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State Bound



Waseca's Itron factory announced Monday its intention to close at the end of 2024 and relocate to South Carolina.

Itron to close in 2024

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Itron announced to staff on Monday its intention to close its up-to-450-employee Waseca factory at the end of 2024 and relocate its operations to West Union, South Carolina. Itron has been operating in Waseca since the 1990s and is one of the largest employers in Waseca County. The company manufactures equipment used in water, gas and electric meter readings, among other things.

"The transition is part of Itron's plan to improve our global supply chain and increase efficiency in our business operations," said a release from the corporation. "The company is finalizing the transition plan for tech transfers and relocation of production from Waseca to Oconee [West Union, SC], resulting in the closure of the Waseca plant toward the end of 2024."

"This was a difficult decision," said Tom Deitrich, Itron's president & CEO. "Our Waseca employees have played an integral role in bringing Itron's products and solutions to the market. We are taking these steps to strengthen our company and enhance competitiveness by establishing a single North American manufacturing center of excellence in South Carolina."

Itron states it is committed to supporting affected employees during the transition. The company will provide career placement services, extended insurance coverage and a severance package based on years of service to U.S. benefit-eligible employees affected by this move.

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Eighth Avenue project described

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Waseca City Engineer Nathan Willey started off the Tuesday, Feb. 21 council meeting with a few notes on a proposed reconstruction project on Eighth Avenue NE near the county fairgrounds and Clear Lake Park.

On Jan. 19, the city received a feasibility report from Stantec, an engineering firm they have used in the past. Through staff review, the plans for the Eighth Avenue reconstruction project were modified and completed on Jan. 30. Requests for proposals on the project's design were sent out the next day.

Willey then went into discussions the county commissioners had during their work session Feb. 7. "The main discussions were on roadway cost share percentages between the city and county for the proposed new county fairgrounds sidewalk," he explained. "The commissioners at that meeting decided they were no longer interested in a new sidewalk along the county fairgrounds."

This was contrary to the opinions shared at previous meetings, according to Willey. "We still have the resolution of support for AT grant applications," he assured.

The proposal of the new fairgrounds sidewalk was removed from the grant application, he added. "Because of that, the overall cost decreased \$170,000," he said.

If the city is awarded the AT grant on March 24, Willey said

Council continued on 3

A word from
The Word

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:11-13

Winter sparkle

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Morristown area resident and licensed pyrotechnician Tim Boese typically takes charge of two fireworks "shoots" for Waseca each year: the fourth of July and Sleigh and Cutter displays. Both are on Clear Lake, but the meaning of the word "on" changes drastically from one show to the other.

The Fourth of July display is fired from two specially-constructed pontoons. The elements of the display—a combination of shells and pyrotechnic "cakes"—are put in place and wired on dry land. He and his crew face the perpetual problems of summer, heat and mosquitoes, while spending hours ensuring everything is in place. As evening approaches, the pontoons are towed to the center of the lake, where the night's display is fired using an electronic system. One of the biggest safety concerns is making sure no boaters position themselves too close to the pontoons.

For the Sleigh and Cutter display, neither heat nor mosquitoes even come to mind. No need for pontoons, either: Boese and his helpers drive directly to the firing site, a patch of ice out in the middle of the lake which, this year, had to be opened up in advance using a snowplow.

Workers had as much space as they needed to position the variety of self-contained fireworks display "cakes" and the free-standing "mortars" used to fire shells. Unlike in summer, they lit some of the fuses using handheld torches, since it was simply a matter of walking right up to them.

In place of summer's demons, they had winter's: slippery ice and frigid cold. The pyrotechnicians were able to dress for the one, and walk carefully for the other.



A crew of five pyrotechnicians assembled the sleigh and cutter fireworks display which was fired Saturday Feb. 25 on Clear Lake. Pioneer photos by Deb Bently



FarmAmerica's Winter Charm on the Farm focuses on enjoying the outdoors during wintertime. Photo by Mike Huerkamp

Rural charm

Event focuses on winter fun

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

"Winter Charm on the Farm," FarmAmerica's limited event series for the colder months, wrapped up its third annual run on Saturday, Feb. 25. The team at FarmAmerica aims to put on this event every January and February, weather permitting. The goal is to remind people to enjoy the outdoors during wintertime. "Sometimes it's really easy to get cooped up indoors," said program director Jenny Delnay.

Attendees were encouraged to explore parts of FarmAmerica in a number of ways. Winter Charm is held in partnership with the Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Festival, whose committee provided a horse-drawn carriage for rides. A limited amount of snow necessitated a short carriage ride, but couldn't stop

Charm continued on 11

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Unhappy with council, Kopachek marches out

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

To call the Janesville Council meeting this past Monday, Feb. 27 "heated" may be a bit of an understatement.

Talk about a potential THC ordinance was highly animated, leading to City Attorney Jason Moran counting how many times he was interrupted while trying to explain the proposed ordinance, Mayor Andy Arnoldt having to call for order several times, council member Ivan Maas suggesting tabling discussion on the THC ordinance for six months, and ultimately council member Melissa Kopachek walking out of the meeting when Maas's motion carried 3-1.

Although many details about a potential Janesville ordinance were discussed at length, the decision to table any decisions for six months rested on city attorney Jason Moran's suggestion that the state legislature is making rapid progress on its own bill, and any work expended on the local law would end up being overridden. Referring to a particular state "file," he commented, "This is likely to be law between now and May 22."

Though council member Kopachek pressed to continue discussion regarding a local ordinance, the exchange was impeded by philosophical and personal differences which led to belittling comments on both sides, and eventually by the vote to table discussion.

The consent agenda, which includes the minutes of the previous meeting and is routinely passed without discussion, was tabled when Kopachek suggested city office manager Andrea Moen did not properly and accurately reflect the discussion between her and Moran in the Feb. 13 meeting.

"What are you looking for, exactly?" Moen asked her. "Because I listened to the actual audio to do the minutes."

"It doesn't reflect the amount of times he interjected his opinions," Kopachek responded. "It's not reflective of how he interrupted me."

On the public forum, there was a brief argument from a resident who wanted his ticket for violating the snow emergency policy waived. He claimed there



Kopachek

Janesville continued on 11



Compostings

by Al Batt
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Wives are right 88.97% of the time

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I bought a minivan that holds seven people without a problem. That sounds good.

Yeah, but where do I find seven people without a problem?

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. My Zamboni wouldn't start. The wind had been reduced to a whisper, not long after a blizzard had toilet papered the yard with deep snow. The winter storm was named Olive but acted like Ole. Olive's impact was widespread. It wouldn't surprise me if one day, corporate entities will buy naming rights to storms. Blizzards will carry the names of snowmobile makers and rainstorms will display the monikers of rainwear companies. The snow was achingly beautiful, especially after I'd shoveled it. The snowplow wasn't cutting through the snow like a hot knife going through butter, but sunrays brought warmth and -9°. I walked on an icy drive. Walking on a field of banana peels requires luck and skill.

I saw "A Man Called Otto." It was a great movie about the transformation of a grumpy guy. We all know one of those. Most males have taken their turn in that role. Theater marquees are seldom as glittering as they once were and the seats are ample where they once were cramped. The lights still fade and I suppose the curtains (draperies) still part in the few theaters having them. The popcorn smells as good as bacon. That's important as the movies are for yucks, the popcorn for bucks.

BASEBALL, THE LIGHTNING ROUND

I watched a baseball game one summer where the Helena Handbaskets were playing the Erie Coincidences. And then they weren't. The game was called because of lightning. We had a lightning rod on our roof. It came with the house and doubled the dwelling's value. It included a weather vane, with an arrow on one end and a metal pip on the other, showing the wind direction. Back when a streaming service was an actual stream, lightning hit the house. It cleaned the windows and changed the radio station.

I'VE LEARNED

Once upon a time, Clippy, Microsoft's animated paperclip, popped up in Microsoft Word to offer assistance: "It looks like you're writing a letter. Would you like help?" I never took Clippy up on that offer. I should have.

Advanced technology helps, but it makes many people feel helpless.

When I was a boy, staying hydrated involved water, Kool-Aid and Tang.

Our huddled masses are football

players.

Wives are right 88.97% of the time. I won't divulge a man's chances of being right.

It will be a long wait if the receptionist gives you a blanket and a pillow.

We should never blame someone struggling with a second language if we speak only one.

I'd never say that I'm Superman, but I've never seen the two of us together.

NRHEG SPORTS

During the basketball season, I subscribe to the NFHS Network, which streams live and on-demand high school sports. NRHEG is fortunate to have Mark Domeier doing excellent play-by-play. I appreciate his professionalism and his refusal to blame the officials for everything.

NATURE NOTES

The red veins of spring are evident, particularly on south-facing slopes where the red colors of shrubs brighten and become more vibrant this time of the year. Deer find the twigs of red-osier dogwood fine eating. The plants (also known as red-twig dogwood and redbush) are eye-catching. The colors of the yellow/gold outer branches of weeping willows are also enhanced chromatically. Look for deer sheds anytime the snow melts. The smell of skunk wafts on the wind when winter makes a slow slide into spring. Listen for birds heralding the oncoming seasonal changes as love is in the air—the air of increasing daylength. Woodpeckers drum frequently. Their feathered brethren—cardinals, starlings, chickadees, house finches, nuthatches and blue jays make sounds of spring. The black-capped chickadee's whistled fee-bee song that says "spring's here" to me. Cardinals sing any time of the year but vocalize with increasing gusto now. The male white-breasted nuthatches sing a rapid, nasal "what-what-what." The jays make a squeaky pump handle call and starlings mingle chatter, gurgles, rattles, trills, warbles and whistles. House finches sing a long, jumbled warbling of brief notes. The birds call for us to walk, at least to a window.

I pulled into a fast-food parking lot. The lot was filled with empty spaces, so I stopped to return a phone call. The automobile stable was being visited by starlings, house sparrows and crows. Those birds love fast-food parking lots because humans are messy eaters. I saw a crow dragging a slice of pizza as another watched, likely offering constructive criticism. "Lift with your legs." A crow will eat a pizza even if it hasn't been run over by a car.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Don't look down on anyone unless you are helping them up.

Different sides of the THC debate

I had a first this week.

For the first time in my whole career, I witnessed a council member walk out of a meeting.

It was something, that's for sure.

The THC ordinance debates seem to be bringing out the worst in people. Councils that usually have easy-going people seem divided. After all, it's a big issue with widespread implications.

I feel like a big issue is that council members usually don't have an R, D, or any other party initial in their name. Yet, in a way, a lot of the talk has not been so much about the logistical side of things as it has been political.

We have one council member bringing up "Dimebag Dave" while another council member vehemently expressed personal anger at her council's lack of acceptance of legalized THC; she implored them to pass their own ordinance instead of waiting on the state (which created this mass of confusion in the first place, thank you very much), even though there is a bill moving through the State Capitol at this moment.

But I digress.

Here's the thing. I've mentioned before that the biggest issue is the stigma behind marijuana. The other issue is there isn't sufficient data to



Music to my Ears

by Michael Roy
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prove marijuana is as bad as or worse than alcohol. Yet we all act like it is.

I've always heard the joke that the worst thing that marijuana will do to you is give you the munchies. Is Dimebag Dave worse than Darrell the Drunk? I can't say confidently that we know.

Sure, there may be studies claiming marijuana's effects result in fewer accidents than a pack of beer or a few glasses of wine: The Washington Post and the Good Rx website, for example, make this claim.

But the sample size is small compared to studies done on the effects of alcohol and booze-related crimes. All 50 states have legalized alcohol. Only 21 states, Washington D.C., and Guam have legalized recreational marijuana.

Here's the thing. People like their alcohol. When the government tried making it illegal in 1920, people were so angry about it that they

started bootlegging. Lots of gangsters, perhaps most famously Al Capone, made some good money building speakeasies where gambling and boozing were commonplace. Public reaction caused the US Government to end prohibition 12 years later because it was so ineffective.

Maybe that's the same reaction now to marijuana. According to an article by the History Channel, back when states started banning it 100 years ago, people claimed it had a "Jekyll-and-Hyde" effect; it makes a calm person go crazy. An additional article by NPR also claimed that cannabis became known as marijuana to "underscore the drug's 'Mexican-ness'" and was allegedly meant to "play off of anti-immigrant sentiments."

I think everybody's biggest issue is that our own biases and opinions get in the way of seeing things as

they really are: no issue is black and white. Marijuana is the perfect example of this. Maybe it's not worse than alcohol, but is it still bad? Can it truly be a gateway drug to worse things?

Another thing I feel is making us less willing to listen to other opinions is technology. Since the dawn of time, people have kept with their tribe and have stayed firm with their beliefs. Technology has made this tendency worse. But that is another rant for another time.

I think if we just allow ourselves to have these tough conversations, we'll get farther as a country. After all, people have been smoking marijuana for over a century now. Will making it legal change things that much?

This Day in Music

Given the topic of this column, I feel like this edition of "This Week in Music" is

On March 1, the band Pink Floyd released "The Dark Side of the Moon." After topping the US chart, it remained within the chart for 741 weeks from 1973 to 1988, longer than any other album in history. It is the band's most successful album, selling 45 million copies worldwide.

Bacon doesn't motivate students either

I've heard it said that it is important to do something that doesn't involve dogs every once in a while so one can be reminded why one never does things that don't involve dogs. For myself and, I'm guessing, a majority of folks in the US, this "occasional something" would be going to work. The other day I came across a quote from blogger Seth Godin that seems to explain a lot in both my work life and my dog life: "It's more productive to offer directions to someone who has already decided to go on the journey." All teachers know that good student motivation is what drives learning.

Bacon is usually a pretty good motivator for my dogs because I don't use it very often. Candace, the expert dog whisperer in Owatonna, sug-



Always Looking Up

by Melissa Dunn

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gested bacon to me during one of our many consultations about Wallace. Let me tell you, no amount of bacon can convince Wallace it is a good idea to take a journey out in the yard to do his business when there are sixteen inches of snow. Even Shelby, normally a snow lover who will run around and be goofy, or flush out (and sometimes catch) rabbits from under the evergreen in our yard, has

had enough. I get it, of course: Repeatedly plowing through chest-level wet stuff to do the deed can't be a good time. And for the record, bacon does not motivate my high school students either.

Although Otto the crabby German hasn't signaled his pleasure that I've been home a lot lately, both Shelby and Wallace have (and I'll trust Otto is also pleased. My boy knows, even

buried under his fleece blanket). I've conducted school business on my computer at the kitchen table with a spaniel's head resting on my knee and a dachshund on my lap, and I'm probably just as productive at home as at work. It's a mutually beneficial arrangement because the "watch-dogs" get to share my lunch if something gets dropped. In fact, the only downside I see to this is the rather large wet spot on my right knee, but dog people understand and don't judge. Anyway, I think a lot about how behind the times we are as compared to most of Europe when it comes to allowing dogs in most places. My brilliant daughter studied

Looking up continued on 3

I thought I left the cold back in Minnesota

Sadly enough, there are midterms in Spain. Thankfully though, they aren't to the extreme that I've found them to be in Minnesota. Also, it's only one week here, while at the UMN tests can go on for weeks - which is why many students tend to refer to "midterm season."

Like I said, my midterms aren't bad, just a couple of exams and a couple of twenty-minute presentations. Easy enough once I got through them. But having midterms this week meant no traveling this past weekend and instead focusing on school work for a change.

Friday night I went to a bar with my friends and then Saturday we went to the zoo. I was surprised to find myself as excited as the little kids there: I, too, shouted "penguins!" and practically ran to look. I wonder if parents get that excited to go to the zoo or if it's just the fact that I am still not quite twenty that I got excited. I will say that I think everyone present was impressed with the dolphin show (how do they train



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

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them to do flips in the air??).

The funny thing was that the zoo had two raccoons on display: Two "North American" raccoons, which we thought was a little odd but also funny considering how often they're "on display" in Waseca.

After the zoo, we went and studied at McDonald's, which looking back does seem a little weird, but there are no good public places to study here. There is one library, but it's a number of Metro public transit stops away. Our "college" here consists of only one building which has regular building hours. So no going to a school library or building on campus

to study. McDonald's was okay considering it has pretty strong wifi compared to other unreliable places such as Starbucks or cafes and such.

After the chill night Saturday spent studying, we went to the large, bustling Rastro (flea market) on Sunday. It spans streets and blocks and is fun to walk around in. I bought two rings and called it a day, which of course led to more studying.

After a simultaneously chill and stressful weekend, and getting done with my midterms, I am looking for a relaxing couple of days before our class takes a three-day trip to Valencia, Spain next week.

My host mom is so cute. Every time we talk about Valencia, she lights up and starts singing the Valencia song. I hadn't known the city had a song, but trust me, I know now! My host mother has also made sure I know it's a good song; she also tells me I'm going to enjoy the Valencian music that will be played in the street. I don't know if she's going to be right or not but I am very excited to go.

I will say though, that the weather has been quite cold here lately. We've been averaging 30 degrees some days and I don't appreciate it. I came to Spain to be warm, not to feel like I'm still in Minnesota!! Although I am glad that I didn't have to deal with that big cold and snow storm.

My Determination: "To acquire knowledge, one must study; but to acquire wisdom, one must observe." — Marilyn vos Savant

New phenomenon: time to think

In March of 2021 my father asked me if I wanted to buy the Star Eagle: I jumped at the opportunity. At that point in time, Dad's health had kept him from working for most of the past two years. I had been the publisher for all that time, but not the owner. I can't really guess why he offered me the expanded role, but he did and I seized the moment.

I remember the first week after the purchase had been finalized. The Star Eagle office has, historically, been closed on Wednesdays. With the exception of the three years I did the newspaper route, I hadn't worked on Wednesday's prior to this. It was a day when I had no responsibilities.

I remember this Wednesday vividly. I was still living at home with my father; he walked downstairs into the little den we call a "family room," where I was relaxing,

watching TV and going through "cards." (Some of my hobbies include playing card games with my friends.)

My dad asked me what I was doing. "You have to work on Wednesdays now. You're a business owner," he told me.

I don't remember what I said back but I remember the feeling I had sitting there. Surprise. A little anger. And an impulse to confront him or argue. Until that moment, I had not

realized things would be changing now that I was a business owner.

Regardless of how I felt, or what I said, I went to the office to work.

Only a few months after my first acquisition, in fall of 2021, I acquired the Golden Link. I chuckle thinking about it now because my mom told me not to do it. "It'll be too much work." Yes, it was a lot of work, and more stress, but after a few days' consideration, I ultimately decided to take on a second publica-



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

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tion. Fortunately for me, it was the kind of work I was already good at, and that transition went fairly smoothly. I am grateful that my mother was looking out for me; I am also grateful I didn't listen.

Over the next couple months another idea started brewing in my head. An idea which ultimately turned into the Waseca County Pioneer.

During that process I asked my mom, owner of the Janesville Journal, whether she was interested in starting another newspaper together. I told her I could use someone to sell advertising and help design the advertisements. She told me it was too much work to handle.

So I asked Michael to help me in-

Stargazing continued on 3



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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
MICHAEL ROY
DEB BENTLY
JIM LUTGENS
TRISTAN JENSEN

Publisher
Editor
News Editor
Sports Editor/Dad
Editorial Assistant

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

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New facing on city lots

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

The main topics of discussion at the Tuesday, Feb. 21 Waseca council meeting were parking lot rehabilitations and street and trail projects. A separate story on the Eighth Avenue reconstruction project is elsewhere in this week’s paper.

City Engineer Nate Willey described a “mill and overlay” of the city hall south parking lot and full and partial depth patching in the Maplewood and Public Safety building parking lots, all of which are intended to extend the pavement life.

Also in the plans is relocating an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant parking space from the south parking lot to the accessible public entrance on State Street. “The plan is to make a spot closer to the public access entrance and ramp,” Willey elaborated. “There is already one; moving the other to the south side parking lot would make it two. We need to do that to be ADA compliant.”

The city’s street department staff will use funds budgeted for the project to purchase rock, asphalt, and concrete to redo the west city hall parking lot behind the electric garage. “The pavement’s getting kind of rough,” Willey said. “The streets department is willing to do the work.”

The project is estimated at \$152,000; the city had budgeted \$185,000 in funding thanks to talks with the council in 2022 to add this to the city’s capital improvement plan. “That \$152,000 will still allow money for them to purchase materials to do that work,” Willey explained. “The city staff will perform project inspection.”

Council member John Mansfield was unsure of the need for all the items listed in the parking lot projects. “We can paint some ADA stuff closer to the building,” he said, “but this seems like a lot of money just for the city to get a new parking lot.”

He added that there are streets in the city that could use the funds more than city hall. “I’m reticent on endorsing \$185,000 for the city like we’re getting ourselves a brand new facelift. I’d rather see that money go to those other streets.”

Ebertowski shared similar concerns with the south parking lot. “The west parking lot and ramp area has been degrading; I like the idea of not throwing everything out the window,” he said. “But to John’s point, maybe consider the west parking lot a little bit.”

During this discussion, Willey added the project will include moving the dumpster currently located just west of the water tower. “It’s not screened,” he said. “If we’re telling other businesses to screen their dumpsters, we should screen our own.”

The dumpster will be moved to the south side of the door to successfully screen it and make garbage dumping easier for the

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

employees.

Mansfield and Ebertowski were still unsure about moving forward with improvements on the west parking lot. “Other than a few improvements over by the garage, I don’t see anything severe,” Mansfield elaborated. “Ripping it all up and putting in a new lot doesn’t make sense to me.”

“If that’s something you feel we should hold off on, that’s your decision,” Willey said. “I recommend continuing with the mill and overlay. We’re getting to the point where lots are starting to fail.”

Mansfield motioned to table the discussion to give City Manager Carl Sonnenburg more time to research other options. “Waiting two weeks shouldn’t affect the bids too much,” Willey said.

However, Mayor Randy Zimmerman asked the last time any work was done on the parking lots. Willey assumed the early 2000s, but couldn’t give an exact year.

The council then approved moving forward with the project with Mansfield and Ebertowski opposing. Ebertowski said that while he didn’t think the project was a bad idea, he didn’t understand all of it enough to vote in favor of it. Mansfield said that while he was supportive of doing some of the work, he didn’t see the project as a whole as being necessary.

Other Business

In other projects, Willey informed the council that the city was awarded up to \$125,000 in grant funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation to construct a ten-foot wide bituminous trail on the east side of North State Street between 13th and 15th Avenues. Council member Jeremy Conrath explained that it would connect the missing sidewalk by Bomgaars to the existing trail by McDonalds and the safe routes to Waseca High School.

Council members approved two items concerning the State Street/Highway 13 trail connector project. First, they approved the cooperative construction agreement with MnDOT, and then authorized Willey and the city staff to approve plans and specifications for the project and then call for bids.

The council granted the Waseca Real Estate Foundation exclusive rights to research the marketplace property between the Waseca High School and Walmart for six months before coming to the council with their findings. They tabled looking at planning commission applicants as there were more applicants than positions available. Conrath suggested that Sonnenburg look into returning the planning commission to having seven members as it once did, rather than the current five.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

day. If YOU are one of those people with a fake service dog—ick.

Perhaps if the US was more dog friendly, we’d have no need for the ‘great pretenders,’ and we’d have happier people in general, right? Of course I don’t mean to exclude cats, but I think they would be happier NOT being included in this movement. I know my Winston certainly has no interest in going anywhere I want to go, at the time I want to go. He just hangs out (inside, because we live in town) and beats up, er, boxes with Wallace whenever he wants. Anyway, that’s my new dream: to get us on equal footing with Europe on the dog-friendliness scale. All three of my dogs have European roots since they are purebreds. I wonder how their personalities would be different if they still lived in their countries of origin:

Otto: Wallace ist eine kleine Plage, dummkopf, der Trottel...! Shelby: Right then, shall I have a go? Wallace, please take yourself to the loo.

Wallace: Ma heids mince. Yeah, probably not a big difference.

Lienke, Scottie thankful for help

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

While dozens of people around them were lining up to depart the Waseca County Fairgrounds to take part in the seventy-third annual Sleigh and Cutter parade, Dave Lienke, 79, a lifelong resident of rural Waldorf was caught up in a difficult situation. His Quarter Horse, Scottie, who was to have carried Lienke as part of the Waseca County Sheriff’s posse, had decided to lay down in his trailer while waiting for preparations to be completed. When it was time to stand up, the horse worked its way out onto the frozen ground outside, and then could not catch its footing on the packed snow and ice.

Although as many as eight volunteers tried to help the horse stand, it simply wasn’t working. “I think as soon as one of his feet would slide, he would give up,” observed Lienke.



Dave Lienke of Waldorf is the owner of Scottie, a horse set to ride in the 73rd annual Waseca Sleigh and Cutter parade. The Quarter horse found itself on the ground prior to the parade and, thanks to slippery conditions, required the assistance of a skid loader to rise to his feet after those close by were unable to do so. Despite the scare, and missing the parade, Scotty went home apparently unharmed by the experience.
Photo by Mike Huerkamp

Volunteers tried everything they could think of, from rolling Scottie over from lying on his left side to his right, to simply pushing. Scottie was still on the ground as the parade’s 34 units left the fairgrounds.

Since no amount of “manpower” seemed sufficient, one of the volunteers thought to bring in some “horsepower,” a skid loader owned by one of the city’s emergency re-

sponse departments. With its help, Lienke and those assisting him were able to get Scottie back on his feet and into his trailer, where, only a short time later, the horse was indicating his impatience to be on his way.

Lienke has been a member of the Sheriff’s posse for 45 years. Scottie, 18, is a rescue horse he and his wife Gerri picked up last summer in South

Dakota. Lienke received numerous statements of support from parade participants, who learned of the unusual “emergency response” upon their return from the parade route.

“I’m really grateful for the help,” said Lienke as the trailer behind him shook with Scottie’s impatience. “Now I guess it’s time to take him on home.”

■ Star Gazing from Page 2

stead. Michael, you may know, had been working at the Journal for the past few years.

I’ve written about the process of starting the Pioneer before. We began by gearing up some of our coverage, especially of the Waseca sports programs. Once that groundwork was laid, I started building a staff, finding a location, and ultimately selling the advertising needed to create a base of support necessary to begin publishing. I like to observe that, no matter how hard Michael, I, and others might have worked on building our system for news and sports, there could be no Pioneer without the financial backing of our advertisers. I’m incredibly grateful to those initial businesses which invested in supporting a new newspaper.

My gratitude, and that support,

continue today: If not for our advertisers (and readers, there literally isn’t a product to print without readers) we couldn’t publish a weekly newspaper.

It has been a lot of work. One of the few days I’ve taken off since May of 2022 was the first Saturday after we printed our first paper last July. (I have never been more exhausted physically, mentally, and emotionally than I was that day.) The journey felt like climbing a mountain, jumping off, and hoping to survive.

It’s been a tradition at the Star—one that I am also applying to the Pioneer—that we don’t print a newspaper the last week of the year, over the Christmas/New Year holiday. It’s really the only way to actually give ourselves a break. I managed to take one day off that week; after that, the itch came back. I couldn’t stay away.

So what of today? Well, today, Saturday, I still have some work to do. There’s a basketball game tonight I intend to photographize, but really, that’s all I have on my to-do list

today. In my copious free time today I spent two hours reading about camera settings, watching tutorials, and googling words and key phrases I didn’t know about regarding photography.

I really enjoy taking pictures: I’m really good at pointing the camera and getting the photo in focus with the proper framing. But, after numerous conversations, I have learned I know essentially nothing about the fine-tuning of my camera. It took two years, and three days off, to finally give my brain the chance, and the time, to figure out what all those darn buttons do.

Oh, I also wrote this column today. And, now, I’m about to go off to get lunch with my mother, do some shopping, and then, enjoy some basketball.

I am writing this column about “days off,” because, just maybe, I may be able to appreciate more of them now that my life has found its new “normal,” its new “routine,” its new system.

■ Council from Page 1

that it will be prepared to cover 100 percent of the sidewalk and trail improvements under consideration. “We are still asking for the maximum, but now we’re basically covering everything.”

If the city doesn’t receive the grant, Willey recommends proceeding with improvements utilizing state aid money while seeking other grant opportunities.

City Manager Carl Sonnenburg explained that now that the commissioners are withdrawing interest from placing a sidewalk on the north side of Eighth Avenue, any future considerations would be on their dime, since that portion of the street is considered a County State Aid Highway.

“If they want to put a sidewalk there in the future, that’s their deal,” Willey explained. “We tried to col-

laborate with them to get the grant to put a sidewalk along the fairgrounds.”

Willey said that in any case, he recommended proceeding with the trail improvements near Clear Lake Park.

He hoped that the city would be approved for up to \$500,000 in grant funds. Some of the money would be used for lighting along the south side of Eighth Avenue between Eighth Street and Clear Lake Drive. “Depending on how the grant admin splits it, lighting for the trail could be grant eligible but the street side might not be,” he said.

He added that the city would utilize the grant money for intakes at the Eighth Avenue-Eighth Street intersection to retain a certain amount of water. “We’re also looking into a retention pond.”

Willey outlined a timeline which began with engineering proposals taken on Friday, Feb. 24, then reviewed in late February or March. From there, city staff will select a

firm and prepare a contract and construction agreement.

After learning the status of the grant March 24, they will present the city/county construction agreement April 4. If that gets passed, they will design an engineering contract for city and county approval. “We will have the cooperative agreement first, because there will probably be an agreement in the design we’ll have to cost share as well,” said Willey.

In late April or May, the city council will hold a public meeting, send out notices, and get feedback on the preliminary plans. The firm chosen for the project will start a project survey from April to September. Another public meeting will happen shortly thereafter with final plans, a feasibility report and estimates presented this December.

Next year, staff will finalize plans, then put the project up for bids in 2024.

Council member Jim Ebertowski asked Willey about how the city decided to do a five-foot wide sidewalk

on the south side of Eighth Avenue as part of the project. “It’s a new standard for ADA (American Disabilities Act) compliant sidewalks,” Willey replied. “If you get two wheelchairs, they can pass each other without any issues.”

When questioned about potential flooding issues with the trail, Willey explained that the trail will be built to drain properly. “It won’t be level with the ground.”

As a whole, the project cost split is 55 percent city, 45 percent county. Willey pointed out that city staff will take on the burden of doing the inspection work.

Cost splits vary on certain parts of the project. Time and money spent inspecting utilities will fall on the city. While a final split has not been decided on storm sewer costs, Willey feels like it will be 65 percent county, 35 percent city. “The county engineer wanted to wait until the state aid engineer says a percentage of eligibility and set a split from there,” he elaborated.

■ Looking up from Page 2

abroad for her entire junior year and texted me pictures almost daily of people doing mundane life things...with dogs. Dogs went to laundromats and grocery stores and cafe restaurants. Dogs traveled on trains and buses. Dogs went to the library. This was all in addition to the usual photos of dogs on walks or dogs in parks or fields. Around here, a person can only do all those things with their dog if it is a service animal. Here’s the thing...I have seen with my own eyes websites where you can have your dog declared a service animal by a medical doctor. They will send you the paperwork, the card for your wallet, the equipment for your dog, and whatever you need to make it ‘legit.’ How sad for the people with real needs and actual service animals, who now have to put up with the disdain and skepticism of others, and possibly have to prove the legitimacy of their animals so they can go about their

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OBITUARIES

Sharon Lynn Kalis

Sharon Lynn Kalis, age 80, of Waldorf, died on Monday, February 27, 2023 at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato.

Born on April 14, 1942, in Waseca to Marvin and Florence (Sereda) Kalis. She grew up on the farm in rural Waldorf and attended Waldorf Public School graduating with the class of 1960. Sharon was engaged to be married to Bill Walburn in the late 1960's. Bill passed away due to a medical condition prior to the wedding. Although Sharon was never a biological mother, she loved her nieces: Tasha, Courtney, MacKenzie, and Annalesha; nephews: Travis and Jerrick; great-niece, Scarlett; and great-nephew, William like they were her own. She never missed wishing them all happy birthday, sending cards for birthdays and all holidays.

Sharon worked many years at E.F. Johnson Company in Waseca along with waitressing at several restaurants in Waseca before moving home to the family farm to care for her parents. She was quick to help out and frequently chauffeured Tasha, Jerrick and Annalesha to school events. Sharon's love for animals began at a young age when she had her first pet pig. Any animal that showed up to the farm never went hungry, but dogs held a special place in her heart especially

her brother's and niece's dachshunds: Samantha, Beamer and Mercedes. Sharon was an avid sports fan whether it was the Vikings, Twins, Wild or Timberwolves, she followed them all. She knew all of the players and could rattle off statistics along with where many of them came from. When one of her teams would lose, she would turn off the radio and swear that she would never listen to another game again, but you could bet she would be listening again the very next day. In her later years, Sharon became homebound due to losing her sight. She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Waldorf.

Sharon is survived by her brothers: Wayne (Tamra) Kalis of Elysian and Terry (Jerilyn) Kalis of Waldorf; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Preceded in death by her parents; fiancé; brothers: Richard (Diane) Kalis, and Carroll "Marvin" (Helen) Kalis; sister, LaDonna (Clarence) Wenthold; and nephew, Mark Kalis.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 4, 2023 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Waldorf. Burial will be at St. Joseph Community Cemetery in Waldorf. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday.

DSOfuneral.com



TEAM Academy students of the month, from left: Karime Solis, Maridia McGuire, Avery Pechacek, Myles Majors, Isaac Anderson, Violet Sawa, and Adrian Pickett

Pioneer photo by Tristan Jensen

February TEAM of the month

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

TEAM Academy announced February's Students of the Month at their monthly CARES Assembly held Feb. 24, 2023. Students selected were Adrian Pickett, Maridia McGuire, Violet Sawa, Isaac Anderson, Avery Pechacek, Myles Majors, and Karime Solis.

Kindergartener Adrian Pickett says his favorite school subject is math and when he isn't in school he likes to play with his brothers. His favorite color is green, and his favorite food is pizza.

Maridia McGuire, second grade, also enjoys math and the color green. Her favorite food is spaghetti, and her favorite animals are wolves and coyotes. McGuire's love of animals makes her want to be a veterinarian, in order to take care of them.

Violet Sawa, second grade, says that the problem-solving in math class is her favorite thing about school; when she's not in school she prefers to watch TV. Her favorite animal is a cat, and her favorite color is pink. She wants to take care of people by working as a doctor.

Isaac Anderson, third grade, likes gym class. At home, he enjoys playing with his siblings to

pass the time. His favorite animal is an orca whale, and his favorite food is nachos. Anderson says he hopes to play for the Buffalo Bills some day, his favorite sport being football.

Avery Pechacek, fourth grade, also says her favorite part of school is math, and her favorite animal is also a cat. Her favorite food is watermelon. She says the best advice she has for someone struggling is to just keep trying. Pechacek's dream is to become a kindergarten teacher so that she can use her math skills and creativity each day.

Myles Majors, fifth grade, is undecided on what he wants to be when he grows up. He says his favorite school subject is gym, and outside of school he likes watching movies. His favorite food is ramen, his favorite color is orange, and his best advice is to always try your best.

Karime Solis, sixth grade, says her favorite part of school is reading class because it's quiet. Her favorite food is sushi, and her favorite animal is puppies. Solis wants to be a singer, and especially enjoys Hispanic music. She is in band and choir at TEAM Academy. To anyone struggling, she says "Keep going and never give up."

Junior High Concert



More than 50 seventh and eighth graders presented a winter band concert at the Waseca Performing Arts Center Monday evening Feb. 27.

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

Junior high band winter performance

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

The Waseca seventh and eighth grade band under the direction of Jay Downie performed their winter concert at the Waseca Performing Arts Center Monday, Feb. 27. Their ensemble included the following songs: "American Declaration" by Randall Standbridge; "You Belong With Me" arranged by Doug Adams; "New World Breakdown" arranged by Ed Kiefer; "Black Adam" ar-

ranged by Chris Bernatos; "Paint it Black" arranged by Mike Story; and "Country Club Stomp!" by Jarod Hall.

Performing in the concert for the seventh grade were:

Flutes: Jordyn Hinna, Ashley Sifuentes; Clarinets: Carlo Driessen, Brier Hayes, Cyrus Wilson; Alto Saxophones: Amiyah Benson, Landan Madsen, Khloe Nelson, Max Starkweather; Trumpets: Lillian Petersen, Kavita Ewest, Kiyha

Helmer, Archer O'Brien, Ella Swindle; Trombones: Toby Jeske, Oriana Jewison, Max Malouff; Baritones: Wyatt Arndt, Adrian VanEngelenburg; Tubas: TJ Corchran, Ty Krautkremer; Percussion: Ezra Adams, Armaan Bhatti, Kyler Carlson, Aileen Lindsay-Brothers, Maren Schimming, Ryan Yoder.

Eighth grade band:

Flute: Anillah Gonzalez; Clarinets: Lacey Frank, Isabella Garza, Colby Hoof, Abigail Lapides, Vi-

olet Rohwer, Katelyn Weber, Owen Wieseler; Alto Saxophones: Megan Hudak, Taylor Markeson, James Quade; Trombones: Madelynn Benzick, Sam Feldkamp, Dawson Goodlander, Jacob Harguth; Baritone: Alexandria Barnes; Trumpets: Alex Breck, Noelle Drake, Elliott Galle; Percussion: Brody Dufault, Stella Omtvedt, Coy Miller, Jonah Worke, Jameson Haley; Tuba: Daniel J'kei Petty.



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Fireworks



Top: Pyrotechnicians who prepared and fired the Sleigh and Cutter fireworks display were (front, from left) Todd Schmidtko and Melissa Boese, and (back) James and John Bently and Tim Boese. Center: Sleigh and Cutter planning committee member Ken Borgmann also provided some assistance. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently



The Waseca jazz band played music to start the Waseca Dessert Theater. Members include Noah Dahle, Josie Perrizo, Ryan Leigh, Cyrus Guse, Grace Lapides, Norah Schimming, Tarun Ewest, and Corrick Medina. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy



Emcees for the night were Grace Lapides, Paul Davis, and Ann Fitch. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

A ‘sweet’ event

Drama club hosts Dessert Theater

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

The Waseca Drama Department hosted a sweet event for the first time ever. The inaugural “Dessert Theater,” which took place from 6 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26, at the Waseca High School commons hosted a humble 25 guests.

There were plenty of sweets for everyone, ranging from chocolate cupcakes with vanilla frosting to cookies of all kinds. Perhaps for some, a slice of cheesecake was well paired with some coffee. Nearly any style of sweet was more than likely represented.

As people sauntered into the commons area, they were greeted by soothing sounds from a Bluejay jazz combo that consisted of Noah Dahle, Josie Perrizo, Ryan Leigh, Cyrus Guse, Grace Lapides, Norah Schimming, Tarun Ewest, and Corrick Medina.

After Emcees Lapides, Fitch, and jazz director Paul Davis welcomed everyone, the combo performed “Mercy, Mercy, Mercy,” a jazz standard composed by Cannonball Adderley.

Following that were two speeches by members of the Waseca Speech Team. One was “59,” a romance tale where 59 finds the love of his life in number 61, presented by Andrick Balderas. The other was a humorous speech about tall people aptly named “Napoleon” presented by Mandi Root.

Following the speeches was a short snippet of the one-act play “How to Succeed in High School Without Really Trying.” Grace Lapides took the place of Lindsey Kopetzki. After that, Lapides performed the song “The Joke,” composed by Brandi Carlile. The song’s lyrics encourage people to have self-confidence.

Following a duo speech performance by Ashton Jenzen and Corrick Medina called “The Big Bad Wolf Gets Busted” was a skit by the



Thyme Lang and Nathanael Andrs reprised their roles in an excerpt of Waseca’s one-act play *How to Succeed in High School Without Really Trying*. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy



Grace Lapides and Arianna Krogseng Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

Waseca Drama Department Board members. The “cast” for the skit was Karen Pfarr Anderson, Kris Lapides, Chuck Pollock, Anna Pollock, and Tracy Kopetzki.

To end the dessert theater, Grace Lapides and Anna Pollock sang a duet version of “Crowded Table,” a song by the Highwomen.

All proceeds will go to the Waseca Drama Department’s booster club, the first of its kind in the Waseca School District. “This will also benefit community theater,” said Emcee and Board Member Ann Fitch.

The drama department wanted to find a way to raise some more money for theater; the recent event was the means they devised. “Theater is exclusive as it could be a powerful way to tell stories to everyone,” Fitch explained.

“The truth is, theater is expensive,” followed fellow emcee Grace Lapides. “Between licensing, set design, costume design, props, and salaries, it all adds up.”

Lapides explained that it has been the norm to produce a musical every other year at Waseca High School. However, the board believes there is interest in doing one annually.

“On top of that,” Fitch added, “our beautiful, new Performing Arts Center is well-equipped to do bigger, better shows. But with those shows come larger budgets, larger casts, and ultimately more work.”

Events such as the dessert theater will help the drama department pay for the equipment, staff, and other expenses to put on better shows for the community. Fitch added that the ultimate purpose of the department’s booster club is not only to support the theater program at Waseca High School, but support theater in Waseca as a whole.

The whole event, the Waseca Drama Department’s mission, and the booster’s club’s existence, therefore, was summarized by Lapides in two sentences. “Theater is awesome. Let’s do more of it.”

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Gerdts introduced as chief deputy

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

Brian Tomford of the county’s buildings and grounds maintenance department presented a proposal to the board to authorize the sale of multiple county properties which could not be developed for public use. The list includes nine parcels of land, seven of which are ten acres or larger, with a combined value of \$228,000. The board approved beginning the process of sale and authorized county staff to communicate with neighboring landowners.

Doug Gerdts, new Chief Deputy at the sheriff’s office, was formally in-

troduced to the Board of County Commissioners at their meeting the morning of Feb. 21. The board is pleased with the selection of Gerdts, with Chair Commissioner Blair Nelson calling him “a fine choice.” Chief Deputy Gerdts began his duties Feb. 13.

Bridge L5737, located on the western county line in Freedom Township, is structurally deficient and eligible for replacement using Town Bridge and Special Town Bridge funds. Freedom Township is responsible for \$10,000 each of bridge approach work and engineering costs, which the township has

made an agreement to share equally with Medo Township. Both have already secured right-of-way for construction. Waseca County Public Works received seven bids for the project. It has been awarded to the lowest bidder, Midwest Contracting, LLC, at \$528,572. This bid is just over 1% less than the county engineer’s estimate for the project. \$384,898.95 is slated to come from the regular Town Bridge fund and

\$132,673.30 from the Special Town Bridge fund.

Maame Yorke, senior land use planner, presented a conditional use permit (CUP) request which the planning and zoning committee voted unanimously to recommend support for. Hannah Hagen, of Otisco Township, requested permission to operate a hair salon on her residential property. The board approved the CUP, provided all necessary building and operations permits are properly obtained, and no wetland is drained or filled for construction.

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Holly Harguth

For WHS matmen, it was a great day

Veroeven, Rodriguez, Garza advance to state tournament

By **MICHAEL ROY**
Staff Writer

It was a *really* good day for Waseca High School wrestling.

That may have been an understatement from Bluejay head coach Jake Janike.

Out of the 13 WHS wrestlers who took part in the Section 1AA tournament over Friday and Saturday, Feb. 24-25, seven moved onto the second round of competition. Five medaled and three made the championship round in their respective weight classes.

Freshman Matthew Veroeven was victorious in his match, and became the Section 1AA champion in the 220-pound weight class. All it took was one escape to defeat Zumbrotta-Mazeppa's Wyatt Mulder and capture the title.

Seniors Christian Rodriguez at 170 and Payton Garza at 195 were the other two that made it to the championship round. Although they lost their matches and had to settle for second place, they still qualified to wrestle in the state tournament along with Veroeven Friday and Saturday March 3-4.

"I know it means a lot to those two to make it to state as seniors," Janike said of Garza and Rodriguez. "I'm proud of them for making it."

Regarding Veroeven, Janike said, "It's impressive for anyone to make

it to state as a freshman. It's a big accomplishment for anyone. Veroeven is a great wrestler, and he proved it today by winning the section title."

It will be Garza's first time at the state tournament. Rodriguez will be making his second appearance, his first since he was a freshman.

"I enjoyed my experience at the state tournament a few years ago," Rodriguez shared. "It feels great getting to go again to end my wrestling career as a Bluejay."

"I'm very excited to go to state this year," Garza said. "It feels like my hard work throughout this season will have paid off."

Like Rodriguez, Veroeven will have his first state tournament experience as a freshman.

"I'm happy that I got the section title," he said. "Now I'm just hoping to place good at state."

The other wrestlers who made it to the second day for Waseca were Slade Barnett, Oliver O'Brien, Carter Ellis, and J.D. Delgado. Delgado, a senior, almost had a chance to punch his ticket to the state tournament at 285. If Carter Geerts of Byron, whom he lost to in the quarterfinals, had beat Heath Parrish of Kasson-Mantorville, he would have received the opportunity to face Parrish in an additional



BIG DAY — Oliver O'Brien, top, battles an opponent during the Section 1AA wrestling tournament Saturday, Feb. 25 in Rochester. O'Brien finished fifth at 160, but the Bluejays had three state qualifiers in Matthew Veroeven, Christian Rodriguez and Payton Garza.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

"They put in the time and they've earned their spot."
— WHS coach Jake Janike

match for second place.

"Carter was supposed to win in order for me to get my chance," Delgado said. "But that didn't happen. That one guy from Kasson kept throwing him down to the ground so easily."

He still placed well in the section tournament, going 5-1 and winning a 3-1 decision over Zumbrotta-Mazeppa's Tucker Buck for third place. Despite not quite making it to state, the coaches were still proud of his work on the mat.

"He was seeded pretty low coming in," assistant coach Blain Nelson said. "To come in and take third place is impressive. He's a good kid and works hard every practice. He earned it."

Barnett went 2-2 at 138, winning his first match against Zach Schaefer of Pine Island by fall in 1:40 before losing by technical fall (16-0, 5:37) to Zayne Novek of Zumbrotta-Mazeppa. After taking a 15-0 win, he lost an 8-3 decision to Byron's Brayden Loentzen.

O'Brien, 160, sidelined most of the season by a football injury, came out strong with a win by technical fall. He lost a 7-4 decision in the quarterfinals. He rallied back in the consolation round before losing a 7-2 decision to Derrick McMillian. He won fifth place by medical forfeit.

Ellis, 182, received a bye before losing by fall. After receiving another



Veroeven



Rodriguez



Garza

New Ulm nullifies WHS boys, 87-66

By **ELI LUTGENS**
Publisher/Editor

They must have remembered that football game from last fall.

Three games and three losses to New Ulm for the Waseca high school boys' basketball team this season. The Bluejays fought, scrapped, but ultimately couldn't keep up with the hot-shooting Eagles Saturday night, losing 87-66 in the seventh and final game of a Big South Showcase tournament held in Waseca. With the win, the Eagles (19-4) earned the chance to play for the Big South Conference championship in Worthington Tuesday. The loss was the largest margin of defeat in three contests between the teams this season. In two previous matchups the Jays lost by 10 in New Ulm on Jan. 6 and by 6 in Waseca on Feb. 7. The loss snapped a five-game win streak for the Bluejays, whose record fell 20-6. Their last loss was also to New Ulm.

"We battled hard," Waseca coach Seth Anderson said after the game. "But we got rebounded and New Ulm shot very well."

The Bluejays scored first on a jumper from Damarius Russell, who led all Waseca scorers with 31. Saturday night was a game of runs and the Eagles answered with seven straight points to go up by five.

The Jays trailed by eight multiple times in the first half. A Russell

steal and score, though, with five minutes remaining in the first half, capped off a seven-point run which cut the deficit to one, the closest the game would be all night. A full-court heave for the Jays at the end of the first half, a second too late, didn't count and they trailed 47-38 at the intermission.

In the second half the Jays fell down double digits for more than 10 minutes. But six straight points from Russell, concluding with a step-back three from the top of the key, cut the score to 65-61 with eight minutes remaining.

As Russell tired, the Jays only managed five points over those final minutes. All night the Jays struggled to stop the Eagles, who shot incredibly well from 3-point range. Colton Benson of New Ulm led all scorers with 36 points, connecting six times from three-point range.

Individually for the Bluejays: Russell 31 points 4 steals; 3 assists 2 rebounds; Carson Ohnstad 11 points 2 steals 2 rebounds; Zach Hulscher 10 points 1 steal; Laird Keeton 7 points 2 rebounds, 1 steal; Deron Russell 4 points 4 assists, 2 steals, 1 rebound; Noah Thompson 3 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steal; Tyson Reger 2 steals, 1 rebound, 1 assist; Andrew Robran 4 rebounds.

The Bluejays will not see action again until playoffs begin Tuesday, March 7.



DRIVE TIME — Damarius Russell takes the ball to the hoop during the Bluejays' 87-66 loss to New Ulm at Waseca Saturday, Feb. 23.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

Keith finishes 36th in state meet

By **JIM LUTGENS**
Sports Editor

Waseca High School's Layla Keith did not come home with a medal from the 2023 Minnesota state gymnastics, but she did bring back some valuable knowledge. She learned what it takes to compete at the state level — and she'll get three more shots at it.



Keith

Keith, a WHS freshman, finished in 36th place among 48 entrants in floor exercise at the state meet held Feb. 24-25 at Roy Wilkins Auditorium in St. Paul. Her score was 9.05.

The gold medalist in floor exercise was Big Lake senior Brittany Krumrei with a score of 9.5625. The state champion in all-around was Watertown-Mayer senior Reagen Kelley with a 38.50.

The Bluejay gymnastics team, coached by Kim Wendland, will graduate just two seniors in Kara Doyle and Katheryn Kofstad.

A season of milestones for JWP's James

Junior eclipses 1,000 points for career, ties single-game school record with nine steals

By **MICHAEL ROY**
Staff Writer

Reaching 1,000 points, tying a school record for most steals in a game, and scoring a career-best 32 points are only a few highlights for Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton junior Memphis James.

"It's been a great season," he said.

All of this happened in a matter of days. During the game against Sibley East Friday, Feb. 17, he hit the big 1,000 points in his varsity career with 1:26 left in the first half. Then in the next game against Cleveland, he reached his career-best of 32 while getting the record-tying nine steals.

When he reached 1,000, James said he was "excited," though, "It wasn't as much of an excitement thing as it was relief."

His father, Nick James, who also is head coach for the team, elaborated.

"Some kids feel that pressure to get 1,000 points," he said. "When they reach it, it's a sort of relief like Memphis was talking about."

Basketball is almost a second-nature thing to Memphis James at this point.

"I've played pretty much since you could play," he said. "I think you start in third grade."

Before then, though, Coach James said that Memphis played for some youth teams through the YMCA.

Memphis, along with his fellow juniors, have a unique situation this season. With no seniors, they are the oldest players on the team.

"I don't feel any pressure to be a leader or anything," he said. "It's just been fun to play with them all."

James is in an even more unique situation

having his father as the head coach of the team. When asked what it was like, he joked around.

"It's something, I guess," he said. "He's got to yell at someone for something."

But in all seriousness, he said it was fun having his dad as his head coach. Nick shares the same feelings having his son on the team.

"I've been coaching for a few years, and it definitely is special having him on the team," he said. "There's good things and bad things, of course."

Although he doesn't think of himself as a "big yeller," he admitted there are times you have to get hard on the players.

"Memphis is usually pretty good at differentiating the coach and the father in me," he said. "We try to keep that separate. Getting on him about something on the court doesn't change what I feel about him as a kid."

He also admitted that next season will be one of the hardest ones he's ever coached, not just because Memphis will graduate next year, but that the others he's coached since sixth grade will leave, too. Next season will be a chance for the whole team to come back together one last time.

However, there is still basketball to play this season. After getting a few individual accomplishments, Memphis has only one thing in mind for this season.

"I want to get a playoff win for our team," he said. "We haven't been able to get one since I've been on the team. I want to at least do that this season."



James

Century mark

JWP boys top 100 points for first time since '96-97

By **MICHAEL ROY**
Staff Writer

It wouldn't be hyperbole to say that the JWP boys' basketball team had a historic week.

Aside from a close 62-56 loss to Mankato Loyola team, the boys put up triple digits on Cleveland, the first time a Bulldogs boys' basketball team has done that this century. Memphis James tied the school record for steals in a game with nine. The team also broke a school record with 21 three-pointers in the 95-64 win against Medford, which is also tied for 9th all-time in the state.

Bulldogs 105, Clippers 41

According to all of the coaches on the team, it was the first time in 26 years and only the fifth time ever that a boys' team score entered triple digits in a game. The 1996-97 team, which was the last team to do it, had three triple-digit scoring games and set the all-time school record at 117 points.

While Cleveland only won one game this season, JWP coach Nick James appreciated the team putting in a full effort throughout the game.

"It's always hard to get the boys going for these games," he said. "Finishing stronger has also been a problem this season. They did play hard here and also finished strong."

Memphis James scored 32 points, a career high. Cole Schlueter scored 15, Landon Johnson 10. Dylan McWaters scored 6, Carter Miller 5 with 100-percent accuracy, Connor Welvaert 6, Steven 3.

"We had such a tough schedule this year," Coach James added. "It was nice for the boys to get one where they didn't have to grind it out."

Loyola 62, Bulldogs 56

At first, this game almost didn't happen as scheduled Tuesday, Feb. 21. Originally set for a normal 7:15 p.m. time, the game was pushed to 6 p.m. due to the impending winter storm coming before it was a varsity-only day with a 4 p.m. start.

Although this one was a loss, JWP saw some improvements. They played solidly against a great team in the section, keeping it a close 29-29 contest.

What may have cost them the game was their uncharacteristic inaccuracy at the free-throw line, only making three of six. Nineteen fouls generated 18 points for Loyola.

"We couldn't afford to foul against a team like Loyola, and we did," James said.

However, a positive was the team played the full 36 minutes on the court.

Memphis James led with 18 points while Daulton Bauer scored 15 and Schlueter tallied 10. Other contributors were Caleb Quast with 7 and Ryan Kronbach 6.

Bulldogs 95, Tigers 64

When you have such a great night on offense that you break a school record for most three-pointers made in a game, you're winning that matchup.

The conference rival Medford Tigers were he victims in Janesville Friday, Feb. 24. While their offense played admirably, the Bulldogs were just clicking.

Bauer had his career-best night on the court with 29 points scored in just 23 minutes of play. James followed with 25 points and seven three-pointers while Quast contributed 10 points.

It was once again the JV's time to play near the end of the game. Welvaert and Miller took advantage of their time contributing a three-pointer each to help break the school record.

Their 2-1 week amounted to a 12-13 overall (7-9 conference) record. A win against Madelia Monday, Feb. 27 would put them back to an even record before section playoffs begin.

Three Bulldogs reach state tourney

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

It was a great Saturday for the WEM-JWP Grizzlies wrestling team Feb. 25. Eleven wrestlers out of 14 medaled, and the team will send three wrestlers to the state tournament: freshman Brady Murphy at 106 pounds, sophomore Keegan Kuball at 285, and senior Jack Cahill at 220.

It will be Kuball's second consecutive year at the state tournament while it will be the first time for Cahill and Murphy. In addition to winning a spot at the state tournament, Kuball and Murphy became section champions in their weight classes.

Murphy had by far the easiest path to punching his ticket to the

state tournament. After receiving a bye, he only needed 1:02 to pin NRHEG's Jacob Karl. Timmy Nagel of Blue Earth Area was his hardest opponent, which wasn't saying a lot, as he only needed 1:16 to win over him by fall. He took first place over Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial's Ryder Antony with a pin in 1:06.

Kuball's road was a bit tougher, although he had to wrestle the least amount of matches. After receiving two byes, Kuball pinned Lake Crystal's Dietrich Rosin in 59 seconds. He then faced NRHEG's Makota Misgen, a heavy favorite to win the tournament although he beat him earlier in the season. But like that defeat, if came down to the ultimate tiebreaker which he won 3-2.

Cahill's path was hardest. Usually

wrestling at either 182 or 195, he was upgraded to the 220-pound weight class. After receiving a bye in the first round, Cahill pinned Jace Ihrke of NRHEG in 1:01 before defeating Dizel Butler of Maple River/USC in 2:38.

He narrowly lost an 8-5 decision to Justin Slater of Lake Crystal in the first-place matchup. However, he had one last matchup against Brody Johnson of Westfield for second place, since Johnson defeated the same opponents Cahill had defeated (and lost to Slater as well).



Cahill



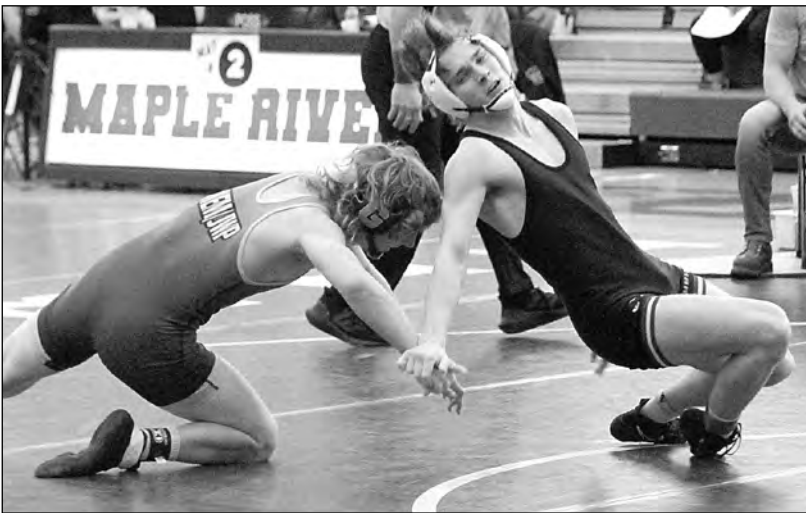
Kuball



Murphy

Cahill only needed 55 seconds to secure second place and his spot in the state tournament.

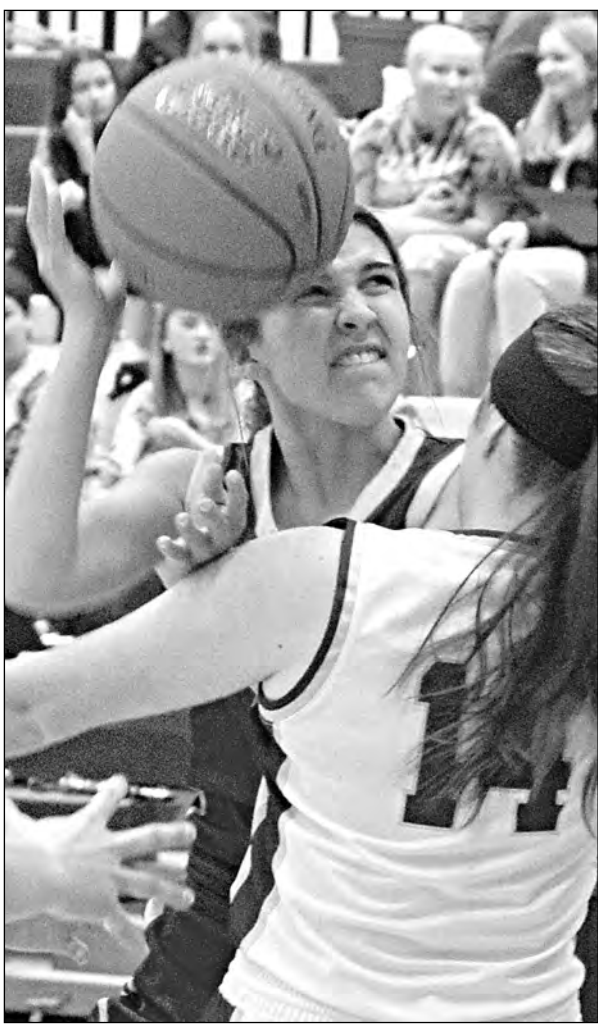
Other medalists on the day and their places were Kelton Erler (6th), Jaxon Hulsing (5th), Lucas Morsching (5th), Avery Fall (4th), Isaac Quast (6th), Patrick Adams (5th), Charlie Adams (5th), and Carson James (6th). Morsching won



GETAWAY — WEM-JWP wrestler Isaac Quast, left, tries to hold on as NRHEG's Cole Hutchens escapes during the section tournament.
Photo by Jordan Corillo

two of his matches while Fall and both Adams brothers won at least one match.

The individual portion of the state tournament will begin Friday, March 3 and end the following Saturday.



ONE-SIDED WIN — The Waseca High School girls' basketball team blew out visiting Blue Earth Area in the opening round of the Section 2AA tournament Tuesday, Feb. 28 in Waseca. From left: Megan Kanewischer dribbles the basketball; Avery Madsen fights for a rebound; Samantha Azure battles on the floor for a loose ball.
Pioneer photos by Michael Roy

Opening-round romp: Lady Jays 69, Blue Earth Area 29

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

It was a bit of a rocky start for the No. 2-seeded Bluejay girls' basketball team Tuesday, Feb. 28.

But, after settling for a 25-18 half-time lead, they stormed to a 62-29 victory against No. 7 seed and conference rival Blue Earth Area in the first round of the Subsection 2AA South playoffs in Waseca.

Both teams struggled a bit in the first half. Kloe Wadd was the first to

score points in the game. The Bucs traded blows with the Bluejays, who had a few issues of their own making clean passes.

"It's something we need to clean up for the next game," head coach Joan Conway said.

Other than a brief 5-4 lead for Blue Earth, the Bluejays maintained a narrow lead throughout the first half thanks to a 10-point campaign by senior Wadd, an eight-point half by senior Avery Madsen, and an

additional three by sophomore Mia Kanewischer.

Coach Conway was much more pleased with the Lady Jays' performance in the second half, when they outshot Blue Earth 37-11. They focused more on making smart passes in open lanes and relied more on Wadd to make the layup shots and rebounds while others attempted more three-pointers. Conway could be seen pumping her fist after every successful shot once the girls main-

**"We played well as a team."
— Waseca coach Joan Conway**

tained a double-digit lead.

With a few minutes left in the game, some of the non-starters gained some playing time, and sophomore Lilly Owens scored two points to put the cherry on top of a nice 62-29 victory for Waseca.

"We played well as a team,"

Conway said.

Wadd led the team in scoring with 22 points. Other contributors were Madsen 15, Megan Kanewischer 9, Sam Azure 5, Addison Wieseler 3, Mia Kanewischer 3, Callie Dufault 3, and Lily Owens 2.

Waseca faced No. seed New

Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva in the subsection semifinals at Mankato East High School Thursday, March 2.

The sub-section championship game is Monday, March 6 at 6 p.m. at Minnesota State Mankato's Taylor Center. The winner of that game faces the north sub-section winner Friday, March 10 at 7:45 at Taylor Center for the Section 2AA championship and state tournament berth.

JWP girls level Loyola in section opener

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

The JWP girls' basketball team moved on from the first round of Subsection 2A south after defeating Mankato Loyola 60-27 Friday, Feb. 24. Originally scheduled for the day before, the blizzard delayed the game. But that did not affect the performance of the Bulldogs.

Much like the last game JWP had against Loyola in January, things started off slow. Freshman Katie Olson scored the first two points of the game five seconds in, but neither team did much for the first few minutes.

"We did come out soft the first few minutes of the game," JWP

coach Cory Jans acknowledged. "As the game went on, we did much better."

After holding a brief 5-4 lead, the Crusaders had trouble stopping the trio of Presley James, Katie Olson, and Faith Olson. A free throw completion from James tied it 4-4, with Faith Olson making two three-pointers and Katie Olson adding five more to make it 16-7. At halftime, it was 25-10.

The JWP offense found its footing a bit more in the second half. The Bulldogs took advantage of Loyola's accuracy issues in the paint, winning the rebound battles, seeing their 25-10 lead at half increase to 35-16, then 48-21.

**"We definitely ramped up the intensity in the second half."
— JWP coach Cory Jans**

"We definitely ramped up the intensity in the second half," said Jans.

Leading the Bulldogs was Katie Olson with 22 points, with Faith Olson contributing 13 and James tallying 7. Other contributors were Nevaeh Weimert 5, Claire Walz and Hope Dimmel 4 each, Lilly Strauss and Brielle Bure 2 each, and Lexie Dahlberg 1.

JWP traveled to second-seeded

Sleepy Eye on Tuesday, Feb. 28 for the subsection quarterfinals. The Indians are currently 20-6 and are second place in the Tomahawk Conference.

"They are a tough team," Jans said. "We can't sit back against them like we have been doing in some of our games. We have to match the intensity we showed against Loyola throughout the entire game."



STICK LIKE GLUE — Nevaeh Weimert, left, stays close to her Mankato Loyola opponent.
Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

Last-second goal sinks WHS boys' hockey team in section tourney

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

It wasn't even a week before the Waseca High School boys' hockey team had to face the Rochester Lourdes Eagles — whom they lost to 2-6 on the road — in their arena once again for the first round of the Section 1A tournament on Tuesday, Feb. 21.

After taking a two goal lead in the second period, Waseca came up short. A last-second goal by the Eagles ended their season with a

5-4 loss on the book.

Sophomore forward Lucas Groll had a breakout game, starting with scoring the lone goal in the first period after nearly 16 minutes of back and forth. A 1-0 lead after the first was added on to by Hunter Anderson, who got one past Lourdes goaltender Xander Carter-Kleven 6:50 into the second. After the Eagles got on the board midway into the second, Anderson score his second of the game to make it a 3-1 game. A

quick goal to end the period by Lourdes made it a 3-2 game.

The enemy of the Bluejays in the third period was A.J. Ritter. The Eagles' forward scored his first goal of the game off a power play 9:46 into the final period and netted a second goal less than five minutes later to give Lourdes a 4-3 lead. Groll got his second goal of the night on a power play with 34 seconds on the clock. It looked like things were going into overtime.

But if you're going to break someone's heart, you may as well make it hurt for a while. And that's what Rochester Lourdes did.

A last-second go-ahead goal by Colton Rich with literally one second on the clock was the dagger to an otherwise relatively good season for the Waseca squad. The 5-4 loss kicked them out of the playoffs and ended their season with a final 10-15 record.

Coach Chris Storey felt like the game did-

n't describe their season. "The boys' hockey team has done some pretty great things this year," he said. "Things just didn't go our way this time."

The season included Kyle Ahlschlager reaching the 100-goal mark and setting an all-time points record for the Waseca boys' hockey club this season. He, Griffin Krautkremer, Gavan George, Eli Wetzels, and long-time manager Sydney Kofstad will graduate after this season.

Misgen, Routh reach state

Section runners-up to join Petsinger in St. Paul

By **JIM LUTGENS**
Sports Editor

NRHEG High School will be well represented in this year's state wrestling tournament.

Junior Annabelle Petsinger, who earlier qualified for the girls' state tourney, will be joined at the Xcel Energy Center by the Panthers' Reese Routh and Makota Misgen, who both finished second in the Section 2A individual tournament at Maple River Saturday, Feb. 25. They were among nine Panther placewinners.

"It is hard to believe we have already wrestled in the section tournament," said NRHEG coach Shawn Larson. "We had a good showing at sections. I think the biggest demonstration of how we wrestled is shown in the fact that we wrestled at or above our seed in every weight class that we competed in. We are extremely happy and proud to add two more wrestlers to qualify for the state tournament."

Routh, a 152-pound junior, pinned his way to the semifinals, which Larson said all but solidified his state tournament berth.

Misgen, a senior, had two falls on his way to the finals, where he lost a controversial 3-2 overtime decision to WEM/JWP's Keegan Kuball.

"Makota lost in the ultimate tiebreaker overtime on a controversial rideout," said Larson. "The call made by the officials was a difficult call, and it did not go our way. Makota handled the situation well, which speaks volumes about his

character."

The Panthers had two wrestlers finish third and miss the state tournament by one place, eighth-grader Ryan Schlaak at 145 and sophomore Harbor Cromwell at 160.

Freshman Deven Parpart finished fourth at 132. Fifth-place finishers were freshman Jacob Karl, 105; sophomore Aiden Schlaak, 138; and sophomore Cole Hutchens, 195. Another sophomore, Jace Ihrke, took sixth at 220.

Petsinger and Misgen are repeat qualifiers for the state tournament, set for March 2-4.

"I know that Annabelle, Reese, and Makota are all looking forward to the opportunity to representing our communities and our school at the MSHSL state tournament," said Larson.

Routh and Misgen will compete Friday, March 3, at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. Wrestling starts for class A at about 1 p.m. The girls do not wrestle until Saturday at 9 a.m.

Individual section results:

- 106 Murphy, Brady (WEM-JWP) def. Karl, Jacob (NRHEG) {Fall 1:09}; Hodge, Kevin (Westfield) def. Karl {Decision 3-2}; Karl def. Nagel, Timmy (Blue Earth Area) {Fall 2:11}; Karl def. Sheppard, Blake (Saint Clair-Mankato Loyola) {Maj Dec 14-0};
- 126 Bunn, Parker (NRHEG) def. Williams, Aric (WEM-JWP) {Fall 2:57}; Gimenez, Griffin (Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial Area) def. Bunn {Fall 2:07}; Davila, Noel

(Madelia-Truman) def. Bunn {Fall 0:25}

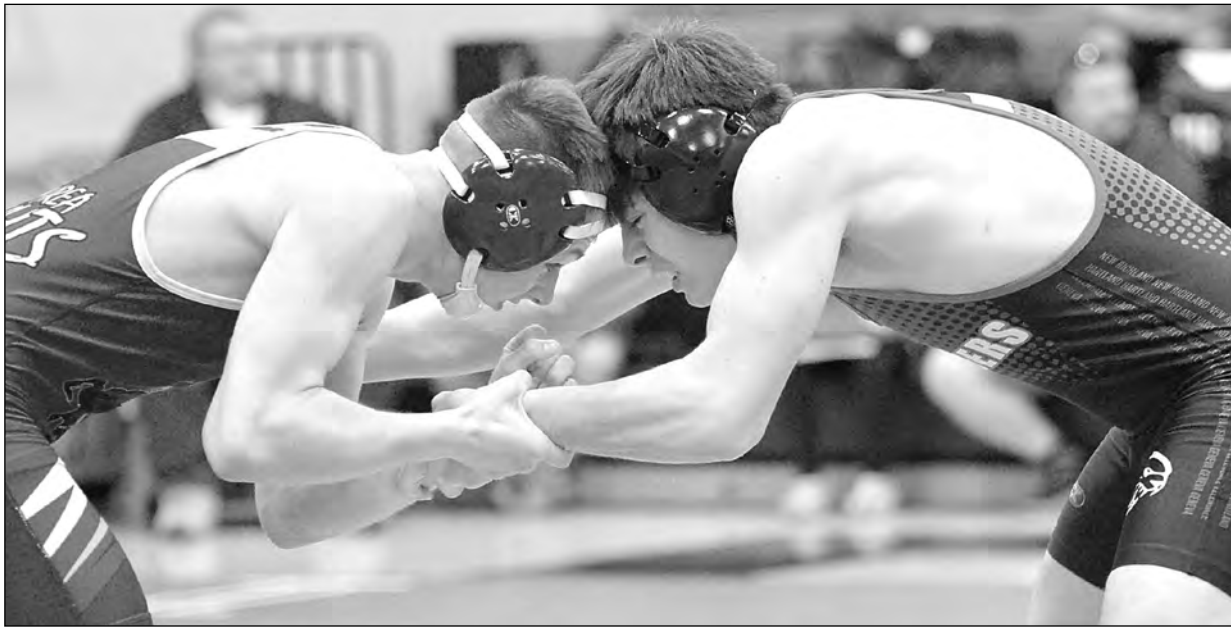
- 132 Zwiener, Bo (Westfield) def. Parpart, Deven (NRHEG) {Fall 1:50}; Parpart def. Hulsing, Jaxon (WEM-JWP) {Maj Dec 15-1}; Martinez, Angel (Blue Earth Area) def. Parpart {Maj Dec 18-4}; Parpart def. Bullerman, Kolt (Maple River-USC) {Fall 4:48}

- 138 Schlaak, Aidan (NRHEG) def. Erler, Kelton (WEM-JWP) {Maj Dec 11-2}; Schlaak def. Steele, Kael (Westfield) {Fall 1:27}; Peterson, Cooper (Blue Earth Area) def. Schlaak {Decision 9-2}; Simon, Braxton (Maple River-USC) def. Schlaak {Maj Dec 12-0}

- 145 Schlaak, Ryan (NRHEG) def. Bollmann, Garrett (Maple River-USC) {Decision 5-0}; Christianson, Cade (Westfield) def. Schlaak {Maj Dec 9-1}; Schlaak def. Morsching, Lucas (WEM-JWP) {Decision 4-0}; Schlaak def. Osborne, Talan (Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial Area) {Decision 9-6}

- 152 Hoffman, Garron (Medford) def. Routh, Reese (NRHEG) {Fall 0:51}; Routh def. Sodeman, Noah (Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial Area) {Fall 1:13}; Routh (New Richland-H-E-G) def. Bade, Chase (Saint Clair-Mankato Loyola) {Fall 3:27}

- 160 Cromwell, Harbor (NRHEG) def. Northquest, Austin (LCWM Area) {Fall 3:29}; Getchell, Byron (Maple River-USC) def. Cromwell {Fall 2:08}; Cromwell def. Neumann, Kael



HEADED FOR THE SPOTLIGHT — The Panthers' Reese Routh, top right, squares off with LCWM Area's Noah Sodeman during the Section 2A individual wrestling tournament in Mapleton Saturday, Feb. 25. Reese, who pinned Sodeman, finished as the section runner-up at 152 pounds, advancing to state. Below, NRHEG's Makota Misgen faces WEM-JWP's Keegan Kuball in the finals at 285. Misgen lost a controversial overtime decision but still advanced to state, joining Routh and Annabelle Petsinger.

(Medford) {Fall 3:39}; Cromwell def. Quast, Isaac (WEM-JWP) {Decision 7-0}; Gaydon, Kade (Blue Earth Area) def. Cromwell {Maj Dec 13-0}

- 195 Bronson, Ty (Westfield) def. Hutchens, Cole (NRHEG) {Fall 2:04}; Fall, Avery (WEM-JWP) def. Hutchens {Fall 4:08}

- 220 Adams, Mason (Saint Clair-Mankato Loyola) def. Ihrke, Jace (NRHEG) {Fall 0:55}; Cahill, Jack (WEM-JWP) def. Ihrke {Fall 1:13}; Johnson, Brody (Westfield) def. Ihrke {Fall 7:41}

- 285 Misgen, Makota (NRHEG) def. Arndt, Wyatt (Westfield) {Fall 0:23}; Misgen def. Degrood, Mason (Medford) {Fall 1:29}; 285 Kuball, Keegan (WEM-JWP) def. Misgen {Decision 3-2}



NRHEG girls breeze by Maple River, 74-47

Jacobson scores 22, Schultz 20

By **ELI LUTGENS**
Publisher/Editor

The NRHEG High School girls' basketball team breezed past Maple River 75-47 in the opening round of the class AA south sub-section tournament Tuesday evening in New Richland.

"Our girls were very focused," NRHEG coach Onika Peterson said after the game. "We rebounded and ran the floor well."

The game was competitive for about the first 10 minutes of play. Junior Faith Nielsen ignited the rally when she scored six straight points for the Panthers, who went on a 7-0 run. They quickly stretched the lead into double digits and took a 19-point lead into intermission.

Eight Panthers scored in the contest, with three finishing in double figures.

"It was a great team win," Coach Peterson examined. "We get to live another day and prepare for Waseca."

Individually for the Panthers:

"Our girls were very focused."
— **NRHEG coach Onika Peterson**

Erin Jacobson 22 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 block; Sidney Schultz 20 pts, 3 rebounds, 1 steal, 3 assists; Nielsen 12 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists; Izley Boerner 6 points, 1 rebound; Quinn VanMaldeghem 5 points, 10 rebounds; Camryn VanMaldeghem 4 points, 3 rebounds, 2 steals, 3 assist; Hallie Schultz 4 points, 7 rebounds, 1 steal, 1 assist; Gabrielle Schlaak 1 steal.

With the win the Panthers improved to 20-5 (12-2 conference) and moved on to the second round of sub-section play Thursday night in Mankato East, playing the late game against Waseca.



PLENTY OF POINTS — The Panthers' Sidney Schultz (12) and Erin Jacobson (right) almost outscored the entire Maple River squad as NRHEG won handily 75-47 in the sub-section tournament opener Tuesday.



LESSONS LEARNED — Despite dropping two games, NRHEG boys' basketball coach Dan Schmidt felt the Panthers learned from games against United South Central and St. Clair last week. Above, the Panthers' Brady Schlaak muscles in for a shot despite being triple-teamed against USC in Wells.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

NRHEG boys drop a pair

By **JIM LUTGENS**
Sports Editor

The NRHEG High School boys' basketball lost decidedly in Wells Friday night, falling to United South Central 64-37.

The contest started poorly for the Panthers, who failed to score until five minutes into the contest when Dexter Lee connected. They did not score again until Sam Olson hit a layup with five minutes remaining in the first half. The basket cut the deficit to 20-4.

Jackson Chrz managed to pick up six points for the Panthers over the final minutes, but NRHEG still trailed 32-16 at the break.

The second half saw much of the same as the Rebels' stingy defense continued to smother the Panthers.

"The two-day weather break was not kind to us, as we came out flat and never recovered," said NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt. "It took nearly 10 minutes before we got our second basket of the game. It felt like we were never stepped in the gym, as we let USC's defensive pressure affect us."

Lee led the Panthers with 11 points, followed by 7 from Sawyer Prigge. Chrz totaled 6 points and 4 rebounds, Lukas Loverink four points. Olson, Brady Schlaak, Jaylin Raab, Levin Kitzer and Dylan Ingvaldson contributed two points apiece. Schlaak snared 4 rebounds.

USC's Zale Bushlack led all scorers with 19 points and 8 rebounds, followed by Nick Bushlack with 16.

The Panthers fell 54-51 on their home court in New Richland Saturday night against St. Clair, a rematch from the Bethany tournament.

NRHEG bolted to a 21-11 advantage, but St. Clair ended the first half on a 13-0 run and led 24-21 at half-time.

"During that stretch, St Clair's shooters took advantage of our inability to close out on defense," said Schmidt.

The second half turned into a slugfest as neither team built much of a cushion, and NRHEG once again had an opportunity for a game-tying shot with less than 8 seconds to go. That look came up just short, and St Clair hit a couple free throws to end the game.

"A game like this is actually a good experience for our team, having come into the season with so much inexperience," said Schmidt. "We've had three games that have come down to us getting the last shot, and while we've come up short, it's something to learn from for not only the team, but our coaching staff. And, two of those have been in the last week. I'm extremely happy with the effort that we played with on Saturday, especially coming off of Friday night's game. The boys bounced back so well, effort-wise."

Individually for the Panthers: Lee 18 points, 3 assists, 2 rebounds; Olson 9 points; Chrz 5 points, 6 rebounds, 4 blocks; Will Tuttle 5 points, 8 rebounds; Alden Dobberstein 4 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals, 2 blocks; Prigge 3 points; Raab 2 points; Loverink 2 points; Jase Knudson 2 points.

Ethan Preston of St Clair led all scorers with 21 points, followed by Brandon Meng with 14.

The Panthers, 3-13 in the Gopher Conference and 3-22 overall, are off until the section tournament that starts Tuesday, March 7.



CHANGES HANDS— In 1973, Mr. and Mrs. Archie Menk sold the Janesville Laundromat to the Thissen family. From left: Mrs. and Mr. Archie Menk, Judy Menk, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Thissen, and the Thissen children Detsy, Tommy, and Jessica.

Jack Eustice is state champion

1923

-Under the auspices of the Order of Hibernians and supervised by Father S. Condron, a play bill be put on at the Town Hall on Saturday, March 17th, afternoon and evening. The title of the play is "The Miner's Daughter." It is a heavy drama and conveys a beautiful lesson to young people, just what they ought to know at this time. The personnel of the cast has already been selected and they are now perfecting the play. It goes without saying that this play, like all other plays put on by Father Condron, will be appreciated and patronized.

-With the continued building of state roads and the call for material comes the question of gravel and a gravel supply. To meet the increasing demand in this vicinity, E. T. Dieudonne has developed an original scheme through an original device for loading that has worked out satisfactorily in a test made on Thursday last. The device is simply an extended belt run by motor power over a series of shafts held in place by a heavy framework fastened together with iron belts and screws.

-Henry Morrill returned from Mankato last week after an absence of nearly two months. He has been under treatment for rheumatic trouble, but in the meantime found life cozy and comfortable at the old Clifton House. This particular hostility is said to be sixty years old and as such it stands as one of the old landmarks of the city.

-Wm. Barbknecht informs us that the official board of the Trinity German Lutheran Church has employed Schipple & Smith, architects, of Mankato, to draw plans of the proposed new church edifice. It is practically decided to go ahead with the building, but the details as to the exact kind of building have not as yet been fully settled. When they are, Mr. Barbknecht will secure a cut of the building from the architects for reproduction in this paper.

1948

-More than 3,500 Waseca County residents received Easter Seals, bearing the message, "Help Crippled Children," this week, it was announced by Mrs. John E. Matthews and Mrs. Frank T. Sankovitz, both of Waseca. The two ladies are co-chairmen of the Waseca County Committee of Minnesota Society for Crippled Children and Adults, which this month is appealing to more than 800,000 Minnesota residents for Easter Seal contributions.

-With a shortage of fuel oil, many farmers may turn to electric brooders this spring, says County Agent Murphy. If they do, they should exercise special care to ensure good results. Information supplied by Cora Cooke, extension poultry specialist at University Farm, indicates that several special precautions should be taken. The reason is that electric brooders do not heat the room as do oil and coal brooders, but heat only the area directly under the hover. Temperatures under the hover of an electric brooder should run 10 to 15 degrees higher than coal and oil brooders, 105 degrees being about the right starting temperature. If chicks are too warm they will run outside the hover, but there is always a warm area to return to.

-An important business change was consummated here last week when Walter Hollmichel sold his shoe store and harness shop to Joseph R. Stepan of Le Center, who assumed control on Monday, March 1st. Mr. Hollmichel has been connected with the business since 1904, when he became associated with his father, the late Louis Hollmichel.

1973

-Janesville welcomed its second state wrestling champion in six years when Jack Eustice rode triumphantly into town Sunday afternoon at the head of a car caravan and was greeted by 700 wrestling fans in the high school gymnasium. Saturday afternoon the 119-pound senior culminated a brilliant five-year wrestling career when he scored a decisive 9-2 decision over Minnetonka's Steve Eggedal to sweet the Minnesota State Wrestling Tourney. The championship match capped a season where he won 32 straight matches, was unscored upon during the regular season, and virtually breezed through state tournament competition. Against the top 16 wrestlers in the 119-pound class, Eustice scored decisions of 9-0, 8-2, 10-1 and 9-2.

-The generosity of the Janesville community was proved by the results of the 1971-72 Community Chest Drive. The total receipts amounted to \$3,756.45, an increase from last year. Checks to the twenty-one organizations will be mailed this week.

-Several area men will be appearing on Channel 12 TV, Tuesday, March 13 to discuss local watershed problems and projects. The TV program is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Appearing from Janesville will be County Commissioner Reinhard Guse and Councilman A. C. Ewert. Waseca area men on the program are Joe Gabiou, Gene Miller, Jim Zimmerman and Bud Lorig.

-Readers' Project: This puppet display was the outcome of a reading project in Edna Kluender's first grade at Trinity Lutheran School. All of the students made puppets and used the in the project.

-The third time around was a charm for the Golden Bears here Saturday night as they outlasted a tough New Richland five 57-54 in the opening round of the District Four Basketball Tournament. Earlier in the season the Gopher Conference champions nipped the Bears twice, 63-60 and 72-64. Saturday night the locals were not to be denied.

1998

-With the opening of another season at Prairie Ridge Golf Course coming soon, the Janesville City Council has hired new management. During its Monday, March 9 meeting, the city council hired Jim King of Waseca as Prairie Ridge's general manager. "I think he is going to do a real good job out there for us this year," said Pail Grabitske, city administrator.

-One young woman will be crowned Saturday, March 14, as Miss St. Patrick during the Irish-American Club of Southern Minnesota's annual celebration in Waseca. The candidates include Waseca High School students Angela Britton, Shannon Frisk, and Marianne Wind, along with Stephanie Dooley of Apple Valley and Julie Kelly of Garden City.

-A Little Miss with Janesville connections is on her way to possible stardom. Dayla Haack, 22-month-old daughter of Tom and Melissa Haack of Waseca, and great-granddaughter of Herb and Betty Gottschalk of Janesville, is going on to state finals in the New Star Discovery Most Beautiful Baby Contest. Dayla earned this eligibility after winning first place in the America's Lil' Angels Pageant in Mankato this past fall.

When things were simpler

Waseca Journal, 1923

-From every viewpoint the Journal's Cooking School which was held at the Palace Theater was considered an unqualified success. The house was packed every day and often standing room was at a premium. It is estimated that over 1900 people attended the cooking school.

-Four boys were arrested last week by the city police for breaking into stores and residences about town were brought before Judge Brown in the juvenile court last Monday. After hearing the evidence Judge Brown sentenced one of the boys to the reformatory at Red Wing, one was placed under a guardianship and the other two cases were continued during good behavior and were remanded to the custody of their parents under certain conditions. The boys are not allowed on the street at night unless accompanied with their parents and are not allowed to congregate in gangs and must be kept in school. They are required to report to the probate courts on the school record and school conduct.

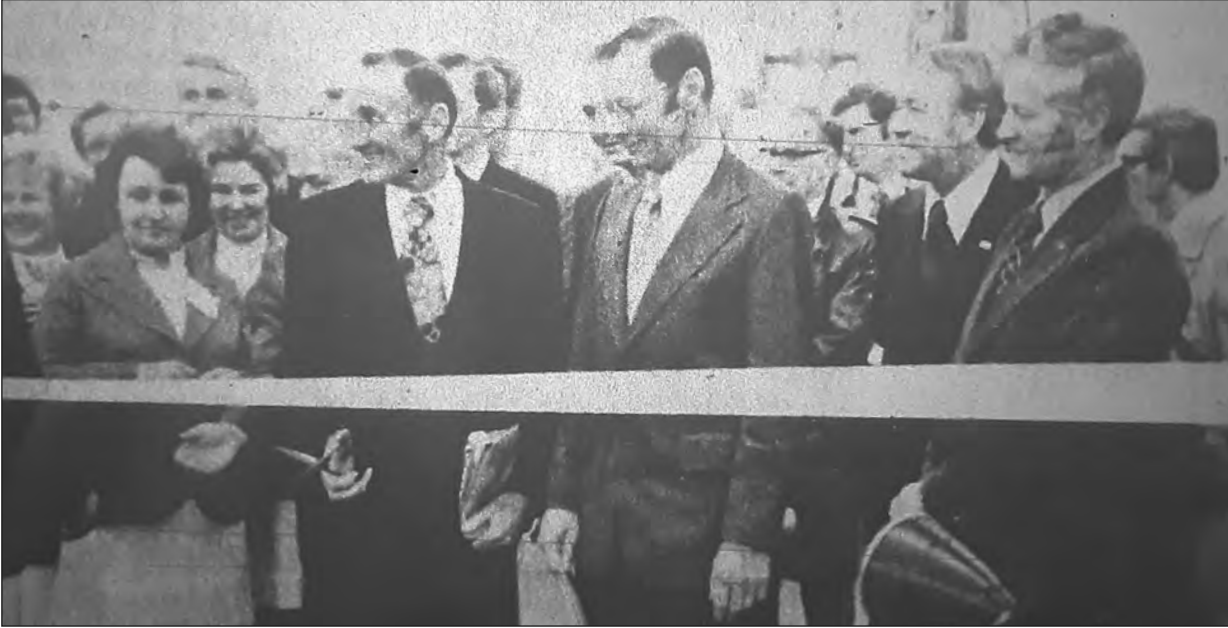
-The bonds recently voted by the city of Waseca for a new school building in the amount of \$350,000 were sold Friday evening for an interest rate of only 4 1/2 percent with a premium of \$700. They were bid in by the Wells, Dickey Co., Minneapolis. The consensus of opinion is that the Board of Education were very fortunate in securing this low rate of interest. The \$79,000 city sewerage bonds sold a few months ago for 4 3/4 percent premium \$1,401, and that was thought to be a reasonable figure at that time.

-In their report to the city council the appraisers assessed the damages of the property owners affected by the northwest drain and the sewerage construction work at \$4,485. The property owners will have a chance to appeal on this decision within the next thirty days.

Waseca Herald, 1948

-The city council at a special meeting Monday evening in the city hall instructed E. G. Hill, city engineer, to make a survey of the sanitary sewers in the city and report to them as soon as possible. Action by the council came when 18 property owners attended the special meeting and complained that their basements had again been flooded last Friday. Rain and snow melting with warm weather filled sanitary sewers and caused them to back up into the basements.

-The March term of court turned up with only one case ready for trial and petit jurors were notified not to appear for service, Frank S. Papke, clerk of court reported. Although the term had one criminal case and 31 civil cases listed on the calendar, only one jury case was ready so Sheriff R. G. Lowe was instructed



In 1973, Corchran Inc. of Waseca built a new plant in Sioux Falls, SD. They celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Roger Corchran did the honors while Jim Corchran watched.

by the court to notify jurors. Some cases had been continued by agreement and others were settled as court opened or had motions pending. The one criminal case on the calendar was continued, that of Noel Sampson of New Richland. Charged with writing a check with insufficient funds in the bank, he was supposed to have reported at this term of court.

-A Waseca girl has entered the "Search for Talent" contest which is being presented for the fourth consecutive year by the Women's Institute of St. Paul and the St. Paul Dispatch Pioneer Press. She is Betty Powell, 17-year-old Central High School senior, who has a fine soprano voice. She will appear in the regional contest at Mankato on May 1.

-The Sacred Heart basketball team had one player chosen for the second team of Region Three tournament squad after the play was finished last Sunday. Chosen by coaches was Dave Thornby, Sacred Heart forward, as one of five men on the second team. Other players chosen were Bud Herbeck of New Ulm Trinity, Floyd Miller of Mankato Loyola, Robert Pyan of Sleepy Eye St. Mary and Ronald Goepken of Adrian St. Adrian.

Waseca Daily Journal, 1973

-Waseca Real Estate is on the grow. John Conway, owner of Waseca Real Estate, announced the appointment of their sixth salesman this week. Vern Walther, resident of Janesville since 1935, has been hired to serve as the Janesville area representative. Walther is presently in the Mutual Funds and Insurance business in Janesville. He and his wife, Ruth, have four children and reside in Janesville. Other salesmen at Waseca Real Estate area: Floyd Calhoun, Cotton Tews, Rollie Roesler, Dwain Nelson and Jule Armstrong. The addition of Vern Walther to the staff at Waseca Real Estate will enable the business to better serve Waseca County.

-The Waseca Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution against the construction of an experimental city in Minnesota and asking that funds be appropriated for work on Highway 14. The resolution, drafted this morning, said that the state is considering the "construction for 250,000 people" an experimental city in Aitkin County in northern Minnesota. Gene Slama, executive director of the Waseca Chamber office, felt that if there was enough response to the legis-



Ron Mansmith, owner of New Richland Drug in 1998, talked about how much the pharmaceutical world changed thanks to technology. He believed then small-town pharmacies had their place.

lators and other governmental officials the experimental city concept may be dropped and the money distributed to the rural areas "where it is needed now." The experimental city concept has been in the news as of late and there is growing opposition to it which says that the city would take a lot of state funds which could be better used in the rural areas.

-Three Waseca's Daily Journal All-Area wrestlers won in the opening round of the 36th Annual State Wrestling Tournament at Williams Arena. Max Hopkins of the Waseca Bluejays won in the heavyweight division; Jack Eustice the four-time Region One winner, from the Janesville Bears won in the 119 pound class and Dac Reysack from the Morristown Comets won in the 167 pound class.

-Talk about a quick sale. Mrs. Bill Brooks, Jr. placed an ad in the Journal and sold everything in the first night the ad appeared in the paper. Mrs. Brooks had for sale a sofa, rocker, refrigerator and automatic washer. She said the day the Journal came out with her ad in it she began getting calls at 4 p.m. she said she received about 50 calls in all and by 8:30 p.m. everything was sold.

Waseca County News, 1998

-November's approval of the \$11 million bond issue in the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton school district will mean more for the district than just new and remodeled buildings. It will bean learning. Charles Johnson, technology coordinator for the JWP district, said the goal is to maximize technology in the students' hands. "The best is yet to come for us, and the bond issue has bade that possible," Johnson said.

-Technology plays a large role in the pharmaceutical industry. Pharmacist Ron Mansmith, who purchased New Richland Drug from Leo Held on July 1, remembers a tie when technology did not play a factor behind the counter. "In the old days all we had was a typewriter and labels," Mansmith said. Mansmith has seen distinct changes in the pharmacy business since he graduated from college in 1962. He owned a pharmacy in Iowa, worked for a clinic pharmacy, and also worked for a company chain of pharmacies. However, he prefers the atmosphere of the small town pharmacy. "I believe small town pharmacies have a place," Mansmith said.

-Fun. That was the word of choice for six Waseca third-grade students in describing their first round of Graduation Rule testing that started Thursday. Third and fifth-grade students from Waseca and the rest of the state are in the midst of taking the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) as part of the Graduation Rule. They finished the reading portion of the tests Friday. They started taking the math portion Monday and will finish those today.

-Alliance Pipeline has recently completed a series of meetings coordinated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to construct a 36-inch pipeline that may affect 78 landowners in Waseca County. The meetings were held in Minnesota, North Dakota, Iowa, and Illinois and provided the public opportunities to pose questions and make statements regarding the DEIS.

Beet, pork roasts, turkeys and more

77 Years Ago – 1946

- Frank Root, in charge of the Ful-O-Pep Hatchery this season, told The Star Tuesday that the first hatch of the 1946 season amounted to approximately 6,300 of the fluffy little peepers coming off Monday and proved a 70 percent hatch, which is considered "very good." From now on, regular hatches will come off a few times a week, including turkeys. There is a setting of turkey eggs in the incubator now. Local turkey eggs only are used, insuring the best in which Ful-O-Pep specializes.

- Hope grows brighter that at least something will be done to improve T. H. No. 13 through here. A recent highway bulletin concerning bids for highway improvement included 5.1 miles of grading – one and one-half miles north of New Richland and between here and the Freeborn county line.

- It is now definitely assured that the Faust Theatre will reopen within a short time. Don Breilein has received his discharge from the navy

and arrived home Monday night. He is already planning on new seats, we are informed, and other improvements in his theatre and will start giving shows just as soon as possible.

50 Years Ago – 1973

- The beet dump in New Richland will operate no more, as growers were notified that the Mason City American Crystal Sugar plant is closed. Acreage in the area last year was 3,045, with 19 farmers, the producers. The farmers will receive an estimate of \$936,917 for last year's crop which includes a government payment of \$99,052. The government underwrites the program with a 80 cent per hundredweight subsidy. Sugar from the 47,879 tons of sugar beets grown in the area last year totalled 124,510 hundredweight.

- Top winner in the Guess the Weight of the Hog contest sponsored by the New Richland chapter of the FFA in connection with FFA week was Willie Johnson, who won

a picnic ham for guessing the weight of the hog at 168 lb., one pound away from the actual weight of the hog, which was 169 lbs. Bob Westland won a pork roast for second place with an estimate of 167 3/4 lbs. Third was Rev. Orville Boettcher and Don Haugen, who each guessed 167 1/2 lbs. A toss of the coin put Rev. Boettcher in third and Coach Haugen in fourth. Boettcher received a pork roast for his efforts and Don Haugen, pork chops.

25 Years Ago – 1998

- Construction of Waldorf's Community Building is on schedule with May 1 set for the day the city's post office will be moved to its new location in the northwest corner of the facility. The annual Memorial Day observance, May 25, hosted by the Pete Madden American Legion Post #587 and its auxiliary will be held in the new facility. Coupled with it will be an open house with the public invited to view the exceptionally fine building. In charge of the plans for

the open house is L. A. Ewert, former Waldorf postmaster and city clerk. Waldorf city demolished five buildings in less than a year in preparation for the new construction.

- Jennifer Bye is the new Waldorf City clerk-treasurer. She is in the city clerk's office at the Waldorf municipal building, every Tuesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and is on call for emergencies. Jennifer and her husband, Jim moved into the former Len Dinneen home in Matawan three years ago from Waseca. They have two children, Monica, two and a half years old and Travis, who is a year old.

- The Panther girls' basketball team played excellent defense and hit the boards hard, February 10 when they defeated Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 66-33, here. "If we play good defense and control the boards, we can fast break," Coach John Schultz said. "If we fast break, we have a good chance to win."



About 40 snowmobilers gathered for a “last-minute” snowmobile ride at Corn Country Seed south of Waseca Saturday, Feb. 25. The ride included stops at Courthouse Park, New Richland and Hartland. Right, Terry Huber, one of the organizers, waves at the camera as he takes off for the ride. Pioneer photos by Michael Roy

New snow fosters new ride

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

With the Waseca Sleigh and Cutter snowmobile show canceled and the annual ice drags moved to Gaylord, local snowmobilers were quite disappointed that the usual end to the festival was cut short.

So local enthusiasts Terry Huber, brother Tyler, and Tyler Priebe came together and decided to host a “last minute” snowmobile ride. Tyler Huber played host to nearly 40 snowmobilers.

“We wanted to do something with the ice drags and the snowmobile show getting canceled,” Terry Huber

explained. “When we first heard about it, we thought, ‘Well, it’s going to get cold again and they’re talking about a lot of snow coming our way.’ So we decided to reach out to people a week and a half ago and see if they were interested.”

He, along with his brother Tyler and Priebe created a Facebook event for the ride. Over 30 people expressed their interest, with many of them committing immediately.

To meet the potential demand, Huber himself brought 17 snowmobiles (or “sleds” as he called them) for people to ride if they were interested but didn’t have their own.

Enthusiasts began gathering at Corn Country Seed at 9 a.m. Early birds shared in some Casey’s breakfast pizza before leaving. The takeoff time was a little after ten o’clock.

Their journey first took them through Courthouse Park: Luckily for them, the trails were freshly groomed following the blizzard that had gone through only two days earlier.

Their next stop was New Richland, where they enjoyed a nice lunch at the Willows. Terry had informed group members that the restaurant was offering a burger basket lunch everyone could take advantage

of. The next destination was Hartland, where the group made another stop.

“We’ll see where we go from there,” Huber told the crowd. “If we’re still feeling good, we’ll make another stop in New Richland on our way back north.”

It was a great day that would have otherwise been empty of any snowmobiling activity. “We have a lot of fun snowmobiling,” Huber said. “We’re happy to have such a great turnout for this.”



Waseca community health board: showing our children we care

By SARAH BERRY
Submitted story

Data from the 2022 Minnesota Student Survey, released in January, tells a disturbing story about the state of our children’s mental health. One measure in particular I’ve been watching is the student’s answer to the question, “How much do you feel adults in your community care about you?” The number of students in Waseca County who answered either “Not at all” or “A little” has increased steadily since 2016. In 2016, an average of 27% of our students

chose those answers; now that average is 37%. Even more alarming, 3 out of 20 students answered they think adults care “not at all.”

These feelings reflect more than just a generational attitude change. While it’s easy to turn to the pandemic as a cause for this change, it’s important to note the downward trend is visible in the 2019 student survey that took place before COVID began.

This is a trend we must change. Children who feel disconnected are more likely to engage in behaviors

such as substance abuse and violence. Not only can the cost of these behaviors for families and the community be high, think of the many costs they bring if the behaviors extend into adulthood.

What can we do as a community to show our children we care? The community does have a role in helping; the lift is light. Wherever you encounter youth, be genuinely interested in them. Attend their events; compliment their work; tell them how nice it is to see them. Once you are connected, continue to ask how

they are. Teen brains are still developing, and they can be more vulnerable to stress. Look for signs of stress and listen to their concerns, no matter how trivial you think they seem. Validating their feelings can help young people to feel safe.

Our young ladies are especially vulnerable. Over half of our high school females reported feeling that adults in the community care “not at all” or “a little” about them. Creating a feeling of safety for young women can be more difficult than young men. Did you know that half of

American women report feeling “unsafe because they are a woman”? It stands to reason that our children are impacted by that perception. Respond to concerns of feeling harassed, bullied or depressed by letting girls know you hear them; be their advocate for action.

Help our children to connect to the resources they need. Show them how their community supports them with an amazing library system, great teachers, astounding pastors and caring responders. Help them to ask for assistance when needed, whether it

be homework help or extra food. Then check back in after you’ve provided that help. Staying connected reinforces feelings of safety and support. This connection includes putting down technology and connecting face to face—something we can all benefit from.

With just a little extra effort, we can make a big difference in the lives of our children. Let’s watch out for them, and turn this trend back around.

WHA hosts ‘Try Hockey for Free’

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

The Waseca Hockey Association (WHA), sponsored by USA Hockey, held its twice-annual “Try Hockey for Free” event Saturday, Feb. 25 at the ice rink. The February event is typically the smaller one according to Shannon Cliff, registrar for the WHA, since it’s the end of hockey season. In November, the event has seen as many as 60 kids attend the one-hour session. “The goal is to get kids to come try hockey,” Cliff said. “A lot of people are nervous about the fees and equipment. This program allows kids who might never otherwise get a chance to see whether they have an interest.”

Attendance at the event gets kids not only a chance to try hockey, but also jerseys and sometimes even sticks sent by USA Hockey and free enrollment in the WHA’s Learn to Skate weekly program. For those attending in February, the offer extends to the next hockey season.

Once they’re checked in, kids go to the back of the rink to be fitted with hockey gear by Jeremy Mortenson, equipment manager for the WHA. Mortenson sets the kids up with a helmet, pads, and skates before sending them out onto the ice. The focus for most youth who attend is on skating skills. According to organizers, many who attend Try Hockey for Free will never have skated before,

and will focus on trying to get moving, then gain enough balance to skate without using a chair for support. Those attendees with some skating experience get the chance to learn skills they don’t yet have, like stopping, and to gain confidence. While on the ice, kids skate alongside hockey players, WHA coaches, and sometimes parents.

Anyone is welcome to attend; in the event’s lifetime, participants have typically been from three to thirteen years old. The WHA maintains classes and teams ranging from three-year-olds up to high school when kids transition to playing on the school teams. There are both boys’ and girls’ teams, and sometimes

mixed teams as well, depending on enrollment numbers for the year. The WHA is also open to those living outside of Waseca. They cooperate with Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, and New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva. The next Try Hockey For Free day is expected to be in November. When it’s approaching, it is advertised on the WHA Facebook page, through the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce, and through the schools’ communication channels.



Agatha Weber, 7, and her sister Virginia, 4, gear up to take on the ice. Pioneer photo by Tristan Jensen

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■ Janesville
from Page 1

is no public parking at his apartment complex, leaving him nowhere to park.

“If you would provide public parking, I would have no problem,” he stated. He then suggested the city wasn’t being fair to car owners without access to private parking, suggesting that many people who don’t clear sidewalks in the 24-hour period enforced by the city didn’t get tickets like he did.

“If you’re going to fine them, fine them all,” he said. “Don’t just fine people with cars on the street. We can’t jump from street to street to stay ahead of [snow crews].”

After Kopachek and Mayor Arnoldt informed the speaker that the public forum wasn’t the place to argue his ticket, he walked out. Kopachek then took to the microphone to share her feelings of having been treated disrespectfully by her fellow council members and city staff. Her complaints are also summarized elsewhere in this week’s paper.

The council then revisited amendments being considered to some city codes, mostly cleaning up and updating the language to reflect state statutes.

Moran did note that the ordinance concerning the prohibition of groundwater would require a property owner to provide proof of an inspection of their water and sewer to verify that the homeowner isn’t dumping any waste water into the sanitary system.

The ordinance concerning golf carts will now allow carts on trails and in parks.

Maas felt like the council should review the ordinance concerning recreational vehicles which gives residents with properties on a corner lot an exception to the rule of having to store or place vehicles on an impervious surface. He felt that the council should show leniency with residents during the winter months, where there may be parking issues due to snow emergencies.

“There’s people that park in the front yard this time of year because they don’t have a driveway or garage,” he pointed out. “So to follow the ordinance, they have to park in the front yard sometimes.”

City Attorney Jason Moran did agree that the language was broad. “I believe in common sense,” Maas added.

However, council member Kopachek pointed out that the ordi-

nance he was questioning concerned corner lots, not vehicle parking in general.

After the THC discussions and Kopachek’s departure, the council moved to new business, approving the Teal Street rehabilitation project. They also approved a cooperative construction agreement with the county on the project, since the street is considered County State Aid Highway 43. They then approved a temporary liquor license for St. Ann Parish for March 31.

Reports

Fire Chief Mike Santo reported the fire department is making progress on its contract for a new fire truck. “The city attorney also made sure they couldn’t increase the price more than \$5,000 because of the chassis,” he said.

The problem is that the date the truck could be ready is changed. “We went from waiting years to get the truck to being able to pick it up in eight months,” Santo said. “We won’t have the money at that point in time.” This year’s budget would put them \$300,000 short of being able to purchase the truck outright.

Santo reported that lease financing is an option, meaning that the fire department would pay \$68,700 a year for the new truck with an \$8,000 finance charge. “Long-term, it’s a better financial decision than waiting two years to order,” he said. Council member Kopachek mentioned that she’d like to see a plan for the firetruck purchase which detailed the accounts providing the funding.

Prairie Ridge Golf Course manager Jacob Lehrke informed the council that its membership drive did well once again, seeing an increase of \$9,000 in sales from last year, which had already been a record year for them. He stated the course is also planning to bring back food truck events like those it hosted last year; it is also planning to host bands.

“We are planning a new golf tournament,” he added. “We’re calling it Member-Guest. It’s a more serious format.”

The Janesville Area Golf Association purchased a new ball machine for the driving range that will allow customers to purchase golf balls from a vending machine on the range. The machine will take credit cards, cash, or tokens that can be purchased from the clubhouse.

Lastly, Lehrke alerted the council about the golf course looking into a new utility cart. “We’re rounding up some quotes from the manufacturers,” he said. “Plans are to come in the future.”

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Janesville THC ordinance tabled

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Prior to walking out of the Monday, Feb. 27 city council meeting in protest over its decision to table any decision on a THC ordinance for six months, council member Melissa Kopachek spent about ten minutes of “public forum” time expressing dissatisfaction with how she has been treated, and with how the city has been run in the past and the present.

“I’m tired of having to pause every two months to remind this city that I deserve respect. And I’m tired of losing my words to council members that decide that my words do not hold the same merit as [theirs],” Kopachek stated, claiming that the official minutes, as well as newspaper articles covering many meetings, do not sufficiently reflect disrespectful and dismissive actions and comments aimed at her.

Kopachek claimed the source of disrespectful treatment comes from

her difficult upbringing.

“I’m a product of a divorce that found me in and out of the foster care system throughout the last four years of high school,” she continued. “I experienced horrors as a child growing up that no one should ever have to know.” Kopachek told those in attendance that she is a 2014 graduate of JWP high school, and that, “I have been a victim of the narrow-minded ways of this city [since] long before I became a politician.”

“For decades, the city of Janesville has quietly allowed these antics to fly under the radar with the assistance of tight-knit connections. But I’m here to blow the lid off it all.”

Kopacheck went on to describe three incidents she claimed were particularly egregious. During one meeting in 2019, she claimed that an intoxicated member of the golf course governing board “accosted” her in front of a number of other council members, yet no one assisted her and the board member was never

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

disciplined. In another case, also in 2019, she claimed to have received a “23-paragraph email” from utilities manager Nate Zimmerman berating her actions and choices. In this case, too, she stated others were aware of the email and its tone, and responded only with unspoken approval.

Her final example was that, in the summer of 2020, City Attorney Moran posted a social media threat against her which read, “Load your kids into your minivan and pray to God you don’t get shot.” She further claimed he encouraged his friends to threaten her as well. Kopachek stated that, when she mentioned this incident to Rogers, he did nothing.

“There is blatant mistreatment, and this behavior has been exhibited time and time again and yet nothing is ever done,” stated Kopachek.

“I am the reason why you have a recording system. I am the reason why there’s transparency in people’s living rooms. I am the reason why the golf course was able to do away with the levy because I reinstated the board. I pushed for reconciliation for that. For three years, I’ve lobbied at the state for gas taxes, sewer and waste management, and daycare. None of that warrants me time to speak uninterrupted and not be discounted.

“I have more contributions to this city than all four of you in my pinky. I’m tired of being disrespected time and time again. We will never have a young, youthful group at this board if we continue to allow this type of behavior to pass through.”

Kopachek has posted a recording of the Janesville Council meeting on her “Melissa Kopachek, Councilwoman” Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/MelissaKopachekCouncilwoman/videos/142975678687319>.



■ Charm
from Page 1

those who decided to rent snowshoes or bring cross-country skis. Exploring the snow-covered farm on these traditional conveyances received rave reviews from all who tried – many skiing or snowshoeing all the way to the more distant historical buildings. Snowshoe rentals were limited to about thirty minutes to keep supplies available for anyone who wanted to go, but a number of groups took multiple loops in order to spend more time seeing the sights.

“Please tell me you’re sixteen,” Scott Roemhildt said to the kids who came by. “I can hire you if you tell me you’re sixteen.” Just outside the visitor’s center Roemhildt, from Rockin’ Circle R Ranch, provided families with a logging camp experience. “We’re having a lot of fun, and teaching kids about logging in Minnesota 120 years ago: the best way to learn is in a hands-on way,” Roemhildt explained. The main attraction at his station was the opportunity to



Winter Charm on the Farm was held last weekend at FarmAmerica near Waseca.

work as a “sawyer,” someone cutting logs with a two-person crosscut saw. Attendees at Winter Charm cut narrow logs into tree cookies a few inches thick, while Roemhildt told them between singing their praises that a sawyer at a logging camp would cut much longer logs from much bigger trees. He then offered to brand each person’s souvenir tree cookie, explaining that the logging camp’s brand had to go on the end of each cut log so the lumber company would know where to send payment.

Kids and their families also helped Roemhildt split logs for his fire using a log splitter and hammer.

Children also got the chance simply to play in the snow, climbing large drifts and making use of provided sleds. Another available form of play was “snowpainting,” spray bottles and squirt bottles filled with diluted dye that children could use to color the snow in any pattern or drawing they pleased.

When it was time to warm up, there were options. Admission came

Photos by Mike Huerkamp

with hot chocolate and s’mores, which everyone could roast and enjoy around the campfire. The visitors’ center also boasts a new museum area, completed just last fall, which attendees were welcome to explore while taking a break from the cold.

“Our mission is connecting people to the history of agriculture,” Delnay said. “This event is more loosely related to that mission, but it’s important people remember there are ways to enjoy the winter weather.”

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Snowstorm can’t stop NRHEG school board

School Board NRHEG

“Modern Classroom,” is being considered for use in training secondary teachers in a style of teaching often referred to as a “flipped” classroom. This teaching style has the teacher preparing online resources, videos, which present the “lecture” or “teaching” portion of instruction. Students then watch the video as individuals, quite possibly at home in the evening. If they choose, they may watch the video more than once, or may repeat a certain portion of it as often as necessary to firm up their understanding of the material.

While in class, students work on the “performance” part of learning while they have access to the teacher for explanations or enrichment.

The advantage to the “flipped” classroom structure is that students can work at their own pace, and can be grouped during class time for more intense, targeted instruction when useful. Thanks to the widespread access students have to the internet, “flipped” teaching is a growing phenomenon.

NRHEG teachers will see a demonstration of the “Modern Classroom” program during an upcoming staff in-service and will have a chance to indicate their level of interest in taking part. Elementary principal Craig Kopetzki shared with the board that, thanks to a

grant from a statewide health improvement program, the elementary site now owns 50 pairs of snowshoes. Students recently took part in an array of games and activities built on this new acquisition.

He notified board members that the March 3 “Green Eggs and Ham” breakfast is back—and that all available tickets, around 800 of them, have already been spoken for.

Also part of Friday’s “I love to read” celebration will be readers’ theater performances for all elementary students of “Horton Hears and Who” and “Yertle the Turtle.” A group of volunteer high school readers will also be at the elementary site for much of the day.

Kopetzki also mentioned the Feb. 10 celebration of having completed 100 days of school, for which many staff members wore special outfits. A standout was Brenda Dobberstein, who dressed as a 100-year-old.

As the school board meeting was completing its business at about 7:30 p.m., superintendent Meihak mentioned that all surrounding school districts had announced they would be closing for the following two days; he told members he would be following the needed steps to make the same arrangements for NRHEG within the next few minutes. The next school board meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 20, at the Ellendale media center.

With a snowstorm brewing and all (other) NRHEG evening events postponed, the Feb. 21 school board meeting soldiered on, even though one school board member and three scheduled presenters were unable to attend.

Official business transacted was light, but included authorizing the superintendent to advertise for a “transportation site manager,” that is, for someone to supervise and manage buses, the bus garages, and related matters. Until now, any leadership in the transportation site has been site specific, rather than covering the full transportation program.

Also enacted was a “Resolution for reduction of programs and positions,” an authorization allowing the school administration to reduce staff, if necessary, based on anticipated enrollment and student needs for the 2023-24 school year.

The board learned that long-time teacher and coach Wendy Schultz will be retiring from her position with the school’s softball team at the end of this spring’s season.

Well over \$3,000 worth of donations to school programs were acknowledged; \$700 of that amount were given to support the high school DECA program and its initiatives; well over \$2,000 was given by area companies and individuals to help fund the cheerleading team’s trip to national competition.

Among the reports and discussions shared during the meeting was one re-

garding current initiatives in the state legislature regarding school funding. Being considered at this time are more than a \$1,000 per-pupil increase in funding from the state, but district business manager Karla Christopherson warned that the extra money would come with strings attached: “There are a lot of expectations and increases that would be imposed as well,” she said.

Christopherson and others observed that many possibilities are under discussion, but there is no way to know which ones will eventually be approved, and so, for the time being, vigilance and communication with legislators are the only “actions” to be taken.

Secondary school principal Dave Bunn mentioned two resources currently under consideration for use at the secondary site. One, an on-line information-sharing platform called “Major Clarity” will allow the district to follow through with some state-required student services in the field of “career and college readiness.” The program offers surveys to help students evaluate the possible career fields which align with their personal strengths and interests, and also can provide career overviews and summaries, including required levels of post-secondary education and potential income levels. Superintendent Meihak referred to Major Clarity as “a pretty impressive platform that can and will be used in classrooms,” probably beginning at the sixth-grade level.

Another on-line platform, titled

The

Pastor's Column

A different kind of Ash Wednesday

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

Ash Wednesday was more than a little different this year. We faced blizzard conditions, school was cancelled, and our normal patterns for life were disrupted. We wanted last week to be different than what it was, but we were left in our homes to deal with our humanity.

What is the purpose of Ash Wednesday? What are we expecting from this season? What is the condition of our heart and what can we do about it?

Ash Wednesday is a tradition that began out of a preparation of the heart for Resurrection Sunday. A season of forty days of preparation was set aside so that our hearts would be ready to celebrate the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. The first church council of Nicaea made the recommendation to set these days aside for the church to remember the salvific work of Christ. Many new believers waited until resurrection Sunday to be baptized and spent this time to study the work of God in the world.

Many churches celebrate this time by gathering on Wednesday to set their hearts on the right path for these 40 days. During the Ash Wednesday service we remember our sinful existence and need for a Savior. We confess our sin to God and one another, asking for forgiveness and being forgiven. We end this evening service with the giving of ashes to one another.

Why ashes? Honestly, they are dirty. Ashes remind us of how

dirty our sins are, they remind us of what our sin does to our lives and each other. When the King of Nineveh heard Jonah's message of their sinfulness and pending destruction he removed his robe, put on sackcloth, and sat in ashes to mark his and the people of Nineveh's repentance (Jonah 3). At times we will see others in scripture, Moses, Tamar, and Job for example, placing ashes on their heads so symbolize great distress or repentance from their sin.

The start of the Lenten season, as marked by Ash Wednesday, begins a season of repentance and focus on God's work. Many times we will choose to fast from luxury items during lent with the intention and purpose of drawing nearer to Christ. In this way every time we miss or long for the things that we are fasting from we are to turn in prayer to God and remember Jesus' sacrifice.

Throughout all of this we remember our humanity and need for a Savior. The words spoken over us remind us of our humanity and the curse of our sin, death. I personally prefer the words spoken in Mark 1:15, "Repent and Believe the Gospel." The correct response when sin is pointed out is to repent and turn back to Jesus as Savior.

How is your heart? Are you turned and pointed to the Savior? Are you preparing to celebrate His resurrection?

No matter what your answers are, "Repent and Believe the Gospel."

The

Pastor's Column

Times are not so different

By SANTIAGO RAMIREZ OCAMPO

In 2008, film director Danny Boyle showed the world a fantastic movie (Slumdog Millionaire) about a teenager in the Indian city of Bombay who goes on his country's famous TV show Who Wants to be a Millionaire. The movie goes back and forth between every question the main character (Dev Patel) is asked on the show and scenes that show why he knows the answer. If you have yet to see the movie, I recommend it. These last few days, I remembered the movie when thinking about the column because I have realized that I speak from my reality; I find it very complicated to write or share a message that I have not lived; I am rather bad at relating something alien to me. At the same time, that particularity of my personality has made me get into the rhythm of explaining where many of my thoughts are born, just like in the movie.

These last weeks with my wife, we started to read the stories of the book of Daniel in the Bible again. Returning to these stories that are so well known among the children in the churches reminded us that the Christian life is about remembering many times more than learning.

Well, as we read the first chapters of Daniel, it has been necessary for us to remember which God we choose to serve. Christians often assume that God owes us explanations and accounts, I don't know why, but from a broader perspective, we act as if He is the 911 who not only comes to our call as soon as possible but also comes to say and do what we want Him to do. It is as absurd as it reads. Do I serve my God? Or does He help me? In other words, we use Him like any Amazon product: what He serves us for when He serves us; otherwise, we throw Him away, exchange Him or return Him.

I was greatly surprised to see the example of Daniel's three friends in the famous story of the fiery furnace in Daniel chapter 3. Read it well: these three men were captives in a foreign land, had their names changed, served a pagan king, were surrounded by other gods entirely, and were asked to worship a colossal statue. I hope that sounds familiar. The time that story tells is not much different from our time; we are surrounded by gods, idols, figures, and kings that we make up with fame, money, and entertainment. Is that bad? Judge for yourself.

Let us remember that Nebuchadnezzar learns that they have not prostrated themselves before the statue; he sends for them and asks them if this is true and then threatens to burn them alive in a fiery furnace. I am amazed at the conviction of these three men; not only did they not prostrate themselves, but also, in the very presence of the king, they responded as they responded. It is unbelievable. Read with understanding.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." (Daniel 3:16-18)

I hope that our lives will be that voice that rises amid our reality; I pray that the prayer of the Christian people will be with the conviction of knowing which God we serve, regardless of the future, and not that our prayer will cry out to be set aside. I believe in that God who wants to show his light amid darkness by taking us to Babylon, to be those only three men or women who are clear in their convictions.

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. John 17:15

'Contest' concert Feb. 24

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

The Waseca High School bands held their winter concert Friday, Feb. 24 in the Performing Arts Center for about four hundred fans. Director Devon Lawrence greeted the audience, explaining that each band's three numbers for the evening were the ones they would perform at the Large Group Contest, which is to be held in Waseca on March 6. The contest is open to the public. Waseca's music groups perform at 8:30 for concert choir, 9:30 for select choir, 11:00 for concert band, and 1:30 for symphonic band.

The concert band performed first, opening with "Among the Clouds," by Brian Balmages. Balmages was inspired to write this piece by the feeling of flying he experienced in a lucid dream; its fast pace is meant to reflect that feeling. Next was "...music speaks," which Lawrence explained was the second part of a two-part piece; the first is called "When words fail." This much slower number was composed by Randall Standridge, who has said he didn't have any particular inspiration for the piece but wanted to experiment with harmonic ideas that he struggled to communicate. Also important to Standridge, according to Lawrence, is that every listener can interpret the piece for themselves;



About 400 family and friends gathered to watch the high school band present its winter concert Feb. 24 at the Waseca Performing Arts Center. Pioneer photo by Tristan Jensen

whether they hear sadness or joy or a blend of emotions, everyone's impressions are correct. The final number from the concert band was Michael Oare's "Equilibrium." Lawrence told the audience that Oare was looking to create balance within a piece of music. He attempted this not by never straying from a centerpoint, but by going to opposite extremes in nearly every musical aspect. Colton Schroeder, trumpet, played solo parts on "...music speaks" and "Equilibrium."

The symphonic band played next, beginning their portion of the concert with "Perilous Voyage" composed by Cory McBride. Using music, the piece tells about the journey of a secret agent sent by Queen Elizabeth I to conquer a Spanish colony, and the many perils he faces. McBride composed this piece at age fifteen, Lawrence told the audience, and anyone who is familiar with wind instruments, he added, would be able to tell that McBride was a percussionist. The piece made heavy use of various percussion instruments, such as tympani and the band's new gong. The melody and harmonies were

composed largely of sharp, almost percussive notes. Next was "Dusk," by Steven Bryant. This piece was a slow song — written at just 44 beats per minute. Lawrence explained the band was playing slightly faster than that, "since we don't want to take our nap before we go to bed." As the name implies, the piece was inspired by the time between daylight and the darkness of night. The final piece of the evening was "Midnight on Main Street," also composed by Balmages. Lawrence said in his introduction, "When I passed this piece out to the symphonic band, they looked at me like I was crazy." Balmages composed the piece inspired by the music he played as a musician at Disney's Epcot. "He wrote his own fireworks display," Lawrence said. The piece is full of rapid changes between unusual time signatures, prompting the students' initial reaction, but despite their hesitation the band has conquered the piece and gave a strong performance. Soloists for the symphonic band were Hannah LaCroix, flute, and Addison Bomsta, clarinet, on "Perilous Voyage" and "Midnight on Main Street," and Elijah Miller,

bass clarinet, Hannah Wilder, alto saxophone, Lindsey Kopetzki, french horn, Joseph Feldkamp, trumpet, and Norah Schimming, piano, on "Midnight on Main Street."

Before closing the concert, Lawrence extended special thanks to many who assisted with the concert. To Chuck Pollock, who handled lights, sound, and recording; the school custodial staff who prepared the space; middle and junior high school band directors Craig Brendan and Jay Downie, who, Lawrence said "make my job easy" by preparing young musicians every day for bigger things; all of the fine arts staff in the district, who support each other and work together often; Joe Hedervare and all of the administrative and office staff for the work they do organizing and promoting concerts; the parents and families of the students for their support; and finally the students themselves, without whom Lawrence pointed out he wouldn't be a director. "I love waking up every day and getting to work with them."

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4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 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. * * *	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. * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville Father Brian Mulligan 10 a.m. - Mass * * *
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 Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * *	ZOAR 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. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Vacancy Sunday = 1 p.m. Worship * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * *	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * *	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 Worship Saturday 5:15 p.m., Sundays 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., weekdays 8:30 a.m. Tues., Wed. and Fri., 7:00 a.m. Thurs. * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Interhim Pastor Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship * * *	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.
REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-607-8245 Sundays 9 and 10:30 a.m. * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bon-		
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WOODVILLE TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given to to Woodville Township residents that the annual meeting will be March 14, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. in the Woodville Town Hall located at 200 3rd Ave SW,Waseca, MN.

Topics to be discussed will be:
Financial condition of the Township, Financial statements of the cemetery, Township and Waseca rural fire district, Road reports, Annexation report, Tax levies, Donation to Waseca Community Ed Program and any other issues the residents wish to discuss in regards to Township business.

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5 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 Neighborhood 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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WILTON TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION of OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Wilton Township, County of Waseca, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. In case of inclement weather the meeting and election may be postponed until March, 21, 2023. Annual business meeting begins at 4 p.m.

Polls will be open from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
To elect:
ONE SUPERVISOR - 3 year term
ONE TREASURER - 2 year term

The annual meeting and election will be held at Wilton Town Hall

Norman Gehring
Wilton Township Clerk

ST. MARY TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION of OFFICERS & BOARD OF CANVASS MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of St. Mary Township, County of Waseca, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. In case of inclement weather the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March 2023.

POLLS WILL BE OPEN 5 P.M. to 8 P.M.
To elect:
ONE (1) SUPERVISOR - 3 year term
ONE (1) TREASURER - 2 year term

The Annual Business Meeting will commence at 8:05 p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

The Annual Meeting and Election will be held at the St. Mary Town Hall.

Art Byron
St. Mary Township Clerk

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Three Waseca wrestlers qualified for the Minnesota State High School League State Tournament. They are, from left: Matthew Veroeven, Christian Rodriguez and Payton Garza



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