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■ Inside:

- **3** - Nationals bound
- **3** - Tom Sexton
- **4** - Obituaries
- **5** - Brilliant Jays
- **6** - CERT
- **7** - Archives
- **8-10** - Sports
- **11** - Classifieds
- **12** - New lawyer

All-you-can-eat fish fry at the Waseca Legion Friday, April 18
The Waseca Sons of American Legion will be hosting an all-you-can-eat fish fry from 5:30-7 p.m. on Friday, April 18. \$12 for adults, \$8 for kids 8 and under. All the fish you can eat with fries, coleslaw and a dinner roll.

Springtime Sandwich Luncheon at Faith United Methodist Church Wed., April 23
There will be a Springtime Sandwich Luncheon at the Faith United Methodist Church from 11 a.m. till 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 23. Free will donations accepted, take-out orders available. Serving sloppy joes, egg salad sandwiches, macaroni salad, chips pickles, assorted cakes and coffee.

JWP National Honor Society Induction Ceremony 7 p.m. April 23
Selected members of the JWP junior and senior classes will be inducted into the National Honor Society during a ceremony at the school at 7 p.m. Wed., April 23.

ICAN Annual Talent Show on Wednesday, April 23
ICAN will be having their seventeenth Annual Talent Show at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 23. This will be in the Central Building, free admission and all are welcome.

Waseca High School Grand March and Prom 6 p.m. April 26
Grand March will be at 6 p.m. in the Waseca high school gym on Saturday, April 26. (Doors open at 5:30). Prom, which is not open to the public, will follow at The Mill.

Sacred Heart Schools marathon and celebration 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 30
Sacred Heart students will celebrate the accomplishments of their annual fundraising drive with a marathon around Loon Lake, a meal, and games. The celebration will be outdoors on the Sacred Heart campus.

Waseca High School Vocal Department Variety Show 7 p.m. May 2 and 3
The Waseca High School vocal department variety show will be presented at 7 p.m. on both May 2 and 3 in the Junior/Senior High School performing arts center. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for students; ages 5 and under are free.

Waseca Intermediate School spring vocal concert 7 p.m. Monday, May 5
The Waseca Intermediate School vocal department will present its spring concert beginning at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 5 in the Junior/Senior High School performing arts center.

A word from The Word
“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on.”
Luke 12:22



Ada Weber and Annabelle Jerry got their face and hands painted at the 13th Annual Bluejay Blast on Saturday, April 12, 2025. Annabelle said she couldn't smile because it would ruin the picture being painted.

Bluejay Blast provides fun, supports education initiatives

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The gym and cafeteria of the Waseca Intermediate School were humming with activity the morning of Saturday, April 12, for the Waseca Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) fundraiser known as the “Bluejay Blast.” More than 350 people attended and around \$25,000 was raised.

Among the first sights greeting visitors as they arrived was the raffle table, staffed by PTO member Rebecca Prescher, who was one of about 50 volunteers helping out for the day.

About 260 people enjoyed a breakfast of pancakes and sausages: Kwik Trip donated the coffee and juice.

From the gym came the smell of

popcorn and a calamity of noise with the bingo game going strong: children and adults joined in, paying fifty cents per card with prizes ranging from a chess game to footballs to basketballs to markers and colored pencils. Each prize package was worth about \$5, winners could pick any toy from the table. All bingo prizes were donated by Northland Trenching.

For the younger kids there was a variety of games; children carried cards which allowed them to take part in a certain number of games or activities—until the spaces for stamps were all marked off. Carnival games included a Lollipop Tree, Mini Golf, Duck Pond, Ring Toss, Fishing Pond, Knock ‘em Down with cans, and a Cake Walk. The stamp card also allowed them to have their face

or hand painted.

In the middle of the gym was a silent auction supervised by Laura DeWees fourth grade teacher and Bluejay Blast committee chair. Said DeWees, “We got 157 different items donated from lots of businesses, teachers, and families for our auction, with the proceeds going to Waseca Post Secondary, PTO, speakers for the students, field trips, and school supplies.” She was quick to add, “None of this is for the brick and mortar.” Instead, she explained, money raised has been used for supplementary needs including busing costs for special events, extra teaching materials, brain break activities, and additions to the frisbee golf

Blast continued on 4

Former WHS student wins Grammy

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

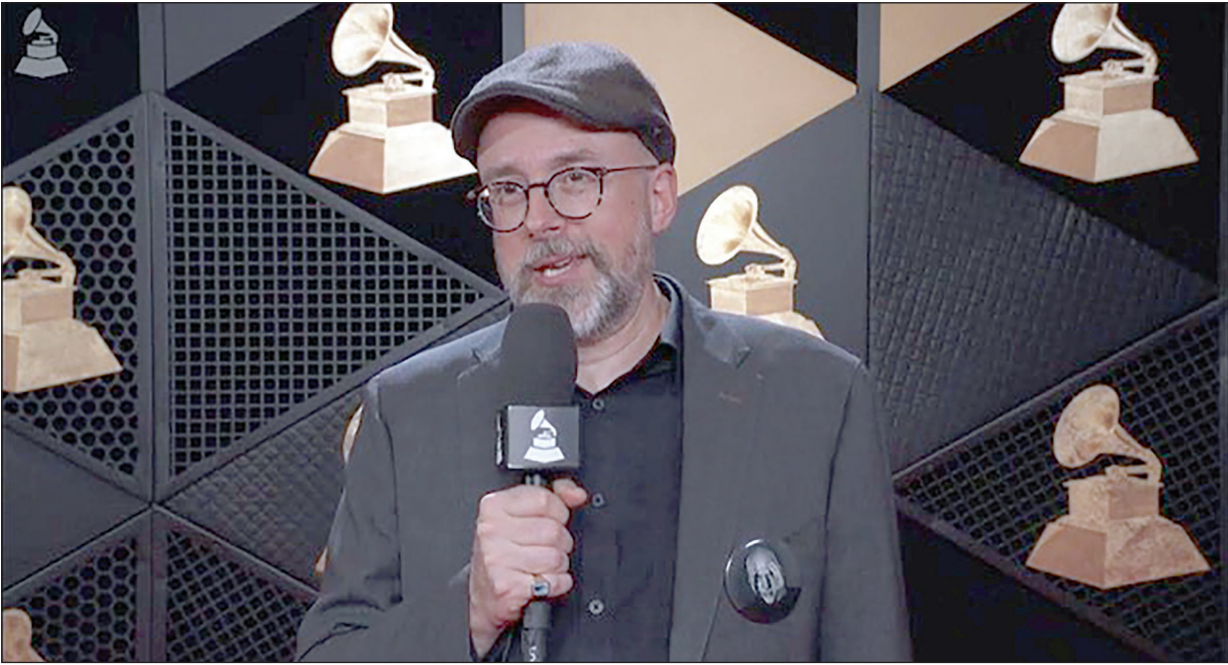
Hans-Martin Buff, who was an exchange student from the country of Germany at Waseca High School from September to December of 1985, recently won a Grammy Award for his sound engineering “Best Immersive Audio Album” while working on Peter Gabriel’s newest record, titled “I/O.”

He currently works for MSM Studios in Munich, but Buff began his music work in a small studio at Paisley Park that belonged to none other than Minnesota’s sound artist Prince. Buff’s career began in 1995 as a studio tech in Paisley Park, where he worked on the Prince albums: “The Gold Experience,” “Chaos and Disorder,” “Emancipation,” “The Vault: Old Friends 4 Sale” and “Rave Un2 the Joy Fantastic.” Said Buff in a guitarist.com article, “One of the reasons I got the gig with Prince is

because I was young and I was hungry and I was kind of unformed. And Prince had a specific way of working. It was always, ‘I have an idea that I want to put out. You help me capture it.’ And that’s kind of how it was.

“With a lot of people I work with these days, I offer sounds that help start the ideas for how a project is going to come together, but with Prince it was never that way.”

Of his local connections, Buff recalls “I attended Waseca High School as a German exchange student in 1985, and I can honestly say that the visit changed my life. My hosts were the Rynders family; my host father Tom Rynders then worked at Brown Printing, my host mother ran the library of the U of M Waseca campus, my host brother Tom Jensen went to high school with me and my host sister Linnea Rynders was a middle-schooler at the time. The Rynders



Hans-Martin Buff, a German exchange student and Waseca JSHS student for one semester in 1985, won a Grammy for sound engineering while working with singer and creator Peter Gabriel.

family and I stayed close in the years after, with various mutual visits, and in 1991 I actually moved to the Twin Cities, because Minnesota life seemed so much more desirable to me at the time than my then current life in Berlin, Germany. I learned my initial recording engineering craft at Music Tech school in Minneapolis (which later became McNally Smith in the old St. Paul science Museum and is now defunct), and I started my career at Pachyderm Studios in Cannon Falls and got my first big break

from Prince at his Paisley Park Studios in Chanhassen.”

Buff also mentioned, “Most important of all, I met my wife Patti in Minnesota. We’ve been married for 30 years now. Patti’s from Mankato, and through her, I have lots of wonderful family around Mankato, in the Twin Cities and throughout the United States. One of our children was born in the U.S., both of our children hold German and US citizenship, as does Patti at this point.”

Peter Gabriel, who’s had number

one hits like “Sledgehammer” and “Steam,” has also worked with Pixar when he sang for the movie Wall-E in 2008. Gabriel’s latest album, “i/o,” was released on December 1 of 2023, becoming his first album to top the UK charts since his “So” album in 1986. The credit for one of the two Grammy trophies Gabriel’s album won went to a German exchange Waseca High School student, even if

Buff continued on 4

Appalling childhood abuse motivates success, advocacy

‘It shouldn’t hurt to be a child’

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

While Waseca’s Mikhail Rostislavovich is active in a wide array of organizations and initiatives, he feels connected to one of them in a deeply personal way. A central pillar of the National Exchange Club of America is taking steps to prevent child abuse—so much so that the organization sponsors an extensive network of “Centers for Family Unity.” One such center located in Owatonna serves Dodge, Freeborn, Steele, Rice and Waseca counties.

President of the Waseca Exchange Club, Rostislavovich recently appeared before both the Waseca County Board of Commissioners and the Waseca City Council asking that they follow a national initiative and proclaim April as “Child Abuse Prevention Month,” encouraging citizens to expand their awareness and action toward reducing child abuse and

show their support by wearing or displaying blue ribbons.

During his presentation he stated, “It shouldn’t hurt to be a child.” Rostislavovich is horrifyingly familiar with the topic.

Even now, at age 70, he says abuse he experienced from ages 6 to 17 continues to affect how he sees himself and his place in the world.

Taken in by a family in infancy, he did not know until early adulthood that he had spent his early years as an unofficial “foster” child. What he did know was that the man who claimed to be his father abused him to a level that can be officially labeled “torture.”

During a recent meeting of the Waseca Exchange Club, Rostislavovich read a speech he wrote more than a decade ago to share with emotionally and physically abused children taking part in a support event named “Royal Family Kids’

“I was battered, torn, ravaged, shaken and raped.” — Mikhail Rostislavovich

Camps.” The camps brought together foster children who, among other shortfalls in their lives, had never had their birthday celebrated and never received a birthday gift.

As someone with the same childhood circumstance who had gone on to build a successful life, Rostislavovich was encouraged by then-governor Tim Pawlenty and his wife Mary, who was a family court judge, to speak to the group. He read his speech from the “Royal Family” camp for local Exchange Club members on April 8. Before

Abuse continued on 2



Mikhail Rostislavovich next to a banner earned by the Waseca Exchange Club for its initiatives to help prevent child abuse.



Compostings

by Al Batt

Too big for the door

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I'm reading the entire dictionary.

Wow! How's that going?
I'm up to something. It's in the S section.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. When I was a boy, the only sea I'd ever seen was the "We'll Sea." Like many families, mine lived the slogan, "Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without," but we had an addendum. If I asked for something I didn't need in a store, but thought I had to have, my mother put a stop to my request with a "We'll Sea."

I'd ridden in an ambulance years before. I played a fellow on a gurney in a film. I've also portrayed a dead guy in the back of a hearse. My recent ambulance ride had a lot more gravity. I talked to an attendant during the ride. Nice fellow. I knew his family. He apologized for every bump in the road.

My mother's friend mailed in a sweepstakes entry for every Publishers Clearing House magazine subscription offer she received in her mailbox. Each mailing had a photo of a winner receiving a gigantic check, balloons and flowers. I knew if she won, she wouldn't be able to cash that check because it was too big to get through the bank's door.

We'd won another sweepstakes. We had five puppies. I named them. The last one was called Blackie. There was no black on the little, all-brown dog. I couldn't call it Brownie because I'd already named another brown pup that. I had a terrific imagination.

I bought assortments of many breeds of chicks from Murray McMurray Hatchery in Webster City, Iowa. Why? Because they went cheep. As a small boy, I found something that was cheap in a small store/cafe. It was chewing gum. Mother asked where I'd gotten the gum. I'd found it stuck under a table. It was ABC gum (Already Been Chewed). The brand was Black Jack chewing gum, supposedly the first gum distributed in sticks. It had a black licorice flavor, rounded out by anise and ginger. ABC gum! Was I goofy? I like to think I was adventurous.

I'VE LEARNED

The best tree for woodworking is carpentree.

A friend attained a degree in forestry because he needed to take only tree classes.

I'm a conscientious parker. I

park between the lines in an empty parking lot.

I do little online shopping because I'd miss using a shopping cart with a wobbly wheel.

I wish all billboards were replaced with newspaper ads. Shouldn't napkins be lapkins?

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

My wife called me last night and said, "If you're not home in 10 minutes, I'm giving your dinner to the dog." I was home in 5 minutes. I'd hate for anything to happen to my dog.

A man knocked on my door today, asking for donations for the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.

My grandmother's desserts always bring down the house. The roof is in the pudding.

NATURE NOTES

"Is the bigger eagle I'm seeing a golden or a bald?" The two species are about the same size, with the females being larger. The legs of golden eagles are feathered to the foot; the bald eagle has featherless, yellow ankles. Golden frequent forested and grassland landscapes, often away from lakes, rivers and coastlines. Bald eagles prefer open, fish-filled waters. Both species are fond of carrion. Juvenile bald eagles are larger than adults due to their longer wing and tail feathers.

"How can I stop a robin fighting with my window?" After choosing a nest site, a pair of robins claim the area as their own and defend it from other birds of their kind. When a male spots another male, a chasing fight ensues. The dominant male gets a mate, the nesting location, the territory and the area's food. A window acts as a mirror. A robin is territorial and instinctively attacks rivals in its breeding territory, making an enemy of its image. A real robin would flee, but the reflection remains. Being persistent and stubborn, the robin continues the attack. To stop the robin's assault, block its image. Put a piece of cardboard, black nylon screen, painter's cloth or plastic cling on the outside of the window where the bird is attacking. Soaping the window works. This may cause Martha Stewart to shudder, but, in most cases, you'll need it only until the shadowboxing robin thinks its worthy adversary has departed. Covering the inside of the window enhances the reflection. Plastic owls and fake snakes are ignored.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Robert Ingersoll said, "We rise by lifting others." A kind word could do that.

The parallels are to clear to overlook

Here we are a few days before Easter.

It's quite interesting how many different directions that introductory statement could lead. One might think about holiday traditions and upcoming family gatherings, including some of the special foods people prepare.

After all, the Geneva Fire Department offered "ham bingo" recently, in contrast to the "turkey bingo" fundraiser it holds in the late fall. It was an evening of great fun.

One might emphasize the holiday's status as the unofficial closing of winter weather, with only rising temperatures and greening landscapes from here on.

What comes to mind for me as I write is the religious foundation of the celebration. Interestingly, I am talking about two religions at once. Since Jesus' crucifixion took place during the Jewish celebration of Passover, the beginning date of Passover and Easter are related.

Some online research has taught me the Passover celebration always begins on a full moon and then lasts seven days. Somewhere in those seven days, of course, will be a Fri-



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

day, Saturday and Sunday.

The Jewish calendar, I am told, is aligned with the lunar cycle. The month "Nisan" is the first one in the Hebrew year and Passover begins on the fifteenth—which is always a full moon. "Nisan," according to various online sources, is about 30 days long and falls somewhere across the months we identify each year as March and April.

Easter is known as a "movable feast," a celebration which does not consistently take place on the same calendar date. The earliest it can fall in any given year is March 22; the latest is April 25.

Three details work together to define it: March 21, the calendar date of the spring equinox; the full moon; and the circumstance that Jesus is

known to have left the tomb on a Sunday morning.

Thus, Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after March 21.

According to still more online sources, the first four full moons of 2025 fell on January 13, February 12, March 14 and April 12—if we were going by the heavens alone, Easter should have fallen on April 13. But the "full moon" used by church traditions is based on set numbers rather than the actual observed phase—something about the "Paschal full moon." The more I read about that, the harder it becomes to explain. Let's just say the astronomical full and "Paschal" full moons usually align, but sometimes don't—and that's the case in 2025.

And everything you just read is the reason I try to avoid internet "rabbit holes." They only ever seem to get deeper and deeper.

Despite the interesting distractions, I can still get back to my intended point. Passover and Easter are aligned in a richly symbolic way.

The Passover observance looks back to the time just before the Jews left Egypt. The tenth plague called for the death of all first-borns—human and animal alike. Moses' instructions to the Jews were to sacrifice a lamb and mark the entrances to their dwellings with its blood. The marking served as a message that God's vengeance should "pass over" the household.

The parallels are so rich and clear, it's impossible to overlook them.

I believe profoundly in the many messages and implications of Easter. Just as I marvel at the beauty and mystery of creation's visible elements, I revel in contemplating the invisible ones. If you are a skeptic, I invite you to push your doubts aside—figuratively tear the temple curtain in half—and become caught up in the euphoria of perfect, unconditional love—the ultimate message of Easter.

Engaged on a '14er' in Colorado

Is it just me, or are there times in life when we're invited to numerous weddings and other times when there might not be a wedding in our circle of acquaintances for a couple years at a time? Or is it an age thing?

I am only curious because it seems I have been to more weddings in the past couple years than I have in my whole life. I can't tell if it's because people I know just happen to be getting married or if it's because I am now old enough to go and be invited and things like that, instead of being left at home as children often are.

Needless to say, I attended another wedding this past weekend, this time in Boulder, Colorado. My boyfriend's sister got married; I was honored to have been invited and have a chance to join in on all of the family fun. Did I have a stressful time trying to find the right dress and figure out how to do my hair and makeup because I was meeting a lot of his extended family and wanted to make a good impression? Yes, absolutely. But did I have a great time? Yes, I love talking to new people. A woman who sat next to



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

me seemed to be something of a character — she got engaged on a "14er" as Coloradans call their big mountains, loved to dance, showed me her dogs by linking her phone to a camera at her house, had a lip piercing, and took shots of tequila.

I met a translator for the groom's Spanish-speaking parents whom I attempted (poorly) to talk with in Spanish and who told me I looked pretty. Met a boyfriend of a cousin who seems nice but likes to explain things, seems to think he is better than others, and is also a party pooper who went home early.

So there I was, at a wedding venue nestled in the mountains in Colorado,

meeting and talking to new people. Who could ask for a better time? It was actually good practice because my boyfriend's other sibling is getting married in the fall, and I will probably end up going to that one as well. You see what I mean? So many weddings.

But then it got me thinking about the other weddings I've attended recently, and you know how it is to start comparing all the elements people choose—from the meal to the music. My cousin recently got married at a beautiful spot in Iowa, with the ceremony and reception held in a gorgeous barn. The food was buffet, the DJ was great, and a ton of people attended. The wedding I went to this

past weekend was small, dinner served in courses, and only unfortunately only I and a couple other people stepped out on the dance floor. Everyone was kicked out by 11 p.m. as well, which I thought was interesting, but understandable.

A good family friend of ours got married, not as recently, but more recently in my memory. That event was in one of those barns at the Owatonna fairgrounds; it was decorated beautifully. Again buffet for food, but again, a lot of people, great music, and wonderful dancers. To me, what makes a wedding is getting everyone out on the dance floor and just having a blast jamming to the music. Stumbling back to your seat when you need a break and drink of water and running back out when your favorite song comes on (or when someone makes you) is just great. Weddings are such a good time—so happy wedding season y'all.

My Determination: "Here ... we have apple and orange. We all different, but ... we all fruit." — Gus, My Big Fat Greek Wedding

Briefs

Waseca Pops Concert 7 p.m., Friday May 9

The Waseca instrumental music department will present its spring "Pops" concert at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 9, in the high school performing arts center. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for students, with children 5 years and under free.

Waldorf Petal Pushers plant sale Waldorf

Community Center Sat. May 10

The Waldorf Petal Pushers plant sale will be held from 8-11 a.m. Saturday, May 10 at the Waldorf Community Center. Available will be bedding plants, house plants, succulents, perennials and much more.

JWP Band Concert for students in grades 5 to 7, 6 p.m. Monday, May 12

JWP band students in grades 5 to 7 will present their spring concert in the school auditorium beginning at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 12.

JWP Band Concert for students in grades 8 to 12, 7 p.m. Monday, May 12

JWP band students in grades 8 to 12 will present their spring concert in

the school auditorium beginning at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 12.

Waseca Junior High School spring vocal concert 7 p.m. Monday, May 12

The Waseca Junior High vocal department will present its spring concert beginning at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 12 in the Junior/Senior High School performing arts center.



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

PHONE: 507-837-6767

email: news@wasecacountypioneer.com
Address: Office at 111 Elm Avenue West
Mail: PO Box 578, Waseca MN 56093

DEADLINES: Pioneer: Noon Monday
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

ELI LUTGENS	Publisher
DEB BENTLY	News Editor
JIM LUTGENS	Sports Editor/Dad
JON LUCCA	Ad Design
BEN REVERMANN	Staff Writer
TERESA ROSACKER	Advertising Sales
JESSICA LUTGENS	Staff Writer
RACHAEL JAEGER	Staff Writer
MELISSA DUNN	Staff Writer
AMELIA ROESSLER	Editorial Assistant

Contributing writers/photographers: Dave Zika, Al Batt

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$59 Per Year, Waseca County Residents
\$69 State of Minnesota • \$79 Outside Minnesota

Waseca County Pioneer (USPS permit #25304) is published weekly on Thursday, by Pioneer Publications Inc., 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca, MN, 56093. Entire contents copyright © 2025 PIONEER Publications, Inc. and respective authors. Opinions expressed in editorials or letters to the editor are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Waseca County Pioneer or PIONEER Publications, Inc. Letters may be edited for content or length. Periodicals Postage at New Richland, MN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to Waseca County Pioneer, P.O. Box 578, Waseca, MN, 56093.

■ Abuse

from Page 1

beginning, he disclosed that even recalling the early circumstances he describes causes emotional turmoil for him.

He went on to tell of heartrending experiences, including having a celophane-wrapped double-edged razor placed in his mouth and being told to "chew." At the emergency room when asked why razor blades would be in a child's mouth, his "father's" answer was, "The kid must have thought it was candy."

The abuse Rostislavovich received was so horrifying that he described being grateful when he was locked in a solid plywood box: Once inside, he was not being fiercely intimidated or physically abused.

"I was battered, torn, ravaged, shaken and raped," he said of his childhood years.

His right thumb was nearly completely dismembered in a meat slicer; it was reattached, but to this day is smaller and less agile than the one on the left.

A stainless steel pot full of hot coffee was shoved inside his shirt, badly burning the skin on his chest and arm while streaming coffee caused further burns.

Told he needed to be "quicker," he was sent to walk eight blocks to school in -20 degree temperatures without any coat, hat or mittens; he was given boots, but no stockings. As his teachers warned him and noted he had experienced frostbite, they asked about his winter clothing. Because he was so afraid of the repercussions of telling the truth, He remembers replying "I lost them."

While being told "You need to learn to listen," he had his head and ears beaten so badly from both sides that his eardrums were ruptured and his ears bled. The incident led to an emergency room visit after which the physician submitted a report of suspected abuse to a social services agency. The resulting investigation prompted the family to pack up suddenly and move—an avoidance technique that, over Rostislavovich's childhood, led to 11 moves across a number of states.

Along with uncounted emergency room visits were 18 stays in intensive care.

His "father" even once placed a .38 revolver in Mikhail's mouth and instructed him to pull the trigger. When he refused to do so, he punched him and claimed "You couldn't do anything right if you had to."

Though his "mother" did nothing to stop the abuse, other adults tried to help. Rostislavovich remembers staying with his grandmother. He

"Those days did not defeat me. If anything, I grew more robust and more determined that I would show myself and those around me that I was more than a victim of childhood torture.."

— Mikhail Rostislavovich

states in his "Royal Camp" speech that her gentle ways and visits to her church allowed him to find faith that God exists and would look out for him.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, he was enrolled at a private boarding school beginning in first grade, reducing the amount of time spent in the abusive environment to only the summer months and occasional holiday breaks. While away, he encountered kind treatment and a sense of safety, eventually coming to know an area farm family whose members treated him as families should.

Although earlier attempts to end the custodial rights of his first parents had failed, "finally God and the courts released me from the bondage of 17 years," as he neared adulthood. Soon after, the family he had adopted during his high school years officially adopted him, allowing him to spend his time since then as a member of a loving family.

"To this day," his speech shared

with the Kids' Camp participants, "I bear the scars of those early years, both physically and in my heart.

"Those days did not defeat me. If anything, I grew more robust and more determined that I would show myself and those around me that I was more than a victim of childhood torture.

"By the grace of God and all who loved me," his speech concludes, "I would be sent out into a world far from darkness."

Rostislavovich went on to join the staff of presidents and governors, interacting with world leaders and playing significant roles in historic events before eventually retiring to Waseca. He tells that his active participation in so many local organizations and initiatives is based on a commitment he made during his career that, after retiring, he would spend as many hours volunteering as he had spent working for pay.

OBITUARIES

Ruth Mittelstadt

RUTH ALFRIEDA MITTELSTADT, age 93 of Waseca, died on the evening of Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato.

Ruth was born the youngest in her family on May 25, 1931, in Waseca County to parents August Herman and Clara (Helms) Mittelstadt. She attended District #22 country school before graduating from Waseca High School in 1949. She was a teacher in local country schools before embarking on a 52-year career as a teacher in New Ulm, finally retiring in 2002. Ruth was a lifelong member of St. Peter Lutheran Church in Otisco where she loved her involvement with the annual ice cream social and polka fest. She was a past member of the VFW Auxiliary and Turner Ladies' Society. She enjoyed bowling and quilting, but one of her greatest gifts to the world was gathering and donating household items to those in need. Her generosity knew no bounds.

Ruth is survived by numerous cousins and their families, and a great number of friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother Luverne, and a sister Adeline.



Ruth Mittelstadt

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca with Rev. Ashley Kuhlman and Rev. Scott Williams officiating. Visitation was held one hour before the service at the church on Tuesday. Interment followed at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be directed to St. Peter Lutheran Church in Otisco. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca is handling the arrangements. dsfuneral.com

Leona Wenzel

LEONA JUNE WENZEL, age 99 of Northfield, formerly of Waseca, died on the morning of Sunday, April 6, 2025 in Northfield.

Leona was born on June 15, 1925 on her grandparents' farm near New Richland as the oldest surviving child of parents Enoch and Irene (O'Riley) Root. She attended country school before graduating from Waseca High School with the class of 1943. In 1946 she graduated from St. Mary's School of Nursing in Rochester, and later did her nurse cadet training at Hines Veteran's Hospital in Chicago. Throughout the years Leona was married to Edmond Ciesielski, James Wenzel, and Troy McDonald. Each of her husbands preceded Leona in death. She enjoyed sewing, dancing, polka music, playing cards and calling bingo, and moving around town to be active in First Congregational Church, the Waseca Senior Center, and the VFW Auxiliary.

Leona is survived by two daughters, Linda (Alan) Clough of Eland, WI, and Laura (Scott) Stier-nagle of Ladysmith, WI; a step-daughter, Connie (John) Jordan of Rehoboth, MA; nine grandchildren; eighteen great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and two brothers, Leland Root of Waseca



Leona Wenzel

and Lyle (Sharon) Root of Waseca. She was preceded in death by her parents; three previous husbands; a very special friend, Ted Matz; sister, Leta Clemons; and three brothers, Lowell, Lyndel, and Lester Root.

Funeral services will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 17, 2025 at the First Congregational Church in Waseca, with Rev. Der-rick Skoglund officiating. Visitation will be held from 10:30 a.m. until the time of the service at the church. A luncheon provided by Leona's family will follow. Den-nis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca is handling the arrangements. dsfuneral.com

John Kramer

JOHN "BUTCH" KRAMER, age 77, of Waseca, died peacefully at his home on Sunday, April 13, 2025.

Born on April 17, 1947, in Owatonna, the only child born to John and Lucille (Johnson) Kramer. Butch grew up in Waseca and attended Sacred Heart Catholic School, graduating with the class of 1965. On February 21, 1966, Butch was united in marriage to Merila Allen at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca. Together they made their home on Butch's family farm where they raised three children. Butch had a 40 year career with Brown Printing. In retirement he stayed busy working part time at Winegar's for the past 12 years. Butch loved farming, operat-

ing the family farm until his later years when he began driving combine for Dick Hanson. Butch enjoyed NASCAR, country dancing, and especially spending time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca and Knights of Columbus.

Butch is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Merila; children: Nadine Kramer of Waseca, Nathan Kramer of Owatonna, April (Jerry) Harguth of Waseca; grandchildren: Alec (Brittany) Dwyer, Melaina Harguth, Charlet "Charli" Harguth, and Garrett Natysin; great grandchildren: Brooks, Archer, and Johnny Dwyer; sisters-in-law: Carla (Tom) Mullen, Linda Kelm, and Jackie (Wayne) Beam; brother-in-law, Ladd Oser;

nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Charlet and Bob Oser; and brother-in-law, Greg Kelm.

Visitation will be from 4:00 – 7:00 PM on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral Homes in Waseca. Visitation will continue for one hour prior to the service at the church on Thursday.

Funeral service will be 2:00 PM on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Fr. Glenn Frerichs officiating. Interment will be in Calvary Cemetery in Waseca.

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John Kramer



From left: Chief Deputy Doug Gerdes, Kari Gehring, Sheriff Jay Dulas, Time Out Teddy, Exchange Club President Mikhail Rostislavovich, Dan Moccol, Mary Ulirsch, and Joe Roeker.

Waseca Exchange Club donates Time Out Teddy plush toys

WASECA, MN – In a heartfelt show of support for Waseca's youngest citizens, the Waseca Exchange Club has donated plush Time Out Teddy bears to the Waseca Police Department, Waseca County Sheriff's Department, and the Waseca Fire Department. These comforting plush toys are intended to be given to children who may be present during distressing emergency calls, particularly those involving abuse or trauma.

The donation is part of the Exchange Club's local efforts to recognize April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness, spark conversation, and support those working on the front lines of protecting children.

The beloved Time Out Teddy mascot himself was present to personally greet officers and firefighters, bringing smiles and warm hugs to those who help comfort Waseca's most vulnerable during their scariest moments.

"Time Out Teddy reminds us that

sometimes, what people need most is a pause—a moment to cool down, breathe, and choose a better path than anger or harm," said Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Waseca Exchange Club. "We are grateful for our police, sheriff's deputies, and firefighters who not only protect our community but also show kindness and compassion to children in crisis. These Teddy bears are a small gesture, but they represent a big message: Waseca cares."

Waseca Police Chief Kris Markeson expressed gratitude for the gift, saying, "When children experience trauma, even something as small as a soft toy can bring real comfort. Our officers often encounter children during some of the worst moments of their lives. Having something to offer them—a Time Out Teddy—helps us build trust and show that we are here to help."

Sheriff Jay Dulas echoed that sentiment: "We appreciate the Exchange Club's continued commitment to



From left: Exchange Club President Mikhail Rostislavovich, Jared Chrz, Time Out Teddy, and Chief Kris Markeson.

child welfare and to our department. These bears will be carried in our squad cars and handed out whenever we meet a child who just needs something to hold onto. It may seem minor, but it can make a big difference."

The Waseca Exchange Club remains steadfast in its mission to prevent child abuse and promote safe, healthy families. Throughout April,

the club is participating in several awareness initiatives, including proclamations, appearances by Time Out Teddy, and educational outreach.

■ Blast from Page 1

course. Of the day's bustle and excitement she observed, "All of this plus private donations means better opportunities for the students."

Selling cupcakes at a stand nearby was Greg Huber, when asked why he was willing to volunteer his time, he replied, "I'm here to help out; we always need money for the school activities." Huber mentioned his wares were donated by Lisa Preuss of The Baker's Daughter.

DeWees wished to express gratitude to the event's gold sponsors: Suburban Furniture and Flooring, Katie Gonzales at State Farm Insurance, Waseca Sleigh and Cutter, Waseca County Pioneer and KOWZ/KRUE Radio.

DeWees comments, "The committee of eight would like to thank all of our sponsors, volunteers, donors, and anyone who attended the events. This fundraiser not only brings in money to use in the schools, but brings the community together. It was so great to see all of the families, staff, and community members come together with one common goal. This fundraiser would not be possible without all of them. If anyone has suggestions for future years or would like to be on the committee, they can email wasecabluejayblast@gmail.com."

Sadly, but happily, because of her two active boys, DeWees shared that although she is remaining as a member of the committee, she is stepping down from her position as BlueJay Blast chair. Also stepping down is co-chair Julie Brass. "We are always looking for more committee members!" DeWees finished. "Just get in touch."

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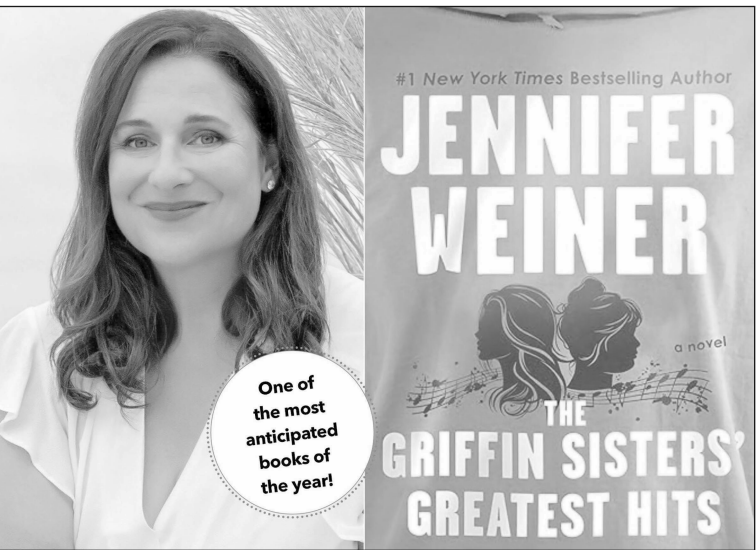
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A Library talk with novelist Jennifer Weiner

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

“Dreams We Chase: An Author Talk with Novelist Jennifer Weiner” was a virtual session introducing participants to author Jennifer Weiner the evening of Wednesday, March 26. Wiener’s newest book, “The Griffin Sisters’ Greatest Hits,” will be available April 8.

Wiener described her path to becoming an avid reader, saying that when she was small, her father would read aloud to her from the Nancy Drew series of mysteries. She claimed it was her frustration of wanting to know how the book ended faster than her father could read, that led her to learn to read quickly, “So I could get to the end and find out what happened.”

The “Griffin Sisters” book introduces readers to two adult sisters who, in 2025, are living fairly typical lives—one as a housewife and mother and the other “off the grid”—despite having been a national sensation in the early 2000s. The sisters aren’t speaking, and the real reason for their sudden long-ago breakup is a mystery. Zoe’s teenage daughter, Cherry, who’s determined to be a star in spite of Zoe’s warnings, is on a quest to learn the truth about what happened to the band all those years ago.

As she spoke about her work and responded to participant questions, Wiener laughed when she added, “Be careful what you say around authors because it may end up in a book one day.”

When a participant asked why Wiener chose Philadelphia as the

setting for “Griffin Sisters,” the author replied, “Zoe and Cassie are from Fish Town, which is a neighborhood in Philadelphia, which was sort of a gritty working-class neighborhood and is now the hot spot. No one can afford to live there anymore. So Philly sort of has this character, like an overlooked second sister, not New York, not DC, it’s in the middle. Leaving room for more stories.”

The hour-long online session was made possible with the help of the Library Speakers Consortium.

According to goodreads.com: Jennifer Weiner is a number one New York Times bestselling author whose books have spent over five years on the New York Times bestseller list, with more than 11 million copies in print in 36 countries. She is the author of the novels Good in Bed (2001) and In Her Shoes (2002), which was turned into a major motion picture starring Cameron Diaz, Toni Collette and Shirley MacLaine. And the author of That Summer (2021); The Breakaway (2024); and The Griffin Sisters’ Greatest Hits, 2025. She is also the author of The Littlest Bigfoot middle-grade trilogy. Her nonfiction collection Hungry Heart: Adventures in Life, Love, and Writing (2016), was a finalist for the PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award for the Art of the Essay.

The recorded session with Wiener is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgSZZ7eohAc&t=667s>.

■ Buff from Page 1

he only attended for a single semester. Wayne Brady presented Buff’s Grammy award on February 2, 2025, at the podium he thanked Peter Gabriel and named Prince as his mentor.

Before the release of “i/o,” Gabriel said about Buff, “The music began with this meditative, repeated sequence. The essence of all these sounds was trying to create a sensual palette. With the work that Hans-Martin Buff’s been doing on the immersive mix too, you’re getting this sense of being touched in many places and it should be a place just to drift off into. That was my aim.”

Buff has also worked with notable acts like the Scorpions, No Doubt, Chaka Khan, Larry Graham and Joss Stone. Immersive music or audio is a listening experience that goes beyond the limited left-to-right span of traditional stereo. It provides the sensation of three-dimensional sound where audio sources can be perceived all around the listener, including behind, above and elsewhere.

When asked what the highlight of his career has been, from immersivemusic.com:

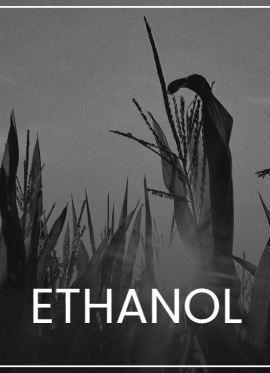
“I think it would have to be Prince because he allowed me to take a huge step forward in my career. To this day, he’s still kind of the VIP rockstar for the VIP rockstars. And that’ll never go away, you know?” More information about Buff and his work are available on his website <http://www.buffwerk.com/>.



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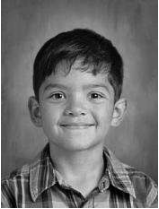
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SONNY
Kindergarten

Sonny does an incredible job of showing the Bluejay Way! He respects his learning by being fully engaged, asking/answering questions, and always trying his best! He loves to help others and be a good example during independent work time. Way to go, Sonny!



Maddy
1st Grade

Maddy does a fantastic job of showing the Bluejay Way! He respects his learning by being a great listener, helping with our class discussions and doing his best on his work! Keep up the great work Maddy!



EMILY
2nd Grade

Emily is a great example of the Bluejay Way! She respects her learning by always trying her best even when things get hard. She is willing to ask questions to deepen her understanding and puts in the extra work. Way to go Emily! Keep up the great work!

Brilliant Bluejays



HADLEY
3rd Grade

Hadley is an incredible model for the Bluejay Way! She respects her learning by putting her best effort into everything she does. She is always participating and works hard to be sure she is being the best she can be every single day! Keep up the amazing work Hadley!



RAYMOND
3rd Grade

The office staff is so proud of Raymond and his tremendous work this year in 3rd grade. He has done an amazing job showing the Bluejay Way and respecting learning! Raymond's hard work has shown in his success with both Reading and Math this year. Way to go Raymond, keep up the great Bluejay Way work

Food shelf



The Waseca County Corn and Soybean Growers recently donated a total of \$750 to the Waseca, Janesville, and New Richland Food Shelves. Because March is food shelf month, the growers felt it was important to give back to the Waseca County community by supporting those who are in need.

Picture here are (Front, from left) Kermit Schoenrock, Waseca County Corn & Soybean Growers Board Director; Pam & Larry Goehring, New Richland Food Shelf board members; Cindy Kolander, Executive Director of the Waseca Food Shelf; (Back, from left: Kay Gottschalk, Janesville Food Shelf; Craig Baxter, Chair of the Waseca County Corn and Soybean Growers; Scott Singlestad, treasurer of the Waseca County Corn and Soybean Growers; and Garry Huckfeldt, Waseca Food Shelf Coordinator.



Christa Wadekamper, owner-operator of Barefoot Lane MN, arranged a "pop-up" sale inside Suburban Furniture and Flooring for the Waseca Spring Shop Hop the weekend of April 11 and 12.

Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann



Abby Clemons, owner of Suburban Furniture & Flooring, said one important purpose of the "Shop Hop" event was to call attention to the character and charm of the city's eleven specialty shops.

Hopping into spring with local ‘shop hop’

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca Spring Shop Hop was organized by 11 local specialty shops to encourage customers who visit any one of them to consider patronizing some of the others as well. Occurring on Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12, it was a chance for local and visiting shoppers to see some of the character and charm the retailers have to offer.

Participating businesses included Glitter & Grace, Past & Present, Homestead, and Waseca Floral along North State Street; in the downtown area were C&A Designs, The Speckled Hen, 4 Seasons Apparel, Pic A Dilly, and Zinnias.

Abby Leta Clemons, mother of three with Bluejay children in age ranges from 9-12 and local Waseca resident, is also the owner of the Suburban Furniture & Flooring at 2200 North State Street. She’s owned Suburban for the past five years, and it’s been in her family since 1959. “The Specialty Shops worked together to create a really fun open-house style event, showcasing the boutiques and shops of Waseca. Shoppers from all over Minnesota are here in town, and we’ve had an awesome turnout!”

For the sake of the special event, Clemons asked Christa Wadekamper, operator of Barefoot Lane MN, to place a “pop-up” sales area inside her store. Wadekamper brought a sampling of her widely diverse, natural products including various sizes of maple syrups, sourdough breads and bagels, cookies and sourdough granola. Wadekamper explained she typically sells from her home about five miles south of Waseca at 750 Joachim Drive, but “Abby asked me to come for the Spring Shop Hop and I wanted to get the Barefoot Lane MN name out there, so here I am.”

An active blogger who shares information about her products and methods online, she prepares foods in her own bakery, makes her own syrups and is, in her own words, “a one-woman factory.”

Wadekamper reveals she stocks up to two dozen flavors of sourdough bread on a rotating basis with a combination of plain and sweet breads in various sizes. She has three types of granola: fruit and nuts; fruit lovers; and chocolate and peanut butter.

Also available are six flavors of sourdough bagels and a dozen different types of cookies. Homemade maple syrup is another product Barefoot Lane offers; she mentions it is rather labor intensive, since it takes 40 gallons of sap to produce a single gallon of syrup.

Wadekamper explains “farm to fork” is a central element of her business philosophy. “I want to educate people about eating local, especially in summer. I have my stand, I like how people can meet the grower of their food.”

■ Sexton from Page 3

Following his win, Sexton prepared for the upcoming 2025 session, which would be his first as a representative. However, the session would bring some unprecedented challenges for the rookie legislator.

Following a DFL member stepping down amidst a residency scandal, House DFL members would boycott the session until a power sharing agreement would be put in place. During that time, the house Republicans, who had a slight 67-66 lead on the DFL, would attempt to

get work done without the other side of the aisle.

“We were trying to encourage them to come to work,” Sexton said, it was encouragement that wouldn’t be accepted, and following a ruling from the State Supreme Court that said a session must have 68 members present to conduct business, it was back to square one.

“Certainly [there were frustrations.] Especially when we started holding our committee meetings and everything,” Sexton said. “All that work we had done, those had to basically be tossed out. . . . We felt like the taxpayers were not getting their money’s worth out of the legislators at that point.”

Sexton said it’s been a fast-paced

start since the legislature officially came to session in late January, but he describes his relationship with his other representatives as “good,” and says they’re already working to get things passed to help their constituents.

“We had some freshmen training that occurred right after the election, so we had the chance to get to know each other,” Sexton said. “A lot of times we’ll come back into the retiring room and fill up our water thermos and you’ll talk to the other house members. . . . And we’ll co-op through each other’s bills in hopes that’ll make it stronger to push it through.”

In terms of what he’s looking to get done in his first year, Sexton said

that the GOP’s goal is to not raise taxes, but with a multi-million dollar deficit looming in the coming years, he says changes are going to need to be made, and that may include some cuts to services.

As for what he’s enjoying the most, it’s the same thing that encouraged Sexton to run last year: the people.

“I enjoy when everybody comes up to visit. If they call up and we can schedule a meeting, I’ll come to them because sometimes at the capitol, it’s hard to come to us,” Sexton said. “I love seeing people. I love giving tours and showing people around. Whatever I can do to be available for the people I represent is my goal.”



The Pastor's Column

Palm Sunday

By Rev. Michael James Grannis

Palm (and Passion) Sunday is upon us. It is the kick off of the week commonly referred to as “Holy Week.” Holy Week re-counts the events that took place in the final days leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus...and His resurrection on the third day.

On Palm Sunday many congregations have something called a palm procession. During this procession, the people of the congregation wave palm branches in the air as they parade through the sanctuary and sing a song of Hosanna. This is done as a way of commemorating Jesus’ “triumphal entry” into Jerusalem nearly 2000 years ago (John 12). On that day, He was being heralded by throngs of people as “the Son of David” (Matthew 21; Mark 11) and as the blessed one “who comes in the name of the Lord” (Luke 19). These were kingly titles, and hopeful expressions. These acclamations revealed the hopes of the people that Jesus was the long awaited Messiah – the promised Savior of the Jewish people.

Hosanna is a prayer of sorts. It has a kind of dual meaning. It means both “Save us now!” as well as “Salvation is here!” It is a cry for help, and a confession of relief. So, how did things turn so bad for Jesus after He was received so joyfully with these shouts of “Hosanna?”

Well, as God’s Word says elsewhere (Ecclesiastes 1:9-10), “there is nothing new under the sun.” Even as many were singing Christ’s praises – especially because many had recently witnessed Him raise Lazarus from the dead – there were many who opposed Jesus and saw Him as a threat to their own political power. People were lifting Him up as the rightful king, and this disturbed everyone who had any kind of political ambitions or responsibilities in the region (King Herod, the high priests, and of course Pontius Pilate).

But there were not just earthly powers at play. No none of this

came as a surprise to Jesus. He knew what was foretold concerning Himself in the Old Testament Scriptures. As I shared a couple of months ago, Jesus knew why He had come. He did not come to sit on an earthly throne and rule over the nation of Israel. He came to be the Savior of the world – He came to be our Savior from sin, from death, and from hell. Jesus came, as it was foretold, to die for the sins of the world, so that whoever trusts in Him and His perfect, worthy sacrifice will receive full pardon of sins, resurrection from death, and eternal life in the world to come.

And so, while this Sunday is known as “Palm Sunday,” it is also known as “Passion Sunday.” The word “passion” comes from the Latin word “passio,” meaning “suffering” or “enduring.” Christ came to suffer for the sins of the world. He endured all of the pain and the mockery – the shame and the rejection – in order to give to us healing, innocence, honor, and acceptance in the eternal joys of His heavenly kingdom.

This Sunday in our church and in many churches throughout the world, we will hear a longer than normal reading from the Bible, giving the full Passion account (the events that took place on the night of Jesus’ betrayal and arrest, all the way through to His crucifixion). This fuller reading can help to prepare people for the other Holy Week services, especially Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Resurrection (Easter) Sunday. For many, these are the most anticipated services of the entire year, because this is the reason Jesus came – “... the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.” – Mark 8:31

I pray you have a blessed Holy Week and that your Easter celebration is filled with the thanksgiving that comes from knowing that in Jesus “Salvation is here!” – Hosanna! Christ has suffered. Christ has died. Christ is risen from the dead!

Disaster training helps prepare response teams

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff Writer

The Waseca County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has been holding a series of training session which began on March 25 and will continue through April 15. Classes meet on Thursday evenings in the lower level of the Waseca Sheriff’s Office, except for April 1 and April 15 which will be held at the Public Safety Building.

County emergency management director Denise Wright explains anyone wishing to become a certified CERT member must attend a series of seven classes which covers nine topics likely to be valuable in the face of a major emergency. She explained, “We do these classes, which are free, in the spring and in the fall. If you want to become certified and you’re just now learning about them, you can’t start late. You’ll just have to wait until next autumn.” This spring’s session originally started out with 12 participants; those who complete the full regimen of courses will receive a certificate of completion.

Among topics covered are disaster preparedness, team organization, disaster medical operations, and numerous levels of first aid.

During the March 27 class, Vicki Neidt, a retired registered

nurse with more than 40 years’ experience working in a hospital setting, led the session. Using a child-sized cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) mannequin, Neidt demonstrated how to determine whether an unconscious individual is breathing, how to look for blocked airway passages and how to help position a victim in a way that will make it easiest for him or her to breathe. Neidt told trainees not all techniques are useful or ideal in all situations: “These practices are to provide the greatest good for the greatest number of people.” She also mentioned emergency services personnel often find the patient has already found the best position with little or no assistance—she said people tend to do this naturally while lying on the ground, but CERT responders should know and use the principles to increase a victim’s chances of survival.

Neidt also showed trainees how to make a “cuff and collar shoulder sling,” how to wrap a wound to inhibit bleeding, and how to best apply gauze to stomach wounds.

In the future for members of the CERT training are fire safety and utility controls, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue operations, disaster psychology, terrorism awareness and a disaster simulation drill.



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City, county of Waseca proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month

WASECA, MN— In partnership with the Waseca Exchange Club, the City of Waseca and Waseca County have officially proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, reaffirming their commitment to supporting safe, nurturing environments where all children can grow, thrive, and succeed.

The proclamations were issued during recent public meetings, where elected officials joined Exchange Club members and community partners to recognize the vital importance of raising awareness, supporting families, and preventing abuse before it starts.

“Child abuse prevention is not just a cause—it’s a responsibility we all share,” said Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Waseca Exchange Club. “These proclamations send a clear message: Waseca is united in protecting our children, uplifting our families, and building a stronger, safer future together.”

As part of Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Waseca Exchange Club will host Time Out Teddy, the national mascot of the Exchange Club’s child abuse prevention efforts, will make appearances planned throughout Waseca County. The Club will also distribute educational materials and promote local resources that support healthy child development and positive parenting. Teddy has already appeared at the Early Childhood Fair. The community is encouraged to wear blue on Mondays to



Next to counter, from left, Councilor Jeremy Conrath, Exchange Club President Mikhail Rostislavovich, Mayor Randy Zimmerman, Councilor Stacey Schroeder, and Time Out Teddy. Second row, from left, Exchange Club member Dwight Tostenson, Councilor James Ebertowski, Councilor Mark Christensen, Exchange Club member Robin Dulas, and council members Gary Conrath and Darren Arndt.

spread awareness of Child Abuse Prevention.

Since its founding, the Waseca Exchange Club has been dedicated to serving the local community through programs of service focused on youth, Americanism, community impact, and the prevention of child abuse—its national project since

1979.

For more information about Child Abuse Prevention Month activities, Time Out Teddy appearances, or the work of the Waseca Exchange Club, please contact the club.

Donations



Exchange Club members (from left) Christy Easton, Ann Staloch, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Jake Lieser, Brad Donner, Mark Butterfield and Robin Dulas helped prepare the club's donations of money and food for delivery to the Waseca Neighborhood Food Shelf on Thursday, April 10.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

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FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m.; 6:00 p.m. * * * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Ferichs Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m. * * * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * * * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service * * * * *	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class * * * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morris town Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter) * * * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship * * * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St. Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass * * * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship * * * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * * * *	SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca Father Glenn Ferichs 507-835-1222 Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m. * * * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1 * * * * *	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages
REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca	LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting * * * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota	NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship, Second sunday "Young at heart" Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation * * * * *

Janesville

1925

- Among other forms of tax reduction, there is a strong movement for the repeal of all federal estate and inheritance taxes on the ground that the states need all the revenue which they yield. A tax on capital or estates is only justified by the necessities of war and in times of peace should be abolished as rapidly as possible. All states are fighting for their existence and their political rights on the subject of taxation as conceived by the founders of our government. This was shown in the refusal to give Congress power to enact labor laws and allow the states to provide reasonable protection for children an families in this field.

- Only 54 percent of the seed corn in the cribs of Minnesota farmers this year is fit for use, according to the Sears-Roebuck Agricultural Foundation. The figure is based on germination tests of seed corn from 619 farms in 86 counties in the state that were entered in the National Seed Corn Show held in Chicago last week. Fully 16 percent of the Minnesota seed corn tested showed poor germination, according to J. S. Naylor, the expert in charge of the testing. Presumably they are the best ears that these farmers could find and yet this large percentage of them will not grow when planted. Unless farmers test their seed corn before planting time, there will be a prodigious amount of replanting necessary. Testing now will prevent an absolute shortage at harvest time, he says.

- People who live where our trunk highways have been graveled and possibly paved, are quite satisfied to have Babcock's activities in road building curtailed, but there are many districts in the state which the highway department has not as yet reached. These districts are entitled to consideration. They have helped by taxation to build roads in other parts of the state, expecting to get their share of this work when the department got around to it. To cut off the road money now would be unfair to them. Let us finish the trunk highway program.

- Litchfield Independent.

1950

- "Along Came Kilroy," a three-act comedy farce, will be presented by members of the Junior class Friday, March 31, in the high school auditorium. The play, which is directed by J. Perry Watson, will begin at 8:30 p.m. instead of at 8:15 as previously announced. Those intending to see the play are reminded that it will run only one night and not two nights as did the minstrel show. Making up the cast are Lorraine Witt, Ann Cahil, Mary Ann Kapaun, Marion La Due, Joyce Behm, Janice Donahue, John Bruce, Curtis Meyer, Clarence Guse, Robert Woodhall, Richard Guentzel, and Bill Born.

- Tuesday noon twelve contracts were signed by local baseball players to play ball for the Janesville Red Sox. The team will represent this village in the Southern Le Sueur County League comprised of Madison Lake, Waldorf, St. Clair, Elysian, Waterville, Morristown, and Kilkenny, as well as Janesville. The opening game of the season is scheduled to be played at Madison Lake Sunday, April 30, and the first home game will be May 7, according to Harvey Gardner, manager of the local team, who has been associated with the ball club for the past several years.

1975

- St. Clair – When the Argus first visited Jerry Lang's farm, a mile and a half northeast of St. Clair, workmen were just completing his Northco Farrowing House, and he had pigs scattered six ways from Sunday. Lang had pigs in his barn. He had pigs in his feedlot. He even had one sow that refused to have her litter inside, but eventually it was coaxed inside a small shed. The argus returned to the Lang farm last Thursday. There wasn't a pig in sight. Land still is using his barn to finish off pigs, but his sow now have their litters in the confort of a 26' x 58' farrowing house erected by Sjoquist Enterprises, Janesville. Since the building was completed last fall, Lang has farrowed 30 sows in the 20-unit facility. He says the average-size litter is nine.

- Marvin Stolt, a Janesville building contractor, has purchased Ray Gomsrud's Mobil Bulk Plant. The transaction will be effective Monday, April 7, 1975. Stolt told the Argus that he will become a consignee for Mobil, the company that owns the local plant. "I purchased Ray's truck and all the equipment and hoses," he said. "Mobil owns the bulk plant."

- Mother Nature, you've just got to do something about the month of April. According to the JHS monthly calendar, April is a month for baseball, girls and boys track and girls' softball. Unless Mother Nature hasn't woke up from her winter's slumber, there must be some mistake. How can JHs play Waseca in baseball next Monday? Or Owatonna next Thursday? Will the girls run track in snowmobile suits? Mother Nature, it's not nice to fool with Janesville High School. You'd better shape up because Bob Steinberg is simply not going to reschedule all those events in May!

- Teenagers were infiltrating the Waseca County Courthouse in great numbers recently. Seniors from Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, and Waseca high schools were out visiting 18 different county government departments housed in the courthouse, annex and security building. Social Studies Teacher Eric Johnson, "The idea is to take a day and give students an opportunity to see how local government works and what it does, so they have a greater appreciation."

- After 14 months on the job, Mike Schumacher, Janesville Chief of Police, is resigning. Schumacher announced his resignation to Dean Lotter, City Administrator, on March 15th. Lotter presented the resignation to the Janesville City Council on Monday night, where it was accepted. Schumacher said that he has enjoyed his job in Janesville and has made many friends here but plans on moving back to the Kansas City area to be closer to his two sons. The decision was made at Monday night's council meeting to appoint Mike Santo, Janesville Police Officer, as Acting Police Chief. Because Santo is part-time licensed, he would be under the guidance of Sheriff Tim Dann and would work very closely with that department.

- It has been 40 years since the Janesville Bowl opened its doors for business. Gay and Lettie Branddvold were the owners at the time. The women bowlers formed their association in 1960 and had 8 teams bowling two nights a week. Over the years many outstanding bowlers have been awarded trophies and pins for their accomplishments.

Waseca

25 Years Ago

-Waseca Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) officer Ron Koble received a standing ovation after Waseca Central Intermediate School Principal Mark Schmitz announced to the standing-room only crowd that Koble was Minnesota DARE Officer of the Year. The Waseca DARE graduation was held April 4.



-Cally Jo Larson as a little girl looking cute as a button and clowning around for the camera. Her mother reminds her daughter as a darling, fun-loving child, whom people liked to be around.

-These are the winners of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) essay contest winners. They are (from left): Jovae Priebe, Mary O'Neil, Evan Oraskovich, Jordan Carlson, Alison Harguth, Chelsey Lutheran and Carley Fritz. They along with the rest of the fifth grade students of Waseca Central Intermediate School were recognized as the Minnesota DARE officer of the year.

50 Years Ago

-Is everybody happy? – CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS Lloyd Madison, Dave Wabner, and John Krough (l-r) seem quite relieved as the residents of the 4TH St. S.W. leave the council chambers during last night's council meeting. With the application for a zoning variance withdrawn, the council did not have to discuss the issue with angry residents. There were plenty of other arguments, however, as 100 people jammed the council chambers to discuss a variety of issues.

-In a superb show of statesmanship, the city council stepped lightly through a minefield of problems and concerned citizens at the regular council meeting Thursday night. Leading the agenda, of course, was the application for a special use permit from the Associated Lumber Marts, Inc. However, the confrontation which developed the night before at the Appeals and Adjustments Subcommittee of the Planning commission never came off as the application was withdrawn.

-Sounds okay – ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT Ralph Keyes checked his blood pressure as health occupations instructor, Sue Olson, did the same with a teaching stethoscope at Thursday's special school board meeting. Vocational ed teachers explained their various programs.

75 Years Ago

-HI HO SILVER AWAY – This snow horse, raised in the Bowers back yard April 1 won't be carrying the children anyplace, but they all had a lot of fun astride the white charger. Gloria, 8, and Helen, 13, daughters of the late Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bower and Romona Lovold, 13, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. L.O. Lovold. Just a mound of sloppy snow is left where the neighborhood children had sculptured their proud horse.

-SPRING'S DELAY by the Thursday snow was fun for Mrs. Warren Nelson, who was taken for a ride on Waseca's main street in a dog sled owned by George Esslinger, International Falls, Minn. Esslinger has a resort on Lake Kabetogama and way in town Thursday for a lecture at the Central school under the sponsorship of the University of Minnesota.

100 Years Ago

-George Goodspeed was elected president of the common council of the City of Waseca at the first meeting of that body in the new fiscal year. His election to the office was unanimous. Mr. Goodspeed was elected to the council as alderman-at-large two years ago and reelected at the last election.

-Miss Marcella Schentzel won second honors in the girls' division of the Diocesan oratorical contest held at the College of St. Theresa at Winona last week. Herbert Keeley also took second honors in the boys' division. These two students of the Sacred Heart High School won the right to compete in this contest by winning the district contest here three weeks ago.

New Richland

25 Years Back



- Jenne (Jennifer) Herbst, formerly of New Richland, has pursued a career in character casting in Hollywood. It has been very interesting and a lot of fun for her. She particularly enjoys the year around climate of California. Heavy traffic was what she dreaded the most, but is dealing with it fine too.

- Cullys Depot opened on New Richlands North Broadway, last Monday. Chris and Tammy Olson, who purchased Shirley's Restaurant the first part of January have completely remodeled the interior of the place. The Olsons named the dining establishment for their son, 13 month old Cullin. Here the Olsons hold Cullin in front of the serving window of the caboose, that houses the kitchen.

- Cheerleading awards were presented by Kari Buendorf. Cheerleaders and their awards from the left are: Michelle dobberstein, Spirit award, All Conference Academic and Gold award.; Alison Groth Captain award and most valuable cheerleader; Amber Simonson, captain award, and All Conference Academic awards; Sarah Motl, captain award, gold and All Conference Academic awards; Missy Farr, academic certificate; Sarah Motl, and Amy Balfe, silver academic award. Not present to accept a most improved cheerleader award and a silver academic certificate was Stacy Lura.

- A daughter was born to Adam and Annie Morstad on Thursday March 30, 2000. Leah Brittan, as she has been named, weighed 8 lbs 3 oz and is a fifth generation baby. Grandparents are David and Lynne Kofstad, Alvin and Cindy Morstad, all of Hartland.

50 Years Back

- The Waldorf-Pemberton High school band under the direction of James Kopetzki will be wrapping up a successful year with numerous musical events in the next month and a half. This year has been without a doubt the most eventful and memorable year the group has ever had. New Concert Band uniforms were purchased which include formal tuxedos for the boys and long formals for the girls. These are the first uniforms the Band has ever had. The highlight of the year was the performance of the band at the Minnesota Music Educators Association Convention held at the Radisson Hotel in Minneapolis, February 21. The W-P Band received a standing ovation from the delegates of the convention, and after returning home received many letters from directors throughout the state of Minnesota congratulating the students for their performance.

- About 170 people enjoyed the Waldorf-Pemberton FFA chapters annual Parent-Student banquet, Thursday evening at the high school gymnasium. Awarded Honorary Chapter farmer awards were Mrs. Lyle Ewald and Orland Drager. Chris Floden was named Star Greenhand and Lynn Ewald, Chapter Star Farmer. Lynn also received the DeKalb award.

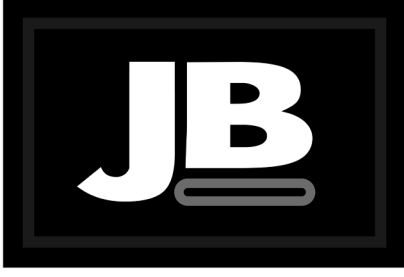
- Rachel Susan Brey, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronald Brey, was baptized Sunday afternoon, April 6 at All Saints Catholic Church by reverend S.P. Wier, sponsors were Mr and Mrs Ray Rathmann of New Ulm. Dinner and afternoon guests at the Brey home were the sponsors and children; Ricky, Lori, Lisa and Patty; grandmothers, Mrs Norbert Brey and Mrs Ray Long of Lafayette and Father Weir and Rachel's sister and Brother, Rebecca and Matthew.

75 Years Back

- Mr and Mrs Jacob Fischer announce the marriage of their daughter, Helen Mae Fischer to Darwin H. Reese, son of Mr and Mrs Oscar Reese. The marriage took place February 16, 1950 in Albert Lea with Rev J.C. Walledom performing the ceremony. They will make their home in Albert Lea where both are employed.

- Mr and Mrs Vernon R. Nelson (Pearl Wildman) of Albert Lea became the parents of their third son, Dennis Jay, at the Naeve hospital, Albert Lea, May 3. The two older brothers are Gary and Gene. Dennis Jay weighed eight pounds.

- At the spring convection of the South Central Women's Missionary Federation of the Minnesota District of the American Lutheran Church two local members of the St Peter's Lutheran Church were elected to serve as officers this year. Mrs Frank Root will head the Women's Thank Offering Department and Mrs Reginald Saur will head the India Lace school department. Fourteen members of the local Women's Missionary society attended the sessions. Delegates and members of thirteen south-central-congregations were in attendance. The meeting was held at St John's church, Owatonna.



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VICTORY NO. 1 – At left, the Bluejays’ Lilly Owens throws the ball to first base with Avery Barto in the background during Waseca’s 8-3 victory over NRHEG Monday. At right, Hannah Sommers smiles after hitting a long double in the bottom of the first inning.



Bluejays triple their fun against NRHEG

Waseca softball team pulls off rare triple play in season’s first victory

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

You could say that offense provided the impetus for the Waseca High School softball team in its first win of the season.

Others may argue it was defense. Either way, it added up to victory for the Bluejays on a cold, windy, drizzly night Monday on the WHS field, where they rallied past perennially tough NRHEG 8-3 in a non-conference contest.

“It was an exciting first win of the season for our Bluejay softball ladies,” said WHS head coach Amanda Sommers.

But it didn’t start out that way. The Bluejays trailed early, thanks on three errors on the first three plays of the game.

“Errors continue to stack up for us, and our defensive work will continue to be a focus in practice,” said

Coach Sommers.

But the Bluejays got their bats going, and battled back, though it was the defense that swung the momentum.

“The defense eventually shook their nerves and came around and made some key plays,” said Sommers.

Ali Mader made a great catch in center field despite the windy conditions to give the defense a spark.

Then in the top of the sixth inning, the Bluejays pulled off an extremely rare triple play. After the Panthers lined out to second base, Siri Kuhns threw to shortstop Lily Owens at second to double up a runner. Then Owens fired to catcher Madison Roessler, who tagged out a runner attempting to score.

Building on that momentum, the Bluejays went to score five runs in the bottom of the inning.

The Bluejays totaled eight hits, led by eighth-grader Hannah Sommers with two hits, two RBIs and an intentional walk. Her double his the base of the fence in the bottom of the first.

Also getting hits were Kenzie Sandborg, Kuhns, Owens, Ellery Waldron, Mader and Lauren Grant. Sandborg and Roessler each drove in a run.

Hannah Sommers, a left-hander, started in the circle for Waseca and pitched 4 1/3 innings, allowing three runs, none earned, on one hit, striking out three and walking two. Avery Barto pitched the rest of the way, allowing three hits.

“That eighth-grade duo continues to be strong in the circle and provides tremendous poise and leadership despite their young age,” said Coach Sommers.

Last week did not go as well for

the Jays, who lost 15-0 at Belle Plaine Tuesday and 17-2 to New Ulm at home on Thursday.

“This was one of our toughest weeks on our schedule as we battled two state-ranked teams,” said Coach Sommers. “We knew going into the week we needed to limit our errors, put several hits on the board, and ensure our pitchers were keeping the batters guessing at the plate. We had two tough innings this week where things got away from us, but otherwise we were competitive with these state-ranked softball teams.”

Barto was the starting pitcher against Belle Plaine, ranked No. 8 in Class AA. Sommers and Waldron pitched in relief.

Barto doubled, with Kuhns and Waldron each adding a single.

New Ulm, No. 9 in class AAA, clung to a 4-1 lead entering the sixth, but busted it open.

Sommers pitched well, giving up 11 runs, six earned, on six hits in 5 2/3 innings. She fanned eight and walked five. Waldron allowed six earned runs in 1/3 inning.

Sommers collected two hits, including her fourth home run of the season, while driving in one. Sandborg had two singles, Grant doubled and Chloe Roenhildt added a base hit.

“Defensive work and scenarios will be a key focus in practice this week,” said Coach Sommers. “We are at an important place in our schedule with six games coming up in the next two weeks.”

After playing Tuesday at Montgomery, the Bluejays are home today at 5:30 against St. Peter and at Worthington Tuesday at 5:30.

WHS tennis boys start season 2-0

Jays blank BEA 7-0, top Red Wing 5-2

The Waseca High School boys’ tennis team opened the season on the road and came home with a pair of wins last week, 7-0 at Blue Earth Area and 5-2 at Red Wing.

At No. 1 singles, Tyler Jellum rallied to defeat Ryder Dutton 2-6, 7-6, 10-8. Jellum fought off three match points in the first tiebreaker that went 13-11.



Also at singles: No. 2 - Henry Huttemier def. Devin Haase 6-4, 6-3; No. 3 - Armaan Bhatti def. Mitchell Stevermer 6-2, 6-2; No. 4 - Tanner Hanson, def. Nolan Hagedorn 6-0, 6-0.

Doubles scores: No. 1 - Keenan Collins and Otto Schoenrock def. Devin Reeves and Eli Goshorn 6-0, 6-0; No. 2 - Lucas McQuerry and Allen Kopetzki def. David Bautista and Joseph Bautista 6-2, 6-3; No. 3 - Brayden Hoof and Aiden Groskreutz def. Connor Hoerth and Caleb Goshorn, 6-2, 6-1.

The Waseca junior varsity, led by Nolan McQuerry, also won.

The lineup was a little different against Red Wing, with Huttemier winning 6-2, 6-3 at No. 1, Schoenrock prevailing 7-6 (4), 7-6 (3) at No. 2, Bhatti winning 6-2, 6-1 at No. 3 and Collins cruising 6-2, 5-3 at No. 3.

The Waseca doubles win was at No. 1, where Jellum and Hanson combined for a 6-1, 6-2 triumph.

After a Tuesday meet at New Prague, the Bluejays play today at Fairmont at 4:30 and host a triangular Saturday, facing Faribault at 9:30 a.m. and squaring off with St. James at 1:30.



TOUGH OUTING – The JWP High School softball team had an up-and-down week. This was one of the downs, a 21-5 loss to St. Clair. From left: the Bulldogs’ Kayle Langford, Hudson and Ellah Oliver.

Learning continues for JWP softball squad

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School softball team won one of three games last week.

The Bulldogs defeated Nicollet 5-1, with Ryleigh Donner pitching all six innings, allowing one earned run with four strikeouts and five walks.

Ellah Oliver led the offense, going 3-for-4. Brielle Dessner and Autumn Thissen each had two hits and a walk. Donner, Sophia Oakins and Raylen Blasing also hit safely.

“This is the best all-around team effort win, thus far,” said JWP head coach Brielle Eldred. “They are making strides every day to get better. Every day is a learning opportunity, and they are taking those opportunities and putting them into play.”

The Bulldogs dropped a 7-5 decision to WEM.

Donner took the pitching loss despite stranding 11 baserunners. She allowed five earned runs on eight hits, with four strike-

outs and eight walks.

Donner led the offense with three hits in four at-bats, including a double. Thissen was 2-for-3 with two RBIs. Lillian Ewert, Brielle James, Blazine and Oliver each had one hit.

“We had too many fielding errors and not enough hits,” said Coach Eldred. “We started off strong with six hits in the first two innings, then we couldn’t find the ball much. They seem to add unnecessary pressure to themselves, which makes them make more

mistakes. We have had a lot of growth, solid practices. We just need to transfer to games.”

That did not happen at home against St. Clair as the Bulldogs fell 21-5.

Blasing was 2-for-3, Oliver 2-for-3 with a double. Dessner and Victoria Blomstrom singled.

Donner took the pitching loss.

“This was a rough game, to say the least,” said Eldred. “We talked about focusing on

what matters to them and what needs to be changed. We need to think too much me and not enough we, support each other by hitting and constructive feedback. We need to support out pitcher by hitting. By hitting, it relaxes us in the field. We have to keep moving and it will be better in the long run.”

The Bulldogs hosted Cleveland Tuesday. They face Kenyon-Wanamingo at home today at 4:30.



IT WAS COLD – Above, Brooklyn Sommer delivers a pitch against United South Central on a cold, blustery day at New Richland’s Legion Field last week. Below, Camryn VanMaldeghem lays down a bunt. The Panthers were no-hit by USC pitcher Mariah Anderson.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



Softball Panthers held hitless by USC pitcher

It was a cold, windy and overall miserable day to play softball. The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Panthers performed accordingly. The Panthers could not muster a hit against United South Central pitcher Mariah Anderson and lost 13-0 to the visiting Rebels at Legion Field in New Richland Thursday, April 10. “We lost to a very good USC team,” said Panthers head coach Wendy Schultz. “Their pitcher is phenomenal. Even though we lost 13-0 in six innings, I thought the girls’ defense improved from our game against Triton, which we won. We’ll keep plugging away.” The Panthers managed one baserunner, who reached on a walk. Anderson finished with 15 strikeouts. Brooklyn Sommer went the route in the circle for NRHEG, giving up 10 earned runs on 14 hits in six innings. She struck out four and walked eight. Two days earlier, the Panthers prevailed 3-2 over Dodge Center at Triton. The big bats were swung by CamVanMaldeghem and Chloe Stork. VanMaldeghem was 2-for-3 with a double and an RBI, Stork 2-for-3 with a stolen base and an RBI. Addy Stadheim, Kyra Eustice and Sommer added one hit apiece. Sommer was the winning pitcher, not allowing a hit while striking out nine and walking three. “This was a good team win,” said Coach Schultz. “Brooklyn pitched a great game, allowing no hits and striking out nine,

Leading the charge offensively was Camryn and Chloe having two hits apiece and both driving in a run. Defensively, we struggled some, which is to be expected as we’ve practiced only one time on our field. I was proud of the way the girls kept their composure when the game got tight. Hats off to Triton as they committed no errors on defense and were aggressive on the base paths.” The Panthers lost 8-3 Monday at Waseca. VanMaldeghem was 2-for-4 with two stolen bases. Sommer, Eustice and Ezra Boerner had one hit apiece. Both teams had four errors. “Wind, rain and cold temperatures made it tough tonight,” said Schultz. “The girls played six great innings of ball. We had one inning with four errors that was the difference in the game. Defensively, the girls made some tough plays with the wind and the rain. We made some mental errors on the base paths, but will learn from our mistakes. Brooklyn continues to work hard in the pitching circle and Addy (Stadheim) is solid behind the plate. She doesn’t let much get past her.” Sommer pitched all seven innings for the Panthers, allowing three earned runs on six hits. She fanned three and walked five. NRHEG, 1-1 in the Gopher Conference, fell to 1-3 for the season. The Panthers travel to Faribault to face Bethlehem Academy today at 4:30. They host Blooming Prairie Monday at 4:30.

NRHEG golfers open season

The NRHEG High School golf teams opened the season Monday, April 7 at Kenyon. The Panther boys took second as a team. Scores: Reid Sandry 46,

Shan Hanson 52, Tyler Kress 57, Braydon Rollag 56, Chase Hanson 60, Matthew Williams 65. For the girls, Olivia Wilkenson scored 65 for nine holes.



INFIELD ACTION — At left, the Panthers’ Aidan Schlaak is looking to make the tag at third base and Alden Dobberstein (4) backs him up against GHECMLT. At right, Dominic Olson slides head first into third base.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



Panthers drop slugfest to Triton

It was one of those days for the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School baseball team. The Panthers plated enough runs to win. But they gave up way too many, falling 19-15 to Triton Monday at Jeff and Carol Reese Field in New Richland. “As a coach, these types of games are frustrating,” said NRHEG head coach Shawn Larson. “On one hand we scored 15 runs against two, decent pitchers, and that is fantastic. The problem comes right after that when we discuss the hits Triton had combined with several errors and even a few bad bounces, that led to them having 19 runs.” It’s something the Panthers, according to Coach Larson, need to correct. “This will be a very long season, both figuratively and literally, if we do not find a way to play cleaner than this game defensively,” he stated. The Panthers did have a great

night offensively, led by senior Seth Staloch who went 3-for-5 and delivered a crucial triple late in the game.” “Although Staloch was trying to spark the team for a rally, the offense came to a halt there,” said Larson. Aidan Schlaak was 2-for-4 with four runs scored, Ryan Schlaak 2-for-4 with two RBIs and a run, Carter Martens 2-for-4 with two RBIs. Contributing one hit apiece were Owen Wayne, Alden Dobberstein and Jordan Brouwers. The Cobras’ big inning was the fifth, when they put nine runs on the board. The Panthers scored two in the fifth, three in the sixth and two in the seventh. The teams combined for 11 errors, six by Triton. Martens started on the mound for the Panthers and took the loss, allowing eight earned runs on 11 hits through 4 1/3 innings. Ryan Schlaak, Calvin Nissen and Jace Ihrke pitched in relief. The four

combined for 14 walks and four strikeouts. The Panthers hosted Mankato Loyola Tuesday, April 8 and lost 5-1. It was a clean game, according to Coach Larson, with a total of four errors, three by the Panthers. Five NRHEG hitters had one hit apiece: Wayne, Aidan Schlaak, Martens, Wyatt Larson and Ryan Schlaak. Martens was the starter on the mound and took the loss, giving up four earned runs in four innings. Ryan Schlaak threw three innings in relief. “Today’s game was an example of how clean error-free baseball gives you a chance to win,” said Coach Larson. “We played almost the entire game clean and error free, but we were unable to stay clean long enough to compete with a good team like the Crusaders. We are playing well for the beginning of the season. After the first two games we lost to two good teams. If we are

ready to stay focused and disciplined in the field and on the basepaths, and aggressive at the plate, we will be a tough out. Today was a loss in the record book, but this team is not going away any time soon.” Larson also had praise for the pitching of Martens. “If we were able to limit or eliminate unearned runs today, we may have been able to give Carter a chance at a win,” said Larson. The Panthers prevailed 10-7 over Granada-Huntley-East Chain/Martin Luther/Truman last Friday at Reese Field. Ryan Schlaak was 4-for-4 with three runs, Deen 2-for-3 with two runs. Adding one hit each were Dobberstein, Ihrke, Larson, Staloch, Aidan Schlaak and Brouwers. Wayne was the winning pitcher, with Larson throwing in relief. The Panthers play today at 5 p.m. at Blue Earth and Monday at 4:30 at Blooming Prairie.



FIRST-PLACE RACE – The Panthers’ Gabby Schlaak, center, on her way to first in the 100-meter hurdles at Wells last Tuesday. She was one of two first-place finishers for NRHEG.

Photos by Larry Nydegger

NRHEG track teams perform well at USC

Panthers’ Schlaak, Ladlie finish first

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School track and field teams traveled to Wells last Tuesday for the Viesselman True Team Invitational. The NRHEG girls had a strong showing, led by the duo of Gabby Schlaak and Anika Ladlie. Schlaak won the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 18.11 seconds while Ladlie was first in the high jump at 4-10. “It was a cold night, but the athletes gave their all,” said Panthers co-head coach Larry Nydegger. “There were some good performances that we can build on as the season goes along.”

Julieann Wobbrock was runner-up in the 3200, clocking 12:42.87. Kylie Olson was second in the shot put at 33-4.5. Sierra Misgen, Holly Bartness, Ella Jenö and Wobbrock combined for second in the 4x800 relay in 11:34.71. Placing third for the girls: Elle Jenö, 1600, 6:28.36; Olson, discus, 80-1.5; Chloe Riewer, long jump, 15-11; 4x800 relay, 2:04.14 - Misgen, Clara Buendorf, Gia Cazares, Payton Frye; 4x800 - Misgen, Morgan Studier, Buendorf, Frye. The NRHEG boys finished sixth as a team. Jacob Karl led the Panthers, taking second in the 1600 in 5:14.11 and second in the 800 in 2:19.93. Lavan Jewison cleared 5-8 for third

“There were some good performances that we can build on as the season goes along.” — NRHEG co-coach Larry Nydegger



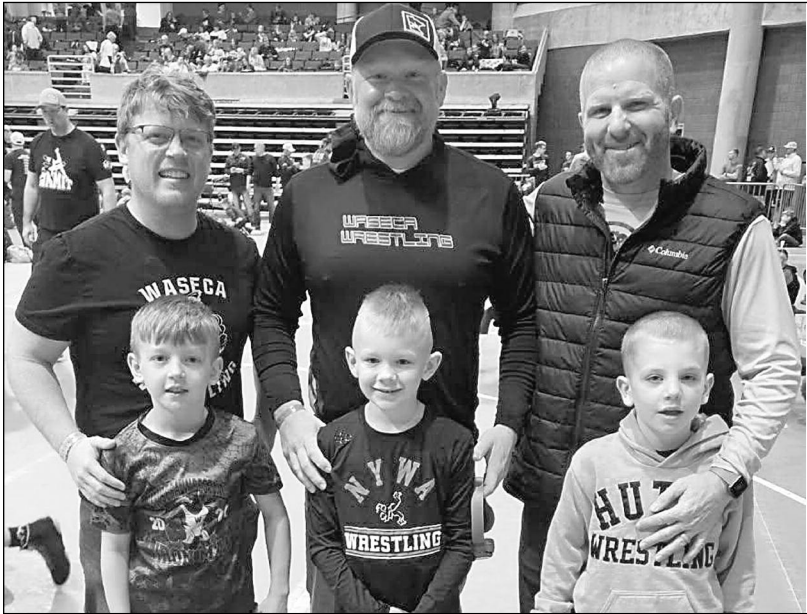
OUTSTANDING OPENING – Juliann Wobbrock was one of several with a strong showing for the NRHEG track and field teams, finishing second in the 3200 meters.

in the high jump. Other squads competing were Blue Earth Area, LCWM, USC/AC, WEM and JWP. The meet is named after longtime USC and Wells-Easton track and cross country coach Kent Viesselman. After a Tuesday meet at Maple River, the Panther girls compete Tuesday, April 22 at Blooming Prairie. Both squads are at JWP April 29.

Success at state



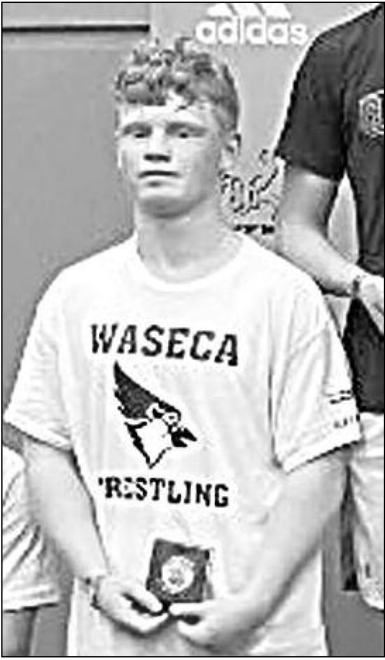
The Waseca 7th & 8th-grade dual-meet wrestling team was pool champion at NYWA championships in Rochester last weekend, wrestling five times while defeating Alexandria in the championship. Front from left: Luke Jeske, Zander Rahe, Holton Howard, Keegan Glynn, Kole Nelson, and coach Ben Janike. Back: coaches Blain Nelson, coach Ryan Glynn, Jackson Janike, Braxton Nelson, Owen Arndt, Oden Board, Alex Bethke, coach Brock Nelson and coach Joe Nelson.



These three former teammates on 2002 Bluejay wrestling team, Brock Nelson, Kevin Malecha, and Dan Buker, all had sons competing at the same weight, 61 pounds, at the 2025 NYWA state tournament. Augie Malecha took second, Brady Buker fourth. Brolin Nelson did not place. Buker and Nelson met in the second round 3-3 with Buker winning 6-3 in overtime.



Waseca's Kole Nelson, left, finished second in the state in the NYWA 7th & 8th-grade individual tournament. His parents are Joe and Leisha Nelson. Braxton Nelson, right, son of Brock and Karissa Nelson, placed sixth at 160.



Baseball Bulldogs win at Glenville

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School baseball team traveled almost to Iowa last Saturday. It was worth the trip.

The Bulldogs faced Alden-Conger/Glenville-Emmons at Glenville and came home with a 7-3 victory.

Chase Gerdtz provided the highlights for the visitors, hitting a solo home run and tripling while driving in six runs and scoring three times.

"He was responsible for all seven runs," said JWP coach Cory Jewison.

The home team got on the board first in the third inning, but the Bulldogs battled back and took the lead in the top of the fifth with two runs.

Zander Terbeest pitched, strikout out seven while giving up five hits in seven innings.

Caleb Quast stole three bases as the Bulldogs swiped seven in the game.

The Bulldogs held on for a 12-11 victory at WEM on Thursday.

The bottom of the lineup was strong for the Bulldogs. Parker Gearity, Jaxon Wolff, and Gavin Bauer combined for seven of the team's 12 hits in the victory. They

scored six runs and drove in one.

The Bulldogs were the first to get on the board in the second when an error scored two runs. They added one run in the third after WEM committed an error.

WEM tied the game in the bottom of the seventh, but the Bulldogs took the lead in the top of the eighth.

Dahlberg earned the win for the Bulldogs. The pitcher surrendered four hits and five runs (three earned) over 1 2/3innings, striking out one and walking two.

Gerdtz began the game for Bulldogs. The hurler allowed four hits and two runs over six innings, striking out 10 and walking four.

The Bulldogs piled up 12 hits. Gearity, the No. 9 hitter, led the team with three hits in five at-bats. Gerdtz and Quast each drove in three runs. Wolff and Bauer each collected multiple hits. Lucas Morsching led with three walks.

"Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, collecting eight walks for the game," said coach Jewison.

Morsching and Quast each stole multiple bases for the Bulldogs, who stole nine bases in the game.

The Bulldogs play today at Kenyon-Wanamingo at 4:30 and Monday at home against LCWM at 4:30.

JWP track girls win invitational

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School girls' track and field team opened the 2025 season in fine fashion, winning the JWP Invitational last Thursday.

The JWP girls totaled 157 points. Mankato Loyola/Cleveland was second among eight squads with 117.5.

Ashlynn Wolff won the 400 meters and high jump for the Bulldogs, with Onikia Herme finishing first in the 300 hurdles. Brielle Bure, Katie Olson, Nevaeh Weimert and Lilly Strauss won the 4x200.

Other places: Herme, 4th, 100 hurdles; Olson, 4th, 100 and 3rd, long jump; Strauss, 3rd, 200 and 4th, long jump; Westphal, 4th, 200; Ava Appel, 3rd, 100 hurdles and 2nd, high jump; Sarah Bulman, 3rd,

pole vault; Autumn Thissen, 3rd, shot put; Presley James, 3rd, triple jump; 4x100, 2nd (Bure, Weimert, Olson, Strauss); 4x400, 2nd (Herme, Westphal, Wolff Kayleigh Donner); 4x800, 3rd (Norah Welvaert, Anne Adams, Clare Groh, Ava Krause).

Maple River won the boys' division with 157.5 points. The Bulldogs finished fourth with 101.

Daulton Bauer won the long jump and took second in the 100. Isaiah Berndt was second in the long jump, third in the 200.

Other JWP places: Ethan Born, 4th, 110 hurdles; Luke Cahill, 4th, 3200; Isaac Gahlon, 4th, pole vault; 4x100, 2nd (Gahlon, Born, Bauer, Berndt); 4x200, 2nd (Gahlon, Derek Gustafson, Berndt, Bauer); 4x400, 2nd (Born, Tyson Kronbach, Derek

Gustafson, Alex Kleve); 4x800, 3rd (Cahill, Tyson Johnson, Teagan Mulder, Kleve).

"We had a lot of tough competition at this chilly and rainy meet," said JWP head coach Sam Schruin. "Eight facility records were broken by our competitors (five boys and three girls). Even with the extra challenges the weather and competition brought, our girls came in first and our boys came in fourth. We continue to improve and break PRs, which is great. It takes a lot to run a home meet and we couldn't do it without all the help from staff, parents and students. Thanks for helping make the meet a success!"

Upcoming: Tuesday, April 22 at Blooming Prairie Invitational, 4:30; April 26 at Lakeville North Invitational, 10 a.m.

Simonson leads JWP golf boys in first three meets

The season has begun for the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School boys' golf team.

The Bulldogs hosted Minnesota Valley Lutheran and Maple River April 3, finishing second with 204 strokes for nine holes.

Jeffrey Simonson took co-medalist honors for the Bulldogs. Garrett Rienhardt shot 55, Evan Mulcahey 55 and John David Bublitz 57.

The Bulldogs played April 8 at Blooming Prairie, where they were second among three teams at 219.

Simonson shot 40, tying for medalist. Rienhardt shot 55, Mulcahey 55 and Bublitz 57.

The Bulldogs were at home for a triangular April 11 but had only three varsity golfers and did not qualify for a team score.

WHS track teams open season at Mankato West Boys, girls finish in third

The Waseca High School track and field teams opened the outdoor season last Thursday at the Mankato West Invitational, both finishing third among five schools.

The host team won the girls' division with 161 points, followed by Marshall at 78, Waseca 76, Glencoe-Silver Lake 37 and New Ulm 20.

Seniors Brooklyn Flatau, Kalea Sartori and Bella Wikan finished first, Flatau winning the 100-meter hurdles in 16.3 seconds, Sartori taking the shot put at 35-4 and Wikan winning the triple jump at 33-7.5.

Flatau added a third in the pole vault, clearing 8 feet, and Sartori was third in the discus at 87-6.5.

Callie Dufault was second in the 800 in 2:34.88, Ava VanDenHemel second in the 3200 in 12:24.3.

The 4x100 relay team of Flatau, Angelica Lopez, Katelyn Weber and Wikan took second in 54.62. Reese Rodriguez, Berkly Hinna, Violet Rohwer and Kelsey Draeger placed second in the 4x800 in 10:42.23.

Lopez, Addie Zimmerman, Weber and Sierra Krause combined for third in the 4x200, clocking 2:03.84, while Wikan, Dufaul, Maren Schimming and Rodriguez took third in the 4x400 in 4:31.3.

Other top-six finishes for the Bluejays: Wikan, 4th, 300 hurdles, 52.2; Rohe, 5th, 3200, 14:49.83; Rodriguez, 6th, 400, 1:06.65; Schimming, 6th, 800, 2:40.98;

Mankato West also won on the boys' side, totaling 128 points. Following were Marshall with 100, Waseca 88, New Ulm 42, Glencoe-Silver Lake 37, New Ulm 20.

Firsts for the Bluejays were Jordan Johnston, 100, 11.94; Isaac Feldkamp, 800, 2:09.35; and William Mansfield, pole vault, 13-0.

Tauston Rupe was second in the shot put at 42-11, Jacob Hadley second in the high jump at 5-8.

Tovin Grannis, Jacob Hadley, Brady Tlougan and Wyatt Hager won the 4x400 in 3:40.09.

The Bluejays were third in the 4x100 with Bennett Ludwig, Tlougan, Johnston and Mansfield clocking 45.49. Ayden Kath, Titan Rahe, Malechi Noble and Brady McKenna took third in the 4x200 in 1:41.22.

Tovin Grannis, Feldkamp, Tristan Godwin and Hager were third in the 4x800 in 9:10.11.

Also placing in the top six: Grannis, 3rd, 400, 54.59 and 3rd, high jump; 5-6; Jonah Worke, 3rd, long jump, 18-2; Toby Jeske, 3rd, triple jump, 36-8.5; Hager, 3rd, discus, 130-7; Rupe, 4th, discus, 128-10; Rupe, 5th, high jump, 5-4; Landon Rutt, 5th, 800, 2:30.1; Sunny Mei, 6th, 800, 2:31.50; Rahe, 6th, triple jump, 36-3.5.

The Bluejays are in action today hosting the Waseca Invitational at 4:30. They travel to the TCU Invitational Monday at 4 p.m.

CLEAN ONLINE ONLY LIKE NEW AUCTION

Bidding Opens: Saturday April 19, 2025 at 8:00am
Bidding Starts Closing: Tuesday April 29, 2025 at 4:00pm

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Saturday April 26,
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Auctioneers Note: A very good auction to attend, with some nice horse and farm equipment. Only a partial list of items to be sold. – Tracy Holland

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J.D. MOWER • SEMI • FEATHERLITE LIVESTOCK TRAILER
9 HORSE BUGGIES/WAGONS • MUSTANG 441 SKID LOADER**

• I.H. 1486, 18.4-38" tires, rockbox, 2 Hyd. tach shows 2922 hrs., S.N. 34893

• I.H. 574, 16.9x28" tires, gas, 3-pt., WF, shows 6,192 hours, w/ Schwartz hyd. Loader, SN 103285

• I.H. 650 Diesel, 18.4-34" Tires, S.N. 4211

• Farmall M, WF, 16.9x38" tires, SN 99406

• Farmall H, 12.4x38" tires, NF, SN 174498

• International TD 15C crawler dozer

• OMC Mustang 441 skid loader, diesel, 56" bucket, forks, bale spear, shows 5,917 hours

• 2007 Freightliner semi, single-axle, Mercedes Benz engine, 10-speed, shows 901,083 miles

• 2010 Chevy Colorado, 3.7 liter, 2-wheel, 187,521 miles, automatic

- 2007 Ford F-150 Northland Edition, 4x4, ext. cab, 5.4 engine, 130,750 miles
- 2002 Featherlite Model 8120 Livestock Trailer, 7'x30', Gooseneck, Tandem axle, 2-dividing gates, rubber mates
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- 6'x14' stock trailer, tandem axle, divider, bumper hitch
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PHB's Lawyer Emily Loomis

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Emily Loomis, a lawyer with Patton, Hoversten and Berg (PHB) in Waseca, changed the course of her college training from criminology to law after learning a shortage of quality lawyers in the U.S. reduces people's access to justice.

When she finished an undergraduate degree at the University of Northern Iowa in 2021, she began attending law school at Texas A & M University in Fort Worth. "I thought I was going to stay in Texas," she remembers, mentioning that after having grown up in a small Iowa town, she had become accustomed to the pace of life and range of opportunities that come with living in a metroplex like Dallas and Fort Worth. Her thinking changed, though, as her siblings began to become parents. "Then I realized I want to be closer to family," she says.

When she learned of an opening at PHB, she applied, was hired, and even began working remotely as a researcher for the firm as she finished up her degree in Texas. She moved to Minnesota last fall and resides in Owatonna. Now 26, she comments she has come to be in a better position to recognize the value of small-town roots.

"The town rallies for each other," she observes. "People show up."

Currently a coach for a community education third-grade girls' basketball team, Loomis says, "If you know anything about those early levels, you know it's not high-level, fast-action excitement."

"But people come. They fill the gym. They support the team and they encourage all players to do their best. "And that's exciting."

From what she has seen at the Art Center and the county historical society, she says that same level of support and caring infuses the Waseca area community.



Lawyer Emily Loomis has rediscovered her appreciation for the small-town lifestyle since joining local law firm Patton, Hoversten and Berg.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bentley

At PHB, Emily handles cases ranging from criminal defense and contract disputes to estate planning and probate.

"Sometimes our role as a lawyer is to be there for people on some of the worst days of their life," she acknowledges. "Some of that worry comes from feeling as if they've lost control or not knowing what's going to happen next."

"Our job is to help them see a path forward, and give them an understanding they do still have some control."

She goes on to suggest that some of those moments of discomfort can be alleviated when people seek out legal advice in advance. She mentions the examples of contracts and wills.

"By nature, lawyers are risk averse," she observes. "We like to find out explicitly what people's wishes are, research how those can be accomplished, and create a document or a set of circumstances that will make that possible."

"Businesses change hands. Family dynamics shift," she remarks.

"One or two consultations in advance can prevent a lot of tension or uncertainty later on."

All in all, Emily says she is grateful for the shift which occurred when she decided to apply to a law firm located in a small town.

"I like that I get to know my clients one on one," she says. "I feel like I am able to genuinely understand what they want, and can use the resources PHB has put in place to meet their needs."

"People shouldn't have the idea they need to go to the metro to get quality services. "We can give them what they need right here, at affordable rates."

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Emily Loomis

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April 2025

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6	7	8 Burger nite 5-7pm	9 6pm BAR Bingo National for-	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 7pm Post & AUX. Meeting	15 Burger nite 5-7pm	16 6pm BAR Bingo	17 7pm HALL BINGO	18 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm YOUR HOST HONOR GUARD & AUXILIARY	19 SUPER EASTER BINGO 7PM
20	21	22 Burger nite 5-7pm	23 6pm BAR Bingo	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 VFW POST 1642	28	29 Burger nite 5-7pm	30 6pm BAR Bingo			

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Whirlpool **GE** **MAYTAG** **KitchenAid**

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