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LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
No. 15 Vol. III \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Friday, April 12, 2024



Youth Wrestling



Many representatives from Bevcomm, a communications company based in Blue Earth, were present at the "bash" to provide information about the "fiber" internet which will be made available to residences in four county townships over the next 18 months.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Bevcomm Bash

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Waseca County learned in March that its application for a \$4.38 million grant to install fiber internet in four of its townships had been approved. It was a triumphant moment, given that the county had twice previously completed the lengthy and demanding application process, but had not received any funding.

Under the grant, Byron, Freedom, Vivian and Wilton townships—essentially the southwest third of the county—will be having fiber cable installed. Like the two before it, the successful application was supported, completed and submitted by county leaders—including commissioner DeAnne Malterer and county administrator Michael Johnson—and staff of the Blue Earth based telecommunications company Bevcomm. Aside from area residents who wrote letters of support, relatively few people in the 500 homes and businesses within the affected townships were aware of the application or the

Bevcomm continued on 7



Consultant Steve Kraus, county commissioners Brad Krause and DeAnne Malterer, county administrator Michael Johnson, Waldorf mayor Rob Wilkening and county sheriff Jay Dulas were among public representatives who met and spoke with those in attendance at the "Bevcomm Bash" on April 4.

Benefit for the family of Dawn Rahn Liverseed, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 13

Dawn Rahn Liverseed died suddenly in February after contracting an antibiotic-resistant staph infection which required intense medical care. A benefit to help her family with expenses will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 13 in the third-floor ballroom of Club 57.

Breakfast benefit for Waseca County Sheriff's Posse 8 a.m. to noon Sunday, April 14, at Waseca V.F.W.

Hosted by the Waseca County Sheriff's Posse, breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. to noon at the Waseca VFW. Attendees are asked to bring food donations for the Waseca Area Food Shelf.

Dr. Charles Karuku at Nation's Glory Barn 6 p.m. April 19

Charles Karuku is the Founder and President of International Outreach Church, a growing diverse multi-racial congregation in the Twin Cities. He will be speaking at Nation's Glory Barn at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 19. More information is available by email at thenationsglorybarn@gmail.com.

"How-To Festival" 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 27, at Waseca Library

Courses covering 16 "How to" topics will be offered free of charge at the Waseca Library on Saturday, April 27. Each hour, four new topics will be addressed, ranging from first aid to raising chickens. Various courses are intended for participants of various ages, ranging from 6 to adult.

Waldorf Veterans Memorial Fund Drive

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

A word from The Word

In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? John 14:2



Back row from left: Chas Benson, Deanne Nelson, Kelvin Nelson, Shanly Nelson, Jon Butler, Blake Nelson. Middle: Maddy Benson, Jace Jennings, Tenille Jennings, Annabelle Benson, Harper Ziemke, Carson Ziemke, Taylor Ziemke, Lyric Butler, Brayden Butler, and Robin Nelson. Front: Brooks Butler, Nikki Benson, and Brolin Nelson.
Pioneer photo by Tristan Gehring

Nelson memorial tournament

By TRISTAN GEHRING
Staff Writer

The inaugural Blair Nelson Memorial 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament was Saturday, April 6, at Waseca Junior and Senior High School. The tournament was organized by Nelson's family, led by Nikki Benson and Chas Benson. "The highlight of the day was definitely seeing all of the kids come out and have fun. It was heartwarming to see the stands full with parents and spectators; it surpassed all of our expectations," said Benson. "The last year has really shown me how truly special this community is, and to see the number of people who wanted to help or come to watch on Saturday

really would have made Dad proud. We could never thank everyone enough for the support."

Nikki Benson would like to extend formal thanks to the event's sponsors, of which there were more than 40, Blake's BETtor Spread and Sno-Biz for catering, Brian Rupe and the boys' basketball players for providing referee services, Chas Benson, Derrick Sommers and Amanda Sommers for many hours of planning, and the many volunteers who helped during the tournament. "We could never have done it without them!"

Benson explained the April 6 date was chosen for the tournament because it falls between the winter and spring sports seasons, maximizing

the number of young athletes able to participate—about 40 teams participated, with players ranging from fourth grade through high school. Four half-court games were played at a time, utilizing the whole gymnasium. The first- and second-place winners in each division received medals. Additionally, the MVP from each game was rewarded with a gift of a Coca-Cola and M&M's - chosen because they were Blair Nelson's favorite treats. Contests for free throws and three-point shots were also held, with the winners receiving gift cards to Scheel's sporting goods store.

All proceeds from the tournament will be used to support local community youth programs, a cause Blair Nelson was passionate about.

"He donated countless hours to the development and support of youth athletics. He believed sport teaches us invaluable life lessons, and that the opportunity to grow and learn through youth sport should be available to all," says Benson. Although the tournament is over, donations to the cause are still coming in.

"Our hope that this event is something people will look forward to every year," Nikki Benson said in closing. "It was so fun watching the kids play and have fun, and at the end of the day, that's exactly what Dad would have wanted. We hope this'll be a yearly way to honor his legacy."

Lyle Sellers to speak to legislators May 7

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Waseca resident Lyle Sellers will be one of five "drug court" graduates from around the state to share his story with legislators at the Minnesota State Capitol the afternoon of May 7.

Sellers acknowledges most people would find the prospect frightening, but says he feels only excited anticipation.

"Drug court makes a difference," Sellers proclaims. "I'll do anything to help it continue." He also expresses his gratitude to Waseca County Attorney Rachel Cornelius

and district court judge Carol Hanks. "Those two believed in me when other people didn't," he observes. "They gave me a chance other people probably figured I didn't deserve."

As described by Cornelius at a recent session, "Drug court isn't a free ride." She said it is meant to "reduce crime and increase citizenship" by working with "high risk, high needs repeat offenders who have been cycling in and out of the justice system." Regarding Sellers, she explains he was one of those people. "He had a long history of burglaries and thefts committed to continue his

drug habit," she observes. "I wanted him supervised by probation and the court at the highest level, which drug court provides."

Individuals convicted of a crime and facing incarceration are offered a choice: serve their time or stay free while working their way through the drug court regimen. Participants must agree to random testing, must pay any fines and child support, must make restitution for their crimes, and must show progress as citizens. This means they must seek treatment for their addiction, get a job, acquire a driver license, complete high school or GED classes, and show other pro-



Lyle and Dana Sellers
gress. Minimum time in the program is 18 months, although many take 2 years and more to meet the requirements. Some fail to meet the expectations and drop out, and so end up serving their time behind bars.

In comments shared later, Corne-

Court continued on 2

Lack of broadband affects rural workers

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

Thanks to a \$4.38 million grant from the state of Minnesota's "Border to Border" internet program, residents of four Waseca County townships are on their way to receiving reliable, high-speed internet access made available to their homes.

Testimonies and letters of support were part of the application process, and according to comments made by Bill Eckles, CEO of Blue-Earth based communication company Bevcomm, those statements were very important in helping Waseca County be selected for the grant.

Among the individuals was Waldorf area resident Julie Tesch, who described the many difficulties she has been facing as she works remotely from her home in Vivian Township.

Tesch is president and CEO of the Center for Rural Policy and Development, an organization she founded.

Her research and everyday tasks rely heavily on Tesch being able to connect with people and information via the internet. Living outside Waldorf in the southwest corner of Waseca County, she runs a research organization which educates about issues rural communities face.

Both her experiences and her research show that lack of reliable internet is an important issue for rural residents.

She used to live in Washington D.C. but now lives on a family farm near Waldorf. Since moving back, she's realized how profoundly it can affect people's work to live outside an area with a significant population. Tesch has found ways to adapt to unreliable internet—especially visiting coffee shops or libraries in area towns—but recognizes that solution won't work for everyone.

She points out it complicates her contributions to team projects that she must either relocate herself or make do with poor reception. "It would be nice if teammates could see me when we're working on a project," she observed.

"Zoom" meetings are an important foundation of her ability to work from home; she says she typically takes part in several a day. Because the internet she uses is so weak, she can't turn on her computer's camera. The few times she's tried, she remembers, she was kicked off the internet and sometimes couldn't get back on the call.

"It's frustrating," Tesch said, saying that the effectiveness of her work is vastly reduced by the

Border continued on 7



Compostings

by Al Batt

Who are the best kinds of dancers?

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

Long time, no see. How are you doing?

I'm sorry, but I've forgotten your name. You'll need to tell me.

I can't believe you don't remember my name. How soon do you need to know it?

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. The wind was pushy. Rocks blew past me as I went hither and thither. The wind wasn't that strong, so I doubt any of them weighed more than a pound. My faithful automobile and I hadn't had a single quarrel. I like my car. I've had vehicles that when one door closed, another door opened. This one behaves. I pulled into a hotel parking lot. It was no Potemkin Village. The façade wasn't impressive. I decided not to rise above my station. I turned on the room light and they scattered. They were cockroaches. They are found in every state. I paid for a bed and a shower, and got complimentary cockroaches. It wasn't as if I'd stepped on a cobra. In college, I lived in a condemned building unfit for human habitation, but I was a college student, so they could rent it to me.

AT THE RIP VAN WINKLE REST AREA

I've learned rest areas are everywhere when you don't need one. Each lengthy drive provides a rest area education. I learned this while resting in an area: In 1837, John Deere developed and marketed the world's first self-polishing cast steel plow. The large plows made for cutting the tough American prairie ground were called "grasshopper plows."

I walked around the rest area, remembering when I could go an entire day without taking a photo. Back in my parked car, I sent some online condolences via my phone. When I think about all the people I've lost, I realized I should never have been a tour guide.

I'VE LEARNED

I'm glad fingernails grow in only one direction.

When I learned the word "plethora," it meant a lot to me.

Chicken fried steak isn't steak fried by a chicken.

April 12 is National Licorice Day, so take a licorice to lunch. Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar and Napoleon Bonaparte used licorice for its health benefits, primarily for digestive disorders. Many "licorice" products don't contain actual licorice and use anise oil instead.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

Why does it cost so much to repair my roof? It should be on the house.

I bought a "Ventriloquism for Dummies" book. It said to let the other guy do all the talking.

If you get an email about reading maps backward, it's spam.

What do you call an apology written in dots and dashes? The remorse code.

Irish dancers are the best dancers, hands-down.

What do you call a paper airplane that can't fly? Stationery.

Polarized sunglasses—people either love them or hate them.

The population of the capital of Ireland is growing rapidly. Every day, it's Dublin.

NATURE NOTES

If you see swans nesting here, they are trumpeters. Trumpeter swans are larger than tundras, but the difference in size is apparent only if the two species are near one another. A fluffed tundra might look bigger than a trim trumpeter. I listen to calls. Trumpeter swan calls are trumpet-like, which sound like a junior high French horn player warming up to me. Lewis and Clark, during their expedition, provided the first written description of tundra swans, where the birds' whistle-like calls prompted Meriwether Lewis to dub them "whistling swans." Trumpeters sound remarkably low-pitched and nasal in comparison. If you hear something whistling the theme song to "The Andy Griffith Show," it will be a TV and not a tundra swan. Tundra swans stay in flocks except when on breeding territory in the arctic. If you see a pair, they're likely trumpeter swans.

American crows hide their nests in a crotch near the trunk of a tree or on a horizontal branch toward the top third of a tree, preferring to nest in evergreens, but will nest in deciduous trees when evergreens are unavailable. Both members of a breeding pair build the nest and the young from the previous year might help. The nest is made of medium-sized twigs with an inner cup lined with pine needles, vegetation, bark and/or animal hair.

People don't think of owls as scavengers, but do they eat carrion? The behavior is more widespread than believed, according to University of Illinois researchers. Most of the carcasses fed upon were mammals, especially those with hooves. I've seen an owl on a dead deer.

MEETING ADJOURNED

No person looks better than when being kind to another.

The Eclipse did not go according to plan

As always, it's good to be home again...

But, boy, am I glad I took a trip to see the eclipse "in totality" off to the east. As is almost always the way with trips, especially ones which must be monitored and adjusted along the way, things did not go perfectly.

But they went well—very well indeed. The moment of totality made it all worth the effort and expense. Five of my family members traveled together. We had one location in mind as we began, then changed our course slightly to try and escape a surprise cloud bank that was contrary to the forecast we had been relying on. It didn't exactly work: turns out clouds can do whatever they want.

As the eclipse began, we had a very clear view of the sky. I have a fair number of pictures (taken through a special darkening filter) which show the first nibbles of the moon's shadow across the sun. From beginning to end, the whole eclipse lasts more than an hour. The sight of the advancing shadow is quite dramatic—it's simply (forgive the word-play) "eclipsed" by the nearly three minutes of totality which we experienced in the city park where we watched.

There are two moments referred to as the "diamond ring" when the moon's shadow is nearly perfectly



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

centered, but a small section of the sun is still shining more brightly—like a ring with a shining stone. And then there's the perfect circle, the sun's rampant energy radiating out from around it the completely overshadowed center. While one must use protective sunglasses to look at the rest of the eclipse, it is safe to look at totality with no eye protection—because you are no longer looking at the sun itself, only its corona. You either already have, or easily can, access photos online.

In our case, what seemed like a curse turned into something of a blessing.

High clouds had been steadily moving in, so that by the moment of totality, our line of sight was completely occluded. It grew gradually darker and darker; the park's light came on, as it doubtless every day at dusk. It grew a bit colder, though we paid pretty much no attention to that. All eyes were on the sky.

It was mesmerizing.

The clouds which seemed to be working at spoiling everything somehow cast the diamond ring and the minutes of totality into what seemed like three dimensions—giving it not only the height and width you see in all the photos, but what looked like depth as well—as though it were hanging there in the sky at an angle. Fortunately for me, with nearly three minutes of totality to experience, I could satisfy both my nearly irresistible impulse to photograph beautiful things, and the obvious goal of enjoying the eclipse for the wondrous moment it is.

As the three-dimensional effect occurred, there were spontaneous gasps and statements of wonder: "That's amazing." "It's wonderful." "I had no idea."

All I can say is, you had to be there to fully appreciate it.

The pictures are intriguing—definitely different from the ones you'll see online—and, like with nearly all three-dimensional things, useful

more as a basis for description than as a definitive representation of the moment.

In the middle of it all, I turned to take a look at the people around me: they were rapt in the mystery. I couldn't help thinking that science could explain everything about the eclipse except its profound effect on us. Watching that floating ring in the clouds, the colossal coincidence—that the moon is at just the right position between the earth and its source of light to perfectly cover the inner disk of the sun while allowing a view of the corona—seemed a powerful message to me that our universe cannot be as it is by chance.

The trip had quite a number of inconveniences: long hours in the car, the difficulty of being one of millions of travelers who needed hotel rooms, the irritations of being away from home, the worst traffic this relatively inexperienced traveler has ever been caught in, the "what if" possibilities surrounding the various decisions we made along the way. The five of us who took the trip will probably be sharing stories for generations to come.

I won't say "I wouldn't change a thing," but the irritations, the expense and the inconvenience were all worth it. I'm glad I was in the right place to see what I saw.

Engineers, prom, and proselytization of...

Hello everyone who chooses to read the Pioneer instead of the County News and inexplicably happens to read my wacky thoughts. As is frequently the case, it has come down to me having to write this column and I have no idea what to write about. However, this week I covered some events for the campus newspaper, the Minnesota Daily, and for class, so I'll tell you all what I've been up to.

Mainly, all of my events happened on Friday, which was probably my busiest day of the week. Pretty ironic considering it was a Friday. Anyway, on Friday, I had an interview at noon, and then I went to SWEekend.

SWE stands for the Society of Women Engineers. My roommate and a lot of our female friends are involved with the group, so when I had to pitch a story idea for my multimedia class, SWEekend came to mind.

SWEekend is when SWE invites high school girls admitted into the University of Minnesota to come stay for a night and spend the day doing fun lab tours, attending a tour



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

of the University with insight that is not the usual tour-guide spiel, and a fancy dinner. As a reporter, I was there to video it all (for my multimedia class). I followed one of our friends who was volunteering for the day and took a bunch of fun videos, and got to call it "homework." What was funny was when Goldy the mascot showed up to the dinner to interact with the high schoolers. Once he saw my camera, he was all show, making funny movements and jokes and playing to the camera. It was awesome.

The next step for me is to spend hours figuring out what parts of the footage need to go into my two-minute final project for class. I have to do the voiceover and everything; I'm not looking forward to listening to my own voice over and over as I try to get everything right.

After the SWEekend dinner was over on Friday night, I ran home to drop my camera stuff off and then got changed to go to Goldy's Prom, an event happening at the Union put on by the Student Union and Activities. I went to cover the prom for the Minnesota Daily, but since it was the first ever Goldy's Prom, there were very few people there. The DJ was playing to a dark room occupied by about ten people, most of them freshmen with nothing to do on a Friday

night (whoops, did I actually say that?). I'm just kidding, I think Goldy's Prom is a great idea, I just don't think it was well enough advertised.

After I sped through my interviews of people who were there, I went home to - you can all guess - do homework! I can hear all of you right now: "Wow, Amelia! Do you do anything besides work?" The answer is no.

Speaking of work, I am currently cranking out the ten-page paper due for a class which has unfortunately become the bane of my existence. It's about proselytization of religion and how the immigrated Europeans and U.S. citizens forced Native Americans out of their own land and to conform to their new ways of life. Interesting stuff, I know.

My Determination: "That is the secret of happiness and virtue—liking what you've got to do. All conditioning aims at that: making people like their unescapable social destiny." - Aldous Huxley, Brave New World

■ Court

from Page 1

lius said she nominated Sellers to be one of the five state-wide "graduate" speakers on May 7 "because he has really taken the 'change your mindset' approach that is completely necessary for someone to be truly successful beyond their drug court journey. I saw him develop into a very different person - faithful to God, his wife, his family."

Besides that, Cornelius mentions, "To know Lyle is to know he's influential among his peers and very charismatic. I think he will be an excellent speaker to represent Drug Court graduates."

Of what it takes to complete the drug court regimen, Sellers comments, "We all fight being controlled. But sometimes being controlled is what we need."

Describing his own journey, he tells of having used marijuana and other "gateway" substances before reaching the age of 10. Despite that, he was able to get by in school; his enjoyment of sports and his success as an athlete kept him careful enough not to get caught. His life took a very dangerous turn after he had graduated high school. Distraught over a recent romantic break-up and curious besides, he tried methamphetamine for the first time around the age of 20.

From there he became more and more deeply entrenched in the drug culture, committing numerous crimes to support his habit, which could cost as much as \$600 a day.

The "cycle" for him consisted of deeper and shallower dives into drug use. He would be caught and arrested, would be incarcerated, then placed on probation. "I would stay

sober long enough to satisfy the probation and have that out of the way," he describes. "But all the while I was planning for the day I could start using again."

For most of the two decades between the ages of 20 and 40, he admits he could be defined as "A thief liar, a cheater, a felon, a junkie, a loser. A criminal and a fraud."

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For most of the two decades between the ages of 20 and 40, he admits he could be defined as "A thief, a liar, a cheater, a felon, a junkie, a loser. A criminal and a fraud."

He acknowledges he ruined his reputation and repeatedly risked ending his marriage.

In short, he is inexpressibly grate-

ful any agency—and any officials—were willing to give him a chance.

Sellers remembers being approached by area drug court coordinator Nicole Grams after his most recent arrest. "She asked me, 'Do you want to change?'"

He says it was a question he needed to genuinely consider. From the self-centered perspective that had guided his life for the past 20 years, another stint behind bars was not a major factor.

"Prison is easy," he claims. "You go there, they give you everything you need. You can spend the time learning from the other prisoners and thinking about what you could have done to keep from being caught."

"It's like a university for criminals."

So while some might interpret the question "do you want to change" as something like "do you want to avoid time behind bars," Sellers said he had to genuinely consider whether he wanted to escape the cycle he had been repeating for half his life.

When he decided he did, he entered the drug court regimen. For him, it began with a residential treatment center. After completing 40 days there, he was moved to House of Hope in Mankato.

There, facility leader Ray Wolf—who has been a recovering addict for 17 years—took Sellers under his wing. "We had Bible study," Sellers says. "And Ray would have me come for 6 a.m. prayers."

"I really started finding myself."

Now devoted to his beliefs as a Christian, Sellers names his adult baptism as a profound moment.

"When I came up out of that water, I was a truly different person," he says.

"The most important thing I learned is, no matter how much you've been knocked down, stepped on, beat up—no matter what people have said about you or what you

think about yourself, you never lose your worth.

"And when you realize you're worth something, well, why not use it to make a positive difference in the world?"

Reaching that conclusion, he says, helped provide the strength and determination needed to become a genuinely different person.

Sellers graduated from the Waseca County drug court program last October after following its requirements for more than two years. He has acquired his commercial license and drives trucks for BinPro in Janesville. He has stayed away from the people and places which were part of his life for so long, and renewed his relationship with Dana, his wife of 15 years, and with his mother—who for a time had refused to see him.

"I'm liking this life I have now," he observes. "I don't have to look over my shoulder. I don't have to wonder whether I'll get caught."

"I'm finding ways to give back."

Though he is not currently certified as a barber, Sellers once was, having completed the required training program while incarcerated in St. Cloud. He regrets having allowed the certification to lapse, because he finds tremendous fulfillment in helping others "feel good because they look good." As he considers the future from here, he hopes to find a way to reacquire the certification and open a barber shop.

"It's a special environment," he says. "People can talk, be themselves, and share their thoughts."

In the meantime, he is excited to have the opportunity to speak at the capitol and to encourage legislators to continue funding drug court programs.

"I have so much to say," he says. "I'm going to get my ideas organized and do a good job."

"Even if it means I have to wear a tie."



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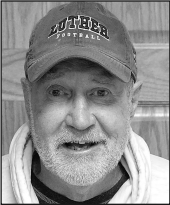
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Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



Days gone by, acts of kindness

It’s time for this journalist to write a column consisting of good old “bits and pieces.”

Our family had a fantastic Easter. Our grannies (my personal word for “grandchildren”) have insisted on a traditional holiday menu for team Zika the last couple of Easters. The four boys have grown into big eaters and we now prepare two egg bakes for the main meal. Roasted asparagus and caramel rolls are the side dishes. Lisa makes the best homemade caramel rolls: the dough must be purchased at Morgan’s market. For dessert, it’s strawberry trifle—a combination of fresh strawberries, kiwi, yogurt, angel food cake and dream whip, layered in a huge pedestal bowl. Needless to say, there are few leftovers.

Though tradition holds for the food, the days of scavenger hunts for hundreds of eggs are definitely over; our boys have outgrown the Easter bunny. The boys all receive a plastic bucket containing their favorite sweets: KitKats, Reese’s eggs and sweets I’ve never heard of like AirHead sour extreme and SweetTart ropes. They all receive a package of Hostess white mini donuts in their Easter buckets.

Also in the buckets for each boy are plastic eggs with money. I go to the bank and get two-dollar bills and sleeves of fifty-cent pieces. The lady at the bank informs me they now keep two-dollar bills and lots of fifty-cent pieces on hand because they have grown to be in real demand. The eggs in each basket are filled with silver dollars, two dollar bills, and fifty cent pieces. The family is going on a trip to Alaska this summer, so Lisa and I put together a list of trivia questions about Alaska that each boy got to ask the group. Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes - bet you didn’t know Alaska has three million!

The Tuesday after Easter brought a visit to the Owatonna Hospital for a colonoscopy and upper gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopy. An endoscopy puts a camera down your throat for a little peek at your tummy; every senior citizen knows what a colonoscopy is. I decided to do both at the same time, my own “daily double.”

The results of the tests informed me it is time to change my eating habits. It’s time for high fiber in my meals every day. I am now a certified, educated, high-powered fiber nutritionist. Fiber in your diet can help lower cholesterol levels, prevent colon problems, reduce risk of diabetes, and prevent other major senior health problems. I returned from Wal-Mart this morning with apples, blueberries, pears, strawberries, bananas, cauliflower, potatoes, russets, and sweet, whole-grain bread, and shredded wheat. I’ll be trying to eat 25 grams of fiber every day. There were no Cheetos or cookie dough ice cream in my shopping cart today; it brought tears to my eyes.

The Girl Scout cookie season is over. When we were teaching, Lisa used to buy them from students, causing our freezer to be full of cookie boxes. We’re no longer on the student-to-teacher sales pipeline, but next season I’ll buy a few boxes from a young lady selling them in front of a Waseca store.

I saw a story on the news about a man who purchased the final 300 boxes of cookies in the stock offered by a group of girl scouts set up in front of a grocery store. He didn’t take any for himself: He told the young entrepreneurs to give a smile and a box of cookies to people passing by. I’m going to buy a few boxes next season, do the same thing, and learn from the man’s example of kindness.

I remember Cabbage Patch Kids, My Pretty Ponies, Skeletor and action figures when our kids were growing up. I saw one the other day, the Dancing Cactus, a really neat toy for younger people. Check it out: You might want to get one for a young grandchild.

We all know how non-native species can disrupt ecosystems. There are many examples of both plants and animals known for being “invasive.” European buckthorn and Eurasian millfoil are undesirable plants we are all aware of. Non-native insects, including the Asian beetle, also create major ecosystem problems. I’ve never regarded birds as invasive. Starlings and house sparrows are European and are non-native to the United States. I’d like to introduce you to the invasive parakeet, a bird flying around in large flocks in places such as Florida, Arizona, and Texas. The Monday parakeet comes from South America, thousands of miles away. These birds were trapped and sold in the pet trade and purchased in pet stores. Some people found were apparently dissatisfied with their qualities as pets and unwilling to care for them any longer, so released them into the wild. The birds reproduced rapidly and now there are many of them. Because the bird is elegant and handsome, and doesn’t compete with other birds for food sources, they are considered a beautiful and welcomed parakeet.

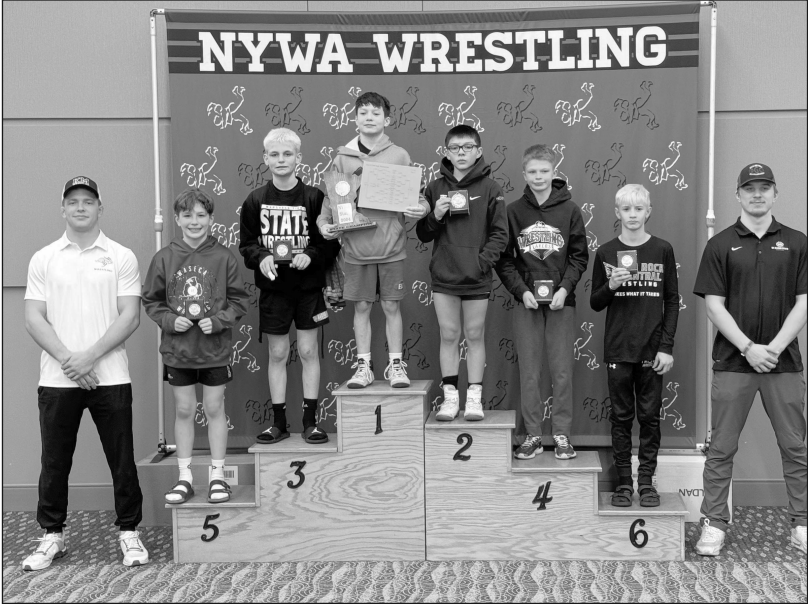
If you love ice cream and have a lifelong dream to own a Dairy Queen, the oldest one in Minnesota is now for sale in Rochester.

Want to travel the United States for a year and visit every state? The Planets Peanut Company is now taking applications for two people to drive the Planters Peanut vehicle throughout the United States and promote their peanuts. Could be the job of a lifetime for a couple of adventurous young people. Applications are due by April 14.

Did you know it is illegal to laugh in Hawaii?

You have to keep it A LO HA!

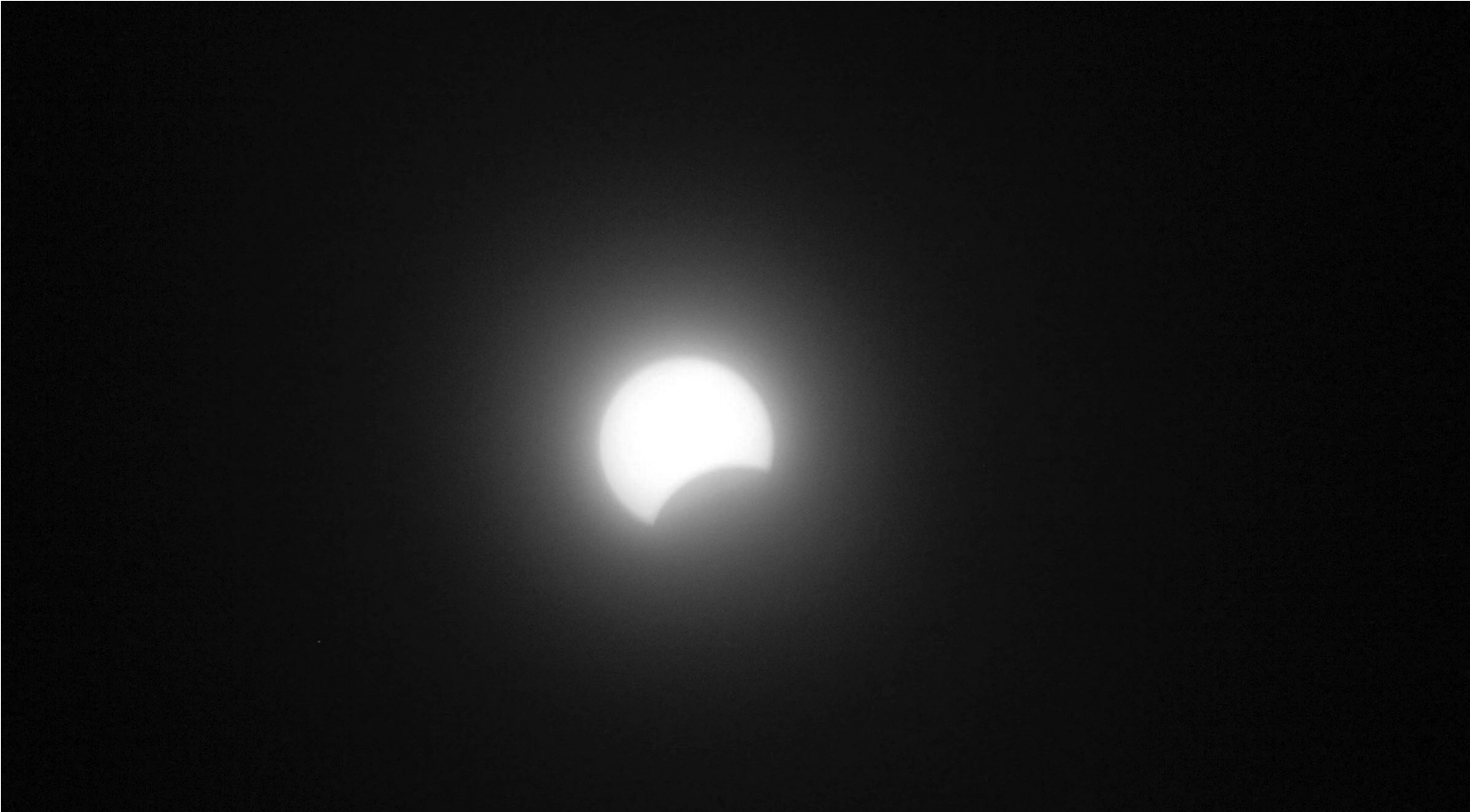
Bluejays youth wrestling



Waseca’s seventh- and eighth-grade wrestling team competed in the Northland Youth Wrestling Association tournament at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester last Thursday and Friday. On the first day, Waseca drew state champion Chatfield and lost a very close match. Waseca then drew St. Charles and won the heavyweight match to claim a 26-23 overall win. On the second day of competition, Waseca drew Canby and tied, but won via the tiebreaker. In the finals of their pool, Waseca wrestled Hastings and lost a close match to finish second. Waseca’s three coaches, Kevin Malecha, Greg Sommers and Blain Nelson, had plenty of praise for their young team. They wrestled hard, were tough, and never gave up. On the individual side of the competition, Kellen Klinger took fourth place at 160 lbs (shown right) and Kole Nelson took fifth (shown left). Five other individual wrestlers also competed: Payton Sommers, Keegan Glynn, Braxton Nelson, Landon adson and Sam Selthun. Their match records were: Selthun 1-2, Nelson 1-2, Glynn 2-2 . Madson and Sommers went 0-2.

In the group photo, shown are front from left: coach Blain Nelson, Payton Sommers, Jacob Knutson, Owen Arndt, Zander Rohe, Keegan Glynn and Kole Nelson. Back row: Coach Kevin Malecha, Tonn Bethke, Braxton Nelson, Kellen Klinger, Landon Madson, Sawyer Ellis, Sam Selthun, Oliver Staloch and Coach Greg Sommers.

Eclipse



Pioneer writer/news editor Deb Bently and company traveled to New York to view the total solar eclipse on Monday. Although some clouds came through, she did manage to capture a picture through a special lens filter. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently



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OBITUARIES

Wanita Groskreutz

Wanita Alvina Groskreutz, age 88, of Waseca passed away on Saturday April 6, 2024 at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato, MN. She was born on July 31, 1935 to Arno and Alvina (Detjen) Gilster at Immanuel Hospital in Mankato, MN. As the oldest of seven children she grew up on the family dairy farm west of Waldorf, MN. This is where she developed her love for family, faith, music, strong work ethics and community connection. She graduated from Waldorf High School in 1953.

As a teenager Wanita met Frank, her classmate's brother, at a roller skating event. They had their first date on Valentines Day in 1951. This was the beginning of their love story. They enjoyed roller skating together and could even waltz on their skates. On April 25, 1954 Wanita and Frank T. Groskreutz were united in marriage at First Lutheran Church of Waldorf, MN. Their marriage was blessed with five children: Charles, Duane, Cindy, Danny, and Christine.

Wanita had great organizational skills and kept the house running smoothly in addition to working outside the home. While the children were young they moved the family to Waseca, MN. Wanita worked at Waseca Ben Franklin, was a bookkeeper for Seewald Service and Ambulance, and various businesses over the years. Her outgoing personality was well suited for her position as the Welcome Wagon Lady; where she visited new member to Waseca and brought them a welcome gift from the local business community.

Wanita created an inviting home and loved to entertain family and friends. "The coffee pot was always on" and there were always homemade desserts to enjoy. She loved planning and hosting family holidays and family reunions, decorating for each season and holiday, and never missed sending a card for birthdays and anniversaries. Her favorite holiday was Christmas; celebrating with family reading the Christmas story from the Bible and singing Christmas Carols.

Wanita and Frank enjoyed many activities together. They shared a strong faith. In recent years they shared fellowship with a group of friends from their church. Wanita volunteered as a Sunday School teacher, release time teacher and in the kitchen serving at church functions. She and Frank also enjoyed dancing and danced beautifully together. They continued to dance on Saturday evening in their living room up until within a month of her passing. They enjoyed many camping trips; at first with the children and later years they had many adventures and traveled all over the US with their camper. Together Wanita and Frank renovated every home they lived in. She was so looking forward to celebrating her and Frank's 70th wedding anniversary which would have been April 25th.

Many in the community had their wedding cakes or special oc-



Wanita Groskreutz

casion cakes baked and decorated by Wanita. Some will remember her for the apple pies, apple bars, apple sauce or jellies she and Frank prepared for the local Farmers Market. And others will remember her as an election judge for the Wilton Township. We will remember her beautiful blue eyes, her smile, and the love and lessons she shared with each of us.

Wanita is preceded in death by her parents Alvina and Arno Gilster, brother Dan Gilster, sister Janice Samaraka, brothers-in-law Nick Samaraka and LeRoy Webber, sister-in-law Violet Gilster, father and mother-in-law Frank and Esther Groskreutz, Brother-in-law and sister-in-law: William (Sr.) & Lois Groskreutz, Paul (Sr.) & Mary Groskreutz, Benjamin Groskreutz, Harlan Schultz, and Gladean Groskreutz.

Wanita is survived by her loving husband Frank, sons Charles of Cameron, WI, Duane (Kim) of Waseca, Danny (Kimbie) of Waseca, daughters Cindy Larson of Janesville, MN, and Christine Suby of Rochester, MN. Grandchildren: Aaron (Missy), Julie, Lee Groskreutz, Jennifer (John) Woods, Charles Larson, Sr., Reid (Nicole) Groskreutz, Kyra (Mike) Reinsbach, Kale Groskreutz, Joshua (Roxanne) Suby, Matthew (Carrie) Suby, and Andrew (Megan) Suby. Twenty great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren. Siblings: Alvin Gilster, John Gilster, Judy Webber, and Larry (Sue) Gilster. In-laws: Florence Gilster, Anna Louise (Roger) Hodgkins, David (Linda) Groskreutz, Jeanette (Dale) Matheson, Gene Groskreutz and many nieces and nephew and friends.

The family would like to express a special thank you for the care Wanita received from the staff at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato.

Visitation was held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service.

Funeral Service was on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wilton Township, Waseca County. Interment will be on a later date at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Prescott.

In lieu of flowers memorials are preferred to donors choice. DSOFuneral.com

Sexton wins republican endorsement for 19B

Tom Sexton of Waseca won the Republican endorsement for House Seat 19B on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna, Minnesota. Sexton along with three other contenders Taylor Zinkle of Waseca, Chris Rausch of Owatonna, and Mick Ditlevson also from Owatonna were all vying to fill the seat of current Representative John Petersburg who announced earlier this year that he would be retiring at the end of this term.

At the start of the convention, both Senator Jasinski and Representative John Petersburg along with First District Chair Aaron Farris spoke to the delegates about the need to have sound, reasonable conservative decision-makers in St. Paul and stop the nonsense. Jasinski stated I'm excited to see so many candidates in the field for House District 19B and will be ready to work with any of the candidates who you endorse today.

After the first ballot, Zinkle was unable to maintain the needed threshold to remain in the race. The second ballot of Sexton, Ditlevson, and Rausch with 82 delegates voting

ended with Tom Sexton capturing the nomination. The final vote tally was Tom Sexton at 61.0 %, Mick Ditlevson at 30.5 %, and Chris Rausch at 8.5%.

Sexton in his acceptance statement said " Today we participated in an important part of our democratic process, the selection of your Republican nominee for state representative in St. Paul. My promise to you is, that I will take my values and experiences as a retired U.S. Air Force Colonel, pilot, and successful business leader to serve the families and individuals of this district and be your voice and vote in St. Paul. My family and I are honored to move forward with you to fight and keep control of this seat on behalf of our party."

Sexton will go on to face a Democratic Farm Labor candidate this November.

Sexton thanked his wife, of 37 years Jeanne, and his family, for their support, as well as Mikhail Rostislavovich, for guiding him through the process. He thanked all of the delegates and alternates for all of their work and support of the Republican



Waseca County Republican Chairman Richard Stagman, Tom Sexton, Jeanne Sexton, and 1st Congressional District Chairman Aaron Farris.

Party. Aaron Farris Minnesota's First Congressional District Chairman chaired the endorsement convention. Farris said " I want to congratulate Tom Sexton on securing the Republican Party's endorsement for Minnesota House District 19B. The State, CD 1, and local Republican Parties stand ready to support Tom and continue the exceptional Republican representation 19B has seen and come to expect for so many years. Our priority needs to be bringing balance and common sense back to the Minnesota Legislature. Tom will not be outworked, I'm looking forward to his victory in November."

Following the Endorsement Convention Representative John Peters-

burg said. " There was a great turnout filled with excitement. I was thrilled to participate to participate in endorsing our candidate from a field of 4 great candidates. It was great to see so much interest, I want to thank all the candidates who put their hats into the ring. It takes great courage to do so and a strong sense of commitment to serve this district. I also want to thank all the delegates and alternates for taking time on Saturday to support their candidate. Our endorsement is done, it's time to begin our journey to November. I'm excited to begin working with Tom Sexton and keep our district in Republican hands. I encourage everyone to get to know Tom and help him win this election.

Application to're-monument' Wilton township

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

During their April 2 work session and regular meeting, the Waseca County board of commissioners could be said to have concentrated on possibilities.

Along with re-appointing Waseca Veteran Service officer Christopher Hinton, commissioners looked at grant applications to "monument" Wilton township, and to extend the fiber internet project into St. Mary's and New Richland townships. They also received information from a financial consulting firm about the possible costs of financing about \$25 million in case of new construction for the jail/justice center project.

Veterans service administrator Christopher Hinton is now in his third year in the position. He informed commissioners he oversees a wide variety of programs meant to support and assist veterans. These range from helping them apply for and receive financial benefits including pensions and disability payments to providing transportation for medical appointments, especially for those who no longer drive.

Hinton manages the veterans memorial on the courthouse grounds; he informed commissioners the names of 917 county veterans are now displayed, with about 60 having been added in the past two years. He mentioned the memorial has room for up to 1,500 names, and commented anyone wanting more information can contact his office: (507) 835-0680.

He also reported his office is in the process of preparing its annual Memorial Day booklets. More than 800 such books were produced last year; they list the names and burial locations of veterans in the county's various cemeteries; he informed

commissioners that, based on discussions with other veteran service officers, very few counties in the state, or even country, produce annual publications of this type. Any member of the public interested in a copy of the booklet can contact Hinton's office.

County engineer Jim Kollar asked commissioners to approve a grant application to "re-monument" Wilton township. He explained that Waseca County was first surveyed in the 1850s; at that time, more than 1,300 "section corners" were marked with wooden stakes. Of that number, the locations of only about 170 are "certified as known" today.

The corner markers are important because they are a reference in most rural property deeds. Landowners wishing to sell--and especially to divide--plots of land must be able to produce definitive legal descriptions which include verifiable boundaries. Kollar mentioned that "certifying" the section corners is a county responsibility which has been allowed to go by the wayside; he said surveys which must include verifying the nearest section corner are considerably more expensive than those which do not.

Kollar told commissioners a statewide Public Land Survey System (PLSS) monument grant program offered by the state of Minnesota has set aside \$92 million toward certifying section corners statewide; individual counties can apply for a maximum of \$300,000. Kollar's request was for that amount; if received, it would be sufficient to "re-monument" a single township. Kollar said he selected Wilton township because it has a particularly low number of certified section corners, and because Wilton has many roads located along section lines--which means surveyors will not have to

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

work with as many landowners to acquire access to the needed locations.

Kollar said he would have the grant application submitted by the April 5 deadline, and that he hopes to learn whether the request has been successful by the end of the month.

Commissioners also heard from Bill Eckles, chief executive officer of Bevcomm, the communications company which will be installing fiber internet lines in Vivian, Freedom, Byron and Wilton townships using a \$4.38 million grant the county was awarded during March.

Eckles told commissioners workers will begin burying cable sometime in June and hope to finish the full project by the end of summer 2025.

In the meantime, he asked commissioners to approve an application for an additional grant which would cover 75 percent of the cost to lay cables reaching another 163 homes in the southern part of New Richland township and the northern part of St. Mary's township. Eckles asked the county to commit to contributing \$163,000 toward the proposed project, and said Bevcomm would take on expenses beyond those covered by any state grant--if received--and the county's contribution.

Eckles commented that the opportunity for another round of grants was somewhat unexpected, and that the state has given a rather short application deadline of April 30. He asked for commissioners' recommendations and assistance in getting letters of support from community leaders and from people for whom poor internet connections

are a hardship.

During its 8 a.m. work session, the county board received information from Bruce Kimmel of the Twin Cities public finance consulting firm, Ehlers. Kimmel answered commissioners' questions regarding the potential ramifications of issuing public bonds to finance the construction of a jail, a justice center, or a combination of the two.

Kimmel summarized the county's "debt profile," commenting it is unusually strong, even among Minnesota's counties, which have a national reputation for conservative financing. "This reflects well on your leadership and is a strong benefit to your taxpayers," Kimmel stated.

He told commissioners at least 30 of the state's 87 counties are "under pressure" from the state Department of Corrections (DOC) to upgrade or replace their jails. He mentioned projects in numerous specific counties and revealed that Beltrami County is looking at financing as much as \$80 million.

Kimmel's presentation analyzed financing costs for up to \$25 million; commissioners requested that he produce a similar summary for amounts up to \$40 million.

No action was taken during the work session; commissioners made no statements revealing a leaning toward constructing or not constructing a jail. It was pointed out, however, that the DOC will be carrying out its scheduled inspection of the Waseca County jail in May. It was also mentioned that Waseca's is the oldest operating jail in the state, with construction having taken place in the 1970s and later; the second-oldest jail is 20 years newer, having been constructed in the 1990s.

Memorial Service for Paul Lienke on Saturday

Paul Henry Lienke, 72, of Ashland, NE, entered into rest on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 in Ashland, Nebraska. He was born November 30, 1951 in Waseca, MN to John and Eileen (Prail) Lienke. Paul graduated from Waldorf-Pemberton High School and Mankato State University.

Paul was an avid Minnesota Vikings and Gophers fan. He enjoyed gardening, collecting antiques and all types of bears. He had a great laugh and always made people feel happy.

He is survived by his siblings, Gary (Eleanor) Lienke, David (Geraldine) Lienke, Wesley (Sharyn) Lienke, Ione Lienke and Theola (Daniel) Doss; many nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Jeanine Lienke; parents, John and Eileen Lienke.

A memorial service will be held April 13, 2024 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Alma City at 10 a.m. with visitation beginning one hour prior to service

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New assistant clerk hired

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

The New Richland City Council approved the hiring of Heather Christensen as the city’s new Assistant City Clerk during its second meeting of the month on Monday, March 25. The council also agreed to forgive the garbage portion of the over \$6,000 water/sewer bill discussed at the last meeting and allow a payment plan for up to a year for the balance of the account.

Bob Johannsen presented the care center report, which stated that the average census for February was 33 - a slight improvement from months prior. However, the cost of agency staffing and low census resulted in a financial loss for the facility last month. It was noted that work with AHI has streamlined the center’s admission process, which should help improve the census.

Three CNAs have been hired, though the care center is still seeking full and part-time Certified Nurse Aides on days, evenings, overnights and every other weekend. Full and part time RN or LPN positions are also available. The care center report was approved.

Shell Johnson presented the PeopleService report, noting that wastewater going into the treatment plant last month was more

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

than twice that of the month prior. The new garage door has been installed and is working well, and Johnson is preparing for the upcoming spring and summer seasons. The report was approved.

Eric Hendrickson presented the Water and Street report, which stated that 33 blue cards were issued in February resulting in zero shutoffs due to lack of payment. The council approved the donation of crushed asphalt to Riverview Golf Course at a cost of \$450 along with the report.

In new business, the council approved the purchase of a squad radar at a cost of \$3,550 as well as a maintenance agreement with Stryker for the ambulance’s Life-pack Defib and LUCAS devices at a cost of \$3,144.

City Administrator Tony Martens presented the administrator’s report, which was approved. The council also approved the adoption of Ordinance 24-01: An Ordinance Granting an Electric Franchise Agreement and Ordinance 24-02: A Franchise Fee Charging Ordinance. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Janesville hires new peace officer

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

On April 8, Janesville city council members approved using funds from the street capital reserves to purchase a new Ford pickup to replace a 2004 Ford M350 which is reaching the end of its usable life for the city. Councilmember Ivan Maas inquired whether the new truck would have any special features; he was informed an estimated extra cost of \$1,500 will have it installed with wiring and a mount for the city’s snow-plow.

During the meeting, the council members also individually gave reports. After receiving results from an Economic Development Authority (EDA) survey, Maas said input from Janesville residents indicates they would like to see a grocery store in town; they also hope to see the empty space on 109 Main Street “stay green.”

“There’s a lot of information to go through there,” Maas added. “We didn’t get a chance except for a quick review.”

When Councilmember Jim Mulcahey gave his report, he let the fellow council members know that, with the help of Paul Voges, the park board has received a \$2,000 grant from the

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council. The funds will be used to host city bands in the amphitheater this summer. Any sponsorships that the city receives, Mulcahey added, will be put into a separate fund for future use since he anticipates that performances by the city bands will become an annual event.

City Administrator Clinton Rogers’ reported the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had approved the city’s floodplain ordinance. EDA is also hosting a happy hour from 6-8 p.m. on May 1 at the American Legion.

Council members approved the appointment of Justice McElmury, formerly from Wells, as a new full-time police officer. McElmury, present at the meeting, thanked the city council for giving her the opportunity to work in Janesville.

The council also approved having Ron Cummins complete the term as Public Utilities Commissioner left vacant by the resignation of Marv Pearson. In old business, the council approved the 2022 street and utility improvements.

Council talks bringing businesses to Waseca

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

During a work session prior to the City Council, Waseca city council members and the Economic Development Authority (EDA) engaged in passionate discussion as they deliberated how to bring businesses to Waseca. Tina Wilson, Economic Development Manager, was present to provide a broadened understanding of all the factors which influence a new business as it chooses its location: land, water and sewer, natural gas, electricity and transportation.

Wilson said she hopes a future Waseca County Workforce Development Center will help grow business.

A workforce center provides people with the resources and services needed to help find gainful employment. Once in operation the center will be located in the Waseca County Community Services building.

“I’ve also discovered two other funding sources to assist with that Workforce Development Center,” Wilson said. “We’ve had meetings with key employers in town, edu-

cators, and we’ve put together our team. If everything checks out, we’ll have a workforce center by the end of the year.”

Wilson clarified that the city will not be putting any funds into this project. The majority of the funds (80%) will come from grants with the county contributing the rest.

Wilson said she wanted to focus on Waseca Vision 2030, an initiative of BEST of Waseca County.

BEST is a Business and Entrepreneurial and Support Team which works with the Waseca Public Schools, the county, Mayo Clinic, and others to help shape what Waseca will look like in 10, 20 or 30 years.

“When I joined the city, I presented a marketing plan to the economic development authority (EDA) which they approved, which was about building relationships,” said Wilson. She shared tenets of what she called, “Economy 101.” Based on city records, about 2,500 individuals commute out of Waseca for their jobs while 2,400 commute into city limits.

Jeremy Brown, the owner of the former Quad Graphics Building,

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

was one of the local business owners asked how to bring business back to Waseca.

“We had the ultimate goal of bringing jobs back to Waseca,” Brown said about his purchase of the building in 2018. “Some potential buyers weren’t sure they would be welcome in Waseca.”

Another concern Brown listed was housing for potential workers.

“My point to bring this up is not to be critical,” Brown said, telling those at the meeting he hoped they could use his suggestions to gather the needed information and have it ready to share as entrepreneurs raise questions. “You can fire away and say you have it handled.”

Brown talked about his time living in California and referenced an agreement between Dr. Pepper and Snapple under which the city of Victorville agreed to build a multi-million-dollar facility alongside the city’s water treatment center. Brown said the collaboration created up to 400 jobs.

Wilson told everyone gathered at the meeting the city has missed the opportunity to attract as many as a dozen companies because the city lacks the capacity to serve their water and sewer needs.

Brown added that, in the past four to five years, he’s been unable to meet the needs of businesses which could have provided in excess of 1,200 jobs if the proper infrastructure had been in place.

“We are making inroads for the city and [city manager] Carl [Sonnenberg] has been amazing,” Wilson claimed. “We have the dedicated congressional funding coming in and the bonding bills are going through the state. Before, we didn’t have those things in our favor and those types of things are definitely shifting the picture.”

The city of Waseca will receive between \$2.85-\$3.85 million earmarked for infrastructure from the 2024 Federal Appropriations bill.

Following the workforce meeting, the city council held a relatively short meeting during which the subject of Ordinance 1114 and the tax implications were tabled until April 16.

Hudspith provides legislative updates

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

Palmer Bus Service site manager Audra Veroeven visited the recent Waseca school board work session to highlight the transportation services provided by the company to Waseca Schools since 2016. Veroeven said Palmer currently runs seven buses through town and ten vans that transport students to other programs out of the district. Palmer also provides transportation for all sports events for grades 9-12. “Six of seven of the buses right now are all propane so we’re moving toward being green,” she said proudly.

“Palmer offers 100-percent paid training for anyone wanting to get their commercial drivers’ license (CDL),” Veroeven said. “It’s a great job for retirees or stay-at-home moms—just two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon. And usually you get into the sports events for free. That’s a huge plus. You’re getting paid to do it!”

Veroeven spoke about an option Palmer has been offering, an online app named “My View.” Once parents have registered their students, it helps parents track where their child’s bus is while it’s en route; it can be pre-set to indicate when the bus enters a specific parameter. “Parents can set this to however far or close they’d like, in case they have to meet the bus for some reason,” Veroeven said. “This is also our communication tool, though we still have our Facebook posts on our page as well, but most of the information for parents will be going

out via My View.” The app, which was presented to the school board several months back, has been available to parents for some time.

Kelly Lenz of Lenz Bus Service said they currently have four country routes that are mainly on the south and west end of the district. “We don’t have as many kids in the country as we used to, though we cover the same amount of miles,” Lenz said. “We have 50 to 60 kids on the south bus, but in the fall I’ve counted 74 on our camera system.” Both Lenz and Palmer also run buses for special education students who require special transportation as designated by their individual educational plans.

“This is the early morning team on weather days,” Superintendent Eric Hudspith told the board. “We start texting between 4:30 and 5:00 in the morning and we divide and conquer what areas we’re test driving. We’ve gone more toward ‘we’re having school, but we have to modify some routes,’ and our out of town families understand.”

Hudspith shared several legislative updates regarding the Minnesota Reading to Ensure Academic Development (READ) Act and its impact on the district. Passed in 2023, the READ act sets specific parameters for Minnesota teachers to teach reading. “There are some flaws we need to work through,” Hudspith said. “There are some arbitrary timelines. And how do you define who teaches reading? The science teacher and the math teacher will have some vocabulary to teach, but do they

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

need to spend 90 hours on literacy training? Probably not,” Hudspith chuckled. “And then how this is paid for. None of this was worked out in the initial law. But the good news is with the \$300,000 Brooke (Teaching and Learning Director Brooke McGuire) secured in grants this past summer for professional development, we had teachers starting the training.” He and McGuire report receiving positive feedback from teachers. “I heard some say ‘I wish I had this information years ago!’”

Hudspith highlighted the many required tools already in place within the district, such as the Fast Bridge Screening Assessment and the Amplify reading curriculum, thanks to McGuire’s foresight two years ago. “Think about what we’ll still have to pay, and then think about bigger districts that don’t have the grant. Or the smaller ones. If we didn’t have Brooke on top of that, it would all be coming out of our pocket,” he said. Hudspith said a concern districts have shared back to the state is sustainability. “Some of this training needs to be

worked into their teacher prep programs,” he said.

During the final minutes of the meeting Hudspith shared a bit of his recent doctorate program experiences, including the opportunity to teach a graduate ethics class and lead a team of research teaching assistants. But the research and dissertation process is what sets it apart from other graduate programs. “What do you want to learn more about, and find some real hard data to help support you with?” he told the board. “As a school leader, how do we put the best possible teachers in front of our kids all the time, and how do we continue to recruit and retain good, diverse teachers? There’s a lot of data out there for urban and suburban school districts, so why not for rural schools?” Hudspith told the board his most important conclusion is that more research needs to be done to recruit teachers to rural school districts. “We basically disproved the assumption that what’s working in metro areas automatically works in rural Minnesota. What I can do with this is talk with my legislators, talk with my school board.”

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Hope

‘Hope’ comes to the Miller family

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

Veteran Jeremiah Miller, 46, who has served military tours in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait, and who is now an owner of Waseca’s 4-Season Apparel and More, helped start “Ruck of Hope,” an annual Waseca event that brings attention to the issue of veteran suicide. Jeremiah also has a golden doodle named Hope who is a story all on her own.

The circumstances surrounding Hope’s arrival begin rather tragically.

During the covid pandemic, the Miller family got a puppy which they had for four days before she died tragically because of Parvo, a canine virus. That puppy wasn’t vaccinated as soon as she needed to be,” Jeremiah said, mentioning that delayed vaccinations can be one of the causes of Parvo.

Jeremiah remembers his family was so deeply saddened by the death, they decided they would not get another dog.

Still, “I’ve never seen Jaala that depressed and sad,” Jeremiah observed regarding his wife, Jaala, 41, remembering he would persistently see her looking at puppy photos online. Finally, she found a golden doodle that captured her heart, and the family went to check out the puppy in person.

“When the door opened, this fat little puppy came barreling towards us and jumped in Jaala’s arms,” Jeremiah remembered and proceeded to list off what Jaala had said at that time— all having to do with hope. ‘I hope she lives. I hope she brings us the happiness we need. Everything [Jaala] said had to do with hope.’”

After expressing all that energy, the revelation of the name came to Jaala.

“That’s her name: Hope,” Jeremiah remembered Jaala saying. “I was a helicopter parent,” Jaala readily admitted, then burst out laughing as Jeremiah commented she would overreact to even a sneeze.

By the time Hope received her last vaccination, Jaala said she felt relieved.

“She rolls up with her mom and lays her whole body length,” Jeremiah said. “She doesn’t lay by me, hardly ever. So she’s ‘our’ dog. She has a special purpose for each of us. She loves kids, including my grandson [Caeston] when he comes over.”

While Hope was intended to be Jaala’s dog, she has been training one day a week for ten months as Jeremiah’s military service dog. Jeremiah mentioned that his busy schedule has occasionally caused him to miss sessions, but Hope has nonetheless learned the basics including heel, down, stay, and leave it.

“She is incredibly smart and loyal,” Jeremiah said.

He works with a non-profit called Soldiers-6 which he deems as “incredible” because the group has provided Hope’s vest and training for free.

“I had a two-hour interview with Soldiers-6’s founder, Ed Abrahamson, and he felt that Hope and I were a great fit for the non-profit’s mission and program,” Jeremiah said.

During his time of service, he was away from his family for a couple of years which were challenging times for both him and them. The most challenging factor was the separation periods which were punctuated by a much shorter time frame Jeremiah got to visit his family back in Minnesota.

From 2005 to 2007, Jeremiah trained in Iraq and from 2009 to 2010, he was in Afghanistan, and in 2018, he was in Kuwait.

“That first [deployment] was a doozy,” Jeremiah said. “I was gone 22 months.”

Those absences occurred while his children were young: daughter Maurela, now 25, was in the second grade; her brother Preston was three weeks old when Jeremiah left on one deployment and two years old when he returned.

Now 18, Preston is joining the Marine Corps and will be at boot camp this summer. Of Preston’s decision, Jeremiah said, “There was no pressure from anyone to do it. He just always brought it up, growing up.”

Their son Coy, now 14, was five days old when Jeremiah left for Afghanistan and a year old when he returned.

Since the earlier deployments were before the age of easy long-distance communication, the family relied heavily on mail, email and care packages. Jaala said she was always counting down to the day when Jeremiah would return. She remembers one particularly frustrating experience when Jeremiah was only 40 days from returning. During a “special announcement,” President George Bush announced certain troops would have their assignments extended: when the units were named, Jeremiah’s was among them.

“I immediately went numb,” Jaala remembered. She emailed Jeremiah and requested that he join her for an online discussion on Skype.

She asked whether it was true Jeremiah would not be returning on schedule. He told her it was not true; in the background, Jeremiah’s commander could be heard shouting the same message.

Sure enough, though, a week later, Jeremiah’s unit received official orders that their time in Iraq was being extended. “The majority of those soldiers are now divorced,” Jaala added.

She observed that all soldiers’ wives face many difficulties and shared her belief that the extended absences are among the most trying. With the eventual invention of the i-Phone, Jeremiah could “Facetime” his family which helped him feel a stronger sense of connection despite being, by that time, in Kuwait.

The separations were still sources of difficulty. Maintaining their marriage required what he described as “a lot of heart-to-heart talks and soul searching.” Ultimately, Jeremiah said he and Jaala committed to stay together because of the love and respect they share for one another, and for their children. Nonetheless, it took counseling, dedication and patience to rebuild their relationship.

“I’ve had to do a lot of internal searching,” he observed. “I’m not the same. I’ll give the Veteran Affairs (VA) props – they’re pretty top notch. The other thing is being active with other military members in organizations like my motorcycle group.” He mentioned he loves to walk into the American Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) because he feels like he belongs.

“Training with [Hope] now has been super awesome,” Jeremiah added. “We’ve got a long road of training ahead of us, but it helps just knowing if I need to talk to someone, she will help make me feel better.” Looking over at Jaala with a twinkle in his eye, he said, “Hope is good. So is my family.”

Humble appreciation of His Truth

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

Truth has a unique effect on people. Sometimes the truth is freeing, other times it is convicting. God has a plan to use truth to bring us back into relationship with Him and transform us into better followers of Him.

As followers of Jesus, we try our best to follow Him every day. We read our bibles, pray, worship, attend church and serve others. We do good things for God’s glory and try to be good people in every area of our public lives, but at times we struggle with our private lives.

We try to deal with our inmost thoughts, both positive and sinful, privately. No one knows my thoughts, my temptations, or my weaknesses except for those I let in and God. God is trying to help each one of us become better followers of Him. He knows our hearts and thoughts, our feelings and reactions



The Pastor’s Column

to life. God is lovingly applying His truth to our lives to see a transformation happen.

The transformation He wants to see is the humble application of His truth to every area of our lives. When we are confronted with God’s truth, we are both convicted and freed from what was holding us back in growth in God. It creates a response within us that can be seen clearly in passages like Nehemiah 8:9-12 where the people of God had returned to Jerusalem, restored the wall, and heard the law for the first time being confronted by God’s truth:

9 Then Nehemiah the governor,

Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is sacred to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

10 Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

11 The Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for this is a sacred day. Do not grieve.”

12 Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of

food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

The conviction of hearing God’s word and applying it to their lives brought the people of Israel to tears of regret, but God’s plan was to restore them to His joy. The people grieved their sins, but God wanted them to celebrate with Joy. When we are convicted of sin, we are grieved of our sin and experience the joy of freedom in the Lord.

We celebrate our freedom in God with Joy, praising God for His actions and sharing the forgiveness of sins in humility. We share how God has moved in our lives and seek to praise Him with all of who we are as a celebration of His mercy. Our Joy in the Lord is a reflection of God’s delight in us at growing in faith and knowledge in Him. Let us celebrate in joy what God is doing.

Waseca well above the average



Superintendent’s Corner

by Eric Hudspeth

to feel like they belong in their building, and activities play a large role in that focus.

In addition to our extracurricular triumphs, it was equally positive to see our recently released 2023 graduation rate growth compared to previous years. 90% of our students at Waseca High School graduate in four years, well above the state average in this area. Students who attend the Area Learning Center often need more than four years to complete the requirements for their diploma, and we embrace this opportunity to serve these students as they work towards their goals, measuring our success by making sure they endure, not a timeline of completion. Graduation paves

the way for greater opportunities and brighter futures for our students. Seeing growth in this area is a testament to the collective dedication and unwavering commitment to ensuring every student reaches graduation prepared and ready to explore options in life.

One of the highlights of the season was our kindergarten roundup, where we had the pleasure of welcoming our newest students and their families into our educational family. Witnessing the excitement and anticipation in the eyes of these young learners fills us with joy and optimism for the future. As they take their first steps into Hartley and as Blue Jays, we stand ready to guide,

support, and inspire them every step of the way. To our incoming kindergartners, welcome aboard – your adventure in learning begins now!

Looking ahead, our schools are abuzz with preparations for summer opportunities for students and the eagerly anticipated 2024-25 school year. From professional development workshops to curriculum planning sessions, our educators are dedicated to honing their craft and refining their skills to better serve our students. Simultaneously, our administrative teams are working hard to prepare for the transition into the new academic year.

Heading into the last two months of the school year, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our students, staff, families, and community members for your support and dedication to our shared mission of empowering each learner to thrive in an ever-changing world. Together, we are preparing our students to be the best they can be as they head into that world.

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CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * *	Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. * * *	Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m. * * *	CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * *	Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.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. * * *	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) * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * *	Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass * * *
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ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 10:45 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 * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@bick-orytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * *	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Pamela Jensen Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * *	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 * * *	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 * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * *	LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Interim Pastor Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:15 a.m. Worship * * *	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER. * * *
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. * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST * * *	
REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-607-8245 Sunday worship 10 a.m. * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd’s Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * *		
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Ferichs * * *		
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 * * *			

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3 on 3 tournament



Three of the youth teams competing in Saturday's youth 3 on 3 basketball tournament at Waseca High School.
Pioneer photo by Tristan Gehring

Waseca Archives

25 Years Ago
-Artist Mark Barens undoubtedly has a unique perspective on life in Waseca. He is a comparatively recent arrival, having settled here in July of 1998, after having lived near Chicago for 40 years. Barens was actually born in Latvia. He came to the United States in 1950, when he was 17-years-old.

-At the young age of 18, right out of high school in Madelia, John Krunz enrolled at St. Mary's College in Winona. He had decided to become a Roman Catholic priest. Looking back on his decision, he said it had been made easier because he came from a very strong Catholic family.

-Ken Borgmann finds satisfaction in his work and in his life. Borgmann is a group account manager at Brown Printing. He's also been responsible for helping organize Waseca's annual Sleigh & Cutter Festival for the past five years.

50 Years Ago
-The FBI is hunting newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst on a material witness warrant which identifies her as a member of a heavily armed gang that robbed a bank and shot and wounded two passers-by. Authorities say she may have been forced into taking part in the stickup.
-If tornado history is any guide, at least 17 potentially lethal tornadoes could touch down in Minnesota this year and the bulk of them in the months just ahead according to the National Weather Service Office in Minneapolis. In 1973 three tornadoes occurred in Waseca County and two were reported in Steele County during the tornado season.

-“We have been concerned about the environment for a long time. Our work in agriculture is with the environment,” said Richard Anderson, superintendent of the Southern Experiment Station in reference to possible pollutants from the station entering into Loon Lake.

75 Years Ago
-Waseca county, not only has deer like northern Minnesota, but we are starting to hit them with autos as they do often up in the brush country. An Owatonna woman's 1947 Mercury convertible, was badly smashed at 1 a.m. today when it crashed into and killed a 115 pound young buck deer three miles east of Waseca at Goose Lake where a large culvert crosses under Highway 14.

-Gary Arnold, 3, son of Mr. and Mrs. Merton Arnold of New Richmond, was medically discharged from the Elizabeth Kenney Institute in Minneapolis on April 8, following eight months of Kenny treatment.

-A warning to Waseca “cleaner-uppers” was hurled today by Fire Chief John Rietforts following a grass fire Wednesday morning that threatened the Dalton house (occupied by the Kenny Neff family) on the north shore of Loon Lake.

-Soundings made by City Engineer Erwin Hill indicate that about half of the towers for the baseball field lights will be located on good ground which will require only 8-ft. footings. He reported to the city council Tuesday evening that he had made the soundings with the help of Park board employees and the advice of Chas. and Herman Woyke.

100 Years Ago
-In an effort to reduce chances of accident, Mayor Ward asks church goers who use their cars to park on only one side of the street. The narrow streets hardly permit of double rows.

-Rev. C. Mauman attended the funeral of Rev. G.W. Hielscher last Tuesday in St. Paul. Rev. Hielscher was pastor of the St. Clair Evangelical church and died in the West Side hospital at St. Paul. He had suffered more or less during the past winter. He was 68 years old.

-Auditor Panzram is satisfied that Waseca county will raise its quota for the relief of starving German children.

■ Border

from Page 1

many interruptions and distractions.

Tesch mentioned she's one of 20 members of a particular group. Two members of the board prepared a video to share with her; thanks to poor service, she could not play the video at home.

“Fortunately, the board knows I'm the poster child for bad internet and understand it's a problem,” Tesch said. She went on to observe that insufficient internet bandwidth is not strictly a rural problem. “There are places in the city that are spotty, too. But you go up to northern Minnesota in Paul Bunyan land – their internet is solid. That area, that business, decided to invest in cyber internet.”

In addition to her professional work, Tesch is taking online college courses. When attending from home, she says she doesn't bother to turn on her camera because it's too much bandwidth. To ensure reliable audio reception, she calls in on her home phone. Although it reduces her profile within the class, she does not attempt to turn on her camera for fear her internet will lock up.

“I need high speed, high functioning video to do my job,” she stated.

Tesch described some of her workarounds: “I have my personal favorite coffee shops,” she said, naming Lush Cakes in Waseca and the Fillin Station in Mankato. She says she also frequents libraries in Waldorf or Waseca, where she can work undisturbed and catch up on

her emails or writing. When she hosts webinars which have a couple hundred people in attendance, she'll go to her aunt's house in Waseca or the Chamber of Commerce for internet access.

Tesch points out that, as society becomes more and more reliant on internet interchanges, reliable access becomes an important element in their everyday decisions—including where they will live.

She suggests that, in addition to working from home, there are movements to visit with doctors, therapists and other health professionals online. The issue is not simply that she needs reliable internet, it is that every rural resident does.

“I've seen people who have needed to connect right away and not have to wait to make an appointment or drive anywhere,” Tesch added.

“I feel the internet should be treated like a utility, like electricity,” she said. “We need it to survive.”

Continuing with the electricity as a comparison, Tesch also said that when electricity was a new invention, that was a slow process.

“You hear on the news all the time that there's all this money from the state and federal level for rural internet, but that money isn't even a drop in the bucket to get everyone connected,” she said. “It's going to require a lot more time and resources. People think that having internet can happen tomorrow, like there's a switch to be flipped.”

For herself, because of all the layers involved with how to obtain good internet and what good internet means, she admitted even she gets confused.

■ Bash

from Page 1

possibilities it presented.

With the promise of the grant secured, Bevcomm began the process of public outreach by holding a “Bash” at the Waldorf Community Center the evening of Thursday, April 4; about 125 people attended.

Regarding the event, Bevcomm CEO Bill Eckles commented, “I think our Broadband Bash was a great success Thursday night. The support we are seeing for the Fiber to the Home project (FTTH) in Waseca County has been amazing. Everyone from the homeowners to the County Commissioners have been great to work with. We are looking forward to Bevcomm becoming part of the Waseca County community.”

During the three-hour meeting, those attending were invited to speak with the 10 or so Bevcomm representatives to have their questions answered and their concerns addressed.

Area residents were asked to sign up for at-home consultations during which they would be provided with more information about how the installation would go at their site. Those in attendance also had their questions answered by Bevcomm staff, including CEO Bill Eckles.

Eckles informed residents the main cables will be buried parallel to roads throughout the four townships beginning in June. Somewhat later, depending on location, individual customers will have cable buried across their property and up to their homes.

No one is required to allow the lines to be installed on their private

property, however, according to discussion at recent county board meetings, doing so could increase their property value by \$3,000 to \$5,000. While there is no charge to install the lines during this initial phase, anyone who refuses the installation and then requests it later will be expected to pay.

During an interview in March, Malterer referred to high-speed internet as a “utility” and suggested that, even if current residents don't believe they will get any use out of the fiber connection, they should consider allowing the installation now. “As time moves forward,” said Malterer, “that connectivity will become more and more important.”

During the “Bevcomm Bash,” visitors were provided with information about the services which will be available once the installation process is complete, likely by fall of 2025. Bevcomm's printed materials explained that customers can choose from a three-part “buffet” which consists of phone service, internet, and television. They need not purchase any, may select any one or two they would like, or can arrange for “packages” which supply various combinations of the options.

Residents joked among themselves about the buffer times and episodes of lost service they currently experience with wireless providers, commenting that the times they most wanted their service—for example during bad weather—seemed to be when they were least likely to have it.

Anyone residing in the four townships who was unable to attend the gathering will still be contacted sometime during the installation process; cables can be installed on private property only after required forms are completed by a qualified individual.

Brilliant Bluejays - March 2024

Brilliant+ BlueJAYS

Hudson
Kindergarten

Hudson is a Brilliant Bluejay who is always respecting learning! He is a good listener, respects others space, does his job, and focuses on his learning. He is a great role-model and always willing to help someone else! Way to go, Hudson!

Lennon
1st Grade

Lennon is a Brilliant Bluejay who does a fantastic job respecting learning. Lennon shows whole body listening, raises his hand when answering questions and even shares his new knowledge with his family! Keep up the great work Lennon!

Emma
2nd Grade

Emma is a brilliant Bluejay that respects learning everyday! Emma is a hard worker and always tries her best even when something might be hard. She stays persistent and grows as a learner everyday! Way to go Emma!

Romeo
3rd Grade

Romeo is a Brilliant Bluejay who always respects learning! He is always participating, sharing his ideas, and working hard during our learning. Way to go, Romeo!

Bentley
2nd Grade

Bentley respects learning by showing up every day with a positive and helpful attitude, ready to try his best.

Brilliant+ BlueJAYS

Giselle
Kindergarten

Giselle is always in her own space and shows kindness to everyone she meets. She keeps her hands to herself and has a positive attitude. She is respectful to all teachers and staff at Hartley. Keep up the great work Giselle!

Gunner
1st Grade

Gunner is a Brilliant Bluejay at respecting others because he is kind and stays in his own space. Gunner does a nice job of listening to others and being a kind friend when needed. Keep up the good work Gunner!

Amelia
2nd Grade

Amelia is a Bluejay who follows all of the R4's. She is an amazing role-model and is kind to everyone. I can always count on Amelia to stay on task and complete her assignments. She shows respect to all of her peers and staff members in the building keeping that positive attitude.

Noah
3rd Grade

Noah is a Bluejay that shows respect for others in the classroom daily. He is kind in how he helps others with their learning. If someone is struggling he will take the time to help them understand.

Amili
First Grade

Amili has worked very hard to manage his emotions during specials. Amili comes to specials with a positive attitude, greets teachers nicely and tries his best even if the activities are not his favorite. We are very proud of you Amili, Great Job!

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Waseca tennis boys get past Faribault

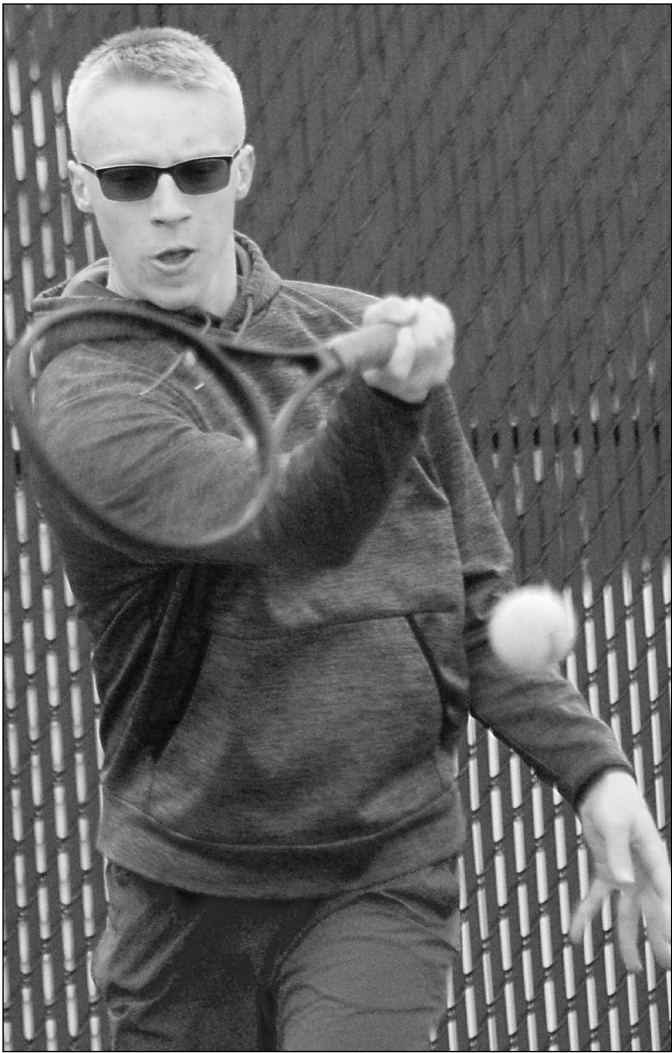
The Waseca High School boys' tennis team was victorious on the home courts Monday, defeating Faribault 5-2 in a nonconference meeting.

Waseca won two singles matches, with Otto Schoenrock prevailing 6-2, 6-2 at No. 3 and Armann Bhatti sweeping 6-0, 6-1 at No. 4. Tyler Jellum fell 6-2, 6-0 at No. 1 singles while Henry Huttemier lost 6-0, 6-2 at No. 2.

The Bluejays' No. 1 doubles team of Oliver Rohwer and Tanner Swenson won 6-4, 6-0, and Adam Kopetzke and Keenan Collins combined for a 6-3, 6-1 win at No. 3. Waseca's No. 3 doubles team of Lucas McQuery and Brighton Rugger won 6-4, 6-1.

Waseca's junior varsity tied 2-2.

The Bluejays, 3-0 after the win, played at St. James Thursday. They host Blue Earth Area Friday at 4:30 on the WHS courts, play next Tuesday at Redwood Valley and at Fairmont April 18.



GROUND STROKES — From left, Waseca High School boys' tennis players against Faribault Monday: Tyler Jellum, Henry Huttemier and Otto Schoenrock. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Baseball Bluejays rally past TCU in opener

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It wasn't pretty. But it wasn't bad.

The Waseca High School baseball team opened the season at Montgomery Tuesday, rallying to defeat Tri-City United 5-1.

"It was not a bad game for our season opener," said Bluejays assistant coach Tink Larson.

The Bluejays played near-errorless defense, committing only one error on a ground ball in the first

inning. They also did not walk a batter after the opening frame.

But the Titans' 1-0 first-inning lead held up until the sixth, when Waseca took advantage of some TCU miscues and batted around the order while plating four runs.

Leadoff hitter Keato Roeker was the lone Bluejay with more than one hit, going 2-for-3 with two runs scored and two stolen bases. He also made turned in stellar defensive play from his shortstop position.

Nate Engel-Mueller added one hit

apiece for the Bluejays. RBIs went to Engel-Mueller and Max Wirtz.

Sebastian Teague started on the mound for Waseca and went five innings for the win. He allowed one earned run on three hits, with four strikeouts and three walks.

Colten Ruedy earned a save, going two innings while not surrendering a hit.

"Neither team had a lot of hits," said Coach Larson. "Other than one inning for each team, the pitchers threw well."

Roeker

Teague

Engel-Mueller

Ruedy

The Bluejays are on the road Friday at Sibley East. They host New Ulm Tuesday, April 16 and face NRHEG at home April 18.

Kronbach breaks two JWP indoor records

Girls first, boys second at MSU

The JWP track and field teams competed in a four-team indoor meet hosted by Blue Earth Area at Minnesota State-Mankato last week.

It was a good night for both squads.

The JWP girls finished first and the boys took second as Ryan Kronbach broke two school records.

"What a night!" said coach Sam Schruin. "Way to go Ryan! The effort he puts into all his events is impressive and his support for the other athletes shows how successful we are as a team."

One of Kronbach's school records was in the high jump, which he won at 6 feet 5 inches, 7 inches better than second place. His other record was in the triple jump, where he also won handily at 43-2.



Kronbach

Other highlights for the boys' squad: Daulton Bauer 3rd 55 dash and 3rd 200; Kronbach 2nd 200; Memphis James 3rd 400 and 3rd triple jump; Kaden Baker 2nd 55 hurdles; Luke Cahill 2nd pole vault; Alex James 1st triple jump. Isaiah Berndt, Memphis James, Bauer and Kronbach teamed for third in the 4x400 relay.

Katie Olson had a big meet for the girls, winning the 200 in 28.8, taking second in the long jump and third in the 55.

Also placing first were MaKenzie Westphal, who won the 1600 in 5:56.7, and Nevaeh Wiemert, who took the triple jump at 29-7.5.

MaKaela Westphal, Ashlynn Wolff, Weimert and MaKenzie Westphal took first in 4x400, clocking 4:43.9.

Other places: Wolf 3rd 400; Lauren White 2nd 800; Kwynn Krause 2nd 1600; Ava Appel 3rd 60 hurdles; Aubrey Weedman 3rd shot put; Onika Herme 2nd triple jump; Presley James 3rd triple jump.

Several athletes recorded personal bests including Kronbach, Memphis James, Shane Witts, Teagan Mulder, Leighlan Harris, Carson Schultz, Brennan Welvaert, Preston Johnson, Gavin Weedman, Olson, MaKenzie Westphal, Anne Adams and Ariana Aguilar.



SOFTBALL BULLDOGS — At left, Brielle James fires a pitch during the JWP softball team's nonconference game against New Life Academy in Janesville last Saturday. At right, Victoria Blomstrom moves up in the batter's box for a slap bunt. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Softball Bulldogs trim Hayfield

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Exactly when they last did it is not known by JWP softball coach Nicci Malecha.

But it's been a while.

Malecha's Bulldogs defeated Hayfield for the first time in recent memory Monday, winning 9-8 at Janesville.

It was back and forth all day, 3-3 after one inning. The Bulldogs trailed 8-6 before rallying for the winning runs in the bottom of the sixth.

Ryleigh Donner started and pitched the full seven innings for JWP. She struck out four and gave up four walks.

Offensively, Sophia Cousley went 2-for-3 while Victoria Bloomstrom was 2-for-4.

Brielle Dessner secured the win by catching a pop fly for the final out.

The Bulldogs split in a home doubleheader Saturday, defeating Lyle/Austin Pacelli 14-0 while falling 8-4 to

New Life Acadmy.

Leaders against Lyle/Pacelli were Lexie Dahlberg 2-for-2 with a triple and a walk, Hudson Miller 2-for-3, Brielle James 2-for-3, Autumn Thissen 2-for-3 and Ryleigh Donner 2-for-3. Dessner added a single and two walks.

The Bulldogs lost 12-5 at Blooming Prairie last Thursday.

Dessner and Thissen went 2-for-4. Dessner doubled, Dahlberg tripled.

James pitched the first four innings with Donner going two in relief.

"The girls got down early but battled back and scored four runs in the top of the fifth inning to stay alive," said Coach Malecha.

After a Thursday game at WEM, the Bulldogs play Tuesday, April 16 at home against Maple River. They play April 18 at Kenyon-Wanamingo and host Cleveland the next day. Game time for all is 4:30.



IN THERE — The Bulldogs' Raylan Blasing dives safely into third base during the JWP softball team's nonconference game against New Life Academy in Janesville last Saturday. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

WHS softball opener



Action for the Waseca High School softball team in Tuesday's opener against Meford, which the Bluejays lost 5-0. At left, Waseca's Lily Owens connects. In the middle, McKyla Hasselquist delivers a pitch. At right, center fielder Kenzie Sanborg comes up throwing.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Nydegger leads NRHEG girls to third at Hayfield

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor
NRHEG High School Evelyn Nydegger picked up right where she left off last spring.

Wanamingo 67, Medford 65, Blooming Prairie 38, Hayfield 28, Randolph 25 and Lyle/Austin Pacelli 24.

intermediate hurdles in 52.21 seconds while taking second in the 110 high hurdles in 17.39 and second in the triple jump at 32-7.5.

ond in the high jump. Holly Bartness, Chloe Riewer, Gabby Schlaak and Ladlie combined for second in the 4x100 relay in 55.68.

Schlaak, fifth, 100 hurdles, 18.51 and sixth, high jump, 4-8; Ellie Clark, fifth, 300 hrdles, 55.88; Kylie Olson, fifth, shot put, 28-8; Riewer, sixth, long jump, 15-2 and eighth, 100, 14.36; McKenzie Mueller, eighth, shot put, 27-1.



Nydegger

Baseball Bulldogs nip Blooming Prairie, 2-1

The JWP baseball team nipped visiting Blooming Prairie 2-1 in Janesville last Thursday.

Gerdts collected both of JWP's RBIs, going 1-for-3. Adding one hit each were Ty Melchoir, Nolan Morsching, Cole Blomgstom and Josh Bengston.

Austin Quast played an outstanding game on the defensive side with a potential two-run diving play to get the guy out at first base.

The Bulldogs stranded 10 baserunners and committed some key errors while falling 6-3 at Madelia Friday.

"I still believe this team is a very good team," said JWP coach Cory Jewison. "And we will be tough team to play against. We just need to continue learning and getting more practices on the field."

Melchoir pitched five innings and took the loss.

Morshing was 3-for-4. Gerdts, Melchoir, Blomstrom and Austin Carda contributed one hit each.

The Bulldogs lost 3-1 at Hayfield Monday.

"We couldn't execute our bunts and an error cost us two runs," said Coach Jewison.

Gerdts registered his first varsity home run and Quast had two of JWP's three hits.

Gerdts pitched six innings, allowing no earned runs on six hits. He struck out five and walked two.

Softball Panthers follow losses with 16-0 victory

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor
The NRHEG High School softball team opened the 2024 season with a 6-0 loss at Randolph Thursday, April 4.

struck out 13 and walked four.

The Panthers faced Austin Saturday and ran into another hot pitcher while falling 4-0.

Field. Stadheim went 2-for-3 with three runs scored and one RBI, Izley Boerner 1-for-2 with two runs and three RBIs, Faith Nielsen 1-for-2 with a run, Preslie Nielsen 1-for-2 with a double, three runs and one RBI, Erin Peterson 1-for-3 with a double, two runs and



F.Nielsen

one RBI, Tayler Schmidt 2-for-3 with two runs and two RBIs. Bunn and Aspy Stenzel each had a hit and scored a run. Bunn had an RBI.

Faith Nielsen pitched a complete game, allowing no earned runs on two hits, with two strikeouts and three walks.

The Panthers host Blooming Prairie Friday and play Monday at Granada-Huntley-East Chain/Martin Luther.

Tuttle, NRHEG track boys take third at Hayfield

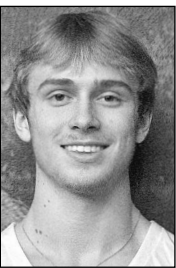
By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor
Will Tuttle was in midseason form and the rest of the NRHEG High School boys' track and field team followed suit.

Ostrander/Southland finished first with 201 points. Following were Pine Island with 184.5, NRHEG 100, Blooming Prairie 56, Lyle/Austin Pacelli 43.5, Medford 33.5, Kenyon-Wanamingo 32.5, Hayfield 18 and Ranolph 13.

The other NRHEG gold went to Jacob Karl, who won the 3200 in 11:38.79.

Raab, Gavin Sletten, Wyatt Tuttle, third, 4x400, 4:00.01; Raab, fourth, long jump, 18-11 and fifth, 100, 12.3; Cromwell, fourth, pole vault, 9-0; Parker Bunn, fifth, 300 hurdles, 46.76 and seventh, 100 hurdles, 19.71; Gavin Lewison, fifth, high jump, 5-4; Kitzer, sixth, 300, 47.58; Sletten, eighth, 800, 2:37.29.

looked in midseason form. Some of the younger guys stepped up and scored points for us tonight."



Tuttle

Baseball Panthers show improvement in game three

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor
You can say this about the young, senior-less NRHEG High School baseball team: it's definitely improving.

Schlaak and Wyatt Larson. Larson took the pitching loss in three innings of relief of starter Aeden Schlaak. Carter Martens also pitched. They combined to strike out six and walk eight.

Reese Field, where they fell 16-1 in five innings to a strong Randolph crew.

that one. Randolph was very good tonight at capitalizing on errors. Besides that, they were tough at the plate all the way through their lineup, and found several hits to complement the unearned runs they scored. They are a good team."



Parpart

"After two days in a row of the same thing, it is hard to say we are making improvements," said Coach Larson. "We need work on almost every aspect of baseball right now. I will say that being more aggressive at the plate, and more disciplined on defense are the two areas that will help us the most to improve. We were no-hit in this game, partly because we were tentative, but mainly because Gupton and Tellijohn pitched very well."

The Panthers hosted United South Central Thursday, April 11. They play Friday at Granada-Huntley/EC/ML at 5 p.m. and are at Waseca April 18 for a 5 p.m. game.

NRHEG golf teams open 2024 season

The NRHEG High School golf teams opened the season last Tuesday at Riverview Golf Course.

The NRHEG girls finished first with 237 strokes for nine holes. Co-medalists were the Panthers' Meela Budach and Hallie Schultz at 49. Alexis Olson shot 69, Elsie Schultz 70.

The NRHEG boys placed third with 231 strokes. Dexter Lee led the Panthers with a 45. Jackson Chrz, Hudson Chrz and Carter Schlaak all shot 62, Shan Hansen 69 and Tyler Kress 73.

Feathered travelers are numerous and varied this year

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

“It’s spring here, but it isn’t everywhere,” observes Jeanine Vorland, area wildlife manager with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Vorland notes that anyone thinking “there are a lot more birds around than normal,” is correct. Migratory birds are working their way northward; generally speaking, she says they are three weeks to a month earlier than typical. As they move, they are making decisions about where they will build nests and raise young. Many have stopped to enjoy the food available thanks to Waseca County’s open water and snowless fields and lawns, but that doesn’t mean they will be staying.

Vorland reveals that as many as 350 species of songbirds have been “documented” in Minnesota, but “most are not resident.” She also shares that, of the 25 or so species of waterfowl which come through the state each spring, around a third have their hopes set further north, even as far as the arctic, for their summer nesting. Even among birds with less lofty intentions, far fewer than half will stay in the area.

Species of waterfowl likely to nest in Waseca County, Vorland says, are trumpeter swans, Canada geese, mallards and wood ducks. A small concentration of merganser ducks and teal is also to be expected.

Regarding how birds know it’s okay to move northward, Vorland says many of them have not come all that far, having wintered in Missouri or Illinois. There is a general correlation, she said, between how far they have come and how early in the season they arrive. Among waterfowl, the shorter-distance travelers are Canada geese, ringneck ducks and gadwalls. Greenwing teal, with a typical adult size “only a little larger than a

robin,” also travel a relatively short distance and are “among the earlier migrants to return in spring and the latest to leave” in fall.

Among this group, “It’s not uncommon for them to catch a good south wind and travel north to have a look around,” Vorland said. “If things don’t look so good, they go back southward.”

Migration is an “energy intensive” task for the birds, Vorland says, so a short-term setback like the recent snowfalls may not be enough to send them away. “They can hunker down and weather a few days,” she comments. “It won’t be pleasant for them, but they’ll be fine.”

Birds who winter as far away as Texas or even South America are what Vorland refers to as “calendar migrators.” They are unlikely to arrive much ahead of or behind their typical time. “They can’t just turn around and go back,” she observes. “So they have to be certain their habitat will be ready for them.”

All these travelers, of course, make for some fascinating bird-watching. “They’re beautiful, they’re colorful, they’re varied,” comments Vorland.

For example, the concentration of eagles in the county will be temporarily higher than typical as the birds distribute themselves across the warming territories.

Another bird people enjoy watching, according to Vorland, is the sandhill crane. Adults can be up to 48 inches in height. Sandhills tend to gather in large groups where they can find shallow water and nearby fields for foraging. Sandhills have already been arriving for two weeks or more although, like the other species, most are only traveling through. For those who want to watch the larger birds, Vorland warns they are not very tolerant of human interference; she suggests getting a pair of binoculars and



This robin was met by a snowstorm shortly after arriving in Minnesota. Fortunately, it found a crabtree full of dried fruit.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

were large areas of woodland, large areas of prairie, and many of the marshy areas so many birds depend on.”

Vorland names Pheasants Forever and Ducks Unlimited as two organizations that have worked on their own and in cooperation with the DNR to return areas of land to their original state. As area wildlife manager, she quickly lists successful habitat restoration efforts across the county and region.

Smaller efforts individuals might take, she offers, are building a wood duck box and placing it in a suitable location, simply learning and reading about birds and wildlife, donating to organizations which help restore habitat, and “whether you’re a hunter or not, going to the post office and buying a waterfowl stamp.” The stamps are beautiful, she says, and the money paid for them supports habitat restoration.

“There’s something uplifting about watching the birds,” Vorland says. “If you’re having a bad day you can go to the park, sit on a bench, and just appreciate their beauty and their consistent presence.”

“Somehow, it just always makes a person feel better.”

She observes that, prior to human interference, Waseca County was likely one of the most ideal destinations most migratory birds might seek out. “It was a very diverse environment,” she points out. “There

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Preparing for severe weather

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

As the past two years have shown, severe weather can strike anytime. April 21 to 27 has been named severe weather awareness week by the National Weather Service, and the months of April to September are statistically the most likely time for strong storms to develop. In observance of this, Denise Wright, Waseca county’s emergency management director, has a few tips on how Minnesotans should prepare for the different situations storms can bring.

When a tornado watch comes across the radar, Wright said it means, not that a tornado is occurring, but that conditions are favorable for one to develop. In response, residents living in the area of a tornado watch should be prepared.

The first thing Wright suggests is signing up on the Waseca County government site for the CodeRED Emergency Notification System—a network which is activated when there is a potential for severe weather. CodeRED has been in place since May 2021, according to a video on KEYC.com; it allows residents to receive important non-emergency alerts

and time-sensitive messages in real time—providing they’ve signed up. In addition to registering, Wright suggests one way to “watch” for a tornado is to keep cell phones on hand.

The county can also deliver emergency alerts via the nation’s Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, known as IPAWS. This works with CodeRED to share information about life-threatening emergencies. Usually the National Weather Service (NWS) will release pertinent alerts at least one to two days ahead of time.

Another bit of advice Wright stressed is that each family should have an emergency plan and a designated meeting spot. In fact, she added, families should have a place they plan to meet outside of town if weather takes a turn for the worse.

Wright noted that residents can get confused between a tornado watch and a tornado warning. While a watch calls for a bit of “watchfulness,” a warning means radar or spotters have indicated a tornado is currently occurring. When a warning is issued, residents need to take immediate shelter. The location should be chosen in advance and needs to be in a sturdy

structure, typically in a basement with no windows. Folks who don’t have a basement might want to make arrangements in advance with a friend or neighbor who does.

For a family with young children, Wright suggested placing snacks or other distractions either in the basement, or in a place where they can be grabbed easily when evacuating to a place of shelter; all family members should know where the “storm kit” is located, so it can be found and used even with very short notice. She suggests making trips to the shelter as comfortable and calming as possible so children will not argue about going there when another warning is issued. Wright advises having other items like board games on hand so children can be engaged while also allowing adults to take note of developments in the situation—whether for the better or worse.

Wright further advised keeping backup supplies on hand like extra shoes, a portable radio, cash, medications, blankets, formula for babies, bottled water, and canned food or other non-perishable food items like trail mixes. She mentioned that residents should keep important doc-

uments and ensure they are laminated and included in the kit like driver’s licenses, social security, or insurance information in case something happens to the originals. While this might seem extreme, she offers that having these documents accessible will prevent possible stress later on if anyone needs to identify themselves or seek assistance. She explained that when someone needs to identify themselves, getting their hands on those needed documents can be nearly impossible if that person has to start from scratch.

Because anything can happen, Wright also said it’s important to have a contact person outside of the city in case of a tornado warning. If family members get separated, they have a known plan regarding where they can go to rendezvous if things reach an extreme level.

Wright commended the National Weather Service for being very good at predicting the potential for severe weather even a few days ahead of the possible event.

“Being prepared can reduce fear, anxiety, and losses that accompany disasters,” Wright said.

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	1	2 Burger nite 5-7pm	3 6pm BAR Bingo	4 7pm HALL BINGO	5 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	6
7	8 7pm Post & AUX. Meeting	9 Burger nite 5-7pm	10 6pm BAR Bingo	11 7pm HALL BINGO	12 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm GARY-S MASH-BURGERS serving at 5:30	13
14 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am-11:00am Host Waseca Sheriff Posse	15	16 Burger nite 5-7pm	17 6pm BAR Bingo	18 7pm HALL BINGO	19 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm	20
21	22	23 Burger nite 5-7pm	24 6pm BAR Bingo	25 7pm HALL BINGO	26 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	27
28 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am-11:00am Host Waseca High School FOOTBALL	29	30 Burger nite 5-7pm				

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
COUNTY OF LINCOLN

IN CIRCUIT COURT
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

NOTICE OF HEARING
41 ADP. 24-5

In the Matter of Termination of Parental Rights Over
AVA C. ANDERSON,
Minor Child.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing on Petition for Voluntary Termination of Parental Rights in the above captioned proceeding is scheduled before the Court, the Honorable Judge Jennifer Mammenga, presiding, at the Lincoln County Courthouse, located at 104 N. Main Street, Canton, South Dakota, 57013 for the 30th day of April, 2024, at the hour of 1:30 P.M., for a period of one hour.
DATED this 20th day of March, 2024.

STRANGE, FARRELL, JOHNSON & BREWERS, P.C.

Amber J. Eggert
Attorney for Petitioner
4420 South Technology Drive Sioux Falls, SD 57106 (605)339-4500 Phone
amber@strangelaw.com

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on March 22, March 29, April 5 and April 12, 2024

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
COUNTY OF LINCOLN

IN CIRCUIT COURT
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

NOTICE OF HEARING
41 ADP. 24-6

In the Matter of the Adoption of
AVA C. ANDERSON,
Minor Child.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing on Petition for Adoption of Child in the above captioned proceeding is scheduled before the Court, the Honorable Judge Jennifer Mammenga, presiding, at the Lincoln County Courthouse, located at 104 N. Main Street, Canton, South Dakota, 57013 for the 30th day of April, 2024, at the hour of 1:30 P.M., for a period of one hour.
DATED this 20th day of March, 2024.

STRANGE, FARRELL, JOHNSON & BREWERS, P.C.

Amber J. Eggert
Attorney for Petitioner
4420 South Technology Drive Sioux Falls, SD 57106 (605)339-4500 Phone
amber@strangelaw.com

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on March 22, March 29, April 5 and April 12, 2024

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Important Information Regarding Property Assessments

This may affect your 2025 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Alton Township will meet April 17, 2024, from 9:00 til 9:30 am at Alton Township Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made.
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on April 12, 2024

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Important Information Regarding Property Assessments

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The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Freedom Township will meet on Thursday, April 18, 2024, from 9-9:30 a.m. at the township hall. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.
If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county board of appeal and equalization.
Published in the Star Eagle, April 4, 2024.

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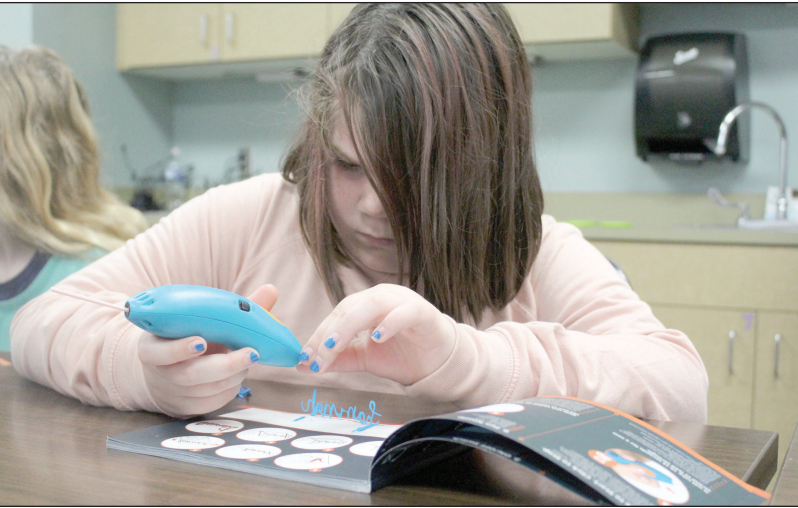
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Hannah Callahan learns how the three-dimensional free hand pen works for doodling art at the Waseca-Le Sueur Library on Monday, April 8.



Josh Boeckman guides his son Marrick Boeckman through the doodle art in a book provided by the library for the activity at the Waseca-Le Sueur Library on Monday, April 8.



Young artist Evelyn Steinberg puts the finishing touches on a butterfly that she doodled using a three-dimensional, freehand "pen." Her mom, Amanda, admires her work.



Noah Jeske concentrates on squeezing the plastic from the three-dimensional pen at the Waseca-Le Sueur Library on Monday, April 8. He said he finds doodle art fun and has done it a few times before when the library has offered the activity.



Allen Frederick leans back and lets his son Jaxtyn figure out how to make a star on his own with a three-dimensional pen using doodle art.



Evelyn Steinberg shows off the three-dimensional butterfly she created.



Blake Steinberg takes a moment to appreciate his carefully crafted square while Blake Steinberg focuses on his own doodle art made during a special session at the Waseca-Le Sueur Library.

Pioneer photos by Rachael Jaeger

3D art engages kids and adults at Waseca library

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

Brianna Bleeker, the children's librarian at the Waseca library, pulled out 3Doodler pens and invited learners in seventh through twelfth grades to come "doodle in the air" the morning of Monday, April 8. Many children and their parents crowded around three tables, taking advantage of a day with no school. Although the activity was geared toward older children, a handful of five-year-olds also showed up and did well under their parents' guidance.

The 3Doodler pens dispense a

liquid a little at a time; that colored liquid solidifies quickly into letters and shapes. The pen operates by heating the colored, eco-friendly plastic. Bleeker assured that, even if curious children might decide to "draw" on themselves, they would be uncomfortable but wouldn't be injured.

To create a design, young artists can "draw" freehand, trace and fill in shapes, or use specially selected molds. Once created, pieces can also be "glued" together with more plastic, Bleeker also explained.

"It definitely is a bit finicky and takes time and patience to get a

good product," she observed. "The plastic doesn't move as fast as ink does in a normal pen, and if you stretch it too thin by moving too fast, your piece likely won't hold together well, but if you have a solid fill, once it cools it's pretty sturdy."

While Bleeker said the event is designed for children, older teens and adults could also join in. She said older participants have enjoyed past events with this activity as much as younger ones, because of the "pure fun" it inspires. Bleeker noted that the activity can produce some character growth as

"I love the creativity that comes with creating new events and trying to sneak educational things into programming in a fun way... I love that I get to 'play' as part of my job."

— Brianna Bleeker

waiting to get a quality product out of the colored plastic can present a challenge for patience.

"And some seven- to eight-year-olds can struggle, but that's a statis-

tical average age where it seems like many kids have the skills needed," Bleeker added.

When asked how she comes up with ideas for artistic events like these, Bleeker credits Pinterest and other social media outlets. She said she also often works in collaboration with librarians from other areas to develop activities to suit participants of a variety of ages and personalities. She added that she also picks up on what current activities are trending among the age groups.

"I love the creativity that comes with creating new events and trying to sneak educational things into programming in a fun way," Bleeker said. "I love that I get to 'play' as part of my job."



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