Spies.

Waseca County Republicans convene at SROC

By ANN STALOCH
Contributing writer

The Waseca County Republican Party held its annual convention on Saturday February 15th at the Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC), bringing together local members to deliberate on key policy issues, strategize for upcoming elections, and elect new Committee Members.

A new executive committee was elected without contest. The slate of officers includes Chairman Mikhail Rostislavovich, Vice Chairman Dr. Jay Bulfer, Treasurer Charlie Priebe, and Secretary Rebecca Maas. “I am honored to serve as Chair of the Waseca County Republican Party,” said Mikhail Rostislavovich. “Together, we will revitalize and unify our local party, adopting collaboration and advancing our shared conservative values.”

The selection of At-Large members, however, prompted further deliberation. Initially, five candidates were proposed: Kim Maas, Dave Melchert, Doug Olson, Joy Gottshalk, and Dwight Tostenson. Additional nominations from the floor introduced James Folie, Daryn Spies, and Bryon Larson into the race. With 22 seated delegates casting votes for five positions, the initial count revealed 23 ballots—exceeding the number of eligible voters. To uphold the integrity of the election, a revote

was conducted after ensuring only delegates were present. The subsequent tally confirmed the at-large positions were filled by Dwight Tostenson, Dave Melchert, Doug Olson, Joy Gottshalk, and Daryn Spies. This newly elected team, alongside the executive officers, will constitute the part of the Waseca County Republican Board. At the April meeting, up to five more Board At-Large Members may be elected.

Chairman Rostislavovich eyes a new dawn for Waseca County Republicans, “The Republican Party should be a place where ideas are debated with respect, where we stand strong against our opponents but do not engage in personal attacks—either within our party or against those outside it. Under my leadership, division will not be tolerated.” Rostislavovich went on to say, “We need to engage more voters, especially younger generations, small business owners, farmers, and families who share our values but may not yet be involved in our party.”

A significant portion of the convention was spent listening to elected officials, US Representative Brad Finstad, State Senator John Jasinski, State Representative Tom Sexton, and Representative Keith Allen. The conversations focused on energy policy and infrastructure. Discussions highlighted the impact of the Keystone XL pipeline cancellation on



From left: Rep Keith Allen, Sen John Jasinski, US Rep Brad Finstad, and Rep Tom Sexton.

local energy projects and emphasized the necessity for streamlined permitting processes for new transmission lines. One notable proposal involved constructing a transmission line to support a prospective data center in Waseca, aiming to boost local economic development.

Infrastructure needs, particularly concerning water and wastewater systems, were also a priority. Delegates underscored the urgency of securing bonding to fund essential upgrades, including a new water tower and wastewater treatment facilities, to meet the community’s growing demands. Area Legislators pledged their support for Waseca County’s needs. Senator Jasinski said, “I will not vote for the bonding bill if the Waseca water tower is not included.” Representative Sexton stated “In order to make life better for those in Waseca County, we need the bonding help. I am fortunate to sit on the Bonding Committee. That is where I can make a bold impact for all of us.”

State government oversight and fiscal responsibility were recurrent

themes. Rep. Sexton addressed concerns about government spending, fraud prevention, and the importance of transparency. He encouraged all constituents to attend his regular Friday listening sessions in three different communities; the first Friday of the month is at the Owatonna Chamber, the second Friday at the Waseca Chamber, and the fourth Friday in Medford. This is a time to express concerns directly to the Freshman Representative.

The convention also turned its attention to upcoming elections, emphasizing the need for volunteer mobilization to maintain the party’s legislative majority. Strategies included door-knocking campaigns and active participation in special elections to ensure the advancement of the party’s legislative agenda.

The convention concluded with a call to action, urging members to engage proactively. Delegates were encouraged to participate in upcoming events and to support efforts aimed at reducing government waste and balancing the budget through legislative measures.

Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District tree open house

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The county Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) held an open house at its office on Wednesday, Feb. 19 for people interested in more information about the agency’s tree distribution program. The SWCD had previously distributed information and an order form for purchasing “bare root” trees to rural property owners around the county. According to Joe Edel, the SWCD technician who coordinates the program, property owners pay much less per tree when they take part in the bulk purchase rather than contacting nurseries themselves.

Many people apparently agree, since the office had already received 85 orders and anticipated seeing the number double by the purchase deadline on Feb. 26. In 2023, 150 orders were placed; well over 9,000 trees and shrubs were purchased along with 16 wildflower flats. In 2024 SWCD sold more than 8,000 trees and shrubs and 11 wildflower flats.

The SWCD program warns that, due to that popularity, all interested persons should place their orders as quickly as possible. The agency has arranged for contracted numbers of trees from various nurseries; if even higher numbers are needed, suppliers

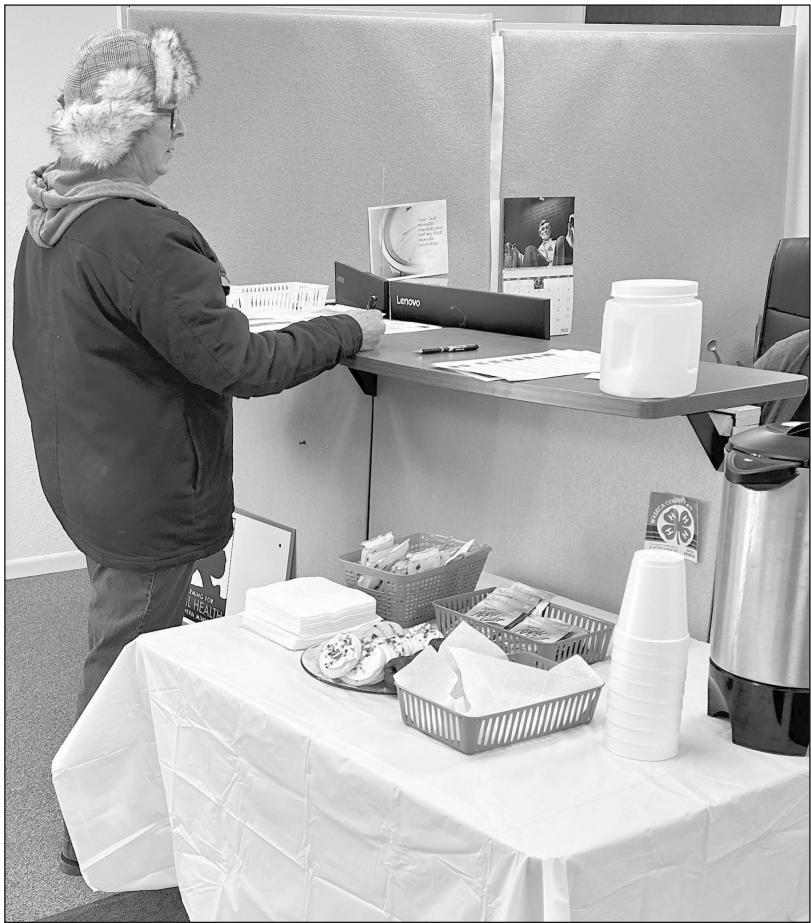
must be contacted to see whether additional trees are available. Administrative assistant Cheri Brummund said, “Anyone can order, from the cities, from Wells, Good Thunder, Sleepy Eye but we mostly get orders from Waseca County.”

According to Edel, “Nearly everyone purchases the bulk trees with the intent of beginning or maintaining a windbreak. If they order through us, it comes at a fraction of the cost of a nursery.” Available plants offer considerable flexibility, with mature heights beginning as low as 5 feet and going as high as 75. Plants are selected with versatility in mind—some are suitable for most conditions, others prefer specifically moist or dry soil. Some flower and produce berries, others are evergreens.

Also offered are some elm and maple trees—the most expensive plants available through the program, they are priced at \$160 and \$150 for bundles of five—and are also up to 6 feet tall.

For those not needing trees, an alternative is a mix of native wildflowers. For \$55, property owners can acquire 48 green plants in 12 species.

Of the tree acquisition program, which has been operating since at least 2007, Edel says, “Trees play an



Landowner JoAnn Schlaak placed an order for green plants for her property during the Waseca SWCD tree open house on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

important role in soil and water conservation. From controlling erosion along stream banks or even catching blowing winter snow, trees are beneficial. We want to offer affordable trees to land owners so they can meet their needs on their farmsteads or homes; by doing so, we all benefit because our natural resources are

protected.”

There was also a drawing for two free trees, the winners were Bruce Stauffer and Kevin Burns. Orders can be mailed in using the distribution form, or placed in person at the

SWCD continued on 6

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

New Richland brings in streets specialist

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

Much of the discussion during the New Richland City Council’s most recent meeting on Monday, Feb. 10 revolved around the 2025 street project - specifically, the topic of assessments that the project will require. Present to explain further details and help the council decide whether to certify assessments prior to or following construction for the project was Shannon Sweeney from David Drown and Associates.

“We’re leaning towards [certifying assessments] prior to construction,” explained City Administrator Tony Martens. Sweeney said that the benefit to certifying the assessments prior to construction would allow the council to gauge potential appeals to the assessments that would impact the financial plan for the project, which was budgeted for last year.

Before the final assessments are adopted, two public hearings during which time the public will have the opportunity to express concerns and ask questions are required. The council approved Resolution 25-06 Modifying the City of New Richland’s Assessment Policy for the 2025 Street Improvement Project, which reduces the percentage from 30% to 20% for street, water, and sanitary sewer improvements. The council also approved an open house at city hall on Feb. 27 from 5-7 p.m. to provide information and answer questions on the 2025 street improvement project.

The ambulance report, presented by Ambulance Director Sarah Sundve, included a purchase request for reimbursement for refreshers at costs of \$168 and \$325, which the council approved. It was also noted that the ambulance is currently seeking EMTs to cover daytime hours, and anyone 18 years of age or older is encouraged to apply. The report was approved.

In the fire department report, which stated that the NRPD responded to one fire call in January, a \$224,600 bid for a new truck was approved by the council. The report was approved.

The police report was presented by Police Chief Tanyce Bruegger, who stated that Officer Kade Madden submitted his resignation from the department effective Jan. 31. A purchase request for \$1,000 for uniforms was approved along with the report.

Bob Johannsen presented the care center report, which included a warning to potential visitors that at the time of the meeting, Covid and Influenza A were present in the building.

“If you’re going to visit the nursing home, use good judgement,” Johannsen said.

The center is still looking for CNAs, both full and part-time for evenings and every other weekend, an RN and LPN for evenings and every other weekend, along with a laundry worker and housekeeper.

Plans for the center’s 50th anniversary celebration are still in the works, and it was noted that efforts to encourage residents to get out of their rooms for meals and to participate in activities continue to show positive results. The report was approved.

The PeopleService report, which was submitted in writing, was approved before Eric Hendrickson presented the Maintenance & Utility report. In January, 11 blue cards were issued resulting in zero shutoffs due to nonpayment. Purchase requests for a cabinet at a cost of \$1,160.88, a new computer at a cost of \$675, and a new window for the crow’s nest at Legion Field at a cost of \$750 were approved.

Council continued on 6

Horses from Page 1

riages since he’s been doing parades, “I started that in 1995, I bought one from a friend, he was moving and couldn’t take it with him so I offered. The other one was built by the Jerald Sulky Company based out of Iowa. Rudeen remarked on the weather,

“I’m glad we’re doing this today and not last Monday when it was twenty below.” He also said numerous times how proud he was the Sleigh and Cutter parade is still going on: “This is the only one left in Minnesota, there’s a few in Wisconsin I go to, but just this one here. From what I’ve seen it’s the management, this one in Waseca’s just been run well.”

Fairgrounds building number 7 served as the warming house and center of operations for the parade. An array of warm drinks and sweet

breads was offered, courtesy of the local Kwik Trip—which also donated around 100 hot dogs for lunch. The Pheasant Café catered a roast beef lunch, paid for by Sleigh and Cutter for the hungry horse owners to enjoy after the parade. Local royalty handed out supplies and snacks inside before they took their part in the parade, Miss Waseca Sleigh and Cutter May Naudidy, Miss Owatonna Teen Kaylee Smith, Miss Waseca County Sleigh and Cutter Teen Paige Johnson, Miss Owatonna

Jasmin Kotek, Miss South Central’s Teen Amaya Rath and Miss Great Lakes Maura Erickson.

Viewers lined nearly every block of the route, encouraged by temperatures in the 20s and ample sunshine. The parade was also broadcast live on KOWZ 1170AM. The annual string of Sleigh and Cutter events will finish with the Children’s Dreamcatcher fundraiser, set to begin at noon on Sunday, March 2, at the Starfire Event Center.



The Pastor's Column

Magnanimity

**By Rev. Glenn K. Frerichs
Sacred Heart and All Saints**

Do you consider yourself to be a magnanimous person? I once found myself at a loss for what to say when asked this question several years ago. Magnanimity! What is it? The word is often used to describe a person who is generous and kind. Historically, this term was also used to describe someone of a great mind or heart; someone willing to go through trials in order to rise above themselves to achieve or accomplish a noble purpose. The magnanimous person was seen as one unsatisfied with mediocrity, the person who always strove to aim high.

Local newspapers often inspire me because they bring out the best in people while offering what is happening within their local community. The kindness and generosity of people within each local community often show that the virtue of magnanimity, or greatness of soul, is still very present in our world today. Last week's paper dedicated a full page to the many donations and years of service that people in our local community continue to provide for the care and support of those around us.

Magnanimity is a virtue that we begin developing early in life. Again, inspired by the happenings printed in our newspaper, last week's edition shared two full pages of headlines highlighting the success of local athletes: the Bluejays Basketball Team remains unbeaten. The Bluejays Gymnastics team finishes fourth with a season-best, and much more. These articles are brief. Yet, as readers, we rarely know how much time, energy, and discipline go into each of these achievements behind the scenes. The physical and competitive dimensions of sports need not end with the game: sports can inspire one to attain lofty goals in academics, business, relationships,

faith, and all walks of life.

In his First Letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul says that athletes train and discipline themselves in every way to win a crown. They spend time and energy training to better themselves to rise above their competitors; in doing so, they practice the virtue of magnanimity. In the same way, Christians strive to be magnanimous by upholding high ideals as they work to improve themselves, strengthen culture, and spiritually nourish the wider community.

One person who stands out to me as a magnanimous person is a co-worker that I knew many years ago while working in Plano, TX. I had just graduated from college and was beginning to establish myself in the industry. She frequently started conversations with me about God, asked about my relationship with him, and if I was praying. Her gentle persistence and the bold sharing of her faith had a tremendous impact on my opening up to God's grace and life in various ways. Initially, I was resistant to these conversations, but her kind and persistent approach eventually led to a profound conversion of heart. I've often recalled how she could have easily decided that I was too much effort, that I was beyond reach, or that she was wasting her time. As it turns out, her persistence and God's grace were able to do more than she thought possible.

Do you consider yourself to be a magnanimous person? All of us share different backgrounds, experiences, and talents; Noah was thinking big when he built the ark, Solomon thought big when constructing the Temple, and the youthful David would not be outdone in magnanimity when facing off with Goliath. How may God be calling you, your family, our community to reach beyond our own expectations?

■ NRHEG

from Page 5

physical movement with various learning experiences.

Board member Kelly Delacruz described having attended the recent public performance of the secondary site's contest one-act

■ Council

from Page 5

Hendrickson noted that a recent meeting at the school regarding the 2025 street improvement project, which involved the transportation director, superintendent, buildings and grounds director, and engineers of the project, among others, went well. The addition of three crosswalks, along with no parking and pickup/drop-off-only zones during school hours were among the topics dis-

■ SWCD

from Page 5

SWCD office at 300 North State Street, or registered at the SWCD website online: www.wasecaswcd.org. Payment is expected when the order is placed.

important role in soil and water conservation. From controlling erosion along stream banks or even catching blowing winter snow, trees are beneficial. We

play. She mentioned not only being impressed with the on-stage production, but also with the "small-town helpfulness" of audience members who helped fold up their chairs and put them on storage racks.

Board chair congratulated secondary office administrative assistant Sue Kulseth, who recently submitted her intent to retire at the end of the school year.

cussed, and another meeting to discuss details of the project is planned for the near future. The report was approved.

In unfinished business, the council approved changing the current three-year garbage/recycling contract with Thompson Sanitation to a five-year contract. In new business, an upgraded server rack for the lock and video system at city hall was approved at a cost of up to \$800. Resolution 25-05 cancelling the second regular city council meeting of each month was approved along with the administrator's report, and the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

want to offer affordable trees to land owners so they can meet their needs on their farmsteads or homes; by doing so, we all benefit because our natural resources are protected."

There was also a drawing for two free trees, the winners were Bruce Stauffer and Kevin Burns. Orders can be mailed in using the distribution form, or placed in person at the SWCD office at 300 North State Street, or registered at the SWCD website online: www.wasecaswcd.org. Payment is expected when the order is placed.

Waseca Chamber announces board of directors

Waseca, MN-The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce its 2025 Board of Directors. The Board brings a wealth of experience and strategic insight to the Chamber as it continues its work to be an integral part in developing the Waseca area's future.

"We are thrilled to welcome all of our 2025 Board Members to our board," said Robin Dulas, Executive Director of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce. "They bring a unique perspective and deep expertise that will be instrumental in advancing our strategic initiatives and driving long-term success."

The 2025 Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors are: Past President, Abby Clemons-Suburban Furniture, President Mikhail Rostislavovich-Waseca Arts Center, President Elect, Jodie Thompson-Edina Realty, Vice President Dr. Jay Bulfer-Growing Roots Chiropractic, Treasurer Heath Miller-Minnwest Bank, Secretary Katie Gonzales-State Farm Insurance, Director Jamie



Back row from left: Aaron Omtvedt, Jodie Thompson, Jay Bulfer and Jamie Beckstrand. Front row. Abby Clemons, Katie Gonzales, and Jess Klinger.

Beckstrand-United Prairie Bank, Director Jessica Klinger-Minnwest Bank Director Aaron Omtvedt-Dennis, Steffel, Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service.

For more information about the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and its leadership team, please visit www.wasecachamber.com.

■ County

from Page 1

regarding proposed changes in how child well-being cases must be handled. County attorney Rachel Cornelius estimated a currently discussed change in the law would have staggering financial repercussions, including "seven-digit" cost increases for small counties. Also a source of concern is a proposed requirement that all counties hire a staff surveyor and arrange to have all unmarked section and half-section markers "monumented" within the next few years. Mentioned as roadblocks for these proposals was the availability of surveyors and the cost of the work—Johnson stated the cost of re-monumenting only Waseca County will reach about \$2 million.

"Clearly we want to get that work done," Johnson stated, "but the timeline and expectations under the proposal are unrealistic."

In other matters during their work session and business meeting, commissioners heard from county sheriff

Jay Dulas, who, along with Cornelius, spoke with neighboring counties regarding possible arrangements to house people arrested and charged with crimes in Waseca County in their jails. Commissioners had asked for a report in recognition of two scenarios under which the county would need alternatives—the Department of Corrections might order a reduction in the number of inmates allowed in Waseca County's aging jail or the amount of time they are allowed to stay, or the county might have to place inmates elsewhere during a future construction project.

Dulas and Cornelius reported having spoken with representatives from LeSueur, Rice and Steele counties. They mentioned variations in expected services and costs, naming \$75 a day as the likely minimum rate. Counties had included various stipulations, for example, Steele County had requested a contract under which Waseca County would pay for a certain minimum number of inmates per day, whether they were actually present in the jail or not.

Raised during the discussion were additional points including whether the jails have enough conference

rooms to facilitate access to online court proceedings, whether they provide fingerprinting services, and whether Waseca County staff—for example, probation officers—would have sufficient access to inmates for the many needed discussions and meetings.

Also brought up during the discussion was how Waseca County arrestees would be treated at alternate locations. Commissioner Brad Milbrath, who finished a 12-year term as county sheriff in 2022, stated that Waseca's jail is known for treating inmates in a respectful way. "Having control over inmates makes a world of difference," he said. "We've had many people thank us for the way we've taken care of their [family member]."

"Waseca's is probably the fairest jail you can be in."

No decisions or arrangements were reached during the discussion, whose purpose was to begin preparing for a likely future need.

County public works director Jim Kollar reported that low bids on replacing three bridges within the county came to a total of about \$1.3 million, well over 80 percent of which will be paid by government

grants. Two bridges on County Road 54 and one on C.R. 55 are due for replacement with large concrete culverts. Work will begin this summer—in the case of C.R. 54, in mid-June at the earliest.

Commissioners heard from court services director Jonathon Schiro regarding the possibility of changing the "delivery model" used in his department. Thanks to recent change in funding practices at the state level, Schiro reported there is now a possible financial advantage to adding staff to his department who would handle court cases in which defendants are charged with felonies.

Until now, the court services office has worked with individuals facing misdemeanor and petty misdemeanor charges, in addition to any cases with juvenile defendants. Cases involving felony charges have been handled out of a state Department of Corrections office located in Waseca.

After hearing Schiro's report, commissioners gave the go-ahead to begin the process. Schiro estimated it will take about six months to fully implement the change.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * * * *	507-607-8245 Sunday worship 10 a.m. * * * * *	Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * * *	12-18 * * * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * * * *	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 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 * * * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Pastor Jason Wolter Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. * * * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Frerichs 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 * * * * *
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 * * * * *	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * * * *	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) * * * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 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 * * * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship * * * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 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 * * * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 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 * * * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1 * * * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Pastor Robert Harting Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Thursday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * * * *
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca Father Glenn Frerichs 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. * * * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota * * * * *	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 * * * * *	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 * * * * *
REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca * * * * *			NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.

Get your news in the Pioneer

- news@wasecacountypioneer.com
- Call (507) 837-6767
- Office at 111 W. Elm Avenue



Daniel J. Johnson

ACCOUNTING LLC

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

Our Services

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

INSURE CAREFULLY, DREAM FEARLESSLY.

CALL (507) 835-2770 FOR A NO-OBLIGATION FREE QUOTE.

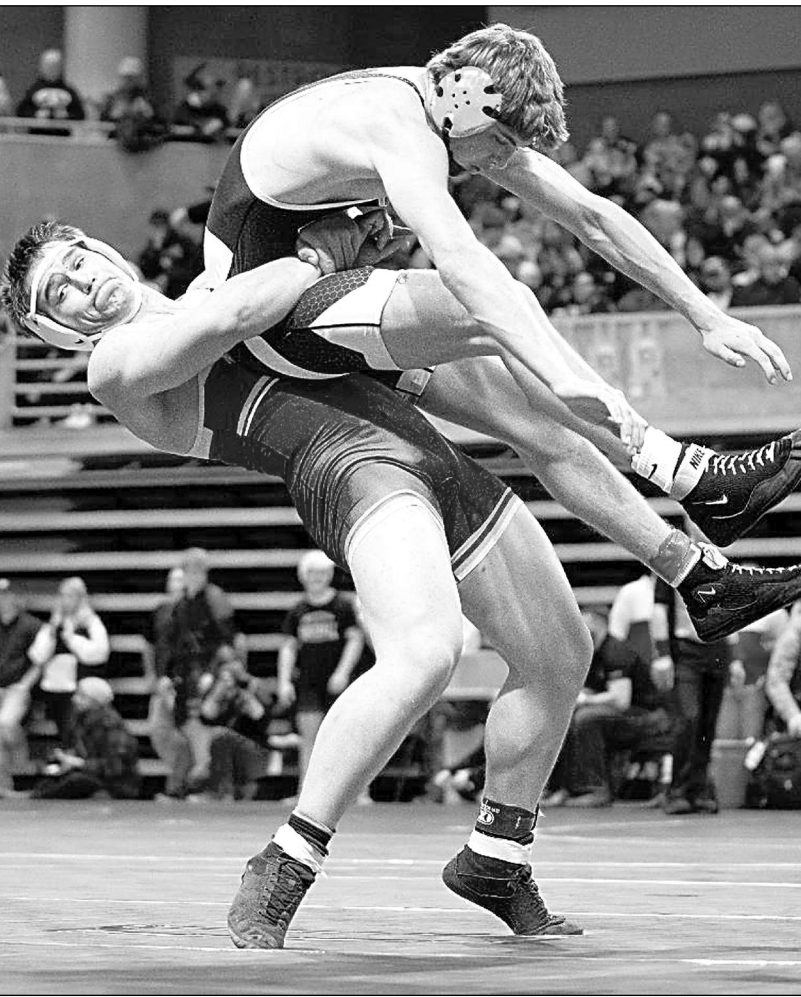


American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I.
American Family Insurance Company.

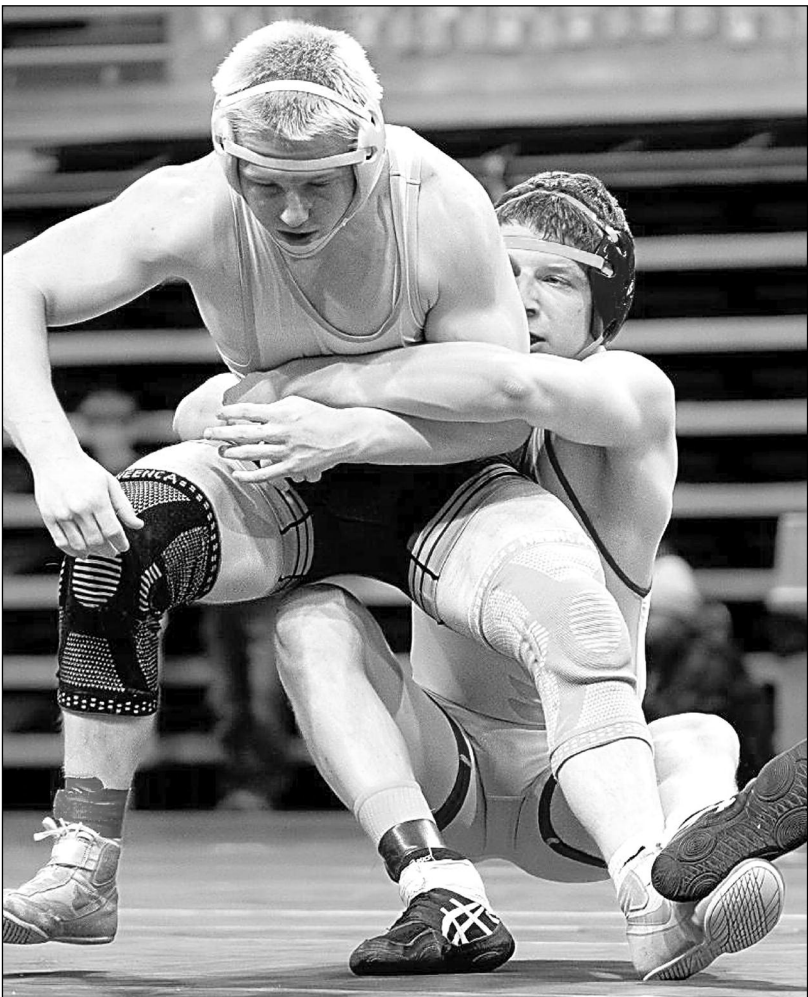


Matthew R. Petsinger Agency, LLC
Matthew Petsinger, Agent
101 S State St, Waseca
MRPAgencyLLC.com

6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783
006441 - Rev. 11/15 ©2015 - 10793941



AMONG THE ELITE – Punching their ticket to the state wrestling tournament Saturday were Matthew Veroeven, left, and Slade Barnett, right.



Three Bluejays advance to state

Three Waseca High School wrestlers have extended their season for one week.

Juniors Slade Barnett and Matthew Veroeven, along with senior Ben Hagen, advanced to state out of Saturday's Section 1AA tournament at Rochester.

Barnett, 160 pounds, will take a record of 43-4 to state after winning the section championship.

Veroven, 215, is 28-2 for the season after finishing second in the

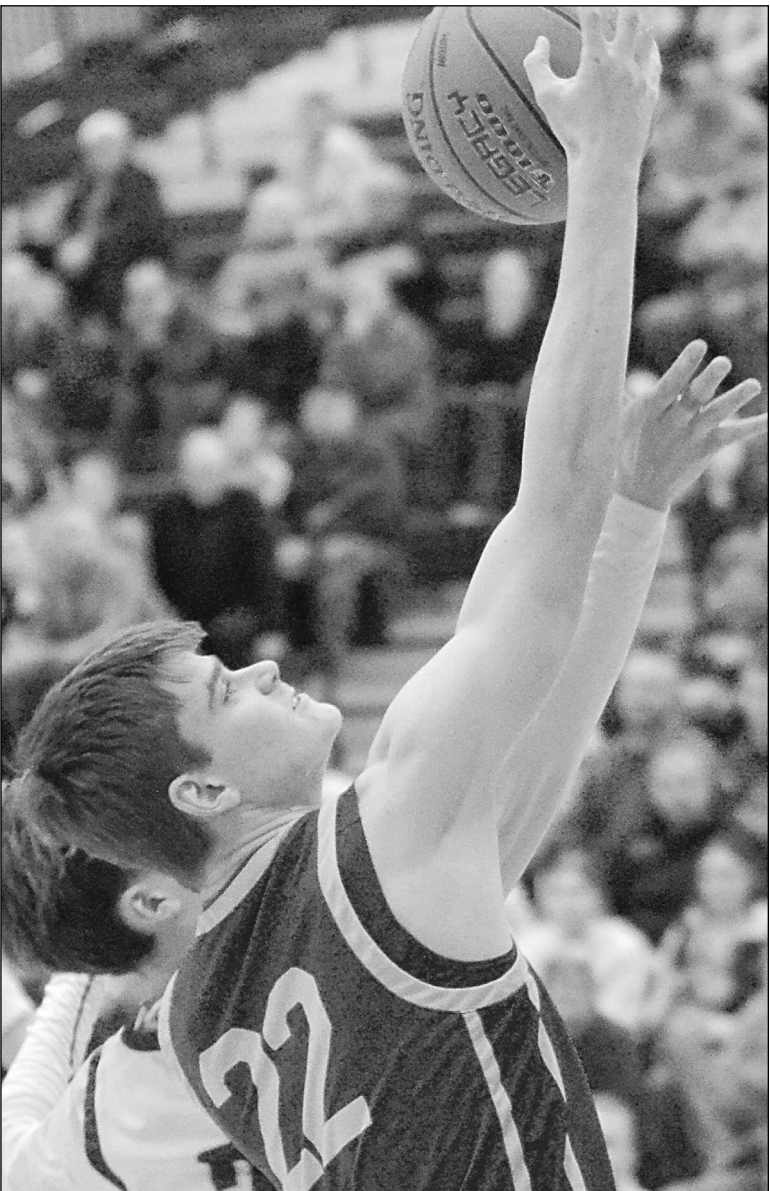
section. Hagen, also second, has a record of 35-10.

Other top-eight finishes for the Bluejays: Jacob Knutson, 4th, 133; Devan Parpart, 6th, 139; Owen Sommers, 8th, 107; Jaden Schafer, 8th, 145; Sam Selthun, 8th, 152; Ton Bethke, 8th, 172; Lucas Selthun, 8th, 189.

Barnett, Veroeven and Hagen will wrestle in the state tournament this weekend at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.



STATE BOUND – Waseca senior Ben Hagen advanced to state by taking second at 285 pounds in the Section 1AA tournament at Rochester Saturday.



BIG BOARD — The Bluejays' Isaac Feldkamp goes high in the air to snare a rebound.



CLASSROOM CHAMPS – Waseca High School gymnasts Katelyn Weber and Bella Wikan with the banner the team received for winning the 2025 Section 2A Academic championship.

Wikan finishes stellar career

According to Waseca High School gymnastics coach Kim Wendland, it's not really fair to judge senior Bella Wikan's showing in Saturday's state meet at Roy Wilkins Auditorium in St. Paul.

You have to look at the big picture.

Wikan wrapped up an outstanding two-year high school career with a 17th-place finish in all-around.

"Bella had a great start to the meet on floor and vault, but had two falls on her bar routine," explained Wendland.

But don't focus on the state meet.

"She set school records and accomplished so many personal goals in just two years," said Wendland.

Wikan scored 34.4 all-around points. The first-place finisher, Lauren Hansen of Monticello, had 37.575.

Wikan placed 19th on vault with a 9.275. The event was won by Maggie Schander of Detroit Lakes at 9.765.

On the floor exercise, Wikan scored 9.15 points to finish 22nd. Hansen won at 9.15.

Wikan took 30th on the balance beam with a score of 8.575. It was won by Hansen at 9.65.

"She set school records and accomplished so many personal goals."

— WHS coach Kim Wendland

Wikan scored 8.575 on the uneven parallel bars for 42nd place. Hansen won with 9.425.

"Congratulations to Bella for her all-around state appearance," said Wendland. "It was a roller coaster of emotions as she wrapped up her high school career with her whole team there to support her! The girls ended the day with one final team huddle."

According to Wendland, the 2024-25 season was nothing short of amazing for Wikan.

"She was all-conference, all-state on bars, floor and all-around, all-state honorable mention on beam and vault. She won seven all-around titles and 22 event titles. She set school records in the vault, bars and all-around."

All-Gopher Conference Wrestling Team announced

The 2024-25 Gopher Conference All-Conference Wrestling Team has been announced.

The Wrestler of the Year was senior Keegan Kuball of WEM/JWP. Joining him on the all-conference team was the Grizzlies' Carson Petry.

The rest of the all-conference team included Kenyon-Wanamingo's Liam Sommer,

Bryan Jacobson, Ryan LaCanne, Reed Sommer, Masyn Hanson and Charles Koncur; Maple River/USC's Noah Gonzalez and Byron Mitchell; NRHEG's Harbor Cromwell and Ryan Schlaak; Triton's Hunter Garness; Wesfield's Bo Zweiner and Alex Lea; and Medford's Kaden Harfmann.

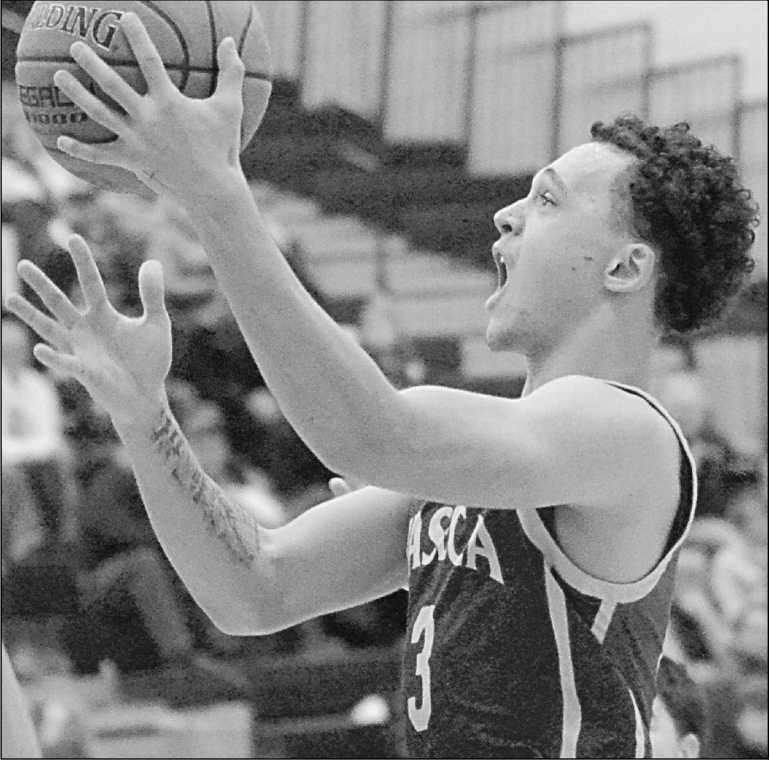
Receiving honorable mention were WEM/JWP's Avery Fall,

Maddox Moreno and Brady Murphy; Westfield's Cannon Wacek; Triton's Cole Kodada, Medford's Mason Degrood; and Maple River/USC's Isaiah Gonzalez and Wyatt Walters.

Sportsmanship Award winners were Knute Ronningen of Kenyon-Wanamingo, Kolt Bullerman of Maple River/USC, Mason DeGrood of Medford, Cole

Hutchens of NRHEG, Trey Richards of WEM/JWP, Bentley Miller of Westfield and Craig Knutson of Triton.

Kenyon-Wanamingo won the conference title with a record of 6-0, followed by WEM/JWP at 5-1, Maple River/USC 4-2, Westfield 3-5, Triton 2-4, NRHEG 1-5 and Medford 0-6.



DRIVE TIME — Waseca's Damarius Russell takes the basketball to the hoop.

No. 2-rated WHS boys top St. James

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Like they have a number of opponents this season, the St. James High School boys' basketball squad has been keeping it close against some very good teams.

Add Waseca to the list.

But add another victory for the Bluejays, who prevailed 82-66 at St. James on Friday, Feb. 15.

"St. James will be a tough out in the Section 3 playoffs," said Waseca head coach Seth Anderson. "They have some really nice wins to show for themselves and have been playing really good teams close."

But it was tough to keep it too close against the Bluejays, who posted win No. 24 against no losses.

Waseca shot 48.8 percent from the field and 10-for-32 on threes, with the Saints converting 50 percent from the floor and 50 percent on threes, 17-for 34. Waseca outrebounded the Saints 49-31, pulling down 24 offensive boards. Waseca had 11 turnovers, St. James 14.

Junior Deron Russell had another stellar night for the Bluejays, finishing with 30 points, 6 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals and 1 blocked shot.

Carson Ohnstad, a senior, was the other Waseca scorer in double figures, with 19 points. He added 5 rebounds, 1 assist and 1 steal while making 6 of 17 threes.

Also for Waseca: Ethan Hiller 9P, 11R, 2A, 1S; Damarius Russell 8P, 3R, 4A, 4S; Isaac Feldkamp 9P, 9R, 1S, 1B; Cyrett Long 4P, 2R, 1A; Caden Danner 3P, 1R; Wyatt Hager 2R; Max

Howard 1R; Brandyn Jascha 4R, 1S.

Brennan Kern led St. James in scoring with 21 points. Danon Sawatzke scored 13, Wyatt Haler 10.

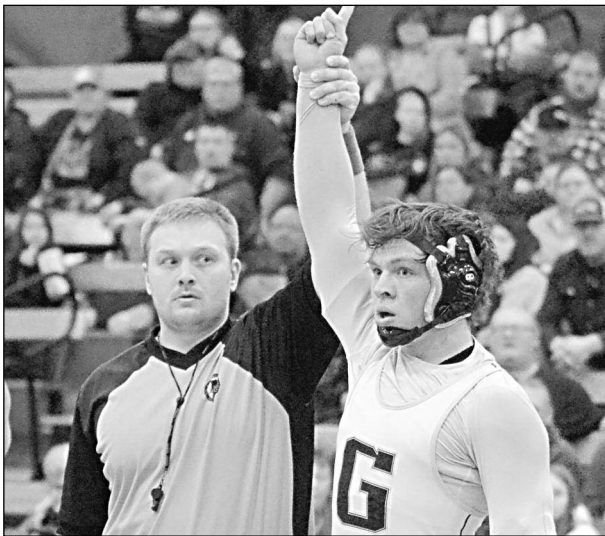
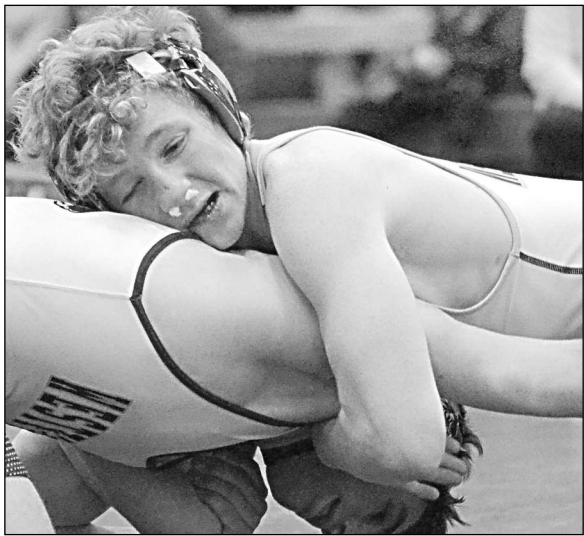
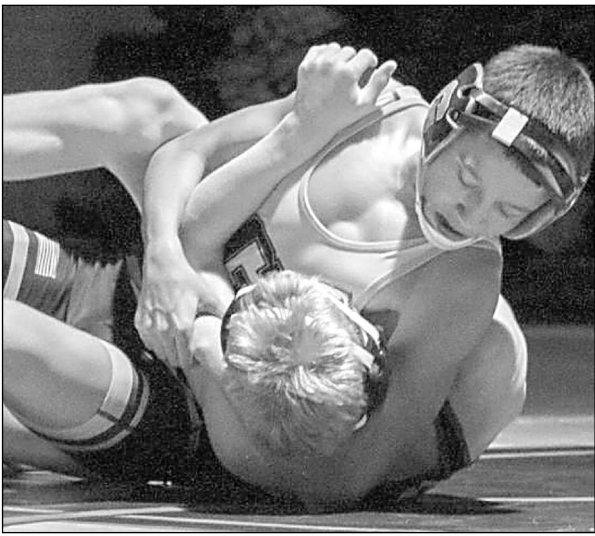
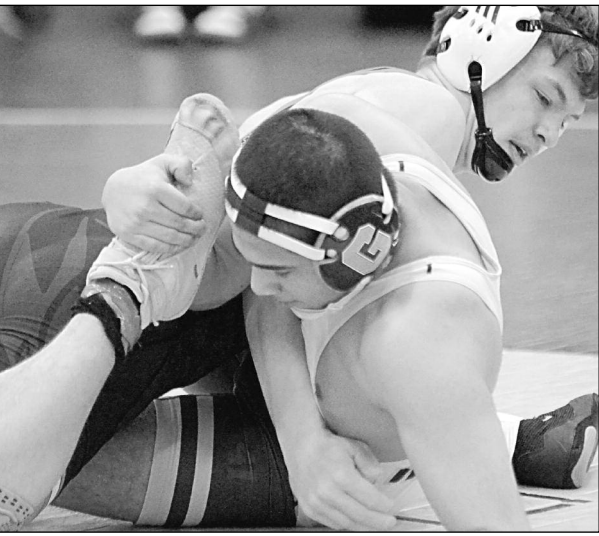
The Bluejays hit the court Friday with a 7:15 p.m. nonconference game at NRHEG to conclude the regular season.

Big South East		
	W-L	Overall
Waseca	5-0	24-0
Jackson Co. Central	6-3	21-4
Belle Plaine	6-3	15-8
Fairmont	6-3	15-9
Blue Earth Area	2-7	11-13
Tri-City United	0-9	0-25
Big South West		
	W-L	Overall
Luverne	6-2	17-7
Redwood Valley	5-3	17-9
Windom	5-3	13-12
St. James	2-6	12-12
Pipestone Area	2-6	10-14
Big South Big		
	W-L	Overall
Marshall	6-0	17-7
St. Peter	3-3	12-12
Worthington	2-4	5-19
New Ulm	1-5	9-15

Class 2A state rankings	
By Minnesota Basketball News	
Week 12, Feb. 19, 2025	
1. Albany	21-0
2. Waseca	24-0
3. Caledonia	24-2
4. Montevideo	20-2
5. Breck	14-9
6. Mora	21-1
7. Jackson County Central	21-4
8. Blake	20-2
9. Minnehaha Academy	14-9
10. East Grand Forks	17-5

Get your sports in the Pioneer

• e-mail sportswriter79@yahoo.com



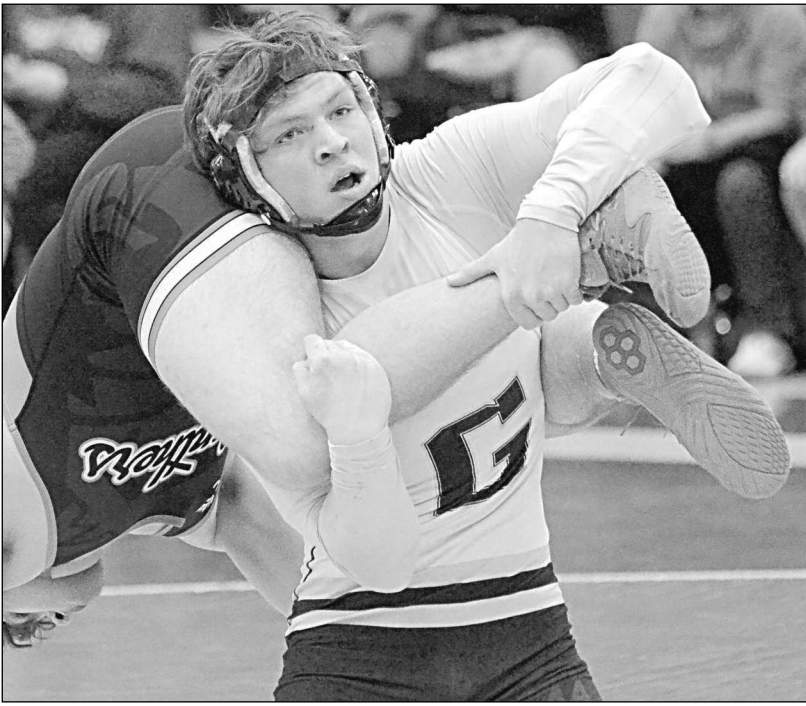
ONE MORE WEEK – No less than six WEM/JWP High School wrestlers have advanced to the state tournament. In action at the Section 2A meet at Blue Earth Saturday are, from left, Maddox Moreno, Brendan Masso, Brady Murphy and Avery Fall. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Six grizzlies reach state tournament

Petry, Fall, Kuball win section title

Saturday was not just a good day for the WEM/JWP High School wrestlers. It was nothing short of stellar. The Grizzlies captured three Section 2A championships and finished third at three weights to advance six individuals to this week's state tournament at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. Finishing first were Carson Petry, 127 pounds; Avery Fall, 215; and Keegan Kuball, 285. Taking second were Brendan Masso, 114; Brady Murphy, 139; and Maddox Moreno, 172. Also placing for the Grizzlies: Zach Quast, 3rd, 145; Lucas Morsching, 3rd, 152; Carson James, 4th, 133; Trey Richards, 5th, 121; Jacksten Knish, 6th, 107; and Carter Hoehn, 6th, 189. Two-time state champion Kuball is the No. 1 seed entering state. "We know there's no easy path to a title," said Grizzlies co-head coach Adam Roesler. "Keegan has added some elite attacks to his neutral game and has used past losses to

improve. Now it's about one match at a time. Round one is crucial, if he wins the opening round he'll likely face DeGrood from Medford in the quarters, a familiar opponent. We're excited to see Keegan take another shot at this challenge that awaits him in St. Paul! Petry, a two-time state placewinner, is seeded No. 3 in the state tournament. "Carson will face a tough kid from Foston-Bagley in the first round," said Coach Roesler. "Alejandro from Sibley East is also in his quarter, and he's tough. Carson's a two-time state placer, and he's been managing an injury all season. He'll need to navigate this bracket carefully, especially in scramble situations. If he sticks to his top position wrestling—like he did in his section finals—he can definitely make a run. It could be an exciting weekend for him." Fall, according to Roesler, has had an incredible journey to the state tournament. "After a serious injury last year,



BACK TO STATE – WEM/JWP's Carson Petry, left, and Keegan Kuball, right, won section championships in Saturday's Section 2A meet at Blue Earth, earning return trips to state. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Avery has made a remarkable comeback," said Roesler. "His first season back wasn't easy—he started 0-3, then 2-9, and questioned everything. But he trusted the process and persevered. He ended up qualifying for state, and he embodies our motto this year: 'Win the Struggle.' Avery is determined to make a deep run this weekend, and we believe he's ready." Masso is described by Roesler as "combustible material."

"He's a threat to anyone he faces," said Roesler. "Even if he finds himself behind, it's never over. He has a dangerous headlock that can turn the tide of any match. Keep an eye on him; he could make an unexpected run." Roesler said the same about Murphy, a state placewinner two years ago. "Brady can do some serious damage!" said Roesler. "He placed two years ago, and I believe he's in a

strong position to do it again. His first-round match is crucial, especially since he's in the same quarter as Wilson from LeSueur, who's talented but dealing with injuries. If Brady makes it to the semis, he's prepared for that challenge. He's wrestled tough competition, and the lessons from those matches will serve him well." Moreno, according to Roesler, is another individual to watch. "He's slippery, skilled, and knows

how to control his opponents," said Roesler. "He'll face Bruder from Long Prairie-Grey Eagle in the first round, and while we don't know much about him, this match will be crucial as the No. 3 seed, Olson from KMS, is in his quarter. Maddox thrives under pressure, so it will be exciting to see how he handles it."

JWP boys win outright Gopher Conference title

Bulldogs trounce Triton 86-68 to capture overall championship

Usually, when two teams meet for the overall conference championship, you can expect a close game. That wasn't the case Saturday night in Janesville. The JWP boys ran away with it, defeating Triton 86-68 for the outright Gopher Conference championship. "I thought it was a very good game on both ends of the floor," said JWP head coach Nick James. "It was nice to be able to keep the lead this time around. Last time, we led most of the game and gave it away down the stretch." That didn't happen this time, as the Bulldogs raced to a 46-33 halftime lead and won going away – despite 37 points by Triton's Pierce Petersohn. "Our boys did a great job on a player that scored 37, but he had to earn every one of those points," said James. "Usually, he gets a bunch of easy dunks and put backs, but we were able to keep him from really getting to the rim. Our balanced scoring, with four in double figures, makes us tough to guard." For the Bulldogs, Gavin Bauer led the way with 27

points, adding 9 rebounds, 2 assists, a steal and a blocked shot. Others: Daulton Bauer 21P, 1R, 8A, 3S; Landon Johnson 17P, 5R, 2A, 3S, 1B; Caleb Quast 13P, 3R, 3A, 2S; Gavin Weedman 3P, 1R, 1A; Ethan Born 2P, 9R, 1A, 1S. The Bulldogs ran circles around United South Central in a 75-41 victory at Wells Friday. JWP bolted to a 38-16 lead at halftime. Quast was the scoring leader with 19 points, hitting four of five three-point shots. Gavin Bauer scored 17, Daulton Bauer 12. JWP individual totals: Quast 19P, 6R, 2A, 1S; G.Bauer 17P, 10R, 2A, 3S; 1B, D.Bauer 12P, 4R, 5A; Weedman 8P, 2R,1A; Johnson 6P, 2R, 2A, 1S; Jaxon Miller 4P, 1R, 1S; Jaxon Wolff 3P, 2R, 2A; Tyson Kronbach 3P, 3R; Isaiah Berndt 2P, 3R; Born 1P, 7R, 2A; Parker Gearity 3R, 2A; Zander Terbeest 2R; Jeffrey Simonson 2R. The Bulldogs, 21-4, concluded the regular season Tuesday with a non-conference game at Albert Lea.



TOUGH TO STOP – The Bulldogs' Caleb Quast (10) takes the ball to the hoop while Triton's William Thiemann defends Saturday night in Janesville. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Burger nite 5-7pm Hug a GI DAY	5 6pm BAR Bingo Seabee Birthday	6 7pm HALL BINGO	7 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	8
9 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am-Noon Your Host Waseca CountyFairboard	10 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	11 Burger nite 5-7pm	12 6pm BAR Bingo	13 7pm HALL BINGO K9 VETERANS DAY	14 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	15 ST. PATRIC DAY BINGO 7pm Mash Burger Night 5-7pm
16	17	18 Burger nite 5-7pm	19 6pm BAR Bingo	20 7pm HALL BINGO	21 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm YOUR HOST	22
23 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am-Noon Your Host Neighborhood service cen-	24	25 Burger nite 5-7pm Medal of Honor day	26 6pm BAR Bingo	27 7pm HALL BINGO	28 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	29 Vietnam War Veterans day
30	31					

HOURS OF OPERATION

SUN.- MON. CLOSED

TUE.- 1pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady's nite 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm.

WED.- SAT.-1am to 12 pm

POST & AUX MEETING 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license number 00385

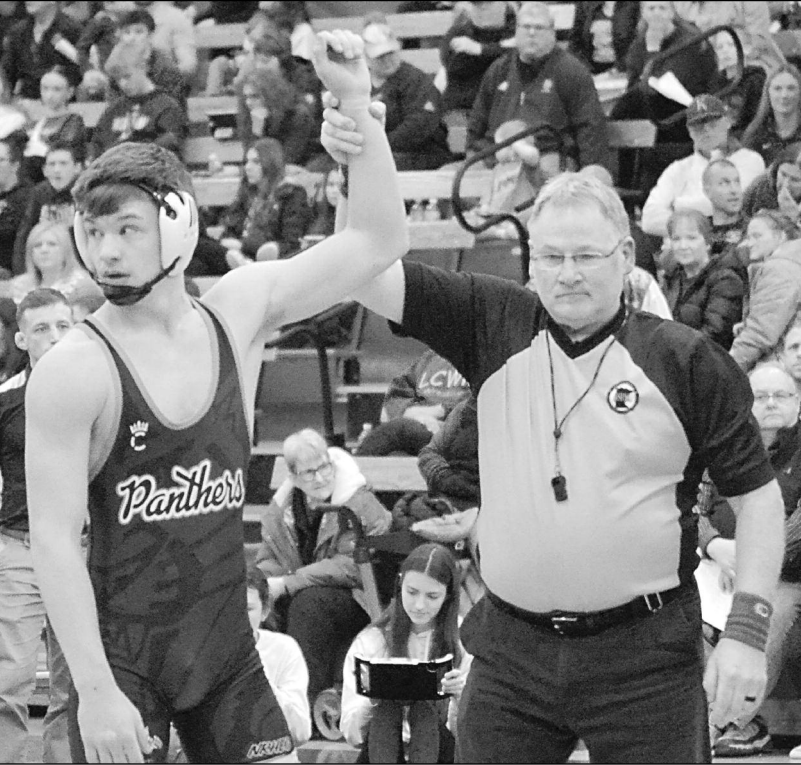
Matthew R. Petsinger Agency, LLC

Matthew Petsinger, Agent

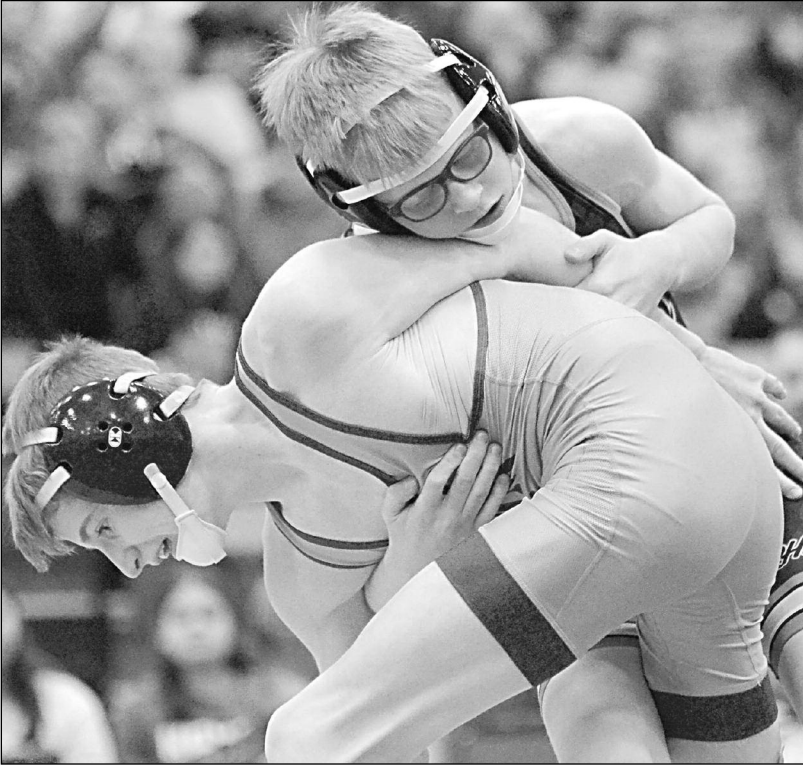
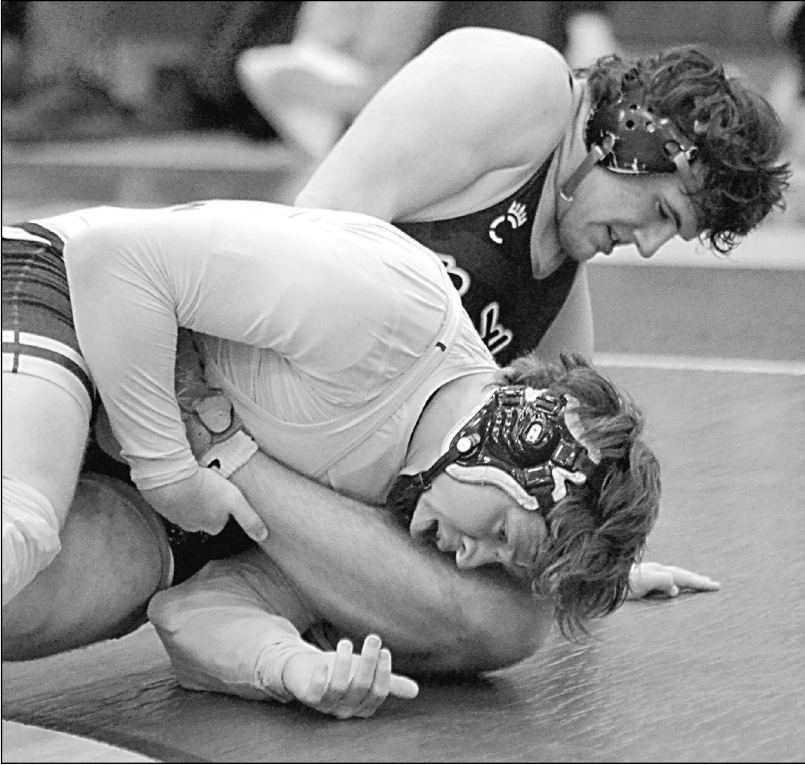
teampetsinger@amfam.com

(507) 835-2770

American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. & its Operating Companies,
6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783
©2015 006441 – Rev. 2/20 – 21237785



ON TO STATE – From left, NRHEG High School wrestlers Ryan Schlaak, Cole Hutchens and Graham Jacobson in action during Saturday's Section 2A tournament at Blue Earth. Jacobson became the youngest NRHEG wrestler in school history to reach state.



Panthers advance four to state

Saturday was a great day for the NRHEG High School wrestling program. No less than four Panthers qualified for state out of the Section 2A tournament at Blue Earth. In all, NRHEG claimed nine placewinners. Advancing to state were Graham Jacobson, 107 pounds; Harbor Cromwell, 160; Ryan Schlaak, 172; and Cole Hutchens, 215. Schlaak came home with first place. The others finished second. Just missing state was the Panthers' Wyatt Larson, who took third at 189. Charlie Tufte was fourth at 114, Kkaiden Madson fifth at 139; Chase Johannsen sixth at 133. "We had a fantastic day all the way up and down our lineup," said NRHEG head coach Shawn Larson.

"We had a fantastic day all the way up and down our lineup."
— NRHEG coach Shawn Larson

"Whether or not our individuals qualified to compete next week or not, they competed with heart and determination. We are so grateful to have the opportunity to qualify four athletes for the state tournament. We are also proud of our other seven athletes who gave everything they had to try to qualify." Schlaak was dominant in his two matches, winning the championship with a fall and technical fall. "Ryan has experience in the state tournament, and hopefully with this

showing he will have the confidence to make a deep run," said Larson. "Regardless of his outcome, we could not be prouder." Cromwell was dominant in his performance as well, terminating all of his matches early other than the match that he lost in the finals. "Harbor is a senior who has been working extremely hard to have this opportunity to compete at state," said Larson. Hutchens demonstrated that the regular season is for learning and

the postseason is a place to showcase how much you have gained. He avenged a previous loss in the semifinals and wrestled extremely well in his finals loss. The win in the semifinals turned out to be the match Cole needed to qualify for state. Jacobson became the youngest NRHEG wrestler to qualify for the state tournament. Graham is in 7th grade and the previous youngest athlete to qualify for state was Daniel Petsinger, who first qualified as an eighth-grader. "We are excited to see what Graham can do next week," said Larson. The four Panther qualifiers wrestle in the state tournament Friday at 9 a.m. at the ExCel Energy Center in St. Paul.



SECTION ACTION – The Panthers' Harbor Cromwell, left, punched his ticket to state with a second-place finish at 160 pounds in Saturday's Section 2A tournament.



ACTION AT THE NET – Waseca's Josiah Schmidke (30) turns away a shot during the Bluejays' 8-0 Section 1A quarterfinal victory over Austin.

Waseca boys' hockey season ends in Section 1A semifinals

A record-setting season came to an end Saturday night for the Waseca High School boys' hockey team, which lost 3-1 to Rochester Lourdes in a Section 1A semifinal game at the Rochester Recreation Center. The Bluejays became the first Waseca hockey team to reach the section semifinals, finishing with a record of 21-4-2. The third-seeded Eagles improved to 16-10-1 and advanced to the championship game against top-seeded Northfield. The Bluejays were the No. 2 seed. Penalties proved to be the difference Saturday as the Bluejays, trailing 3-1 after two periods, drew six final-period penalties. Rochester Lourdes outshot Waseca 39-37, including 17-9 in the third period. The lone Waseca goal was scored late in the second period by Brayden Hesch-Priem, assisted by Avery Selvik and Jayden Gehring, but Lourdes recaptured the momentum with a goal at 15:32 of the period.

Josiah Schmidke was in goal for the Bluejays, totaling 36 saves. The Bluejays opened the section tournament with an 8-0 triumph over Austin on Thursday at Waseca Community Arena. Scoring for Waseca were Jackson Tesch, Henry Huttenier, Jude Gehring, Cash Lynch and Hesch-Priem, with assists going to Griffin Storey, Otto Schoenrock, Lynch, Tesch, Beckett Sr., Huttenier and Hunter Anderson. Schmidke was in goal for the first two periods, totaling 11 saves. Senior Carter Martens registered five saves in the third. Graduating off this year's squad are Martens, Easton Danks, Lucas Groll, Tesch and Hesch-Priem. The Bluejays were coached by Chris Story, assisted by Brad Dushaw and Dan Pumper.

NRHEG boys register wins over Medford, TCU

The NRHEG High School boys' basketball team took the court Friday night looking for its second victory in a row. The Panthers got it, defeating Medford 66-54 in New Richland. After the Tigers opened the game with a three-pointer, the Panthers responded and never looked back. "The boys put together a great first half, switching in and out of defenses, moving the ball on offense, and taking advantage of open looks," said NRHEG head coach Dan Schmidt. The Panthers led 36-18 at halftime. The second half went the same way, although the Panthers hit a rough patch about halfway through. "We got a little complacent on defense and gave them some open looks and sent them to the foul line way too much, way too early," said Coach Schmidt. Medford pulled within eight points, but the Panthers held their ground and hit some big free throws to win going away. Greyson Schaefer turned in a phenomenal game with 20 points, 16 rebounds, and 4 blocks. Owen Wayne had 18 points of his own,

including 6-for-6 from the line in the last minute or so. Calvin Nissen chipped in 10 points. Aaden Hanna and Jase Knudson came off the bench and played extremely well on both ends of the floor, and contributed 6 and 7 points each to go along with some key rebounds and blocks. Brendan Schmidt continued to quietly follow Greyson's example on the boards, and snagged 11 rebounds of his own to go along with 7 assists. On Thursday, the Panthers defeated Tri-City United 75-56 in New Richland in a game postponed from Monday. "Due to the weather Tuesday, we had no school, and no practice," said Coach Schmidt. "It definitely showed in practice on Wednesday. Admittedly, I was a little nervous about how we would come out because of that. But the Panthers came out with a lot of energy and built a 43-29 lead at halftime. "At the half, we talked about not letting up, and making a couple minor scheme changes to throw some wrinkles at them," said Coach Schmidt. "We came out in the second half the same as the first, with a

lot of fire and energy. We ran like we've tried to do all year. We defended much better than we have previously, as well." Wayne and Mack Gilliland paced the Panthers with 17 points each, and Schaefer kicked in 13 points. He and Brendan Schmidt pounded the glass, with Brendan grabbing 8 boards to go along with 7 points, and Schaefer added seven of his own. Knudson and Jordan Brouwers did a great job on the boards tonight, too, playing much more inspired ball. "I'm so proud of the boys with how they rebounded from practice yesterday and came out with so much energy," said Coach Schmidt. Previously, the Panthers lost 77-34 at United South Central. Individually for NRHEG: A.Hanna 6P, 1B; Schaefer 2P, 6R; Deshawn Jones 2P; Nissen 5P, 1S; Wayne 3P, 4R, 3A, 2S, 2B; B.Schmidt 5P, 5R, 1S; Dom Olson 1R, 1A; Sean Lassahn 2R, 1A; Brock Holland 4P; Knudson 5P, 3R, 1S; Brouwers 2P, 2R; Zander Hanna 1R. The Panthers fell 77-53 to Alden-Conger. Individually: A.Hanna 3P, 4ER,



REJECTION – The Panthers' Brendan Schmidt (10) blocks a shot by Medford's Orion Heintz (25) during Friday's 66-54 victory in New Richland.

2A, 1B; Schaefer 7P, 10R, 2A, 1S; Nissen 22P, 1R, 1S; Wayne 5P, 3R, 1A; B.Schmidt 1P, 3R, 1S, 1B; Olson 2P; Gilliland 5P, 1R, 2A, 2S; Lassahn 3P, 6R, 3A; Holland 5P, 5R, 1A; Knudson 3R; Z.Hanna 5R. The Panthers host unbeaten Waseca Friday in their regular-season finale. Tip-off is set for 7:15 p.m.

St. MARY TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF ANNUAL
MEETING AND
ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of St. Mary Township, County of Waseca, State of Minnesota that the annual election of officers and annual town meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third tuesday of March. The election poll hours will be from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m., at which time the voters will elect:
One Supervisor
One Treasurer
The annual meeting will commence at 8:05 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.
The annual meeting and election will be held at the St. Mary Town Hall.

Art Byron, Clerk
St. Mary Township



JUNIPER
Your Health. Your Community.
A Program of TRELLIS™

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR HEALTH WITH JUNIPER
Juniper offers a variety of classes that can help you get fit, live well and prevent falls.

Find classes in your area at www.yourjuniper.org/mn



INJURED?
We've Helped Thousands
Get Compensation

**Contact Us Today
For Free Advice**

Car Accidents
Personal Injury
Workers' Compensation

507-900-5480
www.FieldsInjury.com

Got news?
507-837-6767

NOTICE

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING,
ELECTION AND BOARD OF CANVASS MEETING

TUESDAY MARCH 11, 2025

TO ELECT:

ONE SUPERVISOR-TERM OF THREE YEARS
ONE TREASURER-TERM OF TWO YEARS

Annual business meeting begins at 3:30pm with annual election at 5pm. Polls will close at 8pm.

The Board of Canvass will meet at 8:05pm. To certify the official election results. In case of inclement weather, the Annual meeting, election and Board of Canvass will be held the same hours one week later on Tuesday, March 18th, 2025.

The Annual meeting, Annual Election and the Canvas meeting will be held at the Freedom Township Hall.

Peg Sikel, Clerk

CITY OF WASECA
PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Waseca Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS of CITY HALL located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

The purpose of the public hearing is to gather information from the public for a Planning Commission recommendation regarding the following:

ORDINANCE NO. 1122: Proposed text amendments to Chapter 91, Chapter 152, and Chapter 154 of the Municipal Code regarding health and safety nuisances, sign regulations, and zoning.

A complete copy of the proposed ordinance is available in the office of the City Clerk located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

Those interested in commenting may appear in person or by counsel or may submit written comments to the City of Waseca at 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Upon request, accommodations will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Waseca services, programs, and activities.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Thursday, February 27, 2025.

Jon M. Froke
City Planner

CITY OF WASECA
PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Waseca Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS of CITY HALL located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

The purpose of the public hearing is to gather information from the public for a Planning Commission recommendation regarding the CLEARWATER PRESERVE PRELIMINARY PLAT.

A complete copy of the proposed Preliminary Plat is available in the office of the City Clerk located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

Those interested in commenting may appear in person or by counsel or may submit written comments to the City of Waseca at 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Upon request, accommodations will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Waseca services, programs, and activities.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Thursday, February 27, 2025.

Jon M. Froke
City Planner

ALTON TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Alton Township, County of Waseca, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election will be held March 18, 2025.

Annual business meeting begins at 4:00pm

Polls will be open from 5:00pm to 8:00pm to elect:

One Supervisor – 3 year term
One Treasurer – 2 year term

The Annual Election and Meeting will be held at Alton Town Hall.

The town board will hold their Board of Canvas meeting on Wednesday following the election at 6:00pm.

Deb Westphal
Alton Town Clerk

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Waseca City Council will hold a public hearing on TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093, to consider the following Ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 1120 – AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING WASECA CITY CODE CHAPTER 133 DANGEROUS WEAPONS AND ARTICLES, SECTION 133.04 EXCEPTIONS

A complete copy of Ordinance No. 1120 is available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

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

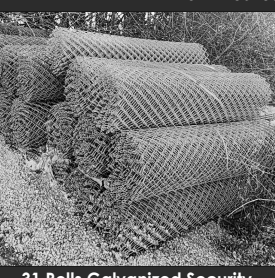
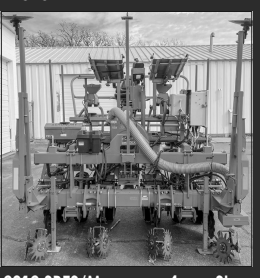
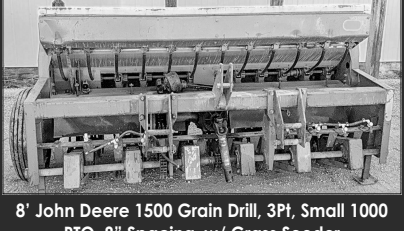
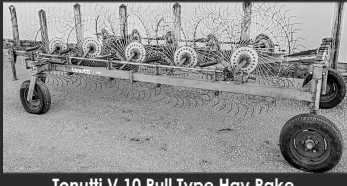
Julia Hall
City Clerk

U OF M - SOUTHERN RESEARCH & OUTREACH CENTER

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

Bidding Ends Tuesday, March 11th, 2025 at 4:00 pm

Items located at 35838 120th St., Waseca, MN

 JD 6620 Combine, 4,636 hrs, Hydro, Vitellae Chaff Spreader, 23.1-26 Front Tires, 11.2-24 Rear Tires, Ag Leader PF3000Monitor, SN HO6620X553252	 JD 6400 Tractor, 2WD, 8,835 Hrs, 3PT, PTO, Triple HYD, 16.9 R38 Rear Tires, 10.00- 16 Fronts, Front Weights, SN XL06400P123231X	 Tyler Fluid-Air 33' Air Flow Fertilizer Spreader, 6 Ton Capacity, Tandem 19L-16.1 Tires, Hyd Drive	
 JD 7100 6 Row 30 inch Planter, Markers, Corn & Bean Monitor, Herbicide/Insecticide Boxes, Missing Uids, Yeller Row Cleaners, No Monitor	 31 Rolls Galvanized Security Fencing with 6 Gates and Piping, New Never Installed	 2012 SRES/Monosem 4 row Step Vacuum planter • Monosem 4-row advanced mounted 30" spacing • Control Option	 Knight 3015 Reel Auggie TMR Mixer w/ 3 Phase Electric Motor
 8' John Deere 1500 Grain Drill, 3PT, Small 1000 PTO, 8" Spacing, w/ Grass Seeder	 White 6342 4 Bottom Rollover Moldboard Plow	 82" x 16' Tandem Axle Car Trailer, Flip Up Ramps "Title"	
 Donahue 28' Tandem Axle Trailer, Has Some Missing Planks	Load Out March 12th & 13th 11:00 am to 2:00 pm Viewing February 20th 1:00 to 3:00 pm For more information: Jason @ 507-837-5615	 Tonutti V 10 Pull Type Hay Rake, 10 Wheel, Hyd Fold	

U OF M - SOUTHERN RESEARCH & OUTREACH CENTER, WASECA

KERKHOFF
Auction and Real Estate

**1500 E. Bridge Street
Redwood Falls, MN 56283**
Office - 507-644-8433
Doug Kerkhoff - 507-829-6859
Zac Kerkhoff - 507-829-3924

WWW.KERKHOFFAUCTION.COM

NAA
Auctioneer

MSAA
MINNESOTA SOCIETY OF AUCTIONEERS

Public Notice - Alton Township

The Alton Town Board will conduct an annual audit of their financial books during their regular board meeting March 5, 2025 at 6:00pm in the Alton Town Hall.

Deb Westphal
Alton Town Clerk

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

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

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

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

/s/ Doug Christopherson, Chair
Waseca County Board of Commissioners
CD 48 Drainage Authority

Date: January 21, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

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

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WASECA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maame Quarcoo, AICP, Sr. Land Use Planner.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on February 27, 2025

LEGAL NOTICES

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

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

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

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

If you submit an attachment, it will

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

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

SIGNED BY: Nyle Dalgamoni

MAILING ADDRESS: None Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: ndalgamoni@gmail.com

Work Item 1523531400024
Original File Number 1523531400024

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

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

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.: 81-PR-25-119
In Re: Estate of SYLVIA J. KRAMPITZ,
Decedent
NOTICE AND ORDER FOR
HEARING ON PETITION FOR
DESCENT OF PROPERTY

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
A Petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years ago, leaving property in Minnesota and requests the probate of Decedent’s last Will and the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property. Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted. It is ordered and Notice is further given that the Petition will be heard on the 2nd day of April, 2025, at 9:45 a.m., by this Court via Zoom technology.
1. Notice shall be given to all interested persons (Minn. Stat. 524.1-401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minn. Stat. 524.3-204.
2. Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by mailing a copy of this Notice and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing date.
BY THE COURT
Dated: 02/17/2025
/s/ Carol M. Hanks
Judge of District Court
/s/ Shannon M. Asselin
Deputy Court Administrator

PATTON HOVERSTEN & BERG
PA
Perry A. Berg, #135999
215 E. Elm Ave
PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093
Phn: 507-835-5240
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on February 27 and March 6, 2025

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.: 81-PR-25-108
In Re: Estate of JAMES FRANCIS BYRON,
Decedent
NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING
ON PETITION FOR FORMAL
PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REAPRESENTATIVE IN UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd day of April, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., a hearing will be held in the above Court at Waseca, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the will of the above named decedent, dated March 29, 2006, and for the appointment of Thomas E. Byron whose address is 5870 W Hwy 30, Ellendale, MN 56026, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the above named decedent in unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper and no objections are filed, a Personal Representative will be appointed to administer the Estate, 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. Upon completion of the administration, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereunto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate.
Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said Estate are required to present the same to said Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or said claims will be barred.
Dated: 02/17/2025
/s/ Carol M. Hanks
Judge of District Court
/s/Shannon Asselin
Deputy Court Administrator

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG,
P.A.
William L. Hoversten, #47478
215 E Elm Ave
PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093
Phone: 507-835-5240
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on February 27 and March 6, 2025

**Johnson
APARTMENTS**
507-456-9514
Operating in
Waseca, Steele,
Freeborn
Counties
johnsonrents.com

**SUMMIT
ON SECOND
APARTMENTS**
FOR RENTAL INFO CALL
507-201-3474 

**We are accepting
applications for:**

1 bedroom apartments
*Income guidelines apply
Vouchers accepted*

2 bedroom & 3 bedroom
Rent based on income

Professionally managed by:


**WILTON TOWNSHIP NOTICE
OF ANNUAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given to the residents of Wilton Township, County of Waseca, State of Minnesota that the annual town meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third tuesday of March.

The annual meeting will commence at 4 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. The annual meeting will be held at Wilton Town Hall.

**Derrick Sommer, Clerk
Wilton Township**

**WOODVILLE TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given to Woodville Township residents that the annual meeting will be March 11, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. in the Woodville Town Hall located at 200 3rd Ave SW,Waseca, MN.

**Topics to be discussed will be:
Financial condition of the township, financial statements of the cemetery, township and Waseca rural fire district, road reports, tax levies, and any other issues the residents wish to discuss in regards to township business. In case of inclement weather the alternative meeting date is March 18, 2025.**

**Andrew Miller, Clerk
Woodville Township**

2025 Waseca County Sleigh & Cutter Festival



Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann, Deb Bently & Amy Roemhildt

WASECA FLORAL

Life's Moments Deserve Beautiful Flowers - Let Us Help!

810 N. State St.
Waseca, MN 56093
(507) 835-3790
wasecafloral.com
rickmorris982@gmail.com

Family owned and operated since 1972

Store Hours
Mon-Fri 8 AM-6 PM
Sat 9 AM-5 PM
Sun Closed

THE MILL

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED
EVENT CENTER

3102nd Ave SW 461-1434 WASECA

Waseca Music COMPANY

YOUR LOCAL MUSIC STORE

Band Instruments • Repairs
Guitars • CD, DVD, & Vinyl

507-835-2980
111 South State Street

Jenifer Dvorak
Edina Realty.
a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate
507-837-9023

835-7167
1600 N State Street
WASECA

COLE'S ELECTRIC, INC.

RESIDENTIAL • FARM
INDUSTRIAL • COMMERCIAL

Your Complete Electrical Needs!

507.451.1387
coleselectric.com

DAVE'S Body Shop
Waseca, Minnesota

Hours:
Sat-Sun 715 S State St.
Closed Waseca, MN
M-F (507) 835-8615
8 AM-5 PM

GEORGE'S CARS.COM INC

(507) 267-3962
1381 State St. S
Waseca, MN

M-F.....8 AM - 5 PM
Sat-Sun..... Closed

thrivent

DIANE BECKMANN
LUTCF, FICF, FIC
Financial Associate
201 2nd St NE,
Waseca, MN 56093
(507) 835-9899

INSURE CAREFULLY. DREAM FEARLESSLY.

CALL (507) 835-2770 FOR A NO-OBLIGATION FREE QUOTE.

Matthew R. Petsinger Agency, LLC
Matthew Petsinger, Agent
Waseca, MN
mmpetsinger@amfam.com
mrapagencyllc.com

O'Brien TAX & ACCOUNTING

Matt O'Brien
212 15th Avenue NE
Suite 1040
Waseca, MN 56093
Ph: 507-201-3820
Fax: 507-201-3822
email: matt@wmnta.com

GRANDSTAY HOTELS

2201 STATE STREET NORTH
(HWY 13 N), WASECA, MN 56093
www.GRANDSTAYHOSPITALITY.com

507.835.0022
866.936.STAY

iWealth
Your Dreams Become Our Goals
Planning • Investments • Insurance

(507) 835-9111
info@iWealth4me.com
213 15th Ave NE
Waseca, MN 56093

Securities offered through IPI Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advice offered through iWealth Financial, LLC, a Registered Investment Advisor. iWealth Financial, LLC and iWealth are separate entities from IPI Financial.

Edina Realty.
a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate

Jodie Thompson

REALTOR
507-371-7064
jodiethompson@edinarealty.com
jodiethompson.edinarealty.com

Tesch Service

321 Elm Ave W, Waseca, MN
Call Us! (507) 835-4610
teschservice@mediacombb.net

Auto Value

Parts Stores
707 South State St • Waseca MN
507-835-3900

JAY'S AUTO SERVICE INC
OWNER

JAY LONGENEKER
507-380-6359
jaysautoserviceinc@gmail.com
228 3rd Ave N, Waldorf, MN 56091

Waldorf Welding & Machine

Design & Fabrication...You break it, dream it or want it we can make it!

403 S Main St, Waldorf, MN
(507) 239-2395
waldorfwelding@gmail.com

Janesville

1925

- On a recent Sunday morning a Rambler found himself in a peculiar predicament. It was one of those mild, balmy mornings that thrusts itself upon human experience when least expected. It dropped down suddenly between times when mercury hovered alternately between twenty below and twenty above. It was as mild as a spring morning that is nearing the summer line. The peculiar thing about it was that one could hardly see a rod ahead on account of the denseness of the which hung heavily over the city.

- While in Rochester on Sunday last the writer was privileged to meet and visit with the Rev. and Mrs. W. I. Kern, formerly residents of Janesville. It will be recalled by those who were here about 1905 that in that year Mr. Kern came to Janesville from the east, Boston, and was settled here as pastor of the Methodist church. It will further be remembered that a few months later he went east, to Bowdingham, Maine, and shortly after returned with his bride. They remained here two years or more and during the time became very well known throughout this part of the state.

- The possibility of effective farm legislation being enacted during the remaining days of the present session is admittedly growing quite dubious. President Coolidge in appointing the Agricultural Comission to make a survey and suggest remedies particularly impressed on the Commission his desire for quick action. His position is unchanged, but the hearings which opened Monday, February 2 have already developed a decided division of opinion as to the proper remedies, in fact, a general confusion among the agricultural experts which does not increase the chances of immediate effective action along the lines which the President desires.

1950

- Elmer Horn's report for the month of January shows 26 herds on test with 374 cows milking and 68 dry. Twenty-two herds averaged over 25 pounds of butterfat and six herds averaged over pounds of butterfat for the month. A total of 188 cows produced over 40 pounds of butterfat according to the report. The average production for the association was 944 pounds of milk with an average 5 test thus producing .lb. of butterfat per cow for the month.

- Eloise Burmeister, safety reporter of the Freedom HiFlyers Club, reports an accident to Hugh Johnson. Mr. Johnson slipped on the ice and appraised his ankle. Kenneth Roemhildt of the Four Leaf Clover Club, reports an accident to Mrs. Robert Slattery. Mrs. Slattery received a severe steam burn when she removed the lid from a vacuum cooker. She also burned her right hand and wrist.

1975

- Vernon Walther was elected chief of the Janesville Fire Department at the annual meeting on February 5. The local insurance-real estate man replaces Ken Lau who resigned after serving in the position for five years. Walther will be assisted by Assistant Chief Lawrence Schlie and two lieutenants: First Lieutenant Bill Bartelt and Second Lieutenant Ken Johansen. Other officers elected were Stanley Dimmel, secretary-Curtis Walther, treasurer; and John Oelke, training officer. Dimmel replaces Ralph Klampe who resigned as secretary after serving three years.

- Increased spending by the City of Janesville, Waseca County, and School District #830 is the reason property taxes have soared in Janesville this year. Except for new homes and additions, property valuations were not increased in 1974 according to Bob Jewison, Waseca County Deputy Assessor. Jewison told the Argus that property is revalued every two years, on the odd year. "I am right now in the process of re-evaluating Janesville property for 1975," he said, "and it will be done again in 1977."

- The District 830 School Board learned Monday night that basketball is the only sport that is in the black this year. Cage receipts to date amount to \$2,183.05, compared to \$1,005, 15 in basketball expenses. As of January , 19, the total athletic fund at JHS shows a deficit of \$2,522.07. Expenses of \$12, exceed receipts of \$10,211.29. Girls sports, football, baseball, track, and wrestling all show deficits. Baseball and track always run in the red since no admission is charged.

2000

- At the Janesville City Council meeting held on Monday, Jan. 24 some issues were addressed about the concern for lost parking spaces in front of Trinity Lutheran School after the completion of the Main Street improvement project. Larry Johnson, representative of the school, brought it to the council's attention that those are necessary parking spaces, and should remain after the project's completion. The council table the issue for further discussion.

- The fourth-ranked Blue Earth Buccaneers were not the team for the Janesville-WaldorfPemberton wrestling team to get back on the winning track against. The Buccaneers won 11 straight bouts before JWP could get on the board in a 55-9 victory over the Bulldogs at Blue Earth Friday. Blue Earth, a member of the South Central Conference, improved to 6- for the year. The Bucs are currently ranked fourth in Class 2A. JWP suffered its third consecutive loss in falling to 2-15 for the season. The Bulldogs, who lost 48-20 to the Bucs last year, have won just one of 1 road duals.

- Missy Ryan, niece of rural Janesville residents Matt and Judy Richardson, and Karen Kraft are making the final push towards the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia. The pair received a silver medal in doubles rowing in the 1996 Olympics. The pair spent the fall training and racing exclusively in single and double sculls. In sculling, each athlete handles two oars, as opposed to the pair event in which each athlete handles one oar. Sculling has two major benefits for pair rowing which include that the pair is able to work on individual technical issues and balance without affecting the other person on the team. the second benefit is that the pair can do competitive training against one another. The pair trains primarily at the National Training Center in Princeton, N.J., but some of their training and competitions takes them all over the world.

Waseca

25 Years Ago

-A tight labor market and shorter patient stays have taken a toll on nursing homes, a state agency recently reported in recommending changes to the way the state regulates and reimburses care providers. The Department of Human Services (DHS) recently presented a report to a legislative committee that suggests eased regulations, a revamped government reimbursement system and assistance for some providers to shrink, change roles or shut down.

-The Waseca Marching Jays will march into the 2000 season with a new look, the result of the Waseca School Board's unanimous vote to approve the purchase of 150 new marching band uniforms. The old uniforms were used for 17 marching seasons.

-Radiant, dark-haired Heidi Hammond, 20, flashes her brilliant smile. She has worn more than one beauty queen crown, and she has accepted with aplomb the kudos and the glorious bouquets of flowers that go with the titles.

-Heidi Hammond is shown here being congratulated by her parents, Ted and Penny, after winning the Miss Hiawatha competition. Hammond is currently a student in philosophy at the University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse. In June, she will compete for the Miss Minnesota 2000 title.

50 Years Ago

-RUEBEN, pet rat, whose days seem to be numbered, is pictured here with some of her student admirers at Waseca Middle School. In the photo at top, Roger Haley, shows Susan Halverson and Beth Bergerson how Rube will climb his arm, while the photo at the lower right shows Rube taking a brief rest on Roger's shoulder. The photo at the lower left proves that even Rube likes flowers, even though it's only a scientific blow up of a flower.

-A meeting of all Waseca County Retail Grocers, authorized to accept Food Stamps, will be held on Thursday, February 27, at 2:00 p.m. in the County Court Room, second floor Waseca Court House. Retail food dealers not now participating in the Food Stamp program, but wishing to do so, and are also invited.



-Gold arrow – RECIPIENTS OF gold arrow awards at the Pack 85 Blue and Gold Banquet were these boys of Den 2. Left to right are Troy Burt, Rick Wobschall, Tim O'Neil and Scott Tobin. Rick Wobschall also received two silver arrows.

75 Years Ago

-“Had we had universal military training in 1920 we would have had no World War II,” Colonel Ernie Miller, Minnesota's hero of Bataan told Waseca people when he appeared here Thursday. He addressed the Lions club at a dinner meeting then talked before a mass meeting at the Central high school auditorium.



-MR. AND MRS. FRED T. DAY, who recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Mrs. Day was the former Jean Latham. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E.P. Latham were pioneers of Waseca county. Fred is a native of Worthington.

-Waldorf is raising money for a rural fire truck. They already have \$4,500 donated by residents of Freedom Wilton, Vivian, Byron and adjoining township residents of Blue Earth county. Their goal is \$6,000 or better.

100 Years Ago

-Modern machinery has revolutionized the baking industry. As a result the bakery of today does not much resemble the bakery of a few years ago, and the span between the modern bakery and the home baking system, which has progressed but little, is very great indeed.

-Let us go back 25 or 30 years on the Railroads and see what progress has been made by them to assume the prosperity of our country. Thirty years ago the Railroads were handling the different commodities of the farmers, the merchandise of the merchants and the passenger trains of the old style wooden coaches, with what is known as a “C” engine or a small two drive locomotive, a hauling capacity of about 400 tons.

-Gradual transfer of outstanding trunk highway bonds from counties to the state relieving the counties of individual responsibility without increasing the indebtedness of the state but securing lower interest rates and at the same time releasing funds needed for immediate good roads work – that is the proposal under a bond refundment plan now before the state legislature, as summarized in a news dispatch from the capital.

Get your news in the Pioneer

- news@wasecacountypioneer.com
- Call (507) 837-6767
- Office at 111 W. Elm Avenue

New Richland

25 Years Back



-At a special Valentines Day dance and coronation ceremony. These four residents of the New Richland Care Center were crowned the royal court. From the left they are Selmer Langlie, runner up king; King of Hearts Howard Langlie, Queen of hearts Lillian Peterson and Vivian Johnson, runner up queen. Music was provided by the Czech Mates from Owatonna. When Selmer was beijing moved to the front of the room for the coronation, he asked where he was going. When he was told he was the runner up king, he remarked with a smile on his face “But i'm nothing but an old man!”

- The New Richland - Hartland - Ellendale - Geneva Senior High Knowledge Bowl season is off to a good start. The first competition was held on Friday, January 21, in Blue Earth. Placing for NRHEG were 7th, 11th and 39th of 50 teams. At the second competition on Wednesday, February 9, three teams of five members represented NRHEG. A third place trophy was awarded to the top local team.

-Nathan and Michelle Jacobson of St. Paul are the parents of a daughter born Tuesday, February 1, 2000. The little miss has been named Emma Leigh Jacobson. Grandparents are David and Karen Jacobson of rural New Richland and Gary and Dianne Raines of White Bear Lake. Great-grandparents are Gene and Sylvia Dodge of New Richland, Harold and Martha Jacobson of Ellendale and Anna Deimer of Heron Lake, Minnesota.



- George and Helen Jacobson. These lovely two danced to the music of the Czech Mates during the Valentine's DAY dance at the New Richland Care Center, Monday. The Particular Piece they danced to was played especially for them.

- Melissa Wayne was congratulated by Tim Stoez, guidance counselor after she was selected Student of the month by the NRHEG High School guidance department. Melissa is the daughter of Brian and Jodi WAYne of rural Ellendale, Melissa carries a 4.0 grade point average. A member of the National Honor Society, she served her class as president when she was a junior. As a freshman she was a class SCHOC (Students helping others Choose) representative.

50 Years Back

- Majorie and Murrel McGuire purchased the Village Inn Restaurant from Robert Eustice, this week. They will serve smorgasbord, dinners, breakfasts and lunches at the restaurant being open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Mr. Eustice, Virginia and Todd will be moving from the building as soon as they find a house. They do not intend to leave the New Richland area. Mrs. Jeanne Schumacher will be employed by the McGuires.

- The Waldorf-Pemberton Band under the direction of James Kopetzki, has been invited as one of the six high school bands in the state to play at the Minnesota Music Educators Association Convention in Minneapolis. The Waldorf-Pemberton Band is very fortunate to have one of the finest directors in the country work with them at the Convention. Dr. John. Payner, director of Bands at Northwestern University will give the clinic.

- Bartness-Eustice Vows. Kristi Jane Bartness of Bethel exchanged nuptial vows with Gary Robert Eustice at All Saints Catholic Church, New Richland, Saturday, December 21. Rev. Sherlock P. Weir performed the double ring ceremony at 2 p.m. before an altar decorated with red poinsettias and Christmas greens. Parents of the couple are Mrs. and Mr. Eugene Bartness of Bethel and Robert Eustice of New Richland.

- A view of New Richlands main drag back in the horse and buggy days. Pictured from the left: Star Office(Now AMERICAN Legion), Unknown, later the telephone office, now Fashion Beauty Lounge; National Hotel owned by Lynch, the old Boie Implement building; John Kruezers harness shop, now Bohlens Plumbing and Heating; Tyrholms Drug Store, now New Richland Drug; Kingsleys, now Gambles; Lauderts Saloon owned by Bill Lauderts uncle, now New Richland Cafe; Carl Newgaards Hardware first owned by his father, (Bill Casper had a barbershop in the basement), now Dodges our Own Hardware; a buggy parked in the street; Jennings Furniture, now the Municipal Liquor Store; way down at the end of the Street St. Peters Lutheran Church can be seen on the corner where the house belonging to Mrs. Hulda Olson now stands.

75 Years Back

- The District 4 speech contest was held last Monday, March 20 at Northfield high school. New Richland High School was among the eight schools of those districts competing for the privilege of advancing to the regional competition. The local contestants came home with three superior, one excellent, and two very good ratings. The students who received these rating and will now enter the regional contest to be held at SPring Valley March 28, were: Virginia Swenson in the dramatic division; Audrey Burtness in Manuscript Reading, and Genevieve Frisk in Original Oratory.

- Clifford Weydert, with his pen exhibit of three Chester White barrows, won the Reserve Champion placing in the junior division at the Minnesota State SPring Barrow Show held at Albert Lea March 16-18. Cliffords winning pen of hogs was selected from his purebred Chester Whites and are a part of his FFA project work on the farm. The award was made on the basis of the hogs in the showing, rate of gain, cost of gain and story. The competition was very keen against the largest number of hogs in the history of the show.

- Valosie Ardell Young and Donald Walter Sackett of Kassson, were united in marriage by Rev J. C. Walledom, at the LeSaur River Lutheran Church, Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock. A reception in the church p;ar-lors immediately followed the ceremony. Mrs. Sackett is a granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Peterson of the Berlin community.

WASECA COUNTY

PIONEER

SUBSCRIBE

WASECA'S ONLY LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED NEWSPAPER!

\$59 IN WASECA COUNTY

\$69 ... IN STATE OF MINNESOTA

\$79 OUTSIDE STATE

NEWS FOR LOCALS BY LOCALS

CALL, EMAIL, OR STOP IN OUR OFFICE!

111 WEST ELM AVE, WASECA, MN

(507) 837-6767

NEWS@WASECACOUNTYPIONEER.COM

BLUEJAYS WRESTLERS

STATE BOUND!!



Three Waseca wrestlers qualified for the Minnesota State High School League State Tournament. Slade Barnett at 160lbs; Matthew Veroeven at 215 lbs and Ben Hagen at 285 lbs.



Heavyweight state qualifier Ben Hagen



Matthew Veroeven wrestles in the section tournament

Auto Value

Parts Stores

707 South State St • Waseca MN
507-835-3900

JAY'S AUTO SERVICE INC

OWNER
JAY LONGENECKER
507-380-6359
jaysautoserviceinc@gmail.com
228 3rd Ave N, Waldorf, MN 56091

Waldorf
Welding & Machine

Design & Fabrication...You break it, dream it or want it we can make it!

403 S Main St, Waldorf, MN
(507) 239-2395
waldorfwelding@gmail.com

O'Brien
TAX & ACCOUNTING

Matt O'Brien
212 15th Avenue NE
Suite 1040
Waseca, MN 56093
Ph: 507-201-3820
Fax: 507-201-3822
email: matt@wmnta.com

Congratulations from these area businesses!!

DAVE'S
Body Shop

Waseca, Minnesota

Hours:
Sat-Sun
Closed
M-F
8 AM-5 PM

715 S State St,
Waseca, MN
(507) 835-8615

GEORGE'S
CARS.COM INC

(507) 267-3962
1381 State St. S
Waseca, MN
M-F.....8 AM - 5 PM
Sat-Sun..... Closed

thrivent

DIANE BECKMANN
LUTCF, FICF, FIC
Financial Associate
201 2nd St NE,
Waseca, MN 56093
(507) 835-9899

INSURE CAREFULLY.
DREAM FEARLESSLY.

CALL (507) 835-2770 FOR A
NO-OBLIGATION FREE QUOTE.

Matthew R. Petsinger Agency, LLC
Matthew Petsinger, Agent
Waseca, MN
teampetsinger@amfam.com
mpagencyllc.com

iWealth
Your Dreams Become Our Goals
Planning • Investments • Insurance

(507) 835-9111
info@iWealth4me.com
213 15th Ave NE
Waseca, MN 56093

Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advice offered through iWealth Financial, LLC, a Registered Investment Advisor. iWealth Financial, LLC and iWealth are separate entities from LPL Financial.

Edina Realty
a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate

Jodie Thompson

REALTOR
507-371-7064
jodiethompson@edinarealty.com
jodiethompson.edinarealty.com

Tesch
Service

321 Elm Ave W, Waseca, MN
Call Us! (507) 835-4610
teschservice@mediacombb.net

GRANDSTAY
HOTELS

2201 STATE STREET NORTH
(HWY 13 N), WASECA, MN 56093
www.GRANDSTAYHOSPITALITY.com

507.835.0022
866.936.STAY

CB
COMMUNITY BANK

8 MONTH CD
4.14%^{APY*}

23 MONTH CD
3.60%^{APY*}

MANKATO | EAGLE LAKE | VERNON CENTER | AMBOY

*ANNUAL PERCENTAGE YIELD (APY) IS ACCURATE AS OF 2/20/2025. \$5000 MINIMUM BALANCE. 8 MONTH SPECIAL INTEREST PAID AT MATURITY. 23 MONTH SPECIAL INTEREST PAID SEMI-ANNUALLY. FEES COULD REDUCE EARNINGS ON THE ACCOUNT. A PENALTY MAY BE IMPOSED FOR EARLY WITHDRAWAL.

MEMBER
FDIC