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**WASECA
COUNTY
PIONEER**

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 11 Vol. IV \$2

Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca

Thursday, March 13, 2025



■ Inside**State Bound**

Lenten Friday Walleye Fish Fry Blooming Grove United Methodist March 14
There will be a Lenten Friday Walleye Fish Fry at the Blooming Grove United Methodist from 4:30-7 p.m. or until the fish is gone. Menu will be Walleye, scalloped potatoes, Brad's green beans, dinner roll, desert and a beverage. Free will offering, proceeds go to BGUMC "Accessibility for all" building project.

County Veterans Memorial plaque requests by March 15
Anyone wishing to add a new plaque to the Waseca County Veterans Memorial on the courthouse property can apply anytime. Applying by March 15 will ensure the newly ordered plaque is in place by Memorial Day. Anyone wanting further information should contact the county Veterans' Services office at 507-835-0680. Applications can also be completed online at <https://www.co.waseca.mn.us/134/Veteran-Services>.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration at the Mill Saturday, March 15
There will be a St. Patrick's Day Celebration at the Mill from 10 a.m. till 11 p.m. on Saturday, March 15. There will be an Irish mass at Sacred Hearth Church at 10:30 a.m. day of. The Parade of Clans head to the Mill at noon, followed by the Irish rally from 12:30-2 p.m. Mulligan Stew and corned beef and cabbage by Blake's Food Truck.

Johnny Frost and the Heatseekers at Indian Island Winery Saturday, March 15
Music group Johnny Frost and the Heatseekers will be performing at the Indian Island Winery from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 15. They will be performing seven decades of music.

Kindergarten Card Party Sat., March 15
There will be a Kindergarten Card Party at the Waseca Public Library at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 15. Kindergarteners and their families are invited to Waseca Public Library to collect their first library card, play games, pose with a giant library card, collect giveaways and more.

Waldorf Fire Department St. Patrick's Day fundraiser, March 16
The Waldorf Fire Department will host a pancake breakfast fundraiser on St. Patrick's Day from 8 a.m. till noon on Sunday, Mar. 16 at the Waldorf Community Center.

Briefs continued on 2

*A word from
The Word*
Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
Matthew 6:19-21



The March 4 to 5 snowstorm dropped up to 12 inches of snow in areas of Waseca County. In the city of Waseca, the official count was 7.6 inches as measured at the University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center. The wet, heavy snow caused numerous complications for crews trying to clear county streets and highways. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Winter weather event causes accidents, delays

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

According to the National Weather Service, areas of Waseca County received up to 1.5 inches of rain beginning mid-morning on Tuesday, March 4, with temperatures which remained above freezing during daylight hours. As dark approached and temperatures began to fall toward the overnight low of 24, the precipitation changed to snow, going on to drop between 8 and 12 inches in the

county, with the highest accumulation in the southeast quadrant.

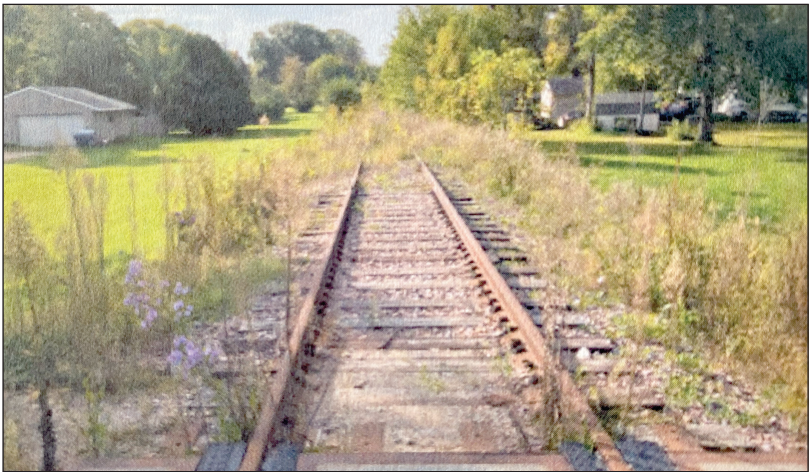
Weather records kept at the University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC) located in Waseca show the city received about half an inch of rain followed by about 7.6 inches of snow—although researcher Jeffrey Vetsch observes it is difficult to get accurate measurements with wet, sticky snow. Vetsch's review of the records indicates the March 4 to 5

storm delivered as much snow as had fallen all winter so far; he also mentioned the area had not had similar snowfall totals from a single weather event since February of 2023.

As the system continued to migrate eastward, strong winds with gusts reaching 40 and even 50 miles per hour began to prevail. Snowfall persisted through mid-morning Wednesday, March 5; considerable drifting continued until shortly before nightfall.

Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas commented the rapid transition from rain to snow which occurred overnight Tuesday exacerbated the hazardous driving conditions which usually accompany heavy snow. His office began receiving calls shortly after snow began accumulating. One cause, he said, is that in many places the rain on roadways froze to ice

Weather continued on 4



The former railroad right of way which stretches across much of Waseca County provides a convenient beginning for a future trail which organizers hope will someday reach from Albert Lea to Sakatah State Park near Waterville. Representatives from Freeborn County spoke with the Waseca County Board about signing on to a "regional master plan" for the trail, which would accommodate bicycles, rollerblades and walking.

News of long-awaited trail shared with board

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The Freeborn-Waseca regional trail was an item of discussion during the Waseca County Board of Commissioners work session the morning of March 6.

Freeborn County Public Works director Philip Wacholz and county commissioner Nicole Eckstrom updated board members regarding progress made toward constructing the first phase of a trail which, someday, might serve as a connection between the six-mile "Blazing Star" state trail in Albert Lea and the Sakatah State Trail at Waterville, a distance of about 40 miles.

Trail continued on 11

Local initiatives highlighted during county board meeting

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The regular business of the March 6 meeting of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners began with some niceties.

County 4-H member Alexis Myers, 16, provided a brief report of her attendance at the National 4-H Congress, a five-day event which took place in Georgia this past November. Myers was one of only 9 4-H participants from Minnesota, and to the best of local leaders' knowledge is the first representative from Waseca County to be selected for the honor. She mentioned the application was "lengthy," and that her time in Georgia was a whirlwind of experiences and activities which lasted from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. some days.

She told commissioners she met people from all over the country, learned how to run a "speed meeting," and got considerable practice at team building.

Commissioners congratulated Myers on her accomplishment and suggested she might consider running for the county board someday.

After a brief presentation from Cindy Kollander, executive director of the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center and food shelf, commissioners enacted a proclamation naming March as Feed Waseca Minnesota FoodShare Month within the county. Kollander told board members the "FoodShare" initiative

Initiative continued on 4



Doug Christopherson, chair of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners, signed a proclamation March 6 declaring March as "Waseca County FoodShare Month." The action calls attention to rising numbers of county residents facing food insecurity and supports fundraising efforts by local individuals and organizations. Pictured with him are Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Robin Dulas, Waseca Exchange Club president Mikhail Rostislavovich, and Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center director Cindy Kollander. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Property owners temporarily suspends fees

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Official business transacted during the March 6 meeting of the Waseca County board of commissioners included a temporary suspension of application fees by property owners who must repair "ice ridge damage" along shorelines within the unincorporated areas of the county.

The six-month waiver was suggested by county land and water resources director Chris Howard, who told commissioners ice conditions this year have led to widespread, extensive damage to shorelines which will probably require considerable landscape work and "riprapping" to resolve. Under normal circumstances, landowners must apply for a \$75 permit from the planning and zoning department for any work on property which requires moving five cubic yards of material or more. Howard said he hopes waiving the fee will encourage people to come in for the "free" permit, and more importantly, for some free advice.

"The rules surrounding work at the waterline can be somewhat confusing," he stated. "Technically, the local government is in charge of everything above the normal high water line and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is in charge of everything below that line."

He pointed out a permit from the DNR can cost up to \$1,200, while a fine for failing to get the permit can be even higher. "We don't want to see people encounter trouble with agencies because they don't know what the expectations and rules are," Howard said.

Encouraging as many property owners as possible to complete planning and zoning applications, Howard said, might give him more opportunities to alleviate confusion by visiting individual properties and providing information, guidance and advice regarding steps forward.

In another matter, county public works director Jim Kollar

County continued on 16



Compostings

by Al Batt

Trumpeter swans

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I watched someone do 50 pushups yesterday.

Do you think you could do that?

Of course. I could watch someone do 100 pushups.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. March came in like a weather report. The winter ends when I can be sure my face won't fall off in an icy wind. A friend likes to celebrate the end of winter with the Captain. When he was young, it was with Captain Morgan. Now it's with Cap'n Crunch.

I stopped at a kilt shop in Seattle because I'd never stopped at a kilt shop in Seattle before. The shop offered stylish kilts with functional pockets suitable for a Sunday go-to-meeting at the local Lutheran Church. A customer, not wearing kilts, told me he regularly wore them. Trying not to be dumber than absolutely necessary, I asked him if wearing a kilt was difficult to get used to.

"No, he said, "it's a breeze."

Life is not a Super Bowl commercial. I had a stroke. Now I have an excuse for not remembering someone's name. I got up in the morning, walked to the bathroom, and looked at the mirror. I like to smile at the mirror every morning. I figure if I can't smile at my image, I won't be able to smile at anyone else. A second benefit is that at least I'll make one person smile that day. I took a gander. My odd reflection looked odder than usual. One side of my smile had a severe droop to it. A trip to the ER followed by an ambulance ride, with a few minor bumps in the road, to another hospital where I had to tell 73 healthcare professionals (each of whom was an angel) my name (spelling included) and birthdate, before they'd ask to see my smile. I spent a few days in the hospital and am now on the mend. I recommend the aspirin suppository and the saline solution drip. The removal of the countless sticky EKG electrodes allowed me to get something off my chest—hair. I've moved from taking no prescriptions to taking enough pills to put my piggy bank on a rapid weight-loss program. I shouldn't have spent all my "Jeopardy" winnings on that Salted Nut Roll. My smile has returned. I'm happy to see it.

I'VE LEARNED

Crwth, pronounced "krooth," is an ancient stringed instrument associated with Welsh music. It's

also called a crowd.

Hamburgers taste the best when they're surrounded by a small-town cafe.

Being an adult is eating something, not because you like it, but because you've paid for it.

Texas has the most counties (254). I thought Rhode Island would have the fewest, but they have 5. Delaware has the fewest with 3. Iowa has 99, Nebraska 93, Minnesota 87, Wisconsin 72 and South Dakota 66.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

A librarian's favorite vegetable is quiet peas.

Attention BMW and Audi drivers: If you'll move your seat forward slightly, you can get even closer to the rear bumper of the vehicle ahead of you.

I'm investing in stocks—beef, vegetable and chicken. I hope to become a bouillonnaire.

What do you call a car parked outside the cathedral's bell tower? The hatchback of Notre Dame.

NATURE NOTES

I watched trumpeter swans. The DNR Nongame Wildlife Program collected swan eggs in 1987-1988 from Alaska. Several friends of mine, Carrol Henderson and Steve Kittelson in Minnesota and Jim King in Alaska, were instrumental in this endeavor. The eggs were incubated and the cygnets reared at Minnesota's Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area in Anoka County until they were two years old. Releases began in 1987 near Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge in Becker County and continued for over twenty years at Tamarac NWR and other sites. Swan Lake in Nicollet County, known as Manha tanka otamenda by the Sioux ("Lake-of-the-Many-Large-Birds"), is where trumpeter swans were first documented to be nesting in the United States.

Great horned owls begin nesting in abandoned nests of squirrels, hawks or crows in January or February. Female owls lay one to five eggs, which hatch in 30 to 37 days. The "horns" atop a great horned owl's head are tufts of feathers called plumicorns. This owl is a winged tiger that isn't a picky eater—it eats skunks. A meat never found in the best sandwich shops. The owl's handshake is firmer than a weightlifter's.

The breeding seasons of most spiders coincide with the transition from summer to fall.

MEETING ADJOURNED

I'm sending you kind thoughts telepathically. Keep smiling. I wish you good health.

The greatest delight regarding snow

There are numerous things I enjoyed about our "surprise" snowstorm on March 4 to 5.

The first was that we had so much warning. We heard and speculated about it for three days or more, as weather forecasters gathered their information and shared their predictions. With such high temperatures over the weekend, the idea of four or more inches of snow seemed preposterous...and yet possible.

When it began to fall right on schedule Tuesday morning, the rain seemed to vindicate the forecasters. The clouds had an eerie color, and the rain sounded insistent when the wind would blow it against the windows. By mid-afternoon, school closings or announcements of "distance learning" days for Wednesday were nearly constant; virtually every area school had let parents, staff, and students know they would not have to battle the weather the next morning.

By the time the sun set Tuesday evening, even though it was still raining, it was not at all difficult to believe the ground would be covered with snow in the morning.

I was particularly pleased with myself on Wednesday: I had plenty



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

of valuable work to take care of, but did not have to travel anywhere to do it.

I would probably have been very happy not to set foot outdoors at all that day, except that I took pity on the birds who frequent my feeders.

That wet, sticky snow had not only put mounded caps on the tops of the containers, it had even managed to cover the perches up and down their lengths. Birds were flitting about in confusion because they had nowhere to land. Even the half-inch thick metal of some of my shepherds' hooks had accumulated a shining coating.

So I pulled on some shoes and out I went.

I wish I had taken a ruler.

With the northerly wind direction, the wind shadow in front of my

house seemed to have collected about 18 inches of snow—but now I have no proof, only my recollection of those deep, deep footprints leading from my front door to the feeders.

I had believed removing the snow from the perches would be a small matter of waving my hands around a bit, and it would all fall off. Instead, it was more a matter of massaging it away. Each one required personal attention. While I was out there, I also dropped some bird seed on top of the snow.

Despite the effort, I'm glad I went out. I barely did set foot outside for the next 8 or more hours, but watching the birds brought me great pleasure.

Something else I enjoyed was, when it was safe to go somewhere,

all the different ways snow had collected on various vehicles. It was almost as if some of us were driving igloos around, peering out of little openings in the side.

When I looked at the snow on the roof of my car, I left much of it there because I presumed it would blow off as soon as I reached 30 miles per hour or so. Clearly, I miscalculated. Perhaps partly with the help of my roof racks, the snow stayed in place well into Thursday.

As the temperature rose, I took particular delight in the gentle scraping noise I would hear when sections of snow would be undercut by melt-water and then fly off as I braked or turned. I laughed out loud when I saw the effect from a distance as another car came to a stop and a big piece of snow slid off the roof, down the windshield, and onto the soggy roadway.

Perhaps the greatest delight any of us should take regarding the snowstorm is that we live in modern times. Back in history, a storm of this same type might have shut down transportation and commerce for days. Instead, we only had to wait for the snowplows to clear the roads, and we could be on our merry way.

An afternoon on the boat with Dad



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

the nice weather and probably very happy to be out fishing on the water instead of the ice. It was like having to maneuver through a maze, crawling slowly through the slew of boats. At least we weren't the only ones not catching anything, and we could tell because it was easy to spot when a nearby boat (or even a farther boat) caught something.

Besides fishing, I also visited family relatives, something I used to do a lot more and don't do often enough anymore. I took time to visit both sides of grandparents and it was a wonderful time. Catching up on

what other people we know are up to, playing games, and eating great food. What more could I ask for?

I had time to sit and relax and read, just what I used to do back when I lived at home. All my school activities usually kept me busy, so when I did have time to myself, I would just read, watch tv, or chat with my sister and family. And annoy the dogs of course. You never realize how great it is to have a pet in your life until you go days or months without seeing them. That constant being of comfort is always there to make you feel better and love you know matter

what—that adds more to a life than you'd think.

While living away from home is great and I love living with my friends and being independent, there will always be something about coming home that will never get better. As I plan to move to Colorado in the fall, I am trying to cherish all of these moments with my family that I am getting before it's not so easy to come home and visit anymore. Not that I won't visit, thankfully flights are pretty cheap and I pray they stay that way because as a midwesterner with deep family roots and ties, I won't let them get dug up.

My Determination: "You can choose your friends but you sho' can't choose your family, an' they're still kin to you no matter whether you acknowledge 'em or not, and it makes you look right silly when you don't." — Harper Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird

Farm and City Luncheon set for March 20

The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce invites the community to the annual Waseca County Farm & City Luncheon on Thursday, March 20, at 11:45 AM at the Mill Event Center. This event celebrates the vital connection between agriculture and the local business community while recognizing outstanding leaders in the industry.

Featured speakers will include

Waseca City Councilwoman Stacey Schroeder and Waseca County Commissioner De Malterer, who will share insights on the importance of agriculture to the local economy and community development.

Three Agricultural Leadership Awards will be presented during the luncheon:

- Distinguished Agriculture Leadership Service Award – Thomas

Trahms

- Outstanding Young Farmers – Todd and Megan Selvik
- Farm Family of the Year – The Tony Schlaak Family (presented by Waseca County Extension)

"The Farm & City Luncheon is a longstanding tradition that highlights the hard work, dedication, and impact of our local agricultural leaders," said Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce. "Agriculture is the backbone of our community, and this event is a chance to recognize those who help it thrive."

Join us in celebrating Waseca County's agricultural excellence and the individuals who make a difference in our community!

Briefs

Create rock and wire

photo holders at Janesville Public Library Mon., March 17

DIY rock and wire photo holder creation workshop at the Janesville Public Library at 4 p.m. Monday, March 17. Bring unique height and color to a photo display at 4 pm. Then highlight snapshots with a unique wood frame magnet. This free event is exclusively for ages 13-18.

Romp and Rhyme Nimble Ninjas Story Time at Waseca Public Library Monday, March 17

Waseca Public Library will hold a ninja-themed story time at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 17th. From puppets to pumping music, from bubble machines to banging bands, these are not your average story time. Free and open to the public.

Lenten Soup Lunches every Wednesday at noon during Lent at Grace Lutheran Church

Grace Lutheran Church, 300 East Elm Avenue, is having Lenten Soup Lunches at noon every Wednesday during Lent. Thanks to the Greater Waseca Ministerial Association, Grace Lutheran, North Waseca Lutheran, Vista Covenant, Waseca Christian Assembly, St. John and Christ Community.

Jigsaw Puzzle Derby at Waseca Public Library Wednesday, March 19

There will be a Jigsaw Puzzle Derby at the Waseca Public Library at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 19. Assemble a team of up to 4 players to compete in a jigsaw puzzle competition at the library. The first team to complete the puzzle wins a prize...and bragging rights! Registration required.

Waseca County Farm and City Luncheon at the Mill Thursday, March 20

The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce will hold a Waseca County Farm and City Luncheon at the Mill from 11:45 a.m. till 1:30 p.m. on Thursday March 20. Must RSVP by Monday, March 10, cost is \$18 per person. Call 507-835-3206 or email info@wasecachamber.com.

Virtual Author Event for Waseca-Le Sueur library system on Thursday, March 20

There will be a virtual author event for the Waseca-Le Sueur library system at 1 p.m. Thursday, March 20. Award-winning journalist and author Clara Bingham will share her new book, The Movement: How Women's Liberation Transformed America, 1963-1973.

Drawing Club at Janesville Public Library Thursday, March 20

There will be a drawing club event at the Janesville Public Library at 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 20. At this drawing club for artists, teens of all skill levels will learn new techniques and sample a variety of drawing styles, including fashion, anime, nature, objects, illustration, doodles, portraits, and more. Exclusively for ages 12-18.

Pizza and Puzzles at Farmamerica on Friday, March 21

There will be pizza and puzzles at Farmamerica from 5:45 p.m till 8:30 p.m. on Friday, March 21. Gather friends and family for a jigsaw puzzle contest. Each team of two to four people will have 120 minutes to complete. Cash prize to the winner.

HoldFast at Indian Island Winery Sat., March 22

Musical group HoldFast will be performing at the Indian Island Winery from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 22. Waterville's own HoldFast play a variety of country, pop, bluegrass, folk, Indie and 80s.

Mother-Daughter Book Club at Waseca Public Library Thursday,

March 20

There will be a Mother-Daughter Book Club at the Waseca Public Library at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 20. Girls in grades 3-6 are invited to bring a significant adult female to join them as we discuss great new books, do activities, and enjoy treats. Stop by the library to pick up this month's book, Katie the Catsitter by Colleen A.F. Veneable.

Waseca Tennis Day 2025 at West Hills Tennis Center Owatonna, Saturday March 22

Waseca Tennis Day 2025 will be celebrated at the West Hills Tennis Center in Owatonna from 10 a.m. till noon on Saturday, March 22. Cost is free for adults and kids 9 and up, includes tennis drills, games and activities. Rackets provided.

Books and Brews at the Waseca Public Library on Saturday, March 22

There will be a Books and Brews event at the Boat House Grill and Bar at 4 p.m. Saturday, March 22. The Waseca Library has found the perfect combo for a book club: bookworm babble and beer. Stop by the library to pick up this month's book discussion selection, Sociopath by Patric Gagne. Drinks and food not provided but can be purchased.



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

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WASECA
SCHOOL BOARD

School resource officer describes safety measures

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

During their March 6 meeting, members of the Waseca School Board heard from the district's School Resource Officer (SRO) Greta Luiken, who has been with Waseca schools for three years. Luiken described her primary role as overseeing and maintaining the safety and security of all five sites within the district, while also providing consultation and guidance upon request for three local private schools. Luiken's role is also to be involved with any criminal investigations or child protection matters taking place at any of the schools.

Luiken says she is a source for peer mediation and conflict resolution for students. "So much of my job is [mediation], compared with what we would think of as more traditional police work." She names the strong relationships she has with the administration at each of the schools as the source of her effectiveness. Luiken is also a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) instructor for the fifth-grade classes, including at Team Academy.

Luiken told the board about a school safety and security assessment service that Homeland Security offers to schools for free and shared the positive results. She also shared the role she played in the research for the vape detection system currently installed in the high school bathrooms, and aided the SRO for the JWP school district in obtaining their system. Luiken also collaborated with administration to facilitate the purchase of advanced medical equipment bags for each school for use in the event of a critical incident.

Luiken says her favorite initiative is the implementation of a reading program. Accompanied by her "partner," a two-year-old miniature poodle named Anika, Luiken can connect with the younger students on a more personal level. In the summer when school isn't in session, Luiken is back on patrol and she says it's heartwarming to hear "Officer Greta!" around town.

In other matters, food service director Amy McQuery told board members the district has 16 regular food service staff and several substitutes who may come in during busy periods throughout the day or provide coverage during absences. McQuery spoke of the administrative review for food service which takes place every five years; Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) comes to examine every facet of the food service department, checking to see that USDA regulations are being met. McQuery said it went very well and although there

School continued on 6



The March 3, 2025 Waseca Junior High Concert featured both the seventh- and eighth-grade bands. They were joined for special numbers by members of the High School Sextets.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Junior high concert has new feature in programs

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Both the seventh- and eighth-grade bands performed in a junior high concert at the Waseca Performing Arts Center the evening of Monday, March 3. The groups were joined by the high school male and female sextets for a special pair of numbers. Director for the evening was junior high music instructor Anders Peterson.

First to perform two songs was the seventh-grade band with "Pioneer Songs" arranged by Larry Daehn and "Call Me Maybe" arranged by Michael Brown. On flutes: Taylor Koch, Aubrey Sietsema and Leah Wilson. Clarinet: Lillian Arkadie, Keira Holmgren, Shannon Sanchez and Kinley Thostenson. Bass Clarinet Adora Vogler. Alto Saxophone: Corine Kratzer, Carson Mortensen,

Jordan Rosenthal and Zeb Sell. Baritone Saxophone Hayden Allen. Trumpet: Luke Feldkamp, Charlotte Griffith, Kayla Landrum, Alexander Lewandowski, Hailey Proehl, Tennyson Rugger and Lilly Whitesitt. French Horn Mallory Wetzel. Trombone: Hector Alvarez, Olivia Hagen and Andy Spotts. Baritone: Mayson Smith. Tuba Charles Galle and Brody Gray. Percussion: Claire Harguth, Liam Malterer, Lilly Muff, Miles Popp, Olive Scheffert.

Charlotte Griffith, a trumpet player with the seventh-grade band said, "I was really nervous about tonight but we're all here and we are just going to play. We've been practicing a lot!" Director Peterson wanted everyone to know about the

Concert continued on 6



The Waseca Junior Senior High School band program has set up web information about upcoming performances, information about numbers to be performed, and more. Interested persons can use this QR code to access the website.

Waseca Advocates



Waseca Officials Advocate for City Needs at League of Minnesota Cities Day on the Hill

St. Paul, MN-March 6, 2025 - Representatives from the City of Waseca joined municipal leaders from across the state at the League of Minnesota Cities' annual City Day on the Hill event in St. Paul on March 6. The delegation, known as "Team Waseca," participated in informational sessions and met with state legislators to advocate for the city's critical infrastructure needs.

During the day-long event, Waseca officials received valuable information about the state bonding process and how municipalities can effectively position their projects for inclusion in the state's bonding bill. Participants also gained insights into current legislative projections and priorities that impact Minnesota cities. A highlight of the day included Team Waseca's meeting with Senator John Jasinski, during which city representatives presented Waseca's infrastructure priorities and discussed how state support could help address these critical needs.

"Participating in the League's City Day on the Hill provided an invaluable opportunity to directly communicate our city's needs to decision makers at the Capitol," said Stacey Schroeder, councilmember for the City of Waseca. "The face-to-face discussions with Senator Jasinski allowed us to emphasize the importance of state support for our local infrastructure projects."

The League of Minnesota Cities organizes this annual advocacy day to strengthen connections between city officials and state legislators while providing cities with a platform to highlight their specific needs and challenges.

Pictured are: Carl Sonnenberg, Senator John Jasinski, Stacey Schroeder, Jon Froke, Randy Zimmerman

WASECA
CITY COUNCIL

Council discusses Loon Lake

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

Loon Lake island, and what to do about the bird species causing deterioration of the island, was once again a main topic of discussion at the Waseca City Council's first meeting of the month on Tuesday, March 4. Present for the public comment portion of the meeting was a local resident who is also a trained conservation biologist to share her own observations and knowledge about the matter. Following last meeting's discussion on the use of firearms to cull the cormorant population, the individual expressed concern that this hasn't been a public discussion sooner.

"The birds will come back," she explained, noting previous examples where such measures were taken. The removal of nests, prevention of eggs from hatching to gradually decrease the population, and other mitigation strategies were provided to the council.

In response, it was noted that the city has not investigated the problem, which has been handled on a county level so far, and the city does not currently have a plan to address the problem.

The council did approve Ordinance 1120: Modifying City Code Chapter 133: Dangerous Weapons and Articles, which would provide an exception to the ordinance as written. The individual was advised to contact the county for more specific answers to questions on the matter.

Also approved were a proclamation for Feed Waseca Minnesota Foodshare Month, Waseca Fire Department Recognition Awards, and the following items in the consent agenda: setting a date for a public hearing on Ordinance No. 1122: Text Amendments to Chapters 91, 152, and 154 of the Municipal Code, setting a date for a public hearing on the Clearwater Preserve Preliminary Plat, setting a date for a public hearing on Ordinance No. 1121: Modifying Chapters 50.04 and 52.05 of the City Code, a new tobacco license for 109 Second Avenue, SE, and Resolutions 25-13: Approve Plans and Specifications and Authorize Advertisement for Bids for the Fourth Street SW (CSAH 4) Rehabilitation Project and 25-14: Authorize an Engineering Contract with TKDA for the Runway 15/33 PAPI and REIL Installation Project, among others.

The council approved a change in start time for the March 18 meeting of 8 p.m. The city manager's report was discussed, along with commission reports, before the meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

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OBITUARIES

Betty A. Caya

BETTY ANN CAYA, age 95 of Waseca, died in the early morning of Saturday, March 1, 2025 at Lakeshore Rehabilitation Center in Waseca.

Betty was born in Waseca on March 8, 1929, to parents Louie and Lillian (Schleusner) Lewis. She was confirmed into her Christian faith at St. John Lutheran Church on May 23, 1943. She attended school in Waseca and graduated with the Bluejay class of 1947. On September 22, 1955 Betty was married to Carl Lulus Caya in Minneapolis. Over the years she was employed by Russel Miller Milling, Peterson Insurance, the E.F. Johnson Company, Brown Printing Company, Texaco, and most recently as a delivery person for “The Buzz” in Waseca. She was also a foster-mother to many children throughout her lifetime. She enjoyed knitting, cross stitching, card making, quilting, and sewing. She utilized her crafting skills to make countless school bags and military kits, and was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca where she was a member of WELCA, sang in the choir, and served on the missions committee.

Betty is survived by four children, Thomas Caya of Waseca, Teri (Jody) Wilker of Waseca, Tami (Larry) Paradis of Marshall, and Timothy Caya of Brookings, SD; one sister, Bonnie Lewer of Waseca; nine grandchildren, Nicole Mihm, Natasha Wilker, Nerissa Wilker, Andrew Caya, Samantha



Betty Caya

Petersen, Danielle Paradis, Taelynn Caya, Talyssa Caya, and Tiana Caya; and eleven great-grandchildren, Cameron Mihm, Addison Mihm, Griffin Mihm, Emmilyn Mihm, Aubrey Caya, Eliott Caya, Jayden Caya, Anastasia Petersen, Josephine Petersen, Lillie Vance, and Lexie Vance. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; a brother, Donald Lewis; a sister, Marjorie Deef; and a nephew, Jeffery Lewis.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca, with Rev. Ashley Kuhlman officiating. Visitation will be held for one hour before the service at the church. Interment will follow at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca is handling the arrangements.

Robert Hoffman

Robert Harold Hoffman, known affectionately as Bob, passed away peacefully at home in Waseca on March 7, 2025, leaving behind a legacy marked by dedication, leadership, and deep connections with those he influenced throughout his life. Born on May 14, 1944, in Granite Falls, Minnesota, Bob's journey began in a small town where he would eventually set forth on a remarkable path of service and commitment to education and community.

Bob graduated from Renville Public School with the class of 1962 before attending Gustavus Adolphus College, where he played football for one year. He later transferred to Mankato State University, earning his Bachelor of Science degree in education in 1966 and subsequently obtaining his Master of Science degree in educational administration in 1969, while playing baseball for the Mavericks. Furthering his education, he achieved his Doctorate of Education from Utah State University in 1972.

Bob launched his illustrious career in education in 1966, teaching senior high English in Redwood Falls, where he also coached track, football, and basketball. His leadership journey continued as he became the high school principal in Wanamingo, then went on to be the Assistant Superintendent in Worthington. In 1972, at the youthful age of 29, he took on the role of Superintendent of Schools in Waseca, a position he initially thought would last only a couple of years, but which became the cornerstone of his life's work and

dedication to the community.

In Waseca, Bob was much more than an administrator; he became a vital part of the community fabric. He transitioned to a leadership role in the private sector, joining Brown Printing in various leadership roles, ultimately becoming the Vice President of Sales and Marketing. In 1988, he joined Taylor Corporation in North Mankato, leading operations within the commercial division until his first retirement in 2007.

Bob's commitment to education extended beyond his professional roles. He significantly contributed to various boards and organizations that enriched the educational landscape and community initiatives. He served on the National Board of Directors for AAL, was pivotal in the merger that formed Thrivent Financial, and contributed to the Gustavus Adolphus Alumni Association, among many others. His service with the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees (MNSCU) showcased his dedication to enhancing educational opportunities across the state.

A man of compassion and community spirit, Bob never lost sight of the importance of giving back. He actively participated in local organizations such as the Waseca Area Memorial Hospital Board, the Waseca Youth Basketball Association, and various service clubs including Kiwanis, Rotary, and Lions Club. His commitment to his faith was evident through his active membership at Grace Lutheran Church, where he taught Sunday School for many years.

Bob's passion in life was forging connections with people. He greatly

enjoyed socializing with friends at Waseca Lakeside Club, his local coffee group, his lunch group at Tavern 23, or just around town. His inspiring mantras, including "Jet Pilots don't have rear view mirrors" or "Onward and Upward," encapsulated his optimistic outlook. He approached his work not as a job, but as a fulfilling lifestyle where he sought to mentor and uplift others. A strong faith guided him, and he was an unwavering presence in the lives of his family.

On June 10, 1967, Bob was united in marriage to Judy Larson at St. John Lutheran Church in Renville. Their marriage was blessed with three children: Kelly, John, and Ryan. No matter how busy Bob was with his career he always took time to be present with his wife and kids. When away from work, he would call home every night to talk to Judy and each one of his children. He always found time to take his kids boating or fishing, he attended all their activities and most recently has cherished being present in the lives of his grandchildren. Bob's legacy will undoubtedly live on in the hearts of those who had the pleasure of knowing him, and he will be deeply missed by all whose lives he touched.

Bob was preceded in death by his father, Harold Hoffman; mother, Bernice Barber; and step-father, Jule Barber. Bob is survived by his loving wife of nearly 58 years, Judy, of Waseca; children: Kelly (Mark) Thompson of Lee's Summit, MO, John Hoffman of Dallas, TX, and Ryan (Sarah) Hoffman of Waseca; grandchildren: Trevor, Abby, and Charlie Thompson, Ashton Hoffman,



Robert Hoffman

and Samarah, Isaiah, and Amiya Hoffman; siblings: Lowell (Jenny) Hoffman of Belle Plaine and Joan Hoffman of Eden Prairie; as well as brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Linda (Darren) Pahl of Zumbrota, Arlan (Dana) Larson of Climax, MN, Wanda (Bill) Scoville of Fargo, and Owen (Connie) Larson of Climax. He is also remembered by many special cousins with whom he shared close bonds, as well as nieces, nephews, and countless other relatives and friends.

Visitation will be from 3:00 – 7:00 PM on Friday, March 14, 2025, at Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca.

Funeral service for Bob will be held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, March 15, 2025, at Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca, with Pastor Jillene Gallatin, officiating. The burial will be in Woodville Cemetery at Waseca. DSOFuneral.com

Lisa J. Hayes

LISA JEAN HAYES, age 59, of Waseca passed away the morning of Saturday, March 8, 2025 in her home surrounded by family.

Born on March 24, 1965 in Waseca, Lisa was the daughter of James and Dianne (Bauman) Bartelt. She graduated from Waseca High School with the class of 1983. Lisa married James Hayes on January 23, 1998, at Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca. Together, they shared a life filled with love and memories.

Over the years, Lisa worked at Colony Court, Fast Development, and O'Farleys, until her health prevented her from continuing. She was known for her passion for family and enjoyed activities such as going on walks, fishing, tanning, playing volleyball, cleaning, and cooking. Lisa was especially fond of hosting Super Bowl parties, where she would gather with friends and family. She was proud to expand the footprint of the Waseca Sportsman Club as the self-proclaimed head grounds keeper for the last seven years.

Lisa is survived by her husband, James of Waseca; children, Mackinzee (MaKara) Hayes, Aaliyah Hayes, Ashton Hayes all of Waseca, Katie Johnson, Kristi Johnson; step-daughter, Amanda



Lisa Hayes

(Ross) Taylor of Aberdeen, SD; granddaughter, Angelyn; step-grandchildren, Baylin, Kayson; siblings, Dennis (Carol) Bartelt, Doug (Julie) Bartelt, Cindy Bartelt, Becky (Matt Harguth) Sommers; brother-in-law, Lyle Vaughan; and many in-laws, nieces, and nephews. She was preceded in death by both of her parents; sister, Pamela Vaughan; and special uncle, Gene.

In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to Grace Gardens.

A visitation will be held from 4 - 7 PM on Friday, March 14, 2025 at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca.

Bonnie J. White

BONNIE JEAN WHITE, age 78 of Waseca, died on the evening of Sunday, March 9, 2025 at her home in Waseca surrounded by her family.

Bonnie was born in Waseca on December 22, 1946, to parents Kenneth and Jean (Nock) Johnson. She graduated from Waseca High School with the class of 1964, then continued her education at Mankato State University. She was married to Stephan C. White on June 10, 1967. In the years that followed, Stephan served overseas in Vietnam and their family moved around as his position required. Bonnie was primarily a mother and homemaker, and she loved her time raising her three children and being involved in their lives as a Girl Scout leader, Sunday School teacher, and Confirmation Teacher. In addition, she did spend time working for the E.F. Johnson

Company, Erickson's Bakery, and Charlie's Hardware at different points throughout her life. After Stephan passed away in 2002 Bonnie began a new chapter in her life with a loving companion, Douglas Prescher. She also became very involved with the Waseca American Legion Auxiliary, serving as a past president and past treasurer as well as in the parade marching squad, and assisting with the Legion food stand every summer at the Waseca County Free Fair. Bonnie enjoyed painting, sewing, needlepoint, reading, dancing, trips to the casino to play slots and Keno, and having fun with friends and family. She also treasured travel, especially wintering in Texas and going up north on fishing trips.

Bonnie is survived by her loving companion, Doug Prescher of Waseca; three children, Becky (Derek) Brewer of Waseca, Steven

(Della) White of Plainfield, IL, and Kelly (Vaughn) Ihrke of Isanti; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; two siblings, Linda Johnson of Waseca and David (Lisa) Johnson of Waseca; and Doug's children, Brett (Rebecca) Prescher of Waseca, and Natalie Norris of Mound. She was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, William and Ella Nock; her paternal grandparents, Hans and Edith Johnson; her parents, Kenneth and Jean Johnson; her husband, Stephan White; several aunts and uncles; and one grandson, Alex Lozano.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, March 14, 2025 at Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca, with Rev. Jillene Gallatin officiating. Visitation will be held for one hour prior to the service at the church, and a reception will follow at the Waseca American Legion. Interment will be held at a later date.



Bonnie J. White

Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca is handling the arrangements. dsfuneral.com

■ Weather

from Page 1

which became invisible once covered.

“People slow down when they see ice,” Dulas pointed out. “It caught people off guard because they couldn’t see it, and that made their stopping distance greater.”

Another hazard from wet roadways occurred when snow was blown into pooled water and became slush. “And of course, slush has a way of pulling a vehicle sideways,” said Dulas. “Sideways,” he pointed out, might mean into the ditch or into the path of oncoming vehicles.

The sheriff's office responded to 13 calls during the 24 or so hours spanned by the storm. Dulas mentioned there were numerous incidents with cars in the ditch or median, and even four with vehicles stuck blocking roadways. There were also three incidents involving stranded or jack-knifed semi vehicles.

“It’s not only the number of calls that is significant,” the sheriff said. “It’s also a question of how long the officer remains on the scene, and so can’t respond to other calls for assistance.”

When vehicles were stranded in positions which crossed traffic lanes, Dulas offered as an example, “the officer has to stay and help provide a warning to any other vehicles which might be approaching.”

Dulas wanted drivers to know that, when they decide to be on the road when there is no travel advised, it is not only themselves they are putting at risk. “There are other drivers who may have no choice but to be out there,” he observed, “and the emergency responders who are called on the scene to assist.”

Circumstances which were helpful as the storm continued, Dulas said, were that many people chose to remain at home, and all area schools were closed, and so neither school buses nor students of driving age were on the road. “We give a lot of credit to the highway department,” commented Dulas. “They were out there quickly and doing what they could to keep the roads open.”

According to Waseca County Director of Public Works Jim Kollar, the county's eight tandem axle plow trucks and four motor graders follow 12 routes clearing county roads. Crews deployed at 5 a.m. both Wednesday and Thursday morning. He mentions that pushing the wet heavy snow over a sometimes “near frictionless” surface created some complications, but adds, “Just normal

circumstances, really, for a March snow event.”

City of Waseca Chief of Police Kris Markeson reported there were two “fender benders” along with a handful of vehicles stuck along roadways in Waseca during the storm. He mentioned that a snow emergency was declared at 2 p.m. Tuesday afternoon, and that under a snow emergency people are expected to have their cars off city streets once 3 inches of snow is on the ground. City plows began clearing efforts at about 4 a.m., but the start time for plowing is different with every storm.

He pointed out people can learn whether a snow emergency has been declared by referring to the city's Facebook page, the WPD facebook page, the city website, or even by calling city offices to ask.

Car owners whose vehicle is still in the street when the plows arrive are subject to a \$30 fine; but more importantly, Markeson pointed out, their vehicles create numerous hazards. For one, on narrower streets, plows may not be able to get past the parked car, and so the street remains filled with snow. In other cases, plows go around the vehicle and end up leaving a wall of snow in the street. That “wall” may obstruct traffic, or may prove hazardous when the vehicle owner attempts to power

his or her way out.

Markeson noted the street department has a difficult job which was made a bit harder by the type of snow delivered during the recent storm. He mentioned, “the street department had some equipment breakdowns when trying to move the wet, heavy snow. This delayed the removal of the windrows on narrower streets and downtown.”

Since major weather events may lead to health emergencies or power outages, blocked roads can slow the response of emergency medical personnel or utility workers, Markeson pointed out.

Both law enforcement leaders advise that area residents should continue their “winter weather preparedness” measures for a number of weeks yet, since March is historically the “snowiest” month of the year.

Among recommended items for a winter preparedness kit are extra items of warm clothing including hats, gloves, boots and coats. In case of getting stuck, a snow shovel and perhaps a bag of sand or cat litter can be helpful.

“And just be really aware of whether it’s safe to travel,” advised Dulas. “In storms like the one we had this week, drivers may be endangering themselves and others if they choose to be on the roads.”



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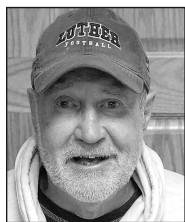
Anybody who knows me knows I love the great outdoors and hunting and fishing. People still greet me with “How’s fishing?” or “Any good fishing stories?” I have 35 fishing rods and reels in the shed at the cabin; they’ve risen in number over the years and all serve a purpose. A few of them are very special because they always catch fish.

Marc, my son, lives in Mankato. Several years ago he asked me to join him fishing for catfish on the nearby Minnesota River. He did the research, purchased a catfish rod and reel, fishing weights and hooks to use in the river currents, and made a fishing plan. It was a hot day in July: We put our boat in at Judson, started fishing at 3 p.m., and planned to fish all night. Big cats like to go on the prowl after dark, especially with a full moon. My job was to catch the bait, bullheads from Waseca’s Loon Lake, and bring a bucket of them. It’s legal to use small bullheads for bait when fishing catfish; catfish find them desirable.

I did not own anything even resembling a big cat pole and headed to Fleet Farm to buy an appropriate one. After looking at a great number

of fishing rods, I selected the cat rod of my dreams; a seven-foot, fifteen-dollar beauty. With its threatening yellow, black, and white colors, it was a two-piece, heavy catfish killer. It even had a name and a catfish emblem on the bottom rod piece. “Old Whiskers” was now mine and ready for action on the river. I spooled some 40-pound test line on a big, open-face reel I’d used for salmon fishing and attached the reel to “Old Whiskers.” Marc would tie on the paper leader, river sinker and hook. When we began our trip down the river, I couldn’t help but notice how great Marc’s new fishing outfit looked riding next to Old Whiskers.

It was hot. Marc found a bend in the river with a 12-foot-deep cut running next to a tree that had tumbled into the water. We tied up the boat on a tree limb, put on the bait, and began to fish in the current. It was so hot I took off my shorts and fished in my checkered red and white boxers. Suddenly, “Old Whiskers” almost jumped out of the boat. I grabbed the rod—fish on! My line started feeding rapidly down the river; it was obvious I’d hooked a huge one. We untied the boat and followed it



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



downstream for at least a block; Marc had to help play the fish out. After a lengthy battle we boated a huge flathead catfish, 30 pounds or better. I have a picture on my bathroom wall of me in my boxers holding the big cat.

On the next cut in the river we tied up to a log jam. Old Whiskers landed an 11-pound channel cat and a good-sized flathead. Through the rest of the moonlit night my trusty catfish rod landed five more flatheads weighing between 10 and 15 pounds. Marc’s new outfit landed only two.

It’s a memorable fishing outing I’ll never forget: watching racoons and deer roaming the banks of the river in the moonlight, swatting thousands of mosquitoes, and navigating back to the landing in fog up to our necks.

Old Whiskers is now the property of Marc and his boys, the rod and reel still catch big cats on the banks of the Minnesota River. Marc, Shannon and the boys took a trip to Alaska last summer; Marc sent me a picture of him holding a nice red salmon. His caption read, “Old Whiskers scores again!”

Many years ago Lisa gave me permission to buy a quality fishing rod. I purchased a G-Loomis panfish rod along with a Scheels panfish slayer at Scheels. Both rods were expensive, had fast tips to detect sensitive bites, and were made of carbon for feeling the bite. Both rods are still my favorites and will be freshly spooled this spring with four-pound fluorocarbon line for another season of fishing.

Fishing had been difficult at our cabin on Lake Tetonka. When fish aren’t biting, always take a woman fishing and your luck will immediately change. Lisa only fished with me on the lake a couple of times a summer, the weather had to be just right. I gave her three possible spots to catch a meal of sunfish. She chose a spot off a rock bar not far from the cabin. I located a few fish and threw out the anchor. She chose her fishing rod, the panfish slayer. I baited her tungsten jig with a wax worm and down went the bait. I also baited up and began fishing with G-Loomis. I discovered in a matter of minutes that I would not be fishing. Lisa was fighting a big bull bluegill, reeled it up, and it was hanging in my face. It was huge, a nine-inch beauty. I had just enough time to put the fish in the livewell, re-bait her hook, and return to my seat, where another fish was dangling in front of me. For the next half hour, my own bait never hit the water. Instead, I threw 12 beautiful gills in the livewell, re-baited her hook, and took fish off her hook. Lisa lost interest and we returned to the cabin with a dozen of the biggest sunfish I’ve ever boated on Tentonka.

We weighed one of the biggest at Sportsman’s in Waseca and she won a gift certificate for the biggest sunfish of the summer. Lisa never exaggerates the size of the fish she catches; she will tell you the fish weighed exactly 16 ounces.

My four grandchildren have all caught trophy bluegills and crappies on G-Loomis and panfish slayer; many fishing guests have brought quality fish into my boat on those two rods. I take pride in watching guests catch fish in my boat. I remember fishing with two young ladies on German Lake, where they were catching quality fish after fish. A couple of boats were fishing around us, not catching much. One of the young ladies was boating a big 14-inch crappie. The other anglers asked “What are you two using?” They shouted back “You’ll have to ask the guide.”

It won’t be long before the lakes will be ice free. Gentle waves will be rolling across clear blue water, spreading the fever—open water fishing fever!

Briefs

Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center all-you-can-eat breakfast at Sweet-Sommers VFW Sunday, March 23

The Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center is having an all-you-can-eat breakfast fundraiser at the VFW from 8 a.m. till noon on Sunday, March 23. Adults \$12 and children 6-13 \$7, children five and under free. Proceeds go to the Waseca Area Food Shelf and the March FoodShare campaign.

Community Emergency Response Team CERT offering free spring classes March 25

Offered to any Waseca County resident, CERT educates people about disaster preparedness. Sign up now for free spring classes, March 25 and 27, April 1, 3, 7, 10 and 15. Contact Waseca County Emergency Management Denise Wright at 507-835-0694.

Early Childhood Fair at Waseca Intermediate School Friday, March 28

There will be an Early Childhood Fair at the Waseca Intermediate School from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, March 28. Including baby animals, activities, crafts and freebies. Speak with preschool professionals, medical professionals and public safety officials. This is a free event.

Comedy Show at Starfire Event Center Friday, March 28

There will be a Comedy Show at the Starfire Event Center, doors open at 7 p.m. \$15 early bird ticket, \$20 standard ticket, \$30 VIP. VIP includes lounge, select drinks, appetizers and preferred seating.

Volunteer Breakfast at Farmamerica Friday, April 4

There will be a complimentary farm to fork breakfast from 9-10:30 a.m. on Friday, April 4 at Farmamerica. At 10:30 a.m. there will also be an AED/CPR Training with Miss Minnesota, Emily Schumacher.

Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center having dinner fundraiser Sat., March 29

The Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center is having a turkey commercial dinner and bake sale fundraiser at the Waseca Legion from 5-7 p.m. on Saturday, March 29. Adults \$12, children 6-13 \$7 and 5 and under free. Proceeds go to Waseca Area Food Shelf and March FoodShare.

Waseca Lions Pancake Breakfast at American Legion Sunday, April 6

There will be a pancake breakfast on behalf of the Waseca Lions at the legion from 7:30 a.m. till noon on

Sunday, April 6. Adults \$10, kids 12 and under \$5. Bring your old eyeglasses and hearing aids. Proceeds go to Waseca Boy Scouts Scholarships and Lions Eye Bank.

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church of Meriden two-day garage and soup sale April 11 and 12

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 2781 SW 92 Ave Meriden, is having a two-day garage sale and homemade soup sale from 11 a.m. till 6 p.m. on Friday April 11, and from 8 a.m. till 1 p.m. on Saturday April 12. Lots of items and good food.

Spring Craft Show at the Starfire Event Center

Saturday, April 12

There will be a Spring Craft Show at the Starfire Event Center from 10 a.m. thru 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 12. For vendor inquiries call 507-461-1387, there will be a special appearance by the Easter Bunny.

Taste of the Farm at Waseca Fairgrounds on Tuesday, June 3

Join the Waseca County Farm Bureau for their Taste of the Farm event at the Waseca Fairgrounds from 5-7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 3. This is a family-friendly event. A free meal will be served until gone, enjoy farm animals, farm equipment and other fun activities.



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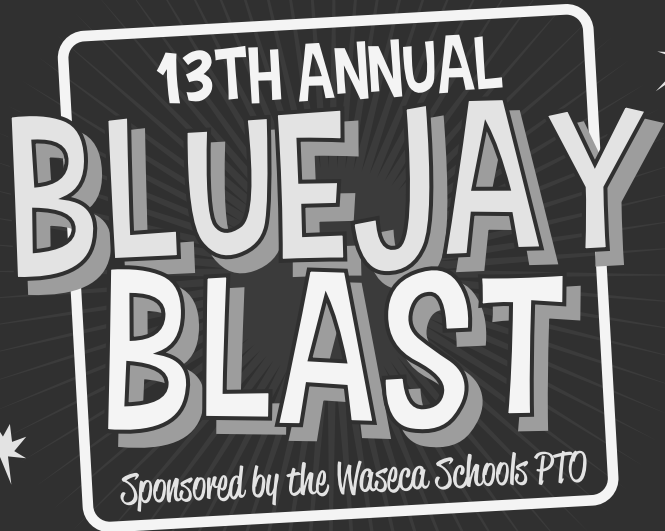
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Saint Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland

Who is St. Patrick?

By REV. MICHAEL JAMES GRANNIS
St. Paul Lutheran,
Waseca

St. Patrick's Day is coming! While my household doesn't venerate the saints (or drink copious amounts of green beer), we do take time to remember and teach our children about St. Patrick (we also wear green, and eat corned beef and cabbage). While there are various legends and myths about Saint Patrick, there is one thing that is undeniable - his faith in Jesus and love for Him.

St. Patrick was born around the year 400, the son of a British nobleman. He lived near the shores of England, facing Ireland. Like many typical teen-aged boys of our time, he didn't care much for studies, and wasn't too invested in his faith life. He liked to run around with his friends and hang out near the harbor, watching all the hustle and bustle of the ships coming in and going out. His life dramatically changed when he was 16 years old. An Irish king staged a raid on his town. Young Patrick watched helplessly as many of his family and friends were killed and his home was burned to the ground. When the siege was over Patrick along with the other survivors were bound and taken prisoner to be sold into slavery across the sea in Ireland.

Patrick was forced into labor immediately. He was taught how to tend sheep and lived a lonely existence for 6 years, the sheep being his daily companions. However, it was during this time that he began to pray. He remembered The Lord's Prayer, which his grandfather had taught him. He awoke before the sun came up each morning and prayed. He prayed as he brought the sheep into the fields. He prayed in the fields. He prayed on his way back home. He prayed, and he prayed, and he prayed. And as he prayed God worked in him. He gave him a thankful heart...a humble heart...a forgiving heart.

At the age of 22 Patrick had a dream. God told him that soon he would return home. The following night he had another dream. In the dream God told him that a boat was there to take him home. Patrick awoke in the middle of the night and left immediately. He traveled on foot for several days through marsh lands and over mountains, avoiding roads so as to not be spotted. After a 200-mile journey on foot (across most of Ireland) he reached the shore and convinced a captain of a ship to bring him back to England.

Along the way Patrick was a witness of God's providence to the captain and his crew, praying for provision when they faced hunger. When in mainland Europe, Patrick sought after a famous bishop, Germanus of Auxerre, and studied the Scripture's under his tutelage. When he finally returned to his homeland he was received joyfully by his kinsman. He wanted nothing more than to forget the horrors of his barbarous capture and lonely years as a slave in the pagan hills of Ireland. But God began to work a different word in his heart.

It was a word he learned in his thousands upon thousands of prayers - forgive. God gave Patrick another dream. In the dream he saw a man named Victorinus, coming from Ireland with countless letters. Patrick opened one and began to read it. "The voice of the Irish..." were the opening words, but before he could continue, he saw crowds of people across the sea on the shores of Ireland, and heard them beckoning him to come back and walk among them again.

Now a bishop, Patrick left home for Ireland once again, no longer to be a servant of an Irish king but the servant of our Heavenly King. For nearly 30 years he walked across Ireland requesting audiences with the high and low kings of the land. He would share his witness of Christ with the kings. He would ask for their permission to proclaim the message of salvation through Christ to the people. He bore witness to Jesus ministry, suffering, death and resurrection. He shared the Bible's message of peace, love and forgiveness between God and humanity. It was a strange and wonderful message in a land filled with war, hatred, and vengeance.

When he began his ministry in Ireland, it is believed that not a single Irish soul trusted in Christ. He boldly confronted the druids of the land, constantly putting himself under threat of death. Some of the kings he spoke with received his message, others did not. He was imprisoned a number of times, and attacked countless times. In his writings he says, "Daily I expect murder, fraud, or captivity, but I fear none of these things because of the promises of heaven. I have cast myself into the hands of God Almighty who rules everywhere." After 30 years of ministry he is credited with planting countless seeds of faith, baptizing tens of thousands of people, erecting hundreds of churches and being God's instrument to convert the majority of the population of Ireland. No doubt, he and the Apostle Paul would have been good friends.

In the picture above is an image of Saint Patrick. It shows him holding a shamrock (a three-leaved clover). This common Irish plant was used as an object lesson of sorts by Patrick to explain the three-in-one essence of God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit). The image also shows him holding something else. It is the Bible. While Patrick's prayer life was what began his growth in faith, it was his time in the Scriptures that matured his faith and conformed his heart to God's gracious will. Rather than living most of his days resenting the people who had taken everything away from him (and had taken him away from everything he knew), God taught him to love and forgive his enemies just as God loved and forgave him through Christ.

I pray you all have a happy St. Patrick's Day. May we all pray as he prayed, forgive as he forgave, love as he loved, trust as he trusted and follow as he followed.

St. Paul's Quilters Club pork chop fundraiser sews together well

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The St. Paul's Lutheran Church Quilters Club served up pork chops, au gratin potatoes, assorted lettuce salads, stuffing, fruit salads, bars and an assortment of 12 pies to a very full house at their church beginning at 11:30 on Sunday, March 2. Volunteers welcomed people and saw them to their seats, then brought the main course and drinks. Debbie Roemhildt, member of the Quilters Club mentioned that preparations for the event were very much a "team thing," with all members helping decorate on Wednesday evening, and then working in shifts—either on Saturday with preliminary preparations, or on Sunday to prepare and serve the food. Club members and other ladies from the church prepared the pies and salads.

Laurie Flefer was taking tickets at the door, "All the tickets were pre-bought, you can't get them at the door. For today's meal we sold 150 place settings. It's only 11:40 and we've already had 80 people show up." She wasn't counting the to-go orders either.

Judy Waters was busy passing out pork chops one at a time, "I started at six and I've been cooking all morning." She explained the Quilters Club



Fifteen volunteers worked at the St. Paul Quilters fundraiser meal on Sunday, March 2, 2025. Each year the organization donates between 150 and 200 quilts worldwide. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

is responsible for donating between 150 and 200 quilts worldwide, "Not just the U.S.," she said. Also, when youth members of St. Paul's graduate high school, they receive a quilt from the group. According to Waters, the club meets at 1 p.m. every Tuesday at St. Paul's and, although the schedule may have changed, they've been around for almost 55 years.

Guests Joanne and Mark Weiske took their seats and the server rushed off to get their plates. Said Joanne, "We come here for the drive-thru hot beef commercial, almost every Sunday, except when we have family stuff."

When asked how long it takes to make a quilt,

Roemhildt replied, "I'm able to put together about one quilt a year, but if I were retired." She gave it some thought before she continued, "I would probably be able to do 12 or 13. Even more if I have the patterns planned out already, a lot of it is just planning."

The Quilters Club welcomes donations from anyone who would like to help with their cause, right now they have 8 members and are always on the lookout for more. To inquire about Quilters Club membership, call the church at 507-835-2647, leave a message for Judy. St. Paul's Lutheran Church is located at 314 Fourth Ave NE, Waseca.

■ Concert

from Page 3

website set up for all high school band performances. "We have new QR codes in our programs that will tell you everything about our high school performances, the songs, the schedule, history of the songs played and so much more, all you need is a program."

Second was the eighth-grade band

with "Bang Bang" arranged by Ishbah Cox. "The Lost Lady Found" arranged by Michael Sweeny and "What Was I Made For?" arranged by Michael Brown. On flutes: Sienna Hanna, Grace Hertzog, Jaiden Johnson, Mariza Juarez, Ella Linnes and Cady Stenzel. Clarinet: Kennedy Jansen, Karime Solis, Ava Trumbull and Gianna Zak. Alto Saxophone: Dathan Elias, Tomas Vasquez-Neigebauer and Quinn Yoder. Tenor Saxophone Jenna Yoder. Baritone Saxophone Avery Roessler. Trumpet: Bryan De Jager, Maxwell Harguth, Nicholas Harguth, Jacob Jyrkas, Michael

Petracek and Carson True. Trombone: Dalisaya Howe, Maurice Lopez and Nicholas Nelson. Baritone Hector Beltran. Tuba Jude Adams. Percussion: Andrea Alvarez-Reyes, Sheila Driessen, Shylo Driessen, Nolan Dufault and Samantha Sutton.

The combined junior high band and high school choral sextets performed "Homeward Bound" arranged by Brant Karrick and "Firework" arranged by Michael Brown.

Members of the high school sextets are Adian Androli, Nathanael

Andrs, Collin Dettmer, Brayden Hoof, Tauston Rupe, Andy Vasquez, Sophie Charvra, Claire Dieker, Callie Dufault, Eden Eads, Lauren Grant and Layla Keith.

Both bands, the sextets and Peterson expressed their gratitude to the Waseca school district and administration, school custodial staff, Chuck Pollock, Waseca Band Boosters, Waseca music department staff, school teaching staff and performers' parents, guardians and families.

■ School

from Page 3

were some findings, none were critical.

McQuery says the food program has grown, with the number of students eating breakfast up 25 percent and lunch numbers 5 to 10 percent higher than last year. She attributed the increase to Minnesota's free

meals program. She also shared that USDA has some updates for school meals regarding sodium and sugar requirements in anything provided for food service beginning 2027.

McQuery addressed a question she says she hears often regarding why students are sometimes charged for meals under the new guidelines; she explained students have to take certain components with the meals in order for them to be reimbursable. Food service staff are trained to make sure students are taking all of

the necessary components so they can be "zero charged," otherwise their accounts are debited the regular amount.

She also reported the summer meal program will be up and running out of the Central Building as usual beginning the second week in June and going throughout the summer.

Superintendent Eric Hudspeth showed the board several models of the 2026-2027 calendar for consideration, each with differing start and end dates. After discussion, the board

determined starting after Labor Day as usual would be best practice. Hudspeth said it was becoming "trendy" to start before Labor Day, naming New Ulm, Albert Lea, and Worthington who do so.

Hudspeth and the board legislative committee of Grant Scheffert, Charlie Priebe and Dave Dunn traveled to conference with state-level finance, policy, and education committee chairs, followed by a chance to talk with local legislators about Waseca Schools.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH
2200 4th St NE, Waseca
507-835-2235
Service times 9:30 a.m.
* * *

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: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net)
Worship Sunday 10 a.m.
* * *

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

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
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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Janesville

1925

- We hear and read so much about auto license and gasoline tax that I too would like to say a few words. I am in favor of leaving the auto license as it is and of adding a two cent tax on gasoline for good roads, because I want good roads now and not only a century after I am dead. Every owner of a car or even a flivver wants good roads, but some want them for nothing, which is unreasonable. Everything that is worth having is worth a reasonable price. That is especially true of good roads. It has always been my contention that every dollar we spend for road improvement saves us at least five dollars. This is especially true of the roads in the farm districts. But it is very often the farmer who is slow to favor road improvement at his expense. On a good road a farmer can haul twice the load he can on a poor road, hence he saves half the time and time is money.

- Uncle Sam closed his trade balance sheet for 1924 with about one billion on the right side of the ledger. It will be recalled during the last campaign that the third party speakers and the free trade Democrats predicted universal disaster as a result of the existing tariff law. They announced from that stump that our exports would dwindle to nought, but the Department of Commerce in figures just made public states that the exports reached the amazing total of \$4,590,460,873 while the imports amounted to \$3,610,552,566. The export total for 1923 was \$4,167,493,080 and imports for that year were valued at \$3,792,065,963.

- Fred H. Silkey of Le Ray Township was in town Monday afternoon and a caller at this office. While here he gave details of his big Poland China bred sow sale held at his home on the 19th, Thursday last. He informed us it was one of the most successful ever held on the farm in any other previous year. Formerly the business was conducted under the firm name of L. T. Silkey. Since his father's death he has conducted the business, having taken it over at that time. O. S. Frederick and J. A. Miller were the auctioneers and L. E. McMullan, county agent, a field helper. The sale totaled \$2,200.00, thirty-six sows bringing an average of \$53.00 each and nine fall boar pigs \$33.00 each.

1950

-Waseca County's corn allotment for 1950 is 56,447 acres, Chas. W. Stickney, State Chairman of the Production and Marketing Administration, reveled in an announcement to Edward V. Doyle, county PMA chairman, this week. "This would be a decrease of 22,244 acres from last year's county corn plantings of 78,691 acres," Mr. Doyle said.

- In a basketball contest that had the fans hoppin' out of their seats, the Golden Bears slipped by the "Blossoms" of Blooming Prairie, Friday night, coming out on the long end of the score, 39-36. With seconds to go, and the score knotted 35-35, the Blossoms went ahead by sinking a free throw. Dimmel and Nolan then came thru with a bucket apiece t clinch the hard fought battle. Tuesday night the Bears copped a close one by domping Emmons, 39-38. Nolan was the hero at the finish by insinking a basket to knock off the boys from Emmons. Dimmel was high point man for our gang with 20 points.

- On Sunday afternoon, February 19, about one hundred guests attended open house at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gust H. Mittelstaedt in Janesville in observance of their golden wedding anniversary, the actual date of which was on Wednesday, February 22. The bride of fifty years ago wore a corsage of roses and her sister, Mrs. Minnie Smith, the bridesmaid at the wedding of her sister fifty years ago, wore a gardenia. Mrs. Elsie Oestreich and Mrs. Alma Sotebeer, sisters of Mr. Mittelstaedt, poured. A beautiful wedding cake, decorated appropriately for the occasion, centered the table.

1975

- John Fenelon has been named building manager of the new Janesville Apartments. He started in his new position and is in the process of preparing the building for occupancy. The nearly finished apartment building was recently sold by Townhome Developers, Inc., Crystal, Minnesota, to P&R Enterprises of Fridley. Occupancy will be available March 1.

- The Janesville Argus, Waseca Journal and Mankato Free Press were all named winners in the 1974 Minnesota Newspaper Association's Better Newspaper Contest. The two daily papers and the weekly argus were judged winners in the contest by Wisconsin publishers who had been prize-winners in that state. The Argus won its award in General Reporting in the 1,000-2,000 circulation class. Second place went to the Circulating Pines, Circle Pines.

- The Golden Bear wrestling season ended one step away from the state tourney when all three local wrestlers were eliminated at the region tournament last weekend in Rochester. Mark Schultz managed a fourth-place finish, but only the top two men at each weight advanced to the state tourney. Monday night four Janesville wrestlers were named to the All-Area Team. They are Mark Schultz, Tom Burke, Joe Jewison and Tim Sheeran. The Bears finished the season with a 7-4 overall record.

2000

- The students at JanesvilleWaldorf-Pemberton Elementary School enjoy their play time. However, when such activities take place outdoors, the students only have old and outdated playground equipment to romp on. JWP Elementary School Coordinator Sherry Trahms and the students in Liz Winers' third and fourth-grade class wrote a letter to area businesses asking for their help toward the purchase of new playground equipment. Each student signed a separate copy of the letter, before they were sent. The Janesville State Bank replied with a wonderful surprise: a generous donation of \$5,000 to the cause.

- In the celebration of Future Farmers of America (FFA) week at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School, the members set up and hosted an animal nursery. The industrial arts workshop was turned into a zoo in a matter of hours, and the fun was open to the public. The nursery was set up on the morning of Thursday, Feb. 24, and stayed open until 2:30 when it was time to clean-up and say goodbye. Janesville resident Brian Menze was there to lend a helping hand, and donate a couple of his own animals to the cause. JWP High School agricultural education teacher David Peterson was there as well, keeping the students and crowd under control.

Waseca

25 Years Ago

-A rabbit's-eye view of the blaze that swept through a northern section of Farmamerica's prairie land Tuesday afternoon. Farmamerica volunteers tended the fire, which is helpful in "reseeding" the prairie, enabling it to grow back healthier. An early spring burn ensures that the prairie will be relatively free of nestling wildfire.

-A squirrel caused a lot of commotion Monday afternoon as it fell into the exhaust pipe of a hot water heater, which subsequently caused smoke to fill the home of Tiffany Thomson located at 458 4TH Ave. N.W. She came home and discovered that her house was full of smoke. No one was injured as a result of this incident and the home was not damaged.

-The Waseca High School Concert Band earned an excellent rating as part of the State Region 2AA South Large Group Instrumental Contest held Monday in the Waseca High School gym.

50 Years Ago



-All systems go – MIKE RIEGERT, left, teacher Keith Sykora, Lynn Miller, and Jeff Root, check various systems in a car under repair in the high school automotive shop with the aid of an engine analyzer.



-Welding class – GARY BORN, left, and teacher Keith Sykora, look at welding process.



-Water bed – DOUG MILLER, left, teacher Urban Anderson, Scott Armstrong, Richard Needham, Mike Hintz (reclining in the bed) and Ron Monson, gather around and in the water bed frame recently made by Scott Armstrong in his advanced woods class at Waseca High School.

75 Years Ago

-BACKSAGE WITH THE STARS – Members of the "Fun for All" cast pose for a moment for the camera. Left to right front row: Marvel Breck and Pat James. Second row: Mrs. Marvel Breck, Mrs. Frank Malone and Frank Malone. Third row: Lloyd Kelly, Mrs. Herbert Miller, Leta Root, Mrs. Pat James and Ruth Kath. In the background are Bill Gallagher and Enoch Root.

-ARNOLD WOLTER, former Wasecan, displays some of the big crappies he is catching on Lake Minnebelle near Litchfield. These two will weigh nearly four pounds.

-POPULARITY KID – Mrs. Kenny Neff, far right, crowns Jim Schmidt, Waseca's most popular boy. Other contestants (from left to right) are Tommy Barden, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Barden; Daryl Sutter, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Sutter; Jo Ann Schoreder, winner among the girls, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Schroeder; Becky Davis, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. R.D. Davis and Bonny Streitz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herb Streitz.

100 Years Ago

-The Waseca Journal received a letter this morning from Luverne, Minn., which is dated March 10. The letter reads: "Challenge. I hear that you have a wrestler by the name of Ross in your city. I would like to have a match with him, winner take all the gate. Because I think I am good enough to beat Ross at any time or place. Weight 135. Signed Kelly the Ell of Luverne. Ross accepts the challenge.

New Richland

25 Years Back



- Trooper Carl L. Ukkestad congratulated Brittany Schwartz, a NRHEG middle school student, Monday for winning one of \$150 awards awarded to seventh grade students for the best essays entitled: "Drugs and Alcohol: No Good For Me!" For the second time in as many years, a NRHEG Middle School student has won one of the 39 prizes awarded state-wide to seventh grade students in a Minnesota state patrol troopers Association essay contest. Brittany's essay was one of the three selected from entries in the 11 county area Ukkestad represents.

- What do one million daffodils have to do with cancer control? Daffodil Days are: an exciting special event. It's simply the tale of Daffodils transported over many miles from the Daffodil Fields of the West Coast. Daffodil days are originally initiated by the Canadian Cancer Society. It was started in the New York State Division, American Cancer Society in 1970 by Erie county. Daffodils were selected for this event since this flower represents the symbols of hope, much the same as does the American Cancer Society. Through this exciting special event thousands of dollars have been raised to aid in the fight against cancer. The donations for these flowers will be used for cancer research, life-saving education and services for cancer patients in Waseca County.



- Engagement Announcement. Heidi Hullopeter, daughter of Keith and Donna Hullopeter and Marvin (Gene) Turner Jr., son of Marvin and Vonni Turner announce their engagement and forthcoming marriage. A 1995 graduate of NRHEG, Heidi is a graduate student at Kansas University - Lawrence, preparing for medical school. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin - River Falls with an undergraduate degree in biology/ Chemistry in December 1999. Marvin Jr. (Gene) resides in Platte City, Missouri and is employed at the Platte County Sheriff's Office as a communication officer. Gene and Heidi will be married at the Lund Covenant Church in Lund, Wisconsin, on May 28th, 2000, at 5:00 p.m.

- Kristin Longway and David Haugh, NRHEG teachers, were two of 1,900 instructors nationwide who were awarded Target Teacher Scholarships. In November they submitted their applications providing information which included their lifetime goals together with an evaluation by their respectable principals, Lee Obermiller and Paul Sparby. Longway plans to use her Scholarship studying for a masters degree in education, specifically in elementary curriculum and instruction at the University of Minnesota. David Haugh will be attending classes at Minnesota State University studying for a masters degree in music education.

50 Years Back

- The great food at the Waldorf Coop Shipping Associations annual meeting Friday was prepared and served by these wives of the board of directors. They are from the left: Mrs. Art Dobberstein, Mrs. Ben Bathke, Mrs. Orville Collins, Mrs. Don Roesler, Mrs. Bob Vogelsang and Mrs. Herman Miller. Members of the Cooperative Shipping Association heard their Secretary treasurer, Orville Collins report at their annual meeting, Friday Noon at the American Legion clubrooms in Waldorf that the association shipped more hogs in 1974, than ever before, 3,831. In 1973, 1,400 were shipped. Re-elected to the board were directors Art Dobberstein, Herman Miller and Robert Vogelsang. Don Roesler, the association's delegate to the Central Livestock Shipping Associations annual meeting at St. Paul, this month, reported on the meeting.

- Ladonna Schroader. Ladonna is daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marlin Schroader of Hartland, has been chosen for Girls State Representative for that village by the Lundberg-Lee Post 266 auxiliary unit. Ladonna is a junior at New Richland-Hartland High School and has been a member of the German club, Future Homemakers of America and Library club. She is also a member of the Hartland Synod Lutheran Church and the Young Peoples Club.



Learn more about Waseca County's past by taking the History Tour, a virtual walkthrough of about 30 nationally and even internationally known events which occurred here. Use the QR code or link.

tours.discoverwasecatours.com/2

Bluejays top NYA, Medford, reach section semifinals

Waseca improves record to 28-0

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The hometown crowd at Waseca High School last Thursday kept clamoring for defense from the Bluejay boys' basketball team. They got it.

Facing a physical Norwood-Young America team in the Section 2AA quarterfinals, the Bluejays more than stood their ground and remained undefeated with a 77-52 triumph.

The Bluejays, who staked themselves to a 41-21 halftime advantage, improved their season record to 28-0.

"It was a very physical game," said Waseca head coach Seth Anderson. "Our guys really had to battle to compete with NYA's size and strength. Our positioning defensively was very good most of the night and it allowed us to turn them over a little bit. Winning the turnover battle was huge for us, especially when we got out rebounded by nine."

The Bluejays started strong and never looked back, leading from wire-to-wire. They forced 24 NYA turnovers while committing only eight themselves.

Carson Ohnstad led the Bluejays with 23 points, making five three-pointers while adding six rebounds, two assists and two steals. Deron Russell finished with 19 points, three rebounds, five assists and a steal.

The Jays had two other scorers in double figures. Damarius Russell had six points and two assists, Ethan Hiller 10 points, four rebounds, two assists, one steal and one blocked shot.

Others: William Mansfield 4P, 1R; Isaac Feldkamp 4P, 6R, 1A, 1B; Caden Danner 3P, 3A, 2S; Wyatt Hager 3P, 3R, 1A; Cyrett Long 1A; Owen Honstad 2R, 2A, 2S; Brandyn Jascha 1A.

Zach Wickenhauser led NYA with 14 points.

Two nights earlier, the Bluejays dominated 16th seed Medford 101-27 at Waseca. It was 63-18 at halftime.

"We got off to a slow first couple minutes, but then the shots started falling," said Coach Anderson. "I

"Our positioning defensively was very good most of the night and it allowed us to turn them over a little bit."

— WHS coach
Seth Anderson

thought our second and third waves of players really played well. They all seemed to shoot the three-ball well tonight."

As a team, the Bluejays made 13 of 22 three-point attempts to the Tigers' 2-for-18.

Individually for Waseca: Ohnstad 16P, 2R, 2A, 2S; Danner 15P, 2R, 1A, 3S; Damarius Russell 15P, 2R, 6A, 2S; Max Howard 11P; Deron Russell 8P, 4E, 3A, 3S; Jascha 8P, 3R, 1S; Amin Sahariff 6P, 1R; Hager 6P, 11R, 2A, 1B; Hiller 4P, 5R, 3A, 3S; Owen Rupe 4P, 6R, 1A; Feldkamp 4P, 4R; Long 3P, 2R, 6A, 2S; Mansfield 1P, 1R; Logan Reger 1A.

The Waseca starters sat out the entire second half.

The Bluejays, seeded No. 1 in the section and No. 2 in the state, advanced to Monday's semifinal round against fourth-seeded Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton at Minnesota State-Mankato.

The Section 2AA championship game is Thursday, March 13 at 7:45 p.m. at Mankato.

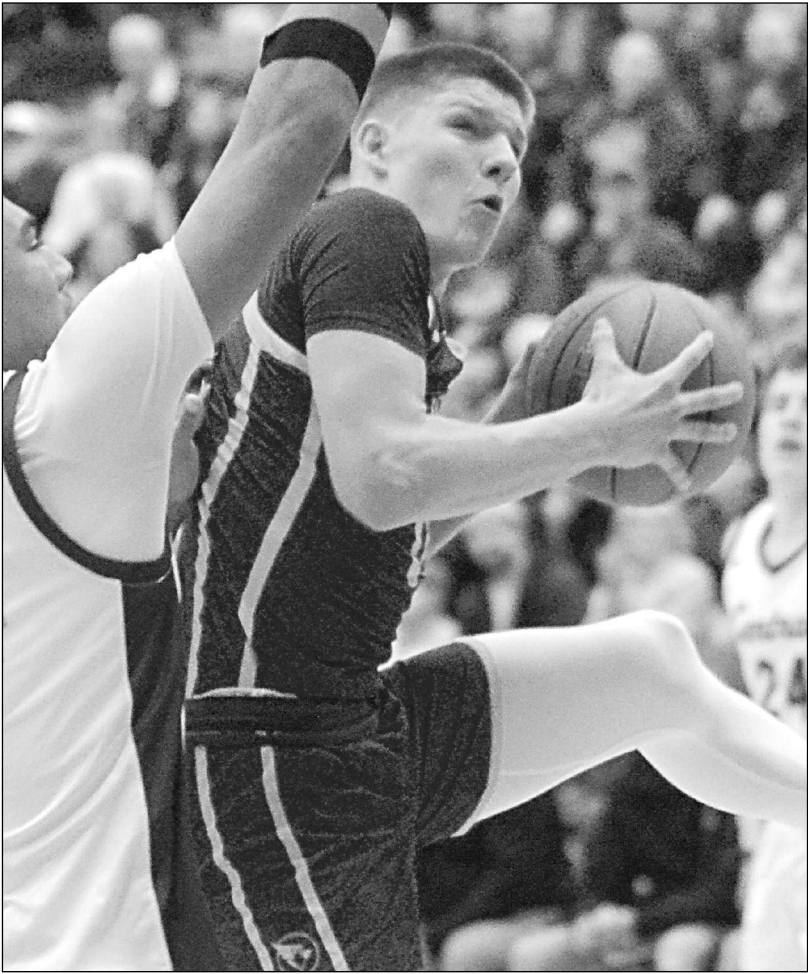
**Class 2A state rankings
By Minnesota Basketball News
Final, March 5, 2025**

1. Albany	25-0
2. Waseca	28-0
3. Caledonia	26-2
4. Breck	16-10
5. Mora	25-1
6. Jackson County Central	22-4
7. Blake	22-4
8. Minnehaha Academy	16-9
9. St. Croix Lutheran	23-3
10. Montevideo	23-4



DIRECTING TRAFFIC – Bluejays head coach Seth Anderson, right, directs traffic as Deron Russell guards Jack Strickfaden during Waseca's Section 2AA quarterfinal victory over visiting Norwood-Young America Thursday night. The Bluejays advanced to the section semifinals against JWP with a 77-52 victory.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



BIG BOARD – The Bluejays' Ethan Hiller hangs onto a rebound in Thursday's win over Norwood-Young America.



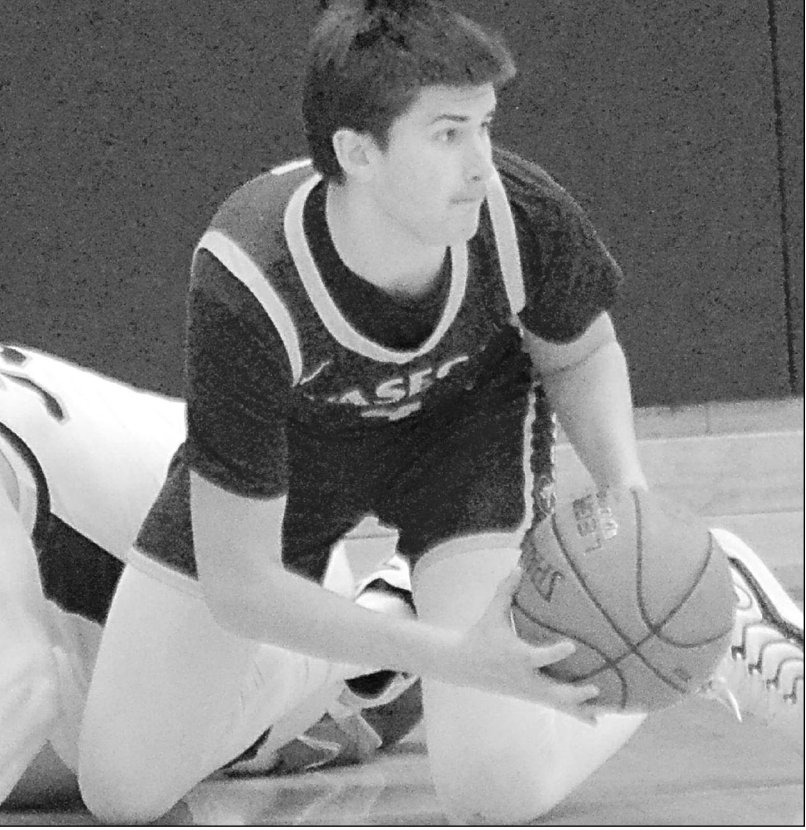
TAKING IT TO THE HOOP – Waseca's Deron Russell takes the ball to the basket against Norwood-Young America.



AND ONE – Deron Russell of the Bluejays (1) drives to the hoop and draws the foul against Norwood-Young America. Russell finished with 19 points as Waseca advanced to the section semifinals against JWP.



DEFENSIVE PRESSURE – The Bluejays' Deron Russell and Ethan Hiller apply defensive pressure to NYA's Bradyn Daus.



HUSTLE – Caden Danner of Waseca goes to the floor for a loose ball against Norwood-Young America.

JWP boys advance in section to face Waseca

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School boys' basketball team, seeded fourth in Section 2AA, advanced to the semifinal round with a 68-53 victory over LeSueur-Henderson Thursday at Janesville.

The Bulldogs led it 41-28 at halftime.

Daulton Bauer had a big game for JWP, totaling 28 points, six

rebounds five assists and a steal. Gavin Bauer had 16 points, nine rebounds, two assists and three steals.

Two others reached double figures in scoring. Caleb Quast had 10 points, four rebounds, two assists and a steal, Gavin Weedman 10 points, two rebounds and one steal.

Others: Landon Johnson 4P, 4R, 2A, 1S; Isaiah Berndt 2R; Ethan

Born 5R, 3A, 1S.

Two nights earlier, the Bulldogs took out Sibley East 67-38 at home, breaking open a three-point game at halftime.

Daulton Bauer registered 18 points, 10 rebounds, four assists and two steals.

Also: Gavin Bauer 12P, 7R, 5A, 2S; Johnson 10P, 2R, 1A, 2S, 1B; Quast 13P, 5R, 2A, 1S; Jaxon Wolf

4P, 1A, 1S; Jeffrey Simonson 3P; Berndt 1R; Weedman 7P, 2A; Born 5R, 1A, 1B.

The Bulldogs advanced to Monday's semifinal round at Minnesota State-Mankato against the top seed, Waseca. The Section 2AA championship game is Thursday, March 13 at 7:45 p.m. at Mankato.



TALL TASK – The JWP girls’ basketball team faced a tall challenge from Glencoe-Silver Lake in the Section 2AA semifinals at Minnesota State-Mankato last Monday and saw its season end with a tough 61-54 loss. At left, the Bulldogs’ Lilly Strauss goes to the basket. At right, Navaeh Weimert does the same. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



Stellar season ends on sour note for JWP girls

The No. 1 seeded Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School girls’ basketball team saw its season end in the Section 2AA semifinals last Monday with a tough 61-54 loss to Glencoe-Silver Lake at Minnesota State-Mankato.

The Bulldogs finished the season 24-4 overall.

Individually for JWP: Katie Olson 23 points, 8 rebounds; Hope Dimmel 10 points, 8 rebounds; Presley James 6 points, 4 rebounds; Mikayla Wheelock 8 points, 5 rebounds; Lilly Strauss 2 points, 6 rebounds.

The Bulldogs led only once in the game, 3-2, although they did pull within one point with two minutes remaining.

“We just couldn’t find a way to finish a defensive possession with a rebound when we needed to,” said Bulldogs head coach Brandon Goebel. “I thought the girls played hard. We gave up 20 offensive rebounds which is not a receipt for success. We unfortunately were missing lay-ups and shots we

“We just couldn’t find a way to finish a defensive possession with a rebound when we needed to.”

— JWP coach Brandon Goebel

haven’t been missing recently. I do believe the 12-day stretch in which we did not have a game played a role in our conditioning level and attention to detail at times. Overall, I am very proud of the girls. We got down by double digits multiple times throughout the game, but never quit.”

The 2024-25 Bulldogs won the Gopher Conference championship for the first time since 2003 and posted back-to-back 20-win seasons.

“Won many big games when trailing which was crucial,” said Goebel. “We came together as a team and played for each other throughout the year, which I loved to see.

The Bulldogs will graduate seniors Navaeh Wiemert, James, Strauss, Paige Walz, Claire Walz, Onikia Herme, Dimmel and Autumn Thissen.

“I was really happy with the group of seniors we had,” said Goebel. “Even though not all of them played the minutes they may have wanted to, they always came to practice ready to go and to help their teammates get better. The seniors are going to be greatly missed and hard to replace, but the things they have done for this program the last few years are things that do not go unnoticed, and they are part of the reason we have seen success over the last couple years.”



TOUGH DEFENSE – The Bulldogs’ Lilly Struass faces tough defense last Monday against Glencoe-Silver Lake in the Section 2AA semifinals.



EYES ON THE BASKET– The Bulldogs’ Katelyn Olson has her eyes on the hoop last Monday against Glencoe-Silver Lake in the Section 2AA semifinals.

NRHEG basketball boys fall to 3rd-seeded Belle Plaine in section

It was a one-and-done situation for the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva boys’ basketball team in the Section 2AA tournament, as the 14th-seeded Panthers lost 92-49 at No. 3 seed Belle Plaine last Tuesday.

What would end up a storm outside started as one in the gym, as Belle Plaine came out in a flurry and never let up.

“They are a good team that puts a lot of pressure on you on both ends of the floor, and we just can’t match that,” said Panthers head coach Dan Schmidt. “They outworked us, plain and simple.”

Hudson Chrz, who has been battling injuries and illness, was a bright spot for NRHEG, dropping in 18 points to go along with three rebounds and a steal.

Others: Aaden Hanna 2 points, 1 rebound; Greyson Schaefer 3 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 block; Calvin Nissen 4 points, 1 rebound, 2 assists, 1 steal; Owen Wayne 6 points, 1 steal; Brendan Schmidt 3 rebounds; Justin Beauvais 1 steal; Dom Olson 6 points; Sean Lassahn 3 points, 2 assists, 1 steal; Jordan Brouwers 2 points, 1 rebounds, 1 assist; A.J. Deen 5 rebounds.

The Panthers will graduate three seniors: Hanna, Schaefer and Jase Knudson.

'Buck up and fight'

NRHEG Girls state bound for first time since 2017; 6th time in program history

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Next stop?

Williams Arena.

How long has it been since Panther basketball fans had a night like they did Friday?

Eight years.

The last time the Lady Panthers won a section championship game and earned a state tournament berth was in 2017 when a pair of identical twins were leading the way, Maddie and Marnie Wagner.

This time it was another pair of twins leading the Panthers to victory: Quinn and Cam VanMaldeghem.

The pair combined for 45 points as NRHEG defeated Glencoe-Silver Lake (GSL) 66-64, Friday night at the Taylor Center in Mankato.

After an early back and forth, GSL went on a 20-2 run to jump out to a 26-7 lead with just over seven minutes remaining in the first half.

It was at this point NRHEG head coach Onika Peterson called a timeout.

"I said (to the players), 'Hey, on a scale of one to 10, how bad do you feel for yourselves right now?'" Peterson recalled. "And they came back with a ten. I said, 'Well, it's probably more of a 12."

"I said we can either roll over and give up and lose by 40 or we can buck up and fight.'" Peterson continued.

And buck up they did.

And fight, they did.

Six minutes later the score was tied, 26-26.

Both VanMaldeghems either assisted or scored every basket over the remainder of the half, combining for 22 first half points, which ended with the Panthers trailing 32-28.

"We focused on rebounding and pushing the ball up the floor," Quinn VanMaldeghem said about how they responded after the timeout. "No more dumb passes. Keep the team relaxed and on a calm level."

"We didn't play Panther basketball in the first however many minutes," Peterson stated. "We all of a sudden got a little shell shock. They came out guns blazing and hit some huge shots and we didn't make some, and then we kind of forgot to rebound, which is something we pride ourselves on. We just readjusted and went on a run. It was huge."

Again, in the second half the Panthers clawed and clawed, and fell down by as many as seven points, when they trailed 41-34 four minutes

into the second half.

The VanMaldeghems combined for baskets to cut the score to 43-41 after multiple steals, and assists to each other. It was then Quinn made a pass to Gabrielle Schlaak to tie the game. One possession later, with just under 8 minutes remaining in the game, the Panthers took the lead on a three pointer from Schlaak at the top of the key.

The two teams would trade the lead six more times on the night, with the ultimate game winning basket coming on a drive to the hoop from Camryn VanMaldeghem with 20 seconds remaining.

"That was definitely a special feeling," Camryn VanMaldeghem recalled. "Even though there was 20 seconds left, we held our composure. We weren't too excited, but we were still excited."

"(I thought) I hope this goes in," she continued. "I thought I need to get the spin on this ball."

"I was praying that it would go in to," Quinn VanMaldeghem added.

With 2.5 seconds remaining, GSL senior Mylea Monahan was fouled, but missed both free-throws, clinching the game for NRHEG.

"What an amazing experience," Peterson said. "A huge comeback win to advance to the state tournament."

"This is a night that they will never forget!" Peterson exclaimed. "I know I won't. I am so proud of these girls."

On the night Quinn and Camryn VanMaldeghem led the Panthers in scoring with 23 and 22 points respectively.

"We had red medals the past couple of years," Camryn VanMaldeghem said after the game. "Having the blue one breaks the curse of the red metal.... It's definitely a special moment."

The VanMaldeghems said they have "twin-telepathy"

"I feel like we can read each other's minds a lot," Camryn VanMaldeghem said. "We know each other's best skills, so we know what we're capable of."

Coach Peterson was asked several questions after the game.

What do you do to help keep the girls mentally strong going into a game like Friday night?

"Whether people agree with it or not, we try to just talk about it," Peterson said. "This is a big game. Everyone's going to tell you how important it is. Don't focus in on it being a big game. Focus on one play



The NRHEG Panthers are the 2025 Section 2AA Champions. Front row: Manager Marnie Mullenbach, Manager Vivienne Schlaak, Manager Jade Wyrum, Manager Lauren Johnson, Camryn VanMaldeghem, Emilia Stadheim, Julieann Wobbrock, Alayna Groskreutz. Middle Row: Kenley Gehrke, Izley Boerner, Ezra Boerner, Clara Buendorf, Quinn VanMaldeghem, Alex Estrada. Back Row: Coach Onika Peterson, Savannah Farr, Manager Eva Buendorf, Chloe Stork, Kylie Olson, Gabrielle Schlaak, Assistant Coach Kayley Camerer, Assistant Coach Betsy Schoenrock

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



NRHEG Junior Camryn VanMaldeghem attempts the go-ahead, game winning shot in the Panthers 66-64 victory over Glencoe Silver Lake.

and one possession at a time. Don't make it out to be bigger than what it is and have fun. And you're going to make mistakes, cause guess what, as adults, we make mistakes all the time. It's how you bounce back from that mistake."

What was it like being on the sideline watching Cam drive and put that last basket in?

"I think... just proud. Those kids have rallied and battled every single game. The fact that she still was confident enough that she wasn't going to get a charge called on her when she just had one was huge. Because in my mind it was like, oh, that could happen and they just had confidence and did a great job."

What is it like coaching twins, seeing the chemistry they have between them?

"It's unreal. They can read where they're going to be before I even know where they're going to be.

They see the floor so well that every now and then I think they sometimes bail each other out. But they do a heck of a job."

With no seniors, and only juniors and younger kids leading the team, what kind of challenges or opportunities does that present?

"We didn't have any seniors coming in this year. And we've been very, very lucky with the juniors that we have, but those younger kids have really stepped up and have led us as well."

"The whole team in general gets along so stinking well, and you can tell. There's been years where I'm like, 'Oh, they get along.' But this group, it's like they really, really do it on and off the court. They're so supportive of each other. They get excited for each other when they do well, and that's huge."

What's it like to be headed back to the State Tournament for the

first time in eight years?

We went in 2017 with me as the head coach. My two assistants actually played for me that year. Which is crazy. Kind of full circle that we're going back with those two back as assistants. But again, it was such a week. I think the kids laughed at me, but we talked about how it's such a program win. You know, whether you're rebounding, making the baskets, diving on loose balls, or running scout team... It's definitely a program win, but also a community win too."

What do you need to do well going forward into the State Tournament?

Realistically we are going to get unseeded, so we're going to have a heavy hitter coming in. It's the same thing. Why not us? So go out fighting and attack and do the little things and do them well, and if we lose, we lose. It's state and we can come back



NRHEG Sophomore Kylie Olson grabs a board and scores.

fighting the next day, so we're very fortunate and very lucky to be in that position.

Individually for the Panthers: Gabrielle Schlaak 10 pts, 8 rebounds, 1 assist; Ezra Boerner 1 rebound; Quinn VanMaldeghem 23 pts, 14 rebounds, 5 assists, 5 steals; Clara Buendorf 3 rebounds, 1 assist; Camryn VanMaldeghem 22 pts, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal, 1 blocked shot; Chloe Stork 2 rebounds, 1 assist; Kylie Olson 11 pts, 7 rebounds, 1 assist.

With the win the Panthers improved to 23-5. The girls played against Providence Academy on Wednesday night at Williams Arena in the opening round of the state tournament. The winner of that game plays Friday night at Williams Arena at 6 p.m. The loser plays Thursday night at the Gangelhoff Center in St Paul.

Still perfect

Bluejays take down Bulldogs in Section Semifinals 74-38

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Can anyone defeat the Waseca High School boys' basketball team?

So far, not yet.

Maybe we'll find out at the state tournament.

Waseca flew to a 74-38 win at the Taylor Center Monday night against Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton.

With the win, Waseca will play the winner of Glencoe Silver Lake and Belle Plaine, both teams they beat by 29 points earlier in the season.

The game started slowly for both sides Monday, but the Bluejays defense kept the Bulldogs at bay, only allowing one field goal over the first 12 minutes of the game.

Waseca leapt to an 8-0 lead and didn't look back, out pacing JWP 29-12 at the break.

With seven minutes to go in the second half, the Bluejays pulled their starters as the game was out of reach for the Bulldogs.

With the win, the Bluejays improved to 29-0 on the season. The winner of Thursday nights Section 2AA title match will continue onto the state tournament set for March 18-22 in the Twin Cities.

For the Bulldogs, their season comes to a close with a 25-5 record.

JWP graduates four seniors: Landon Johnson, Isaiah Berndt, Jaxon Miller and Ethan Born.



Waseca Junior Deron Russell blocks the shot of JWP Senior Landon Johnson during the Bluejays 74-38 victory over the Bulldogs in the Section 2AA Semifinals Monday night at the Taylor Center in Mankato.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

■ Trail

from Page 1

At this time, Freeborn County has well formulated plans for a “first phase” of the trail—about five miles of paved surfacing from Fountain Street in Albert Lea to a “trailhead” to be located at Manchester.

Wacholz and Eckstrom revealed Freeborn County has \$650,000 set aside for this first phase, and is putting together a grant proposal for about \$6 million more through a variety of state sources including the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) “active transportation” program meant to expand opportunities for “walking, biking and rolling.”

Eckstrom told Waseca County Board members the planned first phase will likely be the most expensive section of the future trail, since the piece of railroad right of way between Albert Lea and Manchester includes four bridges, all four of which would need to be reconstructed. The largest single cost of this first phase would be a safe crossing from the city either above or beneath Highway 13 over to the former railway.

Wacholz mentioned MnDOT will not allow an “at-level” crossing, so either a tunnel or a bridge will be needed; construction costs for that structure alone are estimated at about \$3.5 million.

The two went on to explain the process forward includes acquiring designation as a regional trail. Not only would it be good to have plans officially in place, they said, but Freeborn County’s grant application is likely to be received more positively as part of an initiative toward the hoped-for 40-mile trail between Albert Lea and Sakatah State Park.

Eckstrom commented she has encountered high levels of enthusiasm regarding the trail from her constituents and from Freeborn

County businesses, organizations and communities. She described the steps necessary to get all needed elements in place for construction as “a time-consuming process” which requires coming to agreements with numerous public and private entities.

“There are obstacles,” she stated. “But there are also ways of getting around them.”

Key players in making the full-length regional trail a reality, and in showing state-level agencies the \$6 million in grant requests have merit, according to Eckstrom, are Waseca and Freeborn counties and the cities of Albert Lea and Waseca.

Wacholz and Eckstrom told Waseca county board members the updated version of the regional trail master plan should be finalized in the next few months. Once it is, the county will be offered a chance to review it thoroughly, then asked to make its support of the plan official.

Waseca’s board members expressed enthusiasm regarding the update.

Commissioner Brian Harguth asked county facilities management director Brian Tomford and public works director Jim Kollar whether Waseca County is in a position to continue supporting work toward a regional trail.

Kollar observed, “We’re a long way from construction because we don’t own the right of way,” but acknowledged that work toward the trail would be beneficial.

Community development coordinator Tina Wilson observed, “The City of Waseca has done lots of work on trail collaboration.

“We’ve been having this conversation.” Regarding Freeborn County’s request, Wilson said, “It starts with this master plan.”

She suggested being a “good neighbor” and supporting Freeborn County’s efforts would also benefit Waseca County, since it will someday be in a position to apply for similar grants, and having portions of the trail already constructed to the south would give weight to its applications.

Furthering a statement by Eckstrom that, “These trails transform communities,” Waseca commissioner De Malterer mentioned her district includes a small portion of the town of Elysian. “I know what the Sakatah Trail does for that community,” she commented. “It allows all these visitors to see what we’ve got, and help grow what we’ve got.”

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Evelyn	Griffin	7		
Olivia	Hagen	7		
Luke	Jeske	7		
Kayla	Landrum	7		
Joseph	LeMieux	7		
Kolby	Lindquist	7		
Liam	Malterer	7		
Lillian	Muff	7		
Cayden	Page	7		
Shannon	Sanchez	7		
Kaia	Sartori	7		
Olive	Scheffert	7		
Caiden	Scheller	7		
Ellie	Schleicher	7		
Mateo	Vasquez-Neigebauer	7		
Milo	Wachal	7		
Carter	Walker	7		
Leah	Wilson	7		
Autumn	Zimprich	7		
Liah	Adams	8		
Rylee	Ahlschlager	8		
Abigayle	Berge	8		
Brayden	Butler	8		
Keenan	Collins	8		
Maxwell	Deml	8		
Gavin	Farley	8		
Maahin	Lad	8		
Kooper	Lindquist	8		
Macy	Peterson	8		
Hannah	Sommers	8		
Enrique	Tovar	8		
Tomas	Vasquez-Neigebauer	8		
Aiden	Walker	8		
Jenna	Yoder	8		
Quinn	Yoder	8		
Ava	Young	8		
Allyson	Holmseth	9		
Oriana	Jewison	9		
Charley	Kietzman	9		
Allison	Mader	9		
Dominik	Marquez	9		
Khloe	Nelson	9		
Violet	Patterson	9		
Enoch	Possin	9		
Reese	Rodriguez	9		
Patsy	Sandoval	9		
Maren	Schimming	9		
Valente	Avalos	9		
Ryan	Yoder	9		
Addison	Zimmerman	9		
Madelynn	Benzick	10		
Brody	Dufault	10		
Jacob	Harguth	10		
Lauren	Holmseth	10		
Colby	Hoof	10		
Henry	Huttemier	10		
Nolan	McQuery	10		
Isaac	Pfeifer	10		
Violet	Rohwer	10		
Slade	Barnett	11		
Paige	Dufault	11		
Lauren	Grant	11		
Hannah	Heusinkveld	11		
Layla	Keith	11		
Kaylee	Lawson	11		
Vivian	Mader	11		
Dakotah	Marik	11		
Corrick	Medina	11		
Pearl	Moore	11		
Sadie	Schimming	11		
Andres	Vasquez-Neigebauer	11		
Avery	Wetzel	11		
Nathanael	Andrs	12		
Kendall	Bowers	12		
Sophie	Chawra	12		
Jack	Chen	12		
Collin	Dettmer	12		
Emma	Donnay	12		
Isaac	Feldkamp	12		
Lucas	Groll	12		
Benjamin	Hagen	12		
Sierra	Krause	12		
Siri	Kuhns	12		
Elizabeth	Manthe	12		
Lucas	McQuery	12		
Addison	Pfeifer	12		
Tauston	Rupe	12		
Nevaeh	Sampson	12		
Kalea	Sartori	12		
Leah	Scheffert	12		
Jackson	Tesch	12		
Cody	Weber	12		

NOTICE OF DELINQUENT TAXES

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
)SS
COUNTY OF WASECA)

District Court
3rd Judicial District

TO: ALL PERSONS WITH A LEGAL INTEREST IN THE PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE DELINQUENT TAX LIST.

A list of real property in Waseca County on which delinquent property taxes and penalties are due has been filed with the District Court Administrator of Waseca County. This list is published to inform all persons that the listed property is subject to forfeiture because of delinquent taxes.

The property owner, taxpayer, or other interested parties must either pay the tax and penalty, plus interest and costs, or file a written objection with the District Court Administrator. The objection must be filed by April 16, 2025, stating the reason why the tax or penalty is not due on the property. If no objection is filed, a court judgment will be entered against the property for unpaid tax, penalty, interest and costs.

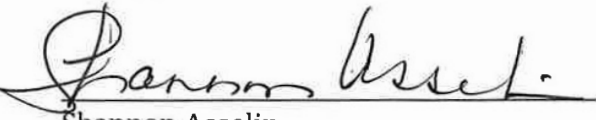
For property under court judgment, the period of redemption begins on May 12, 2025. The period of redemption means the time within which taxes must be paid to avoid losing the property through forfeiture. The redemption period is three years.

You may also enter into a confession of judgment as an alternative method to paying off the delinquent tax amount and avoiding forfeiture. This allows you to pay the delinquent balance in equal annual installments, with a down payment due at the time you enter into the confession.

If you have homesteaded property, you may be eligible for a Senior Citizens's Property Tax Deferral.

It should also be noted by property homesteaders that you are ineligible to receive the Property Tax Refund while you owe delinquent property tax.

To determine how much interest and cost must be added to pay the tax in full, contact the Waseca County Property and Election Service, Waseca County Courthouse, 307 North State St, Waseca, Minnesota 56093. The Telephone number is (507) 835-0610.


Shannon Asselin
Court Administrator



Dated: 2-19-25

The following table contains a list of Real property located in WASECA COUNTY on which taxes and penalties became delinquent on January 2, 2025. Interest calculated from January 1, 2025, and county costs must be paid along with the total tax and penalties in order for a parcel of Real property to be removed from the delinquent tax list.

Names of Owners, Taxpayers & Interested Parties	Parcel # Description of Property	Year	Total Tax + Penalties
ALTON TOWNSHIP			
GLEN E MORE SR 32029 19TH ST JANESVILLE MN 56048-2107	RP 011010220 ALMA CITY ALMA CITY LOTS 1 2 & 3 BLK 12	2024	\$137.71
RICHARD L EUSTICE 33063 15TH ST JANESVILLE MN 56048-2103	RP 010290900 SECT-29 TWP-107 RANGE-024 2.50 AC 2.50AC COM AT SE COR OF SEC THENCE N 89DEG W 1300FT THENCE N 308FT TO PT OF BEG; THENCE S 89DEG E 501.73FT; THENCE N 04 DEG E 209.69FT; THENCE N 89DEG W 529.25FT; THENCE S 209.25FT; THENCE S 89DEG E 10FT TO PT OF BEG	2024	\$54.66
JANESVILLE ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTION 33063 15TH ST JANESVILLE MN 56048	RP 010290910 SECT-29 TWP-107 RANGE-024 3.50 AC 3.50AC BEG AT SE COR OF SE1/4 THENCE W1300FT; THENCE N308FT; THENCE E1300FT; THENCE S308FT TO PT OF BEG EX 5.69AC E OF ROAD	2024	\$97.79
KARY M BREMER 5921 320TH AVE WASECA MN 56093-4806	RP 010360500 SECT-36 TWP-107 RANGE-024 7.00 AC 7.00 AC BEG AT A PT 233.44FT W OF SE COR OF E1/2 OF SE1/4; THEN W452.83FT; THEN N723.35FT; THEN E393.13FT; THEN S TO BEG	2024	\$2,188.00
BLOOMING GROVE TOWNSHIP			
WELFORD B KNAUSS 7726 80TH ST SW STEWARTVILLE MN 55976-8197	RP 020030700 SECT- 03 TWP-108 RANGE-022 5.00 AC 5.00 AC COMM AT W1/4 COR OF SEC 3;THENCE S1DEGE 859.22FT; THENCE N88DEGE 468FT TO PT OF BEG;THENCE S88DEGW 468FT; THENCE S1DEGE 466.40FT;THENCE E468FT;THENCE N1DEGW 466FT TO PT OF BEG	2024	\$1,385.27
ROXIE A MILLER TRUSTEE 39394 158TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 020270510 SECT-27 TWP-108 RANGE-022 17.00 AC 17.00 AC BEG 1253.75 FT N OF SE COR OF SW1/4 OF SE1/4; THENCE E1053.44FT; THENCE N502.90FT; THENCE W325.5FT; THENCE S 1199.63FT TO PT OF BEG	2024	\$1,343.48
ANGIE L GROTBORG 13385 390TH AVE WASECA MN 56093	RP 020290900 SECT-29 TWP-108 RANGE-022 10.00 AC 10.00 AC E67OFT OF S650FT OF SW1/4	2024	\$4,184.03
BYRON TOWNSHIP			
NICHOLAS S PITAN 20723 MATAWAN AVE NEW RICHLAND MN 56072	RP 034510530 MATAWAN MATAWAN - 1.12AC LOTS 5 TO 15 INC BLK 5	2024	\$81.31
BRAXTYN POSSIN RICHARD V POSSIN 8681 254TH AVE NEW RICHLAND MN 56072	RP 030040200 SECT-04 TWP-105 RANGE-023 2.53 AC 2.53AC COM AT SE COR OF NE1/4 THENCE N 89DEG W 1546.14FT; THENCE N 438.72FT TO PT OF BEG THENCE N 315.29FT;THENCE S 85 DEG W 364.97FT;THENCE S 09DEG E 327.62FT; THENCE N 89DEG E 82.95FT;THENCE N 68DEG E 60.94 FT;THENCE N 85DEG E 175.76FT TO PT OF BEG	2024	\$758.82
JACOB BONSACK 5539 138TH ST W APPLE VALLEY MN 55124	RP 030320100 SECT-32 TWP-105 RANGE-023 160.00 AC 160.00 AC NE1/4	2024	\$915.25

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP			
TRENT L ARMSTRONG TRUSTEE 31129 60TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 040010715 SECT-01 TWP-106 RANGE-024 1.14 AC 1.14 AC COM SE COR OF SEC;THEN N 845.60FT PT OF BEG;THEN N89 DEG W 305.30FT;THEN S 162.30FT; THEN S89DEGE 305.30FT; THEN N 162.30FT TO PT OF BEG	2024	\$756.75
JOSHUA J & JESSIE L COURTNEY 30867 20TH ST PEMBERTON MN 56078	RP 040080310 SECT-08 TWP-106 RANGE-024 2.63 AC 2.63AC COM AT NE COR OF SEC; THENCE S 454.01AC TO PT OF BEG THENCE S 100FT; THENCE N 89DEG W 218.27FT;THENCE S 77DEG W 351.41FT; THENCE N 285.79FT; THENCE N 89DEG E 238.55FT;THEN S 70DEG E 344.60FT TO PT OF BEG	2024	\$91.24
QUINTON KOLLOS 1501 265TH AVE MINNESOTA LAKE MN 56068	RP 040320200 SECT-32 TWP-106 RANGE-024 5.00 AC BEG AT SW COR OF NE1/4 THENCE N1951.10FT;THENCE E 179.45FT; THENCE S369FT;THENCE S21DEGE 368FT;THENCE S64DEGW 302FT;THENCE S1111.60FT;THENCE W40FT TO PT OF BEG	2024	\$1,119.08
IOSCO TOWNSHIP			
PATRICK J MORGAN SR 41555 95TH ST JANESVILLE MN 56048	RP 050150400 SECT-15 TWP-108 RANGE-023 80.00 AC 80.00 AC W1/2 OF NE1/4	2024	\$2,407.16
GARY G MITTELSTEADT 7561 403RD AVE JANESVILLE MN 56048-1804	RP 050200900 SECT-20 TWP-108 RANGE-023 116.18 AC 116.18 AC N1/2 OF SW1/4 EX 3.82AC & SE1/4 OF NW1/4	2024	\$1,639.00
JANESVILLE CITY			
NORTHWOOD MEAD. HOMEOWNER ASSN 704 PARKWAY AVE EAGLE LAKE MN 56024	RP 142110130 CIC #14 NORTHWOOD MEADOWS CIC #14 NORTHWOOD MEADOWS OAKWOOD TRAIL-COMMON ELEMENT	2024	\$58.06
KIRSTEN STEGEMAN 308 ALLYN ST W JANESVILLE MN 56048	RP 142050090 CIC #7 MAIN ST VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM CIC #7 MAIN ST VILLAGE CONDOMI UNIT 132 & 48.268% OF COMMON ELEMENTS	2024	\$2,398.53
BARBARA J LAMB 221 SOUTH ST E JANESVILLE MN 56048	RP 141011620 FIRST ADDITION TO EAST JANESVILLE FIRST ADDITION TO EAST JANESVI LOT 1 BLK 36 & CONTIG PORTION OF OAK ST	2024	\$201.76
GARY D RYKHUS 6568 390TH AVE JANESVILLE MN 56048-1800	RP 141000310 ORIGINAL PLAT ORIGINAL PLAT LOT-001 BLOCK-004	2024	\$359.50
WENNIC PROPERTIES LLC 348 E MAIN ST BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917	RP 141001760 ORIGINAL PLAT ORIGINAL PLAT MIDDLE 1/3 OF LOT 3 BLK 14	2024	\$890.72
MICHELE BOLLMANN 112 N MAIN ST JANESVILLE MN 56048	RP 141001740 ORIGINAL PLAT ORIGINAL PLAT N 1/3 OF LOT 2 BLK 14	2024	\$915.41
GARY D RYKHUS SCOTT DREYER KELLY PATTEN DREYER 115 PARK RD MADISON LAKE MN 56063	RP 141001430 ORIGINAL PLAT ORIGINAL PLAT N 1/3 OF LOT 3 & S 1/3 OF LOT 4 BLK 11	2024	\$76.86
AARON A KING 314 N MOTT ST JANESVILLE MN 56048	RP 141000470 ORIGINAL PLAT ORIGINAL PLAT S 95FT OF LOTS 1 & 2 & S 95FT OF E1/2 OF LOT 3 BLK 5	2024	\$124.43
NELS BARBKNECHT 311 SOUTH ST W JANESVILLE MN 56048	RP 140330700 SECT-33 TWP-108 RANGE-024 .20 AC A STRIP OF LAND IN NW1/4 OF SE1/4;BEG AT NW COR OF LOT 4 BLK 40 FIRST ADD;THEN W57FT 5IN;THEN S155FT;THEN E57FT 5 IN;THEN N155FT TO PT OF BEG	2024	\$2,069.69
LISA DUDLEY 500 WEST ST N JANESVILLE MN 56048	RP 140331420 SECT-33 TWP-108 RANGE-024 .77 AC BEG 100FT S OF NW COR OF SW1/4 OF NE1/4;THENCE S100 FT;THENCE S89DEGE 334.22FT; THENCE N2DEGE 100.08FT;THENCE N89DEGW 337.95FT TO PT OF BEG	2024	\$2,622.70
JANESVILLE TOWNSHIP			
TIMOTHY R & VIKKI L STANKEY 47 398TH AVE JANESVILLE MN 56048	RP 060301300 SECT-30 TWP-108 RANGE-024 20.98 AC 20.98 AC 20.98 AC IN W1/2 OF NW1/4 N & E OF HWY	2024	\$540.26
NEW RICHLAND CITY			
DAVID & CAROL MUSEL 352 ASPEN AVE S NEW RICHLAND MN 56072	RP 152760100 F MCCLANES 1ST ADDITION F MCCLANES 1ST ADDITION LOT 14 & N16FT OF LOT 15 BLK 1	2024	\$697.80
DAVID & CAROL MUSEL 352 ASPEN AVE S NEW RICHLAND MN 56072	RP 152760110 MCCLANES 1ST ADDITION F MCCLANES 1ST ADDITION LOT 15 EX N16FT & N1/2 OF LOT 16 BLK 1	2024	\$139.01
JAY C JOHNSON 1021 VIRGINIA PL ALBERT LEA MN 56007	RP 151000430 ORIGINAL PLAT ORIGINAL PLAT LOTS 8 & 9 EX W128.26FT BLK 5	2024	\$141.78
DARIN REESE PO BOX 462 NEW RICHLAND MN 56072	RP 157780390 ZIEGERS SUBDIVISION ZIEGERS SUBDIVISION N85FT OF LOTS 5 & 6 BLK 9	2024	\$634.50

DANIEL R LEWER 14953 240TH AVE NEW RICHLAND MN 56072	NEW RICHLAND TOWNSHIP RP 070090120 SECT-09 TWP-105 RANGE-022 5.00 AC 5.00AC COM AT S1/4 COR;THENCE N 792.18FT; THENCE S 87DEG E 1963.87FT TO PT OF BEG THENCE S 01DEG W 722.66FT; THENCE N 89DEG W 33FT; THENCE N 01DEG E 995.50FT; THENCE S 87DEG E 710 FT +/- THENCE SOUTHERLY 270FT +/- THENCE N 87DEG W 683FT +/- TO PT OF BEG	2024	\$71.86
NICKLAS R STALOCH 21145 150TH ST NEW RICHLAND MN 56072	RP 070280580 SECT-28 TWP-105 RANGE-022 - 3.94AC COM SE COR OF SE1/4; THEN N 922.74FT PT OF BEG; THEN N88DEGW 612.18FT; THEN S05DEGE 221.50FT; THEN S01DEGW 74.01FT; THEN S89DEGE 384.49FT; THEN N88DEGE 202.50FT; THEN N 279.38FT TO PT OF BEG	2024	\$344.96
PRAIRIEVIEW SWINE LLC 20693 20TH ST WELLS MN 56097	RP 070360720 SECT-36 TWP-105 RANGE-022 4.09 AC 4.09 AC BEG 801FT S OF NW COR OF NW1/4;THENCE E475FT;THENCE S375FT; THENCE W475FT;THENCE N 375FT TO PT OF BEG	2024	\$1,197.61
KYLE L HOFFMAN 13170 290TH AVE WASECA MN 56093	OTISCO TOWNSHIP RP 085010020 SUBDIV OF NW1/4 OF NW1/4 SUBDIV OF NW1/4 OF NW1/4 LOTS 1 & 2 BLK A	2024	\$711.65
RH RENTAL LLC 29351 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 086010100 SUBDIVISION A TO VILLAGE OF OT SUBDIVISION A TO VILLAGE OF OT E50 FT OF LOT 1 EX N60 FT BLOCK 2	2024	\$335.72
RH RENTAL LLC 29351 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 086010080 SUBDIVISION A TO VILLAGE OF OT SUBDIVISION A TO VILLAGE OF OT LOT-003 BLOCK-002	2024	\$551.55
DANIEL A RYAN 31642 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093-5604	RP 080060650 SECT-06 TWP-106 RANGE-022 2.91 AC BEG AT A PT 1602.00 FT SOUTH OF NW COR OF NE1/4, THENCE E368.63 FT, THENCE SOUTH 344.70 FT, THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY 368.63 FT, THENCE N344.70 FT TO BEG TRACT 1	2024	\$1,293.71
OTISCO RENTAL LLC 29351 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 086010010 SUBDIVISION A TO VILLAGE OF OT SECT-17 TWP-106 RANGE-022 SUBDIVISION A TO VILLAGE OF OT LOT 1 EX N16FT OF S51.10FT OF W14FT OF E35.05FT & LOT 2 & LOT 3 BLK 1	2024	\$1,864.20
TOMMY GOBBLE LLC 14953 240TH AVE NEW RICHLAND MN 56072	RP 080270350 SECT-27 TWP-106 RANGE-022 8.79 AC 8.79 AC COM E1/4 COR;THEN N88 DEGW 1243FT TO PT OF BEG;THEN N88DEGW 724FT;THEN N01DEGE 529 FT;THEN S88DEGE 724FT;THEN S01 DEGW 529FT TO PT OF BEG	2024	\$76.23
CALVIN K PRIEM TRUSTEE 43418 39TH ST ELYSIAN MN 56028	ST MARY TOWNSHIP RP 090050415 SECT-05 TWP-107 RANGE-023 - 1.92AC COM AT NE COR OF SE1/4 OF NE1/4; THEN W 400FT TO PT OF BEG; THENCE S 490FT; THEN W 550 FT; THEN N 490FT; THEN E 550FT TO PT OF BEG EX 4.27AC	2024	\$174.95
MARLIN A & PATRICIA M KRITZER 36497 110TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 090110500 SECT-11 TWP-107 RANGE-023 .79 AC .79 AC N100 FT OF E340 FT OF NE1/4 OF SE1/4	2024	\$1,147.46
HOG SLAT INC 206 FAYETTEVILLE ST NEWTON GROVE NC 28366	RP 090121100 SECT-12 TWP-107 RANGE-023 4.11 AC S300 FT OF E476.63 FT OF W1084.39 FT OF NW1/4 OF SW1/4 N OF RD #14 EX .14AC HWY & BEG AT A PT ON W LINE OF SW1/4 1933.25FT N OF SW COR; THENCE S66DEGE 466.40FT TO PT OF BEG;THENCE S66DEGE 141.36FT THENCE N300FT;THENCE N66DEGW 141.36FT;THENCE S300FT TO PT OF BEG	2024	\$2,010.24
KIMBERLY GLEASON 8418 360TH AVE WASECA MN 56093	RP 090160950 SECT-16 TWP-107 RANGE-023 5.60 AC 5.60 AC BEG SE COR OF E1/2 OF NW1/4;THEN W TO SW COR OF E1/2 OF NW1/4;THEN N 272FT;THEN E 738FT;THEN S 222FT;THEN E 582 FT;THEN S 50FT TO PT OF BEG	2024	\$82.08
FRANCES VASQUEZ 33402 110TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 090250600 SECT-25 TWP-107 RANGE-023 5.00 AC S453 FT OF N827 FT OF W288.5 FT OF N1/2 OF SW1/4 & S499.7 FT OF N1326.7 FT OF W174.35 FT OF N1/2 OF SW1/4	2024	\$378.02
PRAIRIEVIEW SWINE LLC 20693 20TH ST WELLS MN 56097	VIVIAN TOWNSHIP RP 100320500 SECT-32 TWP-105 RANGE-024 30.00 AC 30.00 AC NORTH 495FT OF S1/2 NE1/4	2024	\$6,374.96
JESSE SCHULL 107 1ST ST WALDORF MN 56091	WALDORF CITY RP 161000940 ORIGINAL PLAT ORIGINAL PLAT LOTS 1,2 & 3 BLK 7	2024	\$851.10
LAC LINDELAND 206 N 4TH AVE WALDORF MN 56091	RP 166760140 VOGELSANG'S ADDITION VOGELSANG'S ADDITION S1/2 OF LOT 4 BLK 2	2024	\$95.06
TROY C BLUHM 400 S MAIN ST WALDORF MN 56091	RP 160031630 SECT-03 TWP-105 RANGE-024 1.48 AC 1.48 AC THAT PART OF SE1/4 OF NW1/4;COMM AT CENTER OF SEC 3; THENCE N1195.44FT;THENCE N88DE W 33FT TO PT OF BEG; THENCE N88 DEG W 226.51FT;THEN SOUTHEAST ALONG CURVE 513.68FT;THENCE N 83DEG E 71.64FT;THENCE N473.89 FT TO PT OF BEG EX .13AC	2024	\$2,674.94
GULK PROPERTIES LLC 364 S MAIN ST WALDORF MN 56091	RP 160031700 SECT-03 TWP-105 RANGE-024 1.90 AC 1.90 AC PARCEL 226.17FT X 81.54FT X 754.84 X 44.57FT X 701.33 IN E1/2 OF NW1/4 EX .49 AC	2024	\$461.40
KATHERINE A GRINNELL 144 NORTH ST WALDORF MN 56091	RP 160341200 SECT-34 TWP-106 RANGE-024 5.00 AC 5.00 AC IN SW1/4 OF SE1/4 EX 16.5 X 247.50	2024	\$2,535.50

AUDRA VEROEVEN TROY BENDT 28189 70TH ST WASECA MN 56093	WASECA CITY RP 171230010 AUD PLAT OF ALL LAND IN CIT LI AUD PLAT OF ALL LAND IN CIT LI LOT 1 EX 30.88FT X 52.93FT X 61.28FT	2024	\$2,337.46
AARON FITZGERALD 8161 19TH AVE NE MEDFORD MN 55049	RP 171070350 AUD PLAT OF LARGE LOT 1 BLK 5 AUD PLAT OF LARGE LOT 1 BLK 5 LOT 34 EX W55FT & LOT 35	2024	\$454.66
JUDITH A METTLER 213 8TH AVE SE WASECA MN 56093	RP 171070280 AUD PLAT OF LARGE LOT 1 BLK 5 AUD PLAT OF LARGE LOT 1 BLK 5 LOT-028	2024	\$1,284.97
CECILIA GALDAMEZ 211 E 3RD ST ST ANSGAR IA 50473	RP 171010210 AUDITOR'S ADD TO BARNEYS ADD AUDITOR'S ADD TO BARNEYS ADD LOT-008 BLOCK-021	2024	\$1,293.56
DAVID C OSTENDORF 301 7TH AVE SE WASECA MN 56093	RP 171010130 AUDITOR'S ADD TO BARNEYS ADD AUDITOR'S ADD TO BARNEYS ADD W 66 FT OF E 198 FT OF LOT 2 BLK 21	2024	\$287.04
MINI SODA PROPERTIES LLC PO BOX 714 DODGE CENTER MN 55927	RP 171130220 AUDITOR'S PLAT OF SE1/4 OF SE1 AUDITOR'S PLAT OF SE1/4 OF SE1 LOT-012 BLOCK-002	2024	\$1,712.33
DIANA S WELANDER ETAL SCOTT HOPKINS 205 10TH AVE NE WASECA MN 56093	RP 171200100 AUDITOR'S PLAT OF SE1/4 OF SW1 AUDITOR'S PLAT OF SE1/4 OF SW1 E1/2 OF LOT 3	2024	\$1,590.38
THOMAS J & MELISSA J HAACK 602 3RD ST SW WASECA MN 56093	RP 171511210 BARNEYS ADD BARNEYS ADD LOT 7 BLK 14 & E1/2 OF ADJACENT VACATED ALLEY	2024	\$1,880.33
BAMBI J JES 114 6TH AVE NW WASECA MN 56093	RP 171520330 BENNETTS ADDITION BENNETTS ADDITION E85FT OF LOTS 9 & 10 BLK 3	2024	\$1,877.60
MICAH J MUSEL STALOCH 605 N STATE ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 171520180 BENNETTS ADDITION BENNETTS ADDITION S1/2 OF LOT 2 EX W55FT BLK 3	2024	\$1,025.22
DUSTIN BAUMGARD 828 2ND ST NW WASECA MN 56093	RP 171520540 BENNETTS ADDITION BENNETTS ADDITION W24FT OF N53FT OF LOT 11 BLK 4	2024	\$52.43
STACY M THOMPSON 411 10TH AVE SE WASECA MN 56093	RP 171550720 BROUGHTONS ADDITION BROUGHTONS ADD W55FT OF LOT 39 EX N70FT BLK 4	2024	\$2,033.06
KEITH KEVIN NOLTE JR BARBKNECHT PROPERTIES LLC 510 E ELM AVE WASECA MN 56093	RP 172760420 FIRST ADDITION FIRST ADDITION LOT-003 BLOCK-004	2024	\$2,407.12
KRISTIE A PURFEERST 440 11TH ST SE WASECA MN 56093	RP 173010430 GOODSPEEDS ADDITION GOODSPEEDS ADDITION LOTS 14 & 15 BLK 2	2024	\$815.67
TAYLOR CAINE GATES 1108 9TH CIR NW WASECA MN 56093	RP 173280090 HINTZ SUBDIVISON I HINTZ SUBDIVISON I LOT-005 BLOCK-002	2024	\$7,010.99
VEROEVEN PROPERTIES LLC LAKESIDE APARTMENTS LLC 28189 70TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 173760710 JENKINS ADDITION JENKINS ADDITION LOT 9 EX W 80 FT BLK 14	2024	\$2,100.82
ARTURO GONZALEZ TELLEZ TROY A BROUWERS 301 4TH AVE NE WASECA MN 56093	RP 173760850 JENKINS ADDITION JENKINS ADDITION S 72 1/2 FT OF LOT 1 BLK 16	2024	\$600.08
VEROEVEN PROPERTIES LLC LAKESIDE APARTMENTS LLC 28189 70TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 173780040 JENKINS SUBDIV OF BLKS 15 & 17 JENKINS SUBDIV OF BLKS 15 & 17 LOT 13 EX E80FT OF N100FT & EX W6FT OF N95FT & LOT 12 EX N95 FT & EX W48FT OF S38FT BLK 15	2024	\$184.01
WILLIAM F SHOUTS 625 3RD ST NE WASECA MN 56093	RP 173780140 JENKINS SUBDIV OF BLKS 15 & 17 JENKINS SUBDIV OF BLKS 15 & 17 S29 FT OF E100 FT OF LOT 1 & N28 FT OF E1/2 OF LOT 2 BLK 15	2024	\$781.84
MATTHEW REED 823 3RD AVE SE WASECA MN 56093	RP 174270100 LAKEVIEW ADDITION LAKEVIEW ADDITION S 120 FT OF LOT 6 BLK 1	2024	\$3,305.76
ANNETT BENNETT 513 2ND AVE NW WASECA MN 56093	RP 174530260 MCNAMARAS ADDITION MCNAMARAS ADDITION LOT-010 BLOCK-002	2024	\$955.13

ENGELSMa INVESTMENT LTD PART 501 SOUTH 8TH ST MINNEAPOLIS MN 55404	RP 174830050 NORTH RIDGE NORTH RIDGE 36,000 SQ FT IN BLK 2	2024	\$74.31
ADAN QUINTERO ETAL 815 ST PAUL AVE FARIBAULT MN 55021	RP 171000860 ORIGINAL PLAT ORIGINAL PLAT E106FT OF S11FT OF LOT 11 & E 106FT OF LOT 12 BLK 6	2024	\$2,692.57
ABBIE HANSON 523 7TH ST SW WASECA MN 56093	RP 175790210 R P WARDS ADDITION # 3 R P WARDS ADDITION # 3 N 20 FT OF LOTS 9 & 10 & N 20 FT OF W 32.5 FT OF LOT 8 & LOT 11 EX E 132.5 FT & EX N 6 FT BLK 2	2024	\$1,324.27
PAUL HERMAN MOSS MATTHEW STRENKE 605 5TH ST SW WASECA MN 56093	RP 175770130 R P WARDS ADDITION R P WARDS ADDITION LOT-010 BLOCK-001	2024	\$1,904.68
RODNEY A JOHNSON 702 4TH ST SW WASECA MN 56093	RP 175770170 R P WARDS ADDITION R P WARDS ADDITION S 1/2 OF E 100 FT OF LOT 1 BLK 2	2024	\$280.89
SUSAN R MOSHER 728 3RD ST NW WASECA MN 56093	RP 176040360 SEVEN THREE ADDITION SEVEN THREE ADDITION LOT-008 BLOCK-002	2024	\$1,348.28
BRANDON J & JENNIFER R JUTZI 1217 6TH CIR SE WASECA MN 56093	RP 176070620 SOUTH VIEW ADDITION SOUTH VIEW ADDITION LOT-019 BLOCK-004	2024	\$2,434.22
GITSIT REAL PROPERTY LLC 1000 ELM AVE E WASECA MN 56093	RP 177020290 WARDS ADDITION WARDS ADDITION LOT-008 BLOCK-003	2024	\$2,864.96
GABRIEL SANCHEZ PORRAS 508 4TH ST NE WASECA MN 56093	RP 177120090 WOODS EDGE SUBDIVISION WOODS EDGE SUBDIVISION LOT 1 BLK 2 EX E 108FT	2024	\$1,074.32
TAYLOR CAINE GATES 1108 9TH CIR NW WASECA MN 56093	RP 170071100 SECT-07 TWP-107 RANGE-022 .50 AC .50 AC BEG 66FT NORTH OF E1/4 OF SEC; THENCE NORTH 130FT; THENCE WEST 167 1/2FT;THENCE SOUTH 130FT;THENCE EAST 167 1/2FT TO PT OF BEG	2024	\$932.03
WILTON TOWNSHIP			
TIMBER-RIDGE FARMS LLC EUGENE D KUHNS YOLANDA F KUHNS 29329 W WILTON RIVER RD WASECA MN 56093	RP 110130800 SECT-13 TWP-106 RANGE-023 156.33 AC 156.33 AC SW1/4 EX 3.67AC & EX 20 AC E OF RE IN SE1/4 OF SW SW1/4 & N1/4 OF S1/2 OF SE1/4	2024	\$13,003.18
DANIEL D KUHNS 29200 W WILTON RIVER RD WASECA MN 56093	RP 110130810 SECT-13 TWP-106 RANGE-023 3.67 AC 3.67AC COM AT N1/4 COR OF SEC; THEN S 4014.60FT TO PT OF BEG; THENCE S 296FT; THENCE N 89DEG W 640.49FT TO CTR LINE OF HWY THENCE N 34DEG E 354.13FT;THEN S 89DEG E 441.24FT TO PT OF BEG	2024	\$38.81
TIMBER-RIDGE FARMS LLC 29329 W WILTON RIVER RD WASECA MN 56093	RP 110250500 SECT-25 TWP-106 RANGE-023 42.50 AC 42.50 AC S42.50 AC OF W1/2 OF NW1/4	2024	\$1,492.34
TIMBER-RIDGE FARMS LLC 29329 W WILTON RIVER RD WASECA MN 56093	RP 110250600 SECT-25 TWP-106 RANGE-023 64.00 AC 64.00 AC S24 AC OF N30 AC OF NE1/4 OF SW1/4 & NW1/4 OF SW1/4	2024	\$3,934.79
TIMBER-RIDGE FARMS LLC 29329 W WILTON RIVER RD WASECA MN 56093	RP 110260500 SECT-26 TWP-106 RANGE-023 48.00 AC 48.00 AC NE1/4 OF SE1/4 & W1/2 OF SE1/4 E OF RIVER	2024	\$1,768.81
WOODVILLE TOWNSHIP			
JOHN R SHIFFLETT 1005 8TH ST SE WASECA MN 56093	RP 122510870 ELKS PARK ELKS PARK LOTS 2 3 & 4 BLK 6	2024	\$90.62
RH RENTAL LLC 29351 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	RP 122510060 ELKS PARK ELKS PARK LOTS 3 & 4 BLK 2	2024	\$592.72
MARK J NEWBURY 37031 KNOLL DR WASECA MN 56093	RP 124520025 MATZ ADDITION MATZ ADDITION OUTLOT B	2024	\$257.91
NICHOLAS MEISTER 905 CLEAR LAKE DR WASECA MN 56093	RP 124510080 MORNING SIDE MORNING SIDE LOT 8 & N1/2 OF LOT 9	2024	\$684.16
EUGENE J & JANET K WOOD 14333 355TH AVE WASECA MN 56093	RP 120160410 SECT-16 TWP-107 RANGE-022 1.21 AC COMM AT SE COR OF SW1/4;THENCE N2144.99FT;THENCE N 82DEG W 691.80FT TO PT OF BEG;THENCE N 82DEG W 185.50FT; THENCE N SDEG E 301.55FT;THEN S 86DEG E 148.75FT; THENCE S 1DEG E 315.05FT TO PT OF BEG	2024	\$2,637.20

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
)SS
COUNTY OF WASECA)

Tamara J. Spooner, being by me first duly sworn, deposes, and says that she is the Director of Property & Election Services of the County of Waseca; that she has examined the foregoing list, and knows the contents thereof; and that the same is true and correct.

Tamara J. Spooner

Tamara J Spooner, Director of Election & Property Services

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of February, 2025.

MARY J STANGLER
NOTARY PUBLIC - MINNESOTA
My Commission Expires Jan. 31, 2028

Mary Jo Stangler
Notary Public

CITY OF WASECA
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Waseca will hold a public hearing at **8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18, 2025**, in the **COUNCIL CHAMBERS of CITY HALL** located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

The purpose of the public hearing is to gather information from the public regarding the following:

ORDINANCE NO. 1122: Proposed text amendments to Chapter 91, Chapter 152, and Chapter 154 of the Municipal Code regarding health and safety nuisances, sign regulations, and zoning.

A complete copy of the proposed ordinance is available in the office of the City Clerk located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

Those interested in commenting may appear in person or by counsel or may submit written comments to the City of Waseca at 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Upon request, accommodations will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Waseca services, programs, and activities.

The regular City Council meeting for **TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025 will be at 8:00 p.m.** The Public Hearing will be held during that meeting.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer E-edition March 6 and print edition March 13, 2025.

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Burger nite 5-7pm Hug a GI DAY	5 6pm BAR Bingo Seabee 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.
WED.- SAT-1am to 12 pm
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND ON THE INTENT TO ISSUE
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS BY WASECA COUNTY, MINNESOTA,

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Commissioners (the “Board”) of Waseca County, Minnesota (the “County”) will conduct a public hearing at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, in the Waseca County East Annex located at 300 North State Street in Waseca, to provide an opportunity for the public to express their views concerning (i) the County’s proposed Capital Improvement Plan for the years 2025 through 2029; and (ii) the County’s proposed issuance of Capital Improvement Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$17,000,000 (the “Bonds”) pursuant to the Capital Improvement Plan and Minnesota Statutes Chapter 475 and Section 373.40. The proposed Bonds will fund the remodel and reconstruction of the Sherriff’s Office and Jail, as well as the construction of a Judicial Center for District Court proceedings.

The Bonds and the interest thereon shall constitute general obligations of the County secured by the full faith and credit of the County. All persons interested may appear and be heard at the time and place set forth above. If a petition requesting a vote on the issuance of the Bonds, signed by County voters equal to five percent (5%) of the votes cast in the last County general election is filed with the Director of Property & Elections Services within thirty (30) days after the public hearing, the County may issue the Bonds only after obtaining approval of a majority of voters voting on the question of the issuance of the Bonds.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF WASECA COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Doug Christopherson, Chair

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

On Thursday, March 27th, 2025 at 10:00 a.m., the City of Waseca Director of Engineering will open and review all electronic bids received for the **2025 4TH STREET SW (CSAH 4) REHABILITATION PROJECT (SAP NO. 081-604-029 & 172-020-010, CITY PROJECT NO. 2025-02).**

Estimated major quantities are as follows:

REMOVE BITUMINOUS PAVEMENT	1,185 SQ YD
MILLING BITUMINOUS SURFACE	4,677 SQ YD
TYPE SP 9.5 WEARING COURSE MIX (3;C)	1,560 TON
TYPE SP 12.5 NON-WEARING COURSE MIX (3;C)	340 TON
12”-18” RC STORM SEWER PIPE	245 LIN FT
CONSTRUCT DRAINAGE STRUCTURE DESIGN 2’X3’	17.7 LIN FT
CONSTRUCT DRAINAGE STRUCTURE DESIGN 4020-60”	5.5 LIN FT
4”-6” CONCRETE WALK	1,587 SQ FT
CONCRETE CURB & GUTTER B618	345 LIN FT
6” CONCRETE DRIVEWAY PAVEMENT	70 SQ YD

Together with other related items of work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

Complete Digital Bidding Documents are available at www.questcdn.com for \$22.00 by inputting **QuestCDN eBidDoc #9465631** on the website’s Project Search page. The online bidding fee will be \$42.00. Bid Documents may also be viewed at the City of Waseca Engineering Department located at 508 South State Street in Waseca (507-835-9730).

Bid Security of 5% of the amount of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The successful bidder must be a “responsible contractor” as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 16C.285, subdivision 3.

The City reserves the right to retain the deposit of the lowest Bidder until the PERFORMANCE BOND and PAYMENT BOND have been executed and approved. No bidder may withdraw a Bid within sixty (60) days after the bid opening date.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, waive irregularities and informalities therein, and award the Contract to the best interests of the City.

Direct any inquiries to Nathan Willey, the Waseca Director of Engineering, at (507) 835-9716. Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on March 13, 2025

CITY OF WASECA PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Waseca **City Council** will consider **Ordinance No. 1121** at their meeting to be held at **7:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 1, 2025**, in the **COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL**, located at 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN.

Ordinance No. 1121 would amend Chapters 50.04 and 52.05 of City of Waseca Code of Ordinances in conjunction with changes to the Utilities Office Billing Policy.

A complete copy of Ordinance No. 1121 is available in the office of the City Clerk, Waseca City Hall, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on March 13th and March 20th

CITY OF WASECA
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the **City of Waseca** will hold a public hearing at **8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18, 2025**, in the **COUNCIL CHAMBERS of CITY HALL** located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

The purpose of the public hearing is to gather information from the public regarding the **CLEARWATER PRESERVE PRELIMINARY PLAT**.

A complete copy of the proposed Preliminary Plat is available in the office of the City Clerk located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

Those interested in commenting may appear in person or by counsel or may submit written comments to the City of Waseca at 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Upon request, accommodations will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Waseca services, programs, and activities.

The regular City Council meeting for **TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025 will be at 8:00 p.m.** The Public Hearing will be held during that meeting.
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer E-edition March 6 and print edition March 13, 2025

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Community Health Workers Mariana Izaguirre and Minerva Gomez were present at the Mental Health and Substance Abuse resource fair at the Waseca Senior Center on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Mental health and substance use awareness at the senior center

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Area residents were invited to an “awareness event” covering the topic of substance use the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 26 at the Waseca Area Senior Citizens Center. The free session offered a chance to speak with health care and substance abuse agencies to learn about resources and find tools to combat drug addiction and support mental health. There were numerous organizations present.

The event was planned by Marty Johnson of Waseca’s Keep Fightin’ Recovery with help from Laura Cain of the MN Prairie County Alliance. Offering information and resources were Mankato Chemical Health, SPERO clinic, and South Country Health Alliance. For example, Ashley Killday of the Waseca County Public Health office, said her office can help if someone has a family member struggling with substance use. Her office also provides information about the effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), up to and including an hour-long presentation on how to break a cycle of generational trauma. Killday can also help connect people to Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings for adults to learn about the warning signs of youth experiencing substance abuse or mental health

crises and how to approach the conversation.

Community health worker Mariana Izaguirre mentioned, “Having local service providers in one space at the same time can benefit those looking for assistance, since finding providers and resources can be a challenge. It is also beneficial for the service providers to be able to connect with other service providers. It helps us bridge gaps in services and offer more to those who need help.”

One resource that is currently being offered people might not be aware of is suicide prevention, WCPH Planner Colin Ayers leads a local Suicide Prevention Cohort, moderated a suicide prevention event called My Ascension at the Waseca ALC, builds communication on the topics of mental health and substance use, and can assist community partners with mental health and substance use data.

According to www.health.state.mn.gov, Waseca County has between 15 and 25 drug overdoses a year, a majority of those are male. In 2021, there were 11,506 non-fatal hospital visits for drug overdoses in Minnesota. The rate of non-fatal overdoses for Waseca County was around 2 per 1,000 residents.

The county public health office is located at 1000 Elm Avenue West in Waseca.

Cub Scouts



On Monday March 3, 2025 Cindy Kollander from Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center (WANSC) came to the Waseca Pack 86 den meeting to talk about the food shelf and its vital role in the community. She also explained to Cub Scouts and parents how important local food drives are to sustain and support the inventory.

The Waseca Troop 85 and 1085 and Pack 86 will be supporting WANSC in March with the annual ‘Scouting For Food’ service project. On Saturday March 15, scouts will be walking around town putting notes at homes to let residents know about the food drive and ask them to place non-perishable food items out on their front step the following week for collection and distribution to the WANSC food shelf. Then Saturday March 22 Scouts will be around town gathering the food donations. The notes distributed to homes will also have instructions if people want to make electronic donations to the food shelf to support the Scouting for Food efforts. Contact Beckypetsinger@gmail.com for Waseca Pack 86 Cub Scout information.

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From left: Ariel, librarian Afton Finley, Gabe, Olive and Leah were at the Waseca Public Library’s National Oreo Cookie Day on Thursday, March 6, 2025. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Waseca library observes National Oreo Day

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca public library provided an event for teenagers between 13 and 18 years old to observe National Oreo Day Thursday, March 6. A medium-sized group took part in taste comparisons and cookie challenges during this free event.

The librarian in charge of teen events at the Waseca Public Library is Afton Finley. For National Oreo Day, she bought six different types of Oreos for the four teens—Ariel, Gabe, Olive and Leah—to evaluate. First up was Birthday Cake Oreos as compared to Double Stuffed Oreos. All four liked both, except for Leah who said the birthday flavor was, “Too sweet.” Next was golden double stuffed against lemon; Gabe didn’t like the golden double stuffed; the other three liked them both. The final taste-off was between tiramisu and

toffee crunch: Olive didn’t like the tiramisu, saying it tasted “weird.” Ariel, Olive and Leah agreed none of them liked the toffee crunch.

Historically, after the original Oreo white crème, the second flavor to be marketed was lemon in 1920. By 2012, 450 billion Oreos had been eaten worldwide. By 2017, more than 40 billion were being produced annually in 18 countries around the world.

Among past flavors are double stuff, football, big stuff (250 calories), golden, mini, cakesters, mega stuff, thins, chocolate, minto, green tea (China and Japan), lemon ice, blueberry ice cream, Reese’s, cinnamon bun, Swedish Fish, Peeps, watermelon, strawberries and cream, fruit punch, cookie cough, root beer float, pumpkin spice, red velvet, key lime pie, S’mores, fruity crisp, waffle and syrup, chocolate hazelnut, salted car-



Olive was being challenged at the National Oreo Cookie Day celebration at the Waseca Public Library on Thursday March 6, 2025. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

amel, firework, peppermint bark, Easter Egg, chocolate marshmallow, caramel coconut, supreme, Oreo Thing Prints, Lady Gaga, strawberry frosted donut, hot chicken wing, wasabi, crispy tiramisu, carrot cake, jelly donut, Mississippi Mud pie, pina colada, banana split, peanut butter and jelly, churro, Team USA (red, white and blue), triple double chocolate mint, android (green filling), coconut delight, strawberry milkshake, orange ice cream, DQ

Blizzard Cream, trio chocolate, Oreo Pokemon, Oreo Batman, black pink, The Most Oreo Oreo, cajeta coronado, Coca-Cola, and Post Malone Oreo Cookies.

When the lights went out during the Super Bowl in 2013, Oreo immediately parodied the event on social media with a “You Can Still Dunk in the Dark” post. The post earned 15,000 retweets and 20,000 Facebook likes in an hour.

Laser-Engraved keychains were hot at the Janesville library

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

A small crowd took part in a “laser-engraved keychain” workshop at the Janesville Public Library on Tuesday, March 4. Free keychains with personalized designs were available.

Head librarian Kelly Koplen told participants she is well acquainted with the operation of the engraver: “This is actually the property of the library. We keep it here and anyone can use it at any time, under the correct supervision and instructions, of course.” The March 4 event was aimed at adults, but kids were allowed to join in. The engraver came with a pair of protective welder’s glasses. On the engraver itself is a protective see-through case that slides down to keep anyone from accidentally seeing the intense light.

Ten-year-old participant Stella Myhr made her selection among a long list of images. After careful consideration she went with the mushroom design, apparently, she has been drawing the fungus for a while.

Said Myhr, “I went with a mushroom on one side and Tinkerbell on the other. The mushrooms are easy to draw, they kind of go with everything and I’m a big fan of nature.” Upon further discussion and the Disney movies, mushrooms also are a big part of Tinkerbell’s little world in Never Never Land, added Myhr, “The fairy’s use them for houses and decoration.”

About the size of an average microscope, the engraver sits on a small, four-legged stand. The keychain is placed underneath and lined up using a harmless red laser.

Once the metal tab is in place, the blue laser is turned on and begins burning the selected design into the wood, leather, or whatever has been placed there. Any name in the English language could also be lasered into the keychain with decisions like font, theme, style and design. The choices of keychain were wooden rectangles 3.5 by 2 inches in size, or a keychain with felt in the middle and two leather pieces covering that on the outside in a teardrop shape.



Head Librarian Kelly Koplen and visitor Stella Myhr were engraving keychains with a laser at the Janesville Public Library on Tuesday, March 6, 2025. Photo by Ben Revermann

The whole process is done through an app that was downloaded onto Librarian Koplen’s cell phone. With that app come all the choices for pictures or letters. The laser process only takes a minute, the color of the laser is similar to the light from a welder, a light electric blue.

A Greeting Card Club will meet at the Janesville library at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 25. Koplen said not to worry, this wouldn’t be the last laser engraving opportunity at the Janesville Library, although no specific date has been chosen for the next one. She advises interested parties to keep an eye on the Janesville Public Library’s website <https://wasecalsueurlibraries.com/events/> for updates.

■ County from Page 1

summarized an upcoming project meant to increase safety on about 27 miles of county concrete roads. He mentioned his department had applied for a grant in 2022 under a federal “highway safety improvement program” to create recessed one-eighth-inch channels at the edges and center lines of those roads which would then be marked with “wet reflective” paint. That grant was awarded, with the new funds would be supplied in 2025.

He explained the reflective quality comes from small beads mixed in with white and yellow roadway markings. If such paint is applied at grade, he said the beads are typically worn away within a year, which is why the recessed channel is important. In order to be eligible under the

grant program, the stretches of highway needed to be “in fair/good condition” and “identified as a high priority” based on the number of head-on or “road departure” incidents which occur there.

Due to receive the special markings are sections of County State Aid Highways (CSAH) 2, 3, 17, 27, 33 and 40.

Low bid on the project was from “Sir Lines-A-Lot” out of Edina. Total cost for the project will be \$590,000. The grant will cover about \$338,000; county state aid funds will cover the remainder. Work will begin this summer and be completed by August 30.

County emergency management director Denise Wright informed commissioners that, following the death of area resident and businessman Steve Melcher on January 16, his family had requested that memorials take the form of donations to the community emergency response team (CERT); Melcher had been a CERT member for 10 years. As re-

quired by county policy, the board officially received the donations, which totaled more than \$650. Wright told commissioners the money will be used toward training and equipment for use with the CERT program.

Board members voted to schedule a “bond capital improvement plan” hearing during their April 1 meeting. Such hearings are required when the county government is considering borrowing money. Explaining the process of acquiring a “bond” can take up to six months, county administrator Michael Johnson recommended necessary steps be undertaken as soon as possible, since the option for the particular type of bond which he believes to be most financially beneficial may be expiring in mid- or late summer.

The bond in question would acquire funds toward upgrades, remodeling, and new construction meant to resolve safety and space constraints experienced by the sheriff’s department, district court, and county of-

fices.

Commissioners expect a summary of current construction plans during their March 18 meeting, which means they did not yet know the anticipated cost of the projects. Lengthy discussion took place as board members addressed the question of what maximum bond amount should be published in the public notice. Though it is expected construction costs will be in the range of \$10 to \$12 million, commissioners eventually voted to release a public notice which says the county is considering borrowing “up to” \$17 million—under the steps followed to acquire a bond, the final actual amount can be no higher than the “up to” figure provided in the public notice.

Commissioners were caught between the conflicting possibilities of “sticker shock” from the public at the \$17 million figure and the uncertain financial circumstances surrounding the possibility of tariffs.