



■ Inside:

• 3 - Dave Zika

• 4 - Obituaries

• 5 - Jamboree

• 6-7 - Sports

• 8 - I love to read

• 9 - Argus is sold

• 10 - Winterfest

• 11 - Classifieds

• 12 - Beauty

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■ Pages 6-7



Sports



QUALITY - A recent kidney transplant has likely added years of life for former New Richland City Clerk Wayne Billing.



SaraJo Vulcan

‘Little miracle’

Vulcan donates kidney to Billing

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher
MARY IVERSON
Contributing Writer

With very little fanfare, Wayne Billing, 67, was gifted a new kidney from his former assistant SaraJo Vulcan on Jan. 18, 2023.

“I guess you could call it a little miracle,” Vulcan, 45, said of the decision, the donation, and the match. “I want to give him a chance for more years of life...more life together with his family, with their grandchildren and much more.”

In order for one person to donate a kidney to another, many details must fall in line. Both persons must have the same “tissue type.” Although no two people except identical twins can have the exact same tissue type, doctors look for 12 specific “protein markers.”

Vulcan is a lifelong area resident and mother to three beautiful children, Conway, Violette, and Hazel. She has worked for the city of New Richland as assistant city clerk since 2015, nearly the entire time former clerk Billing served as the town’s city clerk.

The pair worked side by side from 2015 until Billing retired in Dec. of 2020.

During that time, many milestones occurred in both their lives. Vulcan gave birth to her youngest son, Conway; Billing saw his daughter marry and also welcomed two additional grandchildren.

“That bonded us even more,” Vulcan explained.

The day before Vulcan gave birth to Conway, she received a phone call from Billing with

Miracle continued on 5

A word from
The Word

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

Romans 11:33

A rewarding day of golf

By JORDAN CARRILLO
Contributing writer

On a frigid and windy winter morning, an Ice Golf Tournament was held at the Boathouse Bar & Grill in Waseca. The event was a benefit for Logan Nessel as all proceeds would go toward the purchase of a medically equipped truck which will allow Nessel to drive himself. The Waseca County resident suffered a spinal injury

and became a quadriplegic on July 17, 2022, after a diving accident. The ice golf tournament featured 43 teams despite the cold weather, much of the neighboring community joined the Nessel family in support.

Kristi Nelson and Del Olivas organized the event. Nelson explained, “We knew we wanted to do whatever we could to help Logan and his family. Logan’s fi-

ancé, Jady, is our brother-in-law’s daughter, so we thought this would be the perfect time to start up [the tournament] again and hopefully bring in some donations for Logan and his family.”

The ice golf tournament had been on hold for several years according to Olivas for a variety of

Golf continued on 3

#LOGANSTRONG

We are here to support you

Hundreds turned up for the #LoganStrong Ice Golf Tournament at the Boathouse Grill and Bar Saturday, Jan. 28. Money raised from the tournament will go toward purchasing a customized vehicle that will allow Logan Nessel, who suffered a spinal injury in July, to drive on his own. Pioneer photo by Jordan Carrillo

Royalty



Newly crowned Waseca Sleigh and Cutter 2023 royalty pose with Miss 2022 Minnesota, Miss 2022 Minnesota Outstanding Teen, and Miss South Dakota Outstanding Teen. From left: Olivia Odenbrett, Rachel Evangelisto, Maura Erickson, Jasmin Kotek, Baillie Thom, Kloe Wadd, and Julia Schumacher. Pioneer photos by Michael Roy

Beauty and style

Thom, Kotek, Wadd, Erickson, crowned

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Four candidates were crowned at the Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Pageant at the Waseca Performing Arts Center on Saturday, Jan. 28.

New 2023 royalty are, Miss Waseca Sleigh and Cutter 2023, Baillie Thom; Miss South Central 2023, Jasmin Kotek; Miss Waseca County Sleigh and Cutter’s Outstanding Teen 2023, Kloe Wadd; and Miss South Central’s Outstanding Teen, Maura Erickson.

There were two additional titles for Miss Congeniality, one for all teen candidates, another for all the Waseca Sleigh and Cutter and South Central candidates. Wadd was voted Miss Congeniality out of all the teens while Alexis Cran was chosen out of the Sleigh and Cutter South Central candidates.

There were fourteen candidates vying for four crowns: four for Miss Waseca Sleigh and Cutter, four more for Miss South Central, and six teens competing for two Outstanding Teen

crowns.

Miss Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Baillie Thom competed against Caylie Blowers, Amanda Schmidt, and Jady White while Miss South Central Jasmin Kotek competed against Kayla Mabe, Alexis Cran, and Lydia Jagodzinski. The teen candidates were Maura Erickson, Kloe Wadd, Bailey Hodgkins, Paige Johnson, Hudson Miller, and Olivia Johnson.

Many royalty members from around the state took part in the Sleigh and Cutter pageant. Miss Minnesota 2021 Elle Mark sang the national anthem and helped emcee the event. Other participating guests were Miss Minnesota 2022 Rachel Evangelisto, Miss Minnesota Outstanding Teen 2022 Julia Schumacher, and Miss South Dakota’s Outstanding Teen 2022 Olivia Odenbrett. Schumacher and Odenbrett were once Waseca County princesses.

The pageant itself was nearly three hours long and was packed with entertainment. After the opening



Miss Minnesota Outstanding Teen Julia Schumacher crowns Kloe Wadd, while Miss Minnesota 2022 Rachel Evangelisto crowns Baillie Thom. Wadd was also voted Miss Congeniality.

number and the introduction, judges and auditors were announced. Judges were Randy Zimmerman, Molly Byron, Dan Kuphal, Ashley Arett, and Rochelle Odenbrett. Amanda Huber and Chantel Medina were this year’s auditors.

The teens started the night with a lifestyle and fitness section. Following that was an on-stage interview and social impact statement. Social statements ranged from making a commitment to help Minnesota high



school students improve their mental health at school to creating mentorship programs for younger kids. The teen candidates followed with their talent. Maura Erickson and Olivia Johnson showed off their dancing skills while Paige Johnson performed the Star-Spangled Banner on the clarinet and Bailey Hodgkins playing a minuet on the flute. Kloe

Beauty continued on 5

Shallow waters

Oxygen readings of area lakes reported

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

“It doesn’t work to take lake water and study it in a lab,” observes George Klug. “You have to study it where it’s at.”

Klug is working with a team of scientists to study shallow lakes that are prone to fish kills and applying summertime aeration to get ahead of the winter problem with oxygen. He and his team devised the aeration project that cleared Waseca’s Loon Lake this past summer of the filamentous algae which has plagued it throughout the memories of any living Wasecans. He notes that he will be installing that same system in April this year, rather than waiting until summer.

“You have to study (lake water) where it’s at.”
— George Klug

In an article which appeared in the Pioneer last fall, Klug observed that filamentous algae is particularly damaging to oxygen levels in the water because, as the plants die and begin to decompose, the rampantly reproducing bacteria deplete the supply of dissolved oxygen in the water, stressing other life in the lake and reducing its chances of survival, especially as the lake freezes over

Winter Oxygen Readings on Shallow Area Lakes Two readings per lake, top and bottom.			
Lake	Date	Top Reading	Bottom Reading
Loon Lake-Waseca	12/28/2022	10 ppm	6.5 ppm
	1/16/2023	3.9 ppm	1.25 ppm
	1/18/2023	2.3 ppm	0.33 ppm
Lake Elysian	1/16/2023	0.66 ppm	0.19 ppm
	1/18/2023	0.19 ppm	0.00 ppm
Eagle Lake	1/18/2023	0.47 ppm	0.00 ppm
Loon Lake-Lake Crystal	1/18/2023	7.2 ppm	5.3 ppm
Crystal Lake-Lake Crystal	1/18/2023	0.42 ppm	0.14 ppm



Klug

The element with the most dramatic impact is the amount of available ox-

and is capped by ice and snow cover.

“The decomposition continues all winter long,” he explains. “Oxygen levels respond to that.” Klug describes the health of a lake as resting on a line of closely intertwined factors.

gen.

Having used aeration this past summer to reduce the overgrowth of plants, Klug has been studying oxygen levels this winter in five area lakes whose water is 10’ or less deep: Loon Lake in Waseca, Lake Elysian near Waterville, Eagle Lake near Mankato, and Crystal Lake and Loon Lake, both in Lake Crystal.

“The news is not good,” he re-

Level continued on 4



Sergeant Dave Melchert

‘Pleasure to serve’

Melchert retires after two decades

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

After 22 years of service to the Waseca County Sheriff’s Department, Sergeant Dave Melchert has retired.

Hundreds came out to his retirement party at the Waseca County East Annex Building the afternoon of Tuesday, Jan. 31. After the public party, Melchert celebrated with family and friends at El Molino.

Melchert began his law enforcement career as a member of the Le Sueur County sheriff’s department, becoming a patrol deputy for the Waseca County department on Jan. 1, 2001. Twelve years later, on July 14, 2013, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and served as such until his retirement.

In addition to his role as a deputy, Melchert served as a commander for the South Central Drug Investigation Unit SWAT Team from 2004-2018.

Melchert said he appreciated the opportunity to work for Waseca County for more than two decades. “It’s been a pleasure to serve people here,” he shared. “The people are what made this job worth it.”

Many people who filtered into the East Annex building had nice things to say about Melchert. “I’ve known him for 25 years,” Sheriff Jay Dulas commented. “It’s been great to work with him.”

County Commissioner Blair Nelson echoed the sheriff’s sentiment. “It’s been great to have Melchert serving in the county sheriff’s office. It’s sad to see him go, but his retirement is well deserved.”

When asked about his plans for retirement, Melchert stated: “I’ll be waking up every day, making myself a cup of coffee, and seeing what the day brings.”

Perhaps surprisingly, he has not immediate plans for a vacation or trip.

“I’ll only be on my first day of retirement tomorrow,” Melchert pointed out. “I don’t really know what it’s like yet. Once I settle in, well, then I’ll see.”



Compostings

by Al Batt
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Hoarding food in scattered locations

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
All my teachers said I could go places.

What happened?
I liked it here.
DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I joined the day already in progress. I'd been living a windowless existence as I did tax work and needed a break. "Blinded by the Light" is a song by Bruce Springsteen. It's also what happened to me when I opened the blinds. I lived in a house of bachelors once where our window coverings were tattered blankets stapled in place. I needed something. It's difficult to do many things without needing something. I stepped into the room with my left foot because a fellow knucklehead told me that was good luck. My wife had cleaned and arranged the junk drawer. Now I don't know what to call it. I'm a man of mystery. That was evident when I forgot what I was looking for.

I'VE LEARNED
Cat hair sticks to everything but the cat.

Parking between the lines is much more important than coloring between the lines.

I put on steps as the mall's sound system played a big-city woman singing about being country when country wasn't cool. I'm a country boy. Country was always cool.

I've decided to do less figure skating this year than I've done in the past. That'll be difficult as I've done no figure skating.

I like T-shirts with pockets so I'll know I'm not wearing them inside out.

BAD JOKE DEPARTMENT
Man has his horses shooed and now he can't find them.

Lumbar support group meets in the back.

The game of Twister is removed from the Senior Center.

Police called to extricate a man from a beanbag chair.

Hammerhead sharks caused the extinction of nailfish.

Why was the owl in jail? It had gotten bad eagle advice.

NATURE NOTES
Growing up on a farm, my father taught me that alfalfa loves snow. A thick blanket of snow increases the chances of alfalfa surviving winter. The alfalfa was smiling. On my way to church, I saw the white flashes of large flocks of snow buntings, a flock of

Lapland longspurs and small groups of horned larks. These birds feed in the fields until deep or ice-encrusted snow covers their food and chases them to the roadsides where weed seeds and spilled grain are caught by the gravel. They show up when the snowmobiles do. I saw a couple of rough-legged hawks later in my drive. I called them Christmas hawks when I was a precocious or a pestiferous child. The roughies nest in the Arctic and have feathered pants with feathering to the base of their toes and small bills. Their feet are smaller than those of red-tailed hawks, which allow roughies to perch at the tip-top of small branches.

I watched a red fox tiptoe through the yard at daybreak. They typically weigh 8 to 15 pounds. Squirrels used the cheerful sounds of birds to infer the absence of predators. Gray and fox squirrels are scatter hoarders, which means they hoard food in scattered locations to access later.

Crows in the distance looked like apostrophes perched in a gray tree. We're getting winter in winter. No surprise. Some consider winter a bully, but I find the world big enough for both winter and me. I saw an opossum in the yard. Pink ears and tip of tail indicated frost-bite. Pogo (and creator Walt Kelly) said, "We have met the enemy and he is us." The local opossum might consider winter an antagonist.

On one of my first jobs in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, I flew into Harlingen, picked up a rental car and motored to the Valley Nature Center in Weslaco. It was small enough for me to roam about in the time allotted. The place was lousy with birds. I was greeted by green jays, great kiskadees, clay-colored robins (now clay-colored thrushes), golden-fronted woodpeckers, buff-bellied hummingbirds and plain chachalacas. They're common birds at this small oasis, but they were a red carpet rolled out to me.

I found a pair of American white pelicans on the water on a Christmas Bird Count on December 30. My instinct was that one was injured (no visible injuries) and its mate refused to leave it, but they are serially monogamous and form pairs for one breeding season through courtship rituals at the breeding colony. So why are the two still here? I don't know. They have to be somewhere.

MEETING ADJOURNED
I tried to thank everyone I encountered this day. I think I missed you. So, thank you.

Can the Vikings be my pallbearers?

I think we need to address a weird phenomenon that's been happening a lot lately.

Has anyone else noticed that this winter has been foggier than most years? I dare to say it's been the foggiest one I remember since being alive. Then again, I never really took time to pay attention to the weather as a kid unless it was a severe thunderstorm (because I don't like thunderstorms) or a blizzard (hoping for a day off of school).

But the fog has seemed nearly constant. I think the two or three days of sunshine were the only time there wasn't freezing fog. And usually those days were filled with wind, which many have also noticed has been more common.

The explanation I've gotten as to why we've had so much fog is because there's been so much moisture in the air. Fair enough, but I remember years when we had winter storm after winter storm; yet the breaks between them did not bring such dense fog as we've had.

It's dangerous stuff. A few weeks ago, I covered a JWP boys' basketball game in Wells. On the way back to New Richland, there was one vehicle on the side of the highway and another



Music to my Ears

by Michael Roy
copyright © 2022 by Michael Roy

parked with its back bumper almost halfway into the opposite lane. I didn't see their headlights until I was maybe 50 yards away.

Luckily, I was only going 50, maybe 55, so I had time to slow down and swerve a little bit. But imagine I had someone behind me going 60 and they didn't see me slowing down until I was too late. What about traffic going the opposite direction? They would have had to completely slow down.

The one thing I am afraid of is that there is going to be a deer that runs out in front of me during a foggy night, and I won't have enough time to react and avoid it. I'm knocking on all the wood to reverse my jinx, because the last thing I need is a huge bill to fix my fender and who knows what else. My step dad hit a deer on the way to work on East Elysian Lake Road. It did so

much damage that the car wasn't worth fixing.

At the rate we're going with the fog, though, we might have the foggiest winter on record. But those are rookie numbers. Let's go for the foggiest year on record in 2023...I'm kidding. The last thing we need is fog causing a ton of accidents on the road. But hey, maybe it will encourage people to be patient and slow down.

The world could use a reason to slow down. We at the paper could use a reason some days, that's for sure. But to turn this rant about fog into a lesson, maybe we could learn a thing or two about this weather phenomenon. Maybe we could learn to slow down, be patient, and be okay with running a little late. After all, driving 75 miles instead of 65 from Janesville to Mankato is really only likely to save you about

three minutes.

I don't think I ever mentioned my thoughts on the Vikings' loss to the New York Giants in the Janesville Journal. So, I will address that right now by uttering the same thing I will say every year until the Vikings win the Super Bowl or I pass away, whichever comes first.

When I die, I want the Minnesota Vikings to be the pallbearers at my funeral, so they can let me down...one. Last. Time.

Skol Vikings.

This Week in Music

This week in 1966, The Beatles started work on a new song Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band at Abbey Road Studios in London. It wasn't until The Beatles had recorded the song that Paul McCartney had the idea to make the song the thematic pivot for their forthcoming album.

The studio album was one of their most successful ones and was the first of three to sell over ten million copies in the United States and earn diamond certification from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA).



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler
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Castles, snow, and Portugal adventures

It's been another week, which means more journeys in Spain. Last week our class ventured to Segovia, which is north of Madrid in the mountains. The thing to see in Segovia is the castle on the hill: Let's just say I fell in love.

I grew up reading fantasy and adventure books and not turning towards history, mystery, or romance until around high school. Even now, I'm reading the Outlander series set in 1700s Scotland, which means castles. So of course, I love castles. But I had never actually seen one.

In Segovia, the castle on the hill is a large tourist attraction, even for the people there last Friday when it was snowing. Seriously, it was snowing and I couldn't believe it. At least it's not negative twenty or something like it is in Minnesota (sorry).

Our class toured the castle and we were even able to go up to the very top of the tower where the guards used to stand while they surveyed the city for approaching enemies.

Adventure continued on 3



Pioneer columnist and writer Amelia Roessler in front of "The Castle on the Hill" in Segovia, Spain.

Life is like a box of chocolates

Barb Buker from Personalized Printing called me the other day to compliment the newspaper, among other things. She couldn't help observing that, in a recent issue, her husband appeared on page two, her brother on another page, and a different family member in yet another spot. She also mentioned we had included three different people she was related to and/or knew. She said I find a way to add "zing" to the paper. I don't know for sure if that was the word she used, but it delivers the message.

During her comments, I recalled the process of designing that particular newspaper and thinking the jump for the Nativity story, which included Barb's husband, would be a good jump to go under her "Meet your Neighbor" feature.

I try very hard to put everything in the paper where it's supposed to go. When readers peruse the paper they shouldn't be distracted by extraneous details, or be wondering why a certain story didn't appear. (Although, if you think something should be in the paper, you should tell me so I can put it there.)

Those "extraneous" thoughts are for me. That's my job. My role is to create and lay out a newspaper that's visually and mentally appealing. A person should see the paper and unconsciously think, "That's the way it was always supposed to look."

It's an art to design something with the intention of, "This is how it was always supposed to be."

I enjoy it.
Speaking of enjoyment and life lessons, I heard these four life lessons today which I'd like to reflect on.

1. Happiness is not the absence of problems. It's the ability to deal with them.

Some weeks I feel like all I do is



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens
copyright © 2022 by Eli Lutgens

juggle problems at the newspaper. I like to say my favorite way to deal with problems is to work really, really hard not to make them. Well, that sounds like a foolproof plan now doesn't it?

Growing up, yes growing up—working at the newspaper, my first job was as an editorial assistant. It was my favorite job. Part of that role meant answering the phones. I can't remember how many people I helped in resolving a frustration. It was a challenge for me. I didn't have anything to lose, and really, I just wanted the person to be happy. I really wanted them to enjoy the newspaper: If they were upset enough to call, then something we, the newspaper did had upset them. In that moment it was my job to fix it. And, well, my dad was the boss, so I kind of felt like I could say or do whatever I wanted without really asking "permission." Whether I felt like we should forgive some cost of an ad, or update a subscription, or a myriad of other solutions, I did what I felt was correct.

I think I did a good job.

I learned a lot from those experiences and, really, the bad experiences/complaints are not nearly as frequent as they were back then. (My parents, who divorced when I was 1-year-old, started working together when I was 10. Before that my dad was a single parent of 3 raising a family and trying to run a business. You'll forgive him for not being perfect.) Let your imagination simmer on those experiences for a minute.

2. Feeling sad after making a decision doesn't mean it was the wrong decision.

Sometimes, in life, a person has to make difficult choices. I tend to think the best way to respond to any situation is with kindness. Just last week, I was presented with more than one situation, or opportunity, during which I could have reacted out of frustration or anger. Those would not have been the correct reactions. I slept on it. And for one decision, I waited an entire week. I prayed about it, and a few thoughts occurred to me.

"Turn the other cheek."

"I'm sorry."

"I'm going to be working with these folks in the community for a long time."

So I apologized in one instance and in the other, I told the person I want them to like the product, the newspaper we produce. In order to do so I suggested more communication. "Work together, not apart."

3. You're not stressed because you're doing too much. You're stressed because you're doing too little of what makes you feel most alive.

I think this lesson speaks for itself. I asked my editor Deb, the other day, if the happiness I still feel every week as I complete the newspaper will fade. She told me, "I don't think so. You put your heart and soul into it every week."

I've been putting newspapers together every week since I was 19.

This is year number 6. I still feel satisfied every time the newspaper goes to print. I like to say my ultimate goal is to put out a newspaper worth framing on a wall. As long as we continue to strive for that level, I think that happiness and satisfaction will continue.

4. The lesson you struggle with will repeat itself until you learn from it.

I think this is a universal truth. Addicts—and we all have our afflictions—come to mind. Smokers, alcoholics, etc. are obvious examples of this problem. Why do people struggle to change, to grow, to stop bad habits?

There are a lot of reasons.

For one, it's easy to continue to indulge in an addiction or bad habit. It feels good in the moment, even though it's destructive in the long run.

This is merely an observation. My circle of family and friends has certainly faced battles with addiction and mental health, among other things. It's part of the reason we try to highlight the struggle of mental health and addiction in the newspaper. I know how real those battles and afflictions are. When it comes to this topic, I'm definitely still learning, still searching for answers which will help. I look forward to continuing to share people's stories and, as often as possible, of their victories.

I guess you could say the fight, the search—the story continues for another day.

"Never regret being a good person to the wrong people. Your behavior says everything about you. And their behavior says enough about them." - unknown

P.S. - In the infamous words of Al Batt, You never know what someone is going through. Be kind.



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Bits and Pieces



by Dave Zika



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My depth finder lit up with fish

Annual physicals for senior citizens are a great, good health practice. I recently completed mine and left the clinic feeling good. Weight was just fine and blood pressure was great; still waiting for my blood test. When the nurse took my height, I became amazed at how fast I'm shrinking. I played basketball at 6' and now I'm standing tall at 5'10"; guess my dunking days are behind me.

My nurse was all about ice fishing and told me it had been a bad year fishing. She lives on French Lake and fishes on her lake and others in the area. She says the bite has been poor. Her family tries to eat fish once a week and that hasn't been happening this winter. I got back to my car feeling rejuvenated by the good news from my physical. I checked the weather forecast on my cell: highs in the 20s and little wind for three days. Time to go ice fishing! I walked into the house to a message from Denny Hofmeister inviting me to go fishing on Clear Lake—that's all it took for this old man to gather his gear and hit the ice. The bite was on!

Denny lives on the west side of Clear Lake and fishes it religiously four seasons a year. If you have any questions about the lake, Denny has the answers. I headed out from the south, Maplewood landing, and was a bit skeptical driving out with my Ford Edge. There was a free-way path plowed right out to Denny's portable, a bit bumpy but better than driving on Eighth Avenue.

Jerry Lewis, Denny's fishing partner, was camped right next to Denny in his own portable. They already had a hole down for me and all I had to do was unload my chair and fishing poles, put my depth finder in the hole, bait up, and start fishing. My preference is always to fish on the ice and enjoy winter weather. The chance to socialize while ice fishing truly completes my experience, so you can imagine how delighted I was when Jerry Johnson drove up, then, minutes later, Gary Seifert. I really enjoyed listening to the four fishermen share their treasury of information. All of them are experts who qualify for the ice fishing hall of fame. Jerry headed out to deeper water where he puts down thirty holes and locates suspended crappies. He began drilling holes with his six-inch DeWalt drill-powered auger about 50 yards away. Gary fishes crappies with only plastics and in the blink of an eye had caught a couple. He follows the crappies as they move. My technique is to sit with Denny and Jerry and fish in a hole for sunnies.

My depth finder lit up like a Christmas tree; my hole was filled with fish. For about two hours it was fish after fish, including a nice bass. The overall size was small, but I reeled in enough keepers for a meal. It appears Clear Lake will be healthy for years to come. The spot wasn't an accident; there were beds of green weeds below us in 14 feet of water.

Day two was a repeat, with many fish caught. The great thing about the bite was that fish were active during the day and we could exit the lake with daylight. On day three, Waldorf-area retired farmer Leroy Janike came over to fish with me. Leroy is in his 80s, but you'd never know it. We drove his pickup out into the same area as before. Since Leroy fishes from his front seat with the pickup door open, I put a hole down for him and he immediately caught a keeper crappie. I decided to let Leroy enjoy doing his thing while I went ahead and put down a series of holes for crappies; I kept one line in each hole. Fishing was excellent. My drag began to zing, line raced off my spool, and I knew I had a big one. I fought the fish for ten minutes and had it under the hole, tired and played out. It was so big that I couldn't get its head started in the hole. It finally made a last run and busted off my 6 lb. test leader, swimming away. Probably a big pike. How big? At least ten pounds. I'm grateful; that lunker provided me with another great fish story to tell for years to come. Leroy caught ten keeper fish for a family meal and headed home—a good two hours of fishing.

Time to close with an area fishing report.

Fountain Lake – Albert Lea: Fishing has been slow. The lake has a good population of walleyes and crappies.

German Lake: Crappies biting after dark in deep water. Most of the fish are 9-10 inches.

Lake Washington: The lake has a nice population of larger bluegills. The limit is 10. Crappies are running on the small side. Bakers Bay has slowed down and bluegills are being caught in 17 feet on the north end of the lake. Third point and the sand flat are giving up some walleyes.

Madison Lake: Crappies and bluegills are biting off the east side landing. Head for the church bar or clusters of houses. Crappies are biting after dark near the narrows.

Duck Lake: Crappies and sunnies are biting shallow; 7 ft of water.

Have a great day on the ice! Until next time: May your bobber go down—way down.

■ Adventure

from Page 2

From there we could see the cathedral (the only other interesting thing in Segovia) and the rest of the town. I have to say, it was very beautiful despite being cold.

Throughout the tour I was thrilled to actually be inside a castle. It reminded me of when I read that some places in Europe will pay people to live in a castle and maintain it, so they can preserve the history legacy of some of the old structures. It sounds kind of romantic, but I guess I'm not ready to go that far (if it even really happens).

Besides Segovia, my friends and I also took a Sunday trip to Salamanca. That was also fun, although again there wasn't much to do there besides seeing the cathedral (they're everywhere in Spain) and the museum. So we went to those in the morning and then when we thought we would maybe go shopping a bit in the main part of town in the afternoon. That's when we discovered how seriously Salamanca takes siestas. As we walked down the main street in the middle of the afternoon with shops on all sides, we were the only ones moving. All of the stores were closed,

leaving us with nowhere to go. Eventually we found a cool little park and sat there for a bit, waiting for things to open up. All we were able to find were a few restaurants or cafes, so we went to a restaurant known for its Spanish tapas, which I learned basically just means hors d'oeuvres. They were good, but we decided to visit a neat little Irish pub afterwards and there were two dogs there! They belonged to the bartender, and since we were the only customers there, we were able to give the dogs some love. It was great!

We had lots of fun in Salamanca, but since we had class on Monday we couldn't stay long. On Monday, we finally found a public library where we could access the internet instead of going to a cafe every time we needed to study or do homework. Funny enough, we didn't end up doing any homework but instead booked ear piercing appointments and a trip to Portugal in three weeks. I guess that's just what happens when you're in Spain and you don't feel like doing homework - you book trips to other countries.

My Determination: "Now is our time. It's our time to chase rainbows and build castles in the sky. It's our time to create a life that we love. Because someday, it will no longer be our time." - Shawn Anderson

■ Golf

from Page 1

reasons, "Covid was one of them, but I think the general interest just waned. We once had over 100 teams, but we felt this was the right moment to bring it back." The golf course itself was an excellent example of Minnesota ingenuity as sheets of ice and snow were carefully scraped, shoveled, and cleaned to form the "greens" while popcorn buckets, Tupperware, and even old gutters served as obstacles for the contestants. The hole on each golf course was created by an ice fishing auger.

Olivas explained how he prepared the space for the event. "I had a friend of mine who had a backhoe trailer with a blade attached so it wasn't too hard creating the lanes because the snow was still soft. Took about an hour and a half to do everything." Both Olivas and Nelson were thrilled with the turnout for the event; both floors of the Boathouse were filled with patrons while dozens of teams were out on the course. "I think the turnout is a bit bigger than the last few times we've done this because it's for a really good cause. We're happy people are here supporting Logan and his family."

In addition to the ice golf tournament, a silent auction featured a variety of goods, including a Nespresso coffee maker, a 28-inch fire pit, Taylor Made golf bags, a basketball signed by Timberwolves center Rudy Gobert, a baseball signed by Twins legend Harmon Killebrew, and a Golden Boy Henry .22 long rifle. Of the silent auction, Nelson said, "We all thought it would be a good idea to get local businesses involved and bring some more donations for the Nesset family."

One of the first teams out on the course were four young men who named their team Pole in Your Won, although one of the members noted that this "was actually a typo. It was supposed to be 'Pole in One.' I think they misheard us, but we went with it." Members of the young team were first to try out the course; despite



Top, Robin Maples with a Henry Rifle, a prize won by Andy Miller. Below are two of the many golfers competing for the top three places in the tournament on Saturday.

Photos by Jordan Carrillo

a rough start, the team finished strong and set the bar for the rest of the day.

After their round, group members agreed there were "rough patches during the start of it but I think overall as a team, we did pretty good." When asked what they would do if they came away among the top three teams and won a prize, the group members said the day wasn't about winning but "just having fun out there and giving back to our community to help Logan out."

Logan Nesset and his fiancé Jadyn watched the tournament unfold from a winter ATV. When

asked about how he felt about the turnout for the benefit, Nesset stated, "It looks great today; a lot of people out here despite the cold weather." Regarding the vehicle the family is hoping to purchase, he said, "We're looking to buy a truck with seats that come out so I can hop over the seat and ride or drive whenever I want." Nesset's pursuit of independence in spite of his condition is inspiring; but there were low points for him as he dealt with the long recovery period from his injuries. "Yeah, definitely some low points. I was in the ICU for almost four weeks trying to recover from surgery then inpatient

rehab for almost 7 weeks." Nesset hopes to retain some semblance of his independence with the purchase of the truck but knows he and his family's life is forever altered. "It's a huge change to our lives. It's very challenging. I try to stay positive and find new ways to do the things I used to be able to do."

For anyone who would like to donate, the Nesset family has set up an account in Logan's name at Keen Bank for monetary donations to him and his family or through Venmo @loganstrong-benefit.

In Brief

Hockey night at El Tequila set for Feb. 4

El Tequila on South State Street will be hosting a Waseca Hockey Night on Saturday, Feb. 4. Food and drink specials will be available starting at 4 p.m. From 7 to 10 p.m., live music will be provided by Los Tequileros. A cash raffle will be held, with the drawing set for 8:30 p.m.

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OBITUARIES

Daniel K. Nelson

Daniel Karl Nelson, age 65 of Waseca, died on the evening of Friday, January 27, 2023 at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester.

Dan was born on June 15, 1957 in Ely to parents Lester Nelson and Lillian Hicks. He went to Ely schools before continuing his education at Albert Lea Vo-Tech where he studied to become an electrician. On July 26, 1985 Dan married Connie Jean Suemnick at St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca. Through his working years Dan was employed as a machinist, factory worker, electrician, and most recently he was a truck driver. As a result of his trucking experience, an interesting talent of Dan's was that he could tell you the best restaurants throughout the country (including all the necessary exit numbers and directions). Known for many years to his friends and family as "Red", Dan enjoyed riding motorcycles, leatherworking, and tinkering with all kinds of engines.

Dan is survived by his wife of 37 years, Connie; two children, Heath Nelson and Emily (Michael Britton) Nelson; his mother, Lillian Hicks; and two siblings, Denise Ernst and Dianne Cram. He was preceded in death by his father, Lester Nelson and his brother,



Daniel Nelson

Dennis Nelson.

Daniel's family would like to thank all of the staff at Colony Court in Waseca and all employees throughout the Mayo Clinic Health System for the outstanding care that Dan has received throughout the years.

A public visitation will be held from 4-6 p.m. on Monday, February 6, 2023 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. A private family interment will take place at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca. dsfuneral.com

Donald James Wynnemer

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

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

Donald is survived by his children: Donna (Donald) Lelah of



Donald Wynnemer

Australia, Claire (Mike Phelps) Wynnemer of North Carolina, Mark Wynnemer of Tennessee, and Stacy (Jim) Vance of Waseca; six grandchildren; and six great grandchildren.

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

A Public Graveside Service will be held in the spring at Woodville Cemetery.

DSOfuneral.com

Talent at TEAM

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Editorial Assistant

Sixth-graders Jude Adams and Wyatt Partain served as emcees for TEAM Academy's school-wide Talent Show the afternoon of January 27. It takes a lot of courage to showcase one's talents in front of peers and family members, yet all twelve acts did just that.

Joseph Stencel wowed the audience with a magic trick. He had four pre-written cards crumpled on a desk in front of him, and asked TEAM paraprofessional Ashley Conley, in the role of assistant, to answer a series of questions. He then revealed his own cards, showing that he'd "read her mind,". All four answers were correct.

The first-grade class opened the show together, doing the "Wiggle Dance." Class members wiggled and danced together as the music called for different moves – until the track asked "Can you wiggle your eyebrows?", to which several students shook their heads "no." A smaller section of the first-grade class – Maridia McGuire, Georgia Courtney, Anthony Pickett, Ridley Pechacek, and Laney and Lacey Hertzog – performed to a second song, the Kidz Bop edition of "Whoomp, There It Is." Rounding out the dancers, fifth-grader Lexi Hanson performed a lyrical ballet dance of her own creation to the song "Lovely" by Billie Eilish and Khalid. Hanson dances at Just For Kicks in Waterville, where she recently had a recital.

There were four sets of singers in the show. Jemsslie Rugger and Daleyza Castillo sang "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?" from Disney's Frozen; Keira Holmgren, RJ Attenberger, and Miia Caballero sung a



TEAM Academy's first-grade class, including Joaquin Alvarez, Georgia Courtney, Delaney Hertzog, Lacey Hertzog, Maridia McGuire, Evelyn Nelson, Jason Oviedo, Jayson Palmer, Ridley Pechacek, Anthoney Pickett, Brantley Stenzel, and Emanuel Zetino move and groove to "The Wiggle Song."

Pioneer photo by Tristan Jensen



Fifth-grader Tennysen Rugger playing a trumpet solo.

Pioneer photo by Tristan Jensen

do-wap "Scooby Doo"; Kaylee Mondahl of Kindergarten sang a solo performance of "Meant to Be" by Bebe Rexhe and Florida Georgia Line. The sixth-grade class closed the show singing "The Duck Song," a goofy number about a duck in a corner store.

Solo instrumentalists made up four of the entries. Keira Holmgren, fifth grade, played a piece by Bach on her clarinet; Wanli Chen of fourth grade played "Ancient Nations" on piano; Lucas Negrete, third grade, played "Waltz Time" on piano; and Tennyson Rugger of fifth grade played



Lexi Hanson, fifth-grade, strikes a pose during her dance number.

Pioneer photo by Tristan Jensen

"Hot Cross Buns" on trumpet. At the end of the show, Adams, a trumpeter himself, went off-script as emcee to

tell the audience, "I cannot play the trumpet like that," in response to Rugger's performance.

■ Level

from Page 1

ports. "They're all in tough shape."

According to information shared by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, anything below 3 parts per million (ppm) of oxygen is too low to support fish life, and is likely to result in a "fish kill." Fish can survive on 3-5 ppm for a short time. Levels of 6 ppm support spawning, and "abundant" fish life becomes viable at 9 ppm and above.

As can be seen by the chart published with this article, Loon Lake in Waseca had 10 ppm of oxygen near the surface on December 28, and 6.5 ppm closer to the bottom. In less than a month, however, levels fell dramatically, despite aeration units having been operational since early January.

The story is much the same in Lake Crystal's two lakes. Both have aerators, and both have falling levels of oxygen. To Klug's confusion,

back on January 18, Lake Crystal's Loon Lake had fairly strong oxygen levels (although they've been falling), while Crystal Lake had less than 1 ppm—even though the lakes are connected to one another.

"My objective in sharing this information is to provide the public with accurate information about developments in shallow lakes," says Klug.

As is well known, shallow lakes are at higher risk of "freezing out" than deeper ones. But the reasons are more complex than "simple logic" might dictate.

"At least in a way, telling people we don't know is being accurate," he jokes.

Deeper lakes, he explains, have strata of water levels which maintain certain temperature ranges. This tends to limit the amount of exchange that occurs between layers.

Shallow lakes, on the other hand, experience what's known as "rolling." Thunderstorms, heavy rain, and other atmospheric conditions which deliver colder water on top of the warmed lake water cause the

cooler water to sink to the bottom and send the water from near the bottom of the lake upward. During the exchange, nutrients released from the soil near the bottom migrate to the top. This wider distribution of nutrients leads to a much different biosphere from that found in deeper lakes.

When it comes to the "state of the biologics" in the water, Klug says, "We learn something every time we go out." He plans to continue collecting data on these shallow lakes in hopes of enriching his understanding of what can be done to protect them.

In the meantime, as dismal as the low oxygen numbers may seem to be, Klug points out that nature often defies prediction. For example, Waseca's Loon Lake had experienced a fish kill during the 2021-22 winter. Yet, while fishing there this past summer, he caught fish which were too large to have reached their size in a single season, and thus were at least two years old.

Speaking of "defying prediction," readings from the two lakes without aerators (Elysian and Eagle), do not

always differ much from those which have them, even though the readings are taken close to the open water created by the aerators on the other three.

Klug recommends that readers curious about the status of any certain lake can make use of a tool provided by the DNR which provides a "health" rating and selected data for most Minnesota Lakes. The tool can be found at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/what/about/watershed-reports.html>.

He comments that the tool may be valuable to others who are beginning to take an interest in some of the questions he's been studying for the past 7 years. Truly understanding the biologics of a lake, he comments, is as complex as trying to build an apple from its many components, from submicroscopic structure to flavor and texture.

"But that doesn't mean we can't make a difference," he says. "We've made some very valuable progress, and we're taking the steps we need to make even more."

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Council vacancy filled by Ferguson

Martens to continue as administrator

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

During the New Richland City Council's second meeting of the month on Monday, Jan. 23, city administrator Tony Martens requested the withdrawal of his resignation from his position with the city, submitted in early January, due to the offer of employment to Martens from the Waseca County Sheriff having been rescinded. The council accepted the withdrawal of Martens's resignation with a 3-1 vote, allowing Martens to continue as city administrator.

Three letters of interest were received for the vacant council seat left by Chad Neitzel following his election as mayor - Pat Darcy, Mike Shurson, and Janda Ferguson. With a unanimous vote, the council approved the appointment of Ferguson to the open council seat. Ferguson will be sworn in at the next council meeting.

In the care center report, presented by administrator Bob Johannsen, it was stated that the center saw a census decline in December due to a number of residents passing away in a 10-day time frame. The census at the time of the meeting was at 35, or 77.7%, and as a result staffing hours have been reduced slightly until Feb. 1 in order to cut costs. A Covid outbreak occurred following the Christmas holiday, with two staff and two residents testing positive in December; at the time of the council meeting, the center had no Covid cases.

A sewer line break that occurred around Christmas was discussed, and following staff complaints Johannsen had contacts with the local chief of police, the state, and a survey team that visited the center to ensure proper measures were taken to resolve the problem. It was found that everything was done correctly following the sewer line break.

The center continues to work on recruitment, with tentative plans for events in the future in the hopes of bringing in new employees. December financials were not complete at the time of the meeting, though the information available did show a financial loss due to three payrolls in December, the

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

loss of nine residents, agency staffing, and low Medicare A numbers. "Hopefully January is going to turn around a little better," said Johannsen, noting that, at the time of the meeting, agency staffing had been reduced and the center saw a higher number of Medicare residents.

The center is still in need of advisory board members - up to five - and is looking for "people that have the frame of mind to make the community better." Requirements for advisory board members, who typically serve a two-year term, include: living within ten miles of New Richland and not being an employee of the care center. The report was approved.

The PeopleService report, submitted in written form, was approved before the water and streets report was presented by Eric Hendrickson. Three purchase requests were approved: a load of salt and sand at a cost of \$1,137.50, street paint at a cost of \$1,671.97, and side brooms and a main broom for the sweeper at a cost of \$882. A request to hire Tim's Trucking for snow removal services as needed during the absence of Hendrickson from Feb. 10-18 at a cost of \$115/hour was also approved, along with the report.

In new business, 2022 financials were approved, with the report showing that the city went over budget by \$80,000 - mainly due to unexpected maintenance costs - but had \$117,000 extra revenue. Lifeguards and concessions at St. Olaf Lake were discussed, with the hope that last year's difficulty in finding lifeguards will not be repeated this year. It was noted that a new training program is being used that should make the lifeguard training process easier, and the idea of reaching out to Geneva to discuss the possibility of sharing lifeguards between the cities was not opposed by the council.

Resolution 23-01, amending the master fee schedule, was approved along with accounts payable and the administrator's report. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Beauty

from Page 1

Wadd performed a monologue with Hudson Miller doing sign language to an Elvis Presley song.

After Miss South Dakota Outstanding Teen Olivia Odenbrett sang "Weight of My Love" by Lewis Capaldi, it was the Miss candidates' turn to show off their talents. They were as unique as the teens, with Amanda Schmidt and Bailie Thom performing a color guard routine, Caylie Blowers playing the piano, Jasmin Kotek performing a dance, Kayla Mabe and Lydia Jagodzinski singing, Alexis Cran playing the viola, and Jady White giving a presentation on the different types of cows.

Miss Minnesota 2022 Rachel Evangelisto and the 2022 Waseca County Princesses then gave a self-defense presentation, followed by Evangelisto demonstrating her talent which she claimed was "commonly mistaken for a dance."

After a brief intermission, the visiting royalty was asked to gather on stage. Eleven Waseca County Princesses were then crowned.

Miss Minnesota Outstanding Teen Julia Schumacher followed that up with a dance routine which helped her win the award.

The last events of the night were the teens wearing an evening gown and answering a random question from a judge with the 2023 candidates getting a "red carpet" to show off their gowns. The coronation capped off the night.

Along with being crowned, each royalty member received a package which included a scholarship, a week at Miss Minnesota (Outstanding Teen for the teens), a Dale Carnegie Training Package, a photo package from Makayla Rae Photography, hair and makeup from Cassie's Classic Cuts, the sash and crown with a crown box and crown pin, a 15 percent discount for an evening gown at the Pageant Shop, a "Team Waseca" jacket, and flowers. Scholarships for the Miss candidates were \$1,000 while the teen candidates earned a \$500 scholarship.

Special thanks were given to Cyd Mark and Katherine Majkrzak for ticket sales, Molly Kopischke for the pageant night photos, and Chuck and Anna Pollock for being the sound and light crew for the event.

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14 teams compete at Waseca jamboree

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

The Waseca boys' hockey jamboree was a great success this past Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 28 and 29. From 8 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Waseca's Community Arena had two games going on at a time.

Fourteen 8U and "mite" teams from around the area took part in the jamboree. Austin had three teams; Northfield, Waseca, and Minnesota River/Le Center each fielded two teams. Other schools that participated were Farmington, Lakeville, New Prague, New Ulm, and Owatonna. Some teams were all boys, some included both girls and boys.

The ice was split in half with a barrier to allow two games to be played at once. Teams played 20-minute periods of hockey with a few minutes of break in between, totaling about 45 minutes on the ice. Unlike typical games, the clock kept rolling with the line change every few minutes at the whistle.

Some teams didn't have a goalie. In place of a goalie were two tires, one laid down on its side in front of the net and another standing.

During the noon hour on Saturday, all fourteen teams in the jamboree participated in a penguin slide competition.

One fan made a sign for a special Austin goaltender, while another parent takes a video of one of three Austin hockey teams facing Northfield.

Sports memorabilia ranging from a signed Kirill Kaprizov jersey to a photo of Fran Tarkenton were on silent auction near the concession stands. Right, an Austin Packer chases down a Northfield Raider entering the neutral zone. Bottom right, Austin's goalie proved he was no chicken when making this great save. Photos by Michael Roy

Little Theatre scholarship opportunities

Little Theatre of Owatonna (LTO) is proud to announce it is seeking eligible candidates for its 2023 Veta Alexander LTO Scholarship(s). Graduating high school students in Steele County who have been accepted at an accredited two- or four-year college for a full-time course of study and have experience and interest in the performing arts are eligible.

Recipients are selected based on theatre involvement, academic record, community participation,

leadership qualities, and school activities.

Details and forms for the application can be found on the Little Theatre of Owatonna website, <http://littletheatreofowatonna.org>, and are available from the county's local school guidance counselor/career center. Two recommendations are also required and should be sent directly to the Scholarship Chairperson at the listed address. All application components should be

postmarked by Friday, April 7, 2023.

Announcements and notification regarding the scholarship recipients will be made in May. Recipient(s) will be celebrated, and the scholarship(s) will be presented at awards ceremonies later in the school year at the appropriate schools(s) and at the opening night of LTO's summer production, Miss Nelson is Missing, Friday, June 16, 2023.

Little Theatre of Owatonna is committed to providing opportuni-

ties and incentives for youth in the Owatonna area to explore the dramatic arts. Over \$60,000 has been awarded to over 150 Steele County high school graduates since the scholarship's inception in 1969. Questions regarding this scholarship should be directed to Gaylene Steckelberg, LTO Scholarship Chairperson, P.O. Box 64, Owatonna, MN 55060.

Miracle

from Page 1

news that he was in the intensive care unit. His kidneys were shutting down—a complication from radiation and chemotherapy he received while battling pancreatic cancer.

Vulcan asked whether he needed a kidney and Wayne said, "Maybe."

"I told him if he needed a kidney I would get tested and see if it was possible for me to give him one," Vulcan remembered. "I also reminded him we are the same blood type."

Last August Vulcan started the necessary procedures at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. The steps were numerous, but three main blood tests were used to determine whether the two of them were a compatible donor/recipient match.

1. Blood type (check)
2. Tissue type
3. Cross-matching

In addition to the long shot that all the factors will fall in line, a kidney donor must be in good physical and emotional health. So alongside the above tests, Vulcan had to undergo a physical and several interviews with psychologists and social workers.

"The process is very thorough," Vulcan recalls. "But I look back to

a person in my life who donated a kidney to a complete stranger. At the time I thought, 'I'd totally do that.'

"The Mayo Clinic team provided a fantastic support system and advocate team."

Because the chances of a match are so slim, Vulcan also prepared herself for a "donation chain," a series of events in which the donation of her kidney to another potential match could result in another person donating their kidney for Billing.

"If it meant Wayne could receive a kidney, I was willing to do it," Vulcan said.

In November Vulcan received a call from Rochester notifying her that she was, against the odds, a match.

"I remember crying when I heard the news," Vulcan expressed. "I was overwhelmed with joy."

And then Vulcan was told she was the person who would get to deliver the news to Billing.

So, together, on Jan. 17 the pair arrived at Mayo Clinic in Rochester for preoperative exams. They shared a meal together that evening and mentally prepared for their operation.

The next day, in adjoining rooms the kidney transplant operation was performed successfully.

In the weeks since, the two are recovering well.

In the coming months, Billing

"I guess you could call it a little miracle."

— SaraJo Vulcan

will have many follow-up appointments and, for Vulcan, she will be on medication the rest of her life, in addition to paying careful attention to her diet.

If not for Vulcan, it could have taken five years for a stranger to donate a suitable kidney.

"The story isn't about me," Billing reminds those who ask. "The story is SaraJo.

"I look forward to quality years as a grandfather to Jacob (5) and

Calmi (2). I look forward to more adventures with my wife Jean."

The couple have planned a European cruise in 2024.

As for SaraJo, her only request from Wayne was a unique one—matching forearm tattoos to forever remember the bond they share.

"I've never had a tattoo, nor did I ever plan to get one," Billing chuckles. "I'm extremely fortunate for a friend like SaraJo, and the gift of life she's bestowed."

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Grade 8: Jacob Harguth, Lauren Holmseth, Kaylie Morrissey, Kimberly Ochoa, and Violet Rohwer.

Grade 9: Slade Barnett, Paige Dufault, Layla Keith, Alyssa Kilmer, Kaylee Lawson, Vivian Mader, Corrick Medina, Pearl Moore, Logan Reger, Jaide Schafer, Sadie Schimming, Andres Vasquez-Neigebauer, and Ellery Waldron.

Grade 10: Adian Androli, Nathanael Andrs, Kendall Bowers, Sophie Chawra, Jack Chen, Collin Dettmer, Tanner Hanson, Brayden Hoof, Lexi Kanewischer, Izaac Kehler, Sierra Krause, Siri Kuhns, Lucia Mansfield, Elizabeth Manthe, Hazel Moore, Lily Owens, Addison Pfeifer, Tauston Rupe, Nevaeh Sampson, Ines Sanchez, Kenzie Sandborg, Kalea Sartori, Leah Scheffert, Cody Weber, and Luke Yoder.

Grade 11: Alex Anhorn, Sage Barnett, Lylah Bauman, Noah Dahle, Eduardo Gallegos, Daniel Kohler, Ella Krautkremer, Alison Mumme, Evelyn O'Brien, Ava Omtvedt, Norah SChimming, Trista Stinehart, Noah Thompson, Lucas Vasquez-Neigebauer, Addison Wieseler, Isabelle Wilhelmli, and Lilianne Wulf.

Grade 12: Kyle Ahlschlager, Ashley Barrientos, Maia Bartelt, Logan Bultman, Katrina Duciaume, Joseph Feldkamp, Jacari Jellum, Megan Kanewischer, Jacob Kehler, William King, Lindsey Kopetzki, McKenna Miller, Christian Rodriguez, Stormie Schmidt, Haylee Sommers, Reagan Thompson, Kloe Wadd, and Ethan Yeater-Crosby.

A Honor Roll

Grade 7: Wyatt Arndt, Armaan Bhatti, Ashley Fliflet, Brier Hayes, Oriana Jewison, Aydan Kath, Jack Kelly, Charley Kietzman, Ty Krautkremer, Mya Lynch, Allison Mader, Max Malouff, Dominik Marquez, Khloe Nelson, Gavin Reger, Reese Rodriguez, Claire Roemhildt, Mandy Root, Patsy Sandoval, Asha Sharif, Oscar Slattery, Megan Thursday, and Addison Zimmerman.

Grade 8: Brandon Bartz, Madelynn Benzick, Makya Donovan, Noelle Drake, Brody Dufault, Zoey Dunn, Addison Epper, Isabella Garza, Josie Hagre, Colby Hoof, Megan Hudak, Henry Huttemier, Trey Jenzen, Abigail Lapidès, Cash Larson, Josi-Ann Mann, Taylor Markeson, Nolan McQuery, Coy Miller, Tristan Nelson, Isaac Pfeifer, Owen Rupe, Otto Schoenrock, Tucker Thompsen, Savanna Vagts, Katelyn Weber.

Grade 9: Brooklyn Anderson, Natalie Berndt, Maximus Bodenweiser, Ava Bruhn, Ella Bulfer, Alexis Claybaugh, Lauren Drexler, Khloe Fuller, Lauren Grant, Kody Hess, Hannah Heusinkveld, Ethan Hiller, Haley Kahnke, Tailyn Kaput, Allen Kopetzki, Blake Langager, Madilyn Larrabee, Jolee Larson, William Mansfield, Dakotah Marik, Mia Mitchell, Remy Murphy, Catherine Olson, Chloe Roemhildt, Lilianna Sanchez, Hannah Teague, and Caleb Wulf.

Grade 10: Hunter Anderson, Caden Danner, Emma Donnay, Callie Dufault, Jakub Eull, Brooklyn Flatau, Lucas Groll, Aiden Groskreutz, Benjamin Hagen, Karley Hamilton-Knopf, Jennifer Hernander-Verde, Brayden Hesch-Priem, Tyler Jellum, Ashton Jenzen, Melanie Krueger-Eineke, Jaya Kunkel, Emily LeMieux, Natalie Loeffler, Camily Marquez, Lucas McQuery, Oz Meyman, Jacob Mlenek, Gracie Morgan, Esme Pearce, Miguel Rocha, Levi Root, Damarius Russell, Katlyn Schueler, Takara Slattery, Aliyah Taylor, Jackson Tesch, Solomon Wilson, Maxwell Wirtz, Henri Wobschall, and Kendra Young.

Grade 11: Jack Anderson, Charlie Androli, Grace Below, Cecelia Bjerke, Mallory Bruhn, Jose Cruz, Quinn Dahle, Ahmed Farooq, Tegan Flatau, Emily Gordon, Tristin Gross, Dominic Grunzke, Grace Guritz, Sarah Haley, Kadynce Hansen, Mason Jes, Emma Keith, Hannah LaCroix, Kaelyn Larabee, Haydn Lynch, Josie Madson, Preston Miller, Jose Mixteco, Andrew Robran, Oliver Rohwer, Cameron Stagman, Charlotte Stelich, Ethan Stenzel, Paige Swenson, Zachary Theobald, Cherilyn Thissen, and Jacob Thompson.

Grade 12: Joseph Adamek, Emma Allen, Joshua Azure, Samantha Azure, Ella Bartelt, Brenden Brown, Ethan Davis, Ella Dufault, Joel Frye, Payton Garza, Jaydyn Gaul, Aubree Hansen, Ava Hansen, Alexander Honstad, Cierra Ingalls, Eva Keck, Samantha Kopecky, Sophia Krause, Griffin Krautkremer, Thyme Lang, Brace Lapidès, Avery Madsen, Madelyn Malechyn, Jacqlyn Mathern, Maximillian Neaves, Oliver O'Brien, Tyson Reger, Sara Robbins, Kaleb Robeck, Britney Ross, Riley Ruedy, Jayme Sandbeck, Kiana Sands, Ella Sexton, Isaac Sipe, Piper Srp, Hannah Thurstale, Abbey Titus, Kelsey Tobon, Josie Von Bank, and Krie Walker.

B Honor Roll

Grade 7: Amiyah Benson, Charley Castro, Mack Eaton, Olivia Eaton, Ashlynn Eldeen, Kavita Ewest, Mailee Gilmore, Kelly Hernandez-Verde, LLagaya Howe, Calvin Kahnke, Kellen Klinger, Sophia Larson, Davin Lenz, Tyler Loewen, Landan Madsen, Kaylee Matz, Archer O'Brien, Lillian Petersen, Aleaha Petty, Mason Prescher, Madalynn Root, Hannah Rugger, Peyton Sommers, and Ava VanDen-Hemel.

Grade 8: Alexandria Barnes, Cory Bartz, Sophie Benson, Alexander Breck, Lucas Danner, Ilamay Draheim, Ryleigh Ebnet, Chelsia Eneboe, Melody Galle, Anya Gaona, Kallen Glynn, Amber Hager, Corbin Hanna, August Hansen, Eryn Harrison, Carson Harter, Berkly Hinna, Elli Hoban, Owen Honstad, Kasey Ibarra, Tatyana Johnson, Landon Lewer, Angelica Lopez, Amilya Lynch, Blake McElligott, Fushen Mei, Belle Miller, Jesse Miller, Emily Mymme, Braiden Nelson, Mia Nesenson, Gahvin Nowacki, Gavin O'Brien, Stella Omtvedt, Trenna Peterson, Daniel-J'kei Petty, Titan Rahe, Josephine Ross, Savanna Schlueter, Fynlee Srp, Jesalyn Weise, Alexa Welander, Owen Wieseler, Zachary Wilhelmli, and Jonah Worke.

Grade 9: Brianna Avalos, Andrew Bartelt, Brooke Bartelt, Teagan Collier, Miya DeRaad, Kelsey Draeger, Wyatt Hager, Dylan Hansen, Aaliyah Hayes, Sophia Hillsman, Jordan Johnston, Nathan Kaiser, Jayden Mann, Madilynn Meyer, Riley Mitchell, Madison Rasche, Madison Roessler, Jett Rohl, Jacob Root, Deron Russell, Paola Sandoval-Plego, Wyatt Schroeder, Amin Sharif, Kaiya Stagman, and Joan Victorino.

Grade 10: Reed Anderson, Andrick Balderas, Ryley Bartz, Alexis Brinkman, Elias Crosby, Kelin Cruz-Hernandez, MaLanie Engel-Mueller, Avery Gaul, Liam Hagre, Angelica Hernandez, Ellie Hoehn, Emma Ibarra, Mia Kanewischer, Addison Kelm, Gabriela Lopez, Mason Matz, Kyle McGuire, Katlyn McMurphy, Kaiden Miller, Carlie Mondahl, Aayu Patel, Keegan Peterson, Erik Radke, Katelyn Robeck, Ashley Sanchez-Plegio, John Schulz, Aiden Shoemaker, Ezra Skains, Arianna Theobald, Zoie Thompson, Molly Volovsek, Mason Wadd, Nicholas Waldron, Owen Wilder, and Karissa Yerhot.

Grade 11: Conner Britton, Charles Cariveau, Samantha Corr, Seth Eaton, Allie Eldeen, Carter Ellis, Nathaniel Engel-Mueller, Shane Engel-Mueller, Makenzi Ferch, Lola Guggisberg, Cyrus Guse, McKyla Hasselquist, Samuel Hyland, Gaige Johnson, Thomas Mens, Elijah Miller, Olivia Oestreich, Isabel Olson, Lily Peterson, Daniel Ramirez-Sotelo, Stacy Reyna, Amanda Riecke, Salvador Rivera, Carter Roemhildt, Clarissa Seeley, Caitlin Slattery, Joshua Teachout, Sabastian Teague, and Cody Vagts.

Grade 12: Lucas Androli, Hussain Brown, Corbin Connors, Veronica De La Fuente, Jayde Donovan, Mason Droog, Adam Eustice, Sophie Farris, Hannah Fordham, Olivia Grye, Jakib Godtland, Kami Hager, Leo Harguth, Abbie Hermel, Torrence Jeno, Arianna Krogseng, Nathan Markeson, Elizabeth Mortensen, Colton Muntean, Ava Norland, Brooklyn O'Malley, Ruwelda Osobie, Caliann Owens, Nolan Prescher, Addison Sampson, Cole Schultz, Korbin Schumacher, Kaleigh Skinner, Kedrik Volkmann, Timothea Volkmer, and Joshua Wright.

Students of the month

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Editorial Assistant

TEAM Academy announced its January Students of the Month during a monthly assembly last Friday. January's students accepted their awards (a balloon, a ring pop, and a coupon for free ice cream) in comfort and style, since the January CARES assembly coincided with the school's "Pajama Day."

Sixth-grade student Carter Wernimont's favorite school subject is math, and for fun he likes to play video games. He says if he saw someone struggling, he'd start by asking them what was wrong and listening to their trouble. Fifth-grader Bryan Vega also enjoys math and video games; his favorite animal is the cheetah because of its ability to run fast. Joannamarie Hitchcock was the fourth-grade student of the month. Her favorite part of school is getting to see her friends; her favorite food is nachos. She'd help someone out by making them laugh, and wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up so she can save animals. Third-grader Alayna Gifford says her favorite part of school is "FunFest," the weekly celebration TEAM Academy holds on Friday afternoons. Her favorite color is blue, and she'd like to be a gymnast. She says she'd offer to be someone's friend if

Team of the Month



TEAM Academy announced its January Students of the Month during a monthly assembly last Friday. January's students accepted their awards (a balloon, a ring pop, and a coupon for free ice cream) in comfort and style, since the January CARES assembly coincided with the school's "Pajama Day." Above, from left: Laney Hertzog, Joannamarie Hitchcock, Alayna Gifford, Bryan Vega, Carter Wernimont, and Tavius Johnson
Pioneer photo by Tristan Jensen

she saw them on their own or sad. First-grade student Laney Johnson's favorite thing about school is the pajama party they had, and she also likes to read. When she grows up,

she says she wants to be a teacher. Tavius Johnson was the kindergarten student of the month. His favorite thing about school is reading, he likes turtles, and when he grows up

he says he'd like to be a police officer.

Kenya Solis, second-grade student of the month, was not present to receive recognition.

'I love to read' all month long

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Editorial Assistant

February is "I Love to Read Month", a long-established tradition popular with schools and libraries throughout North America. The purpose of I Love to Read Month is to celebrate and foster a love of reading at all ages, and this tradition is being observed in many ways .throughout Waseca.

At Hartley Elementary, each Wednesday in February is a "dress-up" day. The school's theme for the celebration is "I scream, you scream, we all scream for reading!" Thus, each of the dress-up days has been chosen to follow that theme. On Wednesday, Feb. 1, with thanks to the Waseca Area Foundation for the grant from the John Priebe Education Fund, Minnesota children's author David LaRochelle will give a presentation to the students in the school's media center. To prepare, classes have been reading LaRochelle's books. On Feb. 15, high school students will be visiting to read with students; on Feb. 22 students will get a chance to reunite with their teacher from last

school year, while the kindergarten students get to meet third-grade teachers and see the school's lower level. Throughout the month, classes will also have reading challenges to meet, such as "read a book published the year your teacher was born," "read a book that is a Caldecott winner," "read a book that takes place in another country," and "read a book that makes you laugh out loud." The goal of the various challenges, according to media specialist Gwen Krueger, is to help the students connect with books they might not otherwise read. Each time a set of students completes a challenge, they'll add a scoop of ice cream to the display on their classroom door. As groups reach fifteen scoops, they'll be added to a large display in the hallway and get a pass to a special event taking place March 3. On that day, a staff member has agreed to become a "human sundae," and students from all classes who completed their challenges will get to cover them in ice cream toppings.

At the Waseca Intermediate School, media director Joey Wollen-

burg is organizing a program to encourage reading for the fourth year in a row. As part of his program, tickets are given during the month of February to students who are "caught reading" outside of designated times. Those "I caught you reading" tickets are entered into a special raffle; the winner gets a chance to style Wollenburg's hair. He grows it out starting in September to give the winning student plenty to work with, and his sister, owner of a salon comes to assist. She brings her tools and gives the student stylist a mini-lesson on how to use them before setting them loose on Wollenburg's head. In past years, he's been rendered bald, received a Mohawk, and had sunglasses shaved into the back of his head. The winner's class gets to watch in person, while the rest of the school can view a livestream of the event. This year, the styling will take place on March 7.

TEAM Academy held a kick-off event the afternoon of Jan. 31 to announce their I Love to Read Month activities to students. The month will have the theme "Monsters Univer-

sity," after the Pixar feature, so members of staff on the "blue" and "green" teams competed to run an obstacle course as if they were taking part in the "Scare Games" from the film in order to get kids excited. Superintendent Jill Courtney then announced what would be taking place all month. Every student will receive a specially-made Monsters University ID badge, and based on their reading at home can "level up" to earn monstrous prizes. The top five readers of the month will receive gift certificates for the book fair, and the top two classes will win an ice cream party. Every Thursday will be a dress-up day; throughout the month there will be school-wide "drop everything and read" (DEAR) time – when a song from Monsters, Inc. plays over the intercom, students will get to stop whatever they're doing–no matter what it is–and take time to read. Another special event will be a TEAM Academy choir performance during a family night scheduled for Feb. 23.

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Argus ‘Is sold’ - 25 years ago

100 years ago - 1923

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

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

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

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

75 years ago - 1948

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

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

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

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

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

50 years ago - 1973

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

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

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

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

25 years ago, 1998

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

-Trinity Lutheran School, Janesville, recently received \$5,300 from Lutheran Brotherhood through the Member Matching Gift program. The latest payment matches 53 gifts from Lutheran Brotherhood members made during the fourth quarter of 1997. Lutheran Brotherhood's Primary Partners program matches members' gifts of \$25 to \$100 per year to Lutheran elementary and preschools nationwide. Since the beginning of the Primary Partners gift program in 1987, \$42,359 has been received by Trinity Lutheran School.

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

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

Waseca history

Waseca County News, 1998

-After 64 years of going to school every day whether it was raining, snowing, or the sun was shining, Milt Clemons has decided to retire. He has not been attending class that long. Clemons and his wife, Winn, have been responsible for getting the students of the Waseca School District to and from school as safely as possible for the last 52 years. The Clemons have sold their bus business to their son Mike and his wife Beth effective Jan. 1.

-There is a new industry coming to town but it is not going to employ any new Wasecans. The Federal Correctional Institute (FCI) through its UNICOR program will start manufacturing shorts for the military beginning this summer. An 18,000 square foot manufacturing facility is still being built on the grounds. The construction began in June and is expected to be finished in early April. An accompanying 10,000 square foot warehouse built for UNICOR will be finished in mid-February.

-Originally from the Winnebago area, Don Robertson has moved from rural life to being a financial advisor. Robertson began full-time at American Express Financial Advisors, Inc. on Nov. 19. Robertson said American Express is known for its three independent subdivisions; the credit card company, travel services, and financial advising. All three of these areas are nationally recognized said Robertson. "We're doing great nationwide."

-The Waseca boys' basketball win streak came crashing down with a thud last weekend. The Bluejays not only saw their six-game streak come to an end, but blew a golden opportunity to move to the top of the South Central Conference as well. Waseca missed 11 of 15 free throws in the final quarter and turned the ball over 34 times in falling to St. Peter for the second time this year at home. St. Peter's two wins over the Jays are its lone two conference victories this season.

Waseca Journal, 1973

-Robert Fowler, Mankato, has accepted the position of Manager at the Big Swede Drive-in, north of Waseca on Highway 13. Fowler has been managing the drive-in for three weeks. He is filling the position left open by former manager Charles Bengston. Bengston managed the drive-in for eight months before accepting a position as the manager of

Country Kitchen in Hutchinson.

-The University of Minnesota Technical College-Waseca may have a housing problem for students in the near future. What could be done to solve the problem before it occurs was discussed last night at a special meeting at UMW. Student numbers are coming along faster than projected, Dr. Ed Frederick said, as other college enrollments are going down. He said the enrollments at Waseca and Crookston are rising because they are "practical" colleges. Enrollment has been expanding at the college and projections for the next 10 years show more expansion going from 131 students in the fall of 1971 to an expected 1,000 in 1981.

-The Bluejay wrestling squad had to fight for its life for a come-from-behind 22-18 win over New Richland Tuesday night on the Jays' home mat. The Bluejays started out like they would run away with the Cardinals at 13-0, but then the Cards took over in the heavier weights and took an 18-16 lead with two matches remaining only to lose both to the Jays.

-Vern Dahl, owner of Waseca Graphics announced the sale of his commercial printing business to a Minneapolis man Wednesday afternoon. William A. Butzler, president of the Barnes Printing Company and his partner, Ronald L. Ruehling, purchased the business Dec. 1. There will be no changes in the business with the exception of five employees instead of three. Dahl will be employed as the manager. Butzler is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and the Dunwoody Industrial Institute. He has a background in various print shops on machinery ranging from small duplicators to large four-color web presses. Butzler, his wife and two children will be moving to Waseca in a few months. Partner and Vice President Ruehling will remain in Minneapolis to manage the Barnes Quik Print Company.

Waseca Herald, 1948

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

-O. R. Cochran, New Richland High School agriculture teacher, has been appointed state supervisor of



Milt and Winn Clemons have sold their bus company to their son, Mike and his wife, Beth. Milt and Winn founded Clemons Bus Lines in 1946. Pictured, from left: Mike, Beth, Winn, and Milt.



Winemaking is a big hobby in the Greeney home. Howard and Lucille have been making homemade wine for over a year. There are 15 different kinds of wine in the cellar. Shown here is one rack.

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

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

-The March of Dimes drive for

funds which supports the National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis received an extra push this week with the report that a 14-year-old boy at Ellendale was suffering with polio and is now at the Sister Kenny Institute. He is Ardell Anderson, a freshman in the Ellendale High School. Suffering from what was thought to be the flu, he was taken to the institute when his trouble was diagnosed as polio. The case is unusual since polio does not often strike in the winter months.

Waseca Herald, 1923

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

A jinx 75 years ago

25 Years Ago – The New Richland Star, January 29, 1998

- The Panther girls added another couple of games to their win column last week. They defeated Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 46-36, January 20 and claimed their contest with Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, 55-44, Friday. They have won 11 consecutive games, seven in the Gopher conference.

- Another year, another FFA Wildlife Contest and another New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva FFA Wildlife Judging team has earned the right to enter State Wildlife Judging competition in St. Paul in April. The local team placed first in the Region VII contest with 1800, out-judging their closest competitor by 125 points. This marks the 32nd year that the local judging team has earned the opportunity to bring home the first place plaque in statewide wildlife judging competition. Mentor and coach for the past 32 years has been Lee Mendenhall, local agriculture technology instructor. Once in those 32 years, a local team brought the first place plaque home from the state contest. This year they will strive to accomplish that feat again.

- Because of the struggle the New Richland Area Women of Today are experiencing in recruiting members to build this chapter, the District 17 chapters are adding support. Members are needed to keep the New Richland Chapter alive. There is certain criteria a chapter has to meet to be a part of the Minnesota Women of Today organization and one of those is membership.

50 Years Ago – The New Richland Star, February 8, 1973

- The New Richland-Hartland high school instrumental music program will be held at the New Richland high school auditorium Sunday, beginning at 4 p.m. Under the direction of Lowell Schwalbe, instrumental instructor and Mrs. Sharon Faust, C

band director. A pre-concert program will begin at 3:45 p.m., with the stage band playing a prelude which will include 'Sentimental Journey', arranged by Mason; 'Dominique', arranged by Bradford and 'Walk Wild' by Jim Caudill. Admission to the concert is free and everyone is urged to attend.

- The first pickup of garbage in the residential area of the village of New Richland will be Thursday, February 8, and then every Thursday, unless Thursday comes on a holiday. Persons may obtain their bags at the village hall and will pay their \$2.25 at that time.

- Almost 1,000 residents of Waseca county enjoyed stacks of pancakes and sausages at 4-H suppers in New Richland, Waldorf, Janesville and Waseca last Thursday evening. New Richland and Waldorf ran short of supplies but were able to keep serving through the helpfulness of local merchants.

- Pastor Herbert Loddings will speak three times at services in Trinity Lutheran church, Raymon H. Peterson, pastor. He will preach at the regular worship service at 9:30 a.m. on February 11th; again that evening at an informal service beginning at 8:00 p.m. And then Wednesday evening at an 8:00 service. This theme will be: "The Future is Ours" based upon a number of the prophetic passages of scripture. Pastor Peterson will be singing at each of the services.

75 Years Ago – The New Richland Star, January 30, 1947

- Fate or something or other, including a jinx, hoodoo, nemesis and a few other things have kept us from giving the names of the new officers of the New Richland Fire Department. The annual meeting of the department is always a gala event with an embellished and super turkey dinner which preceded the election. The new chief is Arthur Stensrud and



Damaged By Fire

NEW RICHLAND volunteer firemen and Waseca firemen are pictured here they battle smoke and flame in a fire at the Otisco Body Shop owned by Orville Gehring. The alarm was sounded about 3:45 p.m. in both municipalities. The fire was extinguished with damage to the ceiling, roof and supporting timbers.

New Richland volunteer firemen are pictured. Here they battle smoke and flame in a fire at the Otisco Body Shop owned by Orville Gehring. The alarm was sounded about 3:45 p.m. in both municipalities. The fire was extinguished with damage to the ceiling, roof and supporting timbers.

the assistant chief is Ralph Borchard. Russell Peterson is foreman, and Kenneth Finseth assistant foreman; Earl Lange, secretary and J. W. Kreuzer, treasurer. M. L. Shield was

named captain of the trucks and custodian of the fire equipment. The department is in usual good condition and is prosperous, offering splendid protection in case of fire.

The Pastor's Column

Acknowledge sin and cast it aside

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS
Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV)
1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
Somedays you feel like everyone is watching you. You realize that your actions mean more than you thought they did. Your influence on your friends and family is greater than you imagined. There comes a time when you discover that you matter in this world and how you act reflects on you and what you value.
This weight of responsibility rests on your shoulders and requires you to evaluate how your actions affect those around you. Now we can look at this in two lights, either the light of doing better, or the light of being good. Being good comes easy to some folks, they just choose to not rock the boat, or cause issues, or draw attention to themselves, or their actions. Being good deals with the social and emotional interactions that a person has with others and people would say to us that we were nice people.

Doing better is a humbling experience. You have to admit that you don't know what you are doing all the time. You have to recognize that you don't have it all together and you need help. You confess that you have failed and are striving to do better. Doing better recognizes your sin and requires a Savior.
So since people can be watching, acknowledge your sin and cast it aside. Rid yourself of anything that slows you down in reaching your goal of knowing Christ. You have this life to live, reach for your goal, your goal of knowing Jesus.
He is at work in your life helping you to do better, helping you to recognize when you have measured up, or when you are getting off course. He is the one who went to the cross for your sin and He is completing His work on your behalf. So let go of the sin, the shame, the guilt and pursue Christ in all things. Your goal is to hug the King, and He has invited you to spend all eternity with Him.
Race for that goal of knowing Christ, forget what people think about you and do better at knowing Christ. Do better at drawing people to Christ by the difference He has made in you. Do better at keeping your focus on Christ in all things that you may reveal His love for you and others no matter the circumstances.

The Pastor's Column

Talking nobodies at least once

By SANTIAGO RAMIREZ OCAMPO
I like books; I debate between buying them and reading them, which are two different passions. There is pleasure in buying books, contemplating their covers, feeling their pages, smelling them, reading the preface, and waiting for the day I can read it if that day comes. On the other hand, reading is pleasurable, at least for me; conversing with the writer, agreeing and disagreeing, seeing and understanding how they want to express themselves. In short, I am addicted to both pleasures, but not a full-time addict like others who boast beautiful and huge libraries in their homes. Mine is modest; I am building it with patience, but I love the process at my own pace.
My passion for reading was born as almost everything I remember to this day, at home; my parents, in general, were very countercultural, and although it was a Christian home, they always invited me to explore cultural boundaries that are not common within the church and that awakened in me a nose for unconventional authors, very much of the people, very much on the side of the marginalized, very much of the country life, left-wing if you will. In that invitation appeared a book that marked me a lot: Memoria de mis putas tristes (Memories of my Melancholy Whores) (2004), by the only Colombian Nobel Prize winner that I mention so much in my columns, Gabriel Garcia Marquez; I was a teenager when I read it and that way of writing awakened in me that hunger to read what is not read and see what is not seen.
In that awakening, I discovered the world of Eduardo Galeano, an Uruguayan writer with an excellent pen that caught me with a text I want to share with you, a side quote on the margin of something I want to talk about in at least one more column.
The nobodies, Eduardo Galeano (1940)
Fleas dream of buying themselves a dog, and nobodies dream of escaping poverty: that one magical day good luck will suddenly rain down on them- will rain down in buckets. But good luck doesn't even fall in a fine drizzle, no matter how hard the nobodies summon it, even if their left hand is tickling, or if they begin the new day with their right foot, or start the new year with a change of brooms.
The nobodies: nobody's children, owners of nothing. The nobodies: the no ones, the nobodies, running like rabbits, dying through life, fucked every which way. er
Who don't speak languages, but dialects.
Who don't have religions, but superstitions.
Who don't create art, but handicrafts.
Who don't have culture, but folklore.
Who are not human beings, but human resources.
Who do not have names, but numbers.
Who do not appear in the history of the world, but in the police blotter of the local paper.
The nobodies, who are not worth the bullet that kills them



Serving breakfast at the Mill during Sacred Heart's Winterfest on Sunday, were, from left: Gabby Beltran, principal Chris Dahle, Ashlie Baker, and Becky Petsinger. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

A super time at Winterfest

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor
It may have been a bitterly cold start to the day this past Sunday, Jan. 29, but it was a great day for the Sacred Heart Catholic community as it celebrated its second annual Winterfest at the Mill.
For only \$10, an estimated 250 people enjoyed a hearty breakfast of pancakes, bacon, and sausage between 8 and 11:30 a.m. It was such a success, the servers ran out of food minutes before breakfast was supposed to end. Nearly 100 more enjoyed a few rounds of bingo. The early birds showed up at noon before Super Bingo followed an hour later. In addition to those activities, Winterfest includes a raffle.
“We had about 200 people come last year,” Superintendent Chris Dahle said. “This year, it was well-attended again. We had a lot of people sign up for the raffle”
The event was put on by Sacred Heart Catholic School to raise money for the district. “We decided to put this event together after Covid,” Kellie Moseley, one of the event's organizers, explained. “At that time, things were just starting to get back to normal. We wanted to give people something fun to do after nearly two years of Covid canceling and postponing events.”
Last year the event raised more than \$7,000, a total they expect to be similar once the final tally is tallied. The event also gives the district a

“We wanted to give people something fun to do after nearly two years of Covid canceling and postponing events”
— Kellie Moseley

way to celebrate Catholic Schools Week, which was Jan. 29 to February 3. According to the National Catholic Educational Association, “Schools typically observe the week with Masses, assemblies and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members to celebrate.”
“We have plenty of activities planned for the students this week,”

Dahle said with delight. “We plan to take them sledding on Thursday, for example.”
All proceeds for the event will go to Sacred Heart Catholic School to purchase school supplies and fund projects for the district. “We are very thankful for everyone coming out,” Dahle said. “We have a great community here in Waseca, and we hope this event continues to grow.”

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * *	REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-607-8245 Sundays 9 and 10:30 a.m. * * *	Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting * * *	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 * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * *	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Interhim Pastor Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:00 a.m. Worship * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * *
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 * * *	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. * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor Sundays: Sunday School 9 a.m., Bible Study 9:20 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville Father Brian Mulligan 10 a.m. - Mass * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Interim Pastor * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Vacancy Sunday = 1 p.m. Worship * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * *	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Pamela Jensen Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Vacancy Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * *
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca 507-835-1222 Worship Saturday 5:15 p.m., Sundays 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., weekdays 8:30 a.m. Tues., Wed. and Fri., 7:00 a.m. Thurs. * * *	LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.

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SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642

February 2023

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

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Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Pageant 2023



Hudson Miller



Waseca County Princesses stand with Miss Minnesota 2022 Rachel Evangelisto, Miss Minnesota Outstanding Teen 2022 Julia Schumacher, and Miss South Dakota Outstanding Teen Olivia Odenbrett. From left: Arabella Harmon, Sammy Wendt, Lucy Sammon, Ellie Kopischke, Demsley Ruger, Charli Passau, Audrey Gray, Livvy Sammon, Ashlynn Hoacky, Emily Rivera, and Cece Kopischke.



Jadyn White and Ashlynn Hoacky



Miss South Central 2023 Jasmin Kotek



Amanda Schmidt



Livvy Sammon and Alexis Cran



Bailey Hodgkins on the flute



Rachel Evangelisto brings gifts to Miss Congeniality Alexis Cran



Kayla Mabe



Paige Johnson



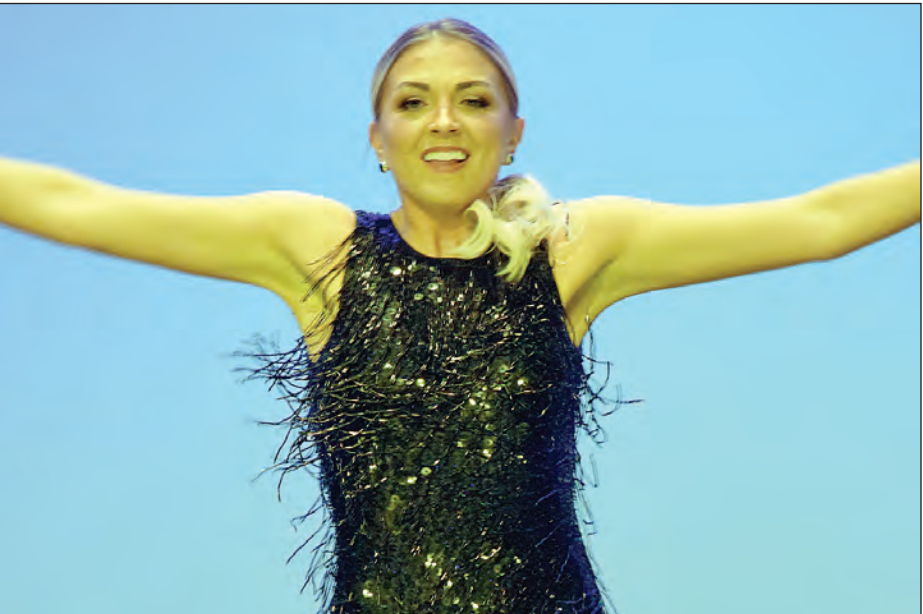
Lydia Jagodzinski



Maura Erickson



Charli Passau and Lydia Jagodzinski



Jasmin Kotek



Waseca County Princess Arabella Harmon and Rachel Evangelisto show the crowd how to get out of a wrist hold.



Former Waseca County Sleigh and Cutter royalty Julia Schumacher, Olivia Odenbrett, Elle Mark, Katie Schroeder-Gonzalez, and Molly Kopischke.



Miss Minnesota 2022 Rachel Evangelisto points at the camera while posing with Cece Kopischke, Julia Schumacher, and Olivia Odenbrett

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