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WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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Sleigh and Cutter



1,000 POINTS - Waseca girls basketball coach Joan Conway with senior Kloe Wadd after she scored her 1,000th career point in a 51-35 win over Belle Plaine Thursday, Feb. 16, 2023.
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

Apex moment

1,000 for Wadd

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Waseca High School girls' basketball senior Kloe Wadd scored her 1,000th career point Thursday evening Feb. 16 in a home victory over Belle Plaine 51-35. Wadd's milestone point came on a free throw with 13:49 remaining in the second half. After the bucket, the game was paused as she celebrated with teammates and embraced coach Joan Conway. The accomplishment makes her the seventh Bluejay to attain the feat. She joins Madison Gehloff, Gus Boyer, Lexie Ulfers, Mikayla Rolling, Tressa Beckel, and Amy Buschow.

"I feel like I've basically watched her grow up," Coach Conway said. "Kloe has been on varsity for the past five years and each year she has improved. It's been fun watching the progression. I'm proud to have coached her."

Wadd, a 6-foot-2 center, said the basket was special; a little awkward, but a remarkable moment.

"I've played with some amazing players and I'm realizing that my hard work paid off; having my closest friends there with me was really special," said Wadd.

Asked how she felt about the moment, her senior year, her favorite basketball memories and who has impacted her basketball career the most, she responded, "It felt really great. We're getting into that mindset of working hard, but realizing it's senior year... It's kind of bittersweet knowing that it might never happen again."

"We've accomplished a lot. I was on a great team my eighth- and ninth-grade years. We went up to state and I got to play on the Barn floor, which doesn't happen for every player. It was super cool. I played with great, amazing players for the last three

Milestone continued on 10

A word from
The Word



For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

Colossians 1:16

Parade features 35 units

Waseca celebrates 73rd annual Sleigh and Cutter

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The fairgrounds are a bustling place the morning before the Sleigh and Cutter parade. Some 35 units, large and small, have registered to take part in this year's event—a number which has planners and organizers more than satisfied. "It was a great turnout," says Sleigh and Cutter planning committee member Ken Borgmann. "The largest number we've had in many years."

Horse trailers, some as long as semi trailers, some no larger than would be needed to carry a few bicycles, are lined up in informal rows. By 10:30 a.m., though, the horses are all tethered to the outsides of their coaches, munching contentedly on bags of hay.

It is the humans who are hard at work just now. They have hauled along horse-drawn vehicles of many types, and are busy unloading them, brushing them off, or even assembling them. The parade units come in many colors

and shapes, ranging from simple utilitarian to decked with flowers—fabric ones, of course, given the temperature.

Doug Grunzke of Wells is barely visible over the backs of Kelsey and Molly, a beautifully matched pair of red sorrel percheron mares aged 19 and 17. He is brushing energetically, the ground around him nearly carpeted

Parade continued on 4



Parade organizer Ken Borgmann
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Waseca Snow Week

Royalty crowned

Schumacher, Dufault named king and queen

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Snow week royalty gathered in the Waseca High School gymnasium Thursday morning, Feb. 16 to find out who among them would be king and queen. Student Council President Aubrey Hanson and Senior Class President Avery Madsen crowned Korbin Schumacher and Ella Dufault Waseca snow Week royals. The ceremony's emcees were Hailey Dettmer and Jayme Sandbeck.

The morning started with introductions of the royalty, followed by some announcements. Sports coaches also spoke. Activities director Joe Hedervare and Principal Miller introduced the ExCEL Award winners and Triple 'A' Winners. Their introductions can be found in this week's paper.

Emcee's Dettmer and Sandbeck read the following introductions of the 2023 royalty:

Ella Dufault, daughter of Barry and Stacey Dufault, escorted by **Joey Adamek**, son of Todd and Katie Adamek. Ella is a member of the marching band, in select choir and State Street. She is a member of Christ Community Church, a member of the Minnesota Honor Society. Ella is involved in cross country, basketball and track, she is also a swimming instructor. Joey is a



Korbin Schumacher and Ella Dufault were crowned Waseca Snow Week King and Queen Thursday morning Feb. 16, in the high school gymnasium.

member of the Owatonna fishing team and works for Silver Bull Farms and the Janesville DQ. He is also a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville.

Lindsey Kopetzki, daughter of Craig and Tracy Kopetzki, escorted

by **Zander Honstad**, son of Rich and Amanda Honstad. Lindsey is involved in symphonic band, marching band, jazz band, select choir, State Street, sextets and is a member of the all-state choir. She is also in golf, theater, student council, and also

serves as a school board representative, a member of Minnesota Honor Society and Minnwest Bank junior board. Lindsey is employed at The

Royalty continued on 14

Colorful skies

Thousands attend second annual Clear Lake kite festival

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Sleigh and Cutter planning team member Ken Borgmann estimates that between 3,000 and 4,000 people attended Sunday's giant kite event on Clear Lake, with as many as 18 kites in the air at a time—accompanied by dozens of smaller, private kites brought or purchased by individuals.

With the cloudy sky and brisk winds, people tended not to stay for the entire five-hour event.

Sean Beaver, owner and operator of Great American Kites out of Polo, MO, began setup for the 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. event around 9 a.m.

The first kite in the sky was a large, but otherwise typical kite named "Kenny Seefar." The kite's name is a pun hinting at the question of how strong the winds are, and thus

how high the kite can fly.

Within a few hours, "Kenny" was joined by astronauts, elaborately colored sculptured kites, and even Guy Fawkes. Eventually, Beaver was able to get a 100-foot long yellow whale into the air, but it took numerous attempts.

"We are confident we'll have them back next year," commented Borgmann. "We've gotten so much positive feedback that we've already spoken about Beaver's return."

The company's kite collection includes some which require the weight of a fully loaded gravel truck to anchor them. On the lake, however, it was a relatively simple matter of planting stakes in the ice. As many as five or six kites in a line could be fastened to a single stake. Once launched, some kites require



Kites with dozens of different shapes and sizes, some more than 100 feet long, took turns flying over Clear Lake on Sunday.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

20 or more minutes of work to bring back down.

Some minor difficulties did occur as the day proceeded. For one, the lake's surface is so remarkably smooth that vehicles driving on it slipped around quite a bit.

For another, two helpers whom

Beaver expected to join him for the show misunderstood their instructions and ended up reporting to Clear Lake, MN, north of Becker. "This is the hardest I've worked for a long time," he commented as he and his son Joe worked to keep the many kites in the air.

Evening of events

Frosty revealed as Ben O'Brien

By JORDAN CAMARILLO
Contributing writer

The Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Festival hosted a dinner, dance, and awards at the Waseca VFW on Feb. 17. The dinner, which provided prepacked meals, was hosted between 5-7 p.m. The 2023 Festival began its events in January and will continue through March. Festival President Ken Borgmann, who has been an event leader for 23 years, shared some history:

"Seventy-three years ago, local business owners wanted to do something different in the winter rather than sitting around. So they started the festival to get the town involved and it kind of just built from there." According to Borgmann, the festival endured through the COVID-19 pandemic as the town and festival adapted to ensure everyone's safety. The turnout for this year's dinner was "a little small" he said, but noted that this "was expected due to not having the traditional sit-down meal this year. But I think it's going to pick back up once that band starts playing."

Organizing a festival that runs across several months, especially through a blizzard-filled winter season, requires careful planning; Borgman noted that the preparation for the Feb. 17 event, like many for the festival, starts "Pretty much right after the very last event in the [current year's] festival. It's a year-long process to plan all of these events." Borgman has run the festival, according to him, "Twenty-six years for sure, but it's been closer to about 30... I've always been around during the festival and was happy to help when I could." When asked about the significance Sleigh and Cutter brings to him and the community, Borgman pondered his answer briefly before stating, "Well, it's because the business owners around here are so generous with their time and resources. It's a real privilege giving back to them to show that this is a solid community organization. Having been doing this for so long proves that." Although hesitant to name a favorite, Borgmann remarked that "even though I missed it this year, I have always enjoyed the pageant. It highlights some of the really exceptional young women in our community, but any of the events I go to are a good time for

Evening continued on 5



Compostings

by Al Batt
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Least we can do is not make life worse

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I don't hear as well as I used to. You should get hearing aids. No, I've heard enough.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I think we all agree that winter is a rip-roaring good time, but I watched people walk on the ice like spiders missing five legs. Years ago, I had a bout with plantar

fasciitis. The doctor told me to put my foot down and wear Crocs when I'd normally go barefooted. I took her advice. It wasn't long after when we received 18 inches of snow. It was a warm day, so I shoveled snow while wearing my Crocs. They might have shed Croc tears.

It feels as if my stomach drops when I drive over a dip or a hill on a road. It's as if my body went up but my stomach stayed in place. It's the feeling gotten on a rollercoaster without the rollercoaster. I call it a "Thank you, Ma'am," because my head nods. Some people call it belly tickles. Years ago, an elderly friend lost his driver's license because he drove on the wrong side of the road. He wasn't tickled. He felt it was unfair as he paid taxes on both sides and suffered from good health, which drove him to drive.

MERRY MELODIES

I've worked at the Freeborn County Fair for many years. The Fair brings in big-name entertainment. George Jones ("He Stopped Loving Her Today" and "She Thinks I Still Care") was one of my father's favorite singers. I should have told Jones about my father's fondness for his vocal gifts, but I didn't. Chubby Checker (famous for "The Twist") hung around long after his show and had his photo taken with many fans. Few performers linger long. Most disappear like butter on a baked potato. I thanked him and told him what a lovely thing he was doing and how it brightened lives. I didn't have my photo taken with him because I hadn't attended the concert due to work.

I went to school during the day and worked from 11 to 7 at night. Those two activities were in two different cities and neither one was in the city in which I lived. I tried to sneak in a few hours of sleep in the afternoons, but it wasn't easy. The local high school band practiced. That was how they became accomplished and stayed that way. The band didn't have a tuba player,

but I think someone might have played the threeba. The band marched directly to the front of our house and stopped while the instructor, acting like a drill sergeant, yelled that no one was taking another step until they got it right. There were days when I thought that next step would never occur.

I'VE LEARNED

There are few better names for a Minnesota sports team than the Snow Fleas.

If I owned a small sheep, it would be named Woolite.

To put rocks in my pockets when visiting the Wind Farmer's Market.

I ate with friends at Lou Malnati's in Chicago. We shared a deep-dish pizza. Some claim it's a casserole or a hotdish. I thought it was a pizza, but didn't care what it was called. It was good.

A little knowledge and a little arthritis go a long way.

NATURE NOTES

I saw blue snow in the yard. It looked as if someone had stepped on a Smurf, spit out mouthwash or spilled antifreeze. Rabbit droppings came out of the blue. Rabbits have round droppings while deer pellets are oval-shaped with one pointed end. When rabbits feed on the bark, twigs and branches of invasive buckthorn, they expel a chemical in their urine that turns blue.

Snow fleas bear resemblance to specks of black pepper on the snow's surface. This primitive insect is dark blue-gray, about 1/10-inch long, wingless and has a forked appendage at the end of its abdomen called a furcula that allows it to jump several inches and gives it the name "springtail." Snow fleas live in the soil and leaf litter where they eat microscopic fungi, algae and decaying organic matter. They go unnoticed during the summer, but have a high tolerance for colder temperatures compared to most other insects. As the snow starts to melt in late winter, they move up through breaks in the snow, especially around the base of trees. Snow fleas are harmless to people.

THANK YOU

To Good Samaritan, Hidden Creek, Bancroft Creek Estates, the 23rd Annual Ag Summit and Love Works at United Methodist Church in Ellendale for allowing me to speak to good folks.

MEETING ADJOURNED

If we can't make someone's life better, the least we can do is to not make it any worse. Be kind.

From rain, to snow, to back inside

As I sit in my apartment in New Richland writing this column, it's an hour before our winter storm warning hits at 3 p.m. I'm pretty sure we've already received a good inch of snow. The two NRHEG vs. St. Clair games I volunteered to go to aren't happening (the boys' matchup is postponed to later this week and the girls' matchup is canceled.)

So, we went from it being too warm to have snowmobile ice drags and a show on Clear Lake to too wintry and blustery to have school. Why do we live in this state? One minute, we have to plan on wearing three layers to peel off when the temperature goes from 10 to 40 degrees. The next minute, the air is hurting our face no matter what we wear.

There has been a bit of a flu bug going around. For some people, it's one day of absolute agony and they're better. For others, like Eli, it seems to last a week. I have somehow not gotten sick yet (knocking on every wooden thing I have in my apartment right now). And that has usually been the case the past few years.

When I was in school, I was sick a



Music to my Ears

by Michael Roy
copyright © 2022 by Michael Roy

lot. I mean to the point where I was close to being accused of truancy. Sixth grade was probably the worst year for it. I remember missing out on a class field trip (where everyone got sick anyway) and I was also unable to play a football game at the Hubert Humphrey Metrodome where the Vikings used to play. I'm still sad to this day I didn't get to do that—and I literally won't ever have another chance.

Then, I want to say in seventh grade, I had a bad case of bronchitis—to the point where I needed a nebulizer. And don't even get me started on my horrible case of athlete's foot.

Since then, I've only had some bad bouts of flu. I guess there was one time when I was a junior in college, I was sick for three days

straight with the worst flu I ever had. I finally went to urgent care in St. Peter (I attended Gustavus at the time) and they told me I had a "mild" case of pneumonia. Oh, and this was two weeks before I went on a week-long tour as far west as Colorado with the symphony orchestra.

Getting sick is not fun, and though I do have a mild cough, I definitely don't miss being bedridden a good chunk of the time. That nebulizer I needed as a kid flat-out sucked. I wouldn't recommend getting bronchitis (not that anyone tries to catch it). It was probably the worst experience of my life.

I am glad my immune system has greatly improved since then. At least I think it has. Maybe my body just realizes that now that I'm working

two jobs, I can't afford to be sick. Or maybe it's my proactiveness at stopping the symptoms from getting worse once I experience them. Even if I experience a stuffy nose and a bit of a cough, I take NyQuil and Day-Quil Severe until I don't feel those symptoms anymore; about 90 percent of the time, it works.

My mother also always preached to take ibuprofen, especially when I get the chills. It's a great fever reducer. She also made sure I know the mantra, "starve a fever, feed a cold." I have stood by that creed as an independent adult.

This week in music:

After a short absence, I am bringing this bit back to my column to wrap things up. I'll call this edition of "This week in Music" a "weekly double."

On February 21, 1981, Dolly Parton hit the top of the U.S. music charts with her single "9 to 5." It was her first number one hit. On the same day in 1976, The Four Seasons hit the UK charts with "December '63 (Oh What a Night)." It was the group's only single to top the British charts.



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler
copyright © 2022 by Amelia Roessler

But we had our tickets, I swear

Ah, Lisbon - my dream. I traveled to Portugal this past weekend and it was amazing! Portugal is majestic with mountains and forests. Then there's the coast and ooooh, it's so beautiful. I stepped out of the bus at 5 a.m. Friday and breathed in the salt air. I was in love.

Friday we went sightseeing and visited museums and such, but then our day got interesting. During the bus ride to our sunset sail, the police came on board and started checking tickets. This isn't unusual (I've had it happen in Madrid, too) but our bus ticket in Portugal didn't work. We had bought a three-day tourist pass which we had thought covered ev-

erything such as train, metro and buses. We had ridden the train earlier in the day with it and it had worked fine. When we got on the bus, our card didn't scan and we showed the bus driver, who just waved us on anyway, so we didn't think much of it until the police came. After our cards didn't work for them, either, they asked for our licenses and gave us receipts for our fine, which was 60 euros. We tried explaining to them that we had bought a transportation ticket. We wanted to make it clear we were simply confused and meant no harm—but they wouldn't listen and coldly told us where to pay on Saturday. So then we left flustered and



Amelia Roessler stands on the streets of Lisbon, Spain.

went to our 2-hour sunset sail ride/wine tour.

That was amazing. For two hours we sailed up and down the river, listening to our tour guide and having our glasses constantly filled with delicious Portugal green wine. Going on that ride really helped us relax just after getting an expensive ticket!

We woke up the next morning to try to talk to the fine people and try to pay (less than) our ticket before going to Sintra, Portugal, but it turns out the place that we were told to go was closed. We even tried going to

Spain continued on 4

Finding a way to work while sick

Another week of "newsing" is in the books.

I did less because I was sick, but it was still an exciting week.

Monday evening I stayed home and did not attend the Waldorf City Council meeting. Normally that is Tristan's responsibility, but she was covering the Waseca Snow Week talent show.

I was reminded of the last time I was sick in 2022 and the first time I ever got sick after becoming an editor.

In May of 2022 I came down with "the Covid" and was homebound for a period of time. It was one of my worst experiences being sick. I couldn't stand up without incredible nausea and lightheadedness. The whole experience rather sucked. A lot. But—a big but—I felt relatively fine if I was laying down. Still sick, but no nausea. So what did I do?

As I say often, I still work when I'm sick, but at home. In this particular case, the entire newspaper was put together while I was lying flat, on my side, with my laptop propped up next to me on a coffee table.

Early last year I made the decision to upgrade from a 2011 iMac, all-in-one desktop computer to a 2021 Macbook Pro. I'm really glad I did, because this is just one example of a situation in which I don't know how I could have printed that week's paper. I couldn't have worked from home and I certainly couldn't have sat at my desk and worked. Oof.

So, the other story I remembered took place about three weeks after I became Editor of the Star Eagle when I was 19, gosh, six years ago. (Wow, time really does fly.)

I took over as editor for my dad who was in the hospital again for his autoimmune disorder which, at the



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens
copyright © 2022 by Eli Lutgens

time, had not been diagnosed. He couldn't do the paper and we didn't have anyone else who could or would put the pages (the newspaper) together. It wasn't supposed to be me who did it, but I did.

In the past, when my father couldn't do the newspaper, Reed, our production manager, would digitally lay out the pages. Well, the previous time this happened, Reed told my mother, who also worked for the newspaper, that, "Next time Jim can't do the paper, I'm not gonna do it. It's not my job. I'm old and it's too much. Next time this happens we'll have to find someone else to do it or close the doors."

That stayed in the back of my mind from the age of 17 until that fateful day in the spring of 2017. So fast forward three weeks, and many hours of copying and pasting, and internet searches on how to use "Quark" our operating system for the newspaper: Bit by bit, I'm getting the hang of it.

Well about this time I came down with a really bad cold. I was miserable.

I told Mom that I didn't think I could finish the newspaper pages. "Can we print late? Can Reed do it?"

I asked all of the questions. My mother assured me, on press day (deadline day), Reed could put the finishing touches on the paper, "once I put everything where it should,"

and he would send the pages to the printer to allow me to go home and rest.

I did that and went home and utterly collapsed at about 1 p.m.

I tossed and turned in my bed, in my sleep, sweating—I was truly and completely sick.

I awoke at about 2:30 p.m. to a pounding door. "Eli, you have to finish the paper."

I thought I was having a nightmare. I opened the door, said, "You're crazy." And went back to my bed.

The pounding continued. Followed by some yelling. And, well, I went back to work.

I asked Reed what the problem was. All he had to do was make sure the spacing between stories was right and click some buttons to send the pages.

I was furious. I came back to work for this?

Reed hadn't done a thing I asked him to do and told me it wasn't his job, he couldn't do it. Wouldn't do it.

I learned that day that, hell or high water, the ultimate responsibility for getting the paper to print falls on the editor.

Thankfully now, there are two other people in our family newspaper operation who know how to lay out the newspaper: my father, who is in good health, and Michael Roy.

I realized in December I was ask-

ing too much of Michael to put the newspaper pages together alongside writing stories, as well as help with literally anything I asked of him. Laying out pages takes me a fraction of the time because of my 6 years of experience. And, well, I'm pretty anal about how I want the paper to look. So we did some redistribution of work and it allowed Michael to write more. Really, at the end of the day, the stories we share are the heart of the newspaper.

Oh, this was supposed to be about my week of "newsing."

Tuesday and Wednesday I finished laying out the Star Eagle and the Pioneer and made a plethora of mistakes. I remind myself that "my best," looks different when I am sick. I am sincerely sorry for mistakes printed in the newspaper.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday were spent following local sports. Senior Kloe Wadd scored her thousandth career point with the Waseca girls' basketball team. I talked to her after the game and she was very nice. Her—I wanna say—grandfather had called to subscribe to the Pioneer a week earlier. He actually bought two subscriptions, one for himself, and one for another family member. This gentleman asked me, "Are you the newspaper with all the school activities and great sports coverage?"

"Yes, yes we are that newspaper."

That made me smile.

"Good, because I called and subscribed to the other paper and found out when it came in the mail that it was the wrong one."

Another week of 'newsing' on the books.

"If you're reading this... Congratulations, you're alive. If that's not something to smile about, then I don't know what is." ~ Chad Sugg



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Waseca Sleigh and Cutter



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OBITUARIES

Jesse Johnson

Jesse Francis Johnson, age 90 of Waseca, died on the afternoon of Sunday, February 19, 2023 at the Lakeshore Rehabilitation Center in Waseca.

Jesse was born on March 18, 1932 to Floyd and Anna (Thompson) Johnson, near the area known as Lemond, Minnesota. At a young age the family moved to the St. Olaf Lake area where Jesse attended country school and later graduated from New Richland High School. Jesse served with the United States Army in Korea for almost two years before he was honorably discharged. On October 6, 1956 Jesse married Patricia Ann Eustice at St. Ann Catholic Church in Janesville, and later two boys were born to their family. He was employed at Bird's Eye Foods for eight and a half years and then worked at the E.F. Johnson Company for the next 31 years. His favorite thing to do, though, was farm. For fun Jesse and Pat went to lots of dances, liked to travel, and were known to stop into a casino every once in a while. He was a life-member of the Waseca Sweet-Sommers VFW Post 1642 and was a long-time active member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca.

Jesse is survived by his devoted wife of 66 years, Pat Johnson of Waseca; two sons, Gary Johnson of Waseca and Craig (Cathy) Johnson of Waseca; five grandchildren, Brandon Johnson, Skye (Joe) Ronken, Cassie (Brent) Pedersen, Benjamin (Amanda) Johnson, and Katie Johnson and her fiancé



Jesse Johnson

Ethan Kopiecki; four great-grandchildren, Owen Ronken, Aden Ronken, Alexa Pedersen, and Graclyn Pedersen; one brother, Rodney (Joan) Johnson; one sister-in-law, Joyce (Larry) Wakefield; his step-mother, Delores Johnson; and by many nieces; nephews; and friends. He was preceded in death by both of his parents; a brother, Richard (Barb) Johnson and their three children.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, February 25, 2023, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca with Father The Hoang officiating. Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until the time of the Mass at the church. Interment will follow at Calvary Cemetery in Waseca. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca is handling the arrangements. dsfuneral.com

Kenneth Willard Johansen

Kenneth Willard Johansen, age 92, of Waseca died on February 8, 2023, at Colony Court in Waseca.

Born on September 29, 1930, in Waseca to Axel and Thora (Paludan) Johansen. He received his education in Waseca, New Richland, Truman and lastly Janesville High School, graduating with the class of 1948. Ken furthered his education in Georgia at Meat Cutting School. In 1951, Ken was drafted into the United States Army being called to serve in the Korean War until in Honorable Discharge in 1953. On August 29, 1954, Ken was united in marriage to Neoma Hagen at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Richland.

Ken began working alongside his dad and brother at Johansen Meat Locker in Janesville before purchasing the business which he continued

to own and operate until 1982. Ken worked various other jobs in the Madelia area before moving to Green Valley, Arizona where he and Neoma lived for 17 years before retiring and moving back to Minnesota. Together they spent their retirement years in New Richland and later in Janesville. Ken loved to hunt and fish, bowling, following his grandchildren's activities, and especially visiting with friends. He was active in the Janesville community throughout his life where he was a member of the Janesville Fire Department, School Board, Chamber of Commerce, American Legion, and 40/8. Ken was also a founding member of Faith Lutheran Church in Janesville.

Ken is survived by his wife of 68 years, Neoma of New Richland; children: Jodelle Hess of Seattle, WA, Kris (Shannon) Moore, OK, Janalee (Greg) Jacobson of Waseca, and Jer-

alyn (Steve) Price of Littleton, CO; 10 grandchildren: Brady Hess, Kypp (Tami) Hess, Joshua (Katrina) Jacobson, Zachary (Ashley) Jacobson, Kaleb (Brandy) Jacobson, Krisha Johansen, Jacob (Tiffany) Johansen, Keenan (Bekah) Johansen, Mackenzie Price, and Liam Price; 10 great grandchildren; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Preceded in death by his parents; son, Kevin (Karen) Johansen; daughter-in-law, Nancy Johansen; son-in-law, Steve Hess, siblings: Francis Burner, Virgil Johansen, Sylvia Stocker, Irene Meyers, and Leo Johansen.

Funeral Service will be 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 4, 2023 at Faith Lutheran Church in Janesville. Interment will be in Woodville Cemetery on a later date. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday. dennisfuneral-homes.com



Kenneth Johansen

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

■ Parade

from Page 1

with winter coat horse hair. His voice rich with emotion, he tells how the two are probably taking part in their last parade; the plan is to retire them to a farm in the Dakotas where their majestic size and calm demeanor will be helpful to veterans who, by interacting with them and helping care for them, will care for themselves as well.

Nearby, 5-year-old William Pittman is determinedly helping assemble a carriage to be drawn by black percherons Sammy and Eric. William is assisted by his father, Marc, and grandfather, Roger, neither of whom seem willing to move at his preferred pace.

Greg Barta of Warsaw wears an exotic black fur coat and hat. The coat, he says, is an heirloom between 90 and 100 years old. He mentions having taken it to numerous furriers who, although not completely certain, believe it is probably made of fur from fishers, 6- to 8-pound members of the weasel family which tend to live in the northern part of the state. Not to be outdone, his quarter horse Belle stands nearby wearing a "saddle chime," a system of shining gold-colored bells arranged to draw both the eye and ear. Barta says he had to choose from a whole collection of decorative chimes. "It's nice to keep them polished and shining," he says.

Not far away, four majestic Belgians are lined up ready to pull a large wagon dubbed "the barge" by Cindy Meyer, owner of Sharon Bel-

gians and Cartway of Le Sueur. The horsemen here come across as downright professional—probably because they are. Sharon Belgians takes part in about 40 parades and similar events every year, with the Sleigh and Cutter typically being their first. They offer sleigh rides and other holiday outings as one of their busiest attractions; today's parade, though, is just for them—although they expect to pick up a few passengers in their impressively sized, streetcar shaped wagon before leaving the fairgrounds.

In complete contrast, nearby are the white pony, Grim, and her companion donkey, Reaper, each rigged up to pull a two-wheeled, one-person vehicle. Neither of them is tall enough to reach even the waist of their owner Susan Lockling of Farmington, who jokes about having the "cutest ass" on the property. Lockling tells how she is loaning Reaper to friend Kerry Kindt, who has come all the way from Eagle River, Wisconsin, to take part. The two laugh and joke in anticipation of their shared adventure.

Also in contrast to the larger horses is "Edsel," a spotted donkey who will be pulling his owner Heidi Sporre in her fourth Sleigh and Cutter parade. She rubs his ears affectionately, calls him "Eddie," and assures him his name is based on fondness rather than fault-finding.

Near the main building, volunteers from the Law Enforcement Memorial Association saddle their elegant percherons and shine the caisson they have brought to carry on a wagon along the parade route. The only non-safety motorized vehicles in the parade allow spectators a look at the meticulously cared for unit

which is available to carry the coffins of fallen law enforcement officers for their funerals. Preparing to ride their noble percheron mounts alongside are two volunteer law enforcement officers.

The stories abound, as does the obvious camaraderie born of their shared love for their draft animals, be they ponies, donkeys, mules or horses of any size. As departure time nears, some take their units out on the closed street for a quick warm-up round. Almost before anyone knows it, it's time to start: the sheriff's posses from Waseca, Carver, and Steele counties take their position and set off. Their route will take them along Sixth Street, then up to State Street, and back around to the fairgrounds, a circle which will require a bit over half an hour to complete.

Upon their return, the camaraderie will continue, since all participants and safety volunteers are invited to a hearty lunch catered by the Pheasant Café and served by volunteers from the Waseca Area Foundation. Their appetites satisfied, they are also eligible for various prizes and awards. In honor of the seventy-third parade, one randomly chosen participant wins \$73. Four first-timers and one long-timer are recognized with a \$50 prize, and 20 more randomly chosen winners take home \$25.

"Since they've come so far and worked so hard to create some memories for us," observes Borgmann, "We like to recognize the parade participants and give them some enjoyable memories of their own."

"The Sleigh and Cutter parade is a significant part of how we see ourselves as a community," he continues, then goes on to assure that not

Loy D. Spies

Loy Dwight Spies, age 57 of Waseca, died on the morning of Saturday, February 11, 2023 at his home.

Loy was born on September 5, 1965 in Waseca to Lyn and Lois (Sprengher) Spies. He attended Waseca Public Schools and graduated with the class of 1984. Following his school years Loy began working for the City of Waseca in the Parks Department where he continued his employment until health no longer allowed. Many would recognize him trimming the shrubs along the road at Clear Lake Park every summer. On January 4, 2003, Loy was united in marriage to Sherri Bartz at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Otisco. Together they built a home in Waseca and shared 20 years of marriage. Loy enjoyed bowling, woodworking, and following Twins baseball.

Loy's family would like to thank and recognize special friends from the neighborhood, Jeremy and Michele Parpart; an instrumental nephew, Brandon Hoopengartner; and many other friends and family who's help allowed Loy to spend his final days at home.

Loy is survived by his devoted wife of twenty years, Sherri Spies of Waseca; three children, Erin Yenish of Waseca, Jeremiah (Stephanie) Yenish of Lady Smith, WI, and Alex (Devin) Yenish of Waseca; twelve grandchildren, Aliyah, Gabee, Grayden, Ayovi, Yose-lin, Ethan, Josiah, Olivia, Jaxon, Jaya, Axel, and Esme; one great-granddaughter, Spring; parents,



Loy D. Spies

Lyn and Lois Spies of Waseca; one brother, Lane (Jodi) Spies of Waseca; two sisters-in-law, Tricia Bartz (Lonnice Irwin) of Freeborn, and Gina Crumb of Portland, OR; and many nieces; nephews; other relatives; and friends. He was preceded in death by his father-in-law, Donald Bartz and mother-in-law, Barbara Crumb.

A public visitation was held from noon-1 p.m. on Friday, February 17, 2023 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. A memorial service began at 1 p.m. Interment and graveside services followed at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca.

After the completion of graveside services, Loy's family will host a reception for friends and family at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. dsfuneral.com

■ Spain

from Page 2

other tourist information locations and everything, but all the offices were closed on the weekend! We walked around for two hours talking to different people and going to different places trying to pay our fine, but nothing was open and no phone numbers were working.

Sintra was amazing as we saw a palace, and originally we had also planned on seeing a castle, but be-

cause we had spent so long that morning trying to pay our fine, we didn't have enough time to visit the castle. We all regretted that: it was so beautiful in the pictures.

I was exhausted from the two busy days, but Sunday morning we woke up, packed up, checked out, and started walking around the plazas before having to go to the bus station. Our bus left at 1:15, but it wasn't until 10:40 when we got to Madrid. We were all sick of being on the bus and kind of annoyed with the bus driver because we stopped twice so that he could have a smoke break

So if I learned anything this week-

end, it's to be careful when buying a ticket for transportation when in a different country...

My Determination: "And I knew exactly what to do. But in a much more real sense, I had no idea what to do." — Michael Scott

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Waseca senior high students Lindsey Kopetzki and Cecelia Huttemier

Kopetzki, Huttemier to perform at All-State

Seniors Lindsey Kopetzki and Cecelia Huttemier will be part of the Minnesota All-State Soprano/Alto Choir performing at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 18. Their journey, however, started long before that. Both students have been a part of the vocal program in Waseca since junior high. They’ve performed with the school’s top show choir, State Street, for the last two years, including a competition last week at Logan High School in La Crosse, WI and upcoming competitions at Waconia (Feb. 18) and Emmetsburg, IA (March 4). Both girls are also active in other high school activities, including marching band, theater, hockey, and student council, among others.

The 7 all-state ensembles include 565 students performing in vocal, band, jazz, and orchestra divisions. Three groups are for the

All-State Choirs, including the mixed group, bass/tenor and this soprano/alto (SA) group. All participating students selected to All-State go through a rigorous audition process including singing scales, a solo, and an excerpt from an Italian aria (an opera solo sung in Italian). As part of the process, Lindsey and Cecelia attended a week-long camp last summer and will rehearse again with the group during the Minnesota Music Education Association (MMEA) Mid-winter Convention (February 16 & 17 in the Twin Cities) capping off with the concert on Saturday, February 18. Waseca High School is proud to have such talented musicians and leaders.

Learn more about the All-State groups concert here: <https://www.minnesotaorchestra.org/tickets/calendar/rentals/mmea-all-state-choral-concert/>

New Richland survey to cover animal ordinance

Results to be shared at next meeting

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

During the New Richland City Council’s Feb. 13 meeting, city resident Melissa Gregg shared a proposal to allow backyard chickens in town. Gregg presented reasons she believes the option would be beneficial to the city and residents, while mentioning that numerous other Minnesota towns, including Minnesota Lake, Janesville, Mankato, Minneapolis, New Ulm, and more, have made room for the practice.

“I’d like to gauge interest [in the idea],” said Council member Jody Wynnemer; council members had observed that a post on Facebook garnered many responses from residents.

City Administrator Tony Martens stated he would put a formal community survey online, with results to be reviewed at the next council meeting. The council agreed to hold a work session after its regular Feb. 27 meeting to discuss the animal ordinance and survey results, along with a work session after the following meeting to review the city’s nuisance ordinance.

The ambulance report, submitted in writing, stated that the New Richland ambulance has responded to 23 calls this year as of Feb. 9. It was noted that the ambulance recently had an inspection, which it passed “with flying colors.” The report, along with an update to the department’s equipment damage policy, was approved.

The fire department report, submitted in writing, stated that the NRRFD responded to one medical

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

call in January. The report was approved.

The police report, also submitted in writing, stated that the NRPD responded to 103 calls in January. Police chief Bruegger and officer Brandon Hermann attended the Minnesota South Central Investigator’s Coalition Jan. 9-10 in Mankato; A Hostile Event Response and Communication Training (HERT) will be held March 4 in Waseca. The report was approved.

A recent water main break that led to water having to be shut off for the city via the water tower was discussed, and a request was made by administrator Martens to purchase a text message alert service for the city in case such an incident occurs again. The service was approved at a cost of \$250 per year.

The administrator’s report was presented, which included special thanks to Jessica from Minnesota Valley Council of Governments for her help covering the city hall office during the absence of Sara Jo Vulcan. The report was approved.

Resolution 23-02 accepting a donation from the New Richland Police Reserve in the amount of \$2,475.62 to be used for the police reserve was approved.

Newly appointed council member Janda Ferguson was sworn in during the meeting, and a brief discussion regarding Legion Field occurred among the mayor and council. The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

O’Brien reports on Hartley status

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

Continuing with this year’s series of adding building reports to the school board meetings, Hartley Elementary Principal Ben O’Brien presented remotely from the boys’ wrestling match. O’Brien acknowledged that though facilities are at the forefront as a district, his report focused on the inner workings of the school and the people. Hartley currently has 433 students enrolled. As with all the schools district-wide, there remains a need for paraprofessionals. “We are making it work and being flexible to support the prioritized needs first until applicants

come in,” he stated. “We have hired an additional special education teacher to support an increase in that student group.” O’Brien touched upon the vision card goals for the Hartley staff: “Student success in terms of learning is very important. We really focus on student growth versus proficiency.” The learning is not all academic; Hartley includes its behavioral support system of ‘The Blue Jay Way’ in their assessments of growth. O’Brien ended his presentation to the board by stating that instructional practices continue to be evaluated and improved. “The staff continue to come up with creative ways to service students in the most

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

effective learning space.”

Superintendent Eric Hudspeth discussed the process of updating the district’s strategic plan, as the current plan expires spring of 2024. “We would like to go from classroom to boardroom, starting with feedback from our staff, our principals, and bring that up to the board so the board creates the strategic plan, the strategic vision around what’s happening, and add what they’d like to see happen going forward.” Hudspeth

described how the district has partnered with Teamworks International, an education leadership consulting firm, to provide guidance in creating strategic themes. Board chair Julie Anderson expressed her appreciation that much of the “prep work” for the strategic plan update is already laid out for the fall. Hudspeth acknowledged her comments; “You want your staff in your building to say, ‘This is the work I do that supports the strategic plan’ and if they’re helping to create the plan they have a better chance of articulating what the plan is.”

Nurse aide training set for summer

Minnesota State University, Mankato answered Gov Tim Walz’s call to train nurse aides combating the critical shortages of workers in the industry. Dr. Kara De La Fosse led seven cohorts training nearly 300 students in six months. The Next Generation initiative came to an end on February 15, 2023, however, MSU will continue to offer summer cohorts to meet

the demand. This summer, students have the opportunity to register for two Nurse Aide courses and one Medication Aide course predominantly online. MSU will also begin certification testing for students desiring to take the national test for the nurse aide registry. More information about the upcoming courses is available from Kim Scholtens-

507.389.1094

The growing demand for nurse aides continues, exemplifying the significance of students participating in this opportunity to support industry partners. The Nurse Aide course also meets the requirements for students entering into the nursing program and serves as a strong foundation for providing safe patient care.

Upcoming training programs include a “Medication Aide” course (July 16-August 9), with an in-person lab from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on August 9. MSU “Nurse Aide” course May 9-June 10), with in-person lab days from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 9-10; the course will again be held July 16-August 12, with in-person labs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 10-11.

City of Waldorf audit report

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

On February 6, Waldorf residents were provided an update on their city’s annual audit report from financial company Clifton Larson Allen.

A result of the large amount of funding received for the street and water sewer project is a larger, more extensive audit process, analyzing up to 13 different elements of compliance.

Here is what was reported Monday:

Regarding fiscal transactions from

2020-22 it has recently been realized that expectations for federal compliance began in 2020 on “day one” of the application process for the federal dollars. When this was realized partway through the audit process, auditors added those records to the ones needing review.

The city is in compliance and on good footing with the various agencies which would need to approve any future funding.

Here are the highlights:
Long-term financing gained in 2022 will mean future audits will be

WALDORF CITY COUNCIL

less complex

The city’s “general” operating fund is in a very good financial position

The city “broke even” in 2021 and received about \$100,000 in extra state grant funding.

Property taxes are being paid on time, including notifications of past-due balances. In 2021, more than \$3,000 from overdue taxes was col-

lected.

The Community Center fund is breaking even for 2021

Auditors suggest implementing a “procurement policy” for federal dollars for phase 2 of the infrastructure plan.

At the conclusion of the audit presentation from CLA, an audience member asked, “Did we pass?”

The response was “Yes.” CLA’s findings are that the city of Waldorf is on solid footing, and in a good place going forward.

■ Evening

from Page 1

me.”

After the dinner, a brief intermission was given as local band GTX began to set up for the dance portion of the night’s proceedings. The band is composed of lead singer Tammy Barnes, lead guitarist and pianist Sheldon Brandt, bass guitar player Shannon Brandt, and Tim Wenniger on drums. The band formed about a year and a half ago; according to Barnes, “We wanted to start something before COVID, but when it hit, we had to hit the pause button. As soon as we were able to, we got the band going.” The band’s passion for music is decades in the making as the Brandt brothers noted. “Our parents were playing in bands throughout our childhoods and we learned to play music at such an early age—it’s pretty much in our blood.” Barnes remarked her choir teacher, Becky Borneke, “inspired me to pursue music as a career and I can’t thank her enough.”

GTX was recruited to play at the dance because “Ken saw us play in Waterville last summer and approached us about playing tonight.

We couldn’t pass up such a great opportunity.” The band plays a variety of country music but dabbles in rock and some “strange choices like ‘Zombie’,” Barnes said. To start off the night, the band played “God Bless the USA” as the Sleigh and Cutter Pageant Royalty presented flags to honor our country and veterans. The band sparked plenty of action on the dance floor as members of the public busted a move or slow danced with their significant others.

After the dance, Borgmann returned to the stage to announce the winners of the evening’s awards. He drew names for the “grand prize” drawing which gave winners cash prizes of varying amounts; many of the names drawn were of people not present at the event, but they will receive notice of their cash prize. Additionally, Borgmann drew winners for the “Frosty Award” in which members of the public would guess who was dressed as Frosty the Snowman, an annual tradition for the Sleigh and Cutter Festival. There was a two-way tie for the drawing as two participants, Ed Hain and Sammy Neff, guessed correctly while submitting their choice at the exact same time. Borgmann decided to split the prize in half due to the eerie coincidence.

It was at this time, Frosty stood at



Ben O’Brien revealed as Frosty

Pioneer photo by Jordan Camarillo

center stage and removed his headpiece to reveal Ben O’Brien of Waseca as the 73rd Frosty the Snowman. O’Brien became involved with his role for the evening due to his years-long acquaintance with Borgmann. “I’ve worked with Ken for a number of years through the school here in Waseca. He is a great ambassador for the county; he called me up to ask about being Frosty this year and I said ‘Absolutely!’” O’Brien was in costume for roughly an hour and when asked about the conditions

inside the snowman costume, he chuckled and said, “Well, luckily, the winter breeze makes it a little tolerable to wear at first; I’ll admit, though, it’s a little warmer than I want it to be.” The Sleigh and Cutter festival continues throughout the month of February and ends on March 25, 2023; the Feb. 17 dinner, dance, and prizes were another great addition to the ongoing tradition for Waseca County.

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STANDINGS

Boys' Basketball			
Big South Conference Big Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
New Ulm	12-1	5-1	18-5
Worthington	10-2	4-1	17-4
Marshall	6-8	2-4	9-16
St. Peter	3-6	0-5	4-18
Big South Conference West Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
Jackson Co. Cent.	11-6	3-3	14-8
Waseca	7-4	5-1	19-5
Blue Earth Area	6-4	4-2	13-7
Fairmont	3-14	0-6	6-16
Gopher Conference East Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
Hayfield	13-2	8-1	20-5
Kenyon-Wana.	13-3	6-2	18-7
Randolph	9-6	5-4	14-10
Bethlehem Acad.	7-8	4-5	13-9
Triton	5-9	1-7	7-17
Bl. Prairie	5-11	2-7	9-14
Gopher Conference West Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
Maple River	15-0	9-0	23-2
United So. Cent.	11-4	7-2	17-7
JWP	6-9	5-4	11-12
NRHEG	3-12	2-7	3-21
WEM	3-13	3-6	4-17
Medford	2-15	1-8	2-23
Girls' Basketball			
Big South Conference Big Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
St. Peter	10-1	5-1	18-6
Marshall	10-2	5-1	18-8
New Ulm	8-4	2-4	17-8
Worthington	0-13	0-6	4-21
Big South Conference East Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
Waseca	6-4	5-1	15-8
Fairmont	9-9	5-1	13-10
Jackson Co. Cen.	7-10	2-4	11-12
Blue Earth Area	0-10	0-6	5-19
Big South Conference West Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
Luverne	14-0	8-0	22-3
Pipestone Area	9-4	5-3	16-7
St. James Area	5-9	4-4	15-11
Windom Area	5-10	1-7	16-10
Redwood Valley	3-10	2-6	9-16
Gopher Conference East Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
Hayfield	14-1	10-0	24-3
Blooming Prairie	10-6	6-4	11-12
Randolph	7-8	4-6	17-9
Kenyon-Wana.	7-9	3-7	11-12
Triton	6-10	6-5	10-16
Bethlehem Acad.	4-12	2-8	9-13
Gopher Conference West Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
NRHEG	13-2	8-1	19-5
WEM	11-4	7-2	16-8
Maple River	9-6	4-4	13-10
JWP	4-10	2-6	12-14
Medford	1-16	1-7	2-23
United So. Cent.	0-2	0-2	3-12
Boys' Hockey			
Big South Conference Standings			
	Conf.	Ov.	
New Ulm	16-0	21-3	
Luverne	13-3	18-6	
Minnesota River	9-7	12-13	
Marshall	9-7	11-13	
Windom Area	9-7	11-14	
Waseca	8-8	10-14	
Fairmont	6-10	8-18	
Worthington	2-14	3-20	
Redwood Valley	0-16	0-22	
Girls' Hockey			
Big South Conference Standings			
	Conf.	Ov.	
Luverne	14-0	21-6	
New Ulm	11-2	17-9	
Marshall	9-4	12-12	
Minnesota River	8-5	12-11	
Waseca	5-9	12-12	
Windom Area	4-9	10-14	
Fairmont	2-11	4-17	
Worthington/Fulda	0-13	3-19	
Wrestling			
Big South Conference East Standings			
	Conf.	Ov.	
St. Peter	5-0	20-6	
Fairmont/MCW	4-1	12-3	
New Ulm	3-2	19-8	
Waseca	2-3	5-12	
Blue Earth Area	1-4	6-20	
St. James Area	0-5	11-14	
Big South Conference West Standings			
	Conf.	Ov.	
Jackson Co. Central	6-0	18-5	
Marshall/Lakeview	5-1	18-5	
Pipestone Area	3-3	9-10	
Worthington	3-3	8-13	
Windom/Mt. Lake	3-3	8-14	
Redwood Valley	1-5	5-17	
Luverne	0-6	11-16	

Reger again perfect from field as Jays top Marshall

By JIM LUTGENS Sports Editor

Perfection is something you normally don't see on a basketball court. Tyson Reger has been the exception. Reger, a 6-foot-1 senior forward for the Waseca High School boys' basketball team, has been no less than perfect with his shooting prowess for two games in a row, the latest in a 70-58 victory over visiting Marshall Friday, Feb. 17. "It was probably the best game we have played this year," said Bluejays coach Seth Anderson, whose team improved its overall record to 19-5. The Bluejays won going away, but it wasn't easy. They were up 33-25 at halftime and had to hold off Marshall in the second half. Reger, meanwhile, was 6-for-6 on field goals and made all three of his three-point attempts, extending his shooting streak to 21 in a row without a miss. In the

Bluejays' previous outing, Reger tied two state shooting records while going 9-for-9 on threes. He finished the night with 18 points and 6 rebounds. Sophomore Damarius Russell was his usual explosive self, totaling 27 points, 1 rebound, 4 assists and 1 steal. "Damarius was very good tonight," commented Anderson, who added that the Bluejays' man-to-man defense was outstanding. Other Waseca statistics: Deron Russell 1 point, 1 rebound, 2 assists; Laird Keaton 10 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals; Carson Ohnstad 5 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal; Noah Thompson 3 rebounds, 4 assists; Josh Hulscher 9 points, 1 rebound, 4 assists; Andrew Robran 6 points, 3 rebounds, 2 steals. The Bluejays were scheduled to play at Pine Island Tuesday night, weather permitting. They finish the regular season hosting the Big East Conference championship Tuesday, Feb. 28.



NOT JUST OFFENSE — Tyson Reger (22) and Damarius Russell apply defensive pressure against Marshall Friday, Feb. 17. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

Wadd hits 1,000; WHS girls blast Belle Plaine

By ELI LUTGENS Publisher/Editor

The Waseca High School girls' basketball team won easily 51-35 over Belle Plaine at home Thursday night, Feb. 16. The highlight of the night came when senior Kloe Wadd scored her 1,000th career point on a free throw with 13:49 remaining in the second half. After the bucket, the game was paused as Wadd celebrated with teammates and embraced head coach Joan Conway. Wadd said the basket was special, a little awkward, but an amazing moment. "I've played with some amazing players and realizing that my hard work paid off and having my closest friends there with me was really special."



MILESTONE NIGHT — Above the Bluejays' Kloe Wadd splits the defense against Belle Plaine Thursday, Feb. 16. Below, Megan Kanewischer passes past the double team. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

During the contest the Bluejays never trailed. They jumped out to a 12-3 lead early on baskets from Wadd, Sam Azure, and a fast-break bucket from Addison Wiesler. They grew their lead to 12 points at the break, 27-15. The second half was not close either as the Tigers never came within 10 points. Individually for Waseca: Azure 15 points, 2 rebounds, 5 assists, 4 steals; Wadd 14P, 10R, 2A, 2S; Avery Madsen 10P, 8R, 1S; Wiesler 7P, 1R, 1A; Megan Kanewischer 5P, 2R, 3A, 3S; Callie Dufault 1S; Mia Kanewischer 5R, 2A, 3S. "We did a nice job defensively versus a strong and athletic team," said Coach Conway. The Bluejays traveled to St. Peter and lost 56-38 Saturday, Feb. 18. "St. Peter is a really good team, both offensively and defensively," said Conway. "Turning the ball over against good teams really limits our



JWP boys split as James reaches scoring milestone

By MICHAEL ROY Staff Writer

The JWP boys' basketball team lost 59-44 in a competitive matchup against state-ranked Maple River on Tuesday, Feb.14. It wasn't all bad, though. Aside from celebrating the coronation during the Bulldogs-Eagles halftime, Memphis James eclipsed 1,000 points in the 75-59 victory against Sibley East the following Friday. Eagles 59, Bulldogs 44 A lot of JWP's talented opponents have started off slow, but they haven't always taken full advantage of it. That was the story with the Eagles-Bulldogs game. James led the team on a six-point run to get a brief jump on the Eagles. Sophomore Steven Dimmel, who usually started later in games, got the callup early and sunk a three-pointer to keep JWP within it. But a 22-19 lead for Maple River turned into a 32-19 halftime advantage.

"I felt we gave a big run to end the first half, but good teams like Maple River can run the score quickly on you," JWP coach Nick James said. The second half was the same story. A six-point push led by James was quelled with an eight-point reply by Maple River. The Eagles, who still looked off most of the night compared to their previous 76-40 victory against the Bulldogs, still did enough to coast to an easy 15-point victory. What cost the Bulldogs was rebounding. They were out-rebounded 41-33 and gave up 27 defensive rebounds and 19 second-chance points. "When you allow a good team that many chances, it's hard to overcome," Coach James said. "It's just a matter of working harder and finding bodies to box out." Quality shots were hard to come by as well. "The biggest thing for us is realizing the difference between a 'good' and a 'great' shot," he stated. "I felt we took some rushed shots that led to them getting some easy ones on

the other end." The boys can at least say they held a state-ranked team down to 21 less points than in the last game, though. "You hope that the boys realize that they can play with anyone," James said. "We did not shoot the ball very well, and haven't as a team for a while. But even without that we were still able to battle with them." Memphis James was the only double-digit scorer on the night with 15 points. Daulton Bauer and Caleb Quast contributed 8, while Steven Dimmel had 6, Ryan Kronbach 4 and Cole Schlueter 3. Bulldogs 75, Wolverines 59 Historically, JWP has had easy games against Sibley East, and that was no different when the Bulldogs hosted them on Friday. Memphis James had a minute to celebrate as he reached the 1,000-point milestone 1:23 before halftime. Overall, it was a fantastic night on the home court. Sibley East strug-



1,000 AND COUNTING — JWP boys' basketball coach Nick James presents a commemorative basketball to Memphis James. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

gled to keep up with the Bulldogs. It was 33-18 shortly before halftime, and the Bulldogs slightly extended the lead to make it a 16-point victory at the end. JWP has a relatively easy end to the regular season. They traveled to Cleveland Monday, Feb. 20 before facing a Mankato Loyola team — previously a state-ranked team in Class A — the following day. They host Medford on Friday and end the regular season at Madelia on Monday, Feb. 27.

Season ends in rough fashion for Waseca girls' hockey squad

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

It was a tough end to what was a stellar season for the Waseca High School girls' hockey team.

Entering Section 1A as the No. 3 seed and receiving a bye in the first round, the Bluejays faced a heart-breaking 10-1 defeat in the semifinals to No. 2 Albert Lea — the defending section champions — on Saturday, Feb. 11.

The loss evened their record to 12-12, their best finish since the 2016-17 season, when they went 14-10-1.

"The score does not indicate how we played at all," coach Chaz Benson said. "In the first two periods, we stayed right with them. The third period just got away from us."

Ten minutes into the opening period, Waseca had a rare breakaway opportunity. After eighth-grade forward Maizee Storey took the initial shot, junior forward Izabela Slechta cashed in on the rebound.

The moment which Benson described as "taking the wind out of our sails" was losing starting goalie Ilamay Draheim a few minutes into the second period. The Bluejays were forced to send senior goaltender Alicia Kelly out on the ice with only a minute of warmup time.

"Ilamay is such a core of our

"This was a special group of girls."
— WHS coach Chaz Benson

team," said Benson. "Losing her definitely didn't help us at all."

Draheim ended the night stopping 25 of 26 shots.

Kelly faced 27 shots in less than two periods, 17 in the final period.

Benson commended the effort. "I thought she did well considering the situation," he said. "Coming in cold is not easy. She had some really good saves."

Waseca rallied around Kelly, allowing only two additional goals in the second period to keep it a 3-1 game. "Those two goals were rebound goals," Benson explained. "I tell the girls all the time that the goalie's job is to stop the first one and the other players need to clear it out."

Albert Lea put the game away with seven consecutive goals in the third period.

"I think we were playing a little too tight knowing Ilamay wasn't behind us," said Benson. "Once we



END OF THE LINE — The Waseca High School girls' hockey season ended with a loss at Albert Lea in the first round of section play. Above, the Bluejays' Maizee Storey (6) fires a shot as the Tigers' Elizabeth Willett (7) trails.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

started hanging our head in the third, that's when stuff went sideways."

Albert Lea outshot Waseca 53-11. "That's a good team they have," said Benson. "I'm excited to play them next year."

When the game ended, both Albert Lea and Waseca gathered in the center of the rink, kneeled, and bowed their heads — some in prayer — before leaving the ice.

After preparing to leave the arena, many of the Jays embraced each other in the final moments they

would be together this season. It didn't matter in that moment that Maddy Benson was a freshman and Madelyn Malecha was a senior. They were all one big happy family celebrating a bittersweet end to a great season.

"This was a special group of girls," Benson said. "This season went really well as a whole. We will be losing a good group of seniors, but the future's going to be bright."

He said the group worked hard and bought into a winning attitude.

"You could tell with the culture of the locker room and how we played on the ice that we were going out every night expecting to win," he said. "They're having fun out there, and we hope in the future to keep the ball rolling with that."

Four players will graduate this spring: Cece Huttemier, Malecha, Timmi Volkmer, and Kelly.

"All of them are great kids and leaders," said Benson. "I'm excited to watch what they do throughout their life. I'm so proud of them."

Grizzlies win 2 in triangular

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

Before the start of the section tournaments this week, WEM-JWP hosted one last meet Thursday, Feb. 9. They faced New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, Blue Earth Area, and Cannon Falls for a quadrangular.

It was a great day for the Grizzlies, who went 2-1.

Grizzlies 38, Panthers 29

It was a great start for WEM-JWP as Brady Murphy at 106 took care of NRHEG's Jacob Karl in 1:43. After Parker James collected a forfeit, Carson Petry at 120 defeated a very talented Annabelle Petsinger by a 16-0 technical fall in four minutes.

NRHEG swung back as the weight classes increased. Parker Bunn defeated Carson James at 126, with senior Jaxon Hulsing losing by fall to Devon Parpart. Aidan and Ryan Schlaak's victories gave the Panthers a six-point lead.

From then on, it was all WEM-JWP.

Lucas Morsching at 152, Patrick Adams at 160, and Isaac Quast at 170 all collected wins by decision. Wyatt Larson gave Adams a hard time as Harbor Cromwell did Quast, with both of them escaping with victories by one-point.

195-pound Jack Cahill took a win by fall over Zander Flatness to give the Grizzlies some breathing room before Avery Fall took a 9-5 decision victory over Cole Hutchens.

A hard-fought heavyweight battle between Grizzlies' Keegan Kuball and Panthers' Makota Misgen — both ranked in Class A — had to be decided with a tiebreaker. Kuball won 3-2.

Bombers 44, Grizzlies 32

WEM-JWP had a much tougher time against their next opponent, Cannon Falls. Murphy gave the team a good start with a victory by 8-0 major decision. And despite Cannon Falls tying it twice, Petry had win by forfeit and Jaxon Hulsing at 132 pinned Griffin Peterson in 5:38 to keep the Grizzlies in the lead 18-12.

Cannon Falls won the next five matches, four by fall and the other by technical fall.

The team needed to win the next four matches by fall to win it. But that was a tall order. Cahill settled for a 10-1 major decision victory while Fall took a 6-0 decision loss. The dual did end on a good note, however, when Kuball at 220 collected a forfeit victory and Max Davis at 285 won his match by fall in 1:11.

Grizzlies 36, Bucs 33

Most of the matches were short and sweet. Murphy took a win by fall over BEA's Timmy Nagel in 31 seconds. James then took a 15-6 major decision victory before Petry defeated Drake Engelby in 31 seconds. In return, Carson Sturtz defeated James in 46 seconds, Angel Martinez took down Hulsing in 3:32, and Kelton Erler fell to Cooper Peterson in 56 seconds.

After gaining a two-point lead, BEA had little time to celebrate as Lucas Morsching took a technical fall win (15-0, 4:21) over Will Weerts. Instead, they celebrated a bit longer as they won the next three matches, the 170-pound match a double forfeit.

What hurt BEA in the end and helped WEM-JWP gain a victory to close out the night was two gifts in the form of forfeit victories collected by Grady Grohman and Fall.

Kuball won the dual for WEM-JWP with a swift pin over Zach Benson in 51 seconds.

After a great quad meet, the team prepared for varsity sections. With the No. 4 seed, they hosted Westfield for the first action of section at WEM High School Thursday, Feb. 16. St. Clair will host the semifinals and finals the following Saturday.



HOME-COURT ADVANTAGE? — JWP's Daulton Bauer goes high for two points during the Bulldogs' "home" game at Waseca.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

JWP boys drop 2 of 3 Bulldogs top WEM, but fall to Waseca, Randolph

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

After a good start to the week with a 65-53 victory against Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Tuesday, Feb. 7, the JWP boys' basketball team was forced back into a losing record with a long-awaited game against Waseca that ended in a 68-45 loss the following Thursday and a 68-49 conference defeat to Randolph Friday.

Bulldogs 65, Buccaneers 53

Despite being on the road, the Bulldogs had a firm grip of the lead the entire time. They made 40.7 percent of their field goals and were much more accurate on free throws than WEM. While they hit 84.6 percent of them, the Bucs couldn't clear 50 percent.

After a 35-25 half, the Bucs tried their best to get back into it. But JWP still outscored them 30-28 in the second half for an easy 65-53 victory.

Four players had double-digit nights. Daulton Bauer led the charge with 17 points, while Memphis James had 14, Caleb Quast 11, and Ryan Kronbach 10.

Coach Nick James mentioned the previous week that the boys needed to execute better. "We are in the middle of the conference schedule, and every game is going to be a battle for us. This was an important conference win for us," he said.

Bluejays 68, Bulldogs 45

After two weather delays postponed this game, the cross-county rivalry between Waseca and Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton finally happened.

Because of the postponements and logistical issues, Waseca couldn't host the game as originally planned. JWP had the home-court advantage, and the fans made sure to show up in droves. The Bulldog fans were loud and proud in their Burger King crowns.

Perhaps the crowd noise affected the Bluejays' rhythm, or maybe they just got in their own way. Whatever it was, JWP took advantage early with Memphis James leading the charge with a five-point run. Bauer supplied 3, and after a 12-8 lead for JWP, Waseca called timeout.

The momentum slightly changed when Waseca started finding the basket. However, it was a tight 28-23 contest at halftime.

What ultimately cost the Bulldogs in the end were turnovers leading to easy layup shots for Waseca, allowing them to make a two-score game an easy victory. In the end, JWP lost control of the game.

Rockets 68, Bulldogs 49

JWP hosted Randolph for the first of three straight home games. The conference rival Rockets entered Janesville with a 12-9 record.

This one got away from JWP, and instead of evening their in-conference record, they came out of the game 6-8. Despite still keeping third place in the Western Division of the Gopher Conference, the boys are now 9-11 overall.

They hosted Maple River (and Snow Week coronation) on Valentine's Day as part of a doubleheader with the girls. They host Sibley East on Friday.

JWP girls can't keep pace with Sibley East, WEM, Randolph

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

Normally, a 72-point night including two players scoring 20 or more points would be enough for a victory.

That wasn't the case for the JWP girls' basketball team against Randolph last Friday.

The team had the chance to get a winning record for the first time this season. However, they were denied the opportunity for the second time this year with a 68-61 loss to Sibley East Monday, Feb. 6, a harsh 78-44 in-conference defeat to Waterville-Elysian-Morristown the next day, and an 84-72 loss at Randolph.

The combined 42 points, along with Presley James 11, Lexie Dahlberg and Nevaeh Weimert's two points each, and Claire Walz's free-throw completion weren't enough.

Defensively, the Bulldogs had a tough night, allowing four players double-digit performances. Wolverines' player Morgan Bednarek presented the biggest problem, putting on 22 points to lead the hosting Wolverines to victory.

Buccaneers 78, Bulldogs 44

This one will probably hurt the rest of the season.

WEM's Buccaneers have had a tough go of it throughout the season, dealing with injuries to prominent players on their roster. However, their resurgence helped them gain a 12-7 record going into JWP's court.

The Bucs wasted no time getting to work on JWP's floor. Despite keeping it close for the first few minutes, a 4-3 lead for WEM in the first half of the game turned into 17-6 five minutes later. Even after they called a timeout at the midway into the first half to regroup, the 27-13 lead for WEM grew to 43-18.

The Bucs reached a 35-point lead needed late into the second half to force the mercy rule into effect.

"Credit where it's due to WEM," JWP coach Cory Jans said. "They have a talented team that could make some noise in the playoffs."

Individually: K. Olson, 13 points; Weimert, 9 points; F. Olson, 5 points; Strauss, 5 points; and A. Olson, Dahlberg, James, Paige Walz, Caitlin Kleve, and Hope Dimmel all with two points each.

Rockets 84, Bulldogs 72

Despite not doing so well in the East Division of the Gopher Conference, Randolph had a great 15-8 record.

JWP's bad luck from the week continued. Despite one of their best offensive performances of the season, their defense lost them the game. Not only was it their toughest night defensively, but it was the Rockets' best game of the season.

It was the first time this season that two of JWP's players had 20-point nights in the same game. Katie Olson led the team with 23, while James had 20.

Randolph's version of an Olson, along with Paige Ford, told the both



COMING THROUGH — The Bulldogs' Alexis Dahberg drives past a WEM defender during their Gopher Conference game Tuesday, Feb. 7.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

of them to hold their water bottles. Ford scored 33 points while Anna Olsen scored 22.

"It really stinks when you do as well as our team did offensively and still lose," said Jans. "We just need to keep working on our defense. The playoffs are coming up, so it's important we fix whatever we need to fix."

It ended JWP's week with a 10-13 record (3-9 in conference).

JWP's end to the regular season is tough. They traveled to Hayfield — ranked 7th in Class A — Monday, Feb. 13 before hosting Maple River the following day in a doubleheader with the boys. They ended the season hosting Madelia Thursday.

Panthers can't hold off Hayfield

Girls fall in conference championship

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Two years, two conference championship losses to Hayfield.

After falling early in the season to the Vikings, the NRHEG girls' basketball team was looking for revenge, and a championship. They found neither, losing 63-55 Saturday night in Hayfield.

It was another classic and close game. The Panthers led early, often, and late, but saw their lead, and their chances, dwindle away in the final three minutes. Early in the first half they led by as much as seven. Late in the second they also led by as many as seven. Plagued by foul trouble, they somehow never trailed by more than four until the final minute of play.

With five minutes to play tied at 48-48, a risky in-traffic, in-lane pass from Quinn VanMaldeghem to Faith Nielsen put the Panthers up two.

The squads traded the lead only two more times. First, when Viking Kristen Watson was fouled connecting on a layup attempt and again when Panthers' senior Sidney Schultz scored a layup seconds later.

It was the final time the Panthers led.

Another bucket from Watson, who led all scorers with 35, put the Vikings ahead.

The Panthers tied the game one more time on a VanMaldeghem free throw. She led all Panthers with 15 points. The final minutes saw many fouls, many free throws, and many cheers from Hayfield fans as the Panthers' aggressive nature finally caught up with them.

Missed free throws gave the Panthers several chances to tie it in the final minute, but they failed to do so.

Schultz was sidelined for the final 10 minutes of the first half after committing her third foul and more than half the second half after she registered her fourth.

Senior Erin Jacobson registered her fourth foul with five minutes remaining in the second half. VanMaldeghem fouled out with 14 seconds remaining.

"When we get that many kids in foul trouble, it's hard," NRHEG coach Onika Peterson said after the game. "I can't say enough about our younger kids. We went into halftime down by two without two of our seniors who were on the bench. Obviously it affects our game plan a ton. Sidney's ran our varsity offense for how many years? She's the quarterback of our team.

"A lot of girls stepped up. The twins; Faith had a great game; Hallie ran our offense for a little bit. She



ANOTHER CLASSIC, CLOSE GAME — That's what the NRHEG girls' basketball team had in the Gopher Conference championship game Saturday, Feb. 18 at Hayfield, where the Panthers fell short 63-55. From left: Faith Nielsen (2) goes to the basket. Adalyn Stadheim (14) goes high for two points. Camryn VanMaldeghem (20) gets off a shot.

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

hasn't had to be a point guard since eighth or ninth grade. So again, that shows leadership for building on. To see that they're capable of holding their composure and doing the little things. It's nice to see."

How will the girls respond after two difficult losses going forward?

"Does it break our spirits?" coach Peterson asked. "Absolutely not. We got kicked in the teeth last night against a tough Waterville team. We struggled and didn't shoot the ball well. We showed up tonight. We got into some foul trouble, but our kids held their composure.

"I'm very, very proud of the girls and looking ahead going into section playoffs we need to make sure we're focusing on playing Panther basket-

ball."

With the loss the Panthers' overall record falls to 19-5, (12-2 conference).

Individually for the Panthers: Quinn VanMaldeghem 15 points, 10 rebounds, 4 steals; Faith Nielsen 12 points, 3 rebounds, 1 steal; Sidney Schultz 9 points, 1 rebound, 1 steal; Camryn VanMaldeghem 8 points, 7 rebounds, 3 steals; Preslie Nielsen 6 points; Erin Jacobson 3 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steal, 1 charge; Hallie Schultz 2 points, 10 rebounds, 3 steals, 2 assists; Adalyn Stadheim 2 rebounds.

The Panthers trailed just 22-20 at Waterville Friday, but foul trouble let it get out of hand and the Bucs won going away 66-44.

"We got into foul trouble early on," said Peterson. "WEM is solid defensively and we struggled getting good shots. Definitely not how we wanted the game to go, but tonight WEM was the better team. The sun will rise tomorrow."

Individually: F. Nielsen 22P, 3R, 2S; Q. VanMaldeghem 6P, 4R, 5S, 1 block; Jacobson 2P, 2R, 2S; Gabby Schlaak 1S; H. Schultz 6P, 3R, 1S, 1B; S. Schultz 5P, 4R, 1S, 2A; C. VanMaldeghem 3P, 4R, 1S; P. Nielsen 1R.

The Panthers started the week with a 69-29 victory over Blue Earth Area Monday, Feb. 13. NRHEG led 41-10 at halftime.

"After a tough game Friday night, the girls came out focused, hopped

out to a quick lead and built on it throughout the game," said Peterson. "Everybody got in tonight. It will be nice to have a couple of practices so we can regroup and refocus for what we have left in the remainder of the season and play-offs."

Statistics: Tatum Smith Vulcan 2P, 3R, 1A; F. Nielsen 13P, 10R, 3S, 1A; Q. VanMaldeghem 8P, 7R, 1A; Jacobson 10P, 6R, 2A; Schlaak 3P; H. Schultz 4P, 7R, 4S, 1A; S. Schultz 10P, 4R, 2A, Stadheim 2P, 1R; Chloe Stork 1A; C. VanMaldeghem 9P, 1R, 2S; P. Nielsen 8P, 3R, 1S.

The Panthers finish the regular season at Waseca Thursday, Feb. 23.

Upset bid falls short for NRHEG wrestling team

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Two upsets in a row was not in the cards for the NRHEG High School wrestling team.

The dual-meet season is finished.

The sixth-seeded Panthers, 38-33 victors over No. 3 seed Maple River/USC earlier in the week, were eliminated from the Section 2A tournament 64-18 by No. 2 seed LCWM Saturday at Lake Crystal. It was a bittersweet defeat for the Panthers, who had perhaps their best showing of the season while knocking off Maple River/USC Thursday, Feb. 16 in Wells.

"It was one of those nights where things lined up well for us," said NRHEG coach Shawn Larson. "Our guys did this all on their own."

The first match of the night was also one of the most pivotal, and got the Panthers started on a positive note as Jacob Karl outlasted his opponent 4-2 in overtime at 106 pounds. Mason Reeder was pinned in 6:08 at 113, but Annabelle Petsinger answered with an 8-0 major decision at 120. The Longhorns regained the lead with a fall over Brodie Flatland at 126, but Devan Parpart cut it to 12-11 with a 12-4 major decision at 132 and started a run of five straight NRHEG

wins. Aiden Schlaak took a 6-0 decision at 138, followed by falls from Ryan Schlaak at 145, Reese Routh at 152 and Harbor Cromwell at 160.

The home team answered with pins over Wyatt Larson at 170, Zander Flatness at 182 and Cole Hutchens at 195. Aden Berg dropped a 6-0 decision at 220, giving the Longhorns a 33-32 lead, but the finish was anticlimactic as they forfeited to Makota Misgen at 285.

Larson said the win was a redemption of sorts for the Panthers.

"We have been working hard all season, and we have been going through some tough setbacks," he said. "Tonight was fun to be a part of. We were fighting to earn team points, and protect our team points, and that paid off in the end of a very close match. I just hope our team knows that we as coaches believe in their abilities, and cannot wait to compete this weekend.

Larson said the Panthers had huge falls tonight from Ryan Schlaak, Routh and Cromwell.

"Along with those falls we had two matches where we scored late to earn major decisions," said Larson. "Those winners were Annabelle and Devon. We had a very nice win from Aidan Schlaak, who was in control the entire match, and a very nice



NOT TO BE — A bid for a second straight upset fell short for the NRHEG wrestling team at Lake Crystal Saturday, Feb. 18. Here, the Panthers' Harbor Cromwell battles his opponent.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

overtime win to start the dual from Jacob. Our other points came from Makota, who won by forfeit, but I would want Makota going out with the match on the line if needed. It was a great night and we are happy to be moving on."

The Panthers' hopes of a second straight upset were dashed by LCWM, which went on to give top-seeded Medford a 33-30 battle in the

championship.

"We went into this match Saturday with a bit of hope that we would be competitive," said Larson. "We have been wrestling very well, but today LCWM was still a bit too much for us to handle. They have really come a long way in the last two years. Our athletes have a choice now, work as a group to get better in the offseason, or stay where

we are and hope we can make it back to the semifinals next year."

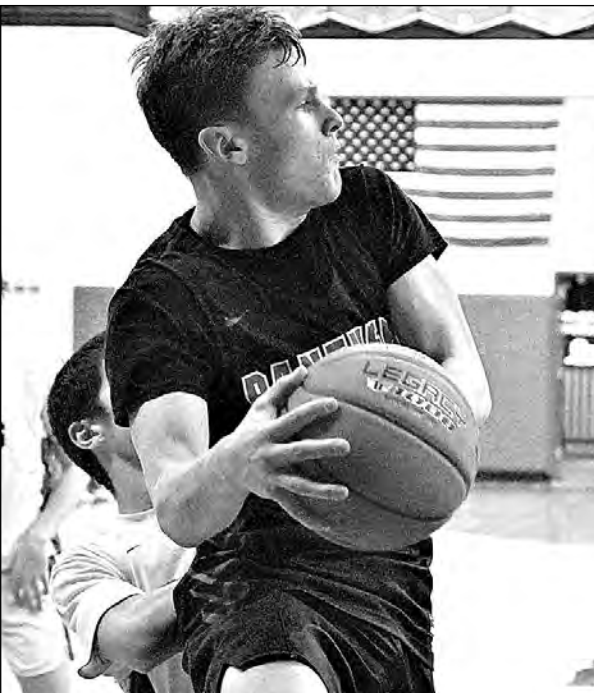
Panther points against LCWM came on pins by Ryan Schlaak, Cromwell and Misgen.

"Ryan has been wrestling really well lately, and he is looking like he can be competitive in the section individual tournament," said Larson. "Harbor is capable of good things, when he decides to be aggressive,

and wrestled well today. Makota is also looking to make a big run individually. Hopefully, our team is ready to compete at the highest level at the individual section tournament."

That's set for Saturday, Feb. 25 in Mapleton. The top two finishers at each weight advance to state.

Buccaneers 54, Panthers 52



SO CLOSE — The NRHEG boys basketball team dropped a 54-52 heartbreaker to WEM Friday, Feb. 17 in New Richland. At left, the Panthers' Daxter Lee looks to pass from under the basket. At right, Jaylin Raab (5) goes up for two.

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

Last-second shot fails to fall for NRHEG basketball boys

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

There was no magic in the air Friday night for the Panthers boys' basketball squad, which dropped a 54-52 heartbreaker to Waterville-Elysian-Morristown.

It appeared both teams were trying to lose late in the second half. A scoring drought of four minutes saw both teams throwing balls at the basket to no avail. WEM found the well with a running jumper which proved to be the gamewinner with just over a minute remaining.

In their last gasp, with 8 seconds remaining, the Panthers struggled to inbound the ball. When they did, a stray Buccaneer hand intercepted Daxter Lee's crossover and sent the ball rolling. William Tuttle scooped up the ball, turned and fired. No good. His 20-foot spinning jumper hit the backboard and bounced off the center of the rim. Just a little more touch, and, maybe another second to shoot, and the Panthers may have been singing a different tune walking off the court on Senior Night.

The game started poorly for the Panthers, who fell behind eight points over the first two minutes of play and trailed 22-8 with 8 minutes remaining in the first half. If not for that bad start, the Panthers would have

likely won. They dominated the rest of the first half, clawing back and taking a 35-28 lead into halftime.

Many turnovers, and, well, a drought, turned the tide for the Panthers in the second half. They led by as many as 10. With the loss they fell to 3-21 and will likely earn the lowest spot in section seeding.

"We came out of the half and built a big lead, but once again failed to run our offense efficiently and allowed WEM to come back," NRHEG head coach Dan Schmidt said. "A couple of missed layups and an offensive foul in the last minute really hurt us. We had a chance at the buzzer, but just couldn't get a clean look."

Individually for the Panthers: Lee 19 points, 6 rebounds; Jace Knudson 8 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists; Sam Olson 6 points; Sawyer Prigge 6 points; Jackson Chrz 5 points; Lukas Loverink 4 points, 11 rebounds; Tuttle 2 points, 9 rebounds; Jaylin Raab 2 points.

The Panthers lost 71-52 at LeSueur-Henderson Tuesday after trailing 31-24 at halftime.

Individually: Lee 11P, 3A; Prigge 9P; Chrz 6P, 7R; Alden Dobberstein 5P, 3A; Olson 4P; Raab 3P, Tuttle 2P, 8R; Brady Schlaak 2P; Levin Kitzer 2P; Loverink 2P; Jordan Brouwers 2P; Greyson Schaefer 2P; Knudson 2P. The Panthers play Friday, Feb. 24 at USC.



CAREERS — 7th and 8th-graders at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Middle School explored the world of careers in 1998. 7th-grader Marissa Brady is using a computer to check out different career opportunities.

Copywriting, career fairs

100 years ago - 1923

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

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

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

75 years ago - 1948

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

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

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

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

50 years ago - 1973

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

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

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

25 years ago, 1998

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

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

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

Prepared for the playoffs

Waseca Herald, 1923

-When you are awakened in the morning by the ice wagon rumbling by, do you ever stop to think how much time and labor was taken up in the work of keeping Waseca supplied with ice? Mr. W. C. Johnston, the local “Ice Man” estimated that it takes over a hundred men and 40 or 50 teams to cut, haul and pack the 12,000 tons of ice that he cuts annually. He supplies the C. & N. W. Railroad with ice and the 9,000 tons of ice he cuts for them combined with the 3,000 tons that are used in Waseca makes his business the next to the largest in Southern Minnesota. The cost of cutting this ice amounts to almost \$300 a day for the three weeks that they are hauling in the winter and there is always expense for delivery in the summer.

-The Waseca high school debate team upholding the affirmative side of the question: “Resolved that the Kansas type of Industrial Court of Adjudications Should Be Established in Minnesota,” won a unanimous decision last night. The locals composed of Morgan Mundt, Alice Sheldon and Hazel Sheldon, debated better than they ever have before and the audience was with them from the start.

-The men who appeared in opposition to the condemnation of land for the sewer outlet have entered in a stipulation with the city and have withdrawn their opposition and agreed to the appointment of commissioners to assess the damages. The court then appointed the commissioners and gave the city the right to go ahead upon payment of the damages later.

-Janesville, Feb. 6 - The serenity of the village was somewhat broken Friday afternoon. When a stranger about the age of twenty-five years made his appearance, and proceeded to conduct himself in a boisterous manner. He entered the poolroom of L. M. Mildexter, where he offered to fight everyone in the building. He finally left there and started south on the state road, stopping at the Alton Township meeting house, four miles from here. He was found there by a searching party organized by Marshall Christ Grams about 9:30 that evening. It is quite evident there is something wrong with the man for no person, it is believed, would remain out in the cold for that length of time, if he were in his right mind.

100 Years Ago – 1923

- In the grade division of the American Legion essay contest Miss Norma Grove of the New Richland school was awarded first honors and Miss Beryl Munsch of District 43 was given second prize. Both winners chose their favorite American Hero, Abraham Lincoln, as did a majority of those entered in the contest. Seven other essays were given a percentage of over 70 and these were given honorable mention in the following order. Grace Hale on Roosevelt; Mark Virnig on Nathan Hale; Paul Romine on Lincoln; Thelma Johnson on Roosevelt; Selmer Langlie of Dist 42 on Lincoln; Laurel Hanson of Dist. 55 on Washington; and Mildred Brandvold of Dist. 23, writing on Lincoln. The two winning essays bore a percentage of 81 1-3 and 79 2-3. The judges were Mrs. H. E. Johnson, Mrs. H. E. sievert and Mrs. A. N. Tyrholm. The papers were graded in the same manner as high school papers.

- H. K. Boyd of Minneapolis is expected to arrive at this place this week to pick the cast and take charge of the directing of the home talent play, “Wanted a Wife,” to be presented by the American Legion and Auxiliary. It was definitely decided to put on the play at a recent meeting of the organizations and the services of Mr. Boyd were secured. The play will be presented at the Faust Theater the latter part of this month.

- At the annual meeting of the members and officers of the New Richland Creamery association held at the State Bank assembly hall last Thursday afternoon it came to light that the creamery had just enjoyed the biggest year in its history. The



READY TO BATTLE — Waseca wrestlers prepared for the South Central Conference Tournament in 1973. Front row: John Sybilrud, Brian Nelson, Ron Kraus, Todd Eustice, Bob Bartelt, Rich Kraus, and Mike Peterson. Back: Tom Rosenthal, Doug Miller, Max Hopkins, Rich Schroeder, Boug Bartelt, and Chris Brown.

Waseca Herald, 1948

-One of America’s brilliant instrumental ensembles, the Blaisdell Trio of New York will appear at Central High School. The concert will be presented under the auspices of Waseca County Library and will be the second of the artist series to be presented this year. The Blaisdell Trio, whose performance has been eagerly awaited by local concert goers, is made up of Frances Blaisdell, flutist, Alexander Kouguell, cellist, and Thomas Richner, pianist. Their program will offer solo and duet numbers, as well as trio selections.

-Plans are now completed for the two-day institutes to be held at New Richland on Thursday, January 29, and at Waldorf on Friday, January 30. The Commercial club, New Richland is cooperating with the University Extension Division and the Waseca County Extension Service, and is putting on the noon lunch. In Waldorf the Waldorf Elevator and the Waldorf State Bank are cooperating in sponsoring the program and are serving lunch.

-Cadet John M. Patton, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Patton, 717 East Elm Ave, Waseca, was designated a member of the General Honor Society at Kemper Military School in Boonville, MO recently. The designation and redesignation of members of four honor societies was held in the Kemper field house before the cadet battalion and visitors.

-The fine residence on the farm of the late Tom Linnihan west of New Richland was burned to the ground on Friday, January 16, between 1 and 2 p.m. the occupants, Mr. and Mrs. William Kent and family were able to save their household good and personal belongings in the lower floor. Losses were partly covered by insurance. The loss was caused by an overheated stove. The New Richland Fire Department was called to the farm which is located in Byron Township.

Waseca Journal, 1973

-New Richland Manor, New Richland’s first trailer court, has been established just off Highway 13 north of the village. The trailer court has been open since July and presently houses four trailers which is just a beginning according to owners Vernon and Harold Thompson. The trailer court is 200 by 550 feet with 16 lots 85 by 45 feet. All lots have room for one parking space and a patio area.

-The Region Nine Development Commission met at the Blue Earth County Courthouse in Mankato recently and elected a new member to the board and appointed an executive director for the region. Waseca County representatives, Mayor Margaret Engesser of New Richland, Roy Lukken of Waseca, township board representative Eugene Power of Waseca County Commissioners caucused and elected Mrs. Engesser to the board of directors of the commission.

-Ground was broken in November for a new \$868,000 Learning Resource Center at the University of Minnesota Technical College - Waseca. The new resource center will be devoted primarily to the needs of the UMW student body, but the entire community may make sure of it as well. Jack Lindner will supervise the center. The center is designed to serve a campus of 400 students when it opens.

Waseca County News, 1998

-The New Richland-Hartland-El-lendale-Geneva (NRHEG) Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter wildlife judging team finished first at a regional contest in Mankato Jan. 17. The event consisted of identifying over 250 fish, mammals and insects, as well as a test on students’ overall knowledge of game laws and wildlife habitat. By placing first in this competition, the students will advance to the state contest in Minneapolis at the state FFA convention. This is the 32nd consecutive year NRHEG has gone to state in this event under the guidance of team advisor Lee Mendenhall.

-It’s not a good idea to fall behind the New Richland-Hartland-El-lendale-Geneva girls’ basketball team. Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton watched NRHEG drill 12 of 18 free throws in the final quarter of a 46-36 Gopher Conference victory at Janesville Jan. 20. It was the 10th consecutive victory for the Panthers, after starting the year with a pair of defeats.

-Step into the Himalayan Mountains and Buddhist culture at the Waseca Art Center. An exhibit that has been displayed at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Indianapolis Institute of Art and the Cornucopia Art Center in Lanesboro has arrived in Waseca. Artist/collector Mhdlon Madcap has been collecting Himalayan art since 1969. Her interest in the Buddhist culture began when she studied with a yoga master. From then she began searching in antique stores for collectibles from the area. Her interest increased to the point where she and her then husband, David Gredzens, went to Tibet and India for three months in 1972.

Schroeder wins “fastest pin” trophy

president, S> O. Shurson, and the Secretary Olaf Liane held over and the election of officers included Geo. Eckart as treasurer for three years, Art Klessig vice president and director for three years, Jake Echternach director for two years and Oscar Rugroden, director for three years. The thirty-five or more who were present were so appreciative of the part the Legion played in serving them with hot coffee and lunch, that a motion was made to thank them for the favor and that the Legion be awarded the privilege of drawing on the creamery for their supply of cream the next time they find use for it.

77 Years Ago – 1946

- A ton of used clothing, shoes, bedding, etc., was collected by members and friends of Trinity and St. Peters Lutheran churches of this community for Lutheran World Relief. Pastors J. C. Walledom and L. C. Leikauf express our sincere thanks to the committees and all who contributed towards this worthwhile cause.

- Mr. and Mrs. Ray Kreuzer are on a long delayed vacation into Southland – through Texas into old Mexico – back through Rio Grande Valley to Mission, Texas, where Ray’s dad once owned a fruit ranch. Then to Brownsville and enjoy warm Gulf Coast resorts. Return around the Gulf through Galveston and Port Arthur to new Orleans for the Mardi Gras production. They have not decided definitively how they shall return but they hope to come through the middle eastern states to contact various textile mills and manufacturers, which Kreuzers Men’s Store has long been customer of.

- Ward G. Stafford, who recently leased and opened the Standard Oil service station, met with a bad misfortune Wednesday evening. While at Wells he slipped on the ice as he was stepping out of his car and fell under the car in such a manner as to break both bones in his left leg. He was brought back to New Richland and a local doctor set the fracture. His brother, Richard is taking care of the station while he is laid up.

50 Years Ago – 1973

- The Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific railroad company has filed a petition asking to abandon the railroad from a point west in Albert Lea to the Y switch in St. Clair. Total trackage is about 41.26 miles consisting of 39.22 miles of main track and 2.04 miles of other trackage. The petition includes stations at Freeborn, Matawan, Waldorf, Pemberton, and St. Clair. Train service ran on the line two days a week, Tuesday and Saturday, until it was decided to run the train on those days when freight business built up to warrant it.

- Appointment of Mrs. John Foster as chairman of the 1973 Cancer Crusade in Waseca County was announced today by Tony Paz-era, unit president. As chairman of the drive, Mrs. Foster will head an organization of volunteers to be recruited to distribute live-saving literature and canvass the residential and business districts for contributions to continue the attack on cancer. The campaign is scheduled for the Cancer Control Month of April, observed locally, statewide, and nationally for many years.

- Diane Veronda of the Mankato State College staff will be the permanent liaison representative from

Mankato State College to Waterville and New Richland. In that capacity she will provide personal service to local residents needing information about the college and its many programs. This includes young persons thinking about going to college, parents, adults interested in continuing their education, businessmen needing college service, school counselors or any others having questions about Mankato State College.

25 Years Ago – 1998

- The New Richland Wrestling Club held its annual All Trophy Wrestling Tournament January 17 at the NRHEG high school gymnasium. 350 young wrestlers from southern Minnesota, north Iowa and north-eastern Wisconsin competed. Assisting at the tournament were varsity and junior high wrestlers, Coach Mike Weber and Panther wrestlers from 1994-97. New Richland Wrestling Club’s Tyler Schroeder won the fastest pin trophy, when he put one of his opponents on his back in :07.

- A graph, prepared by Northern States Power Company, showing electrical savings at the New Richland Care Center was presented to the New Richland City Council, Monday evening. In 1996, Care Center Administrator Lee Edson was given approval by the Council to make changes at the facility to reduce energy costs. The project included replacement of light bulbs with energy efficient bulbs. The cost of the change-over was \$12,000. According to the graph for a five-month span, savings averaged \$341.80 per month.

The Pastor's Column

No matter what this life brings

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

Anticipation can either be good or bad. This week we have been anticipating the weather, how bad will it be? Or that something bad will happen and we won't be prepared. So we prepare for what might happen or what could be the worst-case, but then we forget about the best-case scenario.

What is the best-case scenario for a snowy winter day? Cocoa, Popcorn, Movies, Blanket Forts, Snowball Fights, and Naps. So what are we dwelling upon? How bad the snow will be or how good sitting by the fire cuddled up with the ones you love?

The struggle we have is that yes, things can be bad, but there is also good that can result from it. Our perspective on any situation matters. There are things that are temporary and then there are eternal things.

Temporary things that we know are temporary are like face paint, summer, or our life. Yet at the same time, sometimes, we don't want these things to end, we want them to last longer to enjoy them more. This world and this life we live will come to an end and the eternal things will come, we see them in part now, but it will be revealed to us completely in time.

As followers of Christ we have anticipated what is to come. We are taught in Colossians 3:

I Since, then, you have been

raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

We have the promise of eternal life, and this is our best-case scenario. No matter what life brings we have the promise of eternal life to give us hope. A hope that challenges us to anticipate a life that goes beyond this one. In this life we will have trouble, we will need to work, make hard decisions, and deal with our sin through repentance and forgiveness. We may be citizens of heaven, but the snow won't shovel itself.

Philippians 3

20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

We have the promise of heaven, hope for the struggles of this world, and the opportunity to make the best of hard situations. God is at work; the snow won't last forever, and summer days will come, but even today let's make the best of this life as we anticipate an eternal life with Him.

In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

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I cannot claim that I was never in their shoes

Taking turns. It's the right way to do things. The fair way to do things.

I found myself thinking about this phrase a lot this weekend. In what way does the word "turn" apply? It's not as if we're walking in circles...or are we?

I was in the company of two aunts this weekend, now both in their 80s and needing assistance to get around. As I look at them, I remember them in their 50s or 60s, helping take care of my children, going on trips as part of the family.

Near them sit my son and nephew, now in their 30s.

The younger set remind me where I once was; the other where I am heading.

And I consider my students, ages 14 to 18, and I think how very long ago that was, and how very different my view of the world is from theirs. But I cannot claim I was never there.

Taking turns.

Youth believes itself to be new and unique, the first of its kind.

It's only when youth becomes young adulthood that it's willing to concede a pattern exists.

In our prime, we have no need to consider the pattern. Our parents are healthy and vibrant; constant sources of support. Our children are young and growing, unending supplies of distraction, frustration and fulfillment. But also signals that there is a pattern, and we are part of it.

By middle age, a picture is emerging, like a jigsaw puzzle which has lost its box. By middle age, some of those ahead of us in line have taken the final turn. However saddened we may be by their disappearance, though, we have no choice but to continue forward, navigating a path which has developed some cracks, but remains a pathway nonetheless.

And here we are, all of us, taking turns. Moving through the pat-

tern, down the walkway, at the same time, together. Looking at the same scenery, warmed by the same sun, but miles and miles apart in terms of what we see and feel.

This isn't sadness that you're reading. It's not pessimism. Not anger. Not fear. Not jealousy. Certainly not egoism.

These are the reflections of someone who sat at lunch between the generation ahead of her and the two generations behind her, and so could not miss the message that she is in a queue, taking her turn. Part of a pattern that preceded her and that will go on long after she is gone.

These are the reflections of someone who, craning her neck and peering around the shoulders of those in front of her, can catch a glimpse of that final turn.

Having seen it changes nothing. It's not as if I can step aside and let everyone else go in front of me—even if I could, I wouldn't want to. I'm perfectly satisfied to take my turn when my turn comes. Until then, my glimpse forward reminds me I am still on the pathway, still walking beside all these others also finding their way. If it's my turn to be "experienced," to be "knowledgeable," to be "wise," then I guess that's what I'd better do. Thank goodness the pathway has provided so many who went ahead of me and provided such excellent examples.

Benson Family Singers

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

The Waseca Art Center hosted the Benson Family Singers on Saturday, Feb. 18. The Bensons are a family music group from Faribault who describe their set as "a unique ministry consisting of barbershop, bluegrass, and gospel music." The Bensons sing a capella, and also play a variety of instruments. The performance space upstairs in the Art Center was filled to capacity, with about 70 listeners present.

The Benson Family Singers consist of seven members. Parents, Peter and Rachelle; their four sons David, 22, Aaron, 20, Luke, 18, and Paul, 11, as well as their daughter Keziah, 8. Onstage Saturday night audience members were treated to the upright bass, played by Peter; fiddle, played by Rachelle; mandolin, played by Luke; banjo, played by David; and guitar, played by Aaron and also briefly by David. The group per-



All seven members of the Benson Family Singers perform together in their bluegrass-style gospel performance: Keziah, Paul, Luke, Rachelle, Aaron, Peter, and David Benson.

Pioneer photo by Tristan Jensen

forms nationwide – they began a national tour in 2020, and reached four southern states before having to return home in March. Many of their performances are in churches, but they also play music festivals, theaters, and other venues. Peter, who comes from Hartland, said the space in the Waseca Art Center was unique to him, and that he enjoyed having the audience in closer quarters where everyone could hear each other.

Asked how the family got started as a family band, Peter said, "Well we live together, so that helps." He went on to explain that he had a background in music – both participating in barbershop quartets, and

through choral direction – and he'd always dreamed of having a quartet with his sons. From there, the family grew and picked up other music styles. They started bluegrass after attending a family bluegrass festival, which they now return to regularly as performers.

Members of the Benson Family Singers don't limit themselves to music. Aaron enjoys magic, and demonstrated the skill onstage Saturday night. The show also had its comedy aspects. Keziah's first appearance onstage was for a round of "Pickin' and Grinnin'," as seen on the TV show "Hee Haw." When David, Aaron, Luke and Paul took center

stage for the first barbershop quartet number of the evening, Peter warned the audience they'd be singing a "hot, steamy love song," garnering laughter all around when the boys broke out into "I love coffee; I love tea." Following intermission, the family performed "Icy Roads," a "Johnny Mankato" version of the well-known song "Country Roads"; before closing the night, Aaron, Luke and Paul sang "Things You Don't Say to your Wife," to the tune of Green Day's "Good Riddance," another gutbuster for the crowd. These comedic moments came interspersed between both slow and upbeat gospel, bluegrass and barbershop music.

Milestone

from Page 1

years and I've just made so many memories."

Wadd said she credits her parents and Coach Conway for having a special impact on her career.

"My parents have given up a lot to be there for me and take me everywhere," Wadd said. "I want to thank my coaches, too. Conway's been there since I was little. And then my AAU family, MN Nice, they helped me get to the point I am. They all did."

Wadd is the daughter of Trent and Kari Wadd. Besides basketball, she played volleyball, will run in track,

"My parents have given up a lot to be there for me and take me everywhere. I want to thank my coaches too. Conway's been there since I was little... They helped me get to the point I am. They all did."

— Waseca senior Kloe Wadd



MILESTONE - Waseca girls' basketball coach Joan Conway embraces senior Kloe Wadd.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

sports, plans to continue coaching youth in her future, but remains unsure whether she will play any sports at the college level.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * *	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * *	NEW RICHLAND, MINNESOTA Father Brian Mulligan Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass * * *	CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor Sundays: Sunday School 9 a.m., Bible Study 9:20 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morrisstown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * *	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 * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * *	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. * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * *	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18 * * *	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. * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Interim Pastor Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:00 a.m. Worship * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Vacancy Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1ewaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * *	GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST	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 * * *
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca	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. * * *		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. * * *	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * *		

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Medford man leads deputy on 15-mile chase

Justin Lee Johnson, a 33-year old Medford man, is being charged with fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle after leading a 15-mile police chase throughout Waseca County. The fleeing charge is considered a felony.

Johnson will also be charged with felony drug possession, a gross misdemeanor for driving after cancellation, and a petty misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia.

The charges stem from an incident that took place before 1 a.m. Jan. 15.

According to the criminal complaint, a Waseca County Sheriff deputy was patrolling University Avenue and Fourth Street when he observed a vehicle heading south on Fourth without its headlights on. The deputy turned on his emergency lights, but the vehicle allegedly did not stop. It was reported the vehicle crossed the center line and drove 95 mph. The driver was then later identified as Johnson.

The criminal complaint further stated that the driver was “using

the entire roadway,” eventually coming to a stop in the middle of the road after driving over stop sticks at County Road 4 and 70th Street. The pursuit took about 12 minutes with the chase spanning 15 miles.

Johnson reportedly came out of the vehicle as requested, put his hands up, was searched and then taken into custody. Court records state Johnson claimed to have fled because he had warrants and “did not want to go into jail.” He informed law enforcement of a syringe near the driver door with methamphetamine in the center console.

Law enforcement found 0.5 grams of meth and various drug paraphernalia. Court records also showed that Johnson’s driver’s license was canceled.

Johnson’s lengthy criminal history includes felony mail theft, theft of a motor vehicle, drug possession and drug manufacturing in various counties throughout the area from back in 2012. He appeared in court this past Tuesday.

Faribault man to face felony charges over check forgery

Anthony Lee Strong, 52, is facing two counts of check forgery, a felony in the state of Minnesota. The charges stem from an incident where he cashed a forged check in early December.

The criminal complaint states that a male reported on Dec. 9 that Strong looked to purchase cleaning supplies from him back in September. In November, the male alleged that a check belonging to him was forged and cashed at Minnwest Bank in Waseca to

Strong for the amount of \$4,526.

The check reportedly showed a Wisconsin driver’s license number and date of birth on the back, which came back belonging to Strong. He was also on the bank’s security camera pulling into the drive-thru window and offering the forged check on Nov. 25.

Strong did not show up for his original court appearance on Jan. 30 and currently has a warrant out for his arrest.

Owatonna woman to be charged with credit card fraud

Rosalinda Elizabeth Martinez, a 41-year-old Owatonna woman, is facing potential felony charges after allegedly using a Waseca woman’s credit card without permission to purchase a storage unit in Rochester.

The charges brought against Martinez by the Waseca County District Court are for credit card fraud, a felony in the state of Minnesota.

The incident took place Nov. 15. A criminal complaint showed a report of credit card fraud. A woman claimed there were numerous charges for a storage unit in Rochester that she believed Martinez made without her permission. The woman believed Martinez wrote down her credit card information when they had seen each other last, adding that the storage unit is the same place where Martinez’s boyfriend rents a unit.

Court records state the fraudulent charges started in July. There were monthly payments made that

added up to \$530.

The staff of the storage unit shared the email address payment notifications were being sent to. Upon submitting a subpoena to Google, it was revealed the subscriber for the email was Martinez.

When the police contacted Martinez to question her about the charges, she claimed she did not set up any of the payments for the unit and had no idea what account was being used, according to the report. Allegedly, the storage unit staff contacted her over the phone to change the account information to the numbers matching the victim’s card.

Martinez was previously convicted of a misdemeanor for theft in Hennepin County in 2011, in Steele County in 2003, was convicted of a petty misdemeanor theft in 2002 in Steele County, and was also fined \$200 for careless driving in 2021.

She appeared in court Feb. 14.



Cub Scout Pack 86 celebrates the completion of their 2023 Pinewood Derby.

Pioneer photos by Tristan Jensen

Derby classic

Cub Scout Pack 86 holds races

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

Cub Scout Pack 86 held their 2023 Pinewood Derby races Saturday, Feb. 11 at the scouts’ building on the county fairgrounds. Eighteen cars raced in the scout category, and eight in the open category, which is a “just for fun” competition for adults who want to participate with their scouts.

In the scout category, awards were given for first, second, and third place as well as “Crowd Favorite,” a title selected by spectator vote. “Best in Show” and “Best Design” were selected by guest judges Julie Anderson, committee chair for the local BSA Scouts at the troop level, and Tristan Jensen from the Waseca County Pioneer. Liam Cory placed first in the races, Jacob Erickson placed second, and Mitchell Petsinger placed third. Crowd Favorite was awarded to Charlotte Griffith. Best in Show, which is awarded for craftsmanship and technique in constructing the car, went to Jacob Erickson. Best Design, awarded for a well-thought-out and -executed original design, went to Noah Love, whose car was a skateboard. Winners received certificates and trophies.



Crowd favorite, Charlotte Griffith



Best in design, Noah Love



First place, Liam Cory



Second place, Jacob Erickson



Third place, Mitchell Petsinger

Following the races, the top two scout class and open class cars raced against each other, with Cory and Erickson maintaining their first- and second-place positions against the adults. Cory’s car traveled an average of 195.48 miles per hour, and Erickson’s was just behind, traveling at an average of 194.5 miles per hour.

The afternoon’s opening ceremony was led by Wyatt Partain, who serves as Den Chief – a leadership role filled by a troop-level scout, Griffith, Love, and Daniel Switzer. Griffith, Love, and Switzer are currently in their last

step before “crossing over” and becoming troop-level scouts. These four led the scouts and spectators in the pledge of allegiance and BSA Scout oaths. Once the racing began, they also helped adult coordinators by getting the cars ready so the races could run smoothly. Larry Sipe, former cubmaster who will officially retire from the role at the end of March when his den crosses over to the troop level, addressed the crowd to thank them all for coming to support the scouts and enjoy the races. According to Sipe, the event has seen 400% growth in the past three years. Becky

Sandquist, the district executive who coordinates between council and local events for Waseca’s BSA Scouts, was also in attendance. Sandquist spoke at intermission to scouts and parents about upcoming events, including the spring recruitment party to be held February 19.

The races lasted about two hours with intermission, and were widely enjoyed by spectators. This was proven when racing resumed at the end of intermission, and Sipe asked the crowd “Who’s having fun?” answered by raucous cheers all around.

Beware of runaway shopping carts

TP’ing with toilet paper is a tradition that’s been around for generations. High school students celebrate special school events by TP’ing the homes of royalty contestants, team players, or even coaches. I know our house has been papered on several occasions. The student living in the house can feel wonderful: they’ve been recognized and decorated. Mom and Dad may have a different feeling. They have to clean up the mess. Hopefully, there are some rolls left over and, hopefully, it’s two-ply paper. A quick tip: clean it up from the trees and your roof before it rains. I was driving down 4th St. NE and I thought this was only a homecoming tradition. Toilet paper in February? Then it came to me. The high school had just celebrated Snow Week.

Lisa says I’m anal when it comes to parking our car in a busy parking lot. I look for spots away from others and my handicap sticker really comes in handy. On the other hand, Lisa will pull in the tightest of spaces to get as close to an entrance as possible. We do have our moments. My rationale is to be as careful as possible and not get doored by the car next to me.

Wal-Mart is the place I do most of my grocery shopping. Doesn’t



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika

copyright © 2022 by Dave Zika

everybody? I had my list: a box of Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Snyder’s Honey Mustard Pretzel Pieces, and a family-size package of Cheetos for Dave. Lisa’s list consisted of asparagus, broccoli and some fresh fruit. I pulled into my handicap parking space, opened the door, and my hat blew off. It was really windy. I completed my shopping, hadn’t forgot anything on the list, and carried my bags out the door into the howling wind. There it was. A shopping cart had blown into the front door of my car. I rushed over and inspected and there it was, a small ding in the paint on the car door. When you are shopping and the wind is blowing, beware of moving shopping carts. I’ve also had people tell me they’ve run into the cement poles in the parking lot, denting their fenders.

Most people will tell you that I’m a good driver. I can drive long distances without rest, am reliable driving on icy roads, and have only

one speeding ticket on my record. My wife, a former driver’s education instructor, thinks I have two glaring weaknesses, driving a bit too fast and rolling through stop signs. A stop sign means one and only one thing, STOP! I have a favorite stop sign. It’s one-of-a-kind. When you read this sign, you don’t have to stop. As you are traveling into Waseca on old Hwy. 13, you take a left and travel around Loon Lake. Located in the bend is a stop sign which reads in fine print on the bottom of the sign, “Except on a right turn.” No one ever stops at this stop sign. I absolutely love driving 30 mph right through that stop sign.

Took a drive on Sunday with Sammy, our wonder dog, and Lisa to see the kites flying on Clear Lake, a Sleigh and Cutter festivity I missed last year that friends said you just have to see. They were right on. It was spectacular. The people turning out to watch the

kites flying on the lake out from the boat house was incredible. Many parents and families with young children were walking to the ice to share the fun, many seniors as well. Several of the kites were huge and our favorites were a dragon, Clifford the dog, a Toy Story guy, a flying pig, and a giant orange tiger.

Dennis the Menace is a character that every Baby Boomer knows well. Henry Ketcham was an American cartoonist who created Dennis the Menace comic strip, writing and drawing it from 1951 to 1994. In 1959, a sitcom ran for four seasons featuring the rascal Dennis. He was also featured in four movies. I saw a nice TV news story that featured a statue of Dennis residing in Monterey, Calif. The statue was stolen by vandals in 2005. It was recently recovered by divers in a lake, restored and put back in place, and is again standing tall in Monterey.

Lisa read my work and asked, “What’s your topic? You are all over the place.”

Thanks to Eli Lutgens and his wonderful editing staff, I think I’ll be OK. They are encouraging the positive in their quest to make me a newspaper column writer.

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Waseca Sleigh and Cutter



Grandparents Mary and Sean Canney of Fari-bault with granddaughter Evie Mjellelli, 3, already attending her second Sleigh & Cutter parade.



Amanda and Marcus Conway with Becca, 3, and Fritz, 1.



The staff of Pittman's Percherons, Bixby, worked to hitch up their team. Kneeling at right is Marc Pittman.



Susan Locke and Kerry Kindt enjoy a warm dinner after a chilly ride.



Riverside Ramblers 4-H members Quentin M., Hunter M., and Isiah A. were part of the "Road Apple Cleanup Crew" which walked as the last unit of the parade.



Doug Grunzke of Grunzke Percherons near Wells, brushes down some broad backs (and necks, and legs) before the parade.



Kaylin Ecker, 15, with Alex Maal, 5, on her lap.



Blair Nelson alongside one of his granddaughters Harper Ziemke



Robin Dulas



Dave Lienke of Waldorf with Scotty. 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. Despite the scare, and missing the parade, Scotty went home apparently unharmed by the experience.



Waseca Sleigh and Cutter royalty



Three members of the Beaver family, Stephany above, husband Sean, and adult son Joe, of Great American Kites managed Sunday's show.



Abe & Yamilet, Marlet, 9, Ethan, 6, Genevieve, 2, of Waseca
Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

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Company sponsors food drive

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

Express Employment Professionals, a staffing company serving the Waseca area with offices in Owatonna, is operating a food drive through March 6 to benefit the Waseca County food shelf. Curt Wigham, owner, explained that Express is sponsoring these food drives in every community the business serves, but that all food will be donated to food shelves in the local community where it was contributed. Ryan Miller, business development manager for Express Employment Professionals and New Richland resident, co-organized the food drive alongside Abby Wigham, operations

manager. Miller is also serving as the “boots on the ground” for the drive, delivering flyers to participating businesses and retrieving donations. “We were inspired by other Express offices doing great things in their communities, so we wanted to emulate that,” Miller explained. “As the Business Development Manager, I am in 100+ local businesses on a weekly basis. With that kind of reach, organizing donation drives was where we could have the most impact. We started with a winter gear drive in December and had some good success. Following that campaign, I realized I want to root our business in community service and giving back. The food drive specifically spawned out of the thought that

while the holidays are a big time of year for food donations, maybe by February it slips people’s mind and donations would be down.” As Miller began his work with the food drive, he started at the food shelf to find out what non-perishable items were most useful. Employees there identified peanut butter, canned meats, and soups as some of the best food items to donate. He then connected with Ann Fitch, executive director at the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce, to promote the drive before going door-to-door at local businesses to find partners. Since beginning in early February, the food drive has already seen some success. However, there is still time to make a bigger impact. Anyone

who wishes to support the ongoing drive can donate non-perishable, non-expired goods at the Waseca Chamber of Commerce, Waseca County Food Shelf, or participating businesses. Those nineteen local businesses are listed on the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce website. “Going forward we will be doing a quarterly “Express Gives Back” campaign, so keep an eye out for what we do next,” Miller added. Any businesses that wish to partner with future Express Gives Back donation drives can contact Miller at Ryan.Miller@ExpressPros.com to get involved.

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Dress up day



Waseca High School students dressed up for “Zoom Day”: from left, Tegan Flatau, Ms. Nancy Kaplan, Grace Below.

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

Upcoming event

Waseca County “Skywarn” classes will be held in the county annex building on North State Street from 1-3:30 p.m. and again from 6-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21. All interested individuals are welcome. Skywarn classes train amateurs to

become more knowledgeable about weather systems and severe weather, qualifying them to become more valuable as “spotters,” the individuals who are mobilized when there is a severe weather watch or warning. Those in attendance will learn how

severe thunderstorms form and will be able to identify the various stages of a developing storm. For additional information, contact Denise Wright at Denise.Wright@co.waseca.mn.us or 507-835-0694.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No. 81-PR-23-4

Estate of
Uriel Morales,
Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING
ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on March 15, 2023, at 9:15AM, a hearing will be held via zoom in this Court at 307 North State Street, Waseca, Minnesota,

for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Marco Morales, whose address is 1129 Fifield Street, St. Paul, MN, 55108 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are heard or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate. See notice of remote hearing.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the

date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: 01/25/2023 08:40:27 AM

BY THE COURT
/s/Carol M. Hanks
Judge of District Court

/s/Shannon M. Asselin
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Christine B. Courtney
COURTNEY LAW OFFICE, PLLC
2239 Carter Avenue
St. Paul, MN, 55108
Attorney License No: 393596 Telephone: (612) 356-2635
Email: chris@courtneylawoffice.com

(Published in the Waseca County Pioneer February 17 and 24, 2023.)

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6pm BAR Bingo	2 7pm BINGO	3 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm Navy Reserve Birthday	4 HUG A GI DAY
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 Neighbor- hood Service Center	27	28 Burger nite 5- 7pm	29 6pm BAR Bingo National Vietnam War Veterans Day	30 7pm BINGO	31 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	

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The 22nd Annual Toners Lake Vintage Ride had about 30 snowmobilers in attendance riding trails around Toners Lake all day Saturday, Feb. 18. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

Vintage ride caps off Sleigh and Cutter snowmobile events

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

It was a fantastic day for the Toners Lake Vintage Ride Saturday, Feb. 18. The event, which took place at Toners Lake Karting, kicked off a busy weekend for the Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Festival.

This ride marked 22 years for the snowmobile event, which started in 2001. Sponsored by the Waseca County Sno Secas, about 30 participants registered from 9 to 11 a.m. The event provides a sort of playground for the riders, who operated Yamaha, Arctic Cat, and other snow machine brands from all the way back in the 1980s.

The trails around Toners Lake — some paths created by the snowmobilers themselves — were traveled all day. Some of the more daring riders jumped over hills.

It was a beautiful day for the event. Temperatures were in the mid- to upper 20s. It followed a trend of warm weather that's been happening throughout February, which is why it ended up [tentatively] being the last snowmobile-related event of the Sleigh and Cutter Festival.

Due to concerns of melting snow and water currents around Clear Lake eroding the ice near the Boat House, at one point the Waseca Snowmobile Show and Ice Drags for Saturday, Feb. 25 were canceled.

The event brings people from all over the United States with a few Canadians occasionally competing in the drags.

However, Point and Shoot Drag Racing, the host of the Waseca Vintage Ice Drags, made a Facebook post stating it would try to move the event to Lake Titlow in Gaylord. The Sibley County Sheriff has approved the race; planners are currently waiting for approval from the Department of Natural Resources to process the permit. Although the DNR was closed for President's Day this past Monday, they "don't see any issues" with moving the race to Gaylord.

So, while the event may not technically be part of the Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Festival, avid snowmobilers may still be able to catch the event within an hour's drive northwest of town.



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Snow Week Royalty



Ethan Davis, Chloe Schumacher



Photos from Waseca's Snow Week coronation held on Feb. 16. Thyme Lang, Sarah Robbins, Chloe Schumacher, Lindsey Kopetzki, and queen Ella Dufault.



Griffin Krautkramer, Ethan Davis, Alexander Honstad, Leo Harguth, Korbin Schumacher



Leo Harguth congratulates King Korbin Schumacher. Submitted photos

Royalty from Page 1

Mill event center and is a member of Sacred Heart Church. Zander is involved in basketball, golf, BPA and is a member of the Minnesota Honor Society. He works at Yellow Mushroom and is a member of Christ the King Lutheran Church.

Thyme Lang, daughter of Scott and Kipling Lang, escorted by Ethan Davis, son of Maria Cole and Marshal Davis. Thyme is a member of the Minnesota Honor Society, involved in soccer, track, colorguard, theater/drama club and cheerleading. She is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville. Ethan is a member of the marching band and jazz band. He works at Climate by Design International in Owatonna. Ethan plans to attend the U of M Twin Cities.

Sarah Robbins, daughter of Kent and Wendi Robbins, escorted by Griffin Krautkremer, son of Jayme and Amy Krautkremer. Sarah is in BPA, a tennis captain and a girls' basketball manager. Griffin is a member of Grace Lutheran Church, one of the captains of the boys' hockey team, on the baseball team, a

member of the Minnesota Honor Society, and involved in 4-H and FCA. He is employed with Gutter Pros.

Chloe Schumacher, daughter of Joe and Andrea Schumacher, escorted by Leo Harguth, son of Dan and Tara Harguth. Chloe is a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church and of the Minnesota Honor Society. She works at Alee Services and the golf course in the summer. Leo is involved in football, NRHEG trap team, hockey, Owatonna Fishing League, and is a member of Sacred Heart Church. He works at Woodridge Interiors, Southford Seed, Southfork Acres and TDL Farms.

Kloe Wadd, daughter of Trent and

Kari Wadd, escorted by Korbin Schumacher, son of Craig and Kari Jo Schumacher. Kloe is involved in volleyball, basketball, track, and FFA. She is a 4-H County Ambassador, a member of the Minnesota Honor Society, Exchange Club, Minnwest Junior Board, select choir, State Street. She is a member of North Waseca Lutheran Church, is on the CTE Advisory committee and a WBA youth coach. Kloe is co-owner of Mason's Sweet Corn. Korbin is involved in football, wrestling, baseball, choir, State Street, yearbook, DECA, BPA and career and technical education. He is a member of Sacred Heart Church.

Waseca's ExCEL and Triple 'A' winners

The following introductions were read allowed by Activities Director Joe Hedervare and Principal Millerby during Snow Week Coronation Feb. 16 honoring Waseca's ExCEL Award winners and Triple 'A' Winners.

Lucas Vasquez-Neigebauer. Lucas is the son of David and Kathryn Vasquez. In her letter of recommendation, Mrs. Nelson said this about Lucas: "Lucas' peers have learned that they can expect consistency from him. He is always willing to help others, even when this infringes on his time. Lucas is highly organized and knows how to prioritize his responsibilities. He is a young man seeking leadership opportunities with the confidence and ability to achieve

his goals."

Additional information has come out recently that Lucas was named a statewide winner of the 2023 Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership (ExCEL) Award; he will be featured on MSHSL State Tournament broadcasts, social media, and during an on-court ceremony at the 2023 state girls' basketball tournament.

The other ExCEL winner announced was Addison Wiesler, daughter of Patrick and Tania Wiesler.

Dr. Miller introduced Wiesler. In her recommendation letter, Mrs. Nelson said, "[Addy] is very respected by her peers and easily approachable. She does not seek attention or accolades, she simply does the job while encouraging and recruiting others to follow. Rarely have I met a more goal-oriented young person."

Triple 'A' Award Winners Christian Rodriguez and Cece Huttemier were also recognized.

Hedervare introduced Rodriguez: Christian is the son of Nathan and Debra Rodriguez. Coach Wendland in his recommendation letter stated, "As a coach, when I think of Christian a couple traits really stand out. First of all, his mental and physical toughness is exceptional. Certainly among the best I have been around. Second of all, I think about how clearly unselfish he is. The team is always his priority. Finally, it needs to be mentioned that his level of

commitment is nothing short of tremendous."

Dr. Miller introduced Huttemier: Cece is the daughter of Kristi and John Huttemier. Mrs. Nelson described Cece by stating, "I can assure you, without reservation, that Cece has gone above and beyond in every aspect of leadership and achievement. She consistently does the right thing even when no one is watching. As an educator for 30 years, I can attest to the fact that Cece's commitment to academics, arts, and activities is second to none. She pursues everything she does with maximum effort and optimism. Her winning attitude and ability to adapt and adjust are impressive."

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