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WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

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Sports

WASECA
CITY COUNCIL

ConAgra planning year-round operations

By **ELI LUTGENS**
Publisher

Jeff Kraimer, plant manager at Waseca’s ConAgra plant, spoke to the Waseca City Council Tuesday evening about expanding the business’s operation. At the time, council members were investigating the possibility of creating a public/private partnership necessary to facilitate the use of the city’s wastewater treatment plant by the business. Council members instructed city staff to work with ConAgra to draft an official proposal for the arrangement.

ConAgra employs about 120 people year-round, along with up to an additional 200 seasonal workers. Kraimer explained that the plant would like to move toward increasing production from seasonal to year-round. In order to do so, the company would need to expand its access to wastewater treatment.

Kraimer claimed that ConAgra isn’t processing the amount of food it would like to. The new plant opened in June of 2022 and processed about 140-145 million pounds of food last year.

They expect those numbers to be up to about 185 million when they reach 100% efficiency. Kramer stated that the plant cost about \$300 million to build, and that volume has remained flat. “We have to change the denominator. To get to 250-300 [million] pounds we have to unlock year round.”

This would mean more employees, better margins for ConAgra, and better prices for consumers.

“What we want to do is take that 185 million theoretical max and move to a year-round operation in the 250-300 million pound range,” Kraimer explained. “Basically the plant is sitting idle from October through spring. Why?”

In order to move to year-round operations, Kraimer said ConAgra wants to become an “Industrial user” of Waseca’s wastewater treatment facilities.

“We’re trying to figure out a relationship that’s mutually beneficial for both ConAgra and the city,” Kraimer expressed.

“The city doesn’t want to be left holding the bag financially,” interim city manager Carl Sonnenburg said. “To start out, we don’t want any investment in consulting fees.”

“We want to pay our share and do the right thing,” Kraimer responded.

Sonnenburg explained that it was very early in the process and many questions will be asked and answered. When asked about a timeline, Kraimer said

ConAgra continued on 3



WINTER TREAT - One of the staples of FarmAmerica’s Winter Charm on the Farm is the horse carriage ride, which provides a tour.
Photo by Jordan Carrillo

Winter, charm at Farmamerica

By **JORDAN CARRILLO**
Contributing writer

On a chilly Saturday afternoon, Farmamerica, an agricultural interpretive center outside Waseca, held its third annual Winter Charm on the Farm for the public. The festival, whose events are scheduled to be repeated on Feb. 25, was first held in 2020 as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic so families could get out of the house and back into their communities. Program Director Jenny Delnay spoke about the personal enjoyment the event brings participants while also calling attention to some important aspects of rural living. She explained that FarmAmerica’s goal is to “educate the public about the history of agriculture and how far we’ve come,” while simultaneously building public awareness of “the winter conditions farmers endure.” It was a windy and frigid early afternoon

Charm continued on 3

‘God’s been great to me’ Frederick is grateful for Waseca community

By **MICHAEL ROY**
Editor

One person who deserves to claim he’s helped Waseca get to where it is today is 92-year-old Ed Frederick. But, for those who try to thank him, he simply turns the tables. “All I feel is gratitude for my time in Waseca.

“I’ve been so fortunate in my life,” Frederick expressed. “I’m 92 going on 93. God’s been great to me.”

Despite his age, Frederick still gets around with the help of an assistant. His eyesight limits him a little bit; he cannot drive by himself anymore, and he uses a machine that allows him to zoom in on smaller print on letters or papers. But that hasn’t stopped him from being a “cheerleader” of the community.

“When I hit 92, I decided that God was giving me some extra time,” Frederick explained. “So I thought I should spend a few days asking Him what He wants me to do. I decided not being able to see or drive, I’d become a cheerleader for Him, the family, the community, and for agriculture.”

Frederick is still active in Rotary Club, whose meetings he hasn’t missed in 58 years, is a Waseca Area Ambassador, a member of the Knights of Columbus, and active with the Waseca FFA. But that only scratches the surface of what he’s done for the community.



DECORATED - Ed Frederick has earned many awards throughout the years ranging from plaques from the University of Minnesota to his contributions to the FFA. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

“When I hit 92, I decided that God was giving me some extra time.”
— **Ed Frederick**

his family (and of many others back in that time), Blue Earth County Aide Leonard Hartness started a 4-H club in the area. “He was smart enough to know if he went to a family that was a size of nine, you could start a club pretty quickly,” he joked.

It was through 4-H that he met his wife of many years, Shirley May. She was a country western singer, and Frederick loved that genre. “We

had to get somebody to entertain us for the banquet,” he claimed. “So we invited her. At that time, only my older brother could drive and we went and picked her up and took her home.”

He called her a smart lady, as she forgot her guitar in his brother’s

Frederick continued on 3

WASECA COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

TPG Steel working to acquire building

By **TRISTAN JENSEN**
Staff Writer

As the regular meeting of the Waseca County Commissioners on January 17 came to a close, county administrator Michael Johnson informed commissioners that TPG Steel, the new manufacturing company seeking to come to Waseca, hoped for an audience. Board members agreed to officially recess their meeting until the afternoon to accommodate TPG Steel’s day-to-day timeline.

TPG Steel is trying to purchase the old EF Johnson building in Waseca and has an agreement with the current owner that it will purchase the building and honor current tenancy contracts, leaving unrented areas for their own use. As a relatively new company, however, TPG Steel does not have the credit history to get the best loan terms without some form of underwriter. The company is asking the county to enter into a lease guarantee, which will allow them to save about 2% in interest costs on the loan.

Chris Sigfrid and Sean Athey, of TPG Steel, intended to attend the afternoon portion of the meeting remotely but found themselves traveling through poor weather conditions when the time came. They did submit a written document answering several questions Johnson had for them about the situation. In attendance remotely was Justin Erickson of EsseX Capital, LLC, a company which aids commercial clients with site selection for their projects. The TPG Steel team connected with Erickson last fall. Erickson emphasized to the board that his work is not to advocate for TPG Steel directly, but to act as a third party between them and the community while trying to find an agreement that works and makes sense for all parties involved. “The worst deal is not the one that doesn’t get done,” he said “It’s the one that gets done and then implodes.”

Erickson said that from what he’s seen of TPG Steel, the company has a solid plan for business in Waseca. The only trouble he identified for the board is that the labor market is difficult, which he explained is true no matter where a business looks, but that the quality of the jobs TPG will offer and its proposed

TPG continued on 5

*A word from
The Word*



*You are my God,
and I will give
thanks to you; you
are my God; I will
extol you. Oh give
thanks to the Lord,
for he is good; for
his steadfast love en-
dures forever!.*

Psalms 118:28-29



Duelling Noted performer Casandra Ruprecht

A duelling good time

By **MICHAEL ROY**
Editor

The Starfire Event Center was the place to be Saturday, Jan. 14. The Waseca Area Ambassadors hosted Duelling Noted, a female dueling piano pair based out of the Twin Cities. United Prairie Bank was an additional sponsor.

About two hundred people took part. “We’ll take it!” Waseca Chamber Executive Director Ann Fitch said.

Duelling Noted members Jacy Smith and Cassondra Ruprecht met in college. The two started out as enemies, but after taking a class together and sharing a

ride to a performance, they found out that maybe they could be friends after all.

Before the performers took the stage, Waseca Area Ambassador President Ann Fitch expressed her gratitude for the evening’s entertainment.

The event was sponsored by the Waseca Area Ambassadors. Fitch also shared some jokes—a few of them definitely intended for adults—before handing the microphone off to the piano duo.

Duelling continued on 3



Compostings

by Al Batt
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‘Ain’t no sunshine when cheese gone’

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING
My family is going to Lake Louise and Banff this year, but I’m not going.
Why not?
I don’t know how to Banff.
DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. The trees were frosted and there was another dense fog advisory. I might not send the meteorologist a Christmas card next year. I read books to clear the dense fog from my mind. When I was in grade school (4th grade was the best four years of my life), the bookmobile visited every couple of weeks. It met me close to where I was. I needed to travel 3.5 miles to the primary street in town. My teachers encouraged the use of the bookmobile. I borrowed books by the bushel. That bookmobile showed me books were for everyone. I haven’t forgotten that.

I purchased a sandwich for nourishment. I asked for a 6-foot sub. Basketball was on my mind. Fortunately, I didn’t get what I ordered. I’d left upholstered surfaces to watch a basketball game from hard seats. My granddaughter Joey teaches kindergarten and is an accomplished basketball player. Her kindergarten class came to one of her college games. Joey signed posters, shirts and arms. I couldn’t tell who was the happiest to see the other—the kids or their teacher.

During a winter at its glacial worst, my wife dressed our Chihuahua in a red sweater. As soon as the sweater was in place, the tiny dog tried to get smaller. His life had lost meaning. Warmth wasn’t important to him until he got cold. I saw similar behavior from humans when I rang the bells on frigid days. Shorts weren’t uncommon.

THE SCENE WAS A CLASSROOM WHEN ROCKS WERE SOFT

I found this pen. Is it yours?
Let me try writing with it. Yep, it’s my pen.
How do you know?
That’s my handwriting.
I’VE LEARNED

I used to know many more people named Gary than I do now.
Supermarket samples always taste good.

No one is normal but me and I’m goofy.

To shock the world by ending sentences with prepositions. Common prepositions are: above, across, against, along, among, around, at, before, behind, below, beneath, beside(s), between, by, down, from, in, into, near, of, off, on, to, toward, under, upon, with and within. You can say, “Never underestimate the power of an elected idiot to do something I don’t agree with.” It’s legal.

Winston Churchill is credited for a response to criticism for ending a sentence with a preposition, but Churchill didn’t say, “This is the type of errant pedantry up with which I will not put.”

My wife taught me anyone can find anything if they look in the right place.

ASK AL

“My grandparents got me up early in the morning so I could chop wood for breakfast. Did you ever have to do that?” No, I never had to eat wood for breakfast.

“Could you name the Seven Dwarfs?” I could, but there’s no need to. They have names.

“What was the first call Alexander Graham Bell received?” It was from someone telling him his vehicle’s warranty had expired.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

I watched a documentary on making pickles. It was jarring.

What happens when you throw a blue rock into the Red Sea? It gets wet.

Déjà vu is nonsense. I’ve said that before.

It’s always cloudy when I finish the cheese because “ain’t no sunshine when cheese gone.”

I got an email on how to read maps backward. It was spam.

What actor is always ready for cereal? Reese Witherspoon.

FOOTBALL

Gabe Hagen, sophomore tight end at Minnesota State, scored two touchdowns this year. Gabe is the son of Dave and Joan Hagen of Blooming Prairie. Dave graduated from Ellendale-Geneva HS.

Jack Peterson, senior defensive tackle for Colorado School of Mines, had 42 tackles and 9 sacks this year. Mines lost the NCAA DII championship game. Jack is the son of Troy Peterson of Fort Collins. Troy is a graduate of New Richland-Hartland HS.

NATURE NOTES

Freezing fog has been spending time in my company. The super-cooled liquid droplets freeze on contact with trees and other exposed objects. The result is a beautiful display of rime ice on trees. It’s denser and harder than hoarfrost. Hoarfrost develops on clear calm nights. You could think of hoarfrost as the frozen equivalent of dew. Go ahead, no one is stopping you.

If you missed “Birding With Batt” on the airwaves this week, you can hear it any time you like via the free KMSU radio streaming app. The app is available for Apple and Android devices, allowing you to livestream 89.7 the Maverick, find playlists and listen to shows on-demand.

MEETING ADJOURNED

“When I was young, I admired clever people. Now that I am old, I admire kind people.”—Abraham Joshua Heschel.

Defense cost the Vikings, not Cousins

I’m very disappointed in the Minnesota Vikings.

Sigh. I know. We had a first-year head coach and a first-year general manager. It’s the first time both of them are in their respective positions. They had no expectations even with a potentially great Vikings team that went 8-9 in 2021-22. We went 13-4 to end the regular season. I should be grateful for a 13-5 season, right?

Well...in my humble opinion, yes and no.

How do you measure a successful season? Is it based on how many wins a team records? Is it based on how the team got those wins? For me, it’s a combination of both.

Most people were calling us frauds at 13-4 while others said we were a Super Bowl contender. Both used the 11-0 record in single-score games as evidence for their case. Both used the greatest comeback in NFL history against the Colts for their claims.

For me, the season wasn’t a failure or a success. It was...meh. But if I had to choose one, I’m choosing failure.

It wasn’t the fact that we lost in the wild card round of the playoffs that makes me feel like this season was a failure. It was how we lost.

Now, people will go all the way to



Music to my Ears

by Michael Roy
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the ends of the earth to blame Kirk Cousins for the loss to the New York Giants because on the final offensive snap of the season, he pulled a Kirk Cousins...he threw a check down pass that only went three yards when they needed eight to convert the fourth down.

There are people who are going to point to that one play as the sole, indisputable, undebatable reason why the Vikings lost in the first round of the playoffs, and we will never, ever win a Super Bowl with him because of that play.

Never mind Kirk going 31/39 for 273 yards, two touchdowns, no turnovers, and no sacks in that game. Never mind the defense being suspect all year and in the playoffs, they made Daniel Jones look like Tom Brady in his prime. Never mind that most of our O-Line was a turnstile in the sense that we had a different

lineup for most games or they couldn’t block if their life depended on it.

People are saying that Cousins should have at least tried throwing the ball to Justin Jefferson, our star wide receiver, to try and extend the drive, because that worked against Buffalo. One of two things. One: It’s easy to say that when you’re not on the field with defenders a step or two away from tackling you. Two: If he did that and he got intercepted, then people would be kvetching about how he threw up the ball in the last second to get picked off.

Let’s be real. People hate Kirk Cousins because he’s not cool. He’s a devout Christian (maybe Tim Tebow lite) who acts like a dorky dad in his 50s even though he’s 35. That’s about as anti-cool as you can get. He’s not flashy like Patrick Mahomes and he isn’t seen as whole-some like Josh Allen. He’s a

goofball, and goofballs don’t get respect in the National Football League.

The bottom line is that the defense cost us the game. They allowed Daniel Jones to lead the Giants on a 31-point campaign. Daniel Jones. The guy people were calling a bust last season.

The defense has been abysmal all year, allowing Dallas to score 40, the Packers to score 41, and the Eagles to score 24 (21 of those in the first half).

Arguably, they were the reason we were in so many one-score games. Most of those, we were behind by a few points because of them. If it weren’t for Cousins leading seven fourth-quarter comebacks, we would have been 7-10 or even as bad as 5-12. We were behind to the Chicago Bears in the first matchup of the season. That’s how bad they were.

Anyway, hate on Kirk all you want. I sure did the first few seasons he was here. But he’s one of the only reasons we did so well in the first place. Maybe the Vikings should have fired defensive coordinator Ed Donatell. Then we wouldn’t have had to score four or five touchdowns a game to have a semblance of a chance of winning.

I’ll take dogs over people anytime

Wallace is a little nuisance sometimes (or a LOT of the times), but he never tries to hide who he is. It’s all out there in the open to see, both good and bad: This is me. I love outside. I love sitting on laps and cuddling. I sprinkle fine white hair on your clothes. I pee where I want to. Got a treat? This explicit straightforwardness is the biggest reason why I find dog behavior much MUCH more logical (and trustworthy) than that of humans. Dogs don’t break promises. Dogs don’t claim to support one set of ideas and then act in support of another set. Dogs don’t talk out of both sides of their mouths. Dogs don’t give you false information with the hope that you choose them instead of the other guy. Dogs are pretty transparent.

Speaking of transparent dogs, I’ve solved the winter visibility problem for my snow-colored little dude (Chewy comes through once again!): a bright blue puffer and leash. Wallace and my other dachshund Otto typically wear fleece vests once temperatures drop below 70 degrees; even then, the senior one grumbles



Always Looking Up

by Melissa Dunn

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about going outdoors. Every time. Otto sticks his nose out to gauge the weather and then looks up at me: You have GOT to be kidding, lady. Are you INSANE? I get it—short-haired dachshunds are one of a handful of breeds that are not blessed with fur but...hair (obviously). Since they don’t have a nice undercoat of the fluffy insulation that their buddies do, they have to either wear sweaters or shiver constantly and be uncomfortable. Since his coloring is brown with a touch of black (and now, a lot of grey), Otto is styling in red fleece in the winter months, and ONLY inside (those puppy pads are a permanent thing at our house). Creamy Wallace looks pretty dapper in his bright blue one. But since fleece gets

wet (and therefore cold) in the snow...the nylon puffer!

I am not someone who enjoys dressing up their dogs in pajamas and costumes and formalwear, but all of my dogs do have cold weather apparel, for practical reasons. Since A) heat rises, B) humidifiers and air filters spew cold air as they run, and C) my dogs are all knee-high or lower to the ground, then D) they live in an environment even chillier than mine. I’m not a crazy old dog lady who dresses up her pets (my brother asked me over Christmas if I was turning into one) but I know how to take care of them so they stay healthy and happy, as they deserve. And Wallace exuberantly dashing through the snow in a bright blue

puffer vest is a sight to see.

For the record, there is no such breed as a “wiener dog.” Just like there are no other dogs named for distinguishing physical characteristics they happen to have, like toothy, bitey dogs, slobbery dogs, or ornery dogs (I’m looking at YOU, chihuahuas). Check with the American Kennel Club. There are only ten breeds in the W section on their website and wiener dog is not one of them (so just stop with that). Imagine what would happen if we started calling people by their distinguishing physical characteristics. I’m pretty sure a couple of new ones would pop up, and a lot of folks would rapidly develop them: either black eyes or bruised shins. However, it might be refreshing if people would take a few lessons from their canine companions and be truly real. That’s A LOT to live up to, to be on equal footing in that department but that would be a wonderful distinguishing characteristic to have.

Getting to the heart of the story

I have a long list of stories which I/we/the newspaper only make a dent in. In the past month, two folks who I intended to write about passed away. This isn’t the first time someone whom I wanted to interview has died, but that doesn’t make it any easier.

It serves as another reminder why I try so hard, why I let myself feel pressure to get to the story before it’s too late. Because people just never know.

Last year, while doing “Looking Back,” it was observed that Bohlen Plumbing and Heating was celebrating either 50 or 75 years in business. I contacted James and Rick and wanted to sit down to write an article about their history. They politely declined (a couple times). Their father, Merlyn, passed away in December (He was one of my lost opportunities.)

When I write a feature story, I really want it to be good enough that folks could read it at the individual’s funeral. It’s why I work so hard, why most of my feature story interviews take an hour or longer. It’s why I sometimes spend three hours with a family: I want to truly capture that person’s essence, spirit—their story.

I struggle assigning feature stories to people for that reason. Outside of three people, which is honestly an incredible amount, I don’t trust folks to



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens
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work that hard on a story. Those exceptions are Melanie Piltingsrud, Deb Bently, and of course, my favorite writer, my father.

For Pete’s sake, Melanie doesn’t even put down some of her hours on a story if she feels she put in “personal time.” People like this are special.

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention our other writers. Because, thinking about it now, I recall a number of heartfelt stories written by contributors, residents, really a lot of folks.

Tristan is becoming quite the writer herself. And then there’s Michael, who writes so much for all of the papers in Waseca County, it almost makes my head spin. Finally, there’s my sister, who I wish would simply write more. Oh, and our columnists. How I enjoy their work. Okay, so maybe I trust a few more than three people.

When a newspaper doesn’t have a local connection with people, places,

and events, it’s really, really hard to write stories like I just described. He was really surprised that my education, my journalism experience, came almost entirely from my father. Yes, I attended college for one year after high school, but none of that was journalism.

He said, “You know people go to school to learn what you do.”

Yes they do. But honestly, given my experience with college-trained journalists, I’ll take Dave and his “amateur writing.”

Why? Because he’s writing a story he wants to write, about a place he’s familiar with, about people he’s known for a long, long time. It doesn’t matter how “professional” it is, because the details are there. His heart is all-in. What I’m trying to say is, we look for a heart first, and writing skills second.

Is that professional? Probably not, but it’s how we operate.

After all, my dad always drilled it in my head that a newspaper is supposed to be written at an eighth-grade reading level.

I think my point is this: the newspaper, at least my goal for it, is for it to not only be about the community, but written by people active in their community.

“Don’t put off till tomorrow what can be done today,” - unknown.

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About 200 people purchased tickets to watch Twin Cities-based duo “Duely Noted” Saturday, Jan. 14. Duely Noted’s members are Jacy Smith and Cassondra Ruprecht
Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

■ Duelling

from Page 1

The two frenemies played until 9 p.m. They opened the show with Adele’s “Rolling in the Deep.” While most dueling piano pairs like to focus on a single instrument, Ruprecht started the night playing electronic drums.

Smith and Ruprecht played classics such as “What’s Going On?,”

■ Frederick

from Page 1

trunk. “My dad noticed that as he would always take the truck up to the creamery,” he claimed. He believes she did that on purpose to have an excuse to see him again.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Shortly after graduating in the late 40s, Frederick attended the Crookston campus of the University of Minnesota, where he received his Bachelor and Master degrees in dairy production and a Ph.D. in physiology. After graduating, he joined the university’s staff of teachers and researchers in 1958.

The Waseca chapter of Frederick’s story began in 1963.

“I was offered a job to be the superintendent of the University of Minnesota Southern Experiment Station and the Southern School of Agriculture the year after Bob Hodgson retired,” he explained. “They bragged that Waseca has the best conditions for farming and claimed it was a great opportunity for me. I talked it over with my wife, and we agreed it would be.”

From there, over 58 years ago, he cemented his legacy as a modern-day Waseca Pioneer, teaching about agriculture until the Waseca University’s closing, pushing for a farming interpretive center in the Waseca area, and getting more involved in Waseca clubs and organizations.

After he and Shirley were married for 65 years, she passed away

■ ConAgra

from Page 1

this process would take months and expressed there was no urgency, just a process they would like to see addressed.

Despite council members’ nu-

Elton John’s “Bennie and the Jets,” and, of course, “Man! I Feel Like a Woman” by Shania Twain. They encouraged the crowd to sing along, and a few lucky people even joined them on stage playing instruments like the cowbell.

It was a good time for all. But the party didn’t stop there. An aftershow took place across the street at Club 57.

For those that missed Duely Noted, there will be another chance to catch them at the Mill on Saturday, February 11. Tickets are RSVP.

“God’s been so good to me.”

— Ed Frederick

in 2016. The two were at Colony Court during her period of health issues. He and the family decided that with the help of an assistant, he was more than capable of going back home. He and his family still celebrate her birthday. And these days, Frederick loves any excuse to celebrate life.

“I had one student from Crookston drive all the way down here to celebrate her birthday last year,” he said. “It was great to have a visit from him and his wife.”

It’s the connections he’s made with students that he claims is one of his greatest achievements. “Educators have that advantage over others,” he claimed. “It’s just plain great. There’s no way to explain it.”

He is also very proud of his family. He and his wife have five children. One son, Donald, works with controlled data, while another son, Kenny, works in hazardous waste. All the girls in the family went into the medical field.

Frederick is currently the oldest guy in his family. That gives him more reason to regard every day as a blessing. “God’s been so good to me,” he reflected. “He really has. It’s a joy getting up every morning. I want to continue being involved in the community for as long as possible, because Waseca has been great to my family. I only hope I can show my gratitude for it.”

merous questions, the council was unanimous in its support, approving the first step in this process. What the council approved Tuesday night was for city staff to work with ConAgra to get an official proposal together for council members to consider.

“This sounds very exciting for the city of Waseca,” councilperson Jeremy Conrath summarized.

‘Pin shoot’

By **TRISTAN JENSEN**
Editorial Assistant

“Don’t worry about the bad shots,” one young archer advised a friend. “Just think about the good shots to come.” The words of wisdom were shared during a “pin shoot” held by the Waseca Archery Club; the January 5 event offered archers the opportunity to earn pins from USA Archery to mark their personal achievements. It was the first pin shoot of the calendar year, but marked the end of a six-week cycle for the members and leadership of the Waseca Archery Club. Pins are earned by achieving a certain individual score in a thirty-arrow round; achievements also have requirements for distance and target-type tied to the type of bow used. The pins begin at green and become progressively more difficult until they reach the “Olympiad” pins of Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Archers often earn their first pins very quickly, but the full progression typically takes several years.

The archers in the youth program at Waseca range in age from eight to eighteen. Some at the recent event were aiming for their green pin while a select few were striving to earn the highly difficult Olympiad pins. Luke Jeske, a new member of the Waseca Archery Club participating in his first pin shoot, had already achieved the score to earn his green pin by the halfway point of the round. Jeske is eleven years old, and joined the club because of a friend, Emily Harguth, age nine, was also aiming for her green pin – for indoor archery. She’s been shooting for two years now and



ARCHERS - Participating in a Jan. 5 “pin shoot” at Waseca Archery Club are, back row from left: Bridget Pectorious, Aiden Groskreutz, Zoie Thimpson, Gabe Kietzer, Sam Cole, Liah Adam. Middle row: Josie Hagre, Zeb Sell, Cael Pectorious, Carter Walker, Vaira Guse, Cadence Stenzel, Ian Reese, Aiden Walker, Luke Jeske, Henry Hager, Gabe Mullenbach. Front row: Ellie Adams, Peter Mullenbach, Emily Harguth, Ryan Harguth, William Hager
Pioneer photos by Tristan Jensen

has earned three pins in outdoor archery. She’s also participated in one local and one state competition during that time; she says a real highlight for her is beating out the boys. Carter Walker, age ten and a three-year member of the club, was shooting for his red pin – the seventh in the progression and only two shy of the first Olympiad pin. Carter’s older brother Aiden Walker, 12, won first place among his peers at last year’s Minnesota State Indoor competition. Aiden has now graduated to a new age group. “I don’t think about the score, I just shoot,” Aiden said when asked about his progress in the pin shoot. Both Walker boys say they’re enjoying themselves in the archery club and want to stick with it at least a few more years. Midway through the shoot, Aiden could be found giving advice to a friend feeling discouraged. “Don’t worry about the bad shots,” he said, “Just think about the good shots to come.”



Pin shooters in action

The members of the Waseca Archery Club practice weekly; a pin shoot is held every six weeks. Archers can participate in two rounds the night of a pin shoot, getting a second chance if they missed their mark or are aiming to earn a second pin in one night, but plenty choose to go home and rest after the first round. The archers take part in tabulating their scores, so they know immediately whether they’ve earned a pin. It becomes official, however, when pins are handed out at the next week’s practice and the new session begins. The pins are displayed on lanyards – a white lanyard for indoor archery pins and a green one for outdoor pins. Many of the archers at the Waseca Archery Club have both lanyards displayed proudly on their belts.

■ Charm

from Page 1

but that did not stop multitudes of families, especially children, from enjoying the snow, munching on s’mores, and sipping hot cocoa. Delnay took over as the center’s director in 2021, she said, because of her “passion toward teaching others about the environment.”

Charm on the Farm featured snow-shoeing, interactive exhibits showcasing the history and impact farming has on our lives, log cutting, and carriage rides required significant planning. “We started coordinating with our partners in October...the event kind of snuck up on me after Christmas but we’re glad to hold this event for the community.” She noted that she and her family have lived near farms their entire lives, so being able to teach about the history of agriculture “is something I love to do. Without farmers, we wouldn’t be able to eat much of the food we consume on a daily basis.” Delnay also highlighted the economic impact farming and agriculture have on the state of Minnesota, “This industry is so critical for Minnesota’s economy. With the improvements in our knowledge and technology, it is going to help us in the future.” When asked if there was a specific activity on display at the

event, Delnay commented she was most intrigued by and the logging camp: “I didn’t get to use that two-man saw during my first year directing in 2021 so I’m going to make sure I get a chance this time.”

The logging camp was hosted by Rockin’ Circle R Ranch with Scott Roemhildt at the helm; Roemhildt has been an active member of the logging community for over 30 years. “Back then, I was using horses and oxen,” he joked. Logging is the traditional way of chopping long logs into smaller pieces for buildings and tools; it is no walk in the park. As Roemhildt noted, “These loggers are burning more calories than a marathon runner, so they need to eat to keep their strength up.” He informed the group that loggers would traditionally work from “can’t see to can’t see,” or from “dark in the morning to dark at night.” Rockin’ Circle’s goal at Winter Charm was to “let folks know that logging preceded farming here in Minnesota. You had to clear the land so you could farm,” remarked Roemhildt. During one session, Roemhildt encouraged two young children to “work as a team” as they alternated pulling a ribbon saw back and forth to cut a two-inch thick circle of the log. He would assist the children when they got stuck. Once amateur loggers succeeded in cutting a slice off their log, he would walk over to the firepit closest to him, pull out a metal brand with the letter R etched into it, place it over the wooden coaster, and stamp down



Rockin’ Circle R Ranch of Janesville provided a logging camp experience for the kids.

until the R was burned into the wood. He was so impressed with the two children that he asked them, “So, when can you start working for me?”

It was at this time that the horse carriage arrived drawn by two impressively sized Percherons. The pair, with hair as white as snow, pulled a wooden carriage as Trisha Denn, the proprietor of BarnView greeted the crowd and introduced horses Cagney and Lacey. Denn has been training horses and providing carriage rides for 25 years; she and her teams are also present at “fairs and festivals like Festtag every year. Our horses love to go out and we always have fun.” The public took turns climbing into the carriage as Cagney and Lacey took them for a

walk down the path and back. Denn remarked that horses have always played a pivotal role in agriculture; “They used horses to pull their equipment and plow the field over 100 years ago. Nowadays we take a lot for granted, so it’s nice to teach people about their history.”

In between the carriage rides, the log cutting, and other activities, patrons took a break near the campfires while sipping on hot cocoa and crafting s’mores; some would burn their marshmallows to a crisp while others just ate straight out of the bag. The Winter Charm on the Farm at Farmamerica had a great turnout; events will be repeated on Feb. 25.

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642

JANUARY 2023

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

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

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OBITUARIES

Judith Remington

Judith Jane Remington, age 73, of rural Janesville, died on Friday, January 13, 2023, at the Homestead Hospice House in Owatonna.

Born on August 18, 1949, in Mankato, to John and Helen (Leggett) Howieson. Judy received her education at Claremont Public Schools, graduating with the class of 1967. On June 11, 1976, Judy was united in marriage to Harlan Douglas Remington at the Congregational Church in Pemberton. Together they raised three children while making their home on the farm in rural Janesville.

Judy began her time working for Hallmark in Waseca as a part-time employee. She was later promoted to manager of the Hallmark store in Mankato and later was added the role of supervisor of not only the Mankato store but also the Hallmarks in Burnsville, Northfield and Waseca. She also worked for several years at St. Clair State Bank. While working these various part-time jobs Judy most enjoyed her job as a farm wife, working alongside her husband, especially running the combine. She enjoyed quilting and gardening. Judy was a member of the Janesville United Methodist Church.

Judy is survived by her husband of 46 years, Harlan; children: Bradley (Amy) Remington of Jordan, Rex (Katie) Remington of Lincoln, NE, and Lisa (Shane) Anderson of Luck, WI; grandchildren: Samantha and Brian Remington; Cooper Remington; and Kyrie King, Wyatt King, and



Judith Remington

Soraya Anderson; siblings: Ruth Murray of Claremont, Paul Howieson of Owatonna, Shirley (Gene) Nelsen of St. Peter, and Larry (Christie) Howieson of Crystal; sisters-in-law: Marilyn Howieson of Des Moines, IA and Barb Howieson of Eden Prairie; brother-in-law, Jim Boeke of Denham Springs, LA; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Preceded in death by her parents; brothers: Jim, Bill, Andy, John, Chuck, Ronnie, and David Howieson; sisters: Grace Boeke and Karen Owen.

A gathering of family and friends will be from 1:00 – 4:00 PM on Saturday, January 21, 2023, at the Janesville Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service. Interment will take place in the spring at Hillside Cemetery in Claremont.

Identify Frosty and win \$1750

It's time again for the annual Waseca Sleigh and Cutter annual Identify Frosty event. This year's event is the 26th installment of the annual contest.

Who is Frosty? Identify Frosty and win some cash! Prize money totaling \$1,750, is waiting to be won. FROSTY is a Waseca County resident chosen to be an ambassador for the Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival. Follow the clues and guess Frosty's name.

Grand prize is \$350. If you are at the official unmasking at 9:30 p.m., on Friday, February 17, 2023, you will win an additional \$50. Unmasking is at the annual Sleigh & Cutter dinner and dance at the VFW Club 113 West Elm Avenue, Waseca, MN. First correct guess from Janesville, New Richland and Waseca wins \$150; and if you are at the unmasking you will win an additional \$50. Only five names will be drawn for \$100 – must be present. Five names win \$50 – attendance is not necessary.

Contest rules:

1. Clues are published by the Waseca County Pioneer (wasecacountypioneer.com), the Waseca County News (wasecacountynews.com and Facebook); NRHEG Star Eagle; Janesville Journal, Waseca Chamber of Commerce; and KOWZ/KRUE radio.

2. One guess allowed each week.
3. Each entry must have name and complete address. Entries without complete information will not be entered.

4. Entrant must live in Waseca County and be over 18 years of age.

5. If there are multiple correct guesses, a drawing will be made to determine winner.

6. If there are no correct guesses, a drawing will be made from all entries received.

7. Entries must be received before 3:00 p.m. February 17, 2023.

8. Submit entries to:

A. WASECA: Submit entry at Waseca Music; 111 South State, Waseca, MN 56093; or via mail.

B. JANESVILLE: Mail or drop off at Waseca Music; mark your entry as Janesville.

C. NEW RICHLAND: Drop off at NRHEG STAR EAGLE; or mail to Waseca Music - mark your entry as New Richland.

Frosty sponsors: Culligan, Latham Place, iWealth, Brad Connors, Dominos, Mediacom, Lake Shore Inn, and Excel Energy. Please thank these sponsors for supporting the 26th Annual Frosty Contest!

Frosty continued on 10



33 members won a trip to state during Waseca Business Professionals of America competition at Rochester Community and Technical College on January 5, 2023.

BPA students flex, earn recognition

Waseca's Business Professionals of America (BPA) chapter found success yet again at their Regional Competition, where 33 members won State Trips. The competition was held Wednesday, January 5 at Rochester Community and Technical College, where Waseca competed against ten other area schools and roughly 250 other students.

"I think our students were excited to compete and had prepared extensively, which paid off for them," said Waseca BPA Advisor Sandy Schumacher. "It was really fun to see them get the full competition and conference experience and have so much success."

Students competed individually and in teams in a variety of categories including accounting, video editing, web design, graphic design, podcast creation, computer programming, health administration, information technology, legal procedures, and small business management. The competitions required students to learn and develop numerous soft and hard skills and abilities and then

demonstrate their knowledge by taking a test, creating a project, or presenting to a judge. Local industry and community leaders with real-life experience judged the contest events, and the top 7 individual events along with the top five from judged events and team events earned trips to the State BPA Conference and Competition to be held the second week of March against roughly 1,500 other students from schools across the state.

"Waseca BPA has a long history of success, and our students this year just continued to add to our legacy," said Schumacher. "I'm really, really proud of our students-they represented Waseca High School and our community well!"

2023 Waseca High School BPA State Trip Qualifiers

Aubree Hansen-Advanced Interview Skills and Health Administration Procedures
Will King-Banking & Finance and Personal Financial Management
Zander Honstad-Banking & Finance

Jack Chen-Business Law & Ethics
Nolan Prescher-Business Law & Ethics

Daniel Kohler-Computer Network Technology and Device Configuration & Troubleshooting

Lucas Vasquez-Neigebauer-Extemporaneous Speech

Tristin Gross-Fundamental Accounting

Tricia Cox-Fundamental Accounting

Tori Jeno-Fundamental Word Processing

Avery Madsen-Fundamental Word Processing

Trista Stinehart-Fundamental Word Processing

Jayne Sandbeck-Graphic Design Promotion

Collin Dettmer-Health Administration Procedures

Hailey Dettmer-Health Administration Procedures

Ashley Barrientos-ICD-10-CM Diagnostic Coding and Graphic Design Promotion

CeJay Pickett-Interview Skills

CeCe Huttemier-Personal Finance

cial Management
Sophie Chawra-Presentation Individual

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Podcast Production Teams:

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Jayne Sandbeck

Sarah Robbins

TEAM #2

Sam Azure

Sophie Chawra

Ella Krautkremer

Addie Wieseler

TEAM #3

Addie Bomsta

Eli Miller

Trista Stinehart

TEAM #4

CeCe Huttemier

Hailey Dettmer

Video Production Team:

Brendan Brown

Payton Garza

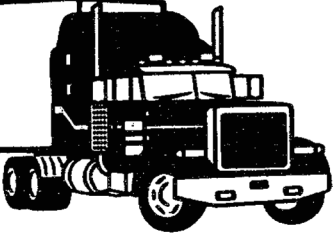
Korbin Schumacher

Oliver O'Brien

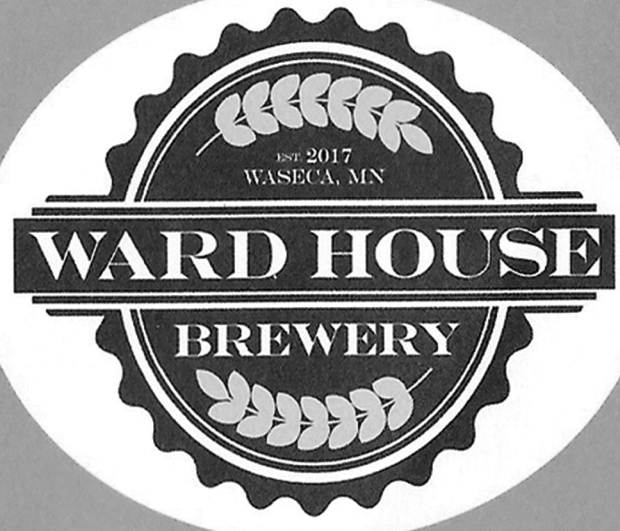
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Ice Golf Benefit for Logan Nessel & Family
@ The Boat House Grill & Bar in Waseca
Saturday, January 28, 2023
#LOGANSTRONG


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

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

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

The Crown Royal girls are scheduled to be onsite giving out free samples
We will have a DJ outside (weather permitting)
Optional additional fee contests throughout the course for your chance to win prizes (Including MINNESOTA WILD TICKETS!)
Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for the mini golf


Sign up using the QR code above or send an email to loganstrongbenefit@gmail.com
There will be a silent auction to bid on a Henry Golden Boy 22 Long Rifle, autographed Twins memorabilia and more!

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

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

*All proceeds from the event are considered a donation, in the case of bad weather, an indoor event will take place instead
Thank you for your understanding and generosity!!



Thank you



Previous Waldorf fire chief, Adam Groskreutz, received a plaque for his service as fire chief. It was given to him by current chief, Marcus McDonough.

Waseca man sentenced to 24 months for fraud

Wasecan Matthew Harold Schumacher, 46, former owner and operator of Travel Toops, LLC, has been sentenced to 24 months in prison, according to the Minneapolis U.S. Attorney’s office.

Documents presented in court show that, between August 2016 and January 2019, Schumacher defrauded at least 36 independent agents nationwide of the commission due to them from travel providers, depositing at least \$160,000 in his personal accounts which should have been passed along. Schumacher used fraudulently obtained funds for personal travel, entertainment tickets, retail

purchases, cash withdrawals, and car, loan and credit card payments.

As part of Schumacher’s scheme to obtain and retain travel agents’ money for himself without their knowledge or consent, he routinely provided his travel agents with materially false and fraudulent information. He lied to travel agents, claiming that their commission money would be paid to them, when, in fact, he kept all of the victims’ money or, in other instances, despite refund requests, provided some victims with commission payments that were late, incomplete, or both.

■ TPG

from Page 1

pay scale should allow the company to be competitive. Sigfrid and Athey provided the board with a “conservative” estimate of sales between \$25 and \$35 million. Their request for a public entity to enter into a lease guarantee is “atypical,” according to Erickson, but not impossible. Sigfrid and Athey previously approached the City of Waseca for this type of help. Erickson told the commissioners that the city council felt unable to enter the lease guarantee, but not for lack of interest, and that approaching the county was the next and possibly last plan in Waseca.

The site that Sigfrid and Athey hope to purchase for TPG Steel in Waseca is unique, according to Erickson. Existing industrial sites over 500,000 square feet are already rare; Waseca’s has the added benefit of proximity to both the railway and four-lane highway for shipping. Erickson knows of “few, if any” sites nationwide that compare. The purchase price TPG Steel has agreed upon with the current owner, who was not identified to the board, seems high at first glance according to Erickson, but building a similar site could easily cost \$60 to \$70 million without factoring in any premiums for land in such an advantageous location.

The board’s main concern regarding the request was financial protection for the county in the event that TPG Steel failed or chose not to further pursue business in Waseca. In their written statements to the board, Sigfrid and Agey gave three assurances. First was that the lease guarantee would be contingent upon closing the purchase of the building. Second, that money would be held in escrow for emergency situations so that the county would not have to write a check to their financier. Third, that structuring the contract as a lease guarantee instead of a loan guarantee means that if TPG Steel is unable to pay its loan, the

consequences fall on them instead of the county. The third assurance caused some confusion among the board, since if the financier has no recourse to pursue the county for payment, none of the commissioners understood what security the lease guarantee would provide them. No concrete answer to this question was offered, leading board members to conclude that loans “often work in mysterious ways,” and that if an option which minimized the county’s risk also satisfied the financier they wouldn’t complain any further. Sigfrid and Athey’s written statements also said that TPG Steel would seek to have the loan guarantee removed after twelve to eighteen months of operations and growth, freeing the county entirely from any obligations. Erickson told the board that a guarantor seemed to be the last thing holding back an official terms sheet for the purchase of the building. He recommended to the board that if they chose to move forward they include a satisfactory terms sheet as a contingency and get all forms of risk mitigation in writing.

The board clarified that the next step would be for TPG Steel to submit a written contract for the lease agreement to the county for review by the county attorney’s office, a process that they expect to be very quick once the contract is received. Once approved, the contract would then come to the board for a vote. Erickson agreed to pass this on to Sigfrid and Athey.

In discussion, commissioner DeAnn Malterer said that they as the board want area manufacturing facilities to be put to use, and that with the scenario discussed the decision to support TPG Steel seemed easy. Commissioner Doug Christopherson said that he believes if legal language can be structured to adequately protect the county and satisfy the financier, they’d all agree to the lease guarantee. None of the commissioners voiced disagreement with Christopherson’s statement. According to Commissioner Blair Nelson, bringing TPG Steel to Waseca is “a once-in-a-generation opportunity.”

Meet your neighbor, Charlie

Name: Charlie Priebe
Town: Waseca
Age: 78
Birthplace: Waseca

Family: Parents Harold and Agnes Priebe. Agnes just passed away, a month short of the age of 104.
Siblings: Charlott and Curtis; **Wife:** Monica; **Kids:** Maria, Jodie and Gregory

Occupation: Waseca School Board member, farmer for 40 years, currently sells crop insurance

Hobbies: Singing of course, choir, solitaire

My dream vacation would be: I did a lot of them. I tell people I don’t vacation anymore, we travel.

The best thing about small town living is: That you know everyone. Sharin stories.

Last Good Book I Read: *No shortcuts to the top*; And, Charlie reads the paper everyday

Favorite TV show: *Blue Bloods*

Favorite Food: Steak

All Time Favorite Movie: *Top Gun*

Favorite Sports Team: Vikings

My favorite activities when I was growing up: Playing outside, building things.

My biggest pet peeve: People who get excited over small things. “This too shall pass.” People get bent over things which are not worth it.

The best advice I’ve ever received: If you’re looking for prosperity, find it in people.
1. Go to work everyday
2. Spend within your means
3. You have to invest

If I could have lunch with any one person, living or dead: My grandpa Priebe.

Something about me that would surprise people: I touched the hand of Pope Francis



Neighbor Charlie farmed for 40 years and said something that would surprise people is that he’s touched the hand of Pope Francis.

School building purchase rejected

By **TRISTAN JENSEN**
Staff Writer

The Waldorf City Council gathered for its first meeting of 2023 on Monday evening, January 9. Mayor Rob Wilkening presented the council with his thoughts on purchasing the school building, currently owned by Minnwest Bank. The city has been given the option to purchase it for \$150,000; the building is also publicly listed for sale at \$399,000. Wilkening proposed that the city could rent out parts of the space, establish city offices and give the public library room to expand, and provide daycare in the building. His estimates showed a potential monthly income for the city of \$1,310 after the mortgage payment and utility costs. He also informed the council that, prior to the bank taking ownership of the building, significant work had been done and very little would be required to bring the building into compliance with fire codes. An appraisal one month ago valued the building at \$700,000. Members of the council were not in favor of the purchase – several expressed concerns about whether maintenance costs would accrue beyond the city’s means. Also a concern was that several attempts to renovate the building for use by various entities have failed, and that selling the building has proved difficult each time. The council agreed without a formal vote not to move forward with the purchase at this time. Wilkening was in favor of establishing a public hearing on the matter, but members of the council did not arrange anything formally. If community members want the city to purchase the school building for this purpose, they agreed, those citizens would have to inform the council on their own initiative.

Cheryl Martin, who works for the U.S. Census Bureau with a service area centered on Waldorf, presented the council with plans to purchase two properties behind the church, and move a house onto the site to live in. The structure is a “tiny house,” legally defined as less than 400 square feet. Martin’s house is 10’ x 12’; she has been living in it for six years. It would be brought into Waldorf on a trailer, and set up on a cement foundation on the property and connected to city utilities. Martin hopes to expand her space, either by building an addition as building codes allow, or by adding a separate structure. If permitted, she intends to carry out her plans within the year, with the actual placement of the structure taking place in late spring to account for softening ground. Due to the potential impact on property values, a public hearing on the matter has been scheduled for next month’s regular meeting on February 13 at 7 p.m.

At the beginning of the February meeting, Wilkening will give an official State of the City Address. Three public hearings are scheduled to follow. In addition to the hearing for Martin, there will be one to discuss renovating the football field into an apartment building and park, and another to discuss the alleyway vacate requested by citizen Dave Bottin. Both of the latter hearings had been placed on the calendar last October.

The council also discussed the issue of vehicles not being moved after snowfall for street cleaning. A review of the ordinances showed that the city currently has no official requirements and has relied on common sense and goodwill to ensure streets can be plowed. Similarly, there are no ordinances requiring res-

WALDORF CITY COUNCIL

idents to clear the sidewalks on their property. Bottin expressed concerns about the lack of cleaning on both streets and sidewalks this winter, telling the council that he recently fell and sustained a significant injury. Council member Missy Sorbo agreed that it’s become a problem as some areas of sidewalk are entirely impassable, especially to those in wheelchairs. Council member Carrie Ferch expressed her own concern, as a number of fire hydrants throughout the city are buried in snow. Wilkening said there is “no easy answer,” especially this winter when snowfall events have been extreme. The council intends to remind residents about the importance of these issues through the city newsletter or water billing. If problems persist, they may consider creating ordinances covering one or both issues. Wilkening informed the council that, if the city decides to take responsibility for sidewalk maintenance, there is an appropriately-sized plow for sale. However, Wilkening is involved in the sale of the plow and could not be a part of discussion or voting on the matter.

Waste Management has discontinued its “yellow bag” service, a program Waldorf residents took advantage of for disposal in which bags were purchased from Waste Management in place of a monthly fee and weekly pickup. To manage the city’s trash and recycling, the council voted in favor of a new contract proposal for carted trash services from Waste Management. Prior to their vote, the council reviewed

the Waste Management proposal as well as a proposal from Thompson Sanitation Services. The Waste Management proposal amounts to \$16.50 for a 64-gallon trash cart or \$17.25 for a 96-gallon cart per month, plus an additional \$5 per month for recycling. Trash pickup will occur weekly and recycling pickup bi-weekly. These prices include a \$0.25 administration fee for Waste Management to handle billing, a service the council stated their intention to use. The contract also includes free walk-up services for any residents with disabilities which make it difficult for them to put their trash on the curb, provided their driveway is less than 100 feet and the cart is visible from the road. The proposal also includes service to two municipal locations, typically City Hall and the City Shop, free of charge. The contract guaranteed 12 months at these rates with an annual increase of 5%, with a provision for fuel surcharges if the cost of diesel fuel reaches \$5.00 or more per gallon. The proposal from Thompson Sanitation was less detailed, stating a monthly rate per home of \$15.00 for a 35-, 64-, or 96-gallon cart plus an additional \$5.50 per home for a 96-gallon recycling cart. The proposal also included a discounted rate for a yearly City Clean-up where Thompson Sanitation would provide a truck and driver. At least two other companies were considered, but were unable to service the Waldorf area. Once the city’s contract with Waste Management goes into effect, it will supersede any individual contracts within the city’s service area and those customers will receive the new monthly price.

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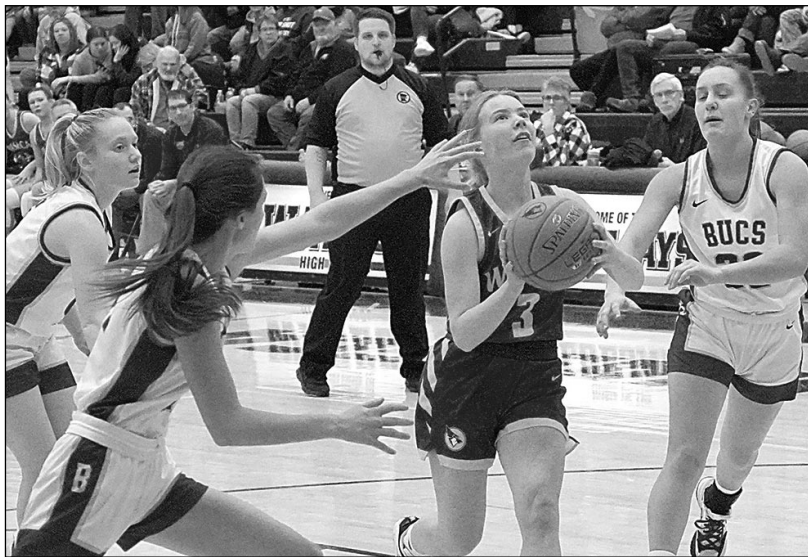
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THE MONTH OF JANUARY

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DOMINANT PLAY — The Waseca High School girls' basketball team had its way with visiting Blue Earth Area Friday, Jan. 21, winning 58-24. From left: the Bluejays Avery Madsen (14) looks to pass with Callie Dufault (2) in the background; Ella Krautkremer (3) splits defenders on her way to the hoop; Kloe Wadd (54) draws plenty of attention.

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

Wadd leads Waseca girls over Blue Earth Area, Medford

By **ELI LUTGENS**
Publisher

The Waseca High School girls' basketball team does not have to look far for consistent point production this season.

Kloe Wadd has it covered.

Wadd, a 6-foot-2 senior center, has been unstoppable at times and was again Friday, Jan. 21, totaling 31 points as the Bluejays blasted visiting Blue Earth Area 58-24 in the WHS gym.

The Bluejays scored the first nine points of the contest en route to a 24-3 advantage about midway through the

first half, which ended with a 34-9 Waseca lead.

Three of the girls' first four baskets came from Wadd, including the night's opening possession. The Buccaneers simply didn't have anyone tall enough to guard the center, who seemingly scored at will all night. Nearly all of Wadd's points came in the paint, many of them on offensive rebounds.

The Bluejays, 1-1 in the Big South Conference, improved to 8-3 overall with a 67-20 nonconference triumph at Medford Saturday. Waseca won easily, cruising to a 42-12 margin at halftime.

Twenty-nine of the Bluejays' points came off

turnovers and they outscored the Tigers 44-12 in the paint.

The main reason was Wadd. She had another big game, finishing with 27 points, 7 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 blocked shots and one steal. Also reaching double figures in scoring was Avery Madsen, a 6-0 senior forward who scored 15. She added 3 rebounds, 6 assists, 2 steals and a block. Others: Lexi Kanewischer 1 rebound; Callie Dufault 2 points, 1 assist, 2 steals; Sam Azure 9 points, 3 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals; Ella Krautkremer 1 steal; Megan Kanewischer 6 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists; Ella Dufault 1 rebound, 1 assist, 1 steal; Addie

Wiesler 1 point, 3 rebounds, 3 assists; Mia Kanewischer 1 point, 2 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals; Avery Gaul 1 rebound, 2 assists; Lily Owens 3 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists; Grace Guritz 2 points, 1 rebound.

The Bluejays shot 59 percent from the floor, including 6-for-17 on three-pointers, and made 3 of 5 free throws. They outrebounded Medford 30-12 while holding the Tigers to 27 percent shooting (1-9 on threes). Waseca had 9 turnovers, Medford 19.

The girls' next action is on the road at Fairmont Friday, Jan. 20, followed by a game Monday at St. Peter.

No place like home Hockey girls capitalize on homestand

By **MICHAEL ROY**
Staff Writer

The six-game homestand is proving to be great for the Waseca High School girls' hockey team. With a 6-1 win against Austin Tuesday, Jan. 10 and a 4-2 victory against Red Wing Monday, the girls have won four of five games in said homestand.

Waseca 6, Austin 1

To call Austin's season a struggle may be an understatement. A team that was 1-12 entering the matchup, the Packers' only win was against winless Mankato West.

Junior Emma Keith tallied the first goal of the night for Waseca. However, despite the aggression, they were denied goals on 10 other shots in the opening period. Austin's Sara Wangen tied things up, but that's as close as the Packers got.

Keith led the Bluejays to a 3-1 lead to end the second with two goals. She earned the hat trick on assists from Madelyn Malecha and McKenna Mortenson. Her great night continued in the final period with two assists on goals by Izabela Slichta and Montana Johnson. Maizee Storey also scored. Ilamay Draheim stopped 13 of 14 shots.

Waseca 4, Red Wing 2

An early power play opportunity gave Storey an opportunity to give Waseca the lead. Red Wing responded in kind with an aggressive offensive attack that left Draheim a bit shaken up for a few minutes. Thankfully, she got up and ultimately played the rest of the game with no issues.

Shortly after the scare, however, Draheim was screened and unable to track the puck, leading Red Wing to tie the game.

Waseca turned up the offensive heat in the second with McKenna Mortenson and Montana Johnson leading the charge. Mortenson slipped the puck between the legs of the Wingers' goaltender, assisted by Johnson. Then, with Mortenson's help, Johnson took a shot while slipping and crashing into the boards for the team's third goal of the game.

Red Wing tried to get back into it with an extra attacker, but Storey put the game out of reach with an empty-net score.

Draheim stopped 34 of 36 shots.

The Jays, 9-5 overall and 4-4 in the Big South, face Marshall on Friday in a conference game Friday, Jan. 20.



INTENSE PLAY — At left, the Bluejays' Preston Miller (31) puts the puck in the net during Waseca's 5-4 home victory over Luverne Saturday, Jan. 14. At right, the Bluejays' Armando Balderas (24) mixes it up.

Pioneer photos by Michael Roy



Bluejays skate past Austin, Luverne

By **MICHAEL ROY**
Staff Writer

After snapping a five-game losing streak to begin January, the Waseca High School boys' hockey team battled to victory in an overtime thriller at Austin Tuesday, Jan. 10. After losing to Dodge County, a team they've usually struggled against, the following Thursday, the boys upset Luverne at home Saturday.

Waseca 3, Austin 2 OT

Austin didn't make the game easy at all for Waseca. The Packers were in search of their second win, and Matthew Phanchan opened things up for his team 2:20 into the game. Grady Carney supplied a second goal with only a few minutes left in the first period. Waseca forward Brayden Hesch-Priem tallied one to make it a one-goal deficit at the end of the first period.

With the help of Keaton Roeker, Griffin Krautkremer got the tying goal less than four minutes into the second period. After that, both teams were quiet.

Waseca outshot Austin 25-18 in the latter two periods in regulation. But neither Bluejay goalie Carter Martens nor Packers netminder Ethan Knox were letting one in.

It was a short overtime, with Waseca only needing three shots to get one past Knox. Roeker scored the goal unassisted.

Martens ended the day saving 27 of 29 shots for a .931 save percentage

Dodge County 6, Waseca 3

Dodge County, a team the Bluejays lost to 11-1 last season, showed the same relentless drive they had last year. Martens was asked to face 51 shots. Waseca was allowed 16 attempts.

Kratukremer was the first to score, giving Waseca a 1-0 lead for a little over a minute in the first period. Dodge County scored the next two goals and never trailed after that.

Roeker and Krautkremer scored the Bluejays' final goals.

An attempt to climb back into it with an extra attacker fell short when Dodge County's Gryffon Funke scored the empty-netter.

Martens blocked 46 shots for a .902 save percentage.

Waseca 5, Luverne 4

The Bluejays were waiting for over a month to get a chance at redemption against Big South rival Luverne after losing on the road 11-1. And if last year's 2-1 vengeance victory was any indication, they had a chance.

Luverne took a 1-0 lead, but Krautkremer tied it less than 50 seconds later. It was 1-1 at

the end of the first period. Roeker gave Waseca a 2-1 lead and, less than a minute later, Krautkremer made it 3-1. Luverne scored a power play goal and it was 3-2 after two periods.

The final period was fierce. Preston Miller cashed in on the power play five minutes in, with Krautkremer completing the hat trick with a goal off a breakaway shortly after to make it 5-2. Luverne threatened to tie the game with Brady and Blaik Bork getting two goals within two minutes of each other. An attempt by the Cardinals to get a game-tying score with an extra attacker was unsuccessful.

Martens blocked 55 of 59 shots for a .932 save percentage.

The Bluejays, 6-3 in the Big South and 7-7 overall, travel to Windom following Friday and are at Red Wing Saturday.

WHS matmen top SJA

Garza reaches finals in Big South tournament

By **JIM LUTGENS**
Sports Editor

The Waseca High School wrestling team had a successful night Thursday, Jan. 12, defeating visiting St. James Area 45-30.

The Bluejays, who have faced their share of challenges this season, turned up the intensity in the heavier weights and held off the Saints.

"The guys really stepped up and wrestled well," said WHS coach Jake Janike. "They were offensive, taking shots and creating motion on the mat. We had a number of our younger wrestlers move up to the varsity level and compete and they wrestled outstanding. The older athletes have really worked with them, pushing them to become better."

After Archer O'Brien was pinned in the 106-pound bout, Elijah Biehn, Jacob Knutson and Peyton Sommers answered with falls at 113, 120 and 126, respectively.

The Bluejays gave up a forfeit at 132 before Slade Barnett took a 2-1 decision at 138 and Jacob Root claimed an 11-3 major decision at

145.

The Saints answered with falls over Eduardo Trejo at 152 and Joey Cruz at 160, trimming Waseca's lead to 25-24.

The Jays put it away with four straight wins starting with a forfeit to Christian Rodriguez at 170. Carter Ellis garnered a major decision at 182, Payton Garza prevailed by fall at 195 and Matthew Veroeven was victorious 9-1 at 220. The Jays' Jenaro Delgado was pinned at 285.

The Bluejays grappled Saturday in the Big South Conference tournament at Pipestone, where Waseca finished seventh.

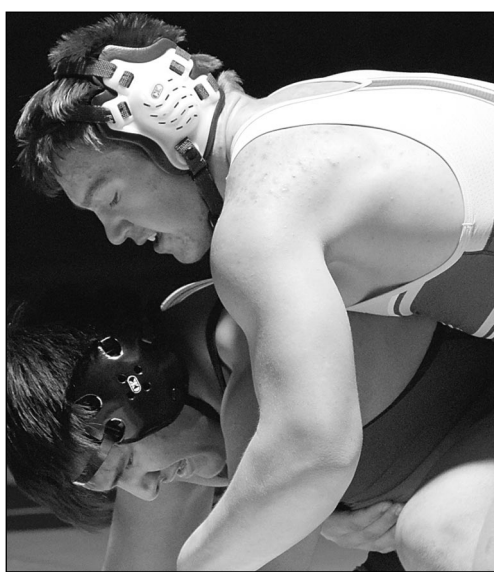
Garza was the lone Bluejay to reach the finals, finishing second at 195. Rodriguez was third at 170, Delgado third at 285, Veroeven fourth at 220 and Ellis fifth at 182.

Team standings: Jackson County Central 250.5, St. Peter 179, Marshall 151, Fairmont 125, Pipestone Area 112.5, New Ulm 113, Waseca 70, Redwood Valley 56.5, Worthington 53, Blue Earth Area 41, Luverne



ON THE OFFENSIVE — At left, the Bluejays' Eduardo Trijo battles St. James Area's Dylan Reed during Waseca's 45-30 victory Thursday, Jan. 12. At right, the Jays' Matt Veroeven controls Willie Curry.

Pioneer photos by Michael Roy



41, St. James Area 37, Windom Area 30.

The Bluejays had a rough one Tuesday, Jan. 17 with a 66-9 home loss to St. Peter. Waseca's lone points came on decisions by Rodriguez, Veroeven and Delgado.

The Bluejays, 3-3 in dual meets, wrestle

Saturday in the Hutchinson Invitational, travel to Martin County West for a quadrangular Jan. 24 and are at Kasson-Mantorville for a triangular Jan. 27.

Lopez leads gymnasts past St. Peter

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It's mid-January and the Waseca High School gymnastics team is rolling.

The Bluejays traveled to St. James Friday, Jan. 13 and dominated a dual meet, winning 126.175-97.5. The junior varsity prevailed 111.4-52.5.

Angelica Lopez amassed 128 points to take the all-around title and lead a Bluejay barrage in all-around.

Macy Anderson was second at 26.3, Addison Zimmerman third at 26, Avery Carda fourth with 22. Following for Waseca were Noah Schimming, fifth, 20.55; Kara Doyle, sixth, 14.2; Ines Sanchez, seventh, 11.85; and Maddie Root, eighth, 11.0.

Waseca swept all four events, with Carda edging Schimming 8.35-8.2 on vault. Tying for third were Zimmerman and Lopez at 7.9. Doyle was fourth at 7.7. Macy

Anderson tied a St. James athlete for fifth at 7.5.

The Bluejays were even more dominant on the uneven parallel bars, sweeping the top six spots. Winning was Lopez at 7.0, followed by Doyle, 6.5; Macy Anderson, 4.6; Zimmerman, 4.3; Maddie Root, 4.0; and Miley Anderson, 3.3.

Macy Anderson led the way on the balance beam with a 7.4, with Weber second at 7.2. Root was third at 7.0, Carda fourth at 6.8,

Zimmerman fifth, 6.6; Lopez sixth, 6.4; Sanchez seventh, 6.0; and Schimming ninth, 5.4.

Lopez turned in a 7.25 to narrowly eclipse Zimmerman's 7.5 on floor exercise. Carda and Zimmerman tied for third at 6.85. Others: Macy Anderson, fourth, 6.8; Sanchez, fifth, 5.85.

The Bluejays compete Saturday in the Kasson-Mantorville Invitational starting at 11 a.m.



HEADED FOR THE HOOP — The Bluejays' Damarius Russell, right, drives to the basket during Waseca's 78-75 victory over Glencoe-Silver Lake Saturday, Jan. 14.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

JWP girls topple BEA, fall to WEM

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

For the first time this season, the JWP girls' basketball team had a chance to get a winning record. But three teams stood in their way: Blue Earth Area, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, and Maple River.

A road win against a 4-5 Blue Earth team evened the Bulldogs' record at 5-5, but a 56-44 loss against WEM meant there wasn't any chance for the team to get over .500, at least not this week.

This time, the Bulldogs came up short of getting the upset. The Bucs' Claire Bohlen and Addyson Taylor ended up being a problem for the Bulldogs, scoring 16 and 12 points, respectively.

Despite sophomore Presley James having another great night with 16 points and junior Lexie Dahlberg supplying nine, all the other usual offensive producers for JWP were kept quiet.

Other offensive contributors were K. Olson with 8, Strauss 4, F. Olson 3, and A. Olson and Weimert two each.



GAME FACES — The Bulldogs' Katelyn Olson (1) drives as Maple River's Alexis Thomas defends during JWP's 61-54 loss at Mapleton Friday, Jan. 13.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

Bulldogs 56, Blue Earth 47

The start of a three-game road trip began at Blue Earth Monday, Jan. 9. The Buccaneers were on a three-game winning streak at home and were 4-4.

The story this year has been that every player on the team has contributed in scoring at some point.

This time, two of the three Olson sisters were at it again, scoring the majority of the team's points. Faith and Katie combined for 25 against Blue Earth, with junior Ali contributing an additional four.

Individually: K. Olson, 13 points; F. Olson, 12 points; James, 8 points; Weimert, 7 points; A. Olson, 4 points; Dahlberg, 4 points; Strauss, 3 points; P. Walz, 3 points; and C. Walz, 2 points.

Maple River 61, Bulldogs 51

The girls and the boys' teams joined together for a doubleheader in Maple River Friday, Jan. 13. The girls were first to hit the court.

The event was a Coaches vs. Cancer event for Maple River. Many of the fans wore pink for the event with some of the girls also wearing pink shirts during warmups. The school held a raffle for various gift cards.

Faith Olson opened things up with a nice three-pointer, followed by James making a two-pointer and scoring an additional point off the free throw. For a while, neither team could figure out each other's defensive scheme. Maple River pulled away bit by bit, but the work of players like James, Dahlberg, sophomore Lilly Strauss and freshman Katie Olson kept them within reach.

After a 30-20 halftime deficit, the girls matched the Eagles all the way to the end. Faith Olson sank another three-pointer to begin the second half. And the quad of Katie Olson, James, Dahlberg and Strauss contributed four points while junior Ali Olson had a two-pointer.

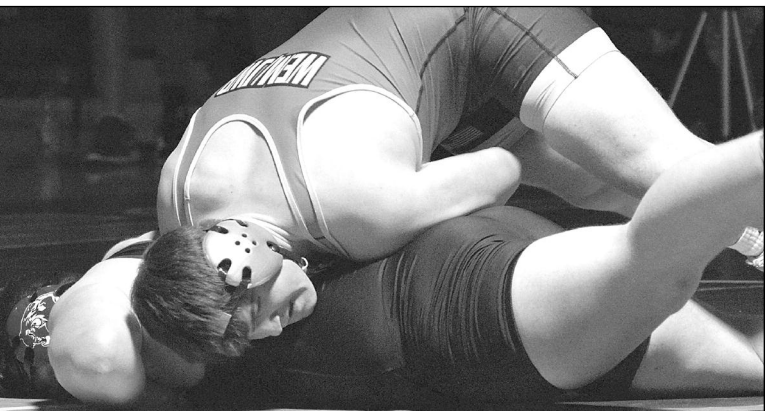
But it just wasn't enough.

"We were uncharacteristically off with a lot of our shots tonight," coach Cory Jans said. "It's like I've been telling the girls, we need to improve on the fundamentals of the game, which includes making sure we have the right foot placement when we take the shot. We had quite

a few missed opportunities tonight."

Individually: James, 11 points; K. Olson, 10 points; Dahlberg, 9 points; F. Olson, 6 points; A. Olson, 6 points; Strauss, 5 points; Weimert, 4 points.

The Bulldogs host Blooming Prairie Friday, Jan. 21 and travel to Immanuel Lutheran Jan. 23.



ALL TIED UP — The Grizzlies' Keegan Kuball controls his opponent.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

For Grizzlies, it was a great week of wrestling

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

The WEM-JWP Grizzlies had a great week of wrestling. After winning both of their matches in a triangular in Janesville Thursday, Jan. 12, the team traveled took third overall with four wrestlers taking first place at St. Croix Lutheran in West St. Paul the following Saturday.

the conference and section, the Razorbacks have struggled a bit this season, and WEM-JWP had their number the last time they met in Byron.

Brady Murphy at 106 started the Grizzlies off with a bang with a win by fall in 1:09. Carson Petry at 120 then dispatched Westfield's Jaxon Meier in 39 seconds.

After winning three straight matches, the Razorbacks had a 20-12 lead, but the heavier the weight got, the more momentum the Grizzlies had behind them. Ben Root took a pin by fall at 145. Patrick Adams, who ended his day with two victories, pinned Nolan Kolander in 1:27.

Westfield hung onto the lead by a thread when Cade Christianson defeated Isaac Quast at 160 and Maddox Moreno at 170 was injured in his match.

WEM-JWP Triangular

WEM-JWP hosted St. Clair-Loyola and the Westfield Razorbacks for its triangular. Originally scheduled to take place in Waterville, the venue switched to Janesville midweek. The Grizzlies ended the night undefeated, while the Razorbacks' only victory of the night was against St. Clair-Loyola.

Grizzlies 48, Westfield 34

A team that's usually trouble for the Grizzlies and other squads in

Grizzlies continued on 8

So far, it's been weird January for JWP boys

Bulldogs beaten by tough foes

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

From upsetting an undefeated team to getting caught flat-footed against a conference opponent, the JWP boys' basketball team has had a weird start to January.

They returned home Tuesday, Jan. 10, defeating Waterville-Elysian-Morristown 72-60 before starting a five-game road trip in Maple River the following Friday. A top-five team in the state, the Eagles laid the smack down with a 76-40 victory against the Bulldogs.

James ended the night scoring 26 points, also leading the team in steals with four. Bauer had a 14-point night with Schlueter taking 12 points.

Other contributors were Ryan Kronbach with 8, Landon Johnson and Austin Quast with 4 each, and Ethan Born and Caleb Quast both scoring a pair.

Bulldogs 72, Bucs 60

A return home after a tough loss against United South Central was what the boys needed.

Waterville-Elysian-Morristown's Buccaneers were looking for a way to get their second win of the season after defeating Madelia on the road 63-43.

Despite entering Janesville 1-8, the Buccaneers played tough, and by halftime it was 36-35 with the Bulldogs hanging onto the lead by a thread.

The Bucs stole the lead with a few scores early in the second half. But the JWP trio of Memphis James, Daulton Bauer, and Cole Schlueter willed the team back to as much as a 17-point lead with a few minutes left in the game. Schlueter ended the night the most accurate of the three, going 4 of 9 on field goals and making all four of his free throws.

Eagles 76, Bulldogs 40

This loss definitely hurts.

If it's any consolation to anyone, though, this game was pretty competitive in the first half.

After the JWP girls lost in their matchup, the boys took the court at 8 p.m.

A 6-0 start for Maple River was cut short with junior Kronbach getting a two-point layup to cut the lead to four. Fellow Junior James' three-pointer from the corner helped JWP slice the Eagles' lead to 8-5. After a six-point run by the Eagles, however, head coach Nick James called a timeout.

Just when it looked like the Eagles were going to walk away with the game easily, sophomore Johnson sunk a three to make it 20-8 and started a nice trend for JWP. The boys had a stretch where they outscored the Eagles 12-3 to make it a five-point game. However, the Eagles did just enough to regain a double-digit lead.

After a 35-25 halftime deficit, it looked like the Bulldogs had a chance to stay in the game.



LEFT-HANDED DRIVE — The Bulldogs' Mamphis James (15) drives during their 76-54 loss at Maple River Jan. 13.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

Whatever Eagles head coach Chad Ostermann said to his players in the locker room must have sparked something within them.

The team showed off the talent that made them a top-five ranked team in Class AA, outscoring JWP 41-15.

It was such a lop-sided second half that the mercy rule came into effect and the clock was starting to wind down quickly.

After being so competitive in the first half, the second half seemed

more of a letdown.

James ended the night with 15 points. Kronbach scored 10, Johnson 7, Bauer 5, and Schlueter 2.

The schedule won't get much easier for the boys. After traveling to Medford Tuesday, Jan. 19, the boys faced a 10-2 Waseca team on the road the following Thursday with another conference game at Blooming Prairie on Friday, Jan. 20.

NRHEG girls take 2 of 3

Panthers remain undefeated in Gopher Conference

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

The NRHEG High School girls' basketball team improved to 9-2 overall and 6-0 in the Gopher Conference last week, defeating Medford 76-39 and WEM 54-46 before dropping a 75-55 decision to Dover-Eyota.

Hosting Medford Tuesday, Jan. 10, the girls put the Tigers down early, jumping to a 31-point halftime advantage.

"We were able to get up big in the first half with some scrappy defense, and we were aggressive on offense," said NRHEG coach Onika Peterson. "After we got ahead, our energy and defense dropped off in the second half. We will need to adjust that to prepare for WEM."

Peterson offered her congratulations to Hallie Schultz for winning the "ExCEL Award." The Minnesota State High School League ExCEL Award stands for Excellence in Community, Education, and Leadership. The annual award recognizes high school juniors who are active in fine arts and athletic activities, who show leadership qualities, and who are model citizens in their communities. Also winning the award from NRHEG was George Roesler.

Individually for the Panthers against Medford: Sidney Schultz 21 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists, 1 steal; Erin Jacobson 16 points, 7 rebounds, 1 steal; Camryn VanMaldeghem 11 points, 7 rebounds, 6 steals; Quinn VanMaldeghem 10 points, 4 assist, 3 rebounds, 3 steals; Faith Nielsen 8 points, 4 steals, 3 rebounds; Preslie Nielsen 6 points, 1 steal, 2 rebounds; Hallie Schultz 4 points, 9 rebounds; Trinity Smith Vulcan 3 rebounds; Gabby Schlaak 1 rebound.

On Friday, the girls hosted WEM in one of their closest victories of the season. The Buccaneers fought back from a 15-point halftime deficit, but fell short.

"We were able to get up 16 at one point, but could never pull away," Coach Peterson said. "WEM did a

nice job hitting a couple of big threes to drop the lead to 8. We made enough free throws down the stretch to win the game. It was a great Gopher Conference battle."

Individually: Q. VanMaldeghem 19 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist; F. Nielsen 13 points, 1 rebound; S. Schultz 12 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals, 3 assists; Jacobson 9 points, 5 rebounds; C. VanMaldeghem 1 point, 7 rebounds, 3 steals, 1 assist; H. Schultz 6 rebounds; Addy Stadheim 1 rebound; Chloe Stork 1 rebound.

The Panthers played Dover-Eyota in Kasson Saturday and, after a 35-30 halftime deficit, came out on the short end of a lop-sided decision.

"The game didn't go the way we had hoped or planned," said Coach Peterson. "I was proud of how hard the girls fought all game. In the end their height, and our foul trouble was a bit too much for us to overcome. We are off this week until we host Randolph Friday night for a Gopher Conference matchup."



GOPHER CONFERENCE CLASH — At left, the Panthers' Erin Jacobson (5) goes up among WEM defenders during NRHEG's 54-46 victory Friday, Jan. 13. At right, NRHEG's Quinn VanMaldeghem (4) does her best to hamper a shot.

Pioneer photos by Chris Schlaak

Individually: F. Nielsen 20 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal; Q. VanMaldeghem 6 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals, 1 block; Jacobson 4 points, 3 rebounds, 4 assists, 1 steal; Schlaak 1 assist; H. Schultz 2 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal; S.

Schultz 21 points, 6 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 steals; Stork 1 rebound, 1 block; C. VanMaldeghem 5 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals; P. Nielsen 3 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist.

After Friday's home game against Randolph, the Panthers have a four-



NRHEG boys notch win No. 1

Lee surpasses 1,000 career points

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

The NRHEG boys' basketball team can finally notch one in the win column, the first of NRHEG head coach Dan Schmidt's varsity career.

The Panthers split a pair of road games last week, defeating Medford 76-55, and losing to Waterville-Elysian-Morristown 68-55.

It was a back-and-forth affair in the first half on Tuesday, with neither the Tigers nor the Panthers gaining more than a four-point edge. Turnovers, specifically in the lane, significantly hampered the Panthers, who led by 3 at halftime.

"We struggled with ball movement," said Schmidt. "In the second half we came out with a little more fire."

A Tigers three-pointer put them up 41-38, but Sawyer Prigge answered on the next possession to tie it up.

From there the Panthers tried a 1-3-1 trap style defense.

"We tried to create a little confusion," said Schmidt. "And it brought a good amount of pressure and forced Medford into some outside shots."

The defensive change worked. Over the final 10 minutes the Panthers outscored the Tigers more than two-to-one.

"The entire second half saw some dynamite ball movement, as we looked for, and found the open guy more often than not," Schmidt explained. "We had some great performances tonight."

William Tuttle was dominant in the paint in the second half, recording his second straight double-double; Daxter Lee continued a memorable scoring campaign, kicking in 20 points, and Alden



Daxter Lee, the newest member of NRHEG's 1,000-point club.

Dobbersterin added depth off the bench, finishing with 15 points.

In a battle of one-win teams, the Panthers lost a see-saw fight with the Buccaneers in Waterville Friday night. The game was close until the end. Again, free throws, fouls, and late baskets proved costly for the Panthers, who saw the close game spiral away in the final minutes.

The highlight of the evening was Lee eclipsing the 1,000-point total for his career.

The Panthers won the rebound battle 37-31, but had five more turnovers (15) than the Buccaneers.

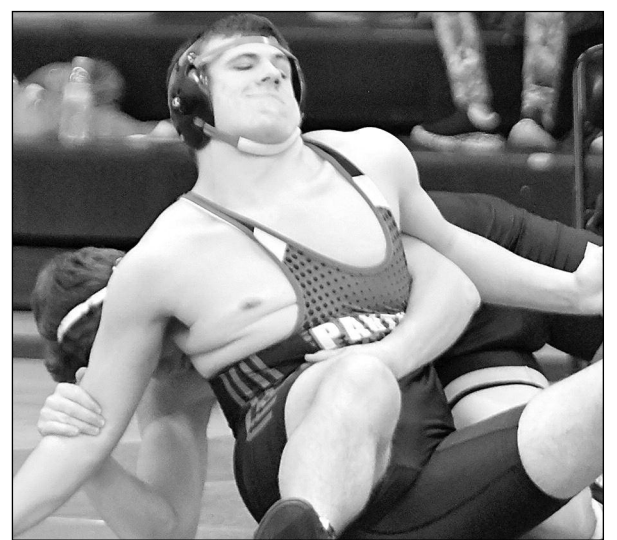
Individually for the Panthers: Lee 32 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists; Tuttle 10 points, 16 rebounds; Dobberstein 15 points, 5 assists; Sam Olson 4 points, 3 rebounds, 4 assists; Prigge 4 points; and Jaylin Raab 1 point.

The Panthers played at home against USC Tuesday, travel to Randolph Friday and return home on Tuesday against JWP.



MEMORABLE MOMENTS — Clockwise from above left: the Panthers' Aden Berg catches his Medford opponent in a headlock and scores a pin on Senior Night at NRHEG High School last week; Berg gets a hug from Panthers head coach Shaun Larson; NRHEG's Cole Hutchens rolls out for an escape.

Pioneer photos by Chris Schlaak



Panther matmen fall on Senior Night

Misgen edged 1-0 in finals as NRHEG takes 8th in Darrell Jaeger Invitational

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

The NRHEG wrestling team's woes continued in its final home meet of the year, a 59-13 loss to Medford. It was the final home meet for seniors Makota Misgen and Aden Berg.

Misgen's season continues to impress as his journey back to the state tournament continues.

Berg, in his final home meet, stole the show, earning a fall.

In total, the Panthers tallied four good wins on the evening, by freshman Jacob Karl at 106 pounds, senior Misgen at 285, eighth-grader Ryan Schlaak at 152; and Berg at 220.

"Going into this match we knew that Medford is a very good team, and they proved it tonight," NRHEG coach Shawn Larson said. "I thought that we competed well in a tough situation. It is my hope that we are willing to bring the fight in

"It is my hope that we are willing to bring the fight in our upcoming matches."

— Coach Shaun Larson

our upcoming matches, like I felt we did tonight for the most part."

Honored for Senior Night were Misgen, Berg and cheerleaders Grace Wilkenson and Ava Wayne.

The Panthers wrestled in Stewartville's Darrell Jaeger Invitational on Saturday, with six individual placemen and an eighth-place team finish.

Misgen led the way with a second-place showing at 285. Ryan Schlaak was third at 152, sophomore Jace Ihrke fifth at 220. Placing sixth were sophomore Aidan Schlaak, 145; sophomore Harbor Cromwell, 160; and sophomore Cole Hutchens, 195.

"The Darrell Jaeger Invitational

has been a good tournament for us in the past," said Coach Larson. "This year it was a good tournament for learning. We came away with six placemen in this tournament, but even better than that we came away with lessons we can use to get better. Everyone on our team has something they can bring to the practice room on Monday to work on for next time."

According to Larson, one of the most anticipated matches of the day might have been at 285, where two highly-ranked wrestlers met in the finals. Misgen lost to Carter Geerts of Byron in the finals 1-0.

"This was a fun match to watch as both wrestlers were close to scoring

several times," said Larson. "Unfortunately, Makota was unable to get away in the third period. I think Makota wrestled well, I am glad we had the opportunity for such a great match, and we are looking forward to our next challenge for Makota. Ryan Schlaak had another great day. Being an 8th-grader and wrestling 152 is not an easy task, and Ryan is doing it well lately. Ryan had one fall, and two come-from-behind wins on the day. It is so much fun to watch Ryan wrestle lately. Ryan is wrestling without fear, and he is creating ways to score. If he continues to do what he is doing, his future in wrestling is going to be very bright."

The Panthers travel to Medford Thursday, Jan. 19 to face Westfield and Waseca. Wrestling starts at 5 p.m. The Panthers compete in the Hayfield Invitational Saturday starting at 9 a.m.

All-around excellence



Hallie Schultz, left, and George Roesler are NRHEG's recipients of the Minnesota State High School League's ExCEL Award for 2022-23. The award honors excellence in education, athletics and the fine arts.

Pioneer photo by Chris Schlaak

■ Grizzlies

from Page 7

When Keegan Lamont at 182 collected a win by forfeit, it was all Grizzlies. Jack Cahill secured the victory with a pin over Brody Johnson in 59 seconds. Wins by fall by Avery Fall and Keegan Kuball were only the icing on the cake.

Grizzlies 48, Spartans 26

Out of six matches wrestled, the Spartans won five of them. Patrick Adams, who has normally strug-

gled, led the Grizzlies throughout the day. He was the only one to win a match in the St. Clair-Loyola dual with a win by fall over Steven Loeffler at 152.

Blake Sheppard at 113, Brody McClinton at 126, and Lucas Vaughan at 170 made their opponents Parker James, Carson James, and Isaac Quast fall. Simon Kruse, currently ranked in the top 10 in the state at 132 pounds, won by 19-4 technical fall over Jaxon Hulsing in 3:38. Jacob Schimek at 195 upset Grizzlies' Jack Cahill, who had a great win earlier in the day, when he defeated him by 2-0 decision.

There is no question that St. Clair-

Loyola's squad is talented. But what has held them back from getting more team wins all season is the size of their roster. The team had to forfeit seven matches, meaning 42 free points for the Grizzlies. They had to win all of their matches by fall to even tie.

St. Croix Lutheran Tournament

The Grizzlies faced fierce competition in the St. Croix Lutheran Tournament. Outside of maybe Ogilvie, the Grizzlies were the smallest school in the tournament out of a dozen competing teams.

It's even more exceptional with

that in mind that the team took third place. What helped them place so well against a dozen other schools was Brady Murphy at 106, Carson Petry at 120, Jack Cahill at 185, and Keegan Kuball at 285 taking the gold in their respective weight classes.

Also placing in the tournament was Parker James at 106 (5th), Aric Williams at 120 (6th), Isaac Quast at 160 (4th), and Avery Fall at 195 (5th).

The WEM-JWP Grizzlies will travel to Kenyon-Wanamingo for a triangular Thursday, Jan. 19.



Fernando Laverde, New Richland-Hartland’s AFS student from Colombia, S.A., Bob Loken and Chuck Jessen go over the schedule of the AFS Talent Show to be presented by nine guest AFS students. Fernando, a number of of NRHHS students and Bob and Chuck, who will be emcees, Saturday. Proceeds will go to support the AFS program at NRHHS.

Star archives

25 Years Ago – The New Richland Star, January 15, 1998
- A pay equity scale for employees at the New Richland Care Center was discussed by the New Richland City Council and the Care Center Administrator, Monday evening. Care Center Administrator Lee Edson had developed a pay equity scale for employees at the facility a few months ago. After employees read it, a number of employees voiced disagreement with the pay scale and schedule of grades. Their reasons were that some wouldn't be receiving an increase in pay for nearly three years and others would have a decrease in pay. Since then, Administrator Lee Edson, Joyce Hanson, secretary of the Care Center Advisory Board, John Harrington, mayor and Sharon Werth, council member have met several times to improve the scale. Improvements to the scale include the addition of grade levels and decreasing the probationary period from six months to three months.
- The Panther girls' basketball team claimed their seventh consecutive win Friday night when they ran over Medford 85-46. They are 4-1 in Gopher Conference play and 7-2 overall. "I was very impressed with our transition game. We forced an upbeat tempo resulting in being able to spring down the floor to score some easy baskets." Coach John Schultz explained. Schultz noted the team has improved in rebounding, shooting percentage, and fast breaks since the first few games. "But the aspect of our improvement that I think is the greatest improvement is team play and enjoying ourselves on the floor," Schultz added.
- Four years ago it was difficult for Jenn Kinlund to crawl out of bed, say nothing about compete in athletics. Daughter of Marsha (Prescher) Kinlund of Mantorville and Bruce Kinlund of Kasson, Jenn has had lifelong kidney problems. She is the granddaughter of Herb Prescher, New Richland and Rita Prescher, Waseca. When she was a year old, Jenn became sick from the flu and was put on intravenous system in the hospital. The hospital failed to monitor the amount of fluid she received and an overload caused her kidneys to fail. Following surgery in Rochester to repair her kidneys, Jenn didn't experience any problems and was told she'd be fine. But during an athletic physical in seventh grade, doctors found that her kidneys were ailing again. Jenn and her twin sister Laura are now both seniors at University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire. Rather than Laura donating her a kidney, Bruce Kinlund, their father, donated his.
50 Years Ago – The New Richland Star, January 18, 1973
- All directors were re-elected to the board of the Waldorf State Bank at the bank's 22nd annual stockholders meeting and dinner, Tuesday, January 9. Sixty-two persons attended the meeting in the church parlors at the Zoars United Church of Christ, Waldorf. After the meeting the group enjoyed a dinner served by Zoars Women's Guild. G. P. Madden of Waseca was present and spoke briefly about some of his experiences in 'times gone by' in the Waldorf area. He emphasized the advantages of country living and some of the benefits of living in the rural area, today.
- The New Richland Adult Vo-Ag class will hear Art Anthony, vice-president of Baughman-Oster and Cypress Chemical company explain the use of chemicals for the storage of wet corn, milo, barley, wheat and oats in conventional grain bins. He will tell about the system, how applied, equipment used in application and the 'do's and 'don't's of the chemical system. Everyone in the area is welcome to attend the meeting.
75 Years Ago – The New Richland Star, January 15, 1948
- The annual March of Dimes, spearhead of the fight against infantile paralysis, begins this week throughout the nation. It was announced here by Lloyd Martinson, 1948 March of Dimes Chairman for New Richland. The official dates of the campaign are January 15 to 30. "The cost of fighting polio has skyrocketed," Mr. Martinson said, in pointing out that rising prices and mounting polio incidence have placed a tremendous burden on the resources of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. The Foundation this year celebrates the tenth anniversary of its founding by Franklin D. Roosevelt. The volunteer committee in this county is arranging to make the two weeks of the fund-raising drive an entertaining and instructive lesson in public-spirited citizenship.
- The boxing card set up by the Waseca Jaycees for Saturday, Jan. 10, was at least profitable for New Richland. Three fighters went up from here and all three of them won. Lester Root out-boxed his opponent Wobschall of Waseca in the first fight. Raul Donoso battered up Kennedy of Faribault in the three rounds. Donoso was one of the coolest fighters there, displaying excellent ability. Rodney Zwiener won his match on default, his opponent was overweight. The town should take more interest in the Golden Gloves and help organize and train a group of boys for tournaments at Owatonna or Albert Lea. There is quite a bit of good boxing talent here in New Richland.
- Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ganiere of Byron township express great thankfulness that their four-year-old son, David, is alive and well. While the Ganieres were driving along at the rate of 50 m.p.h. little David rolled out of the car when a door flew open. Aside from a cut in the forehead, the youngster escaped injury.
100 Years Ago – The New Richland Star, January 19, 1923
- Two one day dairy farm management schools are scheduled in this county next week. The first of these is scheduled at New Richland, for Tuesday, January 23, and the other at Janesville on Wednesday, January 24. These Dairy Schools are a new venture in this county but they should be both interesting and profitable to the dairymen, who will arrange to attend. Dairying is the topic to be considered at these meetings and will include some of the problems that are confronted in the dairy industry. Special emphasis will be placed on the feeding of dairy animals. Mr. H. H. Searles, who was in the county for the Institutes last week, has been scheduled for these two meetings. Mr. Searles comes from the Iowa State College of Ames where he has been engaged as a Dairy Extension worker and has recently been added to the Agricultural Extension staff at the Minnesota University.
- At the forty-fifth annual convention of Minnesota Dairymen held at Owatonna this week, the winners of prizes offered by the State Dairy and Food Commission and the Dairymen were announced. E. W. Tollin, buttermaker at the Plum Valley Creamery at Waldorf, was awarded first prize in the butter contest with a score of 95½. Mr. Tollin has been a prize winner in butter contests more or less consistently for the past year or more. Since coming to Waldorf he has entered several contests and was awarded honors near the top. At the National Dairy show he was given third honors in the state class with a score of 96.38.

Waseca County History Center

Where'd It Go?

Waseca Journal, December 1, 1967
EIGHT BEDROOMS! This 12 room house being set down at 7th Ave. and 7th St. S.E. has a total of 12 rooms and has 43 windows. It was purchased by Floyd LaMont Jr. and moved from 2nd Ave. N.E. William Warner was the previous owner. He sold the former site, located next to Central school to District 829.



This is the lot purchased by Independent School District 829 from William Warner at a price of \$13,000...The lot, located next to the Mrs. Jennie Noel home, partially shown at right, has a 60-foot frontage.

Child’s history of Waseca County

Preface
“Why don’t you write a history of Waseca County?” asked Rev. G.C. Tanner, one day in the year 1890.
And as that question often came to me in leisure moments for several weeks, I finally concluded to invest a dime in cheap paper, and note down in odd hours, such facts concerning the early settlement of this country as I could recall as might be of interest to its residents, present and future; and, in connection therewith, to gather together all the historic facts that I might be able to obtain both from persons and from official sources.
In this undertaking, I have made no attempt at rhetorical display and effect, but in the plainest language possible, have described the events, which make up the history of the county. It may not be possible for one who has been intimately connected with the public and political life of the county to be entirely impartial to the an unbiased, as its historian, but I have spared no effort to be fair and accurate as regards persons, parties, interests, and localities.
I have found many difficulties in this undertaking, for individual tastes and interest differ so widely that what might be of great interest to one would have no attractions for another. I therefore determined, at the commencement, to “spread out a whole bill of fare” and allow my readers to select for themselves. No doubt there are many facts and incident of note omitted in this work, although I have made every possible effort to include everything of public interest. The fact is, dear “Old Settler,” you who are left out of the record have not always responded to the invitation to furnish facts within your own recollection for this work, and you should remember this in your criticisms.
I cannot close this preface without expressing my sincere thanks to those who have so materially aided me in this work by furnishing facts and data within their own knowledge.
One object of this word, to be frank about it, was to get enough money out of it to pay the printers and paper dealers, and another object, of much greater importance, was to furnish to every person in the county a faithful record of township and county events from the earliest settlement by white men. How well I have succeeded I must leave others to judge. I can only hope that this record may be received by the public with the same liberal and charitable spirit in which it has been written.
Chapter I, 1854-5.
No longer ago than 1854, the present county of Waseca was a portion of that extensive region of country known as Blue Earth County. Not a single white man then had a habitation within its borders. The solitude of nature was broken only occasionally by some hunter and trapper, and by wandering bands of Sioux Indians.
The buffalo, the elk, and the deer had, for ages, roamed its wild prairies and woodlands; fishes had basked undisturbed in its lakes and rippling streams; the muskrat, the otter, and the mink hand gambled upon the ice in winter with no white man to molest them. Ducks, geese, and other aquatic fowls, in countless numbers, covered the lakes and streams in summer, and chattered and squawked and frolicked in all their native glory and happiness. The prairie wolf howled upon little hillock, and, coward-like, was always ready to attack and destroy the weak and defenseless. Pocket gophers went on with their interminable underground operations, all unconscious of the inroads soon to be made upon their dominions by the husbandman. Grouse and prairie chickens cackled, crowed, and strutted in all their pride. Blizzards and cyclones swept unheeded across its vast domains.
The autumnal prairie fires, in all their terrible grandeur and weird beauty, lighted the heavens by night and clouded the sun by day. Age after age had added alluvial richness to the soil and prepared it to be one of the most productive fields of the world for the abode of the husbandman and for the uses of civilized man.
The enquiring and philosophical mind, at times, finds food for reflection in the fact that an overruling Providence sent the Pilgrim Fathers first to the rock-bound coast of New England to clear the forests and to settle that country, but reserved the rich and productive prairie-lands of the West, ready prepared for the plow and mower for descendants and followers.
It is a pleasure to record the early settlement of a county which, for fifty consecutive years, has never suffered a total failure of crops or even a half failure, and where general thrift and prosperity, for all that time, have attended and rewarded the hand of industry and the spirit of frugality:
“Where the glad’ning sunlight nestled,

Where all Nature’s beauty slept,
Unrevealed to cultured vision,
Where the savage wail’d and wept,
When his son or sire had given
To the Spirit World his breath,
Find we here a famous region,
(Sunny side of ‘Minne’s’ face),
With lovely lakes and richest soil,
Stately in its quiet grace, –
A healthy home for sons of toil.”
Chapter II, 1854-5.
First white settlement – Mr. A. G. Sutlief and Family – Journey from Dodge County, Wis. – Judge Green’s narrative – judge lost and prepared for death – Sutlief’s return – Big Boot Creek – Crossing the Mississippi on Ice.
So far as practicable, the historical events in this volume are recorded in the order in which they came to pass, instead of being grouped under certain headings or classifications. This may require a little more space, but the author thinks it will afford an easier comprehension of the various facts presented.
Mr. and Mrs. Asa G. Sutlief and Mr. Sutlief’s three oldest children, Delancy, Rhoda and Delaney, were the white settlers in this county. Taking with them quite a drove of cattle and sheep, they started from the town of Herman, Dodge County, Wisconsin, in the month of June, 1854, with ox teams and covered wagons, to seek a new home in the land of “Laughing Waters.” They passed over the Mississippi at La Crosse, traveled across the country in a westerly direction, struck the Minnesota river at Traverse, now St. Peter, and settled on a claim some five or six miles west of that place.

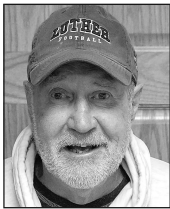
Argus archives

50 years ago - 1973
-Marv Schubbe, elementary principal at St. Clair High School, has been named one of seven regional directors for the state Right to Read Program. The appointment was made this past week by Dr. Hugh Schoephoerster, Minnesota Right to Read Director.
-Two members of the Golden Valley Lutheran College football team were selected for the All-Conference Team of the Northern Division of the Minnesota Junior College Athletic Association. Larry Kroeger, sophomore from Janesville, was selected for offensive end position, and Phil Archer, freshman from St. Paul and graduate of Concordia Academy, was selected as linebacker. Archer was the team’s leading tackler for eight consecutive games.
-County Commissioner Reinhard Guse announced the appointment of two local people to country boards this past week. They are Charlie Born and Mrs. Kenneth Johansen. Born, a resident of Janesville Township, was named to the Waseca County Extension Committee. Mrs. Johansen was appointed to the Waseca County Nursing Committee. As a member of this committee, she will help supervise the work of the two county health nurses, Mrs. Lundquist and Mrs. Roesler.
25 years ago - 1998
-A Smiths Mill woman has created an award-winning quilt. Janet Barry is one of five national winners in the 1998 “Homespun Heart” quilt contest sponsored by Fabri Centers of America and co-sponsored by Mountain Mist. Barry learned of the contest through her employment at Jo-Ann Fabrics and



SAVING A LIFE - In 1997, Chris Erickson, a student at Trinity Lutheran School, was saved by the Janesville Fire and Rescue Squad after collapsing. Responding to the scene was Randy Cummins, Terry Hartman, Kari Kopischke, Ann Gerdts, Brice Manthe and Wayne Gahler.

Crafts of Mankato, where she has worked for the past four years.
-Are you looking for a place to store the boat this winter or maybe you have just run out of closet and garage space? Bob and Jan Prail have the answer for you with their newly built mini-storage units located on E. Second St., Janesville. Prail’s Mini-Storage features a total of 24 stalls which include the following stall sizes; 5x10, 10x10, 10x15, and 10x20.
-If close games make a team tournament tested, the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton boys’ basketball team is ready for section play right now. The undefeated Bulldogs successfully defended their Mankato East Holiday tournament championship with a pair of one-point victories in the final rounds. After trouncing Delano in the opening round, the Bulldogs squared off against Mankato East in the semifinal. JWP, which defeated East by one point in last year’s title game, jumped out to a big first-half lead and held off a determined second half comeback by the Cougars to earn a 59-58 victory. A talented Worthington crew stood in the way of JWP’s second straight holiday championship Tuesday. JWP outscored the Trojans 23-7 in the final quarter with a miraculous comeback, and eked out a 57-56 victory in overtime.
-“Things like this aren’t just about us (members of the rescue squad), but we are fortunate to play a small part (in saving lives),” said Bruce Manthe, assistant rescue chief. On Thursday, Nov. 6, six members of the Janesville Fire Department/Rescue Squad responded to an emergency medical call at Trinity Lutheran School, saving the life of Christ Erickson, eighth grade student at Trinity Lutheran School.
-Scott Roemhildt of rural Janesville had a pleasant surprise on Sunday despite the cold temperatures. Scott was the top winner at the Smith Mill-Janesville Sportsmen’s Club Fishing Contest held at Lakeview Park.
-Janesville residents can surf the “net” at the library. Access to the internet is now available at the Janesville Public Library thanks to a donation from the Janesville Rotary Club. The Rotary Club donated funds for the library to purchase a computer and printer. “We are just elated the Rotary donated the money,” said Kathy Groh, librarian.
-Trinity Lutheran School, Janesville, recently received \$5,300 from Lutheran Brotherhood through the Member Matching Gift program. The latest payment matches 53 gifts from Lutheran Brotherhood members made during the fourth quarter of 1997.



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika

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Chances are you’ve lost a fishing pole

I was out for coffee a week ago and joined a group of guys; the conversation was ice fishing. The group was talking about vehicles going through the ice. The focus was on the expense involved with retrieving the vehicle. I did a little research and found out insurance will cover the vehicle under a comprehensive plan, but the work involved in getting the vehicle out of the water typically isn’t covered.

Terry Roemhildt chimed in with an ice fishing story with relatives on Lake Winni. The group set up their portable, put down holes, and prepared to fish. Terry’s son-in-law took off his coat, and out of the pocket popped the truck keys—right down an ice hole. It was the only set of keys and they needed to somehow get them back from the lake bottom. Terry had received a new underwater camera for Christmas. The lake was clear, so the camera spotted the keys snuggled down on the bottom just to the side of the ice hole. One of the members of the group had a magnet. (Who goes fishing carrying a magnet??) They tied a piece of string to a long stick with the magnet attached. The person with the longest arm put the contraption down the hole all the way up to his shoulder. The magnet recovered the keys on the first hit and the hero headed to the heater to thaw out his arm. A happy ending: the keys had been recovered and the truck started. I’d like to share some of my stories and experiences with things going down ice holes.

Years ago my young daughter Katie wanted to go ice fishing. She invited a friend and we were off to Clear Lake. I’d made all the preparation for the young, inexperienced anglers. Warm clothing, a nice heated shelter, and a basket full of munchies and beverages. After setting up, I instructed the girls to clean out the ice fishing holes and I’d go out to the truck to bring the goodies. I opened the fish house door and saw Katie—dropping the ice strainer down the hole. The other strainer had already disappeared. Both of the girls were all smiles and giggling away. It wasn’t about catching fish, the fun was watching things go down the holes.

My friends all tell me that I still live in the twentieth century when it comes to technology. My big purchase was a flip phone which I acquired so that I could call my wife from the lake and let her know I’d be late for supper when ice fishing. Sure enough, the fish bit late, we packed up, and I decided to make the call still standing on the ice. The phone flipped out of my pocket and—you guessed it—down the ice fishing hole. I was once again late for supper and never did make a call on that cell phone.

I was fishing on Madison Lake with Terry and his son Chad. I hooked a nice crappie and was boasting about the catch, taking the fish off my lure. I was bending over the hole and off came my \$400 glasses. I watched them disappear down the hole and on down to the bottom 17 feet below. Chad used his camcorder to locate the glasses, half buried in mud. Terry headed to Menards in Mankato and purchased a couple of magnets. I tied a magnet to the end of a fishing line and down to the

glasses went the magnet. I pounded the frame of the glasses and nothing happened! My glasses frames were made of absolutely nothing magnetic. The water had now become murky and the picture on the camera was lost. Getting my glasses back was now a hopeless situation. Chad tied on different fishing lures with giant treble hooks and fished for the muddy specs. He fished for an endless amount of time, never giving up. Then the miracle happened, Chad said “I think I have them.” He bent over the hole, reeling ever so slowly. Up they came, barely hooked on the side of the frame. Chad Gilbertson will forever be my hero.

If you do a lot of ice fishing, chances are you’ve lost a fishing rod down an ice hole. I was fishing on Reed’s Lake with a friend. We were fishing on the ice. It was a cold, windy day and nothing was biting. We were using the old fashioned stick poles and left them on the ice next to the holes with bobbers and bait in the water. We sat in the pickup to warm up, watching the bobbers from the pickup window. We saw some movement, but before we could open the door, both of the poles disappeared down their hole. We concluded a school of bass had swum through, bit, and were now carrying our poles around the lake. On modern day rods, most fishermen have an open face reel. If you are jigging with a lure the bail is closed. If you dead stick, fish with a bobber, you open the bail or put your rod in a rod holder. I was fishing on Red Lake and catching nice walleyes jigging with a slending spoon. I put my rod down on the ice house floor and reached for a beverage. In the blink of an eye, my rod disappeared. It happened to be my most expensive outfit. We were fishing in a rental and the house 30 yards from us shared their story. They saw a nice fish swim through under one of their ice holes carrying a pole behind it. I wonder whose pole that was???

Not everything goes down a hole: Sometimes something comes up. I was fishing on an area lake, jigging away, and hooked something, thought it was a fish. Turned out to be some fishing line. I reeled a ball of line up the ice hole—attached to it was an ice rod and reel. I experienced redemption and karma for the outfit I’d lost on Red Lake. I was fishing on Madison Lake with Jim and we walked out to fish near the south end. There were twenty fishermen in the area, so we knew the bite was on. We fished in the group and caught a few fish. Everybody left and we decided to fish into the evening. Unoccupied ice holes were everywhere and we sat on our buckets jigging away. It was a quiet evening and suddenly there was a splashing noise and commotion in a hole in between us. Up the hole popped a 5 lb. dog fish. What the fish was doing we will never know. As it flopped on the ice, I grabbed it and showed it the way back down the hole. We wished it would have been a walleye—that would have made for an even better better story.

Enjoy your fishing on the ice, don’t leave your pole unattended, and may your bobber go down: way way down.

But if you need reminding Frosty is a member of the community

That law is binding Although there is much I could tell you

I have to slowly let you know Facts and clues about frosty To help your knowledge to grow We’ll start with one here To put you in the know Frosty grew up a fellow lakeer With their forever beau

■ Frosty from Page 4

Week 1 (Frosty)
It’s that time of the year
Just 25 years in the making
Again the prize for guessing frosty
Is up the for the taking
You all know the rules

Suicide prevention program reaches NRHEG students

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Since 1999, the number of suicides in the United States has risen by one-third. Every year in our country, as many as 1.2 million people attempt suicide; about 45,000 succeed. According to the national Centers for Disease Control, it is the second-most common cause of death among young people ages 10 to 24, having taken the lives of about 600 Minnesota teens in 2018.

Thanks to funding provided through the Greater Mankato Area United Way and NRHEG’s FFA organization, all students at the NRHEG secondary site took part in an event meant to raise their awareness about suicide during the January 9 school day.

The 2.5 hour session began with a video which shared the story of Emma Benoit, now 22, who attempted suicide in 2016 at the age of 16.

Viewers saw a lively, physically active cheerleader who winked at the camera and spun down a busy city sidewalk. They saw a beautiful home in a comfortable Louisiana neighborhood. Transposed over those images was a recording of a 9-1-1 emergency call in which this teenager’s mother was receiving advice to staunch the flow of blood from her daughter’s neck.

As the story of that fateful day is revealed, Benoit’s voice is heard speaking. “From the outside looking in, I had a perfect life. But I have always been super hard on myself. For as long as I can remember, I had trouble with anxiety.”

“But I was afraid if I opened up about these feelings, people wouldn’t see me the same any more.”

Benoit admits that, as she thought about pulling the trigger, she saw herself as a burden on the people who loved her. She believed that, by killing herself she would be removing the worry and pain she caused them. “My emotional brain was making all the decisions at that moment,” she observed

A psychologist who is interviewed during the video stated, “Teenagers are prone to what we might call ‘black and white’ thinking.”

By this, he clarified, they are likely to transpose “I failed a test” directly to “I am a failure.” Or even “I made a mistake” to “I am a mistake.”

People prone to anxiety or depression are also susceptible to downward-spiral thinking. According to research, once in this mindset they are especially at risk for suicide.

“There is about a 10-minute time period when they’re likely to do something. If we can just get them to talk to someone, have them make a connection with someone during that 10 minutes, it’s possible the suicide

can be prevented,” said one therapist quoted in the video.

But, as Benoit knows from experience, they are unlikely to reach out on their own.

She says she hopes that sharing her story, letting young people see the struggles she faced after her injury, will give potential suicide victims a reason to pause. One slogan shared was, “It ain’t weak to speak.”

As shown in the video, Benoit woke up after her attempt in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) unable to feel or move her right arm or legs. “I had only my left arm,” she remembers. “I felt trapped in my own body.”

Because of severe bullet wounds in her neck and spinal cord, she couldn’t sit up or feed herself. Doctors estimated she had a 1% chance of ever walking again.

“I was 16,” she says. “I was athletic, mobile.”

“And then I wasn’t.”

The video chronicles Benoit’s efforts to rebuild her muscles and coordination. It shows her struggling to open a car door, putting a walker into the back seat of a vehicle, then climbing behind the steering wheel to receive adaptive driving lessons.

It shows her attempting to stand and walk on a treadmill, requiring two therapists to keep her upright and safe.

After the video, Benoit entered the gym in a wheelchair. “I can walk,” she said. “I use the wheelchair because it’s so much faster.”

Benoit joined NRHEG social worker Brooke Krohn and secondary counselor Liz Stiernagle in a panel discussion. A projected QR code created the opportunity for students to submit their questions anonymously.

Remembering the earliest moments of the video, one audience member asked how Benoit could look so confident and together, yet be considering suicide.

“That was fake confidence,” she responded. “I was only showing people what they wanted to see. In the meantime, I was giving myself very negative input.” Benoit admitted that she had begun considering suicide as a middle schooler.

Social worker Krohn interjected, “You never know what’s going on inside someone’s head. We tell ourselves some very dark things sometimes. In a moment of crisis, our whole mind is captivated.”

A very big message throughout the panel discussion was communication.

“We all need our people,” said Stiernagle. “We have our close circle of friends we can reach out to.

“Don’t be afraid or ashamed. Talk to them.” Stiernagle also offered herself and Krohn. “We’re here for



Emma Benoit was the guest speaker for a suicide prevention presentation at NRHEG Secondary on January 9. She survived a suicide attempt in 2016 at the age of 16. Her powerful story captivated those in attendance. Photo by Deb Bently

“When you start to look around, you’ll see all the people who do things for you, who ask about you, and you’ll understand that the evidence just doesn’t support those negative ideas.” — Suicide survivor Emma Benoit

you,” she said. “We’ll make time, we’ll listen, and we’ll help you find what you need.”

Stiernagle and Krohn also recommended “evidence based thinking.”

“If you find yourself with a thought like, ‘Nobody loves me,’” Krohn clarified, “look for evidence that supports that.

“When you start to look around, you’ll see all the people who do things for you, who ask about you, and you’ll understand that the evidence just doesn’t support those negative ideas.”

Stiernagle also recommended “self care,” looking for people and activities that simply feel good. “Everyone needs that toolbox of coping skills,” she said. “It might be going for a run, painting your nails, or watching a movie with a friend.

“It will be different for everyone, and that’s okay.”

Also shared was the national suicide hotline, 9-8-8. The line is set up to receive phone calls and text messages.

“If you’re in that dark moment and you don’t know who else to talk to,” said Krohn, “then call 9-8-8. They’re there to help.

“When you’re thinking those dark thoughts, it makes a real difference to hear yourself speak them out loud.”

The Greater Mankato Area United Way coordinated last week’s program as part of its suicide prevention efforts throughout the region. The panel moderator, Ray Stenglein of Willmar-based Wings of Hope, lost a daughter to suicide in 2016.

“For every person who dies by suicide,” Stenglein said, “There are 100 people affected. I want to reduce the pain both for those who are considering it and those who might lose someone.”

Stenglein learned of Benoit’s work and has so far helped bring her to 15 Minnesota schools, with her message heard by 6,600 students and 500 adults as of last week.

He observed that he and Benoit have learned from each other—he as a father who can see what it might have been like if his daughter had survived, and she as a daughter seeing the struggles of a parent who has lost a child.

“As she’s healing,” he says, “I’m healing with her.”

In the meantime, he says, they are working together to make a difference. “For every person who dies, there are 103 who attempt it,” he comments. “That’s 103 people we can reach; 103 scenarios we have a chance to change,” he says. “This is mental health first aid. And we have every reason to keep this conversation going.”

Sleigh and Cutter medallion hunt begins

It’s time again for the 73rd annual Sleigh and Cutter medallion hunt. The medallion is hidden outdoors on public property within the Waseca city limits. A \$1,750 prize of Chamber Dollars and store certificates will be awarded to the person who finds the medallion. Bring the medallion to Waseca Ace Hardware. Clues will be published each week in the Waseca County News, Waseca County Pioneer, and the NRHEG Star Eagle. Clues will also be

broadcast on KRUE and KOWZ Radio and will be available online at Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce at info@wasecachamber.com.

The hunt is sponsored by: Ace Hardware, Waseca County News, KEEN Bank, Excel Energy, KOWZ/KRUE Radio, Waseca VFW Club 1642 and M Peters Enterprises. Please thank these sponsors for supporting the 26th Annual Medallion Hunt!

Week 1 (Medallion)

The new year is finally here, Following the excitement of holiday cheer.

Now, it is the time for the medallion hunt,

To help you find it, I will be up front.

The medallion is hidden within the city limits,

Available 24 hours a day, the rule permits.

Will you brave the Minnesota

cold,

To find the medallion in all its gold?

Please don’t worry when it is found,

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Junior Attendants at Thursday's Waseca homecoming coronation were Emmett Byron, son of Ben and Jenna Byron, alongside Ella Marlin, daughter of Paul and Steph Marlin.

Looking back at the year of 2022

2022 year in review part three
September

- It was a beautiful weekend for St. Ann Catholic Church in Janesville to hold its annual St. Ann Fall Festival. Although it was a little chilly and wet for the golf tournament at Prairie Ridge Golf Course on Friday, September 9.
- The City of Waseca is proud to announce that the Department of Homeland Security has awarded \$278,852.38 in federal funding through its fiscal year 2021 "Assistance to Firefighters Grant." The purpose of the program is to support public health and safety while also protecting firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards. The department will use the grant to purchase a new tanker/tender to replace the 1977 tanker currently in use.
- Joe Fritz has owned a house in Waseca for a long time, but he has also had a "second home" for the past 35 years: the Waseca Bluejays marching band.
- Fritz started out in St. Cloud at the city's Cathedral High School, then moved to St. Cloud State for the first two years of schooling, taking courses for his future career in electrical engineering. He decided to further that training at North Dakota State University. After graduating, he found a job in Chicago with Motorola; it wasn't until a friend told him about an opportunity in Waseca that he moved here. Fritz started working for EF Johnson in Waseca in 1972; at that time he bought the house where he still lives today.
- What's one way to begin a service dog's training? Send it to prison.
- Can Do Canines, the largest provider of assistance dogs in Minnesota, has partnered with the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) in Waseca since 2011 to provide the first phase of training for twelve of its dogs at a time. Over the past 11 years, inmates at FCI Waseca have trained more than 100 dogs for the non-profit association headquartered in New Hope.
- "Good American, clean fun," Kevin Clemons said at the fourth annual Waseca Masonic Lodge Soapbox races. Normally an August event, the races had been delayed to September 10 because of rain, and barely escaped yet another delay, with spotty rain and threatening clouds throughout the first part of the day.
- In a "soap box derby," racers pilot small, unpowered vehicles capable of building up speed while being steered down a ramp. The Masonic Lodge's course, built by Mark Wolff and fellow members of the "pit crew," consisted of two sloped lanes, each lined on both sides by hay bales.
- About 10-15 racers aged 6-16 took part in competitive heats Saturday afternoon. Drivers alternated among 10 or so vehicles built by volunteers and sponsored by local businesses. Two racers at a time were seated in the box-shaped cars, shown where the brake was, and released down the ramp on the count of three, with keeping the vehicle rolling straight as their main objective.
- Two-year veteran racer Violet Hughes, roughly 10 years old, took home the huge grand champion trophy. Her younger sister Indie also took part in the race.
- Someone in the Waldorf City Council must enjoy the TV show "The Office" because, for the second time in three months, there was cake for everyone in attendance Monday night, September 12, at the community center.
- Or, more likely, DeeAnn Britton is well loved and highly regarded, since both instances of cake were for her. The first occasion was her birthday, the second, her final council meeting.
- Good Game Gaming Center held an open house September 13

and 14 to introduce itself to the community.

- The 32nd annual Waseca Fellowship of Christian Athletes Junior Sports Camp was held August 2-4 at Waseca High School. A total of 156 campers picked one sport each day for three days, choosing among football, baseball, wrestling, volleyball, soccer, tennis, track, golf, hockey, softball, basketball, or gymnastics. Essentially, if it's a sport, it was an option for boys, girls, and some coed events.
- Friday, September 9, 2022, TEAM Academy held its eleventh annual Walk-a-Thon, despite the day's rainy weather. The event was a success, raising over \$1,000 for new recess equipment for the school.
- The first weekend of Faith United Methodist Church's Autumn Fest Sale on Saturday, September 10 was a success. More than 15 volunteers including the "United Women in Faith" group coordinated the event which raises funds for church mission projects.
- In a driving rain, the Waseca Bluejays were edged in their home opener 8-7 by Class 4A Marshall Friday, Sept. 9. The winning score came in the fourth quarter, and the Tigers converted a pass to convert a daring two-point conversion.
- Every seat was full Tuesday evening in Waseca City Hall as council members voted 4-3 to approve a controversial one-year moratorium on THC, the psychoactive chemical in marijuana. Under the moratorium, no new businesses will be allowed to sell THC infused products in the city of Waseca for up to a year: those which had already been doing so will be allowed to continue.
- First National Bank is rebranding and effective September 24, 2022 will operate as Keen Bank. This change is to uniquely identify the organization and provide an opportunity to singularly own their name and eliminate confusion in the marketplace surrounding multiple banks named First National.
- Members of the Waseca City Council held their final budget study session prior to approving a preliminary tax increase of 11.2 percent during their regular meeting September 20, 2022.
- Large crowds lined the streets of downtown Waseca and later filled the stands at Waseca High School football field to watch the 35th Annual Waseca Marching Classic parade and field show on Saturday, Sept. 17.
- More than 150 people attended the All Saints Catholic Festival in New Richland Saturday afternoon. According to the best guesstimates of nearly half a dozen attendees, trustees and volunteers the annual festival dates back to roughly 1985.

October

- One of two candidates vying for the position of Waseca County Sheriff this election year is Trevor Kanewischer, a 26-year-veteran of law enforcement in Waseca County. Kanewischer, 46, has lived in the Waseca area his entire life, having graduated from Waseca High School in 1994 before entering law enforcement in 1996. He has one daughter, Lexi, and has experience with farming since around the age of 15, including operating some land of his own. He has also been an owner and manager of rental property for 25 years, along with owning a small business, Waseca Sno Biz, for 27 years.
- Throwing his hat in the ring for the position of Waseca County Sheriff this election year is Jay Dulas, 25-year veteran of law enforcement. Dulas, 47, grew up in Steele County, having graduated from Medford High School in 1994. He has resided in Waseca County for many years with his wife, Robin, with whom he has three daughters: Landi, Madison, and Keegan, all graduates of Waseca High School. **Continued next week.**

Succeed without really trying

One act play to perform Jan. 21, 22

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

With about a month of work put into rehearsing, the Waseca High School is presenting its one-act play *How to Succeed in High School Without Really Trying* in the school Performing Arts Center Saturday, Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

In addition to giving public performances, the crew will also participate in the Big South Conference One Act Play Festival in St. Peter Monday, Jan. 23. They are also preparing for a subsection competition in Medford the following Saturday.

"These kids have worked so hard every day to prepare for their performances," Director Anna Pollock says. "They are great to work with."

How to Succeed in High School Without Really Trying is a humorous play poking fun at stereotypes in high school such as roll call, finding a math partner, and learning French. Sixteen students are involved in this year's production. Out of those, five are seniors: Sophie Farris, Thyme Lang, Lindsey Kopetzki, Arianna Krogseng, and Ava Norland. Farris, Lang, and Kopetzki have been active in theater for years while Norland is trying it out for the first time this year.

"Getting to develop the character and seeing how everyone else develops their character as well has been my favorite part," Farris shares. "It's interesting seeing how it all plays out."

Lang agreed. "I'd love to see everyone's characters, too. But for me, getting ready for the play is the most fun part."

"The excitement surrounding this play...there's a lot of energy," Kopetzki adds.

A lot of that has to do with the content of *How to Succeed in High School Without Really Trying*. "It's such a fun show that's light-hearted," Kopetzki says. "Because of that, it's been so fun to come to rehearsal every day and know you're going to laugh."

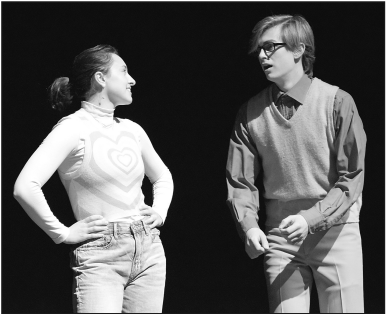
Krogseng agreed. "This is our first comedic show this year, so it's definitely fun to see character developments and how they portray



REHEARSAL - Waseca high school one act play performers bottom row, from left: Allen Kopetzki, Cody Sieberg, Katelyn Robeck, Kylie Snow, Chelsea Richardson, and Thyme Lang. Middle: Sadie Schimming, Branden Busse, Sophie Farris, Lindsey Kopetzki, and Quinn Dahle. Back: Ava Norland, Arianna Krogseng, Nathaniel Andrs, Mason Wadd, and Cejay Pickett. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy



I DECLARE A THUMB WAR - Ava Norland and Branden Busse get into a thumb war while the rest of the cast watches. Pioneer photos by Michael Roy



Thyme Lang, playing a popular girl, woos Nathaniel Andrs, who is portraying a stereotypical nerd.

their parts."

"I like how fun everything is," Norland adds. "The people here are amazing."

Even though the setting of the play is in high school, the cast claims it's a great watch for people of all ages. "Anyone from a middle school kid to an adult in our community will enjoy this," Kopetzki said.

"Anyone that's gone through high school recently will get a lot of the humor," Farris says.

"I feel like it pokes fun at a few different kinds of stereotypical high school students," Lang shares.



NARRATORS - Mason Wadd, Sophie Farris, Arianna Krogseng, and Lindsey Kopetzki are the narrators for the one-act play.

"But I think it's, like, in a good way."

"It's poking fun at it," Farris elaborates. "It's hilarious because it's wrong."

So, if finding out how Tom Cruise can help you memorize science terms, legally changing

your name to get around roll call, and organizing a protest against phy-ed sounds like a fun time, check out Waseca's production of *How to Succeed in High School Without Really Trying* this weekend.

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at The Mill
Lic. #46003

Need not be present to win. Must be 18 or older to purchase ticket or win prize. Winner responsible for any applicable fees or taxes.

The

Pastor's Column

Winter slow down

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

Things tend to slow down for a few weeks here in the deep winter. The days are getting longer, but it is still too cold and snowy to get a lot of outside projects done. So we spend a lot of time on the inside things. At my house, I have projects that need to get worked on.

Since my basement flooded this past summer a lot of my projects have lived in boxes. Then I started some projects in my garage during High School Football season, but those aren't done yet either. It was time for hunting season and I got more stuff that doesn't have a home yet and that is on top of my projects in the garage. Now the stuff from my car that got wrecked is on top of that as well.

Needless to say, my personal living spaces are not in order, and most of the time my family does not mind, but I do. I want to invite people into my space, to enjoy the things that I enjoy and make my projects much more efficient. As we are reminded through the advice of those that have come before us, "A place for everything and everything in its place." My space needs some work, and not taking time to attend to it creates stress and makes my projects less enjoyable.

I am adding more to my space this week as well and the stress of the unfinished organization needs to be corrected. Often, we don't know where to start or what to do first in cleaning, but we need to start somewhere. The same advice holds true for when our mind, our thoughts, or our spirit feels cluttered and unorganized. We need to take time to work through the clutter and find peace.

There are many thoughts on how to do this work of finding peace, people offer self-help books, encourage you to go on vacation, find a distraction in activity, or tell you just to live with the unsettled spirit. That advice may work for a time, but it does nothing to fix the problem. We have peace through a right relationship with God. How we get to that right

relationship is the work of organization in our heart, mind, and soul that we need.

The work of organization in our life comes about not by anything that we can do, but only through the work of God in our hearts. God has a plan to bring us to a point of confession and forgiveness. He challenges us to dwell on the very best things He has for us in this world and to rid ourselves of everything else. We can't do this on our own, but rather we need God to do the hard work as we humbly confess our need for Him.

Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:6-8

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

We find peace through God by dwelling on His best, but at the same time we struggle with the trash that is left behind from sin. Paul tells us to get rid of the trash in Colossians 3:5-7

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.8 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

What are the things that are making peace hard to find in your life? What has God revealed to you through these scriptures? Maybe it is time to clean up a little more by asking God to do the work of bringing peace to your cluttered soul by forgiving you and replacing your sin with His best things.

VFW donates \$8,000 to Sacred Heart for Smart Boards

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Sacred Heart Catholic School received a donation of \$8,000 from the Waseca VFW to purchase two smart boards on Nov. 18, 2022.

Sacred Heart Principal Chris Dahle was at a loss for words to express how thankful he was for the donation. "We are very thankful to them," he said.

The VFW's gift gave Sacred Heart the start it needed in replacing the 12-year-old units currently in classrooms. "Like textbooks, they need to be replaced after a while," Dahle explained.

Smart boards have become com-

mon in schools, even smaller private ones like Sacred Heart. "Like I told the VFW, love it or hate it, having the best technology in the classroom is important," he said. "Technology has become a vital resource to providing students with a great education."

The new smart boards came to the school at the beginning of this month, and were installed shortly after their arrival.

The donation was made possible by the VFW's charitable gambling program. The purpose of the programs is to be able to help community organizations with their goals. Sacred Heart is one of many



On behalf of Sacred Heart School, principal Chris Dahle accepts a donation for \$8,000 from VFW commander Blaine Brooks. The donation was presented during the VFW's Nov. 18 fish fry.

beneficiaries.

"They gave us a good start on getting our current smart boards re-

placed throughout the school," Dahle commented.

What name are you looking for?

By SANTIAGO RAMIREZ
OCAMPO

Grandma's house has always had a special meaning; it has been the center of family gatherings and the family kitchen; the stove in grandma's house was on even when the refrigerator and drawers were empty. There was a time when the grandparents lived on a second floor with a small balcony overlooking a green area full of trees just across the street. For years it was part of the family tradition to go once a week to eat beans and pork rinds at the grandparents' house.

A Thursday, Grandpa suffered a stroke after having beans for lunch with the family while he was playing with the grandchildren next to the trees as was his custom. The grandchildren came up to the house to say that they did not know what had happened to Grandpa, that from one moment to the next, he had stopped playing with them; the children ran to the balcony to see what had happened and saw Grandpa on the floor with difficulty breathing and with half of his body paralyzed. The children put him in a car and took him to the emergency room.

That was the last day Grandpa said a word, walked and could use the bathroom alone.

In the afternoon that same day, when the doctors had already stabilized Grandpa in the hospital, my mother asked me to be with Grandpa for a few hours so the children could get some air, go home and pick up what they needed to come to be with Grandpa. I remember sitting next to him and seeing him very restless to say something, but of course, he could no longer speak; it was just his first few hours of not being able to talk and only moving his left hand. At that time, I was a restless physical therapy student who wanted to find a way to communicate with him, so I

remember taking a board on which I wrote the letters of the alphabet and I approached him and told him to point to me one letter at a time until we built the word he was trying to say. Grandpa pointed to the letter G, and I precociously started saying names starting with the letter G while Grandpa kept shaking his head; after a couple of minutes, I told him to point to the other letter to see if that would make it easier to guess the name he wanted to say. Grandpa pointed to A; we already had GA; by now, the choice of names was narrowed down, and I kept trying to guess, but Grandpa kept shaking his head. Again I asked him to point to the following letter, and he pointed to S; we already had GAS, and I was pretty confused because, in Spanish, few names start with GAS. We both

ended up frustrated. Apparently, he had not made himself understood, and I had not been able to understand him.

Life went on, and in the following days, I went to grandma's house to greet her while grandpa was still hospitalized. That morning I noticed grandma was worried, and after thinking about it for a while, I asked her what was wrong; she told me that that day they had to pay for the gas bill so that they would not cut it off, and they did not have the money to pay for it. Grandpa was responsible for paying the utilities.

When grandma said GAS, I understood that grandpa was worried about the bill and not about a person. The years have shown me that I am still learning because, in my relationship with the Lord, I still want to guess a name that begins with GAS, and I don't see that the Lord is talking to me about something else.

And you, what name are you looking for?



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

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Layover in Amsterdam

Well, I finally made it. I am currently sitting in the Amsterdam airport waiting for my flight to Madrid. The seven-and-a-half-hour flight here from Minneapolis was actually pretty bearable. I watched Aquaman for the first time, slept through Harry Potter because I had seen it before, and watched Bridget Jones's Diary. All very good movies.

I'm not going to lie, it's been exhausting. The only sleep I've gotten was those two hours on the plane, and now I'm trying to force myself to stay awake so I can adjust to a seven-hour time change. We arrived here around 4 a.m. US time, but 11 a.m. here so I'm forced to stay up because of jet lag or whatever. I hope it's not as bad as people say.

It's crazy. I can't believe I'm actually here. I have been so stressed about getting here that I haven't even thought about what it's going to be like once I arrive, you know? I've made it this far, but what now? Granted, I still have to make it to Madrid and to the place that I'm staying at with my host family. I have a feeling I'm going to crash pretty hard once I get there, but that's okay.

Then it's on to orientation and a couple days of freedom before classes start. It will be an interesting semester, that's for sure, but I will

keep you guys updated to make sure you all know how Spain is if you're interested.

Preparing for studying abroad, we had to do readings about mental health and we still have to attend a meeting about it. At first I thought it was going to be no big deal. My mom's a counselor and my grandpa's a therapist - if I haven't learned to cope with my mental health by now.... But now that I'm here and away from Minnesota and my family and friends I can feel the looming presence of anxiety along with a possible panic attack. But hopefully with this meeting and those readings, it will all be okay. I'm sure it will be.

I'm going to be exploring Spain simply because I can. I get a week off for spring break, so I'm hoping to hop on a train to France. Maybe there I'll try being one of those girls who go to Paris and drink coffee from tiny cups and take lots of pictures. I'm cool like that.

I don't know if you readers are interested at all in this journey I will be taking, but you are all welcome to read along as I explain everything going on in my life.

My Determination: "Remember that happiness is a way of travel – not a destination." – Roy M. Goodman

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FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 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 * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship * * *
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ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Interim Pastor * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * *	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: icwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Vacancy Sunday = 1 p.m. Worship * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * *	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Pamela Jensen Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * *	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18 * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Vacancy Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.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 CHURCH * * *	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.
REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-607-8245 Sundays 9 and 10:30 a.m. * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH * * *	
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH * * *	
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH * * *			

Correction

Last week's Pioneer article about the Bible Prophecy Seminar contained two errors. The two corrections are: "the rebirth of Jesus" should be stated, "the return of Jesus"; and the definition given for the dispensations does not line up

with Waseca Bible Church teaching which is explained on page 4 of the Seminar downloads at wasecablechurch.org.

The Pioneer apologizes for its mistake.



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12:00 Noon

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1:00 p.m.
\$25.00 in advance. Purchase by 1:00 p.m. on Friday, January 27
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January 14 – March 25, 2023

THE NATION'S LONGEST RUNNING SLEIGH & CUTTER FESTIVAL!

\$1,750 Frosty Contest – 26th Annual

Awards presented Feb. 17 at 9:30 at Waseca VFW Club dinner/dance.

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\$1,750 Medallion Contest – 26th Annual

Award presented Feb. 17, at 9:30 at Waseca VFW Club dinner/dance.

Sponsored by: Ace Hardware, M Peters Enterprises, Excel Energy, Waseca County News, Keen Bank, Spire Credit Union, Waseca VFW Club 1642

SATURDAY JAN 21st Waseca County SNO-SECAS CLUB RIDE

11 a.m. – Ride Starts
10 a.m. – Registration at Waseca American Legion

SATURDAY JAN 28th Waseca Sleigh & Cutter PAGEANT

Contact Jen 507-461-2624

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Contact: loganstrongbenefit@gmail.com

JAN 28th & 29th BOYS-MITE-HOCKEY JAMBOREE

Waseca Community Arena
Contact Kyle 507-835-3251

FRIDAY-SUNDAY FEB 3-5 GIRLS 10-U HOCKEY Tournament

At the Waseca Community Arena
Contact Kyle at 507-835-3251

SATURDAY FEB 4th ANNUAL MIKE FILZEN MEMORIAL POKER RUN

Registration at 11 a.m. at Waseca
American Legion Ride 12 p.m.-6 p.m.
7 stops Contact Jake 507-835-2510

FRIDAY FEB 10th Bean Bag Tournament

Held at The Mill.
Registration at 5:00p.m. Games at 6:00p.m.
Contact Abby at 507-461-1112

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY FEB 15-17th ICE SCULPTING by SAKATAH CARVERS

In front of the Waseca Public Safety Building on South Street
Sponsored by: Waseca Area Foundation, Waseca VFW Club Post 1642,
State Farm, Tesch Service Center, Edina Realty, and the Waseca Sleigh
& Cutter Festival

FRIDAY FEB 17th FESTIVAL DINNER & DANCE

Featuring GTX Band 8:30p.m.-12:00a.m. at the Waseca VFW Club
A variety of basket meals will be available for Purchase from 5:00.- 7:00p.m.
Frosty & Medallion winners announced at 9:30p
Free sandwiches and cake served

SATURDAY Feb 18th SLEIGH & CUTTER PARADE

12pm Start Time Parade starts from Waseca County Fairgrounds and
runs through downtown Waseca. The Parade will feature multiple
Breeds of horses pulling many types of Units.

TONER'S LAKE VINTAGE RIDE

Registration 9-11 a.m.
Contact Marissa 507-461-4501

SUNDAY FEB 19th SNOWMOBILE SAFETY RIDING COURSE

Registration 1P.M.
At Lakeview Park, South end of Lake Elysian-J
Janesville Contact Marty 507-420-1109

KITE & BALLOON SHOW

South Shore-Clear Lake

SATURDAY FEB 25TH Winter Charm on the Farm

11 - 3:00p.m. Tickets \$8/Adults, \$7/Kids
Purchase tickets at: bit.ly/wintercharm

WASECA VINTAGE (KRUGER) SNOWMOBILE ICE DRAGS

Registration 8:30-10:30a.m. at Boathouse
B&G
Races start at 12p.m. 100% cash payback,
plus added contingency money.
Contact 715-556-6345 or 612-296-2043

ANNUAL VINTAGE SNOWMOBILE SHOW/RIDE

Registration 9a.m. at
Boathouse B&G
Show 11a.m.-1p.m. Contact Seth
507-837-9230

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SUNDAY MAR 4th FLAGS FOR VETS-RUCK OF HOPE

Event to support service and veteran's families who
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SATURDAY MAR 25th CHILDRENS DREAM CATCHER ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Star Fire Event Center at 2p.m.
Auction, meat raffles and bingo. Under 18 can play with an adult.

More Information: sleighandcutterfestival.org

Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival Association, Inc.

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