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JANESVILLE
CITY COUNCIL

Kopachek resigns

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

"What leads me here tonight is that...I can't do this anymore. These meetings are getting increasingly more challenging to attend," stated Janesville council member Melissa Kopachek on a late-night Facebook video which she used to announce her intention to resign. The video was posted Tuesday, March 14, after the most recent city council meeting.



Kopachek

The Janesville council held a special meeting Thursday, Mar. 16 to accept the resignation, effective immediately.

Some of Kopachek's comments centered around a statement read during the Tuesday

Resignation continued on 5

WASECA
CITY COUNCIL

Council plans summer projects

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

The Waseca City Council had a very productive 40-minute meeting Tuesday, March 7. Council members awarded a bid for work to take place at Second Street and Second Ave SW, approved plans and authorized accepting bids for various sidewalk projects for this year, and amended the master fee schedule, something that hasn't been done since 2018.

City finance director Alicia Fischer asked the council for direction on how to handle outstanding fire response bills. Currently, \$43,000 out of \$62,500 billed since the fire response charge was implemented in 2018 remain unpaid. The fee is only authorized for in-city fire calls, not for any responses outside of Waseca.

When city council member Stacey Schroeder asked Fischer if anything could be done to collect the outstanding charges, Fischer said that the city staff did consider looking at a state revenue recapture program as well as collection agencies. "We would have to collect additional information on fire calls, though," she pointed out. "With collection agencies, we would have to get social security numbers, information that we don't get when responding to a call."

Waseca continued on 4

A word from The Word

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6



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Sports

Tim Dahnert fundraiser Wasecan faces harrowing battle against cancer

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

Vada Dahnert held a benefit sale for her son, Tim Dahnert, 55, at Faith United Methodist Church in Waseca Saturday, March 11. The community room in the church was filled with items for sale — items that had been donated by community members and businesses, as well as found free or cheap on the Facebook Marketplace.

This was Vada's fourteenth such sale, all held for people diagnosed with cancer.

Tim Dahnert was diagnosed with an oral cancer, then subsequently underwent a nine-and-a-half hour surgery to remove the infected tissue and reconstruct his face with multiple bone and skin grafts. The surgery means that, because a major nerve had to be cut, he will never regain

feeling on the left side of his face. He also must wait 6-12 months before his teeth can be replaced. The good news, though, is that the cancer is completely gone: There will be no need for radiation or chemo treatments. Tim says he's deeply grateful to his wife, Darla, who was there by

Dahnert continued on 4



The members of the Dahnert family assembled for the benefit sale held by Vada Dahnert for her son Tim. Back row: Tim Dahnert, Brad Dahnert, Joel Killday, and Justin Dahnert. Front row: Ashley Killday holding Aspen Killday, Darla Dahnert, Trey Killday, Vada Dahnert, Teresa Dudley, Doreen Coy, Kathy Dahnert. Pioneer photo by Tristan Jensen

Luck of the Irish



Top: For the first time since 2020, the new St. Patrick's Day royalty were crowned Saturday evening, March 11. From left: Miss St. Patrick 2020 Carmen Miller, Miss Irish Rose 2023 Caitlin Slattery, Miss St. Patrick 2023 Emma Keith, Miss Shamrock 2023 Lauren White, and Miss Irish Rose 2020 Rachel Borneke.



The Mill was nearly filled to capacity during the St. Patrick's Day celebration. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy



The Glynn family were among a handful of families flying their colors in the parade of clans following Saturday's mass.

Smilin' eyes Irish celebration returns

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

As the Irish American Club of Southern Minnesota kicked off its 55th annual St. Patrick's Day celebration at Sacred Heart Catholic Church Saturday, March 11, one thought was shared among the group of over a hundred proud Irish in the pews: This is how it's supposed to be after a Covid-19 interruption.

"It's good to be back at it again," Muriah Miller-Keith told the congregation at the special mass. "We've worked for years to get back to this point."

After two years of uncertainty due to the pandemic, everything was back. However, as Faith Ryan recalled, there was a moment when the celebration didn't happen back in 2020.

"At that time, the world was starting to shut down," she reminisced. "We weren't sure whether to keep going or not. But we decided that us Irish folk could get through it."

Two days later, Minnesota considered shutting down most of the state as the pandemic came to the United States.

In 2021, nearly the entire celebra-



Emma Keith, Lauren White, and Caitlin Slattery joined Miss St. Patrick 2020 Carmen Miller and Miss Irish Rose 2020 Rachel Borneke (not pictured).

tion was canceled. The only remaining staple was the mass along with the Irish music preceding it. 2022 was a much more normal year, but the celebration still missed one main

event: the pageant. Its return this year meant that things were back to normal for the Irish American Club of

Celebration continued on 12

NR home 'unlivable' after late-night fire

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

A house fire may deem the house at 402 2nd St. SE in New Richland a total loss. The fire was reported by the home owner, Brandon Osborne, at approximately 11 p.m. Wednesday. No injuries were reported. At the time of reporting the home owner and his dog were sitting safely in their vehicle.

"It was your typical house fire," New Richland Fire Chief Josh Moen reported on the scene. "It was bad enough. It won't be livable for right now."

New Richland and Waseca Fire

Department and emergency responders were on scene and needed only about an hour to extinguish the fire, which appears to have started in the main living area before going into the attic. Firefighters were able to keep the fire contained to one area of the home.

"What happened was it [the fire] got up into the attic, and then the whole ceiling dropped down," Moen explained. "So pretty much what they put out was the rest of the ceiling remnants and insulation, lath and plaster. Once they got that extinguished and kind of pulled apart, then we knocked the window. And



New Richland Fire Chief Josh Moen, left, and firefighter Adam Wacholz observe the property at 402 2nd St. SE in New Richland which caught fire around 11 p.m. Wednesday evening.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

then they used their hoses to blow water out.

"I'm glad the homeowner called as quick as he did," Moen stated. "You know, timing's never on your side when it comes to fire. So, they got in

and went to work and kept it contained in this area."

The Fire Marshall did an investigation Thursday and news of their findings could not be reported prior to publication.

Pageant winners selected Not only lucky but beautiful

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Irish American Club of Southern Minnesota member Anna Burns reminded the audience that Miss St. Patrick Carmen Miller and Miss Irish Rose Rachel Borneke had served in their positions for not one, not two, but three years, the longest stretch of time in club history.

"I think you two can keep your crowns at this point," she joked. "You've earned it."

But, of course, all good things must come to an end. Miller relinquished her title and crowned Emma Keith as Miss St. Patrick 2023; Borneke crowned Caitlin Slattery as this year's Miss Irish Rose. In addition, Lauren White became the club's first Miss Shamrock. Keith and Slattery are Waseca residents (with Slattery having ties to Janesville) while White is a Janesville native.

All three displayed great talents for the show. Keith sang "Danny Boy" with piano accompaniment presented by Becky Borneke, while Lauren White performed the traditional Irish piece on clarinet. Slattery recited an original poem about what it means to her to be Irish.

In addition to presenting their talents, Burns asked each candidate to respond to a question. Keith and White were asked what it meant to them to be Irish and how they hope to explore their heritage. Both said that stories their families told of traditions made them want to discover more about their roots. White claimed she often talked about the family origin story (in her case, the Cahill side) with her grandfather.

Slattery was asked what she believes it takes to be a great role model. "Giving good advice while listening to others and not turning down other points of view," was part of her answer.

As the judges spent time tallying up their points, Miss St. Patrick 2020 Carmen Miller reprised her talent from the last pageant, performing "Lady of Knock," written by Irish singer and politician Dana Rosemary Scallan, with Borneke accompanying her on the piano.

Afterwards, the crowning took place: All three contestants were proclaimed royalty. Retiring title holders Miller and Borneke gave their congratulations and talked with the new royalty about what it means to represent the club the rest of the night. They may have lost their crowns, but they can still brag that they are the longest-reigning royalty in the club's history.



Compostings

by Al Batt
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Mr. Sneeze a lot

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

This radio is priceless, but I'm willing to let it go for a measly \$559.63 even though it was the radio Abe Lincoln listened to when he was a boy.

The radio hadn't been invented yet when Abe Lincoln was a boy.

I know, that's what makes it so valuable.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. Everyone makes remarks about the weather. The kindest ones said bad weather is inconvenient. The weather seems like a constant kerfuffle, but that might be because nice weather is easier to forget than uncomfortable weather.

It snowed again. The nearest I've ever been to Woodstock, New York, is Woolstock, Iowa. At Woodstock in August 1969, the weather was wet. A tremendous storm barreled toward the festival grounds as the stage was covered in tarps and Joe Cocker took cover. John Morris, the Production Coordinator at Woodstock, told the crowd, "If you think really hard enough, maybe we can stop this rain!" A chant of "No rain, no rain, no rain" started in the crowd and built to where attendees were dancing in the torrential downpour. You can't stop the weather by chanting, any more than you can alter it by wearing heated socks, but I chanted, "No snow, no snow, no snow." It didn't work.

I grew up with a davenport and now I live with either a sofa or couch. Davenport was the name of a series of sofas made by the furniture manufacturer, A. H. Davenport and Company, now defunct. Due to the popularity of that furniture, the name davenport became a generic trademark, like aspirin. I can't tell the difference between a couch, a sofa and a davenport. I use the three terms interchangeably.

I'VE LEARNED, THE MEDICAL VERSION

I had hiccups for three weeks. I didn't try to have them. Kind folks offered cures. Saying "pineapple" and thinking of six bald men didn't work. Neither did anything else except the harness of time.

I had my ears cleaned once by a medical professional, who used a high-pressure hose and yelled "hit it" to an assistant, who cranked a giant valve to release the water. The force knocked me across the room where I hit a file cabinet, which tipped over. I was stunned for a moment, but it was worth it to have clean ears.

I have Autosomal Dominant Compelling Helioophthalmic Outburst Syndrome, which is characterized by uncontrollable sneezing

in response to sudden exposure to bright light, typically intense sunlight. Sunlight is something to sneeze at. Also known as photic sneezing or photic sneeze reflex, these sun or solar sneezes are a phenomenon referenced by Aristotle. The "PBS News Hour" said 10 to 35% of the population has a photic sneeze reflex. Pressing fingers against an upper lip causes the urge to sneeze to subside for some. This results in a sneeze freeze or an arrested stermutation.

NATURE NOTES

Before European settlement, wild turkeys were found only along the Iowa border in southeast Minnesota. Those scarce turkeys were eliminated by hunting and habitat loss as early as 1880. By 1910, turkeys were extirpated from Iowa. Wild turkeys didn't exist in Minnesota for almost 100 years before successful reintroductions. Turkeys were reintroduced in Houston County in 1973 with 29 birds from Missouri. The Minnesota DNR traded ruffed grouse for them. Pen-raised turkeys from Maryland, Pennsylvania and Texas had been released in southern and central Minnesota in the 1920s and 1957; and those trapped in Nebraska, South Dakota and Arkansas were released in the Gopher State from 1964 to 1968. They all perished. The class of 1973 did well, its population grew rapidly and the first hunting season was held in 1978. Over the years, Minnesota sent gray partridges to New York, black bears to Arkansas and Canada geese to Oklahoma in return for wild turkeys. T.S. Roberts, in his 1932 "The Birds of Minnesota," concluded wild turkeys likely never resided in Minnesota before early, failed efforts at introduction, but Aldo Leopold reported he'd found written accounts of turkeys living in southern Minnesota in 1773 and 1871 but added that no "single statement in this report is offered as final or sufficient fact." Wild turkeys are found in every state but Alaska.

A NEIGHBORHOOD SHINDIG

Our good neighbors, Knutson Grain, held a neighborhood get-together recently. It helps to know your neighbors and their food—great people and heaps of victuals including tater tot hotdish. It pleased my wife she didn't bring home a single lemon bar she'd made.

MEETING ADJOURNED

I was in Wetzlar, Germany, and walked where the famous writer Goethe had in 1772. He wrote, "One ought, every day at least, to hear a little song, read a good poem, see a fine picture, and, if it were possible, to speak a few reasonable words." Please make those words kind.

Area churches inspire reflection

St. Patrick's Day celebrations started almost a week early this year. While the Irish American Club of Southern Minnesota celebrated the holiday this past Saturday, St. Patrick's Day doesn't actually arrive until Friday.

The Irish really know how to party. A mini parade near downtown, a rally including Mulligan stew and corned beef, a pageant, auctions aplenty, bingo, and music throughout the day? Oh, I can't forget to mention the church service.

I've forgotten how much I like visiting different churches. You usually can tell the difference between the older buildings and the newer ones by the way they are constructed. Older churches have sanctuaries that seem to rise higher up into the heavens while the other churches I've been to don't have that same majesty. Some of the newer churches do rise above the ceiling, but they don't feel the same.

Last Saturday was the first time I had been to Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca. I was covering the Irish mass. The inside of the church was open and vibrant. The walls were painted white and a very light pink. And I noticed that above the cross past the altar were two small stained glass windows in the ceiling. I can only imagine how



Music to my Ears

by Michael Roy
copyright © 2022 by Michael Roy

beautiful the cross looks when the sun is at its highest point in the sky and it hits the windows just right.

Every once in a while (not as much lately due to gas prices), I take a cruise around the area. It helps me clear my mind. Every once in a while I notice a church that looks beautiful from the outside, and I find myself visualizing what it looks like from inside.

One of these is the Catholic church in a tiny village called Litomysl. It's about 20 minutes east of New Richland and about the same distance south of Owatonna. You can hardly call it a village; I think there are only three or four houses, the church, and an old school that shut down a few years ago.

Another place with a beautiful church is Veseli, which is north of Faribault near New Prague. Veseli is probably about the size of Waldorf, but it isn't an incorporated city. The Catholic church there, named "Church of the Most Holy Trinity,"

was built by Czech immigrants, first in 1874 with wood, then a brick exterior in 1905. It's such a pristine and historic church that it's on the National Register of Historic Places.

Now, I know I've only mentioned Catholic Churches, but Trinity Lutheran here in Janesville looks pretty nice, as does New Richland's church with the same name. The Methodist church out in Blooming Grove township (which I got to cover for a story) is a great work of art.

I can only imagine what it was like building those structures, conceiving their appearance on the inside, and—once it comes time for any renovations—how to tackle them. I always forget that the Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville didn't always have its discipling center. It feels like it's been there since I moved to Janesville in 2007 even though it's only been nine years since its completion.

I think I like churches for a mix of reasons: It brings me back to my

Christian roots every time I see one. I think the more prevalent reason, though, is because sometimes, humanity can be quite ugly. And then I look at the structure of a church, the gorgeous stained glass windows, the overall design, and think of all the choirs that sing in a church, the musicians that perform in it, the words of wisdom from the pastors and preachers, and the sense of community surrounding them.

And then I remember that humanity can be beautiful.

Special congratulations to 2023 Miss Irish Rose Caitlin Slattery, Miss St. Patrick Emma Keith, and to Miss Shamrock, Janesville's very own Lauren White. The Irish know how to party. I should know, I am one... well, at least an eighth-of an Irishman, anyways.

This week in music

For this week's special edition, I wanted to find something related to Celtic or Irish music.

The Dropkick Murphys, considered a "Celtic punk" band, released their song "I'm Shipping Up to Boston," in 2006. Although it barely missed the Billboard Top 100 (coming in at #101), it went platinum in the United States and is used regularly in sports stadiums. You may have heard it in some beer commercials, too.



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler
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Sandy shoes in place of snowboots

What a week. I have to say though, while I do enjoy sharing my experiences and travels, it's kind of a bummer when I call home and try to tell them what's going on with my life and I get the "we know, we read your column" answer. Great. Love you guys, too.

Well, while all of you were possibly shoveling snow, I was fortunate enough to spend time on the beach.

On Wednesday, my class/program boarded a bus and drove three hours down to Valencia, which is on the east coast of Spain. It's a very beautiful city, but we didn't spend a whole lot of time there. Somehow

we managed to do a couple of walking tours despite our very Spanish-like hour-long lunches. My favorite part was seeing the Falles - which is a celebration that Valencia does. For practically the entire month of March, they set off fireworks every day and then at the end of the celebration, they set these giant statue-esque things on fire. We only saw the fireworks, but even that was cool.

After Valencia, some friends and I took a flight to Palma, Mallorca which is a Spanish island off the coast. Palma gives me Mexico vibes with the palm trees, the beaches, and the touristy restaurants. We stayed in



Amelia Roessler stands on the Spanish island of Palma, Mallorca.

a hostel and spent a lot of time walking around.

On Friday we toured the island's palace and looked at the cathedral, then spent the evening at the beach watching the sunset. Saturday we

were fortunate enough to find a really cool historic train to take us to Sollier, a cute town nestled in the

Amelia continued on 5

My new favorite city council

I think covering the Waldorf City Council has grown to be one of my favorite writing tasks. The folks there are kind, talkative and hold openly welcome conversations. It's more like a happy hour or private lunch hour type of feel.

At this last meeting council members extended their list of "don't want to be" to include the Janesville council. It previously only included Pemberton. It was all said in good-hearted fun, however it's important to note that the elected representatives of Waldorf make a point to try and be orderly. Mayor Rob works hard. There I said it.

My parents are both from Waseca and my grandparents, on Dad's side, were Roekers. If family lore is accurate, their farm was in rural Waldorf. Maybe that's where my warm feelings come from.

On to my adventures in "newsing" this week.

The boys' basketball season, and all winter sports, came to an end. It was a really good game in Mankato, but LCWM is a very good team.

Pepito's is opening for in person dining. I visited with John, the owner, Friday. My intention was to



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens
copyright © 2022 by Eli Lutgens

write about him this week but I would have had to do the interview by phone and it's gotten to be a challenge to type. I can't use my left thumb due to pain from writing/typing. So my typing speed has been reduced from "as fast as a person can speak" to about 20-30 words a minute. I'm managing, but it's incredibly frustrating. Oh, the things people take for granted in life, like being able to type without pain.

How am I remedying this? Early this month I purchased a piece of software to transcribe audio notes to text. In place of taking notes, because I really can't physically or electronically anymore, I am using this software to copy voice recordings to notes.

The other way? Writing less. And writing shorter stories.

This week, for example, between

the Pioneer and Star Eagle, we printed more than a novel's worth of words and stories. I personally wrote 10,000 words this week for print. I'm maintaining my pace of a novel per month.

So what else happened?

A Janesville city council member resigned.

I don't like all the drama involved, but readers seem to. I, too, found myself a little drawn in though. I'm sorry for Melissa, and Janesville residents.

Big things are coming to Waldorf. Stay tuned for updates on the potential of "Veterans Memorial Park."

Oh, and the folks at the Sacred Heart Fish Fry were friendly and very complimentary.

Tuesday evening was the NRHEG sports banquet. I wish Waseca had a combined culminating celebration,

then we could actually cover their end-of-season banquet. Some sports don't do a banquet and it's hard enough communicating with that many coaches already. Insert "sad face emoji" here.

Then again, the logistics for a school Waseca's size may make that impossible.

To summarize my recent schedule:

Thursday: Bluejeans basketball

Friday: Sacred Heart Fish Fry

Saturday: Sleep

Sunday: Newspaper construction/writing

Monday: Waldorf Council and more newspapering

Tuesday: Sports Banquet

Wednesday: Newspapering

It was a good week. I am curious whether folks would like to see more Star Eagle stories in the Pioneer. I've written several features that are New Richland based which only printed in the Star because I want to keep the Pioneer focused on news from the county and feature stories nearly all from Waseca.

"In the absence of any other proof, the thumb alone would convince me of God's existence." - Isaac Newton

Dave Lienke + Scotty

City of Waseca that provided straps and a skid loader to help lift up "Scotty." We would never have been able to do this by ourselves. Thanks a million to all those that were involved! Wouldn't trade living in rural Minnesota for any other place in the world!



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PHONE: 507-837-6767

email: news@wasecacountypioneer.com

Address: 103 S. State Street

Mail: PO Box 578, Waseca MN 56093

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ELI LUTGENS	Publisher
MICHAEL ROY	Editor
REED WALLER	Production Manager
DEB BENTLY	News Editor
JIM LUTGENS	Sports Editor/Dad
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RACHEL LOVERINK	Staff Writer
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JESSICA LUTGENS	Staff Writer
AMELIA ROESSLER	Staff Writer

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

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parade. We sincerely want to thank all those "angels." We also want to thank the fire department and the

join the parade. The horse had a mind of his own. He tried to stand but slipped on the icy street and then decided to take a rest. Everyone tried to get him to stand. Some brought water for him to drink. Some went to Boomgaars and brought bedding for him to lay on and keep dry. They all worked nonstop trying to get the horse on his feet. All missed the

Dear Editor,

Living in a small town in rural Minnesota has its advantages. We are the lucky couple who owned the horse that went down the day of the Sleigh and Cutter Parade in Waseca. It didn't take very long until there were "angels" among us. There were several young men trying to help us get the horse on his feet so we could



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika

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Signs of spring

House payments, car payments, groceries, and insurance used to be everyone’s biggest financial worries. Now, bundled media has been added to the list. Everyone has a cell phone, cable, internet and maybe a landline they pay for. Some of my friends record what they want to watch, eliminating the commercials. I’m a clicker. With the remote in hand I’m usually watching a sporting event and a movie at the same time.

Western movies are among my favorite things to watch on the GRIT channel. I enjoy watching westerns from the ‘50s and ‘60s where John Wayne or a Tom Mix star as rough and tough cowboys. The plots are always elementary: good guys vs. bad guys, with the good guys always prevailing in the end.

These movies leave me with a good feeling; I don’t sit with tears running down my cheeks like I do watching a Hallmark movie. Western actors are amazing. They spin their guns and holster them like a magician, fire their Colt 45s with sniper accuracy, mount running horses, and duke it out with the best of them.

Kevin Costner is my favorite cowboy. He’s starred in and directed several westerns. You can see him as a young whipper snapper in Silverado, or in my favorite modern-day classic, The Open Range. This movie is well done and stars Costner, Robert Duvall, and Annette Bening. I can’t forget the Yellowstone series, and the “kinda” western Dances with Wolves. The soundtrack and music are beautiful, something to listen to as you go to sleep at night.

There have been several Magnificent Seven movies with big-time actors. The most recent is tremendous. Seven gunmen from a variety of backgrounds are brought together by a vengeful widow to protect her town from a villain and his army. Denzel Washington and Chris Pratt really make this movie special.

Before I finish rambling about westerns, I’d be remiss if I didn’t mention the “spaghetti” variety. These were filmed in Italy, directed by Sergio Leone in the ‘60s, a man who really liked his spaghetti! Clint Eastwood starred in many of these: A Fistful of Dollars, For a Few Dollars More, and The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly were some of the biggest box office hits.

Speaking of the good, bad, and ugly, I’d like to offer a few thoughts when it comes to spring.

The Good

In 2022, Waseca experienced a severe drought. This winter, we received snow and precipitation in record amounts: this winter’s snowfall should easily be among the top five in the record books. With the melt on, our sloughs and lakes will once again be full of water, a welcome relief to wildlife and all of us who use lakes for recreational purposes. Our lawns will once again be green and we can sit back and watch the grass grow.

Our birds and waterfowl are busy arriving and making preparations for their nesting. Canadian geese are now paired up and standing on ice-covered marshes claiming their nesting areas. I just read an article from the Audubon Society stating that robins arrive in Minnesota six days earlier

nowadays than they did years ago. I’ve already observed many of them: Guess there really is global warming. Cardinals are now paired up; hearing their call is a beautiful sign of spring.

Cardinal story: We had cardinals nesting in a yew next to our garage. I was driving a red pickup which I parked in our driveway. The female would land on the mirrors daily and peck at the glass. She actually scratched the glass. I moved the pickup to curbside. That didn’t work; she was busy pecking at the mirrors the next morning. Lisa suggested covering the mirrors with a paper bag. Success! I was once again parking in the driveway.

The meteorologists’ reports of -30 wind chills and frozen-in-ten-minutes frostbite are now long gone. I can take our wonder dog Sammy out for pee pee, poppy time, and we can actually bond rather than sharing mutual suffering.

The daylight hours are growing longer, and we’ve all set our watches ahead for the summer.

All of the Irish led by Anne Hoehn are firing up and making preparations for their St. Patrick’s day celebration.

Spring is the best time of the year to watch sporting events; fans are all coming out of hibernation.

High school champions are being crowned at state tournaments all spring long. Boys’ and girls’ wrestling, hockey, and basketball can be viewed on your TV. March Madness is in full swing. The college teams have been chosen to participate and in several weeks, the champion will be crowned. Don’t forget to fill out your bracket sheets at work, or brackets for other contests. You just might win some big money.

The Bad

We still need to wash our vehicles often to remove slush and salt. This could last until mid-April.

It’s time for clean up, raking lawns, washing windows, and washing away dirt and gravel. You may experience a night of back pains and spasms. Be careful.

During the winter, we experienced freezing rain, the recipe for huge potholes. In driving errands, I’ve experienced gaping chasms large enough to lose a child in or blow a tire. I’m amazed no one invents a superglue for these holes that will last more than a season.

People who love the winter are depressed, putting away snowmobiles, skates, ice houses, and skis.

The Ugly

Emptying lake ice is littered with trash left behind from ice houses. Ditches are full of running water, and the snow has become snirt, a mixture of white and black dirt.

Ditches also reveal garbage deposited by the blowing winds of winter.

The trees all stand tall and bare, leafless.

It’s all changing; good citizen groups are cleaning up garbage left behind on our lakes, and groups are cleaning up garbage in ditches and our parks. Trees are beginning to bud and create their green, shady canopies.

Come on, spring! In the words of Clint Eastwood, “Make my day!”

The light returns

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

Amy Danielson, Waseca resident and owner of Bold Oracle Studios, hosted a day of belly dancing workshops at the Waseca County History Center, capped off with a show in the evening, titled “Uncoil: Return of the Light” on Saturday, March 11.

Belly dancing, Danielson explained, is a grouping of folk dances from various cultures which have become closely associated in the United States. “It’s generally by the dancer, for the dancer,” she added, heading off the assumption many make that belly dance is flirtatious or sexual. She explained that she found belly dance after a tough period in her life, and it helped her to reconnect with herself and heal. There is a close-knit community surrounding belly dance, and Danielson emphasized that it is based around inclusion and sharing of time and talents. The community is open to all genders, races, ages, sizes, and beyond and strives to be nonjudgmental. Danielson also explained that there are two major schools of thought among belly dancers, “Folkloric” dancers focus on dressing and dancing in the same fashion as the culture from which the dances came – dancing the same way one would see in Egypt, India, and other nations. “Fusion” dancers learn and utilize those dances, but also bring modern or western movements and musics, as well as blending their other interests or passions into their dance. Most of the dancers teaching and performing during the Return of the Light event were fusion dancers, she explained, but she gave equal respect to both types of dancers.

Danielson connected with the History Center one day when she was taking a walk. She lives nearby, and while out walking saw someone enter the History Center museum and felt what she remembers as a strong urge to follow them in. She described forging a strong connection with Joan Mooney of the History Center, whom she described along with herself as “ideas people.” This was the connection that would eventually lead to



Saskia Nichols, Amy Danielson, and Heidi DeAngelis at the Return of the Sun belly-dancing workshop held at the Waseca County Historical Society. Danielson is owner of Bold Oracle Studios and the organizer of the event; all three operated vendor booths. Pioneer photos by Tristan Jensen

the creation of Uncoil: Return of the Light at the History Center.

The event was called “Return of the Light” because it was intended to celebrate the oncoming spring through dance. It began with a series of four workshops which participants could choose among, attending one or all. First was “Mapping a Song” led by Edie Julik, which began with a discussion of Julik’s lived history with belly dance, followed by hands-on instruction on choreographing dances to instrumental music. After lunch, Rachel Riska of Mankato led “Silent Dialogue,” a workshop on expressing emotions and ideas through movement and dance. Next was “Elemental Dance Magic,” led by Meggan Sheperd, followed by “We are All One: The Magic of Synchronized Group Improvisation” led by Suzanne Szucs. Throughout the day, Bold Oracle Studios, Sheherazade’s Daughters, and Persephone’s Raven operated vending booths selling handmade textiles and accessories for belly dance costuming. In keeping with the “Return of the



Rachel Riska, a Mankato resident, leading her workshop on Silent Dialogue, encourages her students to embody emotions through dance.

Light,” the evening’s show was done by lantern-light with each of the dancers using glowing or lighted props and costume pieces to create visual effects in the dimly lit room. Following performances there was a drum circle and time dedicated to open dance.

New public safety plan

By Senator John Jasinski

We have seen over and over the effects of repeated efforts to defund and undermine the police. It is still an issue that I hear about from people almost every day. We have to stop making law enforcement’s jobs difficult and instead provide police the support they need, crack down on criminals, and hold judges and prosecutors accountable.

This week we introduced a new public safety plan, called Safe and Sound Minnesota, that will restore safety in our communities.

You can read about it online at: <https://www.mnsenaterepublicans.com/legislative-republicans-roll-out-safe-sound-minnesota-public-safety-plan/>

Rising crime – especially violent crime – is a serious issue, and the Safe and Sound plan will help us take action now.

Critical water infrastructure projects in Owatonna, Medford, and Waseca

This week I presented bills that would provide funding to help with urgent water infrastructure projects in three communities in our area: Owatonna, Medford, and Waseca.

Owatonna and Medford are aiming to build a new regional wastewater facility that serves the two communities. Waseca needs new



Senator Jasinski, Mayor Randy Zimmerman (Waseca), and Michael Johnson (Waseca County Administrator)

water and wastewater infrastructure. Owatonna and Steele County Workforce grants

This week I also presented a bill to provide workforce training grants to Owatonna and Steele County. The bill would spur workforce development in Owatonna and the Steele County area by providing \$275,000 in each of the next two years from the state’s workforce development fund for grants to provide career education, wraparound support services, and job skills training in high-demand manufacturing fields.

The demand for skilled workers is increasing due to the emergence of new industries and technologies. Grants and programs like this play an important role in training the leaders of tomorrow. It’s not just great for these cutting-edge businesses and our economy; it helps families by providing career opportunities that can lead them out of poverty. Investing in these programs is essential for preparing individuals for the jobs of the future.

Read more: <https://www.mnsenaterepublicans.com/jasinskis-owa-tonna-and-steele-county-workforce-development-bill-receives-hearing/>

Contact Senator Jasinski: If you have any questions about any issues we are working on at the legislature, feel free to contact me any time at atsen.john.jasinski@senate.mn or 651-296-0284. And you can always get the latest news from St. Paul on my Facebook page at fb.com/SenatorJohnJasinski. It is a privilege to serve you! John



Waldorf Fire Department
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OBITUARIES

Louis Marvin Kampen

Louis Marvin Kampen, age 85 of Mankato, formerly of Waseca, went home to be with the Lord on the afternoon of Friday, March 10, 2023 at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato.

Louis was born in Waseca on February 20, 1938 to parents Louis Sr. and Margaret (Kujath) Kampen. He attended country schools near Otisco before graduating from New Richland High School with the class of 1956. After his schooling he served in the United States Army Reserves. He was united in marriage to Delores Maas on June 2, 1961 and they made their home together until her passing in 1978. On August 7, 1982, Louis began a new chapter in his life when he was married to Geraldine “Gerri” Bethke at St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca. He began his working years as a carpenter but later transitioned to business ownership. He owned and operated Louis Kampen Painting and Decorating for over forty years, until his retirement with Gerri in 2006. He enjoyed his painting, as well as gardening, traveling, and attending sporting events and other activities for his grandkids. He was a long-time active member of St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca and was most recently a member of Christ Community Church in Waseca.

Louis is survived by his devoted wife of over forty years, Geraldine “Gerri” Kampen of Mankato; his mother-in-law, Hazel Bethke of Waseca; seven children, Sheila (Don) Krueger of New Richland,



Louis Marvin Kampen

Sonja Zangs of Lakeville, Aaron Kampen, Debbie (Dale) Gehring of Farmington, Lorri (Jim) Hill of Waseca, Julie (Brad) Pedersen of Waseca, and Michael (Tiffany) Gehloff of Waseca; fourteen grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by both of his parents; and his first wife.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 16, 2023 at Christ Community Church in Waseca with Rev. Rick Wulff officiating. Visitation was held from 9 a.m. until the time of the service at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be directed to Christ Community Church in honor of Louis. Interment will follow at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca is handling the arrangements. dsfuneral.com

Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service
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Linda Marie Molkenthin

Linda Marie Molkenthin, age 72 of Waseca died on Thursday, March 9, 2023 at her home.

Born on July 18, 1950 in Waseca, Minnesota, she was the daughter of Wilfred and Margery (Johnson) Molkenthin. She attended school in Waseca, graduating with the class of 1969. Linda worked for Birds Eye Foods in Waseca for 25 years before working for the EF Johnson Co. in Waseca where she retired after 10 years. Linda enjoyed watching movies and working on word puzzle books. She was a member of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Waseca.

Linda is survived by two sisters, Karen Peterson of Owatonna and Diane (Roderick) Lorentz of Janesville and several nieces and



Linda Marie Molkenthin

nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and grandparents.

Private family services will be held. Burial will follow at Woodville Cemetery. dsfuneral.com

■ Dahnert

from Page 1

his side throughout the entire ordeal. Both also give their thanks to the Hope Lodge, a housing service provided by the American Cancer Society which gave them free lodging and meals near the hospital while Tim underwent and recovered from his surgery.

At the sale, nothing on display was marked with a price. Instead, Vada used her standard “pay what you want” model, which has had great success. Previous sales have raised as much as \$4,000 using this system. For large items such as furniture, Vada says people typically make an offer and she decides whether to accept it. Vada also reached out to many local business owners who donated items and gift

certificates. Food was served — Owatonna HyVee donated bread rolls and donuts, while Kwik Trip provided Vada with a gift card to purchase the meat. Turnout for the sale was excellent, according to Vada. “We’ve been very fortunate,” she said on the matter.

Vada Dahnert is retiring from putting on such sales. She’d intended to retire after her last sale, but said when her son received his diagnosis she decided she needed to do a final sale for him. A lot of people have helped Vada put on the fourteen benefit sales she’s done, including her children and grandchildren, friends, and past beneficiaries of the sales. “I couldn’t do it without help,” she said emphatically. Vada isn’t aware of anyone planning to take up the mantle of putting on these benefit sales now that she is finished, but said if someone reached out to her and said they wanted to she would help them get it started.



Members of CERT that volunteered for the Waseca American Legion steak fry Friday, Mar. 10 were Steve and Liz Melcher, Darren Ebertowski, John Coloumbe, Nancy Kelling, Michael Maloft, Cheri Brummund, Vicki Neight, and Scott Numan.

VFW steak fry

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

The volunteers at the Waseca American Legion Steak Fry were busy with the customers who came through their line Friday, March 10 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Customers could buy tickets for a 12 oz. ribeye steak dinner for \$18, an 8 oz. sirloin with shrimp for \$15, an 8 oz. sirloin by itself for \$10, or six shrimp for \$10. There was an additional option to add three shrimp to any meal for \$5. All meals came with a baked potato, salad, and dinner roll.

Nancy Kelling, who was in charge of the evening’s operations, explained that the meal is a monthly event at the Legion. “We usually expect about a hundred people to come to our steak fries. It’s a great thing we like to do here.”

She added that it’s thanks to local community organizations that the steak fries are possible. “They do the volunteering for these events. With-



About a hundred guests bought meal tickets at the steak fry.

Pioneer photos by Michael Roy

out them, it wouldn’t be possible.”

The volunteers for this steak fry were from the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) of Waseca. According to CERT’s official website, the group educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact the Waseca area and “trains them in basic disaster response skills” like fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

The steak fry proceeds will benefit both the American Legion and CERT.

For those willing to stick around after a great meal, the Janesville group In a Bind provided musical entertainment from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

The American Legion also hosts burger fries and will have a special St. Patrick’s Day meal of Reubens and Rachels this evening.

■ Waseca

from Page 1

Fischer added that whenever anyone went to the city council to address a fire response fee, the members voted to write it off. “Not a single one that’s been presented to the council hasn’t been waived,” she said.

Schroeder felt that the past council members set enough precedent to write off the rest of the fees.

Council member Jeremy Conrath took a different angle to support waiving the \$43,000 in outstanding charges. “These people have had a bad string of luck,” he said. “They got damage to their house. If we pursue collecting this money, we will not have pleasant public comment periods at the council meetings. We wouldn’t make their life any better, let’s put it that way.”

With that, the council approved to waive the charges and count them as a loss. Council member Mark Christiansen voted in opposition.

The council unanimously approved changes to the master fee schedule which included removing the fire response charges. Other items amended were the wetland delineation review fee — which would

go to the developers of the land instead of the city engineering department — fees for renting out entire city parks, updating connections to visitation center to allow video connections, reducing waterpark admission prices, simplifying printing and copying fees, updating the title of the utility billing office to “utility office,” and adding a sewage dump fee.

Schroeder expressed energetic gratitude to city staff for looking at the reduction of the waterpark fee. “Where I work, I’ve heard people say it’s gotten too expensive,” she said. “It’s an amenity, and we shouldn’t out-price ourselves. We aren’t the same size as other area waterparks.”

The council accepted a bid from Dirt Merchant Inc. for the amount of \$244,702.33 for work on the 2nd Street/2nd Avenue street project. The low bid was \$6,700 above the engineer’s estimate of \$237,957, according to city engineer Nate Willey. The project is still under the \$250,000 budget set aside through the city’s capital improvement plan.

“State aid should cover \$185,000 of the project,” Willey predicted. “Water utility will cover \$50,000, and storm sewer will take care of the remaining \$10,000 of the project cost.”

Willey then described the 2023 sidewalk improvements project. One of the main parts of the project is an

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalk ramp along Sixth Street SW. “It’s ahead of some street enhancement we plan to do later this summer.”

The money budgeted for this year’s sidewalk improvements will take care of areas such as sidewalks along West Elm Avenue, curb and gutter on Third and Second Avenues NE, and other areas scattered around the city.

The cost of the sidewalk improvements will be \$71,135, just under the \$75,000 budgeted in the street capital portion of the city expenses. Willey says city staff will perform inspections throughout the project.

Bids will be opened March 30; city staff will provide the bids at the Apr. 4 council meeting. “We plan on completing the ADA ramp upgrades along Sixth Street by June 30, so the streets department can do the mill and overlay on that street,” Willey told the council. “The rest of the project will be completed on or before Sept. 15.”

Reports

Willey gave an update on the airport board, which looked at some bids for its four-unit hangar project. “Bids last year came high, so we rejected them,” he explained. “This

year’s bids are lower than last year... not a lot lower. But they are still lower.”

What may help the board follow through with the project this year is the availability of more federal funding. “We will bring a recommendation to the council in April,” he said.

Council member James Ebertowski said that the Heritage Preservation Commission is moving forward with local schools to provide education and promote the downtown area to attract more people to it. “We also approved another sign in the downtown area,” he said.

Announcements

Conrath called the eventual closure of Iron “a bum deal. Our hearts go out to those affected,” he said. “It’s sure hard on the community. It flat out stinks. Hopefully, we can get through this, get people to stay in the community, and they can find other jobs.”

“I think I can speak for the rest of the council when I say we’ll find something to relocate in that building and try to keep the community as strong as it can be. I’m thankful we have 18 months to work on things here. I can assure you I’m more focused than ever to get Waseca as strong as ever.”



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Firetruck financed

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

With the way the past few meetings have gone, Janesville City Council members took a look at some potential rules of conduct and etiquette for future meetings on Monday, March 13. That decision was ultimately tabled due to council member Melissa Kopachek suggesting that the council members look into getting training from the League of Minnesota Cities on how meetings should be conducted.

“They also work with the public so they know how the meeting needs to go as well,” Kopachek said.

When the other council members seemed apprehensive, she pressed on. “The top portion is specific to council members with nothing about public interjection when council discusses. Another rule says that speakers on the public forum are only allowed four minutes. How do you plan to combat that, Mr. Mayor?”

She also suggested that limiting public comment to items on the agenda is “censorship.” Council member Ivan Maas retorted by pointing out that citizens’ requests were allowed under the rule. “It’s in the last three words.”

Kopachek was adamant that council members should complete training on how meetings work. City administrator Clinton Rogers accessed online information Kopachek suggested through the League of Minnesota Cities called “collaboration services.”

“It’s supposed to improve local government operations through things like mediation conferences, collaborative facilitation workshops, conflict coaching, and specialized workshops.”

Council member Andy Ahlman said that while he felt like he understood the rules of etiquette presented in front of them, he was open to receiving training. The rest of the council concurred.

The council then considered two bids for a new fire truck meant to replace a 1993 vehicle from the fire department’s fleet. Kopachek said that emails from residents gave her a “reality check” with people wanting to leave because of high taxes. She felt that the purchase would warrant another tax hike in 2024, something she believes Janesville taxpayers cannot afford.

“I can’t support this — not because I don’t support the fire department — but because community members are struggling to pay for their homes,” she said, adding, “I asked for a comprehensive plan on where the money was coming from to pay for this, and I don’t see one in front of us tonight.”

As Rogers, city clerk Andrea Moen, and assistant fire chief Chad Schroeder tried explaining where the funds would come from, Schroeder assured her that taxes would not go up because the truck was purchased. “The capital fire expense will cover part of it, while the loan from the bank will cover it.”

Council member Jim Mulcahey interjected. “Everyone makes a decision on where to live. But we have superb schools, an outstanding fire department, great programs to improve recreational facilities and parks, and businesses dedicated to Main Street.

“We need to keep public safety up to our standards,” he continued. “I do lament people that have difficulty. But this is for the public good of Janesville, and it’s in line

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

with the betterment of our community.”

“We’re about to vote on an item that will cost the city \$750,000,” Kopachek pointed out.

In the end, the council approved a bid from Janesville State Bank for a loan of \$300,000 for the fire truck at an interest rate of 4.75% with a payment estimate of \$68,814.27 per year. The Janesville bank’s loan proposal was not the lowest one received, but council members stated a preference to do business with a local agency.

The council took one last look at seven city ordinances before its public hearing on Monday, March 27, when the changes would receive final approval as required by state law; members requested that ordinance phrasing be made clearer and easier to understand.

Rogers said that in the last meeting, council member Maas asked about letting residents park their vehicles on the street in front of their houses during winter months. “I suggest allowing that from November 15 to April 15,” he said. “If we were to do that, we would have to add a sentence to our zoning ordinance amendment.”

Concerning an ordinance on golf carts in the city, Mulcahey suggested that carts which had received city permits should be marked with a decal. Without some sort of visible indication, he said, “You would have to come to city hall or pull over an individual to see if they’re permitted to drive a golf cart.”

Lastly, the council approved learning more about applying for funds from the DNR’s outdoor grant program to help cover the cost of repairing fences in Lakeview Park’s ball parks. The board will also look to acquire new tables at the park’s picnic shelter.

Reports

Council member Maas reported that the city’s community center committee is continuing to research various ideas and has come across some new possibilities. A new member talked about St. Peter’s community center, which includes a library, gym, and track. A facility of that type would differ greatly from the vision of a multi-level facility with apartments on top and a library, community center, and childcare facility on the lower level.

“We still plan on having a group meeting in April where the entire community can give input,” he said. “We should incorporate as many uses and people in this facility as possible if it will cost all this money.”

Maas shared that county commissioner DeAnne Malterer claimed there are currently millions of dollars at the State Capitol right now for the type of project being researched. When he suggested that someone should go up there, Kopachek offered that he should do it himself.

“You will get the blueprints just by going,” she assured him. “You have great support here, too.”

City Attorney Jason Moran also suggested clarifying a concept before asking for money. “If you get a good plan and reach out to a state representative, specifically their legislative assistant, you can get it attached to a special bonding bill,” he said.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Waseca 4-H competes at regional event

On March 11, more than 150 youth on 53 teams from across Minnesota participated in the 4-H Regional Project Bowl. The event challenges teams of three to six youth to test their knowledge on a variety of animal science and agriculture topics including dairy, dog, general livestock, horse, llama, poultry and rabbit.

Hundreds of youth teams participate in regional competitions held across the state in March with top teams qualifying to compete in the state competition in April. Each competition includes junior and senior divisions. Teams are quizzed in one-on-one and open rounds. The first participant with the correct answer earns points for their team.

“Through the 4-H Project Bowl program, youth have the opportunity to partner together with other youth and learn about different animal science areas. Participants also work on improving their communication skills and building meaningful relationships with their peers, which can contribute to their future success,” said Sharon Davis, 4-H Animal Science Director.

Waseca County 4-H was well-represented by 11 youth competing on two senior dog teams. Participants were August Bethke, Bailey Hodgkins, Angel Myers, Alexis Myers, Jacob Lewer, Sydney Lewer, Mikayla Lewer, Mackenzie Moorman, Avary Hopper, Rylie Cromwell, Julia Alvarado, and Rylie Cromwell. The teams were coached by adult volunteers Mattea Dann and Madelynn Smith. They have been practicing weekly since last fall to learn about dog breeds, diseases and



CUTLINE - Waseca County 4-H was well-represented with the 11 youth competing on 2 Senior Dog teams. Participants were August Bethke, Bailey Hodgkins, Angel Myers, Alexis Myers, Jacob Lewer, Sydney Lewer, Mikayla Lewer, Mackenzie Moorman, Avary Hopper, Rylie Cromwell, Julia Alvarado, and Rylie Cromwell.

treatments, nutrition, and more. The teams placed third and fourth and will advance to the Minnesota 4-H State Project Bowl competition in April.

To learn more about 4-H Project Bowl, visit our website (<https://extension.umn.edu/4-h-events/regional-state-project-bowls>) or contact Waseca County 4-H Local

Extension Educator Amy Nelson at dobbe007@umn.edu

* * *

About Extension 4-H: 4-H is a youth development program of the University of Minnesota Extension. Available for youth as early as kinder-

garten, the program offers hands-on learning experiences in STEM, leadership & civic engagement, animal science, creative arts and much more. Through the 4-H “learn-by-doing” process, youth obtain essential life skills including problem solving, decision making, coping, and communicating that help them succeed in their school, college, community and career. Research shows that youth who participate in 4-H have better grades and are more emotionally engaged with school, and are more than twice as likely to be civically active and contribute to their communities. Learn more about Minnesota 4-H here.

Mayor attempts to supress tensions

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

“The last city council meeting was not run as it should be,” announced city mayor Andy Arnoldt at the March 13 session. “I will be the first one to take responsibility.” Arnoldt read a letter to the public addressing the way the past few meetings were conducted.

“Being a leader isn’t something that magically happens,” he continued. “I’m still learning a lot about my role as mayor. I would like to apologize to those individuals that were greatly affected by any remarks or behaviors that stemmed from the last meeting.”

Arnoldt told the public that he opposes all forms of harassment, no matter who or where it comes from. “As mayor, I try to make impartial decisions regardless of my personal considerations,” he added. “I make decisions based on what I think would be best for the townspeople, knowing that it’s impossible to please everyone.

“It is my hope for council members that you will also seek ways to improve your own conduct at these meetings.”

Arnoldt claimed to have researched the way a council meeting should be run since the Tuesday, Feb. 28 gathering. “Disorderly proceedings hamper the effectiveness of

what we want to accomplish, and it tarnishes the reputation of the city. The rules allow business to be conducted as effectively as possible.

“By protecting minority groups and giving every person a chance to be heard, preventing discussion of multiple topics at one time, it helps refrain from verbal attacks on one another and allows decisions to be made by majority rule.

“I want to remind you that you have been voted to this position by your peers. I expect you to have the ability to overcome your differences, find common ground, and respect the results of policies being voted on.

“Each and every word spoken by this council should be take above reproach. It’s a serious and conscious responsibility to set a good example for others. I expect you to serve as a model of leadership and civility to your community that will inspire confidence in Janesville’s government.”

His tone became stern as he continued, “I want to make it clear that I am the mayor, and I alone will manage these meetings. You will wait to be recognized before speaking. No one has the right to disrupt council proceedings, ever. You will be courteous and civil. There will be no more personal attacks; this type of behavior is of very poor character and will not be tolerated.”

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

He further urged his fellow council members to be respectful even when disagreeing. “I want you to start working for the common good and not for your own personal interests,” he added. “I expect you to be gracious if you’re outvoted. There is no place here for anger and outburst if you don’t get the outcome that you were looking for.”

He went on to say that having questions and different ideas are “essential elements of a free democracy.” “However, it does not allow you to be belligerent, slanderous, threatening, or abusive. This council has made a commitment to attend meetings, and are compensated for them. Therefore, it’s very important you make as many meetings as absolutely possible and stay for the entirety of the meeting.

“You will treat staff professionals with clear, honest, communication,” he continued, “and respect the abilities and expertise of each individual. When in doubt about what is appropriate, you should reach out to me or Clinton [the city administrator].”

He further stated that the city staff, including the administrator and city attorney, have the responsibility to draft policy and direct the represen-

tatives of the community while “providing expertise about the matters at hand.

“Their assistance to the council is to be considered a benefit so that we can make informed and appropriate decisions.”

He then referenced the League of Minnesota Cities’ policies and recommendations on how the city clerk should keep minutes. “The city clerk has discretion,” he said. “A verbatim record is not required. Andrea [the city clerk] does not have to make changes because a council member asked her to.

“Your service on the city council is a unique honor that has been bestowed upon you by your fellow citizens,” he concluded his speech. “While it’s often a challenge, and there are difficulties, someone needs to do it, and the community has selected you. You have been chosen to serve in a professional, honorable manner. Your time on the council will be over soon enough. Please conduct yourself in a manner that will allow you to look back with pride not only for what you have accomplished, but how you have accomplished it.”

He summed his written statements up by saying. “Try to live by the golden rule. Treat others as you’d like to be treated.”

■ Amelia

from Page 2

mountains. When we got there, there was a dance group doing some type of cultural dance which was amazing to witness. After spending most of the day there, we were tired and withdrew to spend more time on the beach. The culture shock there was that we forgot that people are al-

lowed to go topless on Spanish beaches—that gave us something to talk about.

Sunday meant getting up early and watching the sunrise on the beach (obviously) before heading back to the hostel where I made scrambled eggs for our group. I felt like a mom, which was great: Since I cooked, everyone else was assigned to clean the dishes. After that, we checked out of the hostel and took our backpacks - crammed as full as we could get them with all the stuff we had needed for the five days - and headed to the

Bellver Castle. We were told by the taxi driver that Bellver is unique because it’s one of very few castles in Europe that is shaped in a circle. I don’t know if that was accurate or not but it’s still a fun fact. The castle was cool, but since we didn’t want to pay for the twenty-euro taxi back down to the main part of Palma, we decided to walk the hour and more back down. It was a trial because it was more than seventy degrees and our backpacks were getting heavy. At least now I know I can pack five days into one backpack and also be able to

carry it for miles.

Despite being exhausted by the end, my weekend was fantastic and I’m excited to continue traveling while here. The sad part is that I am now halfway through the semester and I feel like the time to leave will arrive faster than I expect.

My Determination: “Always tell the truth. Always take the high road. Live each day like it could be your last. Drink it in. Be adventurous, be bold, but savor it. It goes fast.” - Ben (Captain Fantastic)

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■ Resignation

from Page 1

meeting in which Janesville Mayor Andy Arnoldt apologized for a lack of civility and order during recent meetings. He asked council members

to show more decorum and to treat one another with more respect.

Kopachek stated that, in her opinion, Arnold’s apology was aimed more toward city staff members than toward council members or the public.

“I thought [the mayor’s] apology toward Jason Moran and Clinton Rogers was very sincere and heart-

felt,” she said. “I do wish that some of that effort would have applied to some follow through.”

Kopachek went on to state that, although Arnold’s statements claimed that meetings would be run more effectively, Tuesday’s session was not much changed. She told the Pioneer that “Council members were still permitted to speak without permission, Jason Moran was allowed to interrupt and speak from his chair several times, and at one point, Mayor Arnoldt even allowed a random public member to question the fire department on the truck purchase.

“It went right down the tube real quick,” she continued. “Did I expect it? Yes. Am I shocked? No.”

During her Facebook video, Kopachek read a statement while fighting back tears: “I cannot keep showing

up to these meetings fighting tooth and nail, taking hit after hit, and then looking up and seeing almost an empty room. Your council is going to continue treating people like this no matter who comes through the door until the citizens show up and start reminding them who is in charge.

“I wanted so badly to be the one who helped you all through this change. But I’m out of fight, and I have two beautiful daughters that need their mom.

“This decision does not come lightly. I’ve spent the last three weeks calling and meeting with various leaders, mentors, and people I care about to see what my recourse is with this city. But I realize now that given the state of council, I cannot make effective changes to this city. And I’m not representing you well, or properly.”

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Grief course offered

Beginning Monday, March 20 the Waseca Jr/Sr High School will be offering a grief support group that will be facilitated by Shannon Kuball, Licensed Therapist and Erin Rossow, President of Together On Memories.

Focused on helping young people who have experienced the loss of a friend or family member, this group will give participants the opportunity to develop coping skills, and to connect with others going through a similar loss in a safe, confidential place.

The grief support group will meet four times through the end of May; there will be no cost to attend the group. Dates are March 20, April 17, May 1 and 15. All sessions will be held during the school day.

Students wanting to learn more about this grief group held an informational meeting during Bluejay Connect on Friday, March 10.

Please contact Jenny Sandbeck, LSW, SSW with any questions at 833-0795.

A Grief Group Acknowledgment form will need to be received prior to a student joining Together on Memories Grief Group. Forms are available in the counseling office or through the following link: [shorturl.at/epFOT](https://togetheronmemories.com/)

Grief Group Acknowledgment Form: Want to learn more about Together On Memories, please click on the link: <https://togetheronmemories.com/>

Bluejay All-Stars



Last week a Waseca Junior High Bluejay all-stars breakfast was held to recognize students for demonstrating positive traits and characteristics during second trimester.

Mathletes



The Waseca Intermediate School sixth grade Math Masters teams placed third and fourth out of 23 teams at the regional competition last week.

A cut above



Waseca Intermediate School Principal Joe Wollenberg allowed a student to cut his hair after students fulfilled their reading goals during "I Love to Read Month." He reported afterwards he was very satisfied with a very artistic, memorable hairdo.

Waldorf awarded \$3,000 grant from Prairie Lakes

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council is pleased to announce that Arts and Cultural Heritage grants of \$156,400 were awarded to twenty-five arts organizations, community groups, and schools in the region with funds from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. The purpose of the Arts and Cultural Heritage program is to provide funding for arts organizations directly engaged in the creation of art, the production of artistic performances, or the sponsorship of quality arts activities in their local communities. The grants are for arts activities in all artistic disciplines which include instrumental and vocal music concerts; theater, dance, and figure skating performances; exhibitions; festivals; public art; artist residencies; and classes for youth and adults are being funded.

City of Waldorf - \$3,000. They will hire artist Nell Tryst to create a painted mural in downtown Waldorf to be the backdrop for the future

Waldorf Memorial Veterans Park. There will be a public dedication ceremony during Waldorf Days, August 26, 2023. Funds will be used for artist's fees.

The next Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant deadline is August 1, 2023. Small Arts Project Grants and School Art Project Grants are available and the next deadline is April 1, 2023. Organizations can apply once per year for a grant. Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council has an online grant process. Prairie Lakes is encouraging arts projects for cultural activities and underserved populations as identified in our Equity and Inclusion Policy. This includes: Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), Economically Disadvantaged, Youth, Senior Citizens, People with Disabilities and LGBTQ+. If you have questions please contact the PLRAC office in Waseca, 1-800-298-1254 or plracc@hickorytech.net.

Annually, the arts council awards

more than 200 grants to Artists, Non-profit Arts Organizations, Community Groups, and for Youth Scholarships, and in FY 2022 we awarded over \$590,000. A monthly newsletter and calendar of arts events in the 9-county area is posted on our website www.plrac.org.

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council is committed to supporting and expanding the arts in the nine-county area; knowing that the Arts improve the quality of life in our region. We serve a nine-county area including Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, and Watonwan Counties.

Light rail project criticized

ST. PAUL — Today the Office of the Legislative Auditor released an audit of the Metropolitan Council's management of Southwest Light Rail project. The damning report focused on the construction of the project, finding that the Met Council "obligated funds it did not have, did not develop a contingency plan if the funds did not materialize, and was not fully transparent about project costs and delays." House Transportation Committee Republican Lead John Petersburg released the following statement based on the findings:

"Today's report from the OLA confirms what Republicans have been saying for years now: the Met Council has grossly mismanaged the Southwest Light Rail project and it has turned into a black hole for taxpayer money. While the Met Council proposes that more taxpayer dollars should be raised to cover these added costs, absolutely no more taxpayer dollars should go towards this boondoggle. This is a colossal failure and it's time we cut our losses and move on.

"This project should also be a learning moment. The OLA offers good starting points for improvement to be initiated by the Legislature and the Met Council to ensure this extreme waste of taxpayer dollars never happens again. However, this shouldn't just influence how we deal with the Met Council, but our state's transportation needs as a whole. Before we sign off on transit projects with large price tags and low demand, we should be listening to Minnesotans on what would actually make their lives better—like the simple but necessary tasks of maintaining our roads and bridges and fixing potholes—before we put billions of taxpayer dollars towards pet projects like light rail lines or commuter trains."

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DIGITAL MOBILE RADIO (DMR) CLASS

Daniel Petsinger

is hosting a **FREE CLASS** to introduce beginners to **Digital Mobile Radio**

Class starts at **9 a.m. on March 25 at the Owatonna VFW**
A second, "advanced" class is scheduled for 1 p.m.
Burger baskets will be available for purchase during a 1-hour lunch break.
Anyone taking part in the "advanced" section will need to bring their computer and radio for programming

You can sign up online for either class at: dmr.kd0tgf.com.
For more information contact Petsinger via his email: kd0tgf@gmail.com

New way of talking

DMR courses set for March 25

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Daniel Petsinger, call sign KDØTGF, is hosting a free class for amateur and advanced radio enthusiasts. The class, intended to introduce beginners to Digital Mobile Radio (DMR), starts at 9 a.m. on March 25 at the Owatonna VFW. A second, "advanced" class is scheduled for 1 p.m. Burger baskets will be available for purchase during a 1-hour lunch break. Anyone taking part in the "advanced" section will need to bring their computer and radio for programming.

"The classes will enumerate the advantages of switching from analog HAM units to digital DMR equipment," Petsinger explained.

The DMR units Petsinger will be teaching about look similar to a walkie-talkie, but are far more versatile and functional.

A quick overview of the advantages Petsinger will be covering in the 3-hour class include:

- Efficiency - Digital uses less power
- Versatility - DMRs can com-

municate more than voice-to-voice, including GPS location and even text.

Range - Petsinger will explain how DMR users can tune into worldwide communication channels.

"If any of this sounds confusing, but interesting, then come to the class," Petsinger pleaded. "This is not your grandmother's telephone."

The advanced class which begins at 1 p.m. will teach amateur radio operators how to program a radio to either listen and/or talk on DMR networks. A major advantage of this could be tapping into SKYWARN, part of the national weather service, giving users a live listen to weather spotters on the ground during severe weather activity.

Persons interested in signing up for either or both classes can do so online at: dmr.kd0tgf.com.

Persons with questions or who are seeking more information can contact Petsinger via his email: kd0tgf@gmail.com



Kevin Walter left, and Dan Bulfer smile while helping out at the Sacred Heart Fish Fry March 10. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



FRYERS - Manning the fryer last Friday night were Dan Bulfer, Norman Johnson, Gregg Johnson and Pete Eustice.



Sacred Heart fish fry servers from left: Maddy Benson, Allen Koptetzki, Lisa Stenzel, Barb Hoehn and Gordy Frisk

Sacred Heart

Friday fish fry

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

About 100 hungry parishioners enjoyed a delicious meal during a fish fry at Waseca's Sacred Heart Church on Friday, March 10. About a half dozen volunteers from the church and the Knights of Columbus cooked and served nearly 1,000 pieces of fish, alongside beans, french fries

and cookies.

The meal was the group's effort at reviving the longstanding Lenten tradition which had been interrupted by the Covid pandemic.

"Bringing families together is our goal," Father Tae said of the event. "We're treating this as a test run and hoping to do it again next year."

Members of Waseca's Knights of

Columbus had informed Father Tae of their interest in doing some fundraising for Sacred Heart School and suggested bringing back the annual, traditional, Lenten-time fish fry.

Manning the friers this year were Kevin Walter, Dan Bulfer, Norman Johnson, Gregg Johnson and Pete Eustice.

Operating the service line were: Allen Koptetzki, Lisa Stenzel, Barb Hoehn and Gordy Frisk.

Father Tae, of course, entertained patrons as they enjoyed their supper.

The next "big event" will be the Sacred Heart Fall Festival.

Honor Band



Last weekend, Addie Bomsta and Hannah LaCroix participated in the Dorian Honor Band at Luther College in Decorah, IA.

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BRIAN HARGUTH KEITH JOHNSON

Superfans



Waseca girls' basketball seniors, coach Joan Conway, and their "superfans," the ladies who have supported these Bluejay players throughout their high school careers. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

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STANDINGS

2022-23 Final				
Boys' Basketball				
Big South Conference				
Big Standings				
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.	
New Ulm	12-1	5-1	21-6	
Worthington	11-2	5-1	21-6	
Marshall	6-8	2-4	10-17	
St. Peter	3-8	0-6	5-22	

Big South Conference				
East Standings				
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.	
Jackson Co. Cent.	11-6	3-3	15-10	
Waseca	7-4	5-1	21-7	
Blue Earth Area	6-4	4-2	15-9	
Fairmont	3-14	0-6	7-18	

Big South Conference				
West Standings				
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.	
Pipestone Area	8-6	6-2	13-12	
Windom Area	7-7	5-3	17-10	
Luverne	7-7	5-3	13-12	
Redwood Valley	6-8	4-4	15-14	
St. James Area	1-13	0-8	9-18	

Gopher Conference				
East Standings				
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.	
Kenyon-Wana.	14-2	9-1	23-7	
Hayfield	13-4	6-3	19-9	
Randolph	10-6	6-4	16-11	
Bethlehem Acad.	7-9	4-6	14-11	
Triton	6-9	2-7	9-18	
Bloomington Prairie	5-12	2-8	9-16	

Gopher Conference				
West Standings				
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.	
Maple River	16-0	10-0	28-2	
United So. Cent.	12-4	8-2	20-8	
JWP	7-9	6-4	14-14	
NRHEG	3-13	2-8	3-24	
WEM	3-14	3-7	4-22	
Medford	2-16	1-9	2-25	

Girls' Basketball				
Big South Conference				
Big Standings				
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.	
St. Peter	10-1	5-1	21-7	
Marshall	10-2	5-1	21-9	
New Ulm	8-4	2-4	17-9	
Worthington	0-13	0-6	4-22	

Big South Conference				
East Standings				
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.	
Waseca	6-4	5-1	16-10	
Fairmont	9-9	5-1	15-11	
Jackson Co. Central	7-10	2-4	11-13	
Blue Earth Area	0-10	0-6	5-20	

Big South Conference				
West Standings				
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.	
Luverne	10-0	6-0	14-2	
St. James Area	5-4	4-2	12-6	
Pipestone Area	5-4	3-3	9-6	
Windom Area	3-8	1-4	9-8	
Redwood Valley	1-8	1-5	5-13	

Gopher Conference				
East Standings				
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.	
Hayfield	14-1	10-0	28-3	
Bloomington Prairie	10-6	6-4	11-13	
Randolph	7-8	4-6	19-10	
Kenyon-Wana.	7-9	3-7	12-13	
Triton	6-10	5-5	10-17	
Bethlehem Acad.	4-12	2-8	10-14	

Gopher Conference				
West Standings				
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.	
NRHEG	13-2	8-1	21-6	
WEM	11-4	7-2	17-9	
Maple River	9-6	4-4	14-12	
JWP	4-10	2-6	13-15	
Medford	1-16	1-7	2-24	
United So. Cent.	0-2	0-2	3-13	

Boys' Hockey				
Big South Conference Standings				
	Conf.	Ov.		
New Ulm	16-0	23-4		
Luverne	13-3	21-8		
Minnesota River	9-7	12-14		
Marshall	9-7	11-14		
Windom Area	9-7	11-14		
Waseca	8-8	10-15		
Fairmont	6-10	8-19		
Worthington	2-14	3-20		
Redwood Valley	0-16	0-22		

Girls' Hockey				
Big South Conference Standings				
	Conf.	Ov.		
Luverne	14-0	21-8		
New Ulm	11-2	17-9		
Marshall	9-4	12-12		
Minnesota River	8-5	12-11		
Waseca	5-9	12-12		
Windom Area	4-9	10-14		
Fairmont	2-12	4-17		
Worthington/Fulda	0-13	3-19		

Wrestling				
Big South Conference				
East Standings				
	Conf.	Ov.		
St. Peter	5-0	20-6		
Fairmont/MCW	4-1	12-3		
New Ulm	3-2	19-8		
Waseca	2-3	5-12		
Blue Earth Area	1-4	6-20		
St. James Area	0-5	11-14		

Big South Conference				
West Standings				
	Conf.	Ov.		
Jackson Co. Central	6-0	21-5		
Marshall/Lakeview	5-1	18-5		
Pipestone Area	3-3	9-10		
Windom/Mt. Lake	3-3	8-13		
Worthington	3-3	8-14		
Redwood Valley	1-5	5-17		
Luverne	0-6	11-16		

Season ends for NRHEG boys' basketball

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

The NRHEG boys' basketball season came to an end in the opening round of the sub-section playoffs with a 74-32 loss to 2-seed Lake Crystal-Wellcome-Memorial last week.

The game was never close. Ranked fifth in state, the Knights also rolled past Waseca by nine-points in round two of the tournament and played in the sub-section championship game against No. 4 ranked Maple River.

The Knights scored the first 11

points against the Panthers and never looked back.

"We struggled to get aggressive in our offense, and many times failed to attack when given the opportunity," NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt said. "LCWM plays such good, high pressure defense, and we just weren't able to take advantage when we got the looks."

Individually for the Panthers: Dexter Lee 13 points; Jaylin Raab 8; Sawyer Prigge 5; Jackson Chrz, Will Tuttle and Jase Knudson scored 2.

"While the record doesn't show it, when we watch film from the first

game of the season to now, we can see how much we're improving," coach Schmidt reflected. "But, as we've talked about, this isn't an overnight fix. It'll take time to get things going the direction we want, as a program."

Schmidt told the players after the game he and the coaching staff are extremely proud of the boys and how far they've come both on and off the court this season.

"This will be a big off-season for us, at all levels," Schmidt explained. "If we can utilize our time together this summer, along with the time

that the guys can put in on their own, it should make things much easier coming into next season. Coupled with the improvements that they have the opportunities to make, there's reason to be excited about the potential of next season."

The Panthers graduate three seniors: Brady Schlaak, Dylan

Ignvaldson, and Sawyer Prigge. They were coached by first year head coach Dan Schmidt, assisted by Aaron Gilliland and Tyler Schlaak.



Ingvaldson



Prigge



Schlaak

For Jays, upset bid falls short

Loss to LCWM ends season

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

They play the game for a reason. On Tuesday, the Waseca High School boys' basketball team was given a scare by a Waterville-Elysian-Morristown team that had four wins all season. On Thursday, the third-seeded Bluejays were the team doing the scaring.

Waseca's season came to an end in Mankato, on March 9 with a 71-62 setback to second-seeded to Lake Crystal-Wellcome-Memorial at Mankato East High School.

Trailing by 10 points three times throughout the first and second half, the Bluejays refused to give up. They trailed early, but fought back to tie the game at 10-10 on a three-pointer from Carson Ohnstad.

The Knights went on a 10-point run, which the Jays answered with seven points of their own, all from the Russell brothers, Deron and Damaris.

"We weren't really sure where a lot of these guys would fall into the rotation at the beginning of the year, Deron being one of them," coach Seth Anderson said. "Carson Ohnstad was one of those guys too. He came in from football season not really sure where he was gonna be. And obviously he's had a really good year shooting the basketball... I tell our guys all the time, the margin between our best player and our 15th-best player is very, very small. There's a lot of guys that are on the bench right now who are not that far behind the guys on the floor. And that's kind of what's made practice enjoyable and competitive all year. It's watching those guys compete for playing time."

At intermission the Jays trailed 30-26.

In the second half, the Jays fell behind by as many as 12, but fought back. A three-pointer from senior Tyson Reger with 7 minutes remaining, his first basket of the game, started the rally. Laird Keaton and Damaris Russell chipped in baskets to cut the lead to 48-45.

Over the next four minutes the Jays stayed within three points, but on their only possession down three



PLAYOFF INTENSITY — There was plenty of it as the Waseca High School boys' basketball team faced high-powered LCWM in the section tournament Thursday, March 9. Above left, Deron Russell goes up for a reverse layup. Above right, Damaris Russell splits the defense. Below left, Carson Ohnstad drives. Below right, Laird Keaton glides.

points with a chance to tie, they threw the ball away on a poor inbound pass. Over the final two minutes the Knights hit a couple key three-pointers and made their free throws to put the game on ice. The Knights missed only one free throw all night.

"LCWM is a very athletic team," Anderson said. "They're really balanced, they shot the ball well and defended well. They've got some high level players. We had to do a good job defensively to make it a competitive game and we did a good job of that tonight. It just wasn't quite enough. They're ranked 5th in the state for a reason."

The Knights moved onto the Sub-Section championship game against Maple River Tuesday night at the Taylor Center. The winner of that game moves onto the section championship game with a state tournament berth on the line.

Bluejays who played their final game Thursday were seniors Addison Sampson, Reger, Jacari Jellum, and Alexander Honstad.

"I don't score a ton of points, but I try to do my best on defense, hit open shots when I'm open and find the open guy," Reger said of his role this season. "I try to help the team. It means a lot to be a Waseca basketball player. We have a great community around us. Lots of teammates who like to pick each other up. Who are always trying to have fun while playing hard. It's fun to be here."

Reger said his favorite memory was his game against Sibley East



when he hit nine three-pointers in a row.

"That was pretty cool," he said. "That will probably stick with me forever."

Reger started his basketball career in Waseca as a fourth-grader and has played every year since seventh grade.

The Bluejays return nine juniors next season, three sophomores and freshman Deron Russell.

"I don't think anybody would have guessed we'd be at 21 wins this season," coach Anderson reflected. "We've had a lot of good wins and probably won a lot of those 50/50 games... It's been really exciting to see how high of a level that we can play at and to watch some of these



guys exceed some of the expectations that we had for them throughout the year."

Looking back at this year and forward to next, Anderson said he was impressed with the players.

"Tyson Reger and Zach Hulscher really kind of got out of their comfort zones of being kind of soft spoken, laid back guys. They kind of stepped forward as captains for us this year. They've done a really good job leading with energy and leading with positivity every single day, and at practice. And Damaris Russell is just a competitor. And then Jacari Jellum is kind of our fourth captain, and we always call him the captain of the bench, because he is just the most energetic, positive guy that

we've had on our team all year. Going to practice every day with this group has been absolutely enjoyable, because they just worked their butts off and they listen and they try to do what we're asking every single day. And at the end of the day, as a coach, it's hard to, it's hard to ask for more than what they've been able to do in that regard."

The Bluejays ended their season with a record of 21-7. They were coached by Anderson, assisted by Austin Nagael, Brian Rupe, Richard Guse, Matt Olsen, and Tim Anderson. Student managers were Kaden Pierce and Karley Hamilton.

JWP boys fall in sub-section

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

The JWP High School boys' basketball team faced a similar foe in the Sub-section 2A South quarterfinals Tuesday, March 7. Mountain Lake, who kicked JWP out of the playoffs last year with a 79-63 performance, was looking to do that again this year.

When asked about how the JWP boys could get past them this time, coach Nick James responded, "We will have to be perfect on both ends."

They were almost perfect perfect. But the almost wasn't enough, as the Wolverines knocked the Bulldogs out of the playoffs for the second consecutive year, 67-51.

This game was the prime definition of a tale of two halves. The first half was a low-scoring affair, which each team trying to figure out the other's holes on defense. After four minutes of chipping away, Mountain Lake had a 6-0 lead.

It took the Wolverines another four minutes to earn three more points. JWP was finally able to respond thanks to the efforts of Memphis James, who got the team in the board with 11:47 on the clock. Another layup effort by James, however, refused to fall, swirling

around the rim for two seconds before landing on the court. A third attempt by James with 9:56 on the clock worked to put the Bulldogs behind Mountain Lake 9-4.

The Wolverines took advantage of the Bulldogs by scoring six more points within a minute, putting JWP behind by double digits for the first time. After falling behind 21-6, the Bulldogs used the final six minutes of the half to go on a 13-point run, making it 24-19 at half-time.

Mountain Lake kept putting some distance behind them and JWP, extending the 24-19 lead to 36-27. JWP cut the nine-point lead down to six twice, but that was as close as they could get.

It ended the Bulldogs' season at an even 14-14 record. Unlike most teams, the Bulldogs will not lose any players to graduation this season. They are in a unique situation to see everyone on this year's varsity squad to return for another year.

There are currently ten juniors on the team: Memphis James, Cole Schlueter, Ryan Kronbach, Austin Quast, Steven Dimmel, Austin Carda, Carter Miller, Dylan McWaters, Connor Welvaert, and Steven Denn. Memphis is Coach James's son.



SUB-SECTION SETBACK — The Bulldogs' Dalton Bauer drives against Mountain Lake.

Photo by Leanne Kavitz



BOMBS AWAY — JWP’s Ben Wheelock (35) was one of many Bulldogs who raced down to the floor and scored against Faribault BA in the East Section 2AA Final in Waseca. After a 47-19 first half, the BA coach said he could not recall a time where his team got so far behind.

Bulldogs knock out FBA in semifinals

1923

-Every year about this time there seems to be an epidemic of mutilating and cutting down the shade trees about town. Now these shade trees are the beauty of the town, and about the only one, and, if necessary, should be protected by an ordinance enacted by the village council. Much of the ruthless slaughter of the trees is done by telephone men on the ground claiming that “they interfere with the wires.” Then put the wires where they won’t interfere with the trees! However, if they must be trimmed away from the wires, let it be done under the supervision of someone who has an eye to beauty and artistic effect.

-As will be noted, the cast of characters in the play, “The Miner’s Daughter,” is a sure guarantee that the roles assumed will be well enacted. Without seeking to give too much credit, we may safely say that each player is sufficiently well versed in the dramatic art to appear in any play at any time in any locality. Is this the language of extravagant eulogy? Not by any means, for it embodies the simple and exact truth.

-The American Legion, Most No. 281, has secured the Town Hall for Easter Monday evening. A splendid ball will be put on at that time which will effectually fill all requirements. If you have sacrificed your desire for pleasure during the Lenten period, here is the first opportunity to gratify it. Come out on this occasion and give the members of the post the benefit of our presence and your support. The fund raised is to be devoted to uses of the organization and that means to some useful purpose.

1948

-The Ionian Singers who will be heard at Waseca on March 16 at 8 p.m. under the auspices of the Waseca County Library are an All-American ensemble established several years ago with the purpose of seeking out and making available to the public the beat of male-voice music, from the days of Palestrina to our own. Its research has unearthed masterpieces which have been completely forgotten because of the long-standing preoccupation of the male singing groups with the less difficult ballads and popular hits of the hour. The personnel comprises Alan Adair, first tenor; Albert Barber, second tenor; Jean Pilon, baritone; and Hildreth Martin, bass.

-Pfc. Richard Nolan, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Nolan, has returned home from overseas. He served in the Signal Corps for 18 months, a year of which was spent in Japan. On his way home from California he stopped at Manhattan, Kansas, and visited his sister, Mrs. John Hinton, and family. He has received his discharge from the service.

-The first meeting of the newly-formed Exchange Club of Janesville, MN, operating under the authority of the National Exchange Club, was held Monday, March 8, 1948. The following officers were elected: John Koehler, president; Lloyd Sandberg, secretary; and Lee Tetzloff, treasurer. From the day of formation of the first club, 37 years ago, Exchange has expanded steadily in the national field, electing to membership in the many cities, towns and communities in which it is established the leaders in business and professional fields.

1973

-To newcomers, Joe and Bea Stepan are permanent Janesville fixtures. As long as we can remember, or heard tell of, Joe has had a shore store on Main Street. But that isn’t the case. The Stepan have only been in Janesville a quarter of a century. This week Joe and Bea are celebrating their 25th year of business with an open house, free gifts and a dollar off on any pair of shoes to every coupon bearer. It’s their way of saying “Thank You” for 25 good years.

-Cliff Coonrod ran over a motor on Craig Street last Tuesday night. No, it wasn’t the motor in the car he was driving. It was someone else’s motor. No, it didn’t fall out from under another car. It fell off a truck. It fell off a pickup driven by Tom Cowdin. According to the police report, Town Cowdin was driving down Craig Street with this motor in the back of a 1939 Ford pickup. Somehow the motor fell off the back end when the end gate came down. Shortly thereafter Cliff Coonrod came along (he lives in the area) and ran over the motor. The motor was ruined, Coonrod has \$130 damage on his 1966 Mercury. And the Argus missed on h—l of a picture.

-Miss Vickie Wolff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Wolff of rural Eagle Lake was chosen as the delegate to Minnesota Girls State by the Janesville American Legion Auxiliary. She will attend the 27th annual Girls State on June 3-9 at St. Catherine College in St. Paul.

1998

-Think green. That is what the members of the Irish-American Club of Southern Minnesota want you to think Saturday, March 14, as the 30th annual St. Patrick’s Day celebration and parade takes to the streets of Waseca. The parade plans to be bigger and better than ever as the club is inviting all past grand marshals, Irish Queen royalty and Mr. and Mrs. Emerald Isle winners to participate. “Hopefully, it will be a good turnout,” said club member Peggy Eustice of the celebration. “We are just out to get all the families together and have fun.”

-Karen Sanderson-Buschow, a resident of Pemberton and teacher at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Elementary School in Janesville, is among a select group of outstanding educators chosen to participate in the Minnesota Humanities Commission’s Teacher Institute during the week of Sunday-Thursday, March 29-April 3. The residential program will be held at the Humanities Education Center, a newly-opened conference center adjacent to Lake Phalen Regional Park in St. Paul.

-The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton boys’ basketball team never gave Faribault Bethlehem Academy a chance in Thursday’s East Section 2AA semifinal game at Waseca. JWP, which already had to decisive victories over the Cardinals during the Gopher Conference season, shredded the FBA zone with an accurate display of outside shooting. And when the Bulldogs did miss, which was rare, the front liners were right there for putbacks. “I don’t know if we’ve ever been blown out like that in the first half,” said FBA coach Franz Boelter. It was 47-19 at the half.

Frisk is crowned Miss St. Patrick

Waseca Herald, 1923

-The routine work of the city council meeting Tuesday evening was enlivened by a lengthy communication from Mayor Smartwood, giving an interesting review of municipal projects completed or started during his administration and declaring that he was not a candidate for reelection. The council voted to have the letter incorporated in the minutes of the meeting and have it published in the official paper. Alderman Graben stated that the sewer contractors were digging shafts for their tunnels on West Elm Street and that there was danger of children falling into them. It was voted to have the street commissioner see that the part of the street where the work is being done was properly fenced off and the opening in the ground protected by a railing.

-An unsuccessful attempt was made to rob the Standard Oil Co. filling station in this city last night. It appears that the burglar first pried open a window in the ladies’ waiting room and entered, but found this room was separated from the office by a heavy wall. He then broke a glass panel in the front door of the office, inserted his hand and turned the lock. The combination knob on the safe was then knocked off, a chisel and hammer bring used. No further damage was done. The knob lay on the floor this morning, the robber apparently having been frightened.

Waseca Herald, 1948

-Mrs. C. W. Spaulding of Waseca was named as one of two delegates from the First Congressional district to attend the National Republican convention which will be held in Philadelphia later this year. She won the honor at Rochester last Saturday when the district convention was held after a sharp campaign with other candidates in the field. Mrs. Spaulding’s election came after an

active campaign for a representative from the western part of the district. She had been endorsed as a candidate for delegate to the national convention when the Waseca County Republican convention was held previous to the district.

-Waseca made a fine showing at the District contest held at the Waseca High School on March 15. Three students earned a rating or superior, as well as the one-act play, thus earning a right to participate at the regional contest to be held at Northfield April 3. Betty Powell earned a superior in the dramatic division with her reading of “Rebecca”; Diane Miller earned a superior rating with the selection “Patterns”; Delores Carlton won a superior in discussion. Other participants were Mary Krough, Duane Parrish, Janey Noetzel and Myron Krause.

-The Central basketball team on Thursday evening of last week stepped out in good form to take on the Regional “A” finals from Rochester in a game at the Mayo Civic Auditorium with a score of 51-49. Bu winning, Central won the right to meet Kenyon in the Region One finals at Rochester, Saturday night which gave them the chance to be Region One champions and go to the state tournament this week. The game, termed one of the most thrilling to be seen on the Rochester floor, had spectators on their feet most of the last quarter as the scores remained with a one and two point difference, and either team ready to grab the breaks and take the game.

Waseca Daily Journal, 1973

-Governor Wendell Anderson today named a former Waseca native, Robert J. Sheran as Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court. Sheran will replace Justice Oscar R. Knutson who announced his retirement today. Sheran, 57, is the son of the late Dr. And Mrs. M.



GO FOR THE GREEN — The Irish American Club held its 30th St. Patrick’s Day celebration on Saturday, March 14, 1998. Shannon Frisk (center) was crowned Miss St. Patrick with fellow candidate Julie Kelley (right) watching.

J. Sheran of Waseca. The late Dr. Sheran was a dentist here and he and his family resided at 509 North State Street. The family moved to Minneapolis in 1928. Sheran served on the court from 1963 to 1970 but then resigned to join a Minneapolis law firm.

-Minnesota’s suddenly derailed Gophers placed two players and four other schools were represented on the 1973 All-Big Ten basketball team named today by the Associated Press. Along with Minnesota’s skilled duo of Ron Behagen and Jim Brewer, the honor team also included Steve Downing of champion Indiana repeating scoring titlist Mike Robinson of Michigan State, Allan Hornyak of Ohio State and Nick Weatherspoon of Illinois.

Waseca County News, 1998

-Associate Warden of the Waseca Federal Correctional Institute Myron Anderson is leaving the institution. Anderson is being transferred to the federal institution in Englewood, Colo. His last day was Friday. Anderson said the transferring of management level employees within the federal correction system is common. “We are transferred on a regular basis, so we can share our

experiences and career development skills with the employees of the other federal institutions around the country,” he said. Anderson has been the associate warden at the Waseca facility since July 1995. He came to Minnesota with his wife, Sue. Anderson is originally from the southern Minnesota area.

-The 168 members of the Waseca Education Association (WEA) voted Wednesday to reject the latest contract offered by the Waseca School Board. Members of the WEA would not comment on the contract situation. Waseca Superintendent Jim Schmitt said, “We are disappointed the contract was not approved. We are going to discuss what to do next at the next board meeting,” Schmitt said. The WEA has scheduled a closed meeting tonight to discuss its options.

-The Waseca High School chapter of the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) program had three students place in the top three of their events in its state competition March 15-16 in Minneapolis. Jim King, Brad Deml and Amber Kozan earned the right to participate in the national competition April 24-30 in Denver.

Honored for 48 years of service

1923

-With nothing at stake, voters naturally failed to appear at the village polls for the annual village election. Only thirty votes were cast and of this number, only two were women. The attendance at the village caucus Saturday evening was very light. At this meeting the following ticket, which carried on Tuesday, was prepared: Mayor — F. H. Krueger; Trustee 3 years — C. I. Virnig; Treasurer H. F. Bestmann; Clerk — A. O. Lea; Assessor 2 years — Geo. Johnson; Justice of Peace — A. G. Byersdorff; and Constable — Thos. Courtney. The judges of the election were Geo. Hovig, H. T. Tyrholm and B. H. Schlosser.

-The operetta, “Uncle Sam’s Visit,” was given Friday, March 9, at the Faust Theater by all the pupils of the Grade building. The old woman, Cora Zarth, had many children who represented all nations of the world. Uncle Sam, who was Arthur Steele and Columbia, Thelma Johnson, accompanied by six soldiers, Alfred Herbst, Wm. Lange, Charles Nitschke, Ernest Paulson, Leslie Paulson and Gerhard Streng, listened to the Folk songs given in their native costumes.

-On Thursday, March 22, at the Faust Theater, the moving picture, “The Eternal Light,” will be shown under the auspices of the local Catholic Church. This picture enacts the wonderful drama of Our Lord’s life amid the very scenes where they occurred. The picture was produced at a cost of \$350,000.00 by the Catholic Art association of New York. “The Eternal Light” has been commended by churchmen of all denominations wherever shown.

1948

-Misses Peggy and Patsy Doyle, twin daughters of Dr. and Mrs. A. A. Doyle, are to complete their training in nursing in September, having been attending the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul. They will be members of the class which is to be graduated next May 16 and of which their sister, Miss Catherine, is a member. The young ladies are expected home

March 25 and will remain until April 1 when they leave for Chicago to enter Heinz General hospital under the V.A. administration, expecting to remain six months.

-Albert Lea Tribune: Andrew Stenseth, 1015 West Clark Street, was notified that he is to be the recipient of an unusual honor. A loyal son of the Norwegian town of Kongsberg, Stenseth has in the course of years performed many services for it. He helped organize in the U.S. an association of former Kongsberg residents, calling it the “Kongsberglag.” He assisted many families of his native town to reestablish contacts with friends and relatives in the U.S. and vice-versa. Since the end of the war he has contributed to various drives aimed at bringing relief to distressed families of Kongsberg. So now the Kongsberg society of Oslo, which is another organization made up of former Kongsberg residents, has decided to show its appreciation by presenting Andrew Stenseth of Albert Lea with “its highest decoration.” Just what the decoration is, Stenseth doesn’t exactly know...yet. It will be presented to him formally sometime next summer when the Kongsberg folks arrive for a tour of the U.S.

-J. J. Steckel, co-pilot on the ill-fated plane that crashed in Alaska Friday night, while en route from China, had relatives here. His wife, the former Patricia Scott, is a step-daughter of August Matthies, a former buttermaker at the New Richland creamery, a brother of Mrs. Carl Weckwerth. August Matthies lives in Minneapolis as did the Steckels. Mrs. Steckel, before her marriage, taught school in Dist. 98, Freeborn County in about 1940 to 1942.

1973

-Walter Loken, Commander of Andrew Borgen #75 Post of the American Legion, in New Richland, announces that at a recent Post meeting it was voted to send a boy to the Twenty-Fifth Annual American Legion “Legion Boys State.” Selected for the opportunity was Wayne Billing, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bil-



New Richland Fire Department foreman Gary Billing presented a plaque to Tom Bruzek in recognition of his 48 years of service to the department at a meeting of the firemen Feb. 26, 1998.

ling of New Richland. Tim Flor, song of Dr. and Mrs. A. G. Flor was named alternate. Wayne is a member of A band and works on the Broadcast staff at the New Richland-Hartland high school. He presently is working toward his Eagle rank in Boy Scout Troop 90. He is a member of the Luther League at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, New Richland. Tim is junior class president, a member of the student council and Broadcast staff at the New Richland-Hartland high school. He also plays in the A band and swing band and is a football and wrestling letterman. An altar boy at All Saints church, he sings with the church choir and is a member of the Catholic Youth Organization and the church bowling team. A Boy Scout, he is also a member of the Teen Board.

-Mary Root, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. K. Root of New Richland has been named Girls’ State for New Richland. Her alternate is Vicki Kraupa, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arleigh Kraupa of New Richland. Mary is sponsored by the auxiliary unit of the Andrew Borgen Post 75. A member of the A band at New Richland-Hartland high school, Mary is also a cheerleader. She enjoys playing girls’ basketball and softball and is a member of the National Honor Society. Secretary of the Pilgrim Fellowship at Congregational church, she is also a member of the 4-H. Vicki is a member of the National Honor Society and the Luther League at Trinity Church.

-The economy of the state of Minnesota

1998

-The construction on the new Community Center in Waldorf is proceeding on schedule. This week heating vents were installed. It is expected that the erection of the walls of the kitchen, post office, storage room and lavatories will be completed in the next couple of weeks. Preparations are being made to pour a cement parking lot, cement curbing and sidewalk in April. The Waldorf Post Office will be moved into the new building and will be open for business May 1. Entirely new equipment for the office installation is being supplied by the U.S. Postal Service. These will include new boxes with keys, rather than combinations.

-The New Richland Volunteer Fire Department will be holding their annual dance on Saturday, March 28, at the New Richland American Legion clubrooms. On February 26 fire department members met to prepare letters for mailing announcing the dance. At that meeting a plaque was presented to Tom Bruzek, secretary, for serving with the New Richland Volunteer Fire Department for 48 years. The New Richland Volunteer Fire Department was incorporated March 12, 1909 and has held a dance as a fundraiser for many years. Tom joined the fire department on April 7, 1950. In January 1951, he was elected secretary and remains in that office.

The Pastor's Column

Out with bad, in with good

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

Everything changes in an instant. The choices we make, or others make around us can change everything. One choice and life changes, good, bad, or otherwise. If you haven't noticed, this past week the weather changed. We are approaching a turning point in winter; spring is right around the corner; how will you respond when it snows again this spring? When the roads are closed and it may not be safe to leave our homes, what will be your attitude? Sometimes it is our emotions, other times it is our circumstances, most of the time our perspective changes and our day is either ruined or turns into a much better day. With that change comes a great opportunity, we get to respond. We get to look at our circumstances and respond to what has happened so that we can decide how we will feel.

When the snow blows, and school is cancelled are we upset, or do we fire up the kettle and make cocoa to watch the snowfall? Or when the sun is warm, and the sidewalks are wet do we get grumpy over our wet shoes or rejoice in the sun's warm rays? Perspective matters.

We are in the middle of lent, that time of preparation of our hearts to celebrate the work of Christ on the cross while remembering our need for a Savior. What is your perspective during this time? What are you dwelling upon and focusing on? Our hearts should be contrite with the pain of our sin, while rejoicing in the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice. It is a unique feeling.

I imagine that Jesus was feeling some extreme things as well when

He entered the temple and saw the money changers and sick in Matthew 21:12-14

12 And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves.13 And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer'; but you are making it a robbers' den ." 14 And the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

Jesus saw the sin of the money changers and animal dealers; He responded by driving them out. In the very next instant, He sees the lame and blind and heals them. Jesus chose how to respond to the circumstances He found Himself in, doing all things for the glory of God; pointing out sin when needed and meeting the needs present.

Jesus saw what was happening, understood His circumstances and focused on His next best steps. He knew He was going to the cross, He understood the sins of the people and that some would repent, He was going to die to pay the price of the sin He saw. In that moment He chose to point out sin and meet the needs of people. He took control of His circumstances and gave glory to God.

When everything changes for us in an instant, we have an opportunity to respond. How we respond reveals our perspective on our circumstances. Jesus had an eternal perspective and was able to keep His eternal mission in focus, calling people to repent and reducing barriers for people to know Him through healing their brokenness. Are we holding onto an eternal perspective over our problems?

The Pastor's Column

Moving away...

By Santiago Ramirez Ocampo

As I write this column, my sister is hospitalized because her water broke. It is her second baby, the first boy in the whole family. The last time I saw her? It was early January 2021, and my niece—the first baby in the family—was three days old. My sister had left the hospital that Saturday afternoon, and I was traveling early that Sunday morning to the capital of Colombia to return to the United States to continue my life as a missionary. My sister lives in a city called Armenia, in Colombia, and that year my parents lived in Pereira, which is about 40 minutes approximately from Armenia; my flight was leaving from Pereira, which means that given the times, that Saturday that my sister was leaving the Hospital with Antonia in her arms, it was my time to say goodbye and travel to Pereira to prepare my luggage to fly to Bogota, and from Bogota to Miami.

My sister talked to her husband, and they told my parents they wanted to travel to Pereira with us. It was a crazy idea, but, boy, try telling a woman who had just given birth that, no, what she was thinking was crazy; that voice of reason, paradoxically, can be riskier.

Early Sunday morning, I got up very early, got dressed up, and as usual, my mom didn't get up—at this point in life after 12 years of leaving my parent's house for the first time, I have a sneaking suspicion that my mom doesn't like goodbyes; she always puts on a happy face, showering me with blessings and words of encouragement. Still, I think it's her way of dealing with the tastelessness of seeing the empty nest. Mom says why to get up so early if Dad can take me alone. No argument can be with that question. The point. I

say goodbye to my mom and see my brother-in-law going out to make a formula pot for his daughter, my niece. My sister turns on a light in the room, and I peek through the half-open door. I walk in. Just remembering that moment makes me sensitive. Solemnity was in the air. My sister is in tears, and I feel that my heart is made of paper, that to leave is to crumple it, my paper heart, and stomp on it. It was an intimate moment. She, with her baby in her arms. Me, with my bags ready.

That trip back to the States was pretty stupid from a rational point of view. During Covid, in 2020, when countries worldwide closed their borders, I was in the United States, in Florida. My visa allowed me to stay until July of that year. July came, and there was no way to leave the country. I went in December; that year, in theory, I was supposed to be here for six months, and given the border blockade, I stayed 11 months. Dear reader, waiting five months in the United States without an official permit is suicide; either you stay here illegally until you find a solution (which there is), or you leave and never return. I felt in my heart that the Lord had guided me here and that it was no problem for Him to open the doors for me again in the United States if it was His will, even if the law said what it said. Oh, surprise! Here I am after a true miracle God did in the immigration hall of the Miami airport.

A little more than two years have passed, and that young single man who left Colombia is no longer here; the Lord gave me a beautiful wife and a beautiful daughter; my niece is already running and talking, and my sister is in the hospital giving birth. The family is growing, and it is time for my wife, our daughter, and me to return to Colombia.

Well traveled

Kristian Bjornstad new to Trinity

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

After Pastor Andrada left Trinity Lutheran Church in February, the congregation began its search for a new officiant.

In the meantime, an interim pastor who has served around the United States and Canada will serve the church until a full-time leader can be found.

Kristian Bjornstad arrived at Trinity Lutheran almost two weeks ago, and is enjoying it so far. "The first service was pretty amazing because of the congregation," he says. "Everyone was very nice to me and made me feel comfortable."

Bjornstad was born in Minneapolis, but spent most of his childhood in South India. "My parents were missionary teachers there," he explains. "When we came back to the US, my father got into church work."

That work saw him and his family move between Michigan and Wisconsin. After graduation from Concordia College in St. Paul, he spent four years in the Lutheran seminary in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. "The first congregation I served was in western Ontario on the north shore of Lake Superior," he says.

Bjornstad has been a pastor since 1994, serving in Canada for 10 years and in a Pennsylvania church for 18 years.

As with many other denominations, the seminary picks a place



Kristian Bjornstad arrived at Trinity Lutheran church in Janesville almost two weeks ago, and is enjoying it so far. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

for its pastors to serve. "When your congregation is chosen, you are ordained and installed in that church," he elaborates. "When you go to a different congregation, then you get installed into that congregation."

Although a replacement for the head pastor may have been found Friday, March 3, there is still a vacancy in the associate pastor position. "I am temporary for now," Bjornstad shares. "But I might be helping out a little longer. It is up to the church what they ask of me."

Until then, he is settling in nicely. His favorite things about the church are studying the Bible, being part of God's plan, and serving the people of the congregation. "I'm part of God's plan and salvation in a special way as a pastor," Bjornstad shares. "Having those relationships with people and sharing His love is another great thing about being a pastor."

He also loves the variety of roles one can fill as a pastor. "I could get up in the morning and help preach a chorus, lead a Bible study, visit with congregants, or go to someone's basketball game. I could even be helping someone change the toilets. It's all really good."

His favorite memories as a pastor involve seeing people he's baptized come back to his church and ask if he

remembers them. "They thank me for being a part of their life a long time ago and telling them about Jesus," he says. "That's definitely my most favorite thing about being a pastor."

What drives him is sharing the love of God. "Being a pastor means sharing that love and His work for all. I am a child of God, and I want others to be in that same way."

And that's what he will do in Janesville for as long as he is needed. "I am blessed to be in a community like Janesville," Bjornstad concludes. "This church has quite the operation here. Everything runs quite smoothly."

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * *	Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass * * *	Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:00 a.m. Worship * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * *	Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. * * *	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. * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * *	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship * * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays 9 a.m., 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville Father Brian Mulligan 10 a.m. - Mass * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 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 * * *	TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * *	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18 * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Vacancy Sunday = 1 p.m. Worship * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * *	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Pamela Jensen Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Vacancy Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E. Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * *	LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting * * *	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18 * * *	NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday "Young at heart" Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation * * *
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca 507-835-1222 Worsihp 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. * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	PERSONALIZED PRINTING & APPAREL PRINT LOCAL! PA Barb & Mark Buker 100 S. STATE ST - WASECA MN PHONE: (507) 835-7565 INFO@PPRINTWASECA.COM	WE PRINT BUSINESS CARDS, SIGNS, BROCHURES, PACKAGING, MULTIPART FORMS, LABELS, ENVELOPES, POSTCARDS, EVENT TICKETS, FLYERS, ADVERTISING, CARDS, ...AND EVERYTHING ELSE! & DESIGN
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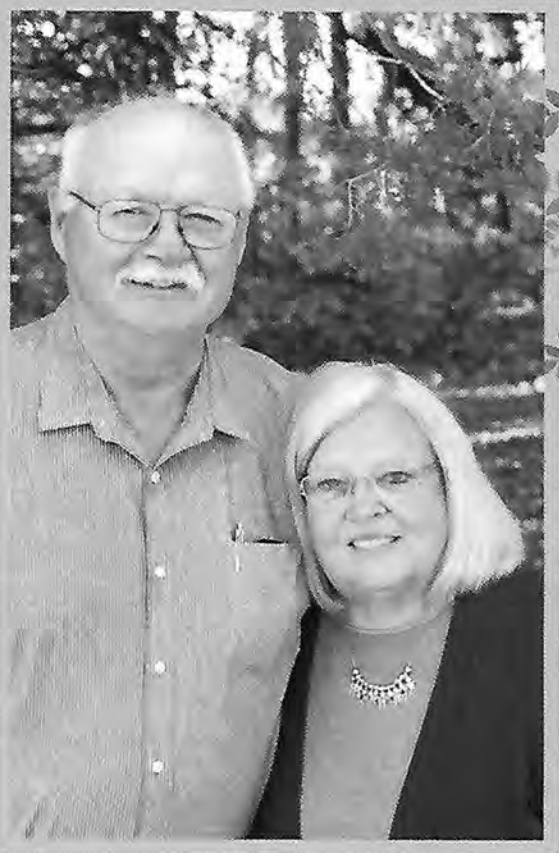
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March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6pm BAR Bingo	2 7pm BINGO	3 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm Navy Reserve Birthday	4 HUG A GI DAY
3 SEABEE Birthday	6	7 Burger nite 5- 7pm	8 6pm BAR Bingo	9 7pm BINGO	10 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	11
12 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host Waseca Youth Baseball	13 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting K-9 Veterans day	14 Burger nite 5- 7pm	15 6pm BAR Bingo American Legion Birthday	16 7pm BINGO	17 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm St. Patrick's Day	18 ST. PATRICK'S BINGO 7PM
19	20	21 Burger nite 5-7pm Rosie the Riveter Day	22 6pm BAR Bingo	23 7pm BINGO	24 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	25 Medal of Honor Day
26 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host Neighbor- hood Service Center	27	28 Burger nite 5- 7pm	29 6pm BAR Bingo National Vietnam War Veterans Day	30 7pm BINGO	31 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	

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To Apply: submit requested information by 5PM on Friday, March 17, 2023 to plrac@hickorytech.net be considered in the first screening. Details and further information can be found at www.plrac.org/hiring.

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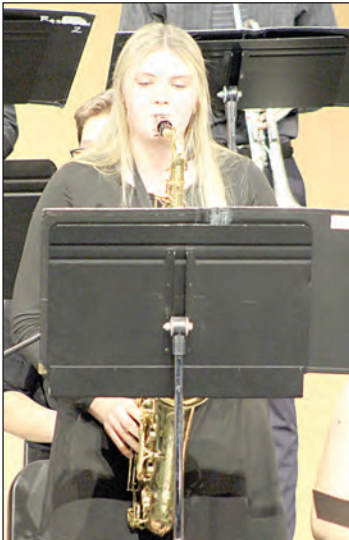
Featured soloist on the song "Samantha," Hannah Wilder



Ethan Stenzel playing his trombone solo on "Children of Sanchez."



Guest musician Russ Peterson jamming with Jazz Blue on "Missing You."



Ellery Waldron, soloist on "Curacao Blue."



Left, Tom Bierer of the Real Big Band played flugelhorn on "La Luz en Ti," a song about flight. Right, Craig Kopetzki (right) and Kevin Johnson, both members of the Real Big Band.



Pioneers photo by Tristan Jensen

A groovy time

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

The Waseca High School Bands presented their Jazz Festival concert at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 11. The Jazz Festival is an annual event featuring the school's two jazz ensembles, Jazz Blue and Jazz One, as well as area jazz musicians. Both high school jazz ensembles are directed by Devon Lawrence. The concert also featured the southern Minnesota Real Big Band, a jazz ensemble comprised of Waseca and Mankato area musicians and directed by Paul Davis.

The program opened with Jazz Blue, which performed four songs. First was "Done Deal," by Ken Harris, featuring Elias Nevalanien, trumpet, and Andrick Balderas, trombone, as soloists. Next, the ensemble welcomed guest musician Russ Peterson to join them on stage for "Missing You," by Mike Tomaro. "Curacao Blue," a song about composer Zachary Smith's experiences visiting the island of Curacao, featuring soloist Ellery Waldron on saxophone, and "Street Beat" by Peter Blair featuring soloists Ryan Leigh on guitar and Mazon Jes on trombone rounded out the Jazz Blue Set.

Next to perform was the Jazz One ensemble playing five songs. They began with "Hopscotch" by Paul Baker, with soloists Josie Perizo, saxophone, Mason Jes, trombone, and Norah Schimming, marimba. Lawrence then said he'd like to take the time to feature one of the school's saxophone players, Hannah Wilder, on the piece "Samantha" by Sammy Nestico. Wilder played an extended solo on this piece, to much applause from the audience. The ensemble then performed "Children of Sanchez," arranged by Victor Lopez and featuring soloists Mason Jes and

Ethan Stenzel on trombone and Lindsey Kopetzki on trumpet, followed by "Povo" arranged by Erik Morales and featuring Lindsey Kopetzki on trumpet and Kya Hoof on saxophone as soloists. Lawrence then said to the audience, "This is gonna be fun," as he invited Peterson back to the stage to join Jazz One on his own arrangement of "Georgia on My Mind," which received a standing ovation.

To close the show, the southern Minnesota Real Big Band took the stage and performed eight pieces, each with numerous soloists. Their set included "Blues in Hoss Flat" by Sammy Nestico, "Haitian Fight Song" by Charles Mingus and arranged by Sy Johnson, "Arnge Drank" by Paul Baker, "La Luz En Ti" by Michele Fernandez, and "Molten Swing" by Buster and Benny Moten and arranged by Ernie Wilkins, "Cold Duck Time" by Eddie Harris and arranged by Alan Baylock. The Real Big Band was not left out when it came to performing alongside the evening's featured guest, and performed two songs with Peterson. First was "Monday night at Dempsey's," an arrangement by Peterson which he regularly performed at Dempsey's Bar and Grill, and the final song of the evening was "Song for Bilbao," by Pat Metheny and arranged by Alan Baylock.

Prior to the concert, Waseca's jazz band students got the opportunity to work with Peterson as a clinician. Peterson is the Associate Professor of Saxophone and Bassoon at Concordia College in Moorhead. Peterson worked with both high school jazz ensembles in the afternoon, coaching them on ways to improve their performance and practicing together on the pieces which Peterson would perform with the ensembles.

Luck of the Irish



The Waseca American Legion leading the parade following an escort



The Burns clan including Miss St. Patrick Anna (Burns) Whooley.



2023 Royalty: Miss St. Patrick: Emma Keith; Miss Irish Rose: Caitlin Slattery and Miss Shamrock:- Lauren White



2023 Grand Marshal Edna Burns crowned by her husband



Mr. And Mrs. Emerald Isle 2023 Mike and Jane Mulcahey.



From left: Emma Keith, Caitlin Slattery, Mike and Jane Mulcahey, Edna Burns, Sue and Greg Harguth, Lauren White, and Rachel Borneke



To the left is the St. Patrick 2023 royalty Caitlin Slattery, Emma Keith, and Lauren White. St. Patrick 2020 royalty Carmen Miller and Rachel Borneke. Above to the left are Irish Jig winners: Addison Johnson, Layla Keith, and Ellie Kopischke. Above right are Leprechaun trap winners with their judge, Carmen Miller. They were vote most colorful: Sadie Burns; Most creative: Quinn Burns and Trickiest trap: Roman Olson

Pioneer photos by Michael Roy and Irish American Club

■ Celebration from Page 1

Southern Minnesota. It also meant that after a three-year reign, Miss St. Patrick Carmen Miller and Miss Irish Rose Rachel Borneke gave up their titles to long-awaited successors.

At the Irish mass, Ryan revealed that the 2023 Grand Marshal is Edna Burns. She also presented the 2023 Mr. and Mrs. Emerald Isle, Mike and Jane Mulcahey. The couple succeeds Mr. and Mrs. Emerald Isle 2020 Greg and Sue Harguth who, like Miss St. Patrick and Miss Irish Rose 2020, served in their capacities for three years.

Father Brian Mulligan, who serves the Catholic Churches in Janesville,

Waldorf, and New Richland, was the celebrant of the Irish mass while Father Thé Hoáng of Waseca was the co-celebrant.

After mass, there was a parade of clans. The units marched from Sacred Heart north, turned east and went around Ace Hardware before making their way back to the Mill, where the rally began. Blake's Food Truck provided the meal of mulligan stew, corned beef and cabbage, burgers, and hot dogs. During the afternoon, Irish music was performed by Becky Borneke, Muriah Miller-Keith and the Ditch Creek Dixies. Irish auctions and bingo took place throughout the rest of the afternoon.

The pageant followed shortly after 7 p.m. at the Mill. A more detailed writeup of the pageant will be in this week's paper as a separate article.

Immediately following the pageant was musical entertainment by Buffalo Alice, a local five-piece classic-rock and country band, playing on past midnight. For many proud, local Irish, it felt good to have the entire celebration

back for the first time in three years without any hiccups. That night, as Miller and Borneke relinquished their titles after the longest reign in the club's history, Irish eyes were definitely smiling.

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