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WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

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Sports



Moonstruck

‘To the moon’

Achieving Dreams holds prom at the Mill

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Achieving Dreams for Disabilities and the Mill collaborated to give individuals fifteen years or older with disabilities a night to remember.

On Friday, April 14, about fifty people were in attendance for a formal dinner and dance titled “To the Moon and Back.”

The event started at 5 p.m. with a social hour, followed by dinner about an hour later. Then from 7-9 p.m., everyone had the chance to enjoy their own little prom. The dance was by RSVP and \$20 per person. According to the Mill, it was “a heartwarming event.”

Achieving Dreams for Disabilities is a non-profit organization that serves Waseca County, providing programs and services for children and adults who may have developmental disabilities or related conditions. A United Way agency, the group has provided services to the Waseca and surrounding community for nearly eleven years. It stemmed from another organization, “Advocates for Developmental Disabilities of Steele and Waseca Counties.”

The dance and dinner was a good time for the attendees and a great reminder that the Waseca County community loves them “To the Moon and Back.”

A word from The Word

And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on.”

Luke 12:22

Janesville holds town hall

Meeting gauges public interest in new community center

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

The prospect of acquiring a community center has been raised in Janesville since local resident Gene Wiebusch moved to the city in 1960.

According to him, the Janesville Community Center Committee’s town hall meeting at the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton school’s media center Thursday, April 13, was the closest the city has moved toward

getting one.

Many residents have wanted a community center for a long time, including community economic development authority (EDA) board member Terry Gardner. In fact, the EDA estimates the odds of finding someone against having one are 200 to 1. The trick is deciding what the community center should include: That in itself may be a reason why little has been accomplished despite

six decades worth of consideration.

EDA chair Ben Salaba said that the EDA has identified four community needs which a center could help satisfy: childcare, a new library, entertainment and recreation, and a space for gatherings.

The EDA estimates about 105 Janesville children are without local childcare. This is a problem in many other cities as well. For example, about 200 children in Waseca were

doing without satisfactory placement.

“There is a childcare provider in Cleveland,” Salaba said. “People in Janesville take their kids there, then come back to town to work.”

“This lack of childcare in town is forcing parents to adjust their work hours, not work at all, use childcare facilities outside of town, or rely on

Janesville continued on 5

Fixing things

Pip’s Power Products is homage to owner’s father

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

John McCabe has been repairing engines and performing maintenance on any machine with a motor since 1997. He comes by his inclination honestly: “My father and grandfather were mechanics,” he said. “I picked up the trade from them.”

Originally from the LeCenter area, McCabe grew up around machines ranging from snowmobiles to tractors. Whatever needed fixing, his family pretty much did it.

He chose to specialize in indoor and marine engine repair, receiving his education from a technical college in Faribault. He earned an associate degree of applied science in outdoor power while “getting credits on the marine side.”

McCabe has been a Waseca resident for the past 17 years. “My wife and I moved here looking for a nice little community to live in,” he explains. “We both worked in Mankato at the time, so this was the closest thing to what we were looking for.”

Eventually, he realized he wanted to start his own business. The original plan was to get it up and running nine years ago. However, due to circumstances outside his control, things didn’t work out. To make up for it, Charlie Mathern, former



John McCabe, owner of Pip’s Power Products opened his small engine repair shop in December. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

owner of Charlie’s Hardware (now Ace), offered him a job doing small engine repair.

“I’m thankful to Charlie for giving me that offer,” McCabe reflects. “He helped me get the start I needed, and also gave me a bit of customer service experience.”

After giving McCabe a spot to use his skills for the past nine years, Ace Hardware’s shop closed down. He decided this was his opportunity to spread his wings and try again at starting a business. The result was Pip’s Power Products, which opened in December in Waseca’s southern industrial district.

The name “Pip’s Power Products” has deep personal meaning for McCabe. “Pip was my dad’s nickname,” he explains. “He died in

“Pip was my dad’s nickname... We were originally supposed to do this together.” — John McCabe

2018. We were originally supposed to do this together.”

While discussing possible business names with a friend, he describes “We were tossing names around, and he asked me what my dad’s nickname was. I said, ‘It was Pip.’ And he said, ‘Well, there you go.’”

When McCabe telephoned his sister and got the same input, the decision was made. “As soon as she suggested I name it after Dad, I hung up,” he reminisces.

Not only does the alliteration have a catchy ring to it, it makes the name easier to remember and brings pleasant memories to mind. “He helped me get started in this business,” McCabe points out. “It’s the least I could do.”

Nowadays, McCabe can be found in the shop working on lawn mowers, chainsaws, speed whips, snow blowers, and other machines.

McCabe continued on 8

‘Spies’ at WHS

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

Waseca High School’s Vocal Music Department presented its 2023 Variety Show, “Spies,” Friday and Saturday April 14-15. Emcees Quinn Dahle and Tricia Cox took the audience on a journey to capture Carmen Sandiego and Vile’s Henchmen, with each musical number performed by the ensembles tied into the overarching narrative.

The Variety Show is an annual performance by Waseca’s show choirs. It features large opening and closing numbers from the combined ensemble of the State Street Singers, Showtime, and the Eighth-grade Grade Ensemble. Both the State Street Singers and Showtime presented their sets from their competition season, which shared the same theme as the Variety Show – Spies. Both groups had successful competition seasons this year, with Showtime performing in



An entire page of photos from the Waseca Variety show can be found on Page 12. Photo by Tristan Jensen

competition for the first time in the history of the group. Each senior from the show choirs also had a chance to perform a solo to a song of their choosing, and the seniors were honored through a slide show created

Variety continued on 12

Townships collaborate at annual gathering

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

About 75 area leaders attended the thirty-sixth annual banquet and meeting of the Waseca County Township Association; the event was held the evening of Thursday, April 13, at the Waseca American Legion. Entertainment for the evening was The Paul Stewart Show, a band which plays 50s and 60s rock and country western music around the state of Minnesota.

The banquet was overall a “laid back” affair, with the primary goal of allowing township board members to meet each other and socialize. The meal was provided by the Pheasant



Last to speak during the Thursday, April 13, township banquet was Sandy Hooker. Pioneer photo by Tristan Jensen

Cafe; members of the Waseca County Township Board served.

Andy Miller acted as emcee for the evening’s program, welcoming everyone to the banquet before Charles Schwab gave the invocation. After the hearty meal, several county officials spoke. Blair Nelson, chair of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners, took the podium briefly and introduced several attendees, including commissioners Brad Krause and Doug Christopherson, fire chief Jason Forshee,

Townships continued on 8

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Airport hangar bid goes to APX

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

The Waseca city council took a moment of silence at their regular meeting Tuesday, April 18 to honor Pope County deputy police officer Josh Owen who was killed in the line of duty. Officer Brody Merrill was also wounded, along with one other Starbuck policeman. Also recognized with thoughts and prayers were the families of Wisconsin police officers Hunter Scheel of Cameron and Emily Breidenback of Chetek, who both lost their lives when they were shot during a traffic stop.

The council approved three changes in the planning and zoning department.

The first was that the city staff clarify and review the driveway approach design and width standards for the city of Waseca. Currently, homeowners and contractors are allowed a 24-foot setback at their property line. Once they are fully inside their property, they can make their driveway as wide as desired.

“They can always request a variance,” Planning and Zoning coordinator Bill Green clarified. “If you’re in a shoreland overlay, that goes to the DNR for approval.”

He added that the 24-foot setback is less than in some area cities and more than others. The widest is Owatonna’s, where properties wider than 80 feet are allowed a 32-foot setback for driveways. Northfield’s is at 20 feet, while Madison Lake’s is 22.

The second item discussed (which the council held a public hearing for) was allowing “custom meat processing” as a conditionally permitted use in the city’s business and industrial districts.

According to Green, meat processing was formerly classified as prohibited in all districts, making businesses such as Morgan’s Meat Market “legally non-conforming.” “They want to possibly expand,” Green said. “They wouldn’t be able to do

Council continued on 5



Compostings

by Al Batt
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Be easily delighted, not easily irritated

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

My wife is mad at me. Did you forget to put ketchup on the shopping list again? Oh, I put it on the list, but then I couldn't read it.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. Easter ended in an R again this year. It was a busy day, one in a blender as are all days. I recalled a day I led a tour to Alaska when the day's blender went berserk. It was a large group and over 50 bags of theirs (and my bag) didn't arrive at the Anchorage Airport. We kept hopeful eyes on a baggage carousel that presented a few bags and then went empty. There was nothing to see there. Missing bags weren't restricted to our group, but our bunch took it well. There were expressions of disappointment but no outrage. Fellow travelers, people we didn't know, were incensed. Everyone acts important at an airport, finding it easy to forget that most of the people in the world weren't them. They were certain their days had been ruined and had decided to remedy that by ruining the day of another, a lone young woman staffing the customer service desk. She was polite and kind, though overwhelmed. She did the best she could. It turned out that a couple of carts were forgotten at the departure airport. Things get misplaced. They would arrive in Anchorage on an early morning flight. A bus took our group to a lovely hotel. I helped airport folks wait for the rescue plane and load the bags into a large van to take to the hotel where we placed the correct bags outside the proper doors, a day late but not a duffel short. The next day featured an exhausted but happy me loading the bottom of the bus with bags. I was a baggage handler. That ended with an R.

BAD JOKE DEPARTMENT

A dog and a cat died. They went to the Pearly Gates and met St. Peter, seated on a majestic chair. St. Peter asked the dog what it believed in.

The dog answered, "I believe in love, faithfulness, forgiveness and loyalty."

St. Peter welcomed the dog through the gates and asked the cat, "And what do you believe in?"

The cat said, "I believe you're sitting in my chair."

HAPPY TRAILS

Happy trails to Doug Bushlack. I enjoyed visiting with former teammates at Doug's retirement

party: Mike Somage of Owatonna, Terry Baynes of Kiester, Neil Berg of Waseca, Donnie Krueger of New Richland, Mike Schumacher of Austin and others. They were excellent ballplayers. I can't say if they still are.

I'VE LEARNED

He who hesitates gets lost later. If you keep the weeds cut low, they look like grass.

Welcome mats shouldn't be taken literally.

If you want a healthy car, switch from motor oil to omega-3 fish oil.

NATURE NOTES

A friend grew up in a super-sized family that ate pancakes often and his mother made syrup from sugar and water. Surprisingly, he didn't grow up to be a hummingbird. The best and least expensive solution for a hummingbird feeder is a 1:4 solution of refined white sugar to tap water—that's ¼ cup of sugar in 1 cup of water. Bring the solution to a boil and let it cool before filling a feeder. You can make a larger batch and refrigerate it. Bring it to room temperature before refilling the feeder. Red coloring isn't necessary. Don't use brown sugar, honey, molasses or artificial sweeteners. In hot weather, the feeder should be emptied and cleaned twice a week. In cooler weather, once per week is enough.

Several readers reported headless rabbits in their yards. It might have been Colonel Mustard in the library with a candlestick. I'd put nothing past him but when folks perform a thorough crime scene investigation, they come up with a list of usual suspects (cat, celebrity chef, Elmer Fudd and Colonel Mustard). I'd guess the culprit was an owl. A great horned owl's signature method when dealing with large prey is to behead the victim before it's taken to the owl's nest or eating perch. A study conducted in Kansas found 60% of an owl's prey items were decapitated. A great horned owl has powerful talons and could cleave a bunny's head as fast as a rodeo cowboy ropes a steer. Rabbit brains and eyes are a delicacy for owls and are full of fats and proteins.

A Eurasian collared-dove has a black collar on the back of its neck and a squared tail as opposed to the pointed tail of a mourning dove. Native to Asia, Europe and Northern Africa, this collared-dove was first documented in the U.S. (Florida) in 1986 and in Minnesota in 1998 and in Iowa in 1997.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Don't be easily offended. Be kind by being easily delighted.

A four-hour drive to play baseball

Well, we did it. We experienced all four seasons in 48 hours this past Friday to Sunday. We had the wetness of spring, the heat of summer, the bone-chilling cold wind of fall, and finally the snow of winter. You have to love Minnesota, the state where it can be 82 one day and potentially snow the next. We're all crazy to live in this state.

But hey, we "southerners" could have had it worse. Most of our friends up north haven't started their spring sports season yet. Some haven't even been able to practice on their fields, let alone play games or host meets. Because of that, JWP's baseball team hosted Cromwell-Wright, a school near the Duluth area, for a doubleheader.

The only reason I know about the cities of Cromwell and Wright is because they're near where my uncle lives. (He lives in Esko, about five minutes from Cloquet and Scanlon.)

One of the ways I remember getting to his place is an alternate from taking Interstate 35 through the Twin Cities. Instead, you follow US Highway 169 all the way to Milaca, get on Minnesota 23, and take Minnesota Highway 65 from Mora to McGregor.



Music to my Ears

by Michael Roy
copyright © 2022 by Michael Roy

From there, you take Highway 210 to get to Cloquet (the Arrowhead region's Waseca). On the way to Cloquet on 210, you pass three smaller cities and a village: Tamarack, Wright, Cromwell, and Sawyer (basically the north's Alma City).

JWP and Cromwell-Wright, as impossible as it is since they're nearly four hours away from each other, have some brief history. The two met in the 1996 boys' basketball state tournament. The Bulldogs defeated the Cardinals 67-55 before losing in the next round.

Interesting facts about both teams that season: JWP ended up going 25-5, the best record a Bulldogs boys' basketball team ever had. At the same time, Cromwell had the tallest player in the state tournament on their team; Cardinal James Purcell was 6'11".

For a small town, Cromwell had great sports teams, as their football team won the 9-man state tournament the fall before their boys' basketball team made state.

While "newsing," I spent most of this past week moving my stuff back to Janesville. You don't know how much stuff you have until you start packing. I made a trip Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, two on Sunday, and one more on Monday. At least most of the stuff is packed for my next move.

Yes, that's right. This recent move is back to my parents' place for a short time. I will hopefully have a place lined up in Waseca in June. As much as I'd love to stay in Janesville, I'm not going to be here long-term; the short supply of housing here is isn't affordable enough for me yet. Hopefully it's an issue that can be

tackled soon, since the city council is well aware of it.

I forget sometimes that life doesn't necessarily stop because you have personal life events going on that occupy a lot of your time. For example, I continued organizing and packaging things throughout my Friday, knowing full well that I had a baseball game between St. Clair and JWP to cover later in the afternoon.

I wonder if Waseca will pull "a JWP" and invite a school from up north to play a game. I think inviting schools like Esko or Warroad would add some interest and excitement. Maybe Mankato East will host Bemidji. Anything is possible thanks to the classic Minnesota spring. Those northerners might not be able to play in their section for at least another week—Make it happen, Bluejays or Cougars!

Anyway, I hope everyone enjoyed the warm 80-90 degree weather last week. We might not hit that again for a long time. And to our friends up north looking at another snowstorm, what did you do to deserve such a thing in late April?



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler
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Seeing Barcelona

Well, about 20 days and counting. I will say, thinking of leaving has put me in a dilemma.

I went to Barcelona this past weekend and it was great, but I was just thinking of how I only have one more trip planned and then I have to leave. I've been fulfilling my dream of traveling the world, and sadly it is coming to a close. I already plan to come back to Europe during spring break next year. I wasn't able to travel to Scotland this semester, and that's a very high priority for me.

Barcelona was fun. We stayed for two days but saw all the famous things the city is most famous for. The first day we walked around, went to a museum, and then made our way to the beach. Unfortunately, it was cold and windy, so after spending a short time choosing our favorite rocks and sea glass to bring home, we decided to leave.

That night we hiked up the mountain to the popular bunker to watch the sunset. For a famous thing to do, it was pretty low key. Up at the top

of the hill is a bunch of young people sitting on these rocks (usually drinking) and watching the sunset over the city. The view was worth the walk, though. Sunsets are always spectacular, and this one was over a classic European city. It was amazing to realize I was watching the same sun setting over the Sagrada Familia (the one building one can identify from afar) as my family and friends in Minnesota might be watching from a whole different angle.

Of course the next day, we had to go see the Sagrada Familia, it being one of the most famous cathedrals in the world, and I can see why. It is incredibly beautiful and incredibly unique. It was designed so that when you walk in it feels like you're walking into a forest; the columns are built in a way that spreads at the ceiling like branches. The stained glass is what got me, though. I loved how one side, the stained glass was colored blue and green to represent the colors of the sun rise. On the other side, where the sun sets, the



Amelia Roessler on a Barcelona hilltop famous for its view of the sunset.

glass is colored red, orange, and yellow to match the colors of the setting rays. It was so beautiful, especially since we went when the sun was setting and were able to see the rays shine through the glass and reflect the colorful patterns on the walls.

Anyway, we also went to see the famous Guell Park; we spent a couple hours walking around there as well. Another beautiful park—and another walk up a mountain to see it. I exaggerate, it's more like a steep hill. Well, I don't know, just look it up on Google maps to see whether I'm right or not.

Barcelona was fun but exhausting (as most travel can be) and I was once again glad to be home—Madrid is the better city, and that's that. Next

weekend some friends and I are traveling to Bilbao and San Sebastian, which is the northern coast of Spain, and that will be our last trip before we go. After that, one weekend in Madrid and then finals and we're done. Time is going to fly by and I don't know how to feel about it. I've been making plans and thinking of what I want to do when I get back, but also I'm trying to appreciate my time here.

My Determination: "Time, dear friend, time brings round opportunity; opportunity is the martingale of man. The more we have ventured the more we gain, when we know how to wait." — Alexandre Dumas, The Three Musketeers

What's old becomes new again

It's been an interesting week of newsing.

My father forwarded me an email from track coach Dave Abel, someone I know to be a very nice man.

For those who don't follow sports, my father has come on as our sports editor and has been writing a lot more. My dad asked coach Abel to provide quotes/his thoughts after each meet. Coach Abel told my dad it has been years since anyone has requested quotes from him after a track meet.

That served as another reminder why we opened the paper here in Waseca.

In New Richland it is standard practice for coaches to communicate with the press/me after every game. It's just a normal thing. But here, it's new. At least the way we do it.

I guess that also explains why coach Abel was so kind, besides being kind already, when I showed up at practice to chat about the season for the sports preview.

I really enjoy talking to folks who are passionate about what they do. Most coaches fall into this category and the conversations are rich, rewarding, and informative.

So what else happened? Thursday was the annual meeting of the Waseca County townships.

Tristan covered that for the paper. Besides that I have been on and off battling sickness for the past week and a half. That unfortunate circumstance has caused me, much more than before, to ask other people to go



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens
copyright © 2022 by Eli Lutgens

newsing for me.

In other news, Jeff Reese has returned to the NRHEG baseball program in an "assistant" role.

My first memory of Jeff is running up to him as a 5- or 6-year-old and giving him a hug. I was in preschool or kindergarten and he was standing by the office window at NRHEG. He had just walked in the front door. I was so filled with positive feelings I couldn't keep my affections to myself.

I have fond memories of Jeff as my gym teacher in middle school. Even at that age I enjoyed conversation. Jeff entertained my questions with a smile. I vividly remember bragging about my stats in our classes' slow pitch softball tournaments. My claim to fame was I could hit the ball all the way to the parking lot, and so could walk the bases.

When we weren't talking about my fame on the diamond, we talked about Twins baseball a lot. At that age I watched the Twins every night and memorized every stat there was to know.

Jeff retired from coaching in 2013. I was a freshman at the time.

My only experience with him as a

player was when he worked with pitchers and catchers, as well as during an occasional regular practice.

I can still recall how precise his practices were. Down to the minute.

Jeff was wearing his famous "stopwatch" again Tuesday night.

My only experience with him as a player was during pitchers and catchers practice along with a few regular practices.

I can still recall how precise his practices were. Down to the minute. Jeff was wearing his famous "stopwatch" again Tuesday night during the Panther home opener.

As I walked up to the dugout I overheard Mark Domeier announce Jeff as an assistant coach and immediately dismissed it. He must have referenced the stadium, or maybe this was an honorary thing. There was no part of me that expected to see Jeff sitting in the dugout when I walked in.

But there he was.

For those who don't know, Jeff has his own special stool with a baseball base/bag as the seat. He told me students in shop class crafted it for him many years ago.

It's nights like Tuesday that make

a person appreciate their community even more.

Throughout the game and afterward, I spoke with coach Mark Lee and Jeff about how this happened. It appears to have been a mutual affair. Apparently both Jeff and Marc wanted Jeff to return to coaching, although it was Jeff who called first.

When Jeff returned to coaching in 2016 at Mankato Loyola, he said the reason he wasn't coaching in New Richland was because he was looking for a head coaching position and didn't want to unseat then head coach, Drew Paukert. Also, he was coaching his nephew.

The reason Jeff retired from coaching this time around was due to his health. Jeff was diagnosed with cancer more than a year ago and just returned home about a month ago from an assisted living facility in Mankato.

Chatting with Mark, he admitted that part of the reason for our gratitude was we got to spend this time with Jeff. As Mark said, there's no knowing how many more games Jeff will be able to coach.

Jeff wouldn't tell me exactly what the doctor said, but did say his cancer is "treatable" rather than "curable."

Jeff had already undergone chemo on this particular day, but still came to the ballpark.

But, as Jeff told me, he wouldn't wanna be anywhere else.

"I make so many beginnings there never will be an end." - Louisa May Alcott



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PHONE: 507-837-6767

email: news@wasecacountypioneer.com

Address: 103 S. State Street

Mail: PO Box 578, Waseca MN 56093

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Contributing writers/photographers: Chris Schlaak, Santiago Ramirez, Al Batt

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Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika

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Snakes make the perfect pets

Dogs are the number one pet choice for Americans; over 48 million households have them. Cats, fish, reptiles, birds, rabbits, etc., are other popular choices. My grandson Nathan has the cutest little hamster ever. He plays with it every day. I was shopping the other day, ran into an ex-student and he asked, “Mr. Z, whatever happened to Julius Squeezer?”

In the late ‘70s into the ‘80s I had some of nature’s strangest creatures for pets in my classroom.

Another teacher asked me if I wanted his snake, a Boa Constrictor. I thought “Why not?” and went to work making a home for him in the classroom. I gutted an old bookcase, put some sand and rock on the bottom, inserted a tree and installed a heat lamp. The case had glass sides; I built a small door: Perfect for viewing and cleaning. The class named him Julius Squeezer.

Snakes are the perfect pet for maintenance. They don’t drink much water, only go to the bathroom every two weeks — a solid nugget — and never need to go to the vet for shots or a haircut. Many people think snakes are slimy, but in fact they feel very dry.

Julius’s diet consisted of rats and mice. The long gone UMW college donated them to me whenever I needed them. During special holidays like Thanksgiving, I’d feed Julius a special treat, which I won’t name here. I had a wonderful idea; I’d raise my own mice in my backroom in the classroom. I quickly discovered that mice reproduce astoundingly quickly. The girls in my class fell in love with the little critters. “My, Z., don’t you dare feed Julius Pixie, Dixie, or Trixie.” My idea of raising mice in the classroom was soon out the window. Let’s just say, I never fed Julius when students were in the classroom.

Julius ended up growing to seven feet in length, and I had some special moments with him. I was feeding him a white rat, once, when he struck it and missed. The rat realized it was in trouble and prepared for the next strike. The rat sunk its teeth into the back of Julius’s head and stunned him. It took a half hour for him to nurse himself back to normal—at which time the rat became his meal.

Some people have a tremendous fear of snakes. At conference time I gave a few conferences to mothers in the hall. A few of them would come into the room backwards before sitting down at my table, refusing to look at the snake. We’d laugh it off and I’d give them my wonderful son or daughter report.

Julius would never constrict around my neck, and once in a

while I’d drape him around my neck and go for a bike ride. I’d get many honks and smiles from passersby.

Dave Noetzle came down to our school to present an animal lyceum from the U of M. Dave left me with a gift, a tarantula spider. Along with it, he delivered an aquarium, rocks, a small cave, and a heat lamp. The things we hear about tarantulas are complete myths. If they do bite, it is only in reaction to fear. They are almost blind and their bite is less lethal than a bee sting. You must handle them with gloves because they have hair that you don’t want sticking in the skin on your fingers. The class named the tarantula “Francis the Ferocious.”

Francis was also a low maintenance pet. His deep color of black and orange made him a beautiful specimen to observe. Francis needed very little water and loved to eat crickets and grasshoppers. I could always get crickets at pet stores during the winter. I’d put a few in the aquarium and the next morning they were gone. Francis, it was clear, preferred to dine at night.

I had a spider and a snake; I had to add something living in my 50-gallon aquarium. I purchased three baby piranhas and soon learned one was dominant. One grew to be a picture from the Amazon; the other two survived with interesting features, one had half a tail left and the other grew with two chunks out of its back. The three fish were easy to feed, just throw in some minnows from the bait shop.

The aquarium was a magnet for curious students. Every now and then, I’d pick out floating pencils and paper clips from the bottom, or deal with pollution in the water; a sick student once threw up in the aquarium.

After the piranhas moved on, I raised fan-tail guppies.

My principal, Jim Oregan, came to me one day and said, “David, it’s time to move on with your fantastic creatures. Liability issues.” One of my students took Francis the Ferocious and gave the spider a good home. I called the Minnesota Zoo; they would take Julius. They were in the process of building a reptile cave and were a month from completion. I had been purchasing my crickets from a pet store in the (now long gone) Owatonna Mall. The folks there consented to keep Julius and display him until the zoo was ready.

One day, a student came to my desk and said, “Julius is gone and so is the pet store.” They had moved out overnight! Julius was gone!

Boas can live 35-60 years. Julius Squeezer, if you’re out there somewhere, have a wonderful day.

Home on the diamond

Reese battles cancer, returns as assistant

Editorial note: Part 1 of 2. A portion of this article was taken from a 2016 article written by Jim Lutgens after Legion Field was renamed Jeff and Carol Reese Field.

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Baseball, God, family.
But not always in that order.

Those three pillars have guided the life of legendary NRHEG baseball coach Jeff Reese for more than 40 years.

Fans attending the Panthers’ home opener last Tuesday were welcomed to a surprise as Reese’s name was announced as an “assistant coach.”

“I still get goosebumps and butterflies,” Reese said. “I guess when I lose that, it’s time to stay home... I always wanted to finish up here. I’m always a Cardinal or Panther in the heart.”

About a month ago, he returned home to the Reese family farm on Hwy 30 after a five-month stay in an assisted living facility in Mankato. Reese has been battling cancer along with other health conditions since 2019.

About two weeks ago, Reese and NRHEG head baseball coach Mark Lee connected.

“I can’t imagine spending my time anywhere else,” Reese smiled.

Reese, 78, began his coaching career in 1979 with the New Richland-Hartland Cardinal American Legion baseball program and coached the NRHEG team until 2013, taking a leave of absence when the love of his life, Carol, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Reese can’t help but talk about Carol, their story, and the once-in-a-lifetime relationship they forged.

Reese was wearing a New Richland-Hartland Cardinal uniform the first time a certain Morristown cheerleader named Carol Ellingsworth caught his eye.

He was immediately stricken.

“I thought she was pretty neat the first time I saw her,” Reese said in a 2016 Star Eagle interview.

He remembers talking to her for the first time after an afternoon football game at Morristown, and he remembers their first extended conversation when he ran into her — along with her then steady boyfriend — in the Waseca bowling alley lounge.

“She said I tripped her,” said Reese.

In a way, he did.

The athlete and the cheerleader eventually got together, got married, raised a family, and lived an idyllic lifestyle in Reese’s hometown of New Richland, he as a well-respected teacher and coach and she as a beloved dance instructor.



Jeff Reese began coaching baseball in New Richland in 1979. He coached at NRHEG until 2013 and has returned to the program in an assistant role.

“I still get goosebumps and butterflies.”
— Jeff Reese

tor.

That life as Reese knew it ended on March 4, 2015, when Carol succumbed to pancreatic cancer after a valiant 19-month battle.

In 2016 the NRHEG community did something special to make sure no one would ever forget the amazing contributions of Jeff and Carol. They renamed Legion Field “Jeff and Carol Reese Field.”

Jeff ranks fourth all-time in Minnesota state history with 539 coaching victories. In 2009 he was inducted into the Minnesota coaching hall of fame.

A three-sport standout who graduated from high school in 1973, Reese played basketball and baseball at Waldorf Junior College in Waverly, Iowa before concentrating on the latter at UW-Stevens Point for two seasons. By all accounts, he was a decent first baseman.

Billy Robinson gave him his first coaching opportunity at age 20 with the NR American Legion team. It was the spring of 1979; the team was loaded with athletes, the school having won the state football championship the previous fall.

“I thought, ‘Boy, this is easy,’” said Reese, who was hired by superintendent Tom Hedman and athletic director Tom Smith as NR-H’s head baseball coach in 1985.

Reese’s squads won numerous Gopher Conference championships. Don’t ask him how many because he doesn’t know.

A low-key individual with a wry sense of humor, Reese was known as an on-field coaching wizard, consistently outsmarting opponents.



Jeff Reese smiles while looking at former player, NRHEG head baseball coach Mark Lee.
Photos by Eli Lutgens

As a person, he’s unassuming and quietly commands a lot of respect.

Reese credits Carol with attracting so many ballplayers to the program in his first seasons, when she kept the scoreboard in the dugout.

“She was my best recruiter,” he said. “I found out later that guys were going out for baseball not only because they loved the game, but so they could be closer to Carol.”

Generations of young girls were positively impacted by attending Carol’s Dance Studio, which would pack the gymnasium every spring for its annual recital.

Together the Reeses raised three children: Joy (Josh Drinkall) and children Lilly, Reese and Shay; Dusty (Amanda) and children Asher, Aiden, Brynna and Gunnar; and Jacey (Toni).

A fourth son, Cazzie, lived for only two days in January of 1979.

“That,” said Reese, “was a tough one.”

Jeff thinks of Carol often.

“I was so blessed and fortunate to have my wife as my best friend for close to 38 years,” Reese said. “She was the rock that kept our family grounded. She had so much energy and such a soft spot for children and left a tremendous legacy. I wish so bad that she could be here in person as she would be so honored, but I know she has the best seat in the house. I would often ask her how she could keep her frantic pace and she would tell me, ‘You can sleep when you’re dead.’ Now she is resting in eternal peace, but she lived every minute to the fullest.”

As hard as it’s been on Reese, he just knows Carol is in a good place after her long cancer ordeal that included countless trips to the doctor and experimental treatments at Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore and the University of Minnesota.

In 2016, Jeff shared a recent dream: In it, he was standing on a hill. “Carol was at the bottom of the hill dancing, dancing and smiling. I called out to her, but she didn’t see me,” said Reese. “She didn’t answer me. She just kept dancing and smiling.”

Part 2 next week will detail Reese’s return to NRHEG, his battle with cancer, and much more.

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OBITUARIES

Donald Wynnemer

Donald James Wynnemer, age 94, of Waseca died on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at Homestead Hospice House in Owatonna.

Born on December 8, 1928, in Waseca to Frederick and Rose (Holtz) Wynnemer. Don received his education at Waseca Public Schools before furthering his education at Augsburg College in St. Paul and the University of Minnesota where he graduated with a PhD in Chemical Engineering. He worked for Exxon Mobile for over 28 years. On January 15, 1951, Don was united in marriage to Mary Margaret Grunewald in St. Paul. Together they shared 71 years of marriage before Margaret passed away on August 24, 2022. Don was active with the Waseca County Historical Society, 55 Alive, Meals on Wheels and at the Waseca Senior Center. He was a Master Gardener. Don was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca.

Donald is survived by his children: Donna (Donald) Lelah of Australia, Claire (Mike Phelps) Wynnemer of North Carolina, Mark Wynnemer of Tennessee, and Stacy (Jim) Vance of Waseca; six grandchildren; and six great grandchildren.



Donald James Wynnemer

Donald was preceded in death by his parents, wife, and 10 siblings.

A public graveside service will be 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at Woodville Cemetery. A gathering of family and friends will begin at 12:00 PM on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at Thyme on Main (100 State Street North) in the lower level of "The Bar on Main".

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

Wayne C. Hursh

Wayne C. Hursh, age 97, of Waseca, went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, April 16, 2023 at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato.

Born in Valley County, Hinsdale, MT on April 17, 1925, he was the son of Lynn L. and Rebecca A. (Riddle) Hursh. He graduated from Anaconda High School, Anaconda, MT. After serving in the U.S. Navy during and after World War II, he attended the University of Montana at Missoula. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degree. He married Frances C. Papke on June 10, 1967 at St. Paul Lutheran Church of Waseca. He worked for and managed various pharmacies, the last being Erickson's Valu Drug of Waseca. He retired in July 1990 but continued to do pharmacy relief work through 1995. He was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Waseca.

Wayne is survived by wife of 55 years, Frances of Waseca; brother, Robert of Choteau, MT; sister, Lynne Corbett of Gooding, ID; nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; five brothers; one sister; and five sisters-in-law.

The family would like to thank the care and compassion provided by dear friends, neighbors, pro-



Wayne Hursh

viders at Mayo Hospital – Mankato and staff at Colony Court. We are so grateful. We didn't realize how many angels on Earth there are.

Memorial service was 11 a.m. on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca with Rev. Bob Lund officiating. Visitation was a half hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will be Woodville Cemetery in Waseca.

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

Lester Barbknecht

Lester "Les" Wayne Barbknecht, age 83, of Waseca died on Saturday, April 8, 2023, at his home surrounded by his family, following a short battle with Pancreatic Cancer.

Born to Helmuth and Clara (Klinger) Barbknecht on April 18, 1939, in Waseca. Les attended Waseca Country School and Waseca Central High School. On August 12, 1961, he was united in marriage to Sue Johnson at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca.

Les was raised on a farm in rural Janesville. He spent the majority of his career as an auto mechanic. He owned Les' DX gas station in Waseca for two years. He then worked at Pure Oil/Union 76, Has-selquist Pontiac/Buick/GMC, Countryside Motors, and Gambles

Hardware. In retirement, Les worked at Waseca Lakeside Club and First National Bank. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville. In his free time, he enjoyed collecting antique farm equipment and attending pioneer power shows. Les especially enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Les is survived by his wife of 61 years, Sue Barbknecht of Waseca; children, Lori Barbknecht of Waseca, Larry Barbknecht of rural Waseca, Robert (Andrea) Barbknecht of Eden Prairie; grandchildren, Amanda Balk, Brittany Henkensiefken, Sara Henkensiefken, Abbi Barbknecht, Anna Barbknecht, and Luke Barbknecht; siblings, Wayne (Rosanne) Barbknecht of rural Janesville, and Donald (Barbara) Barbknecht of Monmouth, OR; nieces, nephews, other relatives and

friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; father and mother-in-law; two brothers-in-law and one sister-in-law.

Les' family would like to offer a special thank you to the Allina Hospice Team for their compassion and care.

Visitation was from 4 - 7 p.m. on Monday, April 17, 2023, at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Visitation will continue for one hour prior to the service at the church on Tuesday.

Funeral Service were on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville with Rev. Kristian Bjornstad officiating. Interment will be in St. John Trinity Lutheran in Isco Township, Waseca County. dsfuneral.com



Lester Barbknecht

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

Janice H. Wadd

Janice Harriet Wadd, age 88, of Waseca died on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at Colony Court in Waseca.

Born on March 17, 1935, in St. Peter, she was daughter of Viola Geyer. Janice spent most of her childhood years being raised by her beloved uncles, Edgar and Leonard Geyer and aunt, Mabel Geyer. She attended Waterville Public Schools, graduating with the class of 1953. On April 16, 1955, Janice was united in marriage to Lowell Wadd at Trinity Lutheran Church in Waterville. They began their married life in Mankato for a couple of years where Janice worked for Brett's Department Store. In 1958, Janice and Lowell made their home in Waseca while raising

two sons.

Janice worked as the Activities Director at Lake Shore Inn for many years up until her retirement. Later in life she enjoyed volunteering with Waseca Area Hospice. Janice and Lowell enjoyed their summers camping with their camper trailer at Clarks Campground in Elysian and spending their winters camping in Arizona. She was a member of North Waseca Lutheran Church and the VFW Ladies Auxiliary. Janice was very outgoing and always welcomed visitors. She cherished the time she spent with her children and grandchildren. She will be dearly missed.

Janice is survived by her husband, Lowell of Waseca, sons: Curtis (Lisa) of Madison Lake and Craig (June) of Mesa, AZ; grandsons:

Caleb Wadd and Isaac Wadd; other relatives and friends.

She is preceded in death by her mother; uncles: Edgar and Leonard Geyer; and aunt, Mabel (Geyer) Rausch.

Funeral Service will be 11 a.m. on Monday, April 17, 2023, at North Waseca Lutheran Church in rural Waseca with Rev. Sarah Krolak officiating. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church on Monday.

Private family interment will take place on Tuesday at North Waseca Lutheran Cemetery.

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Janice H. Wadd

Dogs are much better at worrying

People worry and fret too much. It's deeply ingrained into their genetics, as a means of survival back in the day, when fretting and worry were necessary. Not enough food stockpiled for the coming winter? Imminent death! No shelter to dive into when the saber tooth tiger is chasing you? Death! Yep, fretting about one's circumstances was an absolute necessity back in the day: Humans have learned this "skill" so well that we have even developed mantras we say regularly to convince ourselves that continuing to brood is a good thing:

Always be prepared.
Forewarned is forearmed.
Hope for the best; prepare for the worst.

I know thoughts of this nature come to me—and I'm sure to most humans—on a regular basis. We fuss and mope about all sorts of things that aren't going well or don't turn out as we'd like. (This late April snow, for example, probably caused a lot of



Always Looking Up
by Melissa Dunn

copyright © 2022 by Melissa Dunn

fretting and moping for humans.) In this regard, we have a lot to learn from the dogs in our lives.

Our companion dogs just take things as they come, without fretting or angst. During the 80-degree days last week, I brought Wallace outside to enjoy some off-leash free time before our mile walkathon walk. As soon as the door opened, he bolted. Racing in wide circles around the backyard, barking gleefully at nothing, Wallace occasionally glanced back at me, probably thinking "Grass! Oh boy! Sun! Oh boy! Why aren't you running, Mom? Running is the best thing EVER!" (Sorry, little

man, but it is not.) With slightly less energy, my two Seniors lope across the grass, sniffing at the odd leaf or pinecone. I observe them from my spot at the back door, enjoying their enjoyment of the yard. The Bobby McFerrin tune 'Don't Worry Be Happy' might well be a canine theme song (I know you're singing it in your head right now). And when the weather turned cold and snowy? They were still happy to be there. Really (although Wallace was puzzled as to why his belly was getting wet).

During a recent conversation with my mother, it came up that the most

repeated theme in the entire Bible is 'Fear not!' It's in there 365 times, to be exact. Writer George MacDonald defines fear as faithlessness, or even misplaced trust. God really wants humans to learn to manage their anxieties and fretting, especially about things they cannot control. Is griping about the weather going to make it change any faster? Absolutely not. Good dogs are faithful, always. A dog with a good human will always trust that human (sometimes underservedly). Dogs are much better acquainted with this divine lesson than humans. I certainly admit I need more practice, and doing the 'homework' of watching Wallace as he carries on with his reggae/jazz/a capella style day is a pleasure. And yes, I'm singing it in my head right now.

I've been telling my dog stories, but I'd like to hear yours, too! Please send them to me at md.wcpioneer@gmail.com

Masks not required

Beginning Monday, April 10, wearing a face mask will no longer be required for patients and staff in most patient care areas on Mayo Clinic and Mayo Clinic Health System campuses.

In line with Mayo Clinic's commitment to patient care, Mayo Clinic will continue to require wearing a face mask in high-risk patient settings. High-risk immunocompromised patients will be notified to wear a mask while they are at Mayo Clinic.

Mayo Clinic is evolving its policies due to the consistently low rates of hospitalizations, mortality and community transmission levels of COVID-19 observed at most Mayo Clinic locations. COVID-19 cases have decreased significantly since January 2022, along with a significant drop in deaths and hospitalizations nationwide.

People may still choose to wear masks, and Mayo will support their decision to do so.



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Questions? Please call WCHS @ **507-835-7700**



Waseca skydivers taking part in a safety course.
Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

Waseca skydivers kick off new season

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Skydive Northstar has been offering skydiving opportunities at the Waseca airport since 2001.

Before every season begins, the company begins with a safety course. This year's was originally scheduled in late March, but was delayed by a snowstorm and rescheduled to Saturday, April 15. During the course, experienced skydivers refreshed themselves on various safety scenarios. Rain and wind kept the trainers on the ground, where they carried out staged scenarios in the Skydive Northstar hangar.

The first step was to review rules and procedures: with that out of the way, the real fun could begin.

Skydive Northstar offers opportunities most of the year (when the weather allows) for skydiving. Individuals can either bring their own gear and dive by themselves, or do a tandem skydive which has them attached to an experienced

instructor.

Tandem skydivers must be 18 years or older and, in most cases, must not weigh more than 220 pounds (some exceptions can be accommodated). Skydive Northstar recommends scheduling four hours to complete any of its dives, since weather or mechanical issues can extend the needed amount of time.

Experienced jumpers have more options available to them all year. Night jumps are generally available once a month from May to September so long as the skydiver has previously completed a jump during daylight. Winter jumping dates are also available once a month and are scheduled in the morning; student jumpers can participate in this event.

Skydiving gives people the opportunity to get out of their comfort zone, whether it's a first-time jumper or the most experienced adrenaline junkie. All Skydive Northstar asks of people is to "be safe, be aware, and have fun."

Food shelf



Commander Blaine Brooks of VFW POST 1642 presents James Britton a \$500 check for the Waseca Food Shelf.

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36 booths of bridal fun at show

By **TRISTAN JENSEN**
Staff Writer

The Mill in Waseca held their annual Bridal Show Sunday, April 16. There were 36 booths sponsored by local businesses like Lush Cakes, The Mill, and Daydream Vacations by Jan as well as businesses from as far afield as Wells and the Twin Cities area. About 100 people attended from the Waseca County area.

Attendees of the bridal show had the chance to win one of five door prizes — brides in attendance each received two chances. The grand prize for the bridal show was a discounted trip to be used for either a destination



Jessica Freitag, owner of Waseca's Lush Cakes, at her booth at the 2023 bridal show held at The Mill.
Pioneer photo by Tristan Jensen

wedding or honeymoon from Daydream Vacations by Jan. To be eligible to win the grand prize, attendees had to visit all 36 booths and have a representative sign off on

their map of the venue. Numerous vendors also hosted drawings for table prizes. By appointment, brides also had the opportunity to be fitted for dresses from Valerie's Bridal and

the Silhouette.

Booths included wedding venues, florists, officiants, photographers, DJs, gifts and home goods, and travel agents.

Council

from Page 1

that in their current location without a conditional use permit."

The change would allow Morgan's Meat Market and other meat processing businesses to apply for the necessary permit, which the council agreed was reasonable.

The third and final item considered for city staff review by the planning commission was to modify city code concerning minimum setbacks for accessory structures. Currently, the city code is more restrictive than the state code. "We recommend the code reflect the state law," Green said, which the council agreed.

The council approved to award the contract for the 2023 city crack seal and seal coat project to

Allied Blacktop Company of Maple Grove was awarded a contract for the city's pavement sealing project at about \$101,000. Although it was the lowest bid, it was about \$1,250 higher than the engineer's estimate for the work. City engineer

Nate Willey said that savings on other projects which came in at lower-than-estimated costs will allow the city to cover that extra \$1,250.

Bolton and Menk of Mankato was awarded the professional design services contract for the Eighth Avenue NE reconstruction project. Out of four bids, their not-to-exceed amount of about \$217,500 was the lowest. Based on the city's cooperative agreement with the county, it will be responsible for 55 percent of that total, or about \$120,000.

That amount is nearly \$160,000 less than the total budget of \$277,500. After project completion, design costs will be divided based on each funding source's actual percentage of cost.

The Waseca Municipal Airport four-unit hangar project was awarded to APX Construction Group in the amount of approximately \$1.43 million. During a previous request for bids on the project in 2022, all bids were rejected due to higher-than-expected prices.

The bid from APX Construction is still about \$68,000 higher than expected, according to Willey. Because of this, the city and the airport will

use federal, state, and local funds. A federal entitlement transfer of \$400,000 will also be needed, which the City of Winona approved to give to Waseca. The transfer will be paid back in 2025 and 2026 using Waseca Airport entitlement funds.

Council members approved the city's contract with the International Union of Operating Engineers, which represents the city's public works, parks, wastewater treatment plant, and fire department.

City Manager Carl Sonnenburg summarized that those employees would see an overall wage increase of three percent as well as health insurance changes. Employees under this union can now accumulate a maximum of 3,000 hours of sick leave.

He added that the city is in ongoing negotiations with the new Law Enforcement Labor Services — Sergeants and Lieutenant Union.

The council appointed Carley Gleason and Chris Weber to the two open seats on the planning commission; Dean Schoenfeld was a third candidate. The commission approved unanimously to recommend Gleason and Weber while they approved 2-1 to recommend Schoenfeld.

Council member Jeremy Conrath reported that a business would like to paint a mural on the south side of its building of the Bluejays and of the town. The tourism board was shocked to find out that to do so, the city would charge \$700. He asked Sonnenburg to check into making it possible to waive the fee and to simply approve the mural instead.

"The render they showed us of the mural looks pretty classy," he said.

He also mentioned an email shared to the council asking about brush pickup charges increasing at the county's recycling center. "Years ago, they weren't charging anyone with that project," he said. "Can they waive those fees for us? We're doing no assessments on the county fairgrounds for the Eighth Avenue project."

Sonnenburg pointed out that it's an item that's budgeted every year for the city, but he said he can have a "friendly discussion" with County Administrator Michael Johnson about waiving the brush pickup fees for the city.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Janesville

from Page 1

family members to help," he added.

Demonstrating another local need, the current library is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. A quandary arises because the structure is a historic Carnegie library; renovations are complicated by certain regulations that apply to such buildings.

Even if the Waseca-Le Sueur Library System had the liberty to make desirable repairs, the library wasn't made to be handicap friendly. Upgrades could cost thousands to tens of thousands of dollars, much of that coming from Janesville taxpayers.

EDA member Arlene Pooley added that the space is small: There is only one bathroom downstairs, there are damaged ceiling tiles, and there aren't dedicated meeting rooms or a sizable children's section in the library.

Many pointed out that Janesville

does not offer many settings for large-scale get-togethers. With the old BP out of town, the only place outside of schools and churches for residents to gather is the Purple Goose. While that has served as the de-facto hangout spot for years, it can only fit so many people. As the city has grown, so has the popularity of its events.

Chuck Quast, a member of the city's Hay Daze Committee, commented that it would be nice to have an alternate spot for the Hay Daze concerts if it should rain. He observed that there are no sufficient indoor locations for a concert with nearly a thousand in attendance.

Concerning entertainment, EDA chair Salaba put it simply. "We live in Minnesota. It gets cold. Other than the school, we don't have a lot of indoor recreational space."

Committee member Gina Pederson claimed that the school has barely any unspoken-for time. "We're having a meeting here while gun training and volleyball practice are underway," she said. "The school is acting like a community center and

already bursting at the seams."

Committee members claim the solution is a multi-purpose facility. A prime example is St. Peter's community center, which is 60,000 square feet. It has meeting rooms, plenty of recreational space, and includes a library.

Committee members made it clear they haven't selected a location or narrowed down a potential cost. ISG, an engineering firm out of Mankato, claims \$250-300 per square foot is a likely cost range, but that's as close as the group has come to getting an estimate. The only financial goal they have stated is to move forward with a community center without raising residential taxes for the sake of doing so.

Residents urged the committee to also prioritize parking space as its considerations continue. "Parking is a big issue in many places," Tim Burke pointed out.

Annika Morton, who is a director of a new childcare facility in Lake Crystal, encouraged the committee to look for different opportunities through grants. "There are tons just

for childcare," she shared. "If you're looking to have this community center one-hundred percent grant funded, you have to keep talking about it and get the right point of contacts. It's very random, these things."

Other items requested by residents were an indoor pool during the winter months and possibly some space devoted to fitness. Committee member Pederson said that a local representative claimed including a pool could hurt the chances for the committee to get grants for the community center, since a pool could be seen as more of a want than a need.

She also noted her dream would be to have an indoor playground for the daycare center to use.

Salaba thanked the thirty or more people who came to the meeting. "I was honestly not expecting to hear so many people request an indoor pool," he admitted. "But your feedback is very important in moving forward with getting a community center in town. This city is growing, and we need to grow with it."

WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER

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SHRIMP, T-BONE STEAK, RIB EYE STEAK, SALAD BAR DINNER

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Chicken proposal receives no second

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

Three individuals were present to give public input during the New Richland City Council's first meeting of the month on Monday, April 10. First, Royal Villa manager Gail Schmidt discussed issues with the parking lot at the city's mobile home park, including a problem with standing water and overall parking conditions. She also noted that this is the fiftieth anniversary of Royal Villa, and so an event is being planned for next fall.

Schmidt also discussed complaints she has received from citizens regarding ordinance violations along with concerns from citizens that the current complaint submission system is not working. The council agreed to remind the public of the various ways complaints can be submitted, either by calling or visiting city hall or via the online form on the city website.

"I think people will see that, since we streamline this process, it will be good," said City Administrator Tony Martens.

Present from the Town and Country Garden Club was Barb Finseth, who stated that the club had not received funds last year from the city, even though they had formerly been given to the club to plant flowers along Highway 30 and by City Hall. Martens said that he can discuss reimbursement for 2022 with the city auditors this week: a motion was made to provide \$450 to the garden club for this year's flowers with a possibility of increasing the amount in future years. The motion carried.

Waseca County Soil and Water Conservation board member Larry Muff then addressed the council to discuss watershed and flooding in New Richland. Muff expressed dissatisfaction with a study funded by the Waseca County Commissioners to study flooding in town, since it was not set up to address the kind of rainfall that has proven to be problematic in New Richland. So far, however, no plans for projects to mitigate flooding problems have been put in place, only ideas.

"Nothing's going to get done without spending money," Muff said, adding that, engineering designs would need to be submitted if the city hopes to receive funding from the state for water storage.

The idea of splitting the cost of such designs with the county was discussed, though administrator Martens noted that a hydrologic study would be the first step.

"The City of New Richland cannot take on the entire cost of that study," Martens said. "It is on our list of things to keep working on."

City ambulance director Sarah Sundve informed council members

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

that the New Richland Ambulance has completed 54 runs so far this year. The ambulance policy manual was discussed, and Sundve noted that, while it has been updated to explain more clearly the conditions regarding members' obligation to fulfill 48 hours per month or risk verbal and written warnings before ultimately being responsible for the cost of refresher courses, the policy his not new. The council not only approved the updated policy, but also onboarded one member application pending background check. The report was approved.

The fire department report, submitted in writing, stated that the New Richland Fire Department responded to one fire call and one medical call in March. The purchase of new extrication tools at a cost of \$36,445 was approved, as was the report.

The police report, also submitted in writing, stated that the NRPD responded to 88 calls in March. The total number of calls is down a bit from last year, mainly due to lack of staff, which has to the Waseca County Sheriff's Department answering calls. A request to place the old squad car for sale on MN Bid was approved, along with the report.

The council then had a brief discussion regarding the keeping of chickens in New Richland.

"I have not received many supporting arguments for having chickens in town," Martens said; a number of council members agreed. A motion was made by Jason Casey to allow chickens in town: With no second, the motion was not brought to a vote.

In new business, a contract with Holland for the hauling of bio-solids at a cost of \$3,500 was approved, along with the replacement of valves at the sewer plant at a cost of up to \$6,000. The sale of old council furniture under sealed bid was approved. Sidewalk repairs on First Street NE at the railroad tracks and 401 Ash S, where a water main broke earlier this year, were approved at a total cost of \$1,307.50. The price list for this year's spring clean-up was also approved. It was noted that this information will be released to the general public as soon as possible.

After the administrator's report was discussed and approved, the council went into closed session for a discussion on the city's labor negotiations related to the LELS Local 407 police officers union contract. Following the discussion, the meeting was re-opened and adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Despite the long hours, he loves the work and can't imagine doing anything else. "It's different, for sure," he admits. "But you don't have anyone jumping down your throat. I still want to get it all done, though, even if I have to come in on a Saturday or Sunday."

It took McCabe several years to be able to own his own business, a place to call his. But he never gave up on his dreams. To future entrepreneurs, he has one piece of advice: "Just take the leap. Get it done early. That way, you can fulfill your dreams while you're young."

Introducing Vern Russell Root

For the next five weeks leading up to Memorial Day, the Pioneer will present an article each week attempting to reconstruct the military history of five brothers from a farm near New Richland. Each article will focus on one brother and his service, as can be determined based on incomplete research, conjecture, and the fading memories of surviving siblings. Those who know more about the boys and their military history are welcome to share their insight with the Pioneer.

In order of age, the brothers are: Vern Russell Root born in 1921, US Navy WWII; Marvin "Hans" "Tiger" Curtis Root, born 1923, US Navy, WWII, Korea, Vietnam; William "Bill" Burchard Root, born 1927, US Navy WWII, US Army Occupation of Germany and Vietnam War; Donald Jack Root, born and died 1928; Orville "Buck" Keith Root, 1931 farmer; Gene "Buzz" Harlan Root born 1933, US Marines, Korean Conflict; and David Wayne Root born 1938, US Navy 1956 to 1959.

By COLBY ROOT
Contributing writer

Burchard and Esther (Gehring) Root, born in 1889 and 1900, respectively, married in 1920 and went on to operate what was a typical family farm for their time. The operation, located about 5 miles north of New Richland, relied heavily on the support and labor of their large family: 12 surviving children born between 1921 and 1938. Like nearly every other farmer during that era, they kept dairy cattle, cultivated crops, raised a sustenance garden and kept animals to butcher for food. All this without running water or electricity. Of the seven boys born to them, one died in infancy. Among the six who lived to adulthood, five would eventually join the military, serving in conflicts ranging from WWII to Vietnam. The one son who did not serve, Orville "Buck" Root, set aside aspirations of joining to remain at home and help run the farm.

This series will chronicle the stories of each of the five fighting brothers in turn, beginning with the oldest.

In January 1942, only a few weeks after Pearl Harbor, 20-year-old Vern Russell Root struggled with a hernia. He knew the military wouldn't take

him. His 19-year-old brother, Marvin, had already enlisted in the Navy. Vern wanted to do the same, but needed an operation first. While his brother was in basic training, Vern was receiving surgery and then convalescing. By the time Vern was ready to enlist, six months had passed and his 14-month-younger brother was about ready to ship out to the South Pacific. They would likely not see each other for the rest of the war; how long that would be, no one could know.

Vern went to basic training in July of 1942, followed by special instruction in how to set mines at sea. After that, only six months after leaving home, he was back on furlough. On the day after Christmas 1942, he married his sweetheart, Berniece "Bern" Hein. Nine months later, while he was off for more technical training, his new bride would have the first of their children—Shirley Jeanne Root. Vern would not lay eyes on his daughter until two years—and a substantial amount of fighting—later, when he was discharged at the end of the war. Throughout 1943 and '44, Vern was stateside learning the ins and outs of setting mines at sea and going to landing-craft training, perhaps for the possible invasion of Honshu. But on January 1, 1945, he was stationed on the USS Thomas E. Fraser (DM 24) in Pearl Harbor. From there things would accelerate quickly. Aboard the 376-foot-long destroyer/minelayer, he would start a rudimentary journal, one that is both matter-of-fact and riveting. By early 1945, he and his ship were on submarine patrol near Iwo Jima. These are his first two entries:

Feb 20, 1945—We manned our battle stations at 0400 and commenced bombarding the beach again. On our third salvo, we knocked out a Jap gun emplacement. After that, our planes [began] bombarding and strafing. We fired some white phosphorus projectiles and received word from the beach that, after we put a projectile in a cave, the Japs came running out and the Marines mowed them down. What they didn't get, our machine guns did. We got word that we did the best firing they had ever seen and boy! That sure made us feel

good.

Feb 21, 1945—Sometime in the morning we saw light and went to investigate. We found three Marines in an amphibious craft. They had been drifting since yesterday morning. They said that when the first wave of Marines hit the beach, nearly all were killed. We went in for bombarding. This time we relieved the cruiser Vicksburg. We knocked out a pill box and 2 houses today. Then we went back on patrol. We had an air raid about dark. We didn't get to fire at them, but they got one of our big carriers.

Throughout the journal, Vern describes how lucky he and the crew of the USS Thomas E. Fraser felt, how they were near to destruction on numerous occasions, but somehow made it through while other ships and crews were severely damaged. Not only does he describe the battle at Iwo Jima and later Okinawa from a sailor's perspective, he also mentions seeing Admiral Halsey and being one of the first US vessels to enter Tokyo Harbor for the Japanese surrender. Finally he describes watching General Douglas MacArthur pass in a small boat as he headed to the Japanese surrender on the USS Missouri.

The last two of his journal entries seem particularly revealing:

Nov 1, 1945—Arrived in Minneapolis this morning. Went out to Wool Chamberlain field for discharge. It will take about three days.

Nov 14, 1945—Received my discharge papers this morning about 11:30 and left for home. Got to Bern's about 1500.

Vern finally got to see his daughter, Shirley Jeanne, for the first time. In the ensuing years he and Berniece would have five more children: Teddi, Butch, Sharon, Scott, and Randy. The family would farm near Owatonna and later Pine City. But for Vern, being home, farming and raising a family did not make every-thing manageable. He suffered from alcohol abuse until 1960, when at his youngest brother Dave's wedding, he became drunk and Berniece issued an ultimatum—seek help or she would leave. He joined AA and later turned adversity into service by be-



Vernon Russell Root
MNIC, U.S. NAVY
WWII
1942-1945

coming a substance abuse counselor. He helped organize an alcohol treatment center at Pine Manor. In the 1980s, he accepted a counselor position in Bozeman, Montana. Due to ill health, he returned to Minnesota and settled in Moose Lake in 1985. He died Dec 27, 2005. Berniece died three months later on March 3, 2006. Both are buried in Saint Peter's Cemetery near New Richland.

Part 2 next week.

Editorial Note: The daughters of Burchard and Esther were no less patriotic than their brothers and bear mentioning here as their names may be scattered throughout the coming articles. Anita (Root) Jewison was born in 1922; she quit her job as a beautician to work at a factory making radio equipment for the military during WWII. Barbara (Root) Tolzmann was born in 1925 and was training to be a teacher at the time of WWII. Nona (Root) Smith, born in 1929, married sailor David Smith during WWII; her son George was wounded in Vietnam. Lola "Odie" (Root) Schroeder Borchert was born in December 1929 and would have been 11 years old at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack. Thelma (Root) Yess, born in 1934, was 6 at that time. Opal (Root) Hofius, born in 1935, eventually married Charles Hofius, who fought with the US Army in Korea; her two sons, Donnie and Chad, also served in the military.

Bently, Weegman retire; Schmidt resigns

As of April 17, Dan Schmidt is no longer a member of the NRHEG school board, but has instead become the district's Transportation Site Manager. The position, which, like the district-wide management positions for food services and buildings and grounds, is new this year, will have Schmidt in charge of matters to do with bus drivers and routes, bus safety and maintenance, and bus garage operation and organization.

The board voted both to accept Schmidt's resignation and to instate him in the transportation position during the meeting. Other resignations accepted April 17 were those of secondary-level math teacher Susan Schaub and the retirements of business teacher Lise Weegman and language arts teacher Deb Bently.

A report shared by district food services manager Sara Meihak re-



vealed that the department is apparently having a successful year. Meihak described "farm to table" practices which, she said, have been among the factors which have resulted in increased popularity for school meals. Locally grown foods have been purchased from rural Janesville's RCR farms, and have been raised by students in the school greenhouse. In addition to providing fresher, better-tasting food, Meihak said, the programs have allowed the food services program to receive more than \$55,000 in grants to cover the costs for acquiring it.

This change and others have led to

an increase of more than 10,000 meals (breakfasts and lunches) over last year's numbers, even though all student meals were free last year thanks to federal Covid support.

Meihak also described a number of new initiatives in her department. For example, parents of elementary students can go online to order birthday treats to be delivered to their child's classroom, and can pay for the service through their lunch accounts. The elementary site now also offers a "healthy snack cart." Thanks to funding from grants, the department can also occasionally offer smoothies and lattes.



Schmidt

Meihak also shared pictures of decorations set up to mark specific holidays, including a "haunted" lunch line at the elementary site on Halloween. The meal that day was among the most popular of the year, she joked, at least partly because "every kid wanted to go through that line."

Also included in the report was that students who have received "food safe" training through the school Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) program have helped with the preparation and serving of school lunches. "The elementary kids really love it when they come over," she observed.

She also mentioned that taste tests and "homemade/from scratch" initiatives have been added to the program.

■ McCabe

from Page 1

"I also work on mid-size tractors and any lawn and garden equipment. You know, zero turn stuff," he says.

He typically puts in from ten to thirteen hours a day. "It starts out repairing some projects that I had come in the day before," he explains. "Then I get the parts and provide customers with progress reports. At the end of the day, I do pickups and deliveries."

■ Townships

from Page 1

sheriff Jay Dulas, and county veterans services officer Christopher Hinton. "We feel we have a good working relationship with all of the townships," Nelson said, inviting

those present to bring their relevant concerns to himself and the rest of the board of county commissioners. Dulas spoke next regarding what he considers "hot topics" in public safety, urging listeners to ask questions and make reports when needed. Hinton used his time at the microphone to raise awareness for the need to add new types of coverage and support options for veterans and surviving spouses; he encouraged

area residents to reach out to him and Veterans' Services whenever they feel the need. Bernard Frederick briefly introduced special guests for the evening, including representatives from Tim's Trucking, a company he said has given significant service to Waseca County's townships. Last to speak was Sandy Hooker, the District 2 director. "It's good to see so many good township folks tonight," Hooker said before

urging attendees to talk to their cohorts about the event and encourage them to attend next year's banquet. She gave a brief report on upcoming training opportunities for township officers. Finally, she addressed rumors of discord within the township association. "The Association is strong," she assured those gathered. "It's solvent, and it's going to weather this adversity we've been going through."

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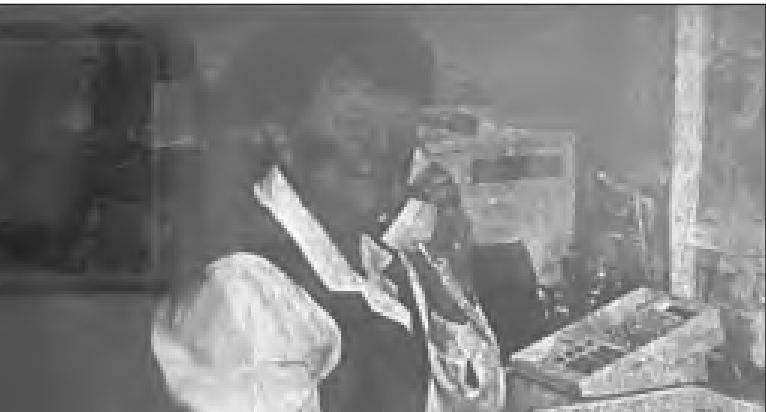
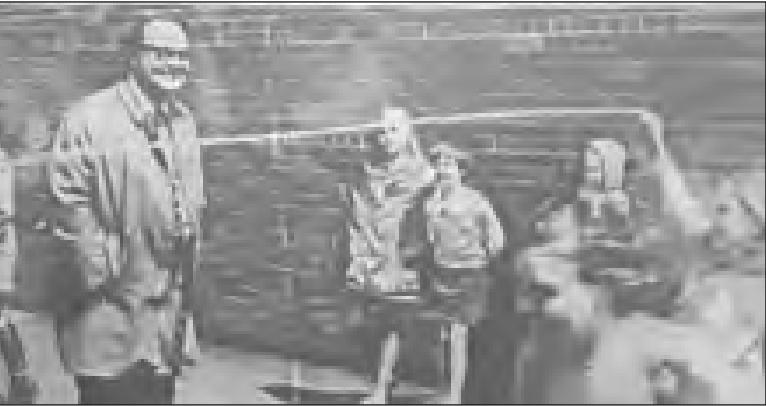
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Top: In 1973, Elementary principal Bill Burns takes a turn at the jump rope. Bottom: Gladys Priem volunteers to provide Tele-Care for Janesville residents at the Janesville Nursing Home.

Weather observer for seventy years

1923

-This office received a friendly visit from Mr. H.C. Hansen on Thursday forenoon. Mr. Hansen will be remembered as the man who made butter for the patrons of the Smiths Mill creamery several years. So successful was his career at that time that his name became the symbol of the best quality that attaches to a creamery industry and in consequence thereof he was made State Dairy and Food Inspector. He informed us that his work is confined exclusively to creameries and then he does not begin to cover all the ground. He has two hundred and fifty creameries under his care.

-Postmaster F. G. Fratzke informs us that on Saturday Postoffice Inspector M. Hughes of Minneapolis was in town for the purpose of posting bids for the future housing of the post office. He will be here again on the thirtieth when the bids will be opened. The contract with Strunk Brothers expires July 24th. The contract calls for either a five or ten year lease of building to include fixtures, light and heat.

-The Trinity German Lutheran church building is on its new location. The members made a sort of bee and put in their time to good advantage. They were fortunate in having good weather which admitted of almost continuous work. The removal was accomplished with expedition, considering its magnitude. The first stroke was taken Monday morning and the last given was Friday night when the structure was in place on the new location.

1948

-Presentation of a charter from the National Exchange Club of Janesville was made on Monday evening, April 12, at the school auditorium. Representing the National Exchange Club in the presentation was Walter C. Forde of Mankato, member, National Extension Committee. Acceptance was made by John C. Koehler, president of the new club.

-The Junior choir of the Methodist church of Janesville, who made a recording which was used over WCCO in 1940, are planning a reunion on Sunday, May 2. At the time this recording was made, George Grim of the Minneapolis Star came here and made the recording. Invitations have gone out to all choir members, George Grim and Rev. Shields, who was pastor at the time.

-The Northwestern trains, halted by the recent coal strike, have been restored to service this week. The time will be the same as before. No. 508 going East at 7:25 a.m. and No. 501 going West at 10:26 p.m.

-Barbara Johnson of New Richland was chosen as the new president of the Minnesota Future Homemakers of America at the group's annual convention at the Curtis Hotel in Minneapolis. This organization is composed of junior and senior high school girls and has a membership of 1,448 in the state.

1973

-The District Four Small Group (Solo-Ensemble) Music Contest was held April 10 at Morristown. The Vocal department entered six solos and two ensembles. Vocal soloists receiving starred ratings, the highest award for perfection in District Competition, were Judy Menk, Vic Wolff, Margaret Johnson, Janet Manthey, and Patti Zimmerman. A vocal duet by Vic Wolff and Gail Westphal also starred.

-Seventy years may seem a long time for many people. The weather observer and writer for the Argus will have lived that many years on April 26, 1973. This period in history changed drastically from the horse and buggy age, 1903, to that of the tumultuous jet age of 1973. Transportation and methods of communication have revolutionized our living habits. 1903 to 1973 has been a period of 11 different presidents from Theodore Roosevelt to Richard Nixon and each have left their dent or scar on American History.

-Republican National Committeeman Rudy Boschwitz has described farmers are "one of America's most mistreated minorities." The observation came in remarks at three Republican district conventions last weekend. "The inconsistency of politicians and the way they relate to farmers galls me," Boschwitz said. "When they're out stumping the rural areas, they bemoan the passing of the family farm. But as soon as those same politicians get back into town, they're beating the drum about high food prices."

-The Golden Bears had the "first game jitters" as they committed nine errors and were shut out 5-0 by Owatonna in their opener April 11. But the JHS nine came right back last Saturday to gun Glenville twice, 9-2 and 9-1. Owatonna scored only one earned run against the Bears, but the errors paved the way for four more tallies. Last Saturday the Bears pounded out two decisive wins over Glenville on the home field.

1998

-Building plans for the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School District have taken shape. During a special meeting on Thursday, April 16, the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School Board reviewed and accepted building plans to be submitted for bidding. Dave Asleson, architect with Kagermeier Skaar Asteson of Mankato, reviewed the designs and answered board members' questions concerning both the interior and exterior plans of the Janesville and Waldorf Buildings.

-Ready to make gifts for any occasion, Londa Soderfelt can turn your favorite photo into a treasured keepsake. Soderfelt, a Janesville resident, began working with computer video imaging in August 1996. Today, she has created her own business, "Undeniably YOU," which features an assortment of gift ideas from personalized t-shirts and sweatshirts to mugs and mouse pads.

-The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton baseball team wasted a strong pitching performance by number two pitcher Trey Anderson to lose its third consecutive game without a win. Blooming Prairie scored two runs off of Joe Johnson in the last of the eighth inning to pull out a 6-5 Gopher Conference victory over the Bulldogs at Blooming Prairie last Tuesday.

Getting fortune, scammed

Waseca Journal, 1923

-Thirty-two members of the local Order of the Eastern Star attended a school of instruction conducted by the Worthy Grand Matron, Mrs. Harriet Matson of St. Paul, at Waterville Saturday evening. They went upon the 4 p.m. train and came back on the 10 o'clock train the next morning.

-A jury of twelve Waseca men returned a verdict of guilty and Judge Sturner fined Dr. B. F. McNeil \$50 and costs amounting to \$32 for operating without an optometrist license. On April 2, 3, and 4, Dr. McNeil conducted a free clinic at the offices of Drs. Miller and Blanchard. In his advertisements appearing in the newspapers throughout the county, Dr. McNeil gave the impression that Dr. La Grange, a national authority on eye troubles would conduct the clinic. The State Board of Optometrists sore out a warrant charging Dr. La Grange with operating without an optometrist license. Dr. McNeil then stated that he was no Dr. La Grange but that he had a right to practice since he had a physician's license.

-When Professor Ross, head of the sociology department at the University of Wisconsin first coined the term "race suicide" some twenty years ago, he was not thinking about Waseca County. For years this county has seen a battle between the Goliath Death and the diminutive Birtha, and the latter has always come out victorious in the fight. Figures just received by Clare Brisbane, Clerk of Court, show that there were 322 births in the county during 1922 and 122 deaths. Blooming Grove has the best record for there were nineteen births and no deaths in 1922. In Waseca there were nearly two births to one death.

-Everybody dreams of receiving a huge fortune in a will some day, and to M. R. Welch this is more than a dream. Prospects are very bright that he will inherit \$25,000. It seems that Mr. Welch is a direct descendant of one of the "Six Nations" tribe of New York Indians and years ago these Indians were defrauded out of their holdings. For some time back the government has been investigating these Indian lands and they now inform Mr. Welch that a settlement may be held any time now and since he is a direct descendant of the tribe he will receive \$25,000 when the final settlement is held.

Waseca Herald, 1948

-The first week of parking meters in Waseca brought little comment from local residents or visitors, according to police and city officials. Most people appeared satisfied to exchange a penny or two for the privilege of parking quickly and easily near their destination. The first collection of parking money was completed Wednesday afternoon and totaled \$139.94 from 139 meters, according to Frank Manthey, city treasurer, who has charge of counting and depositing the funds in the parking meter fund.

-Waseca people who attended the lecture Monday evening at Central High School auditorium heard Martin Hall, world traveler, newspaper man and author, plead for the establishment of moral leadership by United States and the strengthening of the United Nations in the first for peace. Mr. Hall, who is the last



YESTERDAY'S SONGS — In 1998, members of the Waseca Chorale rehearsed for their upcoming "Yesterday: songs from the '60s" concerts on April 19 and 20 at Waseca High School and the former Olde Towne Eatery.

speaker to appear under the Waseca County Artist series, urged that the United States recapture the moral leadership and standing which it had three years ago. His subject was "U.S.A. — U.S.S.R. with Europe n the Middle."

-The City of Waseca is in good financial shape according to the annual reports of Frank Manthey, city treasurer, and A. A. Lynch, city clerk. Waseca has assets of \$728,000 dollars with fixed assets fo \$398,000, the two reports show. There is no outstanding indebtedness at present with the exception of school bonds amounting to \$35,000 of which \$10,000 is owned by the district.

-Central High School held an Award Day in the auditorium on Tuesday afternoon and the school was presented with an "A" certificate for its work in Mantoux testing as well as awards for athletic championships won in the past year.

Waseca Daily Journal, 1973

-Laurence P. (Shyde) Krause pleaded guilty to embezzlement of public funds Tuesday afternoon at the Waseca County Courthouse. Krause's plea was in connection with a \$1,095 shortage in the Clerk of Court's office accounts which showed up last January. District Judge Glenn E. Kelly of Winona sentenced him to three years in prison but stayed the sentence for three years probation. As a condition of the probation Krause submitted his resignation as clerk of court and will spend 60 days in jail under the work-release plan.

-The name of Mrs. Howard Sahlstrom has been filed by petition for a position on the school board. Mrs. Sahlstrom's name joins a growing list of applicants for the two terms. The terms fo Dr. D. A. Rieck and Mrs. Willard Steffan expire this year. Already filed for the positions are Jean Simacek, John Harguth and Dr. D. A. Rieck.

-New Richland: "I hate to see it go, but I guess the railroad knows what they're doing," John Beyer said as he talked about the razing of one of New Richland's oldest landmarks. Beter, former depot agent, is watching with saddened eyes as the 96-year old depot is stripped down piece by piece.

-The Bluejay baseball team won its fourth start of the year with a 5-3 victory over Janesville on the Bears' home field Tuesday afternoon. Waseca is now 4-1 for the season. The Bluejays wasted little time in putting the game award as they jumped on Mark Berndt for four hits



A CURIOUS PLAY — Judy Fox was head of props for the Waseca Players' upcoming production of "The Curious Savage" in 1973. She is pictured with children Jeffery and Jennifer and a doll, John Marshall.

and three runs in the first inning.

Waseca County News, 1998

-Those associated with Farmamerica have been here before. Two years ago at this time Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed a \$400,000 funding package that would have built trails and paths at Minnesota's Agriculture Interpretive Center, west of Waseca. After Friday evening's approval of the state's general fund bill by the House of Representatives, the decision to allocate \$1.5 million to Farmamerica is now in the governor's hands. His signature would clear the way for Farmamerica to build its long-sought after visitors' center.

-Less than one week after the Waseca County Commissioners voted unanimously to stop planning for the construction of a bike trail east of New Richland, the New Richland City Council decided to see what it could do to rescue the project. The council passed a resolution Monday to draft a letter of support for the project and plans to possibly be on the commissioners' agenda at the April 21 meeting to make an appeal. "It is a good idea for the community," said Mayor John Harrington during a Wednesday telephone interview.

-What comes to mind when one things of the '60s? Is it bellbottoms, flower power, sit-ins, "On the Road," "Easy Rider," or maybe its music? Rock music was never more powerful than it was during the turbulent times of the '60s. There was Beatlemania, Woodstock, and a pop festival in Monterey. The Waseca Chorale plans to revive some of those memories during its two spring concerts April 19 and 20 in Waseca. The chorale will be performing a wide range of songs for its "Yesterday: Songs of the '60s" concerts.

-Waseca's experience in doubles sparked the Bluejay tennis team to a non-conference 6-1 victory over New Prague Tuesday. It was the second straight victory for the bluejays, who opened the season with a one-point loss to Owatonna. The victory was also the second road victory without a loss for the Bluejays. "This is a much improved New Prague team. The score was certainly not indicative of how close the match was," said Waseca coach Bruce Wessman. "They have some excellent singles' players, and they certainly gave our four guys a good test."

Return from three-week trip to Russia

1923

• Mr. and Mrs. August Preiss, who have resided in Waseca for the past two years, have decided to occupy their farm at New Richland this year and will move onto the place about the first of May.

• Advertisement: The roads have opened up and now is the time to come to Waseca and have those photographs taken. Prices are about back to pre-war and I have several specials below pre-war prices. -Geo Kopman, Waseca.

1948

• Tomorrow is likely to decide the fate of New Richland's hemp mill, which has been idle for a year or more. The extent of the bidding can only be conjectured as no local tab can be taken. The general hope is that

the mill will be sold to some concern which will utilize it to the extent of employing up to 40 or 50 men or persons. Results of the sale may not be made known for a week or more.

• Herman Peterson of Waseca, who since the establishment of the Vikings News, Johnson Radio House Organ, has been its editor, has been ordered by his physician to take complete rest. He is confined to his bed at his home at 854 Third Avenue. S.E. Herman has done a good job of editing the News. He is enthusiastic in his politics and has a lot of friends, all of whom will regret his illness. He is able to receive visitors.

1973

• The New Richland FFA chapter honored members and those resident of the community who have particu-

larly helped them in their endeavors during the past year, as well as their parents at their annual banquet at the New Richland-Hartland High School cafeteria. Highlight of the evening was a narrative and slides by Lonney Eastvold of Hartland about his farming operating which helped win for him the honor of Star Farmer of America.

• Two young women, Mrs. Terry Larsen and Vicky Jensen from New Richland, students at St. Cloud State college, returned from a three-week seminar in Russia this past week. The two learned much from their travels, which if others in rural America could have the experience, would change many preconceived ideas about the Soviet Union.

1998

• The 16th annual fourth grade spelling bee was held at the Waseca County Historical Museum. After exhausting the entire word list a tie was declared. The first place winners are Lynsi Espe from New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Elementary School, New Richland and Molly Kolpin of South Side Elementary in Waseca.

• The Panther girls' golf team is facing a rebuilding season after finishing last season with a 6-2-1 record. Lost to graduation last spring were Lynsey Supalla and Alexandra Economy. Of the 11 girls out for golf four are returning letter winners. They are Vanessa Proehl, Amy Sack, Kristen Jensen, and Sheri Miller.



Athletes do not generally expect to break a school record during their first competition, yet that's what Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton track athlete junior Ryan Kronbach did at the Bulldogs' home meet Thursday, April 13.

While Kronbach is no stranger to track and field, the meet was the first time he had ever participated in the triple jump. His distance of 42'4" in the event not only broke the school record, but the JWP track and field facility record. Congratulations to Ryan Kronbach on this fantastic achievement on his first try in the triple jump.



The Pastor's Column

Check in on loved ones

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

Dear friends, today we will touch on a very sensitive topic. For some it may be too soon to read these words, for others too hard, while others are just seeking to understand. Suicide is a topic that has been quiet for far too long and many people do not understand why or what leads to a person choosing suicide.

I think the Gospels give us a glimpse of what could happen and may be a good starting point for today's discussion. Then again, if this topic is too harsh for you, maybe now you stop reading, that is ok too. If this is not applicable to you now, perhaps clip this and set it aside, I pray you never have to consider this topic again.

Matthew 27 reads:

1 Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death.² They bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

3 When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders.⁴ "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood."

"What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility."

5 So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

6 The chief priests picked up the coins and said, "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money."⁷ So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners.⁸ That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day.⁹ Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "They took the thirty silver coins, the price set on him by the people of Israel,¹⁰ and they used them to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

It was a Saturday morning in the deep winter of 1996-1997 when I made the call to an employee that

was late for a shift. No one picked up, I left a message asking if everything was alright. Sunday afternoon we heard from her parents that she had taken her life. The reason is always personal, but the repercussions are far-reaching.

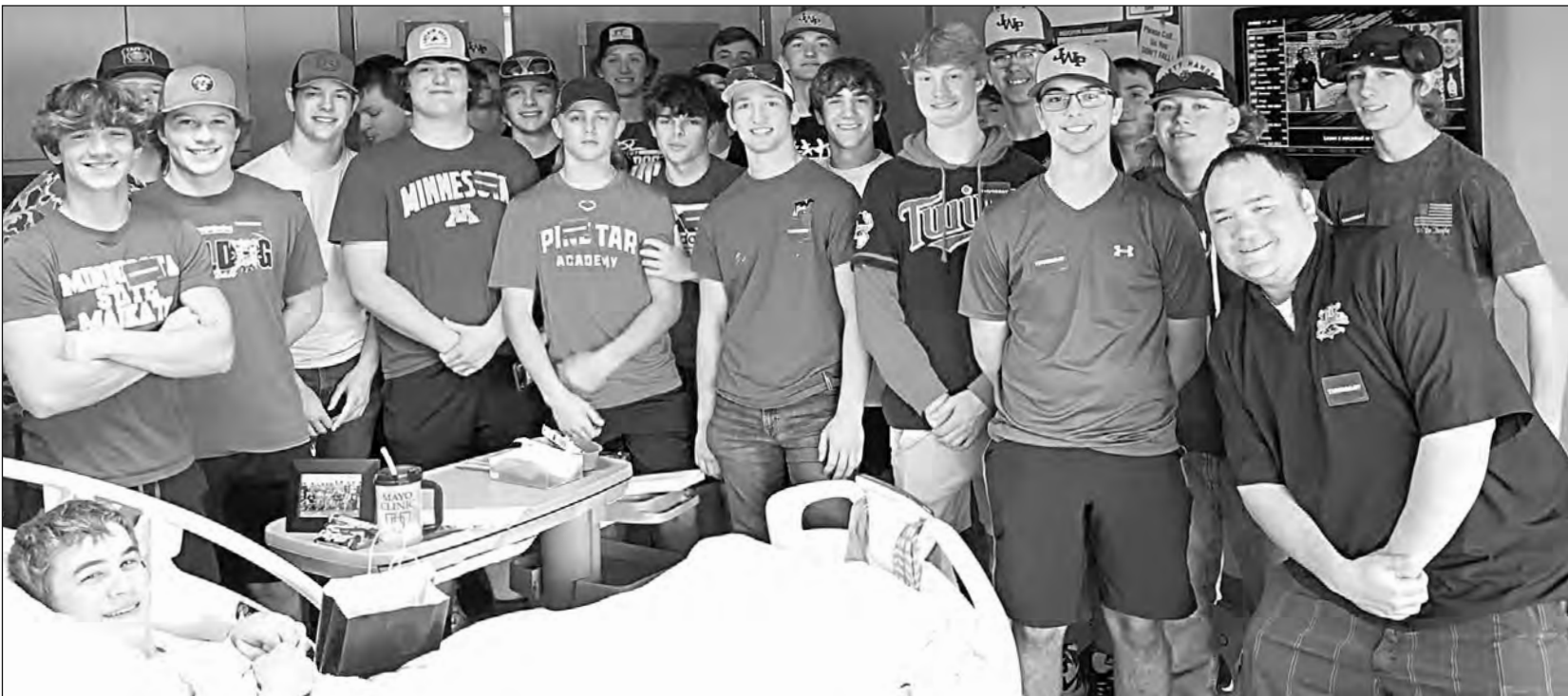
It is hard to understand how the decision to end one's life is made, what goes through the mind of a person contemplating suicide, what the spiritual implications of the act are, and what may be going on around a person contemplating suicide. We cannot answer all of these questions, but we can give some education and an action plan to love one another well.

The motivation to end one's life comes from many places, it is one that is not easily made, nor one that is the same from person-to-person. There is also a biological shift in brain chemicals that makes the decision easier and appealing. The reality is that most decisions to end a life are emotional and logic struggles to make its voice clear. I cannot speak to every situation, nor will I try to explain a person's choices.

What I can share is that you have a role in every person's life that you come across. You have friends and family that struggle, that need to feel safe enough to share the struggle. You never know what lurks in the hearts of people, but you can demonstrate God's love to them. You are called not to reject a person who struggles, like the Chief Priests and Elders did to Judas, but rather demonstrate compassionate care.

Take time to check in on the ones you love, bring your friends a card just to show you care, give hugs, shake hands, look one another in the eyes share how much you care about one another. Speak the truth in love, rather than anger, be quick to restore broken relationships, and take time to be around one another. We never know what another person is going through, but we know that every person needs God's love demonstrated to them.

More than just a baseball team



JWP baseball players took the time Thursday, April 13, to visit Gavin Krause after his surgery in Rochester. Posing, front from left: Lucas Morsching, Ty Melchior, Austin Quast, Chase Gerdt, Kelton Erler, Josh Bengtson, Austin Carda, and Head Coach Cory Jewison. Second row: Max Davis, Cole Gartner, Avery Fall, Ian Barnes, Nolan Morsching, Cole Blomstrom, Zachary Blasing, and Drake Hershberger. Back Row: Gavin Bauer, Ethan Born.

A surprise visit

Krause's post-surgery check-in

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

You know a team is tightly knit when a coach cancels practice the night before a game to visit a player going through a surgery.

Gavin Krause was required to undergo surgery in Rochester last Thursday, April 13, after suffering a leg-related injury during the wrestling season. What he wasn't expecting was for his fellow baseball

players to surprise him with a visit after his surgery.

Head Coach Cory Jewison canceled Thursday's baseball practice to allow the whole team to visit Krause and his parents post-surgery. The team stayed with Krause for a few hours, departing Rochester at about 7:30 p.m.

The team hopes to have Krause back in its ranks before the end of the season.



Gavin Krause smiles as Lucas Morsching, Ty Melchior, Cole Gartner, Austin Quast, and Avery Fall visit with him.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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 LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	ities, ages 12-18 * * *
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. * * *	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 Interhim Pastor Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:00 a.m. Worship * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * *	CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays 9 a.m., 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Rev. Michael Mathevs, pastor Sundays: Sunday School 9 a.m., Bible Study 9:20 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville Father Brian Mulligan 10 a.m. - Mass * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St, Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * *	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Pamela Jensen Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Vacancy Sunday = 1 p.m. Worship * * *
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca 507-835-1222 Worship Saturday 5:15 p.m., Sundays 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., weekdays 8:30 a.m. Tues., Wed. and Fri., 7:00 a.m. Thurs. * * *	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 - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday "Young at heart" Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation * * *
REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca		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 Activ-	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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Please Note: PARTIAL LISTING. BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR LATE ADDITIONS. Delivery of consignments will be on April 16, 17, 18, 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Absolutely no consignments on April 20 and 21. Some items subject to change prior to auction. Loading of items day of auction until 4 p.m. **Tracy Holland**

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April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 APRIL FOOL'S
2	3	4 Burger nite 5-7pm	5 6pm BAR Bingo GOLD STAR SPOUSES DAY	6 7pm HALL BINGO	7 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 7:PM GOOD FRIDAY	8 SPRING BINGO 7PM
9 EASTER NATIONAL FORMER POW DAY	10 7pm Post & AUX. Meet	11 Burger nite 5-7pm	12 6pm BAR Bingo	13 7pm HALL BINGO	14 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 7:PM AIR FORCE RESERVE BIRTHDAY	15 GUN BINGO DEER HUNTERS
16	17	18 Burger nite 5-7pm	19 6pm BAR Bingo	20 7pm HALL BINGO	21 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7:PM or sold out YOUR HOST HONOR GUARD AND AUX. MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 7:PM	22
23 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am -Non Your Host Waseca High School Football	24	25 Last Burger Nite 5-7pm	26 6pm BAR Bingo	27 7pm HALL BINGO	28 STEAK FRY 5:30 TO 7:PM or sold out YOUR HOST FOOD SHELF AND AUX. MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 7:PM	29
30 NATIONAL MILITARY BRATS DAY	ARMY RESERVE BIRTHDAY 4-23	MONTH OF MILITARY CHILD				

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THUR.-1pm to 11pm
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

*DQ is now HIRING. To Inquire go to: fourteenfoods.net/playlikeachamp. Or for more information visit the Guidance Office.

*Waseca Vet Clinic is HIRING!!! Do you have a love for cats and dogs? Are you a self-starter and able to work independently? Waseca Vet Clinic is looking to fill a few Kennel Assistant Positions. Hours would include evenings, weekends and holidays, some morning shifts once summer arrives. Some duties include but are not limited to Feeding/Watering/Picking up/cleaning up after animals, dishes, and completing daily task lists. Please Stop into the High School Office or stop in to the Waseca Vet Clinic (1400 State St South) for an Application. You can also return the application to the School office or the Waseca Vet Clinic. We encourage anyone who may have applied in the past to reapply!

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*Mayo Clinic is hiring Environmental Service Technicians- Mayo Clinic invites HS students to start their life changing career at Mayo Clinic. Students will play a vital role by ensuring a safe and clean environment for our patients, visitors, and staff each day by working with our Environmental Services Department.

<https://jobs.mayoclinic.org/job/mankato/environmental-services-technician-high-school-student-opportunities/33647/33896701712#content>

*Yellow Mushroom is hiring Cooks and Servers for night and weekend hours. Applications are available at Yellow Mushroom, 1208 S. State St.

*ICAN Inc. of Waseca is hiring Part Time Personal Support Staff. Part Time positions can range from 7 – 29 hours a week. This position does include every other weekend. This is a great position if you are looking into the healthcare field, teaching, coaching, etc.

ICAN is a premier residential service provider to individuals with disabilities. We provide training for all aspects of the job. ICAN is currently offering a \$300 hiring bonus after 6 months of employment.

To apply, go to www.icanmn.us or stop in our office, 118 North State Street Waseca. If you have any

questions, you can contact us at 507.835.9140.

* Lakeshore Rehabilitation Center has part-time server positions (16 years or older) for 3 pm-7 pm, part-time evening cook position for 11 am-7 pm (or any afternoon hours the candidate would be able to work, part-time cook for the assisted living facility 9:30 am-1:30 pm. Interested candidates will need to apply on our website, monarchmn.com. On that page, click the header "Careers" and choose "Find a Monarch Career" under the drop down menu. From there, navigate to: "Current Openings>Culinary Services Aide Lakeshore" or "Culinary Services Cook, Lakeshore ALF". The starting pay is \$15.00.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

*Waseca County has an opening for a Weed Harvester position. This is a temporary position which is 40 hours a week (will not work nights or weekends). The job is about 6-8 weeks and starts in early June. The individual needs to be 18. The pay starts at \$20.32 per hour. I have the application attached if you have a student that would be interested please let me know! Here is the link to the job description: <https://www.co.waseca.mn.us/Job.aspx?UniqueID=111&From=All&CommunityJobs=False&JobID=Aquatic-Weed-Harvesting-Operator-Seasona-165>

*Southern Research and Outreach Center is hiring for grounds and maintenance jobs for any students or others that might be interested? You need to be 16+ years old to work here. Pay is \$15/hr. Typical schedule is 7:30 am to 4 pm for a 40 hour work week. If anyone has questions please Mobile: 507-461-6899 | Office: 507-837-5615 E-mail: jstenzel@umn.edu Website: www.sroc.cfans.umn.edu

*Fun, Summer Job Opportunities at Kiesler's Campground and RV Resort! We are hiring life-guards, activities coordinators and guest services team members - Learn more at www.kieslers.com/apply.

*University of MN Southern Research & Outreach Center has positions in Agronomy, Soil Science and Groundskeeping available for this summer. Must be 16 years old. For more information call 507-835-3620. Pick up, complete, and return an application to the SROC main office @ 35838 120th St. Waseca.

‘Spies’ Variety Show Friday and Saturday, April 14-15



■ Variety from Page 1

by Jenny Pena.
The Waseca High School choirs are directed by Tim Delnay, and were accompanied by Elizabeth Hoffmann on piano as well as a pit band consisting of Devon Lawrence, Corrick Medina Kya Hoof, Ryan Leigh, Amerette Nevalainen, Claire

Dieker and Josie Perrizo. Choreographer for the show choir 2022-2023 season was Michelle Lowden. The Variety Show also featured choreography by students Lindsey Kopetzki, Trista Stinehart, Jackie Mathern, Sadie Schimming, Mia Mitchell, Ashton Jenzen, Aubree Hansen, Cece Huttemier, Ava Omtvelt, Jenaro Delgado, Christian Rodriguez, Tegan Flatau, and Mallory Bruhn. The Variety Show was recorded in-house and will be available for viewing on the Waseca Public Schools YouTube channel.

Pioneer photos by Tristan Jensen



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