



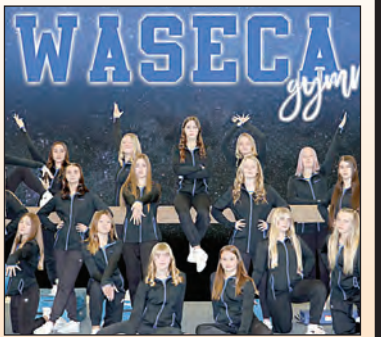
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WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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Sports Preview

Driver in Janesville shooting sentenced

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

William Terrell Peavy, 32, was sentenced to 48 months in state prison for his involvement as driver in the drive-by shooting which took place July 26 in Janesville. The sentence was for discharging a firearm toward an occupied motor vehicle or building.



Peavy

During the November 28 hearing, Waseca County Attorney Rachel Cornelius stated, "I would like to remind the court of the seriousness of his actions. A man is paralyzed because of this shooting. I'm amazed that on a weekday at 3 p.m. there were no other injuries."

Cornelius then told the court many concerned Janesville residents have reached out to her regarding the shooting. "We need to send a message that we take these things seriously," she concluded.

Peavy pled guilty; his defense lawyers suggested a sentence of 41 months, which is considered "bottom of the box" for this offense. The State of Minnesota, however, recommended a sentence of 58 months. District Court Judge Carol Hanks determined that somewhere in the middle was the correct decision for this case.

"I truly believe you were at the wrong place at the wrong time," Hanks stated. "But you're part of something that's negatively affected a community. And Minnesota law places the driver in the same position as the shooter."

Hanks acknowledged that Peavy had zero prior criminal history, was a proven productive member of society, and showed remorse for his actions. However, she reminded him that his involvement in the shooting as the driver left a man paralyzed, adding that she could appreciate why the state recommended the 58-month sentencing.

Another factor to Peavy's sentencing was his cooperation with law enforcement, including giving a truthful statement to police.

During the trial, a victim called in via Zoom to give a brief impact statement. "I feel like the courts aren't doing the work," he claimed. "You're only taking statements. From where I am, the shooter is the same as the driver."

Several family members and friends came to Peavy's defense. First to speak was Bannon Arkadie. "We worked together for all

Sentence continued on 3

A word from The Word

One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

Psalms 27:4

'It takes a village' Santa Anonymous raises \$30,000

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

"It takes a village," and more than a dozen volunteers to make the Waseca Neighborhood Service Center and Boxcar Bar's annual Santa Anonymous Auction happen. This year's event had more than 100 bidders, hundreds of items, and raised more than \$30,000 at the Boxcar Bar in Waseca, Saturday evening, Nov. 26, 2022.

"A freaking dive bar can raise a lot of money now can't it!" exclaimed organizer Tae Born, who is also engaged to Todd Schmidt, the Boxcar's owner for 24 years. "All the credit to Todd, the volunteers, the Neighborhood Service Center, and the generous support of local businesses and persons who have continued to help this event grow."

The auction, now in its 27th year, has been a mainstay in Waseca, helping donate funds to more than 500 families a year throughout the entire county.

Among the strangest and highest-priced items auctioned off Saturday night was a neon John Deere/Busch sign which went for \$4,100; a gazebo, a 13-week-old labradoodle puppy and, most interesting of all, according to Born, were 6 hot and fresh pizzas donated from Dominoes which sold for more than \$200, with one large going for \$80.

All of the funds raised Saturday night go toward purchasing essentials— and toys, for families who apply through the Neighborhood Service Center. First and foremost are the essentials, socks, underwear, winter jackets, etc, with the toys coming last. "Each family gets to pick one toy, for example let's say they want a Polly Pocket," says Born. "But the essentials come first."

For 24 years Boxcar Bar owner Schmidt has carried on the tradition of giving, taking over for Gary Ross and family, who were responsible for helping start the Santa Anonymous auction in 1995. That same



Hundreds of items ranging from packages of meat from local markets to toy tractors were sold to more than 100 bidders at the Santa Anonymous Auction at the Boxcar Bar Saturday, Nov. 26.

year, Bill Harguth took on the role of auctioneer, one which he served, possibly for the final time, Saturday night. Harguth, 84, did half duty alongside Landon Flatness.

Helping with the program are more than a dozen volunteers, many of whom are family members and friends to Tae and Todd, including

Ashley Edwards, Brittany Ziemke, Jacob Nikoley, Kelsey Kahnke, Corbin Born, Russ and Ashley Frederick, Randy, Jason and Noah Schmidt, Tyler Huber, Tim Von Bank, and Bill Harguth.

"Please credit Todd Schmidt," Born praised. "He's the number-one guy on the deal; he finds the help."

"We send out dozens of letters in early November asking for donations. We accept items right up until the day of the auction," Born continued. "We like to be involved with the community. Local owners, local businesses. We all take pride in giving back to our community. "It takes a village."

Lighting up the Christmas Season

Passion lives on

Year two of Peterson memorial light display

By MELANIE PILTINGSRUD
Staff Writer

Vince and Virginia Peterson shared two passions in life: the Waseca County Free Fair and their Christmas lights display.

Vince served on the Waseca County Fair Board for 57 years; each July he and Virginia managed the indoor booths at the annual gathering, taking charge of everything from finding new businesses and organizations who wanted to set up displays to finding the best place to locate them. Half the year later, on December evenings, Vince and Virginia delighted in turning out the lights inside their farmhouse just off Highway 13 north of New Richland to watch long lines of cars drive slowly by, filled with families who had come to see the extensive Christmas lights display which included a Ferris wheel, Santa's workshop, an organ player, a Nativity scene, merry-go-round, trees, and much more. Each year the Petersons added something new, and each year part of their Christmas budget involved replacing burned-out bulbs.

After Virginia passed away in 2004, Vince continued their yuletide tradition until his own health began to fail. He and a neighbor, Jennie Johnson, who also serves as a direc-



Live displays and festive lights will be lit at the Waseca County Fairgrounds, 409 Eighth Ave. NE Friday and Saturday evenings, Dec. 2 to 10 from 6 to 10 p.m. Pioneer photo by Melanie Piltingsrud

tor of the Waseca County Fair, had discussed setting up a Christmas light display at the county fairgrounds, but concluded they did not have the resources to do it.

In the summer of 2020, the Waseca County Fair awarded Peterson with a plaque for his 57 years of service on the board. That August, Vince passed away at the age of 89.

It was a fitting tribute to Vince and a heartwarming holiday celebration last Christmas when the fair board

Passion continued on 3



Three Waseca Lutheran churches, St. John, St. Paul and Christ the King, are presenting a live drive-through nativity beginning at the intersection of fourth street and fourth avenue NE in Waseca, from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 9 and Saturday, Dec 10.

Lutheran live nativity scene Dec. 9, 10

Three Waseca churches, St. John Lutheran, St. Paul Lutheran and Christ the King Lutheran, are excited to present a 2022 Live Drive Through Nativity from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, December 9 and Saturday, December 10.

Beginning at the intersection of Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue NE in Waseca, visitors will be able to "enlighten" their holiday seasons while viewing 12 scenes from the Old Testament. Prophecy, the Nativity Story and other traditional Christmas Symbolism. Viewers can either ride in their vehicles or walk along an illuminated path, and can hear a narration and Christmas music by tuning into radio frequency 87.9.

Collectively, over 150 volunteers from the three churches work together beginning in September to bring the holiday season to life with this illuminated spectacular in December.

Canned food goods and cash donations will be accepted to help cover event expenses and provide support for those in need of the Waseca County Food Shelf.

This year will feature Jim Borchart's animals from Ellendale, MN. Donkeys, goats, sheep and even a live camel will enhance the scenes.

A new feature for the event is a free-will-offering meal of sloppy joes and refreshments at St. John's Lutheran Church beginning before and ending after the live performance times.

'Unfortunate event'

More than 100 geese found dead on lake

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

More than 125 birds, (100 Canada geese, 25 mallards) were found dead on Look Lake last week. The estimated number is expected to increase as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources works to determine what is responsible.

Michelle Carstensen, in charge of wildlife health at the DNR said there is little cause for concern, saying it's just an "unfortunate event that can happen in wildlife."

Samples of the birds were taken to the University of Minnesota for testing and preliminary results indicate that the most likely cause for unexpected die-off is pneumonia, caused by Aspergillosis, a fungus found in moldy grain.

Carstensen speculates the birds might have been feeding in an area where the moldy grain was available and succumbed quickly to the infection.

The DNR is still working on confirming the theory and finding the source of the infection. In the meantime, it's important to know what to do any time a dead animal is found anywhere.

Do not interact with sick or dead wildlife, including keeping pets away, and allow DNR officials to take care of the dead animals.

DNR wildlife officials are recommending that anyone who has domestic birds (chickens, turkeys or pet birds) should avoid the area. The public is asked to stay off the ice due to current ice conditions.



SUSPECTED CAUSE - Pneumonia caused by ingesting moldy grain is the suspected cause of death for the more than 100 birds found lying on Loon Lake, Sunday, Nov. 20.

“Life gives you plenty of time to do whatever you want to do if you stay in the present moment.” — Deepak Chopra

Then and now

By DAVE ZIKA

It's November 20 and I just drove around Clear Lake. It's frozen over and it won't be long before anglers will be out on the ice, maybe Thanksgiving or shortly after.

A long time ago I remember taking my young son Marc and his buddy James ice fishing on Lake Tetonka. We walked out from Best Point Resort. The weather was nasty; the temperature was zero and it was windy.

We walked across to Cram's Point where I put down a couple of holes with my eight-inch hand auger. The ice was so deep that I had to go on my knees to open the holes. I unwound the line on a couple of stick ice fishing poles, put on a couple of minnows, and began feeding line down.

We were fishing in 30 feet of water and it took an eternity to get to depth. The first ones finally got there and the boys caught several ten- to eleven-inch crappies. When the bobber went down the boys would set the hook and begin running away from the hole. Eventually the crappie would pop out and begin flopping on the ice. It was cold and we didn't last long, but enjoyed catching enough fish for a fish fry.

Fast forward to the present; our fishing on Tetonka would have been so much easier. We would have pulled our sled out and raised our portable house in minutes. The electric auger would have cut clean holes effortlessly. The boys could set up our Eskimo folding chairs, then turn on the buddy heater in our insulated shelter. With Vexilar depth finders turned on and Jason Mitchell combo fishing rods in hand, the boys would be lowering

their lures rigged with four-pound test fluorocarbon.

We now live in a world of technology, and so do all anglers. Any day now, Clear Lake will be dotted with portables of all different colors and sizes. Four-wheelers and rangers will allow people to drive to any area of the lake in a short period of time. If they find fish they can call a friend to join them and enjoy the catch. The pandemic changed life for everyone and many people now work from home. This gives us more freedom than we were used to in our work and family schedules.

As the ice grows thicker, the next thing on the lake will be the big wheel houses. Roads will be plowed, allowing easier access for pickups pulling their houses. Inside these rolling luxury homes are sleeping bunks, cooking stoves, refrigerators, and controlled heat, all the comforts of home. People can fish comfortably for long hours and either watch fish on their cameras, or their favorite football team on TV screens.

Last winter I fished with a former student on Clear Lake. He drilled 30 holes in 27 feet of water and fished crappies. He set up his depth finding unit and programmed his screen for side imaging. We could read fish a good number of feet in all directions as they moved under one of the holes. The fish were finicky; when we would hook one, the rest scattered. We could watch it happen on the side-imaging view.

So what does all of this mean to anglers and the poor fish? Maybe all of us should practice some catch and release and take only a number of fish for a meal.

■ Sentence

from Page 1

of our friendship," he said. "Will has saved many lives and is the most helpful, kind person you could meet."

Capri Pickett, who has known Peavy since 2005 and is the sister to his girlfriend, claimed that he is an outstanding father. Tammy Rogers, mother to Peavy's girlfriend, stated that she "couldn't ask for a better man than Will."

"He'll do whatever you ask of him," she said.

Jamel Johnson, another friend, talked about the youth basketball program he and Peavy started in Waseca. "He works all the time to take care of his family," he said. "We do make mistakes, but he will continue to try and stay positive. I know he will. That's my bro right here. He's a great guy. That's the

■ Passion

from Page 1

and community businesses took up the challenge of arranging a Christmas display at the fairgrounds. "We knew that he loved Christmas and he loved the fair," Johnson said, "and when he passed away we knew we had to do it."

As is suited to the size of the Petersons' legacy, the tribute continues this year.

The displays at the fairgrounds include several that once graced the Peterson farm. When he no longer felt able to continue setting up the lights, Peterson auctioned off his displays. Some of them were purchased by the fair board. Some were purchased by individuals, such as Diane Lewer, whose daughter, Bobbi Holtz, donated the bell display her mother had purchased to the Waseca County Fair. Peterson had a display that read, "Greetings from the Petersons." This display, which Johnson purchased, now reads, "Greetings from the WCFF." Those for whom

visiting the Peterson farm was a family tradition will remember the display reading, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus." This, too, can now be viewed at the fairgrounds, courtesy of Johnson.

New, additional displays have also been furnished by local businesses and organizations.

Live displays and festive lights will be lit at the Waseca County Fairgrounds, 409 Eighth Ave. NE Friday and Saturday evenings, Dec. 2 to 10 from 6 to 10 p.m. Guests can either walk or drive through. There is no admission fee to see the displays. However, donations are being accepted for local food shelves, and Boy Scout Troop 85 and Cub Scout Pack 86 are accepting donations of toiletries, diapers and cleaning supplies at their light displays.

"We just want people to come and drive through and enjoy them," said Johnson.

The Waseca County Free Fair board intends to keep putting up the display each year. Next year, the light show promises to be even more impressive as other businesses add displays.



The theme for this year's concert at Hartley Elementary school Tuesday, November 15 was, "Oh, the Places You'll Go." Most of the compositions performed by the students were folk music. Students sang and used instruments like ukuleles and congas. Pioneer photo by Tristan Jensen

Seuss-inspired concert at Hartley

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Editorial Assistant

The auditorium in Waseca School's Central Building was filled to the brim with joyful noise during the Hartley Elementary School first- and second-graders' Fall Concert, held the evening of Tuesday, November 15. The title of the concert was "Oh, The Places You'll Go," inspired by the Dr. Seuss classic and "centered around what children might encounter or experience as they grow into adults," according to

programs provided to audience members.

Both parts of the concert began with a welcome from David Schmitt, Hartley's Music Teacher, which he gave in both English and Spanish. The welcome address was followed by a pre-recorded video of the students reciting Dr. Suess' Oh, The Places You'll Go, each student or small group reciting one or two lines at a time. These introductions were followed by a program designed to show off the creative learning the

students see in Schmitt's classes.

The programs were composed mostly of folk music. In addition to singing, both groups danced, played instruments, and demonstrated rhythm patterns. The second-grade program demonstrated students' beginning skills in reading musical notation. Both groups' programs also included a song cooperatively composed by students. First-graders performed "What I'll Bring with Me on a Trip," composed by the students of Mrs. Miller and Ms. Holm. Second-

graders performed "What I Will Be When I Grow Up," composed by the students of Mrs. Guse and Mrs. Kubat. The composed songs were rhythmic, energetic, and at times silly – all encouraged by Schmitt in his work with students. Schmitt says his classes are structured to encourage exploration, improvisation, and self-evaluation as students build their music literacy skills.

Effective tax rate increase expected at 1.5%

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

A city of Waseca budget workshop held Nov. 14 indicates that the projected budget expenses for 2023 will lead to a tax increase of about 7.5% (1.5% effective rate) after several cuts have been made since the approval of a preliminary increase of 11.2%.

City staff received a lot of praise from city manager Lee Mattson for their work in decreasing the potential

tax burden, so much so that a discussion occurred about whether the city should generally plan for a 3% increase.

Mayor Roy Srp shared that, for one five-year span in the past, the city had been able to leave tax rates unchanged. The disadvantage to not increasing taxes, however, is that the cost of living, insurance prices, and other expenses continue to rise, resulting in an intimidating increase as high as 10% or more in a single year.

One item in the 2023 budget, labor costs, can only be an estimate until after the city finishes negotiations with staff members to determine the actual cost of any increases in wages or benefits.

The \$8 million budget is divided among 5 categories: administration, 18.6%; public safety, 45.8%; public works, 20.2%; and parks and recreation, 14.5%.

Mattson credited the newly finished ConAgra plant for a lower-

than-anticipated tax burden. The company will be shouldering about \$310,000 in taxes which will then not need to be assessed against other taxpayers.

The city will hold its legally required "Truth in Taxation" meeting on December 6 prior to giving final approval to its general tax levy at its Dec. 20 city council meeting.

Pancake breakfast for Jayne Vairma

December 4 at New Richland City Hall from 8 a.m.- noon

By MELANIE PILTINGSRUD
Staff Writer

The Lion's Club will host a pancake breakfast on behalf of Brian and Jayne Vairma of New Richland at the city's community center from 8 a.m. to noon on December 4.

Jayne Vairma has been fighting cancer for two years.

where she was or what was going on." But Jayne woke up again. "All of a sudden she said, 'Hello,' and came back again," said Brian. "And I said, 'Hi!' and we started talking. It was wonderful."

Because of her illness, Jayne wanted to be closer to family. The Vairmas decided to move to New Richland. Jayne's daughter and son-in-law, Ami and Dustin Garduno, already lived there with their son, Porter. The Gardunos are expecting Porter to have a baby sister this December.

Jayne's family is originally from New Richland, and she's lived most of her life in Albert Lea.

Brian says he's, "From all over." When Brian retired from 15 ½ years of active duty in the army, he decided he wanted to settle in the Midwest, and chose Minnesota. Brian was in the National Guard and Reserve for another 12 years. He lived in Fari-bault and then Kiester, and finally met Jayne when he took a job as an electronic technician at Farmland Foods in Albert Lea.

Jayne was a laboratory technician there, who daily checked for food safety. We ran into each other and it was fate, kismet," said Brian.

A second marriage for both of them, as of December 17 the couple will have been married for 24 years.

Prior to their move to New Richland, Jayne worked as a bus driver for the Albert Lea Bus Company. Toward the end of her career, she kept getting sick and having to cancel. At first her illnesses were attributed to minor causes like menopause. But Jayne was diagnosed with cancer in February 2020.

During that same spring, Jayne was in the ICU with pancreatitis. Doctors tried every antibiotic they had, but nothing worked. Finally, they sent her home, still sick. The Vairmas couldn't get in-home care during lockdowns, so Brian sought training from Rochester Home Infusion. "Mayo was phenomenal," said Brian. "They trained me how to take care of her, how to mix up her antibiotics, how to give her her infusions, and take care of her until she was gone.

"After three days, I watched her basically in a coma, just talking to God and her family," Brian continued. "Very little did she know

Jayne's health improved until her cancer surgery could be performed, which occurred one month before their move to New Richland.

Doctors had to remove Jayne's bladder and all her female organs to eradicate the cancer, and the couple knew there was a danger of blood clots. Two days after their move, Brian and Jayne were excited to see Jayne's grandson become baptized. But it was not to be. On Sunday morning as they prepared for church at Trinity Lutheran, Jayne had a stroke. The ambulance was there within seconds of Brian's call.

Jayne was stabilized at the Waseca hospital and transported to St. Mary's in Rochester.

"She couldn't communicate or move or anything for three days," said Brian.

Per Brian, although Jayne has come a long way in the last two years, she has never completely recovered from the stroke; it affected her motor skills, especially the strength in her legs.

Brian stated, "One thing I've learned from this journey is, it's not even usually the cancer that gets you. It's more often the side infections that come from the treatments. Because there are often invasive treatments. You end up with the possibility of different infections. Or it's the blood clots after surgery. It's all these things."

Since Jayne's cancer surgery, she has battled through five major infections for which she's been hospitalized, including a bacterial infection

"It's just prayer time, because should God choose, (the cancer) could go into remission. And I have a lot of faith, so I pray for it every day. But if not, we're ready. It's been a long fight. "

— Brian Vairma

in her kidneys. With every infection and setback, Jayne has fought her way back.

Jayne was cancer free for five quarters. "That was a blessing," said Brian.

Along this medical journey, Jayne had already lost one kidney. In October of this year, she came down with a bacterial infection that caused her second kidney to shut down. The Vairmas didn't realize that toxins were building up in her body as her one remaining kidney slowed to a halt. She was unwittingly overdosing on her medicines, since they weren't being flushed out of her body. "We thought maybe she had the flu or a stomach bug, because she started vomiting," said Brian.

Jayne's experience of the hospital during Covid lockdowns had been so traumatic that she didn't want to repeat it, so she resisted a return to the hospital. Consequently, she waited until it was almost too late.

Fortunately, doctors were able to put in a tube to take liquid directly from Jayne's remaining kidney, so, "That emergency is over," said Brian. Jayne is recovering, and, "Just a few days ago started getting out of bed regular. Starting to get around the house again."

But the trip to the hospital brought more bad news.

"When I got her into the emergency room in Waseca, and they started doing scans, that's when we found out her cancer is back," said Brian. "Two weeks ago we found out there's nothing more they can do." Jayne has had chemotherapy, radiation and surgery. "Now it's metasta-

sized in her abdomen, and now it's all going to be about trying to make her comfortable."

When fellow Trinity church member Dale Bayerkohler of the New Richland Lions Club approached Brian and Jayne about a pancake breakfast fundraiser on their behalf, the couple were initially hesitant. "I thought it was very nice that the Lions contacted us. We just thought, with the holidays and everything, there's gotta be families with little kids [who need help]," said Brian. The couple thought maybe the Lion's Club should hold the fundraiser for someone else. "I've been involved in all kinds of fundraisers in my lifetime, but I've never had one for anybody in my immediate family. So I thought it was very nice. On reflection we decided to accept the graciousness of their offer. When an organization wants to do something for you, how rude is it to say no?"

Brian and Jayne are extremely grateful for the community's support and for being so welcoming. Brian said, "When we bought this house, I said, 'This is it. I'm not moving again.' I've been a rolling stone all my life. This is my present and my future."

Jayne didn't want to know how long she still had, so no timeline has been given. "I feel like now it's just prayer time," Brian continued, "because should God choose, [the cancer] could go into remission. And I have a lot of faith, so I pray for it every day. But if not, we're ready. It's been a long fight. From time to time she gets tired of the fight, but she's a scrapper."

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OBITUARIES

Marvin Kormann

Marvin Dale Kormann, age 92, of Waseca, died on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at Colony Court in Waseca.

Born on August 12, 1930, in Medo Township, Blue Earth County, Minnesota to Roger and Verna (Anton) Kormann. Marvin grew up in Janesville for a short time before his family moved to Waseca where he received his education through 8th grade. In 1950, Marvin enlisted into the United States Navy until his honorable discharge in 1954. It was during his time in the Navy that Marvin met Ilene Hubble and together they were united in marriage on July 20, 1952, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Clara City. They began their married life in Maynard until 1955, when they made Waseca their home while raising their three children.

Marvin worked for 47 years as a truck driver. The first 20 years of his career he drove for Webb Oil before owning and operating Kormann Oil Company in Waseca in the mid 1970's. Later he drove truck for Bud Schmidt and lastly Supalla Trucking. Marvin enjoyed woodworking, remodeling, fishing, gardening and selling his produce at the local farmers market. Later in life he found enjoyment in knitting hats and scarves. He was a member of the Waseca American Legion and St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca.

Marvin is survived by his children: David (Veronica) Kormann,



Marvin Kormann

Cindy Fordham, and Carla (Mike) Pentico all of Waseca; grandchildren: Amber (Doug) Ballard, Aaren (Matt) Keilen, Ashley (Nate) Burns, and Alex (Jamie) Pentico; 9 great grandchildren; siblings: Willard (Irene) Kormann of New Ulm, Beverly (Marvin) Maass of Waseca, and Sharon (Cletus) Glynn of Blooming Prairie; nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Preceded in death by his parents; wife; grandson, Adam Fordham; sisters: Donna (Edgar) Paulson, and Lois (Leonard) Draheim.

Funeral Service will be 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 3, 2022, at St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca with Rev. John Oman, officiating. Burial will be in Woodville Cemetery in Waseca. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday.

Wayne Roemhildt

Wayne Roemhildt, age 85, of Waseca, Minnesota passed away Thursday, November 24, 2022, at Timberdale Trace Memory Care in Owatonna, Minnesota.

Wayne was born to Ted and Clara Roemhildt in Waseca on July 11, 1937. He attended schools in St. Peter and graduated from Minnesota State College - Mankato, receiving a Bachelor's and Master's degree. He was a teacher, wrestling/football coach, drivers training instructor and mentor too many students at Le Sueur High School.

Our Dad died on Thanksgiving evening. He had been in a memory care facility for just shy of a year and suffered from Alzheimer's disease. The nurses all loved him and told stories of eating milk and cookies with him in the middle of the night. Up until last week he seemed happy and danced down the halls most of the time even though he wasn't aware of where he was and who others were. He used to follow us to the door when we would visit and the nurses had to bribe him back to his room with peanut M&M's. He loved sweets.

We are so grateful to have spent his last days holding his hand, putting lotion on his feet and letting him know that he didn't have to be afraid to leave us. He touched many lives and loved all of his students and athletes. He loved teaching and being a Dad and Grandpa. We will miss him greatly.



Wayne Roemhildt

He is survived by wife, Lois Roemhildt; children, Kandi Roemhildt, Chad (Lori) Roemhildt, Kelly (Jack) Wilcox, and Keather Roemhildt; grandchildren; Dan Griep, Sarah Griep, Nik Roemhildt, Sam Roemhildt, Henry Wilcox, Oliver Wilcox, Emmett Wilcox; sister, Barb Melby; and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Wayne's life will be held in the Spring of 2023. Memorials preferred to the Alzheimer's Association. alzheimers.com Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service is handling the arrangements.

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



FT RIDGELY - Waseca boy scouts and adult leaders standing in the foundation of a former building at the historic fort. From left: Shawn Blowers, Jon Partain, Scott Deml, Shawn Pomeroy, Sam Ryan, Nicole Busse, Branden Busse, Conner Britton, Jack Anderson, and Wyatt Partain.



LOWER SIOUX AGENCAY - Scouts and adult leaders in front of the stone warehouse located at Lower Sioux Agency Historic Site. From left: Jon Partain, Shawn Pomeroy, Scott Deml, Sam Ryn, Shawn Blowers, Jack Anderson, Wyatt Partain, Nicole Busse, Conner Britton, and Branden Busse.

"Historic" trip for boy scouts

By JULIE ANDERSON
Contributing writer

In October, Waseca Scouts BSA Troop 85 members used their regular campout to also learn a little about Minnesota history. The long MEA weekend presented the opportunity to travel to Fort Ridgely State Park. Scouts camped for two nights at the park, but also visited nearby historic sites to complete requirements for the Historic Trails Award. According to Boy Scouts of America, this award should "bring appreciation to the ideals, principals, and traditions that have made our country strong." Troop 85 chose to complete the "1862 Dakota Uprising Trail" which took scouts to the historic sites of Lower Sioux Agency, Birch Coulee Battlefield, and historic Fort Ridgely. At each site, scouts followed guided hiking trails and learned about the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. The Troop learned about the causes of the war, specific details about important battles, and what happened to the Dakota people after their war effort failed. After the outing, six scouts

and five adult leaders had all earned the historic trails award.

In addition to learning about the six weeks of war while hiking various trails, participating scouts needed to answer a series of questions, the answers to which had been posted on historical markers. With more than 60 questions to complete, scouts learned a lot about the war, Dakota culture, frontier life for fur traders, settlers, and soldiers, and even about restoring Minnesota prairie grasses. This was a group effort as some answers were difficult to find and the questions didn't always go in sequence! Birch Coulee battlefield was especially interesting because the historic site has specific locations to stand both where U.S. soldiers and Dakota warriors were positioned. The interpretive tool allowed scouts to see why the U.S. soldiers were easily surrounded and would have lost the battle if reinforcements from Ft. Ridgely hadn't arrived in time.

The group also took time to drive



TEEPEE - Scouts in front of the teepee after completing the installation. The teepee was donated by Blaine & Carol Brooks (far left). Also pictured are scouts Shawn Blowers, Wyatt Partain, and Sam Ryan, and Scoutmaster Shawn Pomeroy.

into the town of Morton to view two monuments associated with the war — one to commemorate the battle at Birch Coulee and another to recognize "friendly Indians" who helped white settlers escape during the war. While there, scouts met a descendant of one of the Dakota women named on the monument; he shared some personal stories about his ancestor and her role during the war.

In addition to visiting these historic sites and answering the questions, the troop also needed to conduct a public event related to the information learned from the historic trails. Area resident Blaine Brooks recently donated a demonstration teepee which he had formerly used while teaching during FarmAmerica events about Native American life. The troop set up the teepee at the Waseca Fairgrounds and invited local Cub Scout Pack 86 to explore it. The troop is looking for further

opportunities for further opportunities to set up the Teepee and share more about what was learned while earning the historic trails award.

Waseca Scouts has two troops that work together on a variety of activities, service projects and camping trips. Troop 85 is comprised of boys ages 11-17 and Troop 1085 is for girls of the same age. The troop goes camping 6-8 times every year. The last couple years it has ventured farther than the local area and has had the opportunity to explore more of Minnesota. The camping weekend at Fort Ridgely not only provided a chance to visit another part of the state, but also learn about an important part of Minnesota's history while visiting sites where historic events occurred. Anyone interested in learning more about Scouts in Waseca is invited to contact Julie Anderson at humann44@yahoo.com or 404-409-7731.

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Stacey Schroeder won the special election to fill the Waseca City Council Ward One seat by over 400 votes.

New to council

Schroeder elected to Ward 1

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Stacy Schroeder won easily over Robert Tackett in a special election to fill the Waseca City Council Ward One seat left empty after Ted Conrath’s resignation. Schroeder took 671 votes to Tackett’s 255.

On election day, Schroeder says she walked over to the courthouse to await results after making dinner for her family. “It was very interesting to watch this process; I have tremendous faith in those who run and work at our local elections,” she said.

“I sincerely appreciate the overwhelming support and response from everyone, not just Ward One! I also want to thank my opponent, Robert Tackett. He’s got a big heart

and willingness to serve Waseca, you’ll see him around in other ways.”

Schroeder said she believes in this community, and “its greatest asset, the people.” She said she believes Waseca residents are looking for fresh ideas—for someone willing to form partnerships to create a “Waseca in today’s world” and not be afraid to look at different ways to get there.

What’s next for Schroeder?

“I’ll be jumping in with both feet and learning as much as I can to be able to make informed decisions that fit the needs of these city limits,” Schroeder answers. “And while the limits speak of the geographical location, we shouldn’t limit the potential for sustainable growth.”

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New cultural liaison for Waseca

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

Eric Hudspeth, Waseca’s Superintendent of Schools, observes “We work to empower each learner to thrive. The barriers a student may face when working toward this mission look different for each individual.” When it comes to the district’s “English Language Learner” population, that is, the students who do not speak English as their first language, one way through barriers is with the help of Eliana Ruvalcaba, the school’s “cultural liaison.” Her role is to assist and support students who originate from alternate cultures, especially those with limited proficiency in English, as they seek to understand and integrate into the everyday practices of the school.

Whether at Hartley Elementary or Waseca Intermediate School, Ruvalcaba’s day in the district seems to overflow. “There is always something to do, whether it’s attending meetings, contacting parents for specific purposes, translating written material for events, curriculums, or communications.”

In this position, Ruvalcaba says her overall focus is “to be an advocate for non-English speaking students and to support all teachers in supporting them.” This entails everything from assisting students with

homework questions to helping ease tensions that might arise from a misunderstanding—or, perhaps even more importantly, doing what she can to prevent misunderstandings altogether. She sometimes acts as an interpreter when parents come to the school for meetings or conferences. She might assist with student enrollment. She translates documents, including programs for gatherings at the school. In other words, the days can be quite long and very full.

Before coming to Waseca in July, Ruvalcaba was a social worker employed at Ayuda, a non-profit organization in Washington D.C. There she assisted survivors of human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault within the immigrant community; Ruvalcaba helped her clients create safety plans, connect with immigration attorneys, and find access to community resources. Moving to a small town after living in a large city was straightforward; “I lived in a small town in Mexico with my grandparents when I was a teenager, so it has been easy to transition from living in a city to a small town. The people are so welcoming and engaged in events. The environment feels tranquil and best of all, I am surrounded by nature.” Ruvalcaba says she enjoys life moving at a much slower pace. “I feel motivated

to be out in nature, explore local businesses and events, meet neighbors, and feel like I still have time to decompress after a long day at work.”

Although Ruvalcaba’s “formal” schooling includes degrees in political science and Spanish from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, she draws from many of her past experiences working as a cultural liaison in the school district. “Although my family’s heritage is Mexican, I spent my life both in Mexico and the United States. For generations, my family has moved from one place to another with some members even living in two places at once—family life in Mexico and work life in the U.S. A certain level of instability regarding where “home” is located was something of a norm.

“I grew up with a fluidity of cultures which was difficult at first as I struggled with identity, but ultimately the experience expanded my perception of life. The back-and-forth between two countries and across state lines helped us understand different cultures, values, etc., and redefine our identities while still carrying our ancestry wherever we went.”

Ruvalcaba obtained training in navigating the Migrant Student Information Exchange (MSIX) data-

base in preparation for the school district position and receives ongoing training and support from Tri-Valley Opportunity Inc., an organization that offers resources to students as part of the migrant education program. “I am also receiving mentorship from the previous cultural liaison which has been a great help!”

In the short time Ruvalcaba has held the cultural liaison position, the Waseca school district has already had positive feedback from the Hispanic community. She says parents have expressed a feeling of comfort in knowing there is someone at the school who understands their cultural background and speaks their native language.

“Providing language access is important for parents to understand the education system.” She points out that the academic process sometimes has a language all its own, so it’s important to help families feel more at ease and feel comfortable asking questions. Not only that, but because many families move to follow the availability of jobs, students should be provided all the stability and reassurance possible.

Ruvalcaba observes, “We want them to feel a sense of belonging when they are here, and that’s what we’ve been accomplishing thus far. It’s incredible.”

FFA visits, school policies approved

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Janesville City Attorney Jason Moran spoke to the city council during its Monday, November 28 meeting about an apparent heat issue with apartments at 138 N. Main Street.

Dan Murphy, an inspector with City Building Inspection Services, checked the structure at the request of the property management company that owns it. He determined that, although the main level had sufficient heat, six apartment units on the upper floors had no heat at all.

“I’ve been told two different things, that there is heat and that there is no heat,” Moran said. “I spoke with the property management’s attorney and the attorney for some of the tenants involved in the situation. The two parties are in the process of working things out.”

Moran stressed to the council that he doesn’t want the city to get involved with the disagreement between the property managers and the tenants. “I was told there were two weeks needed to sort things out, according to management. I reluctantly ask you to table this for two weeks.”

He informed council members that if the property does not get the heating situation under control within that time frame, they can do one of

two things: revoke the owner’s rental license or suspend it until the units are getting sufficient heat and another inspection is passed.

The council approved tabling the matter until the December 9 meeting.

Other Business

Public Works Manager Joe Ziemke discussed the sanitary and storm sewer budget changes with the council. Both Ziemke and City Administrator Clinton Rogers noted only a few major changes to both.

“We added a few things for lift station repairs, pond intakes outside of town, and a line item for fuel which was taken directly out of public works in the past,” Ziemke explained. “We have four pumps on the southwest corner of town that have needed replacing for a while. We replaced two with new pumps, which have drastically cut down on pump times and have saved us money in electricity.”

The 2023 storm sewer budget has not changed much from 2022. The county is doing work on “Ditch 11” which will potentially affect Janesville’s storm sewer system in the future. “We’ll have to see what comes through and what that looks like,” Ziemke said.

Rogers updated the council on the state of the 2023 General Fund Tax

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Levy. The proposed amount was 13.3 percent; Rogers and Mayor Andy Arnoldt tried looking for ways to decrease the levy to 9.9 percent.

The city’s insurance numbers came back below budget amounts, which Rogers claims will help the city’s goal of bringing the levy percentage into the single digits. He suggested another way the tax levy could be decreased was cutting the salary of the community development director, a position currently vacant.

“We can give them 9 months of pay instead of a full 12,” he explained. “Just some food for thought.”

In a last-minute change to the agenda, the council decided to postpone looking for a candidate for the community development director position until after the new year. The city’s personnel committee reported it had not yet found the right candidate for the position. Council member Melissa Kopachek explained that the previous director, Marley Rohwer, left some big shoes to fill.

“We don’t want to sell ourselves short here,” she said.

The council voted to hold a public hearing to amend Chapter 51 of the city code concerning the sanitary sewer. It was recommended the language of the code be changed so when a property is transferred from one owner to another, the two parties record a video and ensure there are no sewer connections to be concerned about.

The proposed language change presented by Rogers, dubbed paragraph B, was taken out of Blooming Prairie’s city code. Attorney Moran said that Le Center had something similar to the language shown.

Janesville Boy Scout member Luke Cahill talked to the council about his Eagle Scout service project which was to collect Christmas trees on January 7. Ziemke confirmed that there is a spot for the trees to be dumped safely.

Other items approved were an \$800 anonymous donation to the Disc Golf fund and supporting Waseca County in its goal to obtain a trial grant for Lakeview Park north of Janesville.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

No school for students on January 2

At their November 21 meeting, members of the NRHEG school board were informed that a change will be needed to the school calendar. Superintendent Michael Meihak revealed that state law forbids holding school on Monday, January 2, because it has been named a legally designated holiday (since January 1 falls on Sunday). Thus, students’ winter break must be extended by one day. More information about the change will be finalized at the December meeting.

The School board approved contracts for winter sports coaches including Onika Peterson as head girls’ basketball coach; Shawn Larson as head wrestling coach with Nate Jensen as an assistant; Dan Schmidt as head boys’ basketball coach, Aaron Gilliland as JV boys’ basketball coach, and Jake Stork and Joe Isder as junior high coaches.

Board members also offered Daniel Petsinger of Petsinger Media

Group assurance that he could continue to live stream the school’s wrestling matches. Petsinger had recently been told he could not, due to an apparent misunderstanding of a formal agreement between the school and the National Federation of State High School Associations’ (NFHS) sports broadcasting service. Based on the conversation which occurred during the meeting, school staff had apparently interpreted the 5-year agreement to indicate that only the NFHS has authorization to livestream and post footage from district sports competitions. This despite being in the third year of a five-year contract, and there not having been any previous efforts to exclude other broadcasters, including Petsinger Media, Owatonna Live and occasional radio or television stations.

Petsinger noted that other broadcasters had been allowed to set up at a variety of games and events without interference. He stated that the

School Board NRHEG

only apparent difference between his agency and others was that he had requested permission in advance, while others typically arrive without notice.

Petsinger summarized information he had acquired in consultation with a lawyer, saying that because he used his own equipment and produced his own material, there is no copyright infringement when Petsinger Media Group broadcasts wrestling matches. Two members of the wrestling team, Makota Misgen and Annabelle Petsinger, were also present at the meeting, along with members of their families. Lynnette Petsinger spoke on their behalf, saying that Petsinger Media Group’s productions were

higher quality than those created by NFHS. Equally significantly, Petsinger’s material has been published for free on YouTube, while NFHS requires a paid subscription.

School board members reached the conclusion that no official action was needed to assure that Petsinger Media Group can continue its services.

Board members heard and approved goals set by the administration for the district’s World’s Best Workforce (WBWF) plan for 2023-24. WBWF is a statewide program which expects all districts to create plans and programs designed to measure and accelerate student achievement. Goals range from increasing the number of children who take part in district-operated preschool programs to taking steps to increase graduation rates.

The district’s “Truth in Taxation” meeting has been set for Dec. 19 at 6 p.m. in the secondary media center.

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WASECA BLUEJAYS 2022-2023 WINTER SPORTS



PREVIEW

Hoping to be a factor

Waseca girls look to contend

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Waseca High School girls' basketball coach Joan Conway knows it's a longshot.

But she believes her squad will be up to the task of being a factor in the Big South Conference and Section 2AA in 2022-23.

"It may be a longshot, but we expect it," said Conway. "We'll need to work real hard to do that, but I feel that's a possibility if we continue to improve."

The Bluejays lost just two players from last year's team that finished 10-18 overall and 3-7 in the Big South. Defensive specialist Madi Bulfer graduated while Aliyah Taylor didn't come out for the team.

Waseca returns five letterwinners, led by all-conference selections Kloe Wadd and Sam Azure. Wadd is entering her fifth varsity season. Avery Madsen, Megan Kanewischer and Addison Wieseler also lettered last year.

Other returning varsity players in-



GIRLS' BASKETBALL — The 2022-23 Waseca girls' basketball team. Front from left: Kloe Wadd, Ella Krautkremer, Samantha Azure, Ella Dufault, Megan Kanewischer, Addison Wieseler, and Avery Madsen. Back : Lexi Kanewischer, Avery Gaul, Grace Guritz, Coach Taylor Phelps, head coach Joan Conway, coach Aaron Kanewischer, Mia Kanewischer, Lily Owens, and Callie Dufault.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

clude Ella Dufault, Mia Kanewischer, Callie Dufault, Ella Krautkremer, Avery Gaul and Lexi Kanewischer.

The Bluejays, according to Conway, have experience at the post position, led by Wadd.

The key to becoming the team Conway would like to see?

"Develop depth and continue to improve throughout the season," she said.

The Bluejays have a win-loss record of 185-89 in 10 seasons under Conway, who's assisted by Matt Potter, Aaron Kanewischer and Taylor Phelps. Just three seasons ago, the Jays finished 25-6.

The favorites in the Big South, according to Conway, are St. Peter and New Ulm, with LCWM the top team in the section.

2022-23 Waseca Girls' Basketball

Nov. 29	at Medford	7:15
Dec. 2	JWP	7:30
Dec. 6	at Triton	7:15
Dec. 9	Fairmont	7:30
Dec. 13	WEM	7:30
Dec. 16	at Jackson Co. C	7:00
Dec. 20	at LCWM	7:15
Dec. 22	at Belle Plaine	7:15

"It may be a longshot, but we expect it."
— Coach Joan Conway

Dec. 28	Lewiston-A at Win. State	4:30	Feb. 7	at New Ulm	7:30
Dec. 29	Elain-M at Win. State	3:00	Feb. 10	St. James Area	7:15
Jan. 5	at Blooming Prairie	7:15	Feb. 18	Big South Showcase at Windom	
Jan. 6	New Ulm	7:30	Feb. 21	Big South Championship	TBA
Jan. 10	Tri-City United	7:30	Feb. 21	Maple River	7:30
Jan. 13	Blue Earth Area	7:30	(If Waseca is not in the BSC game)		
Jan. 20	at Fairmont	7:30	Feb. 23	NRHEG	7:30
Jan. 23	at St. Peter	7:15	Feb. 28-March 10	Section	TBA
Jan. 27	Jackson Co. C	7:30			
Jan. 28	St. Clair at MSU	Noon			
Jan. 30	Chatfield	7:30			
Feb. 3	at Blue Earth Area	7:30			



GYMNASTS — The 2022-23 Waseca gymnastics team (names not in order): Taylor Flatau, Jordan Hofmeister, Camryn Lynch, Katheryn Kofstad, Kara Doyle, Macy Anderson, Lindy Caldwell, Haydn Lynch, Norah Schimming, Aspyn Stenzel, Nora Flatness, Ella Hackett, Layla Keith, Chloe Riewer, Kayden Warke, Orianna Degen, Elli Hoban, Angelica Lopez, Taylor Markeson, Ciara Stenzel and Katelyn Weber.

Gymnasts look to build off last year's success

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Last season was a very successful one for the Waseca High School gymnastics team.

Head coach Kim Wendland has no reason to think 2022-23 will be any different.

The squad - comprised of athletes from Waseca, NRHEG JWP and WEM - has varsity experience, strong senior leadership and, of course, good coaching.

"I am really proud of the way we improved last season and came together as a team despite some injuries and adversity," said Wendland. "This year, we have solid leadership from our captains, seniors Kara Doyle and Katheryn Kofstad and junior Haydn Lynch. They will prove

that working hard, and staying consistent in their skills, leads to success in competition. I am looking forward to this season to showcase our talent and be competitive in the conference."

Lynch and freshman Layla Keith earned all-conference honors last year and honorable mention all-state in floor exercise.

Wendland also expects big things from junior Lindy Caldwell and eighth-grader Elli Hoban.

The remainder of the roster: juniors Macy Anderson and Norah Schimming, sophomore Ines Sanchez, freshmen Nora Flatness and Layla Keith, 8th-graders Angelica Lopez and Katelyn Weber, and 7th-graders Miley Anderson, Avery Carda, Kiyha Helmer, Maddie Root,

"I am looking forward to this season to showcase our talent and be competitive in the conference."

— Coach Kim Wendland

Tru Thao, Lilian Welder and Addison Zimmerman.

Doyle, Flatness, Kofstad, Tru and Welder hail from NRHEG. Miley Anderson, Macy Anderson and Caldwell are from WEM, Carda from JWP. The rest are from Waseca.

Wendland enters her seventh season as Waseca's head coach and 23rd year as a high school gymnastics official. She'll be assisted by first-year coaches Sara Lynch and Cici

McNair, who replace Sheryl Stroda after five years.

"Last season was one of performance, high-level competition and successful meet outcomes," said Wendland. "Overall, we had a winning season for varsity and junior varsity. In January, our varsity out-scored eight of the 10 teams they competed against, winning five meets in a row."

Last year's season-best score was

133.025.

"It was our highest score in the past six years," said Wendland. "We placed fourth in the Section 2A meet, capping off a really successful season."

2022-23 Waseca Gymnastics		
Dec. 1	at Byron	6:00
Dec. 10	at Mankato	1:00
Dec. 13	New Ulm	6:00
Dec. 15	at St. Peter	6:00
Dec. 20	Kasson-Mantorville	6:00
Jan. 7	at Fairmont Inv.	10 am
Jan. 13	at St. James Area	6:00
Jan. 19	at Stewartville	6:30
Jan. 21	at Kasson-M Inv.	9 am
Jan. 24	Martin County West	6:00
Jan. 27	St. Peter	6:00
Feb. 2	Blue Earth Area	6:00
Feb. 4	at Big South Championship	TBA
Feb. 16	Section finals at St. James	TBA

Outlook optimistic for WHS matmen

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

If the 2022-23 season was a numbers game, the Waseca High School wrestling team would be winning it.

The Bluejays have: 31 wrestlers out for the sport; 10 returning letterwinners; 10 returning starters; eight seniors.

Fifth-year head coach Jake Janike hope it adds up to success. It sounds like he's counting on improvement.

"We finished the 2021-22 season with a tough dual-meet record," said Janike. "Most matches we wrestled with at least four open weights."

While the Jays didn't have any state entrants last year, several wrestlers return with impressive records, led by senior Oliver O'Brien at 30-6 last season, senior Christian Rodriguez 23-8 and senior Jenaro Delgado Jr. 19-16. The Jays' fourth captain, Payton Garza, was 29-10.

Sophomore John Feeley finished 24-10 last year, freshman Matthew Veroeven 19-14. Sophomore Ben Hagen was a state entrant for NRHEG.

"Their records show the dedication they have and how they are constantly trying to improve," said Janike.

The rest of the varsity roster includes seniors Payten Haack, Korbin Schumacher, Eduardo Trejo and Elijah Biehn, juniors Carter Ellis and Joey Cruz, sophomores Tanner White and Liam Hagre, freshmen Lucas Selthun Jaden Schaffer, Jacob Root and Shane Barnett, eighth-grader Jack Kuhns and seventh-graders Ton Bethke, Landon Madsen, Kellen Klinger, Payton Sommers, Sam Selthun, Oliver Staloch, Archer O'Brien and Lucas Lehmkuhl.

"All of our returning wrestlers have already had a little varsity experience," said Janike. "We do have some athletes that are new to us or returning after being done for a period of time that will help our lineup."

Regardless of the potential forfeits, Janike looks forward to an excellent season.

"I think our outlook is great," he said. "Our motto is, 'Do the Work.' We currently have a couple athletes injured. We need all our returning athletes and new athletes to help step up and push their peers. However, I know already that we may have a few open weights on our roster. Everyone is aware, though, that we must wrestle at 110 percent, pushing to become the best and make the most of our season."

Competition in the Big South Conference is very good, according to Janike.

Janike, in his 11th season overall of coaching, is assisted by his brother, former state champion Ben Janike, along with Curt Yess and Blaine Nelson.

2022-23 Waseca Wrestling		
Dec. 1	Quad at Medford	5:00
Dec. 8	New Ulm	7:00
Dec. 10	at Jackson CC Inv.	9:30 am
Dec. 15	at St. Peter	7:00
Dec. 22	Quad at Mankato East	5:00
Jan. 7	at Norwood-YA Inv.	9 am
Jan. 12	Triangular in Waseca	5:00
Jan. 14	Big South at Pipestone	10 am
Jan. 19	Blooming Prairie	5:00
Jan. 21	at Hutchinson Inv.	10 am
Jan. 24	at Martin County West	5:00
Jan. 27	at Kasson-Mantorville	5:00
Feb. 2	at Blue Earth Area	7:00
Feb. 4	at Cannon Falls Inv.	9 am
Feb. 9	Triangular in Waseca	5:00
Feb. 16-25	Section tournament	TBA



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WASECA BLUEJAYS 2022-2023

WINTER SPORTS

PREVIEW

It should be a fun, exciting season for Bluejay boys

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

How the Waseca High School boys' basketball team will fare in the 2022-23 season is anyone's guess. But the past indicates it will be a fun, exciting and successful campaign.

The Bluejays are an impressive 139-34 in head coach Seth Anderson's six seasons at Waseca, including a state championship two years ago and a state runner-up finish in 2019. Several players off those teams are currently on college squads.

The cupboard is not totally bare for this year's Jays, though it's not exactly completely filled.

Eight seniors graduated off last year's crew: Elijah Breck, Shaun Hulscher, Parker Link, Isaac Potter, Carter McQuery, Max Gaytko, Brandon Pena, Jack Schumacher and Lucas Trumbull. Break was an All-Big South Conference selection, averaging 17 points and 7.3 rebounds per game. Hulscher earned all-conference honorable mention with an average of 9.6 points. Link averaged 8 points. Potter was the lone player to start every game last season.

The lone returning lettermen are guards, sophomore Damarius Russell and senior Tyson Reger.

Russell was a varsity football standout this fall, though it has been

"This will be a fun season of growth for everyone in our program."

— Coach Seth Anderson

said that basketball is his best sport. Reger is one of four seniors along with Addison Sampson, Alexander Honstad and Jacari Jellum.

The rest of the roster includes juniors Laird Keeton, Zach Hulscher, Andrew Robran, Jacob Thompson, Noah Thompson, Cody Vagts, Rudy Moncada, Logan Heyer, Sebastian Teague and Christian Cisneros, sophomores Tausten Rup, Carson Ohnstad, Max Howard and Cameron Karsten and freshman Deron Russell.

The Bluejays had an uncharacteristic losing record last year, finishing 10-18 overall and 4-6 in the Big South.

Prognosticating the upcoming season is tough, though it's safe to say the Bluejays expect to learn a lot and improve a lot throughout the season.

"It's hard to say what I think our record will be and things like that," said Anderson. "We are mostly focused on bringing an energy to practice and working hard every day. We have a brand new team this year, so catching them up on terminology, offensive/defensive principles, and our

sets will be a season-long project. We are looking to play with a high level of energy and toughness. We will certainly be better late in the year than we will be early."

Anderson, assisted by Austin Nagel, Brian Rupe and Richard Guse, said the Bluejays have a group of guys who work hard and are very coachable.

"We should have decent depth with a lot of guys who can handle the ball and contribute," said Anderson.

The Bluejays' biggest weakness is obvious: a lack of experience at the varsity level.

The key to success in 2022-23? "Figuring out how to take care of the basketball while defending at a high level," said Anderson, who sees New Ulm, Marshall and Jackson County Central as the teams to beat in the Big South. He favors Maple River and LWCM at the section level.

How will the Jays fit in? It should be enjoyable to find out.

"This is a team where it will be really fun to coach every day," said



BOYS' BASKETBALL — The 2022-23 Waseca boys' basketball team. Front from left: Cody Vagts, Carson Ohnstad, D'Ron Russell, Addison Sampson, Zach Hulscher, and Tauston Rupe. Middle row: head coach Seth Anderson, Jacob Thompson, Sebastian Teague, Andrew Robran, Logan Huyer, Noah Thompson, and assistant coach Austin Nagel. Back: Tyson Reger, Alexander Honstad, Laird Keeton, Jacari Jellum, Damarius Russell, and Rudy Moncada. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

Anderson. "We have a lot of high-character kids who are intent on giving high effort. This will be a fun season of growth for everyone in our program."	Dec. 16 Dec. 20 Dec. 22 Dec. 29 Dec. 30 Jan. 3 Jan. 6 Jan. 13 Jan. 14 Jan. 17 Jan. 20 Jan. 24	Jackson Co. C. Hope Academy JWP at TCU Invitational at TCU Invitational Medford at New Ulm at Blue Earth Area Glencoe-Silver Lake St. Clair Fairmont St. Peter	7:30 7:30 7:30 TBA TBA 7:30 7:30 7:30 1:30 7:30 7:30 7:15	Jan. 27 Jan. 28 Jan. 31 Feb. 3 Feb. 7 Feb. 10 Feb. 14 Feb. 17 Feb. 21 Feb. 25 Feb. 28 March	at Jackson CC Jordan Belle Plaine Blue Earth Area New Ulm at St. James Area Sibley East Marshall at Pine Island Big South Showcase Big South Championship 7-16 Section	7:30 7:30 7:30 7:30 7:30 7:15 7:30 7:30 7:15 10 am TBA
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SPEED TO BURN — The 2022-23 Waseca girls' hockey team has plenty of firepower, according to coach Chas Benson. Here, the Bluejays' Maizee Story in action against Rochester Century last season. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

Hockey girls look for progress

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

With a new head coach, you can probably expect some changes with the 2022-23 Waseca High School girls' hockey team.

Hopefully, the biggest change will be in the win-loss department.

Chas Benson is the Bluejays' new coach, and he inherits a squad that finished 4-21-1 overall and 2-12 in the Big South Conference last year. Waseca's best finish over the last five years is 7-18.

The Bluejays are young, but it doesn't mean Benson is not optimistic.

"We had a young team last year and will again this year," said Benson. "We have a good returning core of players that I expect will produce the best record the team has had in the last five years."

Benson listed two players, captain and returning leading scorer Cece

Huttmier and returning goaltender Ilamay Draheim, as being key to the Bluejays' success.

Draheim, Maizee Story and Maddy Benson figure to be their statistical leaders.

"We have a few great leaders in our upperclassmen and a lot of real special young talent," said Benson. "We have six underclassmen in our top two lines, including two eighth-graders, and an eighth-grade goaltender."

Benson feels the Bluejays will field a squad that can both attack and defend the goal.

"We have a fast team that can put a lot of pucks in the net," he said. "Our goaltending will again be solid this year. If we can learn to capitalize on our speed and play tough defense, we will be a successful team."

The favorites to win the Big South, according to Benson, are Luverne and New Ulm. He lists Waseca

and Albert Lea as the top teams in Section 1A.

2022-23 Waseca Girls' Hockey	
Nov. 15	Fairmont 7:00
Nov. 17	at Visitation 7:45
Nov. 19	at Worthington 1:00
Nov. 22	Windom 7:00
Nov. 26	Visitation Noon
Dec. 1	at Fairmont 7:30
Dec. 3	at Luverne Noon
Dec. 8	at Minnesota River 7:00
Dec. 15	at Hopkins 7:00
Dec. 22	Red Wing 7:00
Dec. 28	at Rochester Century 7:30
Dec. 30	Rochester Century 7:00
Jan. 3	New Prague 7:00
Jan. 6	New Ulm 7:00
Jan. 7	Worthington 1:00
Jan. 10	Austin 7:00
Jan. 17	Rochester Mayo 7:00
Jan. 19	at Winona 7:00
Jan. 20	Marshall 7:00
Jan. 24	at Mankato West 5:30
Jan. 26	at New Ulm 7:00
Jan. 27	at Marshall 7:30
Jan. 30	at Windom Area 7:00
Feb. 2	Minnesota River 7:00
Feb. 4	Luverne Noon
Feb. 8-16	Section TBA

Cheerleaders

2022-23 Waseca winter cheerleaders. Front from left: Lillianna Sanchez, Cece Bjerke, Thyme Lang, and Emma Donnay. Back: Grace Below, Lilly Drolsbach, Lily Peterson, Aliyah Barstad, and Quinn Dahle. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

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JWP BULLDOGS 2022-2023

WINTER SPORTS

PREVIEW

JWP basketball boys have a tough act to follow: their own

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

This year may be a challenging test for the JWP Bulldogs boys' basketball team. The varsity has no seniors to look toward for leadership and will have new varsity players throughout most of the roster.

This is head coach Nick James' eighth season. He has a 71-82 career coaching record. Assistant coaches are Connor Morton, Ben Holden, Matt Dahlberg, and Lenny Kroll.

2021-22 season

After a rough 2020 season, the JWP boys' basketball team turned things around last year and ended with a 15-12 record. The season marked a return to the Gopher Conference after many years in the Valley and a downgrade from Class AA to A.

The team went 8-8 in the Gopher Conference. The Bulldogs earned an upset victory against Mankato Loy-

ola, a team ranked in the top 10 of Class A before facing JWP. The stellar season was cut short with a 79-63 loss in South Subsection 2A to Mountain Lake Area-Comfrey.

Expectations

Coach James wants to see constant improvement from the team.

"Our expectations are to improve from the beginning to the end of the season," James explains. "We will have a lot of inexperience to start the year, but I feel we have a lot of smart basketball players that will get better as the season moves forward."

Key returnees and losses

Although the list of returnees is short, they have the most experience and chemistry out of anyone on the team. They are Memphis James, Ryan Kronbach, and Cole Schlueter. The three have played with each other for years, and James was an all-conference honorable mention last year.

Last year's squad had seven seniors on it: Cody Quast, Austin Westphal, Kaden Johnson, Eli Blaisdell, Marshall Schultz, Logan Stenger, and Christian Born. A majority of them were starters, while the others (especially Schultz) were fan favorites.

Another significant loss is Landon Dimler, who transferred to another school. He was first team all-conference while averaging 24.6 points, 10 rebounds, and 4.5 assists.

Strengths and weaknesses

Coach James is confident that a strength of this year's squad will be offense.

"We do have a lot of players that are offensively skilled," he said. "They have been practicing their shooting, ball handling, and finishing on plays."

Varsity inexperience will be a significant weakness.

"We only have three returning



BULLDOG BOYS — The 2022-23 JWP boys' basketball team. Front from left: Steven Dimmel, Steven Denn, Connor Welveart, Austin Carda, Dylan McWaters, Daulton Bauer and Carter Miller. Back: Austin Quast, Cole Schlueter, Memphis James, Ryan Kronbach, Landon Johnson, Caleb Quast and Ethan Born.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

players who competed at the varsity level last season," said James. "So, some of the young guys will have to step into some big roles right away."

Key to success

"How the young and inexperienced players adjust to the varsity level will determine how far this team goes this season," James concludes. "It's a big jump for them that I believe they are more than capable of making."

James adds that another factor that will decide their success is the chemistry between the new players and the returning ones.

Favorites

James believes that conference and section favorites this season are Maple River (a team ending 2021-22 ranked No. 6 in Class AA) and defending Class A state champion Hayfield.

2022-23 JWP Boys' Basketball		
Dec. 8	at Nicollet	7:00
Dec. 9	at Bethlehem Academy	7:15
Dec. 13	at Lester Prairie	7:30
Dec. 16	Hayfield	7:15
Dec. 20	NRHEG	7:15
Dec. 22	at Waseca	7:30
Dec. 29	TCU Invitational	TBA
Dec. 30	TCU Invitational	TBA
Jan. 5	Blue Earth Area	7:15

Jan. 6	at United South Central	7:15
Jan. 10	WEM	7:15
Jan. 13	at Maple River	8:15
Jan. 17	at Medford	7:15
Jan. 20	at Blooming Prairie	7:15
Jan. 23	at Tri-City United	7:15
Jan. 24	at NRHEG	7:15
Jan. 27	Kenyon-Wanamingo	7:15
Jan. 30	at Belle Plaine	7:15
Jan. 31	United South Central	7:15
Feb. 3	at Triton	7:15
Feb. 7	at WEM	7:15
Feb. 10	Randolph	7:15
Feb. 17	Sibley East	7:15
Feb. 20	at Cleveland	7:15
Feb. 21	at Mankato Loyola	7:00
Feb. 24	Medford	7:15
Feb. 25	Conference championship, West Division at East Division champion	
Feb. 27	at Madelia	7:15

Grizzly matmen return 10 starters

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

The WEM-JWP Grizzly wrestling team returns 10 starters from last season. Additions include four new varsity wrestlers and a new co-head coach, Skylar Petry.

Adam Roesler, in his 15th season as head coach, returns as co-head coach. Assisting are Mike Richards, Shaun Murphy, Rich Davis, Brady Ayers and Colin Ayers.

2021-22 season

The Grizzlies came out of the gate last season with plenty of wins. But as a team, WEM-JWP had a few struggles midseason.

Two wrestlers stood out: Keegan Kuball and Carson Petry.

Kuball was the Section 2A winner, beating NRHEG's Makota Misgen (who took second in the state tournament) for the title. Petry placed sixth in the state tournament.

Key returnees

Roesler claimed that Kuball's 2-2 finish in the state tournament last season "left a sour taste in his mouth and a desire to improve." Roesler is confident Petry will build upon his sixth-place finish.

Senior Jack Cahill, junior Gavin Krause, and sophomore Lucas Mor-

sching were three other returnees noted by Roesler. "They had great seasons a year ago and have crossed the threshold of becoming consistent winners in the lineup," he says.

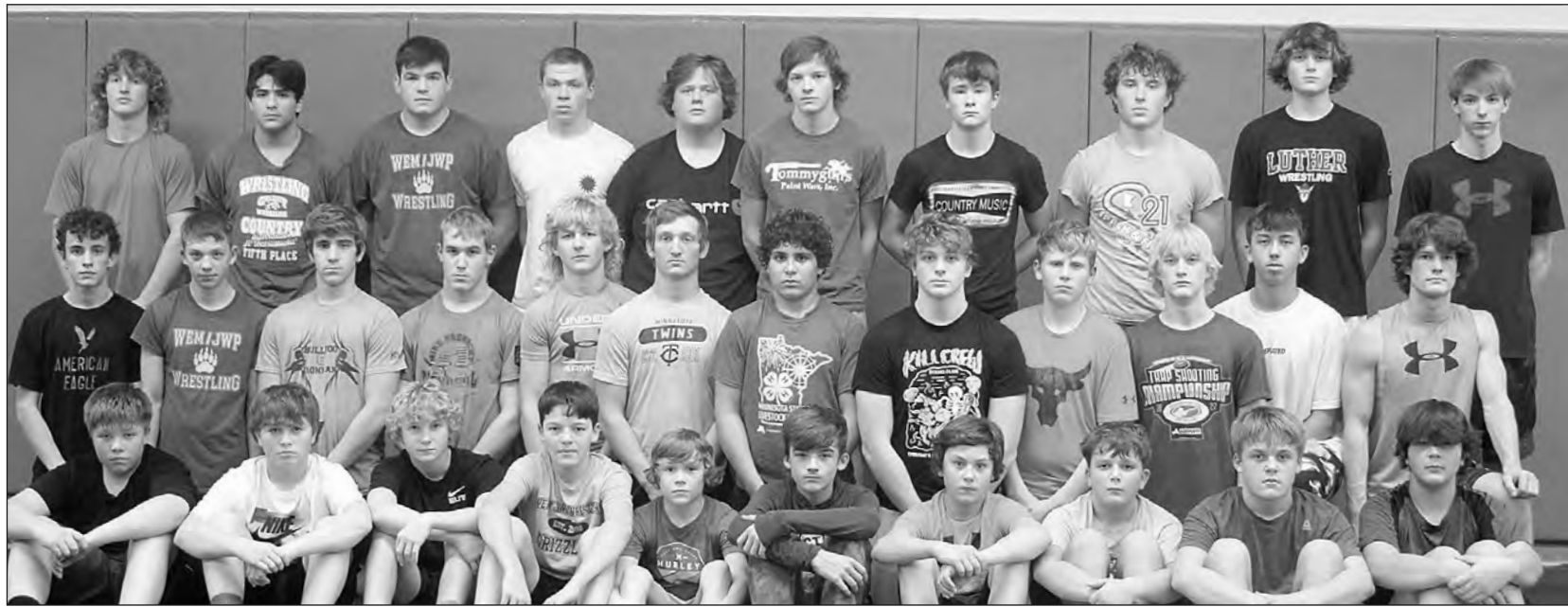
Another wrestler to watch is freshman Brady Murphy, who went 13-12 as an underdog in many matches. "Brady was an undersized 106-pounder who challenged even some of the top contenders in his weight class," Roesler said. "Anyone who watches him knows there is a lot of potential that we are looking forward to unleashing once again as he is now a freshman and a full 106 pounds."

Key losses

Ezekiel Peterson and Jon Daschner graduated. Peterson's season was cut short due to medical issues and he finished 7-11. Roesler explained that despite his inability to wrestle throughout the season, he was still a constant supporter and leader during matches.

Daschner spent most of his year within the WEM-JWP wrestling program on the JV. However, he eventually did make the varsity near the end of the season, something that Roesler noted was a goal of his. Daschner earned one victory.

Expectations



PLENTY OF PARTICIPANTS — The 2022-23 JWP wrestling team. Front from left: Dakota Blaisdell, Travyn Shoultz, Brady Murphy, Charles Adams, Jackston Knish, Destyn Hill, Parker James, Trey Richards, Benjamin Root and Kavan Sheehy. Row two: Aric Williams, Carson James, Lucas Morsching, Gavin Krause, Zach Quast, Kelton Erler, Keegan Lamont, Aiden Cummins, Trenton Huber, Carson Petry, Davien Weis and Ethan Greenwald. Back: Isaac Quast, Maddox Moreno, Keegan Kuball, Avery Fall, Max Davis, Patrick Adams, Isaac Gahlon, Jack Cahill, Grady Grohman and Kaden Baker.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

Two main points of focus for this year's wrestlers are individual gains and personal growth.

In 2021-22, Roesler saw a shift in the way the team competed. "When we were outmatched the guys continued to fight for other teammates," he says.

A culture shift is taking place within the wrestling team, with the student-athletes uplifting each other and holding themselves accountable. "This is evident in the morning

workouts," Roesler said. "Everyone knows the way to make our team better is to improve each individual. We have the right people in place to help the group control more of the controllable parts of athletics."

Roesler expects this group to be a factor in both the Gopher Conference and Section 2A final standings.

The mantra of this WEM-JWP wrestling team is, "Winning is a byproduct of the things we can control."

2022-23 WEM-JWP Wrestling		
Dec. 1	Quad at Medford	5:30
Dec. 3	at BEA Invitational	10 am
Dec. 8	at Triton	7:00
Dec. 10	at Byron Invitational	10 am
Dec. 13	Triangular in Waterville	5:00
Dec. 16	at Glencoe-SL Inv.	5:00
Dec. 22	Triangular at Springfield	5:00
Jan. 7	at Norwood-YA Inv.	9 am
Jan. 12	St. Clair/Loyola	5:00
Jan. 13	Westfield	5:00
Jan. 14	at St. Croix Luth. Inv.	9:30 a.m.
Jan. 19	Triangular at Kenyon-W	5:00
Jan. 26	Maple River/USC	7:00
Jan. 28	at Sibley East Inv.	10 am
Feb 2	at Medford	7:00

Feb. 4	WEM-JWP Invitational	10 am
Feb. 9	Quad in Waterville	5:00
Feb. 16	Section	TBA
Feb. 18	Section	TBA
Feb. 25	Section	TBA
Feb. 18	Conference championship, West Division at East Division champion	
Feb. 23	at Waseca	7:30

JWP basketball girls look to make another positive step

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

The JWP girls' basketball team is ready to put the past two seasons behind them and look forward to a year where Covid 19 is no longer a potential concern. Third-year head coach Cory Jans is looking to also improve on his 10-33 career record.

2021-22 season

After a 2-13 debut for Jans in 2020-21, the girls were much improved last year. The change to the Gopher Conference didn't affect their performance at all. It was still a tougher season with an 8-20 record (2-14 in-conference), but the girls nearly had a winning record in their section, going 3-4 on the year.

The season included a 56-51 upset at New Ulm Cathedral in the first round of sub-section; JWP lost to the Greyhounds earlier in the season 53-29. The season ended with a 80-37 loss to Sleepy Eye St. Mary's, who

ranked No. 5 in Class A at the end of the year.

The 8-20 record was a trend in the right direction.

Key returnees and loss

This year's team will be returning a lot of varsity athletes: Faith Olson, Alison Olson, Lexie Dahlberg, Caitlin Kleve, Lilly Strauss, Claire Walz, and Katie Olson.

Katie Olson, an eighth-grader last year, joined the varsity in midseason and was a pleasant surprise, constantly leading the Bulldogs in points scored and other stats. Her efforts earned her an all-conference honorable mention and offensive MVP.

Sophomore Lilly Strauss was voted defensive MVP last year.

Seniors Reagan Berndt and Claire Adams are two losses to the team. Adams was team MVP last season.

Expectations

Coach Jans' expectation of this team is simple. "I want this team to

get better every week," he says. "We have a whole season to get to our best come playoff time."

Strengths and weaknesses

This year's team is especially athletic, according to Jans. "We're quick on our feet," he says. The team's speed will be relied upon throughout the season.

Jans notes the weakness of this year's team is size. While the team has a few players on the roster that are 5-foot-8 and taller, the team average is a few inches shorter. Jans is hopeful that the team can overcome playing against taller teams by using their strengths.

Keys to success

The key to this team's success this year is developing chemistry. "We're working on playing as a team every practice," Jans explains.

Another thing Jans wants the team to work on is transitioning on both ends of the court. "That's something



GIRLS' BASKETBALL — The 2022-23 JWP girls' basketball team. Front from left: Lilly Strauss, Ava Appel, Ali Olson, Lily Quast, Kwynn Krause, Katelyn Olson, Nevaeh Weimert, Faith Olson, Brielle Bure, Mikayla Wheelock, Onikia Herme and Lillian Ewert. Back: head coach Cory Jans, Aubrey Adams, Alexis Dahlberg, Hope Dimmel, Madeline Hoehn, Presley James, Paige Walz, Claire Walz, Autumn Thissen, Caitlin Kleve, assistant coach Jeff Kuball and assistant coach Brandon Goebel.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

we are working on a lot this year. If we move well on offense and defense, we can eliminate breakaway opportunities while having more scoring chances on offense."

Physicality was a final key to success noted by Jans.

Favorites

Coach Jans believes Hayfield - will be the conference favorite. Sleepy Eye and Sleepy Eye St. Mary's are the section favorites.

2022-23 JWP Girls' Basketball		
Nov. 29	New Ulm Cathedral	7:15
Dec. 2	at Waseca	7:30
Dec. 6	at Medford	7:15
Dec. 9	Bethlehem Academy	7:15
Dec. 13	at Lester Prairie	6:00
Dec. 15	Cleveland	7:15
Dec. 16	at Hayfield	7:15
Dec. 20	at NRHEG	7:15
Dec. 29	at TCU Invitational	TBA
Dec. 30	at TCU Invitational	TBA
Jan. 3	Mankato Loyola	6:00
Jan. 6	United South Central	7:15
Jan. 10	at WEM	7:15

Jan. 13	at Maple River	7:15
Jan. 17	Medford	7:15
Jan. 20	Blooming Prairie	7:15
Jan. 24	NRHEG	7:15
Jan. 27	at Kenyon-Wanamingo	7:15
Jan. 30	Nicollet	7:15
Jan. 31	at United South Central	7:15
Feb 2	Triton	7:15
Feb. 6	at Sibley East	7:30
Feb. 14	Maple River	7:15
Feb. 16	Madelia	7:00
Feb. 18	Conference championship, West Division at East Division champion	

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

A long time in the works

Move featuring Waseca hits theatres on December 2

It was a long time coming. But Waseca will be featured in the movie *Angry Neighbors*, a comedy directed by Warren Brock, which will premiere in select theaters around the area starting Friday, December 2.

The movie features Frank Langella, who played Count Dracula in the 1979 film *Dracula*, Stockard Channing, who had a role in the movie *Grease*, Bobby Cannavale who starred in *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle*, and Cheech Marin.

Waseca's own Mike Jevning, CEO of iCAN in Waseca, had his house featured in the film. Producer and Co-Writer Hamid Torabpour thought that Jevning's home was "amazing." "He was so gracious and kind to us," he added.

Torabpour, who owns a production company in Owatonna, can take credit for bringing the film to Waseca. The producers of the film wanted more funding for the movie, and he offered to help on one condition: they had to film in Greater Minnesota.

"It's really important to me that we build the communities that we live in," he said.

Outside of Waseca, filming locations were in Owatonna and Wayzata. Wayzata played a critical part in the setting of *Angry Neighbors*; the city was similar to the Hamptons, where the story took place.

Originally, the plan was to feature the film at the Sundance Film Festival in January of 2020, but the beginning of Covid-19 prevented that from happening. "It set a lot of things behind," Torabpour claimed.

"It was a series of unfortunate circumstances."

Waseca Chamber of Commerce Director Ann Fitch hopes that Waseca residents will show support for the film in select theaters. "Let's be honest. Waseca doesn't get featured on the silver screen too often, so it's pretty cool to see Waseca listed as a location for the movie on IMDb. Hopefully, Waseca comes to mind as a location for future films."

Plot

Harry March (Frank Langella), a retired writer, sees his life go downhill when a multimillionaire named Lapham Rising (Jeff Lukowski) begins constructing a mansion across from his quiet island home in the Hamptons. The mansion will obstruct March's view of the lake. With the help of his talking dog Hector (Cheech Marin), a born-again Evangelical and unapologetic capitalist, he will do everything in his power to make sure the mansion never gets built.

Early Reception

Although the movie's not out yet, the trailer was well received. "It's the type of movie that you watch on a Saturday afternoon. It's something to pick you up and is fun and enjoyable."

The movie will be released through Lionsgate, an international entertainment company. "I'm excited, relieved...I'm grateful that it's finally coming," he said.

Angry Neighbors will feature in select theaters in cities like Lakeville and Burnsville December 2. The movie will also be available on iTunes and Amazon.

Toys for Tots at Keen Bank

PRESS RELEASE

Keen Bank is collecting new, unwrapped toy donations and cash donations for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program until Monday, December 12, 2022. Donations can be dropped off at any Keen Bank location—101 North State Street in Waseca, 119 Fifth Avenue in Ellendale or 9087 37th Avenue SW in Hope. All donations stay local and will be delivered to children in the community in which the donations were collected.

For more information visit www.toysfortots.org.

About Keen Bank

Keen Bank is a local, family-owned and managed bank that has been proudly serving southern Minnesota since 1874 with three locations in Waseca, Hope and Ellendale, MN. Their commitment to customers, responsiveness to find solutions and genuine willingness to help is the makeup of their organization. Keen Bank meets the needs of customers while maintaining the personal aspects of service that are synonymous with community banking. For more information visit www.keen.bank. Member FDIC

Waseca FFA



Waseca Chapter FFA members, from left: Kaiya Stagman, Hannah Heusinkveld, Kloe Wadd, Cameron Stagman and Addison Kelm.



Five members from the Waseca FFA chapter attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis Indiana from Oct 25th - Oct 29. Members participated in tours such as Fair Oaks Farms, Ozark Fisheries and the Indianapolis Speedway, along with attending convention sessions, workshops and expo itself. There were approximately 65,000 registered attendees and guests.

Lets talk crops: join us for strategic farming

By Liz Stahl
Extension Educator

Pull up a chair and join in or bring the conversation with you as you go about your day. Whatever works best for you, join us this winter to discuss some of the key issues and questions around commodity crop production facing Minnesota farmers today through the "Strategic Farming: Let's Talk Crops" webinar series. This live, online program will provide up-to-date, research-based information to help optimize crop management strategies for 2023. Sessions will be held over Zoom, which can be accessed via computer, phone or other mobile device, and run from 9 to 10 am Wednesdays, January 11 through March 29, 2023.

Sessions will be very informal and open to all interested. Each session will start with a brief presentation by the discussion leaders for the day, followed by discussion framed around farmer/participant questions on the topic.

Topics and speakers:

- January 11: Forecast for the season - Weather, economics & supply chains
- Ed Usset, Extension grain marketing economist and Pete Boulay, Assistant State Climatologist, DNR
- January 18: What's bugging my corn? An outlook on corn rootworm and more
- Anthony Hanson, Extension educator -IPM, and other IPM specialists
- January 25: Climate factors and nitrogen management
- Dan Kaiser, Extension nutrient management specialist, and Brad Carlson, Extension educator - water resources
- February 1: Semi-Dwarf corn & SCN breeding efforts
- Rex Bernardo, Professor and Endowed Chair, Corn Breeding and Genetics, and Aaron Lorentz, Associate Professor, Soybean Breeding and Genetics
- February 8: Are biologicals in corn & soybean logical?
- Seth Naeve, Extension soybean agronomist, and Dan Kaiser, Extension nutrient management specialist
- February 15: Weed management in the era of increasing herbicide resistance
- Debalin Sarangi, Extension weed management specialist
- February 22: "Can I take an N credit?" and other cover crop FAQs
- Anna Cates, State soil health specialist, and Matt Ruark, Extension soil scientist, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- March 1: Expanding crop rotation with small grains
- Jochum Wiersma, Extension small grains specialist
- March 8: Corn Tar Spot: Distribution, development and management
- Dean Malvick, Extension plant pathologist, and Darcy Telenko, Extension field crop pathologist, Purdue University
- March 15: Alfalfa weevil and other alfalfa management challenges
- Craig Shaeffer, Extension forage agronomist and Anthony Hanson, Extension educator - IPM
- March 22: Soybean Pests - What's up with the new and old...are they a big deal?
- Bob Koch, Extension entomologist
- March 29: Get your planters ready
- Extension researchers, educators and agronomists

For more details and to register, go to <https://z.umn.edu/strategic-farming>. There is no charge to participate, thanks to generous sponsorship from the Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council. Not able to attend a day? No problem. Sessions will be recorded and posted for viewing later.

We hope you will take this opportunity to join with U of MN Extension in discussing crop topics at our "Strategic Farming: Let's Talk Crops!" program in 2023!

Media Contact: Lizbeth Stahl, University of Minnesota Extension, 507-372-3900 ext. 3912, stah0012@umn.edu

For more news from U of M Extension, visit www.extension.umn.edu/news or contact Extension Communications at extnews@umn.edu. University of Minnesota Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Cheerleaders



2022-23 NRHEG winter cheerleaders. Front row from left: Addy Buenger, Grace Wilkenson, Eva Wayne, Isabel Stadheim. Back row: Ariel Anhalt, Sierra Misgen, Payton Bunn, Brenna Sommer, Madison Bogue, Autumn Baseman

Pioneer photo by Chris Schlaak

Argus archives

100 Years Ago
- Armistice Day was duly observed in Janesville with appropriate ceremonies and a program of interest. Members of the local Legion were in evidence, Louie Christensen taking charge. Shortly after one o'clock the ex-service men gathered at the Odd Fellows Hall and marched in a body to the hall, preceded by the band. The exercises opened by community singing of America followed by a solo by Miss Mabel Nyquist, rendered in her usually charming manner. Mr. Harry Johnson of Mankato was then introduced and proceeded to deliver a very able and convincing address.
- Members of the Odd Fellows lodge in Janesville gathered in goodly numbers at the hall Monday evening for the purpose of participating in a social affair in conjunction with an entertainment in which an interesting and enjoyable program was given. Long tables richly laden and artistically decorated were in evidence, supper being served at seven o'clock. The committee of ladies having this in charge were especially fortunate in putting on one of the finest spreads ever set before a crowd of people.

75 Years Ago
- Waseca County Farm Bureau is sponsoring a safety poster contest this year which will be shown and judged on December 16, the date of the annual Farm Bureau meeting in the Community Building, Waseca. The contest is open to young people and they are urged to make a poster which refers to some method of saving manpower thru the prevention of accidents in the home, on the farm, and on the highway.
- The Janesville Community Club banquet held at the school auditorium last Thursday evening was, indeed, a mighty swell affair. The turnout was one of the largest for an occasion of this kind held in Janesville for some time, and those who partook of the fine turkey "feed" report that they had plenty to eat and enjoyed the banquet in a big way. Motion pictures of the Minnesota-Michigan football game were shown later in the evening to the amusement of all those present. The Community Club is to be commended in arranging one of the best banquets ever held in Janesville.
- The state game and fish commission got bawled up in two of their recent order forms which they sent to county auditor Art Brisbane concerning ice fishing in Le Sueur county. In order 1180 the commission closed only Emily, German, and Tetonka lakes from Dec. 1 to February 15. Order 1180 was dated Nov. 6. In an order dated a day later, but not received until a week later, seven more Le Sueur county lakes were closed.

50 Years Ago
- Remodeling began on the Steven Stanke home Monday for the second time in the past year. It was less than a year ago that the home was vandalized. Last Wednesday morning it was gutted by fire. The blaze, of undetermined origin, was discovered by Jim Schafer while he was making his meter round for the gas company. He spotted the fire at 8:50 a.m. When the blaze broke out, Mr. Stanke was at work in Waseca and his wife was working at the Village Diner. Their two children were with the babysitter.
- Twelve season wrestlers were among the 35 matmen who greeted coaches Mike Niemczyk and Gary VonHoltum on the opening night of practice here Monday. The lettermen include five seniors, four juniors, two sophomores, and a freshman. Niemczyk told the group that his top two priorities this season will be takedowns and pins. "Basically, that's all there is to wrestling," he said. "It's not very difficult strategy when you look at wrestling that way and that's what we're going to be doing this year...takedowns and pins."

25 Years Ago
- Purchasing property for parking lots was an item the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School Board considered as a long-term goal. However, rather than waiting a year or two down the road, the board is exploring an earlier purchase because one of the properties is currently on the market. During a special meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 12, the board spoke with those homeowners whose property is being considered. "We want to work with community members and have a positive relationship as this goes on," said Superintendent Don Hainlen.
- With plans to begin construction in May, the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School Board revised its current school calendar. During the Monday, Nov. 17 meeting, the school board approved the recommendation for early dismissal/early graduation. The revised calendar will take 13 days off the current calendar. School will be dismissed on Friday, May 15, with graduation on Sunday, May 17. Although the days have been reduced, additional time has been scheduled. The high school and elementary school will begin school at 8:15 a.m. and will be dismissed at 3:24 p.m. The middle school will also start at 8:15 a.m. and will be dismissed 3:18 p.m.
- The 1997 Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton boys' and girls' cross country teams both enjoyed winning years in 1997. Next fall will see big changes. The bulldogs girls, who will return every runner but one in 1998, were 37-25 this fall, including three first places in 10 meets. The Bulldog boys, coming off a 37-37 season, will lose six of their seven varsity runners. Head coach Gene Wiebusch has also announced his resignation, so JWP needs a new head coach and plenty of boys to keep the program alive. "The girls have a chance to enjoy an outstanding year. I feel they have state tournament potential if they train throughout the year," said Wiebusch. "I'm worried about the boys because the numbers are down. You have to find kids who want to run to enjoy success in this sport."



Team members in attendance for the NRHEG Clay Target team awards banquet:- Front, from left: Bryce Mudgett, Sean Beauvais, Hailey Staska, Gracie Luna, Sealy Anderson. 2nd row: Brody Mudgett, Justin Beauvais, Aspy Stenzel, Clara Stenzel, Alexis Olson, Riley Kahnke, Braxton Arnold. 3rd row: Reese Routh, Eva Wayne, Nora Flatness, Corbin Martens, JP Lynne, Will Vicktora, Conner Louks. Back row: Adam Eustice, Alden Dobberstein, Zander Flatness, Hunter Woodham, Keegan Peterson, Dylan Schroht.

Clay target team awards banquet

The NRHEG Clay Target team held their Fall League awards on Monday, November 15th in the high school commons. The night started off with a light meal and the presentations. The coaches expressed their pride in the athletes for a season of growth and accomplishment. Even though the team did not do as well in the conference as they are used to, the number of new shooters and the growth of all shooters was notable. "The fall league is a shorter season and can serve as a good trial run for the much longer spring league that leads to the state tournament," noted Coach Sorum. "So, it is nice to see such growth in the fall." Ten athletes lettered. They include: Adam Eustice, Sean Beauvais, Alden Dobberstein, Ned Bell, Brody Mudgett, Eva Wayne, Keira Lenort, Wyatt Larson, and Lucas Selthun. Six of the team's top shooters were also in the Conference Top 25 for averages. Adam Eustice was 3rd, followed by Eva Wayne (4th), Keira Lenort (7th), Sean Beauvais (9th), Alden Dobberstein (14th) and Neela Wencil (20th). The Top Gun Award was presented to Adam Eustice. The senior scored an average of 23.7 out of 25 over the season fueled in part by two weeks with perfect scores. Sixth grader Hailey Staska was presented the Most Improved Shooter Award. Hailey improved her score by 8.4 targets broken per round over the course of the season. The team wishes to thank the Owatonna Gun club for being our home once again, to the parents and family members who support their kids' participation, and to the sponsors who donate to keep the cost of trapshooting down, so more kids can be a part of this dynamic sport.

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Lerberg's Fitness Center - Ellendale
Doug Martin Drag Racing - Squaw Lake

Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration

PRESS RELEASE
Sacred Heart Catholic Church is pleased to present an Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration on Saturday Dec. 10, 2022, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca. "This will be the third year that we present authentic Mexican Mariachi music during the celebration," noted Father The Hoang. Several Hispanic and Latino church members are organizing the event. The church is hoping this celebration will increase community connections, awareness, and appreciation of other cultures in the City of Waseca and throughout Waseca County.
The celebration begins Dec. 10 with a Mass at 5:15 p.m. Mariachi America will perform during Mass and afterwards in the church hall at 6:15 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Everyone is welcome! As part of the celebration, a free Mexican meal will be provided in the church hall from El Molino Mexican Restaurant in Waseca.
The church is also inviting Latino residents, area church members and the entire community to enjoy the authentic Mexican Mariachi music. Our Lady of Guadalupe Day is a public holiday on December 12 in Mexico. Our Lady is said to have appeared to Saint Juan Diego on the hill of Tepeyac, near Mexico City between December 9 and December 12, 1531. Many parishes with Latino populations have special celebrations with music and dancing.
Sacred Heart Church is very grateful to have received a Small Arts grant from Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council in Waseca to pay for the Mariachi music group. This activity is made possible in part by a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council with funds appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature from its general fund.

A split for WHS girls' hockey

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor
On one hand, Waseca girls' hockey suffered its first in-conference defeat when hosting Windom this week. On the other hand, the team got revenge against Visitation Catholic after taking a hard 9-1 loss to them the previous week.
Windom 5, Waseca 3
The Bluejays are having a great start to the season. But after bouncing back on the road against Worthington, Windom humbled them a bit.
Waseca junior defenseman Emma Keith shot the first goal less than four minutes into the game between the two schools. The Eagles replied ten minutes later.
Although Windom caught the team flat-footed in the second period and scored 48 seconds in, Waseca forward Maizee Storey fired back in less than two minutes.
The Eagles played a very physical game, taking eight penalties to Waseca's two, including a double-minor late in the second period. Despite many power play opportunities in the second period, Windom's Presley Dockter cashed in on a short-handed opportunity.
Waseca senior defenseman Cece Huttemier tied things up 3-3 8:33 into the third period. However, Windom slid one past 8th-grade goalie Ilamay Draheim with only a couple minutes left in the game. The Eagles sealed their victory with an empty-netter.
Draheim had a good game, stopping 31 of 35 shots for a .886 save percentage. Waseca's offense took 20 shots all game.
Waseca 5, Visitation 3
Visitation came into the match with confidence. Within the first ten minutes, the visitors scored two goals on Waseca. It looked like another potential loss for the Lady Jays.
But they dug deep. Maizee Storey once again found a way to get one in the net. Senior defenseman Cece Huttemier helped Waseca tie things up over minutes into the second period. Visitation's last goal of the game was within eight minutes of Huttemier's game-tying effort. With the help of freshman forward Maddy Benson, Storey scored a second goal before the end of the second to make it 3-3.
Both teams fought hard to get another point on the board. Waseca took 17 shots in the third period, trying anything to get one past Visitation's goaltender Cadence Cooper. Sophomore forward Katlyn Schueler eventually broke through with the go-ahead goal 14 minutes into the final period. Benson put the game away with the last goal of the night.
Storey had an amazing five-point evening with two goals and three assists. Benson had two assists along with her game-ending goal. Junior forward Isabela Slechta contributed an assist.
With the 1-1 week, the girls' record is 3-2. They had a rematch with Fairmont Thursday, Dec. 1 before traveling to Luverne the following Saturday.



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Waseca Archives

Waseca Herald, Dec. 4, 1930
-The Waseca delegation which visited the State Highway Commission last Wednesday brought back word that approval will be given to route No. 7 west through Waseca on Elm Avenue, and that the avenue will be paved to the west city limits next year, as petitioned by residents of adjoining property. The state will pay for the center 20 feet. The delegation which visited the Commission comprised of Aldermen Dewer, Goodspeed, Hughes and Mahoney; City Attorney Bullard and E. H. Smith. The different plans for routing No. 7 on the north side of the city were discussed and it was finally decided that with gates to protect Elm Avenue and proper parking rules, this route would be the most direct and least expensive.
-The Waseca Water and Light Board has a crew this week decorating the business streets in holiday attire. Two large, illuminated "Welcome" signs are being erected on State Street and Elm Avenue. The street lamps along. The business streets are being decorated in red, white and green, while small colored globes will extend from lamp to lamp. H. U. Cooper expects to have the work completed by Saturday evening and Waseca's business district will then present a most attractive holiday appearance, something which will compare favorably with any city in Southern Minnesota.
-While Waseca is more fortunate than larger cities in the matter of unemployment, it is known that some people in the community will need assistance in the way of food and clothing before spring. In order to raise funds for this purpose, the charities committee of the Waseca Community Club is sponsoring a "Charity Bazaar" to be held at the Community Building on Tuesday evening, Dec. 18.
Waseca Journal, Dec. 7, 1930
-Pointing out the consensus of opinion among farmers and experts that American agriculture is better off through the new deal farm program J. S. Jones, secretary of the Minnesota Farm Bureau meeting here Tuesday afternoon that the program should be retained and developed further by future administrations. He did, however, warn against the price fixing plan that is almost certain to be proposed in the next Congress. "Farmers don't want Congress to fix an outright price on farm products," Mr. Jones stated. "And I hope it will never come."
-Moving westward with the "tide of Empire," the Waseca Journal this week announces the addition of a new member to the editorial staff who has been delegated to the Hollywood shift. He is Dick Frenz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Frenz, former residents of Waseca. His job will be to bring the perfumed glamour of Hollywood directly to the heart of the Minnesota wheat fields through a weekly column entitled "Frenz-led Hollywood."
-From the response to date the the annual Red Cross Roll Call in Waseca County, Chapter chairman, Martin Koehler and Roll Call chairman, Dana L. Wobschall, predict that the chapter will surpass its quota of 700 members. The citizens of Waseca have surpassed their last year's memberships by 100 with a good prospect of increasing that lead at least another 50 members. Janesville has surpassed and New Richland has equaled its last year enrollment.



The Pastor's Column

Advent is my favorite season

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

Welcome to Advent! I love this season; it is the slow build up to Christmas day and prepares our hearts to dwell on the birth of Christ through the holiday season. How did we get to celebrate Advent and what is the meaning of the tradition?

Within the Church calendar the advent season marks the beginning of the church year that reminds us of Christ's coming. Advent is an odd word whose meaning has sometimes been confused, but its meaning is defined by "coming" and in the faith reminds us that Christ is coming. In His first advent He was born of the virgin and came down to earth. In His second advent He will judge the living and the dead.

Knowing the definition of the word brings us to a point of asking why does this season start the church year? We celebrate Advent to prepare our hearts for His death at Easter. The church calendar begins to lead us to Christ's Death, Burial and Resurrection at the Paschal, or Easter, celebration. His sacrifice is the reason for His advent.

The preparation of our hearts for His coming challenges us to think about what Christ brings to our lives rather than the gifts under the tree. We start early to gain focus

and build anticipation. Often churches will read specific passages from the gospels to show what Christ brings to our lives and build emphasis on the faith that He offers to the world.

This is advent, the preparation of the heart to accept the gift of a Savior in the form of an infant whose life would lead Him to the cross. Starting on the first Sunday of Advent through the Paschal, Easter, Feast we look at the life of Christ and how He taught us to be followers of God. He came to bring us the gift of faith and to those who would accept it, the forgiveness of sins.

I am excited for Advent as it prepares our hearts with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love for our Savior. Christ's coming brings us Hope for this life and for all eternity through His sacrifice on the cross to pay for sin.

The first week of advent we celebrate the Hope of Christ. This is the hope that Paul wrote to the Ephesians about in his prayer of thanksgiving for the church in Ephesians 1:18, "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints." Hope in Christ for the gift of salvation He brings.

'Oddities and Anomalies'

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Editorial Assistant

A reception was held November 11, 2022, at Waseca Art Center to celebrate the final night of the Oddities & Anomalies gallery show featuring photography by Waseca's Joseph Nino. In keeping with the name "Oddities and Anomalies," Nino's photography focuses on the unusual, from lost toys to street art to animal remains. The subjects of his photos are generally shot as they were found, not staged, and most of the photos on display at the gallery were taken in or near Waseca. "I try to keep it as legit and real as possible," explained Nino.

"It kind of takes you on a roller-coaster ride," Nino said about his gallery. The range of photos on display did lend to that effect – a photo of a farm cat overseeing operations from a ledge on display between a close-up of a decaying bird and "Sunny Eyes Up," a photo of one of Nino's breakfasts distorted in the editing process until it resembled a face. "I look at things through a lot of different lenses," Nino told onlookers. "Some people might look at this and think, 'Well you're just taking pictures of dead animals,' but I see it as a way to honor the creature that lived. This was alive, once, and now here's what remains." Nino added that, through his art, he sees death as the end of a cycle rather than as something inherently negative. Another subject Nino said he particularly enjoys is ice. Numerous examples of this were on display – closeups showing the contrast between the ice and the setting sun behind it, or the unique shapes created as the ice melted. What Nino says appeals to him about photographing ice is its impermanence. "I'll never take that same picture again."

Nino was born and raised in Waseca, graduating from Waseca High School in 2008. He lived in the Cities area twice, moving back to Waseca both times. Nino said the Cities "didn't feel like home anymore" prior to his most recent move and he needed to come back. "Returning was a return to basics," he said. For Nino, coming back to his hometown meant being able to find himself anew. "I started doing things for myself again." Nino only got into photography about a year and a half ago, and the gallery at Waseca Art Center was his first. Hanging above

the fireplace was the picture that "started it all" – a row of rubber ducks, which Nino found glued onto a ledge outside The Bag Lady, a women's consignment shop in south Minneapolis. In March of 2020, he'd been performing at an open mic night nearby and saw the ducks when he stepped outside. "It was something that shouldn't be there." He took the picture, and says it was the first he'd taken that he enjoyed enough to keep.

His move back to Waseca followed, and around that same time he found that music wasn't the creative outlet he needed anymore. He started playing less of it; gradually photography took its place. "I need to be creative," Nino said. "I need something to get the weirdness out." When he started taking pictures, he was posting them to the Waseca area happenings page on Facebook. After a while, someone there suggested he create his own page. He admits his page isn't professionally put together. "I'm not a tech person or a business person. I just like art."

When Nino says he needs to "get the weirdness out," he doesn't mean to excise it but rather to show it off. Both his Facebook page, Oddities & Anomalies Photography, and the event posting from the Waseca Chamber of Commerce feature the hashtag #embraceyourweirdness. Nino also doesn't buy into the idea that he has to turn his art into a career. "I've learned there's nothing wrong with working a nine to five – that this country thrives off those jobs." His day job is working in production at Waseca's All American Foods, Inc. It's the same job he worked prior to living in the Cities, but he says he appreciates and even enjoys it a lot more now. It's an active job, but he's become someone who enjoys fitness, and it's a job that leaves space in his life for his art. Rather than a serious pursuit, Nino views his art as stress relief. He spends time with his two children by going on "odddity hunts" together, and every piece in his gallery was shot on his phone. And if the future takes him in another direction? Nino says, "I'm gonna ride this train until it's not fun anymore."



Nino

National Honor Society



Kia Buendorf, daughter of Chad and Kari Buendorf; Payton Bunn, daughter of David and Jennifer Bunn; Julia Churchill, daughter of Pat and Joni Churchill; Keira Lenort, daughter of Chris and Tammy LaCanne; Addison Loken, daughter of Dallas and Nicole Loken ; McKenzie Mueller, daughter of Richard and Penni Mueller; Madison Murray, daughter of Carl Pederson and Angela Hoium, Adam Murray; Evelyn Nydegger, daughter of Larry and Michelle Nydegger; Erin Peterson, daughter of Chris and Mandra Peterson; Annabelle Petsinger, daughter of Lynette Petsinger; George Roesler, son of Greg and Barb Roesler; Tayler Schmidt, daughter of Dan and Tina Schmidt; Hallie Schultz, daughter of Rick and Jackie Schultz; Brenna Sommer, daughter of Anthony and Amanda Sommer; and Isabel Stadheim, daughter of Darrin and Linda Stadheim.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

17 inducted into National Honor Society

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

In a ceremony which all students grades 9-12 were invited to attend, 17 NRHEG juniors were inducted into the district's National Honor Society on Wednesday, Nov. 23. Senior members of the organization were introduced as the ceremony began; new inductees followed. Each entered carrying a candle which was symbolically used to contribute to the flame of a candle on the stage.

That candle was, in turn, used to light four others, each representing the core values of the organization: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. To be inducted into the NHS at NRHEG, students must have a grade point average of at least 3.5,

and must complete an application which describes leadership and service roles they have taken both within the school and in outside organizations.

After mentioning that the National Honor Society (NHS) was founded in 1921 and was therefore 101 years old, NRHEG language arts teacher Mark Domeier admitted that numbers are not his forte, and called attention to the many words which were part of the ceremony. Since the four pillar terms had already been defined, Domeier chose to address the word "honor" and its many ramifications.

Inducted into the NHS this year were Kia Buendorf, daughter of Chad and Kari Buendorf ;Payton Bunn, daughter of David and Jennifer Bunn;

Julia Churchill, daughter of Pat and Joni Churchill; Keira Lenort, daughter of Chris and Tammy LaCanne ; Addison Loken, daughter of Dallas and Nicole Loken ; McKenzie Mueller, daughter of Richard and Penni Mueller ; Madison Murray, daughter of Carl Pederson and Angela Hoium, Adam Murray; Evelyn Nydegger, daughter of Larry and Michelle Nydegger; Erin Peterson, daughter of Chris and Mandra Peterson; Annabelle Petsinger, daughter of Lynette Petsinger ; George Roesler, son of Greg and Barb Roesler; Tayler Schmidt, daughter of Dan and Tina Schmidt; Hallie Schultz, daughter of Rick and Jackie Schultz; Brenna Sommer, daughter of Anthony and Amanda Sommer ; and Isabel Stad-

heim, daughter of Darrin and Linda Stadheim.

Senior members of the NHS are Anton Domeier, son of Mark and Michelle Domeier; Erin Jacobson, daughter of Erik and Heidi Jacobson; Bree Ihrke, daughter of Chris and Sara Ihrke; Conner Nelson, son of James and Rita Nelson; Sidney Schultz, daughter of John and Wendy Schultz; Tatum Smith Vulcan, daughter of Tracy Smith and Jon Hansen, Troy Vulcan; Ethan Thompson, son of David Thompson and Jenna Thompson; Eva Wayne, daughter of Brandon and Jodi Wayne; and Grace Wilkinson, daughter of Matt and Kara Wilkenson.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9 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 * * * ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * * ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * * FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * * GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * * SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca 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 Pastor Brian Johnston Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship, 9:15 Worship w/bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * * BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METH-ODIST 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 * * *
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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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Fundraiser to help buy new van for Cooper Tenney

The members of the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) are sponsoring an “all you can eat” pancake breakfast Sunday, Dec. 8 from 8 a.m. to noon for area veteran Cooper Tenney. “We’re proud to have this as part of our outreach for this young veteran,” observes SAL Commander Bruce Tappe. The group decided to sponsor the fundraiser after learning that Tenney is in need of a new mobility van. “We wanted to help with

those costs,” Tappe says simply. In addition to supplying most of the workers for the event, SAL and the Waseca American Legion Post are donating all food supplies. “That way all funds raised can go directly toward the cost of the van,” says Tappe. The breakfast will include pancakes, eggs, sausage, and beverages. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5-10, and children under 5 for

free. Tappe anticipates an enthusiastic community response because, he says, “People in our area really stand behind our veterans.” Cooper Tenney enlisted in the military after graduating high school and was deployed to Kuwait. After finishing his deployment, he experienced an accident that left him with limited use of his arms or legs.

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"Holiday Cookie Dazzle"
Let us do your Christmas baking for you!

Saturday December 3rd, 2022 9 a.m to Noon
Waseca County Senior Citizen Center
308 N. State St, Waseca

Christmas Cookies \$7 per dozen, other treats available
Come and enjoy a wide selection of holiday treats!
Proceeds go toward programs for people with disabilities

To donate baked goods, contact Kari Haslip at (507)-835-2058 or drop then off December 2nd at the Senior Citizen center from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Thank you for your support!

SWEET-SOMMERS VFW POST 1642 CALENDAR EVENTS

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7pm Bingo	2 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	3
4	5	6 BURGER NITE 5-7pm	7 PEARL HARBOR DAY 6pm Bar Bingo	8 7pm Bingo	9 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	10 Fire Dept. X-mas party
11 All you can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am to Noon Your Host Waseca Boy Scouts	12 7pm Post & AUX Meeting	13 U.S. National Guard Birthday BURGER NITE 5-7pm	14 6pm Bar Bingo	15 7pm Bingo	16 Meat Raffle 5:30 WALLEYE OR SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7:00	17 Tom & Jerry nite 4:pm Meat Raffle 5:30
18	19	20 U.S. Space Force Birthday 2019 BURGER NITE 5-7pm	21 6pm Bar Bingo	22 7pm Bingo	23 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	24
25 CHRISTMAS	26	27 BURGER NITE 5-7pm	28 6pm Bar Bingo	29 7pm Bingo	30 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	31 NEW YEARS EVE 6pm Bar Bingo MEAL Available

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 1am
POST & AUX Meeting 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license number 00385

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FUNDRAISER FOR COOPER TENNEY

Sunday, December 4th
8am—Noon

All-you-can-eat Pancake Breakfast
\$10 for Adults | \$5 for Kids ages 5-10 | Free for Kids under 5
Unlimited Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage, Milk, Juice, & Coffee

Cooper Tenney enlisted during his senior year of high school, and left for basic training shortly after graduating. He was deployed to Kuwait during his service, and about two months after finishing his deployment, he suffered an accident that left him immobilized. He has endured a long journey to get where he is today, and continues to need special equipment to help him in his daily life.

The Waseca American Legion S.A.L. will be hosting this fundraiser in order to help Tenney offset the cost of his new mobility van which he requires.

Waseca American Legion Post 228
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Waseca County Senior Citizen Center
308 N. State St, Waseca
Christmas Cookies \$7 per dozen, other treats available
Come and enjoy a wide selection of holiday treats!
Proceeds go toward programs for people with disabilities
To donate baked goods, contact Kari Haslip at (507)-835-2058 or drop them off December 2nd at the Senior Citizen center from 5:00-6:30 p.m.
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