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WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 10 Vol. IV \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, March 6, 2025



Inside**State Tournament**

State Champions



Three-time State Champion of Class A, 285 lbs, Keegan Kuball celebrates after defeating Jack Carlson (Goodhue) by 11-6 decision at the Xcel Energy Center this weekend. Photo by Eli Lutgens



Carson Petry is crowned champion of Class A, 127 lbs at this year's state tournament after a 12-3 decision over Reed Sommer (Kenyon-Wanamingo). Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

Kuball does it again; Petry captures state title

Waseca county sends 13 wrestlers to state, return home with three medals; Barnett takes fifth

Waseca County schools sent 13 wrestlers representing Class A and AA to compete in the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) state tournament this past weekend, Feb. 27 to March 1, 2025.

Senior Keegan Kuball of WEM-JWP won his third straight state championship at 285 lbs in class A. After finishing fourth place a year ago, fellow

WEM-JWP senior Carson Petry captured his first state title at 127 lbs.

WEM-JWP sent four other wrestlers, Brady Murphy, Brenden Masso, Maddox Moreno, and Avery Fall. Murphy was eliminated in the second consolation round. Fall won his first match and then lost his next two. The others did not win a match.

Waseca junior Slade Barnett, 160 lbs, medaled, taking fifth place in class AA. Senior Ben Hagen, 285 lbs, was eliminated in the first round; junior Matthew Veroeven, 215 lbs, was eliminated in the second consolation round.

NRHEG had no place winners. Senior Ryan Schlaak was the only wrestler to win a match, but

failed to win any beyond the first round. Eighth-grader Grahm Jacobson, the youngest in school history to qualify for the state tournament, lost both his matches. Seniors Harbor Cromwell and Cole Hutchens both lost their matches.

More coverage and photos of all the area wrestlers can be found on the sports pages, numbers 10, and 12.

Celebrate National Oreo Day at the Janesville Public Library on March 6

There will be a National Oreo Day celebration at the Janesville Public Library at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 6. There will be challenges, taste tests and more. This event is free for kids 13-18.

Celebrate National Oreo Day at the Waseca Public Library on March 6

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Magna-Tile Villages building at Waldorf Public Library Friday, March 7

There will be a Magna-Tile Villages sets at the Waldorf Public Library at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, March 7. The mayor needs a village up and running as soon as possible! Create design plans and speed build. Geared for ages 7-12.

Legion Marchers' Liver/Hamburger Steak Feed Saturday, March 8

The Waseca American Legion will host a Liver/Hamburger Steak Feed at 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 8. Includes fried onions, potatoes and a roll. Proceeds benefit the Waseca Legion Marchers. Will include music by Andy Tackett.

A word from The Word

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Isaiah 40:8

Borgmann passes the baton

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

As he announced earlier this year, long-time lead of the Sleigh and Cutter committee Ken Borgmann is abdicating his role after "at least 30 years"; he and his wife Pug have been married 59 years, and lived in Waseca since 1979. They have decided to move back to their roots in the vicinity of Sauk Centre, Minn. sometime in the next few months.

Expressing his delight with how well this year's Sleigh and Cutter parade and celebration went, Borgmann admitted he is not capable of quitting "cold turkey."

"I'll be back," he stated. "I'm walking away from the day-to-day planning and work, but I'm not just going to walk away." Since he expects to be living in Sauk Centre in February of 2026, he predicts he will have to rent a hotel room so he can be present for the camaraderie and down-home fun the festival and parade offer.

During the last days of this year's Sleigh and Cutter celebration, Borgmann received three separate acknowledgments for his long-term leadership and dedication. The Waseca Chamber of Commerce and Tourism presented him with a plaque

during the dinner at the fairgrounds immediately following the parade. He was also given a miniature desk-sized figure identical in shape to the 15-foot long ice sculpture created by the Sakatah Ice Carvers the evening of Feb. 19. As he was thanked and acknowledged, the 225 or more people present honored him with a standing ovation. Borgmann admits the poignant moment nearly brought tears to his eyes.

Another touching presentation occurred during the dinner and dance at

Borgmann continued on 7



Ken Borgmann, leader for the Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Festival for more than 30 years, has announced 2025 is his last year at the helm. He received thank you gifts from a number of sources. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently



Waseca native and 2018 Waseca High School graduate Alison Dufault has been writing and releasing music since 2023. An excerpt of her single "Rest of Me" is used in the recently released film "Love Me," starring Kristen Stewart and Steven Yeun. She has been living in Los Angeles since starting college there in 2018.

Alison Dufault building her career in Los Angeles

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

A section of a song written and performed by Alison Dufault, a 2018 graduate of Waseca High School, is featured in the 2025 film "Love Me" starring Kristen Stewart and Steven Yeun. The movie is set in a future time when humanity no longer exists: two artificially intelligent machines—a buoy and a satellite—begin to communicate with one another and explore the concepts of love and personal identity.

Dufault says her composition "Rest of Me" was written in 2021 during the early production phase of the movie. Its mood and style follow moviemakers' request that it be a sad-toned love song. The title appears in the movie credits, where Dufault is listed as the composer and performer.

At this time, no theaters in the immediate area are showing the film, although it is on numerous screens in the Twin Cities. Alison's parents, Monte and Leslie Dufault, tell of having seen the movie in Dundas a week or so ago.

"We were both sitting with our phones ready and waiting," describes Monte. "We hit our 'record' buttons as soon as we knew we were in the right scene."

"We were definitely behaving like proud parents."

Alison has been living in Los Angeles since shortly after graduating. She explains she was very active in the Waseca High School vocal music program, having been part of the sextets and the State Street Singers. She took about 10 years of piano lessons with area teachers Naomi Easton and Liz Patterson. "They were both great at keeping up my enthusiasm for the music," she recalls.

She says she acquired a love for acting by taking part in school drama activities and productions including "Bye Bye Birdie," "Big Fish," and "just about everything theater-related." Her love of theater started already in elementary school, she recalls, when she would take part in productions directed by teacher

Dufault continued on 4

"We were definitely behaving like proud parents."
— Monte Dufault

Karen Pfarr Anderson.

"People who gravitate to drama are creative and fun to be around," she describes. "Being in plays is a great way to find a community, and to make good friends. Theater kids are energetic and unique and accepting."

As she finished high school, she says, she thought she would enjoy having acting as a career. "I figured that now, while I'm young, is the time to experiment—to try something big and different and kind of scary."

"And I thought to myself, 'Hey, if it doesn't work out, I can always come home.'"

Alison remembers help she received from teacher Dawn Skinner in preparing and planning for her auditions, which she submitted to a number of schools. After being accepted numerous places, she decided on the American Musical and Dra-

OBITUARIES

Luella M. Root

LUELLA MAE ROOT, age 90 of Waseca, died Thursday, February 27, 2025, at Lakeshore Inn and Rehabilitation Center in Waseca.

Born April 22, 1934, in Waseca, daughter of the late Lawrence and Mabel (Gehring) Cromer. She graduated from Waseca Central High School – Class of 1952. On October 17, 1954, she married Lyle Myrlin Root in Wilton Township, though they were later divorced. Following high school, she briefly worked for Northwestern Bell in Waseca, before working for Brown Printing in Waseca for over 40 years. She enjoyed following the Minnesota Twins and spending time with her family. She was a member of the Waseca VFW Auxiliary, Waseca Senior Center and was a life-long member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Wilton Township where she was confirmed in her faith on May 16, 1948.

She is survived by her children, Doreen (Bruce) Risto of Pemberton, LuAnn (Harold) Krienke of Janesville, Cathy (Dan) Lang of Springfield, Teri (Steve) Sheeley of St. Cloud; 10 grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; 16 great-



Luella Root

grandchildren and sister-in-law, Virginia Cromer. She is preceded in death by her parents and brother, Lyle Cromer.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 11:00 AM at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wilton Township. Visitation will be held for two hours prior to the service at the church. Interment will be held at the Woodville Cemetery in Waseca. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service is handling the arrangements. dsfuneral.com

■ Lake

from Page 3

or county staff would begin by removing some of the cormorant nests still in place on island trees, especially the lower ones within relatively easy reach; the nests are up to two feet across. Over the one to two weeks after ice out when the birds will be arriving and starting to build nests, carefully selected marksmen would position themselves on the island and shoot them, with the intent that many will move on when they notice their numbers are decreasing. Marksmen would use .22 caliber firearms with sound suppression. Tomford points out they would do their best to leave other nesting birds undisturbed.

The terms of any permit the county might receive, Tomford

continues, require that all dead birds be collected and the bodies disposed of in a safe and sanitary manner. In the case of the local application, Tomford says he indicated incineration would be the disposal method.

“It will be a messy job all around,” he observes, pointing out adult cormorants have wingspans of 48 to 54 inches, and typically weigh between 4 and 6 pounds. “We certainly wish it hadn’t come to this, but our choices are to either drive the birds away or watch the island in Loon Lake become bare and ugly.”

Tomford mentions his research shows it takes about three years of colony-level nesting before the ground below nests becomes deadly to vegetation. He believes the trees on the island—which are a typical local mix of oaks and other deciduous types—will recover from the damage done by last year’s colony, as long as heavy nesting is prevented in the future.

■ Council

from Page 3

tricts are completely off limits.”

Councilmember Ivan Maas expressed his doubts whether 250 was a large enough separation. “That’s not a big distance from a school or playground,” Maas added.

Moran reiterated that it’s definitely up to the city to make its own regulations.

“Even at 1,500, there was available real estate,” Moran said. “It was just very little, so by dialing that back from 1,500, it opened up some.”

“I don’t have a problem with making it restrictive for our community because 15 miles down the road, they’re going to do whatever they want,” Maas said.

“My only issue is, you know, in one meeting two days from now, we’re trying to promote growth in this town for business and everything else, and now we’re going to sit here two days before and restrict it,” Mayor Andy Arnoldt said. “Whether you want to believe it or not, it’s a legitimate business.” He also added, when it comes time to voting on the issue, he will abstain.

Members of the public gener-

ated more discussion about how 250 feet would be too close to the school because of the bowling alley where low potency cannabis may be sold. However, the restriction of 1,500 feet would also offer the potential cannabis business fewer locations. City resident Megan Luitjens said that if the high and low potencies could be separated out with different radius restrictions, she thought more people would be on board.

Moran cautioned if the council decided to follow Megan Luitjens’ suggestion, the council would have to settle on a firm number for both. He also said he didn’t see a problem deciding on a low radius restriction for the low potency cannabis since it’s not much different from alcohol and typically lacks an odor. He went on to acknowledge there are people who are adamantly against cannabis production and sales.

“Keep in mind, this is new,” Moran said. “I don’t anticipate the state issuing licenses at least until summer or fall of this year. I’ve even heard 2026.”

A year ago, he added, the state was supposed to have already issued licenses, but he has noticed that every few months, the timeline seems to be expanded. That said, he assured the public and the council that the state will not be issuing licenses in the near future.

America 250! Marker to be placed at Lincoln Park in Mankato

Anthony Wayne Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), based in Mankato, was recently awarded a grant by the national DAR society to commemorate the approaching 250th Anniversary of the birth of our country. The purpose of this grant is to encourage local chapters to place markers in all 50 states and in as many communities as possible to herald the approaching anniversary.

Anthony Wanye Chapter used the grant to purchase a bench in coordination with the City of Mankato to place at the Boy in Blue Memorial in Lincoln Park. A small dedication ceremony was held Feb. 18, 2025, and the bench will be installed facing the memorial fountain this spring. Special thanks go to Justin Lundborg, City of Mankato natural resources specialist, for his help in procuring and placing the memorial bench.

Regent Ruth Schreiber says, “As Lincoln Park hosts Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and other events throughout the year, we truly hope the visitors to this memorial will benefit from a place to rest and remember the men and women of our great country who sacrificed their lives for the dream of a free nation.”

The National DAR Society is a women’s service organization whose members can trace their lineage to an individual who contributed to securing American independence during the Revolutionary War. Today’s DAR is dynamic and diverse, with over 185,000 members in 3,000 chapters in the United States and abroad. DAR members annually provide millions of hours of volunteer service to their local communities across the country and world. DAR chapters participate in projects to promote historic preservation, education, and patriot-



Anthony Wayne Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) members from Waseca were among those who took part in a DAR event celebrating America’s upcoming milestone: 250 years. Susan Jirele and Marilyn Wilkes are seated, respectively, left and right of DAR regional Regent, Ruth Schreiber.



ism. Over one million members have joined the organization since its founding in 1890.

Anyone interested in learning more about the society or about applying for membership can

visit www.anthonywaynechapterminnesota.org. More information about the America 250! Bench is available from Ruth Schreiber at anthonywaynechapter@gmail.com.

■ Dufault

from Page 1

matic Academy, which has campuses in New York City and Los Angeles.

She began attending in the fall of 2018 and graduated in 2022, with a major in acting.

“I worked on my music on the side,” she mentions. “When I felt like playing or singing, I would sneak into one of the vocal rooms and try out sounds.” Composing is something she says she had begun in high school, but which she really “ramped up” during college. She says it has become a continual thing that she will get a tune in her head and spend the day playing around with it internally until she can get to a piano and test it out. She mentions the “voice memo” box on her smartphone has quite a collection of experimental snippets.

Under the name DearAlis, she released her first single, “She Stares at Stars” in 2023; it and seven others are available on Spotify, Pandora, and anywhere one listens to music.

As for the move to Los Angeles, she admits her 18-year-old self really had no idea what she was getting herself into. “There was really big culture shock,” she recalls. “Moving from a town with ten thousand people to one with 10 million—there’s really no way to describe the difference.”

She was kept from feeling alienated, however, because she was attending college with hundreds of other “theater kids.” By the time she graduated, although she is a small town girl at heart, she was ready to take on the role of being a city dweller.

“I’m kind of living the L.A. story,” she says of her current lifestyle. “You find a day job to pay the bills, and the rest of the time you hustle and take every opportunity to show producers

and decisionmakers what you’re capable of.”

The chance to write “Rest of Me” came through her acquaintance with musicians Josh Jacober and Craig Jackson, whom she had gotten to know in their jobs as bartenders and only gradually discovered they have connections in the film industry. When Jacober and Jackson learned Alison was a singer and composer, they asked whether she would like to try writing a song for the producers of “Love Me.”

Though the clip used in the film is only about 15 seconds long, Alison calls it “a beginning.”

“It’s enough to make me think this whole thing has a chance of working out,” she says of the energy and enthusiasm she gets from the accomplishment.

Thinking back to her high school days in Waseca, Alison says she is grateful to the community for the sense of security and support she always felt, which gave her the per-

sonal comfort and confidence to perform and try new things.

“Waseca is small but mighty,” she comments. “I want kids to know they’re lucky to have that.”

“When they’re ready to go out and try something new or scary, they have everything they need within them, and they shouldn’t be afraid to try.”

As for herself, she says she will continue working the various day jobs with the hope that more successes will follow this one. She says she is working on a short solo album she expects to release by the end of the year under the name Alice October. Some friends are working on making corresponding music videos.

The “L.A. dream,” she says, is that “eventually the day jobs aren’t needed anymore.”

“Who knows?” she asks optimistically. “Things can change very quickly. One chance acquaintance in a place like Los Angeles can lead to the ‘big break’ everyone talks about.”

■ Streets

from Page 3

good experience [for users],” Martens concluded.

Fourth Street SW: The street will be resurfaced and remain 31 feet wide. New sidewalk connecting Ash and Broadway Ave. will be installed on the south side.

Third St. SE: The most controversial street in this project will see the street narrowed to 36 feet wide and moved about three feet south in

some portions to straighten the road. A cul-de-sac will be installed on the east end to help improve water drainage.

“You have to think about the people who live there,” resident James Stringfield told Bolton and Menk. “You’re not looking at my property. No one utilizes that part of the sidewalk... I’m losing shade trees... bird feeders. I sure would like to save those.”

“We’re here today to take feedback and understand,” Bienfang answered. “The intent of the project is to be mindful of all the improvements... We’re trying to do it in the most thoughtful way.”

“I’m assessed \$27,000 and I’m not getting any value out of it,” Stringfield responded. “[That] \$27,000 isn’t going to increase the value of my property. If no one is listening, what can I do?” Stringfield asked.

Bienfang offered to meet with Stringfield and discuss the possibility of saving one of the trees. It was also shared that sewer lines run right under the trees in question.

Stringfield, along with any others with concerns, were also encouraged to direct their opinions to the city council.

Street Assessments

In order to pay for this \$3.2 million improvement, the city is bond-

ing for approximately \$2.7 million and assessing \$467,000 from property owners.

The city has not used special assessments to collect funds for construction in more than a decade; local residents have stated the additional taxes will be a burden.

Asked why the city can’t bond for the entire \$3.2 million, administrator Martens said assessment is “a ‘normal’ part of an improvement process.”

“We would love to not charge [individual street assessments],” said Martens. “But these types of projects can’t be done without them.”

He also said the cost of the bonds and the burden to the taxpayers would be too great.

Martens said no grants could be obtained for this project because it is categorized as normal improvement and regular maintenance.

Many residents came to the Feb. 27 open house with concerns; many left satisfied.

Sharon Eckart, who met with Bolton and Menk in her home to talk about her concerns, said she is now feeling confident about the project.

“I still have questions that I’ll ask later on, but I know they will get answered,” Eckart stated. “I’m impressed with this engineering firm.”

“Corey Bienfang is honest, down to earth,” Eckart praised. “And he listened to me and Norm.”

Administrator Martens said Bienfang “deserves some praise. He’s done a great job.”

Going forward, the council will have to approve the final plans for this project and authorize bids. Their next regular meeting is scheduled for March 10.

Approximately a month after that approval, the city will call for an assessment hearing for assessed property owners. Construction is likely to start in June with completion projected in May of 2026.

13 NORTH EXPRESS LUBE

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JWP
SCHOOL BOARD

JWP tables student survey

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

During their Feb. 10 meeting, members of the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (JWP) school board postponed a decision regarding whether district students should take part in an annual statewide survey meant to collect anonymous information about student lifestyles, health, and personal perceptions. After hearing a presentation from the Waseca County Public Health Department, board member Kevin Born vocalized that he'd like additional time to ask questions about it.

"I'd like to find out why we haven't participated in the past and do more investigation," Born stated. "I didn't do that ahead of time... I don't think we've been hindered because we haven't done it. We've applied for a lot of grants, we've gotten a lot of grants." He stated uncertainty as to whether the district would benefit from asking students to take the lengthy personal survey.

Earlier in the meeting, Waseca County Public Health Educator-Planner Colin Ayers had described the information-gathering tool, which is meant to be administered statewide every three years to students in grades 5, 8, 9 and 11. Ayers stated in addition to collecting data, some questions are meant to help students reflect on their own goals and progress.

"If you complete it the end of March, the Minnesota Student Survey will provide a general overview of where your students are," Ayers said. "Students in grades 9 and 11 will receive some additional questions; it's no more than about ten to twelve but overall, it's about 150 questions and takes about thirty to fifty minutes for students to complete."

Ayers also clarified the information remains anonymous and students have the right to decline the survey or to skip a few questions if they desire. Students, he added, don't get penalized if they quit halfway through. To maintain confidentiality, the Minnesota Student Survey requires twenty students in each grade level to participate.

"It has some community questions on it such as how safe do they feel their neighborhood is, how they feel their relationship is with adults, relationships with teachers," Ayers said, adding that the survey helps administrators support school policies, reflects student needs and can help identify trends which may be helpful in planning for the future.

In other business matters, the school board rescinded Model 522 Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy from the 2024 Model back to the 2022 version due to the federal court decision on January 8.

During the meeting, the school board approved the JWP baseball trip to 2026 spring training in Florida. Superintendent Jeremy Erler clarified students would be responsible for their own expenses; the only expense to the district would be transportation to and from the airport.

"Any time we can approve a trip like this, I would support it,"

JWP continued on 7



From left Food Shelf Employee Angela Matz, Volunteer Dean Schoenfeld, Chamber and Exchange Club President Mikhail Rostislavovich, Food Shelf Executive Director Cindy Kolander, Board Member Gretchen Priebe, Operations Specialist Steph Bartelt, Lions Club President Diane Beckmann, and Rotarian Ann Staloch

WAC launches "Feed Waseca" challenge

Waseca, MN – March 1, 2025 – The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and the Waseca Area Food Shelf are proud to announce the launch of the "Feed Waseca" Challenge in conjunction with Minnesota FoodShare Month. This initiative encourages local service clubs and businesses to engage in a friendly competition by creating videos that challenge others to raise funds and collect food for the Waseca Area Food Shelf.

"We are thrilled to spearhead the 'Feed Waseca' Challenge," said Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce. "This community-driven effort not only

fosters camaraderie among local organizations but also addresses the pressing issue of food insecurity in our area."

Recent reports highlight a significant increase in demand for food assistance across Minnesota. In 2024, food shelves statewide recorded nearly 9 million visits, an 18.4% rise from the previous year. The Waseca Area Food Shelf has similarly experienced a surge in need, underscoring the importance of community support.

"The outpouring of support from our community is truly heartwarming," expressed Cindy Kolander, Executive Director of the Waseca Area Food Shelf.

"With the rising number of families seeking assistance, initiatives like the 'Feed Waseca' Challenge are vital. Every dollar and food item donated makes a tangible difference in the lives of our neighbors."

Monetary contributions are particularly impactful, as they allow the food shelf to procure essential items at a lower cost, maximizing the value of each donation. The 'Feed Waseca' Challenge not only aims to stock the shelves but also to strengthen the bonds within the community through collective action.

Minnesota FoodShare Month, running from March 1 to April 6, is a statewide campaign that

rallies organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals. The Waseca Area Food Shelf joins nearly 300 food shelves in Minnesota. More importantly, a cumulation of the poundage of food and dollars raised gets matched through the program. The collaborative spirit of the 'Feed Waseca' Challenge embodies the essence of this campaign, demonstrating how unified efforts can effectively combat hunger.

For more information on how to participate in the "Feed Waseca" Challenge or to make a donation, please contact the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce at 507-835-3260.



The Waseca JHHS Concert Choir performing Winter Frost with Collin Dettmer on the clarinet the evening of Feb. 25, 2025. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

'Midwinter Melodies' at Waseca High School

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca Vocal Music Department presented a combination of "Midwinter Melodies" in the high school performing arts center the evening of Feb. 25. Director of choirs was Megan Kreinbring; collaborative pianist was Mellisa Shulz.

First to perform was the 38-member Concert Choir with the song 'Jambo' with arrangements by Jacob Narverud. Instrumentalists were Sadie Schimming and Leah Scheffert. Soloists were Nathanael Andrs, Ty Krautkremer and Cyrus Wilson. The group moved on to "Morning" by Janet Gardner, "I'm Bound Away" by

Mark Patterson and "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel" by Roger Emerson.

The Sextets were next with "Lakeside Lullaby" by Jacob Narverud; "What Happens When a Woman?" by Artemisia and "Shenandoah" by Michael John Trotta.

The select choir, which has 63 members, started off with "Salmo 150" by Ernani Aguiar. Next came "Hold Me Rock Me" by Brian Tate; "TaReKiTa" by Reena Esmail and "I'll be on my Way" by Shawn Kirchner with a solo performance by Andres Vasquez-Neigebauer. The group continued with "Lamentations of Jeremiah" by Z. Randall Stroope;

"Adoramus Te, Christe" by Eric Barnum with a solo performance by Nathanael Andrs; "Shout Glory!" by Byron J. Smith with solo performances by Sophie Chawra and Claire Dieker; "Improvisations" by Claire Dieker, Cejay Pickett, Sophie Chawra, Erza Skains, Sadie Schimming, Hunter Barnes, Adrian Arreguin, Kylie Snow, Nathanael Andrs, Brayden Hoof, Andres Vasquez-Neigebauer and Layla Keith.

The Waseca JHHS vocal music department expressed gratitude to the Waseca School District and administration, the school custodial staff, Melissa Shulz, Chuck Pollack, Daniel J. Johnson Accounting, Waseca Choir Boosters,

the Waseca Music Department Staff, the Waseca teaching staff for enabling students to attend music lessons, and parents and guardians for supporting music education.

There will be more events coming soon, including Select Choir large group contest at Waldorf Elysian Morristown (WEM) on Monday, March 3. Choir Boosters Breakfast at the Sweet-Sommers VFW on Sunday, April 13. A Variety Show on Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3. Junior High Choir Concert Monday, May 12. High School Choir Concert Monday, May 19.

JANESVILLE
CITY COUNCIL

Janesville council approves payloader

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

At the February 10 meeting at 7 p.m., the Janesville City Council also approved the purchase of a payloader from Cat. Model 930 for \$254,095 over the John Deere model 544P offered at \$255,400.12. Additionally, Public Works Director Joe Ziemke recommended going with the Cat would break down the financing from the Street Reserve budget.

Ziemke said that the different companies included a full machine warranty with the only difference of John Deere's warranty at 2,000 hours and Cat offered 2,500 hours. He also clarified that the city has budgeted \$100,000 for a down payment for either payloader.

"This is not a replacement," he added. "We are adding, so we're not selling or trading. We thought about trading in our road grader just for the value they offered to us for it. It makes more sense to hang onto it and keep maintaining our alleys and using it for plowing snow."

He said the city's current loader, purchased in 2014, has seen about 2,500 hours of use.

"The years are going to burn up before the hours," Ziemke stated. He also mentioned that Cat offered \$17,000 credit if the city purchased from them.

"Basically, Cat just wants the business," he added.

"Is that reflected in the \$254,000?" Mayor Andy Arnoldt inquired, and Ziemke confirmed, "Yes."

"Which would you prefer?" City Clerk Sarah Jo Vulcan asked Ziemke.

"We haven't had very many issues with our Deere that we currently have," Ziemke responded. "But being the Cat is lower [priced], Cat is a great machine... I didn't think Cat was going to come anywhere close to Deere. Historically, they're usually a little bit higher. I've had better luck with Cat's service, getting parts and stuff like that."

"If we're buying the Cat and keeping the John Deere, are the attachments interchangeable between the two?" Councilmember Ivan Maas asked Ziemke who responded, "No."

"Cat has their own new coupler," Ziemke explained. "Even if we went with a Deere, our old attachments would not work with it because it's an older style. Since then, they've come up with a newer coupling system."

"And the fees to upgrade both units are not included in this?" councilmember Ivan Maas inquired.

"That is correct," Ziemke said. "It would be more effective to just get new attachments because those couplers are so expensive."

In other business matters, Police Chief Steve Johnson shared information from his fourth quarter report, including that the department received 500 more calls at this point in the year than in 2023 around the same time. Out of 123 people charged and taken to court, he said, 118 were convicted and eight had their cases dismissed. Those eight, he said, involved proof of insurance, elaborating that those who did not have proof in the car when they were stopped by officers can simply take that proof to the courthouse and have charges dropped.

Janesville continued on 6



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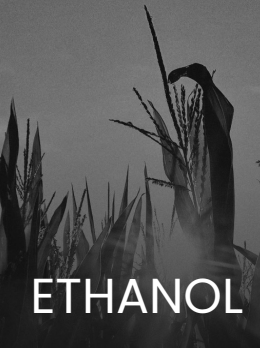
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ETHANOL



The Pastor's Column

A lesson in compassion

By Mike Coglan
Pastor, Real Life Church

During a recent cold snap, my mind drifted back to an experience in Chicago while I attended seminary. On one of the coldest days of the year, my wife Laura and I took our son, Ian to a McDonald's restaurant near our city apartment. Ian was just a toddler, and we had to bundle him up until he looked like a bag of laundry with a face on it. The restaurant was packed with people and parkas; we were lucky to find a table where we could start unpacking our kid. But I noticed that two seats at a counter were cold and untouched. These were on either side of a homeless man reading a newspaper.

His long hair was ratted into dreadlocks and his beard was full and unkempt. A green army jacket covered a dirty Chicago Blackhawks sweatshirt. He was scary looking and no one would sit next to him. On another day, he would probably have been kicked out for loitering, but the cold outside brought pity. All around him, people tried to ignore his existence. All around him, people could not help themselves for stealing quick glances at him.

As we took out our food and began to feed Ian, I felt a spiritual impulse. I told Laura I had to do something. I walked over to the man, not knowing what to say or do. Every conversation seemed to stop as I approached this broken man. I could feel people staring at me as I put a hand on the man's shoulder and spoke to him. Then I made a friend of a polite and gentle man named Barry.

Barry thanked me for offering to buy him lunch but he said he wasn't hungry. Reluctantly, he took the small amount of money I had on me. We had a short conversation about the headline on his newspaper, and then I introduced my family. A few moments later he returned to reading his paper. Over the next three years, I saw Barry a lot, because he made his home under a bridge near our urban campus. I made a point of stopping to talk with Barry whe-

never I had time. I really didn't know what I was getting myself into. Other seminary students had tried to help him get off the streets, but he didn't want to talk about it. So, right or wrong, I decided to simply be his friend.

Barry had been a college student during the late sixties. Something sad happened while he was there, a combination of personal disappointment and alcohol abuse. He dropped out of school; then he dropped out of sight. On the streets, he had to learn a new way of life. He avoided homeless shelters because he didn't feel safe in them. One day as we talked, he rolled a cigarette in paper he had torn out of a phone book. I warned him that the Yellow Pages are hazardous to your health. He smiled with missing teeth. I offered to buy him some real cigarettes, but he laughed and said, "These ain't so bad."

I have often thought about my short friendship with Barry, especially how frightening it was to introduce myself. In that short walk between our tables, thoughts raced through my mind. Was this person violent? What could I offer him? What responsibilities might I open myself up to by just knowing this man? In the end, it was the risk that made the experience so meaningful. It was personal, unlike sending a check to some ministry in the city.

In a parable, Jesus once spoke the oft quoted words, "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40) Ultimately what I did for Barry was very little. I'm surprised at how hard it was to just acknowledge him as a human being. I'm still sometimes troubled that I did not do nearly enough. On the other hand, Barry did much for me. He was always glad to see me; he never asked for money. He wasn't embarrassed about his lifestyle, and mine didn't intimidate him. There were no conditions on our friendship. Sitting on a campus bench with Barry one day, I realized that I was not talking to a bum.

I was talking to Jesus.

Children's Dream Catcher Fundraiser at Starfire Event Center

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The final winter event to close this year's Sleigh and Cutter Festival was the Children's Dream Catcher Fundraiser at the Starfire Event Center the evening of Saturday, March 1. There was Bingo, a meat raffle, an auction and a 50/50 raffle. There were concessions and an open cash bar.

It was a full house during the Bingo game, calling the numbers was Scott Roemhildt, assisted by Jen Burt. Yellow lights hung down from the ceiling adding to the ambience. On the floor running in between tables were local royalty, Miss Sleigh and Cutter Teen Amaya Rath, Miss Owatonna Teen Kaylee Smith, Miss Waseca County Sleigh and Cutter Teen Paige Johnson, Miss Waseca County May Diddy and Miss Owatonna Jasmin Kotek. Amaya Rath was helpful and took out some time to name off the royalty. When asked why she was there she said, "After we won, they give us a list of all the events happening in Waseca County and we sign up for the events we're available." Some of the other girls chimed in with, "We're all here as volunteers." As she said this a woman behind her yelled, "Bingo" and there was a collective groan from the crowd; someone had just won a \$750 blackout cash amount. There was another groan when the Bingo was confirmed.

Donations from all over Waseca

County were on display in the auction area: baskets from both Keen and Minnwest Banks, lawn chairs, Easter baskets, loon puzzles, baskets of assorted lotions, moonshine, hoodies, blankets and gift certificates. There were large pictures in glass frames, seven types of bread, lfe and syrup, a dozen eggs. Five different types of cookies, four different types of bars and Fischer Family Farms pork gift boxes. The final amount raised today was \$5,400, that includes Bingo, meat raffle, silent auction and cash donations.

As the Bingo games came to an end, Roemhildt and Burt exited the stage and made way for auction caller Bill Harguth who said before beginning, "I want to thank all the pretty girls we got running around here, they sure are helping us today." Ken Borgman, finishing up his leadership role at this last event, mingled among the crowd and answered questions. Since this is officially the final winter event for Sleigh and Cutter, when Borgman was asked if there was anything else he wanted to let everyone know about, he said, "There will be a Kite Festival at Farmamerica on July 5, sponsored by Waseca's Sleigh and Cutter Festival."

For those wishing to donate to Sleigh and Cutter contact Scott Roemhildt at 507-995 9832, scott.w.roemhildt@gmail.com or Ken Borgmann 507-461-3727, ken.borgmann@gmail.com.

Second annual Bockfest honors Wayne Breitbarth

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The second annual Memorial Bockfest to honor the life of Wayne Breitbarth took place at the American Legion on Saturday, March 1. Hosted by Waseca brewing club the Fermentals, the event included a silent auction, beer and wine tasting, 'beer poking' and live music provided by Bob's Rubber Band. Breitbarth was a Waseca County Dispatcher who died unexpectedly in August of 2023 at the age of 40. He was a member of the Fermentals Home Brewing club, loved Bockfest, and was a big supporter of the Invisible Wounds Project.

In honor of that support, the evening's proceeds will be donated to The Invisible Wounds Project, which says will help any veteran for any reason. Last year, Bockfest raised \$4,500 for the cause.

The Fermentals, an organization of Waseca home brewers founded in 2006, organized and funded the event. Club president David Wright clarified, "We don't just make beer, we make wine, mead and right now they are sampling a homemade root beer." He gave a welcoming speech at the beginning of the night. The \$15 admission fee covered a meal, beer and wine tastings, and a commemorative glass. Wright told those in attendance, "Listen everyone, we know the commemorative glass is small, but you can take 15,000 trips to the samplers and you can fill it as many times as you want." Patrons were asked to vote for the People's Choice Award for the evening. There were more than 50 silent auction items.



Paul Osdoda and Glen Kajewski and Jay Dulas were selling tickets at the second annual Bockfest at the Legion on Saturday, March 1, 2025. Photo by Ben Revermann

Contact information for the Invisible Wounds Project is 855-HELP-IWP or email Admin@iw-project.org.

The Fermentals express their gratitude to those who donated for the evening: Waseca County Sheriff's Department, Waseca Police Dept, Waseca Area Fire Department, Waseca County Emergency Management, Radio Mankato, Minnwest Bank, American Legion Post 228, M. Peters, Fischer Farms, Steve and Judy Christensen, Kris Markeson, Schell's Brewery, Half Pint Brewery, Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm, Dunkin' Donuts, Kwik Trip North, Plaid Hat Management, Wow Zone, Becky Rogness, Paul Osdoba and Carol

Hanks, Kenny Schultz, David and Dennis Wright, Terry and Deb Vanderhorst, Barb Babb, Mineral Springs Brewery, Legacy Signs, Club 57, David and Dianne Oakland, Classic's Pub Waterville, Keen Bank, Trevor Kanewischer, Hannah's Honey, Chad and Cara McDonnough, Drew and Connie Grandia, Waseca Comedy Club, Penny Vought, Chad Davis, Dalton and Amber Peltz, Ward House Brewery, Lost Sanity Brewery, Ace Hardware, Ron and Lynette Wolfe Subway, Past and Presents, Suburban Furniture, Jason Jones, Doug and Jill Holmes, Christiana Marsolek and Jarod, Glenn and Darby Kajewski, Art Wildeman, Vital Industries.

■ Janesville

from Page 5

Regarding the overall record, Johnson observed, "That's a 96-percent conviction rate. We're pretty proud of that - We're really fortunate to have that number."

Johnson also reported the police force now has eight part-time officers, but two part-time positions remain available.

Property owner and city resident Robert Burns requested that the city direct its engineer to perform a study regarding what costs and possibilities there are for adding city infrastructure to property he owns south of the city garage. Burns stated he has been approached by more than one party potentially interested in purchasing the land, but those parties want information regarding development.. City administrator Cliff Rogers responded that the study may be difficult because the city isn't sure about what the business would be,

but promised he would ask the engineer to put a cost estimate together.

During the meeting, Paul Voges updated the council about three grants he applied to for Songs in the Park and said he received two of them but is waiting for an answer about the third. Voges also said he's making a few changes this year, including that he plans to put on Songs in the Park twice a month through the summer, except in June when there will be a conflict with Hay Daze.

"I also want to bring back the Ja-

nesville night out this year," Voges added and admitted he didn't know much about it but was told to talk to Chief Johnson and ask about a date. City Clerk Sarah Jo Vulcan looked the event up and informed him it was typically the first Tuesday in August. Voges promised to get together with the council and figure out a day.

Arnoldt thanked Voges for putting hard work into this event and said a lot of people were happy about it last year.

The city adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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507-835-2235
Service times 9:30 a.m.
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4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH
605 4th St NE, Waseca
507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker)
Worship Sundays 10 a.m.
* * *

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

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 6th St NE, Waseca
507-835-9176
Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service
* * *

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

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

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

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

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
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.; Saturdays at 5 p.m.
* * *

REAL LIFE CHURCH
620 W Elm Ave, Waseca

507-607-8245
Sunday worship 10 a.m.
* * *

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

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
1221 8th St SE, Waseca
507-835-2213
Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
* * *

CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY
900 14th Ave SE, Waseca
507-833-1082
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m.
* * *

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
Sunday - 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1
* * *

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Brad Donner, Branch President
Waseca, Minnesota
www.lds.org
Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18
* * *

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA
404 30 120th St. Waseca
Pastor Sarah Krolak
507-234-6463
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday "Young at heart"
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation
* * *

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

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New Richland

25 Years Back

The school board also renewed district membership in the Minnesota Valley Education District (MVED): under the group's service agreement, JWP pays a share of the salary, benefits and mileage for a regional teacher who works with students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The school board adjourned at 7:24 p.m.



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LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.: 81-PR-25-108
In Re: Estate of
JAMES FRANCIS BYRON,
Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF
HEARING
ON PETITION FOR FOR-
MAL PROBATE OF WILL
AND APPOINTMENT OF
PERSONAL REAPRESEN-
TATIVE IN UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PER-
SONS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 2nd day of April, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., a hearing will be held in the above Court at Waseca, Minne-
sota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the will of the above named decedent, dated March 29, 2006, and for the appointment of Thomas E. Byron whose address is 5870 W Hwy 30, Ellendale, MN 56026, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the above named decedent in unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper and no objec-

tions are filed, a Personal Rep-
resentative will be appointed to administer the Estate, to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate. Upon completion of the administration, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereunto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said Estate are required to present the same to said Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator

within four months after the date of this Notice or said claims will be barred.

Dated: 02/17/2025
/s/ Carol M. Hanks
Judge of District Court
/s/Shannon Asselin
Deputy Court Administrator

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BERG, P.A.
William L. Hoversten, #47478
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Published in the Waseca
County Pioneer on February
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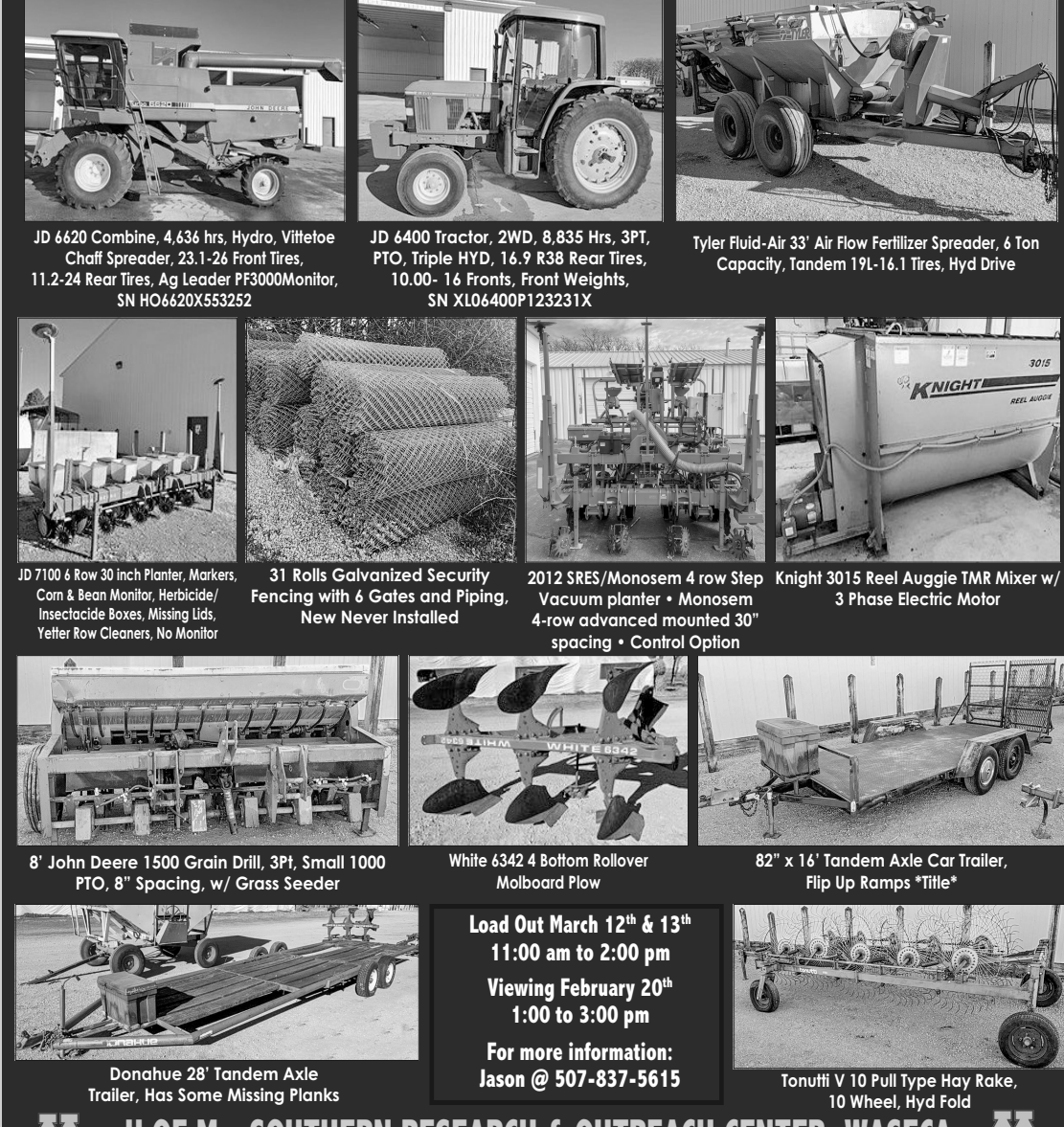
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Bidding Ends Tuesday, March 11th, 2025 at 4:00 pm

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11.2-24 Rear Tires, Ag Leader PF3000 Monitor,
SN H06620X553252**

**JD 6400 Tractor, 2WD, 8,835 Hrs, 3PT,
PTO, Triple HYD, 16.9 R38 Rear Tires,
10.00- 16 Fronts, Front Weights,
SN XL06400P123231X**

**Tyler Fluid-Air 33" Air Flow Fertilizer Spreader, 6 Ton
Capacity, Tandem 19L-16.1 Tires, Hyd Drive**

**JD 7100 6 Row 30 Inch Planter, Markers,
Corn & Bean Monitor, Herbicide/
Insecticide Boxes, Missing Lids,
Yetter Row Cleaners, No Monitor**

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**Knight 3015 Reel Auggie TMR Mixer w/
3 Phase Electric Motor**

**8' John Deere 1500 Grain Drill, 3PT, Small 1000
PTO, 8" Spacing, w/ Grass Seeder**

**White 6342 4 Bottom Rollover
Molboard Plow**

**82" x 16' Tandem Axle Car Trailer,
Flip Up Ramps *Title***

**Donahue 28' Tandem Axle
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**For more information:
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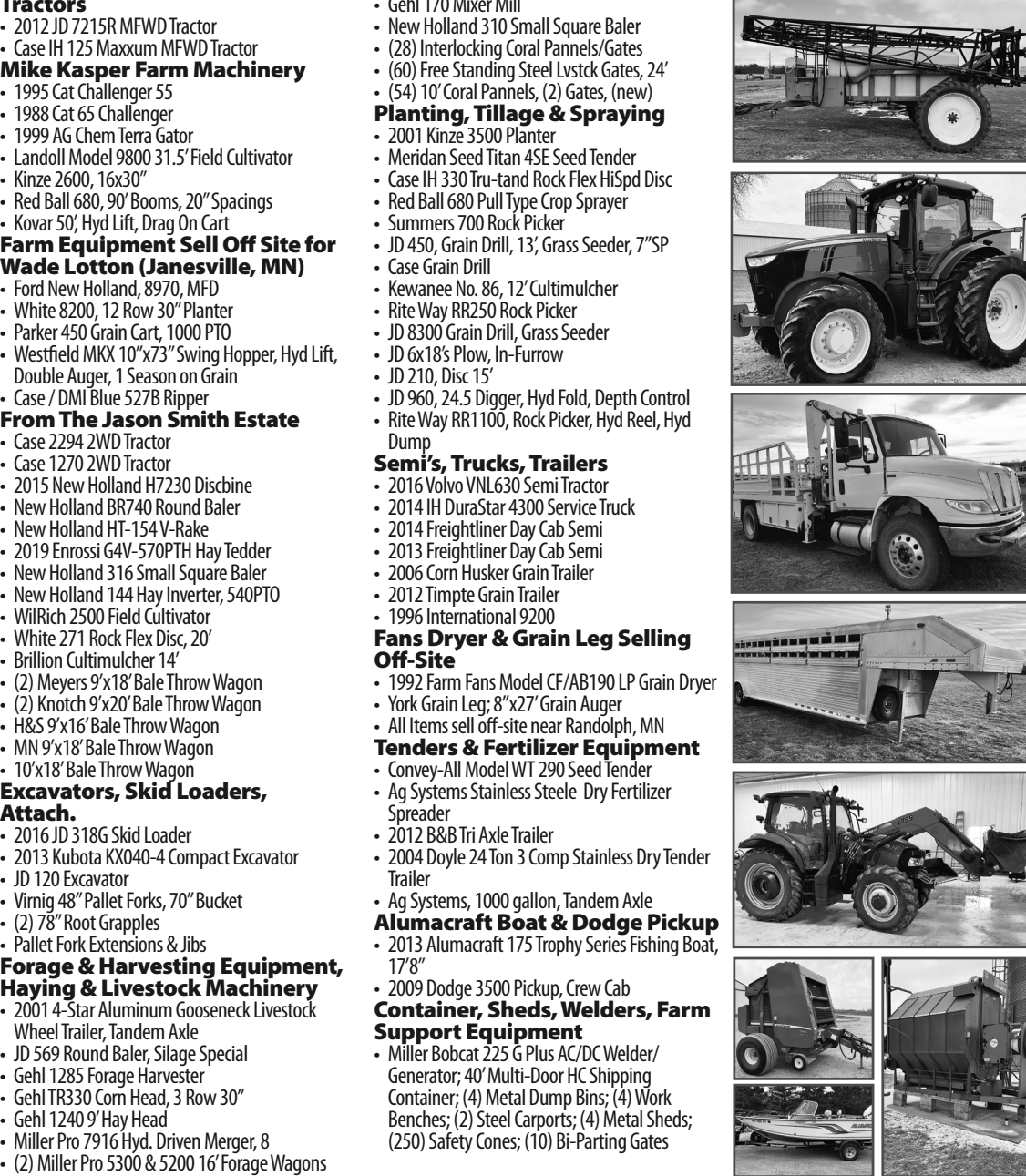


**ONLINE ONLY SPRING AREA FARMERS
CONSIGNMENT AUCTION**

Bidding Opens: Saturday March 1, 2025 at 8:00am

Bidding Starts Closing: Tuesday March 11, 2025 at 10:00am

AUCTION LOCATION Maring Auction Lot, HWY 56 BLVD North, Kenyon, MN 55946



Tractors

- 2012 JD 7215R MFWD Tractor
- Case IH 125 Maxxum MFWD Tractor
- **Mike Kasper Farm Machinery**
- 1995 Cat Challenger 55
- 1988 Cat 65 Challenger
- 1999 AG Chem Terra Gator
- Landoll Model 9800 31.5" Field Cultivator
- Kinze 2600, 16x30"
- Red Ball 680, 90" Booms, 20" Spacings
- Kovar 50, Hyd Lift, Drag On Cart
- **Farm Equipment Sell Off Site for Wade Lotton (Janesville, MN)**
- Ford New Holland, 8970, MFD
- White 8200, 12 Row 30" Planter
- Parker 450 Grain Cart, 1000 PTO
- Westfield MKX 10"x73" Swing Hopper, Hyd Lift, Double Auger, 1 Season on Grain
- Case / DMI Blue 527B Ripper
- **From The Jason Smith Estate**
- Case 2294 2WD Tractor
- Case 1270 2WD Tractor
- 2015 New Holland H7230 Discbine
- New Holland BR740 Round Baler
- New Holland HT-154 V-Rake
- 2019 Enrossi G4V-570PTH Hay Tedder
- New Holland 316 Small Square Baler
- New Holland 144 Hay Inverter, 540PTO
- WillRich 2500 Field Cultivator
- White 271 Rock Flex Disc, 20"
- Brillion Cultimulcher 14"
- (2) Meyers 9'x18" Bale Throw Wagon
- (2) Knottch 9'x20" Bale Throw Wagon
- H&S 9'x16" Bale Throw Wagon
- MN 9'x18" Bale Throw Wagon
- 10'x18" Bale Throw Wagon
- **Excavators, Skid Loaders, Attach.**
- 2016 JD 318G Skid Loader
- 2013 Kubota KX040-4 Compact Excavator
- JD 120 Excavator
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LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.: 81-PR-25-119
In Re: Estate of
SYLVIA J. KRAMPITZ,
Decedent
NOTICE AND ORDER FOR
HEARING ON PETITION FOR
DESCENT OF PROPERTY

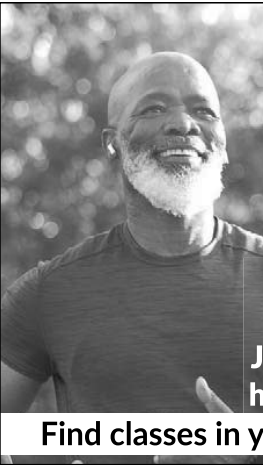
TO ALL INTERESTED PER-
SONS:

A Petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years ago, leaving property in Minnesota and requests the probate of Decedent's last Will and the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property. Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted. It is ordered and Notice is further given that the Petition will

be heard on the 2nd day of April, 2025, at 9:45 a.m., by this Court via Zoom technology.
1. Notice shall be given to all interested persons (Minn. Stat. 524.1-401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minn. Stat. 524.3-204.
2. Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by mailing a copy of this Notice and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing date.
BY THE COURT
Dated: 02/17/2025
/s/ Carol M. Hanks

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

PATTON HOVERSTEN & BERG
PA
Perry A. Berg, #135999
215 E. Elm Ave
PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093
Phn: 507-835-5240
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on February 27 and March 6, 2025



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Waseca County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing at the Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner's Room), 300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. to consider the following items:

- A. Request for Amendments to Section 6.06 of the Unified Development Code (UDC) which pertains to feedlots. Waseca County requests amendments to Table 6.4 of Section 6.06. This amendment will change the side and rear yard setback requirements from 80feet to 50feet and delete a footnote under the table.
- B. Request for Amendment to Sections 6.07, 6.08 and Article 8 of the Unified Development Code (UDC). Waseca County requests amendments to the UDC to include specific standards and requirements for Organized Farm Colonies under Section 6.07. The amendment will include the aforementioned use as a Conditional Use in Section 6.08 and the definition of Organized Farm Colonies under Section 8.03 of the UDC.

The County Board Memo 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, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all Waseca County services, programs and activities.

Michael Johnson,
Waseca County Administrator
Planning and Zoning Administrator
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on March 6, 2025

ALTON TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Alton Township, County of Waseca, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election will be held March 18, 2025.

Annual business meeting begins at 4:00pm

Polls will be open from 5:00pm to 8:00pm to elect:

- One Supervisor – 3 year term
- One Treasurer – 2 year term

The Annual Election and Meeting will be held at Alton Town Hall.

The town board will hold their Board of Canvas meeting on Wednesday following the election at 6:00pm.

Deb Westphal
Alton Town Clerk



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March 2025

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						1
2	3	4 Burger nite 5-7pm Hug a GI DAY	5 6pm BAR Bingo Seabee Birthday	6 7pm HALL BINGO	7 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	8
9 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am-Noon Your Host Waseca CountyFairboard	10 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	11 Burger nite 5-7pm	12 6pm BAR Bingo	13 7pm HALL BINGO K9 VETERANS DAY	14 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	15 ST. PATRIC DAY BINGO 7pm Mash Burger Night 5-7pm
16	17	18 Burger nite 5-7pm	19 6pm BAR Bingo	20 7pm HALL BINGO	21 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm YOUR HOST	22
23 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am-Noon Your Host Neighbor-hood service cen-	24	25 Burger nite 5-7pm Medal of Honor day	26 6pm BAR Bingo	27 7pm HALL BINGO	28 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	29 Vietnam War Veterans day
30	31					

HOURS OF OPERATION
SUN.- MON. CLOSED
TUE.- 1pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady's nite 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm.
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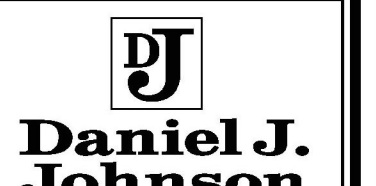
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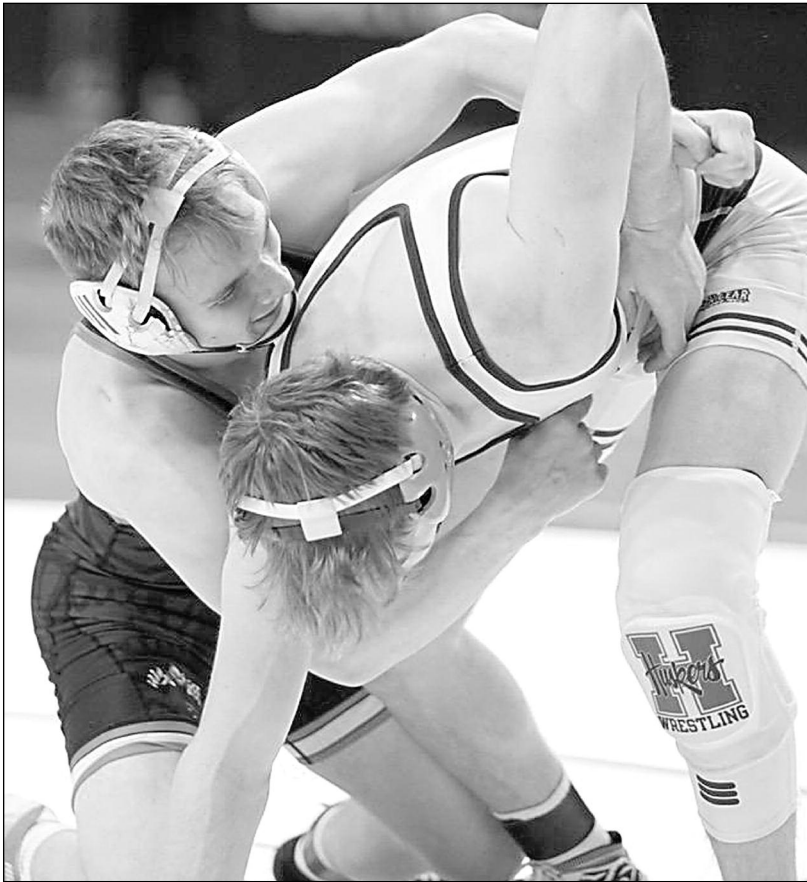
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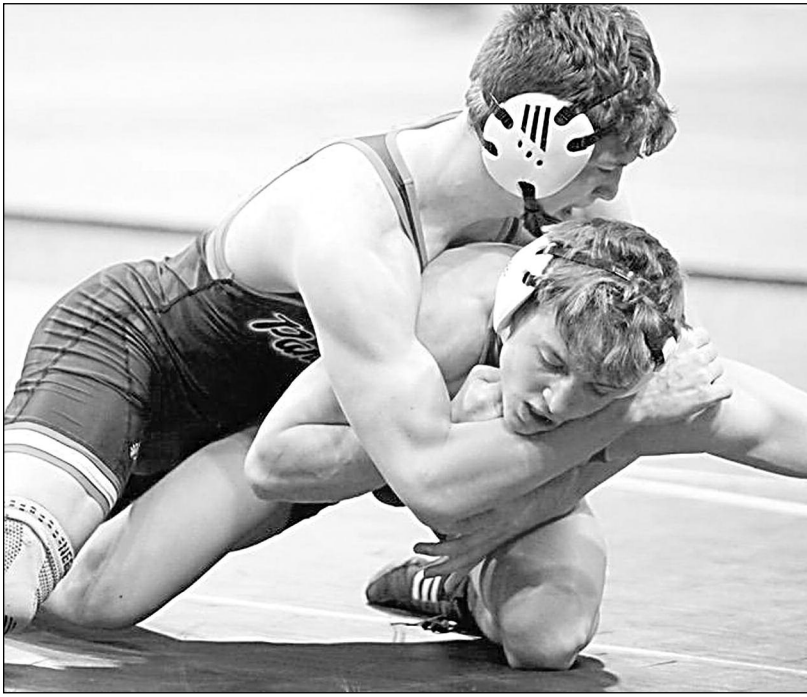
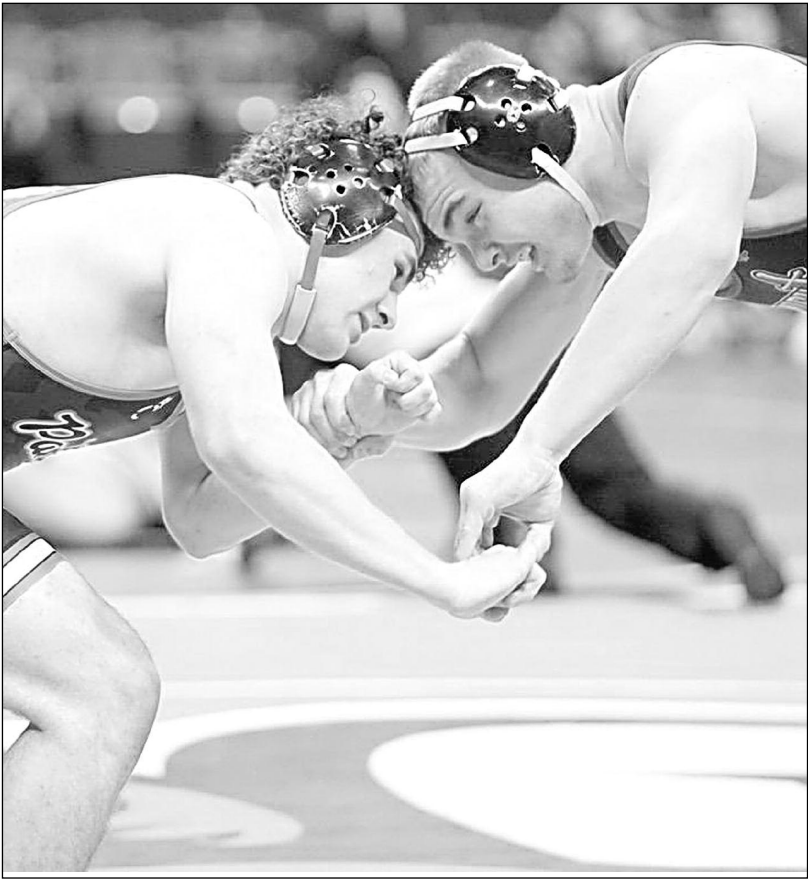
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STATE TOURNAMENT ACTION – NRHEG High School wrestlers Harbor Cromwell, left, Cole Hutchens, middle, and Graham Jacobson, compete in the state tournament at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



AMONG THE ELITE – NRHEG'S Ryan Schlaak wrestles in the state tournament at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

No medals, but lots of experience

Panthers' Jacobson, Cromwell, Schlaak, Hutchens end season at state

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Panthers did not bring home any medals from the 2025 Minnesota state wrestling tournament.

They did pick up some valuable experience.

The Panthers had four wrestlers in the three-day state tournament at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul: Graham Jacobson, 107 pounds; Harbor Cromwell, 160; Ryan Schlaak, 172; and Cole Hutchens, 215.

Jacobson, a seventh-grader who became NRHEG's youngest wrestler ever to reach the state tournament, was eliminated in the wrestling matches after losing by fall to Paynesville's Tyson Meagher in the

opening round. He lost his wrestling match by fall to Noah Jensen of BBE, finishing the season with a record of 21-22.

"Graham competed well in his two matches," said Panthers coach Shawn Larson. "This was a great experience for a seventh-grader. There is a lot to manage for a young athlete and hopefully this will be an experience that he can use to his advantage in the future. Also, we hope that the other young kids on the team see that they can be competitive too."

Cromwell also saw his season end in the wrestling matches. He fell 13-4 to Ayden Miller of Chatfield in the opening round and 12-0 to BOLD's Simon Boeckman in his wrestling match.

Cromwell finished 23-15.

Hutchens lost a 12-1 major decision to Jeremy Blascyk of WCAA and did not reach the wrestling matches because Blascyk lost his next match. Hutchens finished 8-25.

"Harbor and Cole finished their careers with great dignity," said Larson. "Both of these young men showed that hard work gets you opportunities. Even though their opportunities did not end in hardware from the tournament, these two showed that being disciplined and dedicated can lead to so much improvement. Both of these guys went out on maximum effort and should be happy with the effort they each gave."

Schlaak prevailed 7-4 in his opening

match over Isaiah Wolski of FMCC, but lost 15-2 to Cameron Halverson of Barnesville in the wrestling matches. His season ended with an 8-5 decision to Brady Yourczek of ROUP. He posted a 23-8 record this season.

"Ryan was able to get a win in his first match of the tournament, and after that lost matches that he was very competitive in," said Larson. "Ryan has shown strength and dominance all year and if he can continue to make gains, it would not be hard to believe he will have success in this tournament for the next two seasons."



DRIVE TIME — The Panthers' Ezra Borner drives the baseline in the Panthers' 75-42 victory over WEM Thursday night. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG girls defeat WEM in Section 2AA tournament

The No. 2 seed NRHEG High School girls' basketball team advanced to the Section 2AA semifinals with a 75-42 victory over WEM at New Richland Thursday.

The Panthers started fast, building a 43-15 halftime lead and never looking back.

"We came out strong in the first half," said Panthers head coach Onika Peterson. "Our defense was aggressive, which caused WEM a lot of havoc."

For the Panthers: Quinn VanMaldeghem 25 points, 9 rebounds, 1 assist, 4 steals, 1 blocked shot; Camryn VanMaldeghem 17P, 14R, 1A, 4S,

"During playoffs it is always exciting to see who will step up to have a big game." — NRHEG coach Onika Peterson

1B; Kylie Olson 14P, 4R, 1S; Gabby Schlaak 10P, 6R, 1A, 2S, 1B; Ezra Boerner 6P, 4R, 1S; Clara Buendorf 3P, 2R, 3S; Savannah Farr 2R; Chloe Stork 3R, 1A.

"During playoffs it is always exciting to see who will step up to have a big game," said Coach Peterson. "It was fun to see the girls have confidence and hit some big

shots. With having numerous shooters hitting, it allowed us to have a tough lead for WEM to fight back from."

The Panthers, 21-5, advanced to Monday's semifinal round at Minnesota State-Mankato.

The section title game — with a state tournament berth on the line, is Friday at 8 p.m. at Mankato.

NRHEG boys drop regular-season finale to Waseca

Panthers draw No. 14 seed in Section 2AA tournament

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School boys' basketball team finished the regular season Friday night hosting Waseca, the No. 2 ranked team in the state in Class AA.

After the first few minutes of play, it went pretty much as expected as the Bluejays improved to 26-0 for the season with a 97-45 decision.

"We knew what kind of force they'd be, and they certainly lived up to it!" said NRHEG head coach Dan Schmidt.

The Panthers did match the Bluejays basket-for-basket for a few minutes, and then the Bluejays unleashed their press and NRHEG had no counter for it as they opened up a big lead in the first half and never looked back.

"We talked about staying up and leaving it all on the court ahead of the game, and I feel the guys did that," said Schmidt. "Overall, I don't

"That's a team that has state championship potential, and they showed why last night." — Coach Dan Schmidt

feel that we played all that poorly. We had good looks at the basket that we just didn't hit. Defensively, we knew we would have a hard time matching up with them man-to-man, so we tried to sit in a zone to minimize their ability to attack the basket."

It worked for a while.

"And then they started hitting from the outside, stretching that lead," said Schmidt. "Waseca is such a nightmare matchup because of their speed, shooting, and defensive pressure. They're deeper than a person realizes, as well. That's a team that has state championship

potential, and they showed why last night."

For the Panthers: Owen Wayne 12 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals; Aaden Hanna 8P, 3R, 1A; Greyson Schaefer 7P, 5R, 1A, 1S; Calvin Nissen 7P, 1R; Brendan Schmidt 5P, 2R, 1S; Hudson Chrz 2P, 1R, 1A; Jase Knudson 2P, 1R; Mack Gilliland 1R; Dom Olson 1R; Jordan Brouwers 1R, 2A.

The Panthers, seeded No. 14 in Section 2AA, opened the postseason Tuesday at No. 3 seed Belle Plaine.



UP AND IN — The Panthers' Calvin Nissen drives the baseline for a basket against Waseca in the final game of the regular season Friday in New Richland. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

Jays top NRHEG, improving to 26-0

The Waseca High School boys' basketball team defeated NRHEG 97-45 Friday night in the final game of the regular season in New Richland.

The Bluejays finished with a record of 26-0.

"We knew what kind of force they'd be, and they certainly lived up to it," said NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt. "We did match them basket-for-basket for a few minutes, and then they unleashed their press on us, and we had no counter for it as they opened up a big lead in the first half and never looked back."

Caden Danner led the Bluejays with 22 points, including four three-pointers. Isaac Feldkamp just missed a double-double with 15 points and nine rebounds.

Others: Brandyn Jascha 13P; Deron Russell 12P, 5A; Cyrett Long 10P, 5A; Damarius Russell 6P, 5A; Max Howard 6P.

"All 14 players who went into the game against NRHEG scored," said WHS coach Seth Anderson. "I thought our bench guys went in and played very well. They were ready to play extended minutes and continue to execute at a high level."

The Bluejays certainly earned Schmidt's respect.

"Waseca is such a nightmare matchup because of their speed, shooting, and defensive pressure," said Schmidt. "They're deeper than a person realizes, as well. That's a

team that has state championship potential, and they showed why last night."

Owen Wayne led the Panthers with 12 points.

A day earlier, the Bluejays hosted LeSueur-Henderson and cruised to a 76-59 victory.

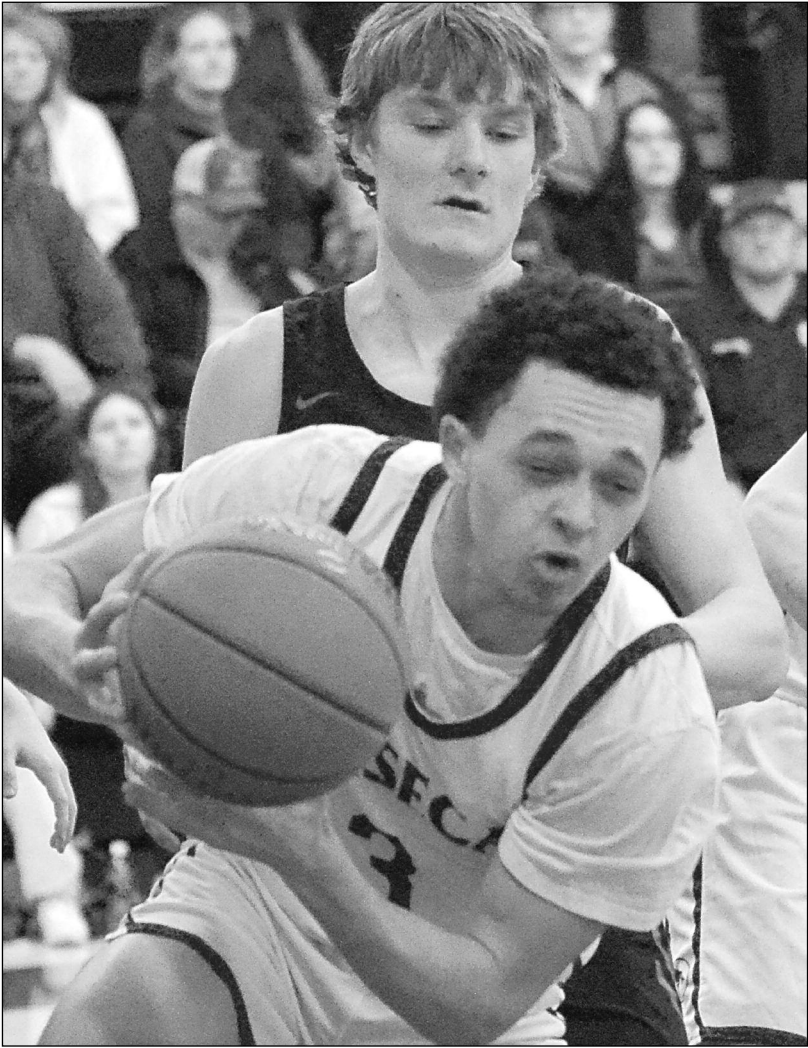
Waseca scoring: Deron Russell 23, Feldkamp 15, Wyatt Hager 11, Damarius Russell 8, Carson Ohnstad 7, Jascha 6, Owen Ohnstad 3, Danner 2.

John Karles led the visitors with 15 points. Maren Kang scored 14, Hunter Vinkemeier 13.

"LSH was really long and gave us a few issues with their size," said Coach Anderson. "They are playing really good basketball at the end of the season. I thought our big guys played a great game though. Isaac, Wyatt and Brandyn were all really good."

The Bluejays are seeded No. 1 in Section 2AA, hosting No. 16 Medford Tuesday, March 4, the winners play tonight at home at 7 p.m., and the winners there play at 6 p.m. Monday, March 10 at 6 p.m. at Minnesota State-Mankato. The Section 2AA championship game is Thursday, March 13 at 7:45 p.m. at Mankato.

The rest of the section seeds: 2. Glencoe-Silver Lake; 3. Belle Plaine; 4. Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton; 5. LeSueur-Henderson; 6. Lake Crystal-Wellcome



DOMINATING WIN – The Waseca High School boys' basketball team concluded the regular season Friday with a 97-45 nonconference victory over NRHEG at New Richland. At left, the Bluejays' Damarius Russell hangs on to a defensive rebound. At right, Waseca's Deron Russell dunks. The Bluejays earned the top seed in the upcoming Section 2AA tournament after finishing the regular season 26-0.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens	
Memorial; 7. Maple River; 8. Norwood-Young America; 9. Minnesota Valley Lutheran; 10. Blue Earth Area; 11. St. Clair; 12. Waterville-Elysian-Morristown; 13. Sibley East; 14. NRHEG; 15. Tri-	City United; 16. Medford.
Class 2A state rankings By Minnesota Basketball News Week 13, Feb. 26, 2025	
1. Albany	24-0
2. Waseca	26-0
3. Caledonia	24-2
4. Breck	15-10
5. Mora	24-1
6. Jackson County Central	23-4
7. Blake	21-4
8. Minnehaha Academy	15-9
9. St. Croix Lutheran	22-3
10. Montevideo	21-4

Waseca girls end season in tourney

The season came to a close for the Waseca High School girls' basketball team with a 59-26 loss Monday, Feb. 24 at Glencoe-Silver Lake in the Section 2AA tournament.

Scoring for the Bluejays: Callie Dufault 12, Mia Kanewischer 5, Lily Owens 4, Gracie Morgan 3, Ava Miller 2.

The Bluejays finished with a record of 5-22.

Seniors on this season's team were Lexi Kanewischer, Dufault, Gabriela Lopez, Katlyn McMurphy, Mia Kanewischer, Addison Kelm, Morgan and Owens.

"We are proud of our group of seniors," said second-year Bluejays head coach Anthony Jackson. "Every athletic career is a journey with many ups and downs. They have done a great job being positive and working hard and playing unselfishly on the court. We are proud of their continued effort and participation in the game of basketball. With us graduating many seniors, this is a passing of the torch type of season. Younger players like Ava Miller, Reese Rodriguez, Belle Miller, Hannah Sommers, Maren Schimming and some others will



ONE OF MANY – Callie Dufault (1) is one of several graduating seniors for the Waseca High School girls' basketball team, who finished the regular season with a Section 2AA loss at Glencoe-Silver Lake last week.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

now have bigger roles moving forward to replace the production that we will be losing with the graduation of our seniors. Callie Dufault, in particular, has been our point guard for the past two seasons. She has done a great job holding down

the fort and handling the backcourt, carrying the weight of the most 'public' and stressful position in basketball, for she has been our leading scorer and most reliant ball handler for two consecutive seasons."

JWP girls' season concludes

The top-seeded Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School girls' basketball team began the post season the same way as most of the regular season.

The Bulldogs won handily.

JWP took out St. Clair 58-42 in a Thursday game at Janesville, improving their season record to 24-3.

Katie Olson had a big night with 23 points and 13 rebounds. Presley

James also posted a double-double, finishing with 13 points and 12 rebounds, adding four steals.

Also: Kwynn Krause 9P, 5R; Mikayla Wheelock 6P, 5R; Hope Dimmel 4P, 7R; Lilly Strauss 7R.

"The game was a fast paced game from the start," said JWP head coach Brandon Goebel. "It took us a while to get into a flow. We defended at a high level throughout the game even when shots were not

falling like we are used to, which is crucial this time of the year. I was really proud of how the girls battled and stayed together throughout the entire game."

The Bulldogs advanced to the section semifinals Monday night against Glencoe-Silver Lake at Minnesota State-Mankato, where they lost 61-54 to finish the season with a record of 24-3.

Isaiah Berndt 1R.

The Bulldogs, seeded No. 4 in Section 2AA, opened the postseason Tuesday at home against 13th-seeded Sibley East.

JWP boys subdue Albert Lea, 77-61

The top-seeded Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School boys' basketball team ended the regular season last Tuesday with a 77-61 nonconference victory over Albert Lea at Janesville.

For the Bulldogs: Landon

Johnson 31 points, 14 rebounds, 4 assists, 1 steal, 1 blocked shot; Gavin Bauer 16P, 7R, 3A, 1S; Daulton Bauer 12P, 10R, 9A, 2S; Caleb Quast 5P, 7R, 3A, 1S; Gavin Weedman 5P, 2R, 2S; Jaxon Miller 2P, 1R; Ethan Born 5P, 9R, 2A, 2S;

Roesler reflects on Grizzlies' season, state tourney showing

The 2024-25 season was definitely a special one for the WEM/JWP High School wrestlers.

According to co-head coach Adam Roesler, the Grizzlies showcased incredible effort, perseverance, and determination, each contributing to the team's success in unique ways.

Here are Coach Roesler's comments on his state tournament wrestlers.

114 Brenden Masso (0-1 - Did not place). "Brenden is an 8th-grader and first time state qualifier," said Roesler. "He wrestled Daniel Gregory from Trinity School at River-ridge. Gregory is a veteran and did his homework on Brenden and avoided some of the dangers that he presents to his opponents. It was a quick tournament, but it does not mean there was no value. It is really good to be exposed to the bright lights of the state tournament and the experience will allow him to be more prepared in the future. Brenden has a bright future and will be one of the returning leaders of our team for years to come."

127 Carson Petry (4-0 - State Champion). Carson became the sixth Grizzly to gain the status of state champion since the merger of WEM and JWP in 2008-09. "Carson has faced injuries throughout his career, but his ability to adapt and persevere this season, particularly in the finals, showed the heart of a champion," said Roesler. "His victory was the result of strategic adjustments, proving that with the right mindset, you can overcome any obstacle. We are extremely proud of Carson and his journey to this state title. Carson had injuries that prevented him from wrestling the full season. In previous years Carson placed sixth as a freshmen and fourth as a junior. His sophomore year was interrupted by an ill-timed knee injury that resurfaced this season. A common statement in the program is: '1. Trust the process,' and 2, 'Everything happens for a reason.' Carson has always been incredibly offensive on his feet. But due to the injury he now was forced to change some of his approach to his matches this season to preserve his knee. He needed to be a little more defensive while being opportunistic with his offense. This approach was a winning combination. Carson's ability to persevere this injury gave him an opportunity that kids dream of... going out as the state champion! In the gold medal match, Carson stayed measured in his attacks and fended off two attacks that in the end set the tone and forced his opponent to go in the down position, which proved to be devastating to his opponents' chances as Carson racked up multiple near falls that then lead to Sommer taking shots that took him out of position, and Carson scored some takdowns because of the urgency that was forced upon him. Carson controlled the match and walked away with a major decision victory and a state title! We are incredibly proud of Carson and the way he dealt with the adversity of the season!"

139. Brady Murphy (1-2 - Did not Place). Brady has been to the state tournament in the past, achieving all-state status claiming fourth place his sophomore year. "Last year he was unable to make a repeat run at the state tournament because of an injury that held him out of the lineup in the second half of the season," said Coach Roesler. "He was able to return this year but did not achieve the all-state status from his freshmen year, which currently frustrates him. This will end up being one of those 'Trust the Process' kind of moments in his career. He proved he can most certainly compete with all of the opponents that the state has to offer, but some situations that were pivotal in

his opening-round match that could have easily swung the match in his direction will most certainly motivate him this offseason. Brady is a great technician. He is hard nosed, and he is as competitive as anybody in the room including Petry and Kuball. I think Brady will look back at this year's performance that is disappointing in the moment as that time that pushed him to greater heights! I look forward to his offseason progression and where he goes next wrestling season."

172. Maddox Moreno (0-2 Did not Place). Does anyone remember Maddox Moreno, 215-pounder from WEM/JWP? "That was the reality two years ago before he started to manage his weight in a positive way and made himself into a state qualifier at 172! He finished the year with 28 wins and of those wins 17 were by fall, 2 by tech fall, and 3 by major decision. Bonus points were happening in his favor at a 78.5% clip. A huge bump to the team! How does one transform in a year? One word, discipline! His persistence and his determination helped him achieve the status of being a state qualifier! Maddox is a wrestler who can present challenges to any opponent, but this weekend he ran into two opponents that were very solid and did not allow much opportunity for him to push his style of wrestling. His opponents from the tournament this weekend went on to place fourth and fifth in the state, respectively, at the 172-pound weight class. Maddox is one of the guys we can attribute the team's success to this season."

215. Avery Fall (1-2 Did not place). Avery had one heck of a journey over the past 12 months. "After becoming a state qualifier a year ago, he made it 17 seconds into his first match before suffering a traumatic arm injury where his arm folded in half the wrong direction on an awkward headlock situation," explained Coach Roesler. "Avery then endured a recovery time that eventually led to a delayed elbow repair that threatened his ability to wrestle in his senior season. But due to a fast recovery and following doctors orders and then working his tail off, he was cleared to wrestle on the opening day of practice (Nov.20th). He started his senior season 0-3. Then finished with a 27-14 senior campaign. To say this win at state was anything but incredible is an understatement! It is a story we will tell in the program for years to come!"

285. Keegan Kuball (4-0 - State Champion). "What a ride," said Roesler. "Keegan became only the second kid in the history books (dating back to 1937) of the MSHSL to obtain three consecutive state championships at 285 pounds. The only other being Craig Orlando from Bertha-Hewitt-Verndale. Keegan's opponent in the finals definitely came to wrestle and challenged him, but Keegan willed himself back to the top of the podium. Keegan is a once-in-a-generation type of talent and we all had a front row seat. After his freshmen year came to a disappointing end at the state tournament, I made Keegan pause and look around at the Excel Center. I told him to soak it up and remember the moment because it would be the last time he would lose in this building. And Saturday night he proved that to be true."

Roesler continued, "Each of these athletes has shown tremendous growth and character, and while not everyone may have left with a medal, the experiences and lessons they gained will continue to shape their futures. We are incredibly proud of our entire team and excited for the years to come."

Kuball wins third straight state title

Grizzlies' Petry takes gold at 127

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The big news Saturday at the Minnesota state high school wrestling tournament was that a WEM/JWP individual captured a state championship.

The even bigger news was his name was not Keegan Kuball.

Not until later in the tournament, anyway.

Kuball, a three-time Class A state champion at 285 pounds, was joined by teammate Carson Petry on the first-place podium as Petry won the state championship at 127, giving the Grizzlies two gold medalists in the three-day state tournament at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

Petry, who finished the season with a record of 30-3, began his march to the finals with a technical fall in 3:49 over Kamryn Thompson of FOBA. He then decisioned Julio Alejandra of SIEA 9-0, putting him in the semifinals, where he won a hard-fought 3-1 decision over Tyler Thier of Jackson County Central. In the finals, Petry wrestled his way to a 12-3 major decision of Kenyon-Wanamingo's Reed Sommer.

Kuball was dominant in the opening rounds, pinning Freddie Moore of WCC in 1:43 and scoring a fall over Medford's Mason DeGroot in 1:56. In the semifinals, Kuball

upended Kevin Dailey of UNCW 6-2. The championship round was against Jack Carlson of Goodhue, where Kuball claimed an 11-6 decision. Kuball finished the season with a 43-1 record.

They were two of six WEM/JWP wrestlers in the state tournament.

Brady Murphy was edged 8-7 in the opening round at 139 by Owen Cruchow of UNCW, but bounced back in the wrestlebacks to win 4-1 over Cash Osterman of Frazee. Murphy's season ended with a 5-0 loss in the wrestlebacks to Carter Adickes of MLR. He posted a 32-10 record this season.

Maddox Moreno also made the wrestlebacks at 172 after losing by fall to Mason Bruder of LWP. His season ended with a loss by fall to Mason Bruder of LBW to finish the season with a record of 28-17.

Avery Fall, 215, prevailed 9-6 over Roberto Hernandez of ADAR in the opening round, but fell twice in the wrestlebacks, by technical fall to Eli Rosko of UNCW and 12-1 to Adrian Gomez of STMO. Fall's season record was 27-14.

Brendan Masso, 114, lost by technical fall to David Gregory of TSAR but did not qualify for the wrestlebacks because Gregory lost his next match. Masso finished 19-14.



NOBODY BETTER – Keegan Kuball of WEM/JWP was all smiles after he won his third consecutive state wrestling championship at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul Saturday night.
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



STATE TOURNEY ACTION – From left, WEM/JWP's Carson Petry, Brady Murphy, Maddox Moreno and Avery Fall wrestle in last weekend's state tournament at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. Petry won the Class A state championship at 127 pounds.
Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



THE BIG STAGE – Slade Barnett, left, placed fifth in Class AA at 160 pounds in the state wrestling tournament that concluded Saturday night at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. Also wrestling at state for the Bluejays were Matthew Veroeven, center, and Ben Hagen.
Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



Bluejays' Barnett finishes fifth in state tournament

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Waseca High School junior Slade Barnett was clearly not satisfied with simply reaching the Class AA state wrestling tournament.

He coveted some hardware.

And he brought some home.

Barnett placed fifth at 160 pounds in the three-day state tournament that wrapped up Saturday night at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

"We feel truly blessed," said

"I love being a Bluejay. I love Waseca. I love the sport. Wrestling's my life."
— Slade Barnett

Waseca head coach Jake Janike. "We had three kids come up here, and we didn't have any last year, so this was amazing."

Barnett, unseeded coming into the

state tournament, began his quest for a medal with a 4-2 decision of Byron Getchell of MRUS in the opening round. He then dropped a 16-2 major decision fo Luke Hoag

of Hutchinson, putting him in the wrestlbacks. There, he decisioned Jack Wolf of GRRA 5-3 and won by technical fall over Tyler Wilhemi of Foley before falling by tech fall over Payton Herbst of Totino Grace. In the fifth-place match, Barnett bested Brayden Chandler of MARS by a 4-2 decision. He finished the season with a record of 46-6.

"He has wrestled his tail off all season," said Janike. "That match he just wrestled was his 100th win.

He's constantly working out, doing anything he can to get better. His goal was to obviously place, and that's what he did."

"I just kept my mind focused, not get distracted by the little things," said Barnett. "I love being a Bluejay. I love Waseca. I love the sport. Wrestling's my life."

Junior Matthew Veroeven, 215, was eliminated in the wrestlebacks after losing by fall to Evan McGuire of MAHT in the opening round. He

then fell 16-2 to Jamisen Fredrickson of New Ulm and saw his season end with a loss to by fall to Tristan Holbrook of SCWE. Veroeven's season record was 28-4.

The Bluejays' other state entrant, senior Ben Hagen, got to wrestle only one match, a 10-4 loss to Aaron Baisley of ROCO. Hagen did not qualify for the wrestlebacks because Baisley was upended in his next bout. Hagen had a season record of 35-11.



Presenting a plaque commemorating Ken Borgmann's service to the Waseca Sleigh and Cutter event are Waseca city council member Stacey Schroeder, tourism president Mikhail Rostislavovich, Ken Borgmann, Chamber executive director Robin Dulas, and county commissioner Brad Milbrath.

Tourism honors Borgmann with plaque

Waseca, MN – Discover Waseca Tourism is proud to announce that, during the grand festivities commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Sleigh & Cutter Festival, it awarded a special plaque to Ken Borgmann of the Sleigh & Cutter Festival Association.

Ken Borgmann has been a steadfast supporter and driving force behind the success of the Sleigh & Cutter Festival for many years. His lifelong commitment to enriching the community and ensuring the festival remains a cherished local tradition has made a significant impact

on residents and visitors alike. This award not only recognizes his tireless contributions but also symbolizes the strengthening bond between the festival association and the Discover Waseca Tourism team.

Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of Discover Waseca Tourism, expressed his admiration during the ceremony, "Ken's unwavering passion and commitment have continuously elevated the spirit of our community and the legacy of the Sleigh & Cutter Festival. We are honored to celebrate his achieve-

ments on the festival's Sapphire anniversary. His contributions remind us of the profound impact one dedicated individual can have on an entire community."

Though overwhelmed by emotion and truly humbled, Ken Borgmann managed to share a few heartfelt words in response: "I'm speechless—this recognition means more to me than I can express. I wanted to make it to my 80th birthday and see the Sleigh and Cutter Festival have its milestone of 75 years. Truly, that is enough for me."

Discover Waseca Tourism looks forward to nurturing the spirit of community and collaboration that Ken exemplifies. With the festival's rich history and the promise of future celebrations, both the organization and the association remain dedicated to ensuring that Waseca's traditions continue to thrive for generations to come.

For more information about Discover Waseca Tourism and upcoming events, please visit our website at www.discoverwaseca.com



Vanessa Jensen, area district manager for the Junior Achievement program, was a guest speaker at the Waseca Exchange Club meeting on Feb. 25. Pictured here are Mikhail Rostislavovich, Exchange Club president; Jensen; and Exchange Club leaders Jeanne Sexton and Perry Berg.

Junior Achievement seeking volunteers

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Vanessa Jensen, district manager of "Junior Achievement North," which covers the communities of Waseca, Medford and Owatonna, spoke to about 20 members of the Waseca Exchange Club during its regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Jensen described the organization's programs, which focus on helping students from elementary to high school learn more about various careers and career fields, with the intent of helping them recognize the value of education and acquiring real-world skills.

"We're preparing youth with the mindset and skill set they need," stated Jensen.

She mentioned the area Junior Achievement (JA) advisory board has 16 members; among them are Caleb Whalen of Waseca's Keen Bank and Jenna Ferris of Minnwest are both members.

that help with pretty much every type of subject matter," Jensen said, "so we're always reaching out."

She also mentioned JA is well placed to help schools meet a recently imposed requirement that students learn about "financial literacy," the habits and systems individuals need to manage their money. The organization operates a Twin Cities facility named "Biztown," which allows students to experience what it's like to finance and operate a business. While there, learners can try out different business models and experience the consequences of their decisions—which can be made either as individuals or as part of a collaborating group.

One goal of the financial literacy program, Jensen described, is to help students overcome their impression of "invisible money."

"A surprising number of students don't even know what their parents do at their jobs," she said. "Our social setup today, where people use electronic money transfers instead of cash, has made it so kids don't see the connection between having a job or career and being able to meet expenses."

Another aspect of JA programming Jensen described is setting up displays at career and college fairs. To help give passersby something to connect to, she said the JA booth might feature lessons on giving a handshake or greeting others in a professional setting.

"All of this is at no cost to schools," Jensen said, mentioning the JA organization meets with administrators to agree upon programs and objectives.

"JA is making a tremendous difference," Jensen said. "To keep doing that, we need volunteers, so please connect with me about any types of presentations or hands-on experiences you might like to share with kids."

Jensen's office is in Owatonna. She can be reached at 507-390-0755 or vanessa.jensen@janorth.org.



Back row from left: Kevin Walter, Tiffany Lynch, Jackie Wolff, LeAnn Kahl-Site Director, Marcy Buchele, and Theresa Sunde. Front row: Larry Johnson, Katie Gonzales, Kristie Biehn, Mikhail Rostislavovich and Jodie Thompson.

Fernbrook Family Center joins Waseca Chamber of Commerce

Waseca, MN – The Waseca Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors recently welcomed Fernbrook Family Center as a new member of the Chamber.

Fernbrook Family Center provides inclusive mental health services for individuals of all ages, focusing on emotional well-being, healthy relationships, and resilience. Their comprehensive services include outpatient, in-home, and school-linked therapy, psychiatric medication management, early childhood mental health support, school-linked mental health services, targeted case management in select counties, comprehensive diagnostic assessments, and day treatment programs for youth experiencing significant emotional

and behavioral challenges. Fernbrook Family Center operates across eight locations, serving Steele, Rice, Waseca, Dodge, Olmsted, Goodhue, Mower/Freeborn, and Blue Earth Counties.

During the Ambassador visit, LeAnn Kahl, Waseca site director, expressed her enthusiasm about joining the Chamber and her excitement for the opportunities ahead.

Kristie Biehn, Waseca Chamber Ambassador Chair, shared, "We are excited to welcome Fernbrook Family Center into our Chamber family and look forward to working together to support their mission in Waseca."

Chamber President and Ambassador Mikhail Rostislavovich

added, "We anticipate Fernbrook playing a vital role in providing inclusive and innovative mental health services, education, and advocacy in Waseca and the surrounding areas."

The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors play a key role in welcoming new members and fostering connections within the business community. Their mission is to promote collaboration and ensure all members feel supported in their business endeavors.

For more information about Fernbrook Family Center or the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce, please contact the Chamber office at 507-835-3260 or visit www.wasecachamber.com.

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