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**WASECA
COUNTY
PIONEER**

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 13 Vol. IV \$2

Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca

Thursday, March 27, 2025



■ Inside**State tournament**

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 pre-school professionals, medical professionals and public safety officials. This is a free event.

Fish Basket/Sandwich dinner at the Waseca Legion on Friday, March 28

There will be a fish basket/sandwich dinner thanks to the Waseca Sons of American Legion from 5:30-7 p.m. on Friday, March 28. \$10 for a 3 piece fish basket with fries or fish sandwich with fries.

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.

Smokescreen at the Boxcar Bar in Waseca Saturday, March 29

Smokescreen will be playing in Waseca at the Boxcar Bar at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 29. This trio plays a variety of rock and country music.

Jack Backbone and TJ Brown at the Indian Island Winery Saturday, March 29

Jack Backbone and TJ Brown will be playing the Indian Island Winery from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 29. They play acoustic Americana blues, rock and country music.

Melissa Schulz playing at Papa Olie's March 29

Melissa Schulz will perform at Papa Olie's in Waldorf from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday, March 29. She is a local Waseca musician, plays keyboard with drum tracks and performs pop, rock, and country covers from the 50s to today's hits.

Waseca County Pheasants Forever Annual Banquet at the Mill Sat., March 29

The Waseca County Pheasants Forever Annual Banquet will take place at the Mill at 4 p.m. Saturday, March 29. Purchase tickets online at: <https://events.pheasantsforever.org/events/6e1aa6b4-1567-4e05-9a9e-209954104cf0>

Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center having dinner fundraiser 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.

*A word from
The Word*

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2 Timothy 4:7



SECOND IN STATE - Waseca boys' basketball team captains hoist the Minnesota Class AA second-place trophy. They are, from left, Deron Russell, Damarius Russell and Carson Ohnstad.
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

Nothing gold can stay

Perfect season ends with loss in state championship

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor
Stay golden, Bluejays.
Saturday was destined to be a night Waseca faithful will remember for the rest of their lives, regardless of the outcome. But, to quote Robert Frost, "Nothing gold can stay."

This famous line of poetry describes the fleeting beauty of nature and serves as a reminder that all good things, eventually, come to an end.

An incredible, impeccable run by the Waseca Bluejays boys' basketball team came to its end at the hands of the undefeated Albany Huskies, 70-63, Saturday night at Williams Arena in Minneapolis.

A game to remember, the Jays were in the lead numerous times, but, 'the basketball gods' according to Waseca head coach Seth Anderson, decided the ball wouldn't roll their way. A run which began with an undefeated regular season saw the Jays rattle off four straight section play-off wins against Medford, Central Public, JWP, and Belle Plaine, before starting their revenge tour through the first two rounds of the state tournament.

Beginning with Pequot Lakes on Tuesday night at Target Center, the Jays avenged last

season's loss in the state tournament by staving off what would have been the upset of the tournament had Waseca lost. A late three-pointer from Senior Carson Ohnstad sealed the Bluejays' 49-45 win.

Friday night, the Jays took down defending state champions Breck, 68-60, avenging a loss to the Mustangs in the opening round of the state tournament a year ago. Junior Deron Russell led the Jays in scoring, with 38—the second-most he's ever scored in a game.

In the championship bout, the Jays had numerous opportunities to tie the game or take the lead

in the final minutes, but could not get the final bucket to fall. Waseca fans felt, at numerous points in the game, that the Jays were going to pull it out. Big baskets throughout the game from both Deron and senior Damarius Russell kept the Jays in it. The brothers combined for 54 points.

Graduating this year are seniors Damarius Russell, Ohnstad, Isaac Feldkamp, Caden Danner, Cameron Karsten, Isaiah Johnson, Max Howard and Brandon Jascha.

The Bluejays finish the 2024-'25 campaign as the state runners-up with a 32-1 record.

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

County looks at new justice center plan

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Members of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners got a first look at some design concepts for a scaled-down justice center meant to be part of a multi-phase construction plan.

The county was warned about two years ago its jail does not meet state Department of Corrections (DOC) standards and is in danger of being either downgraded to a short-term holding facility or closed. One significant shortfall noted on DOC reports is that prisoners being brought from the jail to court proceedings on the third floor of the historic courthouse are escorted through the same hallways and spaces as are being used by members of the general public.

Since becoming aware of the possible reduction, commissioners have struggled to find a balance between the philosophical question of whether the county needs to maintain a jail, given its average daily occupancy of about nine inmates; the scale and costs of financing and construction, since the district court also has numerous space-related difficulties; and the desire to avoid significant property tax increases.

After seeing plans for a \$42 million structure last summer meant to fix all problems at once, commissioners asked county administrator Michael Johnson to move toward a scaled-down project which would address the largest concerns. Based on funds already set aside toward the anticipated construction and on low-interest financing meant to have decreased impact on the tax levy, commissioners set a target price of \$12 million for the scaled-down construction and remodeling.

The county has worked with Widseth, a planning and construction firm with 15 offices including one in Mankato, in planning the possible construction project. On Tuesday, Dana

County continued on 4



The University of Minnesota Extension office selected Tony and Cassie Schlaak, and their children Ashton (not pictured), Owen, Evelyn and Hadley as the Waseca County Farm Family of the Year. The award was announced during the Farm and City Luncheon on March 20.
Photo by Deb Bently

Area ag leaders honored during annual program

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

The Farm and City luncheon organized by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce drew about 230 people to The Mill event center at lunchtime on Thursday, March 20.

Speakers Stacy Schroeder, a member of the Waseca city council, and De Malterer, a member of the county board of commissioners, highlighted the interdependence and richly interwoven experiences of area businesses and residents, regardless of whether they are located inside or outside a set of city limits.

Schroeder commented the area's history and future are both "deeply rooted in the rich soil," creating a "hub for innovation and collaboration."

Malterer described her career as both a teacher and a partner, with her husband, in operating a farm. "I have been caught behind a piece of farm equipment making me late because it was trav-

eling 20 miles an hour," said Malterer lightheartedly. "And I have been the one driving that combine or other equipment while some of you were caught behind it." Malterer said she is pleased to claim Waseca County's 277,000 acres as her "little corner of the world," and went on to say "Our fates and our futures are balanced on the ability to work together."

Area legend Gyles Randall was selected to introduce Tom Trahms, the 2025 recipient of the "Waseca County Distinguished Agriculture Leadership" award. Trahms and his brothers operate Trams Farm Inc., in Alton Township near Janesville and manage an operation which produces 30,000 hogs each year. Trahms has served and continues to serve in numerous leadership roles with many regional and state organizations including Crystal Valley Cooperatives, the Uni-

Ag continued on 4



Compostings

by Al Batt

He said, ‘Burrrrrrrrr, gerrrrrrrr, Kiiiiing’

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING

Do you have any pets? I have a goldfish named Richard. Any hobbies? He likes to swim.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. On March 19, we were blessed with thundersnow. That’s when a thunderstorm produces snow instead of rain. Actually, we had a thunder blizzard, complete with the trifecta of snow, wind and thunder. I feel sorry for those people who live where they never get to experience such a thing. What do they have to look forward to? Someone said thundersnow was a rare weather phenomenon, but I’ve encountered no locals who were shocked to see or hear it.

The closest to being shocked was an 84-year-old guy who claimed to have the body of an 83-year-old. He said, and I quote, “Well, that’s something you don’t see every day.”

I’VE LEARNED

I love walking to the mailbox. It’s a pleasant break. Breaks are important. We used to take a break each year to watch “The Wizard of Oz” on an ancient black-and-white TV, with the snowy part of the picture providing much of the white part. We endeavored to pause each day to listen to Paul Harvey on the radio.

The edges of cities, once they grow to a specific size (I’m not sure what that population is) become a carbon copy of one another.

It’s my friendly wave when someone allows me to merge that matters, not another driver’s wave.

I taught a community ed class on building bat houses. I started with the basics. I held a hammer and said, “This is not a drill.”

I watched a loved one play basketball. I stood and applauded in appreciation at the game’s conclusion. It was a claps in judgment.

In conclusion, there are 10 letters.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

I have a dog to give away to a good home. It’s a cute, little terrier that doesn’t eat much, but barks a lot. If you’re interested, let me know and I’ll jump over the neighbor’s fence and get it for you.

Two tourists were driving through Louisiana. As they approached Natchitoches, they argued over the pronunciation of the town’s name. When they stopped for lunch in Louisiana’s oldest city,

they asked a restaurant employee, “Before we order, could you settle an argument for us? How do you pronounce where we are?”

The employee leaned over the counter and said, “Burrrrrrrr, gerrrrrrrr, Kiiiiing.”

NATURE NOTES

The black around a raccoon’s eyes is an occupational hazard. It comes from working nights. The black mask helps reduce glare from lights, making it easier for the little bandits to see during their nighttime escapades. It’s much like the black stripes athletes put under their eyes during sporting events, which absorb light and reduce glare. The raccoon gets its English name from the Powhatan word “aroughcun,” which means “one that scratches with its hands.” It gets the name trash panda or masked bandit from people who deal with them. Raccoons cover their eyes when they’re scared or trying to hide. Small children exhibit this same behavior. Scientists discovered that young children with their eyes covered acknowledged their bodies, arms, hair, feet and legs could be seen, but insisted they couldn’t be seen.

Pheasants roost in trees, dense shrubs, forested wetlands, farm fields, cattail wetlands, weed-grown fence lines, weedy areas like stands of giant ragweed and small farmland woodlots. Dense vegetation near foraging sites is necessary as escape cover. The pheasants that winter in my yard roost in evergreen trees. During extreme winter weather, pheasants can go up to two weeks without feeding by reducing their metabolism and energy. Yet, there is no “Diet Like a Pheasant” book on the New York Times Best Sellers list.

Birds have to hear well because they can’t read lips and their ears don’t accommodate hearing aids. Our range extends from a low of 20 cycles per second to a high of 20,000 cycles per second. The range of frequencies heard varies among birds according to species. Starlings hear nearly as well as we do at high to mid-range, but their hearing fails on the low end. While they may not hear as wide a range as we can, birds are about 10 times as sensitive to rapid changes in pitch and intensity. Birds hear shorter notes than we do. Where we hear one sound only, a bird may hear 10 separate notes. Generally, nocturnal birds, like owls, have more sensitive hearing than diurnal birds.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Keep kindness off the endangered list by sharing a kind word.

These days we barely know anyone’s number

I was listening to a 1980s song the other day and heard the line “she was sitting by the phone.”

It came to me the phrase is probably incomprehensible to someone who grew up before the age of constant information exchange we live in now.

Should such folks take the trouble to notice the phrase, the questions “Why would she be sitting?” and “Why ‘the’ phone, when it should be ‘her’ phone?” would immediately come to mind.

These modern jet-setters have no comprehension of what it was once like. Anyone expecting important news was faced with a difficult choice: stay within earshot of a land-line telephone or risk missing the life-changing phone call. Anything from the birth of a baby to a loved one’s long-awaited arrival at the airport, the outcome of a surgery or an important medical diagnosis: All these vital pieces of information could be acquired only through a single phone number which would ring in only one set of phones.

People who had to be away from home while awaiting important news would have to provide the caller with a list: call number ABC during work hours, number DEF during evenings or weekends. If the person anticipating important news had to be away from predictable phone numbers, the next alternative was to make “long distance phone calls” at repeated intervals to check in.

Prior to credit cards and bill readers, one had to find a pay phone (often located inside an archaic structure known as a phone booth), then feed change into a coin slot to cover the cost of the call. The “operator”



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

assisting the caller could hear the coins moving through the machine and know payment had been made. Back in these dark times, there would be long lines of callers waiting to use the pay phones at airports when flights were delayed, because the wall-mounted units were the only way to notify others of the change.

I stayed at a hotel over the weekend. When I checked in, my cell number was entered on file. Not long after entering my assigned room, I received a text. “If you have any questions during your stay, feel free to text them to this number.”

It happened that I was, at that very moment, experiencing frustration. I was reading the panel on the in-room heating unit and although it said “on,” pressing the various buttons (for example “heat” and “up”) was not providing any results.

Thanks to that electronic invitation, I texted back “How do I turn up the heat in my room?” Within seconds, a response informed me there was a wall-mounted thermostat and I should use that to adjust the temperature. If you’re laughing at me, fine, but you should know the thermostat was on the wall behind the television, and from much of the room it was invisible.

I describe all this for the sake of a comparison. If faced with an uncom-

fortably chilly room back in that former time, I would have had two options. Call the hotel operator using the landline, wait for someone to answer, and pose my question. If the operator was busy just then, I might have had to leave a voice message and wait for the return call—and would have been figuratively “sitting by the phone” until it came. If I had little faith anyone downstairs was paying attention to the phone, I might have actually gone down to the front desk to ask.

Instead, I had the reply nearly instantly—leading me to suspect it was produced using artificial intelligence.

There is one thing I miss about that time: phone books.

It used to be, the phone company provided a book every year that had the names of phone customers—both businesses and private individuals—listed in alphabetical order. If I suddenly realized I had a reason to contact someone, I simply looked up the necessary number and called it. If the party in question wanted to, he or she could classify the number as “unlisted,” and I might simply have to wait until our paths crossed before I would have the chance to speak to him or her.

Another huge difference between “back then” and “now,” is that we used to memorize phone numbers.

Gen Z has a wide variety of music tastes



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

know every word to “Ass Like That” and can almost be a Rap God.

In college, I thought I had turned city girl as rap evolved into Kanye (yes, I’m not proud of it), Kendrick Lamar, ASAP Rocky, Travis Scott, and Megan Thee Stallion. That, too, faded away and turned more to what I was playing in pep band – the classics that could get the blood flowing. From “All the Small Things” to “Basket Case,” “Come on Eileen,” “Hurricane Season,” and so much more, pep band gave me the variety and hype that I had been looking for. So I sat down with my pep band book and my phone and created a new playlist, entering all 77 songs into the best culmination of songs ever. “Monkey Wrench,” “Crazy in the Love,” and “Mr. Brightside” hate to

see me coming, pumping the good vibes on my way to class, working out, and cleaning my room.

But by the time I reached my senior year, I plateaued. Trying to pick what music I wanted to listen to while walking anywhere or doing homework seemed a chore. So I started putting tv shows on in the background — first “Family Guy” and then “American Dad.” Stupid shows that I didn’t need to pay attention to, but provided background noise so I could focus. But once I made it through those shows’ seasons once, twice, thrice, I was once again at a standpoint.

So I finally turned to podcasts, specifically the one my parents had been listening to for years now: The Power Trip Morning Show on

You see, we actually had to “dial” them. In some cases we memorized them for the sake of being able to make important calls without delay. In others, we memorized them almost incidentally because we dialed them frequently enough. After being away from newspaper work since the 1980s, I realized I still have the phone number for Waseca High School memorized; fortunately for me, it’s still the same number.

These days, of course, we barely know anyone’s number—we simply expect our digital devices to remember them for us—and dial them when asked. Even direct family members cannot recite each others’ numbers from memory.

Nowadays—and this is perhaps especially an issue for someone who works for a newspaper and has reasons to contact “random” people—I have to know someone who knows someone who might have the individual’s number. It’s somewhat like everyone being “unlisted.”

My family is currently in the process of preparing my mother-in-law’s house for sale. Though Mom B. lived there for more than 30 years, there are still a few signs of the people who lived in the structure before her. What I notice each time I move through the rooms is the number of phone jacks those previous owners had installed. Of course there are lines in the primary bedroom and main living space, but there are also wall-mounted connectors in the spare bedroom upstairs and even in the second bathroom. Whoever those occupants might have been, they brought extra meaning to the idea of “sitting by the phone.”

KFAN. Chris Hawkey, Meatsauce, and Cory Cove now hold all of my attention and I spend all my time trying to keep up with their three hours of content a day. From talking about sports, to top news, to betting and randomly stupid things, it makes life seem entertaining when I am actually not doing anything but walking around.

So that’s what I’ve been obsessed with lately. And I didn’t realize how long it had been since I’ve listened to music until the millennial me at my college work realized I do not recognize any of the artists or songs playing in the background there. It seems Gen Z has a wide variety of music tastes with Apple Music, Spotify, and YouTube at their fingertips to learn about every song ever. I guess I’m just behind, but hey, I’m okay with it. Leave me to my silly little podcast and you go vibe with your songs.

My Determination: “You ask me what forces me to speak? A strange thing; my conscience.”

— Victor Hugo, Les Misérables

A season and a game to remember

What a game to be a part of.

A season to remember. And an incredible group of young men growing up before our eyes.

The Waseca Bluejays boys’ basketball season came to an end this weekend with one of the most exciting games I’ve ever seen.

For much of the game it felt like the Jays would win. Emotions were high. Headlines, story leads and so much more were flashing before my eyes, through the lens of my camera as I sat courtside snapping photos.

It felt like it happened in slow motion as Deron looked at coach Anderson before attempting the game-tying three-pointer which just fell short, ticking off the front of the iron.

A moment later, a basket from the Huskies made it a 5-point game with only 30 seconds or so to go and I exhaled. With it, my hopes of witnessing a state championship.

When the Jays won their preceding championship, I was sitting on my dad’s living room couch watching the game on television.

I hoped Saturday night would go the same way. I pictured a back and forth game, one to remember, and I envisioned the game coming down to the end. But, as coach Anderson said, the basketball gods weren’t favoring us Saturday night. Incredible young men, this team



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

was full of them. I hope they stand tall knowing they played their absolute best ball these last two games. Truly, they left it all on the court.

Covering this team throughout the section tournament, I felt like they weren’t hitting on all cylinders. Until Carson Ohnstad hit the game-winning 3-pointer in the state quarterfinals, I was wondering if I would see it this postseason. We all got to see it these final two games and it was special.

Editor Deb tells me I must share more details from the weekend, so I will.

Tuesday’s game was at Target Center and I had the pleasure of bringing along two guests, Sharon and Norman Eckart. My “adopted grandparents,” as they have been dubbed, reached out and asked if I was going to the game and thus we carpooled!

The drive up was enjoyable and Sharon complimented my driving, which honestly meant the world to me. We had a good discussion about how important it is to give

space and aim high on the road with your eyes. Good talks over New Richland’s driver’s ed program and how Duey Ferber and Mark Rud were excellent teachers was also heard.

Tuesday’s game was the first time I had the opportunity to photograph a game at Target Center. I think playing on the same stage as the Timberwolves may have made the game feel “extra” special and/or put even more pressure on the players.

I felt, throughout the game, that we might lose. At about the 1:30 mark remaining in the game I told myself Waseca would have to do something crazy to win. That they did, stealing the ball on nearly five straight possessions which included an insane, go-ahead three-pointer from Carson Ohnstad, his first successful three-pointer of the night.

Friday’s matchup I watched from my couch. I was utterly exhausted from this past month and knew I would be attending Saturday’s game regardless of the outcome. I

had Breck as 8-point favorites, in my mind, after the Tuesday game. For the first time all post-season, I was wrong about a game. However, I knew I would be wrong after the first half, as Waseca came out playing their best ball of the season.

I also watched Albany’s state semi-final game prior to Waseca. After watching both semifinal games, I knew Saturday’s state championship would come down to the wire. In my opinion, the four-point play from Albany at the end of the first half and the two missed free-throws which they offensively got the rebound and scored were really the most unfortunate, unlucky bounces which coach Seth Anderson was referring to when he said the basketball gods weren’t in Waseca’s corner. The Bluejays made many impressive, crucial shots. Seth was right to say the Jays played well enough to earn a state title. Congratulations to both teams on an unforgettable game, one of the best I’ve ever experienced.

I’ll close on the favorite quote I was given, which gave me much reprieve, when I felt dispossessed after I played my final baseball game ever. Courtesy of Ryan Tri, “If this is the saddest moment of your life, think about how blessed you must be.”



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

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JANESVILLE
CITY COUNCIL

Council votes on setbacks for cannabis ordinance

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

During their March 10 evening meeting, members of the Janesville city council approved reducing the mandatory distance of a cannabis business from a school to 700 feet; the change also included 400 feet from a park, licensed daycare, or residential treatment facility. Mayor Andy Arnoldt abstained.

After meeting with city attorney Jason Moran during their Feb. 26 meeting, members of the city's Planning and Zoning Committee presented the city council with two options. The council could either maintain the 500-foot distance they had discussed at the February meeting or change the distance to 750 feet to accommodate the comfort level for other businesses.

"I would even suggest you make that 700 because the planning commission, I think, agreed that it's better to provide the opportunity, more so than what we had in January," City Administrator Clinton Rogers stated. "You remember the ordinances in January – it didn't really allow for much in town." Then he directed the council members to the summary sheet he handed out and asked if anyone had questions.

Rogers mentioned that if anyone lived within the limits of the cannabis ordinance, that resident can apply for a conditional use permit. That way the permit could be processed through a public hearing and notify the neighbors around the business within 350 feet like it says in state law.

"The conditional use permit is still an option in the B1 and B2 zones," Rogers added. "That's one thing that the planning commission did want to add."

In response to a question, resident Megan Luitjens was assured the setback for "high potency" products will be kept at 1,500 feet.

The council also tabled the estimated bid of \$6,050 from J & T Painting for repainting the walls of the main library and entryway, deciding to seek out a second bid. A lengthy discussion addressed whether the aging walls of the library will show any patches or repairs. A citizen raised the possibility of community members working together on the project, but no decisions were made.

In other business, the council decided to continue their contract with Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) for the time being. There was some reluctance and disappointment expressed because the representative CEDA hired for Janesville tendered his resignation and since January, Janesville hasn't had anyone from CEDA. Regional Manager Dave Schmidt visited the council to answer any questions about the new situation.

He explained a representative has been found to work in Janesville, but is currently finishing some schooling, and so cannot yet serve the full schedule. "What we're proposing is for the next couple of months, I will work here every Tuesday and I will drive up and make sure everything will be taken care of," Ziegler said, adding the new candidate plans to be present every Thursday and Friday. "Our head of Minnesota operations, Hillary Tweed, will actually be

Council continued on 6



The Waseca High School spring musical "The Addams Family" will be performed at 7 p.m. on April 3, 4, and 5, and at 2 p.m. on April 6. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

WHS presents 'The Addams Family' April 1-5

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The cast of Waseca High School's spring musical "The Addams Family" wants everyone to know all the awkward moments on the stage are planned. In fact, the play is rich with awkwardness: Lucas Beineke, the young adult son of upstanding community members Mal and Alice Beineke, has fallen in love with Wednesday Addams.

Both young people would like to see marriage in their future, but are very nervous about what their families will think. When the Beinekes are invited to the Addams' home, plenty of surprises and humorous moments follow.

The spring musical will be presented at 7 p.m. the evenings of April 1, 2, 3 and 4, and at 2 p.m. on April 5 in the high school's performing arts center. Admission is \$10 for all ages.

"I'm having a lot of fun with it," says Eden Eads, a Waseca High School (WHS) senior who advocated for this particular play during the selection process and plays Addams family matriarch Morticia. "She is an interesting, fun character," comments Eads, who says the "raunchy, corny" jokes should make everything more fun for the audience.

"The play isn't dark or grim at all—it's funny and lighthearted.

"It's fun to branch out as an actor and as a cast." The play has 10 main characters, 16 ensemble members, and "a lot of songs."

Andres Vasquez, a junior, is cast as Gomez Addams. He says he enjoys

the "Latin" elements of Gomez's character, and the awkwardness which arises because he knows about the relationship between Wednesday and Lucas while Morticia does not. "Gomez is caught in the middle because he wants to follow his daughter's wishes, but doesn't like keeping secrets from his wife," observes Vasquez.

Aidan Androli, cast as Uncle Fester, observes his character not only brings plenty of humor to the play, but also a few touches of wisdom. He mentions he has been working to adapt the "kooky voice" he will need to bring the unusual character to life. "I serve as comic relief a lot of the time," he observes. "Sometimes I'm even a narrator and I get to interact with the audience."

Nathanael Andrs is cast as Mal Beineke, a semi-absent father and husband because he is so caught up in his work and professional career. "I'm something of a foil to Gomez," comments Andrs. "Where he makes his family his first priority, Mal seems to make it his last."

Ashton Jenzen, in the role of Alice Beineke, supports her son's relationship with Wednesday, but knows from the beginning Mal will not. Like Gomez's character, she is caught in the middle and can only do her best to help things work out.

"People will have a lot of fun watching this play," says Jenzen. "We're putting in a lot of time and planning to make it the best we can." "Come to our play!" says Eads. "You'll be glad you did."

NEW RICHLAND
CITY COUNCIL

Ongoing flooding concerns shared

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

Plans and specifications for the 2025 street project as well as an order for advertisements for bids for said project were approved via Resolution 25-07 by the New Richland City Council during its meeting on Monday, March 10. One local resident served as a spokesperson for a group of residents who had presented a petition regarding the work.

The main concerns cited in the petition were ongoing concerns about water flow in Boot Creek throughout New Richland. Cory Bienfang, an engineer with Bolton & Menk then addressed the council to explain detailed plans and specifications for the project, which are on file at city hall.

Work to be done on Ash Avenue includes widening the roadway from 37 to 40 feet with two 12-foot drive lanes and two eight-foot shoulder parking lanes; additional four-foot widening on parent dropoff and pickup zone south of where the school buses park; sidewalk consistent with existing condition; new water main and sanitary sewer system; full storm sewer replacement; nine-ton pavement design.

Plans for Broadway include matching the street's current width, with curbs staying in "relatively the same location"; drive and parking lane plans were described as similar to Ash Avenue, with sidewalks to match the existing conditions; utility improvements as well as a new water main, sewer system replacement, and nine-ton pavement design.

Plans for Fourth Street include no change to roadway width or curb placement, a sidewalk on the south side, nine-ton pavement design, and a new sanitary sewer system that will "hopefully improve drainage."

Third Street will be narrowed from 40 to 36 feet and a cul-de-sac to match the existing roadway is planned, along with new sewer and water, and a storm sewer system that is expected to improve drainage.

The next step in the 2025 street project is to advertise for bids, with bid results to be presented at the April 14 meeting of the city council. An assessment hearing will follow, after which time the council will consider the adoption of an assessment rule prepared and presented based on the lowest bid.

An additional open house will be held prior to the project's construction start date, slated for June 3. The goal is to have "drivable roads by the start of school" and "substantial completion" before winter.

It was also noted that transparency and feedback from the community will continue to be a priority throughout the remaining steps of the project. Information about details from a recent open house held to provide local residents more information on the project can be found in a recent Pioneer article, and the council meeting can be viewed on the City of New Richland's YouTube page for those wishing to hear Bienfang's presentation to the council and answers to questions from local citizens in attendance in their entirety. Further information can also be found on the city web-

NR continued on 14



During a celebration sponsored by Bevcomm Communications at the Waldorf Community Center the evening of March 18, members of the public were invited to enjoy a barbecue dinner and to have questions answered about the installation of high-speed internet throughout much of the southern half of Waseca County. Pictured here are Bevcomm public service representatives (from left) Katlyn Olson, Amy Sconborn, Samantha Holmseth, Dori King, Jenny Bach and Sarah Fering. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Bevcomm barbecue draws 200 in Waldorf

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Bevcomm, the Blue Earth based communications company working with Waseca County to have high speed fiber internet made available to residents in the unincorporated parts of the county, drew about 200 people to a barbecue dinner and information session offered at the Waldorf Community Center the evening of March 18.

Amy Schonborn, marketing manager with Bevcomm, mentioned the gathering was an opportunity for residents from within the construction

area—both original and expanded—to get their questions answered.

Schonborn explained Bevcomm and Waseca County have been awarded two grants under the Minnesota "Border to Border Broadband Expansion" initiative, meant to help provide high-speed internet access to residents in rural areas who might otherwise be unserved or underserved.

The first award, granted in March of 2024, provided \$4.38 million toward the cost of installing the necessary network of fiber optic infrastructure in all of Byron, Free-

dom, Vivian and Wilton townships—creating access to service for 492 residences and businesses. The second, received late last year, provided funds toward installing needed infrastructure to serve 163 residences and businesses in unincorporated areas of Alton, New Richland and St. Mary townships.

Work to install the infrastructure for the first phase was well underway when ground frost ended it in November: of 234 miles of cable scheduled to be buried, only 17 remained. According to company representatives, that was the first of three steps.

The second is to install a "drop" at each location, which provides connection to the buried cable. Next, workmen lay cable from that connection across the property owners' land to the home or office structure where the hookup is desired. The final step, referred to as "splicing," can be done during winter temperatures. According to one spokesperson, 40 "drops" had so far been completed in territory covered by the first grant.

Current estimates from Bevcomm

Barbecue continued on 6



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OBITUARIES

Curtis Carlson

Curtis (Curt) Martin Carlson, 83, passed away peacefully at Colony Court (Foxdale) Memory Care in Waseca, MN on March 16, 2025.

Curt was born on October 19, 1941 to Vernon and Lorraine (Cummins) Carlson. Curt attended District 13 Country School, Waseca Central High School and graduated from the Southern School of Agriculture in 1959. Following he joined the Army National Guard and later attended Mankato State University where he met the love of his life, Gladys (Santi). They married January 16, 1965. In 1967, they purchased and moved to live on the farm that was established in 1872 by Curt's grandfather O.M. (Ole Martin) Carlson and have ever since. They raised their two children, Sara Jane and Glen Martin on the farm.

Curt's passion was raising and showing Morgan horses that carried the bloodline of grandfather O.M.'s Morgans. Curt's pride and joy was building his small cow-calf operation into a rotational grazing system. He had an observable kindness and compassion when he worked with the animals. They trusted him. He was like the "pied piper." They recognized his voice and his "grungy" clothes.

Curt was the friendliest, down to earth type of guy—loved to talk and always had a rather infectious smile, was a bit of a prankster and tease with a twinkle in his eye. He often did the "Minnesota Goodbye." If you came to visit or help with farm work and Curt was the cook for lunch, it would be a concoction of Campbell's Cream of Mushroom Soup with whatever was found in the refrigerator to mix in. This was his specialty! He enjoyed his family, friends and neighbors. He especially adored his grandchildren (grand- and great-).

In addition to being a farmer, he was a Boilermaker in Local 647 out of Minnesota. He would be called for repairs at oil refineries, pipelines, etc. around the country—Oklahoma, Kansas, North Dakota and Indiana to name a few. One job that stands out was being a part of the team to lower the golden horses from the top of Minnesota State Capital for repair.

Curt was a life-long member of North Waseca Lutheran Church that sits on top of a hill in the country. Over the years, he



Curtis Carlson

served as president, trustee and ready to serve wherever and whenever there was a need. He cared about the church family.

Curt is survived by his devoted wife Gladys of over 60 years; their children Sara Lewer, Glen (Cindy) Carlson; grandchildren, Margaret (Avery) McNeal, Katharine (Zeke) Erickson, Winston (Brittany) Carlson, James (Shelby) Carlson, Benjamin Lewer; great-grandchildren, Adeline Mae McNeal, Jameson Martin McNeal, Weston Martin Carlson; sisters, Donna Fostveit, Sharon "Duetz" Mederos, Terri (Russel) Ingram, Debra Chambers; sister-in-law, Verna (Barry) Sather; along with many nieces, nephews, cousins, close friends and friends. Curt was preceded in death by his parents, parents-in-law, sister: Bette "Punk" Karsten, brothers-in law: Nels Fostveit, Marco Mederos, and Richard "Dick" Chambers, Jr.

A special thank you to cousin Cindy Jewison, Foxdale Memory Care staff, Kya Haala of Pathstone Memory Care and Ecumen Hospice for care and assistance provided.

Visitation will be held on Friday, March 28, 2025 from 4-7 PM at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Visitation will continue on Saturday, one hour before services at the church.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2025 at 2:00 PM at North Waseca Lutheran Church with Pastor Sarah Krolak officiating. Private family burial will be at the North Waseca Lutheran Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to North Waseca Lutheran Church, Mayo Clinic Alzheimer's Research or donor's choice.

Richard L. Gorell

Richard Lee Gorell, 87, of Waterville, passed away peacefully at his home on March 18, 2025.

Richard was born on July 21, 1937, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, to John and Bernice Gorell. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin with a BS in Electrical Engineering, Richard lived a life marked by his strong will, deep love for family, and warm, friendly demeanor. He and Lynette married in 1992 and spent many years in Colorado before moving back to Minnesota in 2016 to be closer to family and lifelong friends. Richard's greatest joy was spending time outdoors, particularly fishing, which was his favorite pastime. His

love for nature and the outdoors was matched only by his devotion to his church and community.

Richard's faith played a significant role in his life, and he and Lynette dedicated themselves to serving their church, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Waseca, MN, and the larger community. Their generosity and goodwill touched the lives of all those they met.

Richard is survived by his loving wife, Lynette; his children, Dean, Dienna, and Darcie; and his seven grandchildren, Teresa, John, Raimundo, Gabriel, Kristin, Eddison, and Stefan; one great-granddaughter, Lainey Grace. He will also be dearly missed by extended family and a

wide circle of friends.

A funeral service to honor Richard's life will be held on Friday, March 28, at 11:00 AM at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Waseca. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made to AutismSociety.org, St. John Evangelical Lutheran in Waseca, or Samaritan's Purse.

Richard's passing leaves a profound void in the hearts of all who knew him. He will be greatly missed but never forgotten. May he rest in peace.

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Richard L. Gorell

State Tournament Bound



The Waseca seventh and eighth grade dual wrestling team took third place in the Region 2 tournament last Sunday, punching their ticket to the state tournament this Thursday and Friday at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester.

Pictured, front row: coach Joe Nelson, Alex bathke, Kole Nelson, Zander rahe, Keegan Glynn. Back row coach: Brock Nelson, holtan Howard, Parker Madison, Jackson Janike, Braxton Nelson, Owen arndt, Luke Jeske, coach Ryan Glynn. Oden Board not pictured.

■ Ag

from Page 1

versity of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC), and the city of Janesville, where he has been both a council member and mayor.

Todd Stencil introduced Waseca County's Outstanding Young Farmer for 2025, Todd Selvik. Selvik and his wife Meghan have three children, Sydney, Ethan and Olivia. Selvik farms nearly 1,900 acres in Blooming Grove township, and also shares in a hog operation which produces about 35,000 pigs a year. Selvik has served in leadership roles, including president and vice president for two statewide organizations of pork producers and has served as a delegate to the National Pork Industry Forum.

Christy Kallevig of the Waseca County Extension office introduced Tony and Cassie Schlaak, who with their four children Ashton, Owen, Evelyn and Hadley, comprise the Waseca County Extension Farm Family of the Year. With his brother Colton, Tony continues to work the farm first owned by his grandfather Harlan and father Neil; he does custom field work and sells Channel Seed. Cas-



Alton Township farmer Tom Trams was acknowledged with this year's Waseca County Distinguished Agriculture Leadership award.

teaches for Waseca Public Schools and was named the 2025 Teacher of the Year. The children are active in 4-H having shown swine, goats and horses. Hadley



Todd Selvik was named Waseca County's outstanding young farmer during the Farm and City Luncheon on March 20. He and his wife Meghan live on their farm in Blooming Grove township with their three children, Sydney, Ethan, and Olivia.

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

and Evelyn grow a pumpkin patch. Said Tony, "This is a great honor. We have been chosen from among many deserving families."

In his closing remarks, Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce president Mikhail Rostislavovich thanked event emcee Jamie Beckstrand, who is head of the

Chamber's agriculture committee, and all her fellow committee members for the work in planning and preparing the day's events.

He closed saying, the work done by area agriculture professionals "strengthens our community and inspires us all."

LaVonne Meyer

LaVonne (Hagen) Meyer, 84, passed away at her home in New Richland, Minnesota on March 21, 2025, after a short battle of cancer.

LaVonne was born to Jasper and Lola (Miskoff) Hagen on February 20th, 1941. She graduated from New Richland-Hartland High School in 1959, and continued to live in the New Richland area her entire life. LaVonne married Richard (Dick) Meyer in New Richland on March 22nd, 1965. They had three children: Brad, Bruce and Brenda.

LaVonne began her career at the New Richland Star in 1959 as office manager as well as copy editor, receptionist, photographer and jack-of-all trades. LaVonne purchased the paper in 2002 from Margaret Engesser and continued to run the paper until 2005 when she sold the paper to Jim Lutgens.

LaVonne enjoyed country music, shopping, eating out, gardening, mowing her lawn, tilling her garden, cooking, dancing, going to Diamond Jo's Casino, and visiting with her Kwik Trip friends in Waseca. She also enjoyed following the MN Twins and Vikings. Her children and grandchildren were her pride and joy, sharing stories of them whenever she could.

LaVonne was preceded in death by her parents, Lola and Jasper, her husband Dick in 1990, two sisters and her best friend Mary Supalla.



LaVonne Meyer

She is survived by her sons, Brad and his wife Karen Meyer, Bruce and his wife Anne Meyer, and daughter, Brenda and her husband Luke Dobberstein; six grandchildren, Allison McNally and her husband Blake, Ryan Meyer, Skylar Meyer, Evan Dobberstein, Alex Dobberstein and Alden Dobberstein. She is also survived by her special "little sisters", Cheryl Engesser Kortuem and Sandi Engesser Jessen. Left to cherish memories are her good friends Doug Lund and Vivvika Niehaus, along with numerous other relatives and friends.

Services will be held on Sunday, March 30, 2025, at 1:00PM at Friedrich's Funeral Home in New Richland. Burial will follow at St. Olaf Cemetery.

LaVonne was in the newspaper business for 47 Years! This is her last story.

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■ County

from Page 1

Hlebichuk, architect and vice president with the firm, presented a plan for a 100 x 126 foot, two-storey structure to be located behind the historic courthouse to the west.

Hlebichuk told commissioners the plan was highly preliminary and that the design he shared is in the "pre-planning" phase. As conceived at this point, the structure would have a secure entry for the public, an enclosed walkway leading from the current

jail to a designated entry, elevator and secure hallway for escorting inmates, and would allow court-related departments such as the county attorney, probation, and court services to be consolidated near the courtrooms.

In discussion which took place after seeing the preliminary plan, commissioners indicated they would like to see a somewhat smaller structure with numerous spaces reduced in size and some eliminated from the plan altogether.

During commissioner reports, board member Brad Krause shared information about survey work being done by Owatonna engineering firm Jones, Haugh and Smith toward "remonumenting" Wilton Township.

Under a \$300,000 "Public Land Survey System Preservation" grant from the state of Minnesota, the firm has been locating, registering and marking about 133 previously unverified section and quarter corners in the township. Krause shared with fellow commissioners that the firm has determined it needs to locate about 41 section or quarter corners which are in roadways—meaning they will likely need to dig into the roadways to confirm their locations. This is good news, though, since the firm previously anticipated more than 90 corners would need to be verified in roadways. The entire remonumentation project, Krause reported, is likely to be completed by the end of

the summer.

Based on recommendations from the planning and zoning commission, board members granted a conditional use permit (CUP) to Centerpoint Energy to construct a new compressor building on company property located in Blooming Grove Township. Crystal Valley received a CUP to install equipment to allow the sale of gasoline, diesel and diesel exhaust fluid from an unstaffed station on its compound along Old Highway 14 between Waseca and Janesville. Commissioners added the stipulation that Crystal Valley should take steps to prevent semi drivers from parking on the grounds overnight.

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Fourth grade class size cut, sixth grade added

By **DEB BENTLY**
Staff Writer

During their regular monthly meeting the evening of March 17, NRHEG school board members accepted the resignation of Teaching and Learning Coordinator Jason Toupence. Toupence will finish out the school year through June; 2024-25 is his second year on the school staff. Toupence told board members his family will be moving to a new location which is more than an hour away from the NRHEG district, and that he finds a commute of that length unmanageable.

Board members supported reducing the number of fourth-grade classrooms for 2025-'26 down to one, based on the number of students. District superintendent Michael Meihak informed board members, however, that the reduction is "staff neutral," since the sixth-grade level which had been reduced to two teachers for the current year will now again need three.

Teachers Darren Guildner, Kate Krueger, Katelyn McGowan and Zack Nelson were granted tenure, having completed their third year of teaching. Though both have fulfilled their duty to the satisfaction of the district, the positions of Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) teacher Calle Chartand and woods teacher Brad Root must both be advertised as available, since the two do not have teaching licenses which cover the subject matter they teach.

During their administrative reports, elementary principal Craig Kopetzki and secondary principal Grant Berg both commented they feel the year is going well, but quickly. Said Kopetzki, "We still have about two and a half months of this year left, and we're working to finish strong, but we're also already looking forward into next year and making some plans." As an example, he mentioned his hope to get funding for some new furniture, since some of the older furniture is beginning to come apart.

Berg told school board members he is working to strengthen the culture at the secondary school, and feels he is making progress since far fewer students are being referred to the office for behavioral issues. He mentioned it is his priority to help staff members feel supported, allowing them, in turn, to extend better support for students. "It's all about building relationships," he commented. Berg mentioned three upcoming extended field trips: Spanish students traveling to Costa Rica, band and choir students traveling to California, and DECA team member Chloe Stork who is advancing to national-level competition in April.

The district's contract with Interquest Detection Canines was approved. Under its terms, the company will perform unannounced half-day sweeps of the secondary site nine times during the 2025-'26 school year at a cost of \$350 each time plus mileage.

It was reported the school district has benefited from more than \$58,000 in donations during this school year. Among gifts received this past month were \$1,000 from Finly's Wings at Work to purchase xylophones for use in the elementary music program; \$2,500 toward the purchase of new choir robes from the New Richland Firemen's Relief Fund; and \$1,127 from the NRHEG Parent/Teacher Organization toward the cost of the elementary rollerskating unit.

Got news?
507-837-6767

Mother-daughter book club shares thoughts on "Katie the Catsitter"

By **BEN REVERMANN**
Staff writer

The Mother Daughter Book Club discussion at the Waseca Public Library the evening of Thursday, March 20, featured the book "Katie the Catsitter," written for readers in grades three through six. The book club is a free activity; participants are encouraged to have read the book before attending. Snacks and drinks were provided.

A graphic novel set in modern times, "Katie the Catsitter" is written by Colleen Venable and illustrated by Stephanie Yue. The book has been nominated for numerous awards.

Lydia Cole was at the library with her mother Abby. To help move things along, Abby had questions dealing with the situations in the book. Said Abby, "Katie can't go to

camp, what were her options?"

Cadence was also present at the library with her mother Sarah Grother. After a quick discussion they both agreed it was a good idea for the book's main character, Katie, to get a job as a catsitter because doing so made it possible for her to pay to go to camp. To make things worse for Katie, her best friend is already at camp and hardly writing letters at all. Beside having to deal with camp, the main character is also finishing up school for the year in the book. Book club member Cadence observed, "My favorite was the teacher who was in love with the owl guy." But once school was over for the year, a cat that was going crazy in a store was slowly calmed by the book's heroine, Katie, who is found to be a "cat whisperer." The woman whom



Pictured from left: Cadence and Sarah Grother, Brianna Bleeker and Abby and Lydia Cole attended the mother daughter book club at the Waseca Public Library on Thursday, March 20, 2025.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

she helps then employs her to watch 217 cats. When Katie finds out each cat has special characteristics, she bases her training of each to fit that characteristic. Different types of skills result in different names—House Keeping Cat, Wrestler Cat and Snuggler Cat.

When asked if she could train her

little brother to anything in the world, Lydia replied, "I would teach my little brother Ricky to be more independent." This was a comfy afternoon, the girls liked being included in the discussion and there were no complaints about the snacks or the juice. Everyone recommended "Katie the Catsitter."

Sweet-Sommers VFW Post, Neighborhood Service Center, work together for breakfast

By **BEN REVERMANN**
Staff writer

A full house kept workers and volunteers busy the morning of Sunday, March 23 for the all-you-can-eat breakfast fundraiser held at Sweet-Sommers VFW Post in support of the Waseca Area Food Shelf (WAFS).

Two Sweet-Sommers VFW member volunteers and 10 people from the WAFS. Breakfast diners had the choice of pancakes, French toast, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage. Biscuits and gravy were also on the menu, but only "until gone." Beverly Herfindahl and Brad Milbrath were serving drinks, either coffee,

fee, milk, orange juice or water; they were also keeping tables and counters clean. Diner Kyle Fleming had biscuits and gravy, his grandson Theo went back twice for pancakes and bacon. His other grandson Ethan had bacon, eggs and pancakes and also went back twice. Kyle said, "This is two of my 14 grandkids, we were at the Waseca Boys' Basketball game last night. My other grandson tried out for the baseball team in Owatonna yesterday." The two grandkids helped remember that the other grandson has just gotten a brand new baseball bat that looks

Center continued on 6



Beverly Herfindahl and Brad Milbrath were volunteering at the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center's all-you-can-eat breakfast at the VFW on Sunday, March 23, 2025.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Conference addresses future of state's lakes

By **BEN REVERMANN**
Staff writer

There was an ISG: The Future of Southern Minnesota Lakes conference at the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center on both Friday and Saturday, March 21 & 22, opposite the hockey arena. This was an opportunity to connect with people who have already managed, and/or implemented successful lake projects and to also discuss past experiences through small group meetings.

Many of the conference goers were lake property owners themselves. But also present were DNR employees, county commissioners, lake association members and government guests who were in charge of the discussion at each table, there were six tables in all, 8-10 people at each table.

The first table was Emmie Schefler, District Technician for Rice Soil and Water Conservation District and Administrator of the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board. Her table was set to discuss watershed planning, priorities and resources.

The second table was led by Michael Schultz, manager of the Le Sueur County Soil and Water Conservation District. His table's topic was "Targeting Projects and building relationships." Here's some of what Shultz had to say, "Some go fast, some go slow, some take ten years. I really want to hit home on those relationships and how it works in the conservation field, especially since some of these districts work primarily on voluntary conservation, so it's really part of the field work."

The leader at the third table was Jeff Forester, Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Association. That table discussion regarded advancing legislation to increase the invasive species surcharge and dedicate funds. Said Forester, "It's hard dealing with lake issues and it's easy to become cynical, but, in my world I travel around the state and there are people like you who are in rooms like this all across the state." Forester said there are more than 500 lake associations in Minnesota, with an average 200 members. "That's 100,000 people that belong to a lake association in Minnesota. More than Pheasants Forever or Ducks Unlimited or the Minnesota Teamsters, or the Teachers Union. So, there's a lot of power as we bring all this together. I think that kind of out-flowing is what it's going to take to protect water, pun intended."

Table four was led by Holly Bushman, water resources manager for Le Sueur County. Their table discussion examined how lake sub watershed assessments can accelerate implementation efforts. Bushman said, "In the future we're prioritizing those projects and practices, it allows us an opportunity to be more competitive for funding, so once we get a huge laundry list of where we want to do our projects and practices, then we can go after grant funding. These projects get expensive really fast, that's why we have accelerated implementation efforts."

Table five was led by Megan Darley, a natural resource specialist for the Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District. The topic for



The ISG Future of Southern Minnesota Lakes 2025 Conference took place on Saturday, March 22.
Photo by Ben Revermann

their table was shoreline restoration and native buffers. Darley said, "Tonight I want to focus on just the little things everyone can do on their property, how to make it really simple, it can be small, little grasses as a buffer. I'm really looking forward to discussing this with everyone."

Table six, led by Lily Carr, lake steward program coordinator for the Minnesota Lakes and River Advocates. Their discussion topic was introducing visitors to the organization and its purpose. "Picture, please, a beautiful shoreline property, one you paid a lot of money for, and imagine a lawn that goes right down to the lake. A lush green lawn with a tidy, sand blanket and then a big dock with your jet skis and a pontoon. So, this is the ideal for many people, of course it is, it shows up on magazine covers, it's what all your neighbors have so it must be right. But this kind of

land use is harmful for lakes and wildlife, as many of us know."

"My lake steward program tries to shift the needle to a different ideal. One that actually protects the health of the lake and maintains water quality, so the way it works is the lake association will have a lake steward volunteer. They will be someone who can work with their neighbors and evaluate their shorelines. It's all voluntary, and if they meet the criteria, like a buffer zone or they reduce their pesticide use, they will be awarded with a beautiful Lake Steward sign. They can display that as a point of pride along their shoreline, their neighbors will know to ask about it."

Conference attendees were instructed to begin discussions. They were also encouraged to switch tables and topics to increase exposure included in the registration ticket.

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

Enrollment up, new budget expected in June

By **MELISSA DUNN**
Staff Writer

Waseca Intermediate School (WIS) Principal John Huttemeier began his report to the Waseca School Board by thanking board members and district Superintendent Eric Hudspeth for their leadership, and the community members for their support of the school. Huttemeier said between 90 and 95 percent of WIS parents attend parent-teacher conferences, a much better number than most schools around the state experience.

Huttemeier said anticipated enrollment at the school last fall was 360, but at this time there are 384 at WIS, which he attributes to families choosing to be there rather than selecting another option.

In his Powerpoint presentation, Huttemeier illustrated how the district's strategic plan has defined the WIS vision card while he spoke more about community connection and the annual trip to Eagle Bluff. "Our kids don't do that trip without support from the community," Huttemeier also mentioned El Molino and Kwik Trip sponsoring the 'Nacho Average Squad' reward for reading or math goals that are met each trimester.

Huttemeier says the role of WIS is "to take kids from elementary to secondary school," meaning learning how to apply all the skills students have previously learned to go further. The WIS teachers are wrapping up the reading instruction training required by the state and Huttemeier says he's heard positive feedback from them as they implemented the new reading curriculum this year. Huttemeier says while they are currently implementing a lot of phonics instruction as well, he hopes in three years' time the board won't see that at the intermediate level. "That is directly related to covid and kids being out. We're doing so much of it right now at our level because kids missed it when they were out," he said. "You can't just work through that without going back and doing it the right way. We have to teach it."

Huttemeier spoke about a core belief: having "buy-in" among staff; "If you believe you can move kids forward and kids believe you're working your tail off to do it, you're going to get them there, but you have to keep putting one foot in front of the other."

District business manager Sarah Cramblit presented the final budget for fiscal year '24-'25 which incorporates updates from the preliminary budget that was presented to the board last June. The budget can be found on the district website under the "district office" menu. The preliminary budget for fiscal year '25-'26 will be presented to the board for approval in June.

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The Pastor's Column

The tongue

By FATHER GLENN FRERICHS

The season of Lent offers moments when we can take extra time to reflect on God's Word. While technology can be a source of many disruptions, the media can also serve as a well-spring of opportunities to listen to others reflect on faith.

As pastors, parents, teachers, and even friends, we know that speech has a profound value and influence. The scriptures often highlight the close relationship between one's tongue and one's speech. Proverbs 18:21 says that "life and death are in the power of the tongue."

Let's take a moment to consider this important organ. The tongue is just over three inches long and has eight muscles that perform physical acts without being attached to a single bone. It is truly unique because it never stops moving, not even when we sleep.

The tongue identifies us in a variety of ways. Did you know that each person is gifted with a unique tongue print, similar to a fingerprint? But this is not the only way the tongue distinguishes us. Sirach 24:7 speaks of another way. "Praise no one before he speaks, for it is then that people are tested."

The tongue serves as both a portal and a rudder: a portal in the way our taste buds act as the last line of defense for what enters our digestive system. Saint James tells us that while large ships can be steered by a small rudder, so too, is the tongue; it is a small part of the body, but it can make great

boasts.

If the eye is the window to the soul, the tongue serves as a conduit for one's thoughts and intentions. It can guide another person's actions through commands, influence another person's thoughts through insights, or even cause offense. The tongue even has the power to influence large groups of people through a vote or a powerful message. It can help elevate the mind and heart through beautiful songs and poetry.

Like many children, I remember gaining insight into the power of words when I saw how my siblings responded to the phrase "Mom or Dad said so" or watched someone's head turn when I called out their name.

In the sanctuary of a home, the tongue has the power to build, support, protect, and love those closest to us. It is like fertilizer for the soul or the gentlest of supports for the ears, heart, and mind of a child. The danger is that this powerful organ can also be used against those we love the most: harsh words or even silence when a spoken word would serve as a blessing.

The Good News of Salvation was not promoted by a phone app, email, loudspeakers, or even that clever blog. It was first spread across the world through the spoken word, one conversation at a time. It was spread to every corner of the earth by eyewitnesses and through the power of the tongue. May we never take this important organ for granted, and may it always serve as a blessing.

Center

from Page 5

like a giant pencil. Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center executive director Cindy Kolander was also present, clearing tables and keeping things clean. Looking at the early numbers she said, "We're very pleased with today's turnout, it's been steady and with church almost done for the day we should

have a pretty worthwhile effort here. All proceeds from today go to the Waseca Area Food Shelf, not the Service Center. This is in addition to our March Food Share which ended yesterday [Saturday, March 22]. It was put on by the Waseca Scouts and garnered 1,933 pounds of food for us. There were close to 50 scout volunteers helping and they traveled all over town collecting and dropping off back at the food shelf, it was really great." The March Food Share was a statewide campaign.

Council

from Page 3

down working with her on Thursday and Friday until she graduates and can be here three days a

week." "What's the best way to move forward?" Rogers asked. "We've been short-staffed. We have been since forever. We have to get something figured out. We have to." The city council adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

will have service in the spring of 2026. "We're glad for the opportunity to connect with people," said Schonborn. "Anyone who couldn't be here [for the barbecue] is welcome to contact our office at 1-800-473-1442."

Barbecue

from Page 3

are that customers in both projects



Waseca Exchange Club President Mikhail Rostislavovich presents a plaque of appreciation to Waseca Fire Chief Jason Forshee, surrounded by Waseca firefighters and flanked by Waseca Exchange Club members.

Exchange honors Waseca Fire Department for heroic efforts in historic March 2024 fire

WASECA, MN – The Waseca Exchange Club proudly presented an Award of Appreciation and Recognition to the Waseca Fire Department for their heroic response to the historic wildfire that broke out near Moon and Marsh on March 3, 2024. The award ceremony, held March 18th, honored the department's exceptional bravery, coordination, and dedication in protecting the Waseca community.

Exchange Club President Mikhail Rostislavovich opened the ceremony, emphasizing the importance of recognizing those who selflessly serve their communities. "By honoring these brave individuals, we not only express our gratitude but also highlight the values of courage, dedication, and sacrifice that they exemplify," he stated. "Let us continue to honor our firefighters and all public safety personnel, ensuring they receive the recognition they so rightfully deserve."

State, city, and county leaders joined the event to express their appreciation. Senator John Jasinski, represented by Pam Seasar, commended the fire department's swift response and seamless collaboration

with surrounding departments and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). In a letter, he wrote, "Your quick and effective response prevented the loss of any structures, homes, or lives. Your countless hours of dedicated preparation allowed your department to work productively with many others. Each of you plays an important role in the department's overall success."

Representative Tom Sexton stood firmly before the crowd to give his gratitude to the firefighters. "We had a couple of injuries, but we did not have to have a memorial service; that is an incredible feat." He went on to say, "It's very important for me, as a resident, that when I am in St. Paul, I know you are all here protecting my home and thousands of other. It gives me great comfort."

Waseca Mayor Randy Zimmerman reflected on witnessing the fire unfold firsthand and praised the firefighters for their tireless efforts. "Your desire to serve sets you apart and is very much appreciated and admired," he said. "The magnitude of this event was overwhelming, yet thanks to your efforts, the loss was greatly minimized. We are truly

blessed to have your skill, training, and dedication."

Public Safety Director Chris Markeson acknowledged the humility and dedication of Waseca's firefighters, stating, "If you took a poll amongst those in the room tonight, the desire to be put on a pedestal would likely be the last thing they'd want. But sometimes, a job well done deserves recognition, and this is one of those times."

Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas, who also serves as a captain with the Waseca Fire Department, highlighted the power of mutual aid, which played a critical role in containing the wildfire. "Twelve area fire departments, the Minnesota DNR, and over 200 firefighters responded to the scene," he said. "Pooling resources and personnel made a faster and more effective response possible. Mutual aid is about forgetting jurisdictional boundaries and coming together to protect our communities."

Waseca County Commissioner Brad Krause and Commissioner Malterer both shared personal reflections on witnessing the fire's impact. Commissioner Krause emphasized

the strength of community collaboration, recognizing not just firefighters but also local farmers and construction workers who stepped up to help. Commissioner Malterer praised the department's preparedness, stating, "We are blessed by this fire department and the leadership and partnership they have built with surrounding agencies. What you do every day to be ready for these moments is what truly makes the difference."

The March 3, 2024, wildfire was one of the largest in Waseca County's history, fueled by warm temperatures, gusty winds, and dry terrain. Despite these conditions, the Waseca Fire Department, alongside its partners, successfully contained the fire without loss of life or structural damage—a testament to their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to service.

The Waseca Exchange Club extends its deepest gratitude to the Waseca Fire Department and all those who played a role in the emergency response. Their bravery and selflessness continue to make Waseca a safer place for all.

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507-835-2235
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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
* * *
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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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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.

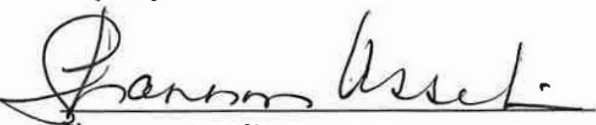
For property under court judgment, the period of redemption begins on May 12, 2025. The period of redemption means the time within which taxes must be paid to avoid losing the property through forfeiture. The redemption period is three years.

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


District Court Seal

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
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 GROTERBERG 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 BONSAK 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

TRENT L ARMSTRONG TRUSTEE 31129 60TH ST WASECA MN 56093	FREEDOM TOWNSHIP 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
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
PATRICK J MORGAN SR 41555 95TH ST JANESVILLE MN 56048	IOSCO TOWNSHIP RP 050150400 SECT-15 TWP-108 RANGE-023 80.00 AC 80.00 AC W1/2 OF NE1/4	2024	\$2,407.16
NORTHWOOD MEAD. HOMEOWNER ASSN 704 PARKWAY AVE EAGLE LAKE MN 56024	JANESVILLE CITY 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
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
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
TIMOTHY R & VIKKI L STANKEY 47 398TH AVE JANESVILLE MN 56048	JANESVILLE TOWNSHIP 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
DAVID & CAROL MUSEL 352 ASPEN AVE S NEW RICHLAND MN 56072	NEW RICHLAND CITY 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

List continued on 8

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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	2024	\$344.96
	PRAIRIEVIEW SWINE LLC 20693 20TH ST WELLS MN 56097	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	2024	\$335.72
	RH RENTAL LLC 29351 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	2024	\$551.55
	DANIEL A RYAN 31642 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093-5604	2024	\$1,293.71
	OTISCO RENTAL LLC 29351 128TH ST WASECA MN 56093	2024	\$1,864.20
	TOMMY GOBBLE LLC 14953 240TH AVE NEW RICHLAND MN 56072	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	2024	\$1,147.46
	HOG SLAT INC 206 FAYETTEVILLE ST NEWTON GROVE NC 28366	2024	\$2,010.24
	FRANCES VASQUEZ 33402 110TH ST WASECA MN 56093	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	2024	\$95.06
	TROY C BLUHM 400 S MAIN ST WALDORF MN 56091	2024	\$2,674.94
	GULK PROPERTIES LLC 364 S MAIN ST WALDORF MN 56091	2024	\$461.40
	KATHERINE A GRINNELL 144 NORTH ST WALDORF MN 56091	2024	\$2,535.50
AARON FITZGERALD 8161 19TH AVE NE MEDFORD MN 55049	WASECA CITY 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	2024	\$1,284.97
	CECILIA GALDAMEZ 211 E 3RD ST ST ANSGAR IA 50473	2024	\$1,293.56
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	\$1,290.38
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
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
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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	\$905.13
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
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
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

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Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on March 27, 2025

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

Janesville

1925

- Thursday last was by far the most disagreeable and bitter cold day of the entire winter. It followed a mild day on Tuesday and a part of Wednesday when the wind and cold developed. But little business was transacted during the day. It was a forcible reminder than winter has not by any means taken its departure.

- It is a matter of satisfaction and gratification to all our people, both in the city and country, to know that at last the matter of another physician for this territory has been settled. On Saturday last Dr. O. B. Bergman arrived in Janesville and is now established in the east rooms of the Hotel Sinnott, where he may be found at any time when not engaged in professional work. He is a regular physician of high standing, with an endowment and an equipment involving his Alma Mater the iversity of Minnesota, a post graduate course in Pathology and a year’s experience as an intern at the Ancker Hospital, St. Paul. With this background, it is safe to assume that his professional standing is beyond question immune from criticism.

- The Janesville team finished their basketball season last Friday when they lost to Blooming Prairie at Owatonna by a score of 27 to 15. The game was 16 to 14 with Blooming Prairie leading, when Swanson was taken out with four personal fouls. The change in the lineup seemed to demoralize the team and from then on Blooming Prairie increased their lead. Faribault won the district championship by defeating Blooming Prairie in the final game.

1950

- Illustrating the growing importance of state aids to local units of government in Minnesota, the Minnesota Institute of Governmental Research in a report issued this week showed that grants paid out by the state to local governments have increased approximately 100 percent in the ten years which ended June 30, 1949.

- Thieves were busy in Janesville the past week, breaking into one business place and making an attempt to enter the other. Monday evening thieves took \$40.00 from the cash register at the Nyquist Motor Co. after breaking and enter a rear window. The following evening Tuesday, an attempt was made to enter the Joyce Tullis caf next to the Shell Oil station but were apparently frightened away before an entrance was made.

- R. A. Hannah, Stillwater Post-Messenger, chairman of the Minnesota Editorial Association’s Safety Committee the past two years, will continue to head the editors accident reduction campaign through 1950. Four other members who served in 1948 and 1949 continue their work in the safety campaign. They are Grace A. Dunn, Princeton ion Dan W. Johnson, Ivanhoe Times Ted Norelius, Lindstrom Press, and Mae B. Tygeson, Annandale Advance. The committee in the past two years has taken special interest in promotion of driver training courses in high schools throughout the state, and this activity will be continued. There has been a very rapid increase in the schools offering such courses in the last two years, but the number has not yet reached 50 percent of all high schools in the state. A further increase is anticipated in 1950.

1975

- Charles Ryan is an 83-year old Irish bachelor who looks more like 63 and wishes he was 73. Pat Thissen says Charlie is one of the last of the “full blooded Irishmen” because both of his parents came from the Land O’Green. “All my relatives are dead and gone to Ireland,” quips Charly who is the last living Ryan from the family of 12. Charlie’s dad, Mike, was a Waseca County pioneer who came with his parents from Tipperary, Ireland, when he was 11. They went to Northfield first where Mike’s brother, Phil, was a 25-year-old policeman when the Younger brothers held up the Northfield bank.

- Ten Swedish wrestlers, including one world champion, will meet a team of area wrestlers in a freestyle match scheduled for 7:30 p.m., March 28, in the Janesville High School gym. Coach Mike Niemczyk is in the process of contacting outstanding area wrestlers to compete in the match. He hopes to have Janesville’s Jack Eustice and possibly some Minnesota State Champions from this year in the meet.

2000

- Chad Thompson is a sophomore at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. The 20 year old music education major is preparing to embark on a concert tour throughout England and Norway with the Luther College Nordic Choir. The choir will leave on Friday, May 26, and return on Tuesday, June 13. The Luther College Nordic Choir is under the direction of 77-yearold Weston Noble. Noble also leads the all-women’s choir at Luther.

- The Janesville Police Department has been receiving a rash of complaints in reference to harassing hang-up phone calls. In most instances nothing is heard on the other line, as there is no noise. There is a pause, and then the call disconnects. The police department has set up phone traces to identify the source of the calls and finding that they are all coming from mass marketers. What happens is that these markets dial five numbers at one time, and the first to answer gets an actual operator. The other four numbers dialed will appear to be a hang-up, or prank call. “This marketing method has become more and more prominent. Essentially, we are powerless in stopping it,” said Janesville Police Chief Mike Schumacher. “I would encourage residents to contact their state legislators to make this marketing practice illegal.”

- Triton made its free throws, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton did not. The difference was enough to eliminate the bulldog in the opening round of East Sub-Section 2AA play Thursday. Eighth-seeded Triton came from behind in the final quarter to eliminate ninth-seeded JWP 5956 at Dodge Center. “It’s a game we should have won,” said JWP coach Dave Tonolli. “We missed a lot of chances, especially free throws.” Triton improved to 5-18 for the season, earning a quarterfinal meeting with number one seed WatervilleElysian-Morristown. The Bulldogs, who lost four of their final five games, ended the season with a 5-18 mark. The Bulldogs won just three of 12 road games this year.



Waseca Soil & Water Conservation District

Position Available: Administrative Assistant

General Duties: The Administrative Assistant will be responsible for all clerical duties and bookkeeping, and will assist with the administration of various programs and other duties as assigned by the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

Application materials and a full job description can be found at:

- mnsesc.org/careers/government
- wasecaswcd.org

Application Deadline: 04/17/2025
Finalists Selected: 05/02/2025
For more information, visit the links above or contact Mike Humpal at the South Central Service Cooperative.

Waseca

25 Years Ago

-The highlight of the weekend meeting of the Waseca Area Foundaion Board was the announcement of a \$500,000 matching grant proposed by Jerry and Carol Rutledge, long time Waseca residents. Foundation Director Pat Abbe announced Rutledges’ plan to set up the Rutledge Family Charitable Remainder Trust as a way of giving something back to Waseca.

50 Years Ago



-TWO BOYS OF PACK 85, Duane Flesburg and Barry Werner, received the Arrow of Light award, highest given in Club Scouting, at the monthly pack meeting Monday evening. Left to right are, Bob Geraghty and his mother, Mrs. Jim Geraghty; Todd Larson and his father, Robert Larson; Duane and his father, Dale Flesburg; and Barry and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Duane’s mother, Joan, also attended, but is the pack photographer. Activities of the evening center around the circus theme, with skits by boys of the three dens and the Webelos.

-Show of spirit – BIRDS EYE EMPLOYEES have been overcome with Bluejay spirit like a majority of Wasecans. They hung this sign on the plant in southwest Waseca early this week. Pictured left to right are: Jim Shoenhard, Jack Harguth, Bill Rovney, and Dick Palm.



-Mark Spiekermeier, 22, became assistant manager at United Building Center (UBS), 206 So. State St., recently. Spiekermeier is “training to be a manager,” he said. His duties at UBC include drafting, estimating and sales. He graduated Feb. 28 from Wahpeton State School of Science in Wahpeton, N.D. He holds associate of arts degrees from architectural drafting and estimating.

75 Years Ago

-Mrs. Nick Lux, chairman of the Red Cross fund drive in Waseca’s second ward has reported a completed drive with 320 members contributing \$28.45. Attorney John Cahill, county chairman for the drive announced today. The unofficial tally for the county is now \$1,058.75, Cahill added.

-JIMMY COUGHLIN, former Wasecan, now an instructor in the federal income tax collector’s office at St. Paul, got busy on “T-day,” Monday night, with his own final draft of his income tax. Deadline for state and federal tax returns was Tuesday night. Mrs. Coughlin helps her husband but it is still a headache.

-TO DIRECT CONCERT HERE – Frederick Hilary, director of the Gustavus Adolphus symphony band who will direct that group in a concert here Sunday at Central high school beginning at 3 p.m.

100 Years Ago

-Michael Morarity of Belle Plaine and Evelyn Parkin of Rochester won the right to represent this district in the State Declamatory contest to be held in the cities some time in April. These two high school students were awarded first honors in the oratorical and dramatic divisions of the district declamatory contest held in Waseca Friday evening.

-The Sacred Heart High School basket ball team played some of their best basket ball of the season in the games at the Catholic school tournament last week, only to become discouraged with the placings in the finals and to lose out entirely. Waseca defeated Lake City 32 to 9 the first day and Sioux Falls 26 to 13 the second day.

-Rev. Ivar Ramseth of Beloit, Wis., has accepted the call of the English Lutheran Church of Waseca, and will fill the local pulpit some time late in the summer, possibly during the latter part of August. Rev. Ramseth comes highly recommended by other pastors of the conference, and hold the distinction of being one of the leading pastors of that denomination.

New Richland

25 Years Back



- New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Future Farmers of America Chapters Meat judging team was Region VII champion for the fifth consecutive year when they scored 1670 points. Members are from the left: Dave Kuglin, who placed first individually with 661 points; Jeff Hanna, fifth individual with 528 and Chad Schoenrock, who placed 10th when he earned 481 points. The boys will advance to the state championship held during the state FFA convention early in May at the University of Minnesota in St Paul.



- The New Richland Cub Scout Pack 90 gathered 680 pounds of food in New Richland for the Neighborhood Food Shelf in Waseca, Saturday in the Scouts annual drive for food. The Scouts picked up food from homes in Hartland, which was delivered to the Salvation Army in Albert Lea. Here is Scout Aaron Payne carries a bag of food from the Raymond Hendrickson home of New Richland.

- Six outstanding individuals have been elected to the “Hall Of Fame” for their dedication and contributions to High School and College football in Minnesota. The inductees are: High School Division: Jim Simser - Fairmont, New Richland-Hartland; Andy McCarty, Park Rapids; Elmer Menage, Luverne and George Thole, Stillwater and Citation Division - Jerry Hegna, Official and Ed Mettner, Official.

- Mike and Sue Pfenning of Rural New Richland Announce the birth of a son born at Rice County Hospital at 9:26 pm on Sunday, February 13, 2000. Samuel John, as he has been named, weighed 8 lbs, 6.6 oz. Samuel has two brothers, Billy is 10 years old and Sterling is 8 years old. He also has four sisters, Crystal is 12 years old, Hannah is 7 years old, Bethany is 5 years old and Rachel is 3 years old.

50 Years Back

- This New Richland FFA chapter Horticulture team took first in the District 14 contest at the University of Minnesota, Waseca, Tuesday March 18. Members are Laurie Battey, Denise Korman, Patty Querna and LaRae Beser. This team will go on to state competition in May, in St Paul. Being a new contest, only two teams from District 14 participated. The results were New Richland in first with 1495 points and Mankato in second with 1184 points.

- Seven New Richland-Hartland seniors left Friday for Albet Lea Where they joined Albert Lea and Wells high school students for the annual YMCA Know Your Government Seminar trip to Washington, D.C. and New York. They are from the left: Nancy Williams, Arlene Thompson, Janet Roehrs, Mrs Mary Sack (advisor), Mona Hinkel of Fulda, Carmen Johnson, Carol Winegar and Sandy Nelson. They will return on Easter Monday.

- Engagement Announcement. Mrs Dawn Barich and George J Barich of ALy announce the engagement of their daughter, Margret Ann to Wendell D Wallace, son of Mr and Mrs Dale Wallace of New Richland. Wendell attends the University of Minnesota, St Paul and Margret is a student at St Paul Vocational Technical Institute. The wedding is planned for June 28 in Ely. A wedding dance will be held at the Monterey Ballroom, July 5.

- A son was born to Mr and Mrs Glen Felsheim, March 12 at Waseca Area Memorial Hospital Steven Eric, he has been named and weighed 4 lbs and 12 oz at birth. He has five brothers, Fred is 13, Rod is 12, Joe is 11, John is 9 and Carl four years old. His sisters are, Maria is seven and Ann is 3 years old. Mrs Angela Felsheim of La-Crosse, Wis and Mrs Ardice Mathews of Marshalltown, Iowa are Steven’s grandparents.

75 Years Back

- The local high school music groups attended the district contest at Waseca Saturday and returned with the following ratings: Girls Glee Club, B; Mixed Chorus, B; Girls Sextette, A; Boys Octette, A; Band, C; Solos, James Breilein, B; Lois Smith, B. Because of their fine ratings the Girls Sextette and the Boys Octette will enter the stage regional contest to be conducted also at Waseca, Friday, April 28.

- After 16 years of separation the ten children of the late Mr and Mrs C. G. Keen and their children enjoyed a reunion at the Oscar Werke Home near Hartland Sunday. There were nearly 45 presents to enjoy a bountiful picnic dinner and supper. Those present were: Mrs Harry Johnson, Mrs Karl Krahn, Mrs William Plinke, Mrs Olaf Rotegard and Clarence Keen. Mrs Julius Johnson, George Keen, Mrs Andrew Larson, Mrs Oscar Warke and Mrs Carl Brecke together with their respective families.

- Mr and Mrs Russell Krueger of South Wilton became the proud parents of a son, James Russell, weighing seven pounds and eight ounces, born at the Waseca Memorial Hospital, Wednesday April 12. The Kruegers have a daughter, Marie along with another son, Ralph.

Bluejays survive state opener with Pequot Lakes

Damarius Russell leads Waseca to 49-45 triumph

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Late in the second half last Tuesday night at Target Center in Minneapolis, it was oh so clear for the Waseca High School boys' basketball team and its faithful fan following.

The Bluejays were in trouble. Facing Pequot Lakes, the No. 7 team in the eight-team state tournament, the second-seeded Bluejays may have counted on an easier path to the state semifinals. What they didn't count on was producing perhaps their poorest game of the season in terms of basketball execution. It led to a lot of excitement. Coach Seth Anderson called a time out with five minutes left in regulation and the Bluejays - ice cold all evening from the field - trailed the Patriots 41-35 at the 4:49 mark. They couldn't buy a basket, convert a turnover or even make a free throw, going 0-for-8 at the line to start the second half.

But the Bluejays, in particular senior guard Damarius Russell, refused to fold. Somehow, the Blue and Gold got it done.

Russell drilled two free throws with 2:03 remaining. Then he stole the ball and sank another free throw. A pair of Carson Ohnstad free throws pulled the Bluejays within 45-43 with 53 seconds left.

Pequot Lakes did not score again. Russell came up with another steal and passed to Ohnstad, who calmly sank a three with 46 seconds left. Russell got another, yes another steal and promptly sank two free throws. Waseca won 49-45.

It was a rematch of last year's state Class AA consolation semifinal, where Waseca clearly outplayed Pequot Lakes but fell apart late as the Patriots hit some improbable threes, ending the Bluejays' season.

Last Tuesday, the Bluejays' quest for a perfect season continued as they improved to 31-0.

It would have been forgivable if

the Bluejays did not expect a fierce game with Pequot Lakes, but the Patriots were bigger and better than last year. Some called it a defensive battle. Others may have said it was offensive ineptitude. Either way, it was a battle.

The Bluejays started slowly, allowing too many easy points in the paint as the Patriots built a 13-5 lead. Anderson's change from man-to-man defense to a zone paid off, and the Bluejays hit some baskets while finally taking its first lead at 19-18 with 4:40 left in the first half. Both teams struggled offensively, though, and a late three pulled Pequot Lakes within 25-23 at half-time.

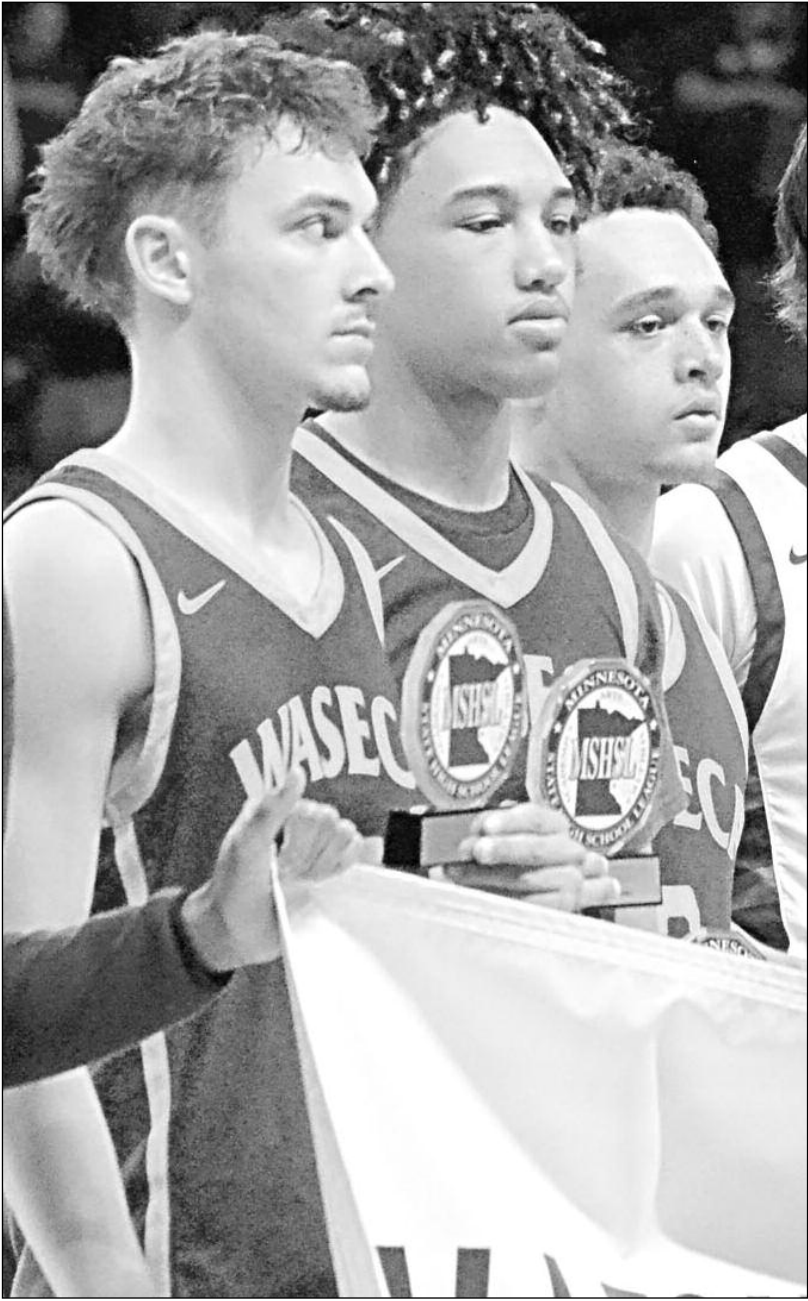
The second half couldn't have started much worse for the Jays. Their lead quickly became a 29-25 deficit, and from there it was back-and-forth until the Patriots seemingly took control.

Russell, a senior who has teamed with his brother DeRon, a junior, to spark Waseca's season, finished with 16 points. DeRon scored 13, Ohnstad 10, Ethan Hiller 6, Isaac Feldkamp 4. Feldkamp led the Jays with 10 rebounds, with DeRon grabbing nine and Hiller securing seven. Brandyn Jascha snared eight boards.

Unofficially, Waseca shot 31 percent from the field, going 19-for-60. They were 7 of 14 at the line, with 37 rebounds (18 offensive), and nine turnovers.

The Patriots, led by Harrison Keenan with 10 points, made 36 percent of their field-goal attempts, went 2-for-5 at the line, and totaled 35 rebounds (12 offensive) and 20 turnovers, 16 in the second half.

"I never ever thought we were capable of playing as bad as we played offensively that game," said Coach Anderson. "That shooting performance was awful and it snowballed into an all-game shooting slump. Despite all the things that went wrong, we continued to play tremendous defense. Thank good-



NO SMILES - WHS boys' basketball captains Carson Ohnstad, Deron Russell and Damarius Russell were not smiling as the Class AA all-tournament team was announced after Saturday's loss to top-ranked Albany in the state finals.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

"I never ever thought we were capable of playing as bad as we played offensively in that game."

— WHS coach Seth Anderson

ness, our 1-2-1-1 press created some turnovers late in the game and gave us a few extra offensive opportunities and Carson finally knocked in some huge shots to get us back in control."

Damarius Russell, headed to Washington State University on a football scholarship, may have had some folks thinking differently after Tuesday. All season long he's been content to play a side role as DeRon

took over as the team's scoring and perhaps best all-around player. It was generally agreed that DeRon had proven himself the best basketball player in his family. But Tuesday's performance that saw Damarius calmly and coolly put the game in his hands and the team on his back, it was nothing short of remarkable.



LOCATED AT LAST - The original 1918 state boys' basketball championship trophy. MSHSL photo

Finally found

WHS teacher spearheads effort to locate 1918 state title trophy

By JOHN MILLIA
MN State High School League

It's highly doubtful - in fact it's an iron-clad certainty - that no members of Waseca High School's first state championship boys' basketball team were cheering for the undefeated 2024-25 Bluejays ... unless they're wearing blue and gold in the great beyond.

The school's first state title came in 1918, which was 107 years ago. Waseca defeated Duluth Central 29-10 in the 1918 state championship game at Carleton College in Northfield, finishing with a season record of 13-0. That made Waseca the first team to be unbeaten; the first boys' state basketball tournament was held in 1913, with Fosston outscoring Mountain Lake 29-27 in the finals.

This year marks Waseca's 14th trip to state.

The 1918 Waseca team consisted of seven players: Lester Juhnke, Donald Frentz, Renel Jacobson, Clifford Wyman, Rollins Juhnke, Arthur Wobschall and Everett Johnson. We know this because their names were inscribed on a trophy - a lovely silver cup - that commemorated their state title.

The coach in 1918 was G. Leigh McQueen. Waseca returned to state in 1919 under a new coach, Lloyd L. Stowell. The reasons for the coaching change, like a lot of details from more than a century ago, are a mystery.

Many facts about Waseca's first state championship team have been lost to time, and another thing that was lost was the trophy. But after decades of mystery and rumors and speculation, the shiny hardware was found a few weeks ago. It's quite a story.

John Hanson, a teacher at Waseca High School who leads a course on local history, was the sleuth who searched for and ultimately found the trophy. It's a bit dented and it sits a little crooked, but it's back in the school. In 1963, a replacement was ordered; it's a bronze basketball player standing atop a wooden base. So the Bluejays now have TWO championship trophies from 1918.

Hanson's research and investigation uncovered how and where the trophy had been all these years.

"John did all the legwork behind it," said Waseca Activities Director Joe Hedervare. "This turned into a passion project for him."

No one even knew there was a missing trophy until 2019, when the Bluejays finished as state runners-up. As folks looked back on the team's history, Hanson learned from the Waseca Historical Society that the trophy in the school's collection was not the original.

The school in Waseca burned a few years after that 1918 tournament, and it was thought that the trophy, like everything else, had been destroyed.

People had died and records were lost, so Hanson didn't have a lot to go on as he investigated. There were stories and rumors, including that a local barber had displayed the trophy in his shop

at one time.

Searching for information, a little scrap of information, Hanson made phone calls to people who may have had family members involved with the team or the trophy back in the day.

"I called family member of one gentleman who had passed away," Hanson said. "The name is Johnson, and there are thousands of Johnsons. I was doing a search on this gentleman for a different reason, from a prominent family in Waseca. I got to the bottom of a search result and there was a picture of a trophy. It said it was the state championship trophy. I went down to the basement of the Historical Society, and there it was, sitting in the basement of our own museum."

"It had been in town the whole time," Hedervare said. "All these innuendos of someone stealing it, a fire, and he just happened to find it at the historical society one day. He stumbled upon it."

Further research revealed that at some point a custodian had found the original trophy somewhere in the school. But that's about the only clue to where it traveled and how it returned.

"I don't know how or why, but it has survived," Hanson said. "Nobody knows where he found it in the school, but it was after the 1960s, so they wouldn't have bought a replacement if the original had been found earlier. It's classic local history. There are certainly some unanswered questions."

Hedervare said of the 1918 trophy, "It looks like it's gone on an adventure. It's tilted forward a little bit, there's a dent on the front of it. Our speculation is it may have been damaged in the fire. But how did it disappear all this time? And how did it wind up at the historical society? No one knows how it got there."

The year 1918 was famous for other reasons, especially a worldwide influenza pandemic. The second boys' basketball title for Waseca came 103 years later in 2021, during the Covid pandemic.

"The older you get, the more you appreciate history," said Bluejays coach head Seth Anderson. And that was very much talked about when we won the state title in 2021."

The two trophies - one from 1918 and one from 1963 - will be displayed next to each other in a school trophy case.

"We're going to make sure to make a point that the kids know about this history," said Hedervare. "We always talk about history in our community, how proud we are of our history as we try to pave the way for future generations of Bluejays."

After the Bluejays' opening-round win in the 2025 state tournament, Anderson said, "Tradition is fun, history is fun, and these guys are a living part of it now."

MSHSL staff member John Millea has been the leading voice of Minnesota high school activities for decades. Follow him on Bluesky at johnmilleamn and listen to "Preps Today with John Millea" wherever you get podcasts. Contact John at jmillea@msl.org or john.millea@gmail.com



SEASON TO CELEBRATE - The 2024-25 Waseca High School gymnastics team wrapped up the season with a banquet March 10. At right is team MVP Bella Wikan.



Gymnasts celebrate successful season

The 2024-2025 Waseca High School gymnastics season was a special one for head coach Kim Wendland.

"It was one of the most memorable and successful I have had in my coaching career," said Wendland. "With only seven gymnasts on our squad, it was also the smallest team. Small in numbers, but mighty in performance!"

The 20225 Bluejays had their highest team total at sections with a score of 134.275, the third-highest in school history. Waseca also went

"In my nine years as a head coach at Waseca, this is one of the most cohesive teams I have ever coached."

— WHS coach Kim Wendland

4-for-4 on beam sticks at that meet. "In my nine years as a head coach at Waseca, this is one of the most cohesive teams I have ever coached," said Wendland. "The girls showed up every practice and every

meet, doing their best and supporting each other. We had a small team with a lot of depth, which enabled us to stay consistent with our team score averaging 132 points per meet."

According to Wendland, the Bluejays had strong leadership from captains Bella Wikan and Katelyn Weber.

"This team worked hard during the season to implement new skills and set personal records on each event and the all-around. I am extremely proud of how these athletes showed up all season!"

The Bluejays celebrated the season with a wrap-up banquet March 10.

Second on the big stage

No. 2-rated Bluejays fall to No. 1 Albany in state title game

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Albany Huskies showed what they're made of. Then again, so did the Waseca Bluejays.

It culminated with a fierce confrontation between two of the best boys' basketball teams in Minnesota on the biggest stage possible for any high school squad, the state championship game at Williams Arena in Minneapolis on Saturday.

In the end, the Huskies, rated No. 1 in the state in Class AA most of the season, prevailed 70-63. But it could just as easily have been the Bluejays, rated No. 2 most of the year, who hoisted the championship trophy before a raucous crowd on both sides. A bounce or a basket here or there and the outcome could easily have been reversed, but it was not on the cards for Waseca. Albany finished with a perfect 32-0 record. The Bluejays ended up 32-1.

"They're so fast," said Albany coach Cory Schlager. "We've never played against anyone that fast."

A total of 23 Albany turnovers helped the Bluejays battle back after a slow start that saw them facing a 7-0 deficit in the opening five minutes. A Damarius Russell drive finally got the Jays on the scoreboard, but they still trailed 15-4 midway through the first half after turning the ball over on a shot-clock violation. Ethan Hiller, Deron Russell and Damarius Russell hit baskets to get the Bluejays within 15-10, and Waseca took its first lead, 26-25, on a Damarius Russell three-pointer with 1:50 left in the first half. A four-point play on long three-pointer and free throw in the final seconds put Albany up 32-26 at halftime.

From there, it was back-and-forth. A Wyatt Hager basket put Waseca up 46-44 at the midway point of the second half, but Albany answered and the teams continued to go toe-to-toe.

After a missed free throw with 1:09 remaining saw the Bluejays trailing 62-61, the Huskies then broke Waseca's full-court-press and converted a couple layups to pull away at the end.

Deron Russell finished with 32 points, and Demarius Russell had 22 points and seven steals.

Zeke Austin had a team-high 27 points for Albany, which won its second state championship in four years.

Statistics for the Bluejays: De. Russell 32 points, 1 rebound, 2 assists, 2 steals, 1 blocked shot, making 13 of 23 twos; Da. Russell 22P, 1R, 2A, 7S; Ohnstad 5P, 3R, 3A, 1S; Hiller 2P, 5R, 1S; Hager 2P, 2R, 1A; Isaac Feldkamp 2R, 1A, 3S.

"We got off to a slow start with some awkward turnovers, air balls, and had our zone defense picked apart," said Waseca head coach Seth Anderson. "Once we got past that bad stretch, we got organized, played great man-to-man defense and finally started scoring. It really just came down to a couple big plays that they were able to make. It's a game that you need to have a break go your way, and the breaks went to Albany down the stretch. Albany and Breck are the two best defensive teams we played all year."

Although the Bluejays' Ohnstad, Damarius Russell and Derek Russell didn't look happy about it at the time, the three were named to the eight-player all-state tournament team that included three Albany players.

Added Anderson, "This has truly been one of the most fun coaching seasons I've ever had. Our players were deserving of

"Our players were deserving of winning a state title."
— WHS coach Seth Anderson

winning a state title. This group did everything asked of them. They were coachable, smart, and worked incredibly hard for their moment. This group was a great representative of what a Waseca athletic team should be. They were classy and respectful every step of the way."

How did this season's Bluejays compare to other state tournament teams with which Anderson has participated?

"The state championship team and the 2019 runner-up team probably had more talent than this group," said Anderson. "But I don't think any team has matched this group's ability to play together and maximize their potential to be a historic team. They didn't leave much room for doubt in many games this year."

"It was a surreal feeling, but we had a good run," said Ohnstad, one of three senior starters and one of eight 12th-graders on the roster. "It's heartbreaking that we couldn't finish it. But we left it all on the court."

Of all the people to thank, Ohnstad listed his teammates and coaches first.

And what about those Russell brothers?

"They're my day-one best friends," said Ohnstad. "We played sports together my whole life. They are the real reason I was able to be good at each sport. To be able to have them as best friends and in my hometown means everything. They helped me through high school."

Did Ohnstad, or could he forsee, an outcome where the Bluejays beat Breck and come within a bounce or two of winning the state championship?

"I mean, after going to work with my teammates and see how they work in practice, there was no doubt in my mind we'd beat who we want to beat," said Ohnstad.

And Coach Anderson?

"He's really one of the best coaches I've ever had," said Ohnstad. "I've never had another coach who connected with me like he did on the basketball court. He's really the best coach I could have asked for. He's obviously proven himself as one of the best in the state."

Lastly, but not leastly, Ohnstad said, "I really just want to thank my teammates in specific. Isaac Feldkamp going out really helped us, and Ethan always played hard."

Added Ohnstad, "It also helped to have Damarius and Deron."

Anderson acknowledged it's been a great ride.

"Any time you go on a playoff run like this, the excitement is through the roof," he said. "It's hard to enjoy it in the moment because you are constantly trying to prepare for the next game, but looking back as time goes on, this will be a very great memory for everyone involved. I thought our community did a great job representing us at the state tournament. Our team certainly felt all the support that the community was giving!"

In the end, when you can forget about the heartbreak and near misses in the state championship game, there's one thing you can say about the 2024-25 Bluejays: Wow. What a game, what a season, what a coach, what a team. Man, what a team.



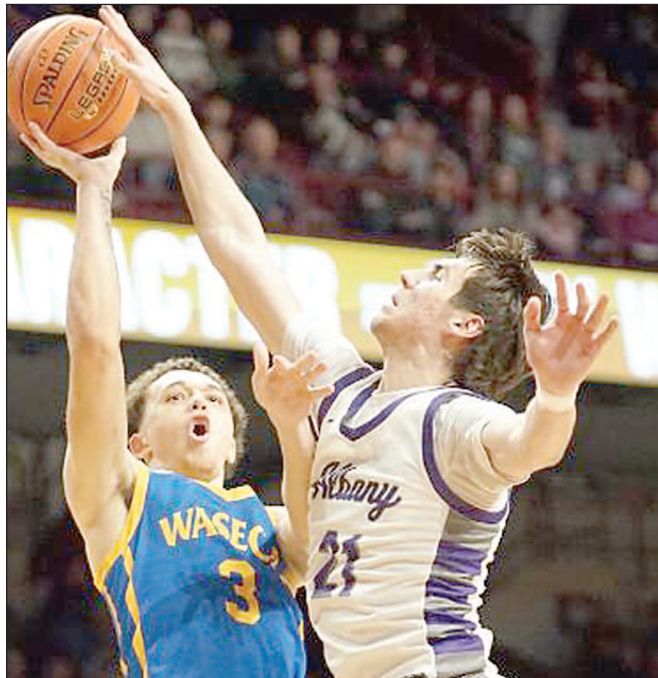
TURNING IT UP A NOTCH — After a slow start in the 2024-25 state tournament, the Waseca High School boys' basketball team ramped it up and finished a bounce or two away from the state championship. Above, the Bluejays' Deron Russell drives to the basket against Albany in the state final Saturday evening at Williams Arena in Minneapolis. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens



THEY LEFT IT ON THE COURT — Carson Ohnstad, left, reacts after the Bluejays' loss the state championship game. At right, Deron Russell slices the Albany defense. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



HEARTFELT HUG — Coach Seth Anderson, right, hugs Deron Russell after the state championship game. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens



HANG TIME — Damarius Russell shoots against Albany. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



IT DON'T COME EASY — Ethan Hiller grimaces as he faces triple-teaming from Albany. Deron Russell is in the background. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



WELL AWARE — It was all too obvious to the Bluejays that the game would not only be watched by thousands at Williams Arena, many more would be watching at home on their television. From left: Ethan Hiller, Deron Russell, Damarius Russell, Carson Ohnstad, Isaac Feldkamp. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens



DEFENSE! — Isaac Feldkamp (22) and Carson Ohnstad (5) crank up the defense on an Albany opponent in the state title game. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



DRIVE TIME — Damarius Russell drives the basketball to the hoop against Albany. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

Breck battle

Waseca's semifinal win won't be soon forgotten

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Somewhere, amidst the hustle and bustle of a grueling state tournament that spanned five days, was the semifinal game between Waseca and Breck, which embarrassed the Bluejays in last year's state tournament en route to the Class AA state title.

But Friday night's game that kept the Bluejays unbeaten and launched them into the state championship game 68-60 should not - nor will not - be forgotten anytime soon, especially by the Waseca High School boys' basketball team and its faithful fans.

Not surprisingly, the Bluejays started slowly, perhaps wondering if they really had the talent to be on the same court as the Mustangs. Once they did, it was a whole new ballgame.

Breck controlled the opening minutes, winning the tip-off, sinking a three-pointer, two free throws and another basket to take a 7-2 lead. A Carson Ohnstad three but it to 7-5, but the Bluejays did not lead until midway through the first half on a long three by Damarius Russell. Deron Russell, who hit shot after shot and put himself on Division I recruiters' radar, led the charge and Waseca was up 34-30 at the intermission.

Bluejays head coach Seth Anderson - as he did throughout the tournament - did not call on many reserves in the first half, leaving the question: did the Bluejays have enough in the tank to continue to compete with Breck? In a word, yes. But it wasn't easy.

The teams went toe-to-toe and many Waseca fans were on their feet throughout a hard-fought second half that saw the Bluejays up 57-54 after a three by Deron Russell with about four minutes left. Damarius Russell hit a three, Waseca forced a turnover, and it was 62-56 before Damarius hit two free throws to make it 64-56 with 43 seconds left. Ohnstad and Wyatt Hager also sank free throws down the stretch.

"I think we played real good defense tonight," Anderson told Waseca radio station KRUE after the game. "Isaac Feldstad was a force under the run. Ethan and Carson rarely missed all night. Deron and Damarius were fantastic."

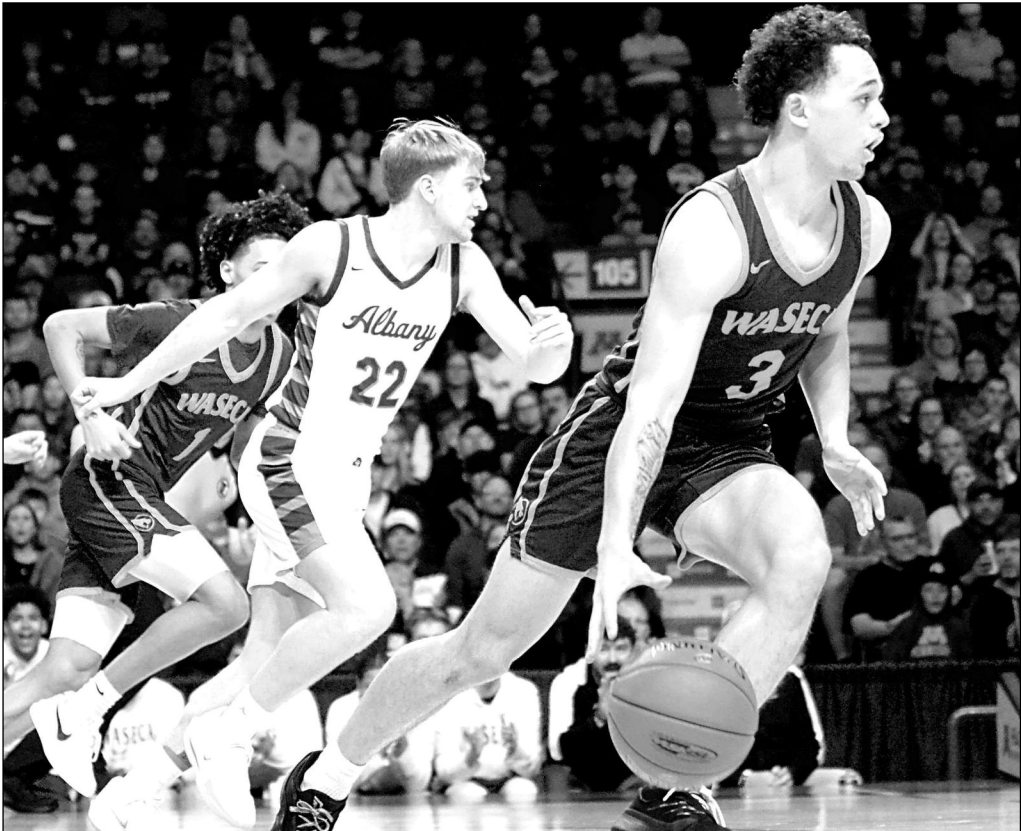
Waseca totals: De. Russell 38 points, four rebounds, 1 assist, 4 steals, 3 blocked shots; Da. Russell 14P, 2R, 1A, 1S; Ohnstad 11P, 2R, 2A, 1S, 1B; Ethan Hiller 3P, 13R, 2A, 5B; Hager 2P, 1R; Brandyn Jascha 1R, 1S; Isaac Feldkamp 8R, 2S, 4B.

Senior guard Miles Newton led Breck with 24 points.

"I thought this was the best game this group has ever played," said Coach Anderson. "We were elite offensively and defensively. Hiller and Feldkamp made every hustle play imaginable and rebounded everything. Carson hit some shots, Damarius handled the ball against the incredible ball pressure all night, and then Deron went to a whole different level of amazing with the shots he was pouring in. It was summoning up your best when your best was needed. It was truly competitive greatness displayed by our team."



SCENES FROM STATE – At left, Deron Russell drives to the basket against Albany. At right, part of the Waseca faithful at Williams Arena for Saturday's Class AA state championship game. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



FAST, FAST BREAK – Damarius Russell leads Waseca up the court in a fast-paced game with Albany. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens



FINGER ROLL – Deron Russell goes up and around for two points against an Albany opponent in the state title game. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



BLUEJAY BACKERS – Waseca fans remained loud and proud throughout the 2024-25 state tournament at Target Center and Williams Arena in Minneapolis. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens



MORE BLUEJAY BACKERS – Some faithful followers of the Blue and Gold saw fit to display signs during the state championship game. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



YES, MORE BLUEJAY BACKERS – Waseca's fans kept their faith until the final minute of the state championship game. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



VOICES OF THE BLUEJAYS – Don White, right, with the guy he calls "the best color man in the business," Dale Kugath. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



ATHLETICISM – Damarius Russell splits the Albany defense. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens



MEET JOE – WHS Athletic Director Joe Hedevare. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

Hans Tostenson earns prestigious General Ira C Eaker award from Civil Air Patrol

WASECA, MN — Waseca resident, Hans Tostenson, a dedicated cadet from the Mankato Area Civil Air Patrol (CAP), has earned the esteemed General Ira C. Eaker Award, one of the most significant honors in the CAP Cadet Program. Less than two percent of Cadets nationwide receive this award. The Eaker Award not only marks Tostenson’s promotion to position of Lieutenant Colonel of the Cadet program but also celebrates his five-year journey of leadership, learning, and service.

The Eaker Award marks the completion of Phase IV of the CAP Cadet Program, recognizing sustained excellence in all four areas of cadet life: covering rigorous milestones in leadership, aerospace education, physical fitness, and character development. To stand in General Eaker’s shadow is to study leadership carefully and serve others.

The Saturday March 22nd award ceremony at the Mankato Regional

Airport was made even more meaningful by the presence of State Representative Tom Sexton, who shared personal remarks about how his own days in CAP were a turning point in his youth. He reflected on how CAP laid the foundation for his years of service in the United States Air Force and helped instill values that continue to guide his work in public service today.

For Tostenson, CAP has been both a personal and family journey—his father Dwight and older sisters Katherine and Anna have been active in the program. Each of them has been Commanders at their respective levels. Tostenson’s uncle, Mikhail Rostislavovich, was influential in supporting his time in CAP. He encouraged Hans to participate and lean into the leadership and learning of the program.

It’s the people and the mission that have had the deepest impact on him. “Every single event is something

new,” Tostenson shared. “The unique activities and especially the people—they’ve all played a huge role in my life. Working with people like Sergeant Straw and Cadet Lt Colonel Pringle has shaped who I am. Leading cadets at Camp Ripley and watching them grow—that’s what really matters. Helping them through difficulties and overcoming challenges together as a team is what this program is all about.”

Tostenson specifically credits mentors like Chief Master Sergeant Rosenthal and the experiences at Camp Ripley as pivotal moments. “Seeing the students change at Camp Ripley is really cool,” he said. “But being entrusted with their growth and development—being there for them when things are tough and helping them succeed as a team—that’s what I’m most proud of.”

Now transitioning from the cadet side to the senior member side of CAP, Hans plans to continue invest-



From left: Mikhail Rostislavovich, Lt Col Jo Ellen Peters, Lt. Luepke, Lt Col. Tostenson, Dwight Tostenston, Rep Tom Sexton.

ing in the next generation of cadets. His long-term commitment is clear: “This solidifies that I’m in this for the long haul,” he said.

Civil Air Patrol is the official civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and a volunteer-based nonprofit with a three-part mission: emergency services, aerospace education, and

cadet programs. Through the Cadet Program, youth ages 12 to 21 engage in hands-on leadership training, STEM education, aviation experience, and character-building opportunities. CAP members also contribute thousands of volunteer hours annually, supporting their communities through search and rescue missions, disaster relief, and more.

Hans Tostenson’s achievement reflects the best of what Civil Air Patrol offers: leadership through service, lifelong friendships, and a clear path to making a difference. With the General Ira C. Eaker Award under his belt, his journey is only just beginning.

■ NR from Page 3

site, with various maps and a schedule of the project’s milestones available in the March 10 council meeting packet under the drop-menu on the “government” tab on the site.

After no objections were raised during a brief public hearing held during the meeting, the council approved rezoning a piece of property at 110 North Ash Avenue to allow its use as an event center.

Tanyce Bruegger, police chief, presented the police report, stating that the NRPD responded to 102

calls for service in February. A request to begin the background check process for a part-time applicant who was interviewed earlier this month was approved by the council, followed by a discussion regarding diagonal parking by bus drivers at the school, which is a violation of state statute and has resulted in difficulties for parents picking up students and complaints to the department.

“It’s an ongoing thing we’ve been dealing with,” Bruegger said. “We’ve been getting several complaints over concern for people having to do u-turns and unnecessary traffic driving through the parking lot to get to the preschool dropoff.”

Bruegger reported she has been in contact with the school’s principal and superintendent as well as the city

attorney, who approved an email to bus drivers notifying them that, if traffic continues to be impeded, they risk being cited for violating state statute. It is expected that the matter will be handled internally among school administration and staff.

Police department purchase requests were approved for \$935 for uniforms and two evidence equipment bags; \$3,750 to the South Central Drug Investigation Unit; \$3,379 to Lexipol for policy/procedure software.

Eric Hendrickson presented the maintenance and utilities report, stating that 11 blue cards were issued in February resulting in zero shutoffs. Maintenance purchase requests were approved for \$64,682 for control and alarm upgrades at the water plant; up

to \$2,500 for crow’s nest improvements; up to three truckloads of gravel at a cost of \$468 each; \$1,035 for a one-year ESRI extension.

The ambulance, fire department, and care center reports were all submitted in writing, with the ambulance report approved as presented. The fire department report, which stated that five total calls - two fire and three medical - were responded to in February, was also approved.

The care center report noted a financial loss for January due to low census and high level of agency staff, and openings remain for CNA and RN or LPN positions. The report was approved.

Shell Johnson presented the PeopleService report, which included a reminder to local residents and

businesses to be mindful of what goes into the sewer - specifically wipes, blue shop towels, socks, cigarette butts, fats, oils, grease, fish tank water with rocks, plastic baggies, food leftovers, and more, which Johnson has had to remove by hand in some circumstances. Other repairs that will be necessary in the coming months were discussed, and the report was approved.

A consolidated waste contract with Thompson Sanitation was approved. New business included the approval of February’s check register and financials as well as a discussion regarding a municipal cannabis dispensary due to a recent deadline for license application that would be required if the city and its residents desire in the future. City admin-

istrator Tony Martens noted that he reached out to Byron’s city manager, who has experience in the matter, and explained that the League of Minnesota Cities will not insure cannabis dispensaries at this time, the State Bank of New Richland - along with all but a handful of banks in the state - is not willing to handle funds from a cannabis dispensary.

“I caution the council about the actual benefit versus cost,” Martens said.

The council approved placing the city-owned 2016 Chevy Impala up for bid, and discussed a joint flood committee meeting with the county board. Following review of the administrator’s report, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Enduring the changeover blues and Daylight Saving Time

Daylight saving time just recently occurred, compelling us to set our clocks and timepieces ahead by one hour. Many of us enjoy that extra hour of sunlight during the summer. Our youth can play their softball, soccer and baseball games into the evening without lights. We stay up later because it’s still light out.

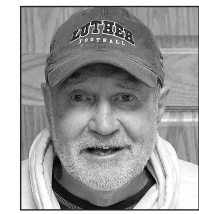
But before we get those summer advantages, we have to endure the changeover blues. Many of us have our sleep time totally disrupted, and maybe aren’t the best at work for a couple of days. Young children are boarding the bus in the dark, which can be dangerous in traffic. Older guys like me have to get out the step ladder to change the clocks hanging high on the walls.

I’m not sure how the majority feels, but as far as I’m concerned, “Don’t mess with Mother Nature!” I can live without it.

Technology just keeps moving at a rapid pace. Drones are aircraft that operate without a human pilot on board and are instead controlled remotely by

someone on the ground. They are used for military and civilian purposes. Our military uses them for surveillance, reconnaissance, and delivering goods. They can even be used to destroy targets as part of an air strike. Realtors use them to take pictures of houses and property from above. If a child or someone is reported missing, drones can be piloted over large areas to help with the search. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) can fly them over large areas of forest during the winter checking the status of deer and moose herds. In the news a while back, mysterious drones were observed flying over some of our major cities. Were the drones flown by the Chinese or someone spying on us? I don’t believe our intelligence ever figured out what they were—absolutely amazing.

Many hunters are now using trail cameras to follow movements of the game they hunt. The pictures can even be viewed on cell phones. If you are hunting turkeys, you can observe the trails



Bits and Pieces by Dave Zika

they are using and keep track of the times they move around. A deer hunter can study the picture of the trophy buck he’s after. For example, knowing the big buck has moved under the deer stand at 9 a.m. for the past two mornings is a strong message to be in that deer stand tomorrow before 9 a.m..

Thanks to our recent weather front, Lisa and I put together a quiet day that included the dice game “Farkle” and a card game or two including Gin Rummy. I remember playing Monopoly with family on blizzard days; the game would last forever. Young Marc and Katie learned how to manage their property and count money. Interesting news, though—move over Deb Bently—children can no longer learn to keep track of

paper money playing Monopoly. The modern game leaves paper out of it altogether; instead players keep track of their winnings and losses on a mobile app.

Every morning when I wake up in the dark I feed our wonderdog Sammy and turn on our Bunn machine to brew a pot of Folgers Classic Coffee. Times have changed, the coffee snobs turn on their expensive one-cup coffee devices and brew a specialty coffee they desire. Off to work they go with their special Yeti mugs or mugs of their choice drinking coffee on their 20 minutes to work. Maybe you remember the good old Stanley Thermos. I’d be willing to bet it’s somewhere sitting on a shelf in the garage.

A perk for grocery shoppers and senior citizens who have a

tough time getting around: You can now order and pick up your groceries at our local Walmart. When I’m shopping at Walmart I run into employees pushing carts, filling people’s orders, going aisle to aisle. I understand that the order must be paid before pickup by credit card. The way to place an order must be by a smart phone or computer. In some cases that electronic step must make it difficult for some senior citizens. I don’t know if it’s possible to call in an order on a landline or old cell phone and give a credit card number. It must be a bit difficult filling orders for fruits and vegetables. Some people want their grapes just so sour or sweet, cherries just so ripe, or tomatoes not too soft. Thanks to those very individualized preferences, I’ll bet Walmart gets complaints once in a while on items delivered.

I’ve enjoyed watching both girls’ and boys’ hockey state tournaments on TV. I watched the girls’ state tournament in basketball and am looking forward to watching Waseca in the boys’.

The Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) runs great state tournaments for our athletes and is now seeding the final 8 teams in positions 1 to 8. This procedure makes the tournament as fair as it can be for the teams. The seedings are based on criteria such as strength of schedule and season record. When teams are seeded, there’s a good chance number 1 will play number 2 for the state championship. As a viewer, I can always root for number 1 playing the underdog, number 8. Waseca, a number 2 seed, just defeated Pequot Lakes, a number 7 seed. The Bluejays are now on to the quarter finals and TV viewing. I hope the next article I write will be mentioning a state champion.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Judy Hoffman and family who recently lost Bob. Bob Hoffman had a huge impact on Waseca. He spent his career—even his lifetime—supporting and advocating for athletes and education. Bob will forever be missed by many people.



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VOLUNTEER WITH US!

FIND YOUR FIT AT FARMAMERICA!



EVENTS



TRAM DRIVERS



FIELD TRIPS



GROUND

Calling all volunteers! Seasoned volunteers or those who are interested in joining our crew. Join us for a **complimentary farm-to-fork breakfast** and to **learn about volunteer opportunities** at Farmamerica.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH
BREAKFAST: 9 AM - 10:30 AM
CPR & AED TRAINING: 10:30 AM

To RSVP, scan this QR code, visit farmamerica.org/events, or, call 507-835-2052!



Farmamerica 7367 360th Ave. Waseca, MN 56093