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Ed Frederick

A great adventure

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

If there is one thing U of M Professor Emeritus and agricultural enthusiast Ed Frederick considers among the greatest accomplishments in his life, it's getting the Minnesota state legislature to bring Farmamerica to Waseca.

"It was a great adventure," he said. "The state legislature wanted to recognize and build these interpretive centers. They had one for the iron range and another for forestry, but there wasn't one for agriculture yet."

The people of Minnesota asked for one, as agriculture was and still is the state's biggest resource. The legislature agreed and set up a competition for a place to have the interpretive center. Frederick was part of an advisory committee vying for an interpretive center near Waseca.

Roy Lukken, a fellow advisor, told him and the others that they needed to raise \$50,000 to even apply for an interpretive center. Lukken decided to donate 48 acres of land to raise the money. Frederick observes, "The land he donated was clearly worth more than \$50,000."

The committee submitted an application into the historical society. Many other committees from different parts of the state applied, but Waseca won: In 1978, Farmamerica was established.

Frederick was the Farmamerica advisory board chair for 20 years. His work in bringing the interpretive center to Waseca and his time on the board was considered so valuable, the board room was named after him during the building's most recent renovation.

While that may have been his greatest achievement, his biggest regret came during 1991-1992. It was at that time that the University of Minnesota decided to close down the college in Waseca. While the Southern Research and Outreach Center still exists to this day, Frederick wishes the college were still around and still believes the closure was a grave mistake.

He called the pull-out in Waseca a "strictly political decision."

"The university was short \$6 million, and they had to get the money some place," he explained. "It was a game of, do we take it from the extension, the Crookston campus, or Waseca? The extension was important to them, and Crookston

Frederick continued on 4

A word from The Word

But by the grace of
God I am what I am,
and his grace to-
ward me was not in
vain.

1 Corinthians
15:10

First for Zimmerman

Water treatment, road construction dominate discussion

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Newly installed mayor Randy Zimmerman presided over his first city council meeting Tuesday evening. ConAgra is looking to expand its operations to year-round; a new Waseca resident in the process of opening a coffee shop is facing a roadblock from MnDOT; and two members of the planning commission resigned.

Jeff Kraimer, plant manager at ConAgra, gave a presentation depicting how, and why they would like to expand to year-round operations. The

"win-win" scenario he described would require the city to authorize use of the city's wastewater treatment facility. In exchange ConAgra would pay an industrial user fee. The council authorized staff to move forward with ConAgra in order to put together an official proposal.

New Waseca resident Taylor Gates is building a coffee shop in the property adjacent to Farm Bureau Insurance at 1005 North State St. "I just want to make you aware that MnDOT is putting your community at risk."

What Gates referred to was

MnDOT's refusal to allow a safe exit point from the location of the soon-to-be-built coffee shop. MnDOT's proposed solution was to allow for an exit off of Eleventh Street. "His (MnDOT's) (proposed) solution will jeopardize the safety of the citizens of Waseca," Gates pleaded.

Gates said more than once that the city has been very good to work with and 100% accommodating. His frustration is with MnDOT and his comments really were intended as a call for help from the council to assist him in his talks with the agency.

No action was taken, but more



Mayor Randy Zimmerman

than one council member talked with Gates after the meeting.

Mike Tate and Tom Glaser both resigned from the Planning Commission. One resigned for work-related

Council continued on 8

Off the table

Chief deputy
offer rescinded

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

On Monday evening the New Richland City Council accepted a "withdrawal" of city administrator Anthony Martens' resignation. Martens had indicated to the council early in the month that he had accepted an offer to be chief deputy under Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas.

Martens told council members this week that Dulas had rescinded his offer for the chief deputy position; he later declined comment.

Martens will continue in his role as New Richland City Administrator. Meanwhile, the chief deputy sheriff position remains unfilled. Dulas has not announced who he intends to hire and has yet to provide an explanation for his decision.

"We're glad the issue is resolved," chairman of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners, Blair Nelson, said about the uncertainty. Regarding the reasons behind the rescinding of the job offer, the county also offered no comment.

Monday evening Martens presented the council with two options regarding the city administrator position:

1. Move forward with the hiring process among the three persons who had applied for the position since his resignation.

2. Allow Martens to continue.

The only dissenting voice regarding Martens' return to the position came from council member Jody Wynnemer, who asked whether the council could look over the three applications before making a decision. Following the question, council member Loren Skelton made the motion to accept Martens' request.

No discussion took place aside from Wynnemer's comments. On the decision, Wynnemer voted "no." Mayor Chad Neitzel, council members Skelton and Jason Casey voted "yes."

"I'd hate to start over again," Wynnemer also said. His statement was met with head nods.

"I'm relieved," council member Casey told the Pioneer regarding Martens' decision to continue as administrator. "I thought he was gone. He does a good job getting a consensus among issues which not everyone may agree on. His communication and administrative skills are strong. I'm glad he's back."



Martens

More than just numbers

Butler brings
human touch

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Waseca resident, Blooming Prairie native Jon Butler, 41, has worked for FM BANK for more than a decade, and will serve as president of the newly relocated charter at its location in the former Wells Fargo Building in Waseca, set to open in the summer of 2023.

Butler grew up on a farm between Blooming Prairie and Geneva, which meant, "I spent my springs and falls in the tractor helping Dad, and the summers out gopher trapping."

His parents are Tom and Christine Butler, who farmed around 1,000 acres of corn and soybeans on a Newry Township farm with a history that dates back to the 1860s.

As a kid, Butler recalls a couple iconic memories which hinted towards his future. "My parents told me that as a kid, I would do chores for my siblings: When they paid me, I would then loan them back the money. My mom also borrowed money from me when I was around 8 in order to purchase material to make and sell hand sewn baptismal gowns. I don't have the promissory note still, but the interest rates were much higher than what they are today."

Butler graduated in 2000 from Blooming Prairie High School before attending Minnesota State Mankato for four years, graduating with a degree in behavioral sciences and law enforcement.

Butler admits this doesn't sound like the path one takes to enter the world of finance.

"Banking is usually a career by ac-



FAMILY - Waseca resident, Jon Butler, will serve as president of FM Bank, set to open in the former Wells Fargo Building this summer. He and his wife Lyric have two sons, Brayden and Brooks.

cident," Butler jokes. "Very few go to school saying they want to be a banker..."

In his final semester at college, though, Butler said his eyes were opened: He realized he didn't want to go into law enforcement.

Butler's sister worked as a loan officer for TCF Bank, where Butler got his first job in finance. Over the next few years, he moved between 5 different branches before then being promoted to regional manager overseeing 10 different urban locations.

"I enjoyed it, however, working for a metro bank, interactions feel more like 'transactions' than a genuine relationship," Butler shared.

Perhaps because of his past as a "small town" kind of guy, Butler says he prefers a more personal touch in which his experience in agricul-

"Working for a metro bank, interactions feel more like 'transactions' than a genuine relationship."

— FM Bank President Jon Butler

ture, commercial lending, working for a "community bank," and fostering personal relationships allow him to use his experience and knowledge to be of genuine assistance to his customers.

In 2009 Butler saw a posting for a job in Olivia, with a smaller, community-focused institution named FM BANK, which specialized in ag and business lending. After meeting with the owners, Butler said he knew it was a fit.

It was around this time when he

married the love of his life, Lyric, daughter to Blaine and Jody Nelson of Waseca.

"Neither of us remember the exact date [when they met]," Butler smiled.

Butler's brother was actually the one who introduced them. In his words, his brother is beyond persistent. "I said, 'No Carl, I don't wanna meet this girl you know.'"

Butler continued on 4

Sno-Secas

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

It was a fitting day for the Waseca County Sno-Secas Club Ride Saturday, Jan. 21. The event took place as part of the Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Festival.

The ride started at the Waseca American Legion, with registration taking place at 10 a.m. Many people enjoyed a warmup and a drink inside before hitting the trails.

At around 11, 31 registered snowmobiles departed along a path which followed along the south side of the train tracks, riding through the eastern part of the county's countryside before making a stop in New Richland.

The Sno-Secas Club is responsible for helping keep the snowmobile trails around Waseca County cleared and groomed throughout the winter. The group

Sno-Secas continued on 4



Waseca Sleigh and Cutter annual ride



31 riders enjoy event



Compostings

by Al Batt
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The squirrel shouldn't have surprised me

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

Good morning. It's a wretched morning and it will be a dreadful day.

What's the matter, did you lose your job creating motivational posters?

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I hadn't used the Pythagorean Theorem on a day cold enough to raise ice cream. Fern frost on the window one day, the rime of the Ancient Mariner on the trees the next. I was thankful for the weather. Where would we be without it? What would we talk about? Winter tosses us an occasional bone—a warm and sunny day. I walked a trail. I noticed that one of my shoe-laces had come untied. My shoe-tying ability was limited due to the round shoestrings that frustrate me. I used to see how long I could go before stepping on one of the free-range shoestrings. Now I had to weigh the possibility of a trip and a fall against the long journey to bend down to tie that shoe. Some years back, I had a bout with plantar fasciitis. The doctor told me to put my foot down and start wearing Crocs when I'd normally go barefooted. I took her advice. It wasn't long after that when we received 18 inches of snow. It was a warm day, so I shoveled snow while wearing Crocs. They might have shed Croc tears.

I shuffled through a museum. It was hard to keep moving, as there were so many interesting things to look at. I perused a display of old medicine bottles. I drank a nasty cough syrup when I had a sore throat as a boy. It caused my body to shudder. I think it frightened the coughs away, but I reckon it worked. That's good. Ruth Hiland sent me a photo of a sign reading, "Lif is too short."

I'VE LEARNED

It's OK to eat lunch meat for dinner.

To not be provoked by a bumper sticker. Bumpers don't know what they're saying.

No one is as confident as the uninformed.

Pickleball is a big bill.

BAD JOKE DEPARTMENT

The man was walking to the horse racetrack when he found a nickel on the sidewalk. He bent down and picked up the coin. Thinking it might be a sign, he pulled a racing form from his pocket and quickly noticed that the

fifth horse in the fifth race was named Nickel. That had to be a good omen. He placed a \$555 bet on the fifth horse in the fifth race to win. The horse finished fifth.

What's green and smells like red paint? Green paint.

How do you round up 19 cats? Twenty.

THE VIVIANS

I had a student named Vivian in a writing class I taught. It's a lovely name. Vivian Abraham was a part of the family operating the Abraham Store in New Richland. Vivian's Cafe in Hartland, where the elite meet to eat, was where Vivian Johnson made fried rolls that frequent my dreams. And Vivian Vance played Ethel Mertz on "I Love Lucy."

NATURE NOTES

I shouldn't have been surprised when a fox squirrel fell from the roof of the house onto a window feeder held in place by suction cups. The result was, as would be expected, the squirrel and the feeder both crashed to the ground, creating a blizzard of fleeing song-birds. Well played, squirrel. I anticipated the event, as the forecast had called for strong winds, rising temperatures and falling squirrels.

I floated on a jon boat in the Atchafalaya Basin, the nation's largest river swamp. The owner of the boat played his guitar and sang a song about a man playing a guitar and singing while floating in a jon boat. The serenity was interrupted by an airboat running at high decibels and the "blam, blam" sound of shotguns being fired. Nutria hunters. Louisiana pays \$6 per tail to reduce nutria-induced marsh damage. Nutria use their buckteeth the color of Cheetos to eat plant roots and that causes erosion. Nutria, resembling muskrats on growth hormones, were introduced to the Pelican State as a potential source of fur. After the decline in that industry, the animals escaped or were released. Chefs are working on recipes for the 20-pound rodents, but don't look for a Nutria Nosh restaurant to open near you soon.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The wonderful comic strip "Pickles," by Brian Crane presented this. Grandpa: "When I was your age all my heroes were cowboys. Hopalong Cassidy, Red Ryder, Roy Rogers, The Lone Ranger, Gene Autry...now they're all gone."

Boy: "Who are your heroes now?"

Grandpa: "Anyone who shows kindness and compassion."

Theatre is for more than just geeks

I love theater.

I wouldn't consider myself a full-on theater kid. I don't sing songs from Wicked, Hamilton or Moana. And I don't quote The Music Man as often as I used to. That's more like my best friend from high school, Eric, and his wife Grace.

But I think I enjoy watching musicals and plays a lot more than the average audience member.

Waseca High School is performing its one-act play "How to Succeed in High School Without Even Trying." It was hard for me not to laugh a lot and still take pictures of the actors and actresses.

A special shoutout to Waseca student Nathanael Andrs. There's a bit in the play where the narrators explain how to pass English class by reciting poems in a dramatic way. One of the examples was the poem "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost. Imagine someone dramatizing that poem. Both of the two times I saw the whole play, Andrs had me laughing during that bit. I still am laughing about it as I write this column.

Watching them and looking back at Waseca's production of Little Women and JWP's production of The Little Mermaid made me reminisce a little bit about my time as a theater kid in high school. I know I seem more like a sports fanatic and a music critic. But back then, I leaned



Music to my Ears

by Michael Roy
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a lot into music and theater. That inclination got me through high school.

I still remember the one night my brain refused to work as a freshman and I butchered the feature song for Once Upon a Mattress. I still remember when we did Bye Bye Birdie my sophomore year and my best friend and I split the role of Albert Peterson, the agent of music sensation Conrad Birdie (basically Elvis). I look back fondly on being Marcellus in The Music Man while singing with the barbershop quartet.

I even think about the last night of my musical career my senior year when I had the worst headache ever in my entire life. I still rocked that Cogsworth costume and continued on with Beauty and the Beast. It was so bad that the cast and crew refused to let me help with teardown. I don't think I was in school the following Monday.

But the more I write about this, the more I think about the other things surrounding theater. The cast parties hosted by one of the seniors, the

drive to Perkins in Mankato after the Friday night show, and all the backstage tomfoolery we were up to.

Theater was where I felt like I belonged. It was where I made most of my friends in junior year. It was where I met my second girlfriend. It was where, even for two hours, I felt like I could be myself and everyone's eyes were finally on me, and for a good reason.

I think that's why I enjoy seeing students do it now. I know at least one member of the cast, if not most of them, feel the way I felt when I was up on stage: That people actually think they're cool (for a minute); that other people could relate to them; that at least for a few nights, everything was awesome.

I know that a lot of people may not think music or the arts are that important. I know there have been political conversations about education reform. It often seems music programs and the arts are the first things to be on the chopping block.

It's important to keep the arts

going in our schools. Participation in art programs teaches students how to express themselves in a good way. It gives them an outlet to be creative and release their pent-up energy. And, like it or not, the arts are an integral part of the entertainment industry.

If we didn't have schools teaching music, who would be the musicians, let alone good musicians? If we didn't have theater, how would students learn audio, design, and communication skills? I think I learned more about how to communicate with others through theater than any communications class I had taken throughout my schooling.

This conversation has turned a little more political than I intended, but I think it needs to be said. Just like sports teaches life skills such as how to cope with setbacks and losing, the arts teach students how to act, how to operate lights, how to design sets, and more. And in my opinion, the most important thing is it gives those who feel like they're weird and are different an outlet to feel like they belong.

Without theater, I don't think I would have developed any ambition in life. Without theater, there wouldn't be much entertainment. And without much entertainment, life would be dull.

Frustrations of dealing with youth

It's easy to make friends and be active during the summer, even for an introvert such as myself. There is great plenty to talk about and do because I can be OUTSIDE and there are DOGS. Trails to walk, nature sounds to hear, things to smell, ... even Otto and Shelby (the Senior dogs) will happily stroll the trail behind our house (albeit slowly). And when we happen to cross paths with a fellow trail walker with a dog, it's obvious the Seniors know how to handle themselves: 'Sup? That a new bandana there? Looks pretty sharp. Yeah, things all good here. Just keeping the old lady company. Hey, see ya later. On the other hand, Wallace the youngest loses his mind: Hey! Hey! You're a DOG! You are the GREATEST THING EVER!! Hey! You're a DOG! Can we be friends? Can I smell your butt? Can I? Hey!!

We've done the puppy socialization and basic training classes over at Havana Dog Training where Wallace got to hang out with a younger set of hounds and he loved it. He even did pretty well. We have a certificate! (I wonder if there are puppies who don't get one?) We've brought him over to our doggie extended stay place where he could hang out with



Always Looking Up

by Melissa Dunn

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and learn dog things from an entire pack and an expert leader (Candace) and he loved that, too. Candace even reported that he never had house training accidents at her place (well, yeah, because he's OUTSIDE). But alas, it was summer and I had the time to go to those places that are out of town. I am all for supporting local business but we have to go out of town because, just like in the Christmas story, there is no room at the inn, canine joint here. Perhaps we could use another one. (Are any entrepreneurs reading?) It's my own fault—I should have reserved a spot for him three years in advance, just like I did with my daughter's preschool right after she was born. I'm not even kidding. I told my husband to call and get her on the list for her entrance year. He scoffed. I insisted (the voice exiting my mouth compa-

rable to the character from The Exorcist but you know, all those horrors). He called the school and then apologized to me after finding out that our brand-new baby was already number seven on the list. Anyway, I guess I should have done that for Wallace.

Now, in the dead of winter, the Seniors are getting pretty frustrated with puppy shenanigans. They've been there and done that over a decade ago and they are DONE with the little bother. One or the other of the Seniors looks at me pointedly (usually when Wallace is chewing on an appendage not belonging to himself), asking me to intervene: YOU brought him here. For the love of God, woman, DO SOMETHING!! Do it NOW!! I try to let him run around in the backyard and burn off some puppy energy when the

weather is good, but since he's: A) a miniature dachshund, and B) off-white, we run into a couple of problems.

So Wallace needs to get out more. A puppy's social skills are just like those of a toddler: practice, practice, practice. Then (if you're lucky) civilization is somewhat safe from both of them. Wallace is terrific with humans, but his best animal friend at our house is neither of the other senior dogs (go figure) but...ghost Wallace. Ghost Wallace appears at night in the glass at the bottom of the patio doors, or occasionally in the windows (if the real Wallace is standing on the back of the sofa, which he is NOT supposed to do), but most frequently on the oven door. And every time ghost Wallace comes to visit, he is welcomed with a cacophony of dachshund noises that persists until we pull the blinds, get him off the sofa, or open the oven door (guess I'm not cooking tonight): Hey! Hey! You're a DOG! You are the GREATEST THING EVER!! Hey! I wonder if he'll come to any revelations when he tries to smell the new dog's butt?

It's called 'news' for a reason

For those who don't know, I grew up as a neighbor to Anthony Martens. Given what I do for a living AND being his neighbor, he and I have had "one or two" interactions.

I told Sheriff Jay Dulas and Tony that I don't like writing news stories which hurt people. After Tony was offered the job of chief deputy he told me he received hundreds of messages, emails and comments congratulating him. However, over the past couple weeks, we have seen the picture change completely: Tony is going to continue his role as New Richland's City Administrator, a job he has appeared to excel at, by all reports.

Jay hasn't named his choice for chief deputy. Neither he nor Tony appreciate us covering the story, especially given the way it's turned out.

I'm not sorry; that's the news. The choice of the county's chief deputy does, in some way affect everyone who lives in the county. We all rely on law enforcement. I, speaking for myself, am grateful for the quality service we have.

That said, whoever the next deputy will be is news. Jay announced at the end of December who his selection would be; Tony resigned to take the job. I would not be doing my job if I



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens
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did not write about it. Period.

I don't like writing stories where people end up hurt. The fallout of Tony not getting the job is not my fault and the newspaper doesn't accept any blame for that happening. (When we, the newspaper, report on news stories, the newspaper does sometimes get blamed for simply sharing the outcome of events.)

I couldn't write or report very much in my article about Tony taking his job back in New Richland. I can share my opinion here. My best guess is one of two things.

1. Something in his background check didn't turn out. I say this because that was the last update I received from the county. I was referred to County Administrator Michael Johnson and the head of human resources at the county two weeks ago. Seeing as that was the last stop, I could draw the conclusion that that

was where the job fell through.

2. People at the county level or in the sheriff's office don't want Tony to be the chief deputy. Maybe someone wants the job for themselves, maybe Tony irritated the wrong person, or maybe Jay just decided he wanted to go a different direction.

Regardless, the decision was and is Jay's. He doesn't have to share the reason why he rescinded his offer to Tony. But I feel Tony, at the very least, is owed an explanation—something I don't believe has happened.

And, well, Jay hasn't taken my phone calls in a couple weeks. If he

had kept his announcement private, maybe none of this would have happened. That said, the newspaper simply reporting on the announcement is not wrong. It's my job.

Tony, on the other hand, has talked to me every time I've called or stopped in person, albeit not always happily. If I am informed, I can write an accurate article. The benefit of that is people have a place, a source, which everyone can point to and say, "That's what happened. The newspaper said so."

When people speculate, rumors occur, and that isn't good for anyone. Hence, why my opinions about what happened were shared in this space and not in the news article.

"There can be no progress without head-on confrontation." — Christopher Hitchens, Love, Poverty, and War: Journeys and Essays

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Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika

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A mouse ran up Lisa’s pant leg

I was recently driving up a long driveway to visit a friend south of Waseca. The property is surrounded by set-a-side, cattail sloughs, ditches, and agricultural fields. A caravan of brown critters was plowing across a snow covered field. I pulled out my binoculars—I always carry them—and observed four muskrats in the snow. What on earth were they doing? Muskrats don't hang out in snow-covered fields. I concluded that, with our drought and low water, their pond had frozen out and they were hunting for a new home. I'd like to share some once-in-a-lifetime animal and critter stories I've encountered over the years.

Number one happened at the C.I.S., the former high school building along Elm Avenue where I taught for years. You can enter the building from the middle courtyard and get to the principal's office. Noon hour duty was over and I came around the hall corner to climb the three sets of stairs to my room on the third floor. There in front of me was a deer, a medium sized doe, slipping and sliding on the waxed floor. The doe had entered the courtyard and jumped through an office window, trashing the office and sending secretaries into a frenzy. Lou Gusts, a secretary, opened the office door and the doe ran out into the main hallway. Gary Meurer, a longtime Waseca teacher and coach, our head wrestling coach at the time, was in the hallway. Gary maneuvered a wrestling hold on the doe. I'm a basketball guy, but I'll call it a full Nelson. Gary subdued the panicked doe. I opened the door to the courtyard, and Gary calmly ushered the confused creature through the door. Out she went, racing across Elm Avenue back to home in the wilderness.

We resided at 613 7th Ave N.E. For many years. Our house was directly across the street from Hartley. My late daughter Katie had some friends over for a sleepover, all of them little, giggly, pigtailed girls. They were out playing in the front yard and came running in the house screaming "There's a beaver under the front steps." I went out and, sure enough, there was a large tunnel burrowed under the front steps. I got a big live trap out of the garage, the girls put some carrots and lettuce in the trap for bait, and we waited. Twenty minutes later we had the critter, a great big woodchuck. It was in a frenzy, clawing, hissing, and attempting to free himself from the trap. The girls all knew I was a hunter and insisted no harm come to their new

friend Woody. I told them I'd take Woody for a nice little ride in the country. They insisted on riding along with their new friend. We went out to a game management area south of town with Woody riding in the back of the pickup. I had the girls stand back, opened the cage door, and away went our captive, snarling back at us over his shoulder. The girls jumped, giggled and celebrated as Woody raced off to his new home.

I was driving to work at the CIS with my wife Lisa, who also taught at the school. We pulled up to park in the west parking lot and Lisa opened the door screaming: A mouse had run up her pant leg. She shook the mouse back into the car. There are many people in this world who are terrified by mice; Lisa is one of them. I immediately contacted a custodian and we set two Victor mouse traps in the car baited with fresh cheese from the cafeteria. We had the little critter by lunchtime. Dave had nice quiet rides to school the next couple of weeks because Lisa was busy holding her pant legs down.

Another time, it was summer and I was busy painting houses with my painting partners. We were brushing away at the Dankert house, located close to the Waseca County library. It's a big, three-story structure. High on the top story we were removing some shutters when we revealed some bats. We were spraying with white paint, high on the third-story peak, which featured a vent with wooden slats. Out came a couple of bats. Not a great experience, starting to shake while hanging onto a 40-foot ladder. At least one of the bats had been sprayed with white paint. A week later I was returning some books to the library for Lisa in the evening. Although not so much anymore, we used to see bats flying around all over Waseca as the sun was setting. A couple of people were standing on the sidewalk in front of the library. One of them said to me, "Now there's something you don't see every day, a white bat, maybe an albino." I didn't share my painting story and walked away thinking, I sure know where that bat came from.

Over the years I've observed many critters on the streets of Waseca. Raccoons going down drain holes, opossums in a tree, even a red fox sunning on a golf course green. Next time you're on a walking trail or just out for a ride, keep your peepers open or binoculars handy. You just might experience an animal or critter story to share with family or friends.

Rotary Readers



READERS - Rotary Readers is in full swing. In early January Mrs. Jennifer, Lisa Wiblin from Mediacom; Ed Frederick and his assistant, read stories to preschool students at Waseca Central Building. Mrs. Jennifer read a story about the Wonky Donkey; Wiblin read a story about Moose Tracks and Frederick read, "Guess How Much I Love You."

Identify Frosty and win \$1750

It's time again for the annual Waseca Sleigh and Cutter 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.

Week 1 Clue (Frosty)

*2022 is now in the past,
And with that brings the new year
And the beginning of the 73rd Annual Sleigh and Cutter Festival,*

*Meaning the 2023 Frosty Contest is here.
Who will be the first ones,
To guess who is behind the mask?
The rules give you all you need to know,
So, no need to ask!
Week by week,
A new clue will emerge,
With information about their identity,
To help your thoughts and guesses converge.
As is tradition,
Frosty is well known,
And in Waseca
Their family has grown.*

Week 2

*Have you begun to rack your brain,
and put together a list?
Guessing the identity of Frosty
Is not something to be missed.
Raised in Waseca,
But leaving state for college,
Frosty returned to their home roots,
To share their wealth of knowledge.
Raising their children,
While building a career,
Frosty has made an impact
On those close and dear.*



*While not at work,
Frosty can be found,
Ice fishing in the winter,
In summer, camping on North Shore ground.*

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!

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 and New Richland Star. Clues will also be broadcast on KRUE and KOWZ Radio and will be available online at info@wasecachamber.com.

Week 1 (Medallion)

*The calendars have changed,
And the medallion location has been arranged.
As in Sleigh and Cutter Festival tradition,
Its location is within Waseca City Jurisdiction.*

*Each week a clue will be released,
To help you find its location, to say the least.
Begin your search, weather permitting,
To find the place where the medallion is sitting.
No need to wait,
The rules do state.
The medallion is ready,
Be sure your search is steady.*

Week 2

*Not much information was given your way,
But finding the medallion may make your day.*

*The location, although not yet known,
Is easily accessible, have you been thrown?
Use the clues to guide your search,
And look adjacent to the town's perch.
Lying in wait, the medallion hides,
In a spot this location provides.
In the cold and snowy air,
The medallion waits within the pair.
No need to dig, or climb too high,
But make sure to lift it to the sky*

Get your news in the Pioneer

- news@wasecacountypioneer.com
- Call (507) 837-6767
- Stop in person 103 S. State St.

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6pm BAR Bingo	2 7pm BINGO	3 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm Four Chaplains Day	4 PRIVATE EVENT
5	6	7 Burger nite 5-7pm	8 6pm BAR Bingo	9 HALL 7pm BINGO	10 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	11 PRIVATE EVENT
12 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host Waseca Youth Sacred Heart	13 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	14 Burger nite 5-7pm VALENTINE'S DAY	15 6pm BAR Bingo	16 HALL 7pm BINGO	17 Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival DINNER & DANCE	17 Sleigh & Cutter PARADE
19 COAST GUARD RESERVE Birth- day	20 President's Day	21 Burger nite 5-7pm	22 6pm BAR Bingo	23 HALL 7pm BINGO	24 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	25 GUN BINGO DUCKS UNLIMITED MEAL 5:30 pm BINGO 7:00 pm
26 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host Neighbor- hood Service Center	27	28 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

Kay Elma Poppler

Kay Elma Poppler, age 83, of Waseca gained her angel wings on January 17, 2023, at Mayo Clinic Health System in Waseca.

Born on September 19, 1939, in Waseca to Frank and Elma (Caddwell) Hasner. Kay attended country school through 8th grade and graduated from Waseca Central High School with the class of 1958. On June 2, 1973, Kay was united in marriage to Ronald Popper at Guardian Angels Catholic Church in Chaska. Kay and Ron began their married life in Chaska for a short time before moving to Shakopee until 1980 when they relocated to Rosen, Minnesota for a short time. In 1984 they moved to Nassau Minnesota, where they owned and operated K&R Cafe in Marietta, Minnesota. In 1990, Kay and Ron moved once more and made their home in Waseca, where Kay worked for Erickson's Grocery Store for many years until being promoted to help care for her daughter's grandchildren.

Kay enjoyed dancing, watching classic movies, thrift shopping, tending to her floral gardens and most importantly her Minnesota sports. Her family meant the world to her! She would send cards on many occasions to those she loved. She enjoyed meeting family for breakfast at the Pheasant Cafe, going on trips and camping in her Airstream with her family. She especially cherished babysitting her grandchildren. Kay will be remembered as a devoted wife, inspirational mother and the most loving grandmother. She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca.

Kay is survived by her loving husband of nearly 50 years, Ron; children: Troy (Katrina Rahier) Poppler, Victoria (Rafi) Quader, and Sara (Wes) Ruedy; grandchild-



Kay Elma Poppler

dren: Jaime Hayden, Clint Poppler, Dylan Howen, Joseph Poppler, Zachary (Jennifer) Pillatzke, Kelsey Pillatzke, Saffron Quader, Kayley Ruedy, Creed Poppler, Riley Ruedy, Tyseer Nabi, and Colten Ruedy; one great grandchild, Shyla Hayden. She is also survived by her siblings: Evelyn Jane Hasner, O.J. Hasner, and Thomas Hasner; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends and her beloved dog Lucky.

Preceded in death by her parents Frank and Elma Hasner; daughters: Debra Howen and Tammy Popper; grandsons: Brandon Steven and Tyler Poppler; great granddaughter: Dawn Lynn; and siblings: Ruth Ripka, Hazel Wright, Frankie Copp, Charlet Oser, Bessie Byrd and Ezra Hasner.

Visitation will be at 10:00 AM and Mass of Christian Burial will be 11:00 AM on Saturday, February 4th, 2023 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca. Interment will be in Janesville Cemetery. Reception at the church following the service.

Dennisfuneralhomes.com

Tammy Poppler

Tammy Kay Poppler, age 60, gained her wings, Tuesday, January 10th,

Surrounded by her loving family at the Saint Cloud Hospital. We would like to thank all the ICU staff that took wonderful care of Tammy and our family.

Tammy was born in Waseca Mn and is the daughter of Ronald and Kay Poppler.

She enjoyed shopping, camping, thrift stores, reading, driving her mustang, and listening to all music. She was always buying jewelry, or as she would call it, her "Bling". She would never turn down the opportunity to head to Red Lobster, or out for Chinese.

She adored her children and daughter-in-law Jennifer in every way. Tammy enjoyed spending her time with them going camping. She loved the outdoors. She loved to spend time with Rachel's (family friend) children, Derek, Jeremiah, and Emilee, whom she loved like grandchildren.

Tammy will be remembered for her loving, giving, and caring personality. Tammy was an amazing mother, daughter, sister, and friend.

Tammy is survived by her two children, Zachary (Jennifer) Pillatzke of Marietta, MN and Kelsey Pillatzke of Sauk Centre, MN; parents, Ronald and Kay Poppler of Waseca, MN, siblings, Troy Poppler (Katrina Rahier) of Lares, Puerto Rico, Victoria (Rafi) Quader of Minnetonka, MN and



Tammy Kay Poppler

Sara (Wes) Ruedy of Waseca, MN; nieces, Saffron, Kayley, Riley and Jaime, nephews, Joseph, Creed, Tyseer, Colten, Clint, and Dylan. One great niece Shyla May.

Many cousins, and friends whom she adored to the end.

Tammy is preceded in death by her son, Brandon Steven, sister, Debra Howen, nephew, Tyler Poppler, and great niece, Dawn Lynn.

Services will be held Saturday January 28th at St. Joseph's Church, in Rosen, MN.

The visitation will be at 10:00 a.m., one hour prior to service at 11:00am.

Tammy was the sunshine on a cloudy day, and joy in so many people's lives, she always had a caring soul and would be there for anyone that she could.

She will be dearly missed.

Frederick

from Page 1

had too many people representing them. Waseca was at its lowest point with no strength in the legislature."

Frederick ended up being the one and only chancellor for the college. "I thought as the years went by, I'd be able to say it wasn't

such a bad decision," he claimed. "I can't say that. But we moved along and did our best. Farmame-rica became Waseca's agricultural outlet at that time."

Despite losing the university, Frederick is happy to see agriculture growing in Waseca. "The city's done quite well," he said. "It's nice to see our Bird's Eye plant taken over by a bigger company. What they built out there... that's quite the structure. It's going to mean a lot in Waseca."

New JWP fitness center complete

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

After months of tearing down a wall, installing rubber flooring, and bringing in the equipment, the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton school has a new weight room - soon to be called the "fitness center" - available for use by students, staff, and community members. The installation of the equipment, all done on Tuesday, Jan. 17, was the last step in completing the project.

While the facility's location in the school basement hasn't changed, its size is nearly double. A former locker room which was barely utilized was removed; with the wall torn down, the room became much larger.

Everything else has also been dramatically changed in the weight room, from the brand new equipment to the paint on the walls. "We pretty much redid everything," Athletic Di-



COMPLETE - Installation of new gym equipment at JWP High School concluded on Jan. 17. The new fitness center is nearly double the size of the previous weight room. Photo by Michael Roy

rector Paul Brunner summarized.

With a new room came brand new exercise equipment. Prior to the remodeling, the facility had room for two treadmills; the remaining space was filled with weight equipment. A much greater variety is now in place, with nearly triple the treadmills and other cardio machines.

"What's great is that some of our equipment has the Bulldogs logo on it," Brunner said. "It's cool that we were able to do that."

With such a variety of equipment, Brunner shared, it only seemed fitting to begin using a name which re-

flects the expanded options, thus the space will soon be called the "fitness center" rather than simply the weight room. "We want to be more inclusive," Brunner said. "While there are still going to be weights, there are a lot more treadmills and other exercise equipment than before. We want people to feel welcome and comfortable when using this room."

He is also excited to see it get used now that it's complete. "Everyone will be able to use it. The phy-ed teachers can teach students, student-athletes can work out in it, I'm sure Andrea [Kronbach] will find a use

for it with community education, there will be a lot of female-only workouts in here...this room will be utilized often, that's for sure."

Brunner could barely contain his excitement, and while the Pioneer was getting its sneak peek at the new fitness center, curious students were looking to get their own previews.

"This is great for the school," Brunner concluded. "We're very grateful to have something like this for the students and others to use. We are lucky to be able to get the equipment we have. That's why we will take great care of this room."

Short agenda for county commissioners

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

There were just two action items on the agenda during the regular meeting of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners Tuesday, Jan. 17. First was the approval of the cooperative construction agreement between Waseca County and the City of Janesville for trail improvements along County Road 53. County staff have a grant application pending for \$102,000, approved by the board of commissioners at a previous meeting, which if awarded will cover the full cost of the project. The cooperative construction agreement, approved by the City Council of Janesville on Jan. 9, states that if the grant is not awarded, 70% of construction costs will be paid by Waseca County using reserve money, and 30% by the City of Janesville, using money from the American Rescue Plan Act. The second action taken by the board of commissioners

was to award Contract 812301, for rehabilitation of a culvert along County State Access Highway 14, to Floorcoat Midwest, LLC. The culvert in question is a concrete pipe which carries County Ditch 41; it will be getting its joints re-sealed to prevent soil loss. The erosion problem was first brought to the attention of county staff about one year ago when the formation of sinkholes was observed. The issues with the pipe's joints result from problems with its installation; it is otherwise in good condition with a long life of expected service. Floorcoat Midwest, LLC, a company based in Truman, specializes in this type of work; its bid of \$164,100 for the project was about 35% lower than anticipated. Waseca County has never contracted with Floorcoat Midwest, LLC before, but expressed hope that they prove reliable and this can lead to a positive and economical working relationship. County engineering staff will

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

supervise the work.

Blue Earth County Commissioners Kevin Paap and Kip Bruender attended remotely to set a hearing date for redetermination of benefits and damages for Joint Ditch 11. The Joint County Drainage Authority board consists of those two from Blue Earth and Waseca Commissioners DeAnn Malterer, Brad Krause, and Dough Christopherson with Malterer serving as Chair. JD-11 is in the northwest portion of Waseca County, extends into Blue Earth County, and includes all of Lake Elysian. The area had undergone major changes in housing since its last redetermination, and now includes approximately 500 residences in Waseca County and 50 in Blue Earth County. The final hearing has been set for 1 p.m. Feb. 27 in the Waseca County

Commissioners' board room. The Waseca County ditch authority also addressed the board, who approved the start of the redetermination process for County Ditch 47. CD-47 is in New Richland and includes piping near the school building which will soon need maintenance due to its age. It also serves as an outlet for a joint ditch, JD-6, with Freeborn County. The ditch has not had a redetermination of benefits since it was adopted by the county in the 1970s, and the county ditch authority seeks to update its tax roll prior to incurring maintenance costs. Members of the ditch authority will be meeting with counterparts in Freeborn County to coordinate matters regarding JD-6 as necessary.

Editorial Note: Last week's Waseca County Commissioner's article referred to the old E.F. Johnson Building. That was incorrect. The property in question is owned by the Brown family.

Butler

from Page 1

"And he said, 'You gotta meet this girl!'"

Lyric was also in banking at the time. Their first conversation occurred when Carl called Jon from an unknown number and put Lyric on the phone.

"I know. It's awkward, right?" Butler laughs.

Butler said he doesn't know how Carl knew Lyric was the one for him, but she was.

The pair have been married for 13 years, and have two boys, Brayden, 12, and Brooks, 7. Brayden is a sixth-grader at Waseca Intermediate School and Brooks is a first-grader at Hartley Elementary.

"It was a lot starting at FM BANK with a newborn," Butler remembers about his post as president in Olivia. "I really enjoyed learning about the

community, the bank, the farmers' operations, and the businesses—helping them achieve their goals."

In late 2015 Jon and Lyric decided to return to Lyric's hometown of Waseca. "We're very family oriented," he explains. "We moved back to be closer to our family."

"I vividly remember the day I left [FM BANK]," Butler glows. "Steve, the owner, said 'It's a big day for me. Tomorrow is the first day I try to work with you again someday.'"

The owner told Butler the door would always be open if he ever wanted to come back.

Well, Butler didn't make it a year before deciding he didn't want to work for anyone other than Steve and FM BANK.

Butler returned to his former job as president in 2016 and commuted to Olivia four days per week for the next four years while he looked to hire and train his replacement. In 2020 he began working remotely for all FM BANK locations as Executive Vice President.

Somewhere along the way Butler acquired and nurtured a dream of opening a bank in Waseca.

"When you grow up on the farm, you can't wait to get away from the farm, as you get older you really learn to appreciate it," he recalls. "I know banking and I know agriculture... I have had a strong feeling that an FM BANK located in Waseca could be something special. And now it's beginning to happen."

The new bank will be in the building formerly occupied by Wells Fargo.

Butler explained the process, the story, of how FM BANK came to its decision. With a smile, he recalled how his longtime dream is becoming reality.

When Wells Fargo closed, Butler realized a pathway was opening. The owner of FM BANK had always told him that, if the opportunity to open a bank in the Waseca area presented itself, FM BANK would explore it.

"After the building sat on the market for a while, I asked if he would

consider it. He told me to put together a proposal."

Based on Butler's assessment, FM BANK began investigating the property, and after a feasibility study, ultimately purchased it.

Butler says he believes in Waseca and its Ag and business community, the group of people whose interests and needs he is intimately familiar with.

"We're a small town, community bank at heart," Butler explained. "We feel the stress of our customers because ultimately, we want to succeed with them. It's very rewarding helping someone through the good times and the bad. We don't want to be there only when things are good: We're here for the long haul."

That long haul will begin in the summer of 2023 with a remodel of the bank, and end with a grand opening sometime this summer.

More information can be found about the bank by visiting www.my-bankfm.com

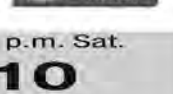


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Discussion about childcare services

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

One of the biggest questions Janesville’s Economic Development Authority has been asking is how to make sufficient childcare services for area families.

According to Ivan Maas, a council representative of the group, they had an owner of a childcare facility in Cleveland speak on her experience.

“She started in Madison Lake doing childcare there,” Maas explained to the council. “She did childcare in several different locations, but was always under a board of directors. It got to the point where she couldn’t work with them. They didn’t have the same focus she did.”

It was at that point when the speaker explained to the EDA she decided to take some time off and consider another opportunity. She decided to start fresh and create a childcare facility in Cleveland, her hometown.

“She talked to some people and was told to go visit a gentleman,” Maas continued. “She did and presented what she wanted to do to him.”

Luckily, the gentleman was able to cover some of her expenses, and he referred her to his banker for the rest. After creating a building, she was able to serve 50 kids with the help of the community. “That was four years ago,” Maas said. “Now, the building serves 100 kids with double the size.”

According to him, she claimed that she receives help from Cleveland residents, namely older ladies in the community, who come in to help rock the babies. “She was very knowledgeable,” he said. “She helped Lake Crystal start a daycare center.”

It wasn’t as easy as making a

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

building and then serving locals, though. “She has over a million dollars in this thing,” Maas explained. “She said that if it weren’t for the people that helped her get it going and her husband having a great job to be able to support her, she wouldn’t have been able to do it.”

The EDA asked great questions, and there was good dialog. “One thing that came out of that is after she left, we started talking about what a daycare in Janesville should look like and where it should be placed,” he claimed. “The idea was to work with a contractor or developer, put up a multistory building, and make the bottom floor usable by the city for the library/community center and childcare.”

However, there was a problem that was brought up during the discussion. “There is no place in the main part of town for something like that to be located. It has to be closer to residential sections.”

Council member Melissa Kopachek pointed out that the city rezoned its business district a few years ago. “It used to only be from the Purple Goose to the Post Office,” she added. “Didn’t we expand it?”

Maas acknowledged this change but retorted, “I’m mostly referring to the space needed for the building and parking. If you have something that size, if you have floors above it, you’ll take up more space than you think.”

With the increasing demand for childcare and a community center, the EDA and the city are looking to utilize more resources to find the best solution for Janesville.

Vision card goals met by 96%

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

New school board member Alyssa Bowers was read the oath of office and sworn in at the start of the Jan. 19 regular meeting. A special education report presented to the board by director Heather Harms and assistant director Linda Hullopetter was the first of the information items covered. Harms informed board members that there are currently 360 students receiving special education services in the school district, about 19 more than last year at this time. Harms says that the recruitment and retention of fully licensed special education teachers can be challeng-

ing for many districts but a highlight for the district is that 89% of the special education staff are fully licensed in their service area, and the remaining 11% are licensed in education. Currently each staff member has, on average, 17 students receiving 60% or less of their day in special education. The district also has eight self contained programs throughout the schools, where the ratio of students to staff is 8:1.

Hullopetter explained how the special education process begins: school districts have a “child find” obligation under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

(Section 504). The IDEA “child find” obligation requires schools to identify, locate, and evaluate children suspected of having a disability and needing special education services to address that disability. Section 504 similarly imposes an obligation on schools to locate, identify, and evaluate students who are believed to be in need of accommodations or special education services.

Harms reported the results from the special education department’s 2021-2022 vision card goal of all stu-

dents receiving special education services will make progress on their IEP goals; the End of Year Data showed 96% of students “made progress” on their goals. Harms stated that the department’s new vision card goals include staff retention and recruitment.

Superintendent Eric Hudspeth provided a brief report in which spoke about mid-year assessments and making adjustments to student support levels. “We want to make sure the end of the year is successful for all students. It looks different for everyone but ‘all’ means ‘all.’ Every single student.”

Concerns raised over golf cart rental bid

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

The Janesville city council didn’t have many decisions to make at its Monday, Jan. 23 meeting. Other than approving the final pay estimate for the 2020 Street and Utility Improvement project, the only action concerned the lease of golf carts at Prairie Ridge Golf Course, an item that was added to the agenda at the last minute.

Historically, the golf course paid \$2,200 a month to lease 15 carts through Yamaha. The bid brought to the council was for \$2,368 a month for 16 golf carts.

The initial question brought up by council member Melissa Kopachek was if the council could even vote on such a last-minute item. “I don’t think we can legally do that,” she said.

The bigger issue to the other council members, however, is that there was not a second bid to compare with Yamaha’s offer. Council member Ivan Maas pointed out that the council asked Public Works Manager Joe Ziemke to get better bids on

mowers after the two he presented to the council were deemed “not comparable.”

City Administrator Clinton Rogers said that the golf course and the city always accepted Yamaha’s bid in the past. But Maas once again pointed out that if the city wanted to keep transparency, especially on such a hot button issue as the golf course, the council needed to be vigilant on how they looked at certain items.

Council member Jim Mulcahey said he was indifferent about the issue. “It’s January. People won’t use golf carts until April anyway. We have time to get multiple bids on this to keep the precedent we have set as a council.”

The council ultimately tabled the issue to allow the golf course to find a comparable bid.

Rogers told the council that he wanted to keep the agenda small as the next few meetings were going to be packed with many things to vote on and review. One of those things was the moratorium on THC sales.

The council looked at an article from the League of Minnesota Cities

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

which covered the latest news on the state legislature’s progress reviewing the adult use cannabis law. State House speaker Melissa Hortman claimed the process could take two legislative years to complete.

“The house committee met last week to brainstorm,” Rogers explained. “They haven’t had a second meeting, and the senate committee hasn’t even met yet.”

He’s asked various people in all levels of government what the city should do, and the general consensus was that Janesville should continue its moratorium. The council will have its first public reading of the proposed THC ordinance at the February 13 meeting. There will be a second reading of the ordinance and a public hearing in March.

“We plan on treating this like we treat the process of getting a liquor license in Janesville,” Rogers elaborated. “That includes the annual fee to keep the license up to date.”

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

While only one official matter of business—approving a 2022-23 budget revision required by the state of all school boards—was discussed and voted upon during the January 17 school board meeting, the evening was a genuine learning experience nonetheless.

It was the first regular meeting for board members Aaron Phillips, Pat Theuer and Amy Irlhke, all of whom were elected last fall. They and other board members had recently attended the Minnesota State School Board Association’s (MSSBA) annual conference. Many topics had been covered there, including school finance.

As school district business manager Karla Christopherson shared information about the current financial status of the district, board member Pat Theuer commented that those who attended the convention had acquired tremendous respect for the many tasks which Christopherson must perform. In fact, while hearing about many of the details, “Our heads blew up,” joked Theuer. “We were just amazed at everything your job entails.”

NRHEG’s annual budget for all aspects of operating the district—everything from waste disposal to tech-

nology—is slightly over \$11 million. Christopherson’s report and recommended revisions shared that, based on MSSBA recommendations and locally set policies, the district attempts to keep between 22 and 28% of that amount in its “general fund,” that is, set aside in case of future emergencies or contingencies. Thanks to various factors, including federal money granted to all school districts nationwide, the fund was at 34% last summer, but has fallen since. A major reason for budget overruns has been the cost of fuel, both for operating school buses and for keeping school buildings heated.

Supply chain problems have also affected the district, although that picture seems to be improving somewhat. A school bus ordered last March was scheduled for delivery the week of January 23. A Ford van ordered November 21, on the other hand, had already arrived.

Overall, though, Christopherson reported that the district is staying close to its intended budget for the current school year and remains in strong financial condition while also having one of the lowest property tax rates in the region. She also pointed out that, unlike many other area districts, NRHEG does not need to go to the public to recommend an “operating referendum,” that is, additional taxes to help it meet its

School Board NRHEG

expenses.

Another report presented during the meeting was from district technology director Angie Aaseth. “The technology umbrella is pretty large,” Aaseth observed, telling board members that she works with phones, projectors, copiers, iPads, and Chromebooks while also making sure Wifi services are available in both buildings. In addition she oversees the door access systems and fire alarms.

Elementary students all have iPad devices, whose operating life is roughly 5 years; secondary students have Chromebook computers, which typically last about 4 years.

School Health Nurse Carrie Pettinger also presented a report, sharing a long list of state-required summaries and reports and health management services which fall among her duties. “Being a school nurse is much more than ice packs and band-aids,” she claimed.

Secondary business education teacher Lise Weegman told board members about the DECA program which she has been working to implement over the past several

months. The DECA club currently has 11 members who have taken part in two major events. A “Back to Business” practice meet in November and regional competition held recently in Owatonna. Six members of the DECA team are advancing to state-level competition in one of three divisions: role play, paper or presentation. Weegman was joined at the meeting by team member Tatum Smith Vulcan, who shared that business administration has always been an interest and potential college major for her, and so she is grateful for the opportunities the program provides.

Elementary principal Craig Kopezki informed the board that the building has taken on Betsy Schoenrock, who recently completed teacher training at Gustavus University, as a math interventionist—that is, as a teacher who works one-on-one or in small groups to help students learn math concepts. The elementary building had also had 14 members of the Austin Bruins hockey team visit the day before. Team members had spoken with the entire student body about the importance of personal integrity and healthy nutrition, and then had interacted with students in small groups, giving the building a “celebrity feel” for the day.

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STANDINGS

Boys' Basketball			
Big South Conference			
Big Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
Worthington	6-0	3-0	11-2
New Ulm	6-1	2-1	10-4
Marshall	4-3	1-2	6-8
St. Peter	1-3	0-3	1-12
Big South Conference			
East Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
Jackson Co. Central	5-3	2-1	8-4
Waseca	3-2	3-1	12-2
Blue Earth Area	3-2	2-1	8-5
Fairmont	0-8	0-4	2-10
Big South Conference			
West Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
Pipestone Area	5-2	4-0	9-5
Windom Area	4-4	3-2	9-6
Redwood Valley	3-5	2-3	7-8
Luverne	3-5	2-2	5-7
St. James Area	0-5	0-4	4-8
Gopher Conference			
East Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
Kenyon-Wana.	8-2	3-1	11-5
Hayfield	7-2	4-1	12-4
Randolph	5-3	3-2	9-6
Triton	3-4	1-3	4-9
Bethlehem Acad.	3-5	2-3	6-5
Bloomington Prairie	2-6	1-4	5-8
Gopher Conference			
West Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
Maple River	9-0	5-0	15-2
United So. Central	6-3	4-1	9-6
JWP	4-4	3-2	7-6
Medford	2-7	1-4	2-12
NRHEG	1-7	1-4	1-14
WEM	1-8	1-4	2-11
Boys' Hockey			
Big South Conference Standings			
	Conf.	Ov.	
New Ulm	12-0	14-2	
Luverne	5-2	9-5	
Windom Area	5-3	6-9	
Waseca	6-4	8-9	
Minnesota River	5-4	7-9	
Marshall	4-4	6-8	
Fairmont	3-5	4-10	
Worthington	1-8	1-9	
Redwood Valley	0-11	0-14	
Wrestling			
Big South Conference			
East Standings			
	Conf.	Ov.	
Fairmont/MCW	3-0	10-0	
St. Peter	3-0	10-4	
New Ulm	3-1	13-4	
Waseca	1-2	3-3	
Blue Earth Area	0-3	2-15	
St. James Area	0-4	4-8	
Big South Conference			
West Standings			
	Conf.	Ov.	
Jackson Co. Central	4-0	8-5	
Marshall/Lakeview	5-1	10-4	
Pipestone Area	3-2	6-5	
Windom/Mt. Lake	3-2	6-8	
Worthington	2-3	4-8	
Redwood Valley	1-4	2-13	
Luverne	0-6	4-8	
Girls' Basketball			
Big South Conference			
Big Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
St. Peter	6-1	2-1	10-5
Marshall	4-1	3-0	9-5
New Ulm	5-2	1-2	11-4
Worthington	0-5	0-3	3-11
Big South Conference			
East Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
Waseca	3-3	3-0	9-4
Fairmont	4-6	2-2	8-6
Jackson Co. C.	3-5	1-1	6-5
Blue Earth Area	0-5	0-3	4-9
Big South Conference			
West Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
Luverne	8-0	4-0	11-1
Pipestone Area	5-1	3-1	9-2
Windom Area	3-6	1-4	7-6
St. James Area	2-4	1-2	9-6
Redwood Valley	1-5	1-3	3-10
Girls' Hockey			
Big South Conference Standings			
	Conf.	Ov.	
Luverne	9-0	14-5	
New Ulm	9-2	12-8	
Marshall	6-2	8-8	
Minnesota River	5-4	9-7	
Waseca	4-5	10-6	
Windom Area	3-7	7-11	
Fairmont	2-8	4-10	
Worthington/Fulda	0-10	3-11	

Waseca girls engineer rally at Fairmont

Trailing by 9 with about 7 minutes left, Bluejays outscore Cardinals 19-4 down the stretch

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It was a defensive battle and the Waseca High School girls' basketball team was losing it, trailing Fairmont 32-23 with about 7 minutes remaining.

Then something unexpected happened. The Bluejays' top scorer, Kloe Wadd, fouled out with about 3 minutes left. Fairmont led 35-30 at that point.

But something even more unexpected happened.

The Bluejays outscored the Cardinals 19-4 to finish the game and won 42-36 at Fairmont Friday, Jan. 20. It improved Waseca to 9-3 and kept WHS unbeaten in Big South Conference

East division play at 3-0. Fairmont fell to 2-2 in the conference and 8-6 overall.

The first half featured plenty of defense. It was 12-12 at halftime.

The real action started late in the second half as the Bluejays' Sam Azure scored 7 of the team's last points, with Callie Dufault and Mia Kanewischer coming up with key steals.

Despite fouling out, Wadd led the Jays with 12 points, adding 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal and four blocked shots. Azure finished with 10 points, 2 rebounds, 3 assists and 5 steals. Others: Callie Dufault 5 points, 2 steals; Megan Kanewischer 4 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal; Ella Dufault 1 steal; Mia Kanewischer 2 points, 7 rebounds, 1 assist, 3

steals; Avery Madsen 7 points, 3 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals; Lily Owens 2 points.

The Bluejays, 15-for-32 on two-point field goals, made only 1 of 11 threes. The Cardinals were 10 of 16 on twos and 2 of 7 on threes.

Waseca outscored Fairmont 28-18 in the paint and made 9 of 16 free throws to the Cardinals' 12 of 18. Waseca was outrebounded 28-18.

The Bluejays suffered a letdown Monday, Jan. 23 in St. Peter, where they trailed 36-22 and went on to lost 69-49.

The Jays shot 37 percent from the field, 4-for-12 on threes and 13-for-22 on free throws while the Saints shot 50 percent, making 13 of 23 threes and 10 of 16 free throws. The Jays

had 14 turnovers. St. Peter 10.

Individually for the Jays: C. Dufault 1 point, 1 rebound, 1 assist; Azure 7 points, 1 rebound, 2 assists, 1 steal; Krautkremer 1 point, 1 steal; Megan Kanewischer 5 points, 4 assists; E. Dufault 2 rebounds; Addie Wiesler 4 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals; Mia Kanewischer 14 points, 6 rebounds, 4 assists; Madsen 1 rebound; Wadd 17 points, 8 rebounds.

The Bluejays, now 9-4 overall, host Jackson County Central Friday, Jan. 27 and entertain Chatfield Monday, Jan. 30 for Parents Night. They're at Blue Earth Area Feb. 3 and host Fairmont Feb. 6.



NIGHT AND DAY — The Waseca High School boys' basketball team had its way with visiting Fairmont Friday, Jan. 20, winning 62-41. Four days later, however, the Bluejays were upset 79-65 by St. Peter. From left: the Bluejays' Noah Thompson (12) shoots; Waseca's Zach Hulscher (14) fights for a rebound; the Jays' Tyson Reger goes in for a layup. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

WHS boys flatten Fairmont, but fall to St. Peter

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Fairmont Cardinals were winless in the Big South East Conference, firmly entrenched in last place.

They're still there.

The Waseca High School boys' basketball team made short work of Fairmont in the WHS gym Friday, Jan. 20, winning 62-41 after building a 38-16 halftime lead.

It was the fifth consecutive win for the Bluejays, who improved their overall record to 12-2.

Zach Hulscher helped the Bluejays off to a strong start against Fairmont, sinking three baskets

from three-point range.

"We did a great job sharing the ball and only committed 6 turnovers the whole game," said Waseca coach Seth Anderson. "We did a better job battling on the boards. Everyone chipped in."

Damarius Russell continued to have the hot hand, totaling 25 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists and 5 steals. Hulscher finished with 11 points and three rebounds.

Others: Deron Russell 2 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal; Laird Keaton 6 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist, 2 steals, 3 blocked shots; Jacob Thompson 8 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist, 1 steal; Tyson Reger 6 points,

2 rebounds, 1 steal, 1 block; Tauston Rupe 3 rebounds, 1 steal; Andrew Robran 5 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal rebound; Addison Sampson 2 points, 1 rebound; Noah Thompson 5 rebounds; Jacari Jellum 1 rebound; Alexander Honstad 2 points.

The Bluejays ran into a buzz saw Tuesday, Jan. 24 when visiting St. Peter pulled off a 79-65 upset after leading 36-31 at halftime.

points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals; Keaton 14 points, 6 rebounds, 5 steals, 1 block; Damarius Russell 23 points, 5 rebounds, 8 assists, 4 steals; J. Thompson 4 points, 6 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal; Hulscher 11 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist; Reger 4 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal; Honstad 3 points, Robran 2 points, 3 rebounds, 3 steals.

The Bluejays host Jackson County Central Friday, Jan. 27, entertain Jordan Saturday and face Belle Plaine at home Tuesday, Jan. 31.

Keith claims all-around crown as gymnasts take 3rd

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It was an all-around good meet for the Waseca High School gymnastics team.

For Layla Keith, it was an all-around great meet.

Keith captured the all-around title and set a new school record on floor exercise as the WHS crew finished third as a team in the Kasson-Mantorville/Triton Invitational Saturday, Jan. 21.

"What a great meet for us!" said Bluejays coach Kim Wendland. "We were in second place after three rotations and had a little trouble staying on the beam, our last event."

Farmington won the meet with 137.45 points. Pine Island/Zumbrota-Mazeppa was second with 128.85, edging the Bluejays' 128.5. Following were Rochester Century with 124.2, KMT 124.15, Rochester Mayo 123.1, Red Wing 122.85, Faribault 62.1 and Rochester JM 131.8.

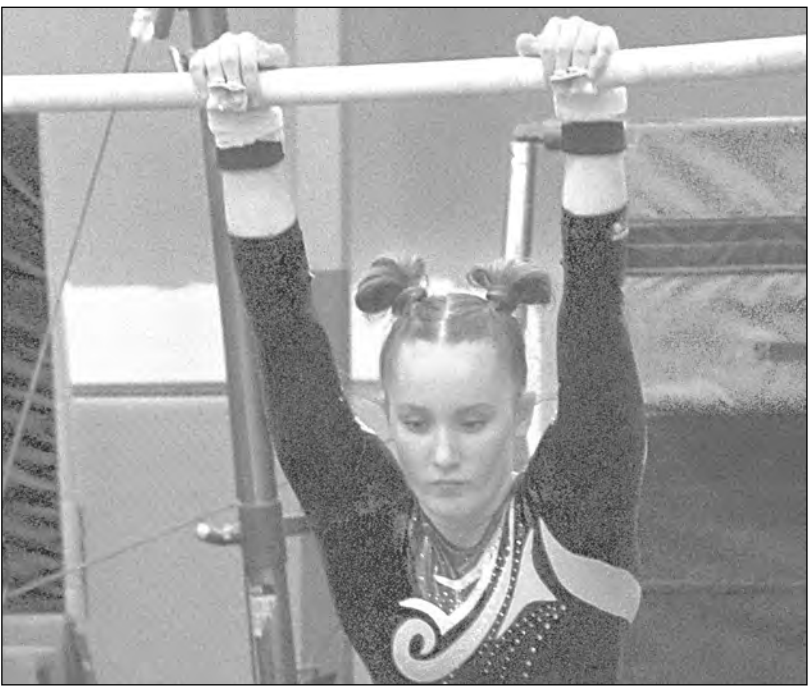
Keith provided the biggest highlights for the Bluejays. She won the all-around with 34.15 points, was

first in vault at 8.9, tied for second on the uneven parallel bars at 8.1. Her 9.45 narrowly missed first place in the floor exercise, but the score was good for a new WHS school record dating back to 2015. No records were kept before that year. She was 13th on the balance beam at 7.7.

A welcomed return to the lineup was junior Haydn Lynch, who competed in two events for her first action since suffering an aluvision fracture in her ankle early in the season. She was 15th on the balance beam at 7.5 and 15th on uneven parallel bars with a 6.95.

Lindy Caldwell finished 13th in all-around at 30.45, just ahead of teammate Katelyn Weber, who was 14th at 30.15.

Other all-around places for



ALL-AROUND GREAT DAY — Layla Keith captured the all-around championship as the Bluejays finished third in the KMT Invitational Saturday, Jan. 21. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

Waseca: Elli Hoban, 27th, 28.3; Katheryn Kofstad, 29th, 21.8; Kara Doyle, 44th, 18.6; Maddie Root, 51st, 15.6; Norah Schimming, 52nd, 15.0; Lynch, 56th, 15.5; Avery Carda, 61st, 12.85; Angelica Lopez, 62nd, 12.5.

Also on vault: Weber, 10th, 8.35; Caldwell, 11th, 8.25; Kofstad, 15th, 8.0; Root, 15th, 8.0; Kara Doyle, 20th, 7.6; Hoban, 21st, 7.5. Uneven parallel bars: Weber, 7th, 7.4; Caldwell, 17th, 6.6; Hoban, 20th,

Waseca matmen ninth in tourney

Two Bluejays reach finals at Hutchinson

The Waseca High School wrestling team made the long road trip to Hutchinson Saturday, Jan. 21 and came home with ninth place among 10 teams, with five placemen.

Senior Christian Rodriguez and freshman Matthew Vereoven led the Bluejays, reaching the finals at 171 pounds and 220, respectively. Both finished second.

Waseca's Payton Garza finished fourth at 195, Carter Ellis sixth at 182 and J.D. Delgado sixth at 285.

Watertown Mayer/Mayer Lutheran won the meet with 195.5 points, followed by Becker with 194, Willmar 157.5, Amery, Wis. 136, Hutchinson/Bufalo Lake-Hector-Steward 131, Marshall 128, Minnesota 124, MAHACA 104, Waseca 66 and Somerset, Wis. 13.

After a Tuesday quadrangular at Martin County West, the Bluejays travel to Kasson-Mantorville for a triangular Friday, Jan. 27. They wrestle at Blue Earth Area Thursday, Feb. 2 and in the Cannon Falls Invitational Feb. 4.

Murphy, Petry, Kuball, Cahill post wins for Grizzlies

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

The WEM-JWP wrestling Grizzlies lost 50-19 at Kenyon-Wanamingo Monday, Jan. 23.

Things started off alright for

WEM-JWP when Brady Murphy at 106 won 8-4. After a loss by fall, Carson Petry at 120 regained the lead for the Grizzlies with a 12-0 major decision. The other wins didn't come easy. Avery Fall at 195

won by fall. Keegan Kuball won 4-2 at 220.

Jack Cahill's match at 182 was even closer. After the overtime period, he needed extra time to settle the winner. Eventually, Cahill won a

tiebreaker 3-1.

The Grizzlies travel to Sibley East for a quadrangular against the Wolverines, Blue Earth Area, and Trinity School at River Ridge Saturday.

Waseca hockey girls drop OT thriller

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

The Waseca High School girls' hockey team lost a 3-2 overtime thriller to Marshall Friday, Jan. 20.

Marshall's Brooklyn Mauch scored the first goal of the game 11:25 into the second period. The Jays' Maddy Benson tied it up with two minutes left on the clock.

Abbey Foley scored the Tigers' second goal with 2:18 remaining.

Katlyn Schueller passed to junior forward Emma Keith, who took a desperation shot that found its way into the net with 36 seconds left.

A penalty against Marshall only 27 seconds into overtime gave Waseca a chance to end things. However, they couldn't cash on in the opportunity, and the Tigers made them pay. Regan Loft won the game for Marshall.

Ilamay Draheim faced 43 shots.

The Jays have a rematches at Marshall Friday, Jan. 27.



PROTECTING THE NET — Above, Waseca goaltender Ilamay Draheim (30) is aided by teammates Kaylee Lawson (7), Madalyn Benson (5) and Montana Johnson (3) during the Bluejays' heartbreaking 3-2 loss to visiting Marshall Friday, Jan. 20. Below left, the Bluejays' Cecelia Huttmeir (22) sends the puck up the ice. Below center, Maizee Storey (6) and Johnson battle for a loose puck. Below right, Storey (6) navigates the puck.

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



WHS icemen snap skid

Ahlschlager scores 100th career goal

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

The Waseca High School boys' hockey team ended a losing skid with a 7-1 triumph over Red Wing Saturday, Jan. 21.

Two nights later, Kyle Ahlschlager reached a major milestone.

Ahlschlager, a senior who just returned from injury, scored his 100th career goal as the Bluejays blanked Redwood Valley 8-0 Monday, Jan. 23. Just days earlier, he eclipsed the Bluejay school record with his 94th goal.

The Bluejays were coming off a 9-0 shutout loss at New Prague Jan. 17 a 6-3 setback to Windom 6-3 Jan. 20.

New Prague 9, Waseca 0

Things were already off to a bad start 1:19 into the game when John Schmidt slid one past Bluejay goaltender Carter Martens. After a quiet nine minutes, New Prague scored two more within two minutes of each other.

Things didn't get better for Waseca in the second period. Although the team took a few more shots at New Prague's net, the Trojans caught the Jays flat-footed and scored their fourth goal of the game just 16 seconds into the period. Starting at 11:11, the Trojans piled on three more scores within four minutes. Two goals in the final period were icing on the cake.

Waseca took 11 shots while Martens faced 48.

NRHEG girls top TCU, Randolph, improve to 11-2

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It was not the prettiest game. But it was a win, and that's the most important thing at this point for the NRHEG girls' basketball team.

The Panthers stayed undefeated in the Gopher Conference with a 48-44 victory at Tri-City United Monday, Jan. 23. It was 22-22 at halftime.

"We were sluggish to start the game tonight," said NRHEG coach Onika Peterson.

"It looked like a typical Monday night game in January. It wasn't a pretty win, but it was a win! I am proud of the girls' effort and grit in the second half."

Individually: Faith Nielsen 3 points, 2 rebounds; Quinn VanMaldeghem 13 points, 7 rebounds, 2 steals; Erin Jacobson 2 points, 4 rebounds, 1 steal; Hallie Schultz 7 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals; Sidney Schultz 22 points, 6 rebounds, 1 steal, 2 assists; Addie Stadheim 1 rebound; Camryn VanMaldeghem 1 point, 3

rebounds, 7 steals.

The Panthers got past Randolph 52-48 at New Richland Friday, Jan. 20. NRHEG led 31-17 at halftime.

"What a rollercoaster of a game," said coach Peterson. "We got up big in the first half and Randolph came back swinging in the second. What a fun Gopher Conference matchup!"

For the Panthers: F. Nielsen 2 points, 1 rebound, 2 steals, 1 assist; Q. VanMaldeghem 5 points, 3 rebounds; Jacobson 4 points, 8

rebounds, 1 steal; H. Schultz 3 points, 8 rebounds, 1 steal, 1 assist; S.Schultz 29 points, 3 rebounds, 2 steals; Stadheim 1 rebound; C. VanMaldeghem 3 points, 6 rebounds, 1 steal; Presley Neilsen 6 points, 2 rebounds.

The Panthers improved their overall record to 11-2. The Panthers are at Bethlehem Academy Friday, Jan. 27, at Belle Plaine Monday, Jan. 30 and at home against Maple River Jan. 31.

Panther matmen 8th at Hayfield

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The NRHEG High School wrestling team was a little more than shorthanded for last Saturday's Dave Erickson Hall of Fame Invitational in Hayfield.

The Panthers had only nine individuals compete, and they came home with eight placewinners and an eighth-place team finish.

"We did an adequate job for only nine team members competing," said NRHEG coach Shaun Larson. "That would be similar to playing football with seven players, basketball with only three. We are making improvements as individuals, which makes us better as a team. We will not be giving up anytime soon, that I will assure you."

The Panthers were led in Hayfield by a familiar face, senior Makota Misgen, who finished as the runner-up at 285 pounds.

Finishing fourth for NRHEG were Jacob Karl, 106; Reese Routh, 152; and Harbor Cromwell, 160. Aidan Schlaak took fifth at 138, Ryan Schlaak fifth at 145. Taking sixth were Parker Bunn, 126; and Cole Hutchens, 195.

The previous night, the Panthers journeyed to Wells, where they lost 54-18 to Maple River/USC and 57-24 to LCWM.

Winners against Maple River/USC: Karl, 106; Deven Parpart, 132; Ryan Schlaak, 145; and Misgen, 285. Parpart won by fall.

Victorious against LCWM: Ryan Schlaak, 145; Routh, 152; Cromwell, 160; and Misgen, 285; Gaining pins were Routh, Schlaak and Misgen.

"We had a decent night for the most part," said Larson.

Misgen also earned his 100th career win with a fall over Dietrich Rosin of LCWM.

The Panthers wrestled at Triton Thursday, Jan. 26.

NRHEG boys fall despite standout individual efforts

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Your best player scores 16 points and adds six assists, another starter finishes with his third straight double-double, scoring 19 and pulling down 11 rebounds, and a third player hits 5 of 8 three-pointers for 15 points.

You'd think that would be enough to win. For the NRHEG boys' basketball team, it wasn't.

The Panthers lost to visiting United South Central Tuesday, Jan. 17, falling 82-63 despite the great individual efforts on the part of NRHEG.

"USC was extremely efficient offensively, and they play pretty well on the defensive end," said Panthers coach Dan Schmidt.

And the home team responded with one of its better shooting nights of the season.

"But, they still made us work for it," said Schmidt.

And the Rebels capitalized on the Panthers' defensive shortcomings. USC led 42-30 at halftime.

"Defense has been our Achilles heel this year," said Schmidt. "We need to clean that up, and that starts with me and doing a better job on the messaging and goals on defense. We'll get there. It's not an overnight fix. But we're young, and we've got time to build what we want to do in the program."

Will Tuttle led the Panthers with 19 points and 11 rebounds for his third straight double-double. Daxter Lee, who recently surpassed the 1,000-point milestone, totaled 16 points, 7 rebounds, 6 assists and 5 steals. Sawyer Prigge made the 3s for 15 points, adding 3 rebounds. Others: Sam Olson 8 points, 4 assists, 3 rebounds; Jaylin Raab 3 points, 3 assists; Jackson Chrz 2 points.

The Panthers dropped a 63-48 decision at Randolph Friday, Jan.



RECOGNITION — NRHEG boys' basketball coach Dan Schmidt, left, presents the Panthers' Daxter Lee a commemorative basketball in recognition of Lee's 1,000 career points.

20. For NRHEG: Prigge 14 points (4 3-pointers), 3 rebounds, 4 assists; Lee 9 points, 5 rebounds, 5 assists, 3 steals; Tuttle 8 points, 9 rebounds; Chrz 5 points, 4 rebounds; Olson 5

points; Jase Knudson 5 points; Raab 2 points.

The Panthers host Bethlehem Academy Friday, Jan. 27 and Maple River Jan. 30.

JWP boys win at Medford, fall to Blooming Prairie

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

The JWP High School boys' basketball team defeated a tough Medford team on the road 71-63 Tuesday, Jan. 17.

They lost a tough one to Blooming Prairie on Friday.

Bulldogs 71, Medford 63

The boys may have looked at Medford's 2-10 record and thought the game was an easy victory. The Tigers proved conference games are never easy.

JWP was uncharacteristically off with their layup opportunities, only

hitting half of their shots within the paint. Meanwhile, Medford had a field day with layups. It didn't help that the Tigers' Austin Erickson was having his way with scoring, ending the night with 23 points.

It was a game where the Bulldogs had to lean on three-pointers to help boost the offense. After getting behind 39-32 in the first half, JWP clamped down and outscored Medford 39-24 to leave the court with a victory.

Junior Memphis James put the team on his back with a 26-point night. Sophomore Landon Johnson had his best game of the season thus

"Anytime you lose a game, it hurts."
— JWP coach Nick James

far with 17. Daulton Bauer supplied 11, while Cole Schlueter contributed 8, Ryan Kronbach 6, and Caleb Quest 3.

Blossoms 65, Bulldogs 63

This one was a stunner.

But give credit to the Blossoms; after starting the season 2-8, they've found ways to win recently.

"Whenever you lose a game, it

hurts a little," JWP coach Nick James said. "When it's to an in-conference opponent, it hurts a little more."

The Bulldogs host Kenyon-Wanamingo Friday, Jan. 27. They have a rematch against United South Central Tuesday, Jan. 31.

JWP girls end long drought against Medford

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

The JWP High School girls' basketball team registered a nice 47-36 victory over Medford Tuesday, Jan. 17, but lost to a tough Blooming Prairie team Friday.

Bulldogs 47, Medford 36

This game the first time the JWP

girls' basketball team defeated Medford since December 2014.

What helped JWP gain the victory was covering Tigers guard Andrea Bock, who put up 33 points against JWP earlier. In this one, she only put up 11.

Individually for JWP: Katie Olson, 15 points; Alexis Dahlberg, 6 points; Faith Olson, 6 points; Claire

Walz, 6 points; Nevaeh Weimert, 4 points; Presley James, 4 points; Lilly Strauss, 4 points; Ali Olson, 2 points.

Blooming Prairie 55, Bulldogs 41

Other than a brief 7-6 lead early thanks to Weimert and sisters Katie and Faith Olson, it was all the

Blossoms. They led 27-17 at halftime.

Individually: K. Olson, 14 points; James, 9; F. Olson, 9; C. Walz, 4; A. Olson, 3; and Weimert, 2.

The Bulldogs, 6-8, travel to Kenyon-Wanamingo on Friday.

Waseca 8, Redwood Valley 0

Ahlschlager scored early, unassisted. He added a score assisted by Miller to make it 2-0 after the first period.

Waseca added five goals in the second, two by Anderson, both assisted by Hesch-Priem, and a natural hat trick by Griffin Krautkramer on assists from Ahlschlager, Anderson and Miller. Ahlschlager finished with a hat trick of his own, scoring on an assist from Krautkramer.

Eli Wetzel stopped 11 shots.

Waseca travels to Marshall Friday, Jan. 27 for a 5:30 p.m. game.



To Be Determined
by Amelia Roessler
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Culture shock and cat speak

Hello from Spain! Oh my goodness it's been so much fun. Madrid is incredible and I love it. I'm sure you all aren't surprised that Madrid is a whole lot safer than Minneapolis. I comfortably walk the whole city day or night without any fear of getting hurt; it's a wonderful feeling. In the Cities, I sometimes don't even feel safe walking on campus. Oh well.

While I believe I recovered pretty quickly from the jet lag, let me explain the culture shocks I have experienced or witnessed. Besides safety, there are quite a few other things that have caught my attention or piqued my interest.

First off, the food. While the food is good and I appreciate the fact that I am getting homemade genuine Spanish cuisine, it's also quite interesting. Take breakfast for example. While usually people might have eggs, toast, bacon or more - or like my sister with a plateful of pancakes - in Spain they don't really have breakfast. Of course, the coffee is inevitable but you might get a piece of toast or maybe a small pastry and call that breakfast. Speaking of coffee, they have no concept of iced coffee, which means my iced coffee addiction has subsided and I have finally learned how to drink hot coffee.

Then there's dinner. There's nothing specifically different with the dinner itself and the food, but the fact that they don't eat until eight or nine at night is interesting to me. Sometimes I have to eat four meals a day to keep from starving. Breakfast, regular lunch at noon, snack at four or five because I know I won't be eating until later. It's quite interesting.

Also with dinner is the dessert.

They do not do desserts like the states do. No sugar filled cakes or anything but instead fruit or yogurt or such. But that I am grateful for so that my sweet tooth doesn't do me dirty.

Another culture shock that I've had is smoking. I had been informed that smoking is more normalized here than at home, but I wasn't prepared to walk down the street and be surrounded by smokers. I'm not complaining, it's only much more than I had pictured because I come from an environment where smoking is less visible.

I will say one of my favorite cultural differences is the siesta. Although people weren't joking that stores close down in the middle of the afternoon and that it's difficult to do anything then, at least now I don't get judged for taking naps every day. And it doesn't matter what time, either. I could get back from class at five and sleep and it's just expected at this point.

While these culture shocks haven't really been difficult, it's been the language barrier that I've still struggled with the most. My host family consists of a retired couple and their cat, none of whom speak English. While I can speak some Spanish I do not speak cat - as much as I'd like to think I do.

But after a few awkward conversations, that hasn't been going too badly either. My host mother Teresa and I have dinner and sit and talk for a while; It's quite wholesome and I enjoy it.

My Determination: "You can't be afraid to fail. It's the only way you succeed. You're not gonna succeed all the time and I know that." - LeBron James

Grundhoffer is suspected Boxcar Bar tire slasher

On December 4, 2022, Waseca police were dispatched shortly before midnight to Waseca's Boxcar Bar after the tires of several vehicles were reported slashed. Officers reportedly found four vehicles with two or more slashed tires each in the parking lot on West Elm Avenue. Following identification by a bartender, charges were brought against Shane Robert Grundhoffer, 41, for felony first-degree property damage.

The bartender who identified Grundhoffer allegedly stated another bar had called to warn the Boxcar that Grundhoffer was "highly intoxicated" before he arrived. The bartender further revealed that Grundhoffer's name appears on a list of people barred from the Boxcar, and so was not allowed to make any purchases when he arrived, although he had been given a glass of water before he left. The bartender and multiple patrons reported that Grundhoffer

was behaving oddly, and stated before he left, "I hope you all have a nice ride home."

Police spoke with Grundhoffer at his residence, where he reportedly confirmed his visit to the Boxcar Bar but denied the property damage. When police viewed security footage the next morning, Grundhoffer was identified on camera walking between all four damaged vehicles; he was allegedly visible puncturing the tires on two before leaving the frame. Grundhoffer was arrested and transported to the Waseca County Jail. One victim estimated damages to his property of about \$1,000.

Grundhoffer has prior criminal convictions in Waseca, Steele, and LeSueur counties, with felony charges dating back to 2001 of burglary, assault, threats of terrorism, and drug sales.

His next appearance in the Waseca County District Court is scheduled for January 31.

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The Waseca Fire Department Relief Association recently recognized Kwik Trip North, Cole Electric, and Lindner Liquor for their continued support.

■ Council
from Page 1

reasons; the other because he is involved in other city activities. Persons interested in joining the commission are encouraged to contact city hall.

The council approved a release of a request for proposals for the design of the Eighth Avenue NE reconstruction project, which will be paid for jointly by the city and county. A grant of \$500,000 was applied for; the council will learn whether it will be receiving the grant sometime in March. The proposed project includes sidewalks along the north and south sides of Eighth Avenue, the location of the Waseca County Fair and paving a .6 mile stretch of county highway with concrete. Also planned are sanitary sewer piping; a municipal lift station, and other sewer related improvements. Total cost for the bike trail/sidewalk project is about \$685,000, the bulk of which could be covered by the hoped-for grant.

The council discussed the project at length, including which agency will be responsible for snow removal and lighting on the sidewalk. Snow removal falls on the city, which bills the county at the end of the year. Lighting is covered in the grant. The city is 100% responsible for the utilities, other costs are really up for discussion. Four different engineers, Stantec, Bolton & Menk, Widseth, and Stonebrooke were invited to submit proposals from the feasibility study.

The project is not likely to be bid out for another year.

The Law Enforcement Labor Services Union Contract and letter of agreement for 2023-'25 was approved. Changes include a 3% cost of living increase for each of the three years, and a "health insurance reopener" at the end of '24, and '25.

"I want to make sure our officers are well taken care of," councilman Ebertowski expressed.

"Everything was cooperatively agreed to," interim city manager Carl Sonnenburg answered.

Council members had a somewhat lengthy discussion about how they would like to improve the contract in order to benefit the union. They also agreed to look into the possibility of having a council member sit in on future negotiations.

The consent agenda was approved and included meeting minutes from January 3; payroll and expenditures; MnDot contract agreement allowing the city to accept federal aid through the state.

Council members John Mansfield, Jimmy Ebertowski, Stacey Schroeder, Daren Arndt, Jeremy Conrath, Mark Christiansen, and Mayor Randy Zimmerman were appointed to the following boards and

commissions: Airport board: Schroeder; Charter Commission: Mansfield; EDA: Zimmerman, Mansfield; Heritage Preservation Committee: Ebertowski; Park Board: Christiansen; Planning Commission: Arndt; Fire Relief Association: Conrath; Community Education Advisory Board: Christiansen; Region 9: Ebertowski; Discover Waseca Tourism Board: Conrath, Schroeder.

An ordinance was approved for Warehouse Storage LLC, allowing the company to sell three accessory structures at the property of 1340 State St. S to D&M Body shop.

Final payment was authorized for the sanitary sewer lining project completed by Hydro-Klean, LLC.

The council authorized the Waseca Fire Department to replace the 1977 tanker using grant money along with money from area rural fire departments.

The council accepted a tariff report, a state mandated filing on solar electric rates.

About 4.5 acres of land owned by the airport has been farmed by Wayne O'Conner for an unknown period of time estimated at between 10-15 years. A lease was approved between the two parties. O'Conner, out of good faith, without being asked, paid for the equivalent of last year's rent as well. Council member Conrath asked about "back pay" and was ignored by council members. The lease agreement was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion at

Conrath's urging. He ultimately voted alongside everyone else to approve the lease agreement at a cost of \$350 an acre with an automatic renewal process (with cost review.)

The city manager's report included only one item: the Loon Lake aerator is turned on and residents are warned to be careful of thin ice.

Tina Wilson shared details of an exciting grant opportunity from the National Parks Department. The possible grant could expand the city's historic downtown walking tour to a potential 20 sites. A grant of \$15,000 is sought, but the group needs about a \$5,000 cash match.

It was shared that only Trowbridge Park will be available for Ice Skating this winter.

On February 19, Dreamcatchers, will return with their large kite display to Waseca.

Mayor Zimmerman shared he is meeting with Senator Jasinski at the end of the week to talk about how the state's budget surplus can help Waseca.

A work session was scheduled for Jan. 31 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to discuss the council's goals for the year. The decision came after a strong attempt by Zimmerman to make the meeting more informal, off site, with food. His goal was for a longer goal session, but the group ultimately settled for a formal work session at the end of the month.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

PH & B

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Argus archives

100 years ago - 1923

-In the fall of 1877 Waseca County witnessed a very spirited political contest. In those good olden days elections came every year and every year the politicians had rich picking. Towards the close of the campaign the editor of the Argus, C. E. Graham, and the editor of the Radical, J. E. Child, became very personal and very bitter. Child supported Warren Smith for treasurer. Mr. Graham opposed him. It will be remembered by those who were on earth at that time in this particular neck of the woods that Mr. Child was an ardent advocate of temperance and had espoused the cause of the prohibition party. Such being the case, his sincerity in supporting Smith was questioned by Graham. Smith himself was a temperance man and a man above reproach. But he had compromised himself not long previously by becoming a surety for a saloonkeeper on a saloonkeeper's bond. This gave an opening and in the eyes of Mr. Graham was inexcusable from the standpoint of the professions made.

-Through a combination of respective interests, including the village, Alton and Janesville township, the two cemetery boards and the churches, whose contributions cover the cost, the road from Main Street on Finley's corner to the Catholic cemetery is being graveled. E. T. Dieu-donne has the contract and is now working it out with trucks and teams. The gravel is secured at Lake Elysian from Roy Keyes and from the Jew-ison point.

-Cris Dalton brings in the information that on Tuesday night last a large barn on the farm of Martin Conway was burned to the ground. The origin of the fire is a mystery. It was located in Freedom Township. Thirteen cows were destroyed and eight horses. There was an insurance of three thousand dollars, but the amount does not cover the losses.

-Petitions have been circulated among the citizens of the village asking that leniency or parole be given to a local young man who unfortunately side-stepped the narrow path. Some 250 have signed their names to these lists asking that the law be more lenient with the young man. He has been a fine young fellow, hard working and congenial, and this his first offense could be overlooked when we realize that he would not delve into anything shady in the future.

75 years ago - 1948

-Outstanding community cooperation, the response to the tuberculosis Christmas Seal Sale, was praised today by Mrs. Fred W. Arnoldt, chairman of Janesville. "Janesville can be proud of the good work in the Christmas Seal Campaign," she continued, "and proud of the generous response of all its citizens." The Seal Sale for Janesville and surrounding community amounted to \$258.24.

-The Golden Bears suffered defeat Friday night at the hands of a tough, undefeated Claremont five, 38-6, before a record-breaking crowd of 400. The Claremont Parrots simply had too much drive and height over the Bears, and led by Theimann and Eggert, they scored almost at will to have the local quint another defeat.

-Rev. O. F. Krause, former pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville, now at Fairmont, has been appointed to the Advisory Committee for planning a statewide "Dr. Martin Luther Memorial Service" to be held in the Twin Cities.

-In spite of sub-zero weather, eleven 4-H club boys and girls braved the cold weather and got through the drafted roads to make the trip to Rochester. These boys and girls received this trip as an award for the special achievement in the 4-H club health activities.

-A report was received this morning from Sheriff R. G. Lowe giving us the information that the Janesville robbers, who hooked \$157 from the Boss Implement Co., a vacuum cleaner and some brushes from Cal Mende and nine gallons of gas and oil from the Kuehn Oil Station, were caught yesterday at LeRoy, Minnesota. Their Janesville job was pulled off in October 29, 1945. It appears that the gang of four thieves, two of them from Le Roy and two from northern Iowa, had been operating quite extensively in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa.

50 years ago - 1973

-How do you solve the problem of kids going all the way through high school - and sometimes college - without having the slightest idea what kind of work they want to do in life? Nobody has all the answers to this complex question, but five area high schools are trying to fill this vocational gap through the establishment of the Waseca County Vocational Center. Norvin R. Rueckert, director of the proposed center, explained the idea to the Janesville Rotary last Thursday and said the purpose of the center will be to provide programs which the individual school districts have not been able to offer individually. "We hope to come up with a program that will make students aware of the jobs available and the actual demand for workers in each of the occupational areas," he said.

-Sixth graders of Janesville Public School tried their hand at copy-writing this past week as they turned out the first in a series of student-prepared advertising messages for Janesville State Bank. The completed advertisements will be judged by bank officials this week and the three top advertisements chosen. Prizes of five, three and two dollars will go to three sixth graders placing advertisements in the top three. Other students will receive honorable mentions for their copywriting abilities.

-Births in the Village of Janesville were down by 13 and deaths increased by 13 during 1972 according to statistics released by Lawrence P. Krause, Clerk of District Court. Twenty three children were born to village residents in 1972, compared to 36 in 1971 and 32 in 1970. Deaths, on the other hand, took a dramatic jump from 12 a year in 1971 to 25 during this past year. From 1968 through 1971 an average of 14 people died per year. This almost doubled during 1972.

- "We lost to a good team" were the words coach Mike Niemczyk used to describe Janesville's 27-15 loss to Waterville. The defeat, for all practical purposes, put the locals out of the running for the Gopher championship; to have a shot at the title, the Bucs would have to lose to Glenville or Blooming Prairie. That is not likely.

25 years ago, 1998

-A 10-point scoring advantage in the second quarter proved to be the difference for the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton girls' basketball team. The Lady Bulldogs outscored Waterville-Elysian-Morristown 19-9 in the second stanza, leading them to a 66-57 Gopher Conference victory at Waterville. The victory was the third straight for the Bulldogs, and their sixth in the last nine games.

-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. Lutheran Brotherhood's Primary Partners program matches members' gifts of \$25 to \$100 per year to Lutheran elementary and preschools nationwide. Since the beginning of the Primary Partners gift program in 1987, \$42,359 has been received by Trinity Lutheran School.

-Mainstream Publications announced on Tuesday, Jan. 13 an agreement to sell its 25 Minnesota and Wisconsin publications include the Janesville Argus to James E. Huckle of Traverse City, Mich. the announcement was made jointly by Robert L. Bradford II, president and principal shareholder of Mainstream Publications and Huckle. A Saturday, Jan. 31 closing date is planned.

-Management firms appear to be a hot topic for the Janesville City Council. Leasing and management options have been opened for discussion concerning the Janesville Nursing Home, and the council is now looking at its Prairie Ridge Golf Course. During its Monday, Jan. 12 meeting the Janesville City Council began discussing the option of bringing a management firm to its Prairie Ridge Golf Course. City administrator Paul Grabitske said the council's discussions are philosophical, with the council trying to decide what direction it wants the golf course to take.

Waseca County History Center

Where'd It Go?

Lewer Building, South State Street and 2nd. Ave. S.W. Third Floor Removal. Lightning hit the building on September 1, 1966 causing the third floor to be destroyed by fire. Photograph shows a crane service removing debris from roof of 3-story Lewer building. The Crevice Cafe's sign is visible in the photo.



Crevice Café ca.1945

The Crevice Cafe was located on street level of the Lewer Building on South State Street. Forest Enderson and his wife lost everything, largely due to smoke and water damage. It never re-opened. The Enderson's purchased the café in 1947.



Waseca newspaper archives

Waseca Herald, 1923

-On the afternoon of January 30, the School Board has called a special election for the purpose of bonding the district for \$350,000 for the purpose of building a new school or community house. The bond issue is to run for fifteen years as follows: \$350,000 to run for fifteen years at probably 5 percent. After the first five years there is to be paid for the next ten years, \$15,000 each year on account of the principal, after which time the balance of \$200,000 is to be refunded by a new bond issue.

-If Rev. And Mrs. R. P. Wasbotten had any doubt as to the esteem in which they are held by this community, that doubt vanished Thursday evening last when about 100 friends and neighbors from city and country surprised them on the twenty-fifth anniversary of their marriage. The guests came unannounced to the new family home on Hartley Heights and were cordially welcomed by the hospitable minister and

his family, who were taken completely by surprise. After greetings had been extended, the guests were given an opportunity to inspect the new home fro cellar to garret.

-The jury in the Water Stavenau case, referred to in the last issue of the Herald, returned a verdict of guilty last Thursday evening. Their verdict was grand larceny in the second degree. The punishment may be a year or up to five years in the penitentiary. Savenau's attorneys have asked for a stay of sentence pending an appeal for a new trial.

-A fire in Wesley Mahler's chicken house in the east part of town last Sunday afternoon resulted in the loss of about 150 purebred chickens, valued by the owner at over \$300. He had the space under the rafters filled with straw, to absorb the moisture, and Sunday afternoon he placed an oil stove on the floor so that its head would dry out the straw. After watching the stove work for a while he closed the door and windows. About

two o'clock neighbors noticed smoke issuing from the house and called the fire department. When the door was opened it was found that the straw in the attic had taken fire and that the smoke and fumes had smothered the chickens, only two out of the entire flock being alive. The interior of the building was only slightly damaged.

Waseca Herald, 1948

-Lavern Rosenthal of Waseca appeared in district court Friday afternoon before Judge Axel B. Anderson and pleaded guilty to the charge of attempting to receive stolen property. Judge Anderson referred the matter to the state parole and probation officer for a pre-sentence investigation. Rosenthal faces a maximum penalty of five years.

-O. R. Cochran, New Richland High School agriculture teacher, has been appointed state supervisor of agricultural education with the vocational position, State Department of Education, according to an an-

nouncement by Harry C. Schmid, director. He assumed his new duties on Monday and succeeds Leo Knuti, who resigned to continue graduate work at the University of Illinois. Mr. Cochran was formerly an agricultural instructor at Sleepy Eye and Lancaster, Wis. before accepting a position with the New Richland High School. He also participated in education programs for out-of-school farm youths and evening classes for farm men and women.

-The Sacred Heart basketball team lost Sunday afternoon at the Mankato Armory with a score of 41-26, when it played Loyola in a DeSmet conference game. The game was a hard, competitive four periods of play with Loyola moving out in front in the third quarter to make a nine point lead. The first quarter had Loyola leading 8-6 and the half was 16-11. The third quarter ended with Loyola totaling 26 points to Sacred Heart's 17 and the four was 41-26.

Star archives

25 Years Ago – The New Richland Star, January 22, 1998

- JoAnn Roesler, Waseca County Pork Producers' ambassador is competing for the title of Minnesota Pork industry ambassador January 29-30 during the Minnesota Pork Congress. Roesler is the daughter of Dennis and Ginny of New Richland. Roesler is one of 23 youth vying for this position, which will be announced at a noon luncheon Friday, January 30, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. This ambassador represents the Minnesota Pork Producers Association all year at numerous events, including teaching in schools. The Minnesota Pork Industry Ambassador receives a \$1,500 scholarship and various gifts. Second and third runners-up receive a \$500 and \$250 scholarship respectively. Additionally, the ambassador who writes the winning essay earns a \$100 scholarship.

- The week ahead will be a busy one for Jodi Routh, daughter of Mitch and Suzy Routh of New Richland. New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva area's 1997-98 Junior Miss, Jodi will be joining 17 other representatives from across the state in competition for the title of Minnesota's Junior Miss and over \$10,000 in college scholarship money on Saturday, January 31. Saturday, January 24, will begin the activities for Jodi and her competitors for eight days. Following a welcome luncheon, the group will begin rehearsing for a Fashion Show scheduled at the Burnsville Mall on Sunday afternoon. Throughout the week they will be rehearsing intensely for the state program finals on Saturday, January 31. They will also be making special appearances and taking a tour of the KARE 11 television studios.

- The Panther wrestling squad proved they were the best of the three teams they hosted in a quadrangular, January 13. These wins came in spite of the fact that three lightweight wrestlers were wrestling varsity for

the first time. St. Clair led 21-0 before the Panthers came back to win the next eight matches and take the dual 46-21. The Panthers trailed 22-21 after the first eight matches in their dual with Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop. Tony Schlaak pinned his opponent at 152 to put the squad ahead 27-22. The next four matches belonged to NRHEG and they went on to win 49-22. Tied at 21-21 after the first eight matches in the Maple River dual, Nathan Schlaak started the Panthers' pins to victory with a technical fall at 152, and the 50-21 win belonged to the local squad.

50 Years Ago – The New Richland Star, January 25, 1973

- The New Richland Post Office became part of Area Mail Processing, one of the newest innovations of the U.S. Postal Service on Monday, January 22, it was announced by Postmaster G. L. Clunis. "The program is intended to speed the ultimate delivery of the mail and to gain maximum efficiency through full utilization of the modern and mechanized post office at Mankato, Postmaster Clunis said. Area Mail Processing is a plan whereby all mail originating at these offices will be consolidated at the Mankato Sectional Center Facility for complete preparation and processing for outgoing dispatch.

- New Richland-Hartland high school's 1973 Betty Crocker Home-maker of Tomorrow is Terry Winegar and Luann Ward is Waldorf-Pemberton's 1973 Betty Crocker Home-maker of Tomorrow. Selected by score in a written knowledge and attitude examination taken by both senior boys and girls on Dec. 5, Terry and Luann will receive a specially designed award from General Mills, sponsor of the annual Betty Crocker Search for American Homemakers of Tomorrow. In addition, they remain eligible for state and national honors.

75 Years Ago – The New Richland Star, January 22, 1948

- Druggist B. C. Rotegard has



50 years ago - The New Richland chapter of the Future Farmers of America won top honors in both the district and regional wildlife contest at Mankato on Saturday, Jan. 20. This is the sixth consecutive year that the local chapter has received the top honor in this particular contest. This year the New Richland chapter not only placed first in both the district and regional, but also placed the entire team's members in the top four individual places. Tim Hokanson was first place individual with a score of 674. Doug Bartz was second with 634, Brad Nelson, third with 58- and Allen Hagen, fourth with 578. The wildlife contest consists of the identification of over 150 of the most common birds, mammals, insects and fish in the state of Minnesota. The students are also given a written test on nesting, habitat, feeding and management of the various animals.

greatly enhanced the appearance of his already fine drug store by a brand-new ceiling, lighter painted walls and a much lighter background to the shelves. We doubt if a neater and nicer appearing store can be found outside the much larger places.

- Harlan Berg, who since November 2 has been a patient at a Rochester hospital, was brought back from there last Friday. He is glad indeed to be home and especially since he is able to get about on crutches. Harlan was rushed to the hospital after meeting with a much unfortunate accident in which he received a gunshot wound above the knee of his left leg. To his good fortune the wound has healed satisfactorily with the likelihood that he will not be too badly crippled. He is the tenant at the E. P. Hanson farm northwest of New Richland.

- New Richland's Golden Glove representative team is still intact after the first night of fisticuffs. The team composed of the following boxers will fight Saturday night at Owatonna: Lester Root (105), Raul Donoso (148), Rodney Zwiener (133), Earl Parriott and Donald Nelson. Only Root and Zwiener fought Wednesday night. Donoso and Parriott drew byes and Nelson was overweight for his class. Lester Root decisioned Crosby, 105, of Bethlehem Academy in the three rounds. Lester was cool as a cucumber in the ring putting on an excellent performance. Rodney Zwiener outclassed his opponent Wheeler, 136, of Northfield, TKOing him in the second round. Zwiener was on the offensive most of the time and he raised a large welt above one of Wheeler's eyes during the second.

Promotion



Nick Edwards was recently promoted to the position of Captain with the Waseca Fire Department.

Decade of service



The Waseca Fire Department recently recognized two firefighters for 10 years of service during its annual meeting: Kevin Kelm and Lonnie Mitchell.

Recognition



The Waseca Fire Department Relief Association recently recognized two firefighters for their years of service and or retirement: Jon Kahnke (picture above) and Craig Youngberg.

Gold firefighter



The Waseca Fire Department recently recognized firefighter Jay Dulas for achieving the gold training award for 2022.

Waldorf man charged in high speed chase

Nathan Todd Holland, 37, of Waldorf, faces ten felony, four misdemeanor, and two petty misdemeanor charges in Waseca County District Court. The felony charges include fleeing a police officer in a motor vehicle, drug sales, possession of burglary tools, and seven counts of drug possession. Misdemeanor charges include reckless driving, open container, driving after license revocation, and failure to drive with due care. Petty misdemeanors are possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to obey traffic control signals. All sixteen charges follow an October 9 incident when Holland allegedly led officers on a 30-mile high-speed chase while throwing drugs and paraphernalia from the vehicle; the pursuit ended with a rollover into a ditch.

According to the criminal complaint, shortly after 8 p.m. a Janesville officer on patrol witnessed a vehicle traveling 90 miles per hour east on Highway 14 and gave pursuit. The officer reportedly saw the vehicle weave through highway lanes and nearly impact a semi-trailer; he alerted dispatch as the vehicles neared Waseca. A deputy from Waseca County stated the same vehicle had been involved in a high-

speed chase in Steele County on October 8 shortly before the vehicle reportedly fled west onto County Road 2 at high speed. The October 9 chase reached speeds of 130 miles per hour, turning onto multiple roads before ending when the vehicle attempted to turn onto County Road 66 at 100 miles per hour and rolled into the ditch. In the crash, Holland was ejected from the front passenger window and landed away from the vehicle. Medical responders were dispatched immediately. Holland reportedly identified himself verbally and gave his suspended license as reason for

not stopping. During the chase, the officer's dashboard camera recorded Holland throwing bags from the car, one of which was reported to have been found and contained marijuana, mushrooms, needles, and pills in unlabeled bottles along with other drug paraphernalia. A search warrant of the vehicle found 102.5 grams of marijuana, 1.6 grams of methamphetamine, 49 grams of psilocybin mushrooms, an unknown, rock-like substance, and bottles containing Ritalin and Xanax pills. The outcome of the charges was not available at press time.

Work at it with all your heart

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS
Consistency is key. I was told this as a young man, but didn't understand what it meant till I got much older. I thought it had to do with doing the same thing over and over again, just to get it done. That is not the case though, rather it is a reminder to work at everything. Keep going and don't give up. The hard part about being consistent is understanding the end goal and holding onto that goal. People set a number of different goals in their life. The clearest goals I have seen people set have been with weight, wanting to lose 5, 10, or 20 lbs, or adding 10, or 20 lbs to a lift at the gym. The less clear goals are harder, when people want to be happier or more satisfied with life. How do you measure goals like that? How would you work to be happier? Goal setting needs clarity and consistency, goals need to be evaluated and measured. If we don't know what you are shooting at, and what constitutes a win, we don't know if we have

reached our goal. Now some of you are getting ready to stop reading at this point and I ask that you would finish this article. Just because we are old, or young, don't have goals, or don't feel like we can reach our ultimate goal it does not mean that we should stop living or trying. As followers of Christ Peter tells us to continue on through difficult times: 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1:6-9 The goals we set in this life should be set with our ultimate goal of salvation in mind, is what we are doing with our time and energy and talents drawing us closer to Christ in all things? Can I take a day off for God's glory? YES. Can I pursue hobbies for God's glory? YES. Can I go to work for God's glory? YES. Let us set goals that keep the whole of our being in balance that we may have rest and accomplishment, enough food for the table and to share with friends. Goals do not have to be all encom-

passing, but rather draw us to our ultimate goal in knowing Christ and stewarding the relationships and things He has put in our lives. Everything we do should be done with the end goal in mind, but that does not stop us from pursuing other good things, because God can use anything to draw us to know Him. Paul reminds us in Colossians 3 how we should approach anything that we do: 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Let's be consistent in all things for God's glory, set goals that build off of one another. Don't give up on doing good and continue to pursue Christ in all things. Our faith all starts with trusting Christ and our end goal is to know Him through salvation for all eternity. Let us consistently work at setting goals that build our faith and allows us to enjoy all that God has created.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH
2200 4th St NE, Waseca
507-835-2235
Service times 9:30 a.m.
* * *

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

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

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 6th St NE, Waseca
507-835-9176
Worship Sundays 9 a.m., 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship
* * *

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

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

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

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

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
111 4th St NW, Waseca
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.
* * *

REAL LIFE CHURCH
620 W Elm Ave, Waseca
507-607-8245
Sundays 9 and 10:30 a.m.
* * *

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS
1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca
507-835-4640
* * *

Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.
* * *

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

CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY
900 14th Ave SE, Waseca
507-833-1082
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m.
* * *

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship
Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship
* * *

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

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

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

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

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

VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Brian Schanil Pastor
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School
* * *

Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m. 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark
* * *

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Father Brian Mulligan
Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass
* * *

FIRST LUTHERAN
Missouri Synod
Waldorf, Minnesota
Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor
Sundays: Sunday School 9 a.m., Bible Study 9:20 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m.
* * *

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

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

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN
Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
* * *

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
412 N. Main Street, Janesville
Interim Pastor
Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:00 a.m. Worship
* * *

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

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
43089 180th St., Morristown
Pastor Kathy King
Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship
* * *

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

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 Owen St., Janesville
Interim Pastor
* * *

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH
Alma City, Minnesota
Vacancy
Sunday = 1 p.m. Worship
* * *

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

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

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“How to Succeed in High School Without Really Trying”

First
act

Subsection
meet Jan. 28
in Medford

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Has anyone ever wondered how to get out of roll call, give a presentation in French class without knowing French, party like it's 1999 at graduation, or find a way for Tom Cruise to help remember how DNA works? Probably not. But those were among many questions answered in Waseca Theater Department's one-act play "How to Succeed in High School Without Really Trying" by Jonathan Rand.

The basic plot of the story is four narrators — dubbed "agents" in this play — give a group of supposed eighth-graders a presentation on how to succeed in high school...without really trying. Scenarios range from reciting poems with dramatic emphasis in English class to organizing a protest against "dangerous" sports in physical education.

The play pokes fun at a lot of stereotypes surrounding high school such as the popular girl, the nerdy kid in algebra, and the jock.

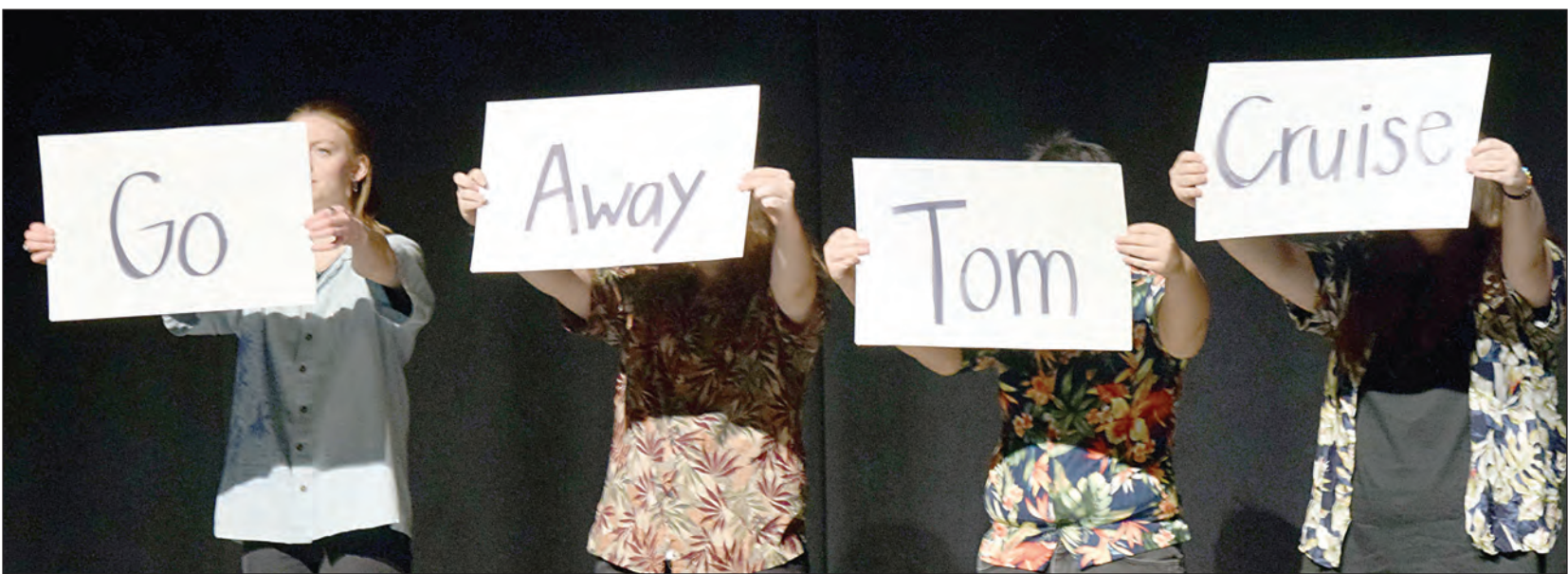
After spending about a month preparing the play, the department presented two free showings Saturday, Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. and at 2 p.m. the following Sunday. Additionally, the cast and crew performed at the Big South Conference One-Act Play Festival in St. Peter Monday, Jan. 23 and will compete in one-act play subsections at Medford High School this Saturday.

Unlike most plays or musicals, a majority of the cast did not have set roles. The only set roles for this play were the "agents," played by Lindsey Kopetzki, Arianna Krogsgeng, Sophie Farris, and Mason Wadd.

The rest of the cast were considered "ensemble agents" who were in charge of multiple roles. They are Sadie Schimming, Thyme Lang, Nathanael Andrs, Katelyn Robeck, Ava Norland, Brandon Busse, Cejay Pickett, Patrick Howe, Chelsea Richardson, and Kylie Snow.

The crew working on the one-act play was stage manager Quinn Dahle, lights technician Cody Sieber, and sound technician Allen Kopetzki. This year's one-act play was directed by Anna Pollock with the help of technical director Chuck Pollock.

Special thanks for this play was given to Chuck and Jodie Pollock, the Waseca Drama Department Board, Grace Lapides, Devon Lawrence, Joe Hedervare, and the whole of the Waseca Junior-Senior High School Staff.



Ava Norland, Brandon Busse, Patrick Howe, and Chelsea Richardson



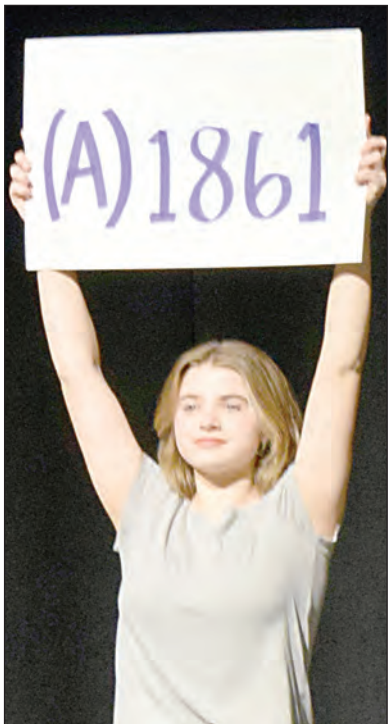
Thyme Lang



Mason Wadd, Lindsey Kopetzki, Arianna Krogsgeng, and Sophie Farris



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, Brandon Busse, Sophie Farris, Lindsey Kopetzki, and Quinn Dahle. Back: Ava Norland, Arianna Krogsgeng, Nathaniel Andrs, Mason Wadd, and Cejay Pickett.



Katelyn Robeck



Brandon Busse



Sadie Schimming (right) leads a protest against phy-ed with Patrick Howe and Ava Norland



Thyme Lang woos Nathanael Andrs



Sadie Schimming



Nathanael Andrs dressed as an imaginary number and Cejay Pickett as a vampire



Thyme Lang



Cejay Pickett gives a French presentation



Sophie Farris and Arianna Krogsgeng



Ava Norland, Brandon Busse engage in a thumb war

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