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LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
No. 17 Vol. III \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Friday, April 26, 2024

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Sports

Waseca prom this Saturday

Grand March will be in the high school at 6:30 p.m. Buses will load afterwards to transport students to the Mill for dinner and dancing.

Waldorf Petal Pushers to host plant sale May 11

The Waldorf Petal Pushers garden club is having a plant sale on May 11 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Waldorf Community Center. Annuals, perennials, houseplants, succulents will be available. \$20.00 gift cards from Soubas greenhouse will be sold.

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

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

New Richland City Wide Garage Sales April 27

New Richland’s city-wide garage sales will be April 27.

“Leo’s Legacy” Burger Fry 5 p.m. April 29

A burger fry from 5 to 7 p.m. April 29 at The Mill in Waseca will raise funds for Leo’s Legacy, a group dedicated to helping families and individuals who cannot afford life-saving eye, tissue, or organ transplant procedures. All proceeds will benefit this cause.

4-H Garage Sale May 17-19 at Waseca County Fairgrounds

The “largest garage sale in Waseca” will be May 17-19, during Waseca’s all-city garage sale weekend, benefitting 4-H camps, scholarships, and project-learning opportunities for Waseca youth. Community donations are appreciated.

Waseca Craft and Vendor Show May 17-19 at Waseca County Fairgrounds

The Waseca Craft and Vendor Show will be May 17, 18, and 19 at the Waseca County Fairgrounds. Times are 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, May 17; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 18, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, May 19. Vendors looking to participate should call Jennie Johnson (507-475-1021) or Robin Dulas (507-461-0314) to reserve a space.

Waldorf Veterans Memorial Fund Drive

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

A word from The Word

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Psalm 119:105



The 50 members of the Waseca Chorale will join forces with a similar-sized group from Faribault named Beau Chant. Members of both groups look forward to their shared concert in the Waseca High School’s performing arts center at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 11.

Waseca Chorale to perform May 11

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

“It’s going to be fabulous.”
“We’re going to have a choir of 100 people who are good singers and love what they do.”
“I expect it will be a great experience for both the performers and the audience.”

After only a few moments of conversation with the leaders and members of the Waseca Chorale, the enthusiasm becomes contagious.

The Waseca group, directed by Deb Wantoch-Yess and John Hoehn, will be pairing with Beau Chant, a similar choral group based in Faribault. Each choir has about 50 members. Beau Chant is celebrating its tenth anniversary. Waseca is in its fifty-second year.

Their joint concert will be at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 11, in the Waseca High School Performing Arts Center (PAC)—yet another aspect choir members find exciting.

Waseca Chorale presents two performances a year—one during the holidays and the other in spring: May 11 is somewhat later than is typical, but Wantoch-Yess explains that’s because it is a date the PAC was available.

Tickets will be available at the door: prices are \$10 for adults, \$7 for children ages 12 and younger.

Members of the Waseca Chorale began practicing in February, meeting weekly at Grace Lutheran



Members of the Waseca Chorale leadership are (from left) Toni Bauleke, Nancy Lehman, Andy Miller, Deb Wantoch-Yess, Mary Schultz, John Hoehn, Rita Miller, Al Judd and Deb Vetter. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Church in Waseca.

The concert’s theme is, appropriately, “Together We Sing.” The evening will open with both groups on the stage performing “Sing to Me” together. The next seven numbers will be performed only by the Waseca Chorale. There will be another shared performance, then Beau Chant will have the stage to itself for six numbers, with a final shared number at the end.

As board members anticipate May 11, they have a range of favorite songs for a range of different reasons.

Al Judd is looking forward to performing the song “Africa,” which was taken up the popular music charts by the group Toto in the 1980s. He says he believes audiences will appreciate it because it is familiar—but will experience it in a new way, since this version is arranged for a four-part choral group.

He says he, personally, finds the song a favorite because it has a rich message: “Be aware; be sensitive.” Something he and fellow Chorale member

“Together, apart—what matters is that we’ve been practicing.”

— Deb Vetter

Andy Miller can’t help mentioning is the extra enjoyment they get because the tenor section of the chorale is the largest they’ve experienced—though they’ve been part of the group for decades.

Judd and Miller speculate the leadership of well-known area director Wantoch-Yess and youthful fellow director Hoehn have brought an influx of enthusiasm and new members.

Board member and alto group member Nancy Lehman nearly bounces in her chair as she pro-

Chorale continued on 3

Adventures in agriculture

Hodgkins to travel to Alabama for national pageant in July

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

Bailey Hodgkins, a senior at Waseca High School, holds two titles – 2024 Miss Minnesota United States Agriculture and 2024 Minnesota People’s Choice Miss United States Agriculture. In July, she will travel to Alabama for the National Enterprise pageant, where she and other title holders will have a chance at winning national titles.

There are a number of titles, depending on the age division. Hodgkins said she will compete for Miss United States Agriculture, Miss United States People’s Choice, Advocacy Ambassador, and Miss Congeniality.

“[Advocacy Ambassador] is someone who gets out and introduces themselves, they’re great public

speakers – they’re just really open and show agriculture,” Hodgkins described. She also described Miss Congeniality as “the nicest, the most helpful, loving, caring person who the contestants pick.”

Hodgkins also said that while she’s nervous, she is driving down with her family a few days early so they can sightsee and relax before the event starts.

“I’m really excited to meet a lot of the new people,” she said.

Hodgkins has been involved in 4-H for 13 years and Future Farmers of America (FFA) since the seventh grade. She also shows horses in the Western Saddle Club Association (WSCA) show series. She raises quite a range of animals, among them horses, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, and rabbits. She also has per-



Waseca High School Senior Bailey Hodgkins

Pioneer photo by Rachael Jaeger

sonal pets, a few indoor and outdoor cats, and one dog.

When she begins her college education at South Dakota State University in the fall, she is registered for a “pre-chiropractic” set of courses, with the goal to become an animal chiropractor.

“I want to help educate youth about agriculture and why it is im-

portant,” Hodgkins stated. “Agriculture is all around us and if the youth don’t know about it, then they can’t keep it going.”

She says she wants young people to recognize agriculture is much more diverse than raising animals

Hodgkins continued on 6

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Family and child welfare discussed

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The topic of family and child welfare came up repeatedly during the April 17 meeting of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners, held at the Waseca County courthouse annex along Waseca’s North State Street.

Patty Harrelson is the child and family social services manager with the social services alliance known as Minnesota Prairie, which serves Dodge, Steele and Waseca counties. Harrelson spoke with commissioners about the possibility of establishing a family resource center for Waseca County. She mentioned that the Sauer Family Foundation, located in St. Paul, is offering funding toward resource centers all over the state. Harrelson told board members various agencies are willing to help fund the centers because research has shown them to make a significant difference in “reducing the likelihood of child abuse or neglect.”

Harrelson provided figures showing that, for every dollar invested in family resource centers, there is typically a \$4.93 “social return.” She explained that, among other things, centers can reduce the number of out-of-home placements for children and reduce stress within households and communities.

She referred to a family resource center as providing the option of “sending money upstream,” that is, rather than being paid out to ameliorate circumstances after a crisis has occurred, money is spent to help strengthen and support families, thus preventing the crisis from taking place. She stated that an out-of-state placement in a foster home or mental health facility can cost as much as \$17,000 a month.

Harrelson’s presentation made clear that Waseca County is in the “assessment” phase, as stipulated by the Sauer Family grant process. She also explained that, despite its name, a family resource center is not automatically a “brick and mortar building.” Centers in other counties, for example, have chosen to utilize libraries, schools, church buildings and other facilities to deliver their services.

“We will be considering how a family resource center should be organized in Waseca County,” said Harrelson. She informed board members the “assessment” phase will continue through August, allowing consideration and planning to continue for the next several months.

Along the same line of consideration, board members called attention to April’s status as “Child Abuse Prevention Month.” Their proclamation thanked the Waseca Area Exchange Club for its partnership in sponsoring a blue ribbon campaign. May 16 was declared “Mental Health Awareness Day.” The color green is used to denote mental health, and area residents are encouraged to wear green, display green lights, or in any other way help call attention to the importance of helping those who experience mental ill-

County continued on 5



Compostings

by Al Batt

Where did the ceiling go?

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

How are you doing?
I have a cold, my car has a blown engine, I need a new knee and I lost my job.
Wow!
But I can't complain.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. When I was a lad, there was a town called Bath, which was located down the road. Most things were down one road or another. Bath went away. It became a ghost town that left a rock saying it used to be there. It also left behind the Township sharing its name because the Township was too big to move. Even 149 Guys and a Couple of Trucks Moving Company wasn't large enough to handle the job. A reader wondered what the city slogan of Bath was. That's a great question. The Bath of my boyhood days had a population of 2. I doubt it had a slogan, and I can only guess what it might have been. Perhaps the Bath Corn & Tourism Board had come up with the motto, "We might not be for you." Or "Good enough." "We're over here," "Parking available" or "Bath: a great place to drive past." My suggestion would be, "Bath: I miss it."

THURSDAY IS JUST A STATE OF MIND

It was Thursday, but it seemed like Friday. What's it called when that happens? Temporarily disoriented? A calendar malfunction? Stuck in a day? A mind living in another day? Donovan sang, "It's Saturday night. It feels like a Sunday in some ways." Sam Horn wrote, "Someday is not a day in the week." When Friday arrived, right on time, I was ready for it. I'd been there before.

You may have done this. I was at a visitation and snaked through in a long line to shake hands, hug and say appropriate words to my dead friend's kin. As I was leaving, I saw that another member of the deceased's family had entered the room. I got back in line and went around again. I placed a mint (a bereavement) in my mouth in case I had mourning breath. Why did I get back at the end of the line? It was because my mother told me never to cut in line.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

My doctor told me to drink two glasses of water after a hot bath, but I haven't finished drinking the hot bath.

I was in a rock band called The Hinges. We opened for The Doors. What do you call a bipolar magnet? A magnet.

Since I learned my grandfather came from Transylvania, I haven't been able to look myself in the eye in a mirror.

How do I describe myself in three words? Efficient.

What has five toes and isn't your foot? My foot.

Why did the nurse carry a red pen? To draw blood.

Last night, as I looked at the moon and stars filling the sky, I couldn't help but wonder where the ceiling went.

NATURE NOTES

"How many times can a skunk spray?" Skunks can't run over 10 mph, so they spray instead. Skunks warn perceived predators by stomping their feet, clicking their teeth and raising their tails. They hold their ground or run directly toward a threat. Skunks can spray at about a month old. Skunk spray can be smelled a mile and a half away. Skunks can spray 5 or 6 times before needing to replenish, taking 8 to 10 days to refill. Skunks aren't vocal other than Flower or Pepe Le Pew, but can squeal, chirp, whimper, whine, grunt and smack their lips. Tomato juice isn't an effective way to get rid of a skunk's stench, as it only masks the smell. Mix ¼ cup baking soda, 1 quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide and 1 to 2 teaspoons of liquid dish detergent. Keep out of eyes and don't store.

"I saw a cardinal this winter with no tail. Will it grow back?" The cardinal might have avoided capture, had its tail frozen to a perch or been caught in something. During a fright molt, all the tail feathers are simultaneously ejected from their follicles in an escape, leaving a predator with a mouth or talon full of feathers or a puff of feathers behind. The tails grow back quickly. If a feather breaks, it remains broken until the next molt, but if a feather is pulled out at the root, regrowth begins immediately. Tailless birds can survive this disadvantage.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"In a world where so many are throwing bricks on others, be the one who builds bridges with them."—Emma Xu.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

A privilege to write

I've mentioned before what a privilege it is to hear and write the stories shared with the Pioneer by the wonderful people of our communities.

This week there are a number of cases in point. Whitey Thompson of WET Signs and Murals is a good man with a big heart (Sorry, Whitey, your secret is out.). I felt truly blessed to be the conduit for sharing the story of his memorial paintings with the community. When it comes to drawing and painting, my skills are about kindergarten level, so I am always in awe of people who can transform a canvas into a carnival for the eyes.

But as much as I admire Whitey's skill, the conversation I shared with him led me to a deeper appreciation of his spirit. Even he is not sure why he took the time to paint 70 portraits and then give them away, but he felt compelled to do it—gladly, and with a full heart.

Another conversation that brought me joy was with Jeanine Vorland, area wildlife manager with the Department of Natural Resources. You'll see the story in next week's Pioneer, but I spoke with Jeanine this week about the wildfire that "devastated" Findley wildlife management

area and Moonan Marsh.

Jeanine recommended that, on the drive to interview her in her office at Rice Lake State Park, I have a look at Moonan Marsh along the way.

Last time I was there, the word "devastated" definitely seemed to apply: The vast areas of blackened territory spoke loudly of destruction and loss.

If, like me, you haven't seen the area since March, you should take a drive. It's a whole new place, coming to life in a way it would not have if there had not been a fire. As I said, watch for the story in next week's edition.

I enjoyed my conversation with Jeanine the same way I appreciate talks with Chasity Marquette of Aspyn Acres Farm. Both are so knowledgeable about wildlife that I feel as if I'm learning something every ten seconds or so.

First, Jeanine informed me the indigenous Dakota people were farmers more than they were hunters. Then she told me they farmed in the forest. Next she said they regularly used "controlled burns" to keep the forest "understory" clear. (In Jeanine's case, I not only learn new information, I learn new vocabulary.)



False Rue Anemone, a native wildflower. This particular plant is growing in Rice Lake State Park. The flowers are about an inch across; the plants are 6 to 8 inches tall.

She informed me that, in the same way peas thrive in the cooler temperatures at the start of the year and beans prefer the hot weather of summer, the soil at Findley and Moonan has roots or seeds for "cool weather" and "warm weather" plants. Removing the "litter" left from previous years' grass growth has made some adjustments to the ecosystem of the two marshy areas, giving the cool weather plants an advantage for the next 4 years or so.

One trouble with being a "conduit" for information is that a whole, fascinating conversation must be condensed and summarized so as to deliver the most significant information in a way the reader can follow. Things learned during the little side conversations never get into the finished piece. That's just how things go—but therein lies part of the "priv-

ilege" for the reporter. I learned more than there's room to share.

In our discussion about how fires affect an ecosystem, Jeanine offered the example of a controlled burn carried out in Rice Lake State Park. She mentioned how some "cool weather" flowers were thriving because the leaf litter had been removed and its nutrients added to the soil. Well, of course you know what I had to do then. After our conversation wound down, I headed into the woods. Sure enough, there those flowers were, thriving. Yet another privilege.

Remembering my role as a conduit, I'm including a photo here—along with the idea that you might consider having a look at some aspect of nature before spring has ended and summer has changed everything. No sense letting the reporter have all the fun.

Time to breath, read and watch television

It's finally here: the last week of classes. While we still have classes on Monday, April 29, I don't really count that as is the last day of class (which is weird that the last day of class is a Monday when our classes are either Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday - just seems weird). But it doesn't matter, because a week from now I will be done with my junior year of college. I will be able to call myself a senior again, but this time instead of the stress of going to college, it will be the stress of finding a grown-up job, figuring out where to live and how to pay for it.

But I have to get through this week first. Thankfully, I am done with writing stories for the Minnesota Daily for the semester (and forever, sadly). For months I have been not only writing news stories, but also always thinking about what news stories should be written; it's crazy how much less stressed I am and how much free time I have. It's as if I have come out of a shadow into the sun and can actually look forward to the promise of summer freedom. As I'm typing this, I'm realizing maybe that isn't the best thing to say as I'm hoping to go into journalism when I graduate. Oh well.



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

What's crazy is that I have no finals this semester, which is a first. I had a "final story" for my intermediate reporting class, a "final paper and presentation" for my global communications class, and then I have "final projects" for my social psychology and multimedia class. But I have been working on completing those over time, so they're not the same as a big "final test." Not too bad, if I say so myself.

I was talking with my roommate about professors and finals and such. She told me in her science and engineering classes, the professors purposely make the tests and exams very difficult so the average scores end up being about 60%. She said after one quiz the average score was 9.5/10: The professor was upset and said it was a bad reflection on his teaching. It's just crazy that it seems like they want their students to fail.

Thankfully, none of my professors seem to have this type of attitude, and would actually prefer that we do well on quizzes and such. A crazy concept, I know.

But while I am still in my bubble of homework and school, there have been some things happening on campus that I think you might find interesting. Today, a student activist group set up tents on the lawn outside the main school buildings and held a peaceful protest against the University's investment in the Israel-Hamas war. I guess the University invests in companies that are complicit in the violence in Gaza, and some students are upset about it. Of course, the Daily had to cover it, so I was learning about it as it progressed.

What happened is while they set up their tents around 4 a.m., police arrived at 7 a.m. and arrested seven

students, one faculty member, and someone not associated with the University for trespassing. The policy states people are allowed to have demonstrations of less than 100 people, but they are not allowed to have tents. I saw over social media that those arrested are banned from campus for a year, which is going to be interesting for the students and the faculty member.

Many other students expressed their frustration over social media about not only the arrests, but the social situation, so those of us not involved have been able to watch what's been happening. It's just incredibly interesting to see how people react to things and why, but that could just be the psychology part of me being piqued.

The next time you hear from me, hopefully I will have had more sleep and less stress. There are so many books I want to read and TV shows and movies I want to watch. I want to go out and touch grass, hang a hammock and enjoy the sun. But I will not be pitching a tent on the school's lawn, that's for sure.

My Determination: "Hughie, you've done a murder. Comparatively speaking, this will be a piece of cake." - Butcher, The Boys

Open House



A steady flow of visitors attended an open house at Rick's Appliance along West Elm Avenue in Waseca on Saturday, April 20. The company is celebrating one year in business at its new location, and has been in Waseca for six years. Owner, salesman and service technician Rick Maas has been repairing appliances for 36 years. "We wanted to give back to the community by having this open house," says Anita Maas. "Our customers' support has made it possible for us to continue growing." Pictured bottom right are Anita and Rick Maas with business employee Leann Sutlief (right).

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently



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Inside the Heartache: Tour the Fairmont Opera House

Fairmont, MN — April 19, 2024 — We are facing a critical moment in the history of the Fairmont Opera House, and we need your help to ensure its future. Join us for exclusive tours* of the ongoing Capital Repair Project on April 26th and 27th and witness firsthand the urgent need for funding to complete essential repairs.**

Tour Schedule:
April 26th: 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM
April 27th: 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM, and 2:00 PM

The Fairmont Opera House, a symbol of our community's spirit and heritage, requires your help. For community members to fully understand the scope of the necessary work required to reopen, we invite you to tour the facility and learn about what has been done and what needs to be completed. As you walk through this historic venue, you will see the shoring measures in place to support the roof, missing walls where restrooms once were, and hear the echoes of a once vibrant stage silenced by critical repair needs.

Bob Luedtke, Board Chair of the Fairmont Opera House, said, "The pictures simply don't do justice to the magnitude of the repairs needed. Seeing it in person is an entirely different experience."

Vice Chair Samantha Werre adds, "Walking through the Opera House today, you can feel the weight of this project. It honestly takes your breath away. We need everyone's support to ensure this treasured landmark and cultural epicenter opens back up."

But amidst the shadows of uncertainty, there is hope. Your support can make a difference. You will witness our challenges and become part of the solution by joining us on these tours. Together, we can ensure that the Fairmont Opera House continues to shine as

a beacon of culture and community for generations to come.

"This is not an insurmountable challenge," Executive Director Blake Potthoff states. "This facility has survived throughout the last 120+ years due to the community's generosity, and we believe that we will not only survive but thrive due to and with this community again."

Each tour will offer a poignant reminder of why this project matters. You'll hear the stories of performers who graced this stage, of audiences moved to tears by unforgettable performances, and of the countless memories woven into the fabric of this cherished landmark. And you'll be reminded of the importance of preserving our shared heritage for future generations.

We urge you to join us in safeguarding the Fairmont Opera House. Your presence, voice, and support can help ensure this cultural treasure remains a source of inspiration and pride for our community.

Space is limited, so reserve your tour slot today and participate in this vital effort to save the Fairmont Opera House.

For more information and to reserve your tour slot, please visit www.fairmontoperahouse.org/tour, email info@fairmontoperahouse.org, or call 507-238-4900.

About Fairmont Opera House:
For over 122 years, the Fairmont Opera House has been a cornerstone of culture and community in Fairmont, MN. Its historic significance and artistic legacy continue to enrich the lives of residents and visitors alike.

*Tour attendees are encouraged to be 18+.

**Please note that due to construction, physical accessibility is limited. Please call the Fairmont Opera House if you have mobility issues.

■ Choral

from Page 1

claims, "I love 'em all." As an alto—a musical range often used to provide harmony—she specifically mentions "Let the River Run," which will be one of the four shared numbers. She says she appreciates the message of the song, as well as its strong rhythm. The arrangement the group will be performing, she adds, "allows the harmony to show through."

Director Wantoch-Yess says she drives away from practices with the song "Ready for Joy" running through her head. She says she smiles each time anticipating the joy the number will put on the faces of people in the audience.

As they speak of anticipation and the joy of singing, group members can't help thinking back just a few years, when the pandemic and other circumstances had them wondering how much longer their group would even exist. The new leadership has made a huge difference, they believe, and Judd can't help joking, "the average age of the group dropped by 20 years."

One somewhat surprising aspect of the May 11 concert is that the 100 singers will be practicing together for the first time that very day. No one anticipates any complications, though.

"Together, apart—what matters is that we've been practicing," says board member Deb Vetter. "We've all learned what we need to do; the only difference is there will be more of us, all doing it together."

WASECA COUNTY

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Take a bite out of hunger



The Waseca Lions Club won the "Take a bite out of hunger" challenge, bringing in \$3,515 in funds along with 170 pounds of food for the Waseca area food shelf during the month of April. Take a bite out of hunger called on area businesses and organizations to work toward bringing in the highest level of donations. The Lions Club members were presented with their trophy by Cindy Kolander, executive director of the Waseca Neighborhood Service Center during a celebration at Lakeside Golf Course.

Laughs, melodies and fun

Harmony and Humor show held at JWP on April 6 and 7

JANESVILLE JOURNAL - Plenty of laughs were had, and melodies swooned the several hundred who enjoyed the Janesville Harmony and Humor Show on Saturday and Sunday, April 6 and 7, in the JWP auditorium. The cast gave four shows, two each day, and featured members of the Trinity Lutheran Church.

The show was Christian-themed and included three group performances, a solo here and there, duets, and small groups singing their hearts out. The show began with the group performing the Christian hymn "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?" After that was the first skit, "Lutheran Air," which featured Ingrid Huelsnitz as a mildly annoyed Lutheran flight attendant.

The next performance by the cast, featuring Alicia Addler and Josh Berndt, was "Lead On Good Shepherd," by Patrick Mayberry and Zahriya Zachary. Doug Berndt then performed "Just A Closer Walk With Thee," a traditional gospel song.

Some of the cast get their "News From the Pews." The skit featured Dave Dimmel, Kristen Leiding, Brandon and Lofton Johnson, Rich and Judy Winter, and Joe, Kristin, Stella, and Louis Ziemke.

The next song, "Lions," featured Marja Bjornstad and Hannah Weaver. The song was also dubbed "The Slinky Song" for the duo's use of slinkies. The two got the crowd involved during their performance. Following them was Tobin Huelsnitz performing "This Train" by Sister Rosetta Tharpe.

The next skit featured the Trinity Church Ladies "up from the basement" and proofreading the church bulletins. Macia Anderson, Kris Flemming, Ingrid Huelsnitz, Louis Lund, Eugenia Stockman, Sheryl Williams, Judy Winter, and Bill Kopischke were in the skit.

The following two songs were duos, the first was "Truth Be Told" by Carly Pearce and Matthew West, performed by Amber Ness and Brandon Johnson. "My Worth Is Not In What I Own" by Keith and Kristyn Getty was the other duo by Brady Manthe and Kristin Ziemke. The quartet of Paula Arndt, Amy Kolars, Irene Mulcahey, and Sheryl Williams then sang "Only God Knows."

The next performance was neither a skit nor a vocal performance. Instead, Janesville's own Christian comedian Brandon Johnson shared some alternative swear words like "turd," "wingnut," and "crapola." Johnson really brought the humor to the show with that one.

The Ziemke family (Joe, Kristin, and Stella) then sang "Perfectly Loved" by Rachael Lampa. The mother-daughter duo of Irene Mulcahey and

Janesville's Harmony and Humor show was held in the JWP auditorium on April 6 and 7. Emily Kolars then performed "God Is In This Story" by Big Daddy Weave and Katy Nichols.

The Trinity Church Ladies were featured in another skit, where they were at an amusement park riding a rollercoaster. After that, Family Tradition (Alicia Addler, Doug and Josh Berndt) then performed "Where I Find God" by Larry Fleet. Amber Ness followed with a breathtaking performance of the hymn "How Great Thou Art." The trio of Ben Groskreutz and Ryan and Tyler Priebe followed up with Ricky Skaggs's "Hallelujah, I'm Ready To Go."

The final skit of the performance was another episode of "News from the Pews." Following that was Noah Androli's phenomenal vocal solo of "Hymn of Heaven," with the Trinity Lutheran Church Choir singing backup.

The performance ended with the whole cast performing We the Kingdom's "Holy Water" (with Alicia Addler, Amber Ness, and Ben Groskreutz featured in solos) followed by Mac Powell's "River of Life."

Others in the cast this year who have yet to be mentioned are Linda Fetchenhier, Natalie Priebe, Carol Steinberg, Teresa Schumacher, Sherry Trahms, Kay Gottschalk, Leah Owens, Stacey Steel, and Melanie Teachout. Jeff and Ingrid Huelsnitz are this year's emcees, who paid tribute to former emcees Ed and Sue Stock. Band members include Sheldon Brandt on steel guitar, Johnathan Moeller on acoustic and lead guitar, Eric Zimmerman on bass, Josh Berndt on drums, and Jim Kozan on keyboard and harmonica.

The crew for these performances included Icha-bod Productions on the soundboard, Dan Zieske and Ben Groskreutz on lights, Trinity Lutheran Pastor Kristian Bjornstad as the videographer, backstage assistants Bette Berndt, Jill Johnson, Sheila Seifert, and Teresa Schumacher, photographers Danielle and Jason Androli, program creators Donita Hagen and Sherry Trahms, and co-producers Paula Arndt, Irene Mulcahey, and Sheryl Williams.

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OBITUARIES

Richard Sorenson

RICHARD ERLAND SORENSON, age 77, of Waseca passed away at his home on Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

Richard grew up in the Ellendale/New Richland area where he graduated from Ellendale High School in 1965. Following his education, he joined the Army and was stationed in Germany. Upon his honorable discharge, he returned to the States and started working in the automotive industry at various dealerships until his retirement. He married Linda Mundt on November 28, 1970 and had three children, daughter Tina and sons Adam and Micheal. He enjoyed working on old cars, hunting, woodworking and especially family gatherings.

Richard is survived by his wife, Linda; daughter, Tina; son, Micheal (Ann); sisters, Margaret Ottersen and Donna Guevara of Albert Lea; brothers, Harold (Linda) Sable of Red Wing and Raymond (Glenda) Olsen of Las Vegas; sisters-in-law, Audrey Sorenson, Patricia Sable and Deb Sable; as well as many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by



Richard Sorenson

son, Adam; parents, Albert and Carla Sorenson; sisters, Luella Nelson, Bernetta Hanson, Muriel Shaunce, and Berniece Kasper; brothers, Howard Sorenson, Marlys Sorenson, Donald Sorenson, Robert Sable, Kenneth Sable, and David Sable.

Funeral service will be at 11:00 AM on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Meriden. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. A burial will follow at St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery. Dsofuneral.com

Janet Priebe

JANET LEE (HARRIS) PRIEBE, age 84, of Waseca died peacefully on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at Mayo Clinic Health System in Waseca.

Born on January 11, 1940 in Albert Lea, MN, Janet was the daughter of Robert Byron and Ordella Adeline (Kriesel) Harris. She was confirmed in 1953 on Palm Sunday at St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca. On Father's Day weekend 1953, Janet's mother Ordella married Edgar Francis Bzoscik at St. John Lutheran Church.

Janet graduated from Waseca High School in 1958. She married Donald Melvin Priebe on October 15, 1960, at their home church in Waseca. Janet and Don were lifelong members of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Janet and Don were blessed with two children Thomas and Kristi, and one grandchild, Danielle Guse. In later years, Don and Janet were foster parents to Carl Shurson.

Janet participated in several bridge groups, extension group, mod mom's and others in Waseca. She was an election judge for over 30 years.

During her life, Janet was battling illnesses including cancer. Despite this, Janet was employed by Herter's, Wahi's, and Shell gas station in the deli. Shell named "Janet's Deli" after her.

She loved her family, her numerous friends, and especially her granddaughter Dani. Her hobbies included surfing the web, gaming on the computer, playing cards, cooking, and watching the Food Network. She patiently made a 7-layer Jello for many parties.

Janet spent summers with her summers with her eight cousins; six Kriesel cousins; the twins, Jean and Joanne (Herman) Claussen; Janice Joyce who shared the same birthday; the other set of twins, Katherine and Kathleen; and two Skalicky cousins, Judy and Lynn.

Janet was preceded in death by



Janet Priebe

her husband of 57 years, Don; her parents, stepfather, mother and father-in-law.

She is survived by her children, Thomas (Sharlene) Priebe and Kristi (Howard) Guse; foster son, Carl (Mary) Shurson; granddaughter, Danielle Guse; sister-in-law, Ruth Ann Priebe; cousin-sisters, Janice Crowley, Katherine, Kathleen (Robert), Judy (John), Lynn; cousins Dean and Dale Kriesel, Marshall Kriesel, Doug (Pat) Kriesel, Herman Claussen; and special friend Rhonda Behsmann.

Janet wanted her extended family and friends to know she cared for them deeply, to express her gratitude to LuAnn Guse, Monarch Meadows staff and Lakeshore Rehabilitation Center staff for all their love and support.

Visitation will be held from 4 – 7 PM on Friday, April 26, 2024 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca, and will continue one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday.

Funeral services will be at 11:00 AM on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca. A burial will follow at Woodville Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorials may be directed to the St. John Lutheran Church Broadcasting fund. dsofuneral.com

Flag presentation



The Waldorf American Legion post 587 presented a flag to the House of Restoration, owned and operated by Kathy Grinnell. Located in the former Waldorf school building at 144 North Street, The House of Restoration seeks to support and benefit members of the Waldorf community. Presenting the flag to Grinnell are Mayor Rob Wilkening and Charlie Barnes, both of whom are Legion members.

Emergency response

By TRISTAN GEHRING
Staff Writer

Area Emergency Medical Service (EMS) leaders met with staff from the office of U.S. Senator Tina Smith on April 9 at New Richland's City Hall, to provide information about the status of emergency health care in south central Minnesota. Smith's staff informed leaders she intends to use the information they share as she defends a new law she is co-sponsoring, the Emergency Medical Services Reimbursement for On-Scene Care and Support (EMS ROCS) Act.

Present at the meeting were three members of Smith's staff – Southern Minnesota Outreach Director Jeanne Poppe, Miranda Morgan Lilla, and Sara Silvernail; directors from three area ambulance services – Sarah Sundve of New Richland, AJ Gengler of Dodge Center, and Tyler Wilson of Blooming Prairie; Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas; Freeborn County Commissioner Bill Groskreutz; Waseca County Commissioners Brad Milbrath and Doug Christopherson; Blooming Prairie City Administrator Melanie Aeschlieman; and EMS educator and volunteer member of New Richland Ambulance, Jennifer Lacey.

Currently, Medicare does not reimburse EMS providers for their services when the patient is not transported to a hospital, which Senator Smith's office posits leaves rural EMS providers, who are often called upon to provide care on the scene without transporting, "struggling to balance budgets and stay afloat." This would change under the EMS ROCS Act, allowing for reimbursement in more cases, and, Smith claims, aiding struggling agencies and expanding access to care for Medicare patients who may hesitate to call for an ambulance under current billing and reimbursement structures.

The meeting began with a summary of the current state of EMS in the area. Reports provided the call and transport statistics for Wells, Blooming Prairie, and Dodge Center. All three agencies estimated that between one third and one fourth of their calls did not include a transport, with 40 to 70 percent of those calls being for Medicare patients. Ambulance directors estimated their average call took 2 to 2.5 hours.

As discussion continued, there was a clear consensus that EMS departments are not sufficiently funded.



Members of U.S. Senator Tina Smith's staff met with local emergency service leaders in New Richland, April 9.

Staffing is one important way this shortage manifests itself. The ambulance services represented at the meeting are run largely on a volunteer basis – in some cases there are stipends paid or a few paid positions, but according to Sundve, "It doesn't add up." Blooming Prairie would like to create a paid director position to help address its staffing issues, but doesn't have the funding to do so. Volunteer departments in general, it was said, help people get their start in EMS by supporting them through training, then lose those people in short order to full-time paid positions or higher hourly pay in better-funded departments. New Richland Ambulance is one such volunteer department, and asks that anyone interested in learning more about volunteering contact City Hall.

Gengler pointed out another financial shortfall follows from billing

people who cannot pay; he said the Dodge Center ambulance service sent out about \$1.5 million in bills for its services, but ended up writing off about \$900,000 of that amount – the portion that Medicare would not cover. The remaining \$600,000 represented most of the operating budget for the year in Dodge Center, a circumstance that was echoed by other ambulance staff at the meeting. Subsidizing through local government is also a complex issue – each of these rural ambulance services provides coverage for a multitude of small towns and townships, which leads to problems coordinating funding efforts. "We're trying to handle locally what is a state or federal issue," one of the directors said in summary. "We operate and are funded like a business," said Gengler, "and are viewed as a public service. And it should be."

Smith leads efforts to address rural EMS Crisis

As access to emergency medical services continues to be a top issue for leaders in the Minnesota State Legislature, U.S. Senator Tina Smith (D-Minn.) has been active in working toward federal solutions to the crisis. She and her staff have held meetings across Minnesota, from Hibbing to Barnesville, Blackduck, and New Richland, where local EMS leaders conveyed that first responders are in dire financial straits. Senator Smith has been urging Congress to act on this crisis and is an original cosponsor of a bill to provide Medicare reimbursement for care provided by EMS when no transportation to the hospital is provided, called the Emergency Medical Services Reimbursement for On-Scene Care and Support (EMS ROCS) Act. Senator Smith stressed that joint efforts with state and local governments will be essential to fully address this crisis and is committed to ensuring all Minnesotans can live safe and healthy lives wherever they choose to live.

In recent years, several states

have passed laws to make EMS an essential service – Minnesota is not one of them, meaning the state government isn't required to fund them. At the Minnesota State Legislature, there is a bipartisan EMS Task Force that is working to address the EMS crisis at the state level.

"Everyone deserves a timely, fully equipped response in times of crisis. EMS workers also deserve a fair and decent wage, regardless of where they live," said Senator Smith. "While the Minnesota Legislature continues to work toward state solutions, I'm going to keep pushing for more federal support for our first responders. It's going to take a whole-government approach, and I look forward to working with the state EMS task force and local officials to keep EMS services available for all Minnesotans."

International Falls Mayor Harley Droba shared he thinks they're approaching a "breaking point" during a meeting with Senator Smith earlier this year. The same sentiment was echoed on two separate occasions by Leech Lake Band EMS Director Terence O'Connor and Perham EMS Director Rebecca Huebsch, who said they're "bleeding out." During Senator Smith's visit to Hibbing, Fire Chief Erik Jankila shared that nearly 85 percent of their ambulance calls are from Medicare and Medicaid patients, where low reimbursement rates significantly impact the station's budget.

Many rural communities face challenges in accessing timely emergency medical services – especially for Medicare beneficiaries, who make up about 40 percent or more of patients treated by EMS. In Barnesville, 80 percent of their patients are on Medicare or Medicaid. Right now, Medicare does not reimburse for on-scene care when transportation to a hospital is not needed. This means when a Medicare beneficiary calls 911 for emergency help and is able to be successfully treated at their home, it's the local EMS provider that is footing the bill for that service. This is exacerbating an already dire financial situation,

where rural providers are facing the possibility of having to shut down.

"We need reimbursement from Medicare and Medicaid to keep up. If that happens, it's a whole different story for EMS," said Perham Area EMS Director Rebecca Huebsch at the meeting in Barnesville.

Senator Smith was one of the original cosponsors of Senators Peter Welch (D-VT) and Bernie Sanders' (I-VT) EMS ROCS Act, which would require Medicare to pay for EMS services, regardless of whether a person needs to be transported to a hospital. She also previously introduced the EMS Staffing and Support Act, which would provide \$500 million to establish a grant program in the Health Resources and Services Administration. This grant funding would provide critical support for EMS providers by bolstering departments in hiring, volunteer recruitment, training, equipment, facilities, and regional collaboration.

Earth Day celebrated April 26; Arbor day April 29

Each Earth Day and Arbor Day, the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District (Waseca SWCD) reflects on the wonderful natural resources we enjoy in Waseca

County. Our District is grateful for the opportunity to work with landowners throughout the County to facilitate voluntary initiatives to conserve land, water, trees, and wildlife.

We are one of 88 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) across the state that provide a neighborly presence to help preserve and protect the natural resources we all love. The Waseca SWCD has been around since 1948, implementing a wide variety of conservation practices and projects like basins, waterways, terraces, cover crops, windbreaks, shoreline improvements and wetland restoration. Technical

and financial assistance is offered by the SWCDs and other conservation partnerships to implement these programs. We have hosted numerous field and information workshops explaining different forms of conservation practices that aid in reducing soil erosion and increase crop production.

Born in the wake of the Dust Bowl in the early 1930s, SWCDs have been involved in delivering conservation across America for more than 90 years. Because Minnesota has a wide variety of landscapes and conservation needs, each district operates at the direction of locally elected board supervisors. This local perspective allows SWCDs to manage the resources and serve the needs of the citizens in their district.

Soil and Water Conservation District staff and supervisors build partnerships with public and private, local, state and federal entities in an effort to develop locally driven solutions to natural resource concerns. We work with landowners every step of the way from planning through implementation.

Our tree program offers various types of trees and shrubs for both windbreaks and wildlife habitat. Our technicians draw up windbreak plans and wildlife habitat plans such as food plots and also gives advice shoreland restoration and erosion prevention practices.

Our work results in cleaner water, healthier wildlife habitat, better soil, and a collaborative relationship with the community.

For more information on the celebrating Earth Day and Arbor Day, please visit our website at:

www.wasecaswcd.org/education or contact the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation Office at 507-835-0603.

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State award



The City of Waldorf won the State of Minnesota Wastewater Treatment Facility Operational Award. It is in recognition of exceptional compliance with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for the year 2023 signed by Katrina Kessler, MPCA Commissioner.

Pictured front from left: Mayor Rob Wilkening, Public Works director Ron Fischer. Back Row: Council members Kevin Lines, Carrie Ferch, Missy Sorbo and City Engineer Brent Kavitz.

Attendance, cell phone policy and strategic plan updates

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

Dr. Jason Miller, Waseca Junior/Senior High school principal, presented his building report during the Waseca school board’s regular April 18 meeting. Miller began by sharing enrollment statistics; total student enrollment at his site as of April is 821, dropped from 845 in October. Miller’s data showed at around this time last year the total enrollment at the Junior/Senior High was 848 students. Miller said these numbers show normal fluctuations between people moving or students transferring to the Area Learning Center, and are nothing out of the ordinary.

Miller next jumped to the vision card of the Junior/Senior High (JHSH), which he said is focused on assessment for learning. “That encompasses a lot more than just testing,” he said. “We’re using assessment practices which include formative assessment of the daily work of students as well as summative things.” Miller said staff members have also been working on science, social studies, and language arts standards alignment, and creating curriculum maps for each course; curriculum maps document what state-required standards are met by materials covered within each course and show how those standards are assessed. Such maps are useful in ensuring each student completes the necessary standards, thus meeting the qualifications to graduate. “That’s been a big task,” Miller said.

Miller gave statistics on attendance, informing board members federal guidelines denote students as “chronically absent” if they miss ten percent or more of their scheduled school time; fewer than eight

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

percent of JHSH students are in that range. Additionally, 96.5% of students in grades 9-12 are on track toward graduation, based on credits completed. “A few years ago, with the pandemic, it was not that high. So getting back to the good spot we’re in feels good,” Miller said.

Board member Julie Nelson asked Miller how the cell phone policy is working. Miller defined the policy expectations as “out and off during class.” Teachers are authorized to confiscate phones they see during class time; confiscated devices can be taken to the office and students can pick them up at the end of the day. After the first occurrence, however, the phone must be picked up by a parent.

Superintendent Eric Hudspeth next gave his strategic plan update, beginning with the area of “safe and welcoming schools” and the various activities the district has been working on in the area of mental health since last year. “Our attendance is also an indicator of student health and wellness and wanting to be in school,” Hudspeth said. “Students don’t come to school every day if they don’t want to be there, so it’s a good sign.” Hudspeth briefly summarized the positive feedback from teachers on professional development they’ve received, the continuation of READ Act training being underway.

Other action items on the agenda included approvals of individual contracts, staff sharing agreements with NRHEG, and previously reviewed policies.

County 4-H celebrates volunteers during National Volunteer Week

Each year, thousands of volunteers in Minnesota donate their time and energy to make their communities a better place to live. These volunteers will be among the millions across the country who will be spotlighted during National Volunteer Week, April 21-27, 2024.

One group that relies heavily on volunteers is the University of Minnesota Extension’s 4-H Youth Development Program. During National Volunteer Week and every week throughout 2024, Minnesota 4-H celebrates and appreciates its more than 7,500 volunteers - each one critical to the success of 4-H programs and making a difference in the lives of youth. In Waseca County

4-H, 70 volunteers serve as club leaders, project leaders, committee members and in advisory capacities for the 4-H Youth Development Program. Research shows that Minnesota 4-H volunteers help youth gain leadership skills, serve their communities, improve their decision-making skills and develop career readiness.

Missy Eaton, an eight-year Waseca County 4-H volunteer, volunteers for 4-H because she “believes 4-H is a great program. I learned a lot as a youth participating in 4H and want to give those benefits to other kids. I really enjoy watching the kids learn by doing.” She encourages all adults to volunteer with 4-H because, “Adults should always stand behind our next generation and be a part of making them better than ourselves!” What better way to do that than by giving your time and energy to a youth program, like 4-H.

The work of 4-H volunteers is continuous. Every day volunteers lend a



Waseca County 4-H volunteer Missy Eaton assists youth as they learn proper techniques for giving their animal science projects medication. The lesson took place at a recent Livestock Quality Assurance training in New Richland. Eaton is one of more than 70 volunteers who dedicate time and energy to helping 4-H youth grow in their skills and knowledge.

Minnesota Extension - Waseca County 4-H at 507-835-0600, mnext-waseca@umn.edu, or visit the website at www.extension.umn.edu/Waseca

NRHEG prom to be held May 4

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

In a relatively brief meeting on April 15, members of the NRHEG school board heard about upcoming events and progress on various annual initiatives. Aside from typical actions such as payment of bills and receipt of donations, the agenda was very short.

Board members decided to have the “policy committee” meet to discuss the elements of a new “unpaid leave administrative regulation” brought forward by superintendent Michael Meihak. Meihak told board members the regulation deserves further consideration because it is meant to apply to school employees who work under any of three different contracts, each with different

terms. He made clear this proposed policy pertains only to “unpaid” leave—that is, time beyond what employees have accrued under the terms of their respective contracts.

Meihak said employees have used unpaid time in the past when they wanted to extend time used for “personal” leave. For example, if an employee had three personal days available but hoped to be gone for four days, he or she might simply forgo pay in order to facilitate being gone the extra time. Employees might also consider requesting unpaid leave when their banked time off has been exhausted—for example in the case of an extended illness.

In a conversation after the meeting, leadership of at least one employee organization expressed



concerns that certain elements of the proposed policy are in direct conflict with employee contracts.

Reports shared during the meeting revealed that prom is scheduled for May 4.

The City of Ellendale has raised \$25,000 and the district Parent Teacher Organization has raised \$10,000 toward an Americans with Disabilities compliant playground being planned for the Ellendale location. Elements of the playground can be installed as they become finan-

cially viable; the total cost for the intended finished project is about \$125,000.

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) testing will continue at various grade levels into the month of May.

About 115 elementary-age students have signed up for summer T-Ball and baseball programs.

A day-long “Credit Union” activity for the junior class gave high-schoolers an increased understanding of the financial responsibilities surrounding home ownership and borrowing money. Board member Loren Schoenrock took part in the activity and recommended that it be continued. The event was made possible through the South Central Service Cooperative.

■ County from Page 1

ness.

Also in the vein of family and children’s health, county health nurse Sarah Berry recommended that the position of her department’s Women Infants and Children (WIC) coordinator be upgraded from four days a week to five days. Berry indicated the county is a recipient of settlement monies from recent lawsuits concerning opioid medications, and suggested that increasing the WIC position would help support individuals and families negatively impacted by the extensive availability of opioids.

According to information shared during discussion, Waseca County has already received nearly \$160,000 under the opioid settlement, and is scheduled to continue receiving as much as \$50,000 for each of the next 15 years.

The county also acknowledged the receipt of \$206,000 in grant money which will extend the services offered through the Steele/Waseca County “Drug Court” program.

Commissioners approved spending just under \$22,000 to purchase a new server hub for the county sheriff’s office dispatch center. The current equipment, Sheriff Jay Dulas told commissioners, can no longer be updated, necessitating the purchase. Like the unit it replaces, the new server will be capable of recording phone and radio conversations processed through the dispatch center. In

response to commissioner questions, Dulas stated that, when a particular conversation is relevant to a case, it can be recorded and placed in the case file, rather than being erased permanently after the state’s required 31-day retention period is over.

The county also acknowledged the receipt of a \$50,000 grant from the “intensive comprehensive peace officer education and training” program of the Minnesota Department of Corrections. Dulas explained the money will be used to facilitate additional training for a law enforcement officer who is currently on staff.

During the “public comment” portion of the meeting, county resident Donald Hubschman offered a suggestion that the county could implement a new, voluntary process which might help prevent fraud in the case

of property sales.

Hubschman suggested the county allow individuals to specify that no sales of property they own can be officially recorded unless they, the owners, are physically present in the courthouse to confirm the transaction is legitimate.

Hubschman told commissioners that older individuals might be especially vulnerable to the types of scams used to acquire sensitive information. He also said he had spoken with a number of local bankers and loan officers who agreed the system would be a powerful deterrent to fraud.

He cited his experience as a military officer and a cybersecurity specialist, and invited commissioners to contact him with any questions.

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April 16, 2024 (Waseca, MN) – Entrepreneurs and seasoned business owners rely on networks to grow. Join GreenSeam, the City of Waseca, and the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce for an engaging and informative event that brings together the vibrant local food and ag business community, connecting ag-related businesses to the people, information, and resources they need to start or grow their business locally. At these half-day workshops, attendees will expand their network of fellow businesses, community leaders and experts in community-based entrepreneurship and gain the necessary tools to take their business or idea to the next level.

Event Details

Date: May 17, 2024
Time: 8:00am – 1:00pm
Location: University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center, Waseca
At the Workshop
• Learn from Extension Educator, Neil Linscheid about the critical variables that contribute to the success of a business in the county.
• Hear Dr. Jeff Stamp, inventor of the Lays Baked potato chip and professor of entrepreneurship at the U of M, share the 6 problems all entrepreneurs must solve.
• Listen to a panel of local business success stories like Winegar Inc, Berry Pallets and Midwest Extraction Services.

The day will conclude with a work session, answering your questions and connecting you to regional resources and your local Economic Development Manager. “Collaborating on workshops like this will only strengthen our ag community in Waseca County,” said Ann Fitch, Executive Director of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce. “Every industry needs the opportunity to listen, learn, and network with people of shared interests and experiences.”

Register Today!

The cost to attend is \$20 and includes breakfast from Infinity Catering. Space is limited. Save your spot and learn more about the workshop by visiting www.green-seam.org/GITGW

About GreenSeam

GreenSeam is an economic development organization for food and agriculture in southern MN and northern IA on a mission to elevate this region as the world-class food and agribusiness epicenter. Its work is guided by four focus areas: business attraction & creation, business retention & expansion, talent development & retention, and regional branding & promotion. As a community brand, GreenSeam’s work is made possible by its business and community investors and committee volunteers with a passion to see the food and ag industry continue to prosper and fuel communities.

10th annual Tribute to Trinity

JANESVILLE JOURNAL - God must have been looking out for Trinity Lutheran Church when it held its tenth annual Tribute to Trinity at Ahavah Cottage in Elysian on Friday, April 12.

It was the perfect spring day to be social outside in the cottage’s patio area, enjoy a nice meal, and give back to the Trinity Lutheran School.

Kendra Hoehn, who has headed the planning for the event for the past ten years (skipping one year due to Covid), was especially excited about the tenth Anniversary. In the past nine years, Trinity has raised around \$188,000 to go toward the school through this event. “We’ve received so much support from everyone in the past ten years,” she said. “I’m grateful to be a part of this community.”

She added that the goal for that evening was to surpass the \$200,000 mark for funds raised by the event for the school, a goal she felt they could achieve.

Brandon Johnson was the event’s master of ceremonies. Following a prayer by Pastor Kristian Bjornstad, everyone enjoyed their meal. Tri-Tip Steak was on the menu, along with accordion potatoes, bacon-wrapped green beans, rolls, salad with raspberry walnut vinaigrette, and cake pops for dessert. Infinity Catering of Janesville provided the dinner.

The guests dressed for this year’s theme, a “Masquerade ball.” Many dressed up nicely in elegant gowns and fancy tuxedos. Of course, it wouldn’t be a masquerade ball without that signature mask around the eyes many attendants wore.

The event also featured a silent auction with



The 10th annual tribute to Trinity was held at Ahavah Cottage in Elysian on Friday, April 12.

Items donated by local businesses and Trinity Lutheran Church members. Two items featured near the entrance included a set of golf clubs and a hand-made wooden play barn crafted by Jim Mulcahey. Many especially appreciated his finer details, such as birds sitting on the fence near the cow pens. Other auction items included a home-made pie baked by Irene Mulcahey, Rum Cake by Lolli Pops of Elysian, a piggy bank stuffed by Trinity Lutheran School students, reserved parking at the church for a year, reserved pews at Christmas services, and many more. Other events throughout the evening included photo opportunities provided by “Steel the Moment Photography,” a wine game where participants could win one of two half cases of wine with \$10, and a heads or tails bead game for a chance to win a wagon full of spirits (the adult beverage kind).

Outside of silent auction items, the event was sponsored by several businesses. Gold sponsors included Janesville State Bank, Borglum Roofing, Holmes Ag Supply, and two other anonymous do-

nors. Red-level sponsors were A.H. Hermel, Gidgets, Generations Childcare and Memory Care, and Lolli Pops Bakery and Cafe. Black-level sponsors were Airwave Solutions, Waseca Vet Clinic, Dennis Steffel Omtvedt, St. Clair Bank, Autumn Acres, and Exclusively Diamonds.

Many of the businesses that sponsored the event or provided other services were either Trinity Lutheran alumni or had children who were current or past students at the school.

Tribute to Trinity has been a testament to the support the Trinity Lutheran Church community has always shown its school. “I’ve always been a proud member of this community,” Kendra Hoehn said. “We’re very thankful to everyone that’s donated or supported Trinity Lutheran Schools through this event so we can help the school do a great job of educating our children and teaching them about our faith.”



The Pastor’s Column

Until we turn to Him for forgiveness

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS
First Congregational Church Waseca

My ear aches. I know what this is but didn’t think or hope it would happen. Everything changed this week, and my nose is running. In just a few days my eyes will start swelling, perhaps a sty will form, and all I will want to do is try to breathe deeply while not moving. I know the end is near.

I have a choice right now though, I can fix this burgeoning problem before it gets too bad, but I don’t know if I will. All it takes is one little allergy med, I need to take it for roughly two weeks every spring. It is relatively cheap and available abundantly, but I don’t know when I will take it or if I will take it consistently.

Our spiritual lives can mimic the change in seasons we physically experience. A gray November day can be depressing and sad, the warm sun on a spring day can be a promise of new growth and joy in the Lord. Each season or weather change can be used as an allegory to discuss our spiritual live, but what is season of our lives is allergy season?

I would argue that allergy season is that time of year that is a blessing, we are seeing new growth, new opportunities, a renewal of the spirit. Then all of a sudden, a little sin creeps into the growth, something that we haven’t dealt with that God is trying to deal with us on, but we don’t take the hint and it feels more like an inconvenience. That little bit of sin works its way into every area

of our lives until it incapacitates us.

We know how to resolve the little sin, but often we let it fester until it becomes unbearable. God allows us to wallow in our sin, until we turn back to Him in repentance. Romans 1:28 states, “Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.” God lets us continue in our sin until we turn to Him for forgiveness.

It might be the best time of our lives, but we still have a need to guard against sin. Sin can begin subtly with just a little warning, but soon, like my allergies, if left unchecked it will blossom into an incapacitating trap. The solution is simple though, we turn to God, confess our sins, and be restored to right relationship with Him.

I know a lot of people don’t want to talk about sin in our own lives, but that is the life of the believe a constant life of confession and turning to Jesus. 1 John 1:8-9 tells us, “8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Allergies and sin may start off small, but they require a solution. For allergies we can take a pill, for sin we need to humbly approach the Savior and ask for the forgiveness that is readily available. He is ready to heal and forgive.

■ Hodgkins

from Page 1

and planting crops. She hopes that as she keeps her goal in mind, she will change the veil on agriculture for the positive.

“Whether or not they realize it, eight out of ten jobs have to do with agriculture.” Hodgkins pointed out

that, because families get their food from the store, young people don’t make the connection that it comes from farm animals.

It’s possible she has such a passionate perspective because, while she grew up in town, other family members have been involved in agriculture to some extent. Her grandfather grew up raising dairy cows; when he met her grandmother, they continued the farm. Hodgkins said she has persistently helped on dairy farms owned by some of her cousins.

So, inevitably, agriculture became a big part of her life.

“When I’ve shown dairy cattle of my own, I go and milk my own cows and help out with the farm,” Hodgkins said.

She’s raised sheep for six years and cattle for three years from their births to adulthood. Throughout that time, she has learned how vital timing is when it comes to an animal’s health.

“You have to experience all the potential complications that come

along with raising your own livestock,” Hodgkins said.

Turning the conversation back to the National Enterprise pageant, Hodgkins says that even if she doesn’t win, she’ll be happy for whoever does. Whatever the outcome, she anticipates it will be positive.

“Everyone there will be so knowledgeable,” she said. “If you ask me, it’s not really a competition but more of ‘Let’s see who’s knowledgeable’ and I’m looking forward to seeing how well everyone works together.”

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
111 4th St NW, Waseca
Father Glenn Ferichs
507-835-1222
Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m.
* * *

REAL LIFE CHURCH
620 W Elm Ave, Waseca
507-607-8245

Sunday worship 10 a.m.
* * *

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS
1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca
507-835-4640
Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.
* * *

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

CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY
900 14th Ave SE, Waseca
507-833-1082
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m.
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ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship
* * *

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

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

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

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

VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Brian Schanil Pastor
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesdays: The Shepherd’s Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark
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ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass
Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m.
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FIRST LUTHERAN
Missouri Synod
Waldorf, Minnesota
Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe
Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class
* * *

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Freedom Township
Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship
* * *

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

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN
Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
Sunday — 10:45 a.m. Worship
* * *

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

* * *

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
412 N. Main Street, Janesville
Interim Pastor
Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:15 a.m. Worship
* * *

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Waseca County History Center

CELEBRATING THE KEELEY BARN and Family

This article is based on previous research by Donna Fostveit and Catherine Keeley Crellin. Additional research and photographs provided by Mark, Kathleen and Matt Crellin, great grandchildren of Michael and Bridget Keeley, and WCHS staff.

Matthew Keeley Sr. never made it to America. He died in Adamstown, Wexford County Ireland, but his wife **Catherine Laffin Keeley** did along with their children, Phillip, Matthew II, James, Kate and future daughter-in-law Margaret Stonan. Sons, John and Michael, came to America in 1851. In 1867 they were working building the Union Pacific Railroad. When their mother Catherine and the other children came to America, John and Michael moved to Beloit, Wisconsin and took up farming. In 1868, Michael came to Waseca County and negotiated a land deal. Michael then returned to Beloit Wisconsin and married Bridget McCabe from County Armagh Ireland. In 1871 Michael and Bridget returned to Minnesota and settled on the present site, Section 6, St. Mary Twp.

Interesting note:
The Keeley farmstead is located in both Section 6, St. Mary Twp. and Section 31, Isoco Twp.

Michael Keeley, the barn builder: Born ca.1820, Adamstown, Wexford County Ireland. Died, April 16, 1896, St. Mary Twp. Waseca MN. Married **Bridget McCabe** in 1871 and had four children. Mary Catherine, Annie Elizabeth, **Matthew Henry** and James Patrick. **Matthew H. Keeley:** Born February 8, 1877. Died April 11, 1942. Son of Michael and Bridget. Matthew married **Teresa Burke**, September 28, 1909. They had 8 children: Mary, Catherine, Anna, Michael, James, John, Matthew and Francis.

Matthew H. Keeley obituary: *Waseca Herald*, April 16, 1942

Matt Keeley was known as one of the most successful farmers in the community, and while never seeking public office, he took an active interest in public affairs and was always a booster for community betterment.

After their father's passing, brothers Michael, James, Matthew and Francis and their mother Teresa continued to operate the farm. The last Keeley brother, Frank (Francis), passed away in 2021.

Catherine Francis Keeley: Daughter of Matthew and Teresa, born December 14, 1911. Died March 18, 2002. Catherine married **Robert Crellin** on September 20, 1945. Catherine was born on her parents' farm in St. Mary Twp. After graduating from Janesville Highschool she went on to graduate from the College of St. Teresa in Winona. Catherine taught school in Mankato and eventually moved to Apple Valley in 1997.

Catherine and Robert had two sons, Mark and Matthew and one daughter, Kathleen.



Photo courtesy of Matt Crellin

"Michael and John came to the USA first in 1851. They worked building the Union Pacific Railroad. When they received word, they went to Wisconsin in the Beloit/Roscoe, Illinois area to meet up with the rest of the family, Matthew, Phillip, Kate, John's fiancé Margaret, and their mother Catherine (Laffin) off the boat from Adamstown, Wexford, Ireland in 1854. They worked and watched for when the land opened up as did the others. I wish I could visit with them to fill in the blanks. They are buried in the St Mary's or St Ann's cemetery."



Michael Keeley, Builder of the barn.



James P Keeley, Ann (Burns) Keeley, Matthew H Keeley and unknown ghost, children of Michael and Bridget.

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The central bay was used for threshing by hand until animal and steam powered threshing machines rendered threshing floors obsolete. James Carmody's diary notes the threshing floor was removed in 1925 and work began on what is now the dairy addition on the south side of the structure that same year. One can still see, the ground beams are notched and marked for the threshing floor joists. Changes to the interior of this barn suggest the Keeley brothers were accommodating change. Shifting the emphasis from growing wheat, possibly due to rising land costs, decreasing yields from depleted soils, crop diseases and pests, to raising more livestock and diversifying crops.

From Wheat to Livestock

As stated in the **MNDOT Historic Context Study of Minnesota**, *The three bay threshing barn not only is a reminder of an earlier emphasis on wheat that originally dominated Midwestern agriculture, but also represents the early settlement period when timber-frame barns were the dominant structures of the Midwestern landscape...It is expected that intact strictly defined threshing barns (those built before mechanized threshing) will be rare in Minnesota. More prevalent will be threshing barns modified to shelter livestock or built after mechanized threshing as general purpose barns, usually on basements. Threshing barns will be most likely found in southeastern Minnesota where growing wheat was concentrated in the era before farms mechanized."*

dot.state.mn.us/culturalresources/docs/crunit/devperiods.pdf



Wilton Twp. Waseca County 1938

This barn photo is included in the MNDOT Historic Study of Minnesota Barns with the caption: *This threshing barn was apparently built in 1855 on the Child's Farm in Waseca County. After the farm diversified, the barn was altered to support animal husbandry.*

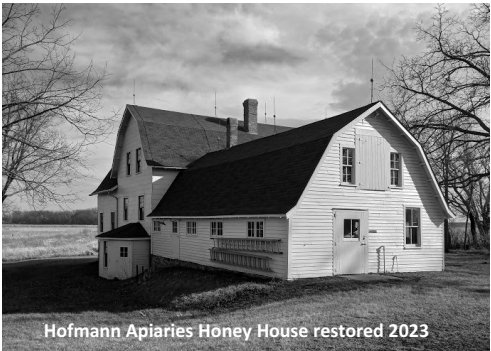
The oldest pictures of the Keeley barn show a vertical board and batten siding. A small section of the original siding can be seen on the upper face of the south exterior. Family stories suggest, the barn may have been part of a "barn kit" delivered by rail. The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad was in full operation at that time so it is possible, however, most of the mail order barns offered through companies such as Sears Roebuck, Harris Company (1911), Aladdin Company (1910), Gordon-Van (1909), and Montgomery Ward (1910), weren't available until early in the 20th century.



Michael Keeley Barn restored 2023

Plans and designs can still be found and appreciated thanks to the internet.

Family stories also suggest the Hofmann Apiaries Honey House, built in 1923 was a barn kit. Unfortunately, neither family has been able to find any documentation to support the claim, but the possibility does exist.



Hofmann Apiaries Honey House restored 2023

We discovered the Routh's Sears Mail Order barn in 2004. Since then, a new roof was added to preserve the structure and the story.

Thanks to all of you for sharing your stories and preserving our agricultural history. We have Barn Survey forms available in the Bailey Lewer Research Library. Anyone is welcome to submit their family barn history. We love photos-regardless if the structure still stands. We are fortunate to still have these architectural wonders throughout Waseca County. Next time you're out on a drive and come across one of these beauties - take a moment. Give a nod and a smile. Enjoy a glimpse of our agricultural past and imagine the stories within. ♣



Dean and Mary Routh Barn – Built in 1906 New Richland Twp. Sears Mail Order Barn. Photo by Doug Ohman, 2004.

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CELEBRATING THE KEELEY BARN and Family, continued



Photo courtesy of Kathleen Crellin

Identified: Michael, Teresa, MH, Frank, Mary, Teresa (Burke), James, Catherine (my mother). All but Frank were born at home.

The preservation story begins with a phone from Kathleen Crellin, daughter of Catherine Francis Keeley Crellin. The last brother, Francis (Frank) Kathleen's uncle, had passed away in August of 2021, Frank lived on the farm his entire life except for his years of military service. Frank served during WWII in the United States Army, 1st Cavalry Division. He witnessed the surrender of Japan in Tokyo Bay from a landing craft alongside the U.S.S. Missouri. He was a member of the VFW, Knights of Columbus and St. Ann Catholic Church in Janesville.



Francis (Frank) Keeley

Kathleen had heard of the restoration project going on at **Hofmann Apiaries**, just northwest of the Keeley farm. Even though Kathleen and her brothers, Matt and Mark live in the Metro area, they are deeply invested in their family history and memories of summers spent on the farm. This was the barn built by their great grandfather, home to their grandparents and their mother, aunts and uncles. The barn was in need of repair and paint. The farm land has been sold. The house vacant, but the barn was full of hay and still in use. The story of one of Waseca County's earliest Irish immigrant families is captured and represented in the early settlement structure.

After a couple of conversations with Kathleen at WCHS, we put the family in contact with **Jay Schmidt, Barn Restoration Specialist**. He was working in the neighborhood immersed in the Hofmann Apiaries Honey House and Wax Shed restoration.



Photo courtesy of Matt Crellin

The Keeley Barn, Sec. 31 Isoco Twp. Built by Michael Keeley 1886. Restored in 2023 by Kathleen, Mark and Matt Crellin. Jay Schmidt, Barn Restoration Specialist Corporation.

The Family Decides to Save the Barn!

The History of the Barn

The following article appeared in the *Janesville Argus*, June 8, 1886: *Mr. Michael Keeley, of Isoco Township, is building a barn on his farm, that will be , when completed, one of the best farm stock barns in the county. The dimensions are 32x56, with 18 feet posts and a wing or rather a shed attachment 16x56. The bill of lumber amounts to 32,000 feet, 13,000 of which is native, supplied by Frank Long of Greenland. The balance comes from the Winona Lumber Co., Winona. Mr. Brainard, of Isoco, has the contract for its erection.*

The following information was given to the family by James Carmody: James was a long term hired man who is buried



Interior photos courtesy of Matt Crellin

along with the Keeley family in St. Anns' Cemetery, Janesville. James kept a diary of his life at the Keeley farm which now belongs to the Keeley Family. The diary contains detailed information about the barn and is shared for this story by Mark Crellin. The barn originally had a three- bay threshing floor and two side bays used for animals and storage.

Waseca

25 Years Ago

-Six thousand royal blue ribbons have been passed out in schools in Waseca, Steele, Dodge, and Rice counties this month, according to Jean O' Mallery-Laursen, director of the Exchange Club Center for Family Unity. April is child abuse prevention month both locally and nationally and the blue ribbons are meant to heighten awareness of child abuse.

-A Basic Riding & Street Skills course will be conducted by the state Motorcycle Safety Center and Waseca School District. Interested individuals must be at least 15 years old and possess a valid driver instruction permit or driver's license. Participants age 18 and older who bring a valid motorcycle permit, can fulfill the state motorcycle endorsement requirements, upon successful completion of the course.

-There aren't any bright-eyed children running around a federal prison. There aren't even any well-loved pets. What you can find in the prison in Waseca, though, are some tenderly cared for plants.

50 Years Ago

-Saturday, April 20, was a typical Minnesota spring day. That is to say, it was hot-cold-sunny-dreary-wet-dry-wet. Out in all that weather was an atypical group of kids-Teen Corps volunteers. They were busy all day long unpolluting the beaches of Waseca.

-Step into a woodland day on any hot summer day and you can appreciate, without needing any elaborate instruments to prove it, the air conditioning job performed by trees. They can do the same work at your home, and the right placement of a few large-growing, leafy trees can mean an important reduction in the use of your mechanical air conditioner.

-If Arvid Tollefson, Sr., had asked you to ride in his little red wagon 43 years ago, in 1931, chances are you'd have been unloaded at the present ball park. The ball park was formerly, and until the late 50s; the city dump.

75 Years Ago

-These men took pride in their work as they do in their community as they pitched in to clean-up operations of Janesville's new park Tuesday afternoon. Left to right are Otto Vogler, Gilbert Anton (in background), and Herman Durken, treasurer of the park board; Nels Lundquist, E.H. Doss, mayor of Janesville; John Fury and George Trahms, president of the park board.

-These tree planters did preliminary work on the new Janesville park landscaping operations. Thousands of tons of dirt were moved since the operation started. The evergreens will not only add beauty but keep the hillsides from washing away. In the foreground is Ernie Werdin, secretary of the park board; and Fred Ulman. In immediate background at left is Frank Zellmer and at right in background is Percy Hagen.

-Dr. Bill Gallagher is stepping into his father's big shoes, but it isn't a new experience for the handsome 24-year-old. When he was just a little fellow, he often traced Dr. Ben's footsteps on calls around Waseca county. Today the University of Minnesota medical school graduate is taking over while his father, a patient in Rochester St. Mary's hospital, is recovering from a partial stroke.

100 Years Ago

-Mayor Charles Ward asks the Herald to once more warn the public that he intends to see that the traffic laws are obeyed. From now on, he says, speeders or careless drivers will be punished to the fullest extent. In order to give as much leeway as possible, consistent with safety, the mayor says that all motorists must drive at a speed not to exceed fifteen miles an hour on any business street of Waseca.

-That the use of the silo is the best way to furnish roughage to dairy cattle has been proven. Some successful feeders of beef carrel seem to think that they can get along just as well without a silo, but no dairyman who is in the business to any great extent would think of doing without a silo.

-What has the gentle cow to do with drinkers of coffee and tea? A great deal, if figures of the United States Department of Agriculture are correct. It appears that this country consumes 40,000,000,000 cups of coffee a year, and it takes about 40,000,000,000 ounces of cream to modify that coffee to the desired consistency.

New Richland

100 Years Back - 1924

• A goodly turnout of baseball fans gathered at the State Bank assembly hall last Friday evening to discuss the prospects of the 1924 team. Eleven directors were elected, namely: E.M. Schwenke, Geo. Hovig, H.F. Bestmann, Dr. B.A. Leopard, J.W. Kreuzer, Donald Brown, B.C. Rotegard, Dr. A.A. Doyle, C.I. Virmig, H.T. Tyrholm and O.S. Martinson.

• With Standard Oil setting the example, fifteen corporations have agreed to discontinue roadside advertising that disfigures landscapes. Manufacturers of tires, automobiles, soap, flour, motor parts, oil, yeasts and products are included among those that will discontinue disfiguring the landscape with billboard advertising. This is more than a concession to public opinion and good taste; it is also good business. Roadside advertising is wasteful advertising.

• When Edd Weed uncovered his pansy bed last Friday he found several of the plants in full bloom, and was able to pick a small bouquet of the fresh flowers.

• The boys in the office failed to mention last week that Rev. Peacock helped with the egg and poultry meeting last Saturday evening by singing a few songs of his own composition.

• The Matawan school is closed this week on account of so many of the pupils having the measles.

76 Years Back - 1948

• Richard Tyrholm of Crumb & Tyrholm informs The Star that his company will definitely move its factory to Hartland.

• Teachers in the New Richland high and grade schools have all been granted an increase in salaries for the ensuing year ranging from \$200 to \$400.

• Orville Becker, who has been conducting a radio repair shop in the rear part of Tyrholm's furniture store, has become imbued with a desire to enter the television field. A job in that line suddenly developed in Minneapolis and he made a quick decision.

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Track teams 3rd in home invitational

Russell, Fjeldkamp win events

The Waseca High School track and field teams hosted an invitational last Thursday at the WHS facility. Both squads finished third.

Fairmont won the boys' division with 181.33 points. St. Peter had 138.33, Waseca 91.81, Sibley East 87.5 and New Ulm 50.

Damarius Russell competed in only one event but he made a good one, winning the 100-meter dash in 11.55 seconds. Isaac Feldkamp took the Bluejays' other first, clocking 10:36.57 to win the 3200. Toby Jeske was second in the triple jump at 37 feet, 1.5 inches.

Other places for the boys: Ethan Stenzel, third, shot put, 44-1; Tristan Godwin, third, pole vault, 9-6; William Mansfield, third, long jump, 17-5; 4x100 relay, third, 48.05 (Jonah Worke, Bennett Ludwig, Jett Rohl, Cash Lynch); 4x800 relay, third, 9:33.57 (Liam Biddle, Feldkamp, Colton Schroedeer, Wyatt Hager); Godwin, fourth, 1600, 5:16.1; Hager, fourth, high jump, 5-2 and fifth, discus, 122-2;

Worke, fourth, long jump, 17-2; 4x200 relay, fourth, 1:40.13 (Brady Tloutan, Mansfield, Carson Ohnstad, Rohl); Tloutan, fifth, 400, 55.82; Tovin Grannis, fifth, 300 intermediate hurdles, 48.24 and fifth, long jump, 17-0; Owen Rupe, sixth, high jump, 5-0.

Girls' team standings: St. Peter 165.75, Fairmont 125, Waseca 110.75, Sibley East 89, New Ulm 61.5.

Brooklyn Flatau led the Jays, winning the 100 high hurdles in 16.22, taking second in the 300 hurdles in 54.04, and third in the long jump at 15-5. Kalea Sortori also had a good day, taking first in the shot put at 34 feet and third in the discus at 81-10. Stella Omvedt clocked 5:46.52 while winning the 1600.

Callie Dufault was second in the 1600 in 5:49.8 and third in the 800 in 2:38.88.

The Bluejays were second in the 4x100 relay with Sarah Haley, Gabriela Lopez, Camila Marquez and Bella Wikan, who chocked 55.04.



RACE FACES — At left, Bella Wikan hands off the baton to Evie O'Brien during the 4x200-meter relay last week on the Waseca High School track. At right, the Bluejays' Gaby Lopez runs the anchor leg in the 4x200. The relay team finished second and both Waseca squads took third.

Sierra Krause, Haley, Evelyn O'Brien and Lopez combined for second in the 4x200 in 1:56.84. Others: O'Brien, fourth, 800,

2:39.2; Maren Schimming, fourth, 3200, 12:54.26; Nevaeh Sampson, fourth, discus, 80-2; Camila Marquez, fourth, high jump, 4-6;



Vivian Mader, fifth, 300 hurdles, 55.95; Haley, fifth, high jump, 4-4; Marquez, fifth, triple jump, 29-1.5. The Bluejays compete Friday in at

Plainview-Elgin-Millville and Tuesday at St. Charles. Both meets start at 4:30.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Tennis boys suffer first loss

No. 10 Bluejays 8-1 after falling 5-2 to No. 3 Lourdes

The Waseca High School boys' tennis team finally ran into an opponent it could not defeat.

Perennial power Rochester Lourdes, rated No. 3 in the state, topped the 10th-rated Jays 5-2 in Rochester Tuesday. It was Waseca's first loss of the season.

The Bluejays took one singles match, No. 3, where freshman Otto Schoenrock rallied to win 4-6, 7-6 (7), 10-6. The No. 3 doubles team of Lucas McQuery and Brayden Hoof won in straight sets, 7-5, 7-5.

Tyler Jellum, Otto Schoenrock and Armaan Bhatti lost straight-set singles matches. Dominic Grunzke and Tanner Hanson were at No. 1 doubles, with Allen Kopetzki and Kean Collins fell 6-2, 4-6, 10-7 at No. 2. Waseca's junior varsity lost 5-0.

The Bluejays defeated visiting New Prague 5-2 Monday. Singles players Jellum, Henry Huttemier, Schoenrock and Bhatti won in straight sets, as did the No. 1 doubles team of Oliver Rohwer and Grunzke.

Hanson and Collins dropped a close decision at No. 2 doubles while Ahmed Farooq and Kopezki were beaten in straight sets at No. 3.

The junior varsity lost 7-1. "The boys are off to a terrific start to the season," said WHS coach Kyle Collins after the match. "We are very

"The boys are off to a terrific start to the season."
— WHS coach Kyle Collins

happy where we are at. We know there are going to be some much tougher matches coming up! Lourdes and Schaeffer will be good teams to play this week and both are teams in our section."

The Bluejays rolled 7-0 at Big South Conference foe Fairmont last Thursday.

Jellum gutted out a 6-2, 4-6, 12-10 victory at No. 1 singles, while Huttemier, Schoenrock and Bhatti prevailed in straight sets.

Controlling the doubles matches were Grunzke and Rohwer at No. 1, Hanson and Collins at No. 2, and Farooq and Kopetzki at No. 3.

The JV won 4-2.

The Bluejays, 8-1, will hosted Schaefer Academy Thursday. They play Tuesday, April 30 at New Ulm and Thursday, May 2 at home against Worthington.



HIGH FOREHAND — Waseca's Armaan Bhatti hits a forehand during a recent match for the Waseca High School boys' tennis team.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens



TOUGH LOSSES — The NRHEG softball team lost a pair of decisions in the past week, falling 7-0 to Bethlehem Academy and 6-5 in eight innings at Blooming Prairie. At left, Panther infielder Tayler Schmidt fires across the diamond. At right, Isabel Stadheim slides safely into second for a stolen base.

Photos by Judy Tweeten



After falling 7-0 to BA, Panthers nipped at BP

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The NRHEG High School softball team ran into a red-hot pitcher last Thursday and lost 7-0 to Bethlehem Academy at Legion Field.

After a scoreless first two innings, the Cardinals put five runs on the board in the third and add two in the fourth, finishing with 14 hits and one error.

The Panthers had one hit, a double by Preslie Nielsen. NRHEG struck out 14 times and did not draw a walk. The Panthers played errorless defense.

Faith Nielsen pitched all seven innings for the Panthers, allowing seven earned runs while striking out seven and walking one.

"Bethlehem Academy is an all-around good team," said NRHEG coach Kayley Camerer. "They're a strong defensive team with a good pitcher in the circle, and they were able to make solid contact with the ball and put it into

the gaps. As a team, we made some good plays in the field and Faith Nielsen pitched well in the circle with seven strikeouts. The girls worked hard and we are continuing to learn and grow together as a team."

It was much closer Monday as the Panthers fell 6-5 in eight innings at Blooming Prairie.

Erin Peterson went 2-for-4. Adding one hit each were Isabel Stadheim, Olivia Berg, Presley Nielsen, Faith Nielsen, Izley Boerner, Chloe Stork and Tayler Schmidt. Presley Nielsen drove in three runs. Berg and Peterson doubled. Stadheim stole three bases. The Panthers struck out two times and drew one walk.

Faith Nielsen allowed two earned runs on eight hits, with four strikeouts and four walks in 7.2 innings in the circle.

The Panthers committed to errors, the Blossoms three.

"It always is a great battle against Blooming



ALWAYS SMILING — Win or lose, it seems members of the NRHEG High School almost always are in a good mood.

Photo by Judy Tweeten

Prairie," said Camerer. "We came out ready to play and aggressive at the plate. We made some defensive errors and gave up some runs early in the game, but the girls responded well and continued to do their jobs. Faith Nielsen did a good job controlling the game in the circle and our defense made some good plays behind her. At the plate we are starting to see the ball better and passing the bat down to the next person. Preslie Nielsen was big for us at

the plate only getting one hit but she did a good job driving in runs off of solid hits to the deep parts of the field. Overall, I am proud of how we never let our mistakes snowball, focusing on controlling what we can control, and our aggressiveness at the plate."

NRHEG hosted Hayfield Thursday, April 25 and plays a weekend tournament at Caswell Park in Mankato.

NRHEG boys' track team 4th at invitational

NRHEG track and field senior Will Tuttle was not at 100 percent for Monday's Blooming Prairie Invitational.

It didn't much matter.

He dominated the hurdles anyway.

Tuttle, seeking a second straight state meet appearance, finished first in the 110-meter high hurdles with a time of 15.4 seconds and won the 300 intermediate hurdles in 42.49.

It led the Panthers to fourth place among eight teams. JWP won with 127 points. The Panthers had 97.

Finishing second for NRHEG were Harbor Cromwell, who cleared 10 feet in the pole vault, and th 4x100 relay team of Cromwell, Levin Kitzer, Tuttle and Jaylin Raab, who clocked 46.8.

Kitzer took third in the 110 hurdles in 16.83 and was sixth in the 300 hurdles in 48.9. Lavon Jewison was third in the high jump at 5-8. Charlie Fuller, Jacob Karl, Devon Nelton and Gavin Sletten clocked 9:54.59 for third in the 4x800.

Cromwell, Sletten, Wyatt Tuttle and Raab were fourth in the 4x100. Parker Bunn was fourth in the 300 hurdles and fifth in the 110 hurdles. Brenden Schmidt finished fourth in the pole vault at 8-0.

Other NRHEG places: Karl, fifth, 3200, 11:19.95; 4x200, fifth, 1:49.23 (Fuller, Gavin Lewison, Wyatt Tuttle, Colton Conroy); Raab, 100, 12.09; and Kitzer, 300 hurdles, 48.9.



THIS WAY HOME — The Bulldogs' Cole Blomstrom rounds third base on his way to scoring a run. Photo by Leann Kavitz

JWP sweeps northern foes

The JWP baseball team was not a congenial host to visitors from the north — at least where final scores are concerned.

The Bulldogs won handily against International Falls 10-0 last Friday and next day trounced Cromwell-Wright 15-6. Both games ended early because of the 10-run rule.

Ty Melchior was the winning pitcher Friday, striking out three in five innings.

Chase Gerdts was 2-for-4 with two RBIs, Caleb Quast 2-for-2 with a walk and a run scored. Freshman Seth Dahlberg registered his first varsity hit.

JWP totaled 19 hits Saturday. Nolan Morsching was 4-for-4, Melchior 4-for-4 with three stolen bases, Caleb Quast 3-for-4 with

two walks, Gerdts 2-for-5 with a home run and four RBIs.

Austin Carda was the winning pitcher, while senior Cole Gartner made his varsity pitching debut in relief.

The win followed a 15-6 loss to Kenyon-Wanamingo.

The Bulldogs scored six times in the bottom of the third inning to take a 6-3 lead, but KW came back with four in the sixth.

Gerdts started and took the pitching loss. Gavin Krause was 2-for-3, Caleb Quast 1-for-3 and Austin Quast 1-for-4 with two RBIs.

"It was a great game until the last couple of innings," said JWP coach Cory Jewison. "The boys played hard."

Bulldogs rally past Cleveland

They may have been down. But the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton softball team was far from out.

The Bulldogs' Lexie Dahlberg doubled in the bottom of the seventh inning, scoring Brielle Dessner with the game-winning run in a 7-6 decision over visiting Cleveland last Friday.

It wasn't JWP's only big late-inning hit.

Dessner hit a home run in the sixth to put the Bulldogs on top 5-4. The Clippers scored twice in the top of the seventh, setting the stage for JWP's last-inning heroics.

Dahlberg also hit a triple and Autumn Thissen doubled for the Bulldogs.

The previous day, the Bulldogs totaled nine hits but also committed eight fielding errors while falling 9-5 at Kenyon-Wanamingo.

After hosting Blue Earth Area Thursday, the Bulldogs play at Medford Friday, April 26 at 4:30. They host NRHEG Monday and Granada-Huntley/East Chain Tuesday, also at 4:30.



BIG BAT — JWP's Brielle Dessner hit a home run in the top of the sixth inning to give her team a 5-4 lead last Friday. Then she scored the winning run in the seventh. Photo by Leann Kavitz

Baseball Panthers garner big win at Waseca

The NRHEG High School baseball team statisticians had some difficulties during last Thursday's non-conference game at Waseca.

It's about the only thing that went wrong for the Panthers all day.

Freshman left-hander Jared Lee pitched into the fifth inning and Deven Parpart finished it off as the Panthers prevailed 13-3 at Tink

Larson field.

"We had great pitching from Jared Lee," said NRHEG coach Shawn Larson. "Waseca scored their runs while Jared was pitching, however all three of their runs were unearned. After Jared, Deven Parpart came in and closed out the game without allowing any more runs."

It was an outstanding perfor-

mance by the Panthers, who have no seniors on the roster.

"Along with our good defense, we had the bats going today," said Larson. "All in all it was a great performance, and when we play like this, you just want to get to the next game so we can keep playing."

The Panthers had a rough outing Monday as they committed six

fielding errors while falling 10-4 to Blooming Prairie at New Richland's Jeff and Carol Reese Field.

"Today was a tough day for us mentally," said Coach Larson.

The Panthers totaled six hits, two by Jace Ihrke and one apiece from Parpart, Lee, Alden Dobberstein and Carter Martens. Ihrke had two RBIs. Dobberstein doubled.

NRHEG track girls claim most important first

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The NRHEG girls' track and field team secured only one first place in Monday's Blooming Prairie Invitational.

It was the most important one.

The Panthers, bouyed by nine second-place showings, captured first place as a team.

"The girls did well winning the meet with zero first-place finishes," said Panthers coach Duey Ferber. "This was a nice meet to see where we stack up for the conference meet. We are finding out who to put where in the upcoming meets."

"The girls did well winning the meet with zero first-place finishes."
— NRHEG coach Duey Ferber

NRHEG won with 139.5 points, followed by JWP with 105, Mankato Loyola 103, Medford 93, Blooming Prairie 80, WEM 79, St. Clair 62.25 and USC/AC 24.

The Panthers were again led by senior Evelen Nydegger, who was second in the 100-meter high hurdles in 16.99 seconds, second in the

300 intermediate hurdkles in 52.56, and second in the 200 in 27.95. She went 32 feet, 5 inches for third in the triple jump.

The other second-place showings were by Quinn VanMaldeghem, 800, 2:47.35; Juliann Wobbrock, 3200, 13:27.17; Malonna Wilson, shot put, 33-6; Chloe Riewer, long

jump, 15-2; Anika Ladlie, high jump, 4-10; and the 4x800 relay team of Holly Bartness, Clara Buendorf, Ella Jeno and Wobbrock, 12:14.64.

Placing third were Gabby Schlaak, 100 hurdles, 18.31; Ellie Clark, 300 hurdles, 55.58; Wilson, discus, 102-4; VanMaldeghem, pole vault, 7-0; the 4x200 relay team of Sierra Misgen, Riewer, Buendorf and Clark,



Nydegger

1:57.95; and the 4x400 relay team of Kiera Lenort, Misgen, VanMaldeghem and Buendorf, 4:42.76.

Misgen, Riewer, Schlaak and Ladlie combined for fourth in the 4x100, clocking 56.12.

The other Panther places were by VanMaldeghem, 1600, 6:17.87; Kylie Olson, shot put, 29-4.5; and Schlaak, high jump, 4-4.

The Panthers' next action is Tuesday, April 30 at JWP. They host the NRHEG Invitational May 2. Both meets start at 4:30.

NRHEG boys take triangular

The NRHEG golf teams hosted Hayfield and Maple River at Riverview last week.

The NRHEG boys took first, led by Daxter Lee's medalist score of 48. Carter Schlaak shot 54, Shan Hanson 55, Braydon Rollag 56 and Jackson Chrz 63.

"We're starting to see much better scores from everyone, which is great news," said NRHEG coach Brad Root.

The girls, third as a team, were led by medalist Meela Budach's 48. It was her third straight medalist round.

Hallie Schultz shot 57, Elsie Schulez 71 and Alexis Olson 81.

Tough outing



Tuesday was a tough day for the WHS softball team, which lost a 10-run decision to visiting St. Peter. Clockwise from top left: catch Lauren Grant fields a bunt and prepares to fire the ball to first; Lily Owens hustles to first base; the Bluejays' Siri Kuhns is tagged out by the Saints' first base player; Waseca's Mckyla Hasselquist narrowly misses a catch in center field.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens





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ORDINANCE NO. 1115
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 154: ZONING

WHEREAS, Chapter 154 of the Waseca Code of Ordinances was amended through Ordinance No. 1113; and

WHEREAS, statutory authorization language must be added in order to comply with state and federal requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Waseca does hereby ordain that the amendments to Chapter 154 of the Waseca Code of Ordinances as shown herein are hereby approved and modified. The modification only amends the specified codes, the remainder of the Ordinance shall remain as previously adopted.

SECTION 1. Section § 154.034 of Chapter 154: FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT OVERLAY DISTRICT of the Waseca Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to add the underlined text and delete the ~~strikeout~~ text as shown below:

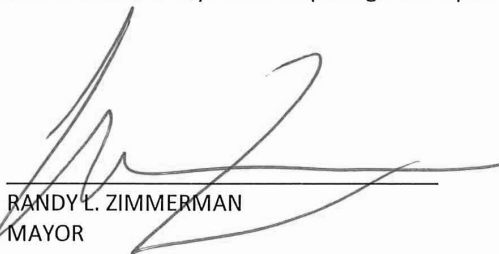
- § 154.034 ~~PURPOSE~~ **STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION AND PURPOSE.**
- (A) Statutory Authorization. This floodplain ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authorization and policies contained in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103F; Minnesota Rules, parts 6120.5000 – 6120.6200; the rules and regulations of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 44 CFR § 59 to 80; and the planning and zoning enabling legislation in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 462.
- (B) The floodplain management regulations are established to promote public health, safety, and general welfare, and to minimize losses caused by the occupancy of floodplain areas by uses vulnerable to floods or that are not designed to minimize flood damage.
- (C) This ordinance is established to maintain eligibility in the National Flood Insurance Program.
- (D) Permitted uses in the Floodplain Management Overlay District shall be those uses of land or structures listed as permitted uses in the underlying zoning use district, as listed elsewhere in this chapter.

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force 10 days after its passage and upon publication.

ADOPTED this 16th day of April 2024.

ATTEST:

JULIA HALL
CITY CLERK


RANDY L. ZIMMERMAN
MAYOR

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on April 26, 2024



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April 2024

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	1	2 Burger nite 5-7pm	3 6pm BAR Bingo	4 7pm HALL BINGO	5 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	6
7	8 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	9 Burger nite 5-7pm	10 6pm BAR Bingo	11 7pm HALL BINGO	12 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm GARY'S MASH. BURGERS serving at 5:30	13
14 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your HOST WASECA SHERIFF POSSE	15	16 Burger nite 5-7pm	17 6pm BAR Bingo	18 7pm HALL BINGO	19 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm	20
21	22	23 Burger nite 5-7pm	24 6pm BAR Bingo	25 7pm HALL BINGO	26 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	27
28 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your HOST Waseca High School FOOTBALL	29	30 Burger nite 5-7pm				

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LEGAL NOTICES

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

Estate of
AnneMarie Burgess,
Decedent
Court File No. 81-PR-24-273
NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEAR-
ING ON PETITION FOR FOR-
MAL ADJUDICATION OF
INTESTACY, DETERMINATION
OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT
OF PERSONAL REPRESENTA-
TIVE AND NOTICE TO CRED-
ITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is
given that on May 29, 2024, at 9
a.m., a hearing will be held in this
Court at via Zoom, 307 North Main
Street, Waseca, Minnesota, for the
adjudication of intestacy and deter-

mination of heirship of the Dece-
dent, and for the appointment of
Garrett Burgess, whose address is
2034 Sundance Lane, North Mank-
ato, MN, 56003 as Personal Repre-
sentative of the Estate of the
Decedent in an unsupervised ad-
ministration. 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 Representa-
tive will be appointed with full
power to administer the Estate, in-
cluding the power to collect all as-
sets, to pay all legal debts, claims,
taxes and expenses, to sell real and
personal property, and to do all nec-
essary acts for the Estate. See notice
of remote hearing.

Notice is also given that
(subject to Minnesota Statutes sec-
tion 524.3-801) all creditors having
claims against the Estate are re-
quired to present the claims to the
Personal Representative or to the

Court Administrator within four
months after the date of this Notice
or the claims will be barred.

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

Dated: 4/12/24
Shannon Asselin
Court Administrator

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

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

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.:81-PR-24-255
In Re: Estate of
Joyce E Reese,
Decedent
NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEAR-
ING
ON PETITION FOR FORMAL
PROBATE OF WILL AND AP-
POINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REAPRESENTATIVE IN UNSU-
PERVISED ADMINISTRATION
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PER-
SONS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby
given that on the 5th day of June,
2024, at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be

held in the above Court at Waseca,
Minnesota, for the formal probate of
an instrument purporting to be the
will of the above named decedent,
dated June 4, 2007, and for the ap-
pointment of Jeffrey A. Reese, whose
address is 17041 State Hwy 30, New
Richland, MN 56072, as Personal
Representative of the Estate of the
above named decedent in unsuper-
vised administration, and that any
objections thereto must be filed with
the Court. That, if proper and no ob-
jections are filed, a Personal Repre-
sentative will be appointed to
administer the Estate, to collect all
assets, to pay all legal debts, claims,
taxes and expenses, to sell real and
personal property, and to do all nec-
essary acts for the Estate. Upon
completion of the administration, the
representative shall file a final ac-
count for the allowance and shall dis-
tribute the estate to the persons
thereunto entitled as ordered by the

Court, and close the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL
CREDITORS having claims against
said Estate are required to present the
same to said Personal Representative
or to the Court Administrator within
four months after the date of this No-
tice or said claims will be barred.

Dated: 04/18/2024
/s/ Carol M Hanks
Judge of District Court
/s/ Shannon M. Asselin
Deputy Court Administrator

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P.A.
William L. Hoversten , #47478
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Published in the Waseca County
Pioneer on April 26 and May 2,
2024

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON
PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL TAX ABATEMENT**

Waseca County will conduct a public hearing pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 469.1812
to 469.1815 for the purpose of receiving oral and/or written comments for a proposed
Residential Tax Abatement (2024-15) for the County portion of property taxes for a new
residential structure to be built on property within the City of Waseca, as described as follows:
Lot Ten (10), Block Seven (7), Pondview of Waseca. The Parcel Identification number is
17.535.0570.

The public hearing will convene at approximately 9:30 A.M., Tuesday May 7, 2024 in the
Waseca County Board Room, 300 North State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

The County's abatement term cannot exceed 100% of the County's share of annual
taxes for up to three years. The total abatement of the County's share of taxes on this parcel
described above shall not exceed \$5088.36 in total.

Waseca County held a hearing on and approved the City of Waseca and Waseca County
Residential Tax Abatement Program on May 16, 2023.

Pertinent information is on file at Waseca County Planning & Zoning. Persons wishing to
make written comment may do so by mailing them to Waseca County, 300 North State Street,
Waseca MN 56093.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Friday, April 26, 2024.

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