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LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
No. 14 Vol. IV \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, April 3, 2025

■ **Inside**



Mother Nature

**“The Addams Family”
spring high school
musical April 3, 4, 5, 6**

The Waseca Junior Senior High School musical “The Addams Family” will be presented at 7 p.m. the evenings of April 3, 4 and 5, and at 2 p.m. on April 6 in the high school performing arts center. Admission cost is \$10 for all ages.

**Coffee with Tom at
Owatonna Chamber of
Commerce office
Friday April 4**

Join Representative Tom Sexton at the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce office from noon through 1 p.m. Friday April 4 for coffee, snacks and a meet and greet. Said Sexton, “Thank you to all who have attended in the past, and if you are interested, I strongly encourage you to attend.

**Waseca Sons of
American Legion fish
basket or sandwich
dinner Friday, April 4**

The Waseca Sons of the American Legion will be having a fish basket or fish sandwich dinner from 5:30-7 p.m. Friday, April 4. \$10 for a 3 piece fish basket with fries or sandwich with fries.

**Achieving Dreams for
Disabilities formal
dance at the Mill
Friday April 4**

There will be a formal dinner and dance, “To the Moon and Back,” care of Achieving Dreams for Disabilities of Waseca County at the Mill, starting at 5:30 p.m. Friday, April 4. \$25 per person.

**On The Cover at
Indian Island Winery
Friday, April 4**

Music group On The Cover will be playing at the Indian Island Winery from 6-8:30 p.m. on Friday, April 4. They play acoustic covers of your favorite hits from the 80s, 90s and the 2000s.

**Waseca American
Legion Auxiliary Salad
Luncheon April 4**

Waseca American Legion Post 228 Auxiliary salad luncheon will begin at 11 a.m. and continue serving until 1 p.m. or until food is gone on Friday, April 4. Cost is \$8 per person; proceeds benefit the Legion Auxiliary.

**Volunteer Breakfast at
Farmamerica April 4**

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

**Straight Talk with
Sheriff Jay Dulas at
the Waseca Chamber
Friday, April 4**

Join Sheriff Dulas for Straight Talk from noon till 1 p.m. on Friday, April 4, at the Chamber ofice to ask questions or address concerns. There will be additional chances every first Friday of the month. Presented by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism.

*A word from
The Word*

*Is anyone among
you suffering? Let
him pray. Is anyone
cheerful? Let him
sing praise.*

James 5:13



Schizomatics band members formed the group during their freshman year at Hillsdale University in Hillsdale, Michigan. Along with other accomplishments, they take pride in having been consistently selected by fellow students to perform at one of the college's largest annual celebrations, the "CentralHallapalooza."

Schizomatics band includes Wasecan Dravyn Spies

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Dravyn Spies, a 2021 Waseca High School graduate, is percussionist and occasionally performs vocals with a six-member band, the Schizomatics, in Hilldale, Mich.

The group has recently released three songs, and is scheduled to perform at Waseca's Starfire Event Center on May 16.

The son of Wasecans Daryn and Michon Spies, Dravyn was recruited to be a Charger with the Hillsdale College football program after a successful career with the Blue Jays.

In addition to his athletic accomplishments, he was very active with the high school music department, having been part of the symphonic, jazz, and marching bands and the

concert, select, and show choirs as well as the State Street Singers and Sextets.

Now seniors, the six members of the Schizomatics became acquainted and learned of each others' musical interests as freshmen, when they all happened to be staying in the same dorm—four of them on the same floor. Along with Dravyn, group members are Gavin Listro, lead, guitar, and vocals; John Schaefer, trumpet; Owen Gerth, saxophone; Matt Byrne, bass and vocals; and Jack Waller, piano.

Their successes began, literally, with a “showdown.” An annual celebration at Hilldale each spring is

Spies continued on 5



Dravyn Spies, a 2021 graduate of Waseca High School, is the son of Daryn and Michon Spies of Waseca.

Waseca's childhood fair offers many smiles

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

An excited crowd of almost 400 adults and children circulated through the Waseca Intermediate School gym the evening of Friday, March 28, as nearly 30 organizations offered entertainment, activities and resources for area families with young children.

Carrie Morris, Waseca School District's early childhood family education (ECFE) coordinator, was in charge of organizing the gathering which, she reveals, was in its forty-third year.

“The purpose of this event is to provide a free, family fun setting where local businesses or groups can offer an activity for children,” she explains. At the same time, parents can get information about the range of services or resources available to support or assist them as they raise their families. With roughly 1,000 children age 5 and under living in Waseca County, Morris says the chance to make connections is highly valued.

Morris commented the Waseca Intermediate School offers a setting

well suited to the activities, with a convenient parking lot and “stroller friendly” floor plan without stairs.

Visitors to Friday's early childhood fair were whole families, often including grandparents. Adults pushed strollers or held small children's hands; older children circulated freely among the many activities.

Morris and ECFE program secretary Jen LaCroix began planning the event and inviting organizations in January. “We have a list of people we send information to each year. It varies somewhat who is able to attend, but many are ‘regulars’ who almost always come.

“In addition, we know there are certain people who may not necessarily offer services to children, but that children may enjoy, such as petting farm animals. This year Steve Scheffert brought two lambs. Depending on the timing, he sometimes is also able to bring piglets!”

Another similar option was “Piles of Smiles Entertainment,” which

Fair continued on 4



In the arms of his father Michael, young Matheo Galvan, 2, sports a fire hat given to him at the Waseca Fire Department booth.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently



Lilith Branscom, 5, of Waseca, has her face decorated by painter Miranda Dauksavage during the early childhood fair held at the Waseca Intermediate School the evening of March 28.

Arts opportunities available to everyday folks through PLRAC

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Even “people who don't think of themselves as artists” have some good reasons to pay attention to grant programs offered through the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council (PLRAC), which serves the nine counties of Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, and Watonwan.

Waseca's Anna Pollock and Pam Trumbull are the organization's two full-time employees: Pollock is the executive director and Trumbull the program director. The two are guided in their work by a 14-member board of directors whose members consist of one from each area city with a population of 10,000 or more, one “at large” member, and one from each county. Waseca County's representative is Waseca High School band director Devon Lawrence.

The organization's work—if “work” it can be called—is to distribute about \$680,000 in publicly designated funding to further the arts and art education within the region.

Pollock makes no effort to conceal her enthusiasm as she describes the task. “We are so lucky in Minnesota”; she shows a map of the upper midwest which summarizes how much public money per capita is spent in states from North Dakota to Illinois on arts programs. In Minnesota, the amount is more than \$10 a person; in second place is Illinois, with less than \$2.

The most significant part of the funding comes from a 2008 voter referendum which designates a small percentage of state sales tax money toward preserving land and water resources, creating parks and trails, and preserving and supporting culture and the arts. Known as the “Legacy Amendment,” the tax began in 2009 and will continue through 2034; just under 20 percent of the total amount collected goes toward arts and culture and is distributed statewide among 11 organizations like the PLRAC. Those regions then accept applications for various types of grants and funding related to the arts. Other state and private programs also support the system.

Pollock and Trumbull relate that, yes, a significant portion of the region's \$630,000 goes toward organizations with the word “art” in their names. “If you name a non-profit art center anywhere in the region, chances are they receive some of our funds,” says Pollock.

The two also emphasize that “everyday people” have good reason to take note of PLRAC programs, since existing and recently-devised grant programs can affect them in many ways.

Grants to individuals for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, which will close June 30, are no longer available, but will be as the new fiscal year begins.

Different programs have different deadlines and expectations, so anyone interested in applying should check the PLRAC website.

Already in place for some time is a “youth scholarship” option available to children in grades 3 to 12. Those in grades 3 through 6 are eligible for \$300 toward art education; grades 7 through 12 for \$500. According to Trumbull, more than 150 area youth received a share of about \$58,000 under this program in 2024-'25; PLRAC has des-

PLRAC continued on 5



Compostings

by Al Batt

The comeback of the trumpeter swan

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

You should come over tomorrow. We're having Himalayan rabbit stew.

What's a Himalayan rabbit?

I found him a layin' on the road.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I have volunteered to help with tornado cleanups. A fellow helper said he'd seen where a tornado had embedded an oat straw into a telephone pole. I said I'd seen a chicken blown into a pop bottle without losing its life or even bending a feather. My story might have been a slight exaggeration.

If time passes quickly when you're having fun, we must have had fun. I applied to Texas A&M. I was accepted at a Texas A&W. I went to a different institution of higher learning. In a monumental lapse of judgment, a high school classmate agreed to be my college roommate. We covered things in ketchup until I learned he could cook. He died while watching a high school hockey game on TV. If he had survived that, I'm sure he'd have cracked wise about that's what happens when someone born in Hartland, Minnesota, watches hockey. I wish I could laugh about that.

I'VE LEARNED

No one has ever been in an empty room.

Roy Rogers had a quick Trigger.

Only three things are certain: death, taxes and that politicians blame everyone except themselves.

A good sledgehammer may be the last tool you'll ever need.

I like to read a newspaper when I'm eating alone. It's my newsfeed.

I remember getting my first pine tree air freshener for a car. There was no longer a need to hang an unwashed sweat sock from the mirror to make my Ford smell better.

I saw a beached whale on the shore of the Outer Banks of North Carolina. We were warned by an official "Leave that whale alone" guy not to move the body. Who could get that close to the dead beast without being overwhelmed by the smell?

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

The doctor said, "Don't worry, Michael. Everything is going to be OK." I said, "I'm not Michael." The doctor replied, "I know. I am."

I know someone who is possessed by an owl. Who?

If I use my trusty binoculars and read their lips correctly, my neigh-

bors think I'm nosey.

What goes up the hill, down the hill, and yet stands still? A road.

Do you want a box for your left-overs? No, but I'll arm wrestle you for it.

What did the turkey say to the turkey hunter? Quack, quack, quack.

Why aren't the Colgate University athletic teams nicknamed The Toothpastes?

NATURE NOTES

A robin sang, "cheerily, cheer up, cheer up, cheerily, cheer up." It was a good morning. The rain had fallen. It rarely ascends. I wondered what a wet squirrel smelled like as I watched one move dexterously through the wet trees like a mini-Tarzan without a vine to swing on.

The trumpeter swan was a widespread and common breeder throughout Minnesota until the mid-1800s, when it became over-hunted. The last record of a wild breeding population in Minnesota was from 1885, and the trumpeter was declared extirpated in the state by the mid-1900s. Its reintroduction efforts began in 1966 and continued through 2012. It's grand to have the big white birds back. A Breeding Trumpeter Swan Survey conducted in 2022 estimated the statewide population at 51,860 swans. Trumpeter swans are named for their loud, resonant call, often described as sounding like a trumpet, bugle or French horn. Tundra swans, once called whistling swans, nest in the Arctic of northern Canada and Alaska. Lewis and Clark provided the first written description of tundra swans. The birds' whistle-like calls prompted Meriwether Lewis to dub them "whistling swans." Adult male swans are called cobs, adult females are pens, and the young swans are cygnets. I hear the collective nouns flock or bevy used most often. A herd of swans seems to fit.

Starlings develop yellow bills during the breeding season, with the base of the lower mandible is blue in males and pink in females. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote, "A birdie with a yellow bill Hopped upon my window sill, Cocked his shining eye and said: 'Ain't you 'shamed, you sleepy-head!'" Clellan Card played Axel on "Axel and His Dog," a popular children's show and said, "A birdie with a yellow bill Hopped upon my window sill, Cocked his shining eye and said, 'What's that in the road...ahead?'"

MEETING ADJOURNED

Anthony D'Angelo wrote, "Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine."



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Another medium through which to appreciate

When Mother Nature throws strange things at us, I often amuse myself with an old joke: "Everyone talks about the weather, but no one does anything about it."

Honestly, though, the only responses I am inclined toward when I think of some of our recent weather are wonder and admiration.

I could say as a joke that, after nearly 30 years as a secondary school teacher, nothing scares me anymore—but the truth is, I have always liked thunderstorms. I understand on an academic level that they are dangerous, but they haven't hurt me so far, so I'm willing to overlook the frightening parts and focus my attention instead on the amazing ones.

In my mind, I can still see some of the strokes of lightning I have watched within the last week. A fraction of a second, yet so much power, mystery and beauty.

Air is invisible, even seemingly insubstantial, and yet when it is swirled and agitated by the wind it builds up "static" electricity to a degree that lights the earth below from horizon to horizon when it is released.

I was grateful to be a passenger (rather than the driver) during the storm last Friday. As the car was being buffeted by winds and rain was curtaining the road ahead, a line of cloud-to-cloud lightning ran more than half the length of the sky above me. It was broad and bright and as jagged as the lines of water runoff

forming on the fields around us.

I drew a breath in surprise and wonder, but before the air reached my lungs, it was dark again.

And I know some people are terrified by thunder, but I am not.

I read a scientific paper once in which a scientist had managed to show the correlation between the turns and corners in the visible stroke of lightning and the tone and volume of the sound people hear afterward.

To me, thunder is a continuation of the power and mystery begun overhead seconds before—yet another medium through which to appreciate it.

You see, the stroke of lightning releases vast amounts of energy—some of which is light, and much of which is heat. The atmosphere immediately surrounding the stroke is superheated, and expands. Like a bunch of pushy New Yorkers leaving a transit train and flooding the station, it shoves outward, shouldering other, previously unaffected air ahead of itself. That expansion and agitation produce the boom, sometimes continuing to echo in a way that defies comprehension.

So while I willingly acknowledge lightning can hurt me, thunder cannot. From my perspective, the louder and more commanding the thunder, the better I can appreciate its vibrations shaking through me.

And then came the snow, made all the more wondrous because the temperature had reached nearly 90 de-



These wild seed pods and dried branches took on new beauty under the snow and hoarfrost of our recent weather.

grees not even 48 hours before.

My apologies to anyone who was out driving in it, but wasn't it beautiful? Thanks to snow filling the sky, the horizon seemed to move within 100 feet of my house, letting me know what life must be like in a snowglobe. The flakes—gigantic by snowflake standards—seemed in no hurry to reach the ground, flying in elegant circular paths as though taking a look around before choosing a destination. Along with all that, the flakes were sticky enough to pile up about an inch deep even on a narrow twig of a branch.

My admiration for trees is un-

bounded; having each curve and juncture outlined as though with an artist's brush transported me with almost the same power as the lightning had the night before. This beauty, though, gave me time to appreciate it—all the while flavored with the awareness it, too, was temporary. With a high of 45 expected the next day, and an understanding of what wind can do to snow sculptures, I knew my time to appreciate these particular brushstrokes was limited.

The good news, of course, is that Mother Nature never stops reshaping her work. My time to appreciate that goes on and on.

This, that and the other thing seem quite human

I took another trip to Denver last weekend, for no specific purpose except that it was my turn to visit the boyfriend, as opposed to his turn to visit me.

As I sat in the airport waiting to board my flight to Denver last Thursday, I spent time people watching (no better place for it than the airport), I realized just how human we are, in everything that we do. The choices we make, the ways we act are just ways we choose to enjoy life; honestly, it's endearing.

Waiting to board, I listened to a younger woman talk on the phone to her grandmother, describing her work trip to Minnesota and asking her grandma how she did traveling back from Rome (jealous). An older gentleman a few seats down was on Facetime with a young girl helping her with her math problems. In between sounds of an electric pencil sharpener, the girl asked him questions about math and the airport. When a toddler came by with high pigtails in her hair, he flipped the phone to show the girl the cute toddler.

A guy sat down a couple seats



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

from me with a big German Shepherd that was wearing a camo service dog jacket. When the toddler came back in the arms of her mom, who pointed out the cute dog, the toddler proceeded to yell "Dog!" over and over. Me too, girl.

On the plane, I sat in the middle seat next to an older gentleman who was texting a friend explaining his dilemma (in a very large font, I'm not that nosy). He was traveling to Colorado on a ski trip, but had forgotten his ski jacket. That's quite unfortunate, so I hope he was still able to have a good time.

Also, can we talk about how human it is that we love to laugh? I went to a comedy show for the first time and it was really fun. But the concept that people love to laugh and

love to make people laugh so much that there are events all the time, everywhere, for that exact purpose just feels very heartwarming and human.

We toured some apartments while I was there (still crazy to me that I will be moving) and people just trying to figure out the best place to live seems very human as well. People care so much about the comfort of their home and what works best for them. What are the priorities? Is it a large bedroom or closet? Two vanities? In-unit washer and dryer? Price? There are so many variables.

While we were touring a place downtown, a badly broken, Lime rental scooter was lying on its side on a sidewalk. Walking past the first time, we saw the front wheel was bent and practically unattached along

with other dents and scratches. Walking past the second time, we witnessed an older woman attempting to stand the bike upright again or fix it. She quickly gave up once she realized it was unfixable, but that seemed quite human to me as well. Trying to fix something that is broken so that someone else might appreciate it or not be bothered by it.

I just think it's a nice thought to stop every once in a while and appreciate the little things in life that make us, well, us. Like cleaning up your space for others when they come to visit because you want them to feel comfortable (or because your parents raised you that way, I don't know.) Or missing your loved ones when you're away. Enjoying your favorite sweet treat because you've had a rough week. Do what you want to do because you're human and life is short, enjoy the little things.

My Determination: "You could rattle the stars. You could do anything, if only you dared. And deep down, you know it, too. That's what scares you most." — Sarah J. Maas, Throne of Glass



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

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GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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Pinnacle Pro PPW Wrestling at the Mill Event Center April 5

There will be a Pinnacle Pro PPW Wrestling event at the Mill starting at 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 5. \$20 ring-side, \$15 adult general admission, \$10 kids 12 and under general admission.

Lego Story Time at Waseca Public Library Saturday, April 5

There will be a Lego Story Time at the Waseca Public Library at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 5. Kids ages 4-6 can join the monthly creative Lego-building group, with an adult. Each event will include a story to inspire the builders.

There will also be a Lego Club at the Waseca Public Library at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 5. Kids ages 7-12 are invited to join the Lego-building club. Each event will have a theme to inspire and legos to build with.

Waldorf 4-H Pancake

Breakfast Sun., April 6

The Waldorf Peppy Peppers 4-H Club will be having a pancake breakfast from 7 a.m. till noon on Sunday, April 6. On the menu will be pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice and coffee. This is open to the public. Free will donations accepted in support of 4-H.

Waseca Lions Pancake Breakfast at American Legion Sunday, April 6

There will be a pancake breakfast on behalf of the Waseca Lions at the legion from 7:30 a.m. till noon on Sunday, April 6. Adults \$10, kids 12 and under \$5. Bring your old eyeglasses and hearing aids. Proceeds go to Waseca Boy Scouts Scholarships and Lions Eye Bank.

Early Alzheimer's detection class at Waseca Area Caregiver Services Monday April 7

There will be an early Alzheimer's detection class, care of the Alzheimer

Association and the Waseca Area Caregiver Services from 2:15-3:15 p.m. on Monday, April 7 at 113 2nd St. NE Waseca. This will be a community-wide education attempt for all caregivers, future caregivers or a reminder for all past caregivers.

Romp and Rhyme Hop, Little Bunny! Story Time Monday, April 7

The Waseca Public Library will hold a bunny-themed story time at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 7. Miss Owatonna will be joining us! From puppets to pumping music, from bubble machines to banging bands, these are not your average story time. Free and open to the public.

Virtual Author Event: Matthew Fleming Tuesday, April 8

Author of the book The Tree Book: The Stories, Science and History of Trees, Matthew Fleming will appear in a virtual event for the Waseca-Le Sueur Library System at

1 p.m. Tuesday, April 8. This event will be recorded and people who register will be emailed a link to the recording. Register at wasecale-sueurlibraries.com/getregistered.

DIY Photo Projects at the Waldorf Public Library on Tuesday, April 8

There will be a DIY Photo Project at the Waldorf Public Library at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 8. These rock and wire photo holders bring unique height and color to your photo display. For ages 13 and up.

Lego Club at the Janesville Public Library Tuesday, April 8

Kids ages 7-12 are invited to join Janesville Public Library's creative Lego-building club at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 8. Kids will unlock the magic of Legos by ditching the instruction manual and building their own creations. Each event will have a theme to inspire and Legos to build with.

JWP

SCHOOL BOARD

JWP approves student survey

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

During their March 17 meeting, all Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (JWP) school board members, with the exception of Kevin Born, voted in favor of having JWP students in grades 5, 8, 9 and 11 participate in the Minnesota Student Survey. The group had tabled the discussion during its February meeting.

"I'll just say the reason I won't support it is I think the staff is doing a great job of uncovering and providing what's needed for the kids," Born stated, adding he was concerned students might not treat the survey seriously. As an example, he said some students might think it's funny to say they don't feel safe at school, whether or not that's true. He said if a survey comes back with certain stipulations the school board must act upon, it might be unneeded effort based on facetious responses.

When asked by a school board member why other school districts support the survey, superintendent Jeremy Erler responded, "It's information, good information for them. Their concern is if we're not asking the questions, who is or isn't. The county is really pushing us to do it because it's more and better data for them." He also reminded the school board the students had the option to skip any questions which caused them discomfort.

In other matters, the school board also approved acquiring new internet technology (IT) switches and access points from a company calling itself Juniper Mist. The new equipment will cost more than \$120,000, but a federal program will cover 60 percent of the cost, leaving the district to pay just under \$50,000.

Adam Mateske, district director of technology and integration, told board members, "The primary purpose for getting this project would be to enhance your network security so that you know we've got up to date switches that will provide a more robust infrastructure," Mateske said, adding that increased efficiency will be seen with greater speeds allowing work to be accomplished more smoothly and quickly for all network users. In contrast to the other companies Mateske looked into, which included Extreme Networks, Cisco, and Meraki, Mateske said Juniper Mist impressed him most for several reasons.

"To be honest, I was blown away by the ease of the configuration portal for Juniper Mist," Mateske said. "I like how they connected with artificial intelligence (AI) so the Juniper Mist works in the background to detect any issues that might be occurring."

The school board also approved the purchase of Chromebook Tablets & Computers (CTL) since the current Chromebooks, Mateske noted, were beginning to show their age with the hinges becoming detached. Mateske also recommended that, rather than issuing the devices directly to students, a "cart" setup would be used, under which teachers would decide on a day-to-day basis whether the computers would be used in the classroom or not.

When school board member Laura Seys asked whether the cart system would eliminate options for "e-learning" days, Erler responded, "In this situation, at the end of the day, students would take a computer from the cart with them."

"What about chargers then?" Seys asked. Mateske responded his plan is that the carts will have charge cords built in and computers would be fully charged when students took

Board continued on 5



Sporting stylish hats, executive director Amy Danielson (left) and data specialist Elizabeth Anselmo enjoy a cup of tea in front of the special "immersion" booth at the Waseca County Historical Society. Pioneer photos by Deb Bently



In among the many decorative and stylish hats at the display is this simple, sturdy headwear used by Wasecan Dave Kunst during his historic walk around the world in the 1970s.



This black and white photo was taken in a Waseca milliner shop in the mid-1900s. Nearby is a small handmade diorama which represents the shop in three dimensions.

Hats display at Waseca County History Center

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"I would love for them to use the historic artifacts and their imaginations to connect the hats to their own lives," says Danielson. "Hats are so much more than something you wear. They speak about who you are and the culture you identify with. They can symbolize so many things."

A new display named simply "HATS" began March 18 at the Historical Society's museum at 315 Second Avenue Northeast in Waseca, and will continue through May; the museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Admission is free.

Among the hats of historic significance included in the display is one worn by Dave Kunst during his "world walk" which began in 1970.

Another is a hat worn by Wasecan Florence Scholljegerdes during her service as an army nurse from 1942 until the early 1980s.

One display case features a whole collection of diverse, colorful hats, some of which once belonged to Estelle Rethwill, wife of Dr. Wesley Rethwill, a dentist who settled in Waseca in 1926.

Though hats are no longer the universal element of fashion they were during the 1800s to the mid 1900s, Danielson suggests their imagery and impact remain.

"A hat sends a message about the person wearing it," she points out. "Many people are still devoted to the idea of having hats of a certain style or type. And that says something

about who they are."

The message might be consistency and reliability in some cases, originality and flair in others, or straightforward loyalty and commitment as in the case of military or fraternal organization hats. Danielson points out the museum's display provides plenty of examples of all types.

Alongside the hats is a collection of hat pins, all standing in the special type of ceramic holders which were on every fashionable lady's dressing table throughout much of Waseca County's history.

The longest of the pins may well be 18 inches, but Danielson shares in playful undertones that some of them may have been illegal—so many women in certain settings were using the pins to defend themselves against unwanted advances that some communities issued laws reducing their legal maximum length down to only 9 inches.

"That means of defense, and even the act of defending themselves, was an important part of feminism leading up to women's suffrage in 1920," she observes. The 50 or so hat pins on display range widely in length and level of decoration.

Danielson describes that the pins would help hold hats in place by piercing all the way through them while also going through—or at least under—the wearer's hair or hair arrangement, just riding along the top of her scalp. The way the pin was arranged, she goes on to share, was

Hats continued on 4

WASECA

CITY COUNCIL

Marketplace property nears funding goal

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

During the March 18 meeting of the Waseca City Council, Marc Basara of Rebound Enterprises thanked city staff for the guidance they have shown the group with recent zoning approvals. He reported on progress to date for tax increment financing and other elements concerning the "Marketplace" apartment building meant to be constructed near Walmart in Waseca. He reported the current plan is to begin construction early this August and open the development in 2026.

He also let council members know \$350,000 in additional funding is needed to "close the gap" between needed and confirmed finances, preferably within the next 30 days. He asked whether the city would consider providing up to an additional \$50,000.

Cindy Kolander, Executive Director of the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center (WANSC) and Waseca Area Food Shelf, shared information with council members regarding upcoming events at her organizations. She stated March is a very busy month and listed all of the fundraising activities happening in the Waseca area. She also thanked the city and council members for all the support shown to the WANSC.

Deb Dobberstein of southeast Waseca stated the neighborhood has been hearing some very loud humming noises in the area lately. She described the sounds as starting low and growing louder, typically continuing about half an hour. She also commented she's not so sure now is a good time to develop the Gaiter Lake area with everything else going on in the world today.

Joe and Lynn Nicklay, also of southeast Waseca, stated they don't understand why the city is moving forward with the Gaiter Lake project as there doesn't seem to be a lot of support from the community. They are also concerned about pedestrian traffic, because there are a lot of school-aged children in the area and wondering if there are sidewalks being considered. The two also stated concern about the bus route and construction traffic in and out of the neighborhood, asking whether there will be an alternate construction route considered.

In other business, Mayor Randy Zimmerman asked why the city is considering increasing the height limit of grasses considered a nuisance from 6 to 8 inches. City Engineer Nate Willey explained the height listed in state law is 8 inches, and the city ordinance cannot be more restrictive than the statewide limit.

The council approved the specifications and gave authorization to seek bids to build a sidewalk connecting the Waseca Intermediate School to nearby walkways. Once it is built, clearing and maintaining the walk will become the school district's responsibility.

City Engineer Willey presented council members with a preliminary plat for the Clearwater Preserve Subdivision. The information was created by the engineering firm Stantec and included preliminary site construction plans; Willey asked council members for their approval.

Clearwater Preserve is a proposed single-family and twin home residential development located west of Gaiter Lake. If approved, a total of 50 buildable lots with 67 total dwelling units will become available as this subdivision is developed in 3 phases over the next 5-10 years. A public hearing on the proposed plat was held during the March 11 planning commission meeting; after the hearing, commission members gave the plat unanimous approval.

Monica Wendland talked about the need for Specialty

Council continued on 5

Thompson signs letter of intent with Kentucky's Union Commonwealth

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Waseca High School senior, Zoie Thompson, 17, signed a letter of intent to be part of the archery team at Union Commonwealth University (UCU) in Barbourville, Kentucky during a ceremony at the high school on Monday, March 24. UCU coaches Robert Dunaway and George Brock drove 14 hours to take part in the event. Also present were Zoie's parents Stacy and Mitch Thompson; her brother Zach Tobin and Grandmother Bev Tobin; Waseca Archery Club coach Rick Rugroden; and about 30 of her classmates.

As covered previously in the Waseca County Pioneer, Zoie has competed with the Waseca Archery Club all around the United States and currently holds a world record for having achieved a score of 149 out of 150 in a competition known as the "15 Arrow Match" during the Buckeye Classic in Ohio the summer of 2022. She currently holds 28 state records and has been the Minnesota Female Shooter of the Year three times—in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Zoie will begin attending UCU in August; the school is about three hours southeast of Louisville. She is scheduled to compete with the school's archery team in seven collegiate tournaments. UCU's archery season spans October to April; the team shoots 3-D, indoor and fita archery up to two hours a day.

Zoie relates that her interest in archery began



From left: Coaches Robert Dunaway and George Brock from Union Commonwealth University of Kentucky signed Waseca senior and archer Zoie Thompson, behind her are parents Mitch and Stacy Thompson on Monday, March 24, 2025.

when she was 7; she says she had asked for a Nerf bow and arrow set, but her grandfather got her a real bow instead. She went to her first competition when she was ten years old. She claims archery is an "easy" sport, saying, "Anyone can do it, any age. I don't know why everyone doesn't." Thompson said she and her parents traveled to the UCU campus last July, and liked what they learned.

Thompson applied to three other schools and was accepted but chose UCU, "Because I really liked the coach, the small atmosphere of the college and their psychology program." She says she also has a friend who has chosen UCU. Thompson is ex-

Intent continued on 4

OBITUARIES

Lucille Youngberg

LUCILLE M. YOUNGBERG, age 86 of Waseca, Minnesota, passed away peacefully on March 29, 2025, after a short illness.

Lucille was born on her family's farm in Wilton Township, Minnesota, on November 4, 1938, to Joseph and Mabel (Bathke) Schauer. She was a proud graduate of the Waseca High School Class of 1956. On October 1, 1960, she married Karl A. Youngberg of rural New Richland, Minnesota, and together they built a life and raised their family in Waseca. Lucille enjoyed a long and fulfilling career in banking. She was known for her warm personality, strong work ethic, and dedication to her community.

Lucille is survived by her son, Kent (Lisa) of New Jersey; grandchildren Kristin (Christopher) of Hawaii, Andrew of New York City, Matthew of New Jersey, and Amanda of New Jersey; Henry of Wisconsin; and Oliver (Kendra) of Minnesota, and Katie Bendix Youngberg (mother of Henry & Oliver) of Waseca. She was preceded in death by her husband,



Lucille Youngberg

Karl; and her son, Corey (Deb).

A public visitation will be held from 12-3 p.m. on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Light refreshments will be served. A closing prayer service will begin at 3:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be directed to the Waseca Lions Club at P.O. Box 6, Waseca, MN 56093. dsfuneral.com

Phyllis Arndt

PHYLLIS JEAN (BIDWELL) ARNDT, age 78, entered into eternal peace on Monday, March 31, 2025 at the Owatonna Hospital.

Phyllis was born on August 7, 1946 in Blue Earth and was the daughter of Robert and Hazel (Winter) Bidwell. Phyllis was baptized, confirmed and married in the Methodist Church in Blue Earth. She graduated from Blue Earth High School in 1964. After graduation she worked for Marquette National Banks in Minneapolis as a time-pay secretary. She then returned to Blue Earth area in 1965 and worked at Fairmont Railway Motors as an accountant until her marriage to Dale Arndt in April of 1966. In May of 1969, she and Dale moved to Waseca. She then worked at First National Bank as a teller for eight years and then started a new job at Corchran Inc. as an administrative assistant for seventeen years. In 1994 they purchased the Pizza Palace in the Waterville and Elysian area. They worked beside each other for thirteen years. Then in 1995 she worked for Waseca Optometric Center as an accountant, part-time, until her retirement.

Phyllis enjoyed a quiet, simple life. To her family, her friends, and other people around her she gave much but asked for very little in return. Phyllis had no need for air and graces, what you saw was what you got, and what you got was a big warm smile, genuine and full of love. Phyllis knew what was important to her, and that was her family. She leaves behind a wonderful legacy of a close-knit, caring family. She was always there for us. She loved to sit in her living room with a cup of tea, watching her favorite Hallmark movies and her favorite soap opera, "The Bold and the Beautiful". Nothing brought her more pleasure than sitting and watching cartoons and movies with her grandchildren and reading books and cuddling with each of them. She enjoyed camp-



Phyllis Arndt

ing with family and friends, planting flowers and walking in her garden. When alone, she was an avid reader of romantic fiction. She was immensely proud of her six grandchildren and their achievements and so happy that they were all secure in their family life. Her grandchildren loved and looked up to her. We have many happy memories of Phyllis and these we must hold dear in our hearts and cherish them, as she cherished us.

She leaves her loving memories to be cherished by her husband of 58 years, Dale Arndt of Waseca; children, Amy (Tim) Roessler of Waseca, Justin (Sheila) Arndt of New Richland; grandchildren, Aaron, Andy, Avery, Kenneth, Quinten, and Ajay. She is also survived by her brother, Warren (Gloria) Bidwell of New Ulm; as well as many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and her numerous family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Visitation for Phyllis will be from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Monday, April 7, 2025 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. A funeral service will follow at 1:00 PM at the funeral home.

Dsfuneral.com

Hats

from Page 3

sometimes used to indicate the woman's relationship status: "single and looking," "single and not looking," and even "taken."

In support of the goal of making a personal connection to the hats and the human experience they represent, museum volunteers and

employees have also set up a booth for quiet reflection. The visitor enters a small, welcoming space meant for only one or two people at a time. The low lighting and elegant decorations are meant to build a sense of immersion, Danielson explains. Visitors are asked to draw a prompt from a hat box and write a short response, which can then be posted anonymously on the nearby wall for others to enjoy—"or not," says Danielson, "people can use the opportunity in a way that suits them."

Intent

from Page 3

pected to report to the college by August 11.

UCU archery coach Robert Dunaway has been in the position since the summer of 2022. Prior to his arrival at Union, he spent the better part of 15 years coaching ar-

chery at both the high school and club levels. In his first season, he coached a team that had six All-Americans and three All-Mid-South selections.

Zoie's mother Stacy is the Waseca Archery Club president and serves as director of Split Nock Junior Olympic Archery Development (JOAD). More information regarding the organizations is available at www.wasecaarchery.org/

Early Childhood Fair



Sharing information about the Minnesota Valley Action Council "Head Start" program were home visitor Melissa Erickson (left) and preschool teacher Donna Lines.



Representing the Team Academy charter school at the early childhood fair were Caitlin Schauer, office manager; Brittany King, math core teacher from grades kindergarten to 3; Jill Courtney, director; and Sheryl Osweiler, first-grade teacher.



The Waseca Exchange Club brought "Time-Out Teddy" to the early childhood fair on March 28. The club donates Time-Out Teddy toys to first responders to be given to young children during stressful events. Pictured here with Teddy are club representatives (from left) Jeanne Sexton, Brad Donner, Jen Williamson, Jake Lieser, Mikhail Rostislavovich and Robin Dulas.



Sharing information about the Montessori School held at Sacred Heart Elementary were (from left) second-grade teacher Emily Meyer, principal Jacob Olson, Montessori teacher Kathy Petracek, and first-grade teacher Elizabeth Veldman.



Among a group of people entertaining children and sharing information about Junior Jays Preschool were (from left) Sue Malterer, Sierra Kelly, Shari Schroeder and Hannah Benning.



Representatives of the Waseca County Sheriff's office and Sheriff's Posse greeted children and offered a photo booth during the early childhood fair. Pioneer photos by Deb Bently



Isabella Johnson was given the chance to hold one of the lambs brought to the early childhood fair on March 28 by area farmer Steven Scheffert, who brought two young lambs and a calf named "Pebbles" for children to interact with.



Public health nurses Taylor Merges and Kirston Janike staffed a booth sponsored by Waseca County Public Health sharing information and gifts intended to help in the care of infants.

Fair

from Page 1

brought face painter Miranda Dauk-savage to the fair.

Feedback from the yearly event, says Morris, is consistently positive. Turnout this year was high with the warm weather perhaps making it simpler to transport children. Morris

observes, "Almost everyone left on Friday night saying, 'thank you' for offering this and that they had a lot of fun! Attendance was great this year so organizations liked that, too. Much of the feedback also included that it was a great crowd."

Groups and organizations present at the fair included the American Dairy Association of Waseca County, Cub Scout Pack 86, Dazed Bat Art-istry LLC, Children's House Montessori/Sacred Heart School, the Exchange Club Center for Family

Unity, Families First of Minnesota, Farmamerica, Fernbrook Family Center, Head Start offered by the Minnesota Valley Action Council, Jays' Nest School Age Care, the Le-Sueur-Waseca Public Library, TEAM Academy, the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center, Waseca Bluejay Dance Studio,

Waseca Community Education gymnastics, Waseca County Public Health, the Waseca County Sheriff's Office and Sheriff's Posse, the Waseca Exchange Club, Waseca Family Education Center, the Waseca Fire Department, the Waseca Police Department, and WITH Therapy Services.

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■ PLRAC

from Page 1

igned \$75,000 for youth scholarships in the 2025-'26 fiscal year. Examples of eligible arts training include dance classes, music lessons, and purchasing an instrument to be part of a band program. The "scholarships" are not paid to the young people themselves, but instead to the person, organization or business supplying the training.

New beginning in July is a similar program for adults, who can apply for \$250 toward "taking any sort of arts-related class anywhere in the region." These could be in the fields of music, painting or drawing, writing, acting or directing, and many more. Pollock says money has been designated for 100 such grants so that "people who don't think of themselves as artists" can broaden their understanding of the arts. Grants can be used not only toward registration costs, but also for the purchase of needed tools or supplies.

Pollock emphasizes that state regulations set some boundaries regarding what types of organizations can receive PLRAC funds, but wants people to know if they have questions, they can contact the organization and receive guidance and assistance.

■ Spies

from Page 1

known as the CentralHallapalooza—an immensely popular event whose name is a play on its location: Central Hall. According to Dravyn and fellow band member Matt Byrne, three college bands are selected to perform for the CentralHallapalooza (CHP) student crowds—which are the largest of any event all year.

To win the honor of being one of the three, Hilldale bands perform at the "CHP Showdown" a few weeks in advance. Their fellow students drop marbles into containers to indicate their top three choices.

"We've been chosen every year," observes Dravyn. He and Matt count the accomplishment as one of their biggest so far. "You can feel the energy," comments Matt of the CHP performances, especially the first one. "Having the crowd moving to the music, sometimes singing along, all completely engaged—the electricity is otherworldly."

"It was truly a big deal: here we were, a bunch of freshmen no one had heard about, up on stage for the biggest campus event of the year."

Also an accomplishment the group takes pride in is having released three singles: across the most recent three months: "Strangers in Seattle," "Same Girl" and "Highway Flowers." A fourth, "She Had the Time," is due to be available March 28, and will create an extended play album.

Group members Gaven and Owen compose the words to their original songs; the music is a collaborative effort.

Dravyn and Matt classify their style as "indie pop and indie rock" and the subject of their songs, generally, as "love and relationships." The process of releasing the songs, the two mention, demands many skills beyond being a musician. Creating album art; producing, mixing and mastering the final version; writing promotions and communicating with a distributor: "Thank goodness we know some people with the right skills," comments Matt.

In addition to the May 16 performance in Waseca, the Schiz-matics have been booked to play at some weddings this summer, and hope to be part of the CHP again this spring. Dravyn and Matt estimate the group has about four gigs each semester, and has performed for 30 or 40 events altogether.

Another important accomplishment for Dravyn will be graduating with degrees in economics and Latin.

With their shared link of being Hilldale students scheduled to disappear in a few months, Dravyn and Matt say they will take the future as it comes.

Hilldale is known for being a conservative Christian college; because of their shared faith, the musicians gather for a group prayer prior to each performance. They also express gratitude to God for bringing them together. "I thank God he put me in this place with these people who all have the right talents to work together," says Dravyn. "It's a beautiful thing to be part of."

"It's brought us a lot of fun, a sense of accomplishment, and something we're willing to work hard for," observes Matt. "We've been very fortunate."

■ Board

from Page 3

them out. Mateske told board members he hoped for approval as soon as possible on the computers due to the possibility of upcoming tariffs which would increase prices.

In other business, the school board approved the 2025-2028 Achievement and Integration Grant.

The school board also accepted and approved the following donations: \$50 from Hardware Hank from FFA Donkey Basketball; \$50 from FarmAmerica for FFA Donkey Basketball; \$150 from Jay's Auto for FFA Donkey Basketball; \$200 from Arnoldt Power Washing

■ Council

from Page 3

Shop cards that list the shops with

She also wants those who have applied with the organization in the past to know PLRAC has worked to simplify its application process. Although this article does not mention them, there are also continuing and new grant programs intended for art organizations.

Pollock goes on to joke that area residents could "throw a stone and hit an arts program we've helped with" since grants are given to schools and area organizations for a wide variety of arts enhancements. Among arts experiences funded within Waseca County in the recent past are a "Songs in the Park" program by the city of Janesville which received a \$2,500 grant; a \$2,000 school arts project at TEAM Academy; \$2,500 to the Waseca Chorale; a \$9,000 "arts and cultural heritage" grant to the Waseca Art Center; \$2,500 to the Waseca Latino Cultural Celebration; a \$6,125 "arts and cultural heritage" grant to the Waseca-Le Sueur library system; a "small arts project" grant of \$1,295 to support clinics offered during the Waseca Marching Classic; three \$300 youth scholarships for children in grades 3 through 6; seven \$500 scholarships for students in grades 7 to 12; a \$4,000 grant for the 2024 Summerburst concert series in New Richland; and a \$2,000 grant to the Waseca Lakes Association "Lakefest" in 2024.



From left: Owner of Pic-A-Dilly Jill Strauss, Waseca Tourism Board Past-President Robin Dulas, City of Waseca Parks Director Brad Dushaw, Keen Bank Brianna Worke, Keen Bank Ashely Semmann, City of Waseca Public Works Superintendent Tim Roessler, Mayor Randy Zimmerman, Waseca Tourism President Mikhail Rostislavovich.

Waseca Community Lights Committee formed to enhance holiday lighting downtown

WASECA, MN –The Waseca Tourism Board has officially launched the Waseca Community Lights Committee, a new initiative, fronted by Mayor Randy Zimmerman, dedicated to enhancing holiday lighting throughout the city. Formed under the Tourism Board, this committee will bring continuity and consistency to Waseca's seasonal decorations while creating a welcoming and festive atmosphere for residents and visitors alike.

Mayor Zimmerman expressed his enthusiasm: "Our goal is to illuminate Waseca's downtown in a way

that reflects the warmth and spirit of our community during the holidays and possibly into Sleigh & Cutter. By improving our holiday lighting, we not only brighten our streets but also strengthen community bonds and attract visitors to our vibrant city.

During its inaugural meeting, the committee discussed plans for holiday lighting on State Street and beyond, including the installation of half snowflakes on the taller poles downtown. Other projects under consideration include lighting a flagpole and adding tree lights to further enhance the downtown area. To support

these efforts, the committee is exploring fundraising and grant opportunities. The committee will also be working with local businesses to discuss access and power logistics for potential rooftop lighting displays.

"This project is an exciting opportunity to create a more inviting downtown during the holiday season," said Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Waseca Tourism Board. "By prioritizing strategic lighting placements and working closely with business owners, we can ensure a cohesive and beautiful display that enhances Waseca's charm."

The next steps for the committee include getting the desired design together with a phasing plan for different features. The committee will engage with local businesses to obtain approvals for rooftop and storefront lighting while refining fundraising efforts, including the holiday bar crawl and other potential community events.

With a strong focus on community engagement and sustainability, the Waseca Community Lights Committee is committed to bringing new energy to Waseca's holiday celebrations for years to come.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

On Thursday, April 24th, 2025, at 11:30 A.M. CDT., the City of Waseca will open and review all electronic bids received for the **NOETZEL'S ADDITION WATERMAIN IMPROVEMENTS (CITY PROJECT NO. 2025-08)**.

Estimated major quantities are as follows:

SALVAGE AND REINSTALL FENCE	LIN FT	320
6" PVC WATERMAIN (HORIZONTAL DIRECTONALLY DRILLED)	LIN FT	1,430
HYDRANT	EACH	1
6" GATE VALVE AND BOX	EACH	3
RECONSTRUCTION HDPE WATER SERVICE	EACH	28
BITUMINOUS PAVEMENT RECONSTRUCTION	SQ YD	65
CONCRETE CURB & GUTTER	LIN FT	20
TURF RESTORATION (HYDRO-SEED & MULCH)	SQ YD	2675
SHRUB PLANTINGS	EACH	75

Along with miscellaneous utility and roadway improvements, removals, and restoration.

Complete Digital Bidding Documents are available at www.questcdn.com by inputting **QuestCDN eBidDoc #9602528** on the website's Project Search page. Paper Bidding Documents may also be viewed at the City of Waseca Engineering Department located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Phone: (507) 835-9730.

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

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

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

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

Direct any inquiries to Joseph Palen, Project Engineer, at (507) 529-6036.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on April 3, 2025

a map showing visitors where each shop is located. The board approved the specialty cards and also approved cards for a "shop Hop" that will be coming up in April.

Councilmember Schroeder thanked the Exchange Club for Fire Department Recognition.



The Pastor's Column

Pastor's reflection on grief and loss: a unique journey not experienced alone

By PASTOR JILLENE GALLATIN, GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

My passion throughout the past 25 years in ministry has been to cultivate church communities to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with compassionate, supportive and tangible resources. In this season of ministry as Senior Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, I've come to recognize one way compassion and support can be shared is by providing grief and loss resources to the families of Waseca and the surrounding communities.

Personally I've known deep loss for many years. My mom died unexpectedly when I was 14. Following mom's death my home church, Long Lake Lutheran in rural Isanti, MN was a place of refuge, encouragement, support and healing. The caring people of that congregation helped me understand that loss is normal and so are the many thoughts and feelings that accompany it. I have always had a great appreciation for the families of my home church who supported me decades ago.

Though I've navigated life with loss as a part of the story, I've often been curious if there could be a way to provide an ongoing ministry to those in the community as they embrace life with loss. After several conversations with staff of Dennis, Steffel, Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Services we partnered to offer our first Grief Group in September 2024. Now in our fifth group, we recognize the importance of inviting people to come together to share their story of grief and loss, finding hope and healing.

Though each person's grief journey is unique, it is not meant to be traveled alone. Here are some things to consider if you or someone you know has experienced loss and is grieving.

Different factors impact your grief. Elements such as your relationship with a person or event, the events surrounding your loss, support (or lack of) from family or friends, current or recent stresses in your life, previous losses, overall health and well being are just a few components that shape your grief journey.

It's important to tell your story of your loss. Sharing stories of loved ones helps them to live on in your heart and mind. People tell stories of their loved ones who are still living. It's okay (even helpful) to tell stories of your loved one who has died. Connecting with your grief and talking about your loss brings another level of healing.

Grief can bring up a wide range of thoughts, feelings and emotions. Sadness, anger, guilt, confusion, and even moments of relief —no matter how intense, conflicting, how they linger on or fluctuate rapidly —are a natural response to loss. They are part of the healing process.

There is no set timeline for grief as you embrace a new normal. You may feel pressured to "move on" after a certain amount of time, but grief doesn't follow a schedule. Big losses in life never completely disappear, instead they become part of your story—not the whole story—but a part of it. Over time, you begin to discover your "new normal." This doesn't mean forgetting what has been lost or pretending everything is fine; rather, it's about finding a new rhythm, a way of living that acknowledges your grief but doesn't let it define you.

Grief and loss are a part of life, not an easy part, but a part, even so. Please know you are not alone in your journey. If you'd like additional resources on grief and loss consider attending the next Grief Group beginning Tuesday April 29th at 5:30 p.m. at Grace Lutheran or contact Jillene Gallatin Pastor and Grief/End of Coach.

Grace Lutheran Church offering lunch Wednesdays during Lent

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

A community-wide Lenten Soup Lunch beginning at noon each Wednesday during lent is sponsored by the Greater Waseca Ministerial Association and is being held at Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca. Anyone of any denomination is welcome to attend.

The lenten season began on Ash Wednesday, March 5. The final soup lunch will be served April 9; there will be no Lenten soup lunch during Holy Week. While members from all participating churches help each week, a different pastor and congregation is in charge of serving each week's food and presenting the day's program. Among participating churches are Grace Lutheran, North Waseca Lutheran, Vista Covenant, Waseca Christian Assembly, St. John and Christ Community. Present on Wednesday, March 26, was Interim Pastor Wayne Matthews from Christian Assembly. During lunch people played music and sang along for two songs, "Amazing Grace: How Sweet Thou Art" and "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service." Matthews said grace before everyone ate, and also informed the group of about 40 people, "Today we brought Chicken Noodle and Corn Chowder." Also served were crackers and oyster crackers but



From left: Kristie Biehn, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Deb and John Petersburg, Larry Johnson, Katie Gonzales, Abby Clemons, Tom Sankovitz. Back row: Jodie Thompson, Molly Erdman, Ed Frederick, Bernie Gaytko, Tiffany Lynch and Marcy Buchele.

Chamber welcomes Waseca County Salvation Army

WASECA, MN – The Waseca Chamber Ambassadors are pleased to welcome the Waseca County Salvation Army as the newest member of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce!

The Waseca County Salvation Army, a local chapter of the Minnesota Salvation Army, is dedicated to raising funds that directly benefit individuals and families in need within Waseca County. With nearly all funds remaining in the county—aside from a small portion allocated for state-level supplies and advertising, the organization provides essential assistance to residents.

"We are thrilled to welcome the Waseca County Salvation Army to the Chamber," said Mikhail Rostislavovich, Waseca Area Chamber Board President. "Their commitment to serving our community aligns perfectly with the Chamber's mission to support local organizations that make Waseca a better place to live and work. We look forward to partnering with them in their efforts to assist those in need."

Each year, the Salvation Army offers financial assistance through a voucher system coordinated by the Waseca Police Department, the Waseca County Sheriff's Department, and Minnesota Valley Action. Funds are distributed to provide emergency relief, including:

- Emergency overnight assistance: \$926
- Gas money: \$330
- Emergency rent assistance: \$2,075
- Utilities/household needs: \$700
- Shoe Bus (shoes for kids): \$750

A significant portion of these funds comes from the annual Kettle Campaign, which relies on dedicated volunteers to ring the bell and encourage donations. A community favorite is the Emergency Services Bellringing Challenge, where the Fire Department, Police Department, and Sheriff's Department compete to raise the most donations in a two-hour bell-ringing event.

"The Salvation Army has been a vital resource for so many in our county, and we are excited to have them as part of the Chamber family," said Kristie Biehn, Waseca Area Chamber Ambassador Chair. "Their work truly embodies the spirit of community, and we can't wait to support them in their mission."

As the holiday season approaches, the Salvation Army will once again be seeking volunteers for bell-ringing shifts and additional help with planning future events. Those interested in making a difference are encouraged to get involved and support this incredible organization.

Please join us in welcoming the Waseca County Salvation Army to the Chamber!

For more information, contact: Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce

Briefs

DIY Photo Projects at the Waldorf Public Library

Tuesday, April 8

Create rock and wire photo holders to bring unique height and color to a photo display at Waldorf Public at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 8. Then highlight snapshots with a

unique wood frame magnet. This free event is exclusively for ages 13-18.

Image Transfer Votives at the Janesville Public Library

Tuesday, April 8

Turn a simple votive into an el-

evated photo display at Janesville Public Library at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8. This simple packing tape image transfer project looks great and is fun to make. This free event is geared for adults. Bring your own photos or use one of ours.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA
DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Probate Court Division
Court File No.: 81-PR-25-211
In Re: Estate of
DOUGLAS J. SASSE,
Decedent.
AMENDED NOTICE AND
ORDER OF HEARING
ON PETITION FOR FORMAL
PROBATE OF WILL AND AP-
POINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE IN UNSUPER-
VISED ADMINISTRATION
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 30th day of April,

2025, at 10:00 a.m., a hearing will be held in the above Court at Waseca, Minnesota, for the Formal Adjudication of Intestacy, Determination of Heirs and for the appointment of Neoma Peterson whose address is 52387 Acorn Ave, North Mankato, MN 56003, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the above named decedent in unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper and no objections are filed, a Personal Representative will be appointed to administer the Estate, to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate. Upon completion of the administration, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the per-

sons thereunto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate.
Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said Estate are required to present the same to said Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or said claims will be barred.

Dated: 03/27/2025
/s/ Carol M. Hanks
Judge of District Court
/s/ Shannon M. Asselin
Deputy Court Administrator

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG,
P.A.
Emily A. Loomis, #505701
215 E Elm Ave, PO Box 249
Phone: 507-835-5240
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on April 3 and 10, 2025.

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments

This may affect your 2026 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Alton Township will meet April 16, 2025, 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 to determine whether corrections need to be made. **All questions, concerns, or issues MUST be addressed to the County Assessor's Office PRIOR to this meeting. Their direct phone number is 507-835-0640.**



Waseca Soil & Water Conservation District

Position Available: Administrative Assistant

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

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

- mnscsc.org/careers/government
- wasecaswcd.org

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



HOLLAND AUCTION



Auctioneer



HOLLAND AUCTION

Farmers Machinery Consignment

Live & Online Bidding
Saturday, APRIL 19, 2025 - 9:00 A.M.
LOCATION: East of Beaver Lake, Ellendale MN
Taking consignments: Tractors • Combines • Haying Equip. • Tillage Equip. • Planters • Wagons • Farm Pickups & Trucks • Construction Equip. • All Types of Farm Machinery • Recreational Items Welcomed (No car or truck tires)
Call early to take full advantage of advertising. Limited Rack Items Accepted!
Delivery of Consignments will be on
APRIL 13, 14, 15, 16, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
NO Consignments on April 17th and 18th!
To consign, call: Holland Auction at (507) 684-2955 or Tracy Holland, 507-456-5128 (cell) or e-mail hollandauction@frontiernet.net



Rick's Appliance

ricksappliancewaseca.com

AMANA

Speed Queen

MAYTAG

Whirlpool

Sales & Service

507-461-9615

Hours
M-F...7:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Sat....7:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Sunday Closed

Visit our new Showroom!
405 West Elm Ave, Waseca MN

Waseca Music

COMPANY

YOUR LOCAL MUSIC STORE

Band Instruments • Repairs
Guitars • CD, DVD, & Vinyl

507-835-2980
111 South State Street

Johnson APARTMENTS

507-456-9514

Operating in
Waseca, Steele,
Freeborn
Counties

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SUMMIT ON SECOND APARTMENTS

FOR RENTAL INFO CALL 507-201-3474

We are accepting applications for:

- 1 bedroom apartments
Income guidelines apply
Vouchers accepted
- 2 bedroom & 3 bedroom
Rent based on income

Professionally managed by:



Janesville

1925

- The common council of the village of Janesville, through Attorney L. D. Rogers, Recorder, communicated with Hon. John Lewer, representative, and Hon. W. C. Zamboni, senator, at St. Paul on Thursday, requesting them to oppose House File 830 and Senate File 786. These bills are entirely repugnant to the principles of municipal home rule. If enacted into law, they would deprive the municipality of the right of self-determination as to local affairs, involving improvements, and would place the power in the hands of a tax commission centralized at St. Paul. It is conferring a vast power upon a few men, a power having to do with matters that are foreign to the interests of the personnel wherein the power is lodged. It is to be hoped that both bills will be defeated.

- American owners of German paper marks are asked to stop hugging the delusion that the stuff is worth anything. The request comes from the American Chamber of Commerce in Berlin, which is tired of receiving letters from Americans asking when the marks can be redeemed, and what they are worth. The chamber reminds inquirers that the German government is not redeeming those marks and that the paper mark went out of business a year ago, when the rentonmark came into use.

- Four railroad systems of the state, the Great Northern, Northern Pacific, Soo Line, and M. & St. L., are cooperating with the agricultural extension service of the university in providing fnds for paying the traveling expenses of many juniors to attend the Boys' and Girls' Week Short Course at University Farm April 6 to 11, inclusive. Several new features have been added to the program for the boys. Instruction will be given for the f first time in rope work and in the colt and leadership projects. Club leaders and the older boys and girls will confer daily over the vital things pertaining to leadership. The girls will be taught to make pretty furnishings for their rooms. Miss Fannie Buchanan of Grinnell, Ia., representing the Victor Talking Machine company, will present and interpret musical programs.

1950

- "That new look" is being felt in Janesville these days. At the present time no less than four local firms are busy remodeling their places of business or have just completed the task, which should add considerable to their appearances. Probably the biggest remodeling job is taking place at the Arnoldt Construction Co., Inc., building on Main Street where workmen are busy enlarging the store space to about double its former size. An office room is also being added as well as a repair room in the rear where appliances will be repaired and remodeled. A counter to be used by the bookkeeper is also a handy addition to the store.

- Mrs. Bertha Marie Hansen, 72, 5609 Hansen Road, Edina, mother of Mrs. James B. Brown of Janesville, passed away on Monday, March 6. She had been a resident of that city for fifty years. Surviving the deceased are her husband, a daughter, Mrs. Marion Anne Brown, Janesville, two sons, Harry and Ernest Hansen of Edina, two sisters, Mrs. August Sjogren, Hector, Minn., and Mrs. John Laknes, New Westminster, Canada, nine grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, March 8, at the Edina Community Lutheran Church.

- Mr. and Mrs. Davis Hoversten, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Gebhard Singlestad of Waseca, returned Wednesday from a ten-day trip through the south. Most of the time was spent in the Rio Grande valley where the temperature ranged from 80 to 95 degrees. They also made several trips to Old Mexica, and they enjoyed a bull fight in Repnosa, Mexica. The Hoverstens brought back many items from Old Mexico as remembrance of their 4,000 mile trip.

1975

- Janesville's Home Delivered Meals Program held their board of directors meeting and oneyear anniversary party at the United Methodist Church Hall March 10. The meeting was conducted by Jean Vinson, vice-president, due to President Hilda Hottinger's absence. The secretary minutes were ready by Joyce Born. The treasurer's report was given by June Walthers. A total of 1,490 meals were served during the first year. Mary Ryan, interviewer, reported that there are six clients in the program. At the present time there are openings for two more.

- Voters in McPherson Township voted last Tuesday to double their annual budget from \$10,500 to \$21,000 and agreed to use the additional money to purchase a new road graders. Eighteen voters opted for the new grader; two wanted to buy a new one. In other business the township voted to spend \$200 per year for fire protection. The Janesville Fire Department had requested \$714. Alvin Kahnke was reelected supervisor with 32 votes and Herb Lachelt repeated as treasurer with 22.

2000

- Janesville's city planner, Tana Nereson, appeared before the Janesville city council Monday to discuss the progress being made on certain projects. Nereson mentioned that there were only eight golf course lots left to sell. Nereson also brought it to the council's attention that she has received a few complaints about the flow and speed of traffic on Becker and Second Streets. It was then recommended by the Janesville Police Chief, Mike Schumacher, that stop signs be put on the corners of those streets in an attempt to slow down traffic. The council approved this decision, and the motion was passed.

- The Janesville-WaldorfPemberton girls' basketball team took second-seeded Hayfield right to the wire before falling 35-32 in the east Sub Section 2AA semifinals at Montgomery Friday. The third-seeded Bulldogs had lost to Hayfield by 13 points during the regular season, and were embarrassed by the Vikings in last year's quarterfinal round. But Coach Mike Meihak has his team ready to defend the high-powered Hayfield offense, and the Bulldogs responded with one of their top defensive efforts of the season. Hayfield, which started the year slowly, improved its record to 17-7 with the victory.

Briefs

‘Hats’ Exhibition at the Waseca History Center through May

‘Hats’ is the Exhibition at the Waseca County History Center, 315 Second Ave NE Waseca, during daily hours from now through the month of May. Explore a stunning collection of hats from the WCHS archives and several personal collections. There will also be a magical Hatbox, and the Legend of the Blue Hat.

Coffee with Tom at Owatonna Chamber of Commerce office Friday, April 11

Join Representative Tom Sexton at the Waseca Chamber of Commerce office from noon through 1 p.m. Friday April 11 for coffee, snacks and a meet and greet. Said Sexton, "Thank you to all who have attended in the past, and if

you are interested, I strongly encourage you to attend.

Mary Guentzel Quintet at the Indian Island Winery Friday April 11

The Mary Guentzel Quintet will be playing at the Indian Island Winery from 6-8:30 p.m. on Friday, April 11. This band plays Irish music and some all-time favorites.

Waseca Public Library How-To Festival on Saturday, April 12

Learn a wide variety of skills at this community-based interactive learning event from 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 12th at the Waseca Public Library. From making sourdough to punch needling, from improving gut health to helping wildlife, add a few tricks up your sleeve in these short sessions!

Waseca

25 Years Ago

-Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Waterville Area Fisheries agent Craig Berberich said nets in one Northern Pike. In another couple of weeks, they will take another look, he said. The primary intent for the lake, according to Berberich, is to have pan fish populate the lake. The DNR will continue to manage the lake that way.

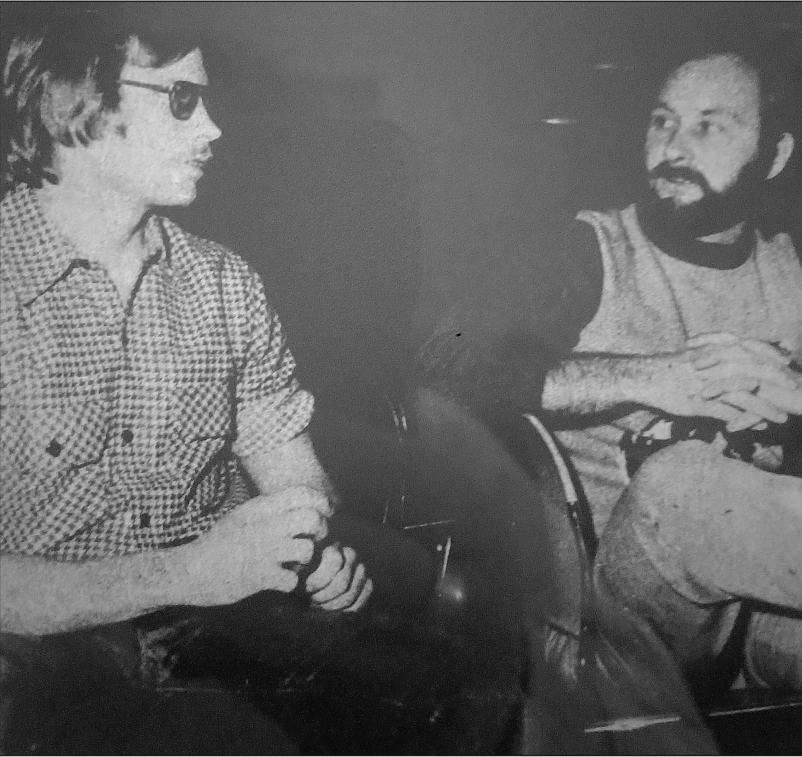
-Members of the Waseca High School Choir are heading for Boston on Tuesday to participate in the Boston Music Festival. The 124 students and their 21 adult chaperones will return to Waseca on April 10. The choir goes on a trip like this every three years.

-Gary & Laurie Deml, of Deml Ford, have provided Ford, Lincoln, & Mercury vehicles to the Waseca area for 17 years. In that time, the dealership has constantly been growing, making the expansion of facilities that started September of last year and ended this month a welcome process. The extensive remodeling has alleviated the problems of limiting office and shop space, as well as making room for a new, fully automated wash and rinse system.

-The new Automated Wash System at Deml Ford offers a soft cloth clean and spot-free rinse process, and is accompanied by a Buff & Shine polisher.

50 Years Ago

-Big turnout – BAD WEATHER kept attendance at the city council meeting Thursday night to a minimum. The only person there to do business outside of the council was Waseca Hospital Administrator Merwin Nelson who is here answering questions concerning proposed wage and salary increases for hospital employees. Pictured (l-r) are Councilwoman Romelle Deef, City Manager Bob Haarman, Mayor Carl Swanson, City Clerk Bert Torbert and Councilman Joe Kozan.



-Town living—Tom Duncanson, left, talks to fellow student Rod Schuller about the UMW housing shortage. Both students live in houses off campus.

-Handy machine – THIS SNOW TRAIL GROOMER was out and about Thursday afternoon at the Waseca County fairgrounds getting warmed up for possible rescue missions. Fortunately no rescue missions were necessary during the spring blizzard, but nevertheless the machine is very useful according to county commissioners.

75 Years Ago

-A sparkling romantic comedy, "Let's Live a Little," the film story of a brilliant but erratic advertising executive who falls in love with a beautiful neuropsychiatrist by whom he is treated for a nervous breakdown, is the picture opening Thursday at the State Theatre.

-Waseca county farmers can take a few tips, now that spring planting time is approaching, from a new folder published by the University – much of the research for the pamphlet was done at the Waseca Experiment station.



-Mayor Kenneth Luker, left, and John Sheldon, recall past experiences when they were neighbors on the farm. Luker, now mayor of Waterville, attended the breakfast Saturday morning at which Sheldon received national recognition for his outstanding agricultural record.

100 Years Ago

-About 25 people interested in a junior college for Waseca gathered at the Central school building Friday evening to discuss the proposition. In the number were people from Janesville and New Richland. W.C. Hermann was elected chairman of the meeting.

-Rev. Ivar Ramseth of Beloit, Wis., who has recently accepted a call to Waseca will have charge of both the English Lutheran and the North Waseca Lutheran churches. The congregations of these churches acted jointly in issuing the call to Rev. Ramseth. The burden of expense caused by the rection of the new parsonage will be borne equally between two congregations.

-All the old hens of the community will be cackling when they learn what is taking place at the Waseca Hatchery on South Second Street. Last week the first hatchling of day old chicks were turned out and delivered to waiting customers. If one of the old hens referred to should stroll into the hatchery and see the featherless hen with automatic brains and sinews of steel hatching 7,000 eggs at a time, while 40,000 more are setting, she would think it unfair competition.

Get your news in the Pioneer

• news@wasecacountypioneer.com

• Call (507) 837-6767

• Office at 111 W. Elm Avenue

New Richland

25 Years Back



- Jim Simser, New Richland-Hartland's most successful football coach, was inducted into the Minnesota State football Coaches Hall Of Fame last Friday in Minneapolis. Pictured here with his wife, WinnAnn, Jim displays the plaque he received. Simser left here in 1900 to take over the Fairmont high school football program. During his years at New Richland, he earned nine conference championships, one section and two state championships. In those days WinnAnn was known to New Richland fans as Mrs. Coach.

- Kari Klug was selected as a winner of the 2,000 British Airways Student Ambassador Scholarship. Klug will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship toward her participation in the British and Irish Heritage program this summer. Klug was one of eight student Ambassadors selected from several hundred applicants across the nation. Klug is an 8th grade student at NRHEG Middle School and a member of the Mankato area delegation that will visit the United Kingdom and Ireland this summer.

- Mitch and Amy Thompson of New Richland are the parents of a son born Monday, February 21, 2000. He was born at Naeve Hospital in Albert Lea. Braeden Mitchell, as he has been named, weighed 7 lbs and 15 oz. The grandparents are Harold and Helen Thompson and John and Melodee Bokelmann, all of New Richland. Dean Ziemcke of Janesville, Paul and Doris Coyle of Waterville and Joyce Ziemcke of Waseca.

- Kristin Shultz, a 1999 graduate of New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva high school received an Eddie Cochran Scholarship from Rick Johnson, president of the Low Bucks Car Club, recently.

50 Years Back

- Here, some of the members of the east of 'Aunt Cathie's Cat,' to be presented by the New Richland-Hartland high school junior class evening with curtain time at 8 p.m. at the high school auditorium. They are discussing some of their frightening experiences in a spooky mansion they rent. They are from front: Corrine Morstad; back; Renae Wenzel, Lori Kofstad, Kris Prescher, Marsha Herbst and Adryn Peterson.

- Ewalod Brothers, Guy, Jay and Lynn display the handsome silver tray premier consignor award they received as top exhibitors at the Atkinson, Neb. Bull Sale last week. They consigned five Shorthorn Bulls, which were among the 35 bulls consigned. There were 10 exhibitors from the Midwest.

- Engagement Announcement. Mr. and Mrs. Joyce Reese of New Richland and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Echubert of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their children, Peggy and Allan. Peggy is a 1970 graduate from New Richland-Hartland high school. Allan is an 1868 graduate of Southern Door high school Sturgeon, Wisconsin.

- Jennie Ann Tweeten, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arlo Tweeten of Hartland, was baptized at Hartland Evangelical Synod Lutheran Church, Palm Sunday with reverend Ronald Mathison officiating.

75 Years Back

- This Thursday morning at 10 o'clock a baby girl weighing 9 pounds and 7 ounces was born to Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Stephenson of Albert Lea at Naeve hospital. The mother is the former Rebecca Hatle, daughter of Mrs G. O. Hatle.

- Vernice Reb, daughter Ed Reb of near New Richland, became the bride of Roman Stolach, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stolach of near Easton in a ceremony at the St. Casimers church at Wells Tuesday morning at 8 o'clock. A complete account of the event will appear in The Star next week.

Briefs

Waseca Spring Shop Hop April 11 and 12

Waseca's special shops are sponsoring two days of special offers and activities on Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12. Participating businesses are Suburban Furniture and Flooring, and Barefoot Lane at Suburban, 2200 N. State; Glitter & Grace, 1800 N. State; Past & Present, 1101 N. State; Homestead, 917 N. State; Waseca Floral, 810 N. State; C & A Designs, 208 N. State; The Speckled Hen, 123 N. State; Four Seasons Apparel, 124 N. State; Pic A Dilly, 106 N. State; Zinnias, 108 S. State.

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

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

Spring Craft Show at the Starfire Event

Center Sat., April 12

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

Spring Shop Hop in downtown Waseca Saturday, April 12

Downtown Waseca will have a Spring Shop Hop from 10 a.m. through 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 12. The specialty shops of Waseca unite to give residents and visitors a reason to get out for the weekend. Takes place both Friday, April 11, and Saturday, April 12, during business hours.

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

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

CITY OF WASECA
508 SOUTH STATE STREET
WASECA, MN 56093

On Friday, April 25th, 2025, at 10:00 AM CDT., the City of Waseca will open and review all electronic bids received for the **2ND STREET NW RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT - CITY PROJECT NO. 2025-01, STATE PROJECT NO. 172-104-008, & FEDERAL PROJECT NO. STBG 8125(191).**

Estimated major quantities are as follows:

PIPE REMOVAL (STORM, SANITARY, & WATER)	LIN FT	8,700
PAVEMENT REMOVAL	SQ YD	1,390
FULL DEPTH RECLAMATION	SQ YD	10,280
GRANULAR EMBANKEMENT	CY YD	9,740
4" OR 5" THICK BITUMINOUS PAVEMENT	SQ YD	11,170
CONCRETE CURB & GUTTER (B624 & B424)	LIN FT	5,030
6"- 8" THICK CONCRETE DRIVEWAY PAVEMENT	SQ YD	910
4"- 6" THICK CONCRETE WALK	SQ FT	28,750
6" PERFORATED PVC PIPE DRAIN	LIN FT	4,230
15"- 44" RC STORM SEWER PIPE	LIN FT	1380
24" PIPE SEWER (PIPE BURSTING)	LIN FT	840
8"- 24" SANITARY SEWER MAIN & 4"- 6" SERVICE PIPE	LIN FT	4,010
SANITARY SEWER BYPASS PUMPING	LS	1
4"- 12" WATERMAIN	LIN FT	2,710
STORM SEWER STRUCTURES	EACH	24
SANITARY SEWER STRUCTURES	EACH	13

Along with miscellaneous utility and roadway improvements, removals, and restoration.

Complete Digital Bidding Documents are available at www.questcdn.com by inputting **QuestCDN eBidDoc #9527080** on the website's Project Search page. Paper Bidding Documents may also be viewed at the City of Waseca Engineering Department located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Phone: (507) 835-9730.

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

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

Minimum wage rates to be paid by the Contractors have been predetermined and are subject to the Work Hours Act of 1962, P.L. 87-581 and implementing regulations.

READ CAREFULLY THE WAGE SCALES AND DIVISION A OF THE SPECIAL PROVISIONS AS THEY AFFECT THIS/THESE PROJECT/PROJECTS

The Minnesota Department of Transportation hereby notifies all bidders:

in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Act), as amended and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Subtitle A Part 21, Non-discrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation, it will affirmatively assure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded maximum opportunity to participate and/or to submit bids in response to this invitation, and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, disability, age, sex or national origin in consideration for an award;

in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, and Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 230 Subpart A-Equal Employment Opportunity on Federal and Federal-Aid Construction Contracts (including supportive services), it will affirmatively assure increased participation of minority groups and disadvantaged persons and women in all phases of the highway construction industry, and that on any project constructed pursuant to this advertisement equal employment opportunity will be provided to all persons without regard to their race, color, disability, age, religion, sex or national origin;

in accordance with the Minnesota Human Rights Act, Minnesota Statute 363A.08 Unfair discriminatory Practices, it will affirmatively assure that on any project constructed pursuant to this advertisement equal employment opportunity will be offered to all persons without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, membership or activity in a local commission, disability, sexual orientation, or age; in accordance with the Minnesota Human Rights Act, Minnesota Statute 363A.36 Certificates of Compliance for Public Contracts, and 363A.37 Rules for Certificates of Compliance, it will assure that appropriate parties to any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement possess valid Certificates of Compliance.

If you have employed more than 40 full-time employees in any state, on any single working day during the previous 12 months, you must have a compliance certificate issued by the Minnesota Department of Human Rights to bid on any job in this advertisement. Please contact the Department of Human Rights immediately if you need assistance in obtaining a certificate.

The following notice from the Minnesota Department of Human Rights applies to all contractors:

"It is hereby agreed between the parties that Minnesota Statute, section 363A.36 and Minnesota Rules, parts 5000.3400 to 5000.3600 are incorporated into any contract between these parties based on this specification or any modification of it. A copy of Minnesota Statute 363A.36 and Minnesota Rules, parts 5000.3400 to 5000.3600 is available upon request from the contracting agency."

"It is hereby agreed between the parties that this agency will require affirmative action requirements be met by contractors in relation to Minnesota Statute 363A.36 and Minnesota Rules 5000.3600. Failure by a contractor to implement an affirmative action plan or make a good faith effort shall result in revocation of its certificate or revocation of the contract (Minnesota Statute 363A.36, Subd. 2 and 3)."

A minimum goal of 7.1 % Good Faith Effort to be subcontracted to Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.

Bidders are advised that solicitations for bids or proposals to potential Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) subcontractors, to potential Small Business in Rural Areas (SBRA) subcontractors, and to DBE and SBRA assistance organizations should be posted as soon as possible but no later than 15 days prior to the Bid Date.

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

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

Direct any inquiries to Joseph Palen, Project Engineer, at (507) 529-6036.
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on April 3, 2025.

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF WASECA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Civil Division
Case Type: Quiet Title

LNB Property Management, LLC,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SUMMONS

Court File No.

The Unknown Heirs of Kenneth T. McHugo;
the Unknown Heirs of Richard W. Palm; the
Unknown Heirs of Marjorie M. Palm; Gary Palm;
Michael Palm, Individually and as Trustee of the
Marjorie M. Palm Revocable Trust u/a April 4, 1991;
the Unknown Heirs of Steven Palm; Daniel Nydegger;
Quail Creek Properties, LLC; Terry Quickstad; and all
other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate,
interest, or lien in the real estate described in the Complaint
herein,

Defendants.

THIS SUMMONS IS DIRECTED TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

1. **YOU ARE BEING SUED.** The Plaintiff has started a lawsuit against you. The Plaintiff's Complaint against you is on file in the Office of the Court Administrator of the above-named Court. Do not throw these papers away. They are official papers that affect your rights. You must respond to this lawsuit even though it may not yet be filed with the Court and there may be no court file number on this Summons.

2. **YOU MUST REPLY WITHIN 20 DAYS TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.** You must give or mail to the person who signed this Summons a **written response** called an Answer within 20 days of the date on which you received this Summons. You must send a copy of your Answer to the person who signed this Summons located at 215 East Elm Avenue, PO Box 249, Waseca, MN 56093-0249.

3. **YOU MUST RESPOND TO EACH CLAIM.** The Answer is your written response to the Plaintiff's Complaint. In your Answer, you must state whether you agree or disagree with each paragraph of the Complaint. If you believe the Plaintiff should not be given everything asked for in the Complaint, you must say so in your Answer.

4. **YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASE IS YOU DO NOT SEND A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT TO THE PERSON WHO SIGNED THIS SUMMONS.** If you do not Answer within 20 days, you will lose this case. You will not get to tell your side of the story, and the Court may decide against you and award the Plaintiff everything asked for in the Complaint. If you do not want to contest the claims stated in the Complaint, you do not need to respond. A default judgment can then be entered against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.

5. **LEGAL ASSISTANCE.** You may wish to get legal help from a lawyer. If you do not have a lawyer, The Court Administrator may have information about places where you can get legal assistance. **Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still provide a written Answer to protect your rights or you may lose the case.**

6. **ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** The parties may agree to or be ordered to participate in an Alternative Dispute Resolution process under Rule 114 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice. You must still send your written response to the Complaint even is you expect to use alternative means of resolving the dispute.

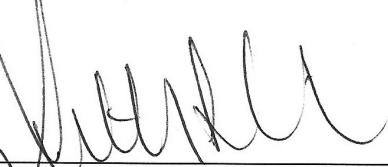
7. **THIS LAWSUIT MAY AFFECT OPR BRING INTO QUESTION TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY** located in Waseca County, Minnesota, legally described as follows:

See Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof.

The object of this action is to obtain a judgment that Plaintiff is the owner, in fee simple, of the above-described real property, and that none of said Defendants have any estate or interest therein or lien thereon.

Dated this 25th day of March, 2025.

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, P.A.



By: Keith L. Deike (#148635)
215 E. Elm Ave., PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093-0249
(507) 835-5240
keith.deike@phblawoffice.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff

EXHIBIT A
Legal Description
(LNB Property Management, LLC vs. McHugo et al.)

All that part of Lot 11, Block 2, Auditor's Plat of Ward's Addition, as the same is
platted and recorded in the Office of the County Recorder in and for Waseca County,
Minnesota, described as follows:

Commencing at the southwest corner of Lot 11, Block 2, in said Auditor's Plat of
Ward's Addition;

thence North 00°11'49" East a distance of 158.15 feet on an assumed bearing on
the west line of said Lot 11, to the point of beginning;

thence continue North 00°11'49" East on said west line a distance of 50.54 feet;

thence South 89°54'44" East a distance of 207.79 feet;

thence South 00°08'26" West a distance of 50.77 feet;

thence North 89°50'55" West a distance of 207.84 feet, to the point of beginning.

WHS track boys set up for success

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

If there was ever a program that's set up for success, it's the Waseca High School boys' track and field team.

The Bluejays, state champions just two years ago, have a solid nucleus returning to a squad that finished seventh in the state meet last year. They were fifth in the Big South Conference.

"Our season goals are pretty consistent year in and year out," said head coach David Abel. "We expect to compete for the conference championship, qualify for True Team state, and move as many athletes on to state as we can."

The Bluejays possess, according to Abel, strength in numbers, with 16 returning lettermen and 40 boys out for track.

"That's a great number," said Abel. "We should be able to find some gems in the group to fill the needed areas on the team."

The Bluejays graduated six athletes off last year's squad, including school-record sprinter Kaeden Johnson and their top thrower, Ethan Stenzel.

Returning as letterwinners are seniors Isaac Feldkamp (distance), Bennett Ludwig (sprinter),

Damarius Russell (school-record sprinter), Tristan Godwin (distance, pole vault; Carson Ohnstad (sprinter) and Tauston Rupe (thrower), juniors Jordan Johnston (sprinter), Brady Tloutan (sprinter), Will Mansfield (sprinter, pole vault), Wyatt Hager (sprinter, thrower) and Zane Staloch (hurdles), and sophomore Tovin Grannis (mid-distance, jumper).

The rest of the roster includes seniors Pablo Alvarez-Reyes, Nathaniel Andrs, Michaiiah Grannis, Jacob Hadley and Joe Mixteco, juniors Deron Russell, Moritz Eull, Malechi Noble and Zane Staloch, sophomores Jacob Harguth, Brady McKenna, Sunny Mei, James Quade, Titan Rahe, Owen Rupe and Jonah Worke, and freshmen Aiden DeRaad, Sawyer Ellis, Sam Feldkamp, Lual Garang, Toby Jeske, Ayden Kath, Tyler Loewen, Landen Madsen, Jordan Oviedo, Hayden Peterson, Carter Radcliff, Landon Rutt, Kendrick Spies, Jose Viera and Ryan Yoder.

"Our juniors and seniors are going



Abel

Sixteen lettermen back for Bluejays

"Our goals are pretty consistent year in and year out." — Coach David Abel

to need to have a good year for us this season," said Abel. "We have good numbers in our sophomores and freshmen who will need to step up and fill some roles for us."

Abel, in his 20th year as a track and field coach and eighth year as the Bluejays' head coach, has a capable crew of assistants in Brad Wendland, Grant Popp, Saiveon Williamson and Samantha Hustling. Wendland, who coaches throwers, is the WHS head football coach while Grant guides the WHS cross country teams.

Abel's biggest concerns right now are depth in short sprints and improving in long distances and high jump.

"We were going to compete well in the long sprints and distances, and have good top-of-the-line guys in the pole vault, 100, 200, 800, 1600 and discus," said Abel. "We will need to find some guys to fill the other spots to really score well as a

team."

Abel tabbed Fairmont, Marshall and St. Peter as the cream of the crop in the Big South. In Section 1AA, he expects tough competition from PEM and Red Wing with Winona, Austin, Red Wing, Stewartville and Kasson-Mantorville contending.

Waseca High School Track & Field 2025
Tuesday, April 1 Indoors at MSU, 5 p.m.
Thursday, April 10 at Mankato West Invitational, 4:30
Thursday, April 17 Waseca Invitational, 4:30
Monday, April 21 at TCU Invitational, 4 p.m.
Friday, April 25 at Plainview-EM Inv., 4:30
Tuesday, April 29 at St. Charles Invitational, 4:30
Thursday, May 1 at Mankato East Invitational, 4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 20 Big South at St. Peter, 4 p.m.
Thursday, May 15 Waseca Invitational, 4:30
Thursday, May 29 Section at Faribault, TBD
Saturday, May 31 Section at Faribault, TBD



Senior sprinter Damarius Russell is just one reason for optimism for the Waseca boys' track and field team.

Pioneer file photo by Jim Lutgens

It won't come easy for tennis Bluejays

Section includes three teams rated among top 10 in state

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The 2025 season looks like it could be one to watch for the Waseca High School boys' tennis team.

But it won't be easy.

The Bluejays should be, according to 23rd-year head coach Kyle Collins, among the favorites in the Big South Conference big-school division and among the top three squads in Section 1A.

"We hope to compete for a conference and section title," said Collins. "Many of the boys put some time in on the courts in the offseason."

And almost everyone is back from last year, when the Bluejays finished 13-4 overall and 3-1 in the Big South, losing only to champion New Ulm.

Oliver Rohwer, Dominic Grunzke and Ahmed Farooq - all doubles players - graduated off last year's crew.

Returning are senior lettermen Tyler Jellum, Lucas McQuery, Brayden Hoof and Tanner Hanson, junior Allen Kopetzki, sophomores Henry Huttemier and Otto Schoenrock, freshman Armaan

"We hope to compete for a conference and section title."

— WHS coach Kyle Collins

Bhatti and 8th-grader Keenan Collins, son of Coach Collins.

Jellum returns as the No. 1 singles player. Huttemier was 11-4 at No. 2 singles and was voted the team's Most Valuable Player last year. Both were all-conference players, with Keenan Collins and Hanson earning honorable mention.

The rest of the varsity roster includes senior Aiden Groskreutz, junior Brighton Rugger, sophomores Nolan McQuery and Dawson Goodlander, freshman Kyler



Collins



The 2025 Waseca High School boys' tennis team. Front from left: Kyler C, Armann Bhatti and Keenan Collins. Row two: Carson True, Jesse Wobschall, Joe Calhoun, Tanner Hanson and Otto Schoenrock. Back: Nick Nelson, Aiden Groskreutz, Henry Huttemier, Tyler Jellum, Allen Kopetzki and Brythgon Reger.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

Carlson, and 8th-graders Carson True, Nicholas Nelson and Oliver Rugroden.

The Bluejays are a conference favorite because defending champion New Ulm graduated many players.

"The door is wide open in the conference," said Coach Collins. "Our section remains tough."

While the Bluejays have a lot of strength returning at singles, he said they have a lot of holes to fill, especially at the No. 1 doubles position.

"We will have to find our positions early in the season, since we play some tough teams the first week or two," said Collins. I hope the boys can play with a lot of consistency, stamina and grit."

Collins' coaching philosophy: "I am looking for daily improvement," he said. "We want to play with a lot of discipline, showing great sportsmanship and dedication."

Collins, assisted by Trish Mercier, said the Bluejays' biggest competition in the Big South's Black

Division should come from St. Peter, with Winona Cotter and Schaffer Academy looking the toughest in Section 1A.

Cotter, Schaefer and Rochester Lourdes were all in the preseason top 10 ratings in Class A.

Waseca High School 2025 Boys' Tennis Schedule
Monday, April 7 vs. Northfield, 4:45
Thursday, April 10 at Red Wing, 4:45
Friday, April 11 at Blue Earth Area, 4:30
Monday, April 14 vs. St. James Area, 4:30
Tuesday, April 15 at New Prague, 4:15
Thursday, April 17 at Schaeffer Academy,

4:30
Tuesday, April 22 vs. St. Peter, 4:30
Thursday, April 24 at Fairmont, 4:30
Monday, April 28 at Winona Cotter, 4:30
Thursday, May 1 vs. Stewartville, 4:30
Saturday, May 3 at Worthington, 12 noon
Monday, May 5 vs. Lake City, 4:30
Tuesday, May 6 vs. New Ulm, 4:30
Thursday, May 8 vs. Rochester Lourdes, 4:30
Thursday, May 15 Section prelims
Tuesday, May 20 Section at Rochester
Thursday, May 22 Section at Rochester
Tuesday, May 22 Section individual at Rochester
Tuesday, May 27 Section individual finals at Rochester

Plenty vying for playing time for baseball Bluejays

What can you expect from the 2025 Waseca High School baseball team?

A lot of new faces.

"This year we have many new players," said head coach Taylor Phelps.

The Bluejays will rely heavily on Colten Ruedy, Aiden Shoemaker and Max Wirtz.

"Our junior and sophomore classes will be crucial to our team's success," said Phelps.

The rest of the varsity roster

includes Easton Danka, Kamerin Ferch, Kaden Garza, Kallen Glynn, Lucas Groll, Brayden Hesch-Priem, David Hodgkins, Owen Honstad, Cash Lynch, Riley Mitchell, Deven Parpart, Jameson Paulson, Logan Reger, Jett Rohl, Jaiden Schafer, Beckett Srp and Hayden Stencil.

Waseca High School Baseball 2025
Tuesday, April 1 vs. Blooming Prairie, 5:30
Thursday, April 3 vs. Sibley East, 5:30
Tuesday, April 8 vs. Belle Plaine, 5:30
Thursday, April 15 vs. Tri-City United, 5:30
Tuesday, April 17 at St. Peter, 5:30
Tuesday, April 22 vs. Worthington, 5:30

Thursday, April 24 vs. Fairmont, 5:30
Tuesday, April 29 at Belle Plaine, 5:30
Thursday, May 1 vs. New Ulm, 5:30
Saturday, May 3 at Marshall, 11 a.m.
Tuesday, May 6 at Tri-City United, 7:30
Thursday, May 8 vs. St. Peter, 5:30
Saturday, May 10 at Worthington, 1 p.m.
Monday, May 12 vs. LeSueur-Henderson, 5:30
Thursday, May 15 at Triton, 5 p.m.
Saturday, May 17 at WEM, 4:30
Tuesday, May 20 at LCWM, 5 p.m.
Thursday, May 22 Section tournament, TBD
Tuesday, May 27 Section
Saturday, May 31 Section
Tuesday, June 3 Section
Thursday, June 5 Section finals



Coaches for the 2025 Waseca High School baseball team are, from left, head coach Taylor Phelps and assistant coaches Boe Lueken and Nathan Osborne.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

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Coach aims for positive culture for WHS softball

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

If there's one thing you can probably count on from the 2025 Waseca High School softball season, it's improvement.

The Bluejays sure look like they have the talent to improve on last year, when they finished 1-19 overall and 0-12 in the Big South Conference under first-year head coach Amanda Sommers.

"We are rebuilding and the team has put in a lot of hard work in the offseason," said Sommers. "They are coming in ready to play and have been working hard in practice."

In several instances, they've been more than working hard.

"Many players are asking to stay after practice and want to put in extra time," said Sommers. "Our underclassmen are working hard to keep the culture of the program positive and include all as a team."

Last year's squad graduated three seniors in McKyla Hasselquist, Cameron Stagman and Ali Mumme. Hasselquist, a pitcher/center field, was selected all-conference.

This year's captains are seniors Lilly Owens and Siri Kuhns and junior Lauren Grant. Owens received the Bluejays' Most Improved Player award last year while Kuhns was voted Most Reliable Player.

The rest of the varsity includes senior Kenzie Sandborg, juniors Chloe Roemhildt, Ellery Waldron, Hannah Teague and Madison Roessler, and 8th-graders Avery Barto and Hannah Sommers, who both displayed excellent talent after being called up late last season.

"Due to injuries last season, we utilized a 7th-grade pitcher in Avery Barto," said Coach Sommers. "She stepped into a very tough situation and handled the challenge and the extra pressure. Our pitching staff

will be young again this season with our main pitchers being Waldron and Barto, with Hannah Sommers expected to see a few innings as well."

Roessler was an all-conference runner-up catcher last year.

Coach Sommers describes the Bluejays' schedule as incredibly challenging that includes very strong programs in New Ulm, St. Peter, Tri-City United and Belle Plaine, to mention a few.

"Our hope is to be competitive, have quality at-bats and limit our errors on defense," she said.

The key to success for the 2025 Bluejays is, according to Coach Sommers, "Our upperclassmen stepping into important leadership roles on the team and building a positive culture in our program. We need to keep our focus during games, avoiding back-to-back errors on defense, and having quality, smart at-bats to get as many runners on base as possible."

What is Sommers' coaching philosophy?

"I am committed to coaching with passion and purpose to show my student-athletes that I care and am empathetic to them as individuals. I strive to create a positive culture among athletes and build their passion for the game of softball, while making them contributing members of society."

Sommers is assisted by Abby Hoehn, Molly Schmidt and Katie Yaste. She lists Belle Plaine, New Ulm, St. Peter and TCU as the favorites in the Big South and Belle Plaine, LCWM, LeSueur-Henderson and Jordan as the teams to beat in Section 2AA.

Waseca High School 2025 Softball
Thursday, April 3, 4:30 Sibley East at Gaylord
Saturday, April 5 12 noon vs. Worthington
Tuesday, April 8 5:30 at Belle Plaine
Thursday, April 10 5:30 vs. New Ulm



Returning letterwinners for the Waseca High School softball team. Front from left: Lily Owens, Madison Roessler, Lauren Grant and Chloe Roemhildt. Back: Avery Barto, Siri Kuhns, Hannah Sommers, Kenzie Sandborg and Hannah Teague.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

"They are coming in ready to play and have been working hard in practice."
— Head coach
Amanda Sommers



Coaches for the 2025 Waseca High School softball team are, from left, head coach Amanda Sommers and assistant coaches Katie Yaste, Molly Schmidt and Abbe Hoehn.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

Tough senior class leads WHS track girls

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

A very strong and deep senior class anchors the 2025 Waseca High School girls' track and field team. It has head coach David Abel optimistic.

Abel's expectations remain the same: contend.

"Our season goals are pretty consistent year in and year out," said Abel. "We expect to compete for the conference championship, qualify for True Team state and advance as many athletes to state as we can."

The Bluejays, fourth in the Big South Conference and ninth in Section 1AA last spring, return no less than 13 letterwinners, with 34 girls out for the sport, which he called a good number.

"We hope to find some gems in the group to fill out our needed areas," said Abel.

Letterwinners returning are seniors Callie Dufault (distance), Brooklyn Flatau (sprinter, hurdler, jumper, state finalist in hurdles), Sierra Krause (thrower, sprinter), Cami Marquez (sprinter, hurdler), Nevaeh Sampson (thrower), Kalea Sartori (thrower) and Bella Wikan (sprinter), sophomores Stella Omvedt (distance), Angelica Lopez, Katelyn Weber and Savannah Vagts, and ninth-graders Maren Schimming (distance) and Reese Rodriguez (long sprinter).

The remainder of the roster: seniors Esme Pierce and Niya

"We have some dominant athletes in the hurdles, jumps and throws."
— Coach David Abel

Williams, juniors Kelsey Draeger and Paige Dufault, sophomores Noelle Drake, Berkly Hinna, Lauren Holmseth, Jacey Jenson, Taylor Markenson, Elsie Owens, Violet Rohwer and Megan Tegmeier, freshmen Cavita Ewest, Chayla Calderon, Charlie Castro, Allison Holmseth, Rylynn Ferris, Asia Mayberry, Ava VanDenHemel and Addie Zimmerman, and 7th-grader Ellie Kopischke.

"We have good numbers in our sophomore and freshman groups," said Abel. "We will see what they can do."

Abel said to keep your eye on Kopischke, a member of the Bluejays' 2024 state-qualifying squad.

A strength for the Bluejays, according to Abel, is in distances.

"We have some dominant athletes in the hurdles, jumps and throws," he said. "If we can find some girls to fill some holes, we will be able to compete. We need to find some depth in the short and long sprint



Seni9or hurdler Brooklyn Flatau is one of 13 returning letterwinners for the Waseca High School girls' track and field team.

Pioneer file photo by Jim Lutgens

groups, improve in the triple jump and find some pole vaulters. We will need some girls to step up and create the depth we will need to really score well as a team."

Abel's assistant coaches include Brad Wendland, Grant Popp, Saiveon Williamson and Samantha Husting. He looks for Fairmont, Marshall and Belle Plaine to be

tough in the Big South, with Winona, Red Wing, Kasson-Mantorville, Byron, Faribault and Northfield leading Section 1AA.

Waseca High School Track & Field 2025
Tuesday, April 1 Indoors at MSU, 5 p.m.
Thursday, April 10 at Mankato West Invitational, 4:30
Thursday, April 17 Waseca Invitational, 4:30
Monday, April 21 at TCU Invitational, 4

p.m.
Friday, April 25 at Plainview-EM Inv., 4:30
Tuesday, April 29 at St. Charles Invitational, 4:30
Thursday, May 1 at Mankato East Invitational, 4 p.m.
Tuesday, May 20 Big South at St. Peter, 4 p.m.
Thursday, May 15 Waseca Invitational, 4:30
Thursday, May 29 Section at Faribault, TBD
Saturday, May 31 Section at Faribault, TBD

New WHS coach aims to teach through golf

The expectations for the 2025 Waseca High School golf teams are, according to first-year head coach Bill Dwinells, simple.

"We expect to have fun," said Dwinells.

But that's not all.

"We want to play sound, fundamental golf, score a lot, and enjoy this beautiful lifelong game every second we are on the course," said Dwinells. "We expect to learn a lot about ourselves, on and off the course, and we expect to represent Waseca to the best of our ability and do our school and community proud."

Dwinells inherits squads that graduated just two seniors, Cody Vagts and Emma Keith.

Senior Hunter Anderson, an all-conference player and state meet participant last year, returns to lead the boys.

Also back for the boys are senior Reed Anderson and sophomores Brody Dufault, Gavin Hinton and Owen Weiseler.

Others include senior Max Howard, juniors Julius Oviedo, Jayden Gehring, Jude Gehring and Dylan Hansen, sophomores Braiden Nelson and Karter Selvik, freshmen Isaac Pfeifer, Kayne Sell, Troone (TJ) Corchrn, Oscar Slattery and Ethan Casterton.

Girls returning from last year are seniors Mia Kanewischer and Lexi Kanewischer, junior Madison Rasche and sophomore Elli Hoban.

The rest of the roster includes sophomores Trenna Peterson and Alexa Welander.

"We have had a good turnout so far this spring, with 23 total athletes," said Dwinells. "Our enthusiasm and new team philosophy, coupled with some fresh coaching perspectives, should position us fairly well in competitions."

But the numbers are also a weakness for the Bluejays.

"With only five seniors on the team this year, we have lots of new student/athletes joining golf for the first time," he stated. "We also have a new head coach this year in his first season of coaching golf."

In order to be successful this year, Dwinells said the Bluejays' ability to choose shots based on the likelihood they will execute said shot successfully is a key factor.

"Choosing 75-percent or greater success-rate shots will set us up for easier approach shots, which in turn set us up for less than two or three putts and more opportunities to score," explained Dwinells. "Another key to success for Waseca golf this season will be our ability to have very selective short-term memory."

Maren Peterson and Randy Cresman are Dwinells' assistants.

His coaching philosophy? "To help student/athletes learn skills like integrity, perseverance, self-awareness and responsibility using the game of golf as a parable," he said. "Personal growth will be just as important to our team as birdies and pars."

WHS 2025 Golf
Monday, April 10 Home vs. multiple schools, 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 15 Boys Home vs. Belle Plaine, 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 15 Girls vs. mult. schools at Shoreland CC, 2 p.m.
Friday, April 21 Boys vs. multiple schools at Shoreland CC, 4 p.m.
Friday, April 21 Girls vs. multiple schools at Montgomery CC, 4 p.m.
Friday, April 28 Boys vs. mult. schools at Worthington CC, 4 p.m.
Friday, April 28 Girls vs. mult. schools at Marshall CC, 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 29 vs. mult. schools at Shoreland CC, 2 p.m.
Friday, May 2 Boys vs. mult. schools at Fairmont Rose Lake GC
Friday, May 2 Girls vs. mult. schools at Interlachen, 1 p.m.
Monday, May 5 Boys vs. mult. schools at New Ulm CC, 2 p.m.
Monday, May 12 Girls vs. mult. schools at Dacotah Ridge GC
Tuesday, May 13 Boys vs. mult. schools at Dacotah Ridge GC
Thursday, May 15 vs. mult. schools at Montgomery, 2 p.m.
Tuesday, May 20 vs. mult. schools at LeSueur CC, 4 p.m.
Thursday, May 22 vs. mult. schools at Prairie Ridge GC, May 27/June 3 Girls' Section at New Prague GC 4:30
May 28/June 3 Boys' Section at New Prague GC

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New coaches take over for NRHEG track and field

Co-coaches Nydegger, Schlaak succeed finally retiring Ferber

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

For the first time in many, many years, a new era begins for New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School track and field.

Coach Duey Ferber, who guided the Panthers to many successful seasons, finally retired as head coach.

Taking over as co-head coaches are former assistants Larry Nydegger and Kim Schlaak. A former Panther, Schlaak was a highly successful high school hurdler as Kim Johnson. They expect the 2025 Panthers to battle hard and, hopefully, take home a trophy or two.

"We hope for the girls to challenge for the conference title again after finishing as runner-up the past two seasons," said Nydegger. "I would like to see the guys be in the top three after finishing third last year."

When you talk about the 2024 Panthers you have to mention Evelyn Nydegger, the coach's daughter, and Will Tuttle. A two-time state qualifier, four-time team MVP and four-time all-conference performer, Evelyn holds the school record in the 300-meter hurdles. Tuttle, also a school hurdles record holder, was a state qualifier and all-conference athlete last year.

"These two scored the bulk of the points," said Coach Nydegger. "Those are some big shoes to fill."

Returning letterwinners for the girls are Sierra Fish, Quinn VanMaldeghe, Anika Ladlie, Gabby Schlaak, Kylie Olson, Clara Buendorf, Sierra Misgen, Holly Bartness, Chloe Riewer, Julieann Wobbrock and Ella Jeno.

Back for the boys are Jacob Karl, Brendan Schmidt, Gavin Lewison,

Gavin Sletten and Wyatt Tuttle. Athletes to watch include Olson (throws), VanMaldeghe (sprints), Wobbrock (distance), Ladlie, Riewer (jumps), Gabby Schlaak (hurdles), Karl (middle distance, Lavon Jewison (jumps) and Schmidt (pole vault).

"We have some strength in the throws and the individual running events," said Nydegger. "We have lots of experience on the girls' team. Our boys have lots of energy. We hope to see that turn into competitive performances."

A concern is low numbers. "It will be tough to get multiple entries and scorers in all of the events," said Nydegger.

The key to success for the 2025 Panthers?

"Stay healthy and grow as competitors," said Nydegger.

Nydegger's philosophy as a coach?

"I want to get everyone involved in some way," he said. "We need to find the events where they can challenge themselves."

According to Nydegger, JWP is the both the boys' and girls' favorites in the Gopher Conference.

Nydegger and Schlaak are assisted by Brian Belcourt, Bailie Thome and Therese Buendorf.

The Panthers opened the season March 24 with an indoor meet at Minnesota State-Mankato, facing four other schools.

First-place finishes for the girls were by Wobbrock (1600, 5:55.5), VanMaldeghe (400, 1:04.14) and Olson (shot put, 33-11). Anika Ladlie was second in the high jump at 4-6.

Placing first for the boys: Jewison (high jump, 5-10), Karl (800,



Returning letterwinners for the 2025 NRHEG girls' track and field team. Front from left: Sierra Misgen, Holly Bartness,Chole Riewer, Julieann Wobbrock and Ella Jeno. Back: Sierra Fish, Quinn VanMaldeghe, Anika Ladlie, Gabby Schlaak, Kylie Olson and Clara Buendorf.

Photo by Larry Nydegger



Returning letterwinners for the 2025 NRHEG boys' track and field team are, from left, Jacob Karl, Brendan Schmidt, Gavin Lewison, Gavin Sletten and Wyatt Tuttle.

Photo by Larry Nydegger

2:19.27) and A.J. Deen (200, 24.7). Karl was second in the 1600 with a time of 5:08.81.

"This was a good meet to get our running legs back after a long win-

ter," said Nydegger. "It was nice to see kids who are new to track and field get some experience and some success, along with Julieann setting a new personal record in the 1600."



2025 co-head coaches for the NRHEG High School track and field teams are, from left, Kim Schlaak and Larry Nydegger.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG Track & Field 2025
Tuesday, April 1 at Hayfield Invitational, 4:30
Tuesday, April 8 at USC True Team, 4:30
Tuesday, April 15 at Maple River, 4:30
Tuesday, April 22 Girls at Blooming Prairie, 4:30

Tuesday, April 29 at JWP, 4:30
Thursday, May 1 NRHEG Invitational, 4:30
Tuesday, May 6 True Team Section, TBD
Saturday, May 10 Gopher Conference at JWP
Thursday, May 15 at Waseca Invitational, 4:30

Building blocks in place for Panthers

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The building blocks are in place for the 2025 New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School baseball team.

If they come together as hoped, it could be an exciting season for the Panthers.

Former junior varsity coach Shawn Larson returns in his second season as head coach, assisted by Marcus Fischer and Jeff Reese. A volunteer coach, Reese is a Hall of Fame inductee, and the Panthers' playing field is named after him and his late wife, Carol.

Last year's Panthers finished with an overall record of 7-13.

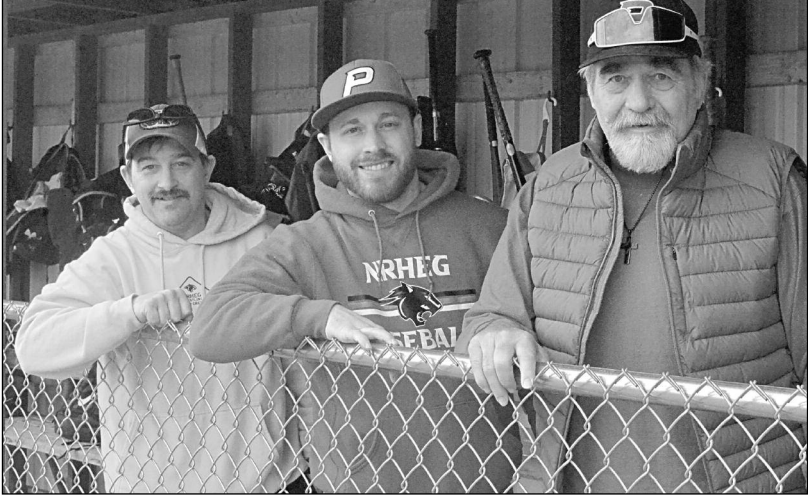
The varsity roster includes seniors Alden Dobberstein (pitcher, shortstop, second base), Aaden Hanna (pitcher, outfield), Carter Martens (pitcher, third base), Aidan Schlaak (pitcher, infield), Seth Staloch (shortstop, second base) and Brock Ziemke (first base), juniors Isaac Bauleke (outfield), Evan Berg (outfield, infield), Jordan Brouwers (outfield, third base), Wyatt Larson (pitcher, catcher, third base), Quen Meyering (outfield) and Owen Wayne (pitcher, second base, shortstop), and sophomores Fynn Baumann (pitcher, outfield), Braylon Carlson (outfield), Chase Johannsen (shortstop, second base), Dominic Olson (pitcher, second base), Ryan Schlaak (pitcher, catcher, outfield) and Shane Service (outfield).

Larson said it's unknown at this



The 2025 NRHEG High School varsity baseball team includes, front from left, Isaac Bauleke, Ryan Schlaak, Quen Meyering, Evan Berg and Jordan Brouwers. Back: Carter Martens, Brock Ziemke, Aiden Schlaak, Aaden Hanna and Jace Ihrke. Not pictured: Alden Dobberstein, Seth Staloch, Wyatt Larson and Owen Wayne.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens



2025 coaches for the NRHEG High School baseball team are, from left, head coach Shawn Larson, Marcus Fischer and Jeff Reese.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG Baseball 2025
Tuesday, April 1 at Madelia, 4:30
Thursday, April 3 at Randolph, 4:30
Friday, April 4 vs. LeSueur-Henderson, 4:30
Monday, April 7 vs. Triton, 4:30
Thursday, April 10 at United South Central, 4:30
Friday, April 11 vs. Martin Luther/GHEC, 4:30
Monday, April 14 vs. Waseca, 5 p.m.
Thursday, April 17 vs. Blue Earth Area, 5 p.m.

Monday, April 21 at Blooming Prairie, 4:30
Friday, April 25 at Tri-City United, 5 p.m.
Monday, April 28 at JWP, 4:30
Tuesday, April 29 vs. Mankato Loyola, 5 p.m.
Thursday, May 1 vs. Kenyon-Wanamingo, 4:30
Thursday, May 8 at Maple River, 4:30
Friday, May 9 vs. LCWM, 4:30
Monday, May 12 vs. Medford, 4:30
Thursday, May 15 vs. WEM, 4:30
Friday, May 16 vs. Bl. Prairie, 7 p.m.

Simonson returns to lead defending section champions

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The good news for the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School boys' golf team is that the Bulldogs are coming off a Gopher Conference championship and state tournament berth last spring.

The not-so-good news? Almost everyone graduated.

It adds up to guarded expectations and plenty of question marks for the Bulldogs and second-year head coach Tim Burke.

"This will be a rebuilding year for us," said Burke. "We're working to get more players out to increase our numbers."

Leaving a void for the 2025 Bulldogs was the graduation of Steven Dimmel, Logan Thell, Alex James, Carter Miller and Ryan Kronbach. Dimmel was the Gopher Conference Player of the Year last year, finished fourth in the Section 2A meet and 36th at state. Thell, an all-conference player, placed 14th at state, with James taking 47th, Kronbach 57th and Miller 66th.

The lone returnee for the boys is sophomore Jeffrey Simonson, who earned all-conference honors last year while placing 71st in the state meet.

"Jeffrey continues to improve and we are looking forward to watching him become a leader on the team," said Burke. "Ideally, we are hoping for a couple of new members or last year's JV players to improve and be able to contribute for us during the season."

The rest of the roster includes junior Dylan Hood, freshmen John David Bublitz and Garrett Rienhardt, 8th-graders Evan Mulcahey, Oliver Dimmel, Fynn Johnson and Brekken Olson, and 7th-grader Jack Bense.

"We're working to get more players out to increase our numbers."

— JWP golf coach
Tim Burke

The girls' squad has only one player at this point, junior Abby Balzotti.

Burke needed only one word to describe what the Bulldogs need to do to be successful this spring: improve.

"We need to improve from where we are," he said. "We are a young, inexperienced team that needs to build consistency."

JWP High School 2025 Golf Schedule
Tuesday April 1 at Alden-Conger, 4:30
Thursday, April 3 Maple River/MVL at Prairie Ridge, 4:30
Monday, April 7 at Blooming Prairie, 4:30
Friday, April 11 TCUI/St. Clair at Prairie Ridge, 4:15
Monday, April 14 KW/NRHEG at Prairie Ridge, 4:30
Monday, April 21 at Randolph 4:30
Tuesday, April 22 at Southland
Thursday, April 24 at Dodge CC, 4:30
Saturday, April 26 at Blooming Prairie Inv., 10 a.m.
Tuesday, April 29 Gopher Conf. at Wedgewood Cove, 1 p.m.
Thursday, May 8 Gopher Conf. at North Links, 10 a.m.
Tuesday, May 13 Gopher Conf. at Austin, 1 p.m.
Thursday, May 15 NRHEG at Riverview, 4:30
Friday, May 16 GHEC at Rose Lake, 4:15
Thursday, May 22 Gopher Conf. at Waseca, 1 p.m.
Saturday, May 24 vs. Waseca/NRHEG at Prairie Ridge, 4:30
Thursday, May 29 Section at North Links, 9 a.m.
Monday, June 2 Section at North Links, 9 a.m.
June 10-11 State at Becker

Schultz retakes the reins for Panthers' softball

Panthers to field young, enthusiastic squad

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

In terms of wins and losses, who knows what to expect from the 2025 New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School softball team.

But you can bet the Panthers will play hard and have fun along the way.

After a one-year head coaching stint by Kayley Camerer, a former Panther who guided the squad to a record of 7-14 overall and 3-8 in the Gopher Conference last year, Wendy Schultz has come out of coaching retirement to lead the 2025 Panthers.

Schultz has a ton of coaching experience, starting her 26th year (27th counting the Covid season when they practiced a week and played no games), and has an impressive career win-loss record of 305-179. She's assisted by Nate Jensen.

Last year's Panthers graduated a lot of talented players, including all-conference pitcher Faith Nielsen, the team's co-Most Valuable Player, Golden Bat recipient and co-MVP Preslie Nielsen, all-conference and Golden Glove award winner Isabel Stadheim, Erin Peterson, Payton Bunn and Tayler Schmidt. The Panthers will also miss sophomore pitcher/infielder Izley Boerner, who sustained an ACL injury in basketball after being

"Even though we've had three weeks of practice and a scrimmage, it's hard to get a handle on who will be playing, and where."

— NRHEG coach Wendy Schultz

the softball team's Most Improved Player and earning all-conference honorable mention honors last year.

The Panthers return two starters around which to build, junior catcher Addy Stadheim and sophomore shortstop Olivia Berg.

The rest of the varsity includes seniors Aspy Stenzel (utility) and Ava Cummins (utility), juniors Chloe Stork (infield, utility), Camryn VanMaldeghe (infield) and Kyera Eustice (outfield), sophomores Faith Phillips (catcher, outfield) and Paige Johnson (outfield, and freshmen Brooklyn Sommer (pitcher, infield), Ezra Boerner (catcher, infield), Jovey Knudson (infield, outfield), Kenley Gehrke (utility), Tru Thao (utility), Alexa Viktora (utility), Mallory Groskreutz (outfield) and Alamae Gutierrez.

The Panthers are yet to elect 2025 captains.

So what does the coach expect? "We hope to get better and improve the entire season," said Schultz. "We want to be playing our best ball at playoff time."

Schultz said the Panthers' strengths are work ethic, team speed and a great attitude. Her main concern is a lack of varsity playing experience.

Schultz's coaching philosophy is, not surprisingly, pretty simple: "Work hard at practice and games, have a positive attitude, and be a great teammate!"

Returning state entrant Randolph returns most of its lineup and figures to lead the way in the Gopher Conference, with United South Central and Bethlehem Academy contending for the title. She looks for Belle Plaine, Jordan and LCWM to be the top teams in Section 2AA.

"Even though we've had three weeks of practice and a scrimmage, it's hard to get a handle on who will be playing, and where, since some kids missed the first week of practice due to playing in the state basketball tournament, which is a great thing," said Schultz. "Then there are some kids on the Costa Rica trip and miss a week and a half of practice. We also have one player par-

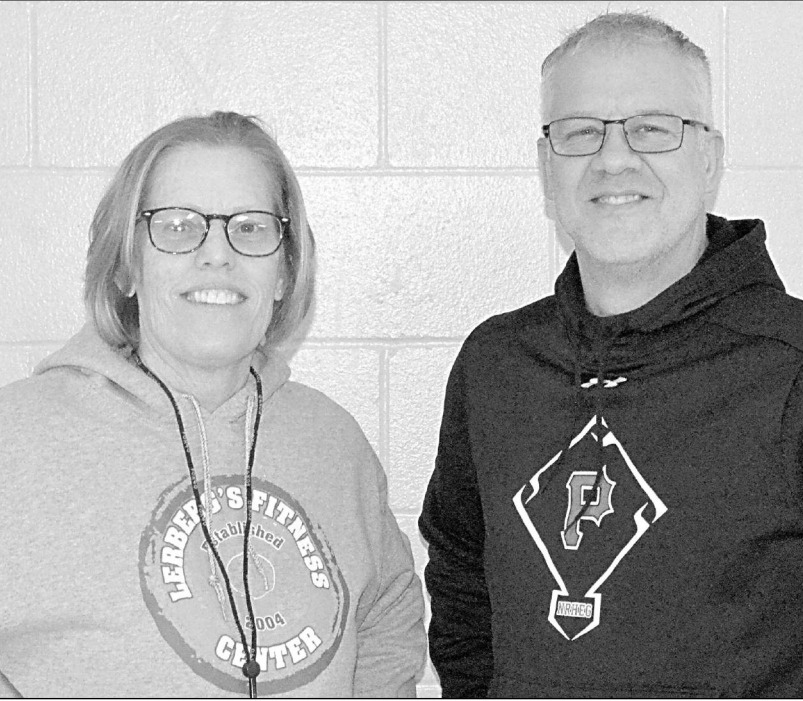


Members of the 2025 NRHEG High School softball team include, front from left, Aspy Stenzel, Ava Cummins, Brooklyn Sommer, Jovey Knudson and Kenley Gehrke. Back: Ezra Boerner, Olivia Berg, Mallory Groskreutz and Izley Boerner.

ticipating in the band/choir trip who will miss three days of practice. We're just working hard with who we have at practice."

NRHEG High School 2025 Softball Schedule

Monday, March 31 at Austin, 5 p.m.
Tuesday, April 1 at Blooming Prairie, 4:30
Thursday, April 3 vs. Randolph, 4:30
Monday, April 7 at Triton, 4:30
Thursday, April 10 vs. United South Central, 4:30
Monday, April 14 at Waseca, 4:30
Thursday, April 17 at Bethlehem Academy, 4:30
Monday, April 21 vs. Blooming Prairie, 4:30
Thursday, April 24 at Hayfield, 4:30
Friday, April 25 at Tri-City United, 5 p.m.
Friday, April 25 at Tourn. at Caswell Park
Saturday, April 26 Tourn. at Caswell Park
Monday April 28 vs. JWP, 4:30
Thursday, May 1 at Kenyon-Wanamingo, 4:30
Tuesday, May 6 vs. Martin Luther/GHEC, 4:30
Thursday, May 8 vs. Maple River, 4:30
Monday, May 12 at Medford, 4:30
Tuesday, May 13 vs. Blue Earth Area, 4:30
Thursday, May 15 at WEM, 4:30



2025 coaches for the NRHEG High School baseball team are, from left, Wendy Schultz and Nate Jensen.

It's still early

JWP softball team drops two early games to start season

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It's still early.

That's what Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School softball coach Brienne Eldred and the Bulldogs have to be thinking after starting the season 0-2.

Most recently, the Bulldogs traveled to Mapleton March 27 and lost a 6-0 decision to Maple River.

Ella Oliver led the Bulldogs offensively, going 2-for-2. Kayle Langford was 1-for-2.

Ryleigh Donner pitched all seven innings for JWP, throwing 104 pitches while striking out seven. The Bulldogs committed four fielding errors which, according to Eldred, gave Maple River the win.

"We didn't take care of business at the batting area," said Eldred. "We were hesitant and didn't make good, disciplined swings. Our practice will revolve around the things we will need to make better. They have already learned so much, and we will keep learning. I'm proud they didn't give up and we will keep fighting."

The Bulldogs dropped their sea-

son opener 17-3 to Martin County West at Janesville March 25.

Victoria Blomstrom was 1-for-2 with three stolen bases, Langford 1-for-3 with a triple, and Autumn Thissen 1-for-2. Brielle Dessner drove in two runs.

Donner went the distance in the circle, allowing 15 earned runs while striking out six in five innings.

"This was our first game, and MCW always brings some good batters," said Eldred. "They hit every spot that we weren't in. However, when we got on the bases, we made sure to base run aggressively, which paid off with a few runs. Three of our girls had our three hits. It was a good learning experience against a very good team."

The Bulldogs' roster includes seniors Sophie Coulsey, Dessner, Addison Miller, Ella Oliver and Thissen, juniors Blomstrom, Lillian Ewert, Brielle James, Langford and Lily Quast, sophomores Raylen Blasing, Emma Huelsnitz, Hudson Miller, Rachelle Oelke, Sophia Okins, Taylor Sims and Marisa Waguk, freshmen Haylee Appel, Avery Carda, Donner, Ella Lamont,



In action against NRHEG last year are JWP softball players Brielle Dessner rounding third, left, and Hudson Miller pulling up at second base.

Claire Loeffler, Elizabeth Norman, Tamyah Sims and Stasia Zeiher.

Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 2025 Softball

Tuesday, April 1 vs. Nicollet, 4:30

Thursday, April 3 vs. Blooming Prairie, 4:30
Friday, April 4 vs. Minn. Valley Lutheran, 4:30
Monday, April 7 at Hayfield, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, April 8 vs. St. Clair, 4:30
Thursday, April 10 at WEM, 4:30
Tuesday, April 15 vs. Cleveland, 4:30



2025 coaches for the NRHEG High School baseball team are, from left, Wendy Schultz and Nate Jensen.

Thursday, April 17 vs. Kenyon-Wanamingo, 4:30
Tuesday, April 22 vs. Madelia, 4:30
Thursday, April 24 vs. Medford, 4:30
Monday, April 28 at NRHEG, 4:30
Thursday, May 1 vs. Randolph, 4:30
Monday, May 5 vs. TM/GHEC at Truman, 4:30
Thursday, May 8 at Triton, 4:30
Tuesday, May 13 vs. USC, 4:30
Thursday, May 15 at Bethlehem Academy, 4:30
Friday, May 16 vs. New Ulm Cathedral, 4:30

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Did You Know...?

- The Bailey House is one of Waseca's oldest homes, built in 1868.
- 1 in 10 Americans sell their home due to paranormal activity.
- 50% of millennial investors choose to invest in real estate.
- The median house price increased by 416% between 1980 & 2020.
- 1 in 4 renters spend 50% of their income on housing.
- U.S. home values have increased 7.2% over the past three years.
- A little over one-third of sellers initially try to sell their homes themselves as a "For Sale by Owner" listing. However, only about 10% of sellers actually get their FSBO listing across the finish line; the rest give up and hire a real estate agent.



The Bulldogs' Cole Blomstrom rounds third base on his way to scoring a run during the 2024 season.
File photo by Leann Kavitz

Coach feels baseball Bulldogs have the potential to surprise

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

According to head coach Cory Jewison, outside expectations are not that great for the 2025 Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School baseball team.

He doesn't necessarily agree.

"This is a team I think has a chance to surprise people," said Jewison. "Many people think they won't be that good, but they will be up for the challenge."

The Bulldogs, 11-12 overall and 5-6 in the Gopher Conference, graduated a lot of seniors in Joshua Bengston, Cole Blomstrom, Austin Carda, Cole Gartner, Gavin Krause, Ty Melchoir, Nolan Morsching and Austin Quast. It creates many opportunities for others to step up their game at the varsity level.

Returning as lettermen for the Bulldogs are Lucas Morsching, Peyton O'Brien, Chase Gerdts, Caleb Quast and Michael Walker. Quast was first team all-conference and all-section while being voted JWP's Most Valuable Player; he also was the Bulldogs' Gold Glove recipient. Gerdts won the team's Cy Young award.

Also back as varsity players are Preston Meihak and Max Davis.

"I think we will be a very scrappy team," said Jewison. "Last year we had a lot of experienced seniors, which will be a significant loss. However, the show must go on."

Jewison looks for Gerdts to again anchor the pitching staff and for Quast to add some speed in center field and some offensive pop.

"They will be joined by a group

"I think we will be a very scrappy team."
— JWP coach Cory Jewison

of seniors who will help us in some way whether they start, pitch in relief or play in games," said Jewison. "They have been waiting for the opportunity to play and I am excited to see what they can show everyone. It is always fun playing the underdog role, and I know this team can exceed expectations and play very well if they work hard. As the season progresses, we will improve and hopefully make a run in the playoffs."

That's what happened last spring, when the Bulldogs defeated Blooming Prairie in the opening round of Section 1A tournament play, then upset No. 1 seed Southland before falling 1-0 to Hayfield and to Rushford-Peterson.

Jewison has a four-year head coaching record of 32-42 at JWP. His assistants are Tyler Fellows and Ryan Hanson. Student managers are Avery Fall and A.J. Radunz.

Jewison feels pitching, team speed and athleticism are the Bulldogs' strengths, with his biggest concerns a lack of varsity experience and several questions of who will play what positions.

The key to success is believing they can do it.

"This team needs to all believe in themselves and their teammates," said Jewison. "We will have to play small ball and improve every day and every game. It's one day at a time with this group. We will need

to play selfless baseball and play for each other. We will have to make some sacrifices and to some things they might not want to do, but potentially helps the team win. They need to be clutch when runners are in scoring position."

Jewison feels the Gopher Conference championship is up for grabs this year, but expects Hayfield and Randolph to be the toughest, with Blooming Prairie and United South Central returning a lot of players. He lists Lyle/Austin Pacelli, Hayfield, Spring Grove and Rushford-Peterson to contend for the section crown.

Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School 2025 Baseball

Monday, March 31 vs. MTML, 4:30
Tuesday, April 1 at Blooming Prairie, 5 p.m.
Thursday, April 3 at Bl. Prairie, 5 p.m.
Monday, April 7 vs. Hayfield, 4:30
Thursday, April 10 at WEM, 4:30
Saturday, April 12 AC/GE at Glenville, 10 a.m.
Tuesday, April 15 vs. Goodhue, 4:15
Thursday, April 17 at Kenyon-Wan., 4:30
Monday, April 21 vs. LCWM, 4:30
Thursday, April 24 at Medford, 4:30
Friday, April 25 vs. International Falls, 4:30
Saturday, April 26 vs. Cromwell-Wright, 1:30
Monday, April 28 vs. NRHEG, 4:30
Thursday, May 1 at Randolph, 4:30
Friday, May 2 vs. Maple River, 4:30
Monday, May 5 at TM/GHEC at Truman, 4:30
Thursday, May 8 vs. Triton, 4:30
Friday, May 9 at St. Clair, 4:30
Tuesday, May 13 at USC, 4:30
Friday, May 16 at New Ulm Cath., 5 p.m.

JWP track teams aim to pick up where they left off

Last spring saw a record-breaking performance by the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School track and field teams, with no less than seven new school records.

Don't be surprised if you see more this year.

The Bulldogs return several of the athletes setting new school records in two individual events and five relays.

"A strength is our culture, as cliché as it may sound," said JWP head coach Sam Schruin.

Returning for the boys, who finished second in the Gopher Conference last year, are Tyson Johnson, Gavin Weedman, Chuck Adams, Daulton Bauer, Ethan Born, Isaiah Berndt, Luke Cahill, Eric Daschner, Isaac Gahlon, Derek Gustafson, Alexander Kleve, Shane Witts, Syler Kelley, Karson Mittelstaedt, Teagan Mulder, Christian Reyes, Leighlan Harris, Jason Wheelock, Tyson Kronbach, Brennan Welvaert, Chance Bluhm, Gavinn Kaiser and James Morgan.

State participants last year were Bauer and Berndt.

Back for the girls, five-time defending Gopher Conference champions and Section 2A runners-up last year, are MaKenzie Westphal, Kwynn Krause, Katelyn Olson, Nevaeh Weimert, Arina Aguilar, Ave Appel, Brielle Bure, Onika Herme, Madline Hoehn, Madyn Holland, Presley James, Lilly Strauss, Paige Walz, Aubrey Weedman, Autumn Thissen, Anne Adams, Sarah Bulman, Kayleigh Donner, Clare Groh, Ava Krause, Madilyn Gustafson, Kaiya Hoehn, MaKaela Westphal and Ashlynn Wolff.

Weimert is the school-record holder in the 400 meters while MaKenzie Westphal holds the honor in the 800. Strauss, Olson, Weimert, Bure, Wolff and MaKenzie Westphal were state participants last year.

The coach staff includes Schruin, John Kaplan, Liz Kvebck, Andrea Kronbach, Emily Olson, Tim Johnson, Mike Cahill and Katie Cahill.

Said Schruin, "Rome wasn't built in a day. We have the foundations of a successful program and every day we continue to be better than we were the previous day."

Schruin said a couple quotes that are said at almost every practice and is a sort of motto for the 2025 Bulldogs:

"It's a beautiful day to be a track athlete."

"Whether you think you can, or can't, you're right." - Henry Ford

"I'm really proud of everyone and all the hard work they put in," said Schruin. I also very thankful for the support from the community, administration, school staff, coaches, etc. Everyone is a part of this program and is a part of the success of the team!"

NRHEG boys' golf team returns its entire lineup

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

If there's anyone who knows his way around New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High schools - and Riverview Golf Course - it's 34-year member of the NRHEG staff, Brad Root, starting his 15th season as head golf coach.

Root, assisted by Kara Wilkenson and Kim Olson, lost no senior boys off last year's squad then went 4-14, placing 9th in the Gopher Conference and 14th at the sub-section level.

Returning lettermen are senior Carter Schlaak, junior Hudson Chrz, sophomores Shan Hansen and Tyler Kress, and 8th-grader Matthew Williams.

The boys' roster also includes senior Drew Jackson, junior Justin Beauvais, sophomore John Lynne, freshmen Braydon Rollag, Reid Sandry, Braxton Arnold and Chase Hanson, 8th-graders Brayton Kruger, Sealey Anderson and Aiden Groth, and 7th-graders Hayden Ripka and Dakota Clark.

"We had a good season last year, and the boys got some good experience, so we are pretty well set on six varsity spots," said Root. "Someone may emerge as a surprise to help us. We did not have many JV meets last year, so the non-varsity players didn't get much meet experience last year. The varsity boys have pretty good golf skills, but need to work on the mental side of the game and course management this year and consistency."

Root tabbed Hayfield as the conference favorite and Waseca as the team to beat at the section level.

Root's expectations?

"Course management is a huge part of the game, as well as becoming strong mentally," he said. "We need to move from being practice players to tournament players, making sure they are prepared for whatever weather conditions exist, as well as dealing with situations on the course. We would like to advance our team to section and get an all-conference selection or two this year. We want them to learn the game so they can enjoy it throughout their life. As always, we want our student-athletes to enjoy the sport and have fun while at the same time representing our school well. We will be working on the rules and golf etiquette so our golfers will be knowledgeable and welcome wherever we travel to play."

Last year's girls finished 15-8 last year, taking fifth in the conference and sixth at sub-section. Graduating off that squad were Meela Budach, Hallie Schultz and Elsie Schultz.

Freshmen Alexis Olson, Olivia Wilkenson and Gabby Nelton return as starters.

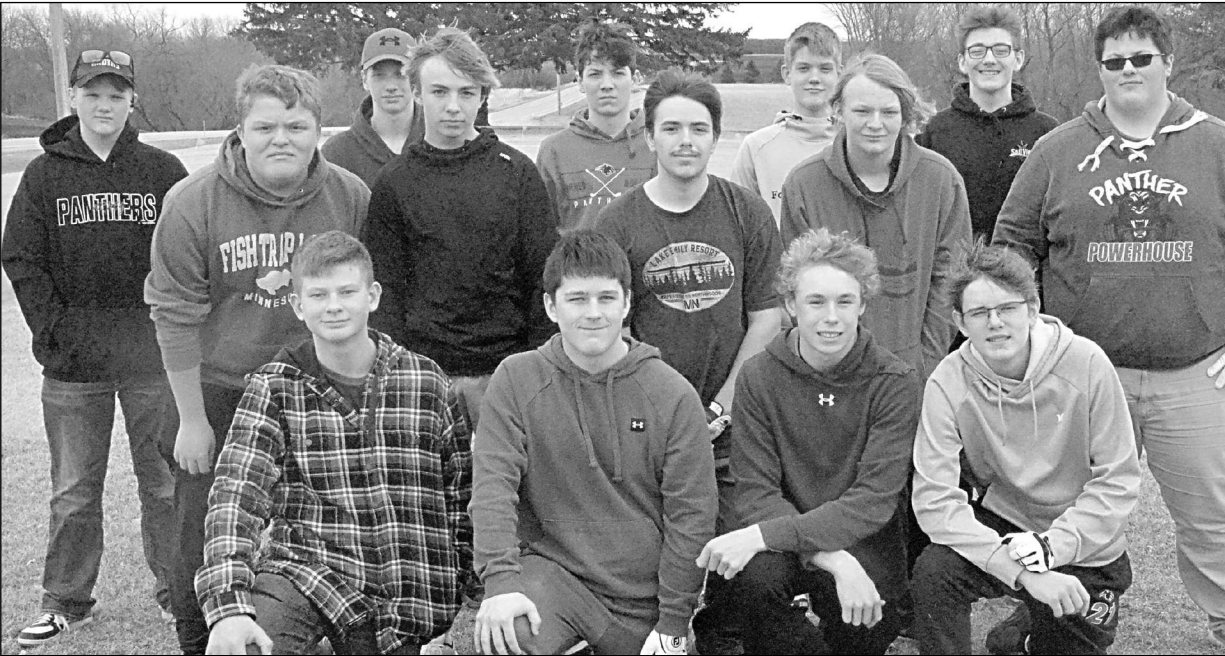
The squad also includes freshman Acadia Kormann.

The NRHEG girls have a 14-year record of 160-70 under the guidance of Root, who lists USC and Hayfield as conference favorites and Waseca in the sub-section.

And for the Panthers?



Root



The 2025 NRHEG High School boys' golf team. Front from left, Dakota Clark, John Lynne, Braxton Arnold and Braydon Rollag. Middle: Tyler Kress, Jace Hanson, Shan Hansen, Brayton Kruger and Kailin Hudson. Back: Ayden Groth, Hayden Ripka, Matthew Williams, Reid Sandry and Drew Jackson.
Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

"I think we can finish third or fourth in the conference, and fifth or sixth in the sub-section," said Root.

The coach feels good about the Panthers' good team chemistry and great work ethic. He looks for them to display a positive attitude, even in poor weather, while taking risks in making aggressive shots.

NRHEG High School 2025 Golf

Tuesday, April 8 at Oak View GC, 4:30
Monday, April 14 at Prairie Ridge GC, 4:30
Monday, April 21 at Riverview GC, 4:30
Thursday, April 24 at The Oaks GC, 4:30
Tuesday, April 29 at Wedgewood Cove, 1 p.m.
Thursday, May 8 at North Links GC, 10 a.m.
Tuesday, May 13 at Austin CC, 1 p.m.
Thursday, May 15 at Riverview GC, 4:30
Monday, May 19 at Lakeside GC, 10 a.m.
Thursday, May 22 at Lakeside GC, 1 p.m.
Saturday, May 24 at Prairie Ridge GC, 4:30



Among the members of the 2025 NRHEG High School girls' team are Alexis Olson, left, and Olivia Wilkenson.
Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

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Sacred Heart "Tall and Small" Ball



On Feb 28, 2025, the Sacred Heart School Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO) hosted the Valentine-themed "Tall and Small Ball." Students were escorted to the dance by a special adult in their life. Nearly 50 couples attended this second annual event. Students and adults dressed up and enjoyed music, dancing, craft making (water colors, painted rock photo holders, bead bracelets) and snacks. They could show off their style in a photo booth. Bottom right: Elliott, Josh, and E.J. Langr. Top right: Olive Neff, Olivia Ockwig, Emory Weber, Palmer Dahner, Angel Bice, Father Frerichs. Top left: Evelyn Wolfe, Rudy Neff, Lucy Schleicher, Olivia Bartelt, Emi Samuels, Cecelia Wolfe. Bottom left: Olivia and Jennifer Bartelt. Bottom center: Rhett and Jackie Wolfe.



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SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642							April 2025	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
		1 Burger nite 5-7pm	2 Burger nite 5-7pm	3 7pm HALL BINGO	4 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	5 GOLD STAR SPOUS-ES DAY		
6	7	8 Burger nite 5-7pm	9 Burger nite 5-7pm National former POW DAY	10 7pm HALL BINGO	11 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	12		
13 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host Waseca high school Choir	14 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	15 Burger nite 5-7pm	16 Burger nite 5-7pm	17 7pm HALL BINGO	18 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm YOUR HOST	19		
20	21	22 Burger nite 5-7pm	23 Burger nite 5-7pm	24 7pm HALL BINGO	25 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	26		
27 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host Waseca Care-givers	28	29 Burger nite 5-7pm	30 Burger nite 5-7pm					

HOURS OF OPERATION
SUN.- MON. CLOSED
TUE.- 1pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady's nite 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm.
WED.- SAT.-1pm to 11 pm
POST & AUX MEETING 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license number 00385

13TH ANNUAL BLUEJAY BLAST

Sponsored by the Waseca Schools PTO

SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH

SILENT AUCTION • 9-11:30AM • WIS

"CHRIS CAKES" PANCAKE BREAKFAST (SERVING UNTIL 11:00AM)

BINGO • CLASSROOM BASKETS/ITEMS

CUPCAKES FOR CASH • FACE PAINTING • COTTON CANDY

POPCORN • CARNIVAL GAMES FOR KIDS

\$20 RAFFLE TICKETS

CASH PRIZES: \$500(1), \$100(2), \$50(6)

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS AT SUBURBAN FURNITURE.
NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.

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- * KOWZ/KRUE RADIO * WASECA COUNTY PIONEER *