



1 56852 35609 1 6

■ **Inside:**

- 2 - Editorial page
- 3 - Bonding committee
- 4 - Obituaries
- 5 - A full Saturday
- 6 - Brilliant Bluejays
- 7 - Back in the day
- 8-10 - Sports
- 11 - Classifieds
- 12 - Bootleggers' ball

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 49 Vol. II \$2



Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca

Friday, December 8, 2023

■ **Pages 8-10**



Sports

Christmas Time at the Mill 1-7 p.m. Dec 9

Free admission to the Mill for crafts, cookie decorating, Santa letter writing, games and more. Local choirs will be performing. Food truck from Lucia's Cocina available. Live music from Bryce Leppert from 8 to 11 p.m.

Holiday Harmony Concert 7 p.m. Dec. 9

The Mankato Riverblenders and Minnesota Valley Chorus present their holiday concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9 at the Waseca Schools Central building, 501 E. Elm Avenue. Cost: Free will offering.

Santa Experience at Farmamerica 4-7 p.m. Dec 9

Farmamerica is offering visits with Santa and his reindeer at its rural location west of Waseca from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9. Children are invited to take part in numerous holiday-related activities; tickets for children are \$5; adults are free. More information at Farmamerica's website.

All You Can Eat Breakfast 8 a.m. to noon, Dec. 10

All you can eat breakfast to benefit Waseca Boy Scouts Troop 85 at the Waseca V.F.W. Cost is \$12 for adults, \$7 for youth, preschool free. Menu includes pancakes, French toast, biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, beverages.

Concert to Benefit New Richland Foundation Dec. 9, 10

A concert featuring local musicians Adam Moen and Gavin Berg will be at 7 p.m. Dec. 9 and 2 p.m. Dec. 10 at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Richland. All proceeds benefit the New Richland Area Foundation. Free will offering.

Christ the King Live Nativity, light meal beginning 5:30 p.m. Dec. 13, Dec. 20

Prior to its 6:30 p.m. advent services on Dec. 13 and 20, Christ the King Church will present a live nativity scene beginning about 5 p.m. at its address: 309 Sixth Street NE, Waseca. A light meal of soup, bread and dessert will be served from 4:45 to 6:15 p.m. Donations will be accepted.

Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting 6:30 p.m. Dec. 14

The Waseca County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) board will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14 at the Waseca County Annex building, 300 North State Street, Waseca, Door 4.

Briefs continued on 7

*A word from
The Word*

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in.

Isaiah 40:22

Ready for the shows?

Young musicians performing all month



The intermediate school choir concert, held Monday December 4, featured the fifth-grade unison and sixth-grade two-part choirs. According to director Angela Andreen, each group performed some fun songs on their own, then finished the concert with two combined pieces.

Pioneer photo by Tristan Gehring

Schedule of upcoming music activities

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor
Craft Sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9 at WJSHS

According to the Choir Boosters organization, 26 independent vendors will have seasonal items for sale at the organization's craft sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the WJHS gym on Saturday, Dec. 9.

Choir members will also be highly

visible—and audible—at the event. Choir members will entertain the crowd with holiday tunes, and will also be selling a variety of fundraiser items including gourmet lollipops, Kwik Trip car wash cards, and tickets to the upcoming January 19 burger fry.

The Choir Boosters have recently gained tax exempt status and say they will be building their repertoire

of events and fundraising methods as they gain knowledge and practice. In the case of the craft sale, the chief financial benefit is the registration fee paid by the vendors to take part in the show.

Money raised by the choir boosters in the next few months is earmarked to support a trip set to take roughly 50 choir members to New York in early April. According

to high school choir director Megan Kreinbring, participants have been working for some time to earn funds toward the trip.

Junior High Choir Concert 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11 at WJSHS Performing Arts Center

The junior high choirs will perform at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 11

Shows continued on 3



In one scene of the live nativity panorama, angel Linda Seifert delivers the news to Mary, played by Cindy Kollander, that she will be the mother of the savior.

Nativity show set for Dec. 15, 16

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The efforts of more than 80 volunteers will combine to present St. Paul Lutheran Church's live nativity scene from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, December 15 and 16.

Planning committee members Dale Rudolph, Dean Worke and Linda Seifert state that the keyword for bringing everything together is "adjustment."

For one thing, while this is the fourth year Mary, Joseph and the newborn Christ

child will be represented near St. Paul's entry door, this is the first time the church is working on its own to carry the event out.

Nearby churches St. John's and Christ the King are scheduling their own events. The members of St. Paul's decided to continue with the live nativity because, to put it simply, they felt it was too valuable to discontinue.

Nativity continued on 2

Waldorf seeks \$4 million in bonds

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

The Minnesota State Senate Bonding Committee visited Waldorf November 28, to discuss potentially providing nearly \$4 million for various city projects.

The stop was one of many statewide for the bonding committee, which allocated 20 minutes per visit. While on site, senators acquire information to help determine where to dedicate funds from the state's upcoming bonding. Every two years legislators pass a statewide bonding bill which allocates money for various projects. In 2022, more than \$1.5 billion was allocated. The rebuild of Tink Larson Field, for example, was made possible when the construction received last-minute

placement on the project list.

The city of Waldorf is seeking \$7.4 million from state and federal sources to build a new public safety building and complete its "Phase 2 project."

The Phase 1 project amounted to \$15 million over three years and included replacing city storm sewer, sanitary sewer and water lines, refurbishing the water tower, building a new sanitary pond system and drainfield, and repairing or replacing some roadways and sidewalks.

While the projects funded by state and federal money were underway, the city was forced to deal with auxiliary complications. The city's water treatment plant failed, causing the city to come up with an emergency plan to rebuild the treatment filtration



From left, State senator John Jasinski, Waldorf mayor Rob Wilkening, representative Peggy Bennett, council member Carrie Ferch, and senator Gene Dornink.

system. According to a presentation Waldorf mayor Rob Wilkening showed senators during their visit, the city found a creative solution which included opening a wall of the treatment plant to remove and replace the failed equipment. Wilken-

ing emphasized to senators that the city worked resourcefully to solve this sudden complication. He also pointed out the city used its own financing to cover the unexpected

Waldorf continued on 3

Two jail listening sessions Tuesday

Members of the public are encouraged to attend either of two "listening sessions" at which members of the Waseca County board of commissioners and other leaders will hear input regarding whether the county should continue to keep a jail.

Sessions are scheduled for 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12 in the East Annex Building located at 300 North State St. in Waseca.

As reported in previous issues of the Pioneer, the current structure located near the county courthouse is more than 50 years old and is in need of upgrades and repairs which would cost more than \$30 million. Furthermore, state inspectors have warned the county that the current system of bringing inmates through public walkways while delivering them to hearings in the courthouse is in violation of safety standards. County leadership was informed that, if the list of violations found during the last state inspection is not taken care of by May of 2024, the jail will be downgraded from its current status to being authorized to hold prisoners for no more than 90 days.

These shortfalls have led county leadership to consider a number of solutions, ranging from building a replacement jail at a cost near \$45 million to downgrading to a "holding" facility, which would be qualified to hold prisoners for no more than 6 days. If the "holding" facility is selected, any prisoner who must be incarcerated for longer periods would be housed at a jail located in another county at a cost of about \$150 a day. In a previous Pioneer article, county administrator Michael Johnson stated typical daily occupancy in the Waseca County Jail has been about 9 inmates.

* * *

Sticker shock for farmers

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

In mid-November, Waseca County residents received statements estimating the dollar amount of property taxes they will be asked to pay during 2024. To put it one way, according to county administrator Michael Johnson, "This year, there was a shift differential as to how the burden of the levy will fall."

To put it another way, farmers are scared to open their tax statements.

When Johnson makes reference to a "shift" in the tax burden, he is calling attention to the persistent rise in market value residential property experienced during the pandemic. Numerous online sources document that the market value of homes rose by as much as 30 percent from 2019 to 2022.

Over the past few years, that increase in value caused "the burden of the tax levy" to fall more heavily on residential property; in other words, the larger share of any tax increases was absorbed among the many

Shock continued on 4



Compostings

by Al Batt

Fear of tsunamis comes in waves

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING I defeated a black belt yesterday.

Wow! Way to go. Thanks. Next week, I'm taking on a red sock.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I taught a class on birds at a college. A sock was tacked to a bulletin board among the assorted papers, advertising, travel opportunities and upcoming seminars. I watched for someone wearing just one sock.

My neighbor Crandall wants to get a bigger truck. He needs one that will allow him to stand up, throw his hands in the air and then sit back down as if he's a one-man undulating wave in the stands at a basketball game. It's a state law that drivers on a country road must wave as a greeting. Well, it's not really a law, but it's expected we acknowledge a fellow traveler. We wave at strangers and non-strangers. No one wants another to think he's gotten too big for his britches. My signature wave is an index finger extended in a one-digit wag. My father left that flip to me in his will. I've tried a two-finger wave but found it a bit ostentatious. Some wavers use the entire hand to make sure people know they aren't uppity. You get more exercise that way and that's good, as we're more likely to find extra fries than exercise in a vehicle. Others wave as if they're wiping the windshield as a signal they aren't stuck up.

The wind sighed through the trees on a day with a sky as gray as cement. Snow was coming. We snowed all year long when I was a boy. It covered the picture on our TV. We didn't have to shovel it and you couldn't build a snowman out of it, but we needed to move the rabbit ears antenna around to make the snow go away, which it seldom did. The reception on our old TV came in three categories: snowy, snowier and snowiest, but time flies and so do I. One of the most common dreams people have is about flying. I don't dream about flying because I lost my luggage the last time I did. Money can't buy happiness unless you're flying. I walked like an innocuous zombie through first class to get to my last class seat in the airplane's

wayback (like the rear of an old station wagon but not as nice), which offered a lovely view out the rear window. I wondered what those in first class did for a living. They read the Wall Street Journal while I sat in the back, making shadow puppets with an overhead reading light.

I'VE LEARNED

Wearing a kilt is a breeze. A boss is put on earth to give us all hope that no matter how bad we are at our jobs, we could become a boss one day.

Those who believe in aliens from outer space are aliens from outer space, whether or not they know it.

My fear of tsunamis comes in waves.

May you live as long as you want and never want as long as you live is an Irish toast. Bread, eggs, butter, milk, cinnamon and maple syrup is a French toast.

Three thousand twenty-seven years from today, life will be either sublime or dreadful because it'll be 5050.

NATURE NOTES

I saw several inert bodies of wild turkeys hit by cars. The big birds can be stubborn about surrendering a road, but I've fond memories of spreading my fingers and outlining them in pencil on construction paper to create a make-believe turkey in grade school.

A chipmunk appeared to have impacted wisdom teeth. A chipmunk's cheek pouches are like cargo pants and can expand up to three times their normal size to allow the chipmunk to carry food. National Geographic reports that a hardworking chipmunk can gather 165 acorns in a single day. In his book "Winter World," Bernd Heinrich counted 60 sunflower seeds packed into one cheek pouch. In a good year, one 4-ounce chipmunk can stockpile 8 pounds of food and do it without renting a single storage unit. Caching food allows an industrious chipmunk to snack while watching Netflix on nasty winter days. A reader reported one chipmunk stuffing 31 corn kernels before taking its food to go. An interesting fact: Most chipmunks are named Chip, Dale, Alvin, Simon or Theodore.

MEETING ADJOURNED

A shopper eating a test grape tossed money into the kettle. It was one of many acts of kindness I encountered while ringing bells for the Salvation Army.

Gift giving—just tell me what to buy

We are in the throws of finals and if I am completely honest, it sucks. My roommate and I keep sending each other memes (an image, video, piece of text, etc., typically humorous in nature) of having mental breakdowns during finals and that's helping. Her lab partner will send cat memes to her if he knows she's sad; that's adorable. I need cat memes to help me get through finals at this point.

I have a Media Law exam on Thursday (I will be done by the time this is published and I am greatly looking forward to that time) which has been stressing me out. My professor's exam is only five questions, but it's twenty-five pages of class lecture I need to know for only those five questions. It's unreasonable in my opinion, or maybe it's just upsetting to me because I am the one who has to take it.

What I did appreciate was a study break when my sister invited me to get coffee on Monday. We met about halfway between Waseca and the Cities and got coffee in Northfield. It felt very adult-like, the way we two sisters drove an hour just to get coffee



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

fee with each other on some lovely Monday afternoon. Even though I had seen her over Thanksgiving, it was truly heartwarming to me to get coffee with her. After coffee we went Christmas shopping in downtown Northfield, which was also fun. I was grateful she was shopping with me because she is really good at gift giving and I am not so good, despite my efforts.

Gift giving can be difficult for me. It depends on the person, but I usually don't really know what to get because I'm worried they won't like it. Thankfully, my sister and I are at the point where we just tell each other exactly what we want. She showed me the color of the water bottle she's getting me and I had her choose whether she wanted the tan or

brown sweatshirt of what she showed me. Easy peasy.

I feel bad for my family, though, because I am really bad at telling people what I want. Most of the time I say "I don't care" because I genuinely don't. Somebody could get me just about anything and I'd be satisfied. But that makes it extremely difficult for my family and I feel bad about that. At this point, just get me socks and I'd be happy. Literally, I'm at that point where I want socks for Christmas. My goodness, I must be turning into an old(er) person.

I bought myself a Christmas gift of a beginner embroidery/needlepoint kit and I'm excited. I can't wait to curl up on the sofa wrapped in a snugly blanket watching a good TV show and do some embroidery like a

cute little old lady (no offense to anyone, I promise it's meant in a good way).

Even though there has been final prep work, I've also been grinding away working at the Minnesota Daily. I love my job there, but sometimes it takes a lot. Such as yesterday, I spent all of my free time outside of classes finishing up a story because I had a last-minute interview, I had to go back through the recording of that interview to get quotes, and then I had to write the story which ended up being five pages long. Many of my stories I thoroughly enjoy writing though, so it is worth it. I only have one story left to write for the Daily this semester, but it's a really big, heavy-hitting one, so it will probably not be done by the end of the semester, which means I'm practically done for the semester. It is a bit of a relief, I will not lie. Time to go back to studying.

My Determination: "You speak an infinite deal of nothing." — William Shakespeare, The Merchant of Venice.

Kind words make beautiful mountains



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

football, but mainly our mitts and a baseball). Many, many games of pool, and so much more.

I worry for Ray. Growing up, I kind of had three grandpas on my mom's side of the family. Grandma had my mom right out of high school; she and Grandpa Rodney Arnold didn't stay together. My mom didn't meet Rodney until she was 17 years old. They grew close after that. Grandpa Arnold passed away when I was young and I really only have one memory of him as a very young kid. I believe he collected model cars—my dad shared that little nugget with me one day.

My grandma Kathy was married to Dean Richardson for 30 years. He passed away in a car accident two years ago. I know/knew him the best. Many, many fond memories.

Grandpa Ray, on the other hand, was the father who raised my mother alongside Grandma Kathy before the two of them divorced. Ray is the one my mom regards as

"Dad." Grandpa Ray is old fashioned and, well, he and I have never gotten very close. Mom always said he wasn't the best with kids. Being the youngest of three, I just didn't have many interactions with him.

We've all been mentally preparing for when Ray passes away because, well, he's had multiple heart attacks and this year a cancer diagnosis which ultimately forced him to stop working. He is in his 80s.

I didn't have a good feeling when Mom called. But I reminded her, he's stubborn. I can't say I was surprised when updates came that he was recovering after his helicopter ride to Rochester. Tomorrow will tell us more.

One major lesson from all of this is, spend time with those you care about while you can—while there's quality time to be had. I'm grateful for the relationships I have with my various family members. It's just not worth it to hang onto anger, troubles, frustrations and....and...and... The list goes on.

One day, however, life comes to an end.

Or as Deb (Bently) tells me, we leave the temporal plane and enter the eternal one.

As for me and the newspaper. We keep on rolling. The news, the stories, continue to be sent our way by many, many people. I'm grateful. It makes my job a lot simpler when so many readers go out of their way to insist, "You just have to write about this," or "Can we get this in the paper?"

As we approach the end of 2023, I'm grateful for the successes, the challenges, and everything in between. Before then, however, we still have a couple more editions to put to bed before we say hello to 2024. I'm looking forward to Christmas. It looks like I have four different celebrations on my calendar. Again, I count myself grateful.

And to the many folks who share kind words not only with me, but with others, thank you.

I passed along a message to Al Batt last week. "A month doesn't go by without a reader, or three, telling me how much they enjoy your column, how it makes them laugh, or brings a smile to their face."

Al's response: "Your kind words make beautiful mountains."

"Do something wild today. Look at a bird." — Al Batt

■ Nativity

from Page 1

Worke, who has served as a "greeter" to arriving vehicles at past events, thinks of "the excitement on the children's faces." He recalls the 800 to 1,000 people riding in the hundreds of vehicles, and he wants them to have a chance to see the nativity story again this year. In fact, they literally asked for it: "People were always saying 'You're going to do this again next year, aren't you?'" For those who have attended in the

past, it is important to know the procedures have changed slightly. Rather than being set up in a circle around St. Paul's as they have been in the past, the stations showing the nativity story will be in a line along the church's west parking lot. Drivers are asked to enter from the south and exit at the north. The street address is 314 Third Avenue Northeast.

Planning committee members point out that families may want to combine St. Paul's drive-through show with the "Holiday Lights" display at the county fairgrounds, where those in attendance are also invited to bring donations for the food shelf. Aside from the changed driving

pattern, most elements of the nativity scene will be familiar: People attending are invited to bring a donation for the Waseca Area Food Shelf. A short-range radio broadcast (FM 87.9) will narrate the nativity story. Visitors may either drive through, or park their cars and walk. There will be live animals - specifically sheep - in among the seven scenes being enacted.

A new touch for 2023 is that church members, including the participants in the Sunday School program, will be caroling as the event begins on Saturday.

Pastor Michael Grannis, new to St. Paul's this year, says he is excited to

see the nativity presentation. "It's a good thing," he says, "when an event can do such a good job of spreading the gospel message and is also well received by the community."

As the planning committee members tell of plans for this year and of experiences in the past, they can't help smiling; pulling together all the costumes, supplies, settings and decorations is, perhaps, a small-scale miracle.

"We don't have a dress rehearsal," admits planning committee member Dean Worke. "There's a lot of last-minute energy around here at about 4 o'clock on Friday afternoon."



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 Tuesday GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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

Contributing writers/photographers: Dave Zika, Santiago Ramirez. Al Batt

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$55 Per Year, Waseca County Residents \$65 State of Minnesota • \$75 Outside Minnesota

Waseca County Pioneer (USPS permit #25304) is published weekly on Friday, by Pioneer Publications Inc., 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca, MN, 56093. Periodicals Postage at New Richland, MN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to Waseca County Pioneer, P.O. Box 578, Waseca, MN, 56093.

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER P.O BOX 578 • Waseca, MN 56093 Send me 1 year of the WASECA COUNTY PIONEER! Enclosed is: NEW \$55 (Waseca Countyt) NEW \$65 (Minnesota resident) NEW \$75 (outside MN) Subscription For: Address City State Zip

■ Shows

from Page 1

in the WJSHS Performing Arts Center. Both the seventh- and eighth-grade choirs will perform. Songs will include energetic pieces like "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and a fun piece called "Cold Snap." The concert will finish with a combined piece entitled "Hear the Sleigh Bells Ring."

Hartley Grades 1 & 2 concert
7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14 at Central Building Auditorium

According to Hartley music teacher David Schmitt, the concert to be presented by first- and second-graders at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, has the theme "Time for a Picnic." The nearly 100 students from each grade who will be performing have been preparing for the concert since October. Schmitt says students are very much looking forward to playing xylophones, drums, and boomwhackers to accompany their songs. He says that a particularly enjoyable number for first-graders is "Acka Backa Soda Cracker." Second-graders are excited that they will be using flashlights during the concert; they also particularly like the song "Here Comes a Bluebird."

High School Choir Concert 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18 at WJSHS Performing Arts Center

The 90 or so members of the high school choirs will be performing a wide array of songs during their concert beginning at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 18 in the performing arts center, which has an admission cost of \$7. Groups taking part include the Concert Choir, Select Choir, male and female sextets and the State Street Singers.

Director Megan Kreinbring says the members of the Select Choir are looking forward to performing the "Hallelujah Chorus."

"They love this tradition that invites alumni to join us on stage," she said.

The State Street ensemble will

be performing "Winter Wonderland," "Carol of the Bells" and variations on "Fa la la la la."

A total of 17 numbers will be performed.

Intermediate Band Concert 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19 at the Waseca Intermediate School

The 90 or so members of the Waseca Intermediate School fifth- and sixth-grade bands will present their holiday concert in the Waseca Intermediate School gymnasium at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 19. According to director Craig Brenden, the concert will feature a variety of music celebrating the holiday season. During one of the musical numbers, the audience will be quizzed on how many different holiday tunes they hear. Said Brenden, "We have been working on this music since the end of October and continue to improve every rehearsal. Our students work hard to provide an enjoyable performance for their families and community and are looking forward to this concert." Brenden also notes that December 19 will be the first-ever public performance for the fifth-grade band members and "they are excited to showcase their achievements."

Junior High Band Concert
November 27

The Junior High Band concert was on November 27 and, according to director Miranda Merrill, "had a fantastic showing of community support." It featured both the seventh- and eighth-grade bands performing a variety of different compositions.

Waseca Intermediate School Choir Concert December 4

The intermediate school choir concert, held Monday, featured the fifth-grade unison and sixth-grade two-part choirs. According to director Angela Andreen, each group performed some fun songs on their own, then finished the concert with two combined pieces. Songs included a fun version of "Jingle Jive," and "Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree with Jingle Bell Rock." The concert closed with "We Wish You A Merry Christmas."

Decision-makers visit Janesville

Need for new community center, childcare expressed

Work to be done before official request is submitted

JANESVILLE JOURNAL - A handful of state representatives joined Senator Sandy Pappas on a 20-community tour across southeastern Minnesota from Nov. 28-30. The Chair of the Senate Capital Investment Committee, Pappas visited these communities to meet with local officials and learn about the 40 different projects the 20 communities have proposed. The information collected will be used in determining which projects will receive state financial support.

When Pappas arrived in Janesville, she was joined by State Senator Nick Frentz of District 19 (Mankato area) and fellow District 19 State Senator John Jasinski. Meeting with them were the members of the community center task force created by the Janesville Economic Development Authority (EDA). Task force members are Ben Salaba, Gina Pederson and Arlene Pooley; Mayor Andy Arnoldt and council representative Ivan Maas also took part.

Local representatives had about 20 minutes with the senators; a presentation led by Pederson explained the benefits a community center would bring. Their main points included tackling the childcare problem in Janesville, replacing a Carnegie Library that is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities act, providing an indoor recreation space for all ages, and establishing a gathering place for city events.

Pederson claimed that over a hundred children in Janesville have insufficient childcare options. Many parents have resorted to finding placements elsewhere. "We don't want them to leave," Pederson declared. "We want to provide it here."

She pointed out that while JWP has a "wrap-around" program, it is completely full and only for K-12 students. "We've used every square inch of the school," Pederson said.

The lack of available room at JWP led to the committee's point of having no indoor recreation space. "Our gym is booked until 9 p.m. every single night," Pederson said. "We lost our gym down in Waldorf. If you have teams grades 7-12, they go until 7 p.m. The youth teams practice until 9 p.m."



Members of the state capital investment committee visit with Janesville represetatives.

Concerning the library, the biggest problem is accessibility—a problem a new community center could fix. "It's part of a wonderful library system, but there's not much they can do to help," Pederson pointed out.

A new center would also provide local clubs with a place to meet. Pederson claimed the local Boy Scouts troop is lucky to have a place to meet, as their usual spot is the school. "Again, that's booked every night," Pederson said.

Arlene Pooley wanted to assure senators the community is in full support of building a community center. "I have a lot of passion for the little town of Janesville," she said. "I always like to say we deserve better."

"I've seen a lot of things come and go," she continued. "I feel we're in a good place. We have a city council supporting us. And in surveys we've done in past years, the community center is something that is brought up to us all the time."

Pooley said the center would raise awareness of the community to other towns in the area and show why people want to come to Janesville. "We used to be an old community. We're young now. We have lots of young families living here. We need to do better by them."

She hit on some of Pederson's points, then told the senators, "We have surveys that say residents want a community building. We have the support of the mayor, city council, and the city administration. It's going to happen. Simple as that."

Senator Pappas liked the idea of a community center for Janesville. "It makes sense," she said. "I gather there is no YMCA here. Recreation has become such a big deal. You don't have a mall to walk to. It all makes sense."

"The problem is, we have a lot of demands for money," Pappas continued. "We require 50 percent of all projects we help fund to be paid. Even 50

"You got some work ahead of you. You have some questions to answer before you come to us."

— State Senator Nick Frentz

percent of \$15 million is a huge demand. The state is the last dollar in, meaning we have the last bit of money to give out."

When Senator Jasinski asked the council how they would go about funding the local half of the \$15 million, council member Ivan Maas said they were "trying to see what we can shake out." He claimed the Waseca-LeSueur Regional Library System gave a verbal agreement to provide funds toward a new library building.

Senator Frentz then suggested looking into grant programs that allow the city to do certain projects with the Carnegie Library. He also admitted that it would be difficult for Janesville to get any money from the state for their community center project. "There are some projects out there that don't get full funding in the beginning. We get seven billion requests from what we hope is \$1.5 million of state funds just in water treatment."

To summarize what the senators thought of the project, Pappas said, "You got some work ahead of you. You have some questions to answer before you come to us."

The committee was thankful for the senators' time and were given some constructive feedback to continuing a quest to get a community center in Janesville.

■ Waldorf

from Page 1

\$350,000 cost, all while the bonding bill projects continued uninterrupted.

Wilkening also told senators of a complication discovered after city storm and sewer lines were replaced. It was discovered that many residential lines were experiencing "inflow and infiltration" (INI), allowing an unacceptable amount of water to leak into them and add to the burden on the water treatment plant, thus continuing fines imposed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. To solve that problem, Wilkening reported, the city secured a \$750,000 loan for residents and businesses to correct their problems. The city worked with the MNPCA to be one of the first cities in the state to design these creative low-interest loans to assist property owners in getting repairs.

Wilkening's presentation and summary were apparently meant to assure visiting senators the city had made good use of the "phase 1" funds, and could be trusted to do the same with additional money.

What will Phase 2 include?

For the 2024 bonding bill, the city

of Waldorf is requesting \$3.7 million. The proposed project includes additional street improvements; a lift station to allow the city's sanitary system to accommodate future businesses along State Hwy 83; new infrastructure to accommodate housing; and also public park improvements.

Safety Building

Also part of the 2024 request is a new Waldorf Safety Building.

Waldorf Fire and Rescue services a 72-square-mile radius and approximately 1,300 residents.

"With the growth of neighboring cities, the demand for growth is increasing," Mayor Wilkening wrote in the city's proposal. "A new fire and rescue facility would improve the quality of service in the region by reducing response times, increasing efficiency and lowering insurance rates. In addition, this would help to recruit and retain firefighters."

The current facility creates many hazards to the health and well being of the 21 on-call volunteer firefighters in Waldorf. Simply explained, the current fire hall is not fully compliant with state and federal safety standards. A new safety building would meet relevant requirements

How did the visit go?

Waldorf Mayor Rob Wilkening

said the meeting went well. He and others intend to set appointments with various senators and congressmen at the capital to talk further.

Wilkening commented that one of the committee members asked in a surprised tone how a town Waldorf's size received \$15 million for funding in Phase 1. "You just have to know how to apply and write grant applications," Wilkening answered.

Wilkening said Julie Rosen and he had once worked together to plan Phase 2, but then redistricting happened and Waldorf has missed out ever since.

"Rural Minnesota is at a disadvantage for this kind of funding," Wilkening said. "Larger cities have a larger tax base and more say."

Asked what would happen if Waldorf doesn't receive the bonding funds, Wilkening said the intended projects would have to be delayed.

"We cannot afford it as a city," Wilkening said. "I'm optimistic that we'll get one of the projects included in the bonding bill. If not, then we'll just continue on. All you can do is try and not give up."

Wilkening believes Waldorf is growing, citing the need for housing. "Every lot, every house is full, nothing is available. We need to establish housing... We need to be sustainable. That is the key."

YOU DESERVE THE VERY BEST

American Family is proud to be named one of **America's Best Insurance Companies of 2022** by Forbes. Plus, when you bundle your home and auto insurance with us, you may save up to 23% on both policies together!*

Contact me today to learn more about our customizable insurance options.

*Customers who bundle auto and homeowners insurance policies with American Family Insurance may save up to 23% on both policies together (as of October 2021).



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



American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. & its Operating Companies,
6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783 ©2021 20504 – 12/21 – 16554773



Local Decisions for Farmers, Businesses *and You!*



FM BANK *Waseca*

JON BUTLER
President



**220 ELM AVE EAST,
WASECA, MN 56093**

**507-571-3130
MYBANKFM.COM**

DJ
Daniel J. Johnson
ACCOUNTING
LLC

Our Services

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

I'm Daniel J. Johnson. For the past 13 years, I've proudly served our community by offering personalized accounting services for you and your small business. From tax preparation and bookkeeping to financial planning, I'm here to provide you with professional, trustworthy, and reliable assistance. Let's work together and make your financial dreams a reality!

115 North State Street,
Waseca, MN 56093
(507) 201-2484

Hours:

Mon - Thu
8 am - 4 pm
Fri
8 am - 12 pm

OBITUARIES

Mary June Krohn

Mary June Krohn, 80, of Hartland, MN passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family on December 2, 2023 from pancreatic cancer.

Mary June was born on June 14, 1943 in Kiester, MN to George and Anne (Wipplinger) Anderson. She was baptized at St Paul's Lutheran Church in Kiester. When Mary June was one her family moved to a farm in New Richland, MN. She was confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church and graduated from New Richland High School in 1961. Following her graduation she moved to Mankato, MN and worked at Emmanuel Hospital until she was married.

On June 6, 1964 she wed Larry Krohn at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Richland, MN. They moved to a farm near Le Center, MN and lived there for five years. They then moved to a farm near New Richland where they farmed for many years. They became members at Trinity Lutheran Church where Mary was active with the ALCW and taught Sunday School for 20 years. Her faith and church were very important to her.

Many years later they moved their family to Hartland, MN and Mary June went back to college and graduated from the University of Minnesota Waseca. She majored in childcare and Gerontology and worked in those areas for several years. Larry and Mary June also owned and operated a convenience store in Eagle Lake, MN for 10 years.

Mary June loved working with children and elderly people. She enjoyed listening to music, gardening, and flowers. Her first love was her husband and family and adored her role as grandma.



Mary June Krohn

Mary June will lovingly be remembered by her husband, Larry of 60 years; children, James (Tammy) Krohn of Waseca, MN, Paul Krohn of Hartland, MN, Mark (Melody) Krohn of Lakeville, MN, and Timothy (Brooke) Krohn of Geneva, MN; grandchildren, Elisha, Nathan, Lainee, and Laik; 2 great-grandchildren, Keygon and Josiah; siblings, Paul (Margaret) Anderson of New Richland, MN and Steven Anderson of Albert Lea, MN; sister-in-law, Judi (Buch) Eul of Faribault, MN; brothers-in-law, Wayne (Barb) Krohn of Le Center, MN and Kevin (Lisa) Krohn of Montgomery, MN.

Mary June was preceded in death by her parents and sister-in-law, Mary Jane Anderson.

A funeral service will be held at Central Freeborn Church on Friday, December 8, 2023 at 12:00 PM; Pastor Matthew Griggs will officiate. Mary's family will greet guests at a visitation 2 hours prior to the service at the church. Interment will be at St. Olaf Cemetery in New Richland, MN.

Catherine Pfeifer

CATHERINE "KATIE" FRANCES PFEIFER, age 86, of Waseca, died on Monday, December 4, 2023 at her home with family by her side following a brief battle with cancer.

Katie was born on October 30, 1937, in Wells, MN to Stanley and Wanda (Siglowski) Banashak. She grew up and attended school in the Wells and New Richland areas. When Katie was a teenager, her parents passed away. She lived with her sister in Kansas for a few years before moving to Waseca where she first met John Pfeifer on the north shore of Clear Lake. They later reconnected at the Monterey Ball Room and were soon after united in marriage on November 30, 1957, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca. Katie and John began their married life together in Minneapolis where Katie stayed busy raising six children. In 1969, they made Waseca their home where she continued to raise their family which grew to seven children. Katie was a wonderful mom and homemaker. Once most of the children were out of the home, Katie had some free time and began working at E.F. Johnson Co., which she thoroughly enjoyed and made lifelong friends. Katie enjoyed gardening, cooking, reading, listening to music, playing cards, (especially hand & foot), and having bonfires with her neighbors. Above all else her family was her world, and she cherished every moment spent with them. Katie was a member of the Waseca American Legion Ladies Auxiliary and Sacred Heart Catholic Church where she was active with Catholic Daughters and eucharistic adoration. Blessed be her memory.

Katie is survived by her children: Dennis (Joan) Pfeifer, Jody (Bill) Hartle, John (Dawn) Pfeifer, Mike Pfeifer, Anne (Arick) Hendrickson, Tim (Jen) Pfeifer, Joel (Missy) Pfeifer; grandchildren: Sonja Pfeifer, April (Corbin) Lemmer, Kelly (Andy) Chadwick,



Catherine Pfeifer

Katy (Mike) Busho, Kari Hartle, Isaac Pfeifer, Tony Schwichtenberg, Cody Pfeifer, Courtney (Reid) Mimmack, Dillon Hendrickson, Zack (Lindsay) Hendrickson, Derek Pfeifer, Blake Pfeifer, J.P. (Sally) Eykyn, Taylor Pfeifer (special friend, Rily Sylvester), Addison Pfeifer, Kyra Pfeifer, and Carter Pfeifer; great grandchildren: Jacob, Brayden and Olivia Busho, and Mitchell and Lucas Chadwick; many nieces and nephews, her extended Jewison family, and special friends: Dave and Joyce Matthys.

She is preceded in death by her parents; beloved husband, John; and 12 siblings.

Visitation will be from 3:00 – 7:00 PM on Sunday, December 10, 2023, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca. Visitation will continue for one hour prior to the service at the church on Monday.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 1:00 PM on Monday, December 11, 2023 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca with Fr. Glenn Frerichs as Celebrant. Burial will be in St. Jarlath Catholic Cemetery in Iosco Township, Waseca County.

Memorials may be directed to St. Croix Hospice or the hospice of your choice.

DSOFuneral.com
Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service
Waseca ~ Janesville ~ Waterville

Carl Fischer

CARL SCOTT FISCHER IV "SCOTT", age 58, of Janesville, died on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato.

Scott was born on December 29, 1964, in Wells to Carl Junior and Barbara (Linde) Fischer. He received his education at Waldorf-Pemberton Public Schools, graduating with the class of 1983. Scott served in the Army Reserves before beginning his working career. He worked at Corchrans, E.F. Johnson Co., Itron, and Froehlich's Sandblasting and Painting. He also worked as a Gold Cross

Carrier and delivered the Mankato Free Press. Scott enjoyed fishing, working on vehicles, watching the Minnesota Vikings, playing pool and having a good time alongside his family and friends. Scott was a good son, brother, dad, companion, and friend.

Scott is survived by his companion for the past 23 years, Bonnie Esser of Janesville; children: Desiree (Cole) Barkos of Duluth and Dalton (significant other, Tyler) of Duluth; mother, Barbara Fischer of Minnesota Lake; brother, Ron (Stacie) Fischer of Waldorf; sister, Renee (Brian) Meyer of Janesville; nieces and nephews: Sophia (significant other, Riley)

Fischer, Carter (Breanna) Fischer, Aubrey (significant other, Chase) Fischer, Raquel (significant other, Adler) Fischer, Ashley (significant other, Chris) Meyer and Cody (significant other, Karlie) Meyer; aunts, uncles, other relatives and friends.

He is preceded in death by his father; grandparents: Carl William Sr. and Anna (Fennert) Fischer and Rudy and Clara (DeVlaeminck) Linde and Smokey the Cat.

A Celebration of Scott's Life will be held in the summer of 2024.

DSOFuneral.com
Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service
Waseca ~ Janesville ~ Waterville



Carl Fischer

Healthy for the holidays
Tips on preventing falls on ice during busy season

Tis the season of a million errands and shopping trips, and it just so happens to coincide with that time of year when ice and snow begin to impact travel, both in our cars and on foot.

In the north country, a good pair of boots isn't always enough to protect your feet and ankles from injury if you're not careful. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that about 1 million adults in the U.S. are injured due to slips and falls every year, with the injury rate increasing significantly as temperatures decline.

"When it comes to slippery sidewalks and roads, vigilance truly is key," says Taylor Beahrs, M.D., an orthopedic surgeon at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato. "This

can be especially true for adults with balance problems, or those who have ankle pain or instability."

So what can you do? Dr. Beahrs recommends the following tips while out running around on the snow and ice.

Wear proper footwear.
Be sure you have a pair of lightweight boots with good support. You also can purchase snow grips or ice cleats for the bottoms of your shoes or boots for just a few dollars.

Take your time.
Do not hurry while walking outside. Pay attention to your steps and walk slowly.

Use assistance.
Always use handrails, a walking stick, your walker or cane when out in winter weather.

Take small steps.
Small steps, almost from side to side, help you maintain your center of gravity. Take small steps and waddle a bit like a penguin.

Stay inside.
On days when it is icy and you do not need to go anywhere, stay home.

Dr. Beahrs also recommends that if you do feel yourself falling and cannot regain your balance, don't try to brace your landing with an outstretched arm. That can lead to more injuries. Try to land on your buttock or back.

After a fall, wait for someone to help you in case you are injured or to avoid subsequent falls. Some people further injure themselves by springing up after a fall instead of waiting for help.

"Overall, just use your best judgment on the snow and ice and take time to assess your path forward before taking steps," says Dr. Beahrs.

###

About Mayo Clinic Health System
Mayo Clinic Health System has a physical presence in 44 communities and consists of 53 clinics, 16 hospitals and other facilities that serve the healthcare needs of people in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The community-based healthcare professionals, paired with the resources and expertise of Mayo Clinic, enable patients in the region to receive the highest-quality physical and virtual healthcare close to home.

Shock
from Page 1

hundreds of homes located throughout the county.

This year, however, as reported in the Pioneer in September, the market value of tillable farmland rose by roughly 50%, with average sale prices going from about \$7,500 in 2021 to about \$9,500 in 2022, according to county assessor Brock Nelson. This means that the proportion of the tax burden falling on agricultural properties has risen.

One well-informed farmer stated that he understands the \$3,000 increase—roughly 40 percent higher than in 2023—in his property taxes has its foundations in the rising market value of his land combined with inflation and cost increases experienced by the school district, township and county. "I'm not entirely surprised—but that doesn't mean I like it. Unless commodity prices rise I think it's going to be hard to make ends meet," he commented.

Administrator Johnson explains that, under state law, all government entities are expected to begin work on the following year's budget already in March, and are required to determine "preliminary" numbers by September 30. Also under procedures dictated by state law, it is the county's job to collect all the information relevant to taxpayers—whether they be individuals, businesses or corporations—make the required calculations, and notify

them of their status.

The "estimated" tax statements sent out in November were the result of that process. The forms were labeled as "estimates" because the cities, school districts, and other entities have until late December to determine their "final" levy numbers. State law dictates, though, that once a preliminary number is set, the final number must be the same or lower.

School districts, cities and the county have submitted preliminary tax levy increases ranging from about 19.4 percent in New Richland to less than 1 percent in Waseca. Waseca County has increased its levy by 1.5 percent. NRHEG school district submitted a 2 percent levy increase; Waseca schools 4.1 percent.

Property tax statements sent to all county landowners used these numbers to calculate their share of the taxes needed to support the entities which apply to them. Johnson refers to each piece of property being in its own "unique taxing area," based on which boundaries it falls within.

In addition to notifying property owners what the amount of their taxes will be, the statements list which agencies will be receiving the tax money and provide the dates, times and locations those agencies will be holding their legally required "truth in taxation" meetings.

At those hearings, people can expect to learn about the budget each governing body has formulated for the upcoming year. Presenters are also likely to summarize how their expenditures for 2024 compare to those for 2023 and, often, for the past

few years in an effort to show taxpayers they have handled money responsibly.

One important point likely to be made during the meetings is that the levy—the amount the entity collects in property taxes—is not the same as the budget—the total amount of money the agency expects to spend during the year.

In the case of Waseca County, Johnson points out, there has been an 18 percent increase in the budget—from \$33.3 million in 2023 to \$39.6 million in 2024. Yet the county levy is rising by only 1.5 percent. "We find ourselves in a position of doing more with less," he says as he makes reference to the 9 percent national inflation rate.

"Any agency whose levy increase is lower than the rate of inflation is, in effect, taking a cut in its funding," he observes. So then, why do most

Waseca county agencies have levy increases below 9 percent?

Johnson points out that schools and government units receive money from sources other than property taxes: The state of Minnesota is perhaps the largest. Agencies often apply for grants or special funding from state, federal, and private sources. In a few cases, perhaps especially during the pandemic, federal funding has been granted for specific projects or causes. The more successful the agency is at finding these additional sources of funding, the less it will need to ask for in taxes.

As for how the "burden" of those taxes is divided, Johnson points out it rests on the market value of the property within the "unique tax area" of each entity. "And the market's always going to be moving," he says. "This year's shift is a case in point."

FEED • SEED • PET FOOD
"NOT JUST A FARM STORE"

CONDON FARM SERVICE
Downtown Waseca
206 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 (507) 835-5533
Holly Harguth 507-835-5533
condonfs@gmail.com

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

Collaboration. Scale. Excellence.

GUARDIAN ENERGY
Janesville
507-234-5000

Get your news in the Pioneer
• news@wasecacountypioneer.com
• Call (507) 837-6767
• Office at 111 W. Elm Avenue

Tesch Service Center
Family-Owned Automotive Repair

- wheel alignments
- brake services
- suspension repairs
- towing & more!

Call us today!

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

Lego time



LEGO TIME - Children ages 4-6 enjoyed Lego time at the Waseca Public Library last weekend. Kids were asked to create a scene meant to illustrate a story. Participating in this event were (directly above) Clara with her mother Angela and brother Dominic. In the top photo is Sofia.
At Lego Storytime, kids enjoyed a book and a related building challenge, tying literacy and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) goals together in a fun way. The next Lego Storytime will be the first Saturday of February.
Pioneer photos by Tristan Gehring

Crafty time



VFW – A small but vibrant craft fair took place at the Waseca VFW Post Dec. 2, giving opportunities to local crafters. First Picture: Crystal Myers, of Waseca, is proprietor of Crochet, Critters & Chaos and can be found at local craft fairs and farmers' markets as well as on Facebook. Posed here with some of her hand-crocheted plush toys. Second picture: Cassandra Garcia, of Waseca, is owner and artist at Dazed Bat Artistry, and can be found at www.dazedbat.com in addition to various craft fairs.
Pioneer photos by Tristan Gehring

Waseca Music
C O M P A N Y
10-5:30 M-F, 10-2 Sat, Closed Sunday
- Since 1952 -

- Rent/Buy/Lease Band Instruments new/used
- Best Seller • Repairs • Accessories
- Sheet Music & Books
- Guitars & String Instruments
- Piano & Digital Keyboards
- Drums & Percussion
- CD's, DVD's & Vinyl!

507-835-2980
wasecamusic@gmail.com
www.wasecamusic.com
111 South State Street • Waseca, MN

Rick's Appliance
ricksappliancewaseca.com

AMANA
Speed Queen
MAYTAG
Whirlpool

Sales & Service
507-461-9615
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

Cookie Dazzle



COOKIE DAZZLE – Held last Saturday at the Waseca Area Senior Citizens Center, the Holiday Cookie Dazzle is the biggest fundraiser of the year for Achieving Dreams for Disabilities. Money raised is used to provide programming for people with disabilities. From left are board members: Stacie Brinkman, Jen Williamson, Nancy Tollefson, Sue Sather, and Kari Haslip.
Pioneer photo by Tristan Gehring

Visit from the North Pole



STARFIRE - The Starfire Event Center held its annual Winter Wonderland event last weekend, with raffles and numerous photo opportunities for families. At right Lizzy King, 8, and Lucy King, 3, tell Santa and Mrs. Claus what gifts they'd like for Christmas. In the trees: Annie and Tony Cloud with their daughter, Ellie, take in the sights at the Winter Wonderland. The event continues this weekend, Dec. 9.
Pioneer photos by Tristan Gehring

Handmade, home goods



ST. JOHNS - Serving food and selling handmade home goods from members of their church, the ladies of St. John's Lutheran Church raised money for various ministries at their annual Christmas Bazaar last Saturday. Serving, from left are Lila Schaal, Laurie Lemmon, Cheri Brummund, Judie Waters, and Megan Johanneck. Serving pie are, from left: Pam Rudolf, Jeannette Williams, Cindy Wood, Linda Seifert and Rhonda Christianson.
Pioneer photos by Tristan Gehring

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

BATTENFIELD LAWN CARE
Lawn Maintenance & Residential Snow Removal
Zach Battenfield
507-521-0226
zachbattenfield@gmail.com

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

Brilliant Bluejays

Brilliant+ BLUEJAYS



Zoey

Kindergarten

Zoey is a Brilliant Bluejay because she always shows the Bluejay Way. She is kind, caring, and always willing to help others with their learning. Zoey respects others by staying in her own space and setting a good example! Way to go, Zoey!



Haleigh

1st Grade

Haleigh demonstrates the bluejay way at all times. She is a quiet, hard worker who is always ready to help her classmates. Haleigh is kind and respectful to her classmates and Haleigh adult!



Croix

2nd Grade

Croix is a Brilliant Bluejay because everyday he shows up ready to learn. He is kind to everyone and always lends a hand to a friend. Croix continuously shows respect for others through the bluejay way and is a positive role model around the school. Great job Croix.



Aaralynn

3rd Grade

Aaralynn shows the Bluejay Way all of the time. She is a wonderful role model and is always very respectful to her peers and staff members. Keep it up, Aaralynn!



Braxton

3rd Grade

Braxton shows the bluejay way in art by helping others, raising his hand to share, and always trying his best. He respects others by showing kindness, sharing materials, and giving positive compliments about other students' artwork! Way to go Braxton!

Brilliant+ BLUEJAYS



Teresa

Kindergarten

Teresa is ready to go from the moment that she walks in the door. She stays on task and listens with her whole body. She is the Bluejay Way!



Adlee

1st Grade

Adlee does a great job of showing the Bluejay Way all day. She always tries her best and isn't afraid to make a mistake. Adlee comes in the morning ready to learn and is a great role model to all of her peers!



Justine

2nd Grade

Justine comes to school with a positive attitude and is ready to learn every day! She is a very good listener, is willing to help others, and consistently shows the Bluejay Way! Keep it up, Justine!



Ava

3rd Grade

Ava knows how important learning is! No matter what is happening around her she always does her best. Ava is a great role model for everyone around her. She chooses to be Bluejay way every day.



Sydney

3rd Grade

Sydney has a calm manner that allows herself and others to be respected and enjoy their environment. She has a sweet smile that brightens up a person's day and is appreciative of the help she receives from others. She takes pride in her learning and tries her best each day to be prepared and ready to learn.

Waseca's Hartley Elementary is recognizing students on a monthly basis starting this December. Each month five students will be featured. For the innagural month, ten students were selected for the month of December.



The Pastor's Column

Oranges bring back memories

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

Traditions. They can be good things and bad things. Every Christmas growing up we got oranges, because of tradition. My Great Uncle would order us two bushels of oranges for Christmas, direct shipped to our house, from Florida, shortly after the new year. I asked him why he ordered us oranges and he told me it was tradition from when he was growing up.

Did you ever get oranges for Christmas? It has been a tradition in many homes and a treat for years at Christmas, helping the younger generations survive the deep winter and lack of vitamin C. It was also fun to eat while waiting for friends and relatives to arrive for the Christmas feast. Now my family continues the tradition, but we take it a step further putting the peels and leftover cranberries into a pan to simmer on the stove.

Traditions are important, but at times they can hinder our celebration. We continue to celebrate the season of advent and prepare for the coming of Christ. What is standing in the way of your celebration this year? Is it a concern for money to get others what they want? Is it a hope for the perfect day or party? Is it a worry about health, relationships, work, grades, or something else?

All of these things that stand in our way are doing one thing, they are standing in the way of what God is trying to do. God is trying

to meet us in these days, the traditions, gift giving, shopping and meal planning can be barriers to what God is doing. Don't become so busy or distracted that you miss out on what God is doing. Let us celebrate this Advent and Christmas season as children once again.

Jesus took time to meet with children in His ministry, when people would stand in the way of children being ministered to by Him He spoke harshly to them, as in Matthew 19:

13 Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. 14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." 15 When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.

So what traditions, experiences, or expectations are standing in the way of you meeting with Jesus? Let us slow down, approach Him as a child, and let Him work in our lives. He wants to meet with us in the midst of this season, don't miss out on His work by allowing the cares and concerns stand in the way.

Use the traditions you have to point you to Jesus as Lord and Savior, knowing that His advent is for God's glory and our good. Prepare your heart to meet with Him this year for Christmas.

Waseca Chorale

Large crowd enjoys holiday concert

Songs offer old favorites with new twists

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

A near-capacity crowd gathered at Sacred Heart Church the afternoon of Sunday, Nov. 26 to hear the 48 members of the Waseca Chorale as they presented "Fantasy of Christmas Carols." While many of the tunes and song titles were familiar, the group followed through on its earlier promise that each song would also contain surprising variations.

The holiday performance was made possible, in part, by a grant from the E.F. Johnson Foundation. The Chorale also acknowledged Sacred Heart Church, Grace Lutheran Church, the Waseca High School music department and the Waseca County Pioneer for their contributions to the group's efforts.

Music lovers are encouraged to attend the spring concert which will feature the shared talents of Chorale members and singers from Beau Chant, the Faribault community choir. That performance will be at the Waseca High School performing arts



The 50 or so members of the Waseca Chorale during their performance at Sacred Heart Church on November 26.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

center at 7 p.m. on May 11, 2024.

Chorale members are (altos) Toni Bauleke, Karen Brenden, Sheryl Brisel, Rhonda Christianson, Karen Dahle, Mary Jo DeLaitch, Jan Macklay, Mallory Malecek, Rita Miller, Jodie Pollock, Mary Schultz, Jacque Storby, Deb Vetter, (tenors) Mike Anthony, Paul Byron, Doug Engstrom, Don Frankenberry, Carroll Galvin, Matt Jirele, Michael Johnson, Andrew Miller, Matt Sebersson, Jon Stag-

man (sopranos) Sarah Berry, Aimee Hill, Sallee Hoehn, Janice Hoverstad, Julie Kramer, Nancy Lehman, Dawn Leigh, Kelli Lenz, Deb Miller, Peggy Olson, Kathy Roycraft, Isabella Sorenson, Sarah Whitesitt, Marilyn Wilkus (tenors) Rodney Born, John Hoehn, Al Judd, Bill Kopischke, Immanuel Mueller, Michael Myers and Charlie Priebe.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH
2200 4th St NE, Waseca
507-835-2235
Service times 9:30 a.m.

4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH
605 4th St NE, Waseca
507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker)
Worship Sundays 10 a.m.

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
801 4th Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-3167
Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m.

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 6th St NE, Waseca
507-835-9176
Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca
507-833-1703
Sundays 9:00 a.m.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
314 4th Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-2647
Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m.

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

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

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
111 4th St NW, Waseca
507-835-1222

Worship Saturday 5:15 p.m., Sundays 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., weekdays 8:30 a.m. Tues., Wed. and Fri., 7:00 a.m. Thurs.

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

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS
1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca
507-835-4640

Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Pamela Jensen
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship

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

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

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

Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Father Brian Mulligan
Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass

FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod
Waldorf, Minnesota
Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor
Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class

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

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

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN
Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
412 N. Main Street, Janesville
Interhim Pastor
Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class,

10:15 a.m. Worship

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

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

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

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

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

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

NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA
404 30 120th St. Waseca
Pastor Sarah Krolak
507-234-6463

Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday "Young at heart"
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation

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

PERSONALIZED PRINTING & APPAREL

Barb & Mark Buker
100 S. STATE ST - WASECA MN
PHONE: (507) 835-7565
INFO@PPRINTWASECA.COM

WE PRINT
BUSINESS CARDS, SIGNS, BROCHURES, PACKAGING, MULTIPART FORMS, LABELS, ENVELOPES, POSTCARDS, EVENT TICKETS, FLYERS, ADVERTISING, CARDS, ...AND EVERYTHING ELSE!
& DESIGN

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

Argus Archives

1923

According to a statement by County Auditor Panzram the tax levy for Janesville for the coming year is 35.4 mills as compared with 17.7 for New Richland and 21.3 for Waseca. The village of Waldorf is 12.8 mills. Reasons for high taxes in Janesville are apparent to every taxpayer as well as to others. The high rate is due principally to the levy for outstanding obligations that represent current expenses largely. It will be remembered that warrants for many thousands of dollars against the village were paid through a boding proposition that the people approved.

Last week these columns gave the necessary publicity due at that time to the movement to raise funds for a civic and tourist park. Since then, the movement has been pushed along and is now receiving the united support of the town so far as indications may go. Tickets are being sold to the musical entertainment to be held at the Town Hall on Friday evening. Those who are in touch with the affair are conscious of its superior qualities.

The proposed community Christmas tree will be put over. This much was determined yesterday after the committee appointed for the purpose had solicited businessmen for contributions. Acting for the community interests through the action of a recent voluntary meeting of the businessmen Dr. L. W. Scott, Alfred Hirscher and E. G. Zimmerman canvassed the town and secured the required backing.

The approaching annual convention of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, to be held at South St. Paul, Jan. 8 to 10, promises to be a farmers' congress in every sense of the expression. County Farm Bureaus that are hoding their annual meetings this month, in almost every instance, have designated representatives to the House of Delegates, a new feature in connection with this year's annual meeting.

1948

Three members of Coach Chiodo's football team, the Golden Bears of Janesville High School, were picked on the All-Gopher Conference team as follows: Capt. Bernie Galler, Art Cahill, and Junior Strunk. Those who received honorable mention on the state roster were Galler, Art Cahill, and Johnny Schmidt. All the rest of the boys played stellar football during the season and Coach Chiodo and his team are to be congratulated.

Minnesota's food train, filled with Minnesota farm products gathered by county CROP committees will lead a parade of 23 relief trains that will move simultaneously across America's rural states the week before Christmas to Christmas Day dedications at shipside at 10 different ports. All CROP Christmas trains are sponsored by the Christian Rural Overseas Program, which in turn is supported by Catholic Rural Life, representing the War Relief Services of the National Catholic Welfare Conference; Church World Service, representing 21 Protestant denominations; and Lutheran World Relief, representing the various Lutheran Synods.

"Take it easy," good advice for motorists at all times, is doubly important in winter driving, according to J. E. P. Darrell, traffic engineer of the Minnesota Highway Department. Poor traction and low visibility make it necessary that drivers use greater caution and generally travel at lower speeds than in summer time, he said. "'Don't overdrive your headlights' is a very important rule in winter driving," said Mr. Darrell. "This means controlling your speed so that you can always stop safely in the space clearly illuminated by your headlights. Failure to observe this rule is responsible for a great many serious winter accidents."

Three Minnesota county extension agents were given Agricultural Extension district service awards for longtime, distinguished service, at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents meeting in Chicago. The three Minnesota agents named for the service awards were Cletus Murphy, Waseca County, J. J. McCann, West St. Louis County; and John Sheay, Meeker County.

1973

Junior Tom Burke and senior Mark Berndt will both miss Janesville's wrestling opener because of injuries. The Bears open their dual meet season Friday with last year's tournament conference champs, Morris-town. Both injured matmen will be hard to replace. Burke, a 126-pounder, will be lost until January and could be out for the entire year. He broke his foot in practice. As a sophomore, Burke had a 21-8 record. Berndt suffered a broken thumb in practice. He was figured strongly in the 138-pound class.

Janesville's six service stations will be closed Sunday but none of the local dealers the Argus contacted feels it will do much good in easing the gasoline shortage. Although the local men have mixed emotions about being forced to close, they all agree that people will find it too easy to beat the Sunday closing. Joe Tetzloff said his Standard Station has been closed for five years but that closing everyone down won't help.

Can you imagine someone building a two-and-one-half million dollar facility and then letting it set idle several nights, every weekend, and for three straight months in the summer? For years that's exactly what towns all over America have been doing with their school buildings. It's not that the buildings were "off limits" to residents. Rather, the fault lies in the fact that few communities have any program to really utilize the school buildings after hours. At their last meeting, the District 830 School Board set out to remedy this situation by unanimously approving a new Community School Program and Hiring teachers Charles Johnson as the year-round community school director. Since taking over the part-time position November 15, Johnson has been planning for what is hoped will become a twelve-month schedule of activities for children and adults.

Glen Guse, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Guse, rural Janesville, is a regional award winner in a welding contest sponsored by the James F. Lincoln Are Welding Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio. Guse, a 1973 Janesville High School Graduate won a Sixth Award and \$25 for his Drill Press entry. Glen's welding instructor is Lauren Nelson.

1998

Again this year, the Janesville State Bank is offering 0 percent interest shopping loans to its customers to use in Janesville, bank vice-president Jim Anderson announced today. Anderson said previous programs have resulted in about \$125,000 in sales at local stores. He stated that the program starts today, Wednesday, Nov. 25, and lasts through Christmas.

After a weekend of car thefts, the Janesville Police Department is asking residents to be on the alert. When the Argus went to press there had been a total of four thefts reported. However, the police said that in a situation where nothing is missing, residents will often not report the incident. Residents are advised to make sure their cars and garages are locked and to be aware of any vehicles and homes.

After serving 30 plus years in the city of Pemberton, Mayor Ray Baer has decided to step down. An open house/retirement party will be held in Baer's honor on Sunday, Dec. 6, from 2-5 p.m. at the Pemberton Community Center. Baer, a resident of Pemberton for the past 50 years, has served as both mayor and council member.

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School District is the recipient of a \$150,000 handicap accessibility grant. A total of 660 school districts applied, but only 12 districts were awarded a grant. Out of these 12 districts only three were given a \$150,000 grant. In fact, JWP was the first district chosen for a \$150,000 grant. Out of the 12 school districts receiving a grant, 11 were consolidated school districts.

Back in the day (Waseca)

25 Years Ago

- Fifty-one Waseca homes and five businesses have entered the 1998 Great Holiday Lighting Contest in Waseca. Judging will take place Thursday night between 8 and 10 p.m. Participants are asked to have their lights on during those hours. Homeowners will participate in three different categories: religious, traditional, and contemporary. First place winners will receive \$100 savings bonds, second place winners will receive \$50 savings bonds, and third place winners will receive \$20 city utility credits. In addition, all participants will have a chance in a drawing, in which 20 \$10 utility credits will be given away.

- In its first title defense of the year, a veteran Waseca gymnastics' team had no problems. The Jays, coming off a 10-0 season that included winning both the South Central Conference dual and tournament titles, rolled past St. Peter 137.45 to 123.25 Thursday. Waseca swept the vault and floor exercise, while placing first and second in bars and first and third on the beam. The Jays' best event was the 35.5 they scored in the floor exercise.

- A man named Homer Land kept local authorities busy after he escaped from a TransCor America prisoner transport vehicle in Owatonna at noon Thursday. The Waseca County Sheriff's department had five officers involved in the manhunt. Sheriff Ed Kubat said that his office coordinated with Steele County authorities to assist in the search. Although Warden Jim Tippy wouldn't comment on what the Waseca Federal Correction Institute's transport policy was, he did say that it would probably have more guards than TransCor America had. The private company had only two guards for 11 prisoners. The escape occurred when one of the guards went into Burger King to buy lunch for the 11. Three of the inmates overtook the remaining guard and left with the van.

50 Years Ago

- Kevin Kanne, Barb LaMont and Gary Reinhardt, all of Waseca, have just finished participation this fall in the Mankato State College Warrior Marching Band. The band, under the direction of Dr. Clayton Tiede, played at two home football games and made its annual trip to Sioux City, Iowa, where it performed in the Morningside-Mankato State football game. It concluded the season with the third annual indoor marching band concert.

- Two accidents were reported in Waseca Tuesday with the first heavy snowfall of the season and Chief of Police Earl Halleck said both accidents could have been avoided. Both fender benders occurred at intersections. Halleck said that "people must know that intersections with stop signs are going to be slippery after a fresh snow." He said that with many cars stopping at the signs it causes the snow to become compacted and form a slick layer of ice. He added that not only the stop sign intersections but all streets become slippery after numerous cars have traveled over them. Halleck said that if each person cut his driving speed by at least 10 miles per hour it would stop a lot of needless accidents.

- The board of education met in a special noon session Tuesday at Central Middle School. The meeting was primarily devoted to authorizing bids for capital improvements. The first consideration was the proposed site plan for the new Waseca High School. The board had previously requested Foss, Englested & Foss, the architectural firm for the building, to go ahead while designing a masterplan for the high school site. The idea is to insure that the site is not developed in a piecemeal or haphazard fashion, but rather progresses logically as funds become available. Also requiring capital improvements are the elementary and middle school libraries which are in need of various types of revamping.

75 Years Ago

- Some 2,500 small pickerel which were stranded in the creek between Watkins and Rice lakes, have been saved by the efforts of sportsmen and are now in Clar lake growing into bigger and better fish. There were several hundred transferred last summer and over 2,000 were saved in the last 10 days when members of the Sportsmen's Club and others got busy. The ice was broken in the creek and the fish trapped, put in cans and taken to Clear Lake.

- Fox hunting has turned into a real sport this fall in Waseca county and hunters have turned out to make an extra dollar while they enjoy the sport, according to Art Brisbane, county auditor. Monday two hunters brought in six red fox pelts to be checked by Toy Tollefson, deputy game warden, who authorizes payments of bounties by the county auditor. They were Ervin and Marvin Flitter who had the six red fox pelts as proof of their hunting luck. The six were half of the 12 killed in the past three weeks by a group. Foxes bring \$6 bounties, \$2 from the county and \$4 from the state, and about \$1 for the hides.

- The American Legion Sunday afternoon observed December 7, 1941, the day that Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and World War II started. [Note that the war had been going on for awhile at that point.] The American Legion firing squad formed at the Legion hall and marched to the corner of State and Elm. Following three volleys and a minute of silence, taps were played.

100 Years Ago

- "Tell the people we have the biggest and best poultry show in southern Minnesota." That was the statement made last night by Dr. Edmund Mackey, president of the Waseca County Poultry Association, to the editor of the Herald. You may or may not take the Doctor's word as final, but a visit to the Lewer, Woodhall, Cunningham garage will convinced the most skeptical that this year's poultry show is certainly the best ever. There are over 1,000 birds on display, representing the finest specimens of the most popular breeds of turkeys, ducks, geese and chickens to be found in Minnesota.

- T. F. Slattery has opened a new cash and carry grocery store in the building formerly occupied by Tom Hagerty's lunch room. Mr. Slattery had several years' experience in conducting a store at Greenland, le Sueur county, and is well equipped to care for his customers.

- M. J. Broderick returned last week from northwestern Minnesota with a fine bunch of high grade dairy cows which he bought from farmers who could not afford to keep them over winter. He bought the animals in Red Lake, Pennington and Marshall counties and got them at very reasonable figures considering the quality. He says the farmers up there had a big crop of potatoes and can get nothing for them. He was told that one man who shipped a carload East was notified that the shipment didn't bring enough to pay the freight. About the only marketable product these farmers have is their dairy cows and they must sell some of them in order to meet necessary expenses. Many farmers who bought land at a high figure two and three years ago would sell at most any price now but can't get a buyer. Southern Minnesota farmers are on easy street in comparison with a lot of those in the northwestern part of the state, Mr. Broderick says.

Looking Back (New Richland)

100 Years Back - 1923

At the annual meeting last Friday evening the Hartland Business Men's association elected the following officers for the new year: President, M.A. Jordahl; Vice-president, I.C. Stensrud; Secretary, E.J. Anderson; Treasurer, M.J. Sibilrud.

Miss Ella Alfreda Johnson and Mr. Andrew Breck were the first to be married in the new Trinity Lutheran church recently dedicated. They were married Wednesday morning by Rev. Edward Nervig, pastor of the church.

H.V. Clark and Walter Breilein completed the installation of a Western Electric plant at the Geo. Eckart farm last Wednesday.

Mrs. Willard Cook and two children, Chester and Elsie, visited relatives at Waldorf and Pemberton during the Thanksgiving vacation. They were accompanied on their return by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Anderson.

Mrs. R. Doyle and granddaughter, Mary, and Mr. and Mrs. James Doyle and son and Miss Lena Roberts motored to Fari-bault Sunday and visited relatives.

The following were entertained at the Oscar Anderson home Thanksgiving day: the families of Albert and Frank Krueger and Ed. Schroeder and Mrs. Anderson's father, William Krueger.

Grandpa Tesch, Mrs. Geo. F. Beck's father, celebrated his 81st birthday last Sunday at his home at Waldorf. About 40 friends and relatives were present.

77 Years Back - 1946

As Roy Peterson, living near Freeborn, drove into Hartland village the other day fire broke out under the hood of his pickup. A couple of fire extinguishers were brought out but neither contained any fluid, so the Fire Department was called. But the truck's motor wouldn't start, so it was pushed a block or so by hand. In the meantime an extinguisher had been refilled and the fire was put out.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Mortenson and son, Bennie, Mrs. Nellie Messersmith, Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Laudert, and Mr. and Mrs. Rex Volling were Thanksgiving dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Johnson.

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Proehl and sons helped Rosalie Schroeder celebrate her ninth birthday anniversary at the Alfred Schroeder home Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Ragan and son, Michael, of Waseca, Godfred Nelson and daughter, Lucille, of New Richland visited at the Walter Sunde and Arnold Loken home Thursday evening.

The following were entertained for dinner Thanksgiving Day at the Richard Frisk home: Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Thompson and family of Ellendale, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Stennes, and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Stennes.

Mr. and Mrs. John Olson, Marilyn and Ardis, of Matawan and Mr. and Mrs. Ellert Madson of New Richland were Sunday afternoon visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Clemetson.

50 Years Back - 1973



These first and second graders from Hartland are posed in front of a number of pictures of Santa Claus following practice for their Christmas program. They are, front: Eddie Nelson and Dennis Hendrickson; back: Anna Olson, Apryl Janowitz and Shelly Weydert.

25 Years Back - 1998

In an 'unofficial' ceremony Saturday morning at the New Richland city hall, the Hospice Tree of Memories was dedicated. About 40 family members and friends of the late Florian Ignaszewski gathered to hear the story of how the tree came to be planted on the corner by the post office in his memory.

The New Richland held their annual banquet and meeting at the American Legion Clubrooms Saturday night. More than 200 avid snowmobilers enjoyed the food and fellowship.

Mr. and Mrs. Eldo Brandenburg and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tesch were among those who attended the retirement party for Mayor Raymond Baer at the Pemberton Community Center Sunday afternoon.

■ Briefs

from Page 1

Live Nativity at St. John Lutheran Church Dec. 15 and 16

A live outdoor nativity scene will be on display at St. John Lutheran Church (401 Third Avenue NE, Waseca) the evenings of Dec. 15 and 16. Viewers may drive or walk past. There is no cost to attend.

Christmas Day Meal at Christ Community Church or for delivery Noon, Dec. 25

The Greater Waseca Ministerial Association is sponsoring a meal for senior citizens and those who will be alone on Christmas. Diners may join others at noon on at Christ Community Church, 2200 Fourth St NE, in Waseca, or arrange to have their meals delivered. No more than 5 meals will be delivered to any single household. There is no cost for the meals; free will donations will be ac-

cepted.

Shepherd's Robe Free store Tuesdays from 1-3 and 5-7 p.m.

The Shepherd's Robe free store offers clothing, supplies, and much more for free to all interested parties. The store is located at Vista Covenant Church, 14679 275th Avenue, New Richland.

Waldorf Veterans Memorial Fund Drive

Donations are requested to support the construction of the Waldorf Vet-

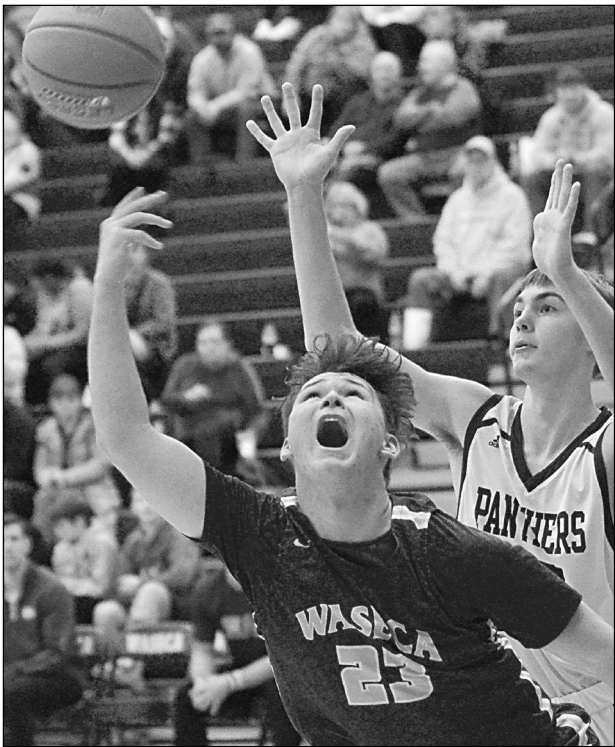
erans Memorial. Checks written to WVMP Fund Drive can be mailed to WVMP Fund Drive; Judy Joecks, treasurer; P.O. Box 55; Waldorf, MN 56091. Questions can be directed to Charlie Barnes at (763) 286-2246.

Waseca County Stagecoach History

Judy Joecks is compiling a history of stagecoach routes in Waseca County. She would appreciate hearing from anyone who has information regarding stagecoach trails or stops. (507) 317-1345.



SEASON OPENER — Making moves to the basket during the Waseca High School boys' basketball opener last Saturday are, at left, Deron Russell (1), above right, Cameron Karsten (23) and, below right, Laird Keeton.



Waseca boys drop opener, trim TCU

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Waseca High School boys' basketball team started strong in its season opener last Saturday against visiting Pine Island.

Gradually, the game got away. The Panthers chipped away at an early deficit and took control in the second half, rallying from a 26-20 halftime deficit to claim a 58-46 decision.

The difference in the end was shooting. The Bluejays finished with only 17 field goals in 64 attempts, 26 percent, and they made just three of 19 three-point attempts.

"That's not good enough to win high school basketball games," said Waseca coach Seth Anderson.

It's not the Bluejays took bad shots.

"For the most part, I liked our shot selection," said Anderson. "We just never made any. Pine Island beat us to a lot of loose balls, which led to many second-chance points for them."

Deron Russell, a sophomore, led the Bluejays with 20 points. Laird Keeton scored 14, Zach Hulscher seven, Ethan Hiller five.

Andrew Robran pulled down nine rebounds, Keeton seven, Cameron Karsten six, Tauston Rupe five.

Russell added four assists, a steal and a block. Hiller and Keeton had three assists apiece.

"We played well defensively and our effort was solid," said Coach Anderson. "We just really struggled to make shots."

The Bluejays bounced back at home Tuesday, Dec. 5, upending Tri-City United 77-46. Waseca was up 47-20 at halftime.



Hiller



Ohnstad

"I like the way we battled."

— WHS coach
Seth Anderson

Carson Ohnstad scored 19 to lead Waseca. Keeton tallied 13.

Others: Russell 12P, 8R, 7A; Hulscher 9P, 4A, 4R; Hiller 7P, 1A, 2S, 3B; Rupe 6P, 3S; Jacob Thompson 8R; Andrew Robran 8R; Rupe 5R.

The Jays sank 31 of 59 shots, including six of 12 three-pointers.

"We got off to a really good start, shooting the ball," said Coach Anderson. "It seemed like everyone played with more confidence when the first few shots went in. I liked the way we battled and rebounded. We had 10 different guys score, which was good. I thought we had a very balanced scoring attack, which reflects good ball movement."

The Bluejays have been without perhaps their best player, junior Damarius Russell.

The Bluejays host Fairmont Friday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

WHS hockey girls shut out Fairmont

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Waseca High School girls' hockey team wasted no time scoring in Thursday, Nov. 30's home game against Fairmont.

The Bluejays never did let up. Waseca outshot the Cardinals 51-3 while winning 8-0 at Waseca Community Arena.

Isabella Slechta got the party started, scoring at 2:05 of the first period on an assist by Maizee Storey. Slechta assisted twice on Ryley Bartz goals as the Bluejays assumed a 3-0 cushion after one period.

Storey scored unassisted at 4:36 of the second period, with Emma Huelsnitz and Katlyn Shueler adding goals on assists by Maddy Benson.

Storey and Bartz tallied unassisted goals in the third period.

Illamay Draheim was in goal for Waseca.

The Bluejays lost 5-1 Saturday at Luverne, getting outshot 40-16.

Slechta scored unassisted in the second period.

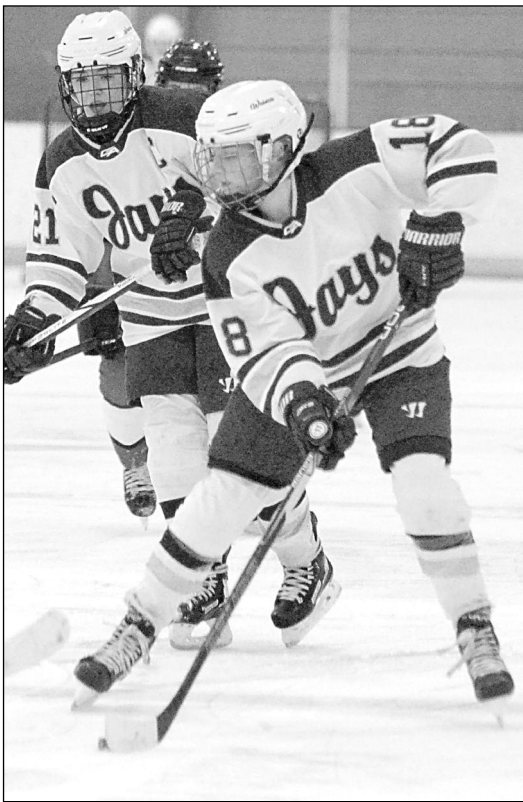
Draheim made 35 saves.

The Bluejays improved their record to 5-3 with a 4-2 victory at Red Wing Tuesday night.

Schueler scored twice for Waseca. Keith and Storey netted one goal apiece. Storey recorded three assists, Keith two.

Draheim made 44 saves.

The Bluejays hosted Minnesota River Thursday. They face Marshall at 2 p.m. Saturday in Waseca and play Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 7:15 p.m. against Rochester Mayo at Graham Arena in Rochester.

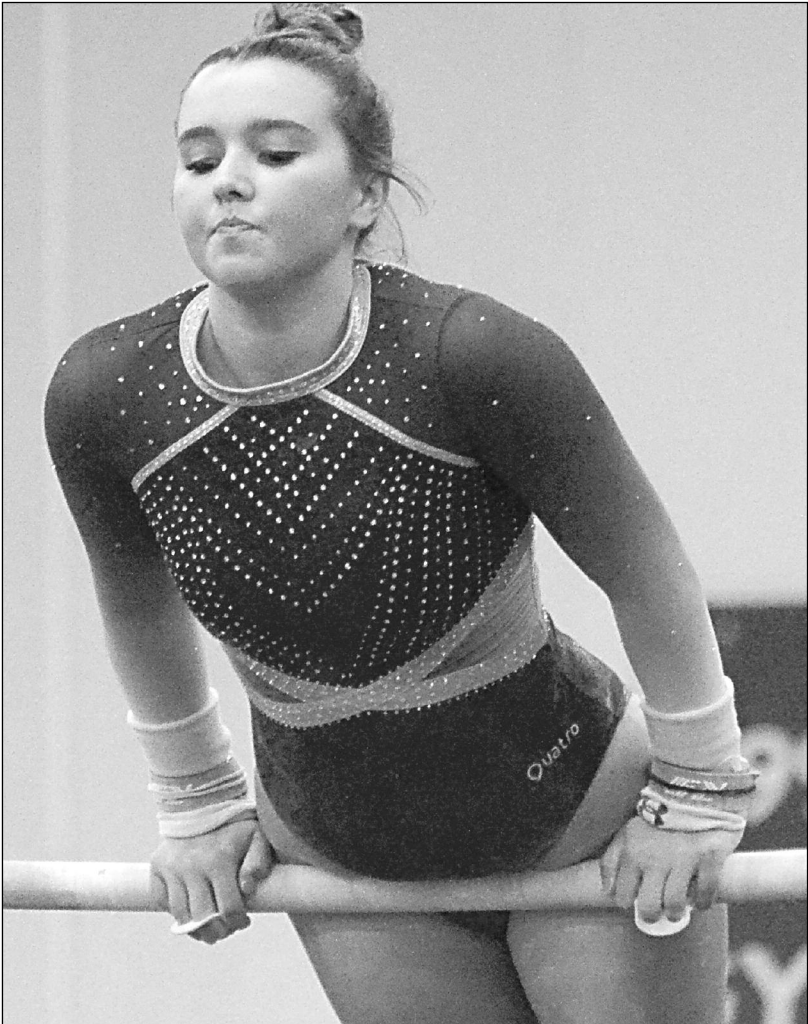


ONE-SIDED WIN — It was a one-sided victory as the WHS girls' hockey team shut out Fairmont 8-0 last week. From left: Emma Keith (21), Maizee Storey (26) and Izabela Slechta (8).

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



EARLY-SEASON ACTION — Pictured competing during the Waseca High School gymnastics team's season opener last week are, Bella Wikan, left, and Lindy Caldwell.



Byron upends WHS gymnasts in opener

Keith takes second in all-around

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Waseca High School gymnastics opened the 2023-24 season with a close meet against Byron Thursday, Nov. 30. The Bears totaled 135.625 points, the Bluejays 132.575.

The Bluejays' Layla Keith placed second in all-around with 34.024 points. Haydn Lynch was third with 33.975, Bella Wikan sixth with 33.075, Lindy Caldwell eighth with 30.2 and Katelyn Weber 10th with 15.8. Sydney Portner of Byron was first in all-around with 35.9 points.

The Bluejays' best event was the floor exercise, where Keith posted the top score of 9.35. Lynch was right behind her in second with 9.225, Wikan fifth at 8.75, Caldwell eighth with 8.125.

Placing in vault were Keith, tie for second, 8.75; Wikan, fourth, 8.5; Caldwell, fifth, 8.45; Lynch, sixth, 8.425; and Weber, seventh, 8.375. Portner was first with 8.975 points.

Wikan was second on the balance

beam at 8.925, Lynch third at 9.675, Keith fourth with 8.125, Caldwell ninth with 7.5 and Elli Hoban 10th at 6.75. Portner won the event with 9.225 points.

Uneven parallel bars placewinners: Keith, fifth, 7.8; Lynch, seventh, 7.65; Weber, eighth, 7.425; Wikan, ninth, 6.9; Caldwell, 10th, 6.125. Portner finished first at 8.575.

Angelica Lopez was sixth in junior varsity all-around at 27.75, Macy Anderson eighth with 25.7, Norah Schimming ninth with 21.8, Nora Flatness 11th, 17.65; Hoban, 12th, 15.6; Weber, 14th, 14.3; Avery Carda, 15th, 13.6; Miley Anderson, 17th, 7.0.

Hoban took second in JV vault at 8.4, second on bars at 7.2.

The Bluejays returned to action Dec. 7 at New Ulm. They compete Saturday at 1 p.m. at Mankato and Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 6 pm. at New Ulm.



TWO-FOR-FOUR — The Waseca High School boys' hockey team got off to a 2-2 start for the 2023-24 season. At left, Otto Schoenrock, Henry Huttemier and Griffin Storey celebrate a goal. At right, Storey tees up a shot.
Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

WHS boys' hockey squad off to 2-2 start

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Waseca High School boys' hockey team dropped two of three recent games, sandwiching a 7-2 victory at Fairmont between a 7-2 setback to Mound Westonka and a 2-1 loss at Luverne.

The Bluejays hosted Mound Westonka Tues., Nov. 28 and were outshot 61-20. Brayden Hesch-Priem and Hunter Anderson scored for Waseca, with assists by Lucas

Groll, Cash Lynch and Beckett Srp. Josiah Schmidtko started in goal for Waseca, allowing all seven goals. Carter Martens finished in the net.

Mound Westonka was penalized four times, Waseca eight.

The Bluejays controlled the action at Fairmont Thursday, Nov. 3, outshooting the Cardinals 56-22.

Anderson scored two goals, with one apiece by Hesch-Priem, Henry Huttemier, Lynch, Jayden Gehring

and Keaton Roeker. Lynch and Gehring each had two assists, with one each going to Jayden Gehring, Griffin Storey, Srp and Schoenrock.

Martens stopped 20 of 22 shots.

Waseca was penalized twice, Fairmont five times.

It was close Saturday at Luverne, where the Bluejays surrendered the go0-ahead goal at 9:58 of the third period.

Jude Gehring scored the lone first-period goal and Waseca

enjoyed a 1-0 lead until the 15:24 mark of the second period.

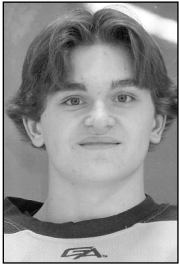
Martens faced 36 shots while the Bluejays took 21.

Waseca drew three penalties, Luverne five.

The Bluejays, 2-2, hosted Worthington Tuesday and played Thursday at Windom. They face Marshall at noon Saturday in Waseca, host New Ulm Tuesday, Dec. 12 and Red Wing Thursday, Dec. 14.



Anderson



Hesch-Priem

Barnett, Veroeven take titles in tourney

Leadership award goes to Veroeven

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Waseca High School wrestling team competed in the Dick Maher Invitational in Blue Earth Saturday, Dec. 3.

The Bluejays had two champions, Slade Barnett at 152 pounds and Matthew Veroeven at 215.

Veroeven, who pinned Kolton Duff of Tri-City United in the 215 title bout, was the recipient of the Dick Maher Outstanding Leadership Award.

The Bluejays had one runner-up, Jacob Knutson at 121.

Ben Hagen, who missed last season because of injury, aggravated his shoulder and was forced to default. He finished third at 285.

Lucas Selthun was third at 189. Placing fourth for the Bluejays were Oliver Staloch, 139; and Jacob Root, 145. Root had to forfeit his final match after sustaining a rib injury.

WEM/JWP placewinners: Avery Fall, first, 189; Gavin Krause, second, 160; Brady Murphy, fourth, 127; Keegan Kuball, fourth, 285; Trenton Huber, fifth, 139; Isaac Quast, fifth, 172; Carson James, sixth, 133; Lucas Morsching, sixth, 152.

Waseca wrestled in a triangular at LeSueur-Henderson Thursday, Nov. 30. The Bluejays lost 54-22 to LeSueur-Henderson, 48-24 to Medford and 51-15 to WEM/JWP.

Winners against LSH: Knutson, 121; Barnett, 152; Kellen Klinger, 160; Hagen, 285. Victories in the Medford meet: Archer O'Brien, 114; Staloch, 145; Selthun, 189; Veroeven, 215. O'Brien, Barnett, and Veroeven won against WEM/JWP.

The Bluejays will miss one of their top returnees, Carter Ellis, who is taking the season off after receiving a football scholarship.

Grizzly winners against Waseca were Bre Ana Masso, 107; Carson Petry, 127; Murphy, 133; Carson James, 139; Zach Quast, 145; Gavin Krause, 160; Isaac Quast, 172; Fall, 189; and Kuball, 285.

The Bluejays are in action Saturday, Dec. 9 at the Jackson County Central Invitational. First matches are at 9:30 a.m. Waseca hosts St. Peter and Mankato East in a triangular Thursday, Dec. 14 at 5 p.m.

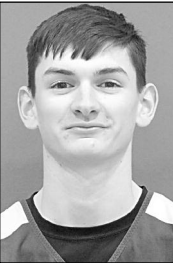
JWP boys edged by LCWM in opener

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School boys' basketball team dropped its season opener to LCWM 47-44 Monday night.

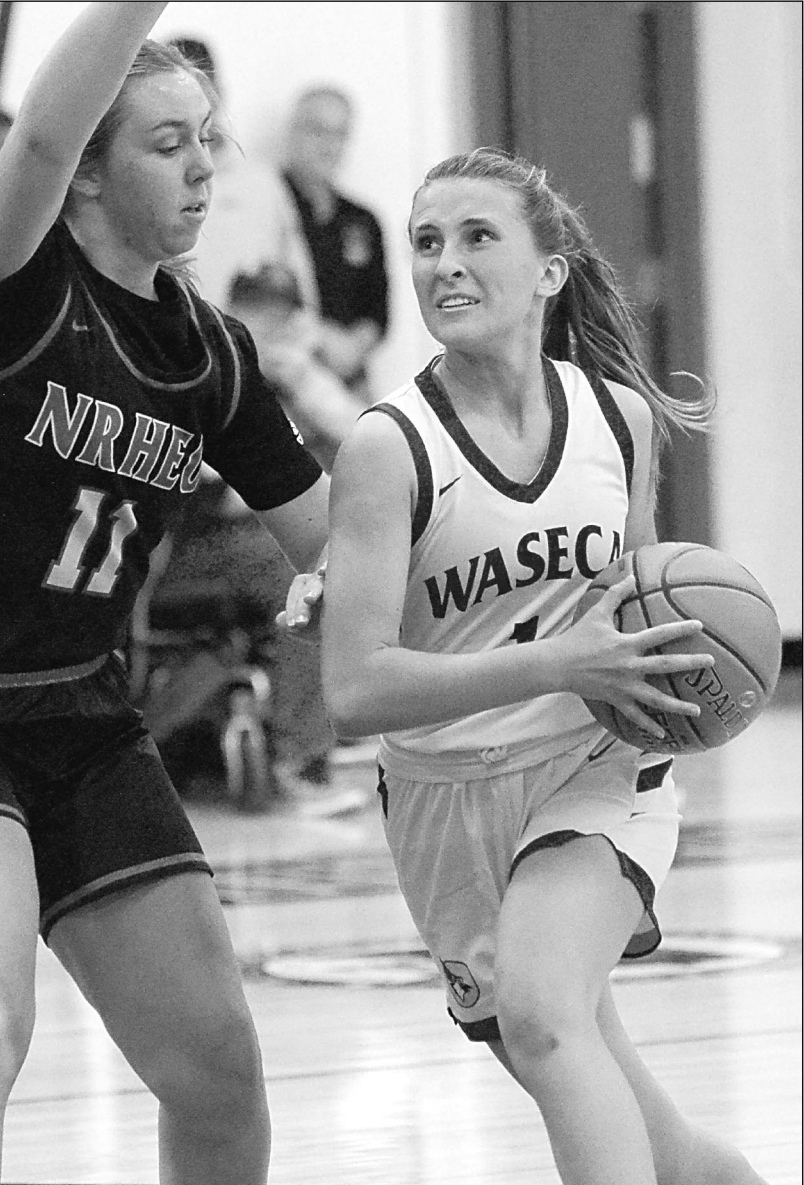
The Bulldogs, who led 21-20 at half-time, shot 41 percent on two-pointers, 3-for-18 on threes, with 14 turnovers. LCWM shot 33.3 percent on twos, was 6-for-31 on threes and committed 16 turnovers.

Memphis James led JWP with 22 points, adding four rebounds, two assists and two steals. Daulton Bauer and Cole Schlueter scored eight points each. Ryan Kronbach had a team-best six rebounds.

The Bulldogs are home Friday against Hayfield, Tuesday against Lester Prairie and Friday, Dec. 15 at Blooming Prairie.



James



DRIVE TIME — Waseca's Callie Dufault, left, drives as NRHEG's Hallie Schultz defends during Tuesday's nonconference game in New Richland. At right, the Bluejays' Lily Owens drives as the Panthers' Izley Boerner defends.
Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



Young Lady Jays prevail in two of first four

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It's been a win-one, lose-one season so far for Waseca High School girls' basketball.

The Bluejays, who defeated Medford in the season opener, have since fell to Blooming Prairie, topped Cannon Falls and came up short at NRHEG, for a 2-2 record under first-year head coach Anthony Jackson.

The Bluejays played good defense but had trouble getting shots to fall in a 40-24 loss to visiting Blooming Prairie Tuesday, Nov. 28.

"I am proud of my team's defensive effort this evening," said Jackson. "They never gave up on the

defensive end of the court, and I think that is going to prove its dividends in the long run. We made a run in the second half to cut the game to a one-possession game, but tip your hat to Blooming Prairie. They played a nice game and had nice balance on the court."

Lily Owens scored 12 points to lead the Bluejays. Four players finished with three points each.

The Bluejays edged Cannon Falls 48-44 in Waseca Thursday, Nov. 30.

"I am proud of my team's effort," said Jackson. "We persevered through some stressful moments on the court and won a close game this evening. Canon Falls played an excellent game, and we are appreci-

**"I am proud of my team's effort."
— WHS coach Anthony Jackson**

iative of the victory this evening. Our balanced scoring and gritty defensive effort this evening helped us sustain a small lead in the final stages of the game."

Individually for Waseca: Lexi Kanewischer 6 points, 4 rebounds; Callie Dufault 9P, 4R; Ella Krautkremer 5P, 3R; Addie Wiesler 8P, 6R; Mia Kanewischer 7P, 7R; Owens 5P, 5R; Avery Gaul 8P, 4R.

Avery Rustad scored 16 to lead the Bombers.

The Bluejays traveled to New Richland Tuesday, Dec. 5 and lost 58-45 to NRHEG.

"I am proud of my team's tenacity, especially in the second half," said Jackson. "We weren't far away from winning this game. It was at our fingertips. It's a game that we can learn from. Tip your hat to New Richland. They made some clutch shots under the 10-minute mark. They played a nice game."

The Bluejays play Friday at

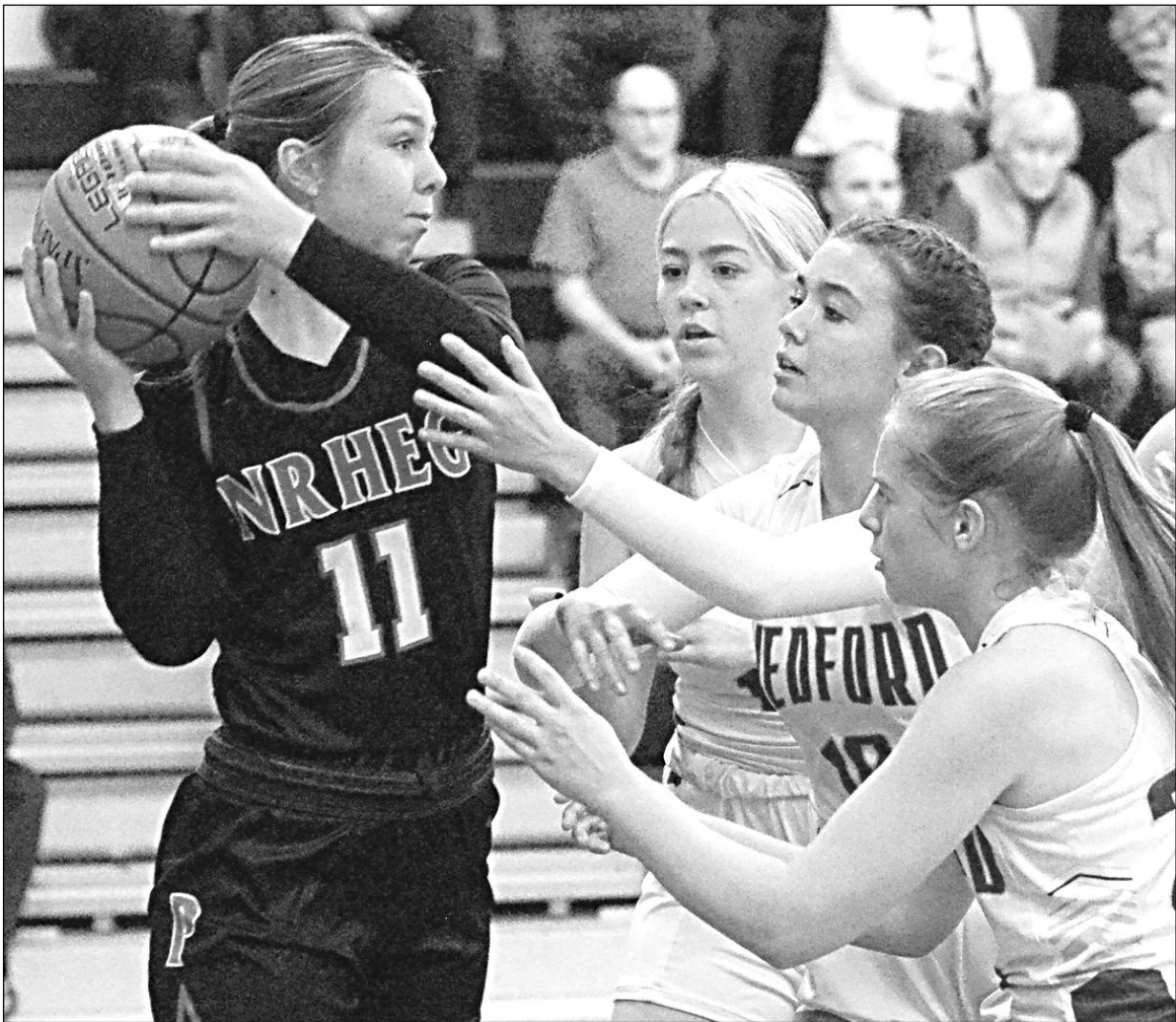


L. Kanewischer



M. Kanewischer

Fairmont and Saturday against Glencoe-Silver Lake at 11:45 a.m. at Maple River. They host WEM Tuesday, Dec. 12 and entertain Jackson County Central Dec. 15.



CONFERENCE CRUISE — The NRHEG girls’ basketball team opened its Gopher Conference schedule with a 67-18 victory over rebuilding Medford last Friday in New Richland. At left, the Panthers’ Hallie Schultz (11) hangs onto a rebound in front of three Medford defenders. At right, Camryn VanMaldeghem (12) dribbles the ball at the base line with Preslie Nielsen in the background.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Lady Panthers off to 4-0 start

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Medford High School is in a rebuilding year for girls’ basketball. NRHEG is not.

It led to an easy Gopher Conference opener for the Panthers Friday, Dec. 1 in New Richland, where the home team prevailed 67-18.

“Medford is in a rebuilding year, and we were able to take advantage of this by getting all of our kids in tonight,” said NRHEG coach Onika Peterson. “Hopefully, this will help us throughout the season when we get put in other game situations.”

The Panthers led Medford 42-11 at halftime.

Individually for NRHEG: Faith Nielsen 13 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals, 2 blocks; Quinn VanMaldeghem 9P, 5R, 2A, 5S, 1B; Izley Boerner 3P, 1R, 1A, 1S; Clara Buendorf 3P, 1R, 2B; Hallie Schultz 13P, 4R, 1A, 1B; Camryn VanMaldeghem 18P, 8R, 3A, 6S, 1B; Adalyn Stadheim 3R, 1A, 1A; Chloe Stork 4R, 1A; Ezra Boerner 1P, 2R, 1S; Preslie Nielsen 3P, 2R, 4A, 2S; Savannah Farr 1S; Hope Nielsen 1R; Kylie Olson 4P, 4R.

The victory came on the heels of a season-opening 60-40 triumph over Blue Earth Area. The Panthers led 28-22 at halftime.

Individually: F.Nielsen 12P, 7R,

“A win’s a win.”
— NRHEG coach
Onika Peterson



Q. VanMaldeghem



C. VanMaldeghem

4A, 4S; Q. VanMaldeghem 7P, 7R, 4A, 4S; I. Boerner 6P, 2R, 1A, 1B; Buendorf 1S; Schultz 11P, 7R, 1A; C. VanMaldeghem 6P, 4R, 3A, 1S; A. Stadheim 6R; Stork 2R, 1A; E. Boerner 1B; P. Nielsen 14P, 5R, 1S, 1B; Farr 1R; H. Nielsen 1R; Olson 4P.

The Panthers improved to 3-0 for the season with a 58-45 victory over Waseca in New Richland Tuesday. NRHEG led 27-19 at halftime and, although the Bluejays narrowed it in the second half, the Panthers held to win handily.

“Tonight’s game was the first one this season where there was a little more pressure against us, and at



RUNNING AWAY WITH IT — The NRHEG girls’ basketball team had plenty of fast breaks against Medford. At left, Faith Nielsen cashes in with a layup. At right, Quinn VanMaldeghem brings the ball up the court.

times we felt it,” said Coach Peterson. “We rushed through things on offense quicker than what I would have liked, but a win’s a win. I was impressed with our rebounding tonight.”

Camryn VanMaldeghem led NRHEG with 15 rebounds.

Others: F. Nielsen 12P, 3R, 1A, 1S; Q. VanMaldeghem 11P, 5R, 3A 6S, 1B; I. Boerner 6, 4R, 1A, 2S; Buendorf 1R; Schultz 4P, 5R, 3A,



1B; C. VanMaldeghem 15P, 15R, 4A, 4S, 1B; Stork 5P, 3R, 3A, 1S, 1B; P. Nielsen 5P, 2R, 1A.

The Panthers play Winona Cotta at Maple River Friday and face Norwood-Young America at Maple

River Saturday. NRHEG hosts Belle Plaine Tuesday, Dec. 12 and Randolph Friday, Dec. 15.

Panthers place six of nine wrestlers

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The NRHEG High School wrestling team opened the 2023-24 season with the Paul Krueger Classic Saturday, Dec. 2 in St. James. The Panthers placed fourth as a team and had nine placewinners.

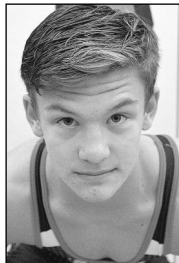
The Panthers were led by Harbor Cromwell, who took second at 160 pounds, and 172-pound runner-up Ryan Schlaak.

Four locals finished third: Parker Bunn, 133; Deven Parpart, 139; Aidan Schlaak, 145; and George Roesler, 189. Finishing fourth were Reese Routh at 152 and Cole Hutchens at 215. Annabelle Petsinger took fifth at 133.

“We had a good showing this weekend in St. James,” said NRHEG coach Shawn Larson. “As a team, we had the best start to the season we have had in probably a decade. We were more aggressive, competitive, and victorious than many were expecting. The team has a good start, and that should give us a positive outlook in practice as we look to get better. The team is working well together right now, and we are having fun. If we can stay positive like we have been, it



Cromwell



R. Schlaak

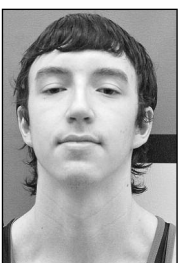
will be an exciting and enjoyable season.”

The highlight at St. James, according to Larson, was placing six of NRHEG’s nine wrestlers in the top three.

Team standings: Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial Area 179.5, St. James Area 122, Redwood Valley 104, NRHEG 90, Mankato West 86, Windom-Mountain Lake 76, Quad County 47, St. Paul Como Park 7.

The Panthers are home Thursday to face Maple River/USC at 7 p.m. in New Richland.

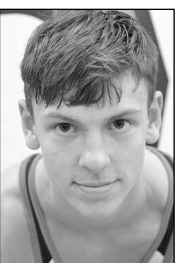
2023 Paul Krueger Classic
133 - Koerner, Kameron (WML) def. Bunn 5-3; Wicks, Robert (MW) def. Petsinger 6-2; Bunn def. Koerner, Kameron (WML) 8-6, overtime; Annabelle def.



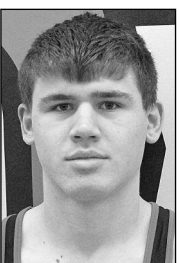
Bunn



Parpart



A. Schlaak



Roesler

“The team is working well together right now, and we are having fun.”
— Coach Shawn Larson

Katherman, Jordan (RV), fall, :45; Bunn def. Hildahl, Dane (QC, fall, :56; Bunn def. Petsinger 14-4; Petsinger def. Curry, Zachary (SJ), fall, 1:00 139 - Parpart, def. Erler, Adonis (RV), fall, 3:47; Parpart def. Quade, Logan (LCWM) 10-7; Anderson, Kollin (SJ) def. Parpart, fall, 1:04; 145 - Schlaak, Aidan def. Carroll, Blaine (QCCV) 14-4; Schlaak, Aidan def. Carroll, Blaine (QC), fall, 5:33; Schlaak, Aidan def. Weimer, Vincent (MW), fall, 1:29 Tande, Talyn (SJ) def. Schlaak, Aidan 10-8; 152 - Miest, Levi (SJ) def. Routh, , fall, 1:54; Routh def. Kramer, Duran (RV), fall, 1:06;

Osborne, Talan (LCWM) def. Routh, fall, 3:48; 160 - Wiebers, Evan (MW) def. Cromwell 3-2; Cromwell def. Truebenbach, Caden (MW) 11-6; 172 - Schlaak, Ryan def. Stiles, William (SP Como Park), fall, 1:33; Ehmke, Shafer (MW) def. Schlaak, Ryan 9-2; 189 - Roesler def. Wolner, Peyton (SJ), fall, :20; Roesler def. Mertens, Dylan (RV), fall, :12; Slater, Nick (LCWM) def. Roesler, fall, 4:03; 215 - Durheim, Jarrett (SJ) def. Hutchens, fall, 6:49; Adams, Mason (LCWM) def. Hutchens, fall, 4:18; Hutchens def. Vetsouvahn, Andres (RV) 11-4.

JWP basketball girls start 3-0

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

So far, you couldn’t ask for more from the JWP High School girls’ basketball team.

The Bulldogs are a perfect 3-0 on the young season.

JWP opened with a 70-37 blowout at New Ulm Cathedral Tuesday, Nov. 28.

Katie Olson led the Bulldogs with 20 points, adding three rebounds and four steals. Nevaeh Weimert totaled 17 points, 2 rebounds and eight steals.

Others: Lexie Dahlberg 2P, 11R; Ali Olson 5P, 8R; Kwynn Krause 2P; Lilly Strauss 2P; Presley James 7P, 6R; Autumn Thissen 4P; Mikayla Wheelock 3P; Hope Dimmel 4P, 5R; Onika Herme 2P; Ellie Morsching 2P.

The Bulldogs hosted Triton Thursday, Nov. 30 and defeated the Cobras 63-47.

Weimert again reached double figures in scoring with 17 points to go along with three rebounds and 3 assists.

Others: Krause 8P; James 9P, 9R; Wheelock 6P; Strauss 10P, 6R; Katie Olson 7P; Dahlbert 2P,

6R; Dimmel 4P.

The Bulldogs traveled to Wells Friday, Dec. 1 and soundly defeated United South Central 67-38.

Weimert had a big night with 22 points and six rebounds, with Katie Olson netting 15 points, two rebounds and nine steals. Dimmel recorded a double-double with 12 points and 12 rebounds.

Others: Krause 5P, 4R, 2S; James 4P, 7R, 2S; Wheelock 2P, 2R; Strauss 2P, 7R, 5S; Ali Olson 4P, 3R; Dahlberg 8R; Thissen 3R.

As a team, the Bulldogs garnered 30 offensive rebounds, 17 assists and 22 steals.

After playing Tuesday at Nicollet, the Bulldogs travel to the Maple River Invitational Friday and Saturday. They host Lester Prairie Tuesday, Dec. 12.



Dahlberg

Wanted

Got news?
507-837-6767

Johnson
APARTMENTS
507-456-9514
OPERATING IN
WASECA, STEELE,
FREEBORN
COUNTIES
johnsonrents.com

The New Richland Care Center dietary department is currently looking for individuals to join our team. We have positions open that offer flexibility to fit your needs. If you have prior dietary experience or restaurant work experience, these positions offer an easy transition to a rewarding job.
Dietary Aide 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
Dietary Aide 5:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Fri, Sat, Sun, every other weekend
Dietary Aide 5:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. every other weekend
Dietary Cook 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. part time
We offer an attractive wage and compensation package. To learn more about these opportunities, contact Brad Hartin at 507-417-4509 or email at bhartin@nrcarecenter.com or apply in person at the care center.

Thanksgiving giving



Over the Thanksgiving Holiday, about 200 “Thanksgiving Baskets” were distributed to area households by the Waseca Area Food Shelf. Pictured here are (names, depending on photo) as they delivered food in a “drive-through” system. The Thanksgiving Basket program is supported by Diane Beckmann’s Thrivent agency, the Waseca Lions Club and Grace Lutheran Church of Waseca. The Waseca County Dairy Association supplied butter and milk vouchers redeemable at both Kwik Trip locations. Photos by Deb Bently

The Mankato Riverblenders & Minnesota Valley Chorus present

Holiday Harmony

Saturday, Dec 9, 2023
7:00 p.m.
at the Waseca Community Education
501 E Elm Avenue, Waseca, MN

Tickets are not required.
A free will offering will be collected.

Brought to you by:



Christmas Time at The Mill!

Organized by:
Matthew R. Petsinger
Agency, LLC

FREE
CRAFTS, COOKIE
DECORATING, SANTA
LETTER WRITING,
GAMES & MORE

December 9th 2023
1pm-7pm
Hang around for Live Music from
Bryce Leppert
8pm-11pm
Food From
Lucia's Cocina

Donations from
area businesses

FREE for EVERYONE

Local Choirs
will be singing

Be Careful
The Grinch!!!

Scan for more info Join Us At **The Mill** Waseca, MN



GWET

GREG WILMES EXTERIORS

COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL • NEW CONSTRUCTION • REMODELING

- SHINGLES, STEEL, RUBBER ROOFING
- VINYL, STEEL, & CEMENT BOARD SIDING
- WINDOWS & DOORS: INSULATION, SHEETROCK
- ALL FLOORING: CONCRETE, PATIOS, DECKS
- SEAMLESS GUTTERS & GUTTER PROTECTION SYSTEMS
- CERTAINTEED® CLAIMS SPECIALIST

GREG WILMES EXTERIORS LLC • BUILDING CONTRACTOR #BC793885

“Footings to Finish”

GREGWILMESROOFING.NET
GREGWILMESROOFING@GMAIL.COM
(507) 202-7070

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					7 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm CIVIL AIR PATROL BIRTHDAY	2 CRAFT SALE 9am-3pm
3	4	5 Burger nite 5-7pm	6 6pm BAR Bingo	7 7pm BINGO NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR DAY	8 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	9
10 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am -Noon Your Host	11 7 PM POST & AUX MEETING	12 Burger nite 5-7pm	13 6pm BAR Bingo U.S. NATIONAL GUARD BIRTH-DAY	14 7pm BINGO	15 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm	16
17	18	19 Burger nite 5-7pm	20 6pm BAR Bingo	21 7pm BINGO	22 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	23 TOM and JERRY'S 4pm
24 OPEN 11:00-5:00 VIKINGS -LIONS	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 Burger nite 5-7pm	27 6pm BAR Bingo	28 7pm BINGO	29 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	30 New Year SUPER BINGO 7pm Hocky Burger Night 5pm-7
31						

HOURS OF OPERATION
SUN.- MON. CLOSED
TUE.- WED.-3pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady's nite 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm.
THUR.-1pm to 11pm
FRI.- SAT.-11am to 1 am
POST & AUX MEETING 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license number 00385

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

Join the professional directory for free today with purchase of any regular weekly advertising
Phone: 507-837-6767, Mail: P.O. Box 578, email: news@wasecacountypioneer.com, physical address 111 W. Elm Ave.

PH & B Patton, Hoversten & Berg, P.A.
A Professional Association / Attorneys at Law

Waseca
507-835-5240
888-835-5245

Janesville
507-234-5106
888-835-5245

Owatonna
507-451-9000
866-451-9010

Faribault
507-332-7425

www.phblawoffice.com

Mon-Fri 8-6;
Sat 9-5



WASECA FLORAL

Your local resource for plants, flowers, gifts!
(507) 835-3790 wasecafloral.com



DENNIS STEFFEL OMTVEDT

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



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



GUARDIAN ENERGY

Guardian Energy
4745 380th Avenue
Janesville, MN 56048
www.guardianNRG.com

Collaboration. Scale. Excellence.

Marianna Mayo
Associate Merchandiser

O: 507-234-5002
C: 507-720-1443
F: 507-234-5011
Marianna.Mayo@guardiannrg.com

PERSONALIZED PRINTING & APPAREL



Barb & Mark Buker
100 S. STATE ST. - WASECA MN
PHONE: (507) 835-7565
INFO@PPRINTWASECA.COM

WE PRINT

BUSINESS CARDS, SIGNS,
BROCHURES, PACKAGING,
MULTIPART FORMS, LABELS,
ENVELOPES, POSTCARDS,
EVENT TICKETS, FLYERS,
ADVERTISING, CARDS,
...AND EVERYTHING ELSE!

& DESIGN

Bootleggers Ball • Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023



Waseca County History Center hosts '20s event

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The Waseca County History Center was filled to capacity—a crowd of about 60—for the Bootleggers' Ball held the evening of Saturday, Dec. 2.

"I was really impressed how people dressed 'to the nines,'" commented executive director Joan Mooney. Entertainment for the evening began with members of the Waseca High School jazz band, who peppered their performance with 1920s-era music. Guests mingled, enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, and took photos of themselves in a photo booth, which included period-appropriate furniture and props.

A few people among the crowd found genuine vintage clothing and accessories, but the majority either purchased costumes or accessorized modern outfits to send a 1920s impression.

A highlight of the evening came when members of the Terrascyn Dance Troupe first performed some period-suitable dances, then drew the audience out of the chairs to learn the steps of famous dances like the Charleston and the Fox Trot.

"People really participated," observed Mooney. "It was easy to see they were having fun."

For those whose curiosity is piqued, many of the elements available during the Dec. 2 event will remain on display through Jan. 26. Entitled, "The 20s - They Were the Cat's Meow," the display, which simulates a speakeasy right in the museum. Mannequins dressed in period clothing are shown dancing the night away. The '20s clothing is on loan from Vagabond Village in Mankato and from the Little Theatre of Owatonna's Coletta Collection. The immersive photo background allows visitors to pose like a flapper, mobster, or bootlegger with props and lavish period furniture.



Pioneer photos by Deb Bently