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LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
No. 16 Vol. V \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, April 16, 2026



NRHEG Athletes

**Cook the Book at
Janesville Public
Library April 16**

Visit the library to choose a recipe from the selected cook-book. Then bring the finished dish to the event at the Janesville Library at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 16. It's a great way to share cooking tips and try out delicious food. "Sweet Farm!" by Molly Yeh.

**Name Pennants at
New Richland Public
Library April 16**

Learn simple crafting techniques for creating custom-made name pennants, perfect for decorating your room or locker the New Richland Library at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 16. For ages 13-18.

**Mother-Daughter
Book Club at Waseca
Publice Library
Thursday, April 16**

Geared for girls in grades 3-6 and a significant adult female to be discussed at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 16.

**Free CERT class April
17-19**

Waseca County Emergency Management will be hosting Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes April 17-19 for any Waseca County resident who is interested in becoming a member of the CERT team. CERT volunteer members must attend all three days, and will receive free basic safety equipment. If you are interested, contact Denise Wright at 507-835-0694.

**Grace Lutheran
Church Salad
Luncheon April 17**

The Grace Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA will be serving a salad luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, April 17. Cost is \$9. Menu includes salads, rolls, bars and coffee, with take-out meals available. Grace Lutheran is at 300 Elm Avenue East in Waseca.

**Pillow Cleaning at
Sacred Heart Parish,
April 18**

A professional pillow cleaning service will be available from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 18 at the Sacred Heart Church Parish Center in Waseca. Enter through the East door. Prices based on size of pillow: \$14.95 to \$17.95. Additional feathers or down available; new pillows available to buy.

**How-To Festival at
Waseca Public Library
Saturday, April 18**

Learn a wide variety of skills at this community-based all-ages interactive learning. Event at the Waseca Library from 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 18. Choose from 16 skills to learn.

*A word from
The Word*

But now, for a brief moment, the Lord our God has been gracious in leaving us a remnant and giving us a firm place in his sanctuary, and so our God gives light to our eyes and a little relief in our bondage.

Ezra 9:8



THRIVING - The family of Kayla and Josh Bauer has been profoundly impacted by organ donation. Coyle, 7, (at front) received a kidney transplant before he was 2 years old. With him are his younger sister Paisley and his brother Barrett. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Donate life month

Local family has deep connection with organ transplants

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Josh and Kayla Bauer want the world to know their 7-year-old son Coyle is thriving because he received a kidney through the organ donation program.

Coyle is a member of the Waseca Cub Scouts, a first-grader in the Waterville school district, and older brother to his siblings Paisley and Barrett. He enjoys spending time outdoors, including riding 4-wheeler. A baseball fan, he tossed out the first ball at a "Donate Life" Twins' game last summer, and has seen his own image on billboards and the sides of Twin Cities buses, where it was displayed to publicize the "check the box" campaign encouraging people to indicate on their drivers' licenses that they are willing to be donors.

Prior to his eighth birthday in October, Coyle will be celebrating his sixth "kidneyversary" in June.

Josh and Kayla now serve as ambassadors for LifeSource, the Minnesota-based agency which

Donate continued on 12

Teenager raises \$6,000 for charity

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

On the day after Easter, Gabi Cousins, 14, delivered more than \$6,000 worth of products to Bethlehem Inn of Waseca and Fresh Start of Mankato. Bethlehem Inn is a homeless shelter which takes in women and children. Fresh Start is an organization which helps people as they transition out of homelessness and take up residence in a new setting; it serves a wide area including all of Waseca County.

For five years now, Gabi, daughter of Jen and Matt Cousins of Janesville, has made it her Lenten season faith in action project to share information about a charity and encourage the members of her home church, St. Ann's Parish in Janesville, to donate. This year, she expanded her efforts, also encouraging the members of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in St. Clair, and All Saints in Madison Lake. This year and last, the selected charities have been Bethlehem Inn and Fresh Start.

She says encouraging and collecting the donations took only a few hours of effort each week, and her dedication to



GIVING GOOD - Gabi Cousins, 14, daughter of Jen and Matt Cousins of Janesville, carried out a campaign over the season of Lent asking members of St. Ann's Parish in Janesville, Immaculate Conception in St. Clair, and All Saints in Madison Lake to contribute to two area nonprofit organizations, Bethlehem Inn of Waseca and Fresh Start, based in Mankato. She is pictured here with some of the supplies collected through her efforts and delivered to Bethlehem Inn on April 6.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

the project was strengthened by the generous response she saw from church members.

She mentions her biggest challenge was preparing and then giving her speech—three times—in front of the congregations. "Most-needed" lists for both organizations were made available. After that, she says, it took only a few on-going steps each week to keep the momentum going.

Her project was mentioned in each week's church bulletin, and a "thermometer" display at the back of each church indicated the general value of gifts given. She and her family members would collect donations—which included bulky items like large containers of toilet paper, paper towels, and disposable diapers—and warehouse them in an available space at St. Ann's.

Gabi had also offered that, for people

who wished to donate money, she would "do the shopping for them." This meant now and then she and family members would visit stores, purchase items and cart carloads of them back to the storage area.

After the six weeks of Lent had ended, the generosity of church members had been so extensive that

Charity continued on 12

County buys squad cars, prepares for construction

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

During their April 7 meeting, commissioners approved the purchase of two new squad cars for the Waseca County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Jay Dulas informed commissioners the needed \$90,000 is in his budget for this year. The new vehicles will be Ford Explorers, the same model as those being retired; the rationale is that having similar vehicles will facilitate transferring equipment, including radios and specialized tools.

Commissioners also acknowledged the receipt of about \$735,000 from the Minnesota Department of Transportation toward the county's "local road improvement program." County engineer Jim Kollar mentioned that the safety improvement work of paving the shoulders along

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

County Road 14 will begin April 20.

Board members heard from administrators of the South Country Health Alliance (SCHA) that the organization is in sound financial condition and is closely monitoring decisions being made on the legislative level which may affect the agency's practices. SCHA is a county-based non-profit health plan that provides healthcare coverage for residents enrolled in state health programs, including medical assistance, MinnesotaCare and Medicare Advantage plans. The agency operates in Waseca, Brown, Dodge, Goodhue, Kanabec, Sibley, Steele and Wabasha counties.

During the April 7 meeting, board

members also approved two proclamations.

One named April as "County Government Month." Mentioning that there are more than 3,000 counties across the United States, board chair De Malterer stated that county governments are frequently referred to as an "invisible" layer of public leadership which makes decisions about the welfare of its own citizens while also being asked to carry out initiatives imposed on it by state or federal leaders.

Referring to county employees, Malterer continued, "We greatly appreciate everyone who contributes to the work we accomplish, from day-to-day tasks to coping with emergencies."

County leaders also supported proclaiming April as "Child Abuse Prevention Month," following an

initiative of the National Exchange Club. Board members were wearing blue ribbons, and made it part of the county's proclamation to illuminate the county courthouse in blue throughout the month.

Local Exchange Club president Mikhail Rostislavovich was joined by Timeout Teddy, a mascot of the Exchange Club's prevention program. Rostislavovich stated the lighting and ribbons "publicly affirm the beliefs we hold as a county that we should give a voice to those who may not have the words, yet, to ask for help." He shared a number of unsettling statistics, including that 80% of children who enter the foster care system with a history of abuse will attempt suicide. Fewer than 1.5 percent of children remanded to foster care go on to build thriving lifestyles.

Donate life

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

According to the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (organ-donor.gov), one donor whose driver's license has "checked the box" can save 8 lives and enhance the lives of 75 more. Commonly donated organs include the heart, kidneys and lungs.

Corneas can help restore people's eyesight.

Various types of tissue can be used to help cover burns, repair hearts, replace veins and mend damaged connective tissue and cartilage. These tissues include the middle ear, skin, heart valves, bone, veins, cartilage, tendons and ligaments.

Families of donors receive support and guidance from organizations like LifeSource. LifeSource names this goal: "Each day, 13 people die waiting for a life-saving organ transplant. A new name is added to the transplant waiting list every 8 minutes.

"Together with our partners, donor families, and community, we work toward one goal—that no one dies waiting."

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Council approves land annexation

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

During their meeting on Tuesday, April 7, members of the Waseca city council voted to annex about 335 acres of land which include the city wastewater treatment plant and the Waseca Airport. City planner Jon Froke provided information about the annexation which included that the city planning commission voted in favor of it, and that area property owners are receptive. No community members spoke during the hearing.

Council members received an online update from Stantec engineer Peter Daniels regarding the proposed \$2.7 million water system updates which would include replacing the aeration blowers in the wastewater treatment plant and replacing the Nelson lift station located in the southeast section of Waseca. Daniels estimated that, under the proposal, city water users would pay an additional \$3.58 a month to cover the costs.

Mayor Randy Zimmerman read a proclamation commending Waseca Junior Senior High School students Matthew Veroeven and Slade Barnett for their remarkable 2026 season and for advancing to the Minnesota State Wrestling Tournament. The athletes were accompanied by Waseca coach Jake Janike. Barnett said, "I'm really proud of the team this year, a lot of the younger guys I'm really looking forward to what they will do next year. It's great to see the team grow and see the development the other wrestlers go through. Our team will be really special in the years to come." Veroeven said, "I had a lot of fun with the team this year, sad it's my last year but I know they will do me proud." When Zimmerman asked about his future plans, he replied, "I've visited a couple of colleges already this year, but we'll see how that pans out." Coach Janike commented about state champions, "Waseca had a state champion in

Council continued on 3



Compostings

by Al Batt

A nice meal for two

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I'm looking for a nice meal for two.

Taking the wife out for a romantic dinner, huh?

No, I'm looking for a nice meal for two dollars.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. April 9 looked like a beautiful day through a window. I had attended a funeral and visited an eye doctor. It proved to be jacket-carrying weather. Not cold enough to wear one. The weather was cool, but I was cool with that. It was windy, but I could put rocks in my pocket if I needed to. I blame the shower I'd taken. That volley of pulsating water had apparently washed away all my good sense. My wife and I headed to watch a grandson play baseball at 5:30. We made it to the game, which turned out to be a second April Fool's Day. The pleasant day became colder and windier, giving us rain to enjoy before it snowed. Graupel (popcorn snow) fell. It's a mix of snow crystals and ice, resembling tiny, soft hail pellets. I felt as if I were on the Endurance during Sir Ernest Shackleton's failed attempt to make the first land crossing of Antarctica. The bleachers were as hard as diamonds. A couple of other grandparents stopped to say hello before leaving early in the game. His parting words were, "We should have stayed in Florida."

Family is what keeps me from wintering in Florida.

AT A LOSS

I looked at the ring finger on my left hand. I'd lost my wedding ring. I'd walked all around the Taylor Center on the campus of Minnesota State—Mankato on a frigid day several years back. I'd lost considerable weight without trying to. My slimmer, cold finger let the ring slip off. I retraced my steps, looking for that ring to no avail. I contacted everyone who might have had a lost ring turned in to them. No luck. I haven't replaced the ring. How could I? It's irreplaceable.

I'VE LEARNED

I asked for a cup of hot black tea. The server said they had English Breakfast and Earl Grey tea. That was an example of a good cup, bad cup.

Farmington is the first official incorporated city in the state of Iowa.

By the time Dorothy made it back to Kansas, Auntie Em had rented her room to a flying monkey starring in a series on Netflix.

If you're too cheap to buy a

treadmill, please remember that the grocery store won't let you walk on the checkout conveyor unless you buy something.

I took a statistics course in college and learned quickly what my chances of getting an A were in that class. Slim and none.

Never lend a seed catalog to someone who still uses an out-house.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

I bought a pen that can write underwater. It can also write other words.

What is it called when a banana eats another banana? Cannibananabalism.

My wife said I could be an idiot sometimes. It's nice of her to give me permission.

NATURE NOTES

Red-tailed hawks plopped down on posts and poles. I wonder when a post becomes a pole. The terms are used interchangeably. A post is generally shorter, while a pole often serves as a structural element in buildings or utilities.

I'm sure they'd planned the journey behind crows' doors. I watched five crows fly this way and that way in a meandering flight. "As the crow flies" is used to describe the distance between two points, ignoring roads and obstacles.

Birds teach us to listen by providing a delightful component to learning. I listened to the cheerful and complex warbling of a house finch and its backup singers—chorus frogs. Gophers and moles break through the grass ceiling, and Siberian squill pushes through the fallen leaves and reaches for the sun.

Deer have antlers, not horns. Bucks have antlers to fight with other bucks for dominance. Antlers are football helmets that protect heads during battles. Antlers are shed each year, while horns continue growing. An exception is the North American pronghorn (not an antelope), which has horns it sheds annually. Horns are found on antelope, bison, sheep and other members of the Bovidae family. Deer, elk and moose are part of the Cervidae family. Deer shed their antlers annually, due to hormonal changes and changing photoperiods. Shedding antlers could be a way deer conserve energy, as they're cumbersome and resource-intensive.

THANKS FOR STOPPING BY

"Gratitude is the single most important ingredient to living a successful and fulfilled life."—Jack Canfield. Be kind.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Enjoying sun, snow at the cabin

I spent a couple days at my family's cabin near Park Rapids this past weekend.

Though the cabin was its familiar self—simple, comfortable, and embedded in a natural setting—many elements of the trip made me feel as if I was on an alien planet.

Once my brother and I got north of Motley, we noticed the ground was consistently covered with about three inches of snow. We learned from someone who lives in the area year round that there was a time when the snow was all melted, but a bit over a week ago, five or more inches fell, and had managed to keep its cold grip on the landscape ever since.

Compare that, of course, to the two dozen daffodils blooming along the front of my house.

Heck, not only couldn't we even see the grass on the cabin's lawn, we couldn't get to it. We ended up bogging down on the winding, hilly road that we usually love for its privacy and isolation. The snow itself was an irritation, but given temperatures in the 40s, the least bit of pressure turned the snow into an ice-like surface. Let me just say that, with backing up, taking runs, then backing up again, we probably drove five miles or more even

though the road isn't one mile long.

We ended up parking probably 200 feet away and having to fetch a sled to carry our belongings to the cabin.

I tell you all this not to complain—I feel lucky to have a cabin to visit, regardless of any adversities—but to support my claim about being on another world.

I am happy to report there is still suet in my birdfeeder and the pileated woodpecker came by at least daily for a few bites to eat. It also vastly improved my weekend that, although we could barely get to the cabin on day one, by day two the warmer temperatures had cleared the road enough to allow us to drive right down to our usual parking spot.

The truly surreal experience I want to describe lasted less than half an hour.

The lake, my avid fisherman brother informs me, still has about a foot of ice. It remains solid all the way to shore, so that he can simply step onto it and walk to his favorite spot.

With highs in the 40s and better, he did not need a shelter, but instead made sure the holes were open on his first sojourn, and could then count on them to remain open



Deb's brother fishing on the lake near Deb's cabin. The 10-foot-tall line of fog makes him invisible from eye level.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

for the rest of the weekend. He sauntered out, opened his folding chair as though it were summer, and sat down to fish.

On Sunday, the temperature stretched as high as 65 degrees. With the sun beaming down, he even took off his jacket while fishing.

I was inside the cabin working on tasks for the newspaper, but when I saw him out there on the sunny, icy lake, I decided I was obligated to take a picture. I stepped outside, found an angle high above the lake with a clear view, and very purposely framed a shot which showed him in his chair with a low-lying line of fog just blurring the trunks of the trees behind him.

Photographically speaking, it was an appealing shot.

Then I wondered how the picture would look if I moved to a lower location on the shoreline. I moved maybe 100 feet to a spot where the shore is only a foot or so above the "iceline." I aimed my camera out

across the lake and discovered my brother had disappeared.

The 10-foot-tall, fuzzy line of fog had somehow taken possession of the lake. I could genuinely see the air in front of me turning opaque. In a matter of seconds, the very atmosphere and landscape (icescape?) had changed.

In addition to feeling isolated and alone, I was amazed. I knew my brother was still out there, blithely waiting for a fish to bite, but there would have been no way to prove it.

Shaking my head in wonder, I walked back toward the cabin.

One hundred feet later, I felt the sun shining on my head. The fog—even the picturesque little 10-foot bank of it—was gone.

As though I had imagined the whole episode, there sat my brother, bathed in sunlight, still watching his bobber. I shook my head again, and decided I was glad to have pictures to prove my story is true.

Teaching etiquette and manners to kids

I have turned on the Masters, not because I think I will be invested in watching golf, but because it's a great background show.

I finished writing a piece for my magazine about a new camp: etiquette classes for children.

When I was first introduced to this camp and the woman whose business operates it, called Good Manners Consulting, I found it intriguing. You don't hear much about etiquette and manners training nowadays, I feel. But I'm glad they're still around.

When I was small, although I can't remember how small, I attended a "charm school" with my sister. We were encouraged to take part by our grandmother, who provided transportation to the two-day event held at Assisi Heights in Rochester, where my grandma's relative was a Sister. The Sisters of St. Francis taught the class, and each student got paired with a Sister for the two days.

I remember the Sister I spent the time with was nice, and shared stories with me. She even gave me a picture she had taken of a robin's



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

nest on a windowsill that had somehow perfectly reflected the circle of iron in the window. I kept that picture for years, only letting go of it when I left for college, mostly because it had become bent and crinkled due to my poor care.

In charm school, we learned how to set a table, when to say thank you, and other basic manners. I remember having fun, and enjoying the time spent at the beautiful buildings of Assisi Heights.

So when I talked with my interviewee about her camp and her company, it reminded me of my time in charm school. This woman's passion carried through the phone, as she talked endlessly about why she believes it is impor-

tant for kids not only to say thank you, but to learn how to communicate and socialize in person. Especially in today's world of social media, she talked about how she teaches kids to be confident speaking with people face-to-face.

Hailing from Australia, this woman joked how she thinks she keeps the kids engaged because her accent makes it fun. She calls them "silly koalas" as kids sometimes seem clueless as the camp begins.

Now that I've written my story about this woman and her camp, I can tune in to the Masters and watch McIlroy (currently) kick butt. Golf just seems so hard sometimes.

When I was golfing last week

with Jack's family, I would get asked if I knew how to play golf or if I played often. I would say it's been a while, but that I used to be on my high school varsity team. Jack would give me a look, then I'd laugh and explain that while I was truly on varsity, it was only because there weren't enough girls to fill the spots. I joined golf my junior year of high school after switching from softball, so I wasn't necessarily practiced. I had played golf before that and knew how to play of course, but I still learned a lot in my two years taking notes from Ted Hammond and Jake Nelson.

But thanks to my recent reintroduction, I want to get back into it. My plan is to step onto whatever course is closest (and cheapest) and practice my swing.

My Determination: "Don't be obsessed with your desires Danny. The Zen philosopher, Basho, once wrote, 'A flute with no holes, is not a flute. A donut with no hole, is a Danish.' He was a funny guy." - Caddyshack

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

SERVING THE WHOLE OF WASECA COUNTY
including the communities of Waseca, Janesville, New Richland, and Waldorf

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WAC Hummingbird Watercolor Class



HUMMINGBIRD - There was a children's free Watercolor Hummingbird Class at the Waseca Art Center on Saturday, April 11, 2026. Pictured from left: Claire and Taylor Koch and Juniper Revermann were learning how to use watercolors, or add to what they already knew. This class was taught by Peggy Paulson.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

VFW Membership Dinner April 18
Sweet-Sommers VFW will hold their membership dinner, 4:30 p.m. social hour and 5:30 p.m. dinner on Saturday, April 18. Phone or text Dean Farley 507-317-5308 to rsvp or email dean.farley79@gmail.com.

Amy Manette at Indian Island Winery Saturday, April 18
Musician Amy Manette will perform at the Indian Island Winery from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 18. She plays jazz music.

Pancake Breakfast at Waseca Legion on Sunday, April 19
The Waseca Lions are having a pancake breakfast at the Legion from 8-11:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 19. Proceeds go to the Waseca Area Community and Can Do Canines, Sight and Hearing Prevention and disaster relief.

Meatball Dinner at Trinity Lutheran Church April 19
There will be a to-go Meatball Dinner at the Trinity Lutheran Church from 10:30 a.m. through 1 p.m. Includes 2 large meatballs, carrots, mashed potatoes, green beans and dinner roll. \$12 for adults, \$8 for 1 meatball kids. Located 204 1st St. NW New Richland.

Inside Out Party at Janesville Public Library April 20
Explore colors and emotions with Joy, Anxiety, Sadness, and other Inside Out characters at the Janesville Library at 4 p.m. on Monday, April 20. For ages 4-7.

Statewide Republican candidates at the Mill April 21
Mike Lindell, candidate for governor; Wendy Phillips, candidate for secretary of state, and Royce White, candidate for U.S. Senator, are sponsoring an open forum at The Mill beginning at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 21. Cash food and bar, with Lucia's Cocina food truck. All are welcome. Address is 310 2nd Avenue, Waseca.

Lego Club at Janesville Public Library April 21
Unlock the magic of Legos by ditching the instruction manual and building your own at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21. Lego builders will be given a theme to inspire their creations. For ages 7-12.

Yarn Bowls at Waseca Public Library on Wednesday, April 22
Make delicate bowls by wrapping yarn around a balloon and coating it with glue. Once dry, pop the balloon to reveal a beautiful, airy bowl at the Waseca Library at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21. For ages 13-18.

Earth Day Celebration Waseca County East Annex April 22
There will be an Earth Day Celebration at the Waseca County East Annex (300 North State Street) from 5-7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22. Bring your school-aged children to celebrate Earth Day with activities, games and crafts.

Farmamerica thanks its volunteers, invites more

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

About four dozen volunteers attended a "Thank You" breakfast at Farmamerica the morning of Friday, April 10, 2026. On the menu were cinnamon and caramel rolls, Greek yogurt, granola, fresh fruit and coffee.

Long-time volunteer Joann Earle stated, "The Farmamerica staff is very good at taking care of us." Earle mentioned one of her roles at the facility is acting as an interpreter at the 1850s homestead, a site which represents what a farm in southern Minnesota would have probably looked like shortly after a homesteader moved onto the property and began establishing a working farm. Volunteers are frequently positioned at each of Farmamerica's interpretive locations, where they provide information, lead activities, or simply supervise.

Earle said she has an interest in the pioneer days in southern Minnesota, since some of her ancestors were here at that time. She mentioned she occasionally wears period dress to commemorate them as she volunteers—but that whether she does so or not is up to her.

Volunteer Jim Enevoldsen mentioned that he and others usually drive the trams which transport visitors among the sites. Pointing out most events using the trams take place in the summer, he mentioned he has been volunteering for four years.

Farmamerica activities director Kari Wadd shared that Farmamerica is always on the lookout for new volunteers. She suggested that interested people are likely to find a role they will genuinely enjoy and observed there are many opportunities and different options for those who want to give it a try. She invited people to either stop out at Farmamerica and provide contact information or email staff member Hilary Krueger at hilary@farmamerica. She added,



TRY IT OUT - From left: Joann Earle, Jackie Peters, Jerry Janish, Linda Youngerberg, and Socorro Reyes attended the Volunteer Breakfast at Farmamerica on Friday, April 10, 2026.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

"We have adult supervision out here at all times, so children as young as 15 can volunteer—even better if Mom or Dad volunteer with them!"

Also part of the breakfast was a health and safety demonstration by Brad Zinniel of Medical and Safety Resources. He offered information about the difference between welts and spider bites, spoke about allergies, and gave volunteers a chance to try their skills at cardiopulmonary resuscitation using state of the art training dummies.

Regarding the presentation, Wadd observed, "We take safety at Farmamerica very seriously, the more medical training we have the better." She added, "The police or fire department will usually fill out the paperwork in an emergency."

Volunteer Enevoldson stated that, in his four years as a volunteer, he has seen only minor injuries such as skinned knees or other scrapes.



Brad Zinniel of Medical and Safety Resources was showing volunteers proper CPR techniques at the Farmamerica Volunteer Breakfast on Friday, April 10, 2026.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Church of Meriden mixes soup and thrift

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The St. Paul Lutheran Church of Meriden held a giant indoor garage sale and homemade soup luncheon fundraiser on Friday and Saturday, April 10 and 11. On opening day they had a line 15 deep out the door, where people waited with anticipation to get in and start shopping.

Inside, long tables were covered in goods sorted by their type or season. Some tables had Christmas themes, others had books. There were racks of clothes, hard to find collectable items like a 3-D electronic photo of Christ. There were dolls, jewelry, kitchenware and cutlery, and kitchen electronics. There were baby items, clothes and vintage items.

Smelling delicious nearby were vegetable beef and chicken and wild rice soup, accompanied by chips, cookies and coffee. There was a table for dining, but many shoppers seemed to be purchasing theirs to take home. Diane Kath, one of the organizers for the weekend said, "We



SERVING UP GOODS - From left: Nancy Jewison, Diane and Kim Kath, Kay Cassen, and Judy Hoffman helped organize the garage sale and make the homemade soup for the Indoor Garage and Homemade Soup weekend sale at the St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Meriden on Friday, April 10, 2026.
Pioneer photo by Monty Revermann

all had a hand in the making of the soups." Norma Hoffmaster, who took tickets and money at the door said on Friday, "Things have been going great, we had like 60 people come through our door first thing this morning. In total we had at least 180 people here for the whole day, I hope we get those numbers on Saturday."

Kath shared that half the funds raised by the event are slated to support youth activities at the church;

New county emergency notification system

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Emergency county-wide notifications are now being distributed using ReGroup, a mass notification system which can send messages to hundreds of recipients at once. ReGroup replaces the system formerly in use, "CodeRED."

There is no guarantee registrations made with the previous service will transfer to ReGroup.

This means any county residents who wish to receive future information regarding emergencies, threatening weather patterns, public safety notifications and other time-sensitive messages should register their phone numbers with ReGroup. The registration process offers people the opportunity to select what types of notices they would like to receive.

With severe weather season approaching, the county Emergency Management office encourages everyone to register at their earliest opportunity.

https://embeds.regroucloud.com/orgs/WasecaCounty/channels/waseca-county-emergency-notifications/signup_embed>

■ Council from Page 1

2002, then another in 2019 before these guys, there was a dry spell there for a little while." The mayor asked for a photo with the boys as he handed over their proclamations.

During the meeting's public comment portion, Gene Glen, who lives on Snake Trail road, wanted to address a recent decision regarding the basketball court located in Clear Lake Park. Glen claimed it was "unreasonable" not to officially name the court after the Willingham brothers, but to only post a plaque honoring them. The council took this issue into consideration.

A public hearing was held regarding text amendments to city code. City planner Froke stated the wording changes are intended to clarify the meaning of the code. No members of the public spoke on the issue.

Dennis Steffel Omtvedt Funeral services' structures at 711 and 715 North State Street were rezoned to be regarded as a single building. The business has plans to update the location, adding a flower room, chapel, garage, and more.

In response to a query prompted by a recent accident, city public safety director Kris Markeson gave a report regarding the intersection of Third Avenue and Sixth Street Northeast. Markeson reported that, from 2021 to 2026, 673 traffic collisions occurred in the city: 594 led to property damage, 79 led to personal injury. Of that number, 2 have occurred at the intersection of Third and Sixth. After hearing Markeson's report, council members voted to change the yield signs currently controlling traffic on Sixth Street to stop signs. At least for the first year, the stop signs will be emphasized with lighting to make drivers more alert to the change.

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OBITUARIES

Roger Viets Moore

Roger Viets Moore, loving father of three children and three step-children, passed away at Central Health Care in Le Center on the evening of Monday, March 23, 2026, at the age of 98.

Roger was born in St. Paul on April 20, 1927, the fourth child born to parents Royal and Mabel (Fullerton) Moore. His education included five years at St. Paul Academy and four years in the St. Paul public school system which was then interrupted by WWII. Rather than be drafted, Roger enlisted in the United States Naval Hospital Corps. After three months training he spent two years serving as a Corpsman in several west coast Naval hospitals followed by a peacetime tour on the USS Tulagi – an escort aircraft carrier – before his honorable discharge in 1947. From there, after one year at Macalester College, he worked for one year in the auditor’s office of the Great Northern Railroad, then went back to school at the University of Minnesota College of Agriculture. A requirement for college graduation at that time was a minimum of six months experience on a farm (of which he had none) so he took a summer job for David Zimmerman of rural Waseca, and he never looked back. In 1951 when a barn fire wiped out the farm operation, his job disappeared so he took work at the Waseca Birdseye plant as a fieldman working on the sweet-corn and pea crop. Several years later, an opportunity was offered to him as office manager to a commercial printing company of 40 employees. He took the job and stayed for 23 years, by which time Brown Printing Company had four plants nationwide and over 6000 employees. The last ten years there, he served as an account manager for six national trade magazines and catalog publishers. Ready for yet another change, he went to work at the Wenger Corporation in Owatonna as a salesperson, selling computer programs for use in schools to teach music. When the computer division sold, he transferred to the company’s basic products: music and performance equipment for schools and colleges. His territory at the end was the state of Indiana. Although he loved what he was doing, he retired from his working years in



Roger Moore

2000 at the age of 73.

All through his adult life he sang in choirs and chorales, wrote several songs, sang with what would now be called a Big Band, acted in and directed local theater, learned and played the Grace Lutheran Church organ for 11 years, and published two books documenting the Pop Music of the time. In 1975 he bought a farmstead, remodeled the house, and lived in it until he built a new one in 1999. He trained himself in public speaking, became a licensed private pilot, and served as President of the Waseca Jaycees and Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Festival Corp.

Roger is survived by his second wife of 49 years, Donna (Tegmeier, Hodgkins) Moore of Waseca; children Barbara Stransky of St. Peter, Dr. Steve (Judy) Moore of St. Peter, Robert (Michelle) Hodgkins of Farmington, Brent (Dallas) Hodgkins of Rosemount, Jolene Held of Shakopee, and Sondra (Jay) Herman of Waseca; fourteen grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by both of his parents; his first wife Gertrude; a brother, William; and two sisters, Muriel and Elizabeth.

Visitation was held from 4-6 p.m. on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca and continued for one hour before the service at the church.

Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 29, 2026, at Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca, with Rev. Paige Whitney officiating. Memorial donations may be directed to the Abigail Claire Wendland Performing Arts Fund under the care of the Waseca Area Foundation.



BUILDING STRENGTH - April has been named Child Abuse Prevention Month in both the City of Waseca and Waseca County. People are encouraged to wear blue ribbons and display blue lights; the county courthouse will be illuminated in blue throughout the month. Pictured here as the proclamation was made are Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas (in uniform) and county board members (from left) Brad Milbrath, De Malterer, Brad Krause, Doug Christopherson and Brian Harguth. In front are Waseca Exchange Club president Mikhail Rostislavovich and Time Out Teddy, a symbol of the Exchange Club child abuse prevention initiative.

April named Child Abuse Prevention Month

WASECA, MN — In a unified show of commitment to the safety and well-being of children, both the City of Waseca and Waseca County have officially proclaimed the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. This designation aligns with the national initiative led by the National Exchange Club, which has long championed efforts to prevent child abuse and strengthen families across the country.

During separate meetings, the Waseca City Council and the Waseca County Board of Commissioners each formally read, signed, and sealed their proclamations, marking a powerful local endorsement of this important cause. The ceremonies were marked not only

by official action but also by visible symbols of awareness and solidarity. Members of the County Board arrived wearing blue ribbons on their lapels, with several commissioners also incorporating blue into their attire. The blue ribbon serves as the national symbol for child abuse prevention, representing the community’s shared responsibility to protect its most vulnerable members.

Adding a meaningful and engaging presence to both meetings was Time Out Teddy, the official mascot of the National Exchange Club’s Prevention of Child Abuse program. Teddy will continue to make appearances throughout the month of April at community events, helping to raise awareness

and spark conversations about prevention, education, and support for families.

“This is more than a proclamation; it’s a promise,” said Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Waseca Exchange Club. “When our city and county leaders stand together on an issue like this, it sends a clear message that protecting children is a shared priority. Prevention starts with awareness, and awareness starts with all of us.”

Waseca County Board Chair Deanne Malterer emphasized the importance of community involvement. “Seeing our commissioners show up wearing blue ribbons was a small but powerful gesture,” she said. “It reflects a deeper commit-

ment to ensuring that every child in Waseca County grows up in a safe and supportive environment. We all have a role to play in prevention.”

City of Waseca Mayor Randy Zimmerman echoed this sentiment. “This proclamation is a call to action for our entire community,” he said.

Throughout April, the Waseca Exchange Club will continue its efforts to promote Child Abuse Prevention Month through community engagement, educational outreach, and public awareness initiatives. Residents are encouraged to participate, wear blue, and support efforts that strengthen families and protect children.

Steele County Free Fair reminder

A reminder from the Steele County Free Fair that May 1, 2026, is the deadline to submit nominations for this year’s Steele County Livestock Hall of Fame. Nomination forms are available at the fair office and on-line at www.scff.org.

There are two types of awards. The first type is Hall of Fame membership. Nominees’ maybe an individual or husband/wife team that meet the following criteria: Nominees are judged on their impact or influence upon the livestock industry – county, state, and national, their leadership in the livestock indus-

try, and other relevant contributions with county being a priority.

The other type of award is the Hall of Fame Service award. These nominees are to be individuals that grew up or live in Steele County and went on to do outstanding work in the livestock industry outside of the county. State and national contributions are the priority for this award.

Inductees into the Livestock Hall of Fame will be recognized on Tuesday, August 18th at 2:30 p.m. in the livestock show arena.



GROWING - The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors welcomes new member Swanson Acupuncture. Back Row Left to Right: Larry Johnson, Kevin Walter, Marcy Buchele, Jodie Thompson, Tiffany Lynch, Theresa Sunde, and Bernie Gaytko. Front Row Left to Right: Mikhail Rostislavovich, Michelle Swanson, Kristie Biehn, Jess Klinger, and Abby Nelson

Chamber welcomes Swanson Acupuncture

WASECA, MN — The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors recently welcomed new member Swanson Acupuncture to the Waseca business community. Swanson Acupuncture provides personalized care for a variety of health concerns including allergies, stress, anxiety, chronic pain, digestive issues, menopausal health, and more through acupuncture, herbal medicine, cupping, and Traditional Chinese Medicine modalities.

Swanson Acupuncture is owned and operated by Michelle Swanson, Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Medicine. Michelle is dedicated to creating a compassionate environment where patients feel

seen, heard, and understood while working together toward their health goals. Her approach focuses on treating the body as an ecosystem, working to balance the root cause of symptoms and unlock the body’s natural ability to heal.

Michelle’s areas of experience include perimenopause and hormonal health, mental health and emotional wellbeing, chronic pain management, and digestive and gut health.

“We are excited to welcome Swanson Acupuncture to the Waseca Chamber and our local business community,” said Executive Director Robin Dulas. “Having additional healthcare options like

this in Waseca helps support the wellbeing of our residents and strengthens our community as a whole.”

“The Chamber Board is proud to support businesses that bring specialized services and new opportunities to Waseca,” said Board of Directors member Mikhail Rostislavovich. “Swanson Acupuncture is a wonderful addition to our business community, and we look forward to seeing their impact.”

“The Ambassador Committee loves celebrating new businesses

and helping them feel connected and supported,” said Ambassador Chair Katie Gonzales. “We are excited to see Swanson Acupuncture grow and thrive here in Waseca.”

The Waseca Chamber Ambassadors encourage the community to welcome Swanson Acupuncture and learn more about the services they provide to support health and wellness in the Waseca area.

For more information about Swanson Acupuncture visit them at 1800 North State Street or online at swansonacupuncture.com.

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NRHEG winter sport athletes celebrated

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor
NRHEG Activities Director Dan Stork extended many statements of gratitude as he opened the 2025-26 Winter Sports Banquet ceremony at 6:30 p.m. the evening of Monday, March 30 in the high school gym in New Richland.

NRHEG winter sports were recognized. Coaches from boys' and girls' basketball, wrestling, and cheerleading all spoke.

Stork recognized co-op sports, including hockey with Waseca.

In total seven senior athletes were recognized: Madison Bogue, Jozie Klimmek, Wyatt Larson, Gabrielle Schlaak, Chloe Stork, Camryn VanMaldeghem and Quinn VanMaldeghem.

Well-deserved awards were handed out during the evening. A sense of gratitude encompassed the room as speakers, coaches and players reflected on their memorable seasons, and for some, entire careers.

The banquet concluded with photos and good conversation among the hundreds of students, parents, family members and coaches in attendance.

Awards
Cheerleading
Sweetheart Award - Orianna Degen
Most Valuable Cheerleader - Ariel Anhalt
Most Improved - Aja Hollen
Life Saver Award - Ella Jeno
Rookie Award - Aja Hollen
Captains Awards - Madison Bogue and Ariel Anhalt

Letter winners: Madison Bogue, Orianna Degen, Emily DeLaCruz, Ariel Anhalt, Avary Riskedahl, Autumn Baseman, Tru Thao, Aja Hollen, Ella Jeno, Ameila McKenna, Maggie Lundak.

All-State Honors - Madison Bogue (And All-Conference)

Girls' Basketball
Most Valuable Offense - Camryn VanMaldeghem
Most Valuable Defense - Quinn VanMaldeghem
Rebound Award - Quinn VanMaldeghem
Sparkplug Award - Clara Buendorf
Most Improved Player - Ezra Boerner
Captain Awards - Camryn VanMaldeghem, Quinn VanMaldeghem, Chloe Stork, Gabby Schlaak
All Gopher Conference - Quinn VanMaldegehm, Gabby Schlaak

Letter winners: Gabby Schlaak, Savannah Farr, Ezra Boerner, Chloe Stork, Quinn VanMaldeghem, Emilia Stadheim, Izley Boerner, Kylie Olson, Clara Buendorf, Camryn VanMaldeghem

All-Conference Honors: Camryn VanMaldeghem, Quinn VanMaldeghem, Gabrielle Schlaak
Conference Player of the Year: Camryn VanMaldeghem
Honorable Mention All-Conference: Chloe Stork

Sportsmanship Award: Kylie Olson

Boys' Basketball
Panther Award - Brock Holland
Most Valuable Player - Calvin Nissen

Offensive Player of the Year - Brooks Gilliland
Defensive Player of the Year - Brendan Schmidt

Letter winners: Fynn Baumann, Sean Lassahn, AJ Deen, Brock Holland, Brooks Gilliland, Mack Gilliland, Dominic Olson, Brendan Schmidt, Calvin Nissen.

Honorable Mention All-Conference: Brooks Gilliland
Sportsmanship Award: AJ Deen

Captain Awards - Brooks Gilliland, Brendan Schmidt, AJ Dean, Dominic Olson, Fynn Baumann

Wrestling
Most Valuable Wrestler - Ryan Schlaak
Most Improved Wrestler - Owen Schlaak
Most Team Points - Ryan Schlaak
Most Technical Falls - Owen Schlaak
Most Pins- Ryan Schlaak
Most Wins - Ryan Schlaak
Captains - Aidan Schlaak, Cole Hutchens and Harbor Cromwell
All Gopher Conference - Ryan Schlaak and Owen Schlaak

Letter winners: Braxton Arnold, Wyatt Larson, Noah Weller, Eli Hendrickson, Khaiden Madson, Josie Tufte, Wyatt Hendrickson, Dakota Schlaak, Bo Holland, Owen Schlaak, Graham Jacobson, Ryan Schlaak, Chase Johansson, Charlie Tufte
All-Conference Honors: Owen Schlaak, Ryan Schlaak
Honorable Mention All-Conference: Graham Jacobson
Sportsmanship Award: Wyatt Larson
Captains - Ryan Schlaak, Wyatt Larson



BOYS' BASKETBALL - NRHEG Boys' basketball players receiving awards during the annual NRHEG Winter Sports Banquet. Front from left: Levi Whiteside, Sean Lassahn, Calvin Nissen, Kasey Jewison, Alec Wyrum, Dom Olson. Back: Brooks Gilliland, Brendan Schmidt, Mack Gilliland, Memphis Schlaak, Jackson McGannon, Brock Holland, AJ Deen, Fynn Baumann.



AWARDS - NRHEG Wrestlers receiving awards during the annual Winter Sports Banquet. Front from left: Josie Tufte, Noah Weller, Owen Schlaak, Bo Holland, Ryan Schlaak, Chase Johannsen. Back: Eli Hendrickson, Braxton Arnold, Wyatt Hendrickson, Charlie Tufte, Graham Jacobson, Wyatt Larson, Dakota Schlaak.



AWARDS - NRHEG Girls' Basketball players receiving awards during the annual Winter Sports Banquet. Front from left, front row: Alexandra Estrada Mejia, Kenley Gehrke, Julieann Wobbrock, Hadley Roeker, Ezra Boerner, Izley Boerner, Emilia Stadheim, Aubrey Hendrickson, Camellia Lynne. Back row: Onika Peterson, Savannah Farr, Camryn VanMaldeghem, Clara Buendorf, Quinn VanMaldeghem, Gabby Schlaak, Chloe Stork, Kylie Olson, Alayna Groskreutz, Joey Rossing



AWARDS - NRHEG Cheerleaders receiving awards during the annual Winter Sports Banquet.
Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

Community Health on the Rise: year two progress

Waseca, Minn. — The Le Sueur-Waseca Community Health Board has released its Year Two Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) report, highlighting progress in mental health and substance use across both counties. New data from the 2025 Minnesota Student Survey show decreases in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and substance use among local youth.

Key highlights include:
Seven trained presenters now offer community education on ACEs and early trauma
More than 5,000 mental health resources shared across the community

First mental health resource fair connected 25 providers with over 100 residents
Over 300 residents participated in community surveys on substance use

Local Opioid Advisory Committees used data to guide funding and policy decisions
More than 60 residents shared input through a community cannabis survey

Public Health expanded education on ACEs by training local presenters and offering community sessions. These efforts help residents understand how early experiences impact long-term health. In the coming year, additional training on protective factors will provide practical tools to support children and families.

Access to mental health resources also increased. Information was shared at community events, partner meetings, and public spaces. The first mental health resource fair helped connect residents with local services and support.

Efforts around substance use focused on gathering community input and using data to guide decisions. Survey results showed strong support for prevention, treatment, and recovery services. This information is now helping shape local policies and funding priorities. Public Health also created county-specific webpages with data and resources related to substance use and overdose prevention.

Additional work included reviewing school and local policies, supporting student survey participation, and gathering community feedback on cannabis and tobacco-related issues. A public awareness campaign also shared information about substance use and available resources.

“The progress we are seeing is the result of strong local partnerships and a shared commitment to healthier communities,” said Colin Ayers, Le Sueur-Waseca Public Health Educator/Planner. “By using data, education, and community input, we are making meaningful progress in supporting mental health and preventing substance use.”

In Year Three, Public Health and partners plan to expand trainings, improve access to mental health resources, and continue using data to guide prevention efforts.

For more information, contact Waseca County Public Health at 507-835-0685 or visit www.waseca-county.gov/130/Public-Health.

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The Pastor's Column

Paschal greeting

By PASTOR MICHAEL GRANNIS

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain... But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:12-14, 20-22)

"Alleluia! Christ is risen!" "He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!" This call and response has been proclaimed far and wide among Christians in various languages going all the way back to the earliest years of the Church. It is known as the "Paschal Greeting" (Easter Greeting).

If you ask most people what image they most closely associate with Christianity chances are they will say the image of the cross or the crucifix (the cross with the body of Christ hanging on it). There is good reason for this. The true message of Christianity must be focused on the preaching of "Christ and Him crucified," for the forgiveness of our sins.

But as important as Christ's sacrifice is for our forgiveness and salvation, it would all mean nothing if Christ had not actually and truly conquered death and hell for us. It is just as the passage from 1 Corinthians 15 says. "But if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain." Simply put, Christ's death upon the cross means nothing without His resurrection. After all, His resurrection means our future resurrection as well! That is why the people of God joyfully proclaim, "Alleluia! Christ is risen!" and their fellow believers exclaim in jubilant reply, "He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!"

The Christian message of forgiveness, life, and salvation hang upon the cross, but it hinges on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. We call the primary message of Christianity

"The Gospel." The word "gospel" means "good news." But what is this good news? Well before we answer that we must realize that the good news of the Gospel is the response to bad news. The worst news anybody can get is that they are going to die, or someone they love dearly

has died or will soon die. There are many other types of bad news in this broken world, but none is as bad as the bad news of death.

God's Word reveals that death entered our world as the result of sin; the sin of Adam specifically. That is why 1 Corinthians 15 says, "in Adam all die." Like a deadly hereditary virus, we were all born with the infection of sin. That sin brings with it the bad news of death.

More than that, our sin brings us the eternal judgment of condemnation. We do not deserve to be in the eternal presence of our Holy God.

But God in His abundant love for us, determined to love us from before creation. Though Adam had infected all of humanity with sin and the curse of death, God had already devised a remedy for our sin. He would forgive our sins through Christ Jesus our Savior. He who once formed us from the dust of the earth, would redeem us again from the dust of death and the grave. The eternal condemnation that we have each deserved through our own unholiness and sin, has been replaced by the word of pardon - the cleansing of our souls and the forgiveness of our sins on account of Christ. We are given this precious gift through faith in His worthy once-for-all sacrifice upon the cross.

The crucifixion and death of Christ is the means of our pardon, but the resurrection of Christ is the proof that His sacrifice was, indeed, fully sufficient; He has truly conquered death and hell for us. Moreover, it shows us that the forgiveness He has earned for us results in the undoing of the curse of sin for us as well. Again simply put, if the result of sin is death and eternal condemnation, then the forgiveness of sin must undo death and reverse our condemnation.

That, my friends, is THE Good News. As the beautiful Easter hymn, Alleluia! Jesus is Risen! puts it, "Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!"

This is why the first Christians chose to gather on "the first day of the week." Because Sunday is the day of Christ's resurrection. Every Sunday is a little Easter. Every Sunday is a day to rejoice in the resurrection of Christ Jesus our Savior from sin, death and hell. Every Sunday is a day of Good News proclamation. "Alleluia! Christ is risen!" "He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

JWP at Minnesota Elementary All-State Choir



RAISING BULLDOG VOICES - Eight of JWP's 5th- and 6th-grade students performed in the annual Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA) Elementary All-Star Choir on Saturday, April 11, 2026 at Tartan High School in Oakdale. They took part in a choir of approximately 200 students from around the state and sang five songs under the direction of Dr. Bret Amundson. A JWP Public Schools Facebook post reads, "This group of young ladies worked hard to prepare over the course of the last several months. Their performance was outstanding and they represented JWP with pride! Congratulations to Elsa Dieker, Kambryn Dreyer, Callyn Schultz, Carly Abraham, Quinn Burns, Evelyn Demarais, Nayleena Grant and Aubrey Leiferman! Thank you Mrs. Nordstrom for providing this awesome opportunity for our students."

Pinwheels of Possibility: prevention is everyone's job

By Patricia Harrelson, Manager of Child and Family Social Services, Minnesota Prairie County Alliance (MNPrairie)

Every April, pinwheels pop up in front of courthouses, schools, and county buildings across Minnesota, those cheerful blue and silver spirals spinning in the spring breeze. They are small and simple. They are also a declaration: that every child deserves a future bright enough to make something as ordinary as a pinwheel feel like a promise.

This year, Prevent Child Abuse America has chosen Pinwheels of Possibility as the national theme for Child Abuse Prevention Month, and the language matters. Not Pinwheels of Intervention. Not Pinwheels of Consequences. Possibility. The theme asks us to look upstream, before crisis, before a report, before a child is harmed, and ask what we can do differently, earlier, together.

Prevention begins long before a crisis occurs. (Prevent Child Abuse America, 2026.) That is the

foundational truth that human services workers have understood for decades and that our systems have been slow to fully embrace. Minnesota has more work to do in building consistent prevention infrastructure, particularly in rural communities.

Those conditions are not mysterious. When families are supported early and communities invest in prevention-focused solutions that reduce stress, strengthen relationships, and partner with parents, children thrive. (Wyoming Children's Trust Fund & Prevent Child Abuse Wyoming, 2026.) Home visiting programs, stable housing, access to mental health care, and economic support keep families from the breaking point. These are not soft extras. They are the architecture of safe



Harrelson

childhoods.

Right now, many families are navigating rising costs, heightened stress, and widening gaps in support. (Prevent Child Abuse America, 2026.) In rural communities like those across MNPrairie's service area, those gaps can feel like canyons. Transportation barriers, workforce shortages, and stretched local systems mean that families sometimes don't find help until a situation has already become a crisis. Prevention work in these communities requires creativity, persistence, and a genuine commitment to meeting families where they are, not where our program eligibility criteria assume they'll be.

The Pinwheels of Possibility campaign invites a shift in narrative, from blame to collective responsibility, recognizing that strong families are the foundation of strong communities. (Prevent Child Abuse America, 2026.) That shift is not just philosophical. It is practical. When we stop asking "what is wrong with this family?"

and start asking "what does this family need?", we open doors that a deficit-framing keeps firmly shut. Families are not problems to be managed. They are partners in the work of raising the next generation.

For those of us in human services this month is a useful moment of recommitment. Are our systems designed to support families before they're in crisis, or only after? Are we funding prevention with the same seriousness we fund response? Are we listening to families, truly listening, about what would help?

The pinwheel spins because something is moving. In communities that invest in early support, in home visiting, in Family Resource Centers, in economic stability, in relationship-based services, something is moving. Children are safer. Families are stronger.

That's worth more than a pinwheel. But the pinwheel is a good place to start.

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507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker)
Worship Sundays 10 a.m.

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
801 4th Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-3167
Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m.

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 6th St NE, Waseca
507-835-9176
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School/Fellowship 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday Eve Worship 6:30 p.m.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca
507-833-1703
Sundays 9:00 a.m.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
314 4th Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-2647
Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net)
Worship Sunday 10 a.m.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 E Elm Ave, Waseca
507-835-1709
Worship Sunday 9 a.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Father Glenn Ferichs
507-835-1222
Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m.

REAL LIFE CHURCH
620 W Elm Ave, Waseca

507-833-0017
Sunday worship 10 a.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS
1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca
507-835-4640
Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
1221 8th St SE, Waseca
507-835-2213
Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 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.

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship
Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Otisco, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Mary Iverson
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee
Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting
Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting

LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting

VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship

VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Brian Schanil Pastor
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m. 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Father Glenn Ferichs
Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass
Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod
Waldorf, Minnesota
Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe
Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Freedom Township
Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship

ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Pastor Ava Adams-Morris
Waldorf, Minnesota
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC
Waldorf, Minnesota
Father Brian Mulligan
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship

TRINITY LUTHERAN
Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
Services 6 p.m. Saturday

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Brad Donner, Branch President
Waseca, Minnesota
www.lds.org
Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages

12-18

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
412 N. Main Street, Janesville
Pastor Jason Wolter
Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship

JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
401 N. West St., Janesville
Pastor Kathy King
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
43089 180th St., Morristown
Pastor Kathy King
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter)

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH
307 W. 2nd St, Janesville
10 a.m. - Mass

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 Owen St., Janesville
Pastor Sarah Krolak

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH
Alma City, Minnesota
Pastor Robert Harting
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Smiths Mill, Minnesota
Pastor Robert Harting
Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship

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

NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.

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Janesville

25 years ago

- Mike and Kari Southwick of Janesville are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Kortney Nicole, born Thursday, March 29, 2001. She weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces at birth. She was welcomed home by her sisters, Mirande, Karlyn and Marissa. Maternal Grandparents are Richard and Carol Mulcahey of Janesville. Paternal grandparents are Donald and ANita Southwick of Elysian. Paternal great-grandparents are Elmer and Eda Bartz.

- The Janesville Rotary Club met on Monday, March 19 at the Janesville American Legion. Jim Franklin director of safety in Mankato, was the guest speaker for the evening. Cliff Gardner will represent the local club at the upcoming district meeting. The club voted to donate \$500 to the local food shelf. At the Monday, March 26 meeting Sherry Lewer, director of Waseca County public service department was the guest speaker for the evening.



- Jena Yentsch and Brian Finley have been selected to attend the annual Leadership Conference.

- The Minnesota Private College Fund is please to announce that Trisha Bartelt received a 2000-2001 Supervalve scholarship. Bartelt is a senior at Concordia University in St. Paul, majoring in marketing management and finance. Bartelt is the daughter of Debra and Gary Bartelt of Waldorf.

50 years ago

- Navy Airman Bob Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond A. Anderson of 1718 Woodland Road, St. Clair, Minnesota, was graduated from recruit training the Naval Training Center San Diego. Classes include instruction in seamanship, military regulations, firefighting, close order drill, first aid and Navy history.

- Mr. and Mrs. Gary Gateway presented their infant son Dana James, born February 10, for holy baptism at Trinity Lutheran Church on Sunday morning, March 7, during the 10:30 a.m. service, with Rev. Dean Stinger officiating. The sponsors were Mrs. Frank Zimprich and Kenneth Krueger.

- The Jaycee sponsored Pass, Dribble and Shoot contest winners include: Age group eight first place, John Tuvey; second place, Jay Johnson. Age nine winners- first place, Matt Chapman, second place, Brent Wiebusch. Age 10 winners- Rich Schendel, Jon Abraham and Craig Wilkening, all tied for first place. Age 12- first place, Billy Bartelt; second place, Brad Haus. Age 13 winners- first place, Jeff Johnson; second place, Randy Cummins.

75 years ago

- Apparently someone in Janesville doesn't like dogs and doesn't hesitate to show it. Buster, a pedigreed dog belonging to the Joe Stepan family, was shot ad wounded by an unknown person last Wednesday afternoon or evening. However, his marksmanship wasn't so good and the canine is making good progress toward recovery. This is the second dog in recent months to have been shot by someone who apparently has a dislike for dogs.

- The Lakeshore Home Demonstration Club met at the home of Mrs. Henry Eustice on Monday, Feb. 26, at 10 a.m. The leaders, Mrs. Frank Jewison and Mrs. Henry Eustice, gave the lesson on bread making. The members made five different kinds of break, a pan of apple muffins, and two Christmas braids. A pot luck diner was served at noon. Those present were: Mrs. Frank Jewison, Mrs. Beny Eustice, Mrs. Chris Jewison, Mrs. Lyle Heath, Mrs. Charles Hofmann and Mrs. Wm. J. Sexton. Everyone found the lesson most interesting and each one took home and excellent loaf of bread.

- Lloyd Sandberg returned Friday morning from Bellefontaine, Ohio, with a beautiful Miller Cadillac combination ambulance-hearse with was purchased by the Arnoldt Furniture Co. of Janesville.

100 years ago

- From newspaper reports we gather that the coroner of Ramsey county is a xylophone player. That's perfectly all right so long as the duties of his office do not require him to play funeral marches.

The state officers of the American Legion have announced plans for a real contest. They want to find "the best Legion liar in Minnesota." The legion man who can tell the best war lie between now and the time of the annual convention at Mankato will be presented with an embossed lantern or something-as an emblem of honesty. Come on boys. We'll bet out best case of bold face type that the lads of the Janesville post can bring home the bacon in a contest of this kind the same as they have been doing in everything else that they have undertaken.

Another mystery we never expect to see solved is why so many men do most of their worrying over things that are none of their business.-- Belle Plaine Herald.

Waseca

25 years ago

- Carrie Olson and Kyle Holmen were united in marriage on October 14, 2000, at Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca, with Pastor Roger Haug officiating at the 3 p.m. ceremony. Carrie is the daughter of Peggy and Ken Olson of Waseca. Kyle is the son of Pauline and Ellsworth Holmen of Waseca. Maid of Honor was Sara Miller, Matron of Honor was Laura Langer. Bridesmaids were Julie Schroeder and Kim Rose-nau. Flower girl was Breanna Langford.



- Fourth grade Sacred Heart student Allison Muotka prepares to spell her next word as other Spelling Bee participants anxiously await their turn. The Waseca County Fourth Grade Spelling Bee was held at the Waseca County Historical Society on Saturday morning with 14 students.

- Jay and Robin Dulas of Waseca are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Keegan Marie Dulas, born March 22, 2001, at Immanuel-St. Joseph's Hospital in Mankato. She weighed eight pounds, five ounces, and was twenty-one and one-fourth inches in length. Maternal grandparents are Gene and Sara Pollard of Waseca. Paternal grandparents are Sylvester and Jackie Dulas of Medford.

- Effective April 1. Countryside Motors was purchased by Gary Arnold from his brother, Dick Arnold. Gary had previously owned 49 percent of the business and now has purchased the remaining 51 percent. Dick originally bought the dealership, then known as Johnson Chevrolet-Oldsmobile, from Johnny Johnson in 1974. Previous to that he owned a Chevrolet dealership in Janesville for four years. Dick will be working at Countryside Motors for an extended period of time. Gary has been active in the dealership for the past 26 years.

50 years ago



- Jane Foels, left, Sheila Donahue, Deb Nissen, Chris Storby, and Nancy Steffan are five Cuddle girls who will be running booths at the Fellowship of Christian Athlete's Carnival Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. at Sacred Heart gymnasium. The event's proceeds will go toward sending girls to National FCA Conference this summer.

- Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf, the Western world's youngest monarch, will visit Gustavus Adolphus College on Friday, April 9, during his 26-day Bicentennial tour of the United States. The 29-year-old ruler-who recently announced his engagement to Silvia Renate Sommerlath-will be the first reigning monarch of Sweden to ever set foot on American soil.

- The nightmare terror that chilled millions of readers of Peter Benchley's "Jaws" is brought to the screen with such stunning power and unbearable suspense in the Zanuck-Brown production for Universal based on the book that is becomes a physical as well as an emotional experience in the theatre. "Jaws" opens Friday, April 2, and plays through Wednesday, April 7, at Waseca Cinema. It will also be shown in the matinee time-slot on Saturday and Sunday, April 3 and 4.

75 years ago

- The Easter Song Service by the Junior and Senior Choirs fo Grace Lutheran Church will be presented on Easter Sunday at 7:30 p.m. This concert was postponed from Palm Sunday. Ten anthems for Easter will be sung by the Senior Choir and the Junior Choir will sing six anthems. Both choirs are under the direction of Janice Manthey. A vocal duet, "Benedictus", will be sung by Miss Manthey and Pastor Hinderlie. The pastor brings a meditation on "Why Christians sing at Easter."

- The Waseca Horse Club has announced that it has obtained the world famous Indian drum and bugle corp sponsored by the Jacob Schmidt Brewing Co. of St. Paul as a featured attraction for its annual horse show here June 3. The Schmidt parade organization is one of the most unusual of its kind and won national championships in 14 out of 14 competitions. Members are costumed in authentic Indian dress including spectacular feather war bonnets. It is usually led by several beautiful drum majorettes also in Indian garb.

- The March issue of National Automobile Dealers association magazine carried a picture of Roy Tyrholm turning over the keys of a 1951 Ford to Wilkin Wilkinson of New Richland. The car was the 26th delivered to the Wilkinson family by the Tyrholm firm, which is the ninth oldest Ford dealership in the United States.

100 years ago

- The railroads use about 130,000,000 new wood ties every year. There are 8,000 ties under every mile of track. Each tie ordinarily lasts an average of eight years. It is necessary to cut 8,000,000 trees every year to maintain telephone and telegraph wires.

- Prof. Ofergosh Sakes has discovered that, if you took all the pretzels in the world and put them in a straight line, you couldn't do it.

- One hundred poets read their poems before a throng during a contest in Wales recently, but the prize was withheld because of poor quality of the effusions.

New Richland

25 years ago

- Duke University all-everything senior forward Shane Battier's string of honors was completed Monday night at the Metrodome as the top-ranking Blue Devils won their third championship with an 82-72 victory over Arizona. Battier, the grandson of Albert Lea native and Country Neighbors resident Amber Sorenson, enjoys a privileged position today and an impressive list of accomplishments.



- Tim Nelson of Vista Farms near New Richland was honored by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., for placing in the top 20% in the 2000 National Corn Growers Association Yield Contest Class AA Non-Irrigated. Mike Davis (right), Area Sales Manager for Pioneer Hi-Bred, presented the award to Nelson during Pioneer Champions Day held recently in Chanhassen. Nelson achieved a winning corn yield of 197.62 bushels per acre with Pioneer brand corn hybrid 34G81.

- Dustin Reese of New Richland has been accepted for admission at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato. Founded in 1927, Bethany is a private residential liberal arts college. Dustin is the son of Jeff and Carol Reese of New Richland. Dustin is a 2001 graduate of New Richland-Hartland-Elendale-Geneva High School.

- Shane Battier of Birmingham, Michigan, a senior at Duke University led his college team to victory in the finals of the NCAA basketball championship, Monday evening. His grandmother, Amber Sorenson formerly of Albert Lea, a resident at Country Neighbors, New Richland, has good reason to be proud of her grandson's accomplishments.



50 years ago

- Lisa Crumb, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Crumb of New Richland was selected last Thursday as NewRichland's Girl's State representative for the 1976 session to be held at St. Catherine's College, S. Paul from June 6-12. She is sponsored by the auxiliary unit of the Andrew Borgen Post 75 of the American Legion. Alternative is Stacie Jessen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Jessen of New Richland.



- Dennis Rossell, left, Waldorf-Pemberton FFA chapter advisor received a plaque from the FFA members for his many years of dedicated service at the annual FFA banquet at Waldorf, Tuesday, April 6 at Waldorf.. Robert Drager was DeKalb winner, Guy Ewald the Star Chapter Farmer and Jay Ewald, star Greenhand.

- Joe Solberg of Route 2, New Richland, received an award in the Cass County, Minnesota-Sawyer County, Wisconsin, Wisconsin Muskie Challenge '75 at the Minneapolis Sports Show, April 2. He was one of the "Top Ten Winners in the challenge.

- Wendy Urban of New Richland has joined the teaching staff of Northland Piano and Organ of Rochester, Albert Lea and Austin. Wendy will be teaching at the Oak Park Mall Store in Austin until the new studio, which is also in Austin, is completed.

75 years ago

- Richard Russell, weighing eight pounds, one ounce, arrived at the Westeca Memorial hospital Wednesday, May 2, born to Mr. and Mrs. Russell Shurson of near New Richland. This is their first child.

- Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Roseth have received word from Mr. and Mrs. Manual Mendoza (Elsie Roseth) of San Pedro, California, informing them of their recent marriage and their plans to visit her parents here, in a month.



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FIELD EVENT ACTION — The Bluejays' Owen Rupe, left, tosses the discus during the Bluejays' outdoor track and field opener at Mankato West last Thursday. Sunny Mei, right, clears the high-jump bar on his way to third place.
Photos by Cassie Rupe

WHS track and field teams open outdoor season

The Waseca High School track and field teams opened their 2026 outdoor season last Thursday at Mankato West.

The WHS boys finished second to Mankato West with 45 points to the Scarlets' 80. New Ulm had 28, Marshall 22, Glencoe-Silver Lake 15.

William Mansfield and Jordan Johnston provided the highlights of the day for the Bluejays, with

Mansfield clearing 13 feet, 6 inches to win the pole vault and Johnston taking first in the 100-meter dash in 11.82 seconds.

Johnston anchored the 4x100 relay, which won in 44.84 and included Jonah Worke, Jett Rohl and Ayden Kath.

Second place was secured by Malechi Noble, 400, 54.94; Landon Rutt, 3200, 11:13.71; Tovin Grannis, high jump, 6-0; Toby Jeske, shot

Mansfield, Johnston, 4x100 relay, Kopischke finish first for Bluejays

put, 42-9.5, and the 4x200 team of Sam Selthun, Kath, Rohn Noble, which clocked 1:36.86.

Other top-four finishes for the Jays: Worke, third, 100, 12.07; Grannis, third, 300 hurdles, 16.91 and third, 300 hurdles, 42.4; Sunny Mei, third, high jump, 5-8; 4x100, third, 3:51.89 (Grannis, Mei, Noble,

T.Vaszquez); 4x800, third (J.Durisen, Rutt, Vaszquez, Ryan Yoder); Worke, fourth, 200, 24.56 and fourth, long jump, 18-7.5; Owen Rupe, fourth, high jump, 5-8.

Mankato West's girls won with 92 points, followed by Marshall at 37, Waseca 25, New Ulm 21 and Glencoe-Silver Lake 15.

Ellie Kopischke was Waseca's lone girls' champion, taking the 400 in 1:04.61.

Vivian Mader was second in the 100 hurdles in 17.92 while Reese Rodriguez, Maren Schimming, Kopischke and Quinn Yoder teamed for second in the 4x400 in 4:29.9.

Other WHS places: Schimming,

third, 1600, 5:54.94 and fourth, pole vault, 7-0; Taylor Markeson, third, 3200, 13:07.98; Ava VanDenHemel, fourth, 1600, 6:02.4; Rodriguez, fourth, triple jump, 28-11; Savanna Vagts, fourth, high jump, 4-6; Elizabeth Aboki, fifth, long jump, 12-8.



SINGLES SWEEP — It was a singles sweep for the WHS boys' tennis team against Blue Earth Area last week. Henry Huttemier, left, manned the No. 1 spot for the Bluejays while Armann Bhatti, right, played No. 2.
Photos by Jim Lutgens



WHS netmen win two of first four

So far, it's been an up and down season for the Waseca High School boys' tennis team.

The Bluejays are 2-2 after four matches, the most recent a 4-2 setback to Buffalo last Saturday in the Buffalo Invitational.

There were many rain delays throughout the match, and the No. 3 singles match was unable to finish. The Bluejays' matches against Rogers and Minneapolis Washburn were rained out.

Winning for Waseca were Korbin

Collins, No. 4 singles; and Allen Kopetzki and Nolan McQuery, No. 1 doubles. Keenan Collins played the incomplete No. 3 singles match.

The Bluejays had Henry Huttemier at No. 1 singles and Armann Bhatti at No. 2. Bryghton Rugger and Carson True were at No. 2 doubles, with Joe Calhoun and Jesse Wobschall playing at No. 3.

The Bluejays hosted Blue Earth Area Friday and dominated 6-1 in the WHS courts. The Waseca junior varsity lost 2-1.

All four Waseca singles players won, as did the No. 2 and 3 doubles duos. The lineup was the same as it was against Buffalo.

The previous week, the Bluejays lost 4-3 at Northfield, where the JV tied 3-3. Dawson Goodlander won both his JV matches.

The varsity match was tied 3-3 with only the No. 1 singles match remaining. Huttemier came up just short, dropping a second-set tiebreaker. Bhatti and the Collins brothers won at singles. Doubles

teams all lost in straight sets.

The Bluejays opened the season with a 4-3 victory over Red Wing at Owatonna. The JV lost 2-1.

The Wingers fielded a veteran team with eight seniors in the lineup's top positions.

Huttemier, Bhatti, Keenan Collins and Korbin Collins won in three sets. Bhatti rallied from a 5-2 deficit in the first set while Keenan overcame a 4-1 lead in the second set.

Two doubles matches went to three sets.

Softball Bluejays drop two to start season

There's no doubt about it. The schedule for the Waseca High School softball team is tough.

The Bluejays are off to an 0-2 start after falling 6-1 to Belle Plaine and 14-0 to No. 2 ranked New Ulm in the past week.

The Jays opened the season at home against Belle Plaine in a game that was closer than the final score indicates. It was 2-1 until the top of the seventh inning, when the Tigers put four runs on the board.

Ellery Waldron led the Waseca offense with two hits, including a triple. Madison Roessler also

tripled. Alli Mader, Hannah Sommers and Hannah Teague added one hit each.

The Bluejays struck out 12 times and drew two walks.

Rugger was the starting pitcher, allowing six runs in six innings, with five strikeouts and five walks. Avery Barto gave up one hit in relief.

"I was very pleased with our season opener outing against Belle Plaine," said Bluejays coach Amanda Sommers. "Our defense was solid, only allowing two errors. Limiting errors will be a key to our

season, something we've been working hard on in practice. I was very happy with Hannah Rugger's pitching outing. She was excellent on the mound. Albeit a chilly night, our girls battled hard and the score doesn't show how well we played."

The Bluejays had a rough night at New Ulm while falling in five innings.

Waldron had two hits, including a double. Hannah Sommers singled. Grant drew a walk.

Waseca struck out twice and walked twice.

Barto started on the mound and

took the loss. Rugger pitched in relief.

"It was a tough night in New Ulm for our girls," said Coach Sommers. "We knew we would have a challenge on our hands against New Ulm. Unfortunately, our bats didn't show up and we only had three hits. We know it's something to work on."

The Bluejays are at St. Peter today and have a doubleheader at Worthington Saturday.

NRHEG track teams third at USC Invitational

Jewison, Karl, Wobbrock, Schlaak, Riewer, relays finish 1st

The NRHEG High School track and field teams both finished third in the Viesselman True Team Invitational at Wells Tuesday, April 7. The meet is named in honor of longtime United South Central and Wells-Easton coach Kent Viesselman.

JWP/WEM took both team titles, the boys winning with 186 points, followed by USC/AC with 164, NRHEG 134, and Blue Earth Area 115.

For the girls: JWP/WEM 173.5, Blue Earth Area 161, NRHEG 158.6, USC/AC 69.

First-place Panther boys: Lavon Jewison, high jump, 6-2; Jacob Karl, 800, 2:30.12; 4x100 relay, 50.21 (Gavin Lewison, Quen Meyering, Brendan Schmidt, Colton Conroy).

Also: Schmidt, second, pole vault, 10-0; 4x200 relay, second, 1:48.21 (Hudson Chrz, Lewison, Wyatt Tuttle, Meyering); 4x400 relay, second, 4:33.06 (Finn Baumann, Jack Bartlett, Kasey Jewison, Oliver Frosilan).

Finishing first for the NRHEG girls: Julieann Wobbrock, 1600, 6:13.6; Gabby Schlaak, 100 hurdles, 18.61; Chloe Riewer, pole vault, 7-0 and long jump, 14-9.

Placing second: Wobrock, 800, 3:02.72; Schlaak, high jump, 4-6; Scarlett Chance, shot put, 29-2.5; 4x200 relay, 2:01.59 (Riewer,

"Our athletes perservered and gave some strong performances under very uncomfortable conditions."

— NRHEG coach Larry Nydegger

Clara Buendorf, Ellie Clark, Peyton Frye); 4x400 relay, 5:34.8 (Sierra Fish, Morgan Studier, Gia Cazares, Violette Botten.

According to NRHEG co-head coach Larry Nydegger, it was not an ideal day to compete.

"This was one of the more miserable weather days for a meet that we have had in a long time with the wind chill being in the low 30s," said Nydegger. "But our athletes persevered and gave strong performances under some very uncomfortable conditions. I'm really proud of these kids!"

The Panthers' next competition is Tuesday, April 21 at Blooming Prairie.

Bulldog baseball team takes it to Houston, 12-1

The JWP High school baseball team made a long road trip to Houston last Saturday and made it a fun bus ride home with a 12-1 victory.

After taking a 2-1 lead after four innings, the Bulldogs broke it open with five runs in the fifth and seventh.

Caleb Quast, Jaxon Wolff, Ayden Peterson, Blayne

Wandrie, and B. Bure had one hit apiece, with Wolff driving in three runs. Peterson and Bure each had two RBIs. Parker Gearity drew two walks and scored a run.

Chase Gerdts, Zander Terbeest and Peterson pitched, with Gerdts going the first four innings for the win.

WHS nine nips WEM for season’s first win

The Waseca High School baseball team staged a dramatic late-game comeback to defeat Waterville-Elysian-Morristown 10–9, scoring three runs in the bottom of the seventh inning last Saturday at Tink Larson Field.

The game featured multiple momentum swings throughout. Waseca struck first with a run in the first inning, but WEM responded with a big third inning, plating four runs to take control. The Bluejays answered in the bottom half with three runs of their own to even things up. WEM continued to apply pressure, adding one run in the fourth and three more in the fifth, while Waseca kept pace with two runs in the fifth and another in the sixth to stay within striking distance. After WEM pushed across a run in the top of the seventh to take a 9–7 lead, Waseca delivered the decisive

Bluejays score three in bottom of the seventh for 11-10 walk-off victory

“It was very nice to get that first win. It was a great seventh-inning comeback.”
— Tink Larson

blow in the bottom half with three runs to walk it off.

Offensively, the Bluejays were relentless, racking up 22 hits. Jaiden Schafer led the way with a perfect 4-for-4 performance, driving in two runs and scoring twice. Logan Reger and Riley Mitchell each contributed three hits, while Kaden Garza added three RBIs. Kallen Glynn also recorded three hits and drove in a run, highlighting Waseca’s depth throughout the lineup.

WEM totaled 12 hits and drew

eight walks, with Jackson Dahl and Noah Lanham leading the charge.

On the mound, Reger went five innings for Waseca, striking out six, while Kamerin Ferch closed out the final two innings and was credited with the win. This marked Waseca’s first win of the season.

"It was very nice to get that first win," said Bluejays assistant coach Tink Larson. "It was a great seventh-inning comeback to get the win."

Larson was particularly

impressed with the Bluejays' offense.

"We hit the ball very well," he said. "We had nine players get at least one hit, with six players getting multiple hits. Schafer had an excellent game at the plate."

The Bluejays hosted a perennially powerful New Ulm team last Thursday and lost 13-4 at Larson Field.

Ferch had two hits, with Reger, Owen Honstad, Kellen Klinger and Schafer one each.

The Bluejays stranded 11 baserunners.

Cash Lynch, Hayden Stencel and Klinger pitched, with Stencel throwing three scoreless innings.

"It was a good game until the final inning," said Larson. "We left the

bases loaded three times. A big hit could have changed things."

The Blueajys lost their season opener 4-2 at Belle Plaine April 7.

Reger and Riley Mitchell had Waseca's lone hits.

Avery Wetzel took the pitching loss. Ferch threw well in relief.

"It was a pretty good game for the first one of the year," said Larson. "We didn't hit the ball very well, but their first pitcher was pretty good. Ferch looked very good on the mound with four outstanding innings: one unearned run, no walks, seven strikeouts. Lynch had a good day at the plate with a walk and getting hit by pitches twice. We lost a couple runners on the bases which didn't help us."

Pitching lifts Panthers past Blue Earth, BP

Wayne outduels former Panther Jared Lee in 8-6 win at Reese Field

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Ask any baseball coach or manager about the key to winning games and most of the time they'll talk about pitching.

That's the way it worked for the NRHEG Panthers last week.

The Panthers won twice, shutting down Blue Earth Area 13-0 Friday behind a five-inning no hitter from Brooks Gilliland and defeating visiting Blooming Prairie 8-6 last Tuesday as Owen Wayne prevailed in a pitcher's duel.

Gilliland, who cruised on the mound while striking out eight, was backed by a relentless offense.

"We did not let up on gas pedal, and did everything they was in their control to play our best, and capitalize on the mistakes of BEA," said NRHEG coach Marcus Fischer.

"Blue Earth has a young team and they struggled to finding the strike zone."

The Panthers totaled six hits, two each by Mack Gilliland, Sean Lassahn and Brock Holland. Mack Gilliland and Lassahn each had four RBIs, Wayne three, Dakota Schlaak and Brooks Gilliland one each. Mack Gilliland scored three runs.

Wayne struck out 11 batters as the right-hander led NRHEG past

“We know to focus on what we can control during the game, and overall we did enough.”
— NRHEG coach Marcus Fischer

Blooming Prairie at Jeff and Carol Field in New Richland. Wayne gave up three hits and four runs over five innings while walking five.

The Awesome Blossoms were the first to get on the board in the first when Carsten Ingvalson singled, scoring one run.

The Panthers jumped back into the lead in the bottom of the first after the Blossoms committed an error, and Mack Gilliland singled down the right field line, each scoring one run.

Blooming Prairie made the score 4-2 in the top of the second after Lukas DenHerder drew a walk, scoring one run, and an error scored two runs.



HOME SWEET HOME — The NRHEG High School baseball team was home at Jeff and Carol Reese Field in New Richland to face Blooming Prairie last week as the Panthers' Owen Wayne outdueld former Panther Jared Lee in an 8-6 victory. Above, coach Marcus Fischer and the Panthers examine the action.

Photo by Jim Lutgens

The Panthers took the lead in the bottom of the fifth on two Blooming Prairie errors.

Former Panther Jared Lee — son of former NRHEG head coach Mark Lee — began the game on the mound for Blooming Prairie. The lefthander gave up five hits and five runs (two earned) over five innings, striking out eight and walking five.

Mack Gilliland, a freshman, earned the save for the Panthers.

"He had a good first appearance for relief on the mound and pitched two innings," said Fischer. "In the seventh, he faced the top of the lineup for Blooming Prairie. He closed the game down."

Wayne and Mack Gilliland had

two hits apiece for NRHEG, with one apiece going to Dakota Schlaak, Ryan Schlaak, Lassahn and Brooks Gilliland. Dakota Schlaak and the Gilliland brothers each drove in a run. Wayne scored twice.

The Panthers had patience at the plate, tallying six walks for the game. Sean Lassahn and Schlaak led the team with two free passes each.

Gabe Staloch led Blooming Prairie with two hits in three at-bats from the leadoff position. DenHerder and Ingvalson each drove in one run for Blooming Prairie, which worked the count all day, collecting six walks.

Gabe Staloch led Blooming Prairie with two hits in three at-bats

from the leadoff position. DenHerder and Ingvalson each drove in one run for Blooming Prairie.

The Blossoms worked the count all day, collecting six walks.

"A couple of pickoff moves that became errors helped us move on the bases and get some runs," said Coach Fischer. "The boys were determined to have strong at-bats, attack every opportunity, and would not give up. When we were down a couple of runs, we continued to reset by winning each inning. We know to focus on what we can control during the game, and overall we did enough to be on top at the end of the game."

JWP/WEM tracksters 1st, 2nd in invitational

On a night defined by cold temperatures and drizzling rain, the JWP/WEM track and field teams delivered an impressive performance at their first home meet of the season last Thursday.

The girls team led the charge, securing a decisive first-place finish with a commanding lead over the competition. Not to be outdone, the boys' team followed with a strong showing of its own, earning second place after battling through tough events and challenging weather conditions.

Also competing were teams from LCWM, Mankato

Loyola/Cleveland, MTGMGHEC, Maple River, Mountain Lake and St. Clair.

While winds were lighter than the previous meet, athletes still faced cold, damp conditions that tested endurance and focus. Despite the obstacles, the Bulldogs rose to the occasion, producing standout finishes across multiple events and recording numerous personal records.

The successful meet was also made possible by the support of parents and school staff, whose efforts ensured the events ran smoothly, despite the weather.

As the season gets underway, one thing is clear: the Bulldogs are off to a powerful start and they're just getting warmed up.

Addison Condon won the long jump and triple jump and teamed with Rachel Mielke, Nevaeh Weimert and Kyla Schlingman for first in the 4x100 relay. Also finishing first were Mielke, 300 hurdles; Ashlynn Wolff, 400; and the 4x400 team of Mielke, Alese Wolff, MaKaela Westphal and Weimert.

Westphal was second in the 100, third in the 200. Other seconds were by Jacelynn Mulder, 300 hurdles; Sarah Bulman, pole vault; Weimert,

triple jump; and the 4x200 team of Schlingmann, Kayleigh Donner, Condon and Weimert.

Alese Wolff finished third in the 100, 400 and long jump.

Other WEM/JWP places: Norah Welvaert, fourth, 3200; Mulder, fourth, 100 hurdles; 4x800, fifth (Welvaert, Anne Adams, Adelaine Splett, Kwynn Krause).

First-place showings for the boys were by Gavin Atherton, 400; Grady Grohlman, shot put; Aiden Gruber, high jump; and the 4x400 team of Tyson Kronbach, Wyatt Jans, Daulton Bauer and Atherton.

Other Bulldog placewinners:

Ethan Einertson, second, 200 and fourth, 400; Jans, second, 800; Gavin Weedman, second, high jump, and third, triple jump; 4x200, second (Einertson, Cole Bartz, Bauer, Atherton); Bauer, third, long jump; Teagan Mulder, fourth, 800; Grohman, fourth, discus; Bartz, fourth, long jump; 4x100, fourth (Gavinn Kaiser, Crue Burke, Blake Schlie Nate Cofield); 4x800, fourth (Brennan Welvaert, Charlie Dennis, Parker Smith, Wesley Heinz); James Morgan, fifth, 200; Bartz, fifth, discus; Trey Richards, fifth, pole vault.

Softball Panthers win two of three

The NRHEG High School softball team sustained its first loss at Maple River last Friday in a game that was closer than the 6-0 final score indicates.

The Panthers, who fell to 2-1, surrendered two first-inning runs, then held the Eagles scoreless until the sixth inning, when Maple River strung together six of its 12 hits to score four times.

"We didn't get a win, but I was impressed with our defense," said NRHEG coach Wendy Schultz. "Offensively, it took a little while to get the bats going. We had runners inscoring position a couple innings with one out, but got caught in line-drive double plays."

Brooklyn Summer and Faith Phillips collected two hits apiece for the Panthers, with Chloe Stork and Izley Boerner adding one each.

Boerner took the pitching loss, allowing six earned runs on 12 hits, with two strikeouts and two walks.

The Panthers drew four walks and struck out 10 times.

A day earlier, the Panthers won 16-6 in six innings at Blooming Prairie.

Quinn VanMaldeghem led the offense, going 4-for-5 with two doubles, five runs scored, four RBIs and two stolen bases. Stork was 3-for-4 with two runs, three RBIs and two stolen bases. Izley Boerner 3-for-5 with dour RBIs, and Kyera Eustice 2-for-4 with two RBIs. Phillips and Olivia Berg added one hit apiece. Ezra Boerner scored four runs.

Izley Boerner went the distance in the circle for the win. She gave up three earned runs on nine hits, with five strikeouts and one walk.

"It was a great team win," said Coach Schultz. "The girls were able to hit the ball pretty well and were aggressive on the base paths using their speed to earn 10 stolen bases. Quinn continued to hit well. Izley continued to be very consistent at the plate. Chloe got hits at key times. The battery of sisters Izley and Ezra Boerner played well. We definitely have areas to improve on, but I'm proud of the girls' effort and attitude."

The Panthers hosted Bethlehem Academy in their season opener in New Richland April 7 and won 15-8.

Offensive leaders: VanMaldeghem 2-for-4, two triples, two runs, two RBIs, two stolen bass; Izley Boernr 2-for-4, two runs; Summer 2-for-4, two runs, two RBIs. Adding one hit each were Ezra Boerner, Berg, Eustice, Phillips, Emelia Stadhmiem and stork. Phillips doubled.

Izley Boerner was the winning pitcher, giving up three earned runs on sven hits through 5 1/3 innings. Sommer finished on the mound.

"This was a total team effort," said Schultz. "The girls got key hits when they needed to and were aggressive on the bases. The conditions were chilly, but it was great to get a game in."

Softball Bulldogs top MVL, place third in tournament

The JWP High School softball team won two of three games this past week, defeating Minnesota Valley Lutheran while taking third in the JWP Invitational.

The Bulldogs prevailed 16-9 at MVL last Thursday behind a solid hitting attack.

Haylee Appel and Sophie Okins were both 5-for-5, with Okins doubling twice, scoring three runs, stealing three bases and driving in two runs. Appel also doubled. Raylen Blasing was 3-for-5 with three runs, Kaylee Langford

2-for-4 with three runs, Ryleigh Donner 2-for-3, Mya Wheelock 2-for-3 with three runs. Lily Ewert and Hudson Miller added one hit apiece.

Donner started in the circle and got the pitching win, with Simonson throwing in relief.

"This is how we like to see our team hit, steady, then with a bang when we need it," said JWP coach Brianne Eldred. "They did not give up and they played hard in the cold. Handwarmers are your best friends for pitchers. They both threw well. Our defense

looked good. We have a few things to still work on, but all in all it was a solid effort for a team win!"

The Bulldogs blew out Alden-Conger 11-2 in the opening game of the JWP Invitational Saturday.

Blasing went 2-for-4 with three RBIs and three stolen bases. Adding one hit each were Langford, Donner, Wheelock, Simonson, Miller and Avery Carda.

Donner pitched 5 2/3 innings for the win, allowing two hits while strikout out eight. Claire Loeffler went the final 1 1/3 inning.

"This was a great start to the tournament," said Eldred. "We can out a little show, but opened the flood gates and really started hitting. Even with three starters out, we still did a great job."

The Bulldogs fell 8-3 to Windom in the championship game. Langford was 2-for-4 with a double, with one hit each by Blasing, Appel, Okins and Simonson.

Simonson went the distance in the circle, allowing six earned runs while stranding eight baserunners.

"This was a solid game against a solid

team," said Eldred. "With three starters out, we had a young team for this game. I was impressed by them not giving up and putting the ball in play. We had the bases loaded at one point with three on. That is how close we are to beating a good team of that caliber. They are a few hits and a few errors shy be being really good. Their softball IQs keep going up and it shows on their focus and willing to learn in practice."

The Bulldogs ran their record to 3-2.

Child’s History of Waseca County

CHAPTER XI, 1855. Death of Henry Howell—First settlers in Blooming Grove, Janesville, and Byron.

Samuel F. Wyman, Michael Johnson, Jonathan Howell, and A. J. Bell took their claims in Blooming Grove early in the spring of 1855. They were all then single men. They built a little log hut on Bell’s claim, and commenced batching. At the end of about two years Messrs. Wyman and Bell tired of that kind of single blessedness and quit, leaving Johnson and Howell to go it alone. These two bachelors lived together as such about seven years more, when Mr. Johnson married and became a permanent resident. Mr. Howell remained single to the time of his death, which occurred in 1880. Bell afterwards became a resident of Faribault, and Mr. Wyman, who will be noticed more fully in biographical sketches, became a resident of Waseca.

The same season, in the month of June, Christian Remund, with his family, made his claim on sections 8 and 9, where he has since made his home. He was born in Switzerland November 21st, 1830, came to America in March, 1850, lived five years in Illinois, and there married, October 21st, 1851, Anna Bumgerdner, who was also a native of Switzerland. They arrived at their Minnesota home

June 28, 1855, and lived in their covered wagon until October of that fall.

Wm. M. Gray and family settled on section 33, in this township, in June, 1855. Mr. Gray was born in Genesee county, New York in 1806. In 1836 he married Miss Lucina Fuller, who was also a native of the same state. They came to this place from Iowa and resided here the remainder of their lives. Mr. Gray died in 1872, and Mrs. Gray died a few years later. They were very estimable people and highly respected.

J. M. Blivens and family settled on section 32, in this township, in the summer of 1855, where they lived for several years, when they removed to Missouri. The settlement in the early days bore Mr. Blivens’ name.

Mr. Curtis Hatch, a blind man, with quite a family, settled in section 15. He sold his claim here after a short time and moved into the western part of the county. He afterwards moved to Dakota and died in Moody county in 1884. Mrs. H. P. Chamberlain is his daughter and came with her parents to Blooming Grove.

Samuel and Luther Dickenson, of Vermont, settled in the township this year. Luther returned to Vermont during the hard times of 1858, but Samuel remained until 1860, when he sold his farm and removed to LeSueur county.

Finstad in the field

Discussing Tax Relief with Small Business Owners

As a member of the House Small Business Committee, I’m proud to be a voice in Washington for the job creators who drive our local economies. On Thursday, I hosted a Small Business Roundtable in Mankato to hear directly from small business owners about their current challenges and opportunities, as well as discuss the historic tax provisions delivered in the Working Families Tax Cuts.

By cutting red tape, giving job creators the freedom to invest and hire, and expanding access to the capital they need to grow, these tax cuts are helping Main Streets here in Minnesota and across the country. I appreciated the opportunity to hear firsthand how permanent tax relief has empowered our small businesses and put them on a more level playing field.

Hearing from City Leaders

During my time in Congress, I’ve been proud to secure \$41.2 million in federal funding for water, transportation, and community facility projects that improve the quality of life for folks who call southern Minnesota home. Today, I hosted a City Administrators Roundtable in Pine Island to hear from city officials about the needs of their communities and discuss federal funding opportunities available to local governments across southern Minnesota.

Thanks to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utility Service (RUS) Administrator Elmsphaeuser for joining our conversation and sharing resources within USDA programs that can help our communities fund important projects to meet their current and future infrastructure needs.

It was great to be in Hanska earlier this week to meet with city leaders and get an update on their priorities, like much-needed upgrades to their city infrastructure.

I know how challenging it can be for smaller communities to navigate the bureaucratic process and secure funding for critical infrastructure projects, which is why I’m grateful for these conversations that help ensure small towns like Hanska have access to federal resources for the projects that will help strengthen their community.

I also met with the Wabasha Ambulance Service’s dedicated staff and volunteers, who provide Wabasha, Kellogg, and surrounding areas with essential emergency transport and medical services. We toured their facility, discussed their operations, and they shared with me some challenges they face while serving the area.

Thank you to the folks with Wa-

basha Ambulance and all those across southern Minnesota who provide lifesaving support for our local communities!

Talking Conservation with Ducks Unlimited

On Tuesday, I toured Gleam Wildlife Management Area in Truman, a wetland purchased and improved by Fox Lake Conservation League and Ducks Unlimited.

Across Minnesota, Ducks Unlimited has conserved over 238,000 acres of wetland habitat through partnerships with local farmers, landowners, agencies, and other entities. I appreciated speaking with local Ducks Unlimited leaders and representatives from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources about their efforts and how we can keep working together to strengthen voluntary, farmer-friendly conservation programs.

Visiting with Southern Minnesota Dairy Producers

On Wednesday, I stopped into Scheffler Farm near Zumbrota. As a fourth-generation farmer raising the fifth, I always enjoy visiting farms across the First District to learn more about their operations and family history. A big thank you to the Scheffler Family for a look at their dairy operation this week!

Later that day, I toured the farmer-owned Plainview Milk Products Cooperative, which proudly produces quality dairy products from milk sold by dairy farmers in the First District.

Both locally and nationwide, dairy production is an important part of our agriculture industry, and it was great to get an up-close look at how Plainview Milk Products Cooperative manufactures milk products distributed both regionally and globally. Thank you for having me!

Connecting with MN-01 Manufacturers

This week, I spent time visiting some of our top-notch local manufacturing operations. Windings, Inc. is a 100% employee-owned company that designs and manufactures electromagnetic solutions for a wide range of uses. On Tuesday, I joined their team for a tour of their facility in New Ulm to learn more about the work they are doing.

I also toured Progressive Tool and Manufacturing’s facilities to get a firsthand look at the plastic injection molding, sheet metal fabrication, tooling, machining, assembly, and shipping services they provide. The First District is home to some impressive manufacturing facilities, and I always enjoy learning more about the products that are made right here at home. Thank you for having me!

Bluejay Students of the Month

Students of the Month:
Brilliant Bluejays


Braxton
Kindergarten


Saige
1st Grade


Aubrey
2nd Grade


Kai
3rd Grade


Arham
1st Grade


Samuel
1st Grade

Legislative update from Rep. Sexton

Dear Neighbor,

We are back into the swing of things here in St. Paul after a short break for Easter/Passover. I sincerely enjoyed my time back in district, connecting with all of you, and slowing down for a moment. I hope you had a peaceful Easter weekend as well. Now that we are back in session, we are full speed ahead with only 6 weeks left to go. Our focus remains the same: working for affordability, stopping fraud, and making Minnesota a better place to live, work, and raise a family!

Weighing Budget Options

As budget discussions continue, several proposals from Governor Walz raise concerns for communities across Greater Minnesota. As I mentioned in previous newsletters, the February 2026 Budget Forecast shows optimism for the economy and a better outlook for the structural budget deficit. However, unless we can agree upon some budget cuts, we are still spending more than the budget forecast can support. On March 17th, Governor Walz sent the House and Senate the Executive Branch’s proposed supplemental budget. His budget proposal includes a \$63.273M spending increase making the structural deficit even worse.

The Walz administration created some interesting proposals. For example, before Governor Walz released his budget proposal, we pushed a bill to the House floor using the “Urgency” procedure to create a permanent extension to the Pass-Through-Entity (PTE) tax. Unfortunately, it did not prevail as the House is tied 67 to 67 and that is exactly how this vote turned out. However, Governor Walz just proposed the same permanent extension to the Pass-Through-Entity (PTE) tax which costs Minnesotans nothing and enables individuals to save on their federal income taxes. So, please expect to see more on this topic soon.

Other tax related proposals include expanding the Child and Dependent Care Credit by raising the income threshold associated with the tax credit. In other words, if you made too much money to take advantage of the credit in the past, raising the income threshold may allow more families to qualify now. Standby for information on this topic as we work through our Tax committee process.

If you are a gun enthusiast, Governor Walz wants to create a new gross receipts tax of 10% on handguns and 11% on long guns. The Walz administration forecasts the tax receipts will contribute \$9.209M in FY26-27 and \$28.160M in FY28-29 to the budget. Needless to say, this proposal was not well received by many Minnesotans.

Today, I am barely touching on several of the budget proposals impacting many of us in Greater Minnesota. Next week we will be back in our committees working through many more of these issues as we move away from hearing proposed bills in committee and transition towards consolidating an agreement on one single bill from each committee. This fact is unfortunate, but a tied House results in a tie vote on many bills in committee where we are evenly bal-

anced as well. Our Tax Committee and Capital Investment (Bonding) Committee are the exceptions as we always hear bills right up to the end of session and often produce one consolidated budget bill from these committees.

Regardless of the distractions you are hearing in the news, we are keenly focused on affordability. Just last night, we proposed two opportunities to suspend the House rules and hear two important bills on the house floor. First, we brought the House version of Senator Jasinski’s Car Tab Fee Reduction bill to the floor, and it did not prevail. Next, we proposed a partial Property Tax Refund

and it did not prevail. These important proposals come at a time when many Greater Minnesota communities are already facing workforce shortages, rising health care costs, and many more impacts to our family budgets. As we move forward in our budget negotiations, I will continue advocating for solutions that protect essential services and ensure Greater Minnesota communities are not left behind.

Capitol Conversations

I had a wonderful opportunity to meet with several groups of 6th graders from Owatonna at the Capitol this week. It is great to see young students learning

about our state’s history and the legislative process. Thank you, students, for coming to visit!

Coffee With Tom

Coffee with Tom in Waseca will be on Friday, April 17th from 12:00 – 1:00 pm at the Waseca Chamber of Commerce. This is a change due to Good Friday occurring on April 3rd, 2026, as we shifted the schedule back one week.

Please note that we will not host Coffee with Tom during the month of May due to our uncertain legislative schedule. As we move towards the end of session on May 18th, 2026, we could be in-session all seven days of the week.

**LARGE FARMERS MACHINERY AUCTION**

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

LOCATION: From Ellendale, MN, 2 miles west of State Hwy. 30, then 1 mile north on Steele Cty. 28 (or SW 72nd Ave.) then 1/2 mile east on SW 138th St. (or 1/2 mi east of Beaver Lake).

Please Note: PARTIAL LISTING. BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR LATE ADDITIONS. Delivery of consignments will be on APRIL 12, 13, 14, 15, 2026 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. **NO Consignments on April 16th and 17th!** Some items subject to change prior to auction. Loading of items day of auction until 4 p.m. Sunday and Monday 10 a.m. to 12:00 noon **Tracy Holland**

TRACTORS **TRUCKS** **TRAILERS** **GRAIN CART** **FARM & LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT** **ILLAGE** **GOLF CART** **RECREATION** **MISC**



- J.D. 8760, 4WD, 300 HP, 6993 original hours, 70% Good Year 520/85R-42" tires, auto-steer ready, rear inside weights, RW8760H003730 (SHARP)
- J.D. 2940, 7230 hours, 3 pt., 2 hyd., good rubber
- J.D. 630 w/New Idea loader
- I.H. 706, gas, 3 pt. W.F.
- A-C 190, gas, W.F., 2423 hours
- Farmall Super MTA, rear wheel weights, 3 pt., N.F., w/hydraulic loader, SN 78285
- Farmall M.N.F., S.N. 8250
- Farmall H, fenders, N.F., SN 233078
- 2003 Sterling Acterra grain truck, 400,017 miles, twin screw, Cat motor, Eaton-Fuller 10-speed, Crysteel 19" steel box, 3-piece endgate, roll tarp (NICE)
- 1951 Dodge 5 Window pickup, 350 engine, 350 turbo trans. (partial restoration)
- 2024 H&H 82"x24" bumper hitch trailer, 14,000 GVWR, spare tire, ramps (LIKE NEW)
- 2009 Keystone Sprinter camper, 2 slides, 31" sleeps 8
- Demco 650 grain cart, roll tarp, 24.5-32" tires (NICE)
- Brillion 5 shank in-line ripper, 3 pt., Model ZS5302
- L&D Ag tandem axle tender, 1065-gal. poly tank w/6.5 HP pump, inductor tank
- M.F. disc mower, Model 1327, 5-disc
- Case I.H. 4700 field cultivator, 36 1/2" walking tandems on wings, 4-bar harrow
- International 490 disc, 25", 7" spacing
- Wil-Rich 2500 digger, 24", pull-type w/wings
- Roorda feed/mixer wagon Model 225-C J.D. 825 cultivator 8-row X 30", w/rolling shields
- Demco 3 pt. sprayer, 60" hyd. Fold w/hyd. Pump & controls
- Blumhardt 300-gal, 3 pt. sprayer PTO pump
- White 5100 planter, 8 row X 30", liquid, monitor
- Ford 501 sickle mower, 3 pt., 7" bar
- J.D. 7000 6 row X 30" planter
- MN 260 gravity wagon w/MN gear
- J.D. A94 hay rake
- Frangard Disc. mower, 3 pt, 5 disc.



- 1991 Freightliner grain truck, 500 Bu, 3408 cat
- M.M. 12" grain drill, hyd. Lift, grass seed, on rubber
- Parker gravity wagon, 250 bu. w/gear



- 2 – 300 bu. Gravity wagons, w/10 ton gears
- J.D. Model 37 sickle mower, 7" bar
- Running gear header cart, 20"
- Lilliston 5" rotary cutter, pull type
- 2 – Westgo 8" X 62" augers, electric, PTO
- J.D. VanBrundt 12" grain drill, grass seed, low rubber single dice
- 2 – hay racks
- Older Snowco feed wagon
- 2 – 3250 gal. horizontal poly leg tanks
- 3 pt. landscape rake
- 3 pt. driveway box leveler
- Pincor 50 KW. Alternator, 3 phase, 3 pt
- Ford hyd. Loader off of 8N
- J.D. 400 feed mill
- N.H. 66 baler
- Gehl 2 row stalk chopper
- Misc. tractor parts
- Craftsman Garden tractor, 25 HP, 48" deck
- 2008-Ford Expedition, 5.4 engine, 275,000 miles
- 2006-Jeep Liberty, 150,000 miles
- 2022 Club Car Tempo golf cart, electric, lights, windshield (LIKE NEW)
- 2001 Crestliner 14' boat w 2021/Mercury 4 HP four stroke, used 3 times, w/trailer
- 4 – New tires & rims, 30x9.00R15, 30x10.00R15, 8PR, off of 2025 Can-Am defender
- 1996 Yamaha golf cart, gas
- Homak stackable roller tool chest
- J.D. Wheel weights, rears & fronts
- 2 – J.D. quick hitches
- 5 – calf huts w/gating
- Hyd. Wood splitter (home made)
- 3 – Ritchie livestock double waterers
- 3 – Micro livestock double/single waterers



- 2009 Keystone Sprinter camper, 2 slides, 31" sleeps 8
- Demco 650 grain cart, roll tarp, 24.5-32" tires (NICE)
- Brillion 5 shank in-line ripper, 3 pt., Model ZS5302
- L&D Ag tandem axle tender, 1065-gal. poly tank w/6.5 HP pump, inductor tank
- M.F. disc mower, Model 1327, 5-disc
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- Demco 3 pt. sprayer, 60" hyd. Fold w/hyd. Pump & controls
- Blumhardt 300-gal, 3 pt. sprayer PTO pump
- White 5100 planter, 8 row X 30", liquid, monitor
- Ford 501 sickle mower, 3 pt., 7" bar
- J.D. 7000 6 row X 30" planter
- MN 260 gravity wagon w/MN gear
- J.D. A94 hay rake
- Frangard Disc. mower, 3 pt, 5 disc.

Terms: Cash or Good Check, & Picture ID Required. Minnesota sales tax applies. No property removed until fully settled for. Sales Staff and Owners Not Responsible for accidents. Any verbal announcements made day of auction takes precedence over print. Lunch and restroom services available on site. **Clerk: Holland Auction LLC**

**HOLLAND AUCTION - 507-684-2955**

FOR FULL COLOR PICTURES & LISTING VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.hollandauction.com

**MSAA**

Auctioneers: Tracy Holland and Associates LLC
Ellendale, MN #7405002
(507) 684-2955 or
(507) 456-5128 (cell)

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

Mortgagor: Bruce Hindt, a single man and Bobbie Medin, a single woman as joint tenants Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for United Wholesale Mortgage, its successors and assigns Dated: March 1, 2019 Recorded: March 4, 2019 Waseca County Recorder Document No. 317295

Assigned To: NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing Dated: March 10, 2023

Recorded: March 10, 2023 Waseca County Recorder Document No. A333093

Transaction Agent: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. Transaction Agent Mortgage Identification Number: 100032412190364668 Lender or Broker: United Wholesale Mortgage Residential Mortgage Servicer: Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing Mortgage Originator: United Wholesale Mortgage

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The South Twenty (20) feet of Lots One (1) and Two (2) and the South Twenty feet of the West Half (W1/2) of Lot Three (3), Block Two (2), Wards Addition to the Village, now City, of Waseca, Minnesota, and the North Fifty (50) feet of Lots One (1) and Two (2) and the North Fifty (50) feet of the West Half (W1/2) of Lot Three (3), Block One (1), Lakeview Addition to the Village, now City, of Waseca, Minnesota, according to the Plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the County Recorder in and for Waseca County, Minnesota

This is Abstract Property. TAX PARCEL NO.: 17.427.0010 & 17.702.0110 ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 123 8th St Se Waseca, MN 56093

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Waseca ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$148,566.00 AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE: \$145,072.47

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part;

PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: June 4, 2026, 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, 122 3rd Avenue NW, Waseca, MN

to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within 6 Months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns.

DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: The date on or before which the mortgagor must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under Minnesota Statutes section 580.30 or the property redeemed under Minnesota Statutes section 580.23 is December 4, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED

FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: NONE

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Important Notice to Potential Bidders: Federal law administered by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network ("FinCEN"), a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, requires certain residential real estate transactions to be reported to the federal government. If you are the winning bidder at auction, you may be required to provide identifying information about yourself and,

if applicable, any entity or trust purchasing the property. This information is required by federal law and must be provided to complete the sale. Failure to provide required information after the sale may delay or prevent issuance of the foreclosure deed.

Dated: March 18, 2026

NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing

By: HALLIDAY, WATKINS & MANN, P.C. Attorneys for: NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing 1333 Northland Drive, Suite 205 Mendota Heights, MN 55120 801-355-2886 651-228-1753 (fax)

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. MN25334. Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and May 7, 2026

State of Minnesota District Court Freeborn County Third District Court File Number: 24-JV-26-307 Case Type: CHIPS - Permanency Summons and Notice – Termination of Parental Rights Matter

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of: Kristi Mary Smith,

Mother and Jesse Allen Tollefson, Father

NOTICE TO: Jesse Allen Tollefson, Above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s).

- A Termination of Parental Rights Petition has been filed in the Juvenile Court alleging that parental rights of the above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s) to the child(ren) named in the petition should be permanently severed.
- This is your notice that this Termination of Parental Rights case is scheduled for a hearing before the Juvenile Court located at 411 South Broadway Albert Lea MN 56007, on May 11, 2026 at 2:30 pm or as soon after as the case can be heard. Please contact court administration to get the hearing information.
- YOU ARE ORDERED to appear before the Juvenile Court at the scheduled time and date.
- You have a right to be represented by counsel.
- If you fail to appear at the hearing, the Court may still conduct the hearing and grant appropriate relief, including permanently severing the parental rights of the above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s) or taking permanent custody of the child(ren) named in the Petition.

Dated: March 24, 2026 Rebecca S. Mittag Court Administrator Freeborn County District Court 411 South Broadway Albert Lea MN 56007 507-668-6014 Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on April 2, 9 and 16, 2026

Garage Sale
21443 160th Street,
New Richland.
Large sale with
household items,
tools, antiques.
April 23, 11 to 7: Friday
April 24, 8 to 5: Sat.,
April 25, 8 to 3.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Dated this day, April 16, 2026, Pursuant to Minnesota statutes: The below listed unclaimed vehicles and trailers as described by identifiable means, in possession of Landlord, located at or from 1400 2nd St. S.E., Waseca, MN, 56093, formerly addressed to Storage World Marine and R.V., will be considered abandoned, relinquishing lawful ownership to possessor, to be sold, disposed of, or other, unless claimed and retrieved by the verified owner(s) on or before, May 1, 2026.

Claimant verified owner(s) shall reimburse Pro Rated incurred storage and clerical costs associated to each, their owned vehicle or trailer, upon retrieval.

Claimant(s) reply to: 1400waseca@gmail.com, or: Waseca Police Department, 303 S. State St. Waseca MN 56093.

WHITE 2000 FORD F350 TRUCK VIN#1FDXE45SXYHB64298 WI .LLC. #J2304

WHITE 2004 CHEVROLET 3500 TRUCK VIN#1GCJK34U54E313101 MN.LIC# YNF9374

BLACK 1990 CHEVROLET C10 TRUCK VIN#1GCDXC14K4LZ198088

CREAM 2006 CHRYSLER 300

SEDAN VIN. #2C3KK63H17H687975 MN.LIC.# RSR039

TAN 1997 BOUNDER R.V. VIN# 3FCMF53G4VJA07559

WHITE DUTCHMAN CAMPER MN. LIC.# RT24258

GRAY CAMPER MN. LIC:#RM478118

ORANGE CENTURION BOAT

TRAILER MN.LIC# ABGW530

BLUE VIP BOAT TRAILER M.N. LIC.# ABAZ030

WHITE BOAT TRAILER M.N. LIC.# CAT2338

RED FOUR WINNS BOAT TRAILER M.N. LIC# ADJB155

WHITE SHORELAND'R BOAT TRAILER M.N. LIC# X92973

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Waseca City Council held a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 7th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** in the City Hall Council Chambers, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 and adopted the following Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 1135 – City Code Text Amendments

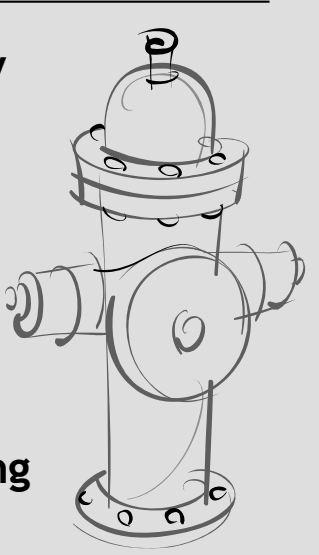
ORDINANCE NO. 1138 – Airport & WWTP Land Annexation

ORDINANCE NO. 1139 – Dennis Steffel Omtvedt Funeral Home Rezoning

Complete copies of Ordinances 1135, 1138 and 1139 are available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk at 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Published in the *Waseca County Pioneer* on April 16th, 2026

Julia Zuehlke
City Clerk



Get your news in the Pioneer

- news@wasecacountypioneer.com
- Call (507) 837-6767
- Office at 111 W. Elm Avenue

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FOR RENTAL INFO CALL **507-201-3474**

We are accepting applications for:

- 1 bedroom apartments**
Income guidelines apply Vouchers accepted
- 2 bedroom & 3 bedroom**
Rent based on income

Professionally managed by:

BRUTGER EQUITIES, INC.

Water Hydrant Flushing!

The City of Waseca's Water Utility will be flushing fire hydrants beginning Monday, April 27th

Utility workers will be moving: Southwest to Southeast, then Northwest to Northeast...

Rusty water may be evident during this time and shortly after...

MORE INFO → Call Utilities Offices @ 835-9718



SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6pm Bar Bingo	2 7pm BINGO	3 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	4
5	6	7 Burger Night 5-7 pm	8 6pm Bar Bingo	9 7pm BINGO	10 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	11
12 Breakfast VFW 8:00am to noon Your Host Sheriff's Posse	13 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	14 Burger Night 5-7 pm	15 6pm Bar Bingo	16 7pm BINGO	17 Walleye Dinner 5-7 pm	18
19	20	21 Burger Night 5-7 pm	22 6pm Bar Bingo	23 7pm BINGO	24 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	25
26 Breakfast VFW 8:00am to noon Waseca Care Givers	27	28 Burger Night 5-7 pm	29 6pm Bar Bingo	30 7pm BINGO		

SUN.– MON. CLOSED
TUE.– 1pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady's nite 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm.
WED.– SAT.-1pm to 11 pm

■ Charity

from Page 1

she, her brother Shea, and her grandparents Ann and Bob Carda needed two vehicles and many trips carrying items in and out to deliver everything that had been collected to Fresh Start, and then a second time to Bethlehem Inn.

“I’m speechless,” commented Bethlehem Inn’s program director, Sue McIntosh, indicating a whole room filled with Gabi’s donation of personal care items and laundry and cleaning supplies. Commenting that the items would be of immeasurable assistance to the women and families currently rebuilding their lives while staying at Bethlehem Inn, she suggested their hearts would also be lifted by the message of empathy and support the gifts bring with them.

“It’s actions like yours,” she said to Gabi, “that will change the world.”

Gabi suggested anyone could

make a similar impact by choosing a cause, putting together a plan, and carrying out a few steps to follow through. “It didn’t take that much time,” she repeated, “and people were really happy to give.”

In fact, she went on to say, the smiles and words of thanks people shared with her as they delivered their donations were one of the best parts of the project for her, and are much of the reason she has continued with the project for five years.

Ann Carda, Gabi’s grandmother, complimented Gabi’s organization skills, but went on to suggest nearly anyone could make a similar impact simply by choosing a project and taking the time to follow through. Mentioning that rising prices and shifting social circumstances are putting more and more people at risk of homelessness.

“If we have a crisis of some type, it could be any of us needing this kind of help,” said Carda. “We need to help, because it makes such a difference for people who suddenly lose things they used to be able to rely on.”

JWP Competes at Minnesota High School Math League



COMPETING PROUD - After the sixth and final round of the Minnesota High School Math League, JWP earned second place among the twelve participating high schools.

JWP ended the year with a score of 87, narrowly passing Hibbing High School to earn second place.

During the sixth round, Clare Groh, Tyson Kronbach, Tyson Johnson, Hudson Miller, and Ellie Morsching all placed individually. The team wants to give special recognition to Brielle James, Ellie Morsching, and Lily Quast as the three seniors who have each been involved in competitive math since fifth grade. Their contributions and presence at the competitions will be dearly missed.

Important Information Regarding
Assessment and Classification of Property

This may affect your 2027 property tax payments.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Iosco Township shall meet on May 8th, 9 a.m., at Iosco Townhall. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor’s office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to your county board of appeal and equalization.

■ Donate

from Page 1

helps facilitate donations, because they want others to have the same life-changing opportunities provided to Coyle.

They sought to share their story with Pioneer readers because April is national “Donate Life” month, and because their personal experiences have shown them the immeasurable difference a donated organ can make.

Josh, whose 20-year anniversary as a Firefighter Emergency Medic Technician with the Faribault Fire Department will be this August, explains their experiences began before Coyle was born. A small abnormality occurred while Coyle was developing in the womb, and made itself known during routine prenatal checkups. The baby’s kidneys and bladder were enlarged; a small “flap of skin” blocking his urinary tract was damaging the kidneys by causing them to retain harmful waste fluids.

An emergency C-section took place

at 37 weeks so that a surgery could be performed to remove the blockage. Although it was anticipated the removal procedure would be simple, it failed to help. Coyle’s kidneys were irreversibly damaged and in danger of failing.

Kayla describes it as a figurative “punch in the gut” when she and Josh learned their 2-month-old baby would need a kidney transplant if he was to survive. She also mentions that the sudden, profound realization of the importance of being an organ donor inspired both her and Josh to register as donors themselves.

Thus began a high-stakes learning curve for the Bauer family. They were informed Coyle would have to reach a certain weight before he would be eligible for a transplant, a weight typically reached only at age one or later. Further, for a donor’s organs to be small enough for a 1-year-old, the donor would have to be either a child or an adult of unusually small size, possibly reducing Coyle’s odds of receiving a transplant. No adult member of the Bauers’ family could donate a kidney simply because theirs were all too large.

Once he had reached the eligible

weight, it was a matter of continuing to do whatever they could to keep their son healthy while waiting for a phone call that would change everything.

“We were told to answer any call that came into our phones,” describes Kayla, “even if it was at 2 in the morning. We were supposed to keep travel bags packed, ready to leave on very short notice.”

At 19 months, Coyle was on the verge of beginning dialysis when the long-awaited call came. A 19-year-old donor in central Minnesota would provide a suitable kidney.

“That’s part of why we’re so grateful,” mentions Kayla, noting that someone else’s family had to experience an unimaginable loss in order for Coyle to get what he needed. She says she has used the carefully constructed protocols LifeSource provides to reach out to the donor’s family since Coyle’s transplant.

The Bauers’ narrative makes it clear the process of finding and receiving a suitable organ is a series of small steps, each one reliant on the step before, with no guarantees that each will come to a conclusion that allows the next to take place. And always with high stakes and

high speed, since the timeline for removing the organ from the donor and transplanting it is counted in hours.

In Coyle’s case, the Mayo helicopter was sent to pick up and transport the kidney using needed protocols and equipment. The transplant took place in Rochester.

After it had occurred, Coyle had to be closely monitored for weeks to ensure the kidney was functioning sufficiently. He will spend the rest of his life on immunosuppressant medications so that his body does not reject the organ. Another unknown is how long the transplanted kidney will remain viable; Josh says they have spoken with people who have lost the new organ in only a couple years, and others who have kept it for decades. The typical duration for an organ from a deceased donor, they are told, is about seven years.

“We want people to know how meaningful their decision to be a donor can be,” says Kayla. “You don’t know who you’ll be helping, but you will be making a priceless difference to someone who is going through a very difficult time.”



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M-F 7:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Sat 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Sunday Closed

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