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■ **Inside:**

- 2 - Upcoming events
- 3 - Road maintenance
- 4 - Obituaries
- 5 - Archives
- 6 - New pastor
- 7 - Classifieds
- 8-9 - Sports
- 10-11 - 2023
- 12 - Open House

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 3 Vol. III \$2

Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca

Friday, January 19, 2024



■ Page 6



Faith



Identify Frosty and win \$1750

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

Who is Frosty?

Identify FROSTY and win some cash! Prize money totaling \$1,750.00 is waiting to be won. FROSTY is a Waseca County resident chosen to be an ambassador for the Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival. Follow the clues and guess FROSTY'S name.

Grand prize is \$350.00. If you are at the official unmasking at 9:00 p.m., on Friday, February 16, 2024, you will win an additional \$50.00. Unmasking is at the VFW Club 113 West Elm Avenue, Waseca, MN. First correct guess from Janesville, New Richland and Waseca win \$150.00; and if you are at the unmasking you will win an additional \$50.00. Only five names will be drawn for \$100 – must be present. Five names win \$50.00 – attendance is not necessary.

- Contest rules**
1. Clues are published by the Waseca County News (waseca-countynews.com and Facebook); NRHEG Star Eagle; Waseca Chamber of Commerce; and KOWZ/KRUE radio.
 2. One guess allowed each week.
 3. Each entry must have a name and complete address. Entries without complete information will not be entered.
 4. Entrants must live in Waseca County and be over 18 years of age.
 5. If there are multiple correct guesses, a drawing will be made to determine the winner.
 6. If there are no correct guesses, a drawing will be made from all entries received.
 7. Entries must be received before 3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 16th, 2024.
 8. Submit entries to:
 - A. WASECA: Submit entry at Waseca Music; 111 South State, Waseca, MN 56093; or via mail.
 - B. JANESVILLE: Mail or drop off at Waseca Music; mark your entry as Janesville.
 - C. NEW RICHLAND: Drop off at NRHEG STAR EAGLE NEWS; or mail to Waseca Music - mark your entry as New Richland.

Frosty sponsors: CULLIGAN, iWEALTH, Brad Connors, DOMINOS, MEDIACOM, ICAN, SUBURBAN FURNITURE, and EXCEL ENERGY. Please thank these sponsors for supporting the 27th Annual Frosty Contest!

Frosty continued on 12

A word from

The Word



The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

Psalms 34:18

SROC of Waseca hosts area farmers

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

More than 50 farmers from around southern Minnesota attended Winter Crops Day Thursday, January 11, at the University of Minnesota's Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC) on the western outskirts of Waseca.

According to Tom Hoverstad, a scientist with the center and one of the presenters for January 11, the objective of the full-day events—held twice a year, once in winter and once during the summer—is to share ongoing research regarding topics of current interest to farmers.

The six presentations provided during the day-long event ranged from the benefits and techniques of using manure as a fertilizer to rates at which Minnesota weeds are becoming resistant to chemical control methods.

During each of the presentations, U of M ag scientists described the methods, locations and results for their various research projects.

Because all the topics applied directly to factors affecting crops and yield rates, they were inherently interesting to farmers, Hoverstad said.

Anibel Cerrundo, a "visiting" scientist from Argentina, has been

working at the U of M for the past few years. His presentation centered around yield, specifically, how the date of planting affects crop success, and what benefits are derived from using soybean varieties with longer and shorter maturity ratings.

His presentation included mathematical relationships having to do with the amount of "radiant energy" (sunshine) plants receive and when



Hoverstad

they receive it. His highly energetic introduction claimed "we need data about planting dates and stress to make this kind of decision. Then we must calibrate the data." One element of his research included placing shades above areas of crops to control the amount of light they received.

Conclusions he shared about soybean planting dates were that, in terms of yield, "For early planted soybean there was no advantage to using varieties with long maturity ratings," and "no advantage to

SROC continued on 2

'House of Restoration' Former Waldorf school repurposed



Kathy Grinnell sits with her children Faith, Jake, and Jacqueline in their new home, the former Waldorf School which closed in 2010. Pioneer photo by Rachael Jaeger

Owner tells of divine guidance in choosing Waldorf

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

Kathy Grinnell is a single mom who moved from Sartell, near St. Cloud, to Waldorf. She and her children—Faith, 19; Jake, 15; and Jacqueline, 9—are in the process of revitalizing the large building that was a public school for the area before the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton district closed it in 2010. The structure was used for a charter school for a time beginning in 2018, but that had closed, too, about four years ago.

If revitalizing a school building

sounds like an ambitious undertaking, it was. A lot happened in the last five years.

The Grinnell family has added many personal touches and is finding a wide array of uses for the former classrooms, offices, gymnasium and cafeteria. Available in the building now are a combined coffee house and thrift store; an area full of tables, books, and comfortable seating for reading and study; and an open space for play—including playing music on a piano and playing board games. The former gymnasium has been used for showing movies during

warmer months. "Jake's VR Gaming," housed in another space, offers competitive virtual reality competition, all family friendly. All these and more to come are part of the family's plan to create a welcoming place that inspires personal growth, faith, and creativity.

While her experiences as a real estate broker and a property manager assisted Grinnell as she sold her home and purchased the school building, her reasons for the change are far less earthbound.

A born-again believer, she had served as a youth worker and vol-

unteered helping the homeless in St. Cloud in addition to her work in real estate. She and her children lived in a home she built back when she was only 22 years old.

She describes feeling a "strong nudge" to sell that home—the only one her children had ever known—move somewhere more rural, and get some chickens.

Initially, Grinnell resisted. Everything about it seemed impractical, yet the nudging continued. Eventually unable to fight it anymore, she

Grinnell continued on 3

Trial date set for Waseca Mayor

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Trial and pre-trial dates have been set in May and June for Waseca Mayor Randy Zimmerman, who was charged in May of last year with two counts of felony perjury.

Pretrial for Zimmerman will be May 28, with a jury trial set to take place June 11, 12, and 13 at 8:30 a.m. in Rice County District court.

Zimmerman is accused of providing false information when stating during his 2022 campaign for mayor that he lived within Waseca's town limits. Allegedly, Zimmerman used his mother's address in place of his own when completing election forms in August prior to the November elections.



Zimmerman

The trial will take place at the Waseca County courtroom. The list of witnesses who may or may not be called by the state at the time of trial include a detective from the Albert Lea Police Department, the Waseca County auditor/treasurer, and four Zimmermans, along with a handful of others.

The charges stem from incidents during 2022. Within a week of Zimmerman's election that November, the city of Waseca received a complaint alleging he did not live in the city of Waseca during the 30 days prior to the election. The Albert Lea Police Department was asked to investigate to avoid a potential conflict of interest.

As summarized in court records, the complaint states Zimmerman indicated his residence was 313 4th Ave. NE, located in city limits, while his campaign address was listed as 36830 Lake Knoll Dr., an address in Woodville township.

Minnesota election laws state a candidate for city office must live within city limits at least 30 days prior to the election. More than a month before the election, Zimmerman filed a change of address form with the Post Office and also purchased a residential lot at 304 19th Ave. NE, also within city limits.

The investigation by the Albert Police Department alleges that Zimmerman was not living at the new address. Their evidence

Zimmerman continued on 12

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.

July

• People and their stories.

Every member of the Waseca County Pioneer staff finds his or her motivation in the people of the community, their passions, motivations, and projects.

"Being a news writer pulled me out of my comfort zone," comments writer Michael Roy. "It's very demanding and it takes a lot of time."

"But I have gotten to know some

people who do what they do, not because they're paid for it, but because they truly care."

"No amount of money could bring out the passion and dedication I've seen."

Today's July 7 edition comes out on the anniversary of the paper's July 8, 2022, "Waseca addresses only" free distribution. Another free mailing had gone out on July 1 to all addresses in Waseca County.

• This year's annual Lakefest brought family fun to Clear Lake Park in Waseca on the Fourth of July holiday. Tom Sexton, this year's Lakefest Chair, volunteered for the position when it be-

came clear that the event could not go on without new leadership; planning began in April. Lakefest, which is put on by the Waseca Lakes Association, was in danger of being canceled had Sexton not stepped in; previous leaders had chosen to withdraw from their positions.

• Riley Poe is not an ordinary man in his 20s: He is a one-man crew running Audiobooks in Waseca.

• Susan Jirele is selling her antiques every second weekend of the month from May through October in Waldorf because her son told her he needed to

2023 continued on 10



Twenty fans took part in the ball toss game held during the 4th inning of the Braves' July 7 baseball game. Photo by Eli Lutgens



Compostings

by Al Batt

See a penny, pick it up and give it away

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

One of my shoes is tighter than the other.

Are your feet different sizes?
No, I put both socks on the same foot.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. It was stupid cold, which gave voice to my brilliance, "It's up to 8 below." Jack Frost nipped at my nose. It was cold enough the sun had hidden under a blanket. The north wind had picked up and I blew around like down from a thistle. It was a winter wonderland. A friend, Jim Shook, told me he'd fired a harpoon cannon in his Alaska yard. It was loud. The neighbors enjoyed it, but their chickens couldn't sleep for a week.

My wife and I attended a high school basketball doubleheader in Janesville, Minnesota; not the Janesville in Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Pennsylvania, California or New York. The local high school girls' team took on Sibley East and the boys battled Belle Plaine. We had relatives playing for Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton and Belle Plaine. There was an enormous crowd with the customary grousing about the officiating, especially "over the back," which isn't a foul. To be the mother of a basketball referee must bring heartache. I didn't want to officiate on the floor or in the stands, but I happily tolerated the complaints to witness all those fans being more focused on kids playing passionately than being preoccupied with the activities of an overpaid NFL quarterback. That's a good thing.

A PANTLEG BLUNDER

We all put on our pants one leg at a time. I've heard that all my life. I spent a day at the clinic going through a series of tests. My job was to take off my clothes, don a gown, be tested, take off my gown, put on my clothes and go to another waiting room. Repeat as necessary. After the last test, I was in a hurry to get home. I'd dumped the gown and put one leg into my pants when I discovered I'd put my leg into the wrong pantleg. We may all put on our pants one leg at a time, but not everyone puts them on correctly.

A PENNY TO PAY THE CLINIC

I picked up a penny near a gas pump.
"You're tall," said the guy at the

next pump.

I couldn't argue with him. My feet are far away.

"You could have hurt your back while picking up the penny. What are you going to do with a penny?"

I told him if that happened, the one-cent piece would go into the clinic's coffers.

"See a penny, pick it up. All day long you'll have good luck," I said before handing the coin to him and adding, "Give a penny to a friend and you'll have one cent less to spend."

He laughed and put the penny in his pocket.

WE USED THE VEGA AS A FREEZER UNTIL JUNE

Mom wanted a small car because it took too long for a big car to turn a corner. She got a Vega. During one of the blizzards of the century that we had several times each year, she became stuck at the end of her farm driveway. When the storm had subsided, she called her sons and we rode in like the cavalry. I don't know why she had cracked open a couple of windows. To give the snow shelter on a nasty night? The fierce wind filled the Vega with snow. By mid-June, we had the snow removed.

IN THE HEADLINES

Football team's offensive line passed their their classes because they were too big to fail.

Rollercoaster closes because of mountain goats.

Man gets salesman of the year award and immediately sells it to a coworker.

The potatoes resembled Hawkeye and Radar, so the Giz-zard of Oz Chicken Shack's cook made MASH potatoes.

Leak in the dairy case at the Food Crypt caused by hole milk.

NATURE NOTES

On average, January 23 is the coldest day of the year in much of the Northern Hemisphere. The warmest day of the year, on average, is July 24. A January thaw is defined as at least two straight days with temperatures above 32 degrees.

December and January are when great horned owl pairs engage in vigorous hooting while establishing territories and courting. They'll be incubating eggs by February. The breeding pair performs a duet of alternating calls, with the larger female's voice noticeably higher in pitch than the male's.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Mark Twain said, "I can live two months on one good compliment." Be kind.

Rustic cemeteries provide serene atmosphere

I was led to the idea of writing an article about "abandoned" cemeteries when county facilities manager Brian Tomford appeared before the Waseca County board of commissioners requesting their approval for a policy which specifies some of the expectations surrounding county-managed cemeteries.

What took me by the most surprise is that the county manages any cemeteries: I've always associated those with churches and cities. But as you will learn should you choose to read the article in next week's edition, state law specifies that if no one else is taking care of a historic burial site, its maintenance falls to the county. Thus, along with the county's buildings, parks, and other locations, Brian gets to oversee five cemeteries.

When I interviewed him, we had an interesting discussion regarding those five sites, including their size, location, state of upkeep, access, and much more. All that is summarized in the article.

What's not summarized is the colossal coincidence that occurred afterward.

I've mentioned in previous col-



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

umns that New Richland area resident Cindy Coy and I are "crazy," that is, we do crazy things together including volunteering to ring the bell for the Salvation Army this past December and helping hand out bargain-priced food at "Ruby's Pantry."

Mike, her partner of more than 40 years, was disastrously diagnosed with incurable cancer a few months ago. I have had repeated opportunities to admire the practical dignity and quiet grace with which Mike is facing what's to come.

During a recent conversation, I was sharing what stories I was in the process of writing for the newspaper. I mentioned the cemetery story and learned that Mike was one of those "rare" people requesting burial in one of the county-managed sites—

what are the chances?

After finding that out, I couldn't resist.

By the time of the conversation, I had already driven out to Freedom Free cemetery—after learning about the statue of the Civil War veteran there, I was anxious to see it. It's a remote place. At this time of year, rather a bleak place. Don't get me wrong, I didn't dislike it. I rather agree with the county's policy about preserving the "serene" environment. There was a rustic beauty that shone through even under the recent coating of snow.

But I was also aware there are plenty of people who would find it too remote, too rustic, and too unkempt for their tastes.

When I learned Mike has made the

New year, new semester, fresh feelings

The semester has officially started, and I have a feeling it's going to be an interesting one. I'm taking four classes this time: Multimedia Production and Storytelling, Intermediate News Reporting, Global Communications, and Intro to Social Psychology. They should be fun, considering they are all classes that really get into my major now that I'm done with all the general requirements and other classes outside my field.

On top of that, I will continue to work for the Minnesota Daily, the University's newspaper. I actually got promoted to Senior Reporter, but that just means I have to write more stories than everyone else. I'll be writing four stories every two weeks instead of only three. So basically just two stories a week; I know it doesn't sound like much, but that, along with everything else I do, may become challenging.

This semester, my goals are to try and keep from procrastinating when it comes to tasks at school and to be proactive when it comes



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

to my life, even outside of school. Last semester I found it very easy to scroll social media, watch TV, take naps, or find something unproductive to do when I didn't have any pressing work. But looking back, I wish I had done more work before coming up against the pressure of a deadline, worked ahead, made sure I not only understood everything, but given myself the time to genuinely reflect on it.

Besides being proactive in homework and school work, I want to feel as if I'm genuinely progressing in my life. Of course everyone needs time to rest and recuperate—mentally as well as physically—but there's so much I want to do to better myself, enjoy

life to the fullest. I live in the city, for goodness sake, I could go explore anywhere (to a limit). I could write short stories, or work on the novel I always wanted to write. I could start learning about things that interest me, not for a class, but just to broaden my knowledge.

Maybe I'll get to know my new roommates better. I still live in the same apartment, but two of my roommates (we have a four-bedroom apartment) are studying abroad this semester, and have "sub-let" their rooms while they're gone. I've met two girls a couple of times, seen them briefly in passing, but they seem super nice—which I'm incredibly thankful for. Bad roommates make for

an awful time, speaking from experience. Last semester one of our roommates brought up a few of her personal concerns which, although they seemed a bit extreme to us, we worked on changing so she could feel comfortable in the apartment. But that meant we felt like we were always walking on eggshells, worrying we would do something to upset her. Our apartment was spotlessly clean, but it made it feel cold and distant rather than homey and comfortable. But that is in the past.

It amazes me to realize a year ago at this time I was in Spain about to start my incredible journey studying abroad. I find myself fondly remembering my time there, even the mundane day-to-day chores or activities such as riding the bus to and from school. It was still an incredible time, and I would go back in a heartbeat. I do plan to go back, but that is for a day in the future.

My Determination: "If anybody's gonna take that beach down, it's gonna be me." — Stevie Griffin

■ SROC

from Page 1

switching to shorter maturity ratings until mid-June."

Also of considerable interest to area farmers, Hoverstad stated, was a brief summary Cerrudo shared about his own farming operation, which consists of about 250 acres in the Pampas region of Argentina. Hoverstad's presentation regard-

ing weed control was somewhat "introspective," given that he has been an ag scientist for more than 40 years.

The data and information he shared regarded herbicide resistance in various types of weeds statewide.

His conclusion was that efforts to control weeds must be flexible and responsive to local conditions. "Weeds can get around whatever we do," Hoverstad commented.

The research he summarized dealt with weed seeds collected from plants in 47 counties that had survived weed control efforts. The

weeds were grown in greenhouses, then treated with several common herbicides. He shared maps of the state showing where various plant types had acquired immunity to certain treatments.

Farmers interested in learning more about the research presented during Winter Crop Day can contact the Waseca SROC for more information. Presenters and topics were Jeff Vetsch, SROC nutrient management researcher covering "nitrogen rates for corn in southern Minnesota"; Melissa Wilson, U of M manure nutrient management specialist

providing a "manure research update-soil testing predictions and sugarbeets"; Dan Kaiser, U of M Extension nutrient management specialist describing "effects of sulfur sources and timing"; Anibal Cerrundo, visiting scientist, summarizing "U of M soybean management research"; Jeff Coulter, U of M Extension corn agronomist on the topic of "mid-season application of nitrogen and sulfur for corn production" and Hoverstad presenting "weed management in corn and soybeans."

Burger fry at American Legion Jan. 19 at 5:30 p.m. to benefit Waseca Choir

The Waseca Sons of American Legion will be holding a burger fry fundraiser at the Waseca American Legion for the High School Choir on Friday, January 19th 2024. We will be serving from 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet 8 p.m. January 22

The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting the annual Community Awards Banquet from 5 to 7:30 p.m. January 22 at Starfire Event Center. Cost is \$35 per person.

New Richland Library Sesame Street Party 3:30 p.m. Jan. 22

The New Richland Public library is hosting a Sesame Street Party for children ages 2-7, January 22 at 3:30. The party will feature games inspired by Sesame Street characters.

Waseca American Legion Adult Carnival 5 p.m. Jan. 26

An American Legion fundraiser set to begin at 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 26, will include beer and wine tasting, a "wine wall," games with prizes, and both a silent and a live auction. Food will include Philly cheesesteak, loaded fries, and more. For more information: 507-833-9935.

Farmamerica Winter Charm on the Farm 11 a.m. January 27

Family oriented Winter Charm on the Farm will be at Farmamerica from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Celebrate winter with carriage rides, snowshoeing, s'mores, hot chocolate, snow painting and more. Tickets can be purchased on Farmamerica's website. More information by calling 507-835-2052.

Waseca Area Caregiver Services Fundraiser 8 p.m. Jan.28

A fundraiser is being held to support veterans and underserved com-

munities is being hosted January 28 at the Waseca VFW by Waseca Area Caregiver Services. The fundraiser will be an All-You-Can-Eat breakfast with a bake sale, and music provided by Kozy. Breakfast is from 8 a.m. to 12 or while supplies last.

Sacred Heart open house Jan. 28 at 11 a.m.

Sacred Heart School and Children's House Montessori will host an open house on Sunday, January 28, 2024 from 11:00 am to Noon. Registration will be open for new and returning students for Kindergarten through 4th grade, as well as Pre-K and daycare. 308 West Elm Ave., Waseca. Call 507-835-2780 with any questions, or to arrange a school tour at a different time.

All faiths welcome!

3 on 3 basketball tournament April 6, 2024

The inaugural 3 on 3 Blair Nelson memorial basketball tournament will be held April 6, 2024 at Waseca high school. Games begin at 9 a.m. Divisions for grades 4th-8th and a high school division. Max of 6 players per team. Three point and free contests and other fun events will also take

place.

Shepherd's Robe Free store Tuesdays from 1-3 and 5-7 p.m.

The Shepherd's Robe free store offers clothing, supplies, and much more for free to all interested parties. The store is located at Vista Covenant Church, 14679 275th Avenue, New Richland.

Waldorf Veterans Memorial Fund Drive

Donations are requested to support the construction of the Waldorf Veterans Memorial. Checks written to WVMP Fund Drive can be mailed to WVMP Fund Drive; Judy Joecks, treasurer; P.O. Box 55; Waldorf, MN 56091. Questions can be directed to Charlie Barnes at (763) 286-2246.

Waseca County Stagecoach History

Judy Joecks is compiling a history of stagecoach routes in Waseca County. She would appreciate hearing from anyone who has information regarding stagecoach trails or stops. (507) 317-1345.



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

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GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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Waseca County Highway department bay.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

A quiet year for snow removal

Waseca area road maintenance share effects of low snow totals

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Waseca area road maintenance workers would likely argue they’ve earned a quiet year. According to figures compiled by county engineer Jim Kollar, the 2022-23 winter season was a “top five event,” dropping 72 inches of snow between October and April.

As of January 5, the current winter season had seen only 2 inches of snow. It had also seen the warmest December ever recorded in Minnesota, with numerous daily highs in the 50- and even 60-degree range.

That didn’t mean, however, that road crews for the city and county of Waseca had nothing to do.

Tim Roessler, the city’s deputy director of public works, explains that warm weather months tend to be dominated by road repair and maintenance projects and winter months by being sure roads are passable and snow is removed. Given the demands of those two sets of tasks, the more “invisible” jobs often do not get the attention they deserve.

In the case of the city, says Roessler, “This extra time was much needed.”

In December, he explains, city crews concentrated on clearing sand and debris from city storm sewer outlets, as well as cutting brush from city ditches where water flowing from road surfaces is drained. City sanitary sewers also received some attention—a cleaning task which requires a crew of three.

Roessler explains that, just as there are about 50 miles of streets within the city of Waseca, there are 50 miles of sanitary sewer with pipes ranging from 6 to 48 inches in diameter that need routine cleaning. The storm sewer system, with varying pipe sizes, also requires cleaning due to sand, litter, grass clippings, leaves, sticks, and more being washed down storm drains and can interfere with smooth drainage. Ideally, he says, the full system would get a thorough cleaning each spring and fall. This fall, anyway, time allowed for exactly that.

The city has 10 employees on hand to take care of public works tasks; instead of driving plows and snow removal trucks for the past two months—as they might have been in a different kind of year—they have been catching up on the less immediately demanding tasks.

According to county engineer Jim Kollar and county highway maintenance supervisor Jared Krassin, the county’s 11 snow plow drivers have also not seen much time on the road—“Yet.”

That is, unless you count the “catch-up” work they have been doing to take advantage of the warm weather. Krassin explains that crews have—at least temporarily—traded their steering wheels for chainsaws, clearing brush and trees from alongside roads in the county highway right-of-ways. In addition to other projects, crews and equipment have opened up the line of sight along about 10 miles of the “Snake Trail,” a much-used road leading northeast from Clear Lake. Removal of brush and trees, Krassin explains, allows for better vision around curves, helps drivers see deer or other wildlife more quickly, and reduces the amount of drifting snow which might collect on the roadway.

Up through January 6, city and county highway crews have used barely any sand or salt and have not required any overtime hours of their workers this season, but apparently Roessler, Kollar and

Krassin have seen too many winters to be optimistic.

“We’re constantly watching the weather,” says Roessler, who explains that, although snow removal equipment owned by the city and county may look very similar, there are important differences in their priorities.

“For the city, the objective is to get the snow removed before it’s packed down,” Roessler emphasizes. “We target the end of the storm, then get out there as quickly as we can, day or night.”

A major objective of the speed, he clarifies, is to keep the snow from getting packed down by traffic.

The first task, he says, is to clear snow in the downtown area; snow from driving and parking lanes is pushed into windrows in the center of the street, then removed.

The next task is to plow residential streets and city-maintained parking lots. Once snow is off the driving lanes, intersections, hills and curves are treated with salt. As an aside, Roessler mentions that the city uses only salt, since any sand tends to collect in storm drains. In the case of snowfalls which last for days, there may be a need to plow a second time.

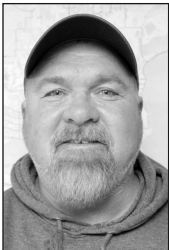
As soon as possible, crews come with loading equipment and trucks to remove the windrowed snow to designated storage areas. One of the city’s most visible storage sites is the open lot east of the intermediate school, along the road leading to Walmart from the south. About equal in size to a city block, that location and three others were filled to capacity during the winter of 2022-23.

Perhaps one of the greatest obstacles snow removal crews face, Roessler says, are parked cars and trash receptacles left standing in the roadway, despite city ordinances which make it clear they should not be. Roessler describes it as a matter of civic concern—everyone wants clear, safe roads after a snowfall, so everyone should help make that possible by allowing crews to do their work. According to Kollar and Krassin, they, too, are always watching for the next “snow event.” Their chief objective, though, is simply to be sure equipment is prepared and drivers know what will be expected of them.

Given the forecast for snow over the weekend, Krassin said on Friday that, “before everyone leaves today, trucks will be loaded and sanders will be ready for use.”

Although Kollar and Krassin observe repeatedly that “every snow event is different,” county policy regards 2 inches of snow as a “plowable” event. To check conditions, Krassin frequently drives various county roads himself, while also checking with county deputies who “are out there in all kinds of conditions.”

Depending on the timing of a snowfall, Kollar says, county



Roessler



Kollar



Krassin

Training as Ag specialist, communicator, leads to 20 books in retirement

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

Ron Eustice, a Waseca area resident in his youth, has written twenty books based on his experience in agriculture and his work with Minnesota farmers. Currently, he’s also working on an autobiography with the working title, “Around the World in Eighty Years” which he anticipates he will publish within a year on Amazon.

While he has written his books only since retiring in 2012, his first writing efforts began in grade school and high school. When he was a journalism student at the University of Minnesota in the 1960s, Eustice wrote feature articles for national and regional cattle magazines.

He says those early opportunities helped him acquire experience and confidence in publishing, allowing him to continue as a writer throughout his career. Once out of the university, he began working for the Carnation company in the early 1970s. Sent to help producers in Mexico as they took on artificial insemination (AI), he developed Carnation’s AI program in Mexico, complete with a training manual in Spanish—one of the first technical manuals for the topic of AI in that language. Carnation ended up using it both in its international and in some domestic training efforts.

Also during the 1970s, Eustice wrote several articles for the Eustace Families Post which was based in London, England.

“It actually began as a Christmas letter by a namesake in London; he sent it out,” Eustice said. “His name was Donald Eustace.” The name is spelled differently and comes from a completely different family line, but is pronounced the same.

In 1993, he became an editor of the Eustace Families Post, which reached its fiftieth year in 2023. Its publication has extended to Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, and the United Kingdom. It publishes twice a year.

Sent to Indonesia from 1987-1990, Eustice worked with Land ‘O Lakes and developed a dairy management program for the native people. A local woman helped translate material into that native language since he hadn’t learned it yet. But while he lived there with his wife Margaret and their three young children, all family members became fluent in Indonesian.

During his spare time there, Eustice wrote about the history of his mother’s side of the family in a book called “The Perrons of the French-Canadian Pioneers of Minnesota” which ended up being over 500 pages with 300 photographs. Beginning in the 1970s and into the 1980s, Eustice researched his entire genealogy as far back as the 1600s. He printed more than 400 copies of the book, not anticipating just how popular

it would become: It sold out almost immediately.

He finished writing the book while his computer skills were limited, not just because of where he was living but since computers were not as common as they are now. The original text of the book filled twenty notebooks which he sent along with family photographs he had brought from Minnesota, to a printing press in West St. Paul called Sexton Printing. Someone in the family had recommended the business to Eustice, who deemed them as “excellent to work with.”

Upon the Eustices’ return to Minnesota, the Minnesota Beef Promotion and Research Council appointed Eustice as executive director in 1990. Eustice served there until his retirement in 2012. During that time, he wrote hundreds of articles and press releases which were published in local newspapers and national magazines.

“Even though they were of a technical nature, they gave me a lot of writing experience,” Eustice said.

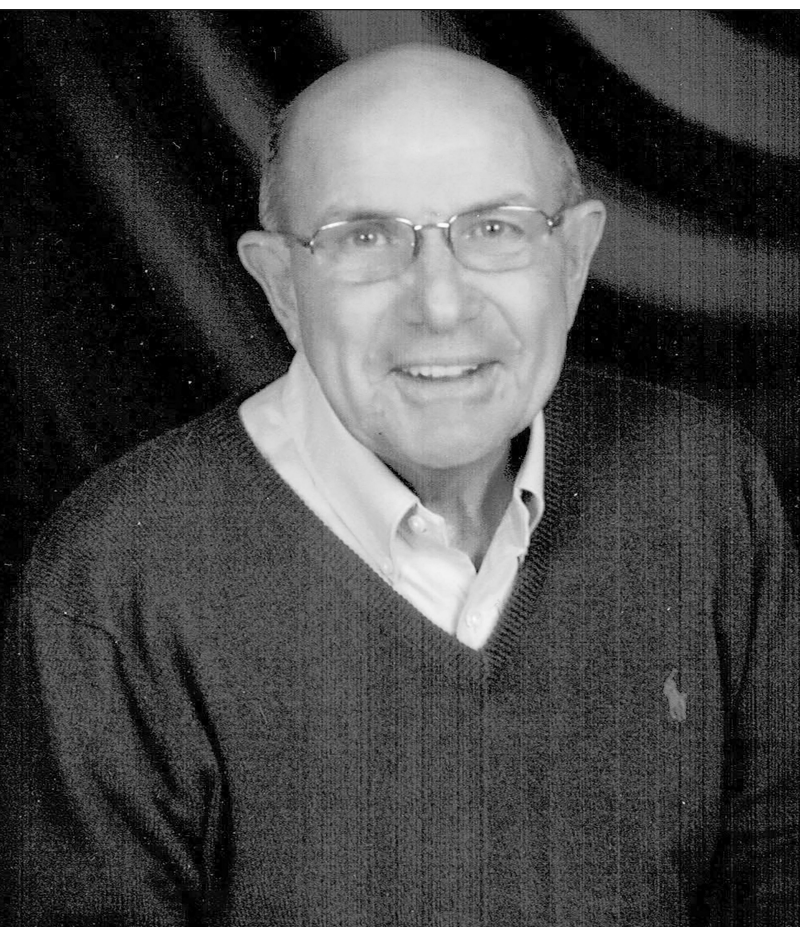
These experiences led him to write the book he titled “They Saw Red!” which was about Holstein cattle with the uncommon gene for red hair. In high school, he was involved with the Red and White Dairy Cattle Association, a group founded to salvage red and white calves that were born into black and white dairy Holstein cattle families. The Holstein Breed Association mandated that any cows eligible to be registered in their herd book had to be black and white. The requirement went back into the 1880s.

“That was the only reason,” Eustice said. At the time, The Holstein Association and everyone else didn’t understand how certain cattle breeds could be prone to “off color” offspring. Like occasional Holsteins, some Angus cattle are also born with red hair and are, or at least were, regarded as defective.

Despite the unpopular opinion about red-and-white Holsteins, Eustice decided to invest in them as a college freshman in 1964. He enjoyed all animals and expressed how sorry he felt for these Holsteins who were from outstanding parentage but considered “lost.” Prominent Holstein enthusiasts opposed his stance and warned him his reputation would be damaged.

“Of course, I completely ignored them,” Eustice added. “And I went out of my way to prove how red and white Holsteins could be as much in demand as the black and white Holsteins, even though there was really no difference in production. Now almost every dairy farmer wants a few red and white Holsteins.”

In 2004, the Red and White Dairy Cattle Association asked Eustice to jot down his recollections as the red and white dairy cattle were being estab-



Ronald Eustice

lished. This was for the association’s fiftieth anniversary. Eustice began composing a book and was told to stop at 85 pages, since there was not financing to print anything longer. When he told the association he had much more to say, the group suggested he write an additional book.

The title held a double meaning since “They Saw Red!” refers both to the color of the cattle and the alarmed and unhappy reaction breeders felt when red and white calves were born. Since Holsteins were supposed to be black, owners originally either euthanized or sold red calves out of a worry they would damage herd genetics.

Since that first venture, Eustice has written more than twenty books. One that focuses on the Waseca area is titled “Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association Hall of Fame,” and has been divided into two volumes. For the books, Eustice researched the stories of about 200 living and deceased men and women who have been inducted into that association hall of fame since 1934.

Among the individuals Eustice included was Bob Hodgson, first superintendent of the University of Minnesota Southern School of Agriculture, which operated in Waseca from 1971 to 1992; also selected were Dr. Ed Fredericks, J.C. Marlow from Mankato, and quite a few others from Steele County. These autobiographies, with photographs, can be found in Haacker Hall at the University of Minnesota on the St. Paul campus.

Eustice is also among those named to the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Hall of Fame, which is part of the reason he started writing his own autobiography. Inseparable from his own story, he says, is that of his wife Margaret, who shared in many of his travels, including their extensive stay in Indonesia, which he called “life changing.” He remembers being amazed by

the stone monuments there, and by how many centuries ago they had been raised. He was deeply impressed by the talents of stone sculptors in the region.

He starts the autobiography with detailed chapters about what it was like growing up in Waseca during the late 1940s and 1950s on a family farm with no running water or television. At the time, his family’s property was the only one in the vicinity with electricity. He mentions what it was like to farm with horses and shares his experience attending a one-room schoolhouse through the eighth grade with 26 other students and just one teacher. The family’s drinking water came from a water pail with a dipper.

“We learned a lot,” Eustice commented. “I would say I was well prepared for high school at the end of those eight years.”

His autobiography will also share information about a church in Steele County’s Deerfield township called Corpus Christi, the church he attended much of his life but now no longer holds regular services. He’s also written about his cousin Donald Eustice, who was a sheriff in Waseca but was killed in active duty in the 1970s.

In his autobiography, Eustice recounts how he met Margaret – through the International Farm Youth Exchange program. Margaret was an international delegate in Uganda, Africa, but her stay was cut short when the government was overthrown and a totalitarian regime was established. The autobiography will cover some of those early years and how they led into other international travels.

Though Eustice’s life is impressive, he remains hopeful and humble.

“I wish I could do more, and hopefully I have more time to do just that,” he said.

■ Grinnell

from Page 1

put her Sartell home on the market.

With the decision made, she added, “I began seeing these miracles.”

One was a near accident when Grinnell was forced to come to a sudden stop even though a semi was close behind her. With the roadway blocked in front of her, she saw no openings and had to slam on her brakes. To a level that seemed to defy physics, the semi stopped “on a dime” without hitting her vehicle.

“When you realize those things in life are God’s protection, it’s good to thank him,” Grinnell said. When her kids get sick, they ask her to pray for them and she does so while also laying her hands on them. It usually doesn’t take long for them to feel better.

“Most of the time God heals them instantly or in minutes,” Grinnell said. “We see God’s miracles weekly in our lives and those around us.”

With all this said, she said when God laid it on her heart to do something, she believed she needed to follow it. Such was the case with selling her house. When she asked her children what they thought, she found them surprisingly receptive. Faith asked Grinnell if they could design their dream home; when Grinnell approved, she began to see how the creativity flowed. Faith sketched a home that looked like a mansion with big commercial windows and tall ceilings. Originally, Grinnell expressed amusement, questioning

how Faith believed her mom could find such a house on a youth worker’s salary.

The day Grinnell put her house on the market, she received a full-price offer.

“I was like, ‘Uh-oh – God wants us to move,’” Grinnell recalled, then laughed.

While she waited for her house to close, she was looking for land with five acres in the Sartell area, but found nothing that seemed to suit what the “nudge” was asking for. For the short term, the family moved to the tiny town of Alberta, Minn., two hours away, where Grinnell owned a \$10,000 tax-forfeited house she had purchased two years before.

“While I drove out there, I had a long talk with God and we had this beautiful relationship,” she said. During that conversation, she describes hearing God telling her that he would restore her and make all things new as she fixed this dilapidated property which her children came to call “the flipper house.”

Two weeks before her house closed, she found the Waldorf school.

“It was everything,” Grinnell said, sounding amazed and listing off all the dream elements the building offered.

What became even crazier was it reflected her kids’ drawings of what they wanted in a house.

“God stepped in for my children and became their father and supported them with unconditional love. He provided a way for them,” Grinnell said.

Remarkable “coincidences” continued. When Grinnell put in an offer for \$140,000 for the Waldorf school,

the realtor told her he had begun receiving other offers, even though none had been received for the 264 days since the building was first listed.

Grinnell began prayerful conversations with God to let him know she would move with his will. She verbally increased her offer to the full price; the realtor responded he wanted to work only with her offer. Ultimately, he accepted the original amount of \$140,000.

Even though Grinnell had sold her home in Sartell, the family could not move into the Waldorf building until May 4 of 2023, since it couldn’t be properly heated. Family members remained in Alberta for two months while they began moving small loads of their possessions to Waldorf.

“I’m just cool with the basics,” Grinnell said. “But God told me, ‘No – we’re going big!’”

Mentioning that the school building had received some attention and upgrades because Mayor Rob Wilkening and community members hoped the building might again be used for education, Grinnell said, “A lot of people got their heart broken, but it wasn’t all for nothing.”

“I’ve been finding out that a lot of people in this community have been praying for something. I’m not saying that me and my kids are God and that we’re going to save the world. I’m just saying that God has sent us here with a purpose and it’s greater than who we are.”

Because Grinnell feels a strong conviction that God has gifted her with her house and is supplying all her needs, her heart has opened to give back. She says her desire lies within a circle of love and so she is

trying to respond to community interests.

She has named her ventures “House of Restoration.”

While her thrift store has signs about prices for her clothes, she says she will accept donations of any amount as payment. The same goes for the nutritional drinks and muffins in her coffee space. She has discovered how ozone water can purify a person’s body just as an ozone machine can purify the air. She offers both bottled water and various flavored powder mixes. She has made some other discoveries regarding potential health effects from magnesium.

Ultimately, she believes that plays a part in how the community will heal.

In keeping with her plan of engaging with the community, Grinnell has frequent evening events, all beginning at 6 p.m. Mondays are Recovery Meetings in the coffeehouse. Tuesdays are movie nights in the gym. Thursdays are Bible studies, again in the coffeehouse. Fridays are for worship at 7 p.m. Grinnell also offers a concession stand for snacks and drinks and for both adults and children to enjoy.

Bio Scans will arrive in February and Grinnell hopes to be able to offer additional food items in the near future and other events. There will be an “air bed and breakfast” opening in the House of Restoration starting in the spring and the community will be able to rent a classroom and gym for personal use.

If anyone would like to donate to Grinnell’s ministry, they may do so in person or through cash apps under HouseOfRestoration.

Highways continued on 7

OBITUARIES

Gerald Rietfort

GERALD ROGER “JERRY” RIETFORT, age 85 of Reeds Lake, died at his home on Friday, January 12, 2024.

Jerry was born in Waseca on June 30, 1938, to parents John and Esther (Praxl) Rietfort. He attended school in Waseca before serving with the US Army where he was stationed both in Korea and at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. On May 11, 1962, Jerry was married to Patricia Fitzpatrick in his parents’ living room. Together they made their home in Waseca and raised three children before moving to their home on Reeds Lake in 1977. He moonlighted for a time at Herter’s while working at the E.F. Johnson Company where he was employed for over 40 years. At the time of his job interview, Edgar Johnson wrote on his application: “Nice hometown boy. Let’s give him a chance”. That thought proved to be wise, as at the time of his retirement Jerry had been promoted all the way to becoming Facilities Manager and the Manager of Plant Engineering. Jerry was a lifelong overachiever whose affinity for blueberry pie will remain forever unmatched. He enjoyed woodworking, hunting, fishing, trapshooting, small-bore and high-powered target shooting, and was a long-time member of St. John Lutheran Church, the Waseca American Legion, and the Waseca and Faribault Sportsman’s Clubs.

Jerry is survived by two children, Kevin Rietfort of Waseca and Kerry (Matt) McGuire both of Waseca; two grandsons who were



Gerald Rietfort

the twinkle in his eye, Kevin and Kyle McGuire; a brother-in-law, James Fitzpatrick of Reeds Lake; and numerous nieces; nephews; cousins; and friends. He was preceded in death by both of his parents; his wife Patricia; a daughter, Korrinne; two brothers, Dwayne (Marlene) Rietfort and Jack (Janet) Rietfort; and siblings-in-law, Gerald and Nancy Yetter and Gigi Fitzpatrick.

Visitation was held from 4-7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca and continued for one hour before the service at the church on Wednesday.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca, with Rev. Kristen Venne officiating. Interment followed at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca. dsfuneral.com

Brian Sommers

Brian Chester Sommers, 35 years, 6 months and 17 days old, of Waseca, Minnesota passed away as a result of injuries sustained in a work accident on January 9th, 2024.

Brian was born on June 23rd, 1988, to Mark Sommers and Rebecca (Bartelt) Sommers in Waseca, MN. He was raised on his family’s dairy farm alongside his two older brothers (Brandon and Matthew) and one younger sister (Mindy).

He enjoyed playing sports, especially football and wrestling. He currently holds the Waseca High School record for the fastest pin. Brian was a senior captain for both football and wrestling. If not on the practice field or wrestling room for his own practices, you could often find him there guiding the youth wrestlers during their club practices. He was involved in YSL, 4-H, FFA and anything related to farming. Brian graduated with the Class of 2007 from Waseca High School.

Brian attended Ridgewater College in Willmar, MN, for Dairy Management and graduated in 2009. While he was at college he worked at the Schueler’s dairy farm, Deer-view Dairy LLLP. He then returned home to work on the dairy farm with his dad and brother, which included purchasing his own cows. Brian and his brother Matthew started Sommers Brothers Custom Baling LLC in 2006, specializing in large square baling for customers in Waseca County and its surrounding counties. He acted as the customer’s first point of contact and was the face in the tractor. His wife and four children could often be found tagging along with him.

Brian met the love of his life, Kirsten Muotka in Kindergarten. They were united in marriage on February 21st, 2015, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca and were married for 8 years, 10 months and 19 days, but were a couple for 16 years, 6 months and 5 days total. His wife, Kirsten, and their four children, Owen, Caden, Evelyn and Jameson, were his entire world. They meant absolutely everything to him and made him so proud.

Brian and Kirsten spent countless hours with their kids in the 4-H and Open Class dairy show ring showing their beloved dairy cows. They were especially proud of their dairy heifers Hazel and Ruby, who they purchased together to start a show herd for their children.

Brian was a 4-H volunteer with a love and passion for dairy cows. At the Waseca County Fair, he was more than happy to share his knowledge about fitting a cow for the show and showing them in the show ring.

If not baling, milking cows or breaking heifers with his children, you could find him playing catch with them and the neighbors’ children. He was the designated “all-time quarterback.” They practiced the plays and routes until they ran them the right way. For an unknown reason, the grass in the Sommers’ yard and their next-door neighbor’s yard grew the best — even though it was trampled on day and night by Brian and the neighborhood kids.

Brian shared his passion for football and wrestling by coaching Owen’s and Caden’s youth football teams during the last couple of seasons. He also assisted in the wrestling room by helping the young wrestlers to perfect their wrestling moves and encouraging them to never give up. Brian claimed he did not know a thing about hockey but would be the first to offer Evelyn advice after her games. He was always teaching Jameson about his older siblings’ activities.

Beginning in 2012, he became involved with the Waseca County American Dairy Association. He had held various leadership positions, including those of director and since 2014, co-treasurer. While he was proud of the positions he held, he knew the bookwork the treasurer position required was best left in the hands of his wife. Brian most recently joined the Waseca Wrestling Club Board and was working diligently on bringing back the “Fastest Pin” award to the youth tournament in February. Brian was often found volunteering anywhere you needed help; he was your guy.

Flowers and Christmas lights brought him joy, and he would place them everywhere around the home and yard. Around the holiday season, Brian took great pleasure in putting up as many lights as possible on his house, in his trees and in his yard for anyone who saw them to enjoy. There were never enough lights for Brian.

He preferred country music to any other type of music but would jam out and sing to anything the kids wanted to listen to in the tractor or the vehicle. Red tractors were Brian’s way to go. “If it ain’t red, leave it in the shed.”

Brian was a self-employed dairy



Brian Sommers

farmer for the majority of his life until April of 2022. After the herd was sold, he worked at Berry Pallets in Waseca until July of 2023. He most recently worked for the Waseca County Highway Department and was proud to obtain his CDL and drive the plow truck.

Brian is survived by his wife, Kirsten (Muotka) Sommers; children: Owen (11.83 years old), Caden (9.08 years old), Evelyn (9 days shy of 7 years old) and Jameson (2.92 years old); parents: Mark Sommers and Rebecca Sommers (special friend Matthew Harguth); siblings: Brandon (Kelly) Sommers and their children Carter and Ivy, Matthew (Nicole) Sommers and their children Danielle and Henry, and Mindy (Scott) Jewison and their children Eleanor and Lucille; In-laws: parents-in-law, Timothy and Vicki Muotka, sisters-in-law, Allison (Jeremiah Laughlin) Muotka, Haley

(Trey Zahradka) Muotka and Made-line Muotka, grandmother-in-law Dianne Johnson. He is also survived by many other beloved relatives and friends.

Brian is preceded in death by his paternal grandparents Marvin and Dolores Sommers, maternal grandparents James (Pa) Bartelt and Dianne Bartelt, grandparents-in-law Marvin Muotka, Gwendolyn Muotka and Nestor Johnson, aunt Pamela Vaughan, aunts-in-law Cynthia Muotka and Karen Johnson and cousin Nicholas Bartelt.

Visitation was Sunday, January 14, 2:00 PM-6:00 PM, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca, MN. Funeral service were Monday, January 15, 11:00 AM at Sacred Heart Church, Waseca, MN. Arrangements are by the Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service, Waseca Minnesota. dsfuneral.com

Winifred Swenson

WINIFRED T. SWENSON, age 93 of Waseca died on the evening of Friday, January 12, 2024, at Foxdale in Waseca.

Born on July 8, 1930, in Waseca, Minnesota, she was the daughter of Oliver and Mary (Speck) Stendel. She attended school in Owatonna. Winnie married Clayton Halverson on August 31, 1948, and together shared 24 years of marriage before Clayton passed away on July 12, 1973. On December 20, 1975, Winnie was united in marriage to Marvin Swenson in Otisco and they shared 39 years of marriage before Marvin passed away on January 12, 2015.

Winnie began her working career at Federated Insurance and Jostens in Owatonna before owning and operating the Halverson Market and later the Otisco Store and Locker alongside her husband, Clayton. After they sold the store in Otisco, Winnie began a 22-year career with Brown Printing. She enjoyed sewing, gardening, baking and upholstery. She was a member of St. Peter Lutheran Church in Otisco, the VFW and American Legion Auxiliaries, and the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

She is survived by three children, Thomas (Twyla) Halverson of Fergus Falls, Mary Jo (Dwayne) Abbe of Rio Verde, AZ, and Nancy Halverson (Glenn Sigmon) of Burnsville; three grandchildren, Kim (Tony) Kilgore of Joplin, MO, Chris (Robin) Abbe of Fer-



Winifred Swenson

nandina Beach, FL, and Wendy Halverson of Owatonna; five great grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; both husbands; and brother, Rodney Stendel and his wife, Janice.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, January 16, 2023, at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Meriden with Pastor Scott Williams officiating. Burial followed at St. Paul’s Lutheran Cemetery in Meriden. Visitation was held one hour before services at the church on Tuesday.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to St. Croix Hospice or St. Peter Lutheran Church in Otisco. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca is handling the arrangements. dsfuneral.com

Ileen Rieck

ILEEN LOIS RIECK, age 89, of Waseca, died on Sunday, January 14, 2024, at Timberdale Trace Memory Care in Owatonna.

Born on October 9, 1934, in Waseca, she was born to Walter and Gertrude (Scholljegerdes) Voss. Ileen attended Steele County country school and Owatonna High School. On January 10, 1953, Ileen was united in marriage to Henry Rieck at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Meriden. Together they made their home on the farm where they raised seven children. Ileen worked alongside her husband throughout her life on their dairy farm until they sold their cows in 1987. Then they crop farmed until their retirement. Together they shared their love of roller-skating, square dancing, attending state and county fairs, and playing games, especially cards. In retirement they enjoyed traveling to visit friends and family, going on farm tours, and wintering in Arizona. Ileen and Henry shared 61 years of marriage before Henry passed away in 2014.

Ileen was a faithful member of St.

Paul’s Lutheran Church of Meriden where she was their passionate leader of Sew Happy Quilters for over 20 years and was active with Hope Circle. She was an involved mom of the Woodville Hustlers 4-H Club, and her Happy Hour Club (never anything stronger than coffee) which she enjoyed for 60 years. Ileen enjoyed quilting, sewing, gardening, cooking, baking, and reading and collecting recipes. She loved to read how-to books and magazines of various topics and share articles with her children and grandchildren. Above all else, Ileen loved children and holding babies. She cherished her time spent with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Ileen is survived by her children: Perry (Cindy) Rieck of Waseca, Julie (Doug) Bartelt of Waseca, Valerie (Robert) Bartelt of Ellendale, Melonie Rieck of Anchorage, Alaska, Betty (Joel) Weber of Waseca, Casey (Valerie) Rieck of Stewartville, and Christie (Bill) Hayes of Shakopee; grandchildren: Thom (Katie) Rieck, Katherine Rieck, Sam (Janet) Bartelt, Steph Bartelt, Noah (Tracy) Bartelt, Neil Bartelt, Janelle (Corey Schoemaker) Bartelt, Michael (Jennifer)

Bartelt, Jon (Kristine) Weber, Melissa Gilmore, Christopher (Kristin) Weber, Megan (James) Flintrop, Michael Miller, Sarah (San) Syhak-houn, Charlie Hayes, and Courtney (Tim) Burton; great grandchildren: Luke, Leah, Ella, Brooke, Claire, Olivia, Violet, Bradley, Camdyn, Adelynn, Elijah, Ezekiel, Emma, Adrian, Henry, Emery, Wallace, Eileen, Leo, Joseph, Celia, Briony, and Gwen; sister June Voss Hanson of Owatonna; other relatives and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband; grandsons Howie Hayes and Nicholas Bartelt; five great grandsons; sister and brother-in-law Lois and Donald Sotebeer; son-in-law Tom Fondell; sister-in-law and brother-in-law Lillian and Loren Abbe; and nephew Randy Abbe.

Visitation was from 4:00 – 7:00 PM on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral & Cremation Service. Visitation continued for one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday.

Funeral Service is 11:00 AM on Friday, January 19, 2024, at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Meriden



Ileen Rieck

with Pastor Billy Jo Wicks, officiating. Burial will follow at the church cemetery.

Memorials are preferred to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church of Meriden or charity of donors choice.

Ileen’s family would like to extend a special thank you to Ecumen Hospice and the staff at Timberdale Trace for the wonderful care their mother received. DSOFuneral.com



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Waseca Archives

100 Years - 1924

• Jolting Waseca people out of any idea of an open winter for this year, snow began falling Saturday of last week and was accompanied by a high wind that brought the temperature down to below-zero figures. New Year's Day found thermometers registering as low as 20 degrees under zero.

• Miss Bernice Geraghty, who attends the Mankato Normal, and sister, Miss Mildred, who attends Good Shepherd Academy in Mankato, are spending a vacation at their parental home, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Geraghty.

• The following were entertained at the August Schroeder home Wednesday evening: Mr. and Mrs. George Habeck, son Lowell, Margaret, Ben, Herbert and Otto Habeck, Clara and Charles Bleck and the Misses Ruth Bartelt and Ada Schnoor. A very delightful evening was spent.

• Miss B. Maloney, who teaches in the Lynhurst school in Minneapolis, is spending her two weeks' holiday vacation with her mother at the home of her brother, V.A. Maloney in this city.

• Clem Moran returned to Minneapolis where he is employed after spending Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C.T. Moran in this city.

• Mr. and Mrs. John Krassin and Hazel Grundwald, Mr. and Mrs. Art Krassin and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Krassin spent last Monday evening at the Roy Krassin home.

• Wm. Wilkowski, living about seven miles east of Waseca, brought in a chunk of coal weighing several pounds which he found in a gravel pit on his farm at a depth of 15 feet, and it is now on display at the Farmers National Bank.

75 Years - 1949

• The largest number of young people ever to take the marital jump was recorded in Waseca county during 1948. Clerk of court, Frank S. Papke, disclosed today that the 144 marriage license applications topped the previous high of 1941 when 140 were issued.

• Norman (Pinky) Neidt purchased Max Thompson's half interest in the Highway 14 Standard station. Neidt is now a partner of Gordon Engel. He worked in the station for the past year.

• Mr. and Mrs. Theo Mittelsteadt entertained New Year's day dinner for Mrs. Wm. Roemhildt and daughters, Hattie and Vera and their house guest, Mrs. Lydia Divine, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Born and son, Larry, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Mittelsteadt and Linda Jo.

• Mrs. Ervin Wobschall of Ellendale came Friday and visited until Monday with her mother, Mrs. R.J. Brouwer and with her son, Alvin, who left on Monday for Fort Riley, Kansas, to take his basic training. He enlisted in the army for three years.

• Mr. and Mrs. Steve McShane, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Splett, Lucille and Leo Splett and Mr. and Mrs. Zeno Hammet of Janesville were guests at the Steve McShane, Jr. home Sunday after New Year's.

• Miss Ruth and Olive Esping returned to their teaching duties after spending the Christmas vacation with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Esping.

50 Years - 1974

• The villages of Waldorf, Janesville and New Richland no longer exist in Waseca County. They are now known as cities. On New Year's Day all villages in the state officially became known as cities.

• The rumor that Wasecans could be paying over 50 cents a gallon for gas by the end of January is not so far from true according to a survey made by the JOURNAL this morning. The days of gas for 32 cents a gallon look like they are gone forever as stations in the city charge anywhere from 43 cents to 52 cents a gallon.

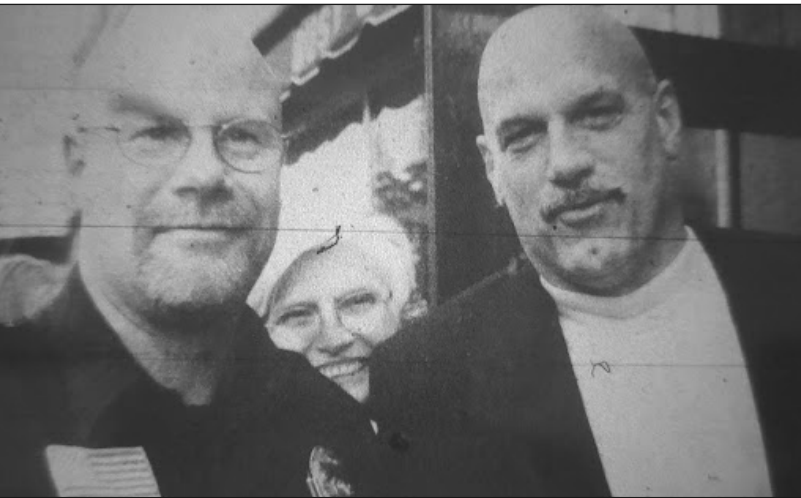
• Year-round daylight saving time will go into effect in almost all parts of the United States Sunday as part of President Nixon's energy-conservation program. It will be the first time the nation has been on year-round daylight time since World War II. All but two states--Indiana and Hawaii--apparently will set their clocks ahead one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday.

• Ground breaking ceremonies were held this morning which marked the beginning of construction on Phase One of Waseca Memorial Hospital construction. Participating in the ground breaking ceremony were Robert Chaffin, president of the hospital advisory board; Carl Swanson, Waseca mayor and Herb Hokanson, county commissioner.

• Plans for the annual Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Festival have all but diminished for 1974 with the exception of a parade committee that is desperately struggling to keep the historic event alive.

25 Years - 1999

• Driving on Minnesota roads has just become more difficult for teenagers in the state. A new law went into effect Friday that requires teenagers to have a clean driving record for full license privileges before age 18. The three-tire licensing system will also require drivers under 18 to spend 30 hours driving with the supervision of a licensed driver 21 or older.



Waseca Co. Sheriff-elect Tim Dann, and then Governor-elect Jesse Ventura met outside the Busy Bee Café during Ventura's stop in Waseca on Dec. 17.

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

Argus Archives

50 years ago - 1973

-Marv Schubbe, elementary principal at St. Clair High School, has been named one of seven regional directors for the state Right to Read Program. The appointment was made this past week by Dr. Hugh Schoephoerster, Minnesota Right to Read Director.

-Two members of the Golden Valley Lutheran College football team were selected for the All-Conference Team of the Northern Division of the Minnesota Junior College Athletic Association. Larry Kroeger, sophomore from Janesville, was selected for offensive end position, and Phil Archer, freshman from St. Paul and graduate of Concordia Academy, was selected as linebacker. Archer was the team’s leading tackler for eight consecutive games.

-County Commissioner Reinhard Guse announced the appointment of two local people to country boards this past week. They are Charlie Born and Mrs. Kenneth Johansen. Born, a resident of Janesville Township, was named to the Waseca County Extension Committee. Mrs. Johansen was appointed to the Waseca County Nursing Committee. As a member of this committee, she will help supervise the work of the two county health nurses, Mrs. Lundquist and Mrs. Roesler.’

25 years ago - 1998

-A Smiths Mill woman has created an award-winning quilt. Janet Barry is one of five national winners in the 1998 “Homespun Heart” quilt contest sponsored by Fabri Centers of America and co-sponsored by Mountain Mist. Barry learned of the contest through her employment at Jo-Ann Fabrics and Crafts of Mankato, where she has worked for the past four years.

-Are you looking for a place to store the boat this winter or maybe you have just run out of closet and garage space? Bob and Jan Prail have the answer for you with their newly built mini-storage units located on E. Second St., Janesville. Prail’s Mini-Storage features a total of 24 stalls which include the following stall sizes; 5x10, 10x10, 10x15, and 10x20.

-If close games make a team tournament tested, the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton boys’ basketball team is ready for section play right now. The undefeated Bulldogs successfully defended their Mankato East Holiday tournament championship with a pair of one-point victories in the final rounds. After trouncing Delano in the opening round, the Bulldogs squared off against Mankato East in the semifinal. JWP, which defeated East by one point in last year’s title game, jumped out to a big first-half lead and held off a determined second half comeback by the Cougars to earn a 59-58 victory. A talented Worthington crew stood in the way of JWP’s second straight holiday championship Tuesday. JWP outscored the Trojans 23-7 in the final quarter with a miraculous comeback, and eked out a 57-56 victory in overtime.

-“Things like this aren’t just about us (members of the rescue squad), but we are fortunate to play a small part (in saving lives),” said Bruce Manthe, assistant rescue chief. On Thursday, Nov. 6, six members of the Janesville Fire Department/Rescue Squad responded to an emergency medical call at Trinity Lutheran School, saving the life of Christ Erickson, eighth grade student at Trinity Lutheran School.

-Scott Roemhildt of rural Janesville had a pleasant surprise on Sunday despite the cold temperatures. Scott was the top winner at the Smith Mill-Janesville Sportsmen’s Club Fishing Contest held at Lakeview Park.

-Janesville residents can surf the “net” at the library. Access to the internet is now available at the Janesville Public Library thanks to a donation from the Janesville Rotary Club. The Rotary Club donated funds for the library to purchase a computer and printer. “We are just elated the Rotary donated the money,” said Kathy Groh, librarian.

-Trinity Lutheran School, Janesville, recently received \$5,300 from Lutheran Brotherhood through the Member Matching Gift program. The latest payment matches 53 gifts from Lutheran Brotherhood members made during the fourth quarter of 1997.

■ Highway from Page 3

plows go out around 5 a.m. at the earliest. “We don’t have the manpower and resources to plow around the clock,” he says, mentioning that plows travel between 20 and 30 miles an hour and the county main-

tains nearly 400 miles of road which, because of the need to plow in both directions, amount to roughly 800 “lane miles.”

Besides that, plow operators are often working in situations with limited visibility and are also in charge of laying down the mixture of 70 percent sand/30 percent salt which is distributed at intersections, curves and hills.

“It can get pretty stressful,” says Krassin, jokingly comparing the

levers, readouts and gauges to a spaceship. “Sometimes we can barely see the plow in front of us.

“There’s definitely such a thing as driver fatigue.”

Krassin, like Roessler, expresses a wish that drivers of street vehicles had a more civic-minded outlook when it comes to snow removal. He mentions a driver who, apparently distracted by his cell phone, rear ended a moving snowplow. Though there was no damage to the county

vehicle, the sanding equipment attached to the rear of the truck needed repair. The car, as Krassin recalls, was no longer drivable.

“It would be a lot better for everyone if drivers would be more cautious around plows and give us the room we need,” he observes.

Looking Back (New Richland)

25 Years Ago – The New Richland Star, January 1, 1998

- Waseca County Farm Bureau Young farmers Jason and Kathy Witt competed in Minnesota Farm Bureau's Young Farmer & Rancher Achievement Award contest during the MFBF annual meeting December 7-9 at the Radisson Hotel South in Bloomington. For placing in the top ten, they will receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., March 25-29, as part of the YF&R leadership program.

- Waseca County Farm Bureau President Chuck Schwab attended the Minnesota Farm Bureau (MFBF) 79th annual meeting held recently in Bloomington. Waseca County Farm Bureau won a 1997 Gold Star Award for Outstanding Program Recognition for Young Farmers & Ranchers.

- Jodi Routh, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva area's Junior Miss, will be competing with 17 other representatives from across the state for the title of Minnesota's Junior Miss and over \$10,000 in college scholarship money on January 31 at Jefferson High School in Bloomington. In addition to being named NRHEG Junior Miss this summer, Jodie, the daughter of Mitch and Suzy Routh of New Richland, won awards in Creative and Performing Arts, Presence and Composure and Panel Evaluation, along with \$2,050 in college scholarship money.

75 Years Ago – The New Richland Star, January 1, 1948

- Good eyesight, or glasses to compensate for defective vision, will be the first essential in the tests which must be passed by all new applicants for driver licenses in Minnesota after the new law goes into effect January 1. Tests will be given in Waseca and other county seats at designated times and places at least once each week by examiners from the State Highway Department. The law provides that the examination shall include a test of applicant's eyesight; ability to read and understand highway signs regulating, warning and directing traffic; knowledge of traffic laws; and an actual demonstration of ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a motor vehicle.

- That Wesley Schultz, who farms the J. W. Kreuzer farm a few miles west of town, escaped from an automobile accident without injury is indeed remarkable. His car dropped ten feet and landed with the wheels in the air. Wesley started for home at about 5 o'clock Saturday evening. When he reached the New Richland school building on No. 30, the car of Isaac Greenwood was stalled in the middle of the road. Thinking there was enough room to pass the stalled car, he crowded a little too far to the north and one wheel of his car dropped off the grade and the car was precipitated to the bottom of the high culvert. Schultz was not injured in the least and when Greenwood opened a car door he crawled out.

- The fact that Assistant Postmaster Walter E. Johnson arrived at the New Richland post office at least a half hour early Christmas morning saved the building from complete destruction by fire. As he began his task of mail distribution, a crackling sound attracted his attention and looking upward he saw small flames trickling through the ceiling around the chimney. Quickly an alarm was sent in and by the time the firemen arrived, Postmaster J. W. Kreuzer, himself a fireman, was on the scene. Joe says the matter of saving the building was so dubious that precautions were taken at once to save the mail. Every piece of mail in sight was gathered into mail sacks and placed in Henry Hanson's dairy truck. Guards were put in charge and the removal of fixtures was next undertaken. But the flames by that time had been subdued by the active firemen.

NOTICE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AND BUILDABLE 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.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. This property is being sold in “AS IS” condition and Sellers make no representation as to acreage, tiling or condition.
6. 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.
7. 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

Grannis shares his journey as pastor

St. Paul Lutheran Church leader has family of 10

By **RACHAEL JAEGER**
Staff Writer

Michael Grannis was installed as pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca this past September. Alongside his wife of more than two decades, the two brought with them a family of 10. Grannis is soft spoken, humble and confident in his faith.

Grannis said the best way to build a relationship with churchgoers is through one-on-one, sit down style conversations.

“Sometimes, how they ask questions, it feels like a private Bible study,” Grannis observed regarding visiting those church members unable to attend in person. “I enjoy that relational aspect of the ministry more than just about anything.”

Two aspects of his ministry he finds especially rewarding are serving people, especially in times of need, and seeing people grow in their faith.

“The church is a community of prayer,” Grannis said. “On any given week, people bring their prayer requests. I try to pray with them personally and spend time with them in their time of need.

“I’d say I’m pretty traditional and conservative,” Grannis said about his views of church. “Everything I do, I want to be focused on and trust in God.”

Grannis points out faith is often equated with belief. His view, however, is more expansive. Along with belief, he likes to think of faith as “trust,” an attribute which has served him powerfully over time.

Although faith has been a central element in his life, Grannis didn’t always see himself becoming a pastor.

When it was time for Grannis to

pursue higher education, his first choice was the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. But he felt called to the church.

His second choice? Concordia University in St. Paul. There he earned an undergraduate degree and was certified as a Director of Christian Education (DCE). The DCE certification, he explained, qualifies him to serve as a youth director or in similar positions.

It was during his time at Concordia when Grannis met his wife, Kristy.

The pair were in the same program and met in class. But it wasn’t until later when they really connected. After a talent show competition with his college band, Kristy came onstage to talk with Grannis. After a “shove” from band mates, Grannis asked Kristy to go for a walk.

Who knew that little shove would lead to more than two decades of marriage, 10 children, and now, a home in a small southern Minnesota town.

Soon after meeting Kristy, Grannis recalled a particularly anxiety provoking time sharing God’s word publicly.

“The biggest hurdle for me was horrible stage fright,” Grannis said. “I thought if I couldn’t speak in front of people, it would be pretty impossible to become a pastor.”

During field work in a local church, Grannis was assigned to give a children’s message on a Sunday morning. Although he recalls the message itself went well, he felt overcome with anxiety afterward and had to splash water on his face to calm his racing heart.

Grannis credited God for removing this and other hurdles.

“I decided from that moment on

I would put myself in situations that would force me to be in front of others and get used to it,” Grannis stated.

His new plan brought him to mission work, and an internship in Japan, organized in cooperation with LCMS - World Mission, a group which, among other things, coordinates missionary placement for the Missouri Synod.

For two years the program, Volunteer Youth Ministry, had him spending 20 hours per week teaching English to new learners in Japan, ranging from kindergarten age students to retirees. During that same time he helped form and lead bible studies in cooperation with local congregations.

“Living in Japan was wonderful,” Grannis said. “Japanese people were very kind and very welcoming. They were also very curious about Western culture... That was a natural opening to share the gospel and invite them to Bible study.”

“They saw it as a cultural experience,” he added. “But through those interactions, we saw the seeds of the Gospel planted.”

When Grannis returned from Japan, he finished the DCE program and started classes to prepare for seminary.

On his birthday, August 1, In 2010, Grannis was ordained at Norwood Young America in St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church.

During his time in Norwood Young America, Kristy and Michael celebrated the birth of their first daughters, Kiana and Eliana.

Three years later, Michael’s wife Kristy received a call to serve as a family life director at Open Arms Lutheran Church in Belleville,



Pastor Michael Grannis has been serving the congregation of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Waseca, since this past September.

Michigan.

In a bittersweet move, the Grannis family followed God’s plan.

After serving as a vacancy pastor at various congregations in the Detroit area Grannis was offered training to become an interim minister. In November of that same year he accepted the call as the full-time vacancy pastor of Berea Lutheran Church in Detroit. He served Berea for a little over a year before the congregation relocated. From there he transitioned to a new vacancy serving at Open Arms alongside Kristy.

In January of 2018, Grannis accepted a call to serve Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lincoln Park, Michigan. In 2023, he accepted a call to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca.

Grannis said his time in the ministry has shown him the importance of “catechesis”—the process of laying the foundation for faith in young and old.

“We’ve had a lot of pop theology over time like church growth or

gimmicks to get people into the church without focusing on the substance of faith or building people up in the faith,” Grannis theorized. “The church at its core, the Lutheran Church specifically, is founded on the truth of God’s Word and what it means to center our lives around that truth. That’s why ‘catechesis’ is so vital. From cradle to grave, then up and then out of the grave.”

Along with leading the congregation in their faith, he ministers in his own home, leading his family members through family devotions and prayers, especially during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

“Advent, the weeks before Christmas, are a centering time for us,” Grannis said. “We do family devotions throughout the year, but they are more consistent then and during Lent. Our kids look forward to our time together and certain songs we sing.”

During that devotion time, Grannis uses Advent and Lenten devotions and different prayer services

Pioneer photo by Rachael Jaeger from Concordia Publishing House. A couple hymns named the family favorites are Light One Candle for Hope and Come Thou Long Expected Jesus.

“We light candles while we sing,” Grannis said. “Our kids love being able to light candles and blow them out.”

The Grannis family consists of seven boys and three girls.

“I remember thinking how insane I was to think about eight boys – your life completely changes when you bring one kid into the world,” Grannis observed. “With each additional child, it’s been natural, but it’s not been easy. We have a very busy, loud and complicated schedule. But it’s also filled with a lot of love.

“We’re happy to be here in Waseca,” Grannis said. “We’ve had a warm welcome. My hope is to be here for many years to come and help people in our community grow in their faith in Christ.”



The Pastor’s Column

Improbable parts of God’s plan

By **PASTOR KEN ANDRS**

Every time it gets this cold I recall that old theme song from Chilly Willy. The show started in the 1950s, well before I was born, but I was able to watch it through repeats on the Woody Woodpecker show in the 1980s. During weeks like we have this week, where the cold seems to cut right to the bone, I sing the theme song to myself as I venture forth into the cold.

“I’m Chilly Willy the penguin. I shake until I’m blue. My head is hot and my feet are cold. Ha...Hee...Hachoo!”

As Minnesotans we take a false pride in braving the weather. Asking one another, “Cold/Hot enough for ya?” Or we try to focus on the positive aspects of the weather, “Hope the ice gets thick enough to fish.” I am looking forward to the last couple weeks of small game hunting where I can go out and be in the woods looking for a few rabbits, while praising God for the beauty He created for me to enjoy.

The struggle I think we have is that sometimes we look at our situation and wonder, what we did to deserve this. With the weather we know that it is varied, but there is a pattern to it. We can say that these coldest and, on the other extreme, hottest days are part of the pattern and God’s plan to renew and all the land to rest.

The situations that I want to talk about are those that we find ourselves in from time to time, or all the time. A financial struggle, the loss of a friend, loneliness, stress, anxiety, or depression are all situations that we see people increasingly find themselves in. And on the other extreme joy at the birth of a child, hope at the consecration of a marriage, excitement at the purchase of a new house, pride in good grades; from one extreme to the other how are we to respond to bad times and good?

As followers of Christ, we have the opportunity to view good times and bad with the filter of eternity. We can look at a situation and recognize that God needs to work things out and our faith in Him can see us through if we allow God to work. We often focus on the problems instead of the solution. God is the solution; we need to follow and focus on Him.

When I watched Chilly Willy as a child, I wondered why he was sneezing if he was a penguin and why he was so cold. How did that dog, Smedley, get to where penguins live? So many improbable things happening in a cartoon show. I feel like my life is that way too sometimes, so many improbable things happening at the same time in my life.

Each one of those improbable things are a part of God’s plan to build our faith in Him. He calls us to rest in His power when all seems lost. Isaiah 41:10-13 reminds us:

10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

11 “All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish.

12 Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all.

13 For I am the LORD , your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

Let us not fear venturing forth in this life, because God’s plan is greater than our own. The problems we face, we do not face them alone, but with God’s hand upholding us. Let us hold onto His hand as He leads us through the struggles of this life.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * *	Sunday worship 10 a.m. * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	ages 12-18 * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * *	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd’s Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; 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. * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 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 * * *	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * *	ST. ANNE CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter) * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe 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. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 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 * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 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. Worship * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 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 * * *
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. * * *	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 * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday — 10:45 a.m. Worship * * *	NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday “Young at heart” Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation * * *
REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-607-8245 * * *	THE CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, * * *	THE CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Waseca, Minnesota Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, * * *	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.

Daniel J. Johnson
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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WASECA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner's Room)
300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093
Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Request for an Amendment to a Conditional Use Permit to add a spray field. ConAgra Foods Packaged Foods LLC requests an amendment to their existing Conditional Use Permit to add a spray field on approximately 192.88 acre parcel in Section 11 T.107N R23W of St. Mary Township. The proposed spray field site will be used in a similar manner as previously permitted sites. The parcel (PID: 09.011.1000) belonging

to John Byron Et al is located in the I-General Industrial Zoning with a portion in the HO Highway Overlay.

Information on these items will be available at the Waseca County Planning and Zoning Office, 300 N State St., Waseca during regular business hours 8-4:30, and will be on the county website www.wasecacounty.gov at the

agenda tab. Oral comments will be accepted at the meeting. Upon request, accommodations will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all Waseca County services, programs and activities.

Maame Yorke, Sr. Land Use Planner.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer January 19, 2024



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

The University of Minnesota Extension is hiring **Extension Educators, 4-H Youth Development**. The positions are professional and academic appointments.

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To access complete job descriptions and apply online, go to: <https://z.umn.edu/EE4HYDPositions>

Application deadline is January 23, 2024.
Projected start date is March 4- April 1, 2024

The U of M is an equal opportunity educator and employer.



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
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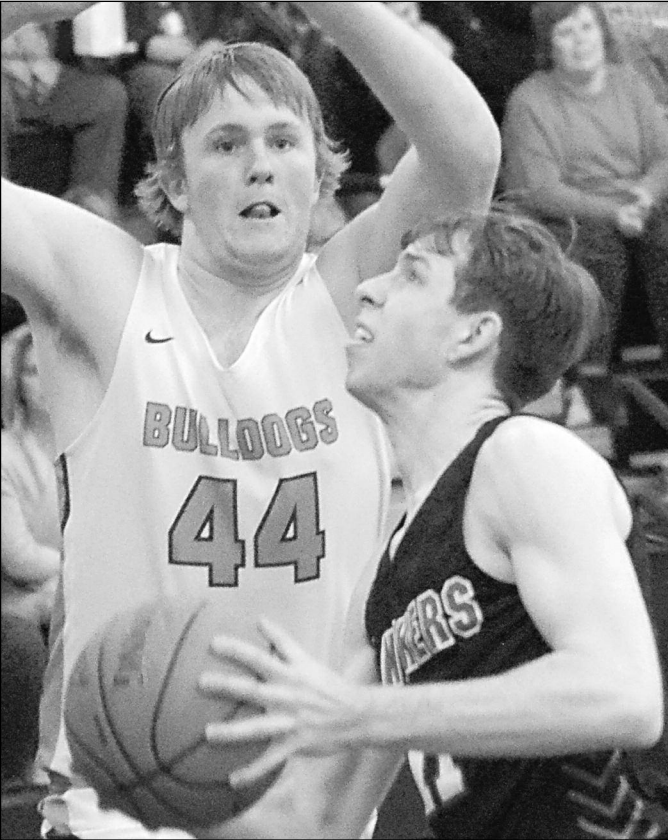
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ALONE IN FIRST — That's where the JWP boys' basketball team found itself after a 66-50 victory at NRHEG Tuesday night. From left, the Bulldogs' Daulton Bauer drives as Levin Kitzer (11) defends; Will Tuttle (2) of NRHEG is defended tough in the lane; Kitzer drives as Cole Schlueter (44) defends. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

JWP boys rise to top of Gopher West

Bulldogs improve to 11-3 overall, 3-0 in conference with 66-50 victory at NRHEG

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton boys' basketball team has been on a roll.

It has taken the Bulldogs to the top of the Gopher Conference West.

JWP improved to 11-3 overall and 3-0 in the conference with a 66-50 triumph at NRHEG Tuesday night. The Bulldogs led 38-21 at half-time.

Individually for JWP: Memphis James 15 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists, 7 steals; Daulton

Bauer 12P, 1R, 4A, 3S; Gavin Bauer 9P, 5R, 1A; Cole Schlueter 9P, 9R, 1A, 1S; Caleb Quast 6P, 4R, 2A, 2S; Ryan Kronbach 6P, 2R, 2A, 2S; Landon Johnson 5P, 3R, 1A, 1S; Austin Carda 2P; Austin Quast 2P, Steven Dimmel 1A, 1S; 1R, 2S.

Daxter Lee led NRHEG with 23 points and 9 rebounds.

The Bulldogs had an impressive 19 steals, shooting 40.3 percent from the floor and 13-for-19 on free throws. They committed 16 turnovers.

NRHEG shot 44.4 percent from the field, 3-for-9 on free throws. They totaled 32 turnovers.

JWP outscored the Panthers 18-9 in the transition game, 42-18 on points in the paint and 34-10 in points off turnovers.

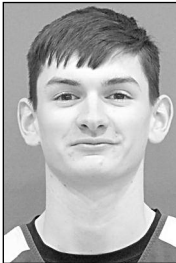
NRHEG remained winless in conference play.

The Bulldogs played well at Blue Earth Area Monday night, leading 35-24 at halftime on the way to an 80-60 victory.

Scoring: James 22, Johnson 16, Daulton

Bauer 11, Schlueter 10, Kronbach 9, Caleb Quast 5, Gavin Bauer 3 and Dimmel 3.

The Bulldogs, winners of four straight, host Randolph Friday and play at WEM Tuesday, Jan. 23. Both games start at 7:15 p.m.



James

WHS boys let lead slip away at Belle Plaine

Jays fall 68-67

Lackluster shooting, too many turnovers and fouls at the wrong time got the best of the Waseca High School boys' basketball team in Tuesday's non-conference game at Belle Plaine, where the Bluejays were edged 68-67.

"We had a lead down the stretch," said Waseca coach Seth Anderson. "But our 21 turnovers and untimely fouls did us in. We really rebounded well, but struggled to shoot well."

The Bluejays, who pulled down 39 rebounds to the Tigers' 25, shot just 33.3 percent on field goals, totaling 21 turnovers. Belle Plaine shot 50 percent and turned the ball over 19 times, outscoring the Bluejays 26-18 in the paint and 18-12 in points off turnovers. The Jays were 14-for-18 on free throws, the Tigers 17-for-28.

Belle Plaine led 34-29 at halftime.

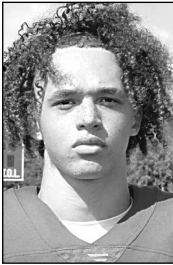
Deron Russell led Waseca in scoring with 20 points to go along with three rebounds, three assists and four steals. Damarius Russell, in his second game back from injury, registered 16 points, four rebounds, an assist and a steal. Laird Keaton totaled 16 points, four rebounds, two assists and a steal.

Others: Zach Hulscher 9P, 4R; Caden Danner 3P, 1R, 1S; Carson Ohnstad 3P, 3R, 1S; Jacob Thompson 8R, 1A, 1S.

For Belle Plaine, Ethan Martin topped the scoring charts with 30 points.

The Bluejays, 2-0 in the Big South, fell to 6-6 overall. Belle Plaine, which leads the Minnesota River Conference at 5-0, improved to 10-3 overall.

The Bluejays play Friday at Fairmont at 7:30, Saturday at St. Clair at 7 p.m. and Tuesday at St. Peter at 7:15.



Da.Russell



De.Russell

Late goal sinks WHS icemen, 2-1

Jays fall to 8-6

The Waseca High School boys' hockey team gave Dodge County a battle in last Thursday's nonconference game at Waseca Community Arena, where the Bluejays dropped a 2-1 decision.

Hunter Anderson gave the Bluejays an early lead, scoring just 40 seconds into the first period on assists from Brayden Hesch-Priem and Beckett Srp.

Dodge County tied it with only nine seconds left in the first stanza.

After skating to a scoreless deadlock in the second period, Waseca surrendered what would become game-winning goal 21 seconds into the third.

Dodge County outshot the Bluejays 44-24, including 24-6 in the third period. Both teams were 0-for-4 on the power play.

Carter Martins was in goal for Waseca, totaling 42 saves.

Dodge County improved to 11-6.

The Bluejays, 8-6 overall and 6-3 Big South play, hosted Rochester Lourdes Thursday. They entertain Windom Friday at 7 p.m. and play Tuesday, Jan. 23 at Redwood Valley at 7:15.



ON THE OFFENSIVE — The Bluejays' Hunter Anderson, left, scored the lone Waseca goal in a 2-1 loss to Dodge County last week at Waseca Community Arena. At right, Griffin Storey (22) fires a pass.



Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Grizzlies 3rd in tourney as Fall takes 189 title

The WEM-JWP wrestling team had a strong showing in the St. Croix Lutheran Invitational Saturday, taking third among 15 schools with 140 points. Oglivie was first with 192.5 and Chisago Lakes was the runner-up at 153.

Avery Fall was the Bulldogs' top finisher, winning the 189-pound weight class. He pinned his first three opponents and won by technical fall in the finals.

Finishing second were Gavin Krause, 160, and Keegan Kuball, 285.

Also placing: Lucas Morsching, fourth, 145; Isaac Quast, fourth, 172; Maddox Moreno, fourth, 215; Brandon Masso, fifth, 107; Bre` Ana Masso, sixth, 107.

Also wrestling for the Grizzlies but not placing: Parker James, 121; Trey Richards, 121; Carson

James, 133; Zach Quast, 139; Trenton Huber, 139; Isaac Gahlon, 145; Patrick Adams, 152; Kaven Sheehy, 215.

As a team, the Bulldogs finished ahead of Hopkins, North Branch, Roseville Area, St. Paul Humboldt, Benilde-St. Mararet's, Brooklyn Center/Concordia Academy, St. Paul Highland Park, Cretin-Derham Hall, St. Paul Johnson, St. Croix Lutheran, Columbia Heights and St. Paul Como Park.

The Grizzlies faced Kenyon-Wanamingo at Waterville last Thursday and lost 58-8. Carson Petry and Isaac registered victories for WEM-JWP. Kuball dropped a 4-3 decision.

After wrestling Thursday at Maple River, the Grizzlies are back in action Friday, Jan. 26 at home against Medford.

Tourney champs



The Waseca 10U B1 hockey team won the championship in a tournament at Hutchinson last weekend. The team includes Brayleigh Kuball, Kelsey Lawson, Halle Casteron, Lennox Swatkowski, Amelia Madsen, Charlotte Meister, Violey Farley, Chloe Cherro, Lauren Tegmeier, Joslyn Wiblin and Reese Roemhildt. The team is coached by Brad Lawson and Jesse Roemhildt.

Submitted photo

Waseca basketball girls pick up victory

It hasn't been an easy season by any means for the Waseca High School girls' basketball team.

But there was at least one bright spot in the past week.

The Bluejays won 46-17 at Blue Earth Area Tuesday.

Head coach Anthony Jackson was especially pleased with the Bluejays' defense.

"I am proud of my team's defensive effort in the game, especially on Blue Earth Area's point guard, who is a very dynamic guard who can score very efficiently on the court."

Scoring for the Bluejays: Callie Dufault 13 points, Ella Krautkremer 2, Addie Wiesler 7, Mia Kanewischer 8, Lily Owens 2, Avery Gaul 8, Grace Guritz 6.

Waseca, 4-12 overall and 1-3 in the Big South Conference, hosts Fairmont Friday at 7:30. They play Saturday at St. Clair at 5:45.



Dufault



END OVER END — The Bluejays' Haydn Lynch competes in the vault during the Bluejays' win over St. James last week. Photo by Kennedy Lynch

Another record-setting night for WHS gymnasts

Wikan breaks mark in bars, wins all-around title with 35.0 points

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

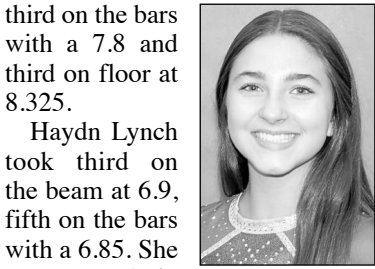
School records and victories seem to be the season's theme for the Waseca High School gymnastics team.

The Bluejays soundly defeated visiting St. James last Thursday, winning with 136.675 points to the Saints' 93.975, as Waseca's Bella Wikan won the uneven parallel bars with a school-record 9.0.

It wasn't the only solid performance from Wikan, who captured the all-around title with 35.0 points and finished first in the balance beam with an 8.975, second on floor exercise at 9.125 and fifth in vault at 8.3.

It was also another stellar showing for the Bluejays' Layla Keith, who won the vault at 9.0 and the floor exercise at 9.375, taking second on bars at 8.45 and fourth on the beam at 6.825. She scored 33.65 points for second in all-around.

The Bluejays' Hannah Parks was third in all-around at 31.025,



Wikan

third on the bars with a 7.8 and third on floor at 8.325.

Haydn Lynch took third on the beam at 6.9, fifth on the bars with a 6.85. She was seventh in all-around at 21.70.

Other places and scores, by event:

All-around - Katelyn Weber, 10th, 15.575; Lindy Caldwell, 11th, 14.975.

Vault - Weber, 2nd, 8.625; Parks, 4th, 8.450; Lynch, 7th, 7.950.

Bars - Parks, 3rd, 7.80; Weber, 4th, 6.95; Lynch, 5th, 8.65.

Beam - Caldwell, 2nd, 7.375; Lynch, 3rd, 6.9; Parks, 6th, 6.45.

Floor - Caldwell, 4th, 8.325.

The Bluejays compete Tuesday, Jan. 23 at Fairmont at 7 p.m. They face St. Peter Friday, Jan. 26 at 6 p.m. at Gustavus Adolphus College.

JWP girls knock off NRHEG

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Coach Brandon Goebel and the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton girls' basketball team were clearly looking for more than a close game at NRHEG Tuesday night.

They wanted to win. And they did.

Nevaeh Weimert scored 24 points and Katie Olson totaled 22 as the Bulldogs prevailed 62-50 at New Richland.

The victory improved the Bulldogs to 11-5 overall and created a four-way logjam for first in the Gopher Conference West with NRHEG, Maple River, WEM and JWP all 3-1. NRHEG fell to 12-3 overall.

"I thought the girls did an incredible job on the defensive end," said JWP coach Brandon Goegel. "To hold a team that averages 70-plus to 50 points was great for us. There are definitely things we need to clean up (defensive rebounding), but overall I am happy with what the girls were able to do. I thought we played great team basketball and made plays down the stretch when we needed to."

"Hats off to the Dawgs," said Panthers coach Onika Peterson. "They had a great game. I have scouted them a couple of times this year. They do a lot of things really well, are quick and scrappy on defense, have some solid shooters, and can rotate anywhere from 8-12 players."

The Bulldogs, who led 31-26 at halftime, had one more double-digit scorer in Lilly Strauss with 11 points. Presley James and Hope Dimmel contributed 2 each, Lexie Dahlberg 1.

"Unfortunately, tonight wasn't our night," said Peterson. "It's always hard to pick up a loss in a conference and subsection matchup. On the plus side, there is a lot of season left, but we need to look to bounce back after back-to-back losses. I told the girls these next couple of games are tough for us. We need to rise to the challenge. Hopefully we are shooting the ball a little bit better up in Blooming on Friday."

Individually for NRHEG: Faith Nielsen 10 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal; Quinn VanMaldegheem 5P, 9R, 1A, 3S; Izley Boerner 7P, 2R; Hallie Schultz 4P, 10R, 4A, 2S, 1 block; Camryn VanMaldegheem 16P, 5R, 4A, 1S; Addy Stadheim 2P, 2R, 1A; Presley Nielsen 5P, 7R, 2A; Kylie Olson 1P, 3R.

The Bulldogs pulled off a 54-37 nonconference win over Waseca Thursday, Jan. 11 in Janesville.

Scoring: Katie Olson 16, Weimert 7, Ali Olson 7, James 5, Mikayla Wheelock 4, Krause 3, Dimmel 3, Onikia Herme 3, Hudson Miller 2; Strauss 2; Dahlberg 2.



ALL OUT — JWP's Katie Olson (23) goes up high for a jump shot while NRHEG's Camryn VanMaldegheem (12) defends. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

"Hats off to the Dawgs."
— NRHEG coach Onika Peterson



Weimert

K.Olson

The Bulldogs are in action Friday at Randolph, Monday at Mankato Loyola and Tuesday, Jan. 23 at home against WEM.

After playing Friday at Blooming Prairie, the Panthers host Tri-City United Monday and travel to Maple River Tuesday.



BIG WIN — The JWP girls' basketball team defeated NRHEG Tuesday night, tying for first atop the Gopher Conference West. Above, Katie Olson drives as Quinn VanMaldegheem (4) defends. In the background: NRHEG's Presley Nielsen and JWP's Alison Olson.

Fast-starting Hayfield tops NRHEG girls

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

If you watched the pregame warmups in last Thursday's girls' basketball game between highly-touted Hayfield and NRHEG, you got the feeling it could be a long night for the Panthers. The Vikings didn't miss many shots.

It was the same way once the game started as Hayfield bolted to a 43-20 halftime advantage en route to a 75-59 decision in New

Richland.

Hayfield, 15-2 overall and 4-0 in the Gopher Conference East, led by as many as 29 points in the first half.

"We put ourselves in a big hole in the first half being down by 23," said NRHEG coach Onika Peterson.

But it wasn't all the Panthers' fault.

"Hayfield could not have had a better first half," said Peterson. "They shot the ball extremely well with (Natalie) Beaver having 20

points in the first half alone. We got in a little bit of foul trouble and struggled offensively."

Despit that, Peterson was pleased with the Panthers' attitude.

"I am extremely proud of the team and their grit and guts that they showed in the second half," she said. "These are the games that they are going to remember. It is not fun to lose, but the effort and heart they put in the second half says a lot about this team and what we will accom-

plish this season."

Faith Nielsen led the Panthers in scoring with 23 points, adding 4 rebounds, 1 assist and 2 steals. Quinn VanMaldegheem contributed 14 points, 13 rebounds, 5 assists and 5 steals.

Also: Izley Boerner 3P, 1R, 2A; Hallie Schultz 2P, 5R; Camryn VanMaldegheem 7P, 2R, 4A, 1S, 2 blocked shots; Addy Stadheim 2P, 3R, 2A; Paige Nielsen 5P, 1R 1A; Kylie Olson 2P, 1R.

Shorthanded NRHEG matmen 8th in Stewartville tourney

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Once the NRHEG High School wrestling team gets completely healthy, coach Shawn Larson believes his Panthers could be a squad to be reckoned with.

Right now, though, there are just too many starters missing.

It led to an eighth-place finish in Stewartville's Darrell Jaeger Invitational last Saturday as four NRHEG wrestlers placed.

"Our team is in a tough place right

now," said Larson. "Illnesses and nagging injuries have us fighting to be competitive at the moment."

George Roesler was the Panthers' top placewinner Saturday, finishing second at 189 pounds after winning by fall in the quarterfinals and semifinals. He was pinned in the title bout.

Four Panthers finished fifth, Deven Parpart at 139, Harbor Cromwell at 160 and Ryan Schlaak at 172.

Also wrestling but not placing for

NRHEG were Parker Bunn, 133; Reese Routh, 152; Cole Hutchens, 215; and Jace Ihrke, 285.

The host team won with 228 points, with Maple River second at 195.5. The Panthers totaled 56.5 finishing ahead of Trinity and Rochester John Marshall.

"I am happy that I do have athletes fighting for our team right now, however, we have much to do if we want to be ready to make a run at the section tournament," said Larson.

"Our first priority right now is get-

ting healthy. If we can get everyone back in the lineup, then we will work on getting our mindsets in line. We are capable of much more than we are doing, but we do have some athletes that are giving everything they have, and if we get everyone in the lineup, look out."

Larson said Roesler, a senior, had a great tournament pinning his way into the finals where he was defeated by Tristan Zingler of Cannon Falls.

"That was a very tough showing

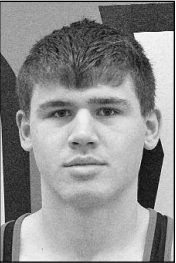
for George, who has been consistently putting out very solid performances this season," said Larson. "Deven, Harbor, and Ryan all had gutsy performances today as well. All three of these wrestlers were in tough weight classes and battled for fifth place in each of the brackets."

Two NRHEG wrestlers competed in the Stewartville Girls Invitational, Alexia McGannon and Annabelle Petsinger.

Petsinger won both her matches by fall to finish first at 142, earning

six team points. McGannon was 1-4 while finishing fifth at 136 for five team points.

The Panthers' next action is Thursday, Jan. 18 when they wrestle in New Richland against Triton. The varsity will start at 7 p.m.



Roesler

2023

from Page 1

downsize.

“I was at home with all sorts of things,” Jirele explained, “and my son said ‘Mother, you need to get rid of stuff.’ I said, ‘Well if I had a store...’”

•The Power of Produce (PoP) club, a new 4-H program meant to assure children have better access to fresh produce, shared information about a service it will provide beginning after the county fair and continuing until the farmers’ market stops operating sometime in the fall.

•A group of 20 students and chaperones from Waseca has recently returned from a trip abroad, visiting Madrid, Barcelona, and Paris.

These students, chaperones, and teachers spent ten days in Europe in June, arriving home June 23. The combination of Spanish and art students from Waseca High School spent four days in Madrid, Spain, two days in Barcelona, Spain, and then three days in Paris, France, before the long flight back to Minnesota.

•“Blair would be so incredibly humbled and honored,” observes his wife, Deanne. “Representative Finstad commented about Blair’s love of his country and his devotion to his family and serving others. I believe that was a very accurate observation.”

Minnesota District 1 Representative Brad Finstad met last week with Waseca County Commissioners and members of the Nelson family to present two items honoring Blair Nelson: a flag flown over the nation’s capitol early in June, and the text of a speech Finstad presented to the House of Representatives on June 22 and had entered into the Congressional Record.

•Hundreds of visitors and residents gathered for the 101st Farm and City Days weekend in New Richland, July 7-9.

The classic car show drew a record 127 cars and brought a bustling crowd of admirers; Neighbor’s Meats offered “Cow Pie Bingo” and “Poultry Races,” as well as free hamburgers to all comers. Classic options included: Power Pedal Tractor Pull for ages 4-11 Saturday afternoon, sponsored by Morgan’s Meat Market, Thompson’s Body Shop, New Richland Auto, Midwest Repairables, Wagner Foods, New Richland Liquor, and Neighbor’s Meats.

•Former Waseca County Sheriff Brad Milbrath has announced his intent to run for the seat on the Waseca County Board of Commissioners left vacant by the May 30 death of Blair Nelson.

•Neighbors and friends gathered to eat barbecue, beans, and delicious pie at the annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, July 9, at Otisco’s St. Peter Lutheran Church.

•Katie (Schroeder) Gonzales can’t help thinking she is the beneficiary of divine intervention. A 2012 Waseca High School graduate, she is finishing her training as a State Farm Insurance agent and will be leading the Waseca agency as of August 1.

•The Waseca Braves moved to 14-3-1 on the year with a hard-fought 4-3 win over Morristown at Tink Larson Field Sunday afternoon.

Kelvin Nelson led the Braves, posting the pitching victory while adding two hits offensively.

Ryan Hanson registered a three-inning save.

The Braves 10-runned the visiting Rochester Roadrunners 12-2 Friday, July 7.

•Keen Bank will be relocating its Hope location to 496 W North Street in Owatonna on or about October 31, 2023. This relocation will allow Keen Bank to offer more services for an optimal banking experience including a drive-thru, ATM and convenient location. Keen Bank employees will continue to serve customers with plans to add additional staff.

•Devonte Phillips, the shooter responsible for the drive-by shooting in downtown Janesville on July 26, 2022, pled guilty in Waseca County District Court on May 4, 2023. The plea agreement called for him going to prison for 158 months. Judge Carol Hanks honored the plea agreement and Phillips was sentenced to prison on May 17, 2023. The victim of the shooting attended the sentencing hearing: Phillips apologized to the victim on the record.

•“I know not everyone would agree with me,” comments Doug Lund, 54, of Waseca, “but it’s a work of art...”

“With its own little spin,” Lund is speaking of his dented and welded 1974 Buick Electra, number 34, scheduled to take part in the “standard weld” class of Friday evening’s demolition derby at the Waseca County Fair.

The Electra also competed in the 2022 fair, and it shows.

•Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) night was celebrated July 7 at Tink Larson Field during a 13-3 win by the Waseca Braves over the Rochester

Roadrunners. About 150 fans were in attendance when the festivities began just prior to the game. Special guests Tom (Bomber) Holtz and Dravyn Spies were on hand to help.

•Monarch celebrated the one-year anniversary of their purchase of Lakeshore Inn in Waseca with a festival. The celebration included lawn games, music and treats and was free for all residents, families, and community members.

•The Waseca Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) presented the HPC award to Mikhail Rostislavovich during their regular meeting Monday, July 10 for his work preserving and restoring the large, three-story brick house on the 600 block of North State Street also known by the names of its previous owners, Moonan, Alexander, or Driessen.

•“Powerful.”

•“Never boring.”

•“Flexible.”

•“Noble.”

Six representatives from Palmer Bus Service offered a variety of words to define their work. The group spent four hours Saturday, July 22, providing area residents the chance to test drive a school bus. About a dozen folks came, most of them genuinely interested in learning more about the job, a few simply curious.

•Community members enjoyed a day of sightseeing as the Waseca Garden Club hosted its annual Summer Garden Tour on Saturday afternoon. Club president Jolene Gundermann said that the tour is a tradition that dates back at least 35 years. Gundermann herself is a longtime member of the club. “I’ve been involved for over 40 years, starting in ‘78 or ‘79,” she recalled.

•The Waseca County Horse Thief Detectives met for their 159th annual meeting on Tuesday, July 4. About 50 people gathered at Waseca’s Northeast Park for a potluck lunch, a summary of the year’s accomplishments, and some old-fashioned games.

•A crowd of over 80 people arrived to make new furry friends, as the “Lovable Llamas” visited the Janesville Public Library’s reading garden Thursday afternoon. The same event took place the day prior in Waseca’s Trowbridge Park, near the Waseca Public Library.

The visiting llamas were from Carlson’s Farm in Waconia, while the event was led by attendants Mikayla Schlosser and Mallory Romenecco.

August

•After a regularly scheduled inspection of the Waseca County Jail, the Department of Corrections (DOC) informed county leadership that the facility risks being downgraded if certain improvements are not made before next May.

•The Waseca Nite to Unite held from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at the waterpark brought a few hundred people in for the sixth year.

•“A lot of hard work, I guess.”

When lifelong area resident Dolores Sommers says it takes “hard work” to reach the age of 101, she’s not talking about exercise machines.

“She was always a busy lady!” exclaims her daughter, Marsha Vollbrecht.

Now a resident at Colony Court, Dolores celebrated her 101st birthday on Wednesday, August 2. Born in 1922 “out on the farm,” she was the oldest of four children.

•Deanna Summers of Janesville was honored posthumously by the Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) with the 2023 Roger J Wolfe service award. Before her sudden death in 2021, Summers helped organize and start Simply Saved Thrift Store, serving on the board of directors, managing the finances, and planning the annual fashion show fundraiser. She was a co-president of Janesville Matters where she worked tirelessly writing grants and fundraising for various improvements to the Janesville community. She also volunteered with Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Big Sisters, school reading programs, and community education crafting classes. She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville.

•“There you go,” says Christ Community youth pastor Scott Bryant enthusiastically. “Thanks for coming!”

Bryant has a row of rainbow-colored ice treats in front of him, and they’re disappearing quickly as folks come from conversations at the well-filled Northeast Park pavilion picnic tables for a light dessert.

“We planned for about 300 people,” says Bryant of the crowd. “We probably had a fair number more than that, since we’ve started to run out of food.”

•“Have you seen her garden?”

“Forget about that, wait until you see the inside of her house...”

Conversation is lively as people arrive and settle in for Friday afternoon card games at the Waseca Senior Citizens Center. The Bridge players have a 12:15 start time; 500 players don’t officially begin until 1:00, when a bell is rung to let everyone know the games they are playing are no longer “just

Waseca County Fair



Some of the many Waseca County Fair Board members and volunteers for the 2023 season.



TOP LEFT: Harper Jones, 3, from Mankato, flies high on the combination trampoline/bungee cord. BOTTOM LEFT: A young fellow under hypnosis shows his skill at playing an air guitar. ABOVE: Members of the performing group The Looney Lutherans, offer specialized household tips.



BIRTHDAY- Helen Fowler celebrated her 103rd birthday with friends at the Lakeside Golf Course in Waseca on Tuesday, Aug. 1. A member of the Lakeside Golf Club since the 1940s, she stopped golfing when she was 99—but still meets friends almost every week for a “Ladies’ Night” meal. To commemorate her 101st birthday, the golf club began waiving the usual annual membership fee indefinitely.

Pioneer photos by Amelia Roessler practice.”

•Nearly 400 people crowded into Veterans Memorial Park for the Janesville Night Out on Sunday. The event was Janesville’s version of the National Night Out, also known as “Night To Unite,” in which community members enjoy an evening of activities which help them become better acquainted with members of local law enforcement and emergency response agencies, local government, and community partners. The Janesville Area Foundation sponsored two activities during the event: face painting by Carrie Goettlicher of Making Faces Mankato and a golden retriever “puppy holding session” by local dog breeder Heather Dimmel.

•It appears the city of Waseca is all but set to receive \$4 million in federal funding to support local infrastructure, including an additional water tower, with the approval of the next Federal appropriations bill, most likely near the end of the year.

•It may look like 4.5 acres of gravel, but it’s actually a carefully engineered yard waste composting site.

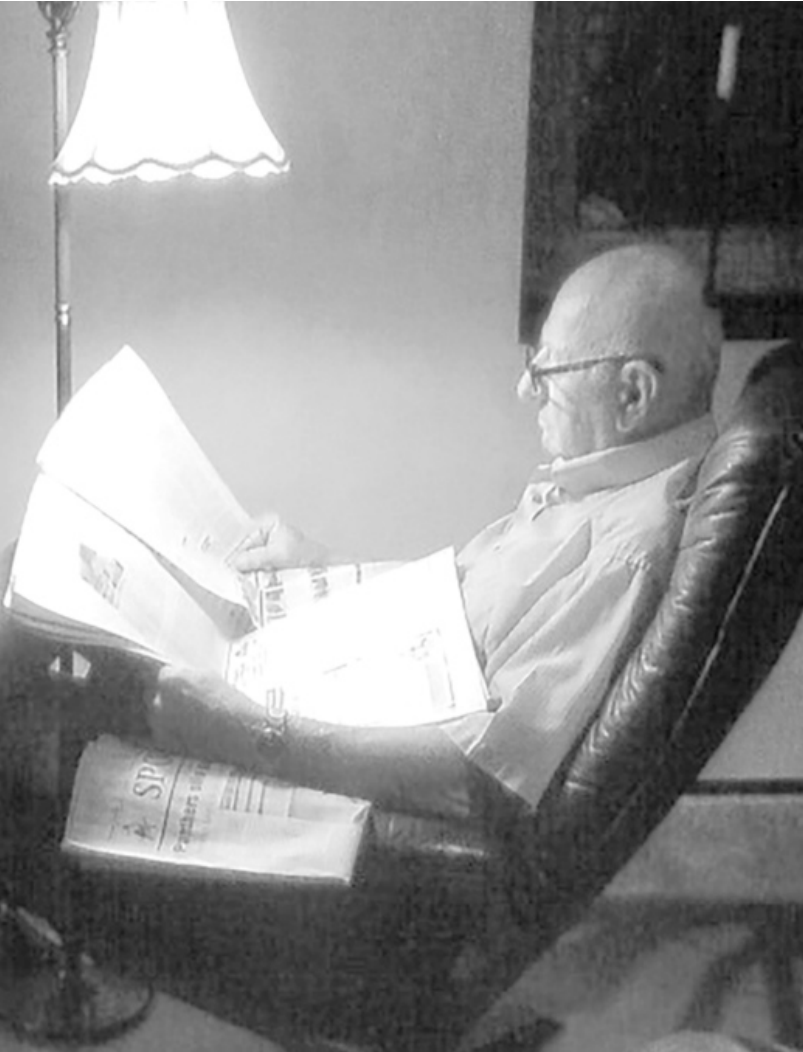
“We’re doing it for the public, and for the sake of what’s right for the environment,” says Tammie Bramer, recycling specialist with the Waseca County recycling center.

“We’re not a landfill anymore.”

•A 19th century schoolhouse from the old village of Janesville has found a new home at Autumn Acres Farm, having been moved the morning of Thursday, July 27. The farm’s co-owner Cheryl Bleess said that the schoolhouse is believed to have been constructed in the early 1850s and was in use until at least 1870. That year, Janesville was moved to its current location and a new schoolhouse was built to service its residents.



YOUNG LOVE - Dolores and Marvin Sommers early in their marriage. They farmed for more than 30 years in Wilton township. Contributed photo



Jürgen Peters

Jürgen Peters
Jürgen C. Peters, age 87, of Waseca, passed away peacefully on

Sunday, August 20, 2023, in Waseca. Arrangements are pending.

2023 continued on 11

■ 2023
from Page 10

Francoise’s host mom, Terri Ingram, and Lecourt’s best friend from Waseca, Tanya Herbst, to tour the high school.

Lecourt had been a part of Waseca’s class of 1989-90; she was involved in choir and had joined the speech team.

- Over 200 attendees enjoyed an evening sampling Minnesota meats and brews at Farmamerica’s annual Meat-A-Palooza event Saturday. Besides visiting vendors and industry representatives, guests were able to bid in both silent and live auctions. Proceeds from the event’s ticket sales and auctions were donated back to Farmamerica, a non-profit organization. Meat-A-Palooza’s sponsors included Profinium Bank, Compart Family Farms, the Minnesota Pork Board, and KRUE Country 92.
- Jeremiah Miller, owner of 4-Season Apparel and Free Flags for Vets, was the guest speaker at the regular Exchange Club meeting Tuesday, Aug. 8 at noon at El Tequila restaurant in Waseca.

- It was a fantastic homecoming for Lieutenant Colonel Catherine Blashack.

She had no clue that when she flew from Texas to visit her hometown of Waldorf for two weeks that she would receive an unusually warm welcome as well as a custom award recognizing her achievements in the military.

- C & A Designs has opened a storefront with handmade consignment, do-it-yourself (DIY) classes, and private parties. The storefront is located at 208 N State Street in Waseca, the former location of Hammer and Stain. The company has also posted information online at candadesignsmn.com about upcoming class dates and party information.

- A few dozen people, among them Waseca County Commissioners Brad Krause and Brian Harguth and several area business owners, were in attendance for a “thank you” breakfast put on by Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) Thursday morning at the East Annex building in Waseca. The event recognized local college students who participated in a summer internship program throughout Waseca County.
- The Power of Produce (PoP) club has had an overwhelmingly successful start this summer at the farmer’s market, with its first weekend being July 22 and numbers still continuing to grow.
- The Pine Gardens Bed and Breakfast celebrated its Jonny Wayne Midsummer Dinner Extravaganza from the evening of Friday, Aug. 11 until the evening of Sunday, Aug. 13. This second annual dinner included live music from artist Jonny Wayne along with Wayne’s Thailand cooking. The dinner itself was Saturday night, but the event lasted all weekend.

September

- A total of 16 new teaching staff members from four Waseca learning sites were welcomed at a luncheon co-sponsored by the Waseca Rotary, Lions, and Exchange clubs on Friday, August 24, at the Lakeview Golf Course.
- Mark Novak, who served as mayor of Janesville from 2011-2013, died after being attacked in his home in Bloomington last week.
- Three candidates have filed for the open Waseca County Commissioner seat in District 3, vacant since the death of longtime commissioner Blair Nelson in May. Brad Milbrath, Larry Johnson and Ann Fitch have all filed the necessary paperwork to run in the special primary election set for November 7. The two highest vote getters from the Nov. 7 primary will move onto a general special election February 13, 2024. Whoever wins the February election will serve the remaining three years of a four-year term representing citizens in the City of Waseca Wards 1A and 2A.

Voting booths for those Wards are at Christ Community and Faith United Methodist Churches.

- “Three quarters of a century is a significant milestone,” observes Mark Schaetzke, manager of the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for the past 5 years. “It’s good to celebrate what we’ve accomplished over that time.”

The state of Minnesota authorized counties to establish local soil and water conservation districts in 1938. Over the next decades, local groups took action; in Waseca County, that happened in 1948. At that time, five area landowners became SWCD “supervisors,” acting as advisors to hired staff. Waseca County’s first supervisors were Reuben Youngerberg, Walter Rosenthal, Ernest Marquardt, Arnold Keller and Ray Dinneen.

Their contributions were among those celebrated during an open house this Thursday, Sept. 7, at the Waseca American Legion building. A 1 p.m. luncheon thanked past and present supervisors and SWCD employees.

- “I call Waseca my hometown,” says Brett Wickersheim, the newest dentist at Waseca Dental Care. “My parents lived in St. Louis Park when I was born and we moved a couple of times when I was very young, but we landed in Waseca when I was four. This is where I went to school, played sports, made friends and grew up until I went to the Cities for college.”
- As of July 1 of this year, Father Glenn Frerichs is the new priest presiding over Sacred Heart in Waseca and All Saints Catholic Church in New Richland, two parishes which clustered for the first time just as Frerichs was installed there.

- “You can be either an experienced gardener or a total novice and it will work for you,” declares Wasecan Lori Pommerenke, who has made it her summer project to convert 120 square feet of her traditional city lawn into a pollinator garden using only native plants.

Her inspiration for the change was the “lawns to legumes” grant program offered by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). She explains that any Minnesota resident can apply for the grants, which reimburse approved recipients for as much as \$400 in (verified) purchases and expenses.

- When it was built by Harvest States GTA in 1973, the Crystal Valley feed and grain facility between Janesville and Waseca was state of the art. The grain elevator was about 250 feet tall with concrete 7.5 inches thick. It was poured using slip forms, which meant the work had to continue around the clock.

“About two dozen people have stopped and told us they remember when it was being constructed, or even that they were hired to help with the work,” comments Trent Wadd, regional operations manager for Crystal Valley, whose office is located on the same site as the elevator, tucked in a relatively small space between Old and New Highways 14.

- Missionaries Phil and Denise Reed are members of the Waseca Christian Assembly and helped with the church’s 20-year celebrations this past weekend.

The two are between assignments just now, having been in Ukraine for 12 years at the time of the Russian attack in February of 2022. They have recently learned their next mission; they will be going to Warsaw, Poland in the near future, where they will be working with Ukrainian refugees.

- Les and Karen Tlougan are the Grand Marshals for the 2023 Marching Classic Parade. It’s a title they’ve earned, having dedicated many hours to each of the Marching Classic events held over the past three decades.
- It’s around 3:30 in the afternoon. School has just let out and customers are coming into Waseca Music in a steady stream. A refurbished clarinet



The First Waseca Soil Conservation District Board from 1948. From left: Earnest Marquardt, Ray Dinneen, Walter Rosenthal, Rueben Youngerberg, and Arnold Keller.



2023 Waseca Homecoming Court: Cecila Bjerke; Hannah La-Croix; Ella Krautkramer; Evelyn O'Brien; Ava Omtvedt; Addison Wieseler; Jack Anderson; Ahmed Farooq; Andrew Robran;

leaves the store with a fifth-grader; a rambunctious sixth-grader takes home a brand new flute. Another beginner needs a lesson book, but already has access to an instrument.

Jim Kozan greets each with a friendly smile, offers advice, and tells the beginning flute player, “You have to practice. I’m 74 years old. I’m in five bands. And that’s what we do: we practice, practice, practice.”

Kozan, now in his eighteenth year of operating the store, remembers that his parents, Ruth and Joe Kozan—who took ownership of the store in 1952—were the grand marshals of the very first Marching Classic parade in 1988. Ruth ran the store and took care of four children during the day. Joe, who also had a job at an area factory, would refurbish and repair instruments in the evening.

As for how he came to be selected as this year’s “friend of the classic” honoree, Kozan is matter-of-fact: “Whatever the music department needs, I take care of them.”

- Last week the Waseca Exchange club donated 250 brochures to “Free Flags for Vets” a local non-profit group run by Jeremiah Miller. A brochure will now be included with every Flag donated to a Veteran through the Free Flags organization.

Free Flags for Vets was started in

2017 by Miller.

- Waseca’s Christian Assembly church is approaching its forty-fifth year, having been in existence since 1979. Over the weekend, it celebrated the twentieth anniversary of its location at 900 Fourteenth Avenue Southeast.
- The weekend-long Fall Festival at Sacred Heart Church drew an estimated 1,000 people to its various events, according to co-chairs Becky Petsinger and Kellie Moseley. Although final numbers are not yet tallied, the two are certain funds raised will match or exceed last year’s \$81,000.
- After nearly half a year of construction, renovation and upgrades, Waseca’s FM BANK is ready to open September 26.
- “Warming, comfortable and inviting,” is how local bank president Jon Butler describes the remodel of the former Wells Fargo building at 220 East Elm Avenue.
- Minnesota author Newell Searle says his latest book, Copy Desk Murders, tells of crime in a fly-over country where people are more complicated than they seem, and where learning the truth is dangerous. He also claims it is not much different from his previous writing. “Saving Quetico-Superior (Searle’s previous book, published in 1977) was about a group of people ded-



ON THE ROAD - The vintage schoolhouse recently acquired by Autumn Acres had to be brought over the road in July.



Rostislavovich in front of the recently restored home on North State Street.

icated to protecting a particular wild place. It is a historical narrative of how humans and nature interact.

- September 5, 2023 began the twentieth school year since the founding of Waseca Charter School, TEAM Academy. The event was marked with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, during which the Chamber of Commerce presented the school with the Milestone Award.
- Waseca Homecoming 2023 kicks off next week. Coronation is set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 5 at the high school gymnasium, when royalty will be crowned based on a vote of the student body grades 9-12. The new king and queen will reign over homecoming activities including the parade scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. Friday starting at the Waseca County Fairgrounds. The homecoming football game will be at 7 p.m. Friday against the Jordan Hubmen.

This year’s king and queen candidates are Cecila Bjerke (daughter of Chad and Tara Bjerke); Hannah La-Croix (daughter of Bob and Jen La-Croix); Ella Krautkramer (daughter of Ryan and Amy Krautkramer); Evelyn O’Brien (daughter of Ben and Ria O’Brien); Ava Omtvedt (daughter of Aaron and Carol Omtvedt); Addison Wieseler (daughter of Patrick and Tania Wieseler); Jack Anderson (son of Chad and Julie Anderson); Ahmed Farooq (son of Atif Bhatti and Farkhanda Atif); Andrew Robran (son of Todd and Britta Robran); Kaeden Johnson (son of Larry and Linda Johnson); Thomas Mens (son of Brad and Lisa Mens); and Eli Miller (son of Jason and Caroline Miller).

Prior to homecoming week, a kick-off pep fest will be held during the school day on Friday, Sept. 29.



Community leaders gathered to celebrate the start of TEAM Academy’s 20th school year on September 5.

Nelson, Sistad named to President’s list

It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2023 President's List. 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.

Travis Nelson of Waseca (56093)
Cathy Sistad of Waseca (56093)
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. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner. Learn more at www.snhu.edu.

■ Frosty

from Page 1

The Hunt Begins
For the 27th year, the medallion hides
Ready to be found using only the clues as guides.
Chamber bucks and gifts await,
For the person lucked by fate.
Whether through wind or through snow,
Being winter, you just have to go.
Bundle up and stay warm,
Once pinpointed, the people will swarm.
The medallion, safe and covered,
Is there and ready to be discovered.
Good luck to all, we wish you the best,
The medallion awaits, hunkered in its nest.

Frosty: Week 1 Clue
It's that time of year again,
As we say hello to 2024,
And enter the 74th Festival season,
The Frosty contest is one not to ignore.
Much like the past 27 years,
And in Sleigh and Cutter tradition,
This year's Frosty
To the Waseca community, is an

addition.
Follow along each week,
As there is money you have a chance to win.
Compile the information and make a guess,
For the contest, today it will begin.
Will you pass Frosty in public,
As you support businesses in town?
Likely, that is very possible.
Use the clues to narrow Frosty down.

Medallion Hunt Rules
The medallion is hidden outdoors, on public property within the Waseca city limits. A \$1,750 prize of Chamber Dollars and store certificates will be awarded to the person who finds the medallion. Bring the medallion to Waseca Ace Hardware. Winner will be announced at 9:00 p.m. on Friday February 16, 2024, at the Waseca VFW Club. Clues will be published each week in the Waseca County News and New Richland Star. Clues will also be broadcast on KRUE and KOWZ Radio and will be available online at Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce at info.wasecachamber.com.
The hunt is sponsored by: Ace Hardware, Waseca County News, KEEN Bank, Xcel Energy, KOWZ/KRUE Radio, Waseca VFW Club 1642 and M Peters Enterprises. Please thank these sponsors for supporting the 27th Annual Medallion Hunt!

■ Zimmerman

from Page 1

shows that Zimmerman’s driver’s license, as well as those of his wife and sons, remained listed as the Woodville Township address. Four vehicles registered to the family also remained registered to the Woodville Township address.

Zimmerman was first charged on May 31, 2023 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.

Zimmerman maintains he did nothing wrong. “It’s really unfortunate,” he said in an interview with the Pioneer last year. “I knew from the get-go, that [getting elected] wouldn’t be an easy process. The fact that I [was] tells me that the community wants and deserves progress. I put myself out there to try and deliver that.”

The penalty for Zimmerman, if convicted, could be a prison term of no more than 5 years and/or \$10,000 in fines.



Sacred Heart teacher Elizabeth Veldman and the first-grade class showing their Christmas spirit. Below second-graders working hard in teacher Kelsey Titus' class. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Public invited to open house at Sacred Heart

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Sacred Heart School will be observing “National Catholic Schools Week” from Sunday, January 28, to Saturday, February 3.

The first element of its celebration is an open house from 11 a.m. to noon on January 28 which invites the public to tour the school, meet its teachers and staff, and find out more about its educational curriculum. For any parents, it is a no-pressure opportunity to look into private Christian schooling.

According to school principal Chris Dahle, Sacred Heart School has been teaching Waseca area children since 1886. Perhaps contrary to most people’s perception, not all of them have been followers of the Catholic faith.

They have, however, had morality, compassion, prayer and Christian ideals as part of their education, according to Sacred Heart spiritual leader Father Glenn Frerichs.

“Something I really appreciate,” comments Kathy Petracek, director of the school’s Children’s House Montessori program, “is that when an ambulance or another emergency vehicle goes by, the teachers will call attention to that—someone is in distress. Then they’ll lead their classes in a prayer that God will give that person the most positive outcome.”

The school, located along Elm Avenue near Sacred Heart church, has about 85 students in kindergarten through fourth grade, according to Dahle. Another 25 or more are part of the Children’s House Montessori early childhood and preschool program located in the building.

As a private institution, the school charges tuition for each child, but keeps the amount as low as possible

by finding additional sources of funding, Dahle explains. He also mentions that the tuition can be paid in installments as worked out between parents and the school. As a faith-based institution, Frerichs highlights, it offers parents the chance to decide “what level of participation their children will have in our services.”

The parents who have decided to enroll their children, according to Frerichs, often receive more than they expect. “Christianity is integrated into the whole day,” he said during an interview. “There’s a sense of family among the children, and a familial relationship among the parents.”

“There is an abiding sense of belonging and caring.”

Dahle offers that the open house is for any community member who might be curious about the school, but might be especially useful for parents of young children who have not yet decided what preschool or kindergarten program best meets their needs.

Petracek, whose own children attended Sacred Heart, said that fifth-grade teachers in the public school system have noted that students coming from the private school have no trouble integrating into the public program. “They also say, ‘You can always recognize a Sacred Heart student. There’s something special about them.’”

Frerichs believes it’s obvious what that “something special” might be. “It’s the freedom teachers and students have to connect with the spiritual,” he says.

Dahle invites any community members who are curious about private schooling to contact the school. For those who cannot attend the January 28 open house, he and his



staff are willing to arrange personal conversations or tours.

He also notes that students will observe National Catholic Schools week by “celebrating” a specific element of their community each day. On Monday, January 29, they will dress in colors to celebrate the Waseca community. The objective is to wear something whose colors or wording bring Waseca to mind.

A more individual celebration takes place on Tuesday, when students are invited to wear something they, personally, enjoy. Examples are a hat, pajamas, fun socks or a shirt from a favorite activity. Wednesday’s observance is “celebrate our school”; Thursday’s is “celebrate our faith”; Friday will be “celebrate our school spirit.”

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- RSVP to FM BANK at 507-571-3130 by February 7th

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Ed Usset

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