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Miss Waseca

Cook the Book event at Waseca Library Thursday, Feb. 13

Visit Waseca Public Library to choose a recipe from the selected cookbook: When Southern Women Cook by America's Test Kitchen. Then bring the finished dish to Waseca Public Library at noon on Thursday, February 13th, where the cooks will sample all the dishes and share their experiences. Open to all cooking and baking skill levels!

Toners Lake Vintage Ride Saturday, Feb. 15

Toners Lake Vintage Snowmobile Ride will be from 11 a.m. through 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15. Registration is from 9 a.m. through 10:30 a.m. The starting point will be 8747 415 Ave. Janesville, MN 56048. For more information contact either Marissa at 507-461-4501 or Mark at 507-835-5480.

Valentines' Dinner at Indian Island Winery Saturday, Feb. 15

There will be a Valentine's Dinner at the Indian Island Winery at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15. Cost is \$150 per couple and includes two glasses of wine, two, three course dinners catered by Oscar's, entertainment by Generation Gap, a rose and multiple gifts.

Snowmobile Safety Riding Course at Lakeview Park, Janesville, Feb. 16

There will be a Snowmobile Safety and Riding Course at Lakeview Park on the south end of Lake Elysian in Janesville at 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16. Contact Marty Erdman at 507-420-1109 with questions.

Virtual Author Event Feb. 18: Lee Hawkins

Journalist and author Lee Hawkins will talk about his book, I Am Nobody's Slave, at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18. This event will be recorded and people who register will be emailed a link to the recording. Register at the library or at wasecalesueurlibraries.com/getregistered.

Musical Bingo at Waseca Public Library Tuesday, Feb. 18

There will be Musical Bingo at the Waseca Public Library at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18. Rock around the clock. We'll be playing Bingo but instead of calling out numbers, we'll be playing songs from the sixties and seventies. This is geared toward seniors.

Magna-Tile Villages at Janesville Public Library Tues., Feb. 18

There will be a Magna-Tile Villages class at the Janesville Public Library at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18. Create design plans and speed build with an amazing assortment of Magna-Tile sets for ages 7-12.

*A word from
The Word*

Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare.

**Proverbs
22:24-25**

Dufault, Hodgkins, crowned

WHS snow week concludes

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

David Hodgkins and Callie Dufault were named Waseca Junior Senior High School's Snow Week king and queen during a coronation ceremony the morning of Thursday, Feb. 6.

Emcees for the event were seniors Tyler Jellum, Ashton Jenzen, and Cejay Pickett. Since the coronation was held during the school day, students in grades 9 through 12 attended, as did about 75 people from the community. Members of all winter sports teams were seated in front of the crowd near the royal dais.

In turn, the coaches for each sport summarized their seasons. Crowd members heard from girls' hockey coach Abbe Hoehn; cheer coach Ashley Semmann; ski team coach Dave Abel; wrestling coach Jake Janike; swim club coach Jeanne Sexton; boys' basketball coach Seth Anderson; girls' basketball coach Anthony Jackson; and boys' hockey team coach Chris Storie. In the absence of gymnastics coach Kim Wendland, football coach Brad Wendland introduced the gymnastics team.

Queen Callie Dufault is the daughter of Barry and Stacey Dufault. She is involved in cross country and was a state competition participant. She is also active in basketball and track. She is a member of the Minnesota Honor Society and Christ Community Church. Callie participates in select choir, the State Street Singers, and the choir sextets. She is a leader for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) and works at Pizza Ranch. Callie was named one of this year's Bluejay Triple A award winners.

King David Hodgkins is the son of Troy and Donna Hodgkins. He is active in football, baseball, DECA and Yearbook. He is employed as a life-guard both by Waseca Community Education and the Waseca Waterpark; he also works at Walmart.

Court member Sierra Krause is daughter to Tom and Chris Krause. She is a member of Faith Baptist Church, and of the Minnesota Honor Society. She participates in Business Professionals of America (BPA) and recently became eligible to compete at state. She is a member of the track team and works at Alee Services.

Siri Kuhns is the daughter of Dan Kuhns and Nicole Wangen. She is one of the captains of both the volleyball and softball teams. She is a member of the Minnesota Honor Society and of St. John's Lutheran Church. She works at Bomgaars, is in 4-

Week continued on 6



David Hodgkins and Callie Dufault shortly after they were crowned Waseca's Snow Week King and Queen on Tuesday, Feb. 3. Pioneer photos by Deb Bently



Cejay Pickett places the crown on David Hodgkin's head during the recent coronation ceremony.

Winter angling returns to St. Olaf

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The New Richland Sportsmen's Club held its ice fishing contest on St. Olaf Lake from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8. According to Lee Mendenhall, "Fish houses are allowed; prize announcements can be heard on FM 88.1."

An icy wind moved the 20-degree air across St. Olaf Lake, but seemed not to dampen the spirits of so many ice fishermen. The clogging of boots on ice and the hoots and hollers of hearty, heavily dressed Minnesotans could be heard while approaching the announcer's booth which Mendenhall described for anglers as being "under the pole with the American flag on it." Among this year's many prizes were opportunities to win cash. Seykora Automotive Repair out of Owatonna donated a "fishing license for life" to one child under 18 years old.

Waseca Marine and More set up a mobile bait shop. The city park concession stand offered pop, bratwurst, hot dogs and hot chocolate as long as supplies lasted.

The afternoon's largest reward, the 50/50 raffle prize of \$1,143, went to Rick Shultz.

Tyler Jacobson won the grand prize drawing of \$500.

First place with a \$75 cash prize



Tyler Jacobson won the \$500 grand prize at the New Richland Sportsmen's Club's Ice Fishing Contest on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025.

for the largest fish of the day was Todd Ide: his fish weighed 1 pound, 8.4 ounces.

Taking second place and earning a \$50 cash prize was Hunter Priebe, whose fish weighed 1 pound, 6.6 ounces.

A \$25 cash prize for the third largest fish for the day went to Alexa Schmidt; her fish was 13.5 ounces.

The lifetime fishing license drawing was given out by Dave Dunnette of Seykora Automotive Repair of Owatonna to Alexander Revermann of Waseca. Dunnette is also president of the New Richland Sportsmen's Club. Alex's parents were instructed to fill out paperwork, then bring it to

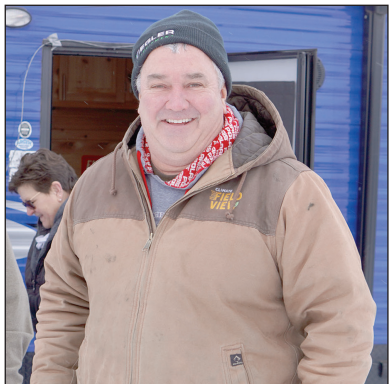


Dave Dunnette of Seykora Automotive Repair of Owatonna presented Alex Revermann with his "Fishing License for Life" prize on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025.



Todd Ide won first place with a cash prize of \$75, his fish was 1 pound 8.4 ounces.

Seykora's to be mailed in with a check. The little Revermann said, "I wrote my name on the paper when I registered, but I never thought I would win. I was so excited because



Rick Schultz won the 50/50 cash prize of \$1,143.

I never really win anything." He also received an ice fishing care package to assist him with his new license, including ice fishing poles, lures, a tackle box and strainer.



Identify Frosty for share of \$1,500

It's time again for the annual Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Identify Frosty event. This year's event is the 27th installment of the annual contest.

Who is Frosty?

Identify FROSTY and win some cash! Prize money totaling \$1,500.00 is waiting to be won. FROSTY is a Waseca County resident chosen to be an ambassador for the Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival. Follow the clues and guess FROSTY'S name.

Grand prize is \$300.00. If you are at the official unmasking at the Star Fire Event Center at 8:30 p.m., on Friday, February 21, 2025, you will win an additional \$50.00. First correct guess from Janesville, New Richland and Waseca wins \$150.00; and if you are at the unmasking, you will win an additional \$50.00. Only five names will be drawn for \$100 – must be present. Five names win \$50.00 – attendance is not necessary.

Contest rules

1. Clues are published by the Waseca County News and Facebook; Waseca County Pioneer; NRHEG Star Eagle; Waseca Chamber of Commerce; and KOWZ/KRUE radio.
2. One guess allowed each

Snow continued on 5



Alexa Schmidt won the third place prize of \$25, her fish was 13.5 ounces at the New Richland Sportsmen's Club Ice Fishing contest on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025.



Hunter Priebe won second place with his 1 pound 6.6 ounces fish, the cash prize was \$50 at the St. Olaf Lake Ice Fishing Contest.



Compostings

by Al Batt

Most birds have three or four toes

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I love Worcestershire sauce. What's so good about it? It's hard to say.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. The radio sang, "Everybody was Kung Fu fighting. Those cats were fast as lightning. In fact, it was a little bit frightening." Farmers' Almanac says the spring outlook for the Midwest is very cold and wet. That was more frightening.

I saw a road-killed raccoon. Its tail whipped around in a fierce wind. That's where the wind goes. I thought of Fess Parker. Someone had sent me a video of 6'6" tall Fess Parker, who was featured in "Davy Crockett: King of the Wild Frontier" on TV in 1955, which presented three episodes about the famous explorer, congressman and heroic figure from the Alamo. It was a colossal hit, and kids sported coon-skin caps just like their hero. Later, still wearing buckskins and a coon-skin cap, Parker starred in "Daniel Boone," a highly rated TV series (1964-1970) set during the American Revolution. Buddy Ebsen played Georgie Russell, Davy Crockett's loyal and humorous sidekick. Ebsen's career continued to flourish in "The Beverly Hillbillies" and "Barnaby Jones." Nathan Boone said that his father despised raccoon fur caps and didn't wear one, wearing a wide-brimmed felt or beaver hat instead. There were comic books, bubble gum and a #1 hit song called "The Ballad of Davy Crockett." Neither Crockett, Boone, Parker or Ebsen did any Kung Fu fighting.

NOW U-TURN

False rumors claim that my hometown is getting a stoplight, with a committee supposedly formed to select the colors. A woman made a U-turn on the highway and stopped at the gas station. She waved her cellphone about and said, "I can't find Hartland on the map and I'm in it!"

Stoplights would have only confused her. When I was a new driver, a U-turn, either done legally or illegally, was called hanging a U-ie. A left turn was sometimes called a Louis (pronounced "Louie") and a right turn was hanging a Ralph or a Ralphie.

I'VE LEARNED

Whereas most birds have three or four toes on each foot, ostriches are unique in that they have only two.

Nearly all cigarette filters are made of plastic fibers. The plastic,

cellulose acetate, degrades only under severe biological circumstances, such as when filters collect in sewage. Cigarette butts are the most commonly littered item.

I had the hiccups for three weeks. I found a way to cure them. Keep saying "pineapple" until they go away. It works, but it takes three weeks.

ASK AL

"How do you decide which breakfast cereal to buy?" I read the nutrition label and avoid any box that carries a funeral home advertisement.

"Why are the deceased's arms crossed in a casket?" The practice of crossing arms in a casket is a tradition that dates back to ancient cultures that believed there would be waterslides in the afterlife.

"Who said, 'The way to a man's heart is through his stomach'?" An inept surgeon.

NATURE NOTES

As quick as a hiccup, the birds glided into the conspicuous and vibrant red veins of spring, the red-osier dogwood. The many-stemmed shrub is a favorite nest site of gold-finches and is also called red twig dogwood, red willow and redstem dogwood. Red-osier dogwood has pliable stems used in wicker baskets and furniture. Why is a dogwood tree called a dogwood? The possible origins are many and varied. In the 1500s, the trees were known in Europe as the dagwood because the small stems were used for daggers, arrows or skewers. It might have been referred to as a dag or dagge in old English. It could have originated in colonial times because its fruit was edible but not fit for dogs. Another belief is that it's called dogwood because a medicine concocted from its bark was used to treat dogs plagued with mange. Others suggest the name dogwood is a derivation of the word "daggerwood." Daggerwood sticks were sharpened and used to skewer meat for cooking.

European starlings attacked the suet with a fierce hunger. They were introduced into the U.S., reaching southeastern Minnesota in 1929. Within a decade, they were distributed statewide.

T. S. Roberts first observed a flock of house sparrows in Minneapolis in 1876. A resident had a dozen sparrows brought from New York and released in a garden in 1875. By 1877, the house sparrow was established as a breeding bird in the Twin Cities.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it."—Edith Wharton.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

I can see all the way to the bottom

It had been awhile since I had gone ice fishing. And truth be told, I wasn't truly "fishing" when I stepped into the portable fish house last weekend: My motive was to get some pictures—see how well I could record the surreal circumstance of standing in the dark and looking down into the brighter lake below.

I was at my family's cabin on a lake up north, where the water is clear enough that, with the "reversed" lighting, a person can see all the way to the bottom.

My son and brother, both avid anglers, spent hours on the lake—even pulled the folded-up portable structure on a sled on foot rather than driving out. They were being frugal, since walking from the shoreline near the cabin was a shorter distance than driving the vehicle around the winding road to the access.

The ice was 19 inches deep, and so clear only the scrapes left by the augur made it obvious where ice stopped and water began. The guys had used one of their new pieces of equipment, a powered ice saw which allowed them to cut a line between drilled holes, then remove the giant

square of ice and have an opening large enough for spearfishing—but they weren't spearfishing, they only wanted a more open view as they dangled their lines.

It paid off.

In the 20 to 30 minutes I was there, I watched as fish approached their suspended bait, swam languidly around it for a few moments, and then grabbed it. There was one moment that was like a "snowflake" of fish. Six or so sunfish were in a circle looking at the bait, their heads facing inward, their tails pointing outward in a surprisingly symmetrical shape.

One moment there would be only the two fish lines, then numerous fish in various shapes and sizes would arrive.

Being able to watch as the fish approached added a whole new level of excitement. There they would be, apparently making a leisurely assessment of the lure. It was fun to know just what the right moment was to jiggle the line and encourage Mr. Fish to take the hook.

The anglers among you have long since figured out the principal disadvantage to fishing in a single large



This bass was among the fish reeled in during an afternoon of ice fishing near the Bently cabin in the vicinity of Akeley.

hole—while the first angler would reel in the zig-zagging fish, the second angler had to get his line out of the way with all possible haste.

As I mentioned, I wasn't fishing: perhaps if I had been, I would have found that part irritating. The guys didn't seem bothered, though. The fishing was good enough, they each got their fair share of excitement.

Me, I got a few pictures I was pleased with. The fish showed up best, of course, when they were closer to the surface. With only lake water for a background, the pictures also don't really make it clear whether the fish were large or small.

While out on the ice, I got a few photos of personal landmarks. At one place along the shore is a rock at least eight feet wide and six feet tall. I once watched a group of six teenage boys climb on top of it and stand in a line, I think just because they could. For all the decades we've gone to this cabin—it used to belong to another family member who

would generously allow us to use it—we have referred to it simply as "the rock," since it's a prominent element of the shoreline. It's a great destination for a kayak race, and there is an inviting stretch of shallow water with a sandy bottom nearby—ideal for entertaining young children.

Thanks to my walk on the lake, I have a picture of the rock covered in snow. There is also a particularly majestic white pine tree which stands on a point. One of my summer photos features an eagle perched commandingly on one of its branches. Now I have a picture of that tree made mysterious by a misty snowfall.

It was a good weekend to be there—our timing may have been perfect, too. Since the narrow, winding road to the cabin already had nearly five inches of snow on it, and since the area was due to get six inches more this past weekend, it's possible we may not be wise to try going back until there've been quite a few warm days.

The struggle of writing and weather

Love is in the air, can you smell it? I can't; my nose is plugged.

My roommates and I had our own Galentine's Day last weekend. Galentine's Day is Valentine's Day for the girls, or "celebrating women friendships" according to the internet. Basically an excuse for the gal pals to get together, drink wine, gossip and talk about our lives without the intrusion of men (no offense to the men who might be reading this). It's like the phrase "Saturday is for the boys," but Galentine's is for the girls.

My roommates and I got paint by number pictures, poured ourselves some wine, and went to work huddled together in the living room. For a couple of hours we just sat there in each other's company, bent over our canvases, and talked about life. It was great. We talked about our parents, siblings, boyfriends, careers. The three of us with boyfriends also lightly interrogated the one roommate without one, asking her why she still is seeing the guy who doesn't give her the time of day.



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

When he doesn't text you for a week honey, don't bother. If he wanted to, he would.

I still don't fully understand Valentine's Day. I feel it has been made commercial like Halloween. Different companies try to sell you so many things. At a Walmart yesterday, I saw a giant pink, glittery baking display complete with sprinkles, frosting, cookie mix and heart shaped everything. I wasn't a big fan, although I admit I did cave and buy a box of brownie batter that came with a heart cutter so that you could have heart-shaped brownies. It was too cute and simple to pass up.

This week I am going to the Minneapolis Institute of Art's Institute of

Hearts, where you're given a paper heart to place at whatever piece of art you like the most. It sounds like corny fun, and offers a subtle wink at Valentine's. Besides, my friend was able to write about it for a story, so it worked out that we could go.

I am also going to class this week because I guess when it gets to a feel of -21 degrees, they don't feel the need to cancel class for those of us who have to walk 20 minutes in the cold. But it's okay, I probably should go anyway and actually get work done. It may be the only time I am genuinely productive; when it comes to homework I struggle to get myself to sit down and write a 200 word profile about myself (thanks capstone

class). I'm proud to say I have been going to the gym consistently (financially) and I have even gotten into new adventures in baking and cooking. I tried a healthy baked ziti last week, and excuse me tooting my own horn, but it was pretty darn good. And then for the Superbowl, I made chocolate cookies with a fun, new recipe.

Speaking of the Superbowl, I'm kind of glad the Chiefs lost, although I'm not necessarily a huge Eagles fan either. One of my friends is though, and we went to his apartment to watch the game. That made me an honorary Eagles fan for the night, as I mostly just did work instead of watching the game.

But it's been a good time, and I hope everyone else is surviving the weather and making it through February—for those who didn't migrate down south for the winter.

My Determination: "And happiness is always louder than sadness." — Deborah Harkness, A Discovery of Witches

Technology taking a toll on fish

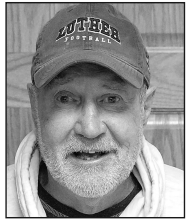
I thoroughly enjoyed reading Deb Bently covering a story about the Waterville fish hatchery in the last edition of the Pioneer. I'm an avid fisherman and it gave me great joy to read the hatchery will be receiving a much overdue overhaul, and becoming better able to provide quality fishing in the future. I recently saw a picture of a 29.5-inch, ten-pound walleye caught in Waseca's Clear Lake.

The fisherman can thank the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) for having stocking fingerling walleyes in Clear Lake, giving him the opportunity to catch the trophy of a lifetime.

The state finally gave the hatchery some much needed money to expand and improve an aging facility and bring it up to date, providing anglers with quality fishing in the future. Craig Soupir, supervisor at the Waterville area fisheries office and his staff are offering a roundtable open to the public from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 27 at the Mankato Country Inn & Suites. I'll be there, anxious to hear about the hatchery update and MN DNR fishing projects scheduled in the near future.

The MN DNR really has a tremendous challenge to maintain quality fishing in the land of 10,000 lakes. The reason: the demand for more and better technology Minnesota's fishing boats. Most senior anglers, including myself, will not be stalking the fish electronically; we can't figure out how to use the complex equipment.

I'd like to take a little time and write about specific examples of how technology affects our fish pop-



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



ulations. Think of a beautiful winter day, no wind chill, a great day to be fishing outside on the ice. Three fishermen put down 25 holes in deep water on an area lake; they are targeting crappies, a fish that congregates in deep water. They turn on their Vexilar sonars and sure enough, the red marks give away the location of the fish. The fisherman drill more holes with their strike master lithium battery powered augers, which lets them put down holes in no time. Down a hole in the middle, the fishermen lower their Garmin live scope, a \$3,000 piece of technology. They jump from hole to hole and soon a few fish are flopping on the ice. The school of fish is spooked and moves to a new location. No problem, a fisherman rotates the handle on the Garmin, and there they are, they've moved under other holes to the west. I just recently saw a picture of 30, ten- to twelve-inch crappies resting on the bottom of an otter sled. The fisherman fished with the Garmin live scope.

It won't be long and spring will arrive. As the water warms the big sunfish begin spawning. The fish will build nests in shallow weed pockets or edges. A family of enthusiastic an-

glers, men and women, head out in their Lund fishing boat to target a meal of big gills. The boat sneaks along the edges of the weeds, powered by a front-mount Minkota trolling motor. The captain is busy reading his hummingbird graph equipped with side imaging. There they are, white bleeps 20 yards off, giving away the bed of spawning fish. No need to throw in an anchor, just hit spot lock on the trolling motor, the Lund is anchored. Soon 30 big sunfish are swimming in the boat's live well.

It's a hot July day and a boat full of anglers is headed out, targeting wall-eyes on beautiful Rainy Lake. Rainy is a huge lake to the far north; up there, fish migrate to reefs during the summer. The boat heads out searching for one of the fish-active reefs on the huge lake. No problem, just read the lake chip in your depth finder, it will give you directions to any reef on Rainy. The DNR has a restriction on Rainy: Four walleyes under 18 inches per fisherman. The boat returns to Voyageur's Landing with twelve beautiful restaurant walleyes.

Muskie angling has begun to deteriorate on some of the famous Minne-

sota lakes like Leech and Mille Lacs. Guides and resort owners are reporting dead muskies, a catch and release fish, floating on the water. The muskie used to be a fish of 10,000 casts, now maybe 10 casts. New technology, forward facing sonar, targets muskies in deep or shallow water. They have no place to hide. Catching more fish during the hot summer days has accelerated the hooking mortality of the slow growing, big fish.

The days of cane poles, putting down anchors, 14-foot fishing boats with 6-horsepower Evinrude motors are long gone. Perhaps the money our Waterville hatchery received from the state and future funding will give our MN DNR the resources it needs to maintain our state's quality fishing.

Expectations for MN DNR are higher than ever before in this new world of fishing technology. The department has many different tasks: the maintenance of highly used fishing landings, the never-ending battle against invasive species and surveys on our area lake fish populations. Education on how to release fish properly and catch and release conservation. No doubt, the MN DNR's fishing rules handbook will grow thicker, with many more pages to read. Signs at regulated lakes will continue to be updated: only five sunfish or five crappies. I'm excited to see how MN DNR's fish biologist will address ever changing technology. I'm a total optimist, I have faith in the MN DNR.



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

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Charlotte Wobschall, 7, and her father Cavit were making a Valentine's Day card at the Father-Daughter Dance on Friday, Feb. 7, 2025.
Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

Tenth father-daughter dance draws "small" crowd

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

About 30 "father/daughter" pairs attended a dance at the Waseca Central Building on Friday, Feb. 7. This was the tenth time the dance has been held; outside the skies were dark, but inside there were flashing lights, music, laughter and playful screams.

The entrance to the Central Building was deceptively quiet; as one moved further in, there were little girls moving around energetically, nearly all dressed in colorful, sparkling dresses. A craft area offered the chance to make mementos of the evening, snacks provided a diversion and some extra energy. A DJ kept the music coming in the midst of flashing, psychedelic lights; it seemed the Father Daughter Dance had almost everything a gath-

Dance continued on 6



Lucielle Jewison was getting tired and her dad, Scott, was holding her for just a moment at the Father-Daughter Dance on Friday, Feb. 7, 2025.

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Gaiter Lake name discussed

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

Much discussion was had regarding the Gaiter Lake ("Clearwater Preserve") land development project during the Waseca City Council's first meeting of the month on Tuesday, Feb. 4. One resident noted her objection to the name "Clearwater Preserve," the council responded the name applies only to the development, and not to the body of water, which remains "Gaiter Lake."

Prior to a public hearing regarding the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the project, a presentation was given by Matt Sommers. Sommers outlined the purpose and procedure of the EAW and explained the 30-day public comment process, which is currently ongoing and will end at 4:30 on Feb. 20. During this time, written comments will be gathered, considered, and responded to. Comments may be submitted via comment form, email to Nate Willey at natew@ci.waseca.mn.us, or mail to City of Waseca, Attn: Nate Willey, 508 South State St., Waseca, MN 56093.

The EAW is available for the public to read on the city's website, individuals with questions or concerns regarding the project are encouraged to read the document. Following the public comment period, the city will have 30 days to decide whether an Environmental Impact Study is needed.

After the public hearing was opened, a local resident pointed out a few errors in the document that the council will resolve. Another resident expressed concerns regarding projected traffic flow which will increase on Eleventh

Waseca continued on 4



Snow Week royalty gathered in the NRHEG High School gymnasium Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 3 to find out who among them would be crowned king and queen. Royalty for 2025 Snow week are, from left: Brady Koopal, Aidan Schlaak, Carter Martens, Bo McCamish, Aryanna Howe, Jozlyn Johnson, Ava Cummins, Aspy Stenzel; seated, King Talon Smith-Vulcan, Queen Josie Bell.

Bell, Smith-Vulcan, crowned NRHEG Snow week 2025 concluded last week

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Described by secondary school principal Grant Berg as "a way to escape the mid-winter blues," NRHEG Snow Week from Feb. 3 to 7 was filled with activities, most notably the coronation ceremony which crowned Josie Bell and Talon Smith-Vulcan from among the 10 members of the snow court, who were Bell, Smith-Vulcan, and Aspy Stenzel, Jozlyn Johnson, Ava Cummins, Aryanna Howe, Carter Martens, Aidan Schlaak, Bo McCamish and Brady Koopal.

Held early Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 4, the coronation was attended

by all secondary school students and many friends and family members of the court. Activity coaches and advisors gave brief summaries of their seasons. Speaking were Shawn Larson, wrestling; Dan Schmidt, boys' basketball; Onika Peterson, girls' basketball; Holly Pederson and Solveig Sundblad, one-act play; Krista Reeder, choir; and Seth Schaefer, band.

Dress-up days for the week included "Jersey Out," "Winter White Out," "Pajama Day," "USA," and "Hot and Cold." Daily prizes were awarded; those who dressed up all five days were eligible for a "championship." High School champion

was Zoe Wilson; runner up was Wyatt Larson. The middle school champion was sixth-grader Annie Buffington; runner up was Grace Riksedahl. Champions received a \$10 Kwik Trip gift certificate, runners up a \$5 certificate.

Also featured throughout the week were short-term tournaments with individual winners. At the high school level, winners were Alden Dobberstein and Carter Martens; Brock Ziemke and Carmine Raab; Sean Lassahn and Zander Hanna; Dakota Schlaak and Calvin Nissen. Eighth-grade winners were Brock Holland and Jacob Klaras; and Tyler Piepho and Wyatt Hendrickson. Seventh-

grade winners were Clayton Kaplan and Axel Ladlie; and Tucker Flatness and Eli Studier. Sixth-grade winners were Abram Chance and Adler Bethke; and Trevor Gilliland and Parker Simon.

A semi-formal dance was held in the high school gym on Saturday evening.

Student council advisor Barb Roesler expressed gratitude for the cooperation and level of participation shown by the student body. Principal Berg mirrored the sentiment, saying he was gratified to see the wide variety of students who took part in the week's many activities.

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

Council hears street concerns from residents

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

Three local residents were present during the New Richland City Council's second meeting of the month on Monday, Jan. 27 to voice concerns regarding street projects planned for later this year. The concerns echo those expressed by other residents at recent meetings - doubts as to the necessity of the work proposed, objections to potential street width adjustments and sidewalk removal, property reassessments and the financial impact they would cause, and possible safety issues, among others.

Mayor Janda Ferguson, who was sworn in as New Richland Mayor prior to the public comment portion of the meeting, noted that no official decisions have been made for the project yet.

"We'll [consider] this information that you have brought to us tonight," Ferguson said.

A public hearing for public comment regarding the project is set to occur prior to finalization of plans for the project.

Bob Johannsen presented the care center report, noting that the center had a good month financially in December due in part to reduced agency staffing. Improvement of resident quality of life remains a primary goal for care center staff, and Johannsen noted that visits from NRHEG high school students that have become a fairly regular occurrence have helped to get more residents engaged in games, activities, and other social interactions.

The center is still in need of CNAs, both full and part-time, particularly for evenings, overnights, and alternating weekends.

"We can be flexible with some of those schedules," Johannsen said, adding that the center offers competitive pay, shift differentials, health insurance and other benefits.

It was also noted that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the NRCC, and the center is looking into ideas for commemorating the milestone in the coming months. The care center report was approved.

In the PeopleService report,

Council continued on 6

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OBITUARIES

Bruce Possehl

BRUCE MICHAEL POSSEHL, age 70, of Waseca, died on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at Mayo Clinic Health System in Waseca.

Born on June 27, 1954, in Waseca to Walter and Gloria (Knudson) Possehl. He attended Waseca Public Schools, graduating with the class of 1972. Bruce was united in marriage to Kathy Magee in 1976 and together they lived in Waseca, later divorced. In 1984, Bruce was united in marriage to Carol Mengis, who preceded him in death.

Throughout his life, Bruce worked at Wolf's, Brown Printing and for over 30 years at Design Homes in Waseca. Because of his extensive time working at design homes, Bruce learned almost every backroad in the state and enjoyed driving around the countryside with his brother Rick. Bruce was an avid fisherman, hunter, and birdwatcher. He loved nature and would frequently stop during his road trips to take pictures of deer and other wildlife. Bruce will be remembered as a big man with an even bigger heart. He would do anything for anybody. Bruce was a straight shooter who did not mince words, but his family knew he did this because he cared for those around him. Because he never had any children of his own, his nieces and nephews meant the world to him. He was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca.



Bruce Possehl

Bruce is survived by his siblings: Paulette (Paul) Born of Waseca, Marty (Coleen) Possehl of Claremont, and Diane (Jerry) Roeker of Smiths Mill; sisters-in-law, Janet Possehl of Waseca, and Valerie Possehl of Waseca; brother-in-law, Richard Papinski of Eagan; many nieces, nephews other relatives and friends.

Preceded in death by his parents; brothers: Chuck and Richard; sister, Barbara Papinski.

Funeral Service will be 11:00 AM on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca with Pastor Ashley Kuhlman, officiating. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church on Wednesday.

DSOFuneral.com

Hazel Bethke

Hazel Eldora Bethke, age 103 passed away peacefully on Thursday, February 06, 2025 at Foxdale Memory Care.

Hazel was born April 2, 1921 in Waseca to Arthur & Alveda (Johnson) Palm. Married to Wally Bethke Feb 20th 1941 at Vista Convent Church in New Richland. She worked at Birdseye for many years. She loved spending time with family. She also loved baking, gardening, and she loved all animals, especially cats. She was famous for her Fuddyman donuts and Fattigman molasses cookies. She taught the grandkids how to make them so her legacy will live on. She belonged to Southside Mothers Club, sewing club and a member of the Waseca Area Senior Center. She was a long time member of the EUB and later the Evangelical United Methodist Church in Waseca.

She is survived by her daughter, Gerri Kampen of Waseca, Donnie Bethke of Ellendale, by grandchildren Debbie (Dale) Gehring of Famington, Lorri (Jim) Hill of Waseca, Julie (Brad) Pederson Waseca, Michael (Tiffany) Gehloff of Ellendale, Shelia(Don) Krueger of New Richland, Sonja Zangs of Lakeville, Carey Worthy of Stockholm, WI, Josh Bethke of Red Wing. Great grandchildren, Justin (Lisa) Fette, Ashley (Justin) Mohlke, Tara Hill, Brandon Pederson, Jacob Hill, Zachary (Chelsea) Gehloff, Madison (Beau) Gehloff,



Hazel Bethke

Jozie Gehloff, Mason Gehloff, Danielle (Bryan) Andrews, Clay Krueger, Trevor Zangs, Garrett Zangs, Donovan Zangs, Noah Bethke, Kamden Bethke. 5 Great Great Grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Wally, her son Wally Jr.; son in-law Louis Kampen, sister Jean & brother in-law Gerald Ferry, brother Richard & sister in-law Marjorie Palm, brother Kenneth & sister in-law JoAnn Palm.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, February 14, 2025 at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Visitation will be held on Friday, one hour before services at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Woodville Cemetery.

Robert Johnson

ROBERT "BOB" EUGENE JOHNSON, age 85 of Waseca, passed away peacefully on February 8, 2025, at Lakeshore Rehabilitation Center with his wife of 61 years, Gwen, by his side.

Bob was born April 15, 1939, to Lester and Beulah (Schaumkessel) Johnson at Waseca Memorial Hospital. He was baptized at Pontoppitan Lutheran Church in Lemond and confirmed at First Congregational Church in Waseca. He graduated from Waseca High School where he was a four-sport athlete and later inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame. He attended University of MN and Mankato State University. He served in the U.S. Army for two years. He married Gwen Pratt on July 6, 1963, at North Waseca Lutheran Church.

During his years of employment, he worked for both Waseca lumber

yards, was self-employed with Johnson Painting, owned Waseca Decorating Center with his wife, worked at Waseca Public Schools, was a volunteer fireman for 17 years, and Fire Chief for 17 years.

In his retirement years he enjoyed working for Crystal Valley Co-Op in Elysian, Ag Partners in Morristown, and was a driver for the V.A.

Local organizations he was active in were the Lion's Club, Rotary, Bluejay Booster Club, and founding member of the Waseca Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He was also a founding father of Christ the King Lutheran Church where he served as Treasurer, Council Member, and Head Usher.

Bob's hobbies included fishing, hunting, biking, traveling, and cheering on his favorite teams, the Twins and the Vikings.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Gwen (Pratt) Johnson; his daughter

Jodi (Dan) Kuball; grandsons Noah Kuball and Evan Kuball; sisters Janice Johnson and Sharon Brogan; sisters-in-law Eunice Vail and Ramona Wilkening; nephews Lyle (Anne) Vail, Alan Hill, Craig (Silvia) Wilkening, Nathan (Rita) Wilkening, Chris (Amy) Brogan, and Brad Brogan; nieces Valerie Vail, Kay (Michael) Carda, and Lora (Todd) Isackson; and several great-nephews and great-nieces.

In lieu of flowers Bob would like memorials to go to the Mission Fund at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

Visitation will be Friday, February 14, 2025 from 5-7 p.m. at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service, 109 3rd St NE, Waseca, MN, and one hour prior to the service on Saturday at the church.

Funeral service will be held on Saturday, February 15, 2025, at 11 AM at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 309 6th St NE, Waseca, MN,



Robert Johnson

56093. Following the service, Bob will be laid to rest at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca.

DSofuneral.com

Douglas Leet

DOUGLAS JON LEET, age 76, of Waseca, passed away in the early morning of February 8th, 2025. Despite battling health problems for years, Doug maintained positivity, a sharp wit, and a great outlook on life. He found joy in numerous pursuits including fishing, watching grandchildren's activities, card games with family, and time with friends.

Doug was born on March 15, 1948 to Leslie and Lorraine Leet in Fairmont, MN. He grew up on his family farm with his parents and brother (Bob Leet). He graduated from Granada High School where he played football. Doug then attended college at Mankato State University. After

college he married his high school sweetheart, Judi Brockmann, on August 22, 1970 and then went into the Navy. His military service started in 1971 in California, after which he continued military duty in Florida, where he and Judi lived until 1975. They then moved to Minnesota where they have spent the remainder of their time together. He worked a majority of his career partnering with farmers through agricultural lending with ASCS, followed by Roundbank in 2003.

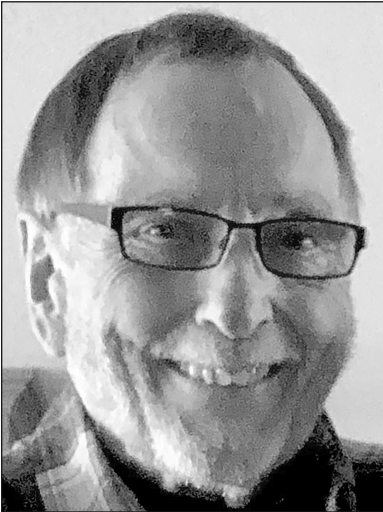
Doug was adept at building meaningful relationships with anybody. He will be deeply missed by his children (Kristi, Corey, and Megan), 10 grandchildren, and many, many friends. Most of all, his life was

blessed with one true love, Judi Leet. She was his best friend, companion, and greatest love. They spent their life traveling, fostering friendships, spending time at the lake house, and cheering on their children and grandchildren through life's many events. Doug was simply one of the best.

Funeral Service for Doug will be at 2:00 PM on Saturday, February 15, 2025 at First Congregational Church in Waseca. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial for Doug will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the Waseca Area Foundation.

DSofuneral.com



Douglas Leet

Sherry Larson

SHERRY LYNN LARSON, age 54, of Waseca, died on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, following a year-long battle with an extremely rare and aggressive cancer at Lake Shore Inn Rehabilitation Center in Waseca.

Born on December 18, 1970, in Edina to Robert & Karen (Lewis) Volling. Sherry grew up in Pemberton and graduated from Waldorf-Pemberton High School with the class of 1989. Sherry continued her education at the School of St. Catharines - St. Mary's Campus in St. Paul, graduating with an associate's degree in applied science with an emphasis in Physical Therapy. In 1999, Sherry was united in marriage to Kris Larson together they had triplets and later divorced.

Sherry worked at Wenger Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine as a PTA, later becoming the regional therapy manager at Owatonna Commons Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. In 2013, she went back to school while raising her three children to receive a bachelor's degree in

healthcare management from Rasmussen College in Mankato. This new degree opened many doors for Sherry as she began working as program director at REM-Woodvale before becoming the program director of rehabilitation services at Whispering Creek in Janesville and most recently worked as a director of rehabilitation services at Lakeshore Inn in Waseca and Mala Stana in New Prague. In March of 2024, Sherry was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer that was extremely rare and aggressive. Being only the 20th person in the nation to have this diagnosis. Sherry fought for a year through intense treatments and invasive surgeries but though it all she always had time for her kids. In January of 2025, Sherry came home to receive hospice care, where her children cared for her as she cared for them until a higher level of care was needed. Sherry's final days were at Lakeshore Inn in Waseca where she spent many years working as the Director of Physical Therapy. She was surrounded by familiar faces every

day, including her family, friends and coworkers.

Sherry enjoyed the outdoors, watching sports, especially football – insisting on walking the sidelines during her son's games, yearly get togethers with good friends, enjoying a glass of wine or margarita and just being surrounded by family and friends. Sherry will be remembered for her love of root beer floats, and comfort food while pregnant (her mom and dad would make daily trips to Barney's). Most importantly she was a strong, independent, and loving woman. She would do anything for anyone. Sherry's kids were her world, and she worked hard to provide for them with the best life possible.

Sherry is survived by her children: Shelby, Peyton and Harley Larson; siblings: Shelly Champa of Rochester and Robert Volling of Arizona; nieces: Hailey (Jason) Flemke, Kaitlyn Champa, and Maddy Volling; great nephew, Issac (who would call her aunt ReRe); other relatives, and many friends.



Sherry Larson

Preceded in death by her parents. A Celebration of Sherry's Life will be held from 1:00 – 4:00 PM on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Burial will be at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca. DSOFuneral.com

Mavis Parrish

Mavis Anna Parrish (Hanson), born on September 9, 1928, in Freeborn County, Minnesota, peacefully passed away at home on February 7, 2025. Mavis was a beloved figure in her community, known for her warm spirit and dedication to her family and friends.

Retiring as a Materials Receiver at Fountain Industries in Albert Lea, Mavis exemplified a strong work ethic throughout her life, holding various jobs before settling into her long career with the company. A proud graduate of high school, she carried the values of education and

hard work with her into every aspect of her life.

Family was central to Mavis's existence. She married Eugene Parrish on December 1, 1948, and together they built a loving family. Mavis is survived by her children: Charlene Meyer, Clarinda (Walter) Miller, and Diane (Dave) Matthies. Her legacy continues through her grandchildren: Wesley and Katie Miller, Melissa and Tim Erickson, Joshua Reed, Holly Matthies, Angela Meyer and Will Caldwell, Brian Miller, Jennifer Reed, and Jessica Reed. Mavis was also the proud great-grandmother of Samantha Miller, Morgan Erickson, Tabitha Erickson, Isabelle Miller, Elizabeth Miller, Merina Caldwell, Vincent Reed, Faith Reed, and Elianne Caldwell.

Mavis cherished her role as a mother and grandmother, creating

countless memories for her family through her passions for crocheting and reading. She was an active member of Grace Lutheran Church, where she found community and fellowship, embodying the values of love and kindness that she shared with those around her.

Mavis is preceded in death by her husband, Eugene Parrish; her daughter, Sharon Reed; her grandson, Christopher Matthies; as well as her brothers Raymond, Vivian, and Gordon Hanson, and Byron Hanson.

Visitation for Mavis will be held on February 12, 2025, from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM at Bonnerup Funeral Service in Albert Lea. A funeral service will take place the following day, February 13, 2025, beginning at 11:00 AM, also at Bonnerup Funeral Service.

Mavis Anna Parrish will be deeply



Mavis Parrish

missed by all who knew her, leaving behind a legacy of love, resilience, and unwavering dedication to her family and community.



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Waseca from Page 3

Ave. SE as a result of the project. The council also heard from Alicia Fischer, who provided an update on new employees recently hired: Patrol officer John Unger started on Dec. 16; mechanic Jesse Ahlman began Jan. 6. New hires for the water park and Tink Larson Community

field are being interviewed, and seasonal recruiting for park maintenance workers this summer has begun.

The consent agenda, which consisted of minutes from the council meeting and work session on Jan. 21 as well as payroll and expenditures, was approved. In Commission Reports, Gary Conrath noted that Loon Lake Island was discussed at a recent meeting. Regarding fire relief, Jeremy Conrath stated that all officers were recently re-elected. Mark

Christiansen declared that a full board was present at a recent Arts Council meeting and welcomed new members to the board.

Prior to adjournment, Councilperson Stacey Schroeder noted that the legislative lobbying event City Day on the Hill will take place on March 6. She asked that the council consider attending as a unified presence representing Waseca at a state level. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Commissioners approve walk-through scanner for courthouse

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

During their Feb. 4 meeting, Waseca County Commissioners gave the go-ahead to purchase a scanning unit which will use x-ray technology to examine the contents of bags and other containers brought into the courthouse as people enter.

The scanning unit, installation, training and other incidentals are expected to cost about \$43,000. All needed funds have come to the county as part of statewide “safe and secure courthouse” and “public safety” initiatives.

The scanner is a walk-through structure which uses magnetism to determine whether individuals have potentially harmful items on their person and x-ray to check items they are carrying.

Once the scanning unit is ordered, delivery and installation may require as long as 30 weeks.

In other business, board members heard from the county’s Internet Technology (IT) director Judy Hiller and deputy director Christopher Dieker.

Hiller stated the purpose of their presentation was to help commissioners understand the range of duties her four-member department manages. She mentioned they are the “go-to” individuals when it comes to troubleshooting any difficulties with technology, but their mission is to maintain and protect “critical systems.”

Hiller listed seven buildings, three firewalls, 132 security cameras, 200 phones, 94 door badge readers and 270 computers, explaining her department is persistently working to update equipment so that it retains its functionality as internet technology continues to evolve.

She also stated cybersecurity is an ongoing priority—not only of the county’s own equipment and operations, but also as part of a statewide network meant to be activated in case of a large-scale emergency. In terms of equipment and general operations, Dieker told commissioners Waseca County is perhaps better positioned than other similar counties in terms of its IT operations, but stating that way requires persistent vigilance, including extra hours from IT staff.

Another matter of business Feb. 4 was a public hearing followed by instating a revised version of the county’s Universal Development Code (UDC). Senior Land Use Planner Maame Quarcoo recommended approval of the UDC, which had last been revised in 2009. She, other department heads, and commissioners had been reviewing the lengthy listing of county zoning laws for about the past year.

Quarcoo referred to the UDC as a “living document” meant to be responsive to changing circumstances and help create “an environment for building and expansion.”

County commissioner De Malterer expressed gratitude to staff,

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

planning and zoning board members and fellow commissioners for the time and dedication needed for the lengthy process.

Of changes made to the UDC, a high percentage were in relation to the recent legalization of cannabis and circumstances under which various businesses related to cannabis production and sales would be allowed.

During their 8 a.m. work session prior to the 9:30 meeting, commissioners heard from Community Development Coordinator Tina Wilson for a presentation she titled “economic development 101.”

Wilson explained that, as investors and businesses look at communities for possible construction and development, they consistently look into the availability of land, access to sufficient utilities with electricity typically being the first concern followed by water, sewer, natural gas, and others, depending on the nature of their operations.

After those fundamental matters, their next priorities tend to be access to a sufficient workforce and access to transportation—both for products and for people. Another consideration is the availability of housing for any staff members the business might bring into the area, and then lifestyle circumstances, including access to a strong education for those workers’ children.

“You can see it’s a complex picture,” commented Wilson. “There are a lot of pieces that need to be in place.”

Wilson mentioned that she works with the Economic Development Authorities (EDA) not only of Waseca County, but also all the towns located within the county helping them assess their strengths and communicate with any potential developers.

Also during the Feb. 4 meeting, commissioners approved a construction contract to replace three bridges, one located on Country Road (CR) 54 over Bull Run Creek, one on CR 54 over the Little Cobb River, and one on CR 55 over Joint Ditch 11. According to county public works director Jim Kollar, all three bridges are of similar construction and will be replaced with precast concrete box culverts. The contract for the work was awarded to Minnowa Construction out of Harmony, Minn., for about \$1.5 million for all three replacements. Kollar mentioned that, because there are protected species in some of the waterways, work cannot begin on the projects until June.

Commissioners recognized a number of anniversaries: county attorney Rachel Cornelius, 19 years; human resources director Melissa Sexton, 9 years; county administrator Michael Johnson, 5 years; and commissioner Brad Milbrath, 1 year.

WHS Jazz Bands play Farmamerica

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Two 25-member jazz bands from the Waseca schools provided the music for a Swing Dance session the evening of Saturday, Feb. 8 at Farmamerica. Both the junior- and senior-high groups performed as a whole; smaller groups played as intermingled ensembles. This is the second year the event has been held; it was sponsored by the Band Boosters.

According to Booster member Angie Sipe, this is the second year the event has been held. She shared that this year’s schedule included more ensembles than before.

Swing dance lessons were pro-

vided by TC Swing out of Minneapolis. Sipe explained the students are offered lessons so that they can enjoy the music while other groups and ensembles are playing. “If they don’t dance,” she suggested, “they can still sit and enjoy the music.”

The TC Swing dance class was from 7-7:45 p.m., after which the Junior High Jazz Band began performing, allowing the high schoolers to begin dancing while the newly taught dance moves were still fresh in their minds.

Dathan Elias, a jazz band member in grade eight who plays the Barry Sax stopped by while finishing up a brownie, when asked why he’s in band he replied, “It’s because this type of band is fun and I get to play



The second annual Waseca Junior Senior High School Jazz Band Swing Dance was held at Farmamerica on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

a lot.” He also thinks it gets a little easier each year he plays; he has been in jazz band for four years.

Thomas, a city bus driver who works in Rochester and his wife, Mary Kay Howe were present for two of their children, Dalisaya Howe, an eighth-grader who’s been playing the trombone for the past three years, and Patrick, a senior who’s been playing percussion for the past seven years. Said Thomas, “I think it’s a great experience playing in front of a live crowd that’s not a

school setting; that’s where you get experience.” Mary Kay was nodding yes alongside him and added, “I like how my younger kids can benefit from watching the older ones perform, it really helps earning stuff through merit.” The junior high song list included “Jamming with Charlie,” “It’s Only a Paper Moon,” “Up-town Funk,” “Sway” and “Blues at Frog Bottom.” Out on the dance floor there were flashing lights and plenty of dancing feet.

■ Snow

from Page 1

week.

3. Each entry must have a name and complete address. Entries without complete information will not be entered.

4. Entrants must live in Waseca County and be over 18 years of age.

5. If there are multiple correct guesses, a drawing will be made to determine the winner.

6. If there are no correct guesses, a drawing will be made from all entries received.

7. Entries must be received before 3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 21, 2025.

8. Submit entries to:

A. WASECA: Submit entry at Waseca Music; 111 South State, Waseca, MN 56093; or via mail.

B. JANESVILLE: Mail or drop off at Waseca Music; mark your entry as Janesville.

C. NEW RICHLAND: Drop off at NRHEG STAR EAGLE NEWS; or mail to Waseca Music - mark your entry as New Richland.

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Frosty: Week 1 Clue
*Much like the legend,
The 2025 Sleigh and Cutter Frosty is anew.
Coming again this year,
In their white Frosty Hue*

*A Waseca transplant,
But ties they did bind,
Here the greater part of 40 years
A love match they did find*

*A local friend, and
A supporter of the arts,
Who will it be this year?
The answer, the clues will impart.*

Frosty: Week 2 Clue
*A northerner from the start,
Frosty moved South for school
The major of study initially unknown*

But a degree was the general rule

*Completing classes at Gustavus
And taking credits at MSU
A 1983 college graduate
History was a favored study too*

*Far out of school now
But to help pass the time
Frosty enjoys putting together words
Possibly a limerick or a rhyme*

Frosty: Week 3 Clue
*Do you think you have Frosty
Narrowed down or found out?
Have you passed them around town
While strolling out and about?*

*A lover of the arts
And items that are unique
Catch Frosty at the local stores
Browsing, and taking a peek*

*A supporter to all businesses
Big or small, or community driven
Donating time, talent or special items
With their contribution, a unique display given*

Frosty: Week 4 Clue
*Frosty patiently awaits the 21st,
For that date is the identity reveal
Money is on the line for guessers
Sweetening the guessing appeal*

*Details have been given,
But has it been enough?
Putting all the clues together
The sleuthing can be tough.*

*More information to go off of
That frosty along with their spouse
Have both been enjoying retirement
Spending time both in and out of the house*

Medallion: Week 1 Clue
*How quickly again,
The time of the year is here,
Another winter season bringing the Sleigh & Cutter Community Near*

*In our 75th year, the medallion
Once again is hidden
Bundle up for your search,
Perhaps you need a lucky mitten?*

*Hidden within the town
Easy to find but not in plain sight
The medallion is secured
Protected and strapped in tight.*

Medallion: Week 2 Clue
*One lucky winner
Will keep the grand prize
Their dedication and note taking
A technique which was wise*

*Now in support of the 75th year
And to give one more chance
The medallion will be re-hidden
In a special circumstance*

Medallion: Week 3 Clue
*The medallion re-hidden
where could it be?
Between 7 and 14,
What do you see?*

*Off the beaten path,
But easily attainable,
The medallion hides
Its location easily explainable*

*Not so noticeable now,
In plain sight it blends
Who will find the medallion,
Once found, the search ends.*

Medallion: Week 3 Clue
On the West side of town

*And West of the attraction,
The medallion hidden is
A bystander to the action*

*Enjoying the views
And animal sounds
The perfect place
To survey the grounds*

*The feel of the cool air
A lakeside winter breeze
The clues will guide
To its location with ease.*

Medallion Hunt Rules

The medallion is hidden outdoors, on public property within the Waseca city limits. A \$1,500 prize of Chamber Dollars will be awarded at the Star Fire Event Center at 8:30 on Friday Feb 21, 2025. Bring the medallion to Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce or Waseca Music. Clues will be published each week in the Waseca County News, Facebook, Waseca County Pioneer, NRHEG Star Eagle, and Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival. Clues will also be broadcast on KRUE and KOWZ Radio and will be available online at Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce at info@wasecachamber.com .

The hunt is sponsored by:Waseca County News, KEEN Bank, Xcel Energy, KOWZ/KRUE Radio, Waseca VFW Club 1642, and M Peters Enterprises. Please thank these sponsors for supporting the 28th Annual Medallion Hunt!



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The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

About the Show

Six quirky kids compete for the spelling championship of a lifetime, sharing hilarious and touching stories along the way. As they tackle tricky (and sometimes made-up) words, they hope to avoid the dreaded ding of elimination. One wins—everyone else gets a juice box. With audience participation and sharp comedy, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a riotous, feel-good experience.

The 25th Annual Putnam County SPELLING BEE

February Performances

Thursday, 13 - 7:30 PM
Friday, 14 - 7:30 PM
Saturday, 15 - 7:30 PM
Sunday, 16 - 2:00 PM

Thursday, 20 - 7:30 PM
Friday, 21 - 7:30 PM
Saturday, 22 - 7:30 PM
Sunday, 23 - 2:00 PM

Little Theatre of Owatonna

560 Dunnell Dr, Owatonna, MN 55060

www.littletheatreofowatonna.org

Music & Lyrics by William Finn
Book by Rachel Sheinkin
Conceived by Rebecca Feldman
Additional Material by Jay Reiss

Originally produced on Broadway by David Stone, James L. Nederlander, Barbara Whitman, Patrick Catullo, Barrington Stage Company, and Second Stage Theatre

Genre: Comedy (Musical)
Director: William McIntyre
Technical Director: Victoria Bartkowiak

Licensing & Rights: The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com



The Pastor's Column

Who is Jesus?

**By Pastor Michael Grannis
St. Paul Lutheran Church**

The transition from January to February has me reminiscing on an amazing trip my wife and I took back in 2018. God blessed us with a wonderful opportunity to visit Israel. We went to Nazareth where the Archangel Gabriel told a young virgin named Mary that by the power of the Holy Spirit she was going to conceive and give birth to the Savior of the World. We worshiped on the rocky hills just outside of Bethlehem – the very fields where the heavenly hosts proclaimed “Glory to God in the Highest, and peace to His people on earth.” There the angel announced to some shepherds the birth of a baby who, though wrapped in simple cloths and tucked away in a feeding trough, was in fact Christ, the Lord. We went to the gates of Jerusalem where Jesus was rejoiced over by elderly Simeon and Anna just forty days after His birth. On that day Simeon lifted up the infant Christ and proclaimed words that Christians still sing today,

Lord, now you let Your servant go in peace,
Your Word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation,
which You have prepared in the sight of every people.
A Light to reveal You to the nations,
and the glory of Your people Israel.

We went boating on the Sea of Galilee and read about the time Jesus calmed the storm, causing His followers to ask, “Who is this, that even the wind and the waves obey Him.” While in Galilee, we visited Capernaum and stood on the ancient steps of the synagogue where Jesus preached. I gazed upon the excavation site of the house where Jesus healed St. Peter’s mother-in-law.

Back in Jerusalem, Kristy and I passed through the very gates that Jesus often did as He annually celebrated the major Jewish festivals. From the Mount of Olives we saw the same giant stones that Jesus predicted would be cast down from one another when the city and temple were destroyed. In the Garden of Gethsemane, we considered how He sweat blood in anguish over the torture He knew He was about to endure. It would have been so easy for Him to slip away under cover of night, rather than waiting for His friend, Judas, to betray Him and hand Him over be killed. It is impossible to explain what it was like to be there.

Walking in the footsteps of Jesus brought a question to the forefront of my mind – Who is Jesus? The answer to this question unites people from every tribe, nation, and language, even as it divides people in the very same household – brothers from sisters, husbands from wives, parents from children. Who is this man whose footsteps millions of people have traced? Who is this man in whose name billions of people have been baptized – this man whose teachings are studied,

whose praises are sung, whose unjust execution is heralded as being worthy of securing our redemption from death and hell? Who is this man?

It never ceases to amuse and amaze me that in the Scriptures the only ones who get Jesus right are those who are filled with the Holy Spirit, or those of an entirely different spirit. When Jesus was preaching in Capernaum, a demon possessed man interrupted saying, “Ha! What have You to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are – the Holy One of God!” Jesus would silence these demons as they shouted at Him, “because they knew He was the Christ.” Interestingly, after St. Peter is praised by Jesus for making a similar confession, immediately Jesus strictly charged the disciples to tell no one about Him.

Why? Why didn’t Jesus want people (or even demons) revealing that He was God’s promised Savior? The Bible doesn’t come right out and tell us. However, it does give us a hint. After Peter’s confession that Jesus is the Christ, we hear these words.

“And [Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.” – Mark 8:31

You see, the confession concerning “who” Jesus is, is important. But even if we (like the demons) get the “who” right, we are missing the point if we don’t get the “why” right. Jesus of Nazareth is “the Christ,...the Holy one of God.” Indeed, He is the eternally begotten Son of God, come in the flesh. He came not simply to be “God with us.” He came to be God “for us.” It was for us, and for our Salvation that He came down from heaven and was born of the virgin Mary. He suffered for us under Pontius Pilate. Yes, as the Archangel revealed to His adoptive father, Joseph, Jesus came to “save His people from their sins.”

It is easy to look around and get overwhelmed by the troubles we face in this world – easy to think that there is no hope for us. But the Bible reminds us who Jesus is, AND why He came. He came to deliver us through faith in His name. Because of all that He endured, we can and we will rise above all the evil, the injustice, the sickness, the death...all of our sins and all of the struggles that would otherwise utterly overwhelm us.

Why can we, and why will we rise above it all? Because of God’s steadfast love and faithfulness to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Why? Because “the Son of Man [came to] suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.” Why? Because forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in His name beginning in Jerusalem and Judea, and Samaria and Galilee and to the ends of the Earth. Who is Jesus? He is our Savior. Amen.

■ Week

from Page 1

H, and helps with Waseca Fusion Volleyball.

Lizzy Manthe is the daughter of Justin and Cindy Manthe. She is the senior class president and is vice president of the region 3 Business Professionals of America (BPA). She recently qualified for state competition with the organization as well. She is a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Waseca, and works for

Traditions, a Waterville assisted living facility.

Gracie Morgan is the daughter of Dean and Barb Morgan. She is a competitor in the BPA and recently qualified to advance to state. She is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in New Richland; she works at Kiesler’s Campground and RV Resort and at Morgan’s Meats.

Takara Slattery is the daughter of Jude and Krystal Slattery. She is involved in BPA and recently qualified for state competition. She works at Deml Ford and enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Hunter Anderson is the son of Allen and Heidi Anderson. He ad-

vanced to 2024 state competition in golf, and is a captain of the hockey team. He is a member of the Minnesota Honor Society, and has a job at 212 in Waseca.

Brayden Hesch-Priem is the son of Nick and Holly Ulschmid and the late Billy Hesch-Priem. He is a captain of the hockey team, a member of the Minnesota Honor Society. He is involved in DECA, is a member of Sacred Heart Church in Waseca, and works at Smart Sort and Kiesler’s Campground.

Adian Androli is the son of Jason and Danielle Androli. He is president of the Waseca FFA chapter, He is a member of the State Street Singers

and the choir sextets; he is the baritone section leader and a youth group leader. He works at Pet Expo and C and A Designs; he is also a wildlife educator. He attends Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville.

Jackson Tesch is the son of Bert and Stephanie Tesch. He is a captain of the hockey team and a member of the Minnesota Honor Society. He attends Trinity Lutheran Church.

Lucas Groll is the son of Jason Groll and Patty Smith. He is involved in varsity hockey, enjoys hunting and fishing, and works at Snap Fitness. He is a member of Sacred Heart Church.

■ Council

from Page 3

presented by Shell Johnson, an issue with a primary clarifier was discussed, and measures to mitigate the problem are underway. It was noted that a new sewer service was installed on 7th St. and a manhole on Highway 13 was inspected and appears to have no current problems. The report was approved.

Eric Hendrickson presented the Street/Maintenance report, which

stated that eight blue cards were issued in December resulting in zero shutoffs. A discussion was had regarding updates to the men’s restroom at City Hall to improve handicap accessibility, and the following purchase requests were approved: \$3,600 to J&R Water Utility Service, \$1,346.60 to Zarnoth Brush Works for sweeper parts, \$5,920.00 for an Express pressure washer.

An update was given regarding the 2025 street project, and Hendrickson stated that plans for Broadway “due to overwhelming public input” have been realigned to 40’ “with no intention to drop it down.”

An upcoming meeting with the

school and attorneys regarding the project was also mentioned, with further assurances from the council that consideration of public concerns and potential impacts of the project will be made before final decisions are made.

In unfinished business, the council revisited a discussion from a previous meeting regarding changing the regular council meeting schedule from two meetings per month to one. It was agreed that meetings will continue on the second Monday of each month, during which time the council will determine if a second meeting is required for that month.

In new business, a public hearing

regarding a petition for a zoning change from R1 to C1 at 110 Ash Ave. N for the purpose of using the location to provide an event center was scheduled for 6:35 p.m. on March 10 during the regular monthly meeting. The council also approved an EDA grant for Wagner Foods to go towards a new awning/sign on the building.

A Local Board of Appeal and Equalization hearing scheduled for April 22 from 1-3 p.m. at the Waseca County Courthouse was mentioned before the administrator’s report was presented and approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

■ Dance

from Page 3

ering of young girls might wish for.

Organizer for the event was Nikki Benson, who observed, “This is a fun way to go out after getting dressed up like little girls like to do. They can do crafts and dance with Dad or their friends.” The music was modern and trendy and the atmosphere was a happy one. Said Benson, “We sold

around 40 tickets through early registration, the rest were people showing up the day of to buy a ticket.” Last year Benson set the age limits for young participants from 3 to 10 years old; she says she raised it to ages 3 to 14 this year to make the event accessible for even more dancers.

Jay Dulas, who showed up dressed smartly in a dark sports coat, said, “This was a good opportunity to spend quality time together. I get to watch [my granddaughter] be with her friends and they make those

memories last a lifetime. We got here right at 6:30 when it started because my granddaughter Crue was so excited and has been talking about this all week.” His granddaughter was out on the dance floor laughing and running.

Benson also wanted everyone to know there will be another dance a week after Valentine’s Day called the Son Glow Dance. Similar to the Feb. 7 event, this one is for mothers and sons. It will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Feb. 21, also at the Central Building. Tickets are \$22 for the first son, \$12

for each additional son. Drinks and snacks will be provided; those attending are encouraged to dress nice.

As eight o’clock approached at the father/daughter dance, fathers were helping tired little girls get on their winter coats and hats. As all the party goers made their way to the door, there was more than one vehicle running outside to get it warm. Each father/daughter could’ve been a picture postcard, whether it was holding hands as they left, or dad carrying a little girl who was fast asleep on his shoulder, they all looked beautiful.

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- FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
801 4th Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-3167
Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m.
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- CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH**
309 6th St NE, Waseca
507-835-9176
Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service
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- ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**
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507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net)
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- GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**
300 E Elm Ave, Waseca
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Worship Sunday 9 a.m.
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- SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH**
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Father Glenn Ferichs
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- REAL LIFE CHURCH**
620 W Elm Ave, Waseca
507-607-8245
Sunday worship 10 a.m.
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- 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
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Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
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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
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- 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
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- VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH**
New Richland, Minnesota

- Pastor Dan Kordahl**
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
* * *
- VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH**
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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
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Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m.
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- 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
Sunday - 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1
* * *
- THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**
Brad Donner, Branch President
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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

1925

- On Tuesday morning of last week Mr. F. D. Morrill, who has long been identified with the industry, and who attended the full three days session, called at this office and talked of the problems there discussed. According to his statement it was a big convention, not merely in numbers, but in the scope and character of its discussions. It was composed of a body of big and brainy men, as fully able to cope with problems, discuss them and settle them, as any other assembly of men might be, no matter what the purpose of the object.

- On Thursday morning a traveling man, a representative of the International Harvester Co., Mr. Chas. Aitkin of Farmington, was seriously injured as he alighted from the west bound passenger train. It is reported that he encountered some obstruction which operated to throw him off his balance. He fell heavily to the platform and was unable to arise. Dr. J. J. O'Hara was called by the depot agent, Mr. D. W. Walrath, and under his direction he was taken to the hotel.

- Several well meaning religious organizations in St. Paul are moving to ban dancing among high school students. It is proposed to secure the cooperation of boards of education to remedy the socalled evil. Just how a board of education may stop high school students dancing is a problem these worthy people evidently have not considered. As a matter of fact, a school board has no jurisdiction over students as to what forms of amusement they may engage in.

1950

- "But Not Goodbye" is currently on a ten-week tour of the Upper Midwest area as the third annual dramatic offering by the University Theatre. The company is composed of top-ranking graduate students in Theatre from the University, and features a number of University theatre veterans who are undoubtedly well-known to Waseca County people. The performance of "But Not Goodbye" will be presented in the Waseca auditorium on Monday evening, February 6, at 8:15 p.m. this is the second number in the series presented by the Waseca County Concert Association.

- The Directors of the Janesville Community Chest held their first meeting on Monday evening, January 30. At the meeting all of the projects which are listed here were gone over carefully by the Directors and the budget set. After computing the amount needed on the various projects, it was determined to set the goal at \$3,000. The Community Chest drive will be conducted from February 6th through the 16th, inclusive, and, everyone is asked to contribute generously.

- A large gang of basketball fans, numbering forty-eight, chartered a Greyhound Bus on Sunday for the purpose of viewing the Minneapolis Lakers and Washington Capitols basketball game in the Minneapolis Auditorium. The final outcome of the game read: Lakers, 88; Capitols, 60. It was an evening well spent. It is reported plans are being made for another trip on February 12, when the Lakers will do battle with the Boston Celtics.



In 1975, Janesville students Beth Vinson, Stacey Sjoquist, and Jon Coonrod learning about computers from teacher Dave Ostrem.

1975

- Eleven Janesville journalism students got a taste of country newspapering last week when they helped write and edit the Janesville Argus. Working with the Argus staff, Mr. Dave Tonolli's class accounted for about 80 percent of the writing in the paper. Each student had an assignment for last week's paper. A feature story about the JHS computer program was left over from this week.

- If Janesville's basketball team had been a hot air balloon at Blooming Prairie Friday night, it never would have got off the ground. There would have been a lot of sputtering and stammering, but no flight. It was that kind of a game as the Bears dropped their second conference contest 59-54. For three quarters both clubs tried to give the game away with poor passing, forced shots and missed free throws. In the final period it was a toss up until Blooming's Fred Nelson hit two from outside and added a free throw to put the game out of reach.

- Pat Dowling, 22, is the new meatman at Finley Bros. Fairway, owner Roy Johnson announced Monday. He replaced Al Erdman who plans to open his own business here. A Waseca native, Dowling is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Obert Smith. He graduated from Waseca High School in 1970 and was enrolled at Southwest Minnesota State College, Marshall, for the next two years.

2000

- The Prairie Ridge Golf Course in Janesville has welcomed a new general manager, Scott Allan. Allan, a native of North Mankato, relocated to Florida at age 21 to pursue his career. "I went to Sarasota, Fla. To enter the Golf Professional Training Program which I started 8 years ago. There are different levels of the program, and I have completed two out of three levels," said Allan. While living in Sarasota, Allan worked at the Meadows Country Club for three years as an assistant professional. "I passed my players ability test which certifies me to teach lessons and clinics. It was nice down there because the golf program is year round. It was a good place to practice," said Allan.

- Abraham Lincoln will be appearing in Waseca next week... well not exactly. Waseca Area Learning Center (ALC) teacher and Janesville resident Bryce Stenzel is a costumed historical interpreter who portrays the 16th president of the United States. He will be presenting a preview of the play he wrote called "Lincoln's Lore," on Friday, Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Waseca Central Intermediate School auditorium. He will have a question and answer period after the preview which is free and open to the public, however donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of production.

- Some tight games down the stretch tend to get a team ready for tournament time. The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton girls' basketball team had a nail-biter at home Friday. JWP and Faribault Bethlehem Academy stayed close the entire game with the Bulldogs surviving 51-49. JWP had won the earlier meeting by nine points. "We led by six to eight points most of the game, but could not put them away," JWP coach Mike Meihak said. "They battled us hard, and had a three-pointer at the end which could have won it." It was the third consecutive victory for the Bulldogs, and their 13th in the last 14 games.

Waseca

25 Years Ago

-Thomas A. Grant, 59, of Waseca, was not in Waseca County Third Judicial Court Monday at a hearing to allow him to challenge seizure of his property. Present were Robert McGuire, personal representative of the state of Idella Olen and his attorney Rolf Iversen , of Iversen and Byron. Attorney Tom Kraus, of McLoone and Kraus Law Office made what he called a "limited appearance" on behalf of Linda Grant, wife of Tom Grant.



-Mush, you huskies! – Darnle and Mike Huerkamp of Winterhaven Kennels in rural New Richland prepare their sled dogs for a practice run. They will be giving rides and conducting races in Trowbridge Park on Sat. during the Sleigh & Cutter Festival.

-Waseca Junior High School art teacher Jan Hoberg painted this four foot by five foot mural of the Cally Jo Angel Pin. The mural will be presented to the Larson family at the Cally Jo Memorial Gymnastics Tournament on Saturday and Sunday at the Waseca Junior High.

50 Years Ago

-Rebuilding – CARPENTERS FROM WASECA were hard at work Wednesday afternoon building new cupboards in the Marland Goettl house, as Irene, 4, and John Goettl, 6, watched. The family, numbering 15, lost their home to a fire a few days after Christmas for the second time.



-A little help – TEACHER OF THE YEAR Charlotte Neseth helps some of her students in a writing assignment. The next project on the agenda was to begin to make valentines. Students seated left to right are Jodi Johnson, Alex Hughes, Laurie Veth, Greg Jones, and Jewel Hill. Alex assured me, "Miss Neseth teaches us a lot."

-In less than three weeks the citizens of Waseca will go to the polls to vote on a proposed \$150,000 bond issue. The money from the bonds will be used to help finance a new city hall. The current city hall was built in 1912. Here has been criticism of the building at least since since the 1930's.

75 Years Ago

-Each year the New York State Agricultural society honors three farmers whose families have owned and farmed the same land for one hundred years or more. At the 117TH annual meeting held January 19, one of these honored guests was Harold Blakeley of East Aurora, N.Y., a brother of Mrs. P.W. Gibson of Waseca.

-C.C. Buck, Sr., brother of the late Chas. Buck of Waseca, retired recently after 44 years of railroadng. He started his career with the railroads in Waseca. His brother, Charles, was also a railroad man working for the C. & N. W. here. The Trainman News carried the following account of C.C.'s retirement: "Buck has endeared himself to every yard employee at Minneapolis by his honesty, faithfulness to the Brotherhood and his ability as a 'rail'," said R.D. Harding, agent official publication.

-First. Lt. Rayna L. Anderson of Owatonna, recently arrived on the Isthmus of Panama, having made the trip via U.S. Army Transport "Pvt. William H. Thomas." Upon her arrival, Lt. Anderson was assigned to duty with 7448th Service Unit (Wasc) of the Pacific-Sector, U.S. Army, Caribbean, Fort Clayton, Canal Zone.

100 Years Ago

-The Waseca County Commissioners met in special session Monday afternoon to consider applications for the office of County Attorney to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late J.J. Spillane. Atty. Geo. E. Child was the successful candidate for the office and his appointment confirmed by the commissioners.

-L.D. Coffman, president of the University of Minnesota, has accepted the invitation extended him by the Waseca Parent-Teachers association, and will visit Waseca on Monday, Feb. 16. While in the city he will address the Parent-Teachers association and the general public at a mass meeting to be held at the high school auditorium.

-Equipment of the woodshop of the new school is now practically complete, or will be when the machines that had been sent to the factory to modernized are returned. The present equipment of the shop if sufficient to properly handle twenty students. It includes 20 benches complete with all of the necessary hand tools.

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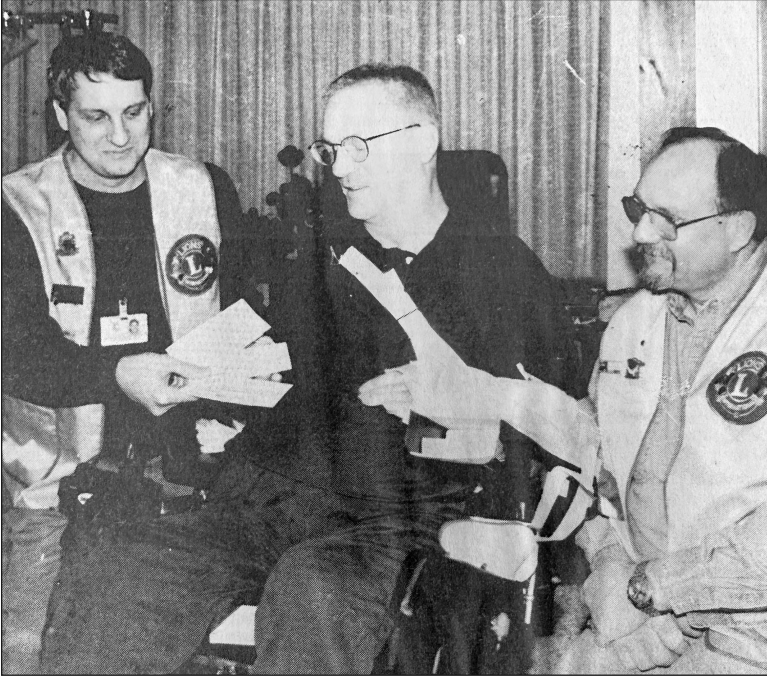
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New Richland

25 Years Back



- Dale Bayerkohler, treasurer of the New Richland Lions presented Pastor John Hendrickson of First Congregational Church, New Richland with checks amounting of \$6,000 last Thursday evening. Since the New Richland Lions was founded in 1969 through the con-gregated efforts of a number of members of the community, the organization has supported many community drives and assisted many organizations, families and individuals with funds raised at their semi-annual pancakes breakfast.



- Grand Champion! Thomas Wacholz at the New Richland Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby held here January 16. Thomas received his championship plaque from Cub Master Jacky Payne.

- The New Richland Commercial Club reviewed the accomplishments of the past year and elected new officers at the annual meeting and banquet, Friday, January 21 at the American Legion Clubrooms. Bernie Anderson, treasurer, was in charge due to the fact that Beth Wesselhoeft, president and Dale Halgren, vice president were unable to attend. Anita Staloch was elected president; Dale Halgren vice president; Gary Billing secretary and Bernie Anderson treasure. Board members elected were Dr. Ray Mielke, Corrine Schuller and Beth Wesselhoeft. Anderson welcomed new members, Joyce Hansen, owner of Du Drop Inn and Todd Stencel of New Richland Insurance Agency.

- The North Central Weed Science Society has selected Thomas Hov-erstad to receive the Distinguished Achievement in Weed Science. Professional Staff Award. Hoverstad has been on staff at the U of M Southern Research and outreach Center at Waseca for the past 17 years. He is currently a scientist in the agronomy/weed management program.

- Winter really arrived! In sotheran Minnesota last week, five to six inches of snow fell over Waseca County and the surrounding area. Moving the snow kept most folks in New Richland busy for a couple of days. Here Joe Duenes blows the snow out of his driveway and front walk. The happiest folks were the kids who had not had much opportunity to use their sleds this winter.

50 Years Back

- Waldorf-Pemberton High School Honor Roll, 2nd Quarter - 1974-75 Seniors. A-Becky Ewert, Darla Goodrich, Bonita Tesch, Daniel Geary, Susan Schubbe. B-Bonnie Benson, Lynn Ewald, Cynthia Murphy, Lynn Drager, Darla Halstead, Deborah Webster, Lori Bluhm. JUNIORS: A-Robert Drager, JoAnn Kajewski, Amy Sonnek, Julia Haakinson, Jan Kunkel, Darrel Hankerson, Debra McCoy. B-Randy Burmeister, Kim Hofman, Carol Kunz, Yvonne Geary, Richard Krause, Shawn McDonough, Diane Goebel, Cindy Kruse and Ronald Rausch.

- Arlene S. Thompson has been named New Richland High Schools 12975 Betty Crocker Family leader of tomorrow. Miaa Thompson won the honor by scoring high in a written knowledge and attitude examination administered to high school seniors here and throughout the country December 3rd. She will receive a specially designed award from General Mills, sponsor of the annual Betty Crocker Search for Leadership in Family Living and becomes eligible for state national honors.

- Eric Purdie, Jon Parrott and Ted Rosenback. The boys seem to have decided that maybe there aren't any fish in the fishing hole, as they fished patiently during the Ice Fishing Derby at St. Olaf Lake, Sunday afternoon.

- Don Longley Memorial Scholarships were awarded at the American Shorthorn Association Annual Awards Banquet, recently at the Denver Hilton. Winners of this years scholarships are Lynn Ewald, Waldorf,John Gunn, Greenfield, Ind., and Gloria Walters, Paola, Kan. Ewald is a senior at Waldorf-Pemberton High School where he is an honor student. He has also won many showmanship and livestock efficiency awards for 4-H and FFA.

75 Years Back

- A son, weighing eight pounds, ten ounces, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Alex Kalis, Tuesday, March 7, at the Naeve hospital, ALbert Lea. They have another son Gary, and a daughter Joan.

- Tommy Smith and Burton Halvorson are expected to reach New Richland Saturday evening following their discharge from the U.S. Navy. Burton will receive his "Mustering out" at Washington D. C. while Tommy will be discharged at Norfolk, Va. The boys were together through much of their training. Burton, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Halvorson of Albert Lea, attended school here.

- Mr. and Mrs. Louis Seberson of New Richland, were honored Sunday on their 40th wedding anniversary when about seventy-five relatives and friends called on them during the afternoon and evening.



VOLLEYBALL — Taking the basketball to the hoop for the Waseca High School girls’ basketball team during its 53-47 Parents Night victory over Sibley East last Monday are Callie Dufault (1) and Lily Owens (24).



Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

WHS girls top Sibley East on Parents Night

Apparently, the Waseca High School girls’ basketball team enjoys winning.

The Bluejays picked up victory No. 5 at home against Sibley East last Monday, winning the nonconference game 53-47 on Parents Night.

“We appreciate the victory against a good Sibley East basketball team,” said Bluejays head coach Anthony Jackson. “We had solid scoring con-

tributions out of multiple players tonight, which helped us stave off Sibley East in the second half.”

One of the keys for the Bluejays, according to Jackson, was consistent defense from all players and the girls hitting shots to get Sibley East out of their box-and-1 defense that they began running in the second half.

Callie Dufault finished with 16 points and 2 assists for the Bluejays.

Lexi Kanewischer scored 11. Mia Kanewischer had 8 points and 7 rebounds, Gracie Morgan 6 points, Gaby Lopez 4 points, Ava Miller 3 points, Lily Owens 2 points and 4 rebounds, Reese Rodriguez 2 points.

The Bluejays, 1-4 in the Big South East, improved to 5-18 overall. After a Tuesday game at Windom, the girls host St. James Area Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Big South East					
Jackson Co. Central	7-2	17-6	Pipestone	3-5	12-11
Tri-City United	7-2	16-5	Luverne	0-8	3-19
Fairmont	6-4	15-7	Big South Big		
Belle Plaine	4-5	8-14	Marshall	6-0	22-1
Waseca	1-4	5-18	New Ulm	2-3	12-7
Blue Earth	0-9	0-21	St. Peter	3-3	12-9
Big South West			Worthington	0-6	1-21
Redwood Valley	6-2	16-7			
Windom	6-2	17-6			
St. James	5-3	17-5			

Flyers’ season ends with 6-0 loss to Farmington

Waseca/Faribault girls reach section quarterfinals with OT win over Austin

The South Central Flyers girls’ hockey team saw its season end last Wednesday with a 6-0 loss at top-seeded Farmington in the Section 2A quarterfinals.

The Flyers, seeded eighth among nine teams in the section, reached the quarterfinals by defeating Austin 3-2 in overtime Monday, Feb. 3 at Waseca Community Arena. It was the second time this season the Flyers defeated Austin.

The Flyers finished with a record of 10-16-1. Farmington improved to 16-7-2.

Farmington, which led 3-0 after one period and 4-0 after two, out-shot the Flyers 76-4.

Ilamay Draheim was in goal for the Flyers.

The 2024-25 Flyers included seniors Katlyn Schueler and Stevie Johnston, juniors Madalyn Benson and Kaylee Lawson, sophomores Jayden Drager, Emma Huelsnitz, McKenna Mortensen, Makayla Forthun and Draheim, freshmen Savannah Conway, Sadie Wagner, Clara Nowrocki and Allison Drager, 8th-graders Ava Greden, Camila Staloch, Zoey Gibson and Maddie Hanna, and 7th-grader Lila Pavlic.

The Flyers were led by co-head coaches Chas Benson and Amanda Reed, assisted by Steve Gravgard, Abbe Hoehn and Tony Schied.



FINAL WIN — Alison Drager (22) brings the puck up the ice in the Flyers’ 3-2 Section 2A victory over Austin. Savannah Conway (2) is in the background.

Pioneer photo Jim Lutgens

Gymnasts prevail at St. Peter

Wikan wins all-around, sets school vault record

Bella Wikan led the Waseca High School gymnastics team to a victory over St. Peter last week.

The final at St. Peter’s Lund Center: Bluejays 133.2, Saints 130.9.

Wikan claimed the all-around crown with 36.75, but was even more impressive on the vault, where she won with a score of 9.35, breaking Sammie Petry’s school record of 9.3 set in 2017.

Wikan won the unevenparallel bars with a 9.45 and the floor exercise with a 9.325. She was second on the balance beam at 8.625.

Other Bluejay scores, by event:

All-around – Katelyn Weber 32.225, Brooklyn Flatau 31.4, Avery Carda 31.325, Hannah Parks 31.15.

Vault – Flatau 8.7, Weber 8.6, Carda 8.15, Parks 8.0.

Bars – Weber 7.9, Carda 7.3, Parks 7.2, Flatau 7.05

Beam – Carda 8.375, Parks 7.7, Flatau 7.375, Weber 7.1.



Wikan



Parks



Weber

Floor – Weber 8.625, Flatau 8.275, Parks 8.25, Carda 7.5.

The Bluejays compete in the Big South championship Saturday.

The section finals are Feb. 13 at St. James.



NO FALLS, ALL SMILES – Avery Carda, left, and Brooklyn Flatau helped the Waseca High School gymnastics team defeat St. Peter last week.

Photo by Lisa Carda

WHS boys win battle for first

Ohnstad joins 1,000-point club

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

In more than one game this season, the Waseca High School boys’ basketball team has had its mettle tested.

The Bluejays passed them all with flying colors.

Waseca, rated No. 2 in the state in Class 2A, battled No. 4-ranked Jackson County Central Saturday afternoon and came home with a 75-71 triumph, improving to 22-0 for the season.

“It was a battle all game,” said Bluejays coach Seth Anderson. “It was a very physical game in front of a crowded gym. There were so many really good athletes on the floor playing a high level of Class 2A basketball.”



Ohnstad

After jumping on top 9-2 early, the Bluejays saw the Huskies rally back to take their first lead at 17-16. There were six lead changes before the Bluejays took a 31-26 advantage in the final minutes of the first half.

JCC hit a buzzer-beater to pull within 35-31 at halftime.

Damarius Russell, Ethan Hiller and Deron Russell all his free throws down the stretch for Waseca.

The loss dropped JCC to 19-3 for the season. The Huskies are 6-3 in the Big South East while the Bluejays improved to 5-0.

“This was a really good game for our team to play,” said Coach Anderson. “We had to battle all the way to the end and work on some end-of-game situations in front of a pro-Jackson crowd.”

Deron Russell, a 6-foot-2 junior, led the Bluejays with 23 points, 6 rebounds, 5 assists and 1 steal. His brother Damarius, a senior, finished with 16 points, 6 rebounds, 9 assists and 5 steals.

Others: Isaac Feldkamp 10P, 3R, 2S; Carson Ohnstad 8P, 4R; Caden Danner 6P, 1S, 1 blocked shot; Hiller 4P, 12R, 2S; Wyatt Hager 4P, 1A; Brandyn Jascha 4P, 1A.

Roman Voss led the Huskies in scoring with 30 points. Grant Freking scored 23.

Earlier in the week, the Bluejays won a nonconference game at GHEC-ML-T, where Ohnstad finished with 31 points to surpass the 1,000-point milestone for his Bluejay career.

“We didn’t play particularly well defensively, but definitely give GHEC some credit,” said Anderson. “They really shot and handled the ball well.”

Ohnstad became the 21st person to score 1,000 points in Waseca boys’ basketball history.

After hosting Windom Tuesday, the Bluejays play at St. James Area Friday and at NRHEG Feb. 20.

Big South East					
Waseca	W-L	Overall	Marshall	W-L	Overall
Jackson Co. Central	5-0	22-0	St. Peter	6-0	15-6
Belle Plaine	6-3	19-3	Worthington	3-3	11-11
Fairmont	6-2	14-5	New Ulm	2-4	3-16
Blue Earth Area	5-3	13-8	Pipestone	1-5	6-14
Blue Earth Area	2-7	9-12	Big South Big		
Tri-City United	0-9	0-21	Marshall	6-0	15-6
Big South West			St. Peter	3-3	11-11
Luverne	W-L	Overall	Worthington	2-4	3-16
Redwood Valley	6-2	14-6	New Ulm	1-5	6-14
Windom	5-3	15-8	Class 2A state rankings		
St. James	5-3	11-10	By Minnesota Basketball News		
Pipestone Area	2-6	9-11	Week 10, Feb. 5, 2025		

1. Albany 17-0
2. Waseca 22-0
3. Caledonia 19-2
4. Jackson County Central 18-3
5. Breck 10-9
6. Blake 16-1
7. Montevideo 16-2
8. Warroad 18-1
9. Mora 16-1
10. Cannon Falls 17-3

WHS hockey boys top MR, Fairmont, fall 5-2 at Blake

The Waseca High School boys' hockey team went 2-1 this past week, defeating Minnesota River 7-1 last Tuesday at LeSueur, blanking Fairmont at home 10-0 Thursday and falling 5-2 in a nonconference game at Blake Academy Saturday.

While the shots on goal were fairly close at Minnesota River, 36-26 in favor of Waseca, the game was not. The Bluejays led 2-0 at the end of the first period and 5-0 after two.

Waseca took nine penalties for 26 minutes while Minnesota River was whistled five times for 10 minutes.

Scoring for the Bluejays were Hunter Anderson, Henry Huttemier, Jude Gehring and Beckett Srp, with assists by Cash Lynch, Jackson Tesch, Otto Schoenrock, Jackson Dahl, Srp, Lucas Groll, Jude Gehring and Griffin Storey.

Josiah Schmidtke was in goal for the Bluejays.

The Bluejays dominated winless Fairmont at home Thursday, leading 4-0 after one period and 8-0 after two. They outshot the Cardinals 49-4.

Goal scorers: Jayden Gehring, Avery Selvik, Tesch, Easton Danks, Schoenrock, Anderson, Jude Gehring, Huttemier, with assists going to Jayden Gehring, Anderson, Selvik, Groll, Tesch, Storey, Srp, Dahl and Lynch.

The Waseca goaltender was Carter Martens.

The Bluejays scored first at Blake Saturday, but the Bears scored four unanswered goals in the second period while outshooting the Bluejays 39-26.

Martens took the loss in goal.

The Bluejays, 12-1-1 in the Big South, good for second place behind Luverne, improved to 17-3-2 overall.

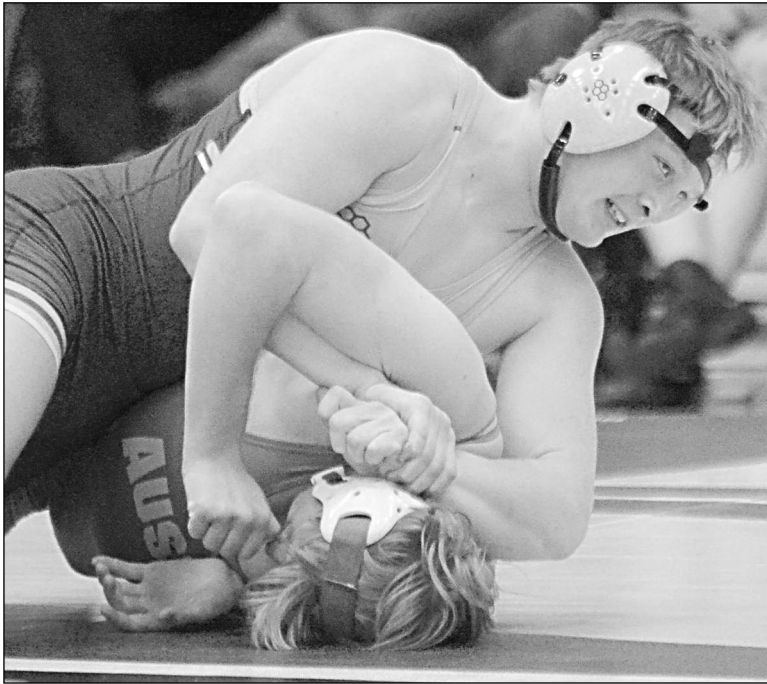
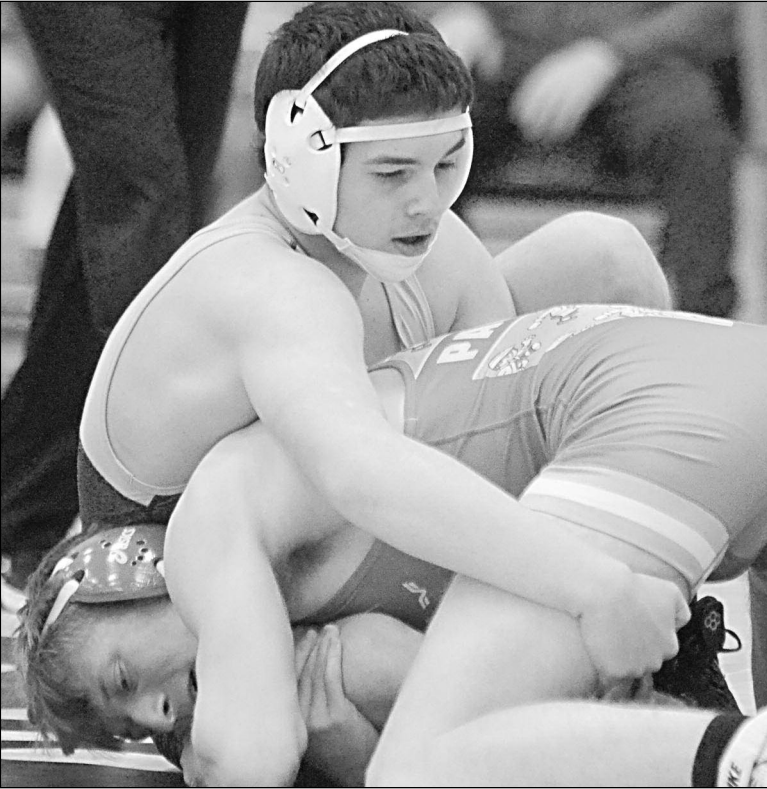
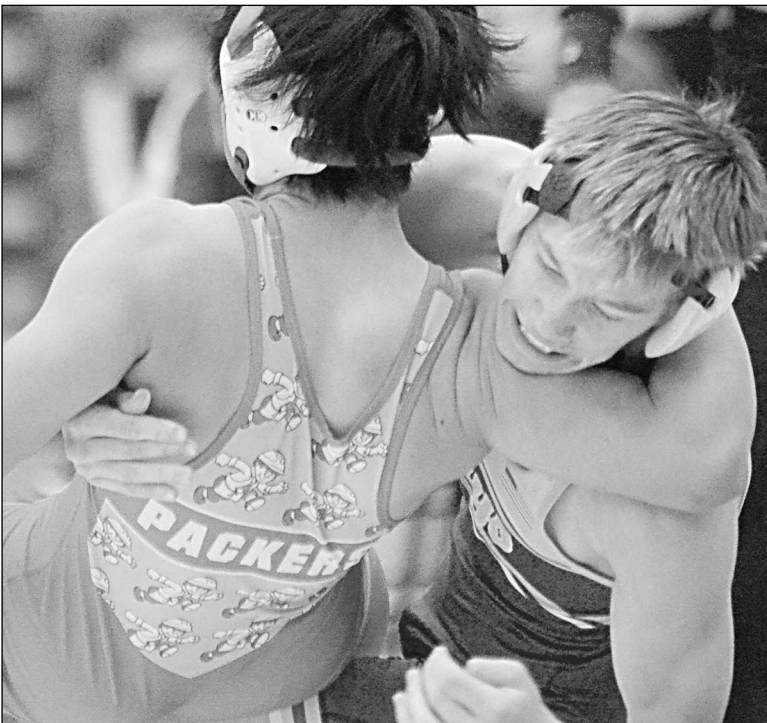
Waseca plays tonight at Luverne at 7:15 and finishes the regular season Saturday at 2:45 at Marshall.

Big South Standings				
	WLT	PTS	Overall	
Luverne	13-0-1	26	18-4-1	
Waseca	12-1-1	25	17-3-2	
Marshall	8-6-0	16	10-13-0	
New Ulm	7-4-0	14	10-10-2	
Minn. River	5-5-0	10	10-13-0	
Worthington	5-8-0	10	6-17-0	
Windom	5-9-0	10	6-16-1	
Redwood V.	4-12-0	8	5-18-0	
Fairmont	0-14-0	0	0-21-0	



LOP-SIDED WIN – The Bluejays' Hunter Anderson (16) tees up a shot during Waseca's 10-0 victory over winless Fairmont last week. Cash Lynch (12) trails the play. Below, the Bluejays' Easton Danks fires one on goal.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



VICTORY – Among the Waseca winners against Austin last Tuesday were, Sam Selthun (top), Ton Bethke (middle) and Lucas Selthun (bottom).

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Waseca matmen top visiting Austin, 45-28

The Waseca High School wrestling team picked up a dual-meet win last Tuesday, defeating visiting Austin 45-28.

The Packers put the Bluejays in an early hole, winning by technical fall over Owen Sommers at 107 pounds, by forfeit at 114, by fall over Jackson Janike at 121 and by fall over Archer O'Brien at 127.

Jacob Knutson put Waseca on the scoreboard with a win by fall in 1:46 at 133.

The Bluejays' Deven Parpart followed with a fall in 1:09 at 139, Jaiden Schafer got a fall at 145 in 1:11, and Sam Selthun prevailed by fall in 5:00 at 152.

The Packers forfeited to Slade Barnett at 160.

At 172, Ton Bethke battled to an 8-3 decision, Lucas Selthun won by fall at 189, and Matthew Veroeven won by forfeit at 215.

Austin finally won at 285, scoring a technical fall over the Bluejays' Ben Hagen.

The Waseca girls traveled to Rochester Century Saturday for the Section 1 and 2 individual tournament. The Bluejays had no state qualifiers.

The results:

- 118 Kaiya Stagman (3-8) place is unknown.
- 124 Hailey Proehl (12-13) place is unknown.
- 130 Sofia Bunn (8-16) place is unknown.

Champ. Round 1 - Annalucia Diercks (Rochester Century) 13-16 won by tech fall over Sofia Bunn (Waseca) 8-16 (TF-1.5 3:07 (17-2))

Cons. Round 1 - Sofia Bunn (Waseca) 8-16 received a bye

Cons. Round 2 - Lilly Ewert (WEM-JWP) 5-5 won by tech fall over Sofia Bunn (Waseca) 8-16 (TF-1.5 1:51 (17-0))

The boys' section team semifinals are Saturday at the Rochester Mayo Civic Center. Individual section finals are Feb. 21-22 in Rochester.



TWO-WIN WEEK — At left, the Bulldogs' Landon Johnson blocks a shot by Mack Gilliland during JWP's 76-41 victory at NRHEG last Friday. At right, the Bulldogs' Daulton Bauer brings the ball up the court.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Two more wins improve JWP boys to 16-4

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School boys' basketball team swept its opponents last week, winning 79-36 at Medford Monday and winning 76-41 at NRHEG Friday.

The Bulldogs improved to 6-0 in the Gopher Conference West and 16-4 overall.

The Bulldogs led 43-20 at half-time at New Richland and never looked back.

Individually: Daulton Bauer 24 points, 2 rebounds, 4 assists, 3 steals; Gavin Bauer 16P, 2R, 3A, 5S,

1 blocked shot; Caleb Quast 12P, 4R, 4A, 5S; Jaxon Wolff 5P, 4R, 4A, 5S; Gavin Weedman 5P, 5R, 1A, 2S; Jaxon Miller 3P; Ethan Born 3P, 3R, 2S; Parker Gearity 2P, 2R, 1A; Landon Johnson 2P, 2R, 4A, 5S; Jeffrey Simonson 2P, 1R, 1A; Isaiah Berndt 2P, 2R; Tyson Kronbach 1R, 1A.

The Bulldogs overpowered winless Medford, leading 44-29 at halftime.

Individually: D.Bauer 22P, 3R, 2A, 6S; G.Bauer 10P, 3R, 1A, 1B; Johnson 7P, 3R, 3A, 3S; Miller 7P;

Quast 6P, 3A, 3S; Berndt 6P, 3R, 1A, 2S; Weedman 6P, 2R, 1A, 2S; Gearity 4P, 3R, 2A; Born 4P, 2R, 1A, 2S; Zander Terbeest 3P, 1R; Wolff 2P, 1A, 1S; Seth Dahlberg 2P, 2R; Simonson 5R, 2A, 1B; Kronbach 1R, 1S.

After hosting Sibley East in a nonconference game Monday, the Bulldogs play Friday at 7:15 p.m. at Waterville.

Gopher Conference West

	W-L	Overall
JWP	6-0	16-4

WEM 5-1 11-9
United South Central 3-3 7-15
NRHEG 1-6 3-18
Medford 0-5 0-19

Gopher Conference East

	W-L	Ov.
Triton	8-0	17-5
Bloomington	5-3	14-6
Randolph	5-3	9-12
Kenyon-Wan.	5-3	13-10
Hayfield	1-7	7-15
Bethlehem Academy	0-8	1-18

NRHEG girls take conference lead

Panthers upend first-place JWP, 76-55

It looked to be a showdown when Gopher Conference West leader Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton visited second-place New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva last Friday.

It turned into a blowout.

The Panthers, sparked by a smothering defense, bolted to a 34-18 halftime advantage and went on to a 76-55 victory. It improved NRHEG to 7-1 in the Gopher Conference West and 16-3 overall while the Bulldogs fell to 6-1 and 20-3.

“This was a big program win,” said NRHEG head coach Onika Peterson. “The girls came out tonight with confidence and they all did their job and did it well. We were able to hop out to a lead and held it the whole game.”

The Bulldogs hit a couple of baskets to cut the lead to nine but, according to Peterson, the Bulldogs were able to make the extra pass and find an open teammate.

“We hit some big outside shots and we rebounded so well,” said Peterson. “Our defense was smothering. This was a big win and I couldn’t be more proud of every single girl in our program. It takes every kid for us to be successful—

whether they are running scout team, rebounding, diving on loose balls, or hitting big shots.”

Quinn VanMaldeghem had a big game for the Panthers with 30 points, 15 rebounds, 6 steals, 4 assists and 1 blocked shots. Her twin sister, Camryn, finished with 25 points, 12 rebounds and one block.

Others: Gabby Schlaak 8P, 4R, 1A; Ezra Boerner 1R; Clara Buendorf 4P, 1R, 1A; Chloe Stork 3R, 2S, 1B; Kylie Olson 9P, 9R, 1S.

The Panthers won 69-49 at WEM last Monday, leading 36-22 at half-time.

“We started a little slow, but really came on strong in the second half,” said Coach Peterson. “The girls adjusted to WEM’s offensive scheme and did a great job communicating. We came away with a win and were able to get everyone in the game. I am very proud of my girls and their ability to adjust and fight every game.”

Individually: Schlaak 17P, 5R, 1A, 3S; Boerner 1P, 2R, 1A, 2S; Q.VanMaldeghem 9P, 11R, 2S, 1B; Buendorf 2P, 1R, 1S, 1B; C.VanMaldeghem 28P, 12R, 1A, 6S, 2B; Stork 3R, 1A, 1S; Joey Rossing 3P; Olson 9P, 9R.

After hosing St. Clair Monday



BIG BOARD — Camryn VanMaldeghem grabs a defensive rebound during the NRHEG girls’ basketball team’s 76-55 victory over visiting JWP last Friday. VanMaldeghem finished with 25 points, 12 rebounds and a blocked shot.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

and Alden-Conger/Glenville tonight, the Panthers play Friday at Randolph and finish the regular season Feb. 18 at Tri-City United.			JWP	6-1	20-3	Hayfield/Schaeffer	Ac.5-2	11-9
			WEM	4-3	13-10	Bethlehem Academy	3-3	8-10
			United South Central	1-6	13-10	Randolph	2-4	7-11
			Medford	0-7	0-22	Blooming Prairie	2-5	6-15
						Kenyon-Wan.	1-6	7-15
Gopher Conference West			Gopher Conference East					
	W-L	Ov.		W-L	Ov.			
NRHEG	7-1	16-5	Triton	7-0	19-2			



LOSS TO THE LEADERS — The NRHEG boys’ basketball team came up short against Gopher Conference West leader JWP 76-41 Friday. Here, the Panthers’ Jordan Brouwers dribbles the ball as the Bulldogs’ Ethan Born defends.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG boys fall to WEM, Nicollet, JWP

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva boys’ basketball team dropped three games in the past week, 73-45 to WEM last Monday, 74-51 to Nicollet Thursday and 76-41 to JWP Friday.

Panthers coach Dan Schmidt expected a tough game against WEM.

“We knew we were going to be in for a grind, and WEM proved it,” said Schmidt. “They put a lot of ball pressure on teams, and unfortunately we just lost our composure against it.”

The Buccaneers, according to Schmidt, dictated the pace of the game from the start.

“We have to go back to the drawing board on not only preparing our guys for that kind of ball pressure, but also helping them get confidence against it,” said Schmidt. “We had openings at times, but we hesitated taking them. We played significantly better than when we played at Waterville earlier this year, so we’re taking that as a positive. The guys continue to play hard, and that’s always something that will help us turn the corner when we can stack some good play from start to finish.”

Individually for NRHEG: Greyson Schaefer 4 points, 10 rebounds, 1 blocked shot; Calvin

Nissen 7P, 1R, 1 assist, 1 steal; Owen Wayne 6P, 1R, 1A; Brendan Schmidt 7P, 2R, 5A, 1S; Justin Beauvais 3P, Lavon Jewison 2P, 2R, 1A, 1B; Hudson Chrz 2P, 1R, 1A, 2B; Mack Gilliland 2P, 1R, 1S, 1B; Sean Lassahn 8P, 3R, 1A.

Individually at Nicollet: Schaefer 9P, 11R, 1S, 1B; Nissen 13P, 1R, 2A, 1S; wayne 8P, 2R, 4S, 1B; Schmidt 4P, 11R, 2A, 1S, 3B; Beauvais 3P, 1A; Jewison 2P, 1R, 1S; Dom Olson 2P, 1R; Chrz 3P, 1R, Gilliland 3P, 1A, 1S; Lassahn 4P, 1R, 1A, 1S; Brock Holland 1R.

Against JWP: Schaefer 3P, 14R, 1B; Nissen 13P, 2R, 4S; Wayne 10P, 2R, 2A, 2S; Schmidt 3R, 1A, 2S; Olson 3P, 1R; Gilliland 4P, 2R, 1A; Lassahn 4P, 4R; Holland 1R, 1A, 1B; Zander Hanna 2R.

The Panthers, 1-6 in the Gopher Conference and 3-18 overall, play tonight at Mankato Loyola at 7 p.m. and Friday at 7:15 at Alden-Conger. They’re home Feb. 17 at 7:15 against Tri-City United.

Gopher Conference West		
	W-L	Overall
JWP	6-0	16-4
WEM	5-1	11-9
United South Central	3-3	7-15
NRHEG	1-6	3-18
Medford	0-5	0-19

Wrestlers compete with Gopher champs

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva wrestling team had the misfortune of facing Gopher Conference champion Kenyon-Wanamingo in its final home dual meet Thursday.

But the Panthers, according to head coach Shawn Larson, were able to compete while dropping a 59-14 decision.

“Those who know wrestling well, and have been watching our team, know that we are getting better,” said Larson. “It is tough to have the Gopher Conference champions for our last home match. They are a good team, and we believe we competed with them.”

The Panthers had three dominant bonus-point wins. Harbor Cromwell, 160 pounds, and Ryan Schlaak, 172, won by technical fall. Cole Hutchens earned a major decision at 215. The Panthers forfeited at 127 and 285.

The results, by weight:

107 – Liam Sommer (Kenyon-Wanamingo) over Graham Jacobson (Fall 3:25)

114 – Gabriel Ramirez (Kenyon-

“Those who know wrestling well, and have been watching our team, know that we are getting better.”

— Shawn Larson

Wanamingo) over Charles Tufte (Fall 4:43)

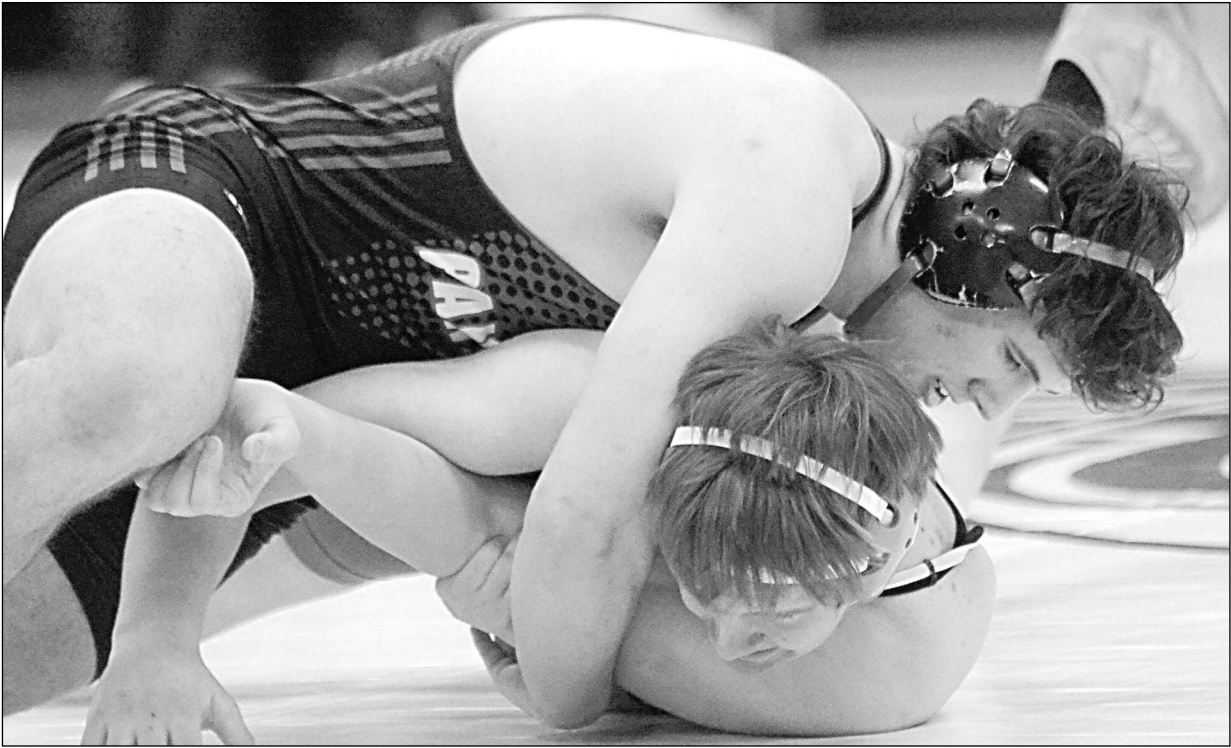
121 – Bryan Jacobson (Kenyon-Wanamingo) over Dakota Schlaak (Fall 1:08)

127 – Ryan LaCanne (Kenyon-Wanamingo) over Unknown (For.)

133 – Reed Sommer (Kenyon-Wanamingo) over Chase Johannsen (TF 18-2)

139 – Masyn Hanson (Kenyon-Wanamingo) over Khaiden Madson (Fall 1:12)

145 – Luke Johnson (Kenyon-Wanamingo) over Logan Schiell



MAJOR DECISION — NRHEG’s Cole Hutchens, top, tries to turn over Kenyon-Wanamingo’s Knute Ronningen for back points on his way to a 10-1 major decision Thursday in New Richland.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

(Fall 0:59)

152 – Logan Trump (Kenyon-Wanamingo) over Noah Weller (Fall 3:16)

160 – Harbor Cromwell (NRHEG) over Myles Thompson (TF 18-3)

172 – Ryan Schlaak (NRHEG) over Ryan Rechtzigel (TF 19-4)

189 – Brennan Floterud (Kenyon-Wanamingo) over Wyatt Larson (Fall 5:41)

215 – Cole Hutchens (NRHEG) over Knute Ronningen (MD 10-1)

285 – Charles Koncur (Kenyon-Wanamingo) over Unknown (For.)

The Panthers open section tournament team competition tonight, with the finals set for Saturday. Section individual finals are Feb. 22 at 10 a.m. at Blue Earth Area.

Grizzlies win at Triton

The WEM/JWP High School wrestling team continued its winning ways last Thursday, defeating Triton 38-30 at Dodge Center.

The results, by weight:

107: Kaiden Adreon (TRIT) over Eli Fall (Fall 1:15) 114: Brenden Masso (WEJW) over Leighton Cochran (Fall 2:26) 121: Trey Richards (WEJW) over Theo Kispert (Fall 3:38) 127: Jaxon Jensen (TRIT) over Carson James (MD 17-7) 133: Alexander De La Merced Ortiz (TRIT) over (For.) 139: Brady Murphy (WEJW) over (For.) 145: Zach Quast (WEJW) over (For.) 152: Hunter Garness (TRIT) over Lucas Morsching (TF 16-1 2:16) 160: Cole Kodada (TRIT) over Luke Cahill (Fall 2:19) 172: Maddox Moreno (WEJW) over Christopher Kasper (Fall 2:42) 189: Avery Fall (WEJW) over Wylie Deml (Dec 15-8) 215: Keegan Kuball (WEJW) over Christian Schrom (TF 15-0 2:24) 285: Craig Knutson (TRIT) over Avery Breyer (Dec 6-0).

The WEM/JWP girl wrestlers were at Rochester Century Saturday for the Section 1 and 2 individual tournament. The Grizzlies did not have a state tournament qualifier.

The results, by weight:

- 100: Anaelyse Skidmore (WEM-JWP) - DNP
- Champ. Round 1 - Anaelyse Skidmore (WEM-JWP) over Tayvon Skoug (Lake City) (Fall)
- Champ. Round 2 - Adriana Kunz (Triton) over Anaelyse Skidmore (WEM-JWP) (Fall)
- Cons. Round 2 - Anaelyse Skidmore (WEM-JWP) over Shaylah Shimon (La Crescent-Hokah) (Fall 1:10)
- Cons. Round 3 - Madilyn Trottier (Apple Valley) over Anaelyse Skidmore (WEM-JWP) (Fall 0:54)
- 106: Payton Miller (WEM-JWP) - DNP
- Champ. Round 1 - Payton Miller (WEM-JWP) received a bye
- Champ. Round 2 - Isabelle Townley (Owatonna) over Payton Miller (WEM-JWP) (Fall)
- Cons. Round 2 - Payton Miller (WEM-JWP) received a bye
- Cons. Round 3 - Katelyn Lehman (Scott West) over Payton Miller (WEM-JWP) (Fall 4:43)
- 112: Bre` Ana Masso (WEM-JWP) - 8th
- Champ. Round 1 - Bre` Ana Masso (WEM-JWP) received a bye
- Champ. Round 2 - Bre` Ana Masso (WEM-JWP) over Madyson Skifton (Lake City) (Fall 1:22)
- Quarterfinals - Alleena Johnson (Northfield) over Bre` Ana Masso (WEM-JWP) (MD 15-2)
- Cons. Round 4 - Bre` Ana Masso (WEM-JWP) over Lucinda Ornelas (Owatonna) (Fall 1:03)
- Cons. Round 5 - Maizee Priebe (Chatfield) over Bre` Ana Masso (WEM-JWP) (TF 18-1 3:58)
- 130: Lilly Ewert (WEM-JWP) - 12th
- Champ. Round 1 - Lilly Ewert (WEM-JWP) received a bye
- Champ. Round 2 - Lainey Houts (Northfield) over Lilly Ewert (WEM-JWP) (Fall 1:33)
- Cons. Round 2 - Lilly Ewert (WEM-JWP) over Sofia Bunn (Waseca) (TF 17-0 1:51)
- Cons. Round 3 - Lilly Ewert (WEM-JWP) over Isabella Dahling (Rosemount) (Dec 3-1)
- Cons. Round 4 - Giada Barnes (Rochester Mayo) over Lilly Ewert (WEM-JWP) (Fall 0:43)
- 136: Kayle Langford (WEM-JWP) - 8th
- Champ. Round 1 - Kayle Langford (WEM-JWP) received a bye
- Champ. Round 2 - Kayle Langford (WEM-JWP) over Lily Molitor (Stewartville) (Fall)
- Quarterfinals - Hattie Mathre (Byron) over Kayle Langford (WEM-JWP) (Fall 1:09)
- Cons. Round 4 - Kayle Langford (WEM-JWP) over Sarah Perez Cardosa (Scott West) (Fall 1:16)
- Cons. Round 5 - Kenadee Schiell (Zumbrota-Mazeppa) over Kayle Langford (WEM-JWP) (Dec 9-2).

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SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Four Chaplains Day	4 Burger nite 5-7pm USO Birthday	5 6pm BAR Bingo	6 7pm HALL BINGO	7 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	8
9 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host St. Paul Lutheran Church	10 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	11 Burger nite 5-7pm	12 6pm BAR Bingo	13 7pm HALL BINGO	14 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	15
16	17	18 Burger nite 5-7pm	19 6pm BAR Bingo	20 7pm HALL BINGO	21 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm YOUR HOST	22
23 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host CERT	24	25 Burger nite 5-7pm	26 6pm BAR Bingo	27 7pm HALL BINGO	28 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	

HOURS OF OPERATION

SUN.- MON. CLOSED

TUE.- WED.-3pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady's nite 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm.

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FRI.- SAT.-11am to 1 am

POST & AUX MEETING 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license number 00385

STATE OF MINNESOTA

WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ACTING AS THE DRAINAGE AUTHORITY UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 103E

FOR WASECA COUNTY DITCHES 48 & 27

In the matter of the Petition to Use Waseca County Ditch 48 as an Outlet & to Remove Benefitted Acres from Waseca County Ditch 27 (Berg Trusts)

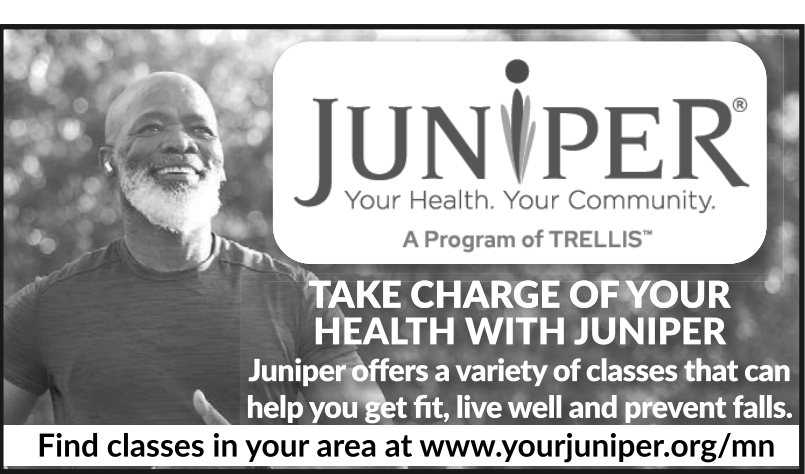
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Board of Commissioners of Waseca County, acting as the public drainage authority under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103E, for Waseca County Ditches 48 & 27, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, sections 103E.401 & 103E.805, shall hold a public hearing on the petition of the Neil E. Berg Revocable Trust and the Ranae L. Berg Revocable Trust to use CD 48 as an outlet for agricultural drainage. The petition requests authority to use CD 48 as an outlet for drainage of approximately 58 acres within the South Half of the Southwest Quarter (S½SW¼) of Section 15, Township 105 North, Range 22 West (New Richland Township), Waseca County, Minnesota. The 58 acres subject to the petition are currently within the benefited area of CD 27, and the petition requests to remove those acres from the benefited area of CD 27 and outlet those acres into CD 48.

The hearing shall be held at 9:30AM on March 6, 2025, in the Commissioners' Room of the East Annex, 300 North State Street, Waseca, MN 56093. All interested parties may appear and be heard.

/s/ Doug Christopherson, Chair
Waseca County Board of Commissioners
CD 48 Drainage Authority
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on February 13, 20 and 27, 2025.

Date: January 21, 2025



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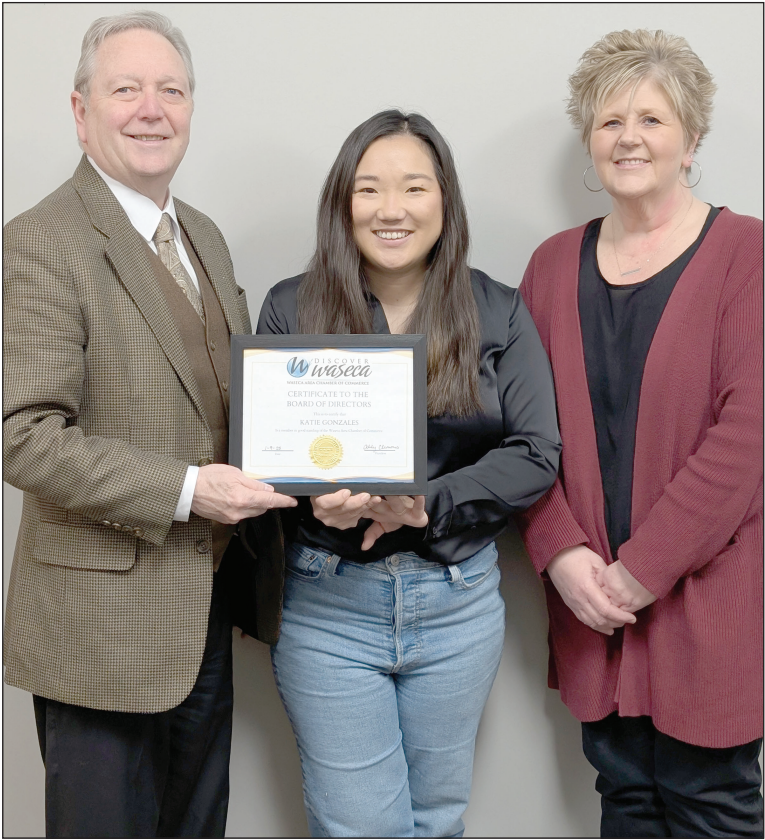


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From left Mikhail Rostislavovich, Katie Gonzales, and Robin Dulas.

Katie Gonzales joins Waseca Chamber of Commerce Board

Waseca, MN – The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the addition of Katie Gonzales to its board of directors. Katie is a dedicated State Farm agent based in her hometown of Waseca, where she offers a comprehensive range of insurance services including auto, home, life, and health insurance. With more than five years of experience in the financial services industry, Katie is committed to providing her clients with the best possible coverage to safeguard their families and financial futures.

A proud graduate of Waseca High School, home of the Blue-jays, Katie has deep roots in the community she serves. She finds immense joy in helping her neighbors and friends secure peace of mind through personalized insurance plans.

“Katie is an example of the kind of dedicated professional that the Board of Directors is proud to add. Her leadership ability and volunteerism are assets that will enhance our Board and continue to

move the Chamber forward,” said Chamber President Mikhail Rostislavovich.

Outside of work, Katie is an active member of the Waseca Rotary Club and a committee member for Southern Minnesota Pageants. Katie loves spending quality time with her husband, Andrew, and their two wonderful children, Levi and Grace. Her dedication to both her family and her clients is evident in everything she does, making her a trusted and valued member of the Waseca community.

“I am excited to become a member of the Waseca Area Chamber Board of Directors,” said Katie. “Refreshing momentum is building within the Chamber and I am looking forward to becoming a part of helping serve our community.”

The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce is looking forward to working with Katie and is excited about the qualities she brings to the Board of Directors.

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Amanda Johnson, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Miss Waseca County Sleigh & Cutter May Diddy, Miss South Central Lainey Donahue, Miss Owatonna Jasmine Kotek, Miss Owatonna Teen Kaylee Smith, Miss Waseca County Sleigh & Cutter Teen Paige Johnson, Miss South Central Teen Amya Rath, Penny Vought, Emily Loomis, and Dwight Tostenson. Pictures by Southern MN Pageants

Southern MN Pageants crown new titleholders

By ANN STALOGH
Contributing Writer

The Performing Arts Center in Southern Minnesota buzzed with excitement as six young women were crowned titleholders during the Southern Minnesota Pageants, a local affiliate of the Miss America Scholarship Program. The evening showcased a dazzling array of talent, poise, and community spirit, with contestants competing in various categories for the chance to represent their communities and secure a scholarship.

The event, steeped in the Miss America organization’s mission of empowering young women through scholarship, leadership, and service, highlighted the diversity and accomplishments of its participants. Six new titleholders emerged victorious:

Miss Owatonna Teen: Kaylee Smith, Miss South Central Teen: Amaya Rath, Miss Waseca County Sleigh & Cutter Teen: Paige Johnson, Miss Owatonna: Jasmin Kotek, Miss South Central: Lainey Donahue, and Miss Waseca County Sleigh & Cutter: May Diddy. Each titleholder will go on to represent their region in the upcoming Miss Minnesota and Miss Minnesota Teen competitions, with the potential to advance to Miss America.

The pageant featured a range of talents that left the audience captivated. Contestants performed everything from heartfelt vocal solos to electrifying tap dances, and even an impressive speed-painting display that garnered applause for their creativity. The talent segment, a cornerstone of the Miss America competition, not only entertains but also reflects the contestants’ dedication and unique skills.

“It’s incredible to see how much work and heart these young women pour into their performances,” said event organizer Katie Gonzales. “Every act showcased their individuality and determination. The talent portion is a crowd pleaser each year.”

For Miss Waseca County Sleigh & Cutter’s Teen, New Richland native Paige Johnson, the moment her name was called was both thrilling and humbling. “I was working hard and dreaming of my name being called, and when it was, I was so surprised and honored to now be able to represent my community,” Johnson shared.

For many contestants, the competition is more than just winning a title—it’s about personal growth, advocacy, and forming lasting friendships. Paige Johnson, who will hold the Miss Waseca County Sleigh & Cutter Teen title for the next year, spoke about her motivations for entering the competition.

“I wanted to spread awareness for my Community Service Initiative, try to earn a scholarship, and represent my community for the year,” she said. She also noted that the most challenging part of the competition was answering her on-stage question without much preparation time.

All contestants use the pageant as an opportunity to raise awareness for causes that matter to them. For Johnson, her platform of breast cancer awareness is very personal; her grandmother’s survivorship from breast cancer has been a personal inspiration. She acknowledged “My grandma is a breast cancer survivor, and that has impacted my perspective on advocacy.”

When asked if she would recommend the Miss America program to others, Johnson was enthusiastic; “Yes, absolutely! I would highly encourage them to—it’s just a great experience.” As she embarks on her reign as Miss Waseca County Sleigh & Cutter’s Teen, Paige Johnson is ready to embrace the responsibilities and opportunities that



Miss Waseca County Sleigh & Cutter Teen Paige Johnson

come with the title.

Head Judge Mikhail Rostislavovich, impressed upon how important this competition is, “The Miss America Organization is about more than just a crown—it’s about leadership, service, and empowering young women to reach their full potential.” He went on to highlight what a crucial responsibility they had, “As judges, we understood the weight of our decisions, knowing that these young women are not just competitors but future role models in their communities. We took our positions seriously, evaluating each contestant with fairness, integrity, and a deep respect for the hard work they put into this competition.

Every young woman on that stage demonstrated remarkable dedication, and we were honored to be part of their journey.” Rostislavovich was joined on the judges panel by Amanda Johnson, Emily Loomis, Dwight Tostenson, and Penny Vought.

With their crowns and sashes in hand, the new titleholders are eager to embark on a year of community service, advocacy, and preparation for the next stage of competition. Follow Southern MN Pageants on Facebook for updates on the Titleholders at Miss Minnesota and Miss Minnesota Teen.

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