

At the line

Knights of Columbus host annual free throw competition Sunday

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

“It’s a good experience,” says 14-year-old Sam Feldkamp. “You meet a lot of nice people, and you get a chance to show your skills.”

The young athlete is speaking of the annual Knights of Columbus (KC) free throw competition, a long-standing annual tradition held this past Sunday afternoon at the Waseca Junior/Senior High School. All comers, male and female ages 9 to 14, are invited to take part at no cost. Athletes compete within age groups by gender.

At the free-throw line (slightly modified for those up to 11 years old), they are offered three “warm-up” throws to be followed by 15 counted free throws. The number of successful attempts is recorded; highest number wins. As competitors advance to higher levels, the number of counted throws is raised to 25.

At the local level, explain KC contest organizers, the prizes are certificates and bragging rights. Awards become slightly more keepsake-like as participants advance to district, regional, and state levels. In recent years, even national and international competitions have been held.

The Knights of Columbus are an international fraternal organization run through the Catholic Church. Area members come chiefly from Waseca’s Sacred Heart and New Richland’s All Saints parishes.

Helping operate Sunday’s free throw contest were current Grand Knight Todd Norton, former Grand Knight Kevin Walter, and contest organizers Jeff Kummerfeldt and Gregg Feldkamp.

“The number of participants can be somewhat unpredictable,” said Kummerfeldt, “depending on what other

events are scheduled at the same time.” For the past few years, planners have scheduled the contest to follow “open gym” at the school, with the hope of attracting not only those who come specifically for the event, but also some who learn about it that day.

This past Sunday, 23 area youth participated, only 3 of them girls.

Sixth-grader Luke Feldkamp, who took second place at the state level in the 2022 competition and third in 2023, takes part in the Waseca Basketball Association youth league. He says that, while luck may play a factor, practice is important to build the concentration, skill and form needed to be consistent. He says he and brother Sam practice basketball moves every chance they get. A highlight for Luke was a special award he won at the regional level last year for successfully sinking 24 out of 25 attempts.

As the free throw contest began, organizer Kummerfeldt told competitors that Waseca athletes have a history of doing well, with often numerous athletes reaching the higher-level contests.

Then, for the next 45 minutes, the balls flew. Competitors practiced at the many baskets available throughout the gym while KC members counted throws and kept score for two age groups at a time.

After all levels had finished, adults supervised games of “lightning” while the scores were tabulated and certificates were prepared.

Advancing to the next level will be girls Lexi Feldkamp, 9; Lucy Deml, 12; and Hannah Ruger, 13.

Boys who will be moving on are Alex Deml, 9; Caleb Dufault, 10; Cruz Nesenson, 11; Nolan Dufault, 12; Crosby Hinna, 13; and Sam Feldkamp, 14.



The Knights of Columbus free throw contest drew 23 participants this year. Left: KC Grand Knight Todd Norton presented certificates during the award ceremony. Above: Participants observe as competition continues. Below: Winners in each category received a certificate, bragging rights, and the opportunity to advance to the next level of competition. Photos by Deb Bently



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Exchange Club



Waseca's Exchange Club welcomed new members in 2023. Above are some of those members. Group picture, from left: Gail Buckingham, Lakes and Prairies District President, Joseph Hager, Jessica Stuckmayer, Amy Schmidt, Jake Lieser, Kent Schultz, Dwight Tostenson, and Mikhail Rostislavovich, Waseca Exchange Club President. Absent from the group photo, but shown left are Mikhail Rostislavovich, President and new member Jennifer Losen.

Pioneer photo by Tristan Gehring

OBITUARIES

Phillip Barden

PHILLIP RAYMOND BARDEN, age 69, of Waseca, died Monday, January 8, 2024, at Mayo Health System – Mankato.

Born on September 19, 1954, in Waseca, he was the son of Vince and Gladys (Gehring) Barden. He graduated from Waseca High School and was later united in marriage to Monica Harbitz on April 1, 1978.

Phillip loved hunting, fishing, canning, and spending time with his granddaughters. He retired from Brown Printing in Waseca, after holding various positions throughout his career. Phil may have appeared as a hard ass, but once you got to know him, you'd find that he was a genuine, kind and caring person who loved his family more than anything. As Phil would say, "If I'm not here when you get back, I'll be gone."

He is survived by his wife, Monica; his children, Derek Barden (Holly) of North Mankato, Chelsey (Luke) Cassidy of Waseca; his three grandchildren, Shay and Bree Barden, and Kenna Cassidy; siblings, Greg Barden of Waseca and Rosemary (Ben) Ankrum of Colorado Springs, as well as sev-



Phillip Barden

eral extended relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister-in-law, Cindy Barden; brother-in-law, Wayne Harbitz and his father and mother-in-law, Richard and Vernell Harbitz.

Private family services will be held. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service is handling the arrangements. dsouf-neral.com

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Lynch, Mosser make Dean's list

Camryn Lynch and Madison Mosser, both of Waseca, were among nearly 4,000 students named to the Dean's List at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater for the 2023 fall semester.

To earn this distinction, students demonstrated their academic abilities by receiving a grade point average of 3.4 or above in a single semester.

"Making the Dean's List is a tremendous honor. It is a recognition of our students' hard work and commitment to success," said John

Chenoweth, who serves as UW-Whitewater's provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. "We are proud of our students and hope to see their names on the list again. Congratulations to all who were recognized!"

The Registrar's Office reports 3,757 students were selected for the Dean's List for the fall semester. More than 11,500 students are currently enrolled at the university's Whitewater and Rock County campuses.

Nelson, Sistad named to President's list

Travis Nelson and Cathy Sistad of Waseca have been named to the Fall 2023 President's List at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, NH. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or

paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit institution with a 91-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 225,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH.

Snowblowers lay in utter darkness

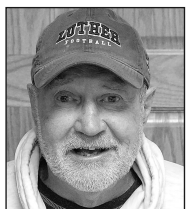
Old Man Winter is late in arriving this year. By his absence, he allowed us some record-breaking warm temperatures for the month of December, gave us a brown Christmas, and let us see only a dusting of snow. Personally, I'm all right with all of that. We are now well into January and it looks like our above average temperatures are going to continue—at least for a while.

I haven't yet cranked up the snowblower or pushed a shovel: our city snow plows have yet to suffer any strain. When I take Sammy out every morning and late afternoon to do her duty, I am wearing only a hooded sweatshirt. Sammy can still enjoy sniffing the grass and be grateful her fragile little paws have yet to prance away from below-zero snow beneath her feet. Marc, Shannon, and my grandsons spent a wonderful Christmas day at the homestead with GL (Grandma Lisa) and PPD (Papa Dave). When they arrived, they unloaded gifts and food in the rain; when our celebrations were over, they packed together the gifts they had received and the leftovers, then returned to Mankato—again in the rain.

Grandma Lisa and Papa Dave didn't have to worry: no frozen highways, no blowing snow, no ice forming on roadways.

I recognize, of course, that whatever my feelings on the matter may be, there are many people young and old who are absolutely disgusted with Old Man Winter's behavior so far, finding him "naughty" rather than "nice." Kids who look forward to winter activities are now done with winter break and back in school. College students who came home for the holidays are back in class. Those who went away to warmer climates for the holidays have returned to work.

Our unseasonably warm weather across the state has created very un-



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



stable ice conditions resulting in a (forgive the pun) slippery start to the ice fishing season. Bait shop owners, guides and resort owners who rent out ice fishing houses, snowmobiles and other equipment are feeling the effects.

Mother Nature has dealt a pretty lousy hand to everyone who enjoys outdoor winter activity and to all the businesses which rely on it for their income. Winter skiing, both downhill and cross country, are nearly impossible. Sled dog races—and the celebrations which surround them—are being canceled.

There are ice rinks this year that will never be satisfactory for skating. Sporting goods businesses are still waiting for snowmobile fever to begin. Lots are still full of Ice Castle and Yeti ice fishing houses, and will need to wait for 20 inches of ice before buyers can find a use for them.

It will be interesting to see how many people put their wheelhouses, ATVs, snowmobiles and portable ice fishing houses back into storage unused after deciding they might as well give up and wait to see what next winter brings.

In a typical December, I enjoy taking drives around the area to keep up with all of the activity on our frozen lakes; not so much this year. The afternoon of Christmas Eve day, I observed an angler fishing from a boat out on Clear Lake. Channel 12 news out of Mankato had a piece about some folks water skiing and tubing on Madison Lake over the holidays. A pontoon was observed cruising on Clear Lake on

New Year's Eve.

Upper Red Lake in the northern part of the state is always a "destination location" for early season ice fishing to catch walleye. Many stories have recently been released about people breaking through thin ice there. On December 19, authorities had to rescue dozens of anglers who were stranded on an ice floe that had broken loose and separated. More recently, 120 fishermen were rescued on a floating sheet of ice. ATVs have broken through, requiring the rescue of the driver and any passengers.

My favorite: a light plane carrying ice anglers broke through thin ice as it tried to land on Red Lake. The nose broke through into open water, didn't sink, and the anglers were rescued. Must have been a very expensive flying-fishing-and-floundering adventure.

It has truly been an unusual, warm, record-breaking December in Minnesota. One to remember forever.

On to another topic.

There are many accounts which share the way dogs have served as "man's best friend" to their owners.

Here's one about Finney, a tiny, 12-pound terrier who spent more than 10 weeks in the Colorado mountains at the side of his owner, who had died of hypothermia. Richard Moore, 71, an experienced hiker and climber, set out on August 19 to climb Blackhead Peak, located near his home in Pagosa Springs, Colorado. Finney, his hiking buddy, was by his side. Richard never returned home. His car was found parked at the base of the mountain, so an exhaustive—but unsuccessful—search was launched, then abandoned days later when neither Richard nor Finney had been found.

On October 30, a hunter came upon the 71-year-old's body. Finney, by now weighing only 6 pounds, was at his side. If that dog could talk, he'd tell an incredible story of survival. Did Finney hunt mice and small animals for food? How did he stay warm enough to make it through the nights? How did he manage to avoid becoming food himself, with mountain lions, coyotes and bears all willing to make him into a meal? The story of his survival could easily be the script for a movie. Finney was returned to his and Richard's family where the wonderful, loyal dog experienced love, gratitude, and a full recovery. A happy ending for Finney, not so happy for Richard. Perhaps his experiences would also be a good movie script.



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Joel Groskreutz dances with Lilly Galvin during the father-daughter dance Friday, May 5. Joel's wife Renae is clapping and cheering in the background. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

A look back at 2023

In the past year the Waseca County Pioneer has covered many exciting stories worth remembering. Here is a look back at the best highlights from the year that was 2023.

April

- After five years on Second Ave NW in Waseca, Rick's Appliance has just opened at a new location. Of the new building at 405 Elm Avenue West, owner Rick Maas says "It's been a good move; We're really excited to be here." The new facility, he mentions, has much more space than the old one, and will allow for appealing displays and a wider variety of in-stock appliances.
- In September the Waseca Exchange Club requested 84 applications for "student of the year" honors. From those applications, 12 finalists were selected and asked to write essays. The winning essay for the 2022-23 Waseca High School year was penned by Christian Rodriguez. Alexander Honstad took second. Both winners received scholarships and Rogriguez's essay is entered in the district wide competition with a chance to advance to the national level.
- The most exciting news of interest to come out of the March meeting of the Waldorf City Council was the announcement of a new mural to grace the old "Eisen" building west of the community center. Charlie Barnes gave an impassioned presentation summarizing his desire to help create a Veterans Memorial park display in front of the mural. No action was taken after his presentation, but Barnes' plan was very positively received. The project will be discussed further in April.
- Many more athletes return than were lost to graduation for the Waseca High School girls' softball team and second-year head coach Abby Bloomquist.
- If you're a fan of the Waseca High School baseball team and plan on attending any games this spring, it might be a good idea to pack a lunch.

There could be some long evenings.

Hitting, according to second-year head coach Taylor Phelps, is the strength of the 2023 Bluejays.

- During the April 4 Waseca Council meeting, Furry Friends of Waseca presented two separate checks totaling nearly \$11,000.
- The Waseca Chorale's concert on Sunday, April 23 at the Central Building Auditorium is a celebration of 50 years of beautiful music. Dubbed "Time in a Bottle," the evening will feature numbers from across five decades.
- The Waseca American Legion received a \$1,000 donation last week from the Twin Cities Auto Show during their Military Appreciation Day. This donation was given in recognition of our service to the community. It was received during a presentation by Club Manager Liza Buker, Post Commander Shelby Barbknecht, and Post Vice Commander Jackie Barbknecht.
- Newly appointed council member Sarah Johnson took her oath of office at the Janesville council meeting Monday, April 10. The council approved a resolution officially appointing her to fill the vacant seat left behind by former member Melissa Kopachek.
- Achieving Dreams for Disabilities and the Mill collaborated to give individuals fifteen years or older with disabilities a night to remember.

On Friday, April 14, about fifty

2023 continued on 6

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Tough times in the '40s

Six decades in dairy for Ron Eustice

A personal story, way of life

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

Former Waseca resident Ron Eustice's career spans more than six decades in the dairy industry. Now 78, he has made a deep impact on the cattle industry worldwide.

His ancestors John Eustice and Annie Jewison settled at Okamon near Lake Elysian in 1869. Now a resident of Tucson, Arizona, he mentions he still has deep family roots in the Waseca and Janesville area; his paternal grandmother was a Donelan.

Ron says that, for him, farming is deeply personal, especially because of where he came from.

It all started when his great-grandfather James Eustice presented a \$50 war bond to one-year-old "Ronnie," who had been born September 24, 1945 at Waseca Hospital. His parents, Donald and Alice, who had married on November 16, 1944, made the decision that beginning a dairy herd would be more beneficial than accruing interest, so they cashed in the war bond to buy a Brown Swiss cow with him as owner.

So, at just a year old, Ron began his career in the cattle industry.

"Times were tough in the '40s," Ron recalled. For instance, his dad, Donald, served as a soldier in World War II but was discharged after Ron's grandfather, John, was injured in a farm accident. After that, Donald helped John with the operation, gradually drawing Ron and his three younger siblings in as they grew older.

Ron's parents raised the family of four, including Ron, Robert, Donald and Marjorie, in Steele County's Deerfield Township. The farmland where they worked extended into Waseca's Blooming Grove township. Ron stated that from an early age, he loved animals, especially sheep and cattle. While Ron didn't get to know his great-grandfather James, he remembers how close he and his Grandpa John were. Grandpa John, who lived twenty miles away, often invited Ron to do chores or run errands with him.

"Growing up on a farm was a unique experience," Ron shared. "I didn't realize it then. I often felt that I missed out on the experience city kids had, but through the years I have begun to appreciate the useful things I learned on the farm which prepared me for later life."

One of the things Ron found most important was that, by performing the twice-a-day chores of feeding animals and cleaning stalls, he learned the importance of being reliable and responsible. Another source of discipline was that dairy cows needed to be milked twice every day—with no exception for holidays. His parents assigned their children chores; among Ron's was feeding calves before he left for school.

"In the afternoons, after school, I climbed up the silo chute and threw down enough silage to feed 40 milk cows plus an additional 60 head of young stock," Ron recalled. "[It was] Hard work, especially in the winter when much of the silage was frozen and had to be chopped loose with a pickaxe."

He mentioned he also delivered lambs early mornings before school started during the spring. Dairy calves are born year-round; he was usually there to assist, even at a very early age.

Among Ron's favorite memories, he says, was delivering cream in Waseca on Wednesdays and then again in Janesville on Saturdays. During those stops at the creameries, Ron and Grandpa John would also have ice cream before heading home.

"What flavor do you want?" Ron remembered being asked. He would always answer, "'Any kind!'" He was teased that the flavor "any" was not available before eventually settling on his real favorite, maple nut.

When he was eight years old, Ron received a lamb from his Grandpa John. Named "Spottie Face," the sheep became the foundation for a flock of Suffolk sheep.

Ron mentioned how he especially values his memories of being with Grandpa John because their time together was short: John died in a farming accident on his sixty-fourth birthday in 1956. Ron was 12.

In 1957, Ron joined a 4-H club and showed dairy cattle, sheep, and swine at the Steele County Free Fair. He also participated in dairy and general livestock judging at the county and state levels.

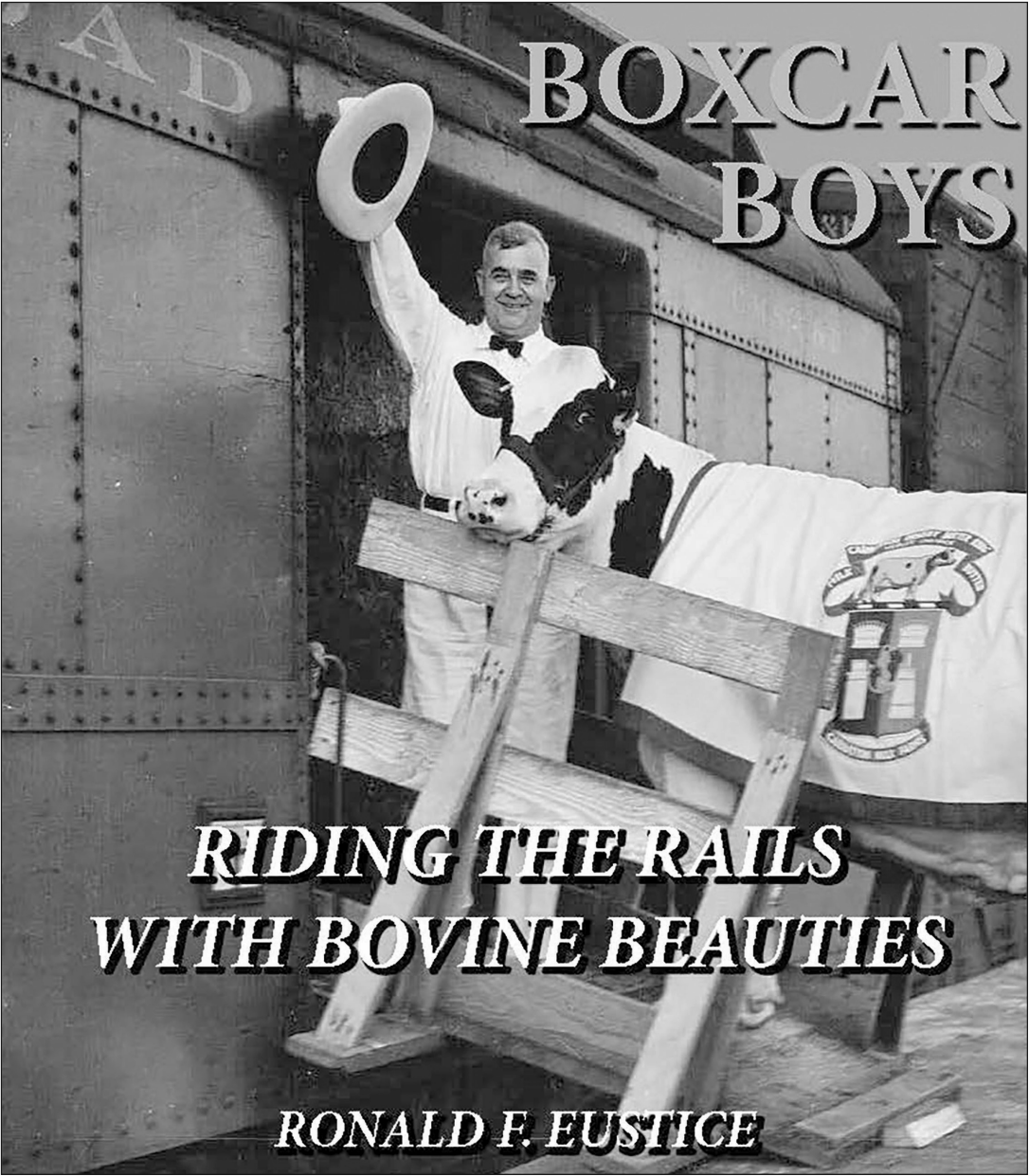
"I always received blue ribbons on sheep and swine, but was disappointed in 1957 when my Guernsey yearling received a red ribbon," Ron said. "The next year, I showed an Ayrshire calf and got a white ribbon. A year later, that same calf was Junior Champion at the District Ayrshire Show at Central Park in St. Peter."

The Eustices' dairy herd was mostly Holstein but by 1959, they had an occasional Guernsey and a few purebred Ayrshires.

"I became fascinated with cattle pedigrees and was excited to learn about new bulls available to mate with our cows when the inseminator arrived," Ron remembered. "That was the beginning of a lifelong interest in genetics and a career in cattle breeding."

The Eustices had three artificial insemination companies to choose from: Minnesota Valley Breeders' Association, Curtiss, and Consolidated Breeders. Almost every farm for miles around had dairy cattle. At least three trucks passed by every other day to pick up the thousands of gallons of fresh milk produced in the neighborhood.

While still in high school, Ron worked three



The cover of Ron Eustice's book, "Boxcar Boys." Below, pictured from 1945, from left: Grandma Gertrude Donelan Eustice, Thomas Donelan, Donald Eustice and Ronald Eustice.



"I have met many world leaders and served as a translator for Ronald Reagan when he was governor of California."

— Ron Eustice

summers at Mor-Ayr Farm in Red Wing. Dr. R.B. Graves owned Mor-Ayr Farm and Jerry Strandlund managed it by 1963. The company's herd was shown at county fairs, the Minnesota State Fair, the National Dairy Cattle Congress and the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago. "In 1963, we had the Grand Champion Ayrshire at the Minnesota State Fair," Ron said. In 1964, Ron spent the summer at Meredith Farm in Topsfield, Massachusetts, and later showed the Grand Champion Ayrshire at the Cattle Congress in Waterloo, Iowa. In 1965, he interned at E-L-V Apache Ranch, in Lapeer, Michigan.

In 1966, Ron showed Ayrshires for Foothill Farm in St. Paul Park, which B. Dean Fisk owned. Ron also showed both male and female grand champions and helped the farm win the Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor awards.

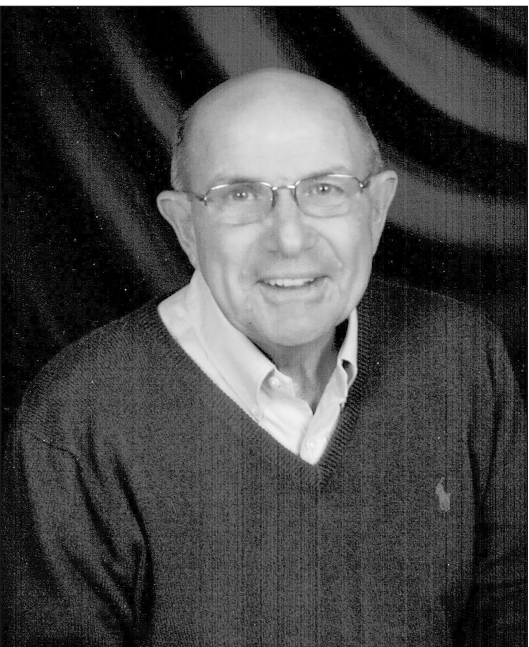
Based on his love of writing, when he attended college at the University of Minnesota, Ron decided he would major in journalism; he also completed a minor in Animal Science in the College of Agriculture.

"This proved to be an ideal combination of academic training," he added.

As he gained experience, artificial insemination (A.I.) remained one of Ron's special interests—so much so that while he was in Mexico from 1970-72, he managed a bovine semen importation program and taught farmers and ranchers about the process. He traveled extensively in rural Mexico and worked closely with farmers to improve milk production and beef yield.

"All (A.I.) classes were taught in Spanish," Ron elaborated, which was no issue for him since he had studied the language since high school. Throughout the years, he learned four others: German on his own at ten years old, Indonesian, French, and Italian.

A major step in his career took place in 1970, when he became Director of Field Services with



Ronald Eustice

Carnation de Mexico. With Carnation and later with American Breeders Service, he traveled the world and promoted US cattle genetics.

"I have met many world leaders and served as a translator for Ronald Reagan when he was governor of California," Ron added.

In 1990, he began a 22-year career with the Minnesota Beef Promotion and Research Council, where he worked until retiring in 2012. His duties included directing all research and promotion activities statewide, teaching beef quality assurance (BQA) programs and public relations and media relations.

"I work hard and remain highly focused," Ron said about his accumulation of writing, traveling, continual pursuit of agricultural careers, and maintaining languages. "I also try to spend time on worthwhile endeavors and don't give up easily."

His biggest joy and accomplishment rings pretty clear, that he has been married "nearly a half-century" —48 years—to Margaret McAndrews.

"We have an excellent marriage and Margaret has supported me through many challenges," Ron said. "My advice is to work hard and marry the right person." Together they raised three children: Kevin, John (1979-2012) and AnnMarie. Kevin has a PhD in Computer Science from UCLA and works at Google. AnnMarie has a degree in Interior Design at the University of Minnesota and works at Amazon. Both live in Seattle.

■ 2023
from Page 5

people were in attendance for a formal dinner and dance titled “To the Moon and Back.”

- About 75 area leaders attended the thirty-sixth annual banquet and meeting of the Waseca County Township Association; the event was held the evening of Thursday, April 13, at the Waseca American Legion. Entertainment for the evening was The Paul Stewart Show, a band which plays 50s and 60s rock and country western music around the state of Minnesota.

- Waseca High School's Vocal Music Department presented its 2023 Variety Show, “Spies,” Friday and Saturday April 14-15. Emcees Quinn Dahle and Tricia Cox took the audience on a journey to capture Carmen Sandiego and Vile's Henchmen, with each musical number performed by the ensembles tied into the overarching narrative.

- There was barely an empty seat at the Janesville Hee Haw shows from Friday, April 21, to Sunday, April 23.

Normally something that happens every three to four years, the show had taken a six-year break due to Covid. “We’re glad to be back!” declared emcee Ed Stock.

- The Waseca Rotary Club had the rare opportunity to host a delegation of agricultural professionals from the European country of Moldova from April 21-28.

Moldova is a small country (population 2.6 million) south of Ukraine and north of Romania. It was part of Romania throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries before a pact was signed in 1939 to allow the Soviet Union to annex the region. It declared independence in 1991 and became its own country in 1992. The country’s economy is centered around agriculture.

May

- Anxiety, depression, and suicide are serious topics that are tough to discuss.

On Thursday, April 27, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton invited speaker Emma Benoit to tackle these mental health topics with JWP students in grades 5-12 along with Trinity Lutheran’s students grades 5-8.

- A NIGHT TO REMEMBER - A total of 117 couples walked the magic carpet during Waseca prom Saturday, April 29, 2023 in the high school gymnasium. The night’s theme was “Midnight Masquerade.”

- For any school district, especially a private one like Sacred Heart Catholic School, it’s always important to receive support from the local community. Waseca has provided it in spades.

After setting a fundraising goal of raising \$35,000 by Friday, April 28, as Principal Chris Dahle put it, they didn’t only reach the goal—they crushed it.

“We couldn’t do it without the help of everyone in our community,” he added. “We are so fortunate to have such generous businesses and individuals in Waseca who care about us and the students at Sacred Heart.”

- “Our community members were having to go out of town for a haircut, which I thought was silly since I live right here,” declared Ruthie Webster of Waldorf. She’s been a hair stylist for more than twenty years and in November opened Haven Studio in Waldorf. “We dabble in all things hair,” Webster said of her services – cuts, color, balayage, styling, extensions; they’ll do it all. Webster also has experience with nails and is considering adding that to her company’s service menu. Webster is working together with her good friend, Heather Oachs. Oachs works Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 4-8 and Webster is available Thursdays from 10-7. These hours are expected to change in the summer; the business is also open to welcoming a third stylist. Schedule with Oachs online at Heather-at-Haven or by calling 507-381-8519, and with Webster by calling 507-317-5309.

- Even as storms swept through the area, JR’s Barn in rural Waldorf held a father-daughter date night on Friday, May 5.

- To be a dairy princess is to be an ambassador.

“We especially want them to interact with children,” observes Cindy Clayton, board member for the Waseca County Dairy Association. “There are so many misconceptions out there.”

Many young children, when asked where chocolate milk comes from, will answer in all sincerity that it comes from brown cows. Sometimes the calves brought along to dairy events are mistaken for goats.

“We want people to have a

stronger understanding of dairy products and what it takes to produce them,” says board member Kirsten Sommers.

This year the Waseca County Dairy Association crowned four princesses who are connected with four different farms around the area. “We don’t make it a contest,” observes Clayton. “This way we have four ambassadors we can send to different events.” Each princess is committed to serve at least 8 events across the year. “It gives us a lot more flexibility,” said Clayton.

- Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School senior Jack Cahill received the Minnesota State High School League Triple A Award. The honor is given to a district’s high achiever in “Academics, Arts and Athletics.” To be eligible, a high school senior must have maintained a 3.0 or higher grade point average while also participating in athletic and fine arts activities.

- NRHEG High School softball coach Wendy Schultz unknowingly notched her 300th career victory Thursday night in New Richland when the Panthers defeated JWP 14-4 in six innings. Waiting to celebrate the milestone with her were former players, alumni, friends, family, players and fans.

- Pantheon Computers, a leading provider of cutting-edge computing solutions, is pleased to announce the promotion of Reyna Monson to the position of President. Jon Stagman, the owner of Pantheon Computers, stated that “as Pantheon continues to grow, it is necessary to split certain job roles to serve our business and clients well.” In her new role, Reyna will have oversight of all areas of the business.

- Guests enjoyed an evening of mayhem at the 1950s Murdery Mystery Dinner, held at the Starfire Event Center in Waseca Friday night.

- Vibrant Chiropractic had good reason to celebrate this past Friday, May 5.

The day marked four years since Dr. Mackenzie Hoy started her chiropractic business and nearly a year and a half since the business had a physical location in Waseca. To celebrate, Vibrant Chiropractic held an open house from 4-6:30 p.m.

- The city of New Richland declared a state of emergency Thursday after more than five inches of rain fell over an eight hour period Thursday morning, May 11.

- Five seconds of courage, a facebook message, and a lot of crazy were all part of the process for the new owners of one of Waseca’s oldest restaurants, Barney’s Drive-in.

For 81 years, Barney’s has stood the test of time. Over the past couple years, previous owner Troy Bent has been trying to find someone local to purchase the property/business location located on Old Highway 14 across from Clear Lake.

The new owners? Joe, 43, and Audra, 48, Veroeven. “We wanted to do something,” the Veroevens agree.

“We wanted to invest in something and Joe found this on Facebook,” Audra explains. “We joked about it at first, and then one thing led to another. We came and looked at it [Barney’s] and then we kind of freaked out and bought it.”

- The Mill Event Center in Waseca celebrated its fifth anniversary the evening of Saturday, May 13. Guests were treated to music by the Blue Ringers, who were the first band to ever perform in the Mill’s event space, as well as catering by Blake’s BETtor Spread and drink specials at the Mill’s bar. Each guest was also offered a can cozy and a ticket for a free glass of champagne.

The Mill is owned by Joe and Deb Hoehn, husband and wife, and is a true family business with most of their children working there at least part-time; their daughter Abby serves as the event coordinator. Prior to its ownership by the Hoehns, the building that became the Mill was the site of a local United Feeds plant where Joe occasionally did general contracting work. He learned from the manager of United Feeds that the plant would be closing – the company is headquartered in Sheridan, Indiana, and customers would be served through facilities in Iowa and Indiana.

- Waseca’s Lakeshore Assisted Living has been named one of the best assisted living facilities in the United States with an award bestowed upon them by U.S. News & World Report. The winners of this award were selected by an independent organization based on anonymous surveys of residents and their families.

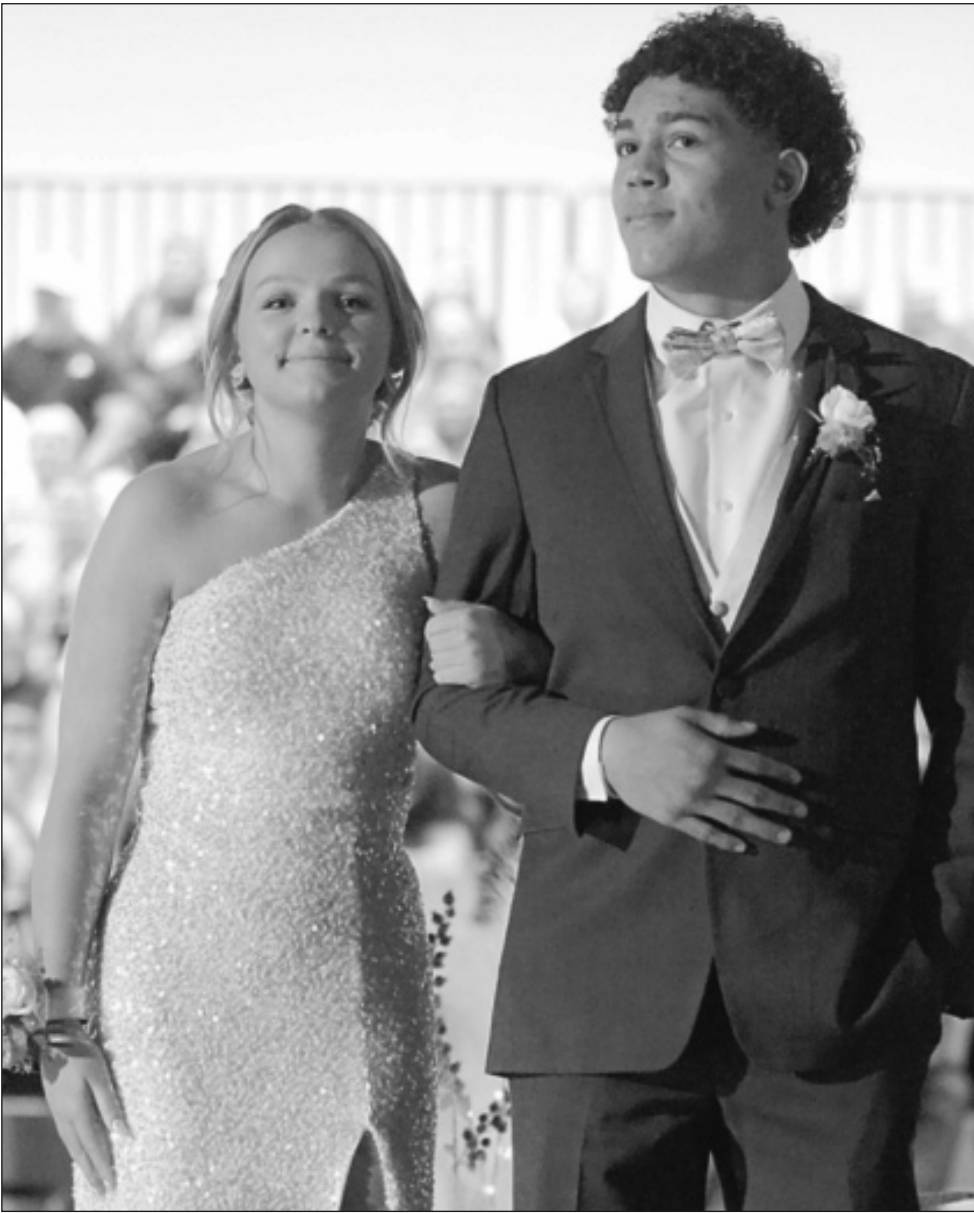
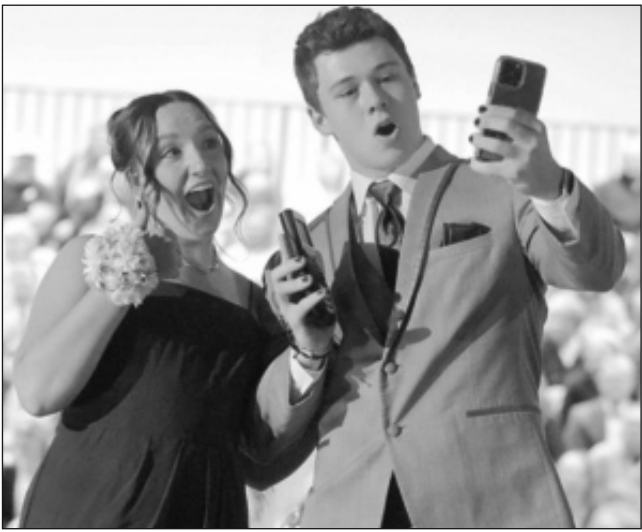
- On Wednesday, April 26, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton held its induction ceremony for the National Honor Society. Sixteen new members were inducted: Isaiah Berndt, Ethan Born, Luke Cahill, So-

A Beautiful Easter



The Miss Waseca County Sleigh and Cutter/Miss South Central organization sponsored an Easter event with the current 2023 royalty volunteering. From left: Miss Southern Minnesota Outstanding Teen Kloe Wadd, Miss South Central Outstanding Teen Maura Erickson, Miss Waseca County Sleigh and Cutter Teen Olivia Johnson, Miss Waseca County Sleigh and Cutter Bailey Thom, and Miss South Central Jasmin Kotek.

‘Midnight Masquerade’ Saturday, April 29



A NIGHT TO REMEMBER - A total of 117 couples walked the magic carpet during Waseca prom Saturday, April 29, 2023 in the high school gymnasium. The night’s theme was “Midnight Masquerade.” Photos of couples walking at Grand March can be found on Pages 3, 4, 13, and 14. All other photos can be found on the Pioneer’s Facebook page.

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



Sacred Heart Catholic School Principal Chris Dahle jumps for joy at the school’s annual marathon Wednesday, April 26. The school raised \$43,576 by the end of the month, well over its goal of \$35,000.

phia Coulsey, Eric Daschner, Brielle Dessner, Hope Dimmel, Madyn Holland, Lydia Huelsnitz, Presley James, Ellah Oliver, Lydia Sack, Autumn Thissen, Claire Walz, Paige Walz, and Lauren White.

- The ladies at First Lutheran Church in Waldorf provided a fantastic assortment of salads and desserts at one of its luncheons Tuesday, May 9 at noon. Along with the luncheon was Waldorf native Julie Tesch.

Tesch was invited to speak about her time in Washington D.C. and other parts of the country and how her faith had traveled with her along the way.

- The Waseca Community Arena played host to a career fair on Monday, May 22, which offered a bit more than the usual flyers and packets of information on job opportunities. This fair gave high school sophomores, juniors and even a few



Tina Hoppe looks out over standing water outside of Trapper’s Lanes bowling alley in New Richland. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

seniors hands-on activities to see what a career in welding or nursing would be like.

- For more than four decades, Waseca has celebrated area student achievements with an annual Honors Night program. On May 17, a record, more than \$140,000 in grants, and scholarships were handed out and nearly 100 students recognized. The program lasted more than three hours with dozens of speakers from dozens of organizations sharing stories as they handed out grant after grant, scholarship, after scholarship.

- Pastor Eric Ishimara was installed at Christ the King Lutheran

Church in Waseca in a special service on Sunday, May 21. Ishimara hails from the San Francisco area and has served churches in Colorado, Iowa, and California. Prior to being installed in Waseca, he was a pastor in Sacramento for 11 years. He is a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California and has 31 years of experience in the ministry.

- Shoppers from near and far enjoyed an antique and craft show at A Touch of Country Class Boutique in Waseca the weekend of May 20 and

■ 2023

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21.

The show, an annual tradition since 1989, is owned and operated by Delores Boerigter of Iowa. She sends out her “crafter letters” about three months in advance, recruiting local sellers of homemade crafts, folk art, and antiques. Boerigter estimates that 125 consigners took part in the recent show.

Boerigter was inspired to start A Touch of Country Class Boutique when she went to a similar show 35 years ago and thought “I could do that.” Since the first show over 30 years ago, Boerigter says the boutique has grown into a larger event, which brings a lot of business to the Waseca community at large.

- When Waseca resident Lowell Root died in February of this year, he left an impressive legacy.

His contributions to the community and his family were immeasurable. In the 1940s and ‘50s, he worked with his father, Enoch, and brothers to develop housing on what are now Ninth and Tenth Avenues Southeast. He worked at two of Waseca’s primary founding businesses, E.F. Johnson and Herters. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church. He and his wife Beverly raised a family of four: Brad, Brenda, Brian and Blaine. He worked in construction for more than 20 years with his brothers Leland and Lyndel, specializing in laying concrete.

- It was a sunny day when 40 young Catholics were confirmed at the Waseca Sacred Heart Catholic Church at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 21.

Out of the 40 Catholics confirmed, 22 were from Sacred Heart; 18 others were from the Communion of Saints Tri-Parish of St. Ann (Janesville), St. Joseph (Waldorf), and All Saints (New Richland).

June

- Waseca County Board of Commissioners chair Blair Nelson died of a sudden heart attack Tuesday night. Nelson was 65 years old, the father of three grown children, grandparent to many more, and happily married to Deanne. He served Waseca County as a commissioner since 2011, was co-owner of Waseca’s Remax Real Estate office with his brother Blaine, and a lifelong Waseca resident.
- Coming in a mess, going out in style.

That wasn’t the motto of the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Class of 2023, but it does fit how their high school years went. In 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic started, they were only freshmen. But they came out better students and individuals, as high school principal Jake Hager described throughout the May 26 commencement ceremony.

The real Class of 2023 motto is from country singer Tim McGraw: “Chase your dreams, but always know the road home.” It was a theme mentioned often throughout the ceremony.

On Friday, May 26, the class of 50 seniors who had gone through an interesting high school journey together celebrated their graduation at the high school football field, where once again the weather was nearly perfect for the commencement ceremonies.

- As the flags were raised and billowed in the breeze, people gathered the morning of Monday, May 29 on the lawn of the Waseca County courthouse and lined the streets in Waseca for a Memorial Day Ceremony honoring all those who have died either in the service of our nation, or as veterans during the past year.
- Grant Berg, social studies teacher with NRHEG since 2004, has been chosen as the secondary principal, filling a position left open by the recent resignation of 10-year leader David Bunn.
- The congregations of St. John’s and Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Churches (located in Alma City and Smiths Mill, respectively) welcomed their new pastor, Robert Harting, at an installation service on May 7 at St. John’s.
- TEAM Academy Charter School held graduation for its sixth-graders, members of the class of 2029, as they leave TEAM Academy and join Waseca’s Junior and Senior High School. Eleven sixth-graders were honored May 25: Jude Adams, Isaac Deleon, Bryndal Grams, Andre Hill, Gavin Hodgkins, Wyatt Partain, Erasmo Sandoval, Karime Solis, Al-lisun Stencel, Enrique (Ayovi) Tovar, and Carter Wenimont.
- On Thursday, May 25, 50 kindergarteners celebrated graduation from Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton in the school auditorium.
- On May 31, 2023, Waseca Mayor Randy Zimmerman was charged in

Waseca County Court with two felony counts of perjury. The court complaint alleged that Zimmerman committed perjury by signing his name to a voter registration form which included false information, implying that he was maintaining a residence within city limits, thus making it legal for him to run for a city office or vote in the registered district.

The court complaint states that Zimmerman did not live within Waseca city limits 30 days before the 2022 general election, during which he was elected as the city’s mayor, an office he still holds.

- “We made it” was a central message echoed by all four 2023 graduates who spoke during the June 4 commencement ceremony: Avery Madsen, Jenaro Delgado Jr., Lindsey Kopetzki, and Aubree Hansen.

Of the 143 students who received their diplomas on Sunday, 83 were honor students.

- “We are meant to fail, learn, and then succeed,” suggested Tatum Smith Vulcan, one of three class speakers at NRHEG’s graduation ceremony held Sunday, June 4.

The Class of 2023 included 68 graduates, 36 of whom had grade point averages (GPAs) above 3.0. Three valedictorians were honored: Anton Domeier, Bree Ihrke, and Eva Wayne, all three for having earned perfect 4.0 GPAs. Two salutatorians, Erin Jacobson and Sidney Schultz, were announced.

- Brian Harguth, previously the Vice Chair of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners was voted into the Chair position during the regular meeting held June 6. This took place as a result of the sudden death of previous Chair and commissioner, Blair Nelson. Chris Christopher was voted into the Vice Chair position.
- Blair Jon Nelson, age 65, of Waseca passed away unexpectedly, surrounded by his loving family on May 30, 2023, in Waseca.

Blair was born on November 17, 1957, in Owatonna to Dwain and Marilyn (Denn) Nelson. An answer to Blair’s prayers was meeting Deanne Smetana and they were united in marriage on November 25, 1983 in Pine City at the First Presbyterian Church. They were married for 39 wonderful years and blessed with four children.

- “Dad would want this to be light,” said Tenille Jennings during her father’s funeral on June 5, before proceeding to tell about the numerous practical jokes she and her father shared, including the time she listed his car for sale on Craig’s List for an April Fools joke.

About 500 people filled Waseca’s Grace Lutheran Church to capacity for the June 5 funeral of Blair Nelson, 65, chair of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners and area real estate businessman since 1994; Nelson died suddenly on May 30.

Daughter Nikki Benson described Nelson’s enthusiasm for sports, even to a point where she had to “shush” him from sharing his thoughts during games where she was coach.

- The Board of County Commissioners honored Blair Nelson at its June 6 regular meeting by taking turns talking about what Nelson meant to them. Each of them also set a can of Coca-Cola by their computers, just as Nelson always had. Commissioner Brian Harguth started the meeting by saying how heartbroken the commissioners are on losing a colleague and friend.
- “We can’t possibly recognize all the good that Blair has done,” Harguth said among stifled sniffles and tears from the room. He said the commissioners will conduct business in a way that honors the community.
- Going into the fourth and final leg of the last event, it didn’t look like a state championship was within the realm of possibility for the Waseca High School boys’ track and field team.

All that was needed for Mound-Westonka to supplant the Bluejays from first place was to run an average race in the 4x400-meter relay, where it had posted the fastest time in the preliminaries. The same could be said of Big South Conference champion Worthington, which qualified fourth.

But, for those teams, it wasn’t meant to be.

It was the Bluejays’ day.

Mound-Westonka’s anchor runner tripped a Worthington athlete in the 4x400, disqualifying the team and setting up a re-run for Worthington, which came up just short.

The Bluejays won the Class AA state championship by one point Saturday at St. Michael-Albertville High School, their third state title in boys’ track and field.

- Farmamerica is currently carrying out a few restoration and renovation projects around many of its various sites, and has found a unique company to do the work.



Members of the State Champion Waseca Track team pose with their trophy after a 1 point victory last week. From left: Damarius Russell, Eddie Herman, Kyle Ahnslachler, Christian Rodriguez, and Kaeden Johnson.



Moonstruck

“A Year to Volunteer,” a non-profit organization created by Shar and Phil Roos of Arizona, visited Farmamerica starting on June 5 and stayed on-site to finish the renovations until Friday, June 16. They were joined by a caravan of at least 15 RVs carrying an estimated 30 volunteers from around the local area, the state, and even the country.

- Bradley “Brad” Donner has been sketching and doing art since he was old enough to hold a pencil. Now, he has his art on exhibit in the Waseca Art Center.

Donner grew up in New Ulm, where he learned how to paint watercolor, acrylic, and do ceramics at the community’s education-based art center. “That is the reason I decided to join the Art Center in Waseca,” Donner said. “To give back.”

- For the month of July 2023, Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council (PLRAC) announces the selection of a new Executive Director, the marking of its thirtieth anniversary, and the election of new Executive Board Members.

Anna Pollock was selected by the PLRAC Board as its new Executive Director based in Waseca.

- After 39 years, Monica Erickson is retiring from her role as a speech pathologist at the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton school district. She worked with K-12 students from JWP as well as the neighboring Trinity Lutheran School.
- The Waldorf City Council held a public meeting the evening of Thursday, June 15, in the community center, to discuss two items: Waldorf Veterans’ Memorial Park and the relocation of the St. Clair Wood Ducks to Waldorf which would include the construction of a new baseball complex.
- This weekend, Father Thê Hoàng will be performing his last masses in Waseca County before he leaves for his new church in Lake City, Minnesota. There will be a farewell celebration following the masses on Saturday and Sunday at Sacred Heart Church with food and beverages provided. Father Glenn Frerich will be joining the parish in Waseca starting in July.
- Janesville’s annual celebration,



Hundreds of photos peppered multiple poster boards on display during Blair Nelson’s memorial and funeral service. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



Fifty JWP kindergarteners celebrated graduation on Thursday, May 26. By the time they are high school seniors, they will be the Class of 2035. Pioneer photos by Michael Roy



Hay Daze, saw about a thousand visitors throughout the week of June 12-18. The busiest times were on Friday evening, June 16, when headlining rock band IV Play took the Guardian Energy Stage on Main Street. When they played in Janesville last year, they played to a record crowd of hundreds of people.

- Sue McKay, who has taught for 44 years, is retiring. McKay spent 36 of her years teaching in Waseca Public Schools after getting her start at St. Joseph’s Catholic School in Waconia and other schools in western Minnesota. She has taught every grade, kindergarten through eighth grade, at least once except for first grade. “I started babysitting when I was probably in fifth grade and just loved kids. I knew that that was going to be my profession.”
- Miss Janesville 2022 Ava Appel had her last walk and made way for the new Miss Janesville, Sophia Coulesy at the pageant on Thursday, June 16. Coulesy’s first attendant is Abby Sobolik; second attendant is Lydia Huelsnitz. The fourth contestant, Ava McNair, was given the talent award.

The 2023 Little Miss Janesville Maya Olson was also presented at the pageant; Olson had earned her title at a separate pageant for Little Miss Janesville earlier in the year.

- Becky Ferch, a teacher in Waseca

for 36 years, has retired as of the end of the 2022-23 school year. Teaching in Waseca was Ferch’s first post-graduation job, and she has devoted her entire career to Waseca’s elementary students in grades 4, 6, 2, and finally kindergarten. “I have always loved school,” she said about her choice of career. “I have always loved learning; I’ve always loved children.” She is still considering her post-retirement options, but doesn’t know yet what shape her life will take. “After all this time I want to continue to contribute in some way,” she explained, “I just don’t know what that will be yet.”

- The Waseca firefighters hosted the annual Waseca Fire Department Relief Association fish fry and fundraiser Saturday, June 24 from 4 to 7 p.m. that had people lined up down the street waiting for their fish. To make sure that they didn’t run out of fish like last year, the fire department had ordered more, making sure everyone received deliciously fried fish.
- “It’s an incredible time to spend together. We get to see the country. We get to face adversities and solve them using our shared resources.”

So says Sharon Lodge, 58, outside Waseca’s southern KwikTrip around 4 p.m. on the last Sunday in June. She and her son Caleb Pitcher, 21, have biked nearly 1,000 miles this

month, and have a couple hundred to go.

- A New Richland man was killed the morning of Wednesday, June 21, in a collision with a semi.

58-year-old Scott Bolduan was traveling southbound on Highway 13 between Hartland and New Richland at about 11:07 a.m in a 2006 Dodge Ram truck when he was struck by a semi-truck driven by Darryn Bullock, a 35-year-old man from Dallas, North Carolina.

- Members of the Janesville community came in droves to the Pat Utz Cancer Benefit, which was held Saturday, June 24, at the Purple Goose Bar and Grill. The event was planned and executed by a committee led by Wendy Rykhus and Teri Hanks and consisted of a bean bag tournament, bake sale, silent auction, dinner, and a set from DJ Harvey. In addition, t-shirts supporting the benefit were made available to pre-order from Gidgets in Janesville. All aspects of the 12-hour event were in support of Pat Utz, who was recently diagnosed with stage four small cell lung cancer, and his wife Michelle.
- It was a bittersweet weekend for Father Mulligan. He performed his final masses at the Catholic Churches of All Saints, New Richland, on Saturday, June 24, and at St. Joseph, Waldorf, and St. Ann, Janesville, on Sunday, June 25.



BIG PLAYS — The Waseca High School boys' basketball team engineered an exciting 75-69 victory over New Ulm at home Friday, Jan. 5 in a battle of Big South Conference unbeatens. At left, Damarius Russell makes a pass to Jacob Thompson (20), resulting in a key basket. In the middle, Deron Russell drives the lane. At right, Laird Keeton (2) scores a clutch hoop.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Big win

WHS boys take down New Ulm, stay unbeaten in Big South

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Junior standout Damarius Russell made his long-awaited return from injury for the Waseca High School boys' basketball team Friday, Jan. 5.

His little brother stole the show. Deron Russell, a sophomore, scored a career-best 39 points and was almost unstoppable as the Bluejays defeated visiting New Ulm 75-69 in a battle of Big South Conference unbeatens.

After forging a 34-31 lead at halftime, the Bluejays made one big play after another in a see-saw second half.

Damarius Russell chipped in with four points, but you had to wonder if the Bluejays could have won the game without his defensive effort, and other players came up big in clutch situations, whether it was Deron Russell driving or drilling a three-pointer, or others grabbing a key rebound, sinking a big basket, scrambling for a loose ball or making free throws down the stretch.

"That was a great win for us," said Bluejays coach Seth Anderson, whose team improved to 2-0 in the Big South Conference and 6-5 overall. "Deron took some huge strides tonight, and it's by far



MORE BIG PLAYS — Above left, the Bluejays' Caden Danner (4) goes to the floor after a loose ball in the second half. Above right, a wide-open Zach Hulscher (14) drills a three-pointer as Eagle defenders scramble to stop it. Below left, WHS coach Seth Anderson. Below middle, Jacob Thompson (20) takes the ball away for a rebound. Below right, Damarius Russell shoots a free throw late in the second half.

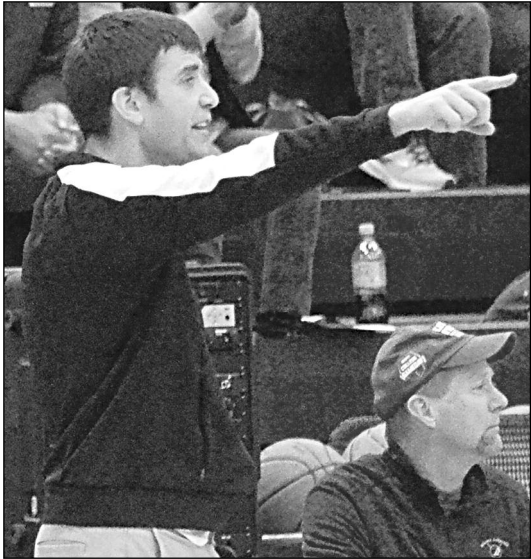
"That was a great win for us. It was a very fun atmosphere!"
— Waseca coach Seth Anderson

the best team offense and defense we have played in a long time. It was a very fun atmosphere! Hopefully, we can find a way to build on it with Damarius now back in the mix."

Deron Russell was 16-for-27 from the field, 4-for-6 on threes, adding seven rebounds, five assists, a steal and a blocked shot.

"Deron Russel his best game as a varsity player and everyone else played solid," said Anderson.

Caden Danner totaled 13 points



and five rebounds.

Others: Laird Keeton 6P, 1R, 1A, 1S; Zach Hulscher 6P, 4R, 2S; Damarius Russell 4P, 2R, 1A, 2S; Tauston Rupe 3P, 4R, 2A, 1S; Jacob Thompson 2P, 4R, 2A, 1S;

Andrew Robran 2P, 10R, 1S.

New Ulm's Colton Benson scored 24, James Osborne 23. The Eagles are 8-5 overall and 3-1 in the Big South after defeating Fairmont Tuesday.

"We did a great job defensively on New Ulm's big three," said Anderson. "We did a great job of staying connected and contesting all their shots."

The Bluejays have another big

home game Friday, Jan. 12 when they entertain Blue Earth Area, 2-0 in the Big South and 7-2 overall, at 7:30 p.m.

Waseca plays at Belle Plaine Tuesday, Jan. 16 at 7:15.



INTENSITY ON ICE — There was plenty of action when Minnesota River visited Waseca Community Arena for a Big South Conference game Saturday, Jan. 6. Above left, the Bluejays' Brayden Hesch-Priem (33) puts the puck on the net. Above right, Jude Gehring (34) mixes it up along the boards. Below left, Griffin Storey moves into scoring position. Below middle, Henry Huttemier (5) takes a shot; Otto Schoenrock (10) is also pictured. Below right, the Bluejays celebrate a goal.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



WHS icemen top Worthington, fall to MN River Jays 6-3 in Big South

The Waseca High School boys' hockey team won one of two games this past week.

On Saturday, the Bluejays bested Worthington 4-1 at Worthington Arena.

Griffin Storey scored two goals for Waseca, with one apiece by Brayden Hesch-Priem and Jayden Gehring. Storey had two assists, Beckett Srp and Preston Miller one each.

The Bluejays led 2-1 and 3-1 at the breaks, outshooting the Trojans 35-25, including 14-4 in the first period.

Waseca committed two penalties, Worthington four.

Josiah Schmidtke was in goal, making 24 saves.

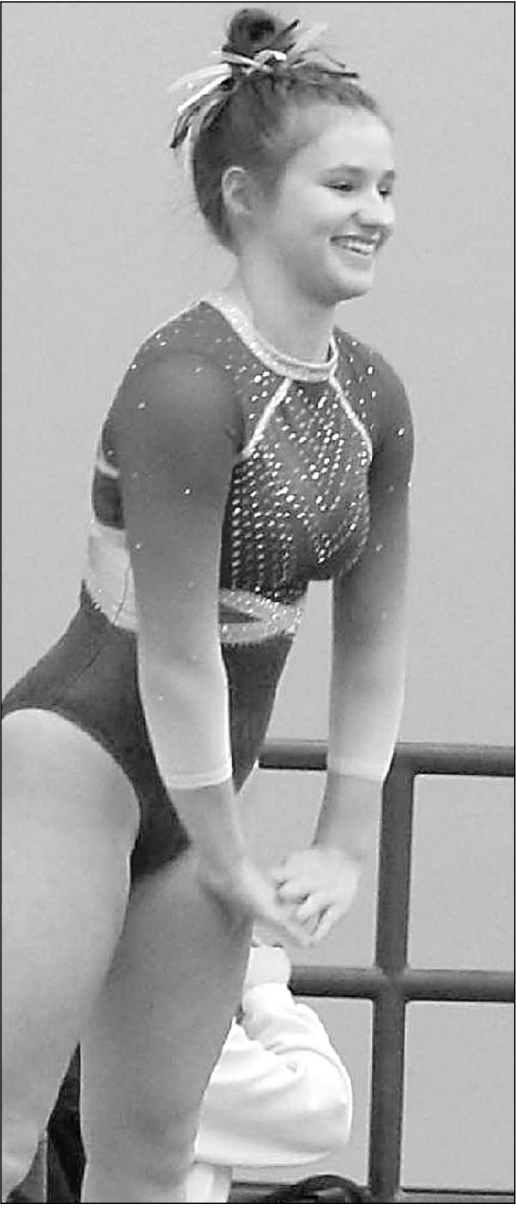
The Bluejays lost 6-2 to Minnesota River Jan. 4 at Waseca Community Arena. Scoring for Waseca were Gehring and Henry Huttemier. Providing assists were Keaton Roeker, Hesch-Priem and Storey.

It was 1-1 after one period, with the visitors holding a 4-2 edge after two. Waseca outshot Minnesota River 42-31 and played penalty-free hockey. Minnesota River was called for three infractions.

Schmidtke made 25 saves.

The action brought Waseca's record to 8-5 overall and 6-3 in the Big South Conference.

After facing Dodge County Thursday, the Bluejays host Luverne Saturday, Jan. 13 at 3 p.m., New Prague Tuesday at 7 p.m. and next Thursday Rochester Lourdes at 7.



A VERY GOOD DAY — The WHS gymnastics team had a big day at Martin County West last Saturday, finishing third as a squad. Shown competing for the Bluejays are, from left, Layla Keith, Katelyn Weber and Avery Carda.

Photos by Nora Flatness

Gymnasts third at MCW Invitational

Keith claims all-around crown

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It was a good first meet after the holidays for the Waseca High School gymnastics team.

For Layla Keith, it was very good. It was also not too shabby for Bella Wikan.

Keith, a sophomore, took the all-around title in the Martin County West Invitational last Saturday with a personal-best 35.8 points, winning the floor exercise with a 9.475 and tying for first on the balance beam at 8.975, also career highs. Keith rounded out her record-setting day by taking second on the uneven parallel bars with an 8.5 and fifth on vault at 8.75.

Wikan, a junior, scored an 8.2 for fourth on the balance beam. She was seventh in all-around at 32.325, taking 15th in vault at 8.425, ninth on bars with a 7.75 and 15th on floor at 7.9

"It was a great first meet back in action," said Waseca coach Kim Wendland.

The Bluejays totaled 128.925 points as a team, good for third place behind 134.825 for Austin and 133.125 by Martin County West. Waseca finished ahead of Jackson County Central and Blue Earth

"It was a great first meet back in action."

— Waseca coach Kim Wendland

Area.

Other all-around scores for the Jays: Haydn Lynch, 12th, 30.8; Hannah Parks, 20th, 22.575; Katelyn Weber, 25th, 15.775; Lindy Caldwell, 28th, 14.625; and Elli Hoban, 32nd, 7.15.

By event:

Vault - Weber, 17th, 8.325; Parks, 21st, 8.150;

Bars - Weber, 13th, 7.45; Parks, 19th, 7.25; Lynch, 23rd, 6.975.

Beam - Caldwell, 11th, 7.8; Parks, 20th, 7.175.

Floor - Lynch, 22nd, 7.575; Hoban, 24th, 7.15; Caldwell, 25th, 6.825.

After hosting St. James Area Thursday, the Bluejays travel to Marshall for the Big South Conference meet Saturday at 10 a.m. They face Fairmont at holme Tuesday, Jan. 16 at 6 p.m.

Hockey girls 1-2, but still in the hunt in Big South

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Waseca High School girls' hockey team skated to a nice 7-0 decision at Worthington last Saturday.

Unfortunately, it was sandwiched with a pair of games against New Ulm, which defeated the Bluejays 3-2 Tuesday at Waseca Community Arena and 5-1 at New Ulm last Friday.

The Bluejays, 8-7-3 overall, are still well in the race for the Big South Conference title at 5-4-1 with 11 points. Marshall leads with 13. New Ulm, Luverne and Minnesota River have 12.

Waseca kept it close against New Ulm Tuesday, playing to a 1-1 tie after two periods. Noone scored in the second stanza.

New Ulm outshot the Bluejays 44-18, including 16-4 in the first period.

Neither team connected on the power play, with the Bluejays' getting three chances to the Eagles' four.

Maizee Storey scored just 1:26 into the first period, assisted by

Ryley Bartz, but New Ulm knotted it about two minutes later.

The Eagles netted two third-period goals before Emma Keith scored at the 11:13 mark. Emily Gordon assisted.

Waseca goaltender Ilamay Draheim totaled 41 saves.

The Bluejays were dominant in a shutout Saturday afternoon. It was 3-0 after one period and 4-0 after two.

Keith broke open a scoreless tie at 11:00 of the opening period, assisted by Storey. Gordon scored 55 seconds later with assists from Storey and Keith, who gave the Bluejays a 3-0 lead at the 12:30 mark, assisted by Storey and Kaitlin Schlueter.

Storey scored and Bartz assisted at 7:39 of the second period.

Schlueter, Storey and Keith scored in the third with each notching an assist.

Waseca, 0-for-6 on power plays totaling 15 minutes, outshot the Trojans 34-27. Worthington was 0-for-3 with an extra-player advantage.

Draheim secured the shutout, stopping all 27 shots she faced.



STILL IN IT — Despite a pair of losses to New Ulm this past week, the Waseca High School girls' hockey team remains in the hunt in the Big South Conference. In action against New Ulm last Friday are, from left, Emma Huelsnitz (12) and Isabela Schlecta (8).

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Gordon gave the Jays a 1-0 lead at 4:54 of the first period at New Ulm Civic Center Saturday, with

Madelyn Benson assisting, but the Eagles led the rest of the way. It was 2-1 after one period and 3-1 after

two, with New Ulm outshooting Waseca 42-15.

Draheim made 37 saves.

The WHS girls are in action Saturday at home at 11 a.m. against Luverne.



LADY JAYS — In action for the Waseca High School girls' basketball team are Callie Dufault (1) and Lily Owens (24).

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Lady Jays fall to TCU, New Ulm

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Waseca High School girls' basketball team lost 58-35 in a nonconference game at Tri-City United Tuesday, Jan. 9. TCU led 31-16 at halftime.

"Tri-City shot the ball very well this evening," said Waseca coach Anthony Jackson. "Their inside and outside game on offense was too much for us tonight. They played an excellent game."

Waseca scoring: Callie Dufault 10 points, Addison Wieseler 8, Grace Guritz 6, Ella Krautkremer 3, Mia Kanewischer 3, Gracie Morgan 3, Alexis Brinkman 2.

Emma Skluzacek of TCU topped all scorers with 13. The Titans evened their record at 5-5.

The Bluejays fell 63-33 at New Ulm in their first post-holiday contest Friday, Jan. 5. The Eagles improved to 10-2 overall, 11-2 after an Tuesday win.

"I'm proud of how my team battled until the very end"

— Waseca coach Anthony Jackson

"New Ulm came out and played very well," said Jackson. "Their press was successful and they shot a very good percentage at the three-point line. I'm proud of how my team battled until the very end. Congratulations to New Ulm for playing very well."

The Bluejays, 0-2 in the Big South and 3-11 overall, played at JWP Thursday. They travel to Blue Earth Area Friday, Jan. 12 and then are off for a week before hosting Fairmont Jan. 19.

JWP boys overpower BA, Medford, improve to 8-4

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Bethlehem Academy Cardinals were never really in last Friday's Gopher Conference boys' basketball clash at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton.

The Bulldogs just started too fast. JWP amassed a 41-18 halftime lead on its way to a 70-41 triumph in the Gopher Conference opener for both schools.

The Bulldogs outrebounded BA 46-35, outscoring the visitors 54-20 in the lane. JWP shot 43.3 percent on field goals, BA 29.4 percent. The Cardinals committed 26 turnovers to the Bulldogs' 15.

Memphis James scored 17 points and Ryan Kronbach 16 for JWP. James added four rebounds, three assists and four steals. Krohbach had eight rebounds, three assists and three steals.

Others: Gavin Bauer 11P, 4R, 2S; Daulton Bauer 9P, 5R, 2A, 1S; Austin Quast 4P, 5R, 1S, 1 blocked shot; Carter Miller 2P; Landon Johnson 2P, 2R, 1S; Caleb Quast 2P, 2R, 1S; Steven Dimmel 2P, 3R, 2A, 3S; Ethan Born 1P, 1R, 2A, 1S.

The next night, a second-half JWP rally fell short in a 64-58 loss to a strong Spring Grove team at Hayfield. The Bulldogs trailed 27-19 at halftime.

In the end, the difference was free throws as Spring Grove made 26 of 35 while the Bulldogs were 7-for-11. Both teams had 29 rebounds and the Bulldogs totaled 18 turnovers to Spring Grove's 13. JWP held a 32-24 scoring advantage in the paint.

Individually: James 17P, 7R, 2A, 3S; 1B; Krohbach 14P, 4R, 2A, 1S, 1B; Daulton Bauer 14P, 3R, 1A, 2S; Caleb Quast 8P, 3R, 6A, 2S; Johnson 2P, 4R; Cole Schlueter 2P, 2R; Austin Quast 1P, 2R; Gavin Bauer 1R.

Jaxon Strinmoen scored 15 to lead four double-digit scorers for Spring Grove, which improved to 7-1 overall and is leading Southeast Conference's East Division.

The Bulldogs bounced back in a big way with an 84-33 triumph at Medford Tuesday, Jan. 9. JWP led 53-17 at halftime.

Dimmel topped the scoring charts with 15. Austin Carda scored 12, James 10, Johnson 9, Caleb Quast 8, Austin Quast 6, Schlueter 6, Gavin Bauer 6, Tyler Nelson 3, Isiah Berndt 3, Daulton Bauer 2, Kronbach 2, Born 2. Miller had six assists.

The Bulldogs, 8-4 overall and 2-0 in the Gopher Conference, were on the road at St. Clair Thursday before hosting Blue Earth Area Monday, Jan. 15 and NRHEG the next night.



FAST BREAK — JWP's Landon Johnson (5) goes in for a fast-break layup against Bethlehem Academy. Photo by LeAnn Kavitz

Knutson, Barnett wrestle to first at NYA

Things are looking up for the Waseca High School wrestling team.

The Bluejays, fielding a mostly inexperienced squad that lost of its best returning athletes before the season started, finished fifth among seven schools in last Saturday's Norwood-Young America Invitational.

Two Bluejays captured first place, Jacob Knutson at 121 pounds and Slade Barnett at 152.

Also reaching the finals for WHS was Matthew Veroeven, who finished second at 215.

Oliver Staloch finished third at 133, Lucas Selthun third at 189.

Also placing: Peyton Sommers, fourth, 139; Sam Selthun, fifth, 139; and Kellen Klinger, sixth, 160.

Norwood-Young America took the team title with 148.02 points, followed by Paynesville Area at 141.53, WEM/JWP 124.04, Pipestone Area 107.05, Waseca 103.06, St. Clair/Mankato Loyola 99.07 and Robbinsdale Armstrong 45.

After wrestling Thursday at St. James, the Bluejays are in a triangular Tuesday, Jan. 16 at 5:30 p.m. at Mankato West. They compete in the Hutchinson Invitational Jan. 20.

Lady Panthers 11-1 after 70-47 win at Kenyon

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

With two key rivalry games, NRHEG girls' basketball coach Onika Peterson is looking forward to a fun week for the Panthers.

So far this season, every week has been fun.

The Panthers improved their season record to 11-1 Friday, Jan. 5 with a 70-47 victory at Kenyon-Wanamingo. NRHEG led 30-22 at halftime.

According to Peterson, the Panthers prevailed despite not playing their best basketball.

"It wasn't our prettiest game of the year, but

I was proud of the girls' grit and effort in the second half," said Peterson. "They cleaned up some of the turnovers from the first half and seemed to be more locked in."

The Panthers were led in scoring by Camryn VanMaldeghem with 21 points. She also added five assists, three rebounds, two blocked shots and a steal.

Two other NRHEG scorers reached double digits. Presley Nielsen had 13 points, 5 rebounds, a block and a steal, Kylie Olson 12 points, 8 rebounds and 1 block.

Others: Faith Nielsen 2P, 4R, 2A; Quinn VanMaldeghem 7P, 11R, 3A, 3S; Izley

"I was proud of the girls' grit and effort in the second half."
— Coach Onika Peterson

Boerner 2P, 1R, 3A, 1S; Hallie Schultz 7P, 7R, 4A; Addy Stadheim 4P, 6R, 1S; Ezra Boerner 2P, 1A.

Coach Peterson was particularly pleased with the Panthers' performance on the boards.

"We continue to consistently rebound well, which allows us great second and third-chance shot opportunities," she said. "It's always interesting coming back from the holiday break and readjusting to school and everything that comes with it. We have a couple rivalry games this week with conference foes WEM on Tuesday and home against Hayfield on Thursday. It should be a fun week."

The Panthers, 4-0 in Gopher Conference play, host JWP Tuesday, Jan. 16 and travel to Blooming Prairie Jan. 19.



WHAT GOES UP — NRHEG's Jackson Chrz (1) has eyes firmly on the basket on a first-half fast break, slam dunking the ball and following through Friday, Jan. 5 in New Richland. Below left, Dexter Lee (3) directs traffic. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG boys make progress despite loss

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

After the previous week, NRHEG boys' basketball coach Dan Schmidt figured was only one way to go for his squad as Kenyon-Wanamingo came to town Friday, Jan. 5.

While it wasn't a win, it was definite progress as the Panthers kept it close while dropping a 54-47 decision.

"With nowhere to go but up after last week, I feel like we took a step in the right direction," said Schmidt.

In a rematch from early December, Kenyon-Wanamingo jumped out early and led most of the way.

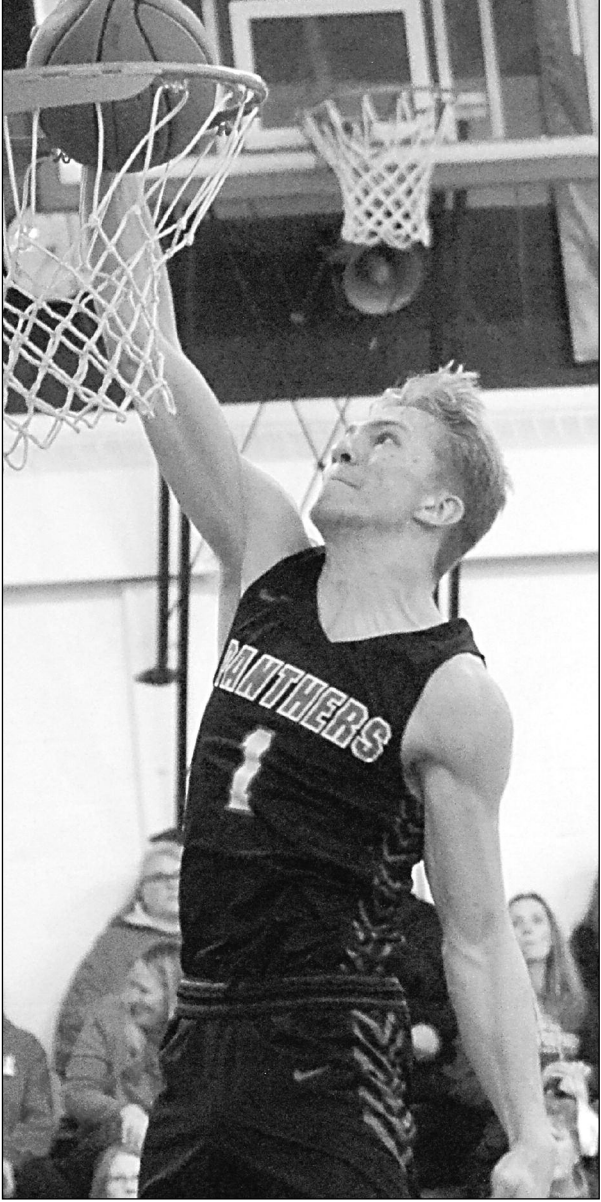
"We have to find a way to get some more consistent scoring out of some of the guys, but I definitely

saw some things that give us hope going forward," said Schmidt. "We just have to put it all together."

Leading the Panthers in scoring was Dexter Lee with 25 points; he added five rebounds. Jackson Chrz contributed 13 points, nine rebounds and four assists, including a fast-break slam dunk late in the first half. Sam Olson, Greyson Schaefer, and Jared Lee each had three points, and Levin Kitzer added two.

Leading all scorers was Colton Steberg with 26 for Kenyon-Wanamingo.

The Panthers, 2-8 overall and 0-1 in the Gopher Conference, play Friday, Jan. 12 at Hayfield, Monday at Tri-City United and Tuesday at JWP.



JWP girls net three more wins

The JWP High School girls' basketball team notched three more wins in the past week, overwhelming Blue Earth Area 60-21 Thursday, Jan. 5, defeating Bethlehem Academy 67-46 the next night and handling Medford 58-24 Tuesday at Janesville.

Scoring for the Bulldogs vs. BEA: Navaeh Weimert 13, Katie Olson 10, Hope Dimmel 8, Presley James 7, Ali Olson 7, Mikayla Wheelock 5, Lily Strauss 4, Lexie Dahlberg 4, Kwynn Krause 2.

James netted 19 points and James scored 17 in a Gopher Conference contest against BA. Others: Strauss 8, Krause 6, Weimert 5, Wheelock 4, Dahlberg 3, Aubry Adams 3, Dimmel 2.

Scoring: Weimert 14, James 13, Strauss 7, Wheelock 6, Ali Olson 4, Katie Olson 4, Autumn Thissen 2, Onokia Herme 1.

The Bulldogs, 10-4 overall and 2-1 in conference play, hosted Waseca Thursday before traveling to NRHEG Tuesday, Jan. 16.

Grizzlies 3rd in tournament

The WEM/JWP wrestling team placed third in Saturday's Norwood-Young America Invitational.

The host team won with 148.02 points, followed by Paynesville Area at 141.53, WEM/JWP 124.04, Pipestone Area 107.05, Waseca 103.06, St. Clair/Mankato Loyola 99.07 and Robbinsdale Armstrong 45.

Keegan Kuball, a junior, captured the 285-pound championship for the Grizzlies. After an opening-round bye, he registered two first-period falls.

Parker James, 121, won by pin and major decision before falling in the finals.

Other placewinners: Carson James, third, 133; Carson Petry, third, 127; Zach Quast, third, 139; Lucas Morsching, fourth, 145; Isaac Quast, fourth, 172; Trey Richards, fifth, 121; Trenton Huber, sixth, 139; Maddox Moreno, sixth, 189.

Patrick Adams and Isaac Gahlon also wrestled for the Grizzlies but did not place.

The Grizzlies are off until Friday, Jan. 26 when they host Medford at 7 p.m.

NRHEG grapplers drop duals to bigger schools

The NRHEG High School wrestling team was in Alden for a triangular with Albert Lea Area and Rochester Century Friday, Jan. 5, falling 39-31 to Century and 61-12 to Albert Lea Area.

Coach Shawn Larson said the Panthers wrestled tough against Rochester Century in a meet that would have been difficult for NRHEG to win under any circumstances.

"We wrestled well against Rochester

Century, and in a dual that is as evenly matched as that match was, we would have had to be nearly perfect to win," said Larson. "We were very close, but a couple key mistakes landed us on the losing end of that match."

The Albert Lea meet was just plain tough.

"Albert Lea Area is difficult for us to judge how we did," said Larson. "That team is very good, and that showed in the other dual they

wrestled that night. I feel like we are getting better. It is just difficult to figure out how much we have gained when the other team has wrestlers of that caliber."

Freshman Ryan Schlaak, 172 pounds, and senior 189-pounder George Roesler had a great night, according to Larson, winning both their matches.

"George has been having a very solid senior season, and is leading this team with poise,"

said Larson. "George had two falls on the night. Ryan also had two wins on the night, one by fall and one by default in which it was a one-point deficit and Ryan was about to take the lead late when an injury happened in the match."

The Panthers wrestle in New Richland, on Friday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m., when they will take on the Westfield Razorbacks.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA
DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Probate Court Division
Court File No.: 81-PR-23-846

In Re: Estate of
SCOTT J. ENGER, Decedent.

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING
ON PETITION FOR FORMAL PRO-
BATE OF WILL AND APPOINT-
MENT OF PERSONAL
REAPRESENTATIVE IN UNSUPER-
VISED ADMINISTRATION AND NO-
TICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
It is Ordered and Notice is hereby
given that on the 31st day of January,
2024, at 1:15 p.m., a hearing will be held
in the above Court at Waseca, Minnesota,
for the Formal Adjudication of Intestacy,
Determination of Heirs and for the ap-
pointment of Heidi M. Enger whose ad-

dress is 308 2nd St SE, New Richland,
Minnesota 56072, as Personal Represen-
tative of the Estate of the above named
decedent in unsupervised administration,
and that any objections thereto must be
filed with the Court. That, if proper and
no objections are filed, a Personal Rep-
resentative will be appointed to admin-
ister the Estate, to collect all assets, to
pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and ex-
penses, to sell real and personal property,
and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.
Upon completion of the administration,
the representative shall file a final ac-
count for the allowance and shall distrib-
ute the estate to the persons thereunto
entitled as ordered by the Court, and
close the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL
CREDITORS having claims against said
Estate are required to present the same to
said Personal Representative or to the
Court Administrator within four months
after the date of this Notice or said claims
will be barred.

Dated: 12/15/2023

/s/ Carol M. Hanks
Judge of District Court
/s/ Shannon M. Asselin
Deputy Court Administrator

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG,
P.A.
Hayden J. Roslansky, #402545
216 N Main St, PO Box M
Janesville, MN 56048
Phone: 507-234-5106
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer
January 5, 2024, and January 12, 2024

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ALTON TOWNSHIP
FILING NOTICE
ELECTION MARCH 12, 2024

TO ELECT:
1-SUPERVISOR –
TERM OF THREE YEARS
1-CLERK –
TERM OF TWO YEARS

Filing opens January 2, 2024 and
closes at 5:00pm on January 16, 2024.
Those wishing to file must do so with:

Filing must be done prior to the close date and
time with the \$2.00 filing fee.
A copy of this notice will be posted in the office
of the clerk.

Deb Westphal, Clerk
Alton Township

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NOTICE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AND BUILDING SITE SALE
WASECA COUNTY
NEW RICHLAND TOWNSHIP
40 DEEDED ACRES
MARK QUERNA FARM

BRIEF TAX DESCRIPTION
SE1/4 of NW1/4 Section 16, Twp 105. R22
PARCEL ID: 07.0160710

TERMS:

The land consists of 38.2 acres of tillable land CPI is 91. The farm has been certified organic
since 2005. The land is located 1/3 mile east of State Highway 13 on quiet blacktop road. This parcel is a
buildable site.

- Potential Buyers shall submit a sealed bid to Molly Byron, Attorney, Byron Law Office, PLLC, 122 North State Street, Waseca, MN 56093. The sealed bid shall be received by 9:30 a.m. on January 24, 2024.
- The bids shall be opened at Byron Law Office, PLLC at 10:00 a.m. on January 24, 2024. All persons submitting a written bid will be allowed to raise their bid, by phone, after the bids have been opened. Phone calls to bidders will be placed by Byron Law Office, phone number 507-835-3355. Bidders must be available by phone at that time.
- The successful bidder will be required to execute a purchase agreement and pay 10% of the purchase price as earnest money by 5:00 pm on January 24, 2024 at Byron Law Office. The entire remaining balance of the purchase price, without interest, will be due on or before February 24, 2024 at which time title will be conveyed by Warranty Deed. Possession of the real estate will be delivered at the time of closing.
- Real estate taxes of \$ 1,096.00 for 2023 are paid in full. Real estate taxes and special assessments due and payable in 2024 shall be paid by the Buyer.
- This property is being sold in "AS IS" condition and Sellers make no representation as to acreage, tiling or condition.
- An abstract of title indicating marketable title in Seller's name shall be furnished. Title shall be transferred by Warranty Deed. Possession shall be given to the successful bidder upon receipt of payment in full.
- The owners specifically reserve the right to reject any and all bids and waive irregularities in the bidding process. Any verbal announcement information given the day of sale takes precedence over print.

Information concerning this land sale may be obtained at Byron Law Office, PLLC, 122 North State Street, Waseca, MN 56093, phone 507.835.3355

PUBLIC NOTICE

2024 OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Waseca County has designated its website, www.wasecacounty.gov, as the 2024 Official Publication for Transportation Projects, as allowed by MN Statute §331A.12. Waseca County will publish any transportation project advertisements for bids on its website.

Contacts:

Jim Kollar, Public Works Director/County Engineer, (507) 835-0661
Michael Johnson, County Administrator, (507) 835-0631

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To Whom It May Concern: Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Waseca will meet at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, to consider Municipal Project No. 2024-01, a project to provide street and utility improvements in the following location:

8th Avenue NE (CSAH 13) from 3rd Street NE to Clear Lake Drive

The total estimated cost of the project is \$5,865,000, a portion of which is proposed to be assessed to adjacent properties. A reasonable estimate of the impact of the assessment will be available at the hearing. Such persons that wish to speak in reference to the merits of the proposed project will be heard at the meeting. Questions may be directed to the City Engineer, Nathan Willey, at 507-835-9716.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To Whom It May Concern: Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Waseca will meet at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, to consider Municipal Project No. 2024-02, a project to provide street improvements in the following location:

11th Avenue NW from State Hwy 13 to 10th Street NW

The total estimated cost of the project is \$442,900, a portion of which is proposed to be assessed to adjacent properties. A reasonable estimate of the impact of the assessment will be available at the hearing. Such persons that wish to speak in reference to the merits of the proposed project will be heard at the meeting. Questions may be directed to the City Engineer, Nathan Willey, at 507-835-9716.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The following is a summary of the operating budget for the 2024 fiscal year for Waseca County. This summary is published in accordance with Minn. Stat. 375.169. The detail of the County Budget is on file in the County Administrator's office at the Waseca County Courthouse, Waseca MN, and may be reviewed during normal business hours.

WASECA COUNTY BUDGET SUMMARY STATEMENT

	2023 Current Budget	2024 Adopted Budget
Budgeted Governmental Funds		
Revenues		
County portion of Tax Levy	\$17,744,100	\$17,832,821
State paid portion of Tax Levy	<u>\$1,136,315</u>	<u>\$1,351,154</u>
Total Tax Levy	\$18,880,415	\$19,183,975
Licenses and Permits	\$42,640	\$37,340
Intergovernmental Revenues		
Federal	\$733,019	\$376,760
State	\$7,995,380	\$10,765,316
Other	\$0	\$0
Charges for Services	\$1,619,075	\$1,830,675
Fines and Forfeits	\$700	\$700
Interest on Investments	\$175,000	\$400,000
Miscellaneous	\$2,629,517	\$3,656,956
Other Sources		
Proceeds of Bond Sale	\$0	\$0
Budgeted use of available fund balances	\$0	\$0
Transfer In	\$1,316,203	\$3,135,786
Total Revenues and Other Sources	<u>\$33,391,949</u>	<u>\$39,387,508</u>

Expenditures		
General Government	\$7,677,248	\$7,727,775
Public Safety	\$5,576,825	\$6,159,870
Highway and Streets	\$11,277,929	\$14,835,140
Human Services/Welfare	\$3,164,946	\$3,152,179
Health	\$2,510,163	\$2,163,023
Culture and Recreation	\$274,057	\$737,783
Conservation of Natural Resources	\$817,011	\$2,402,457
Economic Development	\$264,883	\$259,866
Debt Service	\$755,949	\$547,133
Other/Solid Waste	\$1,072,938	\$1,208,485

Other Uses		
Transfer Out	\$0	\$193,797
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	<u>\$33,391,949</u>	<u>\$39,387,508</u>



The Pastor's Column

Seek to store up yourself for God

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

A nice backpack. I bought one this summer to use with football, it was a hot summer, it has a spot for a water bladder as well as many pockets for a variety of play-books, tape, whistles and various other supplies. When it got to the late season my coat and gloves lived in it, just in case I needed them. It was well suited for my needs this summer.

A small plastic box. I got these boxes when I owned a station wagon and was driving between clients on a regular basis. This box was clear, held pens, guitar picks, an old cellphone and charger. It kept things dry and readily available, well suited for my wagon and still useful for me today.

A sling backpack. I have really enjoyed muzzleloader hunting these past two years, but there is so much equipment and supplies that need to be toted along. The need is for something water resistant but small enough to not slow me down. It needed enough space for the tools, but not too much that you have to dump it out to find everything. Not too big, not to small, but just right.

I really enjoy having just the right thing, for just the right project. A perfect tool for the task at hand. Sometimes you need more space, other times to see what is inside, still other times small enough to be useful but not burdensome. Each tool suited for the task and ready to be used again.

Paul takes time to talk about how those in his age preserved their treasures. A large egg shaped clay jar was shaped to be sealed up once filled. These jars were made this way purposefully, rounded, thick and with a rim that a rope could be tied around. Into this jar the most valuable things would be placed, to be preserved for generations. What would you seal up in this jar?

Paul shares in 2 Corinthians 4:5-9

5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

We seek to seal and store up for ourselves the work of God in our lives. This work that God does in our lives shines through our lives to others. If we carry the work of God into every relationship and interaction people should see Christ shining through us. No matter how tough life is, Christ is working to support, encourage, and preserve our faith in Him. These jars of clay we call our lives are broken in places, but it is in the cracks and brokenness of our lives that Christ shines through. A jar of clay well suited to reveal Christ's work.

Learn about the impact of winter salt use

Join the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (CRWJPO) as it hosts the fourth session of the virtual learning series "Land to Lake Lectures." Excess salt from winter spreading can have an impact on water quality. During this webinar, chloride reduction program coordinator Brooke Asleson from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will share knowledge about the effects of chloride on the environment, then provide steps people can take to minimize chloride use in their neighborhoods. This series is offered in collaboration with the University of Minnesota-Extension.

The free webinar will be at 12 noon on Tuesday, January 16.

■ Showing from Page 1

for Arik.

Tetrault revealed in an interview with the Pioneer that Arik's "legacy" trip was a much larger project than usual for the non-profit organization, which has provided smaller, less elaborate trips for more than 5,000 traumatized and injured individuals. Adventures offered in the past had been for group sizes ranging from 1 to more than 50, and had featured hunting, fishing or other outdoor activities meant to "recharge their batteries, build community, and provide rest and recreation in the great outdoors."

Tetrault shared that HHO learned of Arik's severe injuries shortly after they occurred, mostly because organization leader and game warden Jeremy Henke, also featured in the film, is a friend of Arik's. "We decided we wanted to do something really special for this guy," Tetrault said. The organization touched base with Arik even while he was still undergoing therapy in Omaha with the intent that enthusiasm for the trip would provide extra motivation as he struggled with the many diffi-

culties he faced during his recovery.

Asked for his input regarding what outdoor adventure would be most special to him, Arik states in the movie he had known already for years what his "trip of a lifetime" would be.

An avid outdoorsman and nearly fanatical duck hunter, he told HHO he would like to go to Alaska and hunt the "royalty" of all waterfowl, the king eider.

The movie goes on to chronicle the hunt itself, as well as many of the steps needed to make it possible. The hunt took place from January 13-20 of 2023. It was made possible by many fundraising projects, and by a wide variety of sporting goods companies which outfitted the hunting party and even donated a specialized rifle for Arik to use. Even the guide company in Alaska provided its services at a reduced rate. The movie premiered on the four-year anniversary of Arik's injury.

Megan states that she, Arik, and their daughters Audrina, 11, and Maklynn, 9, look forward to meeting and talking with community members who attend. "People here have been so forthcoming with their love and support," she says. "We want them to know we will never forget what they have done for us."

Farewell, Pastor!

Michael Mathews accepts call after 24 years

Waldorf leader to serve in Arizona

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

The dual parish of St. John's Lutheran Church, Danville Township, and First Lutheran Church, Waldorf, held a shared service on January 7 to say good-bye to Pastor Michael Mathews, who has served them since 1999. After the service, members of the congregations shared a pot-luck meal, during which they presented Mathews with a parting gift: a clock whose face has been specially printed with a message of thanks and appreciation.

Mathews has accepted a call to begin a position with the Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church in Pinetop, Arizona; his installation there is scheduled for February 3.

Mathews admits his career has followed an interesting, and perhaps ironic, path. When seminary student Michael Mathews finished his training to become a Missouri Synod Lutheran pastor in the early 1990s, he was asked about his preferences.

"I said, since I was used to warmer climates, I would prefer a placement somewhere with mild weather," he remembers. "And I said I would like to continue working with campus ministry."

"Not much later they came back to me and asked which one of those two was more important."

In 1994, Mathews became the campus pastor at Minnesota State University Mankato. He says he enjoyed providing support and guidance to young people at a time of transition and change. As for the cold weather, he concedes he "never really warmed to sub-zero temperatures."

By 1999, he says he was ready for a change. "One thing about campus ministry," he observes, "is that every semester there's a sense of starting over and rebuilding. It's a constant process."

At that time, Mathews had been serving the dual parish of St. John's and First Lutheran as a "vacancy pastor," usually an inherently temporary position.

"They asked me to stay on," he recalls. "And now it's been 24 years that God had me stay."

"It's certainly not what I had pictured back as I finished my seminary training," he admits, then shrugs slightly as he says, "We don't always know what's best for us, but God does."

Among the many elements he has enjoyed in his work over the past two decades, Mathews names the opportunity to work with people across the various stages of the lifespan. This includes, for example, having baptized and confirmed one young congregation member who is now an adult and has become one of her congregation's organists. It also includes having officiated at the weddings of young couples and then baptized their children.

He has also always been grateful, he says, that the two churches he serves have consistently worked together well and resolved any conflicts



Pastor Michael Mathews has been the pastor of First Lutheran Church, Waldorf, and St. John's Lutheran Church, Danville Township, for 24 years. Photo by Deb Bentley

"it's been 24 years that God had me stay."
— Pastor Michael Mathews

help its members grow in faith. He admits his thoughts have also occasionally turned to his future retirement, in perhaps eight or ten years. "Arizona is one of the areas I had been considering," he says. "Now I will have a chance to get to know the area better."

He also expects to enjoy the warmer climate and the opportunity to go hiking in the mountains.

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CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * *	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18 * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schenil 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 * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Interim Pastor Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:15 a.m. Worship * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * *	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Ferichs Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m. * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * *
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 * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St. Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worshipp * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwasca@hickory-tech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * *	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Pamela Jensen Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 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 * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * *	LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting * * *	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School * * *	NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday "Young at heart" Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation * * *
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca Father Glenn Ferichs 507-835-1222 Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m. * * *			NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.
REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-607-8245 Sunday worship 10 a.m. * * *			

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Compostings

by Al Batt

How many of us are in Florida, Texas, or AZ

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I talked to that guy for 30 minutes and I still couldn't remember his name.

Why didn't you ask him his name?

I couldn't do that. I know him too well.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I had to go to the bank. My pickle jar was full of pennies. I made a stop at a friend's apartment. He's old enough to remember when things cost only an arm (no leg).

"Sit here, in the comfortable chair," he said. "I'm surprised you got rid of all those pennies. I'll bet you still have the first nickel you ever had."

I laughed and asked him how he was doing.

"Great, but I lie a lot. I've spent all my life getting to this age only to discover I'm not good at being this age. It's another year, I'm still writing checks and I plan to live forever. So far, so good."

I told him he'd be even older if he hadn't smoked for so many years. We talked of many things: Of shoes—and ships—and sealing-wax—Of cabbages—and kings—And why the sea is boiling hot—And whether pigs have wings. We were happy to have another day.

As I went out the door, he said, "Keep breathing."

That is good and happy advice. J.D. Salinger said, "I am a kind of paranoiac in reverse. I suspect people of plotting to make me happy."

THE DECEASED'S DOG

Lowell Schwalbe died in Arizona recently. Fellow Midwesterners, have you noticed how many people we know buy the farm, get out of the canoe or kick the bucket in Arizona, Texas and Florida at this time of the year? Do you suppose it's because they miss the wintry delights of their homeland? Maybe they crave the challenge of determining which lump of snow is their parked car after a blizzard? He directed the New Richland-Hartland Band when it marched in the Rose Parade in Pasadena, but not to Pasadena.

He volunteered to drive football players home after practice. We needed adult supervision. I still do. I remember the afternoon he picked me up at the school along with another player and the band's tuba player. There were no divided highways on the journey to our rural homes. We were gravel road

kids, an early version of the Cab-bage Patch Kids. I got into the backseat with the tuba player behind me. I sat down and slid across to make room for him. A dog halted my progress. It sat there and growled at me. I believe it was a Doberman Pinscher, but it could have been a German Shepherd. The memory fogs, but whatever it was, it wasn't happy to see me. It chomped onto my jacket and shook its head vigorously. Mr. Schwalbe said calmly, "Slap him."

I said, "You slap him. I don't think he likes me."

I arrived home unscathed after the obstinate dog's jaw was pried away from my sleeve soaked in canine slobber.

I'VE LEARNED

People my age are much older than I am.

The first 12 months of the year are the hardest.

Windows in houses were invented to give cats something to do.

Every year is one of those years.

Snowplow drivers have never been more efficient than this winter.

NATURE NOTES

Callers saw a bald eagle perched on a nest in December and wondered why it was there. It had to be somewhere. It might have been checking its nesting site for maintenance issues. Eagle pairs usually begin defending their nest sites in mid-January, but examining a nest might be a pair-bonding exercise done before another pair-bonding exercise—making a trip to a home improvement store. The eagles' treetop nest increases in size each year as the couple adds sticks and plant material, another pair-bonding activity. Eagles lay two eggs (occasionally three) in early February to early April.

I heard the song of the black-capped chickadee, a fabulous whistled, "Fee-bee," "Love you," "Sweet-ie" or "Spring's here." It was good to know that spring had arrived on a gelid winter day. I did a Christmas Bird Count after Christmas, a chance to binge-watch birds. I take great pleasure in counting chickadees, being grateful to see a single one.

There were at least 22 of them in one feeding flock, accompanied by nuthatches and cardinals. Many of our warm-weather birds are subject to seasonal dismissals, but not chickadees. They hang with us.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Be kind and get the jump on next Christmas by being nice and not naughty.

BACK IN THE DAY (WASECA)

Waseca Journal - 100 Years Ago

-Jay E. Gould, owner of a circuit of 6 moving picture theatres has arranged to open the New Garden theatre after changing the equipment and improving the interior in many ways. He will open with Harold Lloyd's new film, "Grandma's Boy" and declares that he will run Friday and Saturday of each week to begin with. One of the features of his circuit is his orchestra. This orchestra is composed of selected players who play music appropriate to each situation in the film.

-With a record of having presided over approximately 2,375 contested civil actions and criminal triads, Judge Arthur B. Childress will retire as the judge of the Fifth Judicial district, January 1, 1923, to resume his practice in law. The judge, who has served on the bench for 12 years, will resume his law practice without delay. On Jan. 2 he will be in his law office on the second floor of the Citizens National Bank building in Faribault to where his large law library will be moved from the Rice County courthouse.

-It pays to tell the truth because you can always remember just what you said before. This was fully demonstrated in the play "Step Lively" given by the Sacred Heart Dramatic Club last Thursday evening at the Palace theater. Here it was demonstrated that one little lie made it necessary to tell one lie after another until the characters had to step lively to keep peace in the family.

Waseca Herald - 75 Years Ago

-The residents of Waseca County will be given the opportunity to send large amounts of grain to European countries, according to Reb. S. E. Stein, pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church of New Richland, who is county chairman of the Christian Rural Overseas Program.

With Rev. Stein, a county committee along with city, village and township chairmen will make arrangement for the donation of large amounts of grain by rural groups and money from others to be used to purchase grain for gifts. The collection will be made in the last week of January throughout the county.

-Ticket sales for the Junior Chamber of Commerce Golden Gloves boxing card which will be held next Saturday at the Central high school gymnasium opened this week and the demand has been heavy, according to Bernard Staley, chairman. Approximately 1,000 seats will be available to boxing fans for the evening with the opening fight at 8:30.

-The first public showing in Waseca of the new 1948 model Ford trucks will take place Jan. 16 at an "open house" to be conducted by J. A. Tyrholm & Co., Inc.

With the streamlined new trucks - first post-war products of the Ford Motor Company - as the main attraction, the Tyrholm Company will welcome the public to its showrooms, service, parts and accessory and used vehicle departments.

-The Central basketball team defeated Faribault last Friday night in a game there which showed Central was in top form as it entered the winter season. The final score was 54-39 with Central leading for the four quarters of play and keeping the initiative all the way.

-The city council at its regular meeting heard Waseca County doctors urge an addition to the Waseca Memorial hospital to provide more space for patients. Dr. Hottinger, who opened the discussion by speaking for the group, told the council that the hospital should be enlarged to provide more space for patients, but the physicians were not pressing for immediate action. He stated that doctors felt that they, themselves, had probably been negligent in not presenting the problem earlier. There have been times when patients needed hospital care and room was not available.

-A verdict of \$5,000 for damages was awarded to Loretta Besser by a jury late Wednesday evening at Waseca for the death of her five year old son, Allan, last July in the family farmyard. The case was the first to be tried by district court in an adjourned term of court. Edward Besser, father of Allan and administrator of the estate, filed suit for the heirs who are himself and his wife, against Glen Passer, a truck driver. Damages asked were \$10,000 and \$300 funeral expenses.

-The City of Waseca has good credit and people are looking for places to place extra savings, according to F. L. Manthey, city treasurer, who has charge of selling \$63,000 in interest bearing orders for the city by orders of the council.

Waseca Daily Journal - 50 years ago

-The Bluejay basketball team won their own holiday tournament Friday night clipping Kenyon 62-53. Albert Lea won the other game 55-40 over Hayfield. It was the fourth time the Bluejays have won in the seven years of the tournament.

-Peter Kunst has informed his brother David by phone that he will accompany him on the remainder of the World walk. The brothers are planning to resume the walk March 1. Peter will be coming to Waseca before they leave to assist with the final arrangements. According to David, Peter's wife, Nancy, is all for the walk and has encouraged her husband to go. "She knows he wants to go and has to go for Johns' sake."

-In men's basketball action last night Corchrans beat the Wanderees 61-59 and the Dairy Queen won over Jack's Webb 81-50. Corchrans now have a league leading five wins and one loss followed closely behind by the Dairy Queen and Brown Printing at 4-1.

-According to Police Chief Earl Halleck, residents of Waseca have a lousy batting average when it comes to driving their vehicles with caution. There were a total of 195 accidents in Waseca in 1972, with 127 of them occurring in December. This is an increase of 41 more accidents than in 1971. February of 1971 was recorded as the most accident prone month with 24 mishaps.

Waseca County News - 25 years ago

-Question of the week: Why do you collect Beanie Babies? Dee Andrew, Waseca: "I don't. I'm buying them for my grandchildren." Ashley Kruse, Waseca: "They'll be worth money someday." Linda Ellis, Owatonna: "I buy them for my kids. The only one I want is the Princess Di bear." Bethany Lewis, Waseca: "Because they are cute." Jodie Bathke, Wells: Because they are going to be worth some money." Betty Wencil, Owatonna: "I collect them for my grandkids."

-Despite scoring its lowest total of the season, the Waseca gymnastics team easily kept its winning streak intact. The Bluejays romped past Kasson-Mantorville 137.2 to 113.35 in Kasson Tuesday. It was Waseca's seventh straight win without a loss this season, and the Bluejays' 17th consecutive victory over the last two years. Waseca, which defeated the KoMets 141.15 to 99.6 last year, won its third dual meet without a loss on the road.

-Two surprises were announced at Saturday's Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet and Jaycee Community Service Awards Ceremony. Waseca School Superintendent Virgil Christianson was named the winner of the annual Don Eustice Community Service Award. The naming of the winner is kept a secret each year until the banquet.

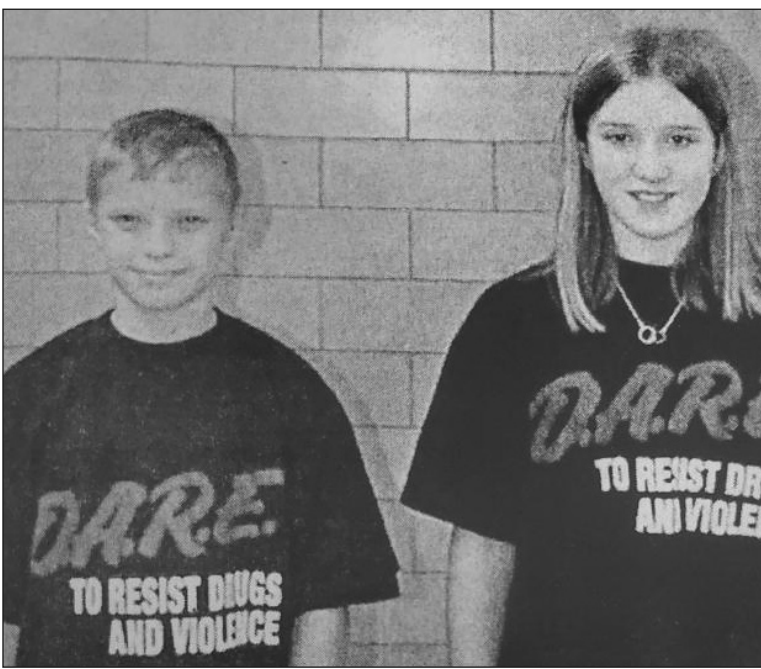
-The face of education is about to change in Waseca area school and the rest of the state of Minnesota with the adoption of the Graduation Rule this year. Beginning next school year, students will have to pass the standards established by the Graduation Rule to graduate from high school. Students in third, fifth and eighth grades will be tested annually with a single statewide test. The high school component of the MCAs is scheduled to begin in the 1998-99 school year.

-Despite the recent stretch of cold weather, many of the lakes in the Waseca area are not safe. With the abnormally warm fall and early winter many lakes in the area have not frozen uniformly enough to support all terrain vehicles (ATV), snowmobiles or cars. To safely support an ATV or snowmobile there should be at least five inches of solid ice and to support a vehicle there should be at least 10 inches of ice, said Waseca Fire Chief Bob Johnson.

-Lynn Donovan began as a customer at Nifty Thrifty when it opened two years ago. On Dec. 15, Donovan became manager of the store. Donovan said she loves working at the thrift store. Donations come in every day. "It comes in from everywhere," Donovan said. The store has even had donations come in from neighboring states.

-Taking his Percheron horse team on a 16-hour road trip is something Al "Cob" Kath of rural Waseca never thought he would be doing. Without the support of family and friends Kath would never be in a Denver horse show. "I couldn't do it if it wasn't for the ones backing me," he said.

Looking Back (New Richland)



D.A.R.E. commitments were given by Jon Theuer and Gail Drube from the Ellendale site.



D.A.R.E. commitments were given by Calli Halgren and Brandon Jensen from the New Richland Site.

25 YEARS AGO

-Kristin Shultz, Brian Johnson, Tim Coyer and Katie Recknor along with instructor, Mark Rud, attended the Dorian Festival held on January 10 and 11 at Decorah, Iowa. 1400 select singers from 353 high schools, from a six-state area, attended the 47th annual weekend. The students came from as far away as Michigan and Indiana.

The select singers rehearsed for two days and performed at the grand concert on Monday evening at Luther College.

-D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) held their graduation program at the Ellendale school on January 5, 1999. Present were the fifth grade classes from both the Ellendale and the New Richland sites. They had completed the D.A.R.E., 17-week program and were present to receive their certificates. Parents, grandparents, and special friends were present at the graduation ceremony.

The welcome was given by Officer Deanne von Wald who had worked with the students in past weeks, in which fifth graders learned about drugs, self-esteem, violence, and committing to be drug free.

-In those earlier days, the Andersen Meat Market with Alfred & Martin Andersen and later Frank Andersen, was the place to buy meat sold fresh from the slaughter house, and if you lived in town, you could go down and purchase meat needed on a daily basis, except Sunday. The floors were always covered with fresh sawdust, the meat cutting block freshly scrubbed, and most of the meat cutting was done with sharp knives, cleavers, and a hand saw.

-Albert Lea Medical Center - part of Mayo Health System - will add a second fixed mammography unit to their new, enlarged radiology department sometime this spring. This multiple-view unit will allow more patients to access mammography screenings in a timely manner.

-A new initiative is being launched in 20 Southeast and South Central counties to bring students out to rural communities, to work with nonprofit organizations, communities, citizen groups, and local governments. The program is designed to give University students career experience and give communities help with needed applied research, program planning, and other short-term projects. Student and faculty expertise is available in a broad range of areas, including planning, architecture, economics, children-youth-families, natural resources, journalism, engineering, public health, community, diversity, and many more.

-The University of Minnesota Southern Experiment Station (SES) will be holding Winter Crops Days on Tuesday, January 19 at Diggers Bar, Grill and Banquet Hall at Kasson and at the Community Center in Lewiston. The second Winter Crops Day will be at the South Central Technical College in North Mankato on Thursday, January 21. Results from current research trials being conducted at the SES and other locations in Southern Minnesota will be presented by university scientists and specialists.

-Ten free river birch trees will be given to each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation during January 1999.

The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

-Laser therapies can help some people who develop macular degeneration but not the majority says Dr. Courtland J. Watson, president of the Minnesota Optometric Association.

There are two types of muscular degeneration, which is the leading cause of blindness in the United States. Both result from a destruction of light-sensitive cells in the macula, the most cell rich section of the retina, which lines the back of the eye. Central vision needed for reading and close work is lost. Color vision and distance vision are also affected.

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ARGUS ARCHIVES

75 years ago - 1948

-Judging of the Christmas Lighting Contest, sponsored by the Janesville Water and Light Board, was done by four prominent Waseca men. So that all contestants would be judged alike, each person who entered the contest was assigned a number and the houses were viewed and judged by number. The judges did not know the names of the owners of the houses being viewed and after their selection had been made they were informed of the names of the winners. The winners are as follows: First prize: Frank R. Cahill, \$20; First Prize, George Strunk, \$20; Second Prize: Herman Pautz, \$15; Third Prize: R. E. Donahue, \$10; and Fourth Prize: Geo. Schmidt, \$5.

"Here is my number one nomination for the most outstanding achievement for 1947. It goes to Janesville, Minnesota. It certainly is a grand and inspiring thing for a group of folks to do, to go to work and bring to success the acquisition of the grounds for park purposes, to plan to equip same and beautify it, build a road to it on the shores of Lake Elysian. The thing that makes it outstanding is that it was done by voluntary subscriptions. These are the things worthwhile in this old world. Hats off to Janesville." -H. A. Panzram

-Art Chiodo, the former Marshall boy who started out as a student manager before playing seven years of high school and college ball under as many coaches, is now THE successful man of Janesville, Minn. art stepped into this southern Minnesota community last fall for his first years of football coaching and came up with the best high school football team Janesville has had in 15 years. Now it's basketball time and Art claims he has the makings of a title challenger in the Gopher Conference of which Janesville is a member. Janesville's football team won seven games and lost one last fall under Chiodo.

-While snoopin' around the old Burg, it has come to the knowledge of the Argus pencil pusher: That most of the shadows of this life are caused by standing in our own sunshine.

-Mr. And Mrs. James McBride celebrated their golden wedding anniversary last Sunday with an open house from two until five o'clock in the afternoon. Many neighbors and friends of Janesville and the surrounding territory, as well as from Waseca, Waldorf, Minneapolis and other communities visited the McBride home to extend greetings and to wish Mr. and Mrs. McBride more years of happy wedded life. The afternoon was spent in renewing old acquaintances and visiting with many old friends.

-The Golden Bears of Janesville High School defeated the Sacred Heart basketball team of Waseca at the latter place Tuesday night by a score of 48-36. It was the second defeat for Sacred Heart by the Bears this season. Tomorrow night Freeborn H. S. Will be here to take on Coach Chiodo's gang. Freeborn has always been tough for the Bears and a close battle is looked for when the two quints meet.

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NRHEG school organizes for 2024

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

At their January 2 organizational meeting and work session, NRHEG school board members elected to retain the same officers as during 2023: Rick Schultz as chair, Loren Schoenrock as vice chair, Terri Engel as clerk, Pat Theuer as treasurer. All board members accepted various committee assignments, including negotiations, finance, buildings and grounds, policy, and transportation.

Board members elected to maintain 6:30 p.m. on the third Monday of the month as their typical meeting date, defaulting to the third Tuesday if a holiday interferes. A full schedule appears at the end of this article.

The NRHEG Star Eagle remains the official newspaper for important legal announcements.

The school board has seven members. Among them, three have terms expiring in 2024: Loren Schoenrock, Terri Engel and Rich Mueller. The remainder, Rick Schultz, Pat Theuer, Aaron Phillips, and Amy Ihrke, have terms which end in 2026.

Also as part of the January 2 work session, board members looked into the possibility of using a service called "Possip" to carry out surveys and other communications with all groups connected with the school, including staff, students, and family of students. After a presentation from the com-



pany and having questions answered by a representative, board member Aaron Phillips commented that using the service might strengthen the level of engagement people feel with the school. No official action was taken on the matter, since everything after the organizational meeting that evening was part of a work session.

Monthly meetings in 2024 are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 16, Elementary Media Center; 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 20, Secondary Media Center; 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 18, Elementary Media Center; 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 15, Secondary Media Center; 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 20, Elementary Media Center; 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 17, Secondary Media Center; 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 15, Secondary Media Center; 6:30 p.m. Monday, August 19, Secondary Media Center; 6:30 p.m. Monday, September 16, Elementary Media Center; 6:30 p.m. Monday, October 21, Secondary Media Center; 6:30 p.m. Monday, November 18, Elementary Media Center; 6:30 p.m. Monday, December 16, Secondary Media Center. Additional meetings will be scheduled as needed.

■ Petersburg from Page 1

have concluded to be my highest priority.

I have been blessed with overwhelming support from this district and it has been my extreme pleasure and honor to have represented this district over the 12 years of my career. I have had many successes in St Paul, but two stand out for me. A major one is the completion of Highway 14. I enjoyed being on the Transportation Committee where I worked tirelessly for years to build a consensus and allocate complete funding to make this road a reality. We now have a safe and accessible corridor for commerce and easy access to world-renowned medical facilities when needed.

It was also a privilege for me to work with Willow Creek teacher Jen Hansen and her sixth-graders. Mrs. Hansen presented me with a petition of hundreds of signatures

collected by her sixth-grade class asking to erect a plaque commemorating the deaths of construction workers who died during the original construction of the State Capitol building. Working with students and showing them how a bill is passed and seeing them testify for the bill was very fulfilling. Owatonna can be proud of them.

I have developed friendships and great working relationships with state senators and state representatives from both major parties. I was committed to working with Democrats to find common ground and get legislation passed that would mutually benefit our constituents. The people of this district deserve to have their legislators continue to work hard at cooperating with leaders in both parties as we move forward.

I want to thank the many volunteers who have worked on my campaign as well as those of you who have made financial contributions. I will always treasure the memories from the 12 years I served."



Steve Fields
Minnesota Attorney

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Waseca County History Center

Where'd It Go?

Janesville Argus, March 2, 1961

Former Robert Wiste residence moved to current location, County Rd. 3, Janesville MN.



JANESVILLE'S LITERALLY ON THE MOVE, and for proof we snapped this picture Tuesday of the former Robert Wiste residence being moved down highway No. 14 towards its new home on the Joe Jewison farm 4 miles north of Janesville. Spencer House Movers of Wells were contractors of the job.



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City looks at Safe Routes to School grant

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

The Waseca city council approved a resolution to support Waseca Public School District Safe Routes to School on January 2 during its first meeting of the new year.

This past summer, the developer of the Fox Meadows subdivision requested that city staff look into a possible connection to the new sidewalk to be installed along the west side of the Waseca Intermediate School (WIS) driveway between 22nd Ave NW and the existing sidewalk/trail to the south and east. In fall, city staff learned of a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant opportunity and approached school district leadership to ask whether the district would partner with the city on the construction project.

After receiving verbal confirmation from the school district, the city submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) on November 7. The Minnesota Department of Transportation responded that the proposed project meets all eligibility requirements and recommended submitting a full application. With both the city and school district on board, an SRTS proposal would be completed and submitted by February 2, the deadline. If funding is awarded, city staff will complete project design, inspection, and administration with construction beginning in 2025. The school district would retain ownership of the new sidewalk and be responsible for all future maintenance. At a future meeting, the city council may define and approve additional project construction and cost details.

In other business, the city council approved the termination of the joint sponsorship between the City of Waseca and the school district recreation service program. Councilmember Mark Christiansen said he wants to ensure conversations proceed.

The city council also appointed Christiansen as the Mayor Pro Tem and approved the updated City of Waseca Personnel Policy. The meeting adjourned before 8 p.m.

City of Waseca Board/Commission Vacancies

Openings exist on the following City Advisory Boards

- Economic Development Authority
- Heritage Preservation Commission
- Planning Commission

Applications are accepted until January 29th 2024.

Most groups meet on a monthly basis. Anyone interested in serving on one of the board may submit an application to City Hall, 508 South State Street. Applications can be obtained at City Hall or online from the City's website ci.waseca.mn.us or call 835-9700



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First Screening



JWP hosted its first heart screening event last week. A total of 114 students were screened with the help of volunteers and Rasmussen University nursing students. The following groups made the screening possible through donations: the Bulldog Backers, Janesville Nursing Home, Sherry Touhy State Farm Insurance, Dane's Body Works, Janesville Dairy Queen, Anna Ammermann, Jeremy Erler, Kaylee Warner, Kraftwerk Upholstery - Douglas Engstrom. Individuals who also volunteered: Candis Rangel, Erin Kleve, Jenise Peterson and JWP school nurse Laura Hoffman.

DECA Club



Waseca high school students took part in their first DECA District One competition of the year on Friday, January 5, at Christian Family Church in Owatonna. Participating were DECA teams from Owatonna, Austin, Mankato West, Mankato East, Faribault, NRHEG, Sibley East, and Pine Island. More than 380 students faced off in various competitions ranging from skilled events such as employment interviews and sales demonstrations; career cluster events; role plays and prepared events such as innovation plan, start-up business plan. Waseca DECA club had 13 students qualify in 10 different categories for state-level competition, set for March 10-12. Pictured in the Front row: Hazel Moore and Lauren Grant. Middle Row: Brooke Bartelt, Remy Murphy, Alexis Claybaugh, McKyla Hasselquist, Kayla Schulz, Camila Marquez, Addison Pfeifer, Elizabeth Manthe and Madison Corder. Back row: Leeland Guggisberg, Jaiden Schafer, David Hodgkins, Tanner White, Caden Danner, and Carter Pfeifer. Not pictured: Dylan Hansen and Jaya Kunkel, Zoey Dunn and Kailey Morrissey.

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Ayers named to fall Dean's list

Elijah Ayers of Waseca qualified for Belmont University's Fall 2023 Dean's List. Approximately 52 percent of Belmont's 7,338 undergraduate students qualified. Belmont Provost Dr. David Gregory said, "The Dean's List achievement reflects the hard work, perseverance and dedication to academic excellence of Belmont's outstanding students. It is my privilege to congratulate these individuals on their semester-long academic efforts." Dean's List eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C. About Belmont University Located two miles from downtown Nashville, Tennessee, Belmont University comprises nearly 9,000 students from every state and 33 countries. Nationally ranked and consistently recognized by U.S. News & World Report for innovation in higher education, the University offers more than 115 areas of undergraduate study, 41 master's programs and five doctoral degrees. With a focus on whole person formation and data-informed social innovation, Belmont is committed to forming diverse leaders of character equipped to solve the world's complex problems. For more information, visit www.belmont.edu.

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642
January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 Burger nite 5-7pm	3 6pm BAR Bingo	4 7pm HALL BINGO	5 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	6
7	8 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	9 Burger nite 5-7pm	10 6pm BAR Bingo	11 7pm HALL BINGO	12 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	13
14 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host St. Paul Lutheran Church	15	16 Burger nite 5-7pm	17 6pm BAR Bingo	18 7pm HALL BINGO	19 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm YOUR HOST Fraternal order of police	20
21	22	23 Burger nite 5-7pm	24 6pm BAR Bingo	25 7pm HALL BINGO	26 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	27
28 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host Waseca Caregivers	29	30 Burger nite 5-7pm	31 6pm BAR Bingo			

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.
THUR.-1pm to 11pm
FRI.- SAT.-11am to 1 am
POST & AUX MEETING 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license number 00385

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Let me help you have a wonderful New Year with a cozy place to call your own!