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From left to right: Janet Possehl celebrates her birthday with daughters Stephanie Bonneur, Jennifer Rosenthal, and family friend Jennifer Bartelt at the Alexander House.

Alexander House hosts murder mystery

By MELANIE PILTINGSRUD
Staff Writer

With a flair for the original, brothers Mikhail Rostislavovich and Dwight Tostenson opened up their home, the Alexander House of Waseca, on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 15 and 16 for a murder mystery fundraiser that already has people speculating about a repeat performance sometime in the future.

Rostislavovich, who wrote the scenario and scripts with the help of Deb Bently and Christy Easton, cap-

italized on the scandal of the (previous) century to raise money for the Waseca Exchange Club's youth scholarships. His inspiration came partly from the age of the house, which was built in 1916, and partly from his own Russian family background.

The scenario of the mystery was set in in St. Petersburg, Russia, where the last Emperor of Russia, Tsar Nicholas II, and his wife, Grand

Mystery continued on 9



Nathanael Andrs holds a pipe prop while debating Tom Sexton in their respective roles in the Alexander House Murder Mystery. Pioneer photos by Melanie Piltingsrud

Santa Anonymous Program receiving applications

The Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center (WANSC) is now taking applications for the Santa Anonymous Program. This annual event provides gifts, toys or clothes to Waseca families in need. Parents of newborn children through grade 12 who are income eligible, and who are residents of Waseca County may apply.

Additional details can be found on Facebook, or by stopping at the WANSC building at 203 Third Avenue Northwest in Waseca to make an appointment or inquire about eligibility requirements. Applications can also be picked up at the County Health building, 1000 West Elm, or at the Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) office, 108 Tenth Avenue Southeast, in Waseca. Further information is also available by calling Cindy Kolander, WANSC Executive Director at 507-833-4119.

Waseca Public Library Mother-Daughter book club Thursday, Nov. 21

The Waseca Public Library will host a Mother-Daughter book club at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21. Stop by to pick up this month's book, "Invisible" by Christina Diaz Gonzalez. This is for girls in grades 3-6.

Waseca Public Library Thursday game sessions Oct. 31- Nov. 21

The Waseca Public Library will host a Lego, puzzle, mental challenges and snack session at 3:30 p.m. every Thursday from Oct. 31- Nov. 21. This after school club will be devising plans, detecting problems, improvising alternate routes and building models. Recommended ages 7-12.

Melissa Schultz at New Richland Liquor Friday, Nov. 22

Musician Melissa Schultz will be performing from 6 to 9 p.m. at the New Richland Liquor Company Friday, Nov. 22. Melissa Schulz is a local Waseca musician. She plays keyboard with drum tracks and performs pop, rock, and country covers from the 50s to today's hits.

A word from The Word

Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security..

Jeremiah 33:6

State of the County



Speakers and moderators for the "State of the County" event were, from left, Brian Harguth, Randy Zimmerman, Brad Milbrath, Jay Dulas, DeAnn Malterer, Stacy Schroeder, Michael Johnson, Sarah Berry, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Chris Hinton, Jamie Beckstrand, Dwight Tostenson and Ann Fitch. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

State of the County public address

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

About 50 people attended a "State of the County" session sponsored by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce (WACC) political committee at the Waseca Junior Senior High School performing arts center the evening of Tuesday, Nov.12.

Representing county leadership for the evening were commissioners Brian Harguth, Dee Malterer and Brad Milbrath; county administrator Michael Johnson; county sheriff Jay Dulas; public health department head Sarah Berry; and veteran services leader Chris Hinton.

After an introduction by board of commissioners chair Harguth, each of the non-elected

leaders were given a few minutes to summarize the services and initiatives underway in their departments.

Harguth's introduction mentioned the county has a population of about 19,000 people and encompasses 433 square miles of land along with nearly 10 square miles of lakes. It includes the incorporated communities of Janesville, New Richland, Waterville and Waseca, along with a portion of the town of Elysian. County government, Harguth said, is charged with looking out for the "health, safety, and general welfare" of those residents.

Sheriff Dulas reported that, in 2023, the county dispatch—which answers calls made not only to the sheriff's office, but also, often, to city police departments—handled about 19,000

calls for service, including nearly 5,700 9-1-1 calls. He stated the department is experiencing similar numbers this year.

He stated his agency gladly collaborates with health and safety agencies from local to state to federal, and expressed his appreciation for the robust public support provided by area residents, finishing with the statement, "The Waseca County Sheriff's office will continue to work with all of you to help keep Waseca County a great place to live, work, raise a family, and relax."

Public health director Sarah Berry said her department "provides services where gaps exist" to "serve our residents throughout the life cycle, starting from before birth to helping the elderly stay in their homes, if desired."

She mentioned that one department priority is delivering mental health services, since mental illness has been recognized as a rapidly growing problem across the nation.

Hinton informed the crowd his office stands ready to assist any of the estimated 1,100 veterans living within the county as well as, in some cases, their surviving spouses. He stated that, in recent years, benefits received by county veterans have brought about \$10 million in federal VA resources into the county, chiefly in the form of health care.

"We're here for you," Hinton stated. "Please send your veterans to us."

County continued on 2

Happy Retirement Chief Vought



Waseca Police chief Penny Vought has retired after 40 years with the Waseca police department. Vought joined the force in 1984, became a detective in 1999, was promoted to captain in 2006 and chief in 2010. She was named the Waseca Exchange Club's "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" this past summer.



During a celebration the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 12, decorated with a banner which claimed "It's not a party until the police show up," Vought was presented with a custom carved and handpainted replica of her police badge. Made by Waseca Captain Kris Markeson, the badge was surrounded by more than 1,200 shiny pennies.



Compostings

by Al Batt

Virgil Thofson recieves vote for President

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

Are you coming to our place for Thanksgiving?

I'm not sure.

Well, let me know as soon as you can. I want to know how thankful I should be.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Some friends have headed south to a place where they hope the snow will be unable to find them.

I talked to people who were returning to their home in Hawaii. I made a weak wisecrack and received a low ha in return.

I try not to be dumber than necessary and rarely get low in the mind, but for a vertically enhanced individual, I have my shortcomings. I don't like chocolate, coffee or watching NFL games, but I've put my foot down and stopped acting like a flamingo.

HEARD HERE AND THERE

I was trying to be better than I was yesterday. It was a good day to have a good day, so I stopped at the local gas station to buy a pizza. It was there that I bumped into Tim Sibillrud, a former schoolmate. He told me he was leaving to go to his home in Florida. I said he shouldn't go to Florida because they have too much bad weather. Tim replied, "Al, you've lived in Minnesota too long," and, good-bye, cold world, he left for the Sunshine State.

Virgil Thofson, as retired as a farmer ever becomes (once a farmer, always a farmer), received a write-in vote for president of the United States. Virgil said he would have paid off the national debt if he had been elected. I asked him if he'd have had to take out a personal loan to do it. We'll circle back around to that.

I visited a fellow in his assisted living residence, interrupting his horse opera (an old Clint Eastwood cowboy movie on TV). He gave me a Werther's. Maybe it was because it was his 68th birthday. I gave him the Werther's back as his birthday present.

"Just ten more years and I'll be old enough to be president of this country," he said with a smile.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

"Why are chickens so lovable?" Just buc bucause.

There is a coin shortage in this country. We lack common cents.

Casper the Friendly Ghost had a to-boo list.

"How do you cut a sea in half?" With a seesaw.

A golf ball is still a golf ball no matter where you putt it.

I'VE LEARNED

I was visited by a man who came from the future. He came from next Thursday, so he was unable to give me much useful information.

A TV is a bright, shiny object. Less than 1% of all X users post 80% of the misinformation. Shame on them.

When I had my first colonoscopy years ago, my wife hoped it'd locate my head.

Maybe a Sasquatch, Bigfoot, Yeti and Abominable Snowman are invisible.

I'm a member of the Clean Plate Club because there are hippos who are hungry, hungry.

An ice cream cone is the ultimate in biodegradable food containers.

Why was I eating a dill pickle with mustard in a hot dog bun over the sink? It was because I'm not a good cook.

I don't like looking in the shopping carts of others. It's too much like snooping in someone's medicine cabinet.

NATURE NOTES

In John James Audubon's day, the northern cardinal was considered a southern bird and rarely seen as far north as Philadelphia. It's the northern cardinal because it's the most northerly representative of its genus, *Cardinalis*. The first Minnesota record was in Minneapolis in the fall of 1875. Many of the first arrivals were lone males seen in southern Minnesota. Redbirds appeared in Sherburne County (1887), Kandiyohi County (1894), Fillmore County (1898) and Martin County (1913). The state's first confirmed nesting was a nest with eggs found in Steele County in 1925. Nesting was later documented in Hennepin County in 1927 and Goodhue County in 1930.

The Virginia opossum is the only marsupial in North America and has an average litter size between six and 20 babies (called joeys) that weigh less than a penny at birth. The joeys are carried and nursed in a pouch after birth like kangaroos and koalas. Newborn opossums remain attached to their mother's nipples for 60 to 70 days before leaving the pouch, but continue to cling to their mother's fur. Reaching mouse-size, they ride on their mother's back. They're approximately four months old when they become independent.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"One kind word can warm three winter months."—Japanese Proverb.

A first-timer's experience with lutefisk

Before going to the Lutefisk dinner at North Waseca Lutheran Church this past Sunday, I had never tasted Lutefisk.

I knew what it is, having spoken with the North Waseca Lutheran crew last year during their annual "Lefse drive-through," but this on-line description from a lifelong Norwegian does a better job of describing it than I can: "It's cod fish that's been hung on racks and dried in the open air until it resembles fish jerky. Then, you reconstitute the cod in lye to gelatinize it. And, tiny detail—it's also poisonous. To make it edible again, it must be rinsed and soaked in water (that you constantly change) for four to six days" (arm-chairsommelier.com).

Having regrettably been unable to attend the Lutefisk dinner in 2023, I had made a personal commitment to be there in 2024.

I made a number of stops as I traveled toward North Waseca Lutheran that afternoon. I told my husband of my destination. His response: "I can expect a call from the hospital, then?"

I stopped by Lakeshore Rehabilitation Center to visit my mother-in-law and her dinner-time table mates. My mother-in-law, 91 and a lifelong suburbanite, asked, "What's that?" and supplied no further comment.

Jeannette, in her nineties and a sweet, kind woman, responded only by holding her nose. Joan, 84, said she had tasted it once and intends never to eat it again.

Arriving at the church early, I couldn't help noticing an unfamiliar but highly distinctive scent in the air: I thought immediately of Jeannette



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

and her held nose. I was informed I was not due to be seated for another half hour or longer, but was invited to speak with a mother and her three daughters; the girls were tasting lutefisk for the first time. I won't share their observations here, since they appear in the news piece I've written about the event, but let me say they seemed to be struggling to remain kind. Permit me to note, none of their plates were empty of lutefisk.

My strongest acquaintance with the...uh...distinctive smell came when I slipped downstairs to photograph some of the workers. Cooks Duane Johnson and Jim Hanson lifted the cover off the cooker full of fish. Steam issued forth and the odor grew stronger. I did not reflexively plug my nose because I needed my hands to operate my camera; it may be my eyes watered a bit.

But no one there apologized for the smell. In fact, they delighted in mentioning it, as though it provided evidence of their Norwegian hardness.

When my turn came to eat, I found an unoccupied space next to four experienced diners. Their comments and observations are also included in the news piece, so I will just say we had a very pleasant conversation surrounding the food and each person's

history with it.

Noting they had all survived despite their past experiences with lutefisk, I took a cautious helping. The small mound was as white and shiny as the "Corel" brand plate it sat upon. Except for the gravy and the size of the helping, it could have easily been confused with my mashed potatoes.

My first bite was a surprise. Given the powerful...uh...aromatic ambiance, the fish had a surprisingly bland taste. No burning tongue, no sharp hint of lye. It was fish, albeit "reconstituted" fish with a slippery feel on the tongue which matched its shiny appearance on the plate.

My fellow diners encouraged me to try both of the sauces: one was simply melted butter, the other was a thick, gravy-like mixture. My impression? Given the surprisingly bland flavor of the fish, the sauces provided (dare I say it?) a justification for eating it.

My, let's call it "indifference" to the flavor was hailed as a success by my tablemates: at least I hadn't spit it back on my plate and fled the premises.

Furthermore, the four of them were bantering back and forth the whole time about their personal relationships to the white fish. Three of

the four gradually admitted they love coming to "lutefisk" dinners for the other traditional elements of the meal: the meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy, and, perhaps most importantly, the lefse and desserts.

They got no disagreement from me. I hesitate to admit how many of the meatballs I enjoyed, and the potatoes had been mashed to a degree of perfection I only occasionally achieve. The brown sugar offered with the lefse had been made almost fluffy; my guess it had been mixed with a certain amount of butter. The homemade cookies and desserts were as appealing to the eye when they arrived as they were appealing to the tongue when tasted.

Equally important was the overall mood of camaraderie. Though they were on the third serving shift of the evening (seatings had also been offered at 4 and 5 p.m.) the volunteer church members were smiling, gracious, and good-humored.

As I drove away after the meal, I realized I had been smiling for roughly four hours. The ribs and jokes about "a call from the hospital" had only heightened my anticipation. The energy and enthusiasm of the folks volunteering at North Waseca Lutheran had been uplifting and delightful. The food—well, most of it anyway—had been an utter delight.

Let's just say that, when you find me back at the lutefisk dinner next year, it won't be because I had missed it the year before and was smitten with curiosity. It will be because the event fed both my stomach and my spirit...and left me with delightful stories to tell of having somehow survived.

A girls only weekend at the University

I won't start this off by saying I survived another week because that's lame and cliché and I did that last week. Trust, this week's column won't be as depressing and whiny as the last.

It is almost a week to go until Thanksgiving and I am counting down the days. Just one more weekend until I can have a couple of days off, spend some quality time with the fam, and not have to worry about anything, at least temporarily.

I did get to spend some quality time with part of my family this past weekend. My mother, sister, grandmother, and godmother came to the Cities to visit me and attend the U of M's marching band concert. We did this trip last year and decided it was so incredibly fun we had to do it again.

They came on Friday night, even though the concert wasn't until Saturday. I took them to the old restaurant and bar Stub and Herb's for dinner, which was really funny to me as it is a place I've frequented with friends to spend time and enjoy their company after work. It was a fasci-



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

nating contrast to bring my family there, a place my grandma remembered.

On Saturday, we traveled to the Union Depot in St. Paul to go to a little marketplace I like; then we went to a brewery for another market. It was a day of shopping, which led me to be glad my feelings have changed since back when I was a child and hated every second of it. I would whine and complain and cry and hate being in a clothing store when my mom or sister would drag me along. It simply wasn't my thing. You have to stand around, sifting through all the stuff that doesn't look good just to see if there's anything that you might remotely like. And then you

have to check the price and see whether it's worth buying before having to work up the energy to find a fitting room to try it on.

In my earliest childhood shopping, I would see something I liked and want to buy it, only to get it home and discover it didn't look as good as I thought it would. After a few times of that, I would be sent to the fitting rooms before being allowed to take anything home. Plus growing body and whatnot. If I was shown a piece of clothing I thought I wouldn't like, my mom would just tell me, "You never know unless you try it on," because sometimes it looks different while on or being worn. While I have come to see the wisdom of her per-

spective since, I never believed her at the time.

It eventually reached a point where my mom, sister, grandmother, whoever, would go to the store and just get me things they thought I would like. It turned out they could shop for me with much more success than I could shop for myself. I liked most everything they got me and was always thoroughly impressed.

Thankfully, I am just fine with clothes shopping now. Every once in a while I will experience a craving to get something new and go scour for a good find or something I will obsess over and wear as much as possible for the next week or so. My most recent obsession is a maroon crewneck sweatshirt my mom bought me this past weekend. It's wonderfully comfy and looks cute worn with a white turtleneck, perfect for this snow that is supposed to arrive.

My Determination: "Uh, I'm sorry, I just hallucinated." —Elle Woods, Legally Blonde

County

from Page 1

County administrator Johnson highlighted the county's achievement of limiting its tax levy increases to only about six percent over the past five years—a time during which the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis reports about 18 percent inflation.

He stated, "Fiscal responsibility is not a policy, it's a guiding principle." He mentioned recent broadband internet grants awarded to the county will "literally flip" the 95 percent of the unincorporated portions of the county which were "unserved or underserved" to 95 percent having state-of-the-art digital access.

He complimented county commissioners saying, of all the boards he has worked with or become knowledgeable about, Waseca County's are "the most engaged, thoughtful, and active I've seen."

He pointed out that, in addition to the 24 regularly scheduled twice-monthly meetings on their official schedules, board members have attended a total of well over 100 other gatherings meeting not only with area business, government, and special interest groups, but also at the regional, state, and even occasionally federal level.

After the individual addresses were completed, panel members responded to questions supplied by both the WACC committee and members of the audience.

Among the topics raised was the status of the Waseca County Jail. The current structure does not meet state Department of Corrections (DOC) guidelines and was at risk of being abruptly closed after an inspection which took place earlier this year. While addressing that possibility, county leaders weighed the costs and benefits of building a new facility that would satisfy DOC requirements against those of severely limiting local lockup facilities and instead housing inmates at out-of-county jails.

With costs for various projects and structures meant to resolve the problems ranging from \$26 million to \$53 million, Johnson said the question of whether to build a new jail or justice center leads to considerable controversy "both fiscally and philosophically."

He stated conversations surrounding the topic would be "rekindled within this coming month."

When asked what is being done to promote "ag tourism" in the region, commissioners responded they are working with the organization "Greenseam," out of Mankato, which promotes southern Minnesota worldwide as an area with tremendous opportunities for agriculture-related business and production.

Commissioner Dee Malterer also commented the county does what it can to "support local people who are already doing it," meaning who have found ways to bring agriculture and ag production into the public eye. She mentioned Pleasant Creek Pizza Farm, Cedar Creek Brewing, farmers markets in area communities, and others.

Asked about trees apparently dying on Loon Lake Island in Waseca, commissioner Milbrath reported having spoken with county facilities management director Brian Tomford and having contacted the area office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). He mentioned work is underway with the aim of selecting and installing devices meant to keep cormorants, whose droppings are particularly acidic, from nesting in the trees again next year.

Asked what they believe to be some of Waseca County's greatest strengths, representatives cited "great opportunities for growth" including finding ways to repurpose already existing buildings; strong access to transportation with major highway systems; being in proximity to larger communities; excellent recreational facilities including city and county parks, as well as Clear Lake which is greatly improved because of weed harvesting activities; great schools; low crime; and "a lot of people who work very hard, are engaged in their communities, and love where they live."

county paper. The reply to me was the cost of notices and letters. They certainly give enough notifications of proposed hog confinements by mail within a certain mile radius of projects. Concerned for the future of our country public properties and sportsmen.

Dave (Red) Barbknecht

Dear Editor,
Attention sportsmen, hunters and wildlife enthusiasts

The Waseca County Commissioners are selling tracts of county parks and woodlands (to put them back on the tax rolls is what their reply to me was.) I am concerned about this for future wildlife and



hunting activities. Once the property is sold, chances are very few accesses will be granted.



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

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St. Olaf Lake Christmas Festival Craft Show
Saturday, Nov. 23
The St. Olaf Lake Christmas Festival will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in a heated area on Saturday, Nov. 23 at 9633 SW 128 Street, New Richland. Four vendors will be selling crafts, cookies and other goodies, hot chocolate, cider and coffee.

The Jazz at Indian Island Winery Saturday, Nov. 23
The Indian Island Winery near Janesville will host The Jazz 10 at 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 23. The group plays classic and modern jazz for dancing.

Melissa Schultz at Papa Olie's in Waldorf Sunday, Nov. 24
Local musician Melissa Schultz will perform from 7 to 10 p.m. at Papa Olie's in Waldorf Sunday, Nov. 24. She plays keyboard with drum tracks and performs pop, rock, and country covers from the 50s to today's hits.

The Mill Event Center will have IV Play Wednesday, Nov. 27
The Mill Event Center in Waseca will host the band IV Play from 9:15 to 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 27. IV Play is a popular cover band playing all kinds of hits, both new and old.

Farmamerica Presidential Turkey Trot Friday, Nov. 29 at 10 a.m. till noon
Run off those Thanksgiving calories with the pardoned presidential turkeys 5k. Join Farmamerica for a Turkey Trot around our historic grounds starting at 10 AM and meet the newest members of our farm family straight off the truck from Washington D.C. Cost is \$20 per walker or runner, under 4 is free. A t-shirt.

Boxcar Bar Santa Anonymous Auction Saturday, Nov. 30
The Boxcar Bar in Waseca will host a Santa Anonymous Auction at 5 p.m. on Saturday, November 30. Proceeds go to families in Waseca County. Anyone with questions is invited to call 507-835-5136 and speak to Todd Schmidt or Tae Born. Donations to be auctioned off can be dropped off at the Boxcar Bar.

Waseca Public Library November Boundary Waters exhibit
The Waseca Public Library will host a Boundary Waters exhibit for the entire month of November. Learn about the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and its wildlife. This feature will have book recommendations, a wood engraved map and more. This is geared for all ages.

Waseca Chorale Concert 4 p.m. Dec. 1 at Sacred Heart Church, Waseca
Waseca Chorale's holiday concert will be at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1 at Sacred Heart Church in Waseca. Musical numbers will be a combination of secular and religious, current and classic. Admission cost is \$10; children ages 6 to 12 are \$5. There is no charge for children 5 and younger.



The Waseca Area Foundation celebrated their 35th Anniversary earlier this month during their annual fall grand awards program. Above from left: Bruce Boyce, WAF Board Member Penny Vought, Ed Frederick, Amy Potter, Ann Fitch, WAF Board Member Molly Erdman, Janesville Area Foundation President Sam Steffel.

WAF celebrates 35 years, holds annual fall awards program

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca Area Foundation/EF Johnson Foundation held its thirty-fifth annual fall grant awards program at the Armstrong Center in Waseca the afternoon of Thursday, Nov. 7.

According to information published in the evening's program, what started as a "\$6,000 pipe dream" in the 80s with a first grant of \$600 has since allowed the organization to distribute well over \$12.5 million—more than \$350,000 of that in 2022 alone.

Past foundation board chair David Oraskovich welcomed everyone on Thursday and gave a special recognition to Amy Potter, the organization's executive director.

During the main program, representatives from organizations which received funds in 2025 came up on stage to be acknowledged. Among those organizations were:

Riverland Austin and South-Central Colleges from both Mankato and Faribault received scholarships for non-traditional students in the amount of \$10,000 from the EF Johnson Foundation.

Seniors graduating from Waseca High School received \$20,000 in scholarships from the EF Johnson Foundation.

Courage Retreat received \$2162 from Cally Jo Children's Fund; accepting the award was WJSHS principal Dr. Jason Miller. The Waseca Jr Sr High School received \$500 for a Color Printer, Heat Press and Supplies from EF Johnson Foundation; accepting the award was Jen Popp and Donna Hodgkins. Therapeutic Movement Chairs for the high school received \$2000 from EF Johnson Foundation; accepting the award was Shealyn Salgado.

Waseca Alternative Learning Center received \$300 from EF Johnson Foundation for a Science Museum Field Trip; accepting the award was Emily Cremeans.

Waseca Community Ed received \$600 for their Swim Training Platform. \$3000 for their Summer Youth Theater and \$10,000 for Youth Development Grants from EF Johnson Foundation; accepting the award was

Awards continued on 8

Lindsey Kopetzki and the SDSU Concert Choir Fall Tour 2024

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The South Dakota State University Concert Choir under the direction of Dr. Laura Diddle made Waseca's Sacred Heart Church the second venue on the group's fall tour, performing the evening of Monday, Oct. 28. Also part of the tour were three other community concert stops and six high schools.

Dr. Laura Diddle is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at SDSU where she conducts the Concert Choir, Madrigal Singers and the women's group Choralia. She revealed "About 40 percent of our choir are music majors, the other 60 percent just love singing." She was optimistic about the next day's scheduled visit to Waseca High School and said, "We are also using this tour to hopefully recruit some students, or at least put the idea in their head to start thinking about college and attending SDSU. Diddle added, "I hope to get other kids singing. Even if they don't go to SDSU, I just want them to sing."

Waseca High School 2023 graduate Lindsey Kopetzki is a member of the SDSU choir and was one of 17 soloists. Kopetzki was very active in the Blue Jay music scene prior to graduating:

She participated in marching band, band, jazz band, choir, show choir, choir sextets, and school musicals. A drum major for two years, she won "Outstanding Drum Major" awards at various competitions. She was accepted into the Minnesota Music Educators Association All State Choir her senior year. She also played the lead role in "Mama Mia" when it was performed by the Waseca drama department.

Kopetzki is currently a sophomore at SDSU. She is pursuing majors in both political science and English, and intends to attend law school when she finishes her degrees. She says she chose SDSU in part because of its state-of-the-art facilities and because the school allows her to perform with both band and choir; she has been awarded scholarships for both.

Of her membership with the choir, she said, "'I love the choir and my director Dr. Laura Diddle. As a freshman my audition earned a spot as a soprano in the Concert Choir, which is the college's top vocal group. To be accepted to this group students need to be able to not only sing well, but also read music, sight-sing, and listen within the ensemble to blend and emote as one voice."

In 2019 the SDSU choir per-



From left: Noah Beck from Rushmore Music Camp, Deb Wantoch Yess and Lindsey Kopetzki, Waseca local and SDSU Concert Choir member performed at Sacred Heart Church Monday, Oct. 28.

formed at St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, and at the Basilica of St. Francesco d'Assisi during their tour of Italy. Last year they went to both Sweden and Norway. For the fall tour 2024, which featured 15 songs in the performance repertoire, the first stop Sunday, Oct. 27, was St. Joseph's Cathedral in Sioux Falls, SD. Monday, Oct. 28, was Sacred Heart Church in Waseca. On

Tuesday, Oct. 29, the group was at Augustana Lutheran Church in St. Paul; that concert included a brief combined performance with Kantorei, an a cappella chamber choir based in the Twin Cities. The final performance of the tour was at the Larson Memorial Concert Hall Oscar Larson Performing Arts Center in Brookings, SD, on Friday, Nov. 1.

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Council talks final 2025 levy

JANESVILLE JOURNAL - During the Janesville City Council's second meeting for the month on Oct. 28, the city budget and determining the final 2025 levy were on the agenda. Public Works Manager Joe Ziemke discussed the sanitary and storm sewer budgets with the council. He stated the sanitary fund is in pretty good shape for next year, but noted a rate increase would be useful to ensure the city has enough money for projects "down the pipeline," including potential road projects for 2027 and 2029.

"We are recommending rate increases for 2025 and '26," he said.

Currently, the base rate for water is about \$32.50 with sewer rates at about \$30.

Ziemke suggested increasing rates to about 50 cents on the base cost and 75 cents for usage in 2025, with another 75-cent increase to the base in 2026. Even with these increases, he told council members, Janesville would still have the second-lowest rates in the region.

Summarizing expenses, Ziemke said city costs for the sanitary sewer are "pretty much unchanged," although he expects more will be spent on salaries than in the past because of plans to hire a third full-time employee; he also anticipates costs for improvement projects at the city's main lift station. "We're looking at probably getting a new pump to replace the last old pump we have," he explained. "We also have valves needing to be replaced."

Council member Ivan Maas shared concerns about the city's ability to handle all future water and sewer demands. "We have two housing developments slated to get off the ground, and we're talking about a community center. I know Waseca County is pushing for commercial development in our area. But there's a concern about having enough capacity on the system we have."

Ziemke assured even up to 40 additional residential homes could be managed by the system, but expressed doubts about a "big commercial and industrial load."

"The type of industry makes a big difference," he added.

Storm sewer revenues are anticipated to remain level, partly because it's a newer fund, and the city staff members projected rates 12 years out, so no changes needed to be made. "If there's a development, that could increase it," Ziemke pointed out.

Expenses include a scheduled bond on the budget and a local ditch (Judicial Ditch 11) that will need maintenance and repairs. "We've been getting nailed pretty good on that," Ziemke said. "It's cost us \$45,000 a year lately. But the preliminary numbers are coming back okay."

In other matters, the council opened two bids for maintenance at the city cemetery. One was from M&K Enterprises (Marty Erdman) for \$12,000, with the other from a new bidder, Kruse Lawn Mowing

Council continued on 8

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OBITUARIES

Phillip Keeley

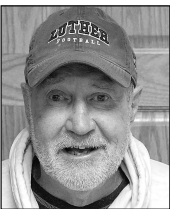
PHILLIP JOHN KEELEY, age 85, lifelong resident of Waseca, died on November 19, 2024, at his home with his family by his side.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 1:30 PM on Monday, November 25, 2024, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca. Interment will be at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca. Visitation will begin at 11:30 AM and continue until the time of the service at church.

DSOFuneral.com



Phillip Keeley



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



Fall season is nothing short of spectacular

Fall at our cabin on Lake Tonka in Waterville is nothing short of spectacular. When I take the time, there is always something going on in nature to see and enjoy, but somehow fall seems like the best time. For one thing, human activity slows down a bit, and nature seems to come more closely into perspective. My legs don't work so well anymore for hiking or hunting, so I enjoy countless hours just sitting on the deck observing.

Seagulls of all sizes begin appearing on the lake. For three years now, "Harry" has appeared and taken up residence on the northeast corner of the canvas on the boat lift. Harry is a large, brilliant-white seagull who stays for about two weeks each time. The migrating swallows also enjoy the canvas on the boat lift. Some days there will be hundreds of them sitting there, with many more gliding over the water gathering a meal of insects. We had such an abnormally warm October, there were plenty of insects for the swallows to eat; nourishment for their long journey to their destination in the south.

The coots begin rafting on the lake in huge numbers. Coots, or mud hens, are black with a white beak; they have huge, green, webbed feet. These ducks are not great flyers and generally migrate at night. They swim together in huge numbers, making them a target for eagles who dive-bomb the group hoping for a tasty duck dinner. I occasionally observe eagles perched on our trees along the shoreline planning an attack.

I observed a first this fall. An eagle flew along the shoreline carrying a small northern pike. I've seen eagles carrying fish in their talons, but never a northern pike. There were fishermen on the lake daily this fall. I have to think someone must have caught and released the one-and-a-half pound pike which then didn't survive. The fish floating on the surface was enough of a "catch" for the eagle, though; we know it didn't go to waste.

I was up one morning at daybreak and made my way to the coffee pot to begin brewing my wake-up, begin-my-day, life-saving cup of caffeine. The window over our sink looks out toward town down our gravel driveway. Milling about in the half-light of dawn were at least 75 medium-sized birds scurrying and hopping, feeding all along its length.

I regularly see squirrels or rabbits at daybreak, but never before a flock of good-sized birds. I squinted out in the gray light to see who was out there. They weren't blackbirds. They weren't crows. They clearly weren't pigeons, either.

After a few minutes of mystery, a couple of them actually hopped up on the front steps and continued to peck away.

They were wood ducks. I was astounded they were there, and, as I always have been,

profoundly affected by how beautiful these birds are. Two beautiful drakes with all their color and regalia were on my front steps. Other times I've had a chance to see them up close re-

quired hunkering down in an often chilly boat, sometimes for hours—but here they were, paying me a visit.

While I watched, Sammy the wonder dog had awakened. Through a window, he spotted the visitors, barked ferociously, and nearly ripped down the blinds trying to get closer. In a flash, the driveway was as empty as if the birds had never been there.

The drake wood duck is, in my opinion, the most beautiful bird in North America. To the best of my knowledge, they migrate in family groups, never in large flocks—so I'm still mystified as to why so many were together.

I also know wood ducks are very fond of acorns; I've harvested a fair number who had crops completely full of the nuts. I can only surmise my driveway presented an irresistible buffet. There are plenty of nearby oak trees. Squirrels are always nibbling away at acorns along our driveway; perhaps they left behind some tasty temptations which drew the wood ducks in. I wonder if they found them by smell?

The insects of fall once again showed up at the cabin in huge numbers. Box elder bugs lined the doors in the heat of the day. These beetle-like, red and black insects lay their eggs on box elder, cottonwood, and maple trees and reach maturity in the fall. They seek out the warm parts of the cabin's exterior to make it through cool nights.

It's a banner year for lady bugs. When raking leaves around the cabin, I uncovered large groups of them along the foundation; they hibernate in large numbers. Lady bugs have a spotted appearance and are considered to be good luck. They can live up to a year, have two sets of wings, and can eat up to 5,000 insects in a lifetime. They feast on aphids, mealy bugs, spider mites and others that destroy plants and gardens. Lady bugs lay their eggs among these undesirable insects; when the larvae hatch, they eat their "bedding." Lady bugs, also called lady birds, are tiny heroes diligently working to keep your garden healthy and flourishing. I have found them crawling on our cabin bed pillows, kitchen counters, toilet lid, bathroom sink, kitchen sink, and tables—absolutely everywhere. I don't kill them; they're captured and released out the door.

A list of the insects of fall would not be complete without the sightings of orange UFOs: monarch butterflies migrating southward toward Mexico high in the clear blue sky. I don't see as many of them anymore.

The dock has now been pulled and is resting on our hill above the lakeshore. The boat lift is boatless on dry land. The cabin water has been turned off. The pipes are water free, having been blown out using an air compressor. It won't be long before our sign on the oak stump that says, "Welcome to Camp Zika" will be covered with snow. Our joy, our little piece of heaven, the cabin, is now resting in hibernation mode.

Vivian Rindelaub

Vivian (Rudolf) Rindelaub, age 89 5/6 years, of Alexandria, formerly of Waseca, Marcell, and Grand Rapids, passed away on Monday, November 18, 2024, at her home.

A visitation will be held from 2 p.m. until the time of the 3 p.m. service on Wednesday, November 27, 2024, at First Lutheran Church, with Rev. Megan Preston presiding, 1655 18th Ave E, Alexandria, MN 56308.

A 12-noon interment will be held on Friday, November 29, 2024, at Woodville Cemetery, Waseca. A 12:30 p.m. luncheon will be held at Trinity Hall, St. John Lutheran Church, 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca, MN 56093.

Memorial donations may be directed to the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, 810 Freeman St., Valparaiso, IN 46383.

Vivian was born January 18, 1935, in Wheatland, North Dakota, the daughter of Leopold and Frieda (Ketterling) Rudolf. Baptized at St. John Lutheran Church, rural Zealand, North Dakota and confirmed at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wishek, North Dakota. She graduated from

Wishek High School with honors in 1953 as president of her class and the editor of the school paper. Graduated from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa in 1957. Followed by her most gratifying position as Parish Worker at St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca where she met and married Adolph Michael (Ike) Rindelaub on August 28, 1960. Three children were born to this union.

They owned and operated Rinde-laubs Bakery in Waseca. Vivian started as an Aide in the Waseca public school system and retired in 1997, as Payroll Specialist after 25 years.

All her life she was active in all church activities and held offices in the local WELCA, the Conference and Northeast Synod simultaneously. She enjoyed all the areas she volunteered in. In 1972 she started the St. John Lutheran Church quilting group in Waseca which is still very active today. She arranged programs every Sunday for 13 years for Fellowship Hour at St. John.

She considered it a privilege to accompany soloists, groups, and choirs for 60 some years. Especially the traveling Waseca Trio. She also enjoyed singing alto in the choirs. She

was organist at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Wishek, North Dakota, St. John Lutheran Church in Owatonna, St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca, and Suomi Lutheran Church near Deer River.

Bringing her great joy were the 70 + pots of flowers she had in Alexandria during the summer. She asked God to make them beautiful and she would do the work. Later in life she picked up her knitting and knit over 700 stocking caps for various charities including "Hat not Hate" and over 150 squares for "Warm up America".

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ike, on January 19, 2019; parents; grandparents; precious infant daughter, Jayne Marie; and brother, Rev. Russell Rudolf.

Vivian is survived by her two children, James (Stephanie) Rindelaub of Satellite Beach, Florida and Julia Parent of Alexandria; three grandchildren, Matthew Rindelaub of New York, New York, Justin Parent of Anoka, and Shelby Parent of North Macedonia; two "bonus" grandsons, Eric Baker of New Brighton and Steven Baker of Salt Lake City, Utah; brother, Dr. Lou Rudolf of Bil-



Vivian Rindelaub

lings, Montana; and sister-in-law, Jane Rudolf, Middletown, Ohio.

She was blessed by all who passed through her life, and all were considered VERY SPECIAL providing many blessings to her.

Arrangements are by the Lind Family Funeral Home in Alexandria and the Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral Home in Waseca.

Waseca Rotary Club achieves prestigious EREY club designation

Waseca, MN — The Waseca Rotary Club has been recognized as an Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY) Club, an honor reserved for Rotary Clubs where every member contributes at least \$100 per capita to The Rotary Foundation. With approximately 45,000 Rotary Clubs worldwide, only around 1% achieve this designation, underscoring the Waseca Club's commitment to service and philanthropy on a global scale. District Governor Ed Boeve made a stop in Waseca to present the club with a special banner of recognition.

The Waseca Rotary Club has received this distinction several times, reaffirming its members' dedication to supporting the mission of Rotary International through sustained financial contributions. "As People of Action, our efforts go beyond our home community," said Club Co-President Cassie Meister. "Our members understand that to make a meaningful impact worldwide, we must invest in the future of Rotary's global initiatives."

Founded in 1917 by Arch Klumph, The Rotary Foundation was created to enable Rotary



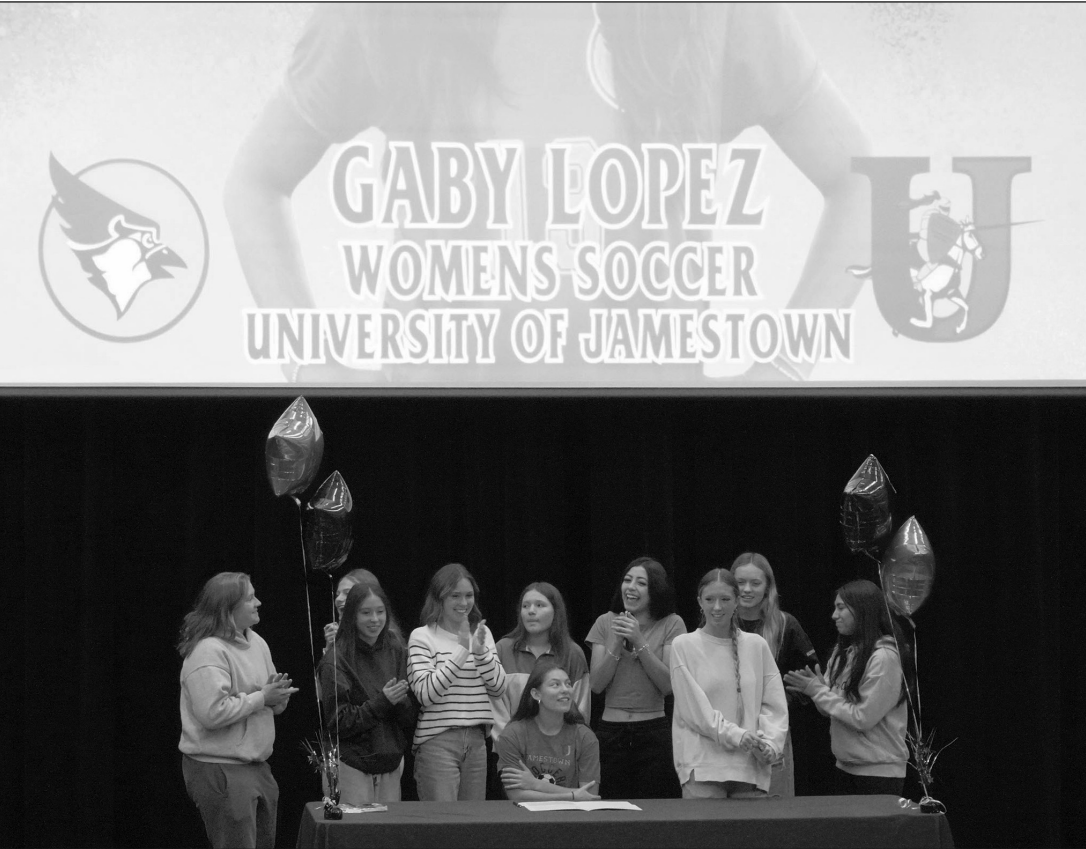
From left: District Rotary governor Ed Boeve, Waseca club co-president Amy Potter, co-president Cassie Meister, and assistant governor Ann Fitch.

to "do good in the world." Since its inception, the foundation has supported projects addressing some of the world's most pressing issues, from promoting peace to providing clean water and fighting disease. The foundation consistently receives the highest ratings from Charity Navigator, a testament to its effective stewardship and commitment to transparency.

The Waseca Rotary Club is proud to join other clubs around the world in advancing

Rotary's vision of a better, more peaceful world.

About Waseca Rotary Club: The Waseca Rotary Club, chartered in 1961, is dedicated to serving the local community and supporting Rotary International's mission worldwide. Through projects, grants, and volunteer initiatives, the club embodies Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self," working to make a positive impact both locally and globally.



Gaby Lopez posed with friends on Nov. 13, 2024 as she signed her letter of intent to play women's soccer for Jamestown North Dakota in the performing arts center of Waseca Junior Senior High School. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Gaby Lopez soccer woman extraordinaire

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Waseca senior Gaby Lopez signed her letter of intent to play soccer for Jamestown, North Dakota, the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 13 in the performing arts center of the Waseca Junior Senior High School.

Present for the event were her grandparents, parents, and an aunt; all interested students were also invited to attend. Projected behind her on a large screen was Lopez's photo; Lopez and others were seated at a table lined with orange

and black balloons. As she signed, Lopez was committing to a future with the Jamestown Jimmies women's soccer team. The mascot for Jamestown is a white knight named Sir James. About 150 students came to watch her make her monumental decision.

Lopez has been playing soccer since she was five years old. Her aunt, Heidi Tracy, wanted everyone to know, "This is well deserved, she's been dedicated and hard working and I'm proud of her." Coach Philip Bulfir said, "In seventh grade we could already tell

she was extremely talented. It was evident that she was going places." Grandmother Kori Seabloom said, "Gaby, one of the greatest joys of being a grandparent has been watching you grow and change through the years. Sharing your adventures and taking pride in your success."

Lopez will graduate in the spring and begin attending Jamestown in the fall of 2025. She's already taken a tour of the school and played a little soccer with the college girls when she went. Lopez also had offers to play in Forest

City Iowa or in Arizona where she could've been closer to her grandfather, but in the end chose the one closest to home, about a six-hour drive away. She plans to major in nursing. Along with her spot on the soccer team, Jamestown is offering Lopez a \$5,000 scholarship, \$8,000 based on her academic accomplishments, and a \$1,000 scholarship for Chapel Choir.

Lopez's mother, Jamie Quast wanted to say to her, "I am very proud of you. I'm always here for you day and night. I support you every step of the way."



Waseca Scouts BSA Troops 85 & 1085 put on an All-you-can-eat pasta feed on Saturday, Nov. 16 at the Waseca Senior Center. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Waseca Scouts all-you-can-eat pasta feed

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca Senior Center was the venue for an all-you-can-eat pasta feed run by Scout Troops 85 and 1085 the evening of Saturday, Nov. 16. Organizers Roger Bergquist and Jessica Ryan supervised as nine adult volunteers and six scouts went about the business of preparing and serving food. The total number of people fed was 150.

Bergquist explained money raised was earmarked for outdoor experiences. “Not a lot of people know we do year-round camping, summer, fall, winter it doesn’t matter. For the winter camping the scouts are hoping to earn a Blue Foot badge or an Icicle Badge, both have to do with camping outside and subzero temperatures.”

The idea for the pasta event was raised last spring during a fish fry. Bergquist claims a big Italian guy patted him on the back and asked, “What about spaghetti for our next fundraiser?”

“I was in right then,” said Ryan. He also explained the American Legion, where past scout events have

been held, has grown to have a very full schedule. He expressed his gratitude to the Waseca Senior Citizen Center for the use of its facilities.

Supplies for the evening’s pasta feed were paid for by an anonymous donation of \$500.00. Items for a bake sale were donated by the families of the scouts.

Volunteer Gerard Aloisio, who was cooking back in the kitchen said when asked why he was giving his time and talents, “I’m here today because my sons are Eagle Scouts. They’ve been scouting since they were kids. I started cooking pasta yesterday, I browned lots of hamburger and all the sauce and I was cutting bread forever.” On the menu were penne pasta, marinara sauce or a meat sauce, garlic bread, and salad. Bars and baked goods served as dessert; for those who wanted to take sweet treats home, there was the bake sale.

Both Bergquist and Aloisio agreed this fundraiser was not about the money, “It’s not about the pasta, it’s about the kids. There are so many people who need to be better parents and if the scouts can help with that, we will, this is all for them.”

Bergquist commented another all-you-can-eat pasta feed is being planned, but a date has not yet been chosen.

To the best of my understanding, iWealth handles the Christmas baskets, but donations are collected from other groups for the Thanksgiving baskets. Do not print this piece until it includes correct information.



The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce recognized the local Walmart with its prestigious Roots Award earlier this month. The Roots Award is given to businesses and organizations that have been part of the Waseca area for 30 years or more, celebrating their lasting impact and dedication to the community.

Waseca Walmart receives Roots Award

Waseca, MN — The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to recognize Walmart with the prestigious Roots Award, honoring three decades of unwavering service to the Waseca community. The Roots Award is given to businesses and organizations that have been part of the Waseca area for 30 years or more, celebrating their lasting impact and dedication to the community.

Walmart has been a cornerstone of employment and growth in Waseca, providing both starter jobs and fulfilling careers for countless residents.

From helping young Wasecans enter the workforce to supporting long-term employees who have chosen Walmart as a lifelong career, the company has made an indelible impact on the community.

“For over 30 years, Wasecans have been making ‘Walmart runs’ that have supported us when we needed it the most,” shared Roots Award committee member and Chamber Ambassador Kevin Walter. “Whether it’s a tornado, a flood, a pandemic, or simply picking up a favorite ice cream treat for the kids, Walmart and

their dedicated staff continually come through.”

In times of crisis and in moments of everyday life, Walmart has been there, fostering a sense of stability and reliability for Waseca families. This award acknowledges the company’s role as a trusted neighbor, business partner, and community supporter.

Ambassador chair Kristie Biehn commented “Walmart has been a lifesaver as our only grocery store in Waseca. The addition of pickup and delivery services over the last few

years has been such a treasure to their customers.”

As a valued member of the Waseca business community, Walmart has also actively contributed to local charitable efforts, supported youth programs, and provided essential goods and services that enhance the quality of life for all Wasecans. The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce is honored to celebrate Walmart’s continued commitment to our community.

Sweet-Sommers VFW all-you-can-eat breakfast for the Service Center

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

About 130 people attended a breakfast to benefit the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center’s distribution of Thanksgiving Day baskets and the food shelf. The all-you-can-eat breakfast was served at the Sweet-Sommers Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW post 1642 the morning of Sunday, Nov. 17.

These baskets go to families in need for the holiday season and can include a whole frozen turkey, a five-pound bag of potatoes, gravy packets, jellied cranberries, corn and or green beans. Refrigerator biscuits, stuffing, pumpkin pie and a container

of whipped topping.

Two volunteers from the VFW and 10 from the Neighborhood Service Center prepared the food, assisted diners, and bused tables.

Betty Kunze, who had already enjoyed and finished her breakfast said, “I would definitely eat the French Toast again.” Her husband Terry said, “I liked the biscuits and gravy, biscuits could’ve been a little softer.” Betty added, “My favorite part of all this is that it all goes to a good cause.” Another husband of an elderly couple walking towards the exit also said, “I had to force myself to stop eating that bacon, man was that good.”

The next all-you-can-eat breakfast



The VFW hosted and all-you-can-eat breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 17. All proceeds went to the Waseca Neighborhood Service Center. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

at the VFW will benefit Waseca Scout Troop 85. It will be from 8 a.m. to noon, Sunday, Dec. 8. The menu will include pancakes, French toast, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy, coffee, orange juice, milk and water. \$12 for

adults, \$7 for kids 6-13, with kids 5 and under free. All proceeds for that event go towards the scouts.

Looking towards the future, iWealth is already putting in motion the Christmas baskets that will go to families in need come December.

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2024 farming season in review

By MARK BERNARD
Staff Writer

The 2024 Harvest is history for most and, unlike last year, it meant disappointing but not unexpected yields, particularly on the corn side. Much of the crop looked subpar from the road, and in most cases, looks did not deceive. Soybean yields were mediocre in most cases and not generally on a par with 2023. Corn yields were better as one went east. One wasn't surprised as yields started to trickle in. Why were yields as poor as they were this time around?

We had excess moisture for a large part of the growing season. We went into the winter in the fall of 2023 with a soil profile that was deceptively full in many places. Good rainfall in September after the crop matured and bountiful moisture in October replenished some of the moisture we had used up during a dry June, July and late August. Winter took its time finding its stride. Winter snowfall was scant, and the frost depth remained shallow to nonexistent. The snow that did fall tended to melt and percolate into the soil rather than running off. As an added bonus, it rained on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, amounting to 1.5" – 2" depending upon location. That soaked in as well.

By mid-February, estimates had the soil moisture profile at nearly 80% capacity down to 4'. Any of the temporary snow cover was gone by mid-March. Even though precipitation for March was below normal, it added another couple inches to the profile. April came in with rain, but by April 13th, some were able to find ground that was fit to plant. For three days anyway. Then it rained again, delaying planting until the week of April 21st. Planting conditions were fit once again and some were even able to get their soybeans planted before the rains returned and halted progress until May 11th. Most of the fields were planted and there was a collective sigh of relief. The feeling seemed to be, hey, we got this. Little did we know...

We received heavy rain from about May 20th through the end of the month. The total in New Richland for May was 8.4", not unlike what we had received in May of 2023. Nothing to get shook about just yet. Like 2023 there were reduced stands and areas of fields that

warranted replanting. That was done in quick fashion before it rained again. It didn't take long and that's exactly what it did. What appeared to be a nice start similar to last year had suddenly deteriorated into a potential crop insurance claim. Or had it? If we could get it to stop raining, we were confident it would be OK.

Rainfall for the month of June was substantially above normal. In New Richland, it was over 9" above the June normal of 5.38" at the SROC in Waseca. By the time June was over, we had received 23.08" of rain since the 1st of May. After the first measurable rain on July 2nd, we'd received 23.78" from May 1st. The normal May – September growing season precipitation at the SROC in Waseca is 23.72". We suddenly knew we were in trouble. Soils were so wet that applying additional nitrogen in the corn was nearly impossible with a ground rig. Aerial availability was a crapshoot.

Herbicide applications were also in jeopardy in many fields, setting the stage for some major escapes of waterhemp, foxtail and barnyardgrass. We were well on our way to an insurance claim scenario in the corn. There was still some hope for the soybeans, even though they were struggling as well with wet feet. Precipitation in July backed off luckily and some were able to apply nitrogen in the corn. Additionally they were able to stab in soybeans where there were down out spots or large areas were missing entirely. July still provided 3.63" of rain, most of it during the first two weeks of the month. Then we started hearing cries for rain towards the end of the month. Careful what you wish for.

August was another wet one, although the crop was able to stay above water, where there was crop, and additionally it was taking up more moisture to maintain the yield producing factory. 7.63" fell.

While our growing season precipitation was excessive, there were still some positives, some of them surprising. Rootworm pressure was greatly diminished after what should've been an easy winter for the pests. Rootworm beetle traps reflected that. Apparently like many soil borne insects, they still need oxygen to survive. One might've surmised that the wet season meant a lot of corn leaf disease. There was

a fair amount that showed up late, including southern rust, northern corn leaf blight (NCLB), but unlikely had much of an impact on yields. The tar spot that everyone worries about constantly was present, but the infestations weren't heavy or widespread in most fields. It is, however, a warning sign that we are likely building inoculum, so it's going to require closer monitoring as time moves forward.

What on paper should've been a banner year for white mold year in soybeans, turned out to be far less than anticipated. The shorter soybeans and late canopy formation were likely partially responsible. Earlier maturing varieties that were done flowering by August 1st were a factor as well. Once flowering ceases, it's more difficult for the disease to mount an offensive. SDS (sudden death syndrome) was expected to be a factor with the wet spring. While there were some signs of earlier fusarium infections, SDS wasn't the factor it could've been with good soil moisture from August carrying the crop to the finish line. SDS symptoms tend to be worse in seasons with a drier August. The rapid adoption of seed treatments to control SDS was a big factor.

Soybean aphids were back at it again and some treatment was warranted. Generally the infestations were late enough (R6) that insecticide applications were questionable. We confirmed what we'd known for several years, that the synthetic pyrethroids were no longer very effective on soybean aphids due to the resistance. Cheap, yes, but no longer effective. Many just allowed the aphids to multiply, knowing they'd unlikely have a yield impact. Many were done throwing money at a crop with questionable yields and lower prices.

Our GDU accumulation for the growing season was again well above normal, thanks in large part to the warm September and frost that held off until October 7th. At Waseca, the growing season (May – September) Growing Degree Units totaled 2781 this season, 272 GDUs or 11% more than the normal season total of 2509. This was crucial, particularly for those who had replanted soybeans as late as July 14th. The season GDU total was a little misleading as we were typically operating with very close to normal GDU's for much of the sea-



Waseca County farmers enjoyed dry weather and easy access to fields during the 2024 harvest. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

son. It was difficult to amass above normal GDU's much of May and June when it was cloudy and measurable precip was recorded on more than half of the days for each month. The warm dry September was a boon to crop maturity, however. What appeared to be a wet, later maturing corn crop suddenly morphed into a drier, earlier than anticipated harvest. Fears of light test weight corn were put to rest. While it was very warm in September, it cooled down at night, allowing respiration to occur normally.

Soybean harvest began in earnest for many about the week of September 22nd. It was so dry that soybean harvest was done in several cases by October 1st, allowing operators to ease into their corn whenever they were mentally prepared. By the time many started picking corn, the moisture had fallen into the low to mid-teens on the earlier maturing hybrids planted early. This meant the corn could virtually be harvested at will, with some able to dump it directly into the bin or do some minimal drying. Harvest went faster than most could recall. With dry crops, reduced yields and large equipment, it didn't take long.

So how did this growing season turn out for most after the devastating rainfall? On the early soybeans, some yields were reported as high as the upper 60's with most falling in the 50 - 55 bu./acre area as the harvest season progressed. Well off the pace from the past three growing seasons. Better than they might've been, but tempered by disappointment from those who hoped they might be better than that. Moving west, and particularly where hail and rainfall was higher, soybeans were worse than those fig-

ures. As one moved east across I-35 and beyond, yields were better as rainfall totals lessened. Areas of MN to the north that had been stricken by drought the previous year had vastly improved crops as well.

In South Central MN, corn yields basically followed a, "What you see is what you get," format this year. Where water had ponded, it was apparent denitrification and/or leaching had occurred where there was actually crop there to harvest anyway. Stands were reduced in many fields. Some warranted replanting areas. Other fields had water and saturated soils remain too late to allow replanting. Yields for corn planted on last year's soybean ground were typically better than their corn on corn counterparts. There are exceptions, but corn on corn with its additional input costs was harder to make money on straight up. With an insurance payment, it may have leveled the playing field somewhat.

Something that was readily apparent looking at corn fields after harvest was the amount of corn on the ground. Much of it came from corn that had dried down well into the mid-teens in moisture before harvest. When the ears were grabbed by the snapping rolls, it frequently resulted in kernels shattering and not getting in the combine. Other areas where the plants were very short due to the excess moisture, there were ears placed so low to the ground that when the snapping rolls grabbed them, it was frequently in the middle of the ear. This resulted in ears broken in two on the ground with kernels scattered about. The result will be an abundance of volunteer corn in many of next year's soybean fields. In the

meantime, wildlife will reap the benefits until it's buried under the snow or the ground is tilled.

Corn yields were about as anticipated with the occasional blip on the radar screen. As expected, 165 – 175 bu./acre caught most of the yields. Not bad for the 1990's perhaps, but well off the pace for today's production. What was even more incredible was some of the replant corn actually yielded as well and in some cases better than the initial planting. That wasn't surprising in some instances where there wasn't anything left after the initial planting. Even in areas where the crop was sufficient to leave, some reported better yields in adjacent areas where they'd replanted. That might not have been the case had it frozen about mid-September. Harvest moisture too was surprisingly dry considering the planting date. Well above normal temperatures in September and October dried the corn down rapidly, particularly with the unheard-of 90+ degree highs October 1st & 2nd.

To sum up, so-so soybean yields with poor corn yields for the 2024 harvest. Corn and soybean prices are down, but so are fertilizer prices. Luckily some had bought up their insurance levels, so they were able to maintain their incomes and live to fight another day. And speaking of that, we were lucky to receive the rain from Halloween to November 6th. It came gently and provided some much-needed moisture for fall tillage and anhydrous ammonia applications, not to mention putting a little fuel in the tank for the 2025 crop.

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A Day in the Country

HAPPENINGS IN THE LOCAL AG COMMUNITY



Karl Swenson, 2024 Outstanding Conservationist

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has selected Otisco farmer Karl Swenson as its conservation farmer of 2024.

Swenson is the youngest of four children raised on the farm his parents, lifelong area residents Rolland and Carol, acquired in 1964. He, his two brothers and their sister helped with tasks and chores; Swenson graduated high school in 1979, attended college, and soon thereafter moved to Anchorage, Alaska, where he worked for 27 years as an accountant and bookkeeper.

Tired of being so far from family, he and his wife Debbie moved back in 2013 and took over the farming operation as his parents retired and moved into Waseca. He grew his first crop in 2014 and continues to farm 210 acres annually—90 of soybeans and 120 of sweet corn. He points out this means 30 acres each year are

“corn on corn.”

In 2014 he was one of the first in Waseca County to start using cover crops, including oats, annual ryegrass, kale and hairy vetch on his land following sweet corn. He says his motive was to reduce compaction caused by large-scale equipment used to harvest the corn. In 2019 he began using strip till on the sweet corn acres, tilling only the 10-inch space needed to plant the seeds.

He says the techniques work well for his operation, giving his fields “better infiltration, tilth and structure since starting these healthy soil practices.”

He goes on to say, “I don’t think what I am doing is that special or radical. I do these things as, yes, I want to be a good steward of the farm, but I also need to make a profit. I think these practices, in the long term, allow me to produce a better crop with fewer inputs. If I can do things that benefit my soil, make it more productive, that should make me

more money.”

While honored by the recognition, Swenson describes his focus as being “practical” more than on conservation for conservation’s sake. “Every season is an opportunity to improve the soil and it’s a challenge to see if I can do just that.”

Emphasizing the “practical” side, he observes, “I don’t think the strip-till costs me any more than conventional tillage. It may even cost me less. Strip-till is only one pass over the ground prior to planting and allows the banding of fertilizer rather than broadcasting. This means the fertilizer is much closer to the row and in higher concentration than general broadcast. Spring strip-till also allows me to leave the ground undisturbed during the winter, which helps keep the soil in place rather than suffer from wind erosion.”

Typical costs for his cover crops are between \$20 and \$25 an acre. “It is hard to quantify whether those pay for themselves or not,” he comments.



Karl Swenson of Otisco was selected as the 2024 Outstanding Conservationist for Waseca County by Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District.

“The benefits I receive from the cover crops are subjective: better rainwater infiltration, better soil tilth and better soil structure.”

For anyone considering some of the techniques he uses, he offers, “I would encourage someone to plant cover crops on some acres: Do a test. Try some and see what you think. A suggestion would be to note objective measurements before you experiment. Take soil samples. Write down what gear you normally pull an implement with. Do you have compaction? If so, at what depth? Collect any information you can to quantify three to five years from now what changes you have accomplished.”

“Cover crops and reduced tillage, (strip-till) are a long term process. You most likely will not see any

large changes, but subtle observations over time.

“Every season is an opportunity to improve the soil and it’s a challenge to see if I can do just that. Conservation and improving soil health go hand in hand.”

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Peppy Peppers



Members of the Waldorf Peppy Peppers 4-H club packaged up 15 thanksgiving meals at their November meeting. The bags included green beans, potatoes, stuffing, cranberries and more. The meals were donated to the New Richland Food Shelf.

Pictured, back row from left: Nash Roeker, Presley Roeker, Rylie Cromwell, Hadley Roeker, Gus Bethke, Asa Bethke, Adler Bethke (standing), Owen Chicos. Front row: Kendrick Cromwell, Kenny Tolzman, Amos Bethke, Keegan Root, Landon Chicos.



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Brilliant Bluejays

Brilliant+ Bluejays



Harper
Kindergarten

Clara
1st Grade

Scarlett
2nd Grade

Harper shows the Bluejay Way by always helping others follow expectations, being a positive example in class, and including others during recess or play time. She goes above and beyond every day and truly cares for her classmates. She is a bright light in everyone's life and we are lucky to have her as a part of our class!

Clara is a wonderful example of the Bluejay Way. She is always willing to help her classmates. Clara is kind, positive, and patient. We are so lucky to have her as part of our class!

Scarlett is a natural leader in the classroom and on the playground. She is first to help her classmates, following expectations and ready to learn. Scarlett is a kind friend and includes everyone. Thank you, for being in my class!

Brilliant+ Bluejays



William
3rd Grade

Fynn
2nd Grade

Cameron
2nd Grade

William is a wonderful third grader who demonstrates the Bluejay Way all day, every day! He is helpful, kind, empathetic, and hard-working. Hartley is so lucky to have this amazing Bluejay!

Fynn shows the Bluejay Way in Art class by taking his time to create detailed artwork, never giving up when he makes mistakes, and helping others follow expectations. He is a great role model and leader in his class. Great job, Fynn!

Cameron shows the Bluejay Way by respecting others and caring about their feelings. He's a hard worker in the classroom, is kind to everyone in the hallways and on the playground, and is always careful to respect property like toys and his Chromebook. We are lucky to have a Brilliant Bluejay like Cameron in our school!

Sexton elected to 19-B

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Waseca's Tom Sexton won election to Minnesota House District 19B early this month, defeating Medford resident Edel Fernandez 14,620 to 7,495.

Sexton will replace outgoing retiree John Petersberg who has represented the area for the past 10 years.

"I want to thank our voters and the people in Waseca and our entire district," Sexton told the Pioneer. "The door knockers, those who supported us financially, we're incredibly thankful for their help. The system is designed not to do this process by yourself. We need



Tom and Jeanne Sexton

those supporters and we certainly have them."

A dinner was held last Saturday evening in Waseca to celebrate both Sexton and Representative Petersburg.

"I have great admiration for Mr. Petersburg and his wife Deb," Sexton stated. "The dinner was really an honor for them."

Sexton joins 21 other freshman representatives across the state of Minnesota. He joins a State House which sits divided evenly between democrats and republicans with each holding 67 seats a piece.

'Our Lady of Guadalupe' celebration Dec. 7

Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca will host its fifth Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration on Saturday Dec. 7. Helen Valencia, one of several Hispanic church members who are helping organize the event, noted the service will include authentic Mexican Mariachi music. She commented, "We are hoping this celebration will increase community connections, awareness, and appreciation of other cultures in the City of Waseca and throughout Waseca County."

The Dec. 7 celebration begins with a Mass at 5:00 p.m.; the group Mariachi America will perform during Mass and afterwards in the church hall from 6 to 8 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. A free Mexican meal will be provided in the church hall by El Molino Mexican Restaurant in Waseca.

Sacred Heart invites Latino residents, area church members and the entire community to enjoy the authentic Mexican Mariachi music. Our Lady of Guadalupe Day is a public holiday on December 12 in Mexico. Our Lady is said to have appeared to Saint Juan Diego on the hill of Tepeyac, near Mexico City between December 9 and December 12, 1531. Many parishes with Latino populations celebrate the day with special celebrations that include music and dancing.

Organizers express gratitude for a Small Arts grant from Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council in Waseca covering the cost of the Mariachi music group. This activity is made possible in part by a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council with funds appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature from its general fund.

Council

from Page 3

(Walker Kruse), for \$10,000. Both bids are more than the \$8,500, had been budgeted, an amount based on the previous contract rate of \$8,000 per year over a three-year term.

Mulcahey initially suggested refusing both bids but almost talked himself into considering the Kruse bid for \$10,000. "Both are a little high, but that's just my opinion," he said. "\$10,000 might be a more rea-

Awards

from Page 3

Nikki Benson.

Waseca School Age Care received \$250 from EF Johnson Foundation for Sandbox Materials; accepting the award was Katie Staloch.

JWP High School Senior Scholarship received \$3,000 from EF Johnson Foundation; accepting the award was David Rysdam.

NRHEG High School received a Senior Scholarship in the amount of \$3,000; accepting the award was Barb Hagen. \$3000 was also awarded for Secondary Band Storage, Lockers/Cabinets; accepting the award was Seth Schaefer and \$3000 from EF Johnson Foundation for Community Ed Youth Development Grants; accepting the award was Macy Whiteside.

Jr. Achievement \$3000 awarded from EF Johnson Foundation to Waseca Schools Programming; ac-

sonable bid if we want to go for that."

Resident Ron Bruegger stated his disappointment with how the cemetery has been maintained. "When I've been out there, there are always lawn clippings covering headstones," he said. "I found the way the cemetery was taken care of disrespectful."

The council eventually accepted Kruse's bid of \$10,000 with a 3-1 vote; Maas opposed.

The collective bargaining agreement for the police department was approved. The agreement was a two-year contract with the only changes including recognizing Juneteenth as a holiday via state law, changing the

term "probationary period" to "training period" via personnel policy, and the cost-of-living wages increasing four percent in 2026. The agreement took effect Nov. 1 and will last until Oct. 31, 2026.

Council members then approved having a staff member from the Community and Economic Development Association staff come to the city 2-3 days a week and take on all work related to the Economic Development Authority, find housing initiatives, and seek grant funding within the community. Anticipated costs for this person would be about \$70,000 per year if the city wishes them to be in three days a week.

Mulcahey shared some information from the Park Board, starting with their discussion on Safe Routes to School. He felt like the policy concerning no motorized vehicles on the paths was "narrow-sighted and not visionary at all." He felt like motorized wheelchairs and golf carts should be able to use the paths as well instead of having them on the streets. City Administrator Clinton Rogers pointed out that the JWP school district requested no motorized vehicles be on the path by the baseball field.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

cepting the award was Vanessa Jensen.

Farmamerica received \$2200 from EF Johnson Foundation for its Ag Career Exploration Program. The organization was also awarded \$2500 for park benches for Timeline Trail from the Greg & Donnette Wheelock Ag. Fund; accepting the award were Kari Wadd and Morgan Mudgett.

Waseca Public Library received \$2000 for the Event Offerings for Teens. \$4000 for the Summer Concert Series and \$2500 for the Waseca Water Carnival from EF Johnson Foundation; accepting the award was Afton Finley.

Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center received \$5000 for its Backpack Program and \$9000 from EF Johnson Foundation for Service Center Food Shelf Support; accepting the award was Cindy Kolander.

JWP Schools received \$1500 from EF Johnson Foundation for the district's Feeding our Communities Partners Backpack Program; accepting the award was Heather Bierer.

Lutheran Social Services received \$2164 from EF Johnson Foundation for its Foster Care Family Programming; accepting the award was Candy Picka.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring Support of Waseca County was awarded \$7500 from EF Johnson Foundation; accepting the award was Jon Dziurawiec.

Beds for Kids Bed Kits of Waseca County received \$1500 from the Cally Jo Children's Fund; accepting the award was Jolayne Mohs.

Minnesota Valley Action Council received \$1000 from EF Johnson Foundation for its Soap Closet Supplies; accepting the award was Kerri Dziubak.

Waseca Area Caregiver Services received \$1000 from EF Johnson Foundation for its Lyncyt Pro Interactive System; accepting the award were Kelly Boedekker and Beth Stankiewicz.

Life Work Planning Center received \$2000 from EF Johnson Foundation for its Women In Transition Program; accepting the award was Stephanie Gonzalez.

New Richland Care Center received \$1500 from EF Johnson Foundation for their Portable Vital Machines; accepting the award were Jessica Madson and Rebecca Schauer.

Waseca Fire Dept received \$3000 for a gas monitor from the Waseca Area Foundation Fund; accepting the award was Jason Forshae.

Waseca Sleigh & Cutter received \$1000 from EF Johnson Foundation for its 75th Anniversary Event Support; accepting the award were Ken Borgmann, Jen Burt and Madeline Johnson.

Waseca Chorale received \$2500 from EF Johnson Foundation for concert support; accepting the award were Deb Wantoch-Yess and Al Judd.

With \$106,514 granted from EF Johnson Foundation Fund, \$3662 granted from Cally Jo Children's Fund, and \$10,639 granted from the Janesville Area Foundation, the giving impact of the EF Johnson Foundation from 2007 to 2024 is \$1,789,316.

Briefs

North Waseca Lutheran Lefse Sale; place order by Dec. 12

North Waseca Lutheran Church is selling bags holding 15 quarters of lefse for \$10 each. Orders must be placed by phone in advance; will be picked up using a "drive-through" system in front of the church from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14.

To place order, call or text Greg Thomson at 612-619-3868 or Roy Srp at 507-521-1185 no later than Dec. 12.

W-E-M High school hosts Firefighter Floor Hockey Saturday, Dec. 14

Waterville, Elysian, Morristown and Kilkenny Fire Departments will

be playing floor hockey at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 at the W-E-M High School. Suggested donation of \$5 per person or unwrapped toy. All proceeds will go Toys for Tots.

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Janesville

1924

- Election returns Coolidge and Dawes Elected by an Overwhelming ote Result of the State in Doubt – Brown, Brisbane, and Lewer Elected: The nationwide vote yesterday swept Calvin Coolidge into the presidency by a big vote that assumed the character of a landslide. Up to noon today the returns indicated that he carried the east, middle west, and all the doubtful states with the exception, possibly, of Wisconsin, although up to ten o'clock the state was in doubt. The result in the state is very close according to latest reports.

- Among the richest and best experiences of life none have a greater significance or more highly fraught with pleasure than are those experiences which involve a gathering where relatives from far and near meet in a family reunion. Such a gathering occurred on Sunday, the 26th, at the home of Mr. W. H. Miner, who resides at Medford in Steele County, a few miles north of Owatonna. Mr. Miner is a brother of the late F. H. Miner of Janesville, who from the early days resided here and who was always prominently identified with its business interests as a progressive citizen.

-Leo Theelke is to put in a "hatchery" in the rear of his building on Main Street. He tells us that it will be established sometime early in February and will be for the use of the public. Anyone wishing to have early chicks may be accommodated. All that is necessary is to bring the eggs to Mr. Theelke and in due time the chicks will be returned. In addition to this he will have a supply of his own on hand for sale and this will afford the opportunity to buy chicks by those who may wish to start the chicken season without the usual formality and trouble of smelling hens. Later on when the business is established he will tell you all about it in well-timed advertising matter in the columns.

1949

- Immanuel Lutheran Church of Freedom Township celebrated its 75th Anniversary on Sunday, October 30, at 10 a.m. with Rev. Herbert Mueller of Niagara, N. D., as guest speaker. In the afternoon at 20 Rev. Gerhard W. Mueller of Tenstrike, Minnesota, spoke. Both he and Rev. Herbert Mueller are sons of the late Rev. E. H. C. Mueller, for many years pastor of the Freedom Church. Rev. Waler R. Mueller of Morristown was guest speaker in the evening.

- Waseca County is staging a Poultry and Egg Institute on Wednesday, November 9, at the Waseca Community Building. This Institute is being sponsored by the Exchange Club of Waseca, the feed dealers and hatcherymen. There will be a display of the various market quality of eggs. There will be a discussion on the egg and poultry outlook. There will also be an egg and cake show for which liberal premiums will be offered.

- Get ready for winter, is the advice of the Minnesota Highway Department to motorists. Those who think the 1940 Armistice Day snowstorm was something unusual are reminded that snow and sleet storms are common in early November. Some Northwest areas have already had snow and slippery roads. First of all, drivers are urged to get their vehicles in condition for winter. Brakes should be equalized, lights, defrosters and windshield wipers should be in good working order. Muffler and tailpipe should be checked for monoxide leaks.

1974

- Two seasoned public servants fell by the wayside in local races Tuesday as area voters went to the polls with change on their minds. In the race for Janesville City Council, incumbent A. C. Ewert lost to Jack Frank by 31 votes. Frank outpolled the former mayor 337 votes to 306. The State Farm Insurance man had narrow margins in both wards. In the first ward, he received 137 to Ewert's 127. In the second ward, Frank polled 220 votes to Ewert's 179. The third try was a charm for the challenger. He ran in the last election when councilman Steve Sens was elected. Frank was also on the ballot in a previous election.

- The David Smith family is looking for a place to live today in the wake of an early Monday morning fire that leveled their Alma City home. Fire departments from Janesville and Pemberton answered the call shortly after 1 a.m. Monday but could not contain the blaze. "We could see the flames as soon as we got out of Janesville," said fireman Bill Bartelt. "There wasn't a chance to save it." Mr. and Mrs. Smith are staying with the Albert Roeker family in Alma City until they can find a place to move.

- At least 30 high school college students will receive up to \$500 in college scholarship funds through the 1975 Lampert ards Scholarship Program. Lamperts, including the yard here in Janesville, will make the awards to young people residing in and around communities serviced by the firm approximately May 15, 1975. The annual Lampert Scholarship Program began in 1972 and has been a notable success.

1999

-The Janesville Area Rotary Club has begun a "Strive" program at Janesville-WaldorfPemberton High School. Strive is a scholarship program which recognizes and rewards those students in the lower third of the senior class who show the most improvement in their grade point average during the school year. All seniors that have a class standing in the lower third of their class will receive a letter that they qualify for the scholarship program. Parents of each student will also receive a letter explaining the program. The Rotary will furnish a mentor for each student involved in the program. The students will receive a list of mentors and the student will be able to list their first three choices. The Rotary will use the student's choices to help choose a mentor for each student.

- Seniors Travis Kalis of Waterville-Elysian-Morristown and Janesville-WaldorfPemberton's Lindsay Wolff made their final section cross country meets the best one of their running careers. Kalis and Wolff were the only two area runners to survive the section meet and earn a trip to this week's state meet.

- Congress has passed an \$8.7 billion dollar Farm Emergency Assistance package that will provide some much needed financial assistance to Minnesota farm operators, according to Kent Thiesse, University of Minnesota Extension educator. This emergency legislation is intended to offset low grain prices, crop losses from natural disasters and reduced income from livestock production. It is expected to provide about \$620 million dollars of financial aid to over 60,000 Minnesota farmers, based on preliminary estimates. This averages out to about \$10,000 per farm operator.

Waseca

25 Years Ago



-In Salute of Veterans – Waseca County saluted its veterans Thursday as part of its annual Veterans Day Program held at the Waseca County Courthouse. At left, Master of Ceremonies for the 1999 Waseca County Veterans Day Program, Waseca American Legion Post 228 Pas Commander Grant Whissemore, saluted the United States flag during Thursday's program. For a related story on Veterans Day activities, see page 3A.



-Sarah Dankert, left, Jessica Rose and Nicole Dankert are examples of "Adorable Adoptees." They have published an adoption memory book and have formed a program to help adopted kids capture the magical moments that led up to their adoption. November is National Adoption Month.

-Gary Isker and his family have ties to the Southern Minnesota Grocery Co. warehouse beginning in 1938. The building was constructed in 1900 by W.J. Armstrong.

50 Years Ago

-Smilin' spud: AMONG THE ODDITIES produced on area farms this year was this happy-faced Kanabec potato, shown here by New Richland student ag teacher Tom Husnik of Forest Lake. Rod Smith won a special interest class ribbon for the spud in the annual FFA area crop show this week.

-\$5,000 smoke – GREY CLOUDS billow over the office-warehouse building at LaMont's Highway Auto Parts this morning as over a dozen Waseca smokeaters with four fire units doused a blaze the flames out by 12:30. No injuries were reported but co-owner Floyd LaMont Jr. said he figures about \$5,000 worth of tools and re-built parts, not covered by insurance, were destroyed. Firemen identified above are Charlie Spieght, spattered with foam in foreground, and Bob Johnson (at window).

-Ground breaking – A GRAY LATE FALL day set the scene for the first symbolic shovelful of earth to begin the LRC at UMW. Provost E.C. Frederick spoke at the cremation along with other dignitaries.

75 Years Ago

-LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS proudly line up beside the new Waseca County Bookmobile outside the library building in Waseca. Shown here are President Aaron Draheim, Lynn Kanne, Mrs. John McLoone, Acting Secretary Mrs. G.E. Fastic, Arnold Runnerstrom and George J. James. Members of the board not present when the picture was taken were Mrs. Ray Roesler, Secretary H.U. Cooper, and Frank Sankovitz.

-Dogs broke into rabbit pens and killed 20 of the animals at the Joe Mariska place on the North shore of Loon Lake Monday night, he reports. 17 of the 20 rabbits were does, the other three were young rabbits. Some of the rabbits, Mariska says, are worth \$10 apiece. He estimates his loss of \$75 or more.

-DELORES BARTELS is shown on the job in the new offices of the State Farmers Mutual Insurance company arranging and classifying correspondence for filing. Filing is just one of the major subjects classified as job experience that she will receive as a student learner under the local cooperative work program.

100 Years Ago

-The junior livestock show held at South St. Paul, Nov. 11, 12, and 13, was better and bigger than ever, also the quality of animals shown were a marvelous improvement over the first show in 1918. At that time you were barred from showing pure bred steers. He had to be a scrub or a grade, as the managers of that show did not believe in showing pure bred steers.

-Chas. Ewald who owns one of the best farms in Waseca county as well as one of the best Shorthorn herds in southern Minnesota recently shipped two shorthorn cows to the Chicago market. These animals were shipped by the local buyer, Mr. Bull, and were sold to Swift & Co., for special eastern trade at 7 ½ cents per pound, which was the top at Chicago for that day.

-The football game with the Kenyon high school scheduled for Nov. 14, having been cancelled, the Waseca high school team played their last game of the season at Blooming Prairie Wednesday. The game was played on a muddy field, slowing down the play of both teams.



Members of the crew which helped put on the Murder Mystery at the Alexander home this past weekend.

■ Mystery

from Page 1

Duchess Alexandra Feodorovna, are witnessing the beginning of the end of the 200-year reign of the Romanov family. Though the royal couple were absent on Friday and Saturday evening due to their son's sudden hemophiliac attack, the people remaining at the palace have problems of their own; Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich has been murdered, and no one knows who did it, what the murder weapon was, or even where it was done. Chief Inspector Pytor Durnovo, played by Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas, was on the scene in an instant, sealing off the house to prevent the murderer from escaping, although one member of the household, the Cossack Guard Timofey, has escaped by leaping from the second floor balcony. With the famed efficiency of the police force, Durnovo has already eliminated most of the palace residents as suspects in the heinous act, but which of the other five did it? Or was it the absconded Timofey?

On Saturday alone, as equerry Agafya Constantinova (Deb Bently) guided them to the door, Prince Mikhail Rostislavovich, played by himself, ushered more than 30 guests into the historic Waseca estate to aid Durnovo in his mission to serve justice.

On their way into the front hall, the guests pass by Prime Minister Pytor Stolypin, played by Carroll Galvin, as he desperately tries to make a call on an inexplicably dead telephone in the Bell Room. In a corner by the stairs, Countess Natalia Brasova (Ann Fitch) weeps because, despised by the family, she is forbidden to marry her beloved Grand Duke Mikhail Alexandrovich, with whom she has had a long-term liaison.

In the backyard Summer House, Rostislavovich gave guests a rundown of the situation, as well as a helpful clue sheet to help them solve the crime.

Back inside, the improvisatory sleuths stumble into the middle of a conversation between Princess Zinaida Yusupov (Jeanne Sexton) and dramatist Konstantin Stanislavski (Mark Butterfield), who displays philistine lack of taste in a rant about the music of Sergei Rachmaninoff, the famous composer and virtuoso pianist, who debuts his Concerto No. 2 in C Minor in the adjoining room. Yusupov declares his conversation tedious as she reminds him that there has been a murder in the house.

Nearby, it is impossible not to overhear two ladies, Countess Anastasia Hendrikova (Robin Dulas) and Princess Irina Yusupov (Anna Pollak) discussing scandal in the Withdrawing Room.

Behind them, Attorney Vasily Maklakov, recently appointed Ambassador to Paris (Nathanael Andrs, avid Waseca High School theater performer), is engaged in verbal altercation with Prince Felix Yusupov, one of the wealthiest members of the Russian aristocracy (recently elected State House Representative Tom Sexton). As the two accuse each other of treachery, they suddenly discover they are being observed, and tell the guests to "Move along!"

In the dining room, Peter Carl Faberge (Brad Donner), jeweler to the royal family, displays a blood

red, jewel-encrusted egg he has recently created for the Tsarina to her Lady-in-Waiting Anna Vyrubova (Kris Butterfield). In the adjoining kitchen, the cook (Diana Hermanek) declares in a thick Russian accent that it couldn't possibly have been so-and-so, while the scullery boy, Ivan (eleven-year-old Lincoln Hermanek) skulks on the servant's stairs to the basement, trying to find an opportune moment to hide the blowgun that he inexplicably carries.

In each case visitors had the opportunity to interview witnesses in order to tick off items on their clue sheet.

Dimitri Rostislavovich (Dwight Tostenson) guides guests to appropriate rooms on the second floor, where Grand Duchess Xenia Alexandrovna (Christy Easton), the Tsar's sister, writes to her mother, the Dowager Dagmar of Denmark. Down the hall, the Governess, Sasha Tegleva (Grace Galvin) has been told by the inspector to guard the many weapons in the room: a monkey blowgun and a number of swords, one of which is missing. The Governess declares she heard a scream, and brings attention to the Cossack Guard hat lying on the floor, which at first she took to be an animal. Is it a clue, or a red herring? At the other end of the hall, the second floor maid (Caitlin Roberts, who occasionally teaches art classes at the Waseca Art Center) has found an ax head that she decides to hide under her sewing. Being only a maid, she won't talk unless directly addressed.

Having already questioned witnesses in the basement and the lower two floors, guests have yet to encounter the palace's most disconcerting tenant, Grigori Rasputin (Chris Bently, Deb Bently's son), the mystic monk who ostensibly treats the Tsar's son for his blood disorder, and loudly accosts visitors with, "Infidels! This is a house of prayer!" Once they flee his presence, the guests make their way to the opposite end of the third floor, where they find a white-habited, frightened nun counting rosary beads. She is Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna (Waseca Art Center president Missy Donner), whose husband's murder by Bolsheviks has resulted in her escape into a life of prayer.

Somehow, in questioning each of these witnesses and suspects, guests were tasked with solving the life-sized game of Clue within one hour, at which point a gong sounded, and they all gathered again in the Summer House, where champagne, sparkling grape juice and appetizers awaited. Once there, Rostislavovich demanded silence for a moment with the request that visitors divulge their results as to murderer, weapon, and room.

Although, according to Tostenson, the puzzle wasn't meant to be difficult, none of the four slightly altered mysteries over the weekend were entirely solved, yet that didn't stop guests from enjoying the fun. For one family at least, the event was most timely; Stephanie Bonheur of the Twin Cities area, and Jennifer Rosenthal of Salt Lake City, Utah surprised their mother, Janet Possehl, on her birthday with a Murder Mystery. They and several others enthusiastically declared their willingness to play the role of detective in the future, should the brothers Rostislavovich and Tostenson be open to staging another murder at the Alexander House. Maybe next time the murderer won't get away with it.



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The Pastor's Column

Cry out and sing

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

If you know my family at all you know that they love performing and being involved in musicals. My wife, Naomi, was performing in musicals beginning in elementary school. Our kids started performing at ages 5 and younger with them being baby Jesus and part of crowds and choirs. They love performing and still perform today.

There are a few performances of theirs that I enjoyed more than others. Elaina performed an African folk song with rhythmic clapping of hands and floors, it was super cool and the joy she had in the performance was noticeable. Kaitlynn was Mother Superior in "The Sound of Music" in High School and had Nathanael audition for one of the children's roles before he became a 6'2" giant. I am proud to tell you that Kaitlynn stole the show, and Nathanael won the cuteness award.

My favorite song in the musical "The Sound of Music" is "My Favorite Things." I know, my kids were not the main performers in this song during the musical, but it is a profound song. The song comes at just the right time and provides a sort of interlude to the musical while still adding to the plotline. A thunderstorm foreshadows the fear that war will bring to the world and this song touches on the innocence of children that need to learn to cope with fear.

The most interesting thing about this song is that it contrasts fear with joy. When everything goes wrong, the "Sound of Music" tells us to focus on our favorite things. Dog bites, bee stings, feeling sad are no fun at all, but what are your favorite things? Rodgers and Hammerstein have us focus on the things we love, brown paper pack-

ages, roses, and mittens are simple things that draw us away from our fears. Those simple things draw us from fear to joy and we should be thankful for them.

Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 to "16 Rejoice always, 17 pray constantly, 18 give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." While Isaiah 12 admonishes God's people to give thanks for the salvation that God brings:

1 On that day you will say: 2 Indeed, God is my salvation; I will trust him and not be afraid, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation." 3 You will joyfully draw water from the springs of salvation, 4 and on that day you will say: "Give thanks to the Lord; proclaim his name! Make his works known among the peoples. Declare that his name is exalted. 5 Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things. Let this be known throughout the earth. 6 Cry out and sing, citizens of Zion, for the Holy One of Israel is among you in his greatness."

No matter our circumstances or situation, we can cry out and sing to God with thanks for the salvation He brings. We transform our situation from one of fear of the negative circumstances that surround us to one of joy in every action. For even the simple things in life we can be thankful for God's work in providing for us. Our song of praise may not be profound like "My Favorite Things," but it is one of joyful thanksgiving for God's saving work in our darkest nights.

North Waseca Lutheran Offers lutefisk dinner

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"I like lutefisk," stated Orlyn Reindel, 86, of Elysian. "I always take two or three servings."

Reindel and his wife Sarah were among the 300 or so people who dined at the annual lutefisk dinner served at North Waseca Lutheran Church the evening of Sunday, Nov. 17.

Diners were served in three shifts an hour apart beginning at 4 p.m.

According to organizers, dozens of church member volunteers spent three days or more ensuring all the elements of the meal would be ready. On the menu were lutefisk, meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry sauce, lefse, and cookies and desserts made by church members. Everyone was also offered a small serving of rommegrot, a rich brown pudding made with whole milk, cream, butter, and cinnamon for flavoring.

Funds raised by the sale of \$20 tickets were divided among three causes. One thousand dollars will be divided between food shelves located in Waseca and Elysian; funds will also support charitable activities of the North Waseca Lutheran Church Men's Club.

The November meal has been a tradition at the church for the past 36 years, although church member and organizing team member Roy Srp says lutefisk has unquestionably been a staple at the church throughout its 175-year history, given its founding families were nearly all of Norwegian heritage.

Three cooks were given the task of preparing the lutefisk: Duane Johnson, Jim Hanson and Nathan Schultz. Johnson and Hanson have been lutefisk cooks since the annual dinner was started 36 years ago.

Delores (Jackson) Srp is a lifelong member of the church and grew up nearby. She reveals her family's Christmas Eve lutefisk dinner was always highly anticipated. Her mother, Norma, and great-grandmother Gunile, who lived to be 106, had a special way of preparing it.

Delores and Roy's daughter, Kim Kaiser, 43, remembers "a lot of fuss at the stove" but admits the greater draw for her and her sister were the meatballs, mashed potatoes, lefse and rommegrot.

Kaiser's three daughters Sally, 8; Whitney, 10; and Betsy, 12; dined on lutefisk for the first time during the North Waseca event. Sally described the flavor as "kind of 'blah.'" Whitney said it "tastes like normal fish, except different...more slimy." Betsy's assessment is that it "tastes like fish," but not like the sunfish her family catches and enjoys in the summer. "It's kind of discolored," she observed, and pointed out "we could smell it from outside."

Church pastor Sarah Krolak is in her third year with North Waseca Lutheran. Asked whether she likes the signature dish, she admits "not even a little bit," then quickly adds since she did not grow up with it, lutefisk is "not in my palate."

As diners arrived and were asked to wait upstairs in the church until their places at the tables in the basement could be prepared, they were entertained with a rendition of "Sweet Lutefisk," original words formed to the tune of Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline." The words were composed by Roy Srp. He and fellow organizer Greg Thomson provided the vocals and were accompanied by 12-year-old Betsy. Srp suggested those present might want to listen to "Czech Radio," between Christmas and New Years, when the station plays amateur performers.

In the basement, two dozen or more workers prepared and served food, cleaned and set tables, acted as servers, and provided other support.

At a randomly selected table were Sarah and Orlyn Ryndahl of Elysian. It was their third time at the annual dinner; Orlyn was enthusiastic about the lutefisk. Sarah, on the other hand, said she took one serving of the fish, but prefers the meatballs, mashed potatoes, and other menu items. She said she was glad to be there to support the fundraising cause.

Also at the table was Allen Hanson, 70, now a resident of Courtland, but whose hometown is Hanska, a community which he claimed is, "as Norwegian as you can get outside of Norway." Hanson says he has gone to lutefisk dinners in many locations and used to make a habit of seeking them out. He took a couple of servings of lutefisk and predicted its smell would be in his hair and clothes into Monday.

Retired pastor Dean Wolf, 69, of Mankato, was at the North Waseca dinner for the second time. He said he is acquainted with cook Jim Hanson and is glad to support area food shelves.

He did not, however, help himself to any lutefisk. He admitted he "never enjoyed the flavor and could



Among those attending Sunday's Lutefisk dinner at North Waseca Lutheran Church were (from left) Allen Hanson, Orlyn and Sarah Reindel, and retired pastor Dean Wolf.



Church members Levi and Mandi Root helped at the dessert table.

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

barely stand the smell."

He shared the story, however, of his father, a "full-blood German" who was so fond of lutefisk "when the platter would come to him, he would empty it on his plate," leaving others at the table to wait for a refill. He laughed heartily about a noon-time lutefisk dinner once held at an area church. So that they could return to work promptly, "businessmen didn't have to wait to go downstairs," said Wolf. Even though he was retired and had no time constraints, "My dad would dress in a suit and tie so he didn't have to wait, either."

During the dinner, all present were invited to enter a drawing for an "Uff-da" candle scented like lutefisk. Promoter Nathan Schultz circulated among the crowd encouraging folks to take part and invited them to take a "deep whiff" of the smell. "It would be a good gift," he declared.



Lillian Schultz, 5, reacts after taking a whiff of a lutefisk-scented candle. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

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CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * *	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Interim Pastor Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:15 a.m. Worship * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Ferichs Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m. * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.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. * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter) * * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. ANNE CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St. Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Pastor Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 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 * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * *	LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1 * * *	NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday "Young at heart" Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18 * * *	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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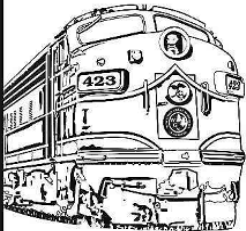
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Sealed quotes will be received by the Utilities Office at Waseca City Hall and publicly opened at City Hall by the City of Waseca, Minnesota, at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, for leasing all fields.

If you are interested in receiving a copy of the leases, specifications, and quote forms, please contact the Utilities Office at City Hall at 835-9718. Those persons with questions may contact Tim Roessler Deputy Public Works Director, by emailing, timr@ci.waseca.mn.us.

Acreages of the Airport Farm have received nitrogen application from municipal biosolids and micro-nutrients at varying levels.

The quote forms must be marked in a sealed envelope as CITY OF WASECA AIRPORT LAND LEASE and returned to the Utilities Office at City Hall on or before 10:00 a.m. (Central Standard Time) on Tuesday, December 10, 2024; at which time all quotes will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The City of Waseca reserves the right to award quotes and to reject any or all quotes in the best interests of the City, and to waive any minor irregularities, informalities, or discrepancies.



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MISCELLANEOUS

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Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 844/220-9501 today!

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29067 132nd ST
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\$150,000



38255 State HWY 13
Waseca, MN
3 bed – 2 bath
\$199,900



300 2nd Ave
Pemberton, MN
3 bed – 1 bath
\$99,900



108 N Main
Janesville, MN
Commercial
\$92,500



Restaurant & Bar
204 1st Ave
Pemberton, MN
\$290,000



613 4th Ave SE
Waseca, MN
4 bed – 2 bath
\$219,000



117 2nd ST NE
\$75,000
2 prime downtown
lots sold together!
Ideal for offices,
retail space, or
coffee shop.



1208 State St S
Waseca, MN
\$305,000



728 2nd ST NW
3 bed – 2 bath
\$174,500
Basement family room,
attached garage & large
backyard.

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642

November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	2
3	4	5 Burger nite 5-7pm	6 6pm BAR Bin- go	7 7pm HALL BIN- GO	8 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	9
10 Marine corps Birthday	11 7 pm Post & AUX Meeting VETERANS DAY Mash Burger night 5:00 to 7pm	12 Burger nite 5-7pm	13 6pm BAR Bin- go	14 7pm HALL BINGO	15 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm	16
17 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am – Noon Your Host Neighborhood Service Center	18	19 Burger nite 5-7pm	20 6pm BAR Bin- go	21 7pm HALL BINGO Gren- da Campaign ended (1983)	22 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	23 TURKEY BINGO 7 PM Hockey Burger Night
24	25	26 Burger nite 5-7pm	27 6pm BAR Bin- go	28 7pm HALL BINGO	29 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	30

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093
Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 9:30 p.m.
Notice is hereby given that the Waseca County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing to consider an amendment to Sections 6.23 and 8.03 of the UDC to correct an inaccurate reference to the Flood Insurance Rant Map (FIRM) in §6.23(B)(1). This amendment will also include a revised definition of manufactured home and structure under §8.03. Proposed changes can be found under the Zoning Code Amendments tab on the Planning and Zoning Department page.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner's Room)
300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093
Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

A. Request for variances to have dwellings within 1,000feet of a registered feedlot. Samuel Borneke requests for the variances listed below to have dwellings on the property with PID: 05.030.1110 in Section 30 T108N R23W of Iosco Township.
I. Variance of 400feet to have a proposed building approximately 600feet from an existing feedlot.
II. Variance of 584feet to have a proposed building approximately 416feet from an existing feedlot.
The variances are part of a broader request to split the parcel into three (3). The County UDC (section 6.06) requires dwellings to be setback 1,000feet from a registered feedlot. The property is in the A-1 Agricultural Protection Zoning District and in the SO Shoreland Overlay District.
B. Request for variances to construct a storage shed. Todd Neitzel request for the following variances to construct a storage shed on his property with PID: 07.013.1850 in Section 13 T105N R22W of New Richland Township. The property is in the SO Shoreland Overlay District of St. Olaf Lake, which is a Recreational Development Lake.
I. Variance of 25feet for the Ordinary High-Water Level (OHWL).
II. Variance of 28feet from the front yard setback requirement.
Section 6.22(G)(2) of the UDC requires structures to be setback at minimum 100feet from the Ordinary High Water Level of Recreational Development Lakes and 50feet from the road right-of-way edge.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WASECA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner's Room)
300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093
Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

A. Request to rezone four (4) parcels east of the City of New Richland. Waseca County requests to change the zone district from A-1 Agricultural Protection Zoning District to HC Highway Commercial District for four parcels with PIDs: 07.021.0600, 07.016.1300, 07.021.0900 and 07.925.0200 in Sections 16 and 21 T105N R22W of New Richland Township.
B. Request for Amendments to Article 6 of the Unified Development Code (UDC). Waseca County requests amendments to the aforementioned Article following a series of work sessions by the Waseca County Board of Commissioners. Proposed changes can be found under the Zoning Code Amendments tab on the Planning and Zoning Department page. You can also request a copy of the proposed changes from Planning and Zoning during regular business hours.

The staff report on this item will be available at the Waseca County Planning and Zoning Office, 300 N State St., Waseca during regular business hours 8-4:30, and will be on the county website www.wasecacounty.gov at the agenda tab. Oral comments will be accepted at the meeting. Upon request,

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WASECA CHOIR ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS
CRAFT FAIR
FUNDRAISER



December 7th
Saturday 9am-2pm
WASECA JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL
1727 2ND STREET WASECA MN





Our Lady of
Guadalupe
Celebration

at Sacred Heart
Catholic Church

Saturday, Dec. 7
Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Free & open to public

Music by Mariachi America from St. Paul, performing during the Mass and afterwards in the church hall from 6-8 p.m. Mexican meal following Mass, in the church hall provided by El Molino, Mexican Restaurant, Waseca.



This activity is made possible in part by a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council with funds appropriated by the MN State Legislature from its general fund.

Christmas Time at The Mill!

Organized & Sponsored by:
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Food From
KELM'S BBQ

Free Hotdogs
to first 200 kids



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FREE for
EVERYONE

Local Choirs & Bands
will be playing

December 7th 2024
1pm-7pm

Hang around for Live Music from
Bryce Leppert & Band

8pm-11pm

Join Us At The Mill Waseca, MN



Scan for more info



Olaf is rumored to show

Be Careful!

The Grinch!!!
was seen in the area!



KRAVE Country
92.1

The Waseca Chorale

under the direction of
Deb Wantoch-Yess and John Hoehn

presents:

Love Came Down
at Christmas

THE STORY OF THAT VERY FIRST NOEL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024 AT 4:00PM
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
111 4TH STREET NW, WASECA

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR
ADULTS \$10
YOUTH AGES 12 AND UNDER \$7

THIS PERFORMANCE OF THE WASECA CHORALE IS MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY A GRANT FROM THE E.F. JOHNSON FOUNDATION

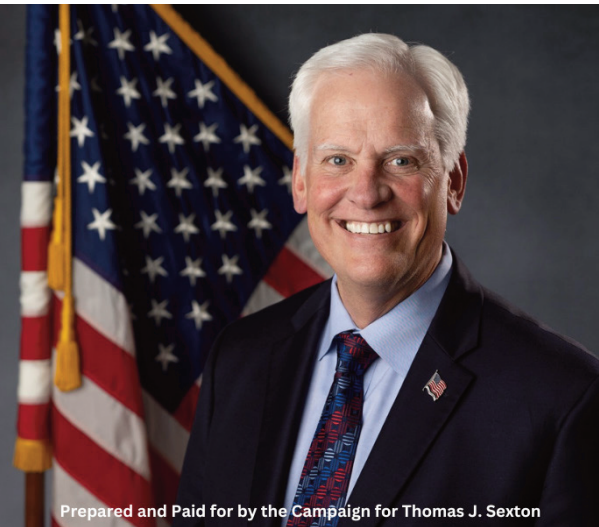
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Representative-elect

TOM SEXTON

MN House 19B



Prepared and Paid for by the Campaign for Thomas J. Sexton