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WASECA
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PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

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Sports

A look back at 2022

Following are excerpts from some of the best stories published in the Pioneer during the year 2022:

July

- “We plan to find at least one story for every edition that makes the whole year’s subscription worthwhile. We know we won’t have everything for everybody in every edition, but we will definitely have something for everyone.” –Eli Lutgens, publisher

This issue of the Waseca County Pioneer is the first edition of a weekly paper which will cover the whole county, focusing on the town of Waseca.

- For more than 40 years, the concept that death could come for us at any time has had a double meaning for Tim and Becky Dennis.

As owners and operators of four different chapels offering funeral and cremation services in Waseca, Waterville and Janesville, they have been “on call” any time day or night since entering their profession in the early 1980s.

On July 1, 2022, Tim and Becky Dennis will officially be retired.

“It’s what we do,” says Becky. “We serve our community by providing support at a sensitive time. We want to express our thanks for our years serving the Waseca, Waterville, and more recently, the Janesville communities. We feel blessed.”

- During a bible study nearly two decades ago Star Eagle Publisher Jim Lutgens told neighbor John Conway he would like to incorporate faith more prominently in the newspaper, first by printing a piece of scripture each week. He asked John what he should call it. John’s answer: “A Word from the Word.” And that is the origin story of the bible verse featured on the front page of the Pioneer and Star Eagle.

- Star Gazing - There wouldn’t be a newspaper to put out if it were not for you.

I have been incredibly humbled by the kind words and encouragement I have received speaking with the hundreds of people who made this first edition possible. I feel we have reached a pretty high mark with this paper. With a little aid and direction from our readers, I believe we’ll meet or exceed the standard in future editions.

I hope you’ll tag along for the ride.

- New Richland resident LaVonne Meyer, former publisher of the New Richland Star, remembers that, after ending up as the paper’s owner essentially by default in 2003, she felt pressure to move forward with the paper’s 120-some-year legacy and do everything she could to help that legacy continue.

But it was an overwhelming task.

She recalls that, when she

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A word from The Word

“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.”
Matthew 24:14

Wasecacountypioneer.com

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

The Waseca County Pioneer is proud to announce the addition of its website, which went public Thursday, January 5, 2023. The website can be found at:

www.wasecacountypioneer.com

Our website will remain completely free. Readers will have the option to purchase an E-Edition sub-

scription in order to have access to an online version of the newspaper, identical to its print counterpart. This will be the only item for sale on the Pioneer website, besides an option to purchase a print subscription or bundle the pair together.

Not every story will be put online, and not every story will be put online immediately.

“My dad always told me the news-

paper should be free,” Pioneer Publisher Eli Lutgens said. “This is the next best thing.”

Readers are encouraged to continue their print subscriptions, since that will assure they receive the most recent news in a household-friendly format. The website’s purpose is to increase the exposure and accessibility of select stories, and to preserve access to information of lasting inter-

est.

“Having put more than 300 stories online from the year 2022, I would like to publicly thank our incredible staff,” Lutgens praised. “I am incredibly proud of the team we’ve built. We shared some incredible stories from 2022 and we look forward to continuing to do so for a long time. Thank you, our staff, readers, critics and fans for all you do.”

Prophecy seminar Saturday

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

A group of Wasecans will be hosting a bible prophecy seminar in the Starfire Event Center’s Lynx room on Saturday, Jan. 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The event is inspired by a group of friends from Waseca who gathered for regular bible studies. Two verses inspired the event. The first was from Luke 12:48: “To whom much is given, much will be required.” The other verse was Acts 17:11, which says, “Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.”

The purpose of the event is to allow others to “obtain resources, receive training, and do their own studies to see if the prophecies stated in the Bible are true.” The event will be free to attend and will cover different aspects and overviews of futuristic prophecies.

All speakers and topics for the event will be online and/or videotaped. The Waseca Bible Church group running the event is expecting anywhere from one to three dozen people. If there is sufficient interest, similar future events will be scheduled.

More information is available at: wasecabiblechurch.org. Otherwise, here is the schedule:

10:07 a.m. – Why Study Prophecy? (dangers, benefits & responsibilities)

11:07 a.m. – The Seventy Weeks Of Daniel (chapter 9:24-27)

12:07 p.m. – LUNCH & The Dispensations (when God changes the rules)

1:07 p.m. – The Church Age & The Rapture - perhaps today?

2:07 p.m. - The Tribulation (Jer 30:7; Matt 24:21; Joel 2:2-3; Rev 6-19)

3:07 p.m. – The Millennium & The Eternal State (Rev 20:1-10; 21-22)

4:07 p.m. – Q & A

5 p.m. – Closing

‘Flying with angels’

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

On Wednesday, December 27, over a hundred people gathered at the Waseca Municipal Airport’s FBO Hangar to honor a Waseca local who was a friend, family, an avid flier, and a faithful person to many: Maynard Richard Stensrud.

Stensrud, 67, was the airport’s Fixed Base Operator who provided aviation support services including managing fuel, parking, and hangar space. He passed away on April 14, 2022, due to injuries he sustained in an accident at the airport. First responders found him with serious injuries; he died shortly thereafter while receiving treatment.

Resolution 2022-22, which allowed the city to rename the airport “Maynard Richard Stensrud Field,” was approved at the April 19, 2022 council meeting. It was one of the final things former Mayor Roy Srp wanted to do before retiring from the city.

He credited the idea to one of Stensrud’s long standing friends, Bill Corum. “He suggested that the city name the airport after him,” Srp told the crowd. “He put it in my head and heart to get it done at city hall.”

Srp gave a touching tribute to Stensrud’s character and personality were such that he was one of very few people he never heard say “the



More than 100 people attended the rededication of the Waseca Airport to honor the late Maynard Stensrud who died in April from injuries sustained in an airport accident. Photos by Michael Roy



Roy Srp gave a touching speech about Maynard Stensrud during the dedication. He talked about “F words” which applied to Stensrud including family, friends, faith, and flying.

F word.”

Srp then named other “F words” which did apply to Stensrud, includ-

Maynard continued on 3



“He had such a faith. I can still feel him here.”

— Roy Srp
on Maynard Stensrud



Brad Milbrath had two retirement parties, one at the Waseca County East Annex Building, and the other at the Mill, Friday, Dec. 30. Milbrath served as a law enforcement officer in Waseca County for 34 years, 12 as the Sheriff.

‘Grateful to serve’

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

After 34 years of service in law enforcement in Waseca County, Sheriff Brad Milbrath has retired. Two celebrations for his retirement were held on Friday, Dec. 30: one at the Waseca County East Annex building from 2:30 to 4 p.m., and another one at the Mill from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Milbrath was born and raised in southern Minnesota. Although he graduated from Mapleton school, he said that his grandparents had a farm in rural Janesville which he frequently visited. “I always had such a fun

time out there,” he reminisced.

He fell in love with the area as soon as he graduated. He began his career at the Waseca County Sheriff Department in 1989, serving as the sheriff for the past 12 years.

In his 34 years of service, Milbrath has received many accolades ranging from an award from the National Sheriffs’ Institute for completing training in Colorado to receiving a plaque from the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. He also was a part of the Min-

Celebration continued on 9

A party for Rose

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

26 years: Over a quarter of a century. That’s how many years Allan Rose has served the City of Waseca as both a council member and a mayor pro tempore.

Rose held his retirement party at the Waseca American Legion, celebrating from 5-9 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 30. He was surrounded by plenty of family members and fellow city staff he’s known for decades. There was a pulled pork sandwich meal provided as well as some musical entertainment later in the evening.

The party wasn’t just for Al Rose, though. He shared his special day with granddaughter Cecelia, who turned seven years old. Both had cakes to celebrate the separate occasions. “I’m glad we both got to share our special day together,” Rose said.

He also claimed to have received an education: “I’ve learned so much about city government in my time on the council, how it all works and how to deal with people,” he said. “It’s so much different from being a US senator or a state representative. You deal directly with the people.”

He claimed the close public contact was the part of the job he liked most. “You get to hear their concerns and provide solutions up



ALL SMILES - While Al Rose celebrated retirement from the city council, his granddaughter Cece celebrated her 7th birthday.

front. You get to talk to the people in your community every day. You can make yourself a lot more reachable in a local position like a city council member.”

Now that he’s reached the point of retirement, he’s already making plans. “My wife and I have some land out in Arizona that we plan on developing,” he explained. “That’s the first thing I am doing after retirement.”

After reflecting on his time at the city, he concluded that he couldn’t be more grateful for his time. “I am thankful to the people of Waseca for letting me represent them on the council all these years. It’s been a great 26 years.”



Compostings

by Al Batt

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Moments of humor

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
Have you gained weight?
Yes, I have.
How much?
About 204 pounds since the day I was born.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Mother Nature sharpened her claws and had been charged with the improper use of winter temperatures. Shoveling became a winter sport. The wind bent my shadow. I looked on the bright side. The weather would be worse tomorrow.

I was late getting Christmas cards mailed because the weather curtailed the mail service. It's important to send the cards to let others know we are still among the living.

I put on a winter coat and found \$.40 in a pocket—a dime, a quarter and a nickel. I knew how a lottery winner felt—warm and rich. I wore a multi-pocketed vest under the coat and had donned cargo pants. I had so many pockets I was a walking cargo ship.

A storm was coming. Everybody said so. I trudged outside, shuffling along icy paths. I stopped in a welcoming, open space and yelled, "Go around!" I figured it couldn't hurt.

But it has been worse. I hoped for a Little Orphan Annie forecast, "The sun'll come out tomorrow. Bet your bottom dollar."

A LINE OF PALAVER

A woman in a line next to me said she was from Cape Girardeau, Missouri. She'd dated Rush Limbaugh when she was a young woman. He was on the radio then but was called Rusty Sharpe. A woman behind me in line told me she hoped I was up to snuff, meaning of sufficient quality. The phrase is in reference to a form of powdered tobacco sniffed through the nose. This snuff was thought to heighten a person's senses and make one more perceptive. I told her I was up to standard and encouraged her to jump ahead of me in line.

I've done a show on public radio for many years. Another show on that station plays old country music—Ferin Husky, Loretta Lynn, Tex Ritter, Charley Pride, the Carter Family, Buck Owens, Hank Williams, etc. My father would have gloried in that music. I heard that music in the dairy barn as a young fellow. It

played on my father's favorite station. Now I listen in his memory, which gives me eunoia—a bout of beautiful thinking. Eunoia is the shortest word in English with all five vowels.

I'VE LEARNED

If winter never ended, snowmen would rule the world.

We should drive each day as if it were a misbehaving winter day.

It's more important to be happy in real life than on social media.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

Cereal boxes never state that milk and spoon are sold separately.

A giraffe walks into a bar. Giraffes aren't good at limbo.

My neighbor, instead of Christmas gifts, gave everyone his opinion.

Nature to some people is looking up from a dead phone and seeing a tree.

NATURE NOTES

Cardinals molt in late summer and early fall, after the breeding season and when food is abundant. A newly molted male cardinal isn't at his brightest. Many of his new feathers, especially on the neck and back, are tipped with gray. The bird looks as if it needs a trip through the cardinal wash. During fall and winter, these gray tips and edges wear away to reveal more of the red color on the feathers underneath. A male cardinal's increasing redness is due to the wear and abrasion of the feathers. The birds reach the peak of brilliance by midwinter ahead of the spring breeding season. Against snow-covered conifers, they are a feast for our eyes.

Duane Miller of Hartland asked if blue jays open in-shell peanuts and eat the nuts, eat the shells, or store any of the peanuts? Blue jays are handsome and smart. I put peanuts into a platform feeder and jays magically appear, lining up like airplanes on a runway waiting for their turns to take off. Or in a line at an amusement park. Welcome to Gooberland. A jay has a large throat pouch in which it can temporarily store and transport seeds and nuts. The bird flies to a favorite perch or a safe location where it holds the peanut in its feet and pecks the shell open. It either eats the peanuts on the spot or caches them to eat later. It drops the peanut shells to the ground. I enjoy feeding in-shell peanuts as I think they are more durable than shelled peanuts.

MEETING ADJOURNED

A kind word might be enough to get someone through a day.

Welcome to the beginning of 2023, where the Minnesota Vikings downright depress us, inflation threatens to get higher, and people are already starting with the "New Year, New Me" thing.

I usually don't like making new year's resolutions. To me, they don't make much sense. I know the purpose is to set goals for the year. But the typical goals are "lose weight," "get into a relationship," and all the other usual suspects.

From what I've witnessed (also using myself as a reference), people tend to give up on their goals because they think that they're not making enough progress. Part of the problem might be the goal is vague. Losing weight, for example, is vague. How much weight are we talking—10, 20, 30 pounds? When do you want to lose the weight, six months? Is the goal realistic to the lifestyle you are living? If not, can you make the lifestyle change?

Another problem is that the goal isn't feasible. For example, losing 50 pounds in three months might require three hours of cardio every day and a significant cut in calories. Los-



Music to my Ears

by Michael Roy

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ing 100 pounds in a year might be tougher (that was my non-new-year's-resolution goal) because your metabolism will change halfway through the process, meaning the pounds won't come off as quickly later on as they did when you started.

Also, in my opinion, a lot of the typical new year's resolutions should be life goals. Losing weight is great, but what about keeping it off? If you lose fifty pounds, that doesn't exactly mean you can go from eating salads and chicken to eating a quarter pounder meal at McDonalds two days a week.

Despite my reservations about new year's resolutions, I have a few in mind. The first thing I want to do is...lose weight. Yes, I ragged on that one, but I don't want to just lose

weight. I want to change my eating habits, reduce my caloric intake to at most 2,000 calories a day, cut out greasy foods, and work out three times a week.

My two main issues are my belly and my stamina. I can still run decently, especially if I'm into a football game or taking soccer pictures and I don't have anything weighing me down. But the problem is that I get super tired after doing that. I can't run for even a minute straight.

While a lot of the weight has gone to my thighs, most of it has gone to my belly. I can still squeeze into pants I was wearing two or three years ago, but I can barely fit into the shirts I bought only six months ago. That's not good.

That is why I am making cardio

and core strength two key parts of my workout. I think focusing on those things will help me lose weight a lot faster than just going on the exercise bike and doing weight training.

Another "resolution" I made is to work on getting better at guitar so that someday I can be in a band and be good at my instrument. I want to try and practice at least five hours a week and work my way to ten hours if possible. I know some weeks I work so much that the ten-hour mark won't be possible, thus the lowered five-hour-a-week goal for myself.

My final resolution is to try and make mass every Sunday. I have been horrible with that the past two years. I started going around Christmas time again. But I need to be more consistent. I tried being an atheist, and it turns out that I need something to believe in. After all, focusing on humanity alone, especially with the way things are going, has led to nothing but disappointment. Being at church comforts me.

So, with all that out of the way, here's to 2023. May it be light years better than 2022.

Chaos dominates enough of our lives

Home sweet home. I'm not going to lie, it was pretty tough leaving my friends and practically moving out of my apartment. By the time I was packing, most of my friends had already left for break, but some of my closer friends were still there. They helped me haul my stuff to my car and they even waited, watching me drive out of the parking lot. Seeing them in my rearview mirror broke my heart and to be honest, I started crying and cried the whole way home. It felt like a somewhat permanent goodbye since I am leaving for Spain. Who knows how long it will be before I see them again.

I got home. We went up north the next day so we kept busy, but now that I'm home again after Christmas, it's been a nice break. I haven't really had much to do besides working at the bar and cleaning or organizing my room since I unpacked everything. Just spending time with my



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

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three puppies because let's be honest, who can stay away from their fur babies? Not to mention getting on the wrong side of my sister just by existing. I used her hair curler once and she got surprisingly angry at me. But it was sitting out on the counter ready to go and mine was still sealed in its package (we got matching curlers for Christmas) and I had to go to work. She got so mad that it was actually kind of interesting. Seriously though, after all of my stuff that she's used without asking over

the years, I don't think she has any right to get so upset.

Besides that, I'm not complaining about the relaxing part really, it's been a really nice break since the stresses of college and school. I was even able to finish the third book of the Outlander series, which has taken me over a year to do because it is so long.

Going back to school will be interesting. I know for high schoolers, no one really wants to go back after such a short break, and some college

students look forward to going back to school and getting out of their parents' houses and back with their friends again (sorry parents). Usually, I would look forward to going back and seeing my friends along with getting back into a regular school routine, but this time it's different. I don't know how it's going to be in Spain. Does anyone really know what the future brings, though? Sometimes it is quite a scary thought. Oh well. We move on and we keep living day to day despite the challenges that face us in life. Like dealing with a little sister who steals my clothes and yet won't let me use her hair curler. Oh, and happy new year everyone!

My Determination: "Chaos already dominates enough of our lives. The universe is an endless raging sea of randomness. Our job isn't to fight it, but to weather it together, on the raft of life." - Abed, "Community"

The secret life of Eli Lutgens

It's Sunday evening, Dec. 25, 2022.

We're nearing the end of one of the most memorable years of my life. I feel like I've lived this year. And boy have I worked. A lot.

But it was a good work. I just finished watching, "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty."

I almost turned it off after 5 minutes. I'm really glad I didn't. The story follows Walter, who develops camera film for the Magazine "Life." Walter, along with the company, is quickly informed that they will be putting their final "print" edition together.

I highly recommend this film. Walter daydreams a lot. The movie portrays this by showing us what he dreams about, ultimately with him "snapping back" to reality after "zoning off."

By the end of the film, he's no longer dreaming, he's doing: living. I feel like that's what we did with this newspaper. It was a dream of mine, my father, and before us, even Emmett Engesser. According to Emmett and Margaret's daughter Cheryl, Emmett wanted to start another paper in addition to the Star, but his family members—his children—were adamantly opposed to the idea, and so he was compelled to let the dream lie.

The job of recording and publishing history...life...is not only rewarding, it's a lot of fun. Living through a lens, in front of a key-board, behind a notepad...it's pretty unbelievable. I'm incredibly blessed.

So, how was my/our "week off" at the paper?

Well, I made it one day, and until 9 p.m. Friday when I caved and started working again (Wednesday night, before Christmas, was our print deadline).

My "end of year" work is not as exciting as the day-to-day life folks read about in this space. Accounting, hundreds of checks to enter into a



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

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bookkeeping program, bills to pay, and websites to design.

That said, if you know anyone good at bookkeeping, send them my way, we could use the help. We are a small town newspaper. At its heart is a small town business, which means, I do everything I have to do. We have a very good team, but wherever we pull up lame, well, that's where I go. While having worked every job at the newspaper has its perks, it also means I still work every job in the newspaper. Just not all the time.

It is a very weird thing to hire people to do jobs I personally love to do. My editorial assistants Tristan, and before her (and hopefully again when the college semester is up), Amelia, have performed beautifully. But I enjoyed the work, for years, that they do. Of course, I can't do everything, but I enjoyed listening to messages. (Even though I tell Tristan I hate it. I hate it, because I have a to-do list a mile long, and messages, although incredibly important, are an immediate thing.)

I also enjoy doing "tear sheets," the pages torn from printed newspapers as evidence that advertisers' ads were actually produced as promised. There's something so methodical about the task that I find it relaxing.

Then there are updating the websites, keeping up with mail, writing, typing columns, Looking back, and many more tasks. Really, the job description for my editorial assistant is, "ASSIST," with literally anything and everything. I am a demanding boss. It's hard not to be. I believe I'm

understanding and those close to me assure me I am, but how can I not be demanding when I'm paying people to do work I love.

They say in business to hire quickly, promote fast, and fire even faster. We've grown very quickly here, and found some really talented people. Deb Bently, Michael Roy, Tristan Jensen, and when they're not at college or in Spain, Amelia Roessler, and Jonah Stafford. The same is true for Missy Dunn, whose writing I really enjoy. (She is also a teacher when she's not writing for the Pioneer.) And then there's our new columnist Dave Zika. I really, really wanted to find a good local columnist. I interviewed half a dozen people, bounced around more than a dozen names, and had all but given up hope when Blair Nelson handed me a piece of paper and said, "This is your guy."

He was right. I really hope Dave sticks around. Chatting with him is an experience I highly recommend.

So when I'm asked what I'm grateful for in 2022, and going forward, I think I answer it with, "who" I am grateful for.

Well, all of those people. I didn't mention my parents, or my sister, all who work for me, or with me. Hon-

estly, as former Mayor Roy Srp said, there are just too many people to thank.

What are my 2023 New Year's resolutions?

Be humble and don't get a big head. This is something I pray about often. I believe it helps keep me grounded. We receive a lot of praise at the newspaper. I have received hundreds of hand written notes, cards, and letters. Even more emails, and more than that, comments from readers, friends. It's why I pray not to let it go to my head. With so many people telling me what I'm doing is right, it could be hard to believe I can do anything wrong. Well, to that I say, yes, yes I do things wrong—often. I get a lot wrong in the paper. But as my dad always told me, "A good newspaper is never good enough. But a bad newspaper is a joy for all."

He would usually follow this with a funny story about working at the Albert Lea Tribune. I remember the first half of the story and how it made me feel. A northern Iowa newspaper, owned by Boone Newspapers, which owns the Tribune, would print something....

And I've zoned off...

"To see the world, things dangerous to come to, to see behind walls, draw closer, to find each other and to feel. That is the purpose of life," - Life Magazine.

"Beautiful things don't ask for attention." - Walter Mitty.

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■ Maynard

from Page 1

ing “friend” and “fun.” “Stensrud rode his bicycle like he was a kid again,” he claimed. “It was so cool to see him around town.” He then mentioned the word “flying.”

“My youngest granddaughter wanted to go up in the worst way,” Srp mentioned. “Maynard suggested that we better do that. It sadly didn’t work out.”

Perhaps the two biggest F words Srp brought up were “family” and “faith,” two things that he said were the most important to Stensrud. “Any of us that knew him know he always talked about the family, whether at home or at the airport,” Srp said. “Once in a while, I talked to him, and he always had a positive perspective on the kids.” On the word, “faith,” Srp said, “He had such a faith. I can

still feel him here.”

A former Waseca Public Works Director also shared a few words on Stensrud’s faith and work ethic. “He was one of the greatest Sunday school teachers around,” he claimed. “All I know is when he was working here, this was the one place I never had to worry about. He spent a lot of time working here. Maynard was a very close friend of mine. I appreciated him.”

Srp finished his speech imploring people that if they ever have trouble or needed advice, they should ask themselves, “What would Maynard do?”

Stensrud’s love for God, his family, and flying has left a lasting impression on many people in the Waseca area. With the city naming the airport after him, his legacy will be forever cemented. “We all know that he’s up in heaven flying with all the angels,” Srp concluded. “Thank goodness we named the airport after Maynard.”

Schoenfeld joins as young leader

Gary Schoenfeld, a Waseca County native and fourth-generation farmer, is one of the newest members of the American Soybean Association’s (ASA) Corteva Young Leader Program.

He is a member of the 2022-23 class and recently completed the program’s first phase following a visit to Corteva’s Global Business Center in Iowa. He was surrounded by agriculture leaders from around the nation, including fellow Minnesota farmer Tim Braun.

“We had leadership training, and how to be a better voice for agriculture,” Schoenfeld said of phase one.

The ASA Young Leader Program started in 1984 and continues to develop leaders. Many farmer-leaders from the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association (MSGA) and Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council (MSR&PC) have completed the program before serving as state and national agriculture leaders.

As an ASA Young Leader, Schoenfeld earns an at-large seat on the MSGA board. He attended his first board meeting in December in Mankato. At the meeting, he received a firsthand experience of how the board operates and how its grassroots advocacy efforts on behalf of the state’s soybean farmers help improve Minnesota’s farm economy.

“Developing the next generation of advocates is so important to MSGA, and we were pleased to welcome Gary to his first board meeting,” said MSGA President Bob Worth, a graduate of the program. “The Young Leader Program is a big step in building those crucial leadership skills.”

Leadership duo

Another feature of the program is the inclusion of spouses. Tina Schoenfeld joined her husband for the program, learning information from her own perspective.

“I think it’s nice to (go through the program) as a couple because it shows our personalities on how we handle things,” Gary Schoenfeld said. “It shows how we can work better together and communicate better.”

Tina Schoenfeld added that between farming together and the other agriculture work they do together, it just makes sense and feels right to work and grow in the leadership program as a team.

Phase two takes place at Commodity Classic, a farmer-led, farmer-focused event in Orlando in March 2023. A third phase for select farmers is held in summer 2023 in Washington, D.C.

“It’s just amazing to hear everybody’s story. They’re similar, but different, they’re all so unique,” Tina Schoenfeld said. “It was such beneficial information that I feel like I can perfect with practice. I can grow to be an advocate for agriculture, which is not something that I had ever planned, as I don’t come from a farming background.”

Tina and Gary Schoenfeld; their daughters Caitlyn, Natalie and Isabel; and his brother Steven Schoenfeld, grow, corn, soybeans and raise sheep and beef cattle.

Being involved in leadership is nothing new for the couple, as Gary Schoenfeld is the current president of the Waseca County Farm Bureau and Tina Schoenfeld is the promotion and education chair of the board.

Another accomplishment they



Tina and Gary Schoenfeld with their daughters Caitlyn, Natalie and Isabel.

achieved together was competing in Outstanding Farmers of America in 2021, where they finished as a top 10 finalist.

Outside of agriculture, the Schoenfelds are both involved with their local church. Gary is a church elder at Trinity Lutheran in Janesville, and Tina is a co-coordinator for the Vocation Bible School as well as the president of the PTO for the Trinity Lutheran school.

About the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association

Established in 1962, MSGA is the nation’s first state soybean advocacy organization. Its nonpartisan goal is to ensure profitable soybean farming by influencing favorable ag legislation, monitoring government policies and supporting research and market development activities. To join MSGA, visit <http://mnsoybean.org/msga/invest/>.

Dear Editor,

As a senior in marching band I have learned so much about music and life in general. There are so many benefits to joining a marching band: it keeps you in shape, it keeps you thinking 24/7, and you meet a lot of new and amazing people. Some people think marching band is easy or does not take much effort, quite the opposite actually; marching band is one of the most active you can be in a high-school activity, it takes a lot of skill to play an instrument and march properly, and it takes an extreme amount of time and effort to learn a ten minute field show and a lot of choreography to go with the music. Being a part of a band is like being part of a new family, you get really close to the people in your section

and they become a second family to you. Marching band brings people together, even marching band members from other cities will become your closest friends. Marching band is one of the best full body activities, ranging from the choreography to the playing of instruments, you have to focus on staying in step with everyone else and focus on breathing at the right time. I would encourage everyone to at least give marching band a try, and who knows, it might become your favorite activity.

Isaac Sipe

In brief

Duelli Noted at the Starfire Event Center Jan. 14

Those interested in musical battles should duly note the following event: On Saturday, January 14, the piano duo “Duelli Noted” will be performing at the Starfire Event Center starting at 7 p.m. This is a 21 or over event. Tickets will be \$25 in advance and at the door. No refunds.

Waseca American Legion hosting the Paul Stewart Show Jan. 13

The Waseca American Legion Post #228 will have live music presented by the Paul Stewart Show on Friday, Jan. 13 from 7 to 10 p.m. fans of 50s and 60s country, rock, and blues are especially encouraged to come for the fun.

Waseca Gun and Knife Show at the Mill Jan. 6 & 7

Crocodile Productions will be hosting the Waseca Gun and Knife Show at the Mill this Friday from 4 to 8 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission will be \$8 for each day, and only cash will be accepted for the fee. There will be over a hundred booths at the event for people to buy, trade, and sell.

Farmamerica’s Winter Charm on the Farm Jan. 14

Farmamerica’s annual Winter Charm on the Farm event will be Saturday, Jan 14 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The winter-themed events will include horse drawn carriage rides, snowshoe trails, snow painting, and more! Advanced admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for kids, and free for Farmamerica members and kids under the age of 2. Admission at the door will be \$12 for adults and \$10 for kids.

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Ice Golf Benefit for Logan Nessel & Family

@ The Boat House Grill & Bar in Waseca
Saturday, January 28, 2023

#LOGANSTRONG



On July 17, 2022, Logan sustained a spinal cord injury of his C5 and C6 vertebrae after a diving accident and is classified as a quadriplegic. He was hospitalized and in rehabilitation for 11 weeks and just recently moved into a handicap accessible home in Waseca. Money raised at the benefit will go toward a medically equipped vehicle that Logan will be able to drive on his own with his family.

100% of the proceeds raised will go to Logan and his family.

Your \$80 team registration fee includes:
18-hole mini golf on the ice (4 players per team)
Burger or brat, chips & free drink ticket for each team member

The Crown Royal girls are scheduled to be onsite giving out free samples
We will have a DJ outside (weather permitting)
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Sign up using the QR code above or send an email to loganstrongbenefit@gmail.com

There will be a silent auction to bid on a Henry Golden Boy 22 Long Rifle, autographed Twins memorabilia and more!

**If you would like to donate items for the silent auction, please contact us at loganstrongbenefit@gmail.com

There is an account set up in Logan’s name at Keen Bank in Waseca for monetary donations or they can be made through Venmo @loganstrongbenefit

*All proceeds from the event are considered a donation, in the case of bad weather, an indoor event will take place instead

Thank you for your understanding and generosity!!



OBITUARIES

Lilly Bertha Krause

Lilly Bertha Krause, age 96, of Waseca died on December 24, 2022 at Prairie Home Field Crest Assisted Living in Cottonwood.

Born on January 8, 1926 in Weston-Marathon, Wisconsin to August and Clara (Block) Wetzel. Lilly was united in marriage to Victor Elgin Krause on December 27, 1952 at the Assembly of God Church in Wells. Together they had three children and made their home on the farm in Wilton township. Following Victor's passing in 1959, Lilly continued to live on the farm while raising their children. Lilly was active with her church as a Sunday school teacher. She was a foster mom for many children over the years. Lilly enjoyed gardening, baking and cherished the time she spent with her grandchildren.

Lilly is survived by her children: Dennis (Sue) Krause of New Richland, Joel (Kim) Krause of Hauser, ID, and Vicki (Mike) Flugum of Cottonwood; grandchildren: Dennis (Kristin) Krause, Stacey Krause, Joshua (Nicole) Krause, Krystle Krause, Nicolas (Erica) Krause, Marshal (Ryley) Krause, Daniel (Angela) Flugum, Matthew (Tami) Flugum, and Christine (Daniel) Demeules; 20 great grandchildren and one great-great



Lilly Krause

grandchild. She is also survived by her brother, Clarence (Thelma) Wetzel of Wells; sister, Marion (Arlo) Miller of Owatonna; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Preceded in death by her parents; husband; brothers: Carl, Walter, Arnold, and Elmer Wetzel; sister, Ruth Culbertson.

Funeral service will be 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 7, 2023 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Burial will be in Woodville Cemetery in Waseca. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the funeral chapel on Saturday.

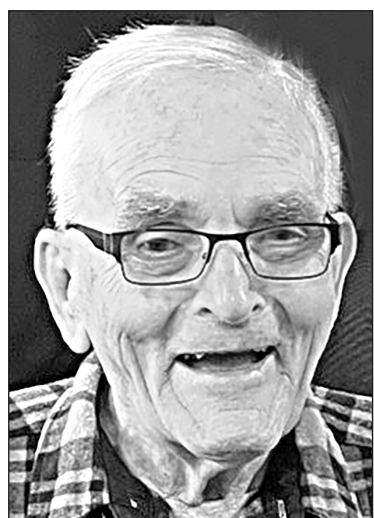
Dennisfuneralhomes.com

Donald Gene Witt

Donald Gene Witt, age 91 of Janesville, passed away on the evening of December 25, 2022 at Whispering Creek in Janesville.

Donald was born on his family's farm on December 3, 1931, to Victor and Irene (Ewert) Witt. He attended country school before beginning to work as a young man. On June 5, 1952, Donald was married to Shirley Ann Linde at Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville. He served his country in the United States Army from 1952 until his honorable discharge in 1954. Over his working years, Donald was a hauled milk, ground feed, and hauled gas. His most recent and lengthy employment, though, was working for Waseca County until his retirement. He enjoyed playing slots at Diamond Jo's, hunting, playing cards, shooting dice, following the Minnesota Vikings, Twins, and Lynx, working around his yard, and his annual Christmas light displays. More than anything, though, he loved spending time with his family and friends. He was a long-time member of the Janesville American Legion and Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville.

Donald is survived by five children, Debra Smith (Dennis Peterson) of Janesville, Terri (Mike) Wolff of Eagle Lake, James (Debbie) Witt of Janesville, Lori (Duane) Page of Janesville, and Cherrie (Rich) Johnson of Janesville; fourteen grandchildren;



Donald Gene Witt

twenty-four great-grandchildren; two sisters, Darlene Witt of Waseca and Beverly "Annie" Recknor of Wells; a sister-in-law, Norma Witt of Janesville; and a son-in-law, Bill Straube of Waseca. Donald was preceded in death by both of his parents; his wife; one daughter, Diane Straube; and two brothers, Orville Witt and Elvin Witt.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Friday, December 30, 2022, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville, with Rev. Ted Andrada officiating. Visitation was held from 9:30 until the time of the service at the church. Interment will follow at the Janesville Cemetery. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service is handling the arrangements. dsfuneral.com

Lorelle Ann Sexton

Lorelle Ann Sexton, age 70 of Waseca, passed away on the morning of Thursday, December 22, 2022 at the New Richland Care Center.

Lorelle was born in Mankato on February 5, 1952 to Melvin and Dorothy (Kain) Minse. As a girl she attended school in Waldorf, graduating with the class of 1970. She was married to Michael Joseph "Joe" Sexton on October 8, 1977. While raising their family Lorelle worked as a paraprofessional in the Waseca Public Schools from 1994 until her retirement in 2015. Lorelle was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca.

Lorelle is survived by her devoted husband of 45 years, Joe Sexton of Waseca; two daughters, Angela (Jeff) Larson of Marshall, and Julie (Simon) Broughten of Wilson, WY; two granddaughters, Emilie and Audree Larson of Marshall; and one brother, Roland (Paula) Minse of Eagle Lake. She was preceded in death by both of her parents.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, December 29, 2022 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca, with Father The Hoang officiating. Visitation was held from 10 a.m. until the time of the Mass at the church.



Lorelle Ann Sexton

Interment will take place at Waseca's Calvary Cemetery in the spring of 2023. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca is handling the arrangements.

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OBITUARIES

Robert G. Kipp

Robert Gerald Kipp, age 75 of Waldorf, died on Sunday, January 1, 2023 at the Mayo Clinic-Methuodist Campus in Rochester.

Born on February 4, 1947 in Albert Lea, Minnesota, he was the son of Gerald and Ethel (Roberts) Kipp. Bob graduated from Waldorf-Pemberton High School in 1965. Following his schooling, Bob served in the U.S. Army where he was stationed in Germany. Bob was united in marriage to Susan Brandt on August 16, 1969. Following his discharge, Bob began his career driving milk truck with Plum Valley Creamery. After the creamery closed, he continued to

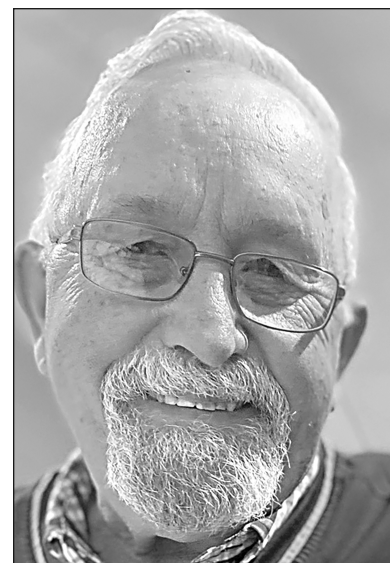
drive truck for Le Sueur Cheese Co. He enjoyed fishing, gardening, and being in the outdoors. He was a member of First Lutheran Church in Waldorf and American Legion Post #587.

Bob is survived by his wife, Susan of Waldorf; son, Ben (Carina) Kipp of Byron; daughter, Pam Uhlenkamp of Green Isle; and five grandchildren, Katelyn, Ashlyn, Brooklyn, Alivia, and Oliver. He is also survived by brothers Jerry (Rosemary) Kipp, Jim Kipp, and Dennis (Ginger) Kipp; sisters Shirley (Bob) Vogalsang, Sharon (Ron) Hanel, Jan (Marty) Tesch, and Jeanne Kipp; and many nieces and nephews. He is also survived by

brother-in-law, Rod (Stacy) Brandt and sister-in-law, Hazel (Gary) Owens. Bob was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Sandra; and brother, Larry.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, January 5, 2023 at the State Street Chapel (711 N. State St.) of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca from 4-7 p.m. Visitation will also continue on Friday, one hour before services at the church.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, January 6, 2023 at 11 a.m. at First Lutheran Church in Waldorf. Burial will follow at First Lutheran Cemetery in Waldorf.



Robert G. Kipp

Minnwest Junior Board



The Minnwest Junior Board - led by Larry Johnson, Kari Glynn, and Melissa Olson - closed out the year at Half Pint Brewery Thursday, December 8. Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm provided food at the event.

The Minnwest Junior board consists of juniors (who become seniors) at Waseca High School. The group put in over 450 hours of community service in Waseca throughout the year.



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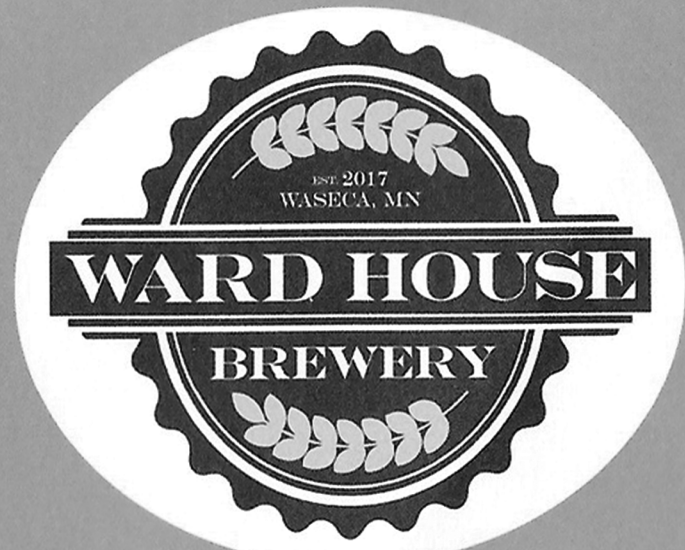
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WHS boys win two in tourney

Bluejays better record to 6-0

By **MICHAEL ROY**
Staff Writer

Waseca wins both games at TCU holiday tournament

The Tri-City United Holiday Tournament, taking place Dec. 29 and 30, involved 12 boys' and girls' basketball teams from eight schools.

This year, Waseca's boys were part of the tournament, winning both of their games against Kenyon-Wanamingo and Le Sueur-Henderson to extend their undefeated streak to six games.

Waseca 57, Kenyon-Wanamingo 45

Kenyon-Wanamingo was the toughest opponent Waseca faced this year, sporting a 6-1 record entering the tournament. They showed why they had that record with their pressure and great defense.

The Bluejays did a fine job in the first half. Andrew Robran opened the scoring with four straight points. Sophomore Damarius Russell contributed two. Kenyon-Wanamingo only held two small leads. Waseca figured things out on offense, edging out Kenyon-Wanamingo for a 31-19 halftime lead.

One thing echoed by Waseca coach Seth Anderson throughout the second half was, "Don't foul!"

Both the Bluejays and Knights were getting frustrated with the calls.

"This team has given a tremendous amount of effort."

— **Waseca coach Seth Anderson**

"This team has given a tremendous effort when they take the floor," Anderson said. "They fly around and battle. But sometimes we get in trouble with silly, clumsy, or overaggressive fouls where we just aren't in a position to make a play."

The Waseca boys also seemed a bit disappointed in their performance despite the victory against a quality opponent. Anderson explained that part of the reason for that was making only 5 of 25 three-point shots.

"I think the most frustrating thing was how much we turned the ball over against the pressure and our sloppy passing in the half court," he added.

Anderson isn't worried about them being too hard on themselves. "They all have a will to play well and a desire to keep getting better," he said. "They expect that out of themselves."

Aside from the sentiment of



TACK ON TWO MORE— The Waseca High School boys' basketball team improved its record to 6-0 with a pair of wins in the TCU holiday tournament. Above from left, the Bluejays' Noah Thompson (12) grabs a rebound; Deron Russell (0) drives past a Kenyon-Wanamingo defender.



underachieving in a win, Anderson felt good about the victory. "It's good to see us win against a quality team even when we didn't feel like that was our best performance," he stated.

Individually: Damarius Russell, 16 points; Laird Keeton, 14 points; Zach Hulscher, 6 points; Andrew Robran, 6 points; Carson Ohnstad, 6 points; Tyson Reger, 5 points; Deron Russell, 3 points; Tauston Rupe, 1

point.

Waseca 75, Le Sueur-Henderson 42

After a close victory against Kenyon-Wanamingo, the Bluejays faced LeSueur-Henderson, a team that had one win all season and lost to JWP in the tournament 71-52. It was a much better game from the Bluejays, as they scored 54 points in the first half alone.

"We definitely did much better offensively," Anderson said. "We were accurate with our shots against the Giants."

Even when Waseca put on the brakes in the second half, they outscored the Giants 22-19. Damarius Russell led the group in points with 22, while Deron Russell and Laird Keeton also had double-digit nights with 17 and 12 points, respectively. "This group continues

to grow every game," Anderson said. "I'm just really excited for the kids because they want to keep working hard and getting better."

Other contributors were Hulscher with 9, Robran with 4, Reger with 3, Honstad with 3, Ohnstad with 2, and Rupe with 2.

The wins improved the Bluejays' record to 6-0. They travel to New Ulm Friday and to Jackson County Central Saturday.

WHS icemen drop two

By **MICHAEL ROY**
Staff Writer

It was a tough end to December for the Waseca boys' hockey team. After starting 4-1, losses to Faribault and Winona led to the team ending 2022 with a losing record for the first time this season.

Faribault 5, Waseca 3

The game against Faribault Tuesday, Dec. 20 was a close one. After a goal in the first period by the Falcons, both teams traded blows in the second. Nick Archambault of Faribault scored two goals for a 3-1 lead. Griffen Krautkremer (assisted by Kyle Ahlschlager) and Brayden Hesch-Priem hit the net for a 3-2 end to the second period.

Ahlschlager, Waseca's leading goal scorer, tied things up 3:07 into the final period. However, Faribault scored exactly 10 minutes later and less than four minutes later, they put the game out of reach by scoring on an empty net.

What ultimately cost the Bluejays the game was the lack of shots on goal. Faribault was relentless, outshooting the Jays 41-17. Carter Martens stopped 36 of 40 shots for Waseca for a save percentage of .900.

Winona 7, Waseca 3

Waseca was stunned Friday, Dec.

30, when Winona put on a clinic against them and gave the Jays their fourth loss in a row.

A team that Waseca was supposed to face a bit earlier in the season, Winona sported a 1-4-1 record before coming into the Bluejay rink. Their only win was a close one against LaCrescent-Hokah.

The Winhawks sure didn't look like a team that barely won one game. Teis Larsen had his way against Waseca's defense, scoring four goals and assisting on a fifth. Aven Prodrzinski scored a goal for himself while assisting on three.

Martens faced 55 shots for the game. Meanwhile, Waseca's offense only had 22 shots on Winona. The only person successful in scoring - and the only bright spot in the game - was Krautkremer, who scored a hat trick in the game.

It was apparent the game would be out of reach for Waseca by the end of the first when the score was 4-1. To make things worse, Ahlschlager was called for a minor penalty and a 10-minute misconduct for roughing in the third period, ultimately ending his night on the ice.

The boys looked to turn around their 4-5 record at Minnesota River Thursday, Jan. 5 and against Worthington Saturday.



A LOT OF OPPOSITION — Waseca boys' hockey goalie Carter Martens faced 40 shots against Faribault and 55 shots against Winona as the Bluejays lost twice.



SKATING HARD — Maneuvering the puck for the Waseca girls' hockey team are Maizee Storey (6) and Katlyn Schueler (16).



Hockey girls sweep Rochester Century

By **MICHAEL ROY**
Staff Writer

During winter break, the Lady Jays hockey team had back-to-back games against Rochester Century's Panthers Wednesday, Dec. 28 and the following Friday. Waseca took victories in both games and ended 2022 on a winning note.

The first of the two games took on in Century's home rink. Although the team had slight struggles, they sported a 6-7 record, more wins than Waseca had. But it didn't matter to eighth-grade forward Maizee Storey. She had the team's only two goals, one in the first period and the other in the second. Century could only get one of 28 shots past eighth-grade goalie Ilamay Draheim late in the third.

Waseca took a lot more chances, especially in the second period with 20 shots on net, which ultimately produced the win. Draheim had a .952 save percentage.

The second game went even better for Waseca. Ten minutes in, Katelyn Schueller fired a laser above the goaltender's glove to give the Bluejays a 1-0 lead. Storey found the net again, shooting a shorthanded goal off of a break-away for a 2-0 lead at the first intermission.

Despite having two separate two-man advantages, the Panthers couldn't cash in. Draheim nearly denied them a goal at all until they had another power play opportunity where they were successful. Before they could think about coming back, Izabela Slechta iced the game with an empty-netter with 90 seconds left in the game. The game ended with a 3-1 win for Waseca.

The Bluejays improved to 6-4 (3-3 in conference). They started a six-game homestand starting with New Prague Jan. 3 before hosting New Ulm Thursday and Worthington Friday.

Defending section champs upend WHS basketball girls

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

The Waseca High School girls' basketball team went 1-2 throughout the final two weeks of 2022. They lost to #7 state ranked Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial. Then over winter break, the team split two games at the Winona State University Holiday Classic, winning against Lewiston-Altura before ultimately losing to a talented Plainview-Elgin-Millville squad.

LCWM 55, Waseca 33

Waseca traveled to LCWM Tuesday, Dec. 20 for one the toughest games on their

schedule. Head Coach Joan Conway acknowledged how great of a basketball team the Knights were.

"They are the defending section 2AA champion with all their key members returning this season," she pointed out. "They are a very good team that is so offensively gifted."

That's not been the only reason for their success. It's been their outstanding defense. Prior to facing Waseca, the Knights allowed opponents to only score a mind-blowing 24.25 points per game.

Said Conway, "To compete with a team of their caliber, we had to limit turnovers. We

did not do that."

Senior Kloe Wadd has usually been next to impossible to stop from scoring this year. Against the Knights, she only had six points. Fellow senior Sam Azure led the team with 10. Other contributors were Megan Kanewischer 6, Avery Madsen 5, Addie Wieseler 2, Mia Kanewischer 2, Ella Dufault 1, and Callie Dufault 1.

The loss broke their three-game undefeated streak.

Winona Holiday Classic

Waseca traveled to Winona State University for the Lewiston Auto Holiday

Classic. It's been a gathering of girls' basketball teams that Waseca has enjoyed being a part of for a few seasons.

"We always look forward to traveling to Winona State," Conway said. "It is a well run event on a great college floor."

The first team the Lady Jays faced was Lewiston-Altura. The Cardinals hadn't won a game at all this season prior to facing Waseca, and they didn't get a win there either.

Both Waseca and Lewiston-Altura had their best defensive performance of the season against each other. But the Lady Jays did just enough to win 44-32.

Individually: Wadd, 16 points; Azure 11; Megan Kanewischer 9; Madsen 6; and Wieseler 2 points.

The game against the 4-2 Plainview-Elgin-Millville Bulldogs was more of the same. Defense was the name of the game. However, Waseca was on the losing end of a 47-33 contest. Azure led the team with 14 points scored, with Wadd contributing 8, Madsen 5, Megan Kanewischer 3, and Mia Kanewischer 3.

Waseca's record after the two losses is 4-2. The girls host New Ulm Jan. 6.

Panther girls 2nd in NRHEG Invitational

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Over the holiday break, the NRHEG girls' basketball team finished second in its tournament and suffered the first loss of the season over the three-game stretch.

The Panthers remained undefeated with blowout wins over JWP 73-27 and Minnesota Valley Lutheran 80-38. They lost to LCWM in the championship game of their holiday tournament, ending 58-35 in New Richland.

The Panthers traveled to Janesville on Dec. 20, and handily defeated the Bulldogs after jumping out to a 41-16 lead.

"We came out very aggressive, and got the tempo going in our favor," NRHEG coach Onika Peterson said. "I think we pushed JWP into a faster game than what they would have liked. It was a nice team win going into the Christmas vacation."

Leading the Panthers in scoring was Camryn VanMaldeghem with 15 points, followed by Faith Nielsen with 12, Sidney Schultz 12, Quinn VanMaldeghem 11, Hallie Schultz 8, Erin Jacobson 7, Preslie Nielsen 6, and Chloe Stork 2.

In the third annual holiday tournament, the first since the Covid pandemic, NRHEG hosted St. James, Lake Crystal-Wellcome-Memorial, and Minnesota Valley Lutheran.

In the opening round, the Panthers handled MVL 80-38, setting up a rematch of last year's sub-section championship game with LCWM.

The game with MVL was close for about five minutes. With the score tied at 5, the Panthers went on an 8-0 run with five points coming from Faith Nielsen on a three-pointer from the top of the key, along with an acrobatic layup, and a free throw.

The Panthers didn't look back after taking a 40-16 lead into half-time.

Faith Nielsen led the Panthers in scoring with 24 points, followed by: Sidney Schultz at 22, Hallie Schultz 8, Jacobson 8, Camryn VanMaldeghem 6, Quinn VanMaldeghem 5, Tatum Smith Vulcan 4, and Preslie Nielsen 3.

In the most anticipated game of the girls' 2022-23 season, the Panthers' only lead of the night came after an opening-possession layup from Faith Nielsen.

The Knights answered.



DRIVE TIME — Taking the basketball to the hoop for the NRHEG girls' basketball team against LCWM are, from left: Camryn VanMaldeghem (20); and Quinn VanMaldeghem (4).

Over the next 6 minutes, LCWM scored 10 straight points on jumpers, fast breaks, and free throws. The Panthers, however, would fight back, cutting the lead to 14-13 on a Sidney Schultz 3-pointer with 6 minutes left in the first half.

Unfortunately, the Knights scored the next 16 points and the Panthers



scored none.

The second half wasn't any better. In total, the Panthers went nearly 11 minutes of play without a basket. The Knights scored the first 8 points of the second half before Sidney Schultz scored on a fast break. Over the final 14 minutes of play the Panthers actually kept pace, but it

JWP girls split in TCU tournament

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

It was a pretty good winter break for the JWP girls' basketball team. With wins hard to come by, the Bulldogs found one at Tri-City United's holiday tournament on Dec. 29 and 30 against LeSueur-Henderson. A second win evaded them when the host Titans defeated them 54-51.

Bulldogs 75, LeSueur-Henderson 49

Sophomore Presley James and senior Faith Olson opened the scoring for the Bulldogs, contributing four points each. The offensive attack was so quick, in fact, that as soon as James and Olson each had a layup shot, LeSueur-Henderson called a timeout 90 seconds into the game.

After a few three-pointers, the Bulldogs were up 23-10 halfway into the first half. But a few fouls and some miscommunication between the girls allowed the Giants many opportunities for layup shots without anyone challenging them.

"At times there were a couple of communication breakdowns, and a lot of the time we got caught witching the ball instead of moving in

transition," JWP coach Cory Jans said. "There were also a few times where we got greedy and tried to play for steals with all five girls on one side of the floor."

Defensively, the girls did much better in the second half. Freshman Nevaeh Weimert scored eight straight points to make it 41-22. After that, fellow freshman Katie Olson took over the scoring with five straight points. Even in the few minutes sophomore Brielle Bure got to play in the end, she contributed five points.

"It's nice to have a full team capable of sharing the workload so we don't become reliant on one or two players scoring all the points," Jans said.

"The biggest takeaway from this game is how much we need to focus on the little things - boxing out, getting back on defense, and no cheap fouls," Jans shared. "This game also showed up we can't take plays off or relax in one facet of our game because that's when bad things happen. Ironing out the little details will go a long way toward helping us progress and grow our game."

Individually: Katie Olson, 13 points; Presley James, 12 points;



TRANSITION GAME — Katelyn Olson (1) leads the fast break for the Bulldogs.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

Faith Olson, 11 points; Nevaeh Weimert, 10 points; Lilly Strauss, 7 points; Claire Walz, 6 points; Brielle Bure, 5 points; Paige Walz, 4 points; Lexie Dahlberg, 2 points; and Caitlin Kleve, 2 points.

TCU 54, Bulldogs 51

TCU's Audrey Vosejпка was the problem for JWP, scoring 15 points, with every player on TCU contribut-

JWP boys top NRHEG, win one in tournament

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

After losing the last two games, the JWP boys' basketball team turned things around with a victory over NRHEG Tuesday, Dec. 20. The boys found success at the Tri-City United holiday tournament, too, with a win against LeSueur-Henderson.

Bulldogs 70, Panthers 50

The Bulldogs had their second-best game (and their first home victory) against conference rival NRHEG. "It was a big conference game, so it always feels good to pick up a win," coach Nick James said.

The team was without junior Cole Schlueter, its tallest player and a top contributor. But it didn't matter as others stepped up.

Memphis James put the team on his back with a 27-point night.

"Memphis puts a lot of time into his game during the offseason and also during the season," James said. "It's great to see him stepping up his development and leadership on the court."

Bulldogs 71, Le Sueur-Henderson 52

JWP got into the groove offen-

sively once again at the Tri-City United tournament Dec. 29 and 30. They started against Le Sueur-Henderson, a team that was 1-3. . .

James led the team with 26 points, with Daulton Bauer scoring 13. Other contributors were Ryan Kronbach 9, Caleb Quast 9, Austin Quast 8, Landon Johnson 2, Ethan Born 2, and Steven Dimmel 2.

TCU 55, Bulldogs 40

It was a great start for JWP. Despite a slow offense, the defense held TCU to 19 points. After a 24-19 half, however, the Titans figured things out on offense. On the flip side, JWP only compiled 16 points all half.

"We weren't able to hit the basket as well that night," James claimed. "Credit to Tri-City United. They played a great game."

James led the team in points with 15 with Bauer supplying 13. Other contributors were Kronbach 7, Johnson 2, A. Quast 2, and C. Quast 1.

The boys hosted Blue Earth Area Thursday, Jan. 5 before traveling to United South Central the next day.

NRHEG boys nipped in Bethany Holiday Tournament

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

They're getting closer.

But the first win of the season remains just out of reach for the NRHEG basketball boys.

The Panthers remained winless on the season - the first for head coach Dan Schmidt - as they fell to Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton and dropped three games in the Bethany Holiday Tournament in Mankato.

The closest the Panthers came to tasting victory was in the seventh-place tournament game, where they were edged 56-54 by Fairmont. NRHEG kept it close despite giving up a good size advantage.

"I couldn't be more proud of how the boys

played," said Schmidt, whose team trailed 27-21 at halftime.

"If you were in the stands, the atmosphere was really great for a consolation game," said Schmidt. "The boys did a great job digging in and battling back. I'll never question the heart in this group, and I couldn't ask for a better group to start my career. The want is there. We just have to clean up some of the mental mistakes, and things could change quickly after that."

The Panthers were led by Will Tuttle with 21 points and 5 rebounds. He was followed by Dexter Lee with 9 points, 5 assists, and 5 rebounds. Jackson Chrz kicked in 6 points and 8 boards. Sam Olson had 6 points. Sawyer Prigge chipped in 6 points, 3 assists,

and 4 steals.

The Panthers wound up in the seventh-place game with a 65-54 loss to LCWM.

According to Schmidt, the score wasn't indicative of the actual game. The Panthers trailed 28-25 at the intermission.

"We took our typical punch in the mouth early in the second half, but we never wavered, and stuck right with them the rest of the game," said Schmidt. Lee led NRHEG with 14 points and 4 rebounds. Others: Chrz 13 point, 9 rebounds; Prigge 9 points; Alden Dobberstein 7 points, 2 steals; Olson 6 points; Tuttle 3 points; Jaylin Raab 2 points.

"Chrz came off the bench tonight, and he really sparked us with 13 points and 9

rebounds," said Schmidt. "And, he got the crowd fired up by throwing down a nice dunk with a man coming up behind him. He and Dobberstein did such a great job off the bench tonight."

In the opening round at Mankato, the Panthers were upended 71-57 by St. Clair after leading 33-27 at halftime.

"We moved the ball well, and were led by Dexter Lee with 18 points and Will Tuttle with 10 points at the break," said Schmidt.

The Cyclones started the second half out in a 1-2-2 press, and NRHEG made a handful of passes that resulted in layups that turned the tide very quickly.

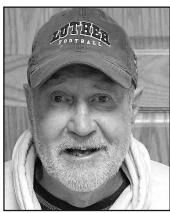
Lee led NRHEG with 26 points and 5 rebounds. Tuttle chimed in with 14 points

and 12 rebounds, for his first double-double of the season. Prigge chipped in 9 points on 3 3-pointers. Finishing off the scoring for NRHEG were Dobberstein with 4 points, Jackson Chrz with 2, and Sam Olson with 2. St Clair was led by Brandon Meng with 20 points, and Connor Whittlet with 18.

The Panthers were defeated 70-50 at JWP back on Dec. 20.

For NRHEG: Lee 23 points, 7 rebounds; Olson: 6 points Chrz 5 points; Prigge 5 points, 2 steals; Dobberstein 3 points; Tuttle 2 points, 8 rebounds; Raab: 2 points; Lukas Loverink: 2 points; Knudson: 2 points.

The Panthers play next in a boy/girl doubleheader at Maple River on Friday.



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika

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Something out of Goldielocks and the three bears

I've been retired for a number of years and find myself watching more TV than I should. Most of my viewing consists of Andy Griffith, Blue Bloods, sporting events of all types, and the local and world news. I'm always up at 6 a.m. and spend the early part of my day watching the news. Seems like the first 15 minutes, on every station, the news is rather depressing. Violence, politics, technology, and disasters are always the headlines. The holidays are special because most channels end the broadcast with a heartwarming story about an act of kindness. A church feeding the needy, a toy or present drive, a group of people donating winter clothing; all these give me a special joy. This got me thinking about my experiences with others who have demonstrated acts of kindness.

It was Thanksgiving and I was on my way to Austin to pick up my mom at Sacred Heart Assisted Living. It was snowing and a blustery, windy day. I left without a jacket or gloves, totally unprepared for winter in November. Coming into New Richland on Hwy #13, disaster struck: a flat tire. I pulled off to the right into what appeared to be a body shop parking lot full of cars and aluminum trailers. Out of the shop door came the nicest man, recognizing I had a problem. I remember him saying, "It's your lucky day, you had your flat tire at just the right spot." He opened the garage door, ran out an air hose, and had the lug nuts and tire off in a matter of minutes. He put on my spare and gave me the wishes of the season. I offered him a \$20 bill and he said "No way, it's my way of giving thanks. Have a blessed Thanksgiving."

My wife and I are blessed with great friends. One of our good friends, Carolyn, collects silver dollars. When she meets someone special to her, she gives them a silver dollar. It may be a waitress in a restaurant, a child in a stroller, or an interesting person in the mall. She gives the dollar to anyone she finds especially kind. We were traveling with friends and stopped for lunch in Courtland, MN. Tables were tight and we got to know the four ladies at the table next to us. One of the older ladies lived alone in a farmhouse and some of her neighbors were taking her out for lunch. Carolyn found her very interesting and kind. She presented her with a

silver dollar. We could have stayed there all afternoon chatting with the ladies and other people we met at the restaurant that day.

I have a brother who lives in International Falls; a retired teacher and coach. I go every summer to the Falls to fish Rainy Lake with Dan and family. We stopped at the gas station for fuel and bait and Dan ran into a couple of his students. He chatted and laughed with them and bought them a couple of ice cream cones. They loved it.

I arrived back in Waseca after the trip and was filling up with gas. A little girl pulled up on her bike, she looked like something out of Goldie Locks and the Three Bears. Into the store she went. I went in to pay and there she was at the counter with a pile of candy and treats. She was counting nickels and pennies from a coin purse. I smiled and said, "Treats are on me today." As I left the station there she was, a bag full of treats, piled in a big pink bike basket. She gave me the biggest smile, a big thank you, and rode away. I've never felt better!

My wife Lisa makes many goodies at Christmas. As every lady does, she gets her hair done before Christmas. Every Christmas she brings her hairdresser a two-pound bag of cashew crunch. This year she told Lisa she's hiding the bag from her husband and kids; she's eating every ounce of it.

Gas station attendants and grocery checkout clerks have shared with me that they witness many acts of kindness almost regularly! People who offer others a ride when it's below zero, helping the elderly load groceries, or paying the bill for someone at the checkout.

There are many people who show anonymous random acts of kindness. Those who donate at a benefit for people in need, or pay it forward for the car behind them going through a fast food drive thru.

Churches offer and encourage people to donate to a food shelf, place gifts under a Christmas tree, or hang mittens, gloves, or gift cards for others in need.

On New Year's Eve many of us make our resolutions for the new year. In 2023 maybe one of your resolutions can be to demonstrate some acts of kindness to others. Have a blessed, healthy, happy, fulfilling New Year!!

Meet your neighbor, Becky

Name: Becky Petsinger

Favorite Food: Tacos

Age: 37

All Time Favorite Movie: Mamma Mia!

Town: Waseca, MN

Favorite Musical Artist: Keith Urban Favorite Sports Team: Twins

Birthplace: Mankato, MN

Hometown: Le Center, MN

My favorite activities when I was growing up: Visiting grandparents at the farm

Occupation: Technical Writer with Cargill

My biggest pet peeve: When someone tells the same story over and over

Family: Matthew, Husband; Michael, 8 year old son; Mitchell, 6 year old son; Matilyn, 3-year-old daughter; Markus, newborn son

Hobbies: Scrapbooking, camping, and fishing

My dream vacation would be: Mediterranean Cruise

The best thing about small town living: Building relationships with people in community activities

Favorite TV Show: NCIS



Neighbor Becky met her husband Matt on a fishing trip.

Let me just say, I have amazing foresight

Wallace doesn't understand weekends. (I was reminded of this at 4:10 a.m. one December Saturday not long ago.) Shelby and Otto, having been around the block a number of times (13 and 15 respectively, as a matter of fact), understand how Saturdays work, for the most part, and are happy to snooze a bit longer. But the puppy has decided he has had enough of the resting bit, and now would like to move on to the eating and playing bits, thank you very much. He is NOT AT ALL interested in the potty bit. (I understand this. Who wants to trek out to the backyard at 4:15 a.m.



Always Looking Up

by Melissa Dunn

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and put their butt in the snow?) Anyway, for that business (hah!), we use puppy pads.

Using puppy pads at our house isn't a new concept. We have a lot of stairs (which are not good on dachshund backs and joints. Google "Intervertebral Disc Disease"), so Otto has used pads

ever since he came to us. I remember when we pad-trained him. It went something like this: Otto, this is your potty place. This is the ONLY PLACE you go. The ONLY PLACE, okay? My daughter and I probably explained this to him twice, seriously. Otto may be a crabby

German, but he is also a smart one. Though also a dachshund, Wallace is neither crabby nor German. The ancestry of the English cream dachshund comes from England (clearly) and Scotland and their coloring is, indeed, varying shades of cream. This is how my brilliant daughter came up with a posh gentleman's name, of course: Wallace (William Wallace, and also the Wallace & Gromit movie), and Madigan (Scottish for hound). Wallace came to our house only three weeks before I had to go back to school, but we were confident in his ability to learn the rules. We were not greenhorns, but experienced dachshund parents! And dachshunds are smart and quick to learn! We had evidence of that!

For three solid weeks one of us was always putting Wallace on a pad while repeating Wallace, this is your potty place. This is the ONLY PLACE you go. The ONLY PLACE, okay? We did this every place we had put a pad, and of course, his boundaries were compact. We did it every time we were supposed to; after eating, drinking, playing, napping, every 30 minutes during the day, every two hours at night...

Let me just say here that I showed amazing foresight when I first moved into my house 26 years ago and ripped out all the carpeting to install laminate flooring instead. (Let me also give you a little financial tip—buy stock in paper towels.) Wallace HAS indeed absorbed something from all the repetitive pad messages he got. I imagine his toddler-like thinking: uh-oh, if I need to pee...what do I...? What was it? I'm supposed to...oh, FIND that little pad-thing! There it is! I bet I can carry that around...I can! I can carry it! I can run around with it! I can rip it to shreds! OK, I'll do that! Right after I pee in the kitchen.

It's been about five months now, and things are looking up. Wallace successfully uses his pad at night, in his fenced-in area under the dining room table where he sleeps. The paper towel and wet mop businesses have probably skyrocketed. My husband and I stay flexible with the daily squatting and bending workouts. So has my patience. I just need to figure out why Wallace hasn't gotten the routine down during the day. It occurred to me that perhaps he doesn't understand my terminology. Maybe I'll try Wallace, this is your loo. This is your LOO. After all, he is a posh English cream gentleman.

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Looking back

85 Years Ago – The Waseca Journal, January 5, 1938

- The fervor of Waseca county sportsmen took a pendulum swing during the year 1937, according to figures released from the county auditor's office this week which showed a sharp decline in the number of small game licenses issues and a corresponding rise in the number of fishing licenses. Small game licenses this year numbered 1122 as compared with 1750 a year ago, a drop of 628 hunters who took to the fields of the county in 1937. Fishing licenses showed an increase of 290 when 2927 licenses were issued to top last year's figure of 2637.

- After a wait of two years, Janesville was allotted funds through PWA early this week with which to proceed with the erection of a new municipal power plant. The allotment, according to press dispatches, will be \$105,455. Janesville approved the project by vote two years ago, but the funds were held up due to litigation in federal courts regarding the legality of using public funds for the construction of municipal power plants. A recent decision of the supreme court upheld the validity of the plan, thereby releasing funds for this purpose.

- At a meeting of the county Red Cross at the Legion club rooms on Wednesday night, Martin Koehler, Waseca druggist, was elected chairman of the group for the year 1938, succeeding Miss Dorothy Huseby of New Richland in the position.

- With 4,000 tons to pack this season, work got under way today at the Johnston ice house and on the lake cutting, storing and packing the annual ice-harvest. The work is handled under the direction of Ray Johnston with a crew of eight men on the lake, 14 at the ice-house and eight on trucks. The hole from which the ice is being taken is cut about 30 feet into the lake in front of the bath-house at Clear Lake park. About 2,000 tons will be packed for consumption in Waseca and the remaining 2,000 tons will be shipped from Waseca to Tracy for use by the C&NW Railway.

92 Years Ago – The Waseca Herald, January 1, 1931

- In the December payment for November butterfat, the Waseca Co-operative Creamery patrons received 40 cents a pound net, which is probably the highest price paid by any co-operative creamery in Minnesota. This is due to the exceptionally high quality of Waseca butter, which has been handled for years by a big Philadelphia concern which pays a nice premium above the regular market price, as they cater to a high-class trade. In view of the fact that butter prices have dropped to the lowest figure in 25 years, Buttermaker Anderson and the officers of the Waseca Creamery Ass'n are entitled to congratulations on this record.

- Last Sunday night Joe Powell, son of Hiram Powell of Blooming Grove, parked the family car north of the Farmers National Bank while he went to the theatre. When he came out the car was gone. The thief had no trouble in starting away as the key had been left in the car. Sheriff Wadd and the police were called and surrounding towns were notified and a description of the car broadcasted, but as yet no trace of it has been found.

- Dr. B. J. Gallagher has been re-

cently notified of his appointment as resident physician for the two railroads entering Waseca. He received the appointment from the North Western shortly after the death of the late Dr. Swartwood and the M. & St. L. appointment last week. The work requires the periodical examination of railway employees and caring for any injury of illness sustained in the course of their employment. In this case, the railway companies rather than the doctor are to be congratulated in selecting a man who has been eminently successful in his profession. Dr. Gallagher is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and took post-graduate work at the Mayo Clinic, where he later became a member of the Mayo staff in the operating department. In addition to his experience in Rochester, he served as a surgeon overseas during the World War and had a year's experience in a German prison camp, as he refused to abandon the wounded American soldiers when the regiment to which he was attached was captured by the enemy.

150 Years Ago – The Waseca Weekly News, January 1, 1873

- Last week, the surveyors on the Minneapolis & St. Louis road reached Wilton, where, at last accounts, they were looking for the best point of crossing of the LeSueur River. This line, as surveyed, passes about a mile and a half west of this village. As a result of these surveys, real estate has taken a rise in Wilton, and one or two sales have been made. In connection with this matter, it is proper to say that Messrs. Wells and Washburn, of Minneapolis, were in New York last week to see what could be done in the way of raising means to build the road early next season.

- Last Saturday, Mr. L. A. Gage, of this township, was in the Brick Store of Mr. Simon Smith, trading. He laid his pocket-book and mittens on the counter in the front room while he stepped into the back room to look at some sugars. He was not gone more than a couple of minutes, but when he returned his pocket-book, containing \$15.00, was gone. The person who stole it would feel better during the remainder of life if he were to return it, and perhaps save a public exposure by doing so. P.S. Since the above was in type we learn that the pocket-book was found on the street, and returned to the owner.

- We have always been skeptical in regard to spiritual manifestations. We have seriously doubted the capacity of spirits to exercise muscular power on earth. But that doubt is now removed. It was removed in this wise: A very respectable, honest, worthy, hospitable farmer of St. Mary township, by name Dennis Sheehan, on or about Christmas, came into this village, as, indeed, he has done many a time heretofore; and while he was acted upon in a mysterious manner by spirits which seemed to take entire control of him. He started home, after a while, but the evil spirits still clung to him and did their utmost to freeze him to death on the prairie. After a terrible struggle, however, he threw off their influence as to reach home. It was a narrow escape, we are told, as his hands and feet and face do testify – Such spirits are always dangerous to have around, and we would advise spewing them out.

Singing for joy
Straight River Youth Singers

By MELANIE PILTINGSRUD
Staff writer

Three Northwestern College graduates, Amelia Harthan, Melissa Williams, and Heidi Brasher, are collaborating on a project that will have 4th - 12th graders in the area singing for joy.

Straight River Youth Singers [SRYs], a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is the brainchild of Amelia Harthan of Owatonna, Minn., whose dream is to provide an opportunity for young people in Waseca, Steele, and Rice Counties to use and develop their musical talents in choral harmony. The organization will comprise not just one choir, but three: the 4th - 6th grade Straight River Treble Choir, the 7th – 9th grade Straight River Choral, and the 10th – 12th grade Singers of Straight River.

“I first came to the idea of SRYs during the course of my daughter's involvement in Honors Choirs [HC] in Rochester,” said Harthan, accompanist for two of the ensembles, who works for the Wenger Corporation in Owatonna. “She sang under Bill and Amy Nelson with HC from third grade through 6th grade, when her involvement came to a rather abrupt close in the middle of the pandemic.”

Harthan was impressed with the program in Rochester under the artistic direction of Rick Kvam, a Minn. Music Hall of Fame recipient, but she realized Rochester was quite a distance to travel for local students. She also began to see a lack of music education opportunities, especially among home and private schools. She wanted to provide a high quality music performance and education for interested students in Owatonna and the surrounding communities.

“There is a need for youth to have ways to use their voices in healthy and beautiful ways,” said Harthan, “to reflect the goodness of the world around us and the joy of genuine human connection.” Harthan believes that need is ever present, and that the opportunity to fulfill that need in song has a lasting effect on our physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being that will in turn affect all who hear it.

“How we use our time and what we choose to raise our voices for matters - a lot,” Harthan continued. “I happen to believe in the power of surrounding ourselves with truth, goodness, and beauty - and we know a little about that as musicians.”

Harthan needed collaborators to pull off an organization as large as the one she was envisioning. She decided to reach out to Melissa Williams of New Richland, who works as a vocal instructor at the University of Minnesota, Mankato, as well as Gustavus Adolphus. “I hadn't heard from her since our college days,” said Williams. “We were in choir together.” When Harthan asked Williams if she would direct the junior high and high school en-



Straight River Youth Singers organizers from left, Amelia Harthan, Heidi Brasher, and Melissa Williams.

sembles, Williams enthusiastically acquiesced.

“We're hoping to get NRHEG students, Hayfield students, Blooming Prairie students – just inviting everybody who wants to come,” said Williams.

Harthan approached another fellow Northwestern graduate, Heidi Brasher of Kasson, Minn., to ask if she would direct the 4th - 6th grade choir. Brasher has worked in the field of music since 2002, as an elementary music teacher, an elementary and high school choral director, and musical theater director. She currently teaches piano, guitar, and voice in her home studio. Brasher, whose goal is to help students make joy-filled memories that will spur them on to become life-long musicians, readily agreed to direct the youth choir.

With two music directors and an accompanist on board, Harthan gathered a board of directors among community members enthralled with the idea of providing a quality music education in the form of choral ensembles.

The only remaining piece of the puzzle was a rehearsal location. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at 2500 7th Avenue Northeast, Owatonna graciously offered to donate the use of their facilities during the spring semester to the SRYs from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. each Sunday, with the first rehearsal scheduled for February 5.

Although the rehearsal schedule is tentative, times are currently slated at:

10th – 12th grade Singers of Straight River 1:45 p.m. - 3 p.m.
4th - 6th grade Straight River Treble Choir 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
7th – 9th grade Straight River Choral 3:10 p.m. - 4:20 p.m.

A QR code on either the SRYs website, www.straightriveryouthsingers.com, or on their Facebook page under 'Straight River Youth Singers' will give those interested the opportunity to sign up for a five-minute audition time, during which students will sing a song of their choice “just to see where they are, and where they would fit into the Straight River Singers,” said Williams.

The tuition fee for joining any of

“How we use our time and what we choose to raise our voices for matters - a lot.”
— Amelia Harthan

the three choirs will be \$150 per semester per student, with a family maximum of \$300. So a family with three children could have a third child in any of the choirs free of charge. “The money that comes in will help us purchase the music,” said Williams. As of now, several sources have offered the use of their music repertoire free of charge, including various churches, schools, and youth choirs. “We're trying to make it relatively affordable, and we don't want money to be a stumbling block.” If there are students for whom cost is a problem, SRYs hopes to be able to offer financial assistance or scholarships. For those who want to sign up before the date of the first rehearsal on Feb. 5, there is an early-bird discount, which would get them a semester for \$135.

Besides the tuition fee, SRYs students will be responsible to purchase their concert attire.

Auditions for the three choirs at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church are scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 14 from 9 a.m. - noon, and Sunday, Jan. 15 from 1 - 3 p.m. In addition, those who find it more convenient may choose to audition at St. Peter Lutheran Church in New Richland on Sunday, Jan. 22 from 1 – 3 p.m. Auditions for New Richland and the surrounding communities may also be scheduled on Saturday, Jan. 21 as needed.

In thanks for the use of their facilities, SRYs will sing for an upcoming worship service at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. The youth choirs will sing their first spring concert, titled “Sing for Joy,” at Trinity Lutheran Church, Owatonna on Sunday, May 7 at 3 p.m.

The spring concert will be the end of the season for SRYs choirs, who will take a break during the summer. August auditions will initiate a new semester of rehearsals beginning after Labor Day.

“It is a Christian faith-based organization,” Williams explained,

emphasizing that the organizers don't want anyone to be put off by that. “We just want to make sure we communicate that, so there's nothing that's going to be a surprise or offend anybody.”

“I hope these kids will receive excellent vocal and musical training, while also engaging in a positive, helpful, Christ-centered environment,” Brasher said. “I hope they feel wanted, included, and part of a team. When they walk through the doors, I hope they expect to work hard, but have fun; and by the time they leave, I hope the process and experience of making music boosts their moods, encourages them in their faith, and keeps them ready for more the very next week.”

“I want our singers to learn to sing with beauty and freedom, to discover varying genres of music and to try new techniques,” said Williams, who has already chosen music from various eras from Baroque to modern for the spring concert. “I hope that they feel welcomed and valued. We want to encourage them to set aside nerves and self-consciousness and embrace confidence as these ensembles grow in their musical and life skills. All of us are hoping that the singers see Christ shining through us, the adult leaders.”

Some aspects of the fledgling program are still tentative and in the planning stages. One hope is that, if there are musicians in the choirs who play other instruments, that there may eventually be opportunities for them to play their instruments with the choirs.

Emphasizing an aspect inextricable from any group involving music and young people, Harthan said of her collaborators, Williams and Brasher, “These women are incredible musicians and teachers - and fun, they are very fun.”

SRYs mission statement: “Joining youth voices in harmony; cultivating healthy and beautiful singing.”

■ Celebration
from Page 1

nesota Adopt-A-Highway program.

Many people came to the retirement party at the East Annex ranging from the county commissioners and city staff to officers from other local law enforcement agencies. Later on at the Mill, Milbrath was presented with a shadow box containing the US Flag, handcuffs, and various

badges to commemorate his 12 years as the sheriff. Newly elected sheriff Jay Dulas and deputy Doug Gerdtis also shared speeches at the evening celebration.

Although it was a bittersweet moment for him, Milbrath observed, “It's been a great ride. I have been very grateful to be able to serve the Waseca County community for 34 years. I love the community that we have here.”

When asked about his plans after retirement, he chuckled. “I'm honestly not sure yet. I'm going to take a few months to ride it out and then decide.”

Thank you Sheriff

By ROBERT TACKETT
Contributing Writer

Over 400 well wishers including family, friends, and community members came together at The Mill the evening of Dec. 30 to thank retiring Waseca County Sheriff Brad Milbrath for his 34 years serving the residents of Waseca County, and to wish him well as he hangs up his duty belt and grabs his fishing pole.

Milbrath began his career in law enforcement in 1989, became Waseca County Sheriff in 2010, and-based on the size of the crowd Dec. 30-has been making friends and community connections ever since.

Sheriff Jay Dulas and his wife Robin were on hand to wish Milbrath farewell. Having just been elected this fall, Dulas began the ceremony by thanking his predecessor for his advice and guidance.

Sheriff's deputy Doug Gerdtis shared observations about Milbrath's early years in law enforcement, then presented a special badge made of items gathered throughout the county while thanking him for his

dedication. Special agent Mike Anderson presented a plaque in recognition of Milbrath's many years of service; County commissioner Brad Krause presented a plaque on behalf of the county.

When asked about his plans for retirement, Milbrath said, smiling, "I'm just gonna go fishing."

During his speech, he reminded his staff that, "Our job is to take care of people during their worst days." Looking out over the crowd he advised that we should all "Treat people the way you want to be treated." The crowd responded with thunderous applause and a standing ovation.

People could be heard sharing their stories of Sheriff Milbrath as they sat in small groups. Smiles and bright eyes lit up the evening as memories flooded in. "Outstanding job, Hate to see you go, Well deserved, Enjoy your fishing, You're the best! Thank you for your service! Best sheriff ever!" were just a few of the many comments overheard in passing.



More than one table displayed some of the many awards Sheriff Brad Milbrath accumulated during his 334 years in law enforcement.



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Four decades



Tom Hovestad, agronomist at the SROC was honored for his 40 years of service to the UM Southern Research and Outreach Center. Tom serves as a "face of the SROC" as he is frequently interviewed by many media outlets regarding seasonal cropping conditions, weather and current ag topics. He is well respected in the agricultural community and has a wealth of experience and knowledge. Tom was recognized at the SROC annual staff appreciation luncheon on Thursday, November 17.

The Pastor's Column

What are you doing in 2023?

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

What do you do after Christmas? When does the tree come down? When do the leftover cookies get thrown out? Do we even want to take things down or just leave it all up? And now it is a new year with so many possibilities ahead of us.

We can talk about the details of Christmas, the presents we gave and received, those that came to visit and those we missed out on. We can dwell upon the plans we have for the new year and look forward to all that we will accomplish. No matter what has happened or what is about to happen we rely upon God to work through all of it. Isaiah 41:10 reminds us of God's work in all things, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (NIV 1984)

How do we live a life without fear or regret? By living according to God's laws and relying upon Him to work it all out. It takes a strong reliance upon God to live without fear of the future, it takes faith. How can we build faith?

Faith is one of those things that starts off small and builds, it gains momentum and continues to grow as long as you take the time to tend to it. Faith is not a perpetual motion machine, faith needs effort put into it and pretty soon even the smallest faith like that of a mustard seed will

grow larger than we can imagine. We build this life transforming faith through some very simple and seemingly mundane ways. Through prayer and scripture reading.

This is the work of a disciple, to draw nearer to God in all things. To pray to God about all things and to study His word as it applies to all things, this prayer and study develops the character of God within the individual. This Godliness brings about actions in the world that make a difference, in our lives and the lives of people around us.

So how do we start changing the world? Through the practice of prayer and studying God's word. How do we start these practices? Very simply, we pray that God would teach us from His word, then systematically read a passage and think about it. Throughout the day, as you think about the passage, pray that God will show you where that passage applies to life and then look for it. Because, "16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV 1984)

This year, if you make any resolutions, resolve to read God's word and to pray continually. Allow God to build into your life, faith and His character so you may be like Him in all things.

This week at the local library

Glow in the Dark Party
Enjoy whimsical glow-in-the-dark games and a pumpkin dance party for ages 7-12 at Waterville Public Library on Monday, January 9th at 6 p.m.

Little Explorers
Kids will enjoy interactive sensory stations—Hop & Balance, Zip & Buckle, Squish & Squeeze, and Color & Pattern—at Waseca Public Library on Wednesday, January 11th at 10:30 am. This free event is geared for ages 2-5 years.

Level Up: Drop Test Legos
Kids can test out their engineering ideas by creating a Lego vehicle that can sustain a drop at New Richland Public Library on Thursday, January 12th at 3:45

pm. This free event is geared for ages 7-12.

Embroidery Sampler Book Workshop
At this workshop, Robin Wingo from the Mankato Makerspace will teach eight basic embroidery stitches and practice with different threads at Janesville Public Library on Thursdays at 5:30-7:30 pm from January 12th-26th. These practice stitches will be compiled into a sampler book to take home. All supplies provided. Geared for ages 12+. Registration required. Stop by the Library to register or call 507-234-6605.

Sponsored by Janesville Area Foundation and Rosenau Legacy of Angels Fund.

Learning how to forgive your brother

By Santiago Ramirez Ocampo

We have cowardly divided the planet between Christians and those of the world, and we have created around those division ways of understanding and living our lives. This is where our lethargy is born; under that magnifying glass, we constantly declare in a frivolous, mediocre way that something is good because it is Christian or evil because it is not. We hardly think it is a worrisome lethargy that has already extended for many years.

One of the consequences of this lethargy is that I have had to live in my flesh, and it is undoubtedly from the pain of this reality that I write these lines. You will excuse me. I am referring to the false Christianity that does not make mistakes; as a church, we chose to shelter behind the lie of perfection, leading little by little the people who make up the churches to act in such a way that they structure their lives around avoiding/hiding

The Pastor's Column

their mistakes, because how is it possible for a Christian to do that (whatever "that" maybe)? The legalistic moralism we have created and believed in is greater than the very words of Jesus.

I remember a passage in Matthew 18 in which Jesus is talking to his disciples and begins to talk about what to do if a brother sins; unfortunately, we have believed the titles as if they were part of God's revelation, which has led us to forget/ignore that as necessary as the rebuke (vs.15) is Jesus' answer to Peter's question (vs. 21), how many times will my brother sin and I will forgive him? Peter seems, in this text, to be

ahead of our times; he states the number of times, seven? Peter's theology seems very fair; seven is a lot, not to mention that a brother who sins against me seven times is unforgivable. But the answer of Jesus is the heart of a Christocentric theology; I do not say up to seven times, up to seventy times seven.

Let it be understood: having to forgive our brother up to seventy times seven should transform our lives and the lives of those who are forgiven, not burying with words, thoughts, actions, and looks the seventy times seven falls of my brother in the same well.

No perfect people, pastors, or

leaders do not sin. Unfortunately, our communities have been filled with hypocrites who, don't touch me, I won't touch you have become the silent motto of the way of acting; that lethargy is so comfortable and dangerous that the mere idea of having to undress our lives turns our stomach, and it ends up being easier to twist the words of Jesus than to accept them as if that were an option.

I hope that this year brings a real awakening in our hearts and our day-to-day life from that lethargy, in which both leaders and ordinary Christians understand that, first, before God, there is no difference between one and the other and that perhaps the freedom of the leader is in the identification with the people, and that perhaps the release of the people is in the honesty of the leader, maybe and only maybe that is the beginning of the gospel of Jesus, not trying to put and carry burdens that no one can bear.

Mayo Clinic launches 'Journey to Wellness'

Mayo Clinic Health System launches new self-guided 'Journey to Wellness' program

Forming healthy habits can be hard, and wading through all the resources available can be overwhelming. As a new year begins, Mayo Clinic Health System is launching a free program that can help make your wellness journey easier. Individuals and employers are invited to cut through the noise with "Journey to Wellness," a yearlong, self-guided program.

Participants will receive access via email to a monthly toolkit that focuses on different aspects of health, including physical activity, heart health, sleep, social connections, stress, anxiety, cancer prevention and diabetes prevention. Those who register also will gain access to explore resources from previous months. Resources include blogs, videos, printable education materials and activities.

Benefits of enrolling

- Get reliable and accurate information.
- Have resources and activities at your fingertips.
- Save time by using the toolkit resources delivered directly to your inbox.

Employer wellness programming

Employers are invited to use the monthly toolkit information as a source of employee wellness programming. They can participate in one of two ways:

- Register on behalf of their organization and share the information they receive with their employees.
- Ask employees to enroll individually to receive the information directly from Mayo Clinic Health System.

Each month, the toolkit will include these ready-to-use employer-based resources:

- Quarter-page ad to include in employee messaging
- PowerPoint slide to use in presentations or on digital screens throughout your organization
- Printable education sheets
- Printable activities that can be completed individually or scaled to use as part of a group challenge

Learn more and register to begin

this free program on the Mayo Clinic Health System website at mayoclinichealthsystem.org/journey.

###

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 health care needs of people in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The community-based providers, paired with the resources and expertise of Mayo Clinic, enable patients in the region to receive the highest-quality physical and virtual health care close to home.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * *	Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * *	stry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * *	Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship, 9:15 Worship w/bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *
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. * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * *	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 * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor Sundays: Sunday School 9 a.m., Bible Study 9:20 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship * * *
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 9 a.m., 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St., Janesville Father Brian Mulligan 10 a.m. - Mass * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Interim Pastor * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Vacancy Sunday = 1 p.m. Worship * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * *	LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting * * *	THE CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18 * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Vacancy Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Pastor Brian Johnston	
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. * * *	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 Mini-		
REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-607-8245 Sundays 9 and 10:30 a.m. * * *			
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640			

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LEGAL

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
ROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.: 81-PR-22-701

Estate of
Richard Wayne Kramer,
Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON
PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDI-
CATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINA-
TION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on
January 18, 2023, 2022, at 9:00 a.m., a hearing
will be held in this Court at 307 North State
Street, Waseca, Minnesota by Zoom, for the
adjudication of intestacy and determination of
heirship of the Decedent, and for the appoint-
ment of Robert F. Kramer whose address is:
33365 128th Street, Waseca, MN as Personal
Representative of the Estate of the Decedent
in an UNSUPERVISED administration. There
will be no in person appearances.

Any objections to the petition must be filed
with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing.
If proper and if no objections are filed or
raised, the Personal Representative will be ap-

pointed with full power to administer the Es-
tate, including the power to collect all assets,
to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and ex-
penses, to sell real and personal property, and
to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

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

Dated: 12/022/2022_

BY THE COURT
Judge of District Court
/s/Carol M.Hanks
Shannon M. Asselin
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Molly Byron
Byron Law Office, PLLC
122 North State St
Waseca, MN, 56093
Attorney License No: 0163843
Telephone: (507) 835-3355
FAX: (507) 835-3303
Email: byronlawofficewaseca@gmail.com

(Published in the Waseca County Pioneer
December 23, 2022 and January 6, 2023.)

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Thank You in Loving Memory of

Robert 'Bob' Katterhagen 1927-2022

The family of Robert 'Bob' Katterhagen extends appreciation for your kindness and sympathy at the loss of our beloved father, father-in-law, and grandfather.

We extend deepest gratitude to Father Thè Hoàng, Sacred Heart Parish, American Legion / VFW, Dennis Funeral Home, Lake Shore Rehabilitation Center, the regional medical community, and the many others who provided assistance, comfort, and support.

We are especially grateful for the many amazing people who enriched Robert's life in a multitude of ways and whose kindness brought joy to his days. We will always hold onto those wonderful memories and countless blessings.

With deepest gratitude:
Bob and Sue Dudzik Katterhagen
Mark and Lois Halbur Katterhagen, and Kyle and Kate

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Items we will sell: Just about anything! WaSeekers takes in consignment items from people in our community, lists the items on our auction platform, and displays all the items in our store. Important notice: All items are subject to a 10% seller's commission with listing fees as follows: No listing fee for items selling for \$25 or more; \$5 listing fee for items selling for \$24.99 or less; \$25 reserve fee. Reserve Fee will not be charge if reserve is met.

**NEXT ONLINE
AUCTION
JANUARY 11**

Contact Tina Mittelsteadt 507-351-4608
tina@waseekersonlineauction.com

Come see our complete listing at https://waseekersonlineauction.com
Or in person at 1372 South State Street, Waseca, 507-833-SEEK(7335) Stores hours: W-T-F 10 a.m.-6p.m., Sat 9 a.m. - noon

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Boys and Girls, Ages 9-14

**Location:
Waseca High School Gym**

**Date: January 8
Time: 3:00-5:00**

Sponsor: Council 2768

**Contact: Jeff Kummerfeldt
507-656-2166**

Please note: Entrants may compete in only one local competition.

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SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642

JANUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Burger nite 5-7pm	4 6pm BAR Bingo	5 7pm BINGO	6 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	7
8 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH	9 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	10 Burger nite 5-7pm	11 6pm BAR Bingo	12 7pm BINGO	13 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm County Holiday Party	14
15	16	17 Burger nite 5-7pm	18 6pm BAR Bingo	19 7pm BINGO	20 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm Your Host Fraternal Order of Police	21
22 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host Waseca County Sheriff Posse	23	24 Burger nite 5-7pm	25 6pm BAR Bingo	26 7pm BINGO	27 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	28
29	30	31 Burger nite 5-7pm				

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

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Chilly



An iced over powerpole, insulator, and powerline outside New Richland during this week's ice storm.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

2023

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AT THE NEW YEAR

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Waseca
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History
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All The Best in the New Year!

CHEERS TO A NEW YEAR

As I look back on this year, I'd like to thank the people of this community for being such an enjoyable part of it.
We wish you a safe and prosperous year!

Matthew Petsinger, Agent

Matthew R. Petsinger Agency, LLC

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A great year

STAFF- Most of the Pioneer staff is pictured above. From left, Jonah Stafford, Amelia Roessler, Deb Bently, Jim Lutgens, Eli Lutgens, Logan Piltingsrud, Michael Roy, Chris Schlaak, and Reed Waller.
Pioneer photo by Pam Goehrig

Surrounding Magic Norm prior to his final performance on Sunday July 17, are Jaxon, Avery, and Jace Seovik; Griffin Storey; Braxton Rowe; Lilly Muff and Michael Petsinger.

ON CALL SINCE 1983 - On July 1, 2022, Tim and Becky Dennis will officially be retired. Since 1983, they have been ready, able, and willing to respond to emergency calls at any hour, arriving in professional wear sometimes at 3 a.m.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

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hosted by Barden's Bar in Waseca. "I didn't want to go home."

The Friday, July 1 event, was held outdoors with picnic tables where guests sat to enjoy the music along with some summer beverages. An open dancing area was provided in front of the stage where Los Tequileros performed for over four hours.

The band, which also performed at last year's event, consists of five members: Mick Barrens on main vocals and harmonica, Jerome Broughten on guitar and vocals, Marty Buum on bass and vocals, Jim Kozan on keyboard and vocals, and John Lucca on drums and vocals.

- As 15-year-old Airianna Knuteson called the July 11 Waldorf City Council meeting to its close, her term as "Mayor of the Day" ended. It had begun only a few hours earlier when she and her family had dinner with the town's actual mayor, Rob Wilkening. During the meal, Wilkening and Knuteson discussed her duties for the upcoming city council meeting along with other responsibilities and duties that come with being a mayor.
- After 21 years of service in the Waseca County area, Pastor Keith Biltz of St. John and Trinity Ev. Lutheran churches has retired, with his last service having taken place Sunday, May 22.
- It takes a lot to disrupt the Waseca County Free Fair, which has been held every year since 1879, except for three times, when it was not held because of World War II, Polio,

and Covid.

This year's celebration began Saturday, July 9 with the 4H dog shows and ended Sunday, July 17 with a grand parade of champions.

- Jim Kozan is a name that most Wasecans are quite familiar with. Having lived in this town for about 60 of his 73 years, Kozan has been an important part of the community via his small business, Waseca Music Co., as well as his many music endeavors.
- This year, Waseca Music marks its 70th year of business, having first been acquired by Kozan's parents in 1952. That's not the only way music was central in the Kozan household.
- Two 100-year birthdays were celebrated at the regular Waseca city council meeting at 7 pm July 19, but no, it wasn't the mayor reaching this significant milestone. As the meeting closed, Mayor Srp read and signed celebration declarations recognizing two 100-year-olds as honorable and outstanding citizens of Waseca: Audrey Stafford, whose 100th birthday is August 4, and Dolores Sommers, whose 100th birthday is August 2.
- Neighbor Tink Larson said it was by chance that he was able to accept a teaching job in Waseca when he did. He was only in town for one day, applied, and received a call the same day, later accepting the job. Had he not been in town, or applied and had a return phone call, he would not have been around for months, and likely would have been passed by.
- Following a drive-by shooting on Main Street in Janesville about 3 p.m. Tuesday, a man in his 20s is in stable condition after being treated for a gunshot wound to the back. Two men are in custody at the

Shelly Moxon waves to the crowd during the Farm & City Days parade Saturday, July 9.

During a bible study nearly two decades ago *Star Eagle* Publisher Jim Lutgens told neighbor John he would like to incorporate faith more prominently in the newspaper, first by printing a piece of scripture each week. He asked John what he should call it. John's answer: "A Word from the Word." And that is the origin story of the bible verse featured on the front page of the *Pioneer* and *Star Eagle*.

Left, Braves shortstop Seth Anderson goes for the bunt. He helped contribute an RBI and a run during the fifth inning. Right, Waseca catcher Chris Glynn prevents Jays' Ben Maes from scoring a second run. Photo by Michael Roy

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Waseca County Jail awaiting criminal charges, likely for attempted murder and aiding and abetting murder, according to information released by the Janesville Police Department.

- On Friday, July 22, authorities recovered the body of an eight-year-old girl who went missing while swimming in the Minnesota River. She was identified as Willow Bense of Janesville.
- "It's going to be...heaven!" comments Waseca Area food shelf manager Garry Huckfeld as he contemplates what it will be like to work in the new facility currently under construction for the food shelf. "We're going to be able to help people so much more efficiently."
- Members of the Business and Entrepreneurial Support Team (known as BEST) of Waseca County have been making the rounds this summer by touring each of the county's towns. Their first stop was

New Richland June 8. Last Wednesday, July 20, they visited Waseca.

- The Janesville Area Foundation's 10th anniversary celebration delighted attendees gathered at the St. Ann Catholic Church's Parish Center Saturday night.
- A new cannabis law passed by the Minnesota state legislature on July 1 has left many cities like Janesville discussing its ramifications. The new law allows statewide sale of edible products and beverages which contain small levels of THC, the mood-altering substance in cannabis.
- After stranding 14 runners in a 7-4 loss to Morristown in the opening round of the playoffs Saturday, the Waseca Braves blew Lake Crystal out of the water in a 10-2 rout at Tink Larson Field Sunday, July 24.
- In front of about 50 fans, ace Kelvin Nelson tossed a gem, allowing two runs on six hits while walking one and striking out nine.