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LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
No. 18 Vol. IV \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, May 1, 2025

■ Inside



Spring Ag

Memorial Day photos request

The Waseca County Pioneer will run a special section honoring those who served in our second annual Memorial Day edition of the paper. We are kindly requesting people call, email or write the Pioneer to request who they would like to see pictured in this year's edition. Please email or bring photos in person to:

Email: news@wasecacounty-pioneer.com

In person: 111 Elm Ave. W, Waseca. Office hours Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Graduation Open house ads available

Celebrate this year's graduates in the paper with a photo and open house announcement. Cost is \$25 for one week or \$40 for two weeks.

Please email: news@wasecacounty-pioneer.com or call: 507-837-6767

Blood Drive at Grace Lutheran Church on Thursday, May 1

Grace Lutheran Church is hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive in their Fellowship Hall from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 1. Appointments can be made at redcrossblood.org by entering 56093 in the Zip code search. Some walk-in's are available but appointments are preferred.

Magna-Tile Villages at Waseca Public Library Friday, May 2

There will be Magna-Tile sets at Waseca Public Library at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 2. The mayor needs a village up and running as soon as possible! Create design plans and speed build with an amazing assortment of magna tile. Geared for ages 7-12.

Salad Luncheon at First Congregational Church Friday, May 2

There will be a salad luncheon care of Waseca Ladies Friendly at the First Congregational from 11 a.m. till 12:30 p.m. on Friday, May 2. All are welcome.

True Crime Club for Teens at Waseca Public Library on Friday, May 2

There will be a True Crime Club for Teens at the Waseca Public Library at 1 p.m. Friday, May 2.

Teens will use their investigative abilities to reopen the South Ridge Stalker case. The South Ridge Stalker is half urban legend, half campfire story. Will new clues lead to a dead end, or will you reveal The Stalker's existence and solve the murder? This free event is for ages 13-18.

Straight Talk with Sheriff Jay Dulas at the Waseca Chamber of Commerce office Friday, May 2

Join Sheriff Dulas for Straight Talk from noon till 1 p.m. on Friday, May 2, at the Waseca Area Chamber office to ask questions or address concerns. There will be additional chances every first Friday of the month. Presented by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism.

A word from The Word

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live
Psalm 104:33



Senior members of the JWP National Honor Society include Ethan Born, Isaiah Berndt, Luke Cahill, Sophia Coulsey, Eric Daschner, Brielle Dessner, Hope Dimmel, Madyn Holland, Lydia Huelsnitz, Presley James, Ellah Oliver, Abigail Sobolik, Autumn Thissen, Claire Walz and Paige Walz. Juniors who will be continuing their participation next year are Tiera Anderson, Alexandra Hanks, Brielle James, Kwynn Krause, Ellie Morsching, Katelyn Olson, Nevaeh Weimert, Mikayla Wheelock, and newly inducted members Emma Huelsnitz, Hudson Miller, Rachelle Oelke, Maija Tolbert, Grace Sanny and Mason Zimmerman.

JWP NHS inducts six new members, summarizes projects

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Six members of the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (JWP) junior class—Emma Huelsnitz, Hudson Miller, Rachelle Oelke, Maija Tolbert, Grace Sanny and Mason Zimmerman—joined the 23 existing members of the district's National Honor Society (NHS) during a ceremony at the school auditorium the evening of Wednesday, April 23.

Newly inducted members took an oath to uphold the four "pillars" of the NHS: scholarship, leadership, service and character.

Speaker for the event was JWP language arts and communications teacher Lisa Crockett who shared a poem by Mary Oliver titled "The Summer Day." Much of her talk centered around the poem's closing line which referred to life as being "wild and precious." Crockett closed with the advice "This is your one wild and precious life. Spend it wisely."

A major element of the program were summaries given by NHS members of the service programs they have performed during their membership. Society president Isaiah Berndt explained that, as a group, NHS members helped with a roadway cleanup, volunteered during Hay Daze, and more. He went on to summarize that members are expected to take part in five hours of in-school and ten hours of outside-school volunteer work. Along with that, Berndt explained it is an expectation of JWP NHS participants that they plan and carry out an event, either as an individual or paired with another member.

Autumn Thissen and Brielle Dressler told of organizing and operating an adult volleyball tournament which raised \$1,000 toward prom.



New members inducted into the JWP chapter of the National Honor Society the evening of April 23 were (from left) Grace Sanny, Rachelle Oelke, Mason Zimmerman, Emma Huelsnitz, Hudson Miller, and Maija Tolbert.

Isaiah Berndt and Ellah Oliver told of cooperative efforts with the United Way, during which they organized a "red ribbon week" and brought in guest speakers from the organization, including one who spoke on the topic of drug abuse.

Ellie Morsching described her teacher appreciation project, which included providing art supplies and materials for students to use in producing cards for teachers who had been significant to them.

Tiera Anderson told of working with the sixth-graders to create and mail Christmas cards to area shut-ins. A side benefit of the program, she added, was teaching the younger students about the proper way to address an envelope.

Luke Cahill described organizing a wind ensemble to perform and sing carols prior to Christmas at a local elder care facility.

Mikayla Wheelock and Nevaeh Weimert described a youth volleyball camp they organized and operated, in which 25 children took part.

Katelyn Olson told of games and events she devised and led during St. Ann Church's fall festival.

Paige Walz showed pictures from her initiative to collect supplies and funds for the Blue Earth and Nicollet County Humane Society.

Kwynn Krause told of organizing a sequence of four blood drives which, collectively, brought in

150 units of blood for the Red Cross.

Sophia Coulsey let those in attendance know she will be leading the Miss Janesville pageant in June.

Madyn Holland shared information about the rock painting project she organized for younger children. She worked with the elementary art department to acquire the needed materials, and mentioned the finished products will be distributed around the community early in May.

Claire Walz described a clothes drive she organized, collecting 30 bags of clothing for the Connections Shelter.

Brielle James told of a drive she will be operating near the end of May; she will be collecting backpacks and school supplies to be shared with students for the 2025-'26 school year.

Lydia Huelsnitz and Abigail Sobolik described a youth dance camp they operated for students in kindergarten through third grade. They mentioned 27 children participated and gave a culminating performance during a boys' basketball game. The event raised \$204 which was contributed to the NHS for ongoing activities and projects.

Alexandra Hanks shared information about her elementary "coin war" fundraiser which raised

NHS continued on 4

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Council talks downtown walkway and 115 S. State Street

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

At the April 15 Waseca city council meeting, city attorney Chris Kennedy, city attorney, addressed matters surrounding the Boat House Bar & Grill. The city owns the property the restaurant sits on, 406 Ninth Street NE. When the lease agreement between the city of Waseca and the owners of the boathouse ends on June 30, 2028, Kennedy said the city will have numerous options including maintaining the status quo, selling the property, reinstating a longtime lease, and turning the land into a park. The Boat House Bar & Grill is currently for sale. Council member Conrath asked about keeping the walking/bike trail that leads to Ninth Street NE in front of the Boat House. Kennedy said the trail would most likely stay. Of the boathouse, Mayor Randy Zimmerman said, "It's an institution, one of Waseca's longest running businesses." Council members agreed to set a special session to consider the issue, but no date was set.

Ann Staloch, chair of the city's Economic Development Authority (EDA), stated concerns regarding the damaged building at 115 South State Street; the back wall of the apartment building collapsed on April 2. She mentioned the resulting blockage to the downtown walkway, saying property owners "have a duty and an obligation to keep their structures safe, dignified and maintained, not just for tenants and patrons, but for the vitality of our community as a whole." She concluded, "The downtown walkway is a visible reminder of what can happen when time and inaction are allowed to take root. Let's repair it, let's reimagine it and let's use it as a case study for what can be done when vision and leadership align."

In response to Staloch's comments, council member Darren Arndt stated caution about regulations or warnings to building owners, saying they are likely to respond negatively to what they perceive as interference. Council member James Ebertowski also expressed concern against being too aggressive with building owners, stating he encourages receiving guidance from the EDA.

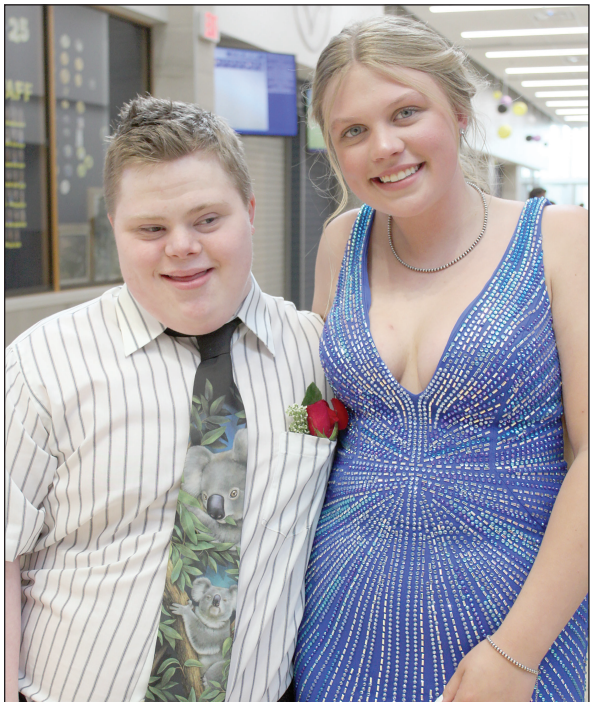
Zimmerman stated he would like to see a log of vacancies for downtown buildings and wondered whether the council could help fill those apartments or spaces. The last rental inspection at 115 S. State took place in 2024; inspections take place every 3 years. City attorney Kennedy reminded everyone the displaced tenants are still being dealt with, and also that an investigation report and review are still pending. He said information yet to be collected should be useful in preventing a similar occurrence in the future.

The council agreed to hear from both the EDA and the Historical Preservation Society before moving forward on any action.

City engineer Nathan Willey reported a preliminary plat for Clearwater Preserve residential development had been granted

Council continued on 3

"A Light to Remember"



Seating in the gymnasium was full as Waseca High School students took part in grand march prior to this year's prom, labeled "A Light to Remember." Among the participants were (left) Nathanael Andrs and Eden Eads; (center) Tyler Jellum (left) and Brayden Hoof; and (right) Nolan Hansen, who was accompanied for grand march by Addison Kelm. More photos can be found on Page 14. All photos taken can be found on the Pioneer's Facebook page.

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently



Compostings

by Al Batt

One creaking step

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
Want to hear my Batman imper-

sonation?
Sure.
Up, up and away!
That's Superman.
Thanks, man.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I noticed signs that had persisted long after the businesses had closed. I saw one proclaiming gas for \$1.63 per gallon. I stopped, but I couldn't tell if the gas pumps were working because they were long gone and they'd taken the gas station with them. It was a no-service station.

Signs for departed businesses haunt the roadsides. They act as aged decoys drawing in unsuspecting travelers in need of what the bygone commercial enterprises had offered.

We all receive different instructions. The man wore an analog watch on one wrist and a smart-watch on the other. He didn't want to be late for anything. He said his father wasn't good at remembering to flush. That was because he had grown up with an outhouse. Most outhouses are out of business. They survive in parks and out-of-the-way places. Port-a-potties abound at festivals and similar gatherings. The outhouses weren't likely to have left any signs behind when they vanished.

A friend called to tell me a mouse story. She found many pieces of paper rolled into little balls in a kitchen drawer. They were the wrappings from Hall's cough drops—menthol honey-lemon flavored. I recall a kid who tried to solve the puzzle posed as "How many licks does it take to get to the Tootsie Roll center of a Tootsie Pop?" Mr. Owl licked it twice before biting it and declaring the answer to be "Three" to one of the candy world's perplexing puzzles in the classic 1970 TV commercial. Tootsie Pop fans everywhere tried to provide a definitive answer. An honest Mr. Owl would have said, "Who (Hoo) knows?" The world may never know. Maybe the mouse in the kitchen drawer was trying to determine how many licks it takes to get to the center of a Hall's cough drop. One thing is certain: my friend won't be awakened at night by the sound of a coughing mouse.

I'VE LEARNED

A bookshelf is a books' shelf.
They aren't making yardsticks any longer.

No carpenter ants ever become plumbers.

I want to write a mystery novel or do I?

Every household staircase of my youth had at least one creaking step.

6:30 is my favorite time of day, hands down.

Shifting my car into reverse takes me back.

Charles Lindbergh was born in Detroit because his mother's uncle was a doctor there. Six weeks later, he was back in Little Falls. He was a mail pilot who became the world's most famous person by flying a single-engine plane for 33 1/2 hours from New York City to Paris without an inflight movie in 1927.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

I love my furniture. My recliner and I go way back.

Did you know that nothing in the English language starts with the letter n and ends with the letter g?

Stephen King has a son named Joe. I'm not joking, but he is.

When my wife gets angry, I put a cape around her shoulders. That makes her super angry.

What do doctors do for people obsessed with yachts? Prescribe anti-buy-yachtics.

NATURE NOTES

American white pelicans flew over. The upper mandible on some had developed a flattened, semicircular, fibrous plate (horn, bump or sail) called a nuptial tubercle. Pelicans mature enough to reproduce develop a nuptial tubercle unique to the American white pelican, which falls off when mating season concludes. The size of the tubercle is variable. Its purpose is to make a pelican more attractive to mates. Upon molting into its eclipse plumage at the end of the breeding season, their crests turn gray and their eye color changes from dark to light. Both the males and the females develop tubercles.

I saw oak and ironwood trees clinging to their dead brown leaves over the winter. This retention of dead plant matter is called marcescence. New spring growth eventually dislodges these dead leaves. Scientists have named the process, but are unsure why it exists. They theorize that marcescent leaves provide a fresh layer of mulch around the tree and add nutrients for growth in the new year. Another thought is that these leaves help conserve soil moisture in the spring by adding shade to the forest floor. Another hypothesis holds that marcescence is a defense mechanism against browsers such as deer.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Let us learn to live with kindness, to love everyone, even when they do not love us."—Pope Francis.

Open your mind and let the knowledge in

I remember that, when I was a teacher talking with students' parents about the choices a student was making and perhaps most importantly the advice the youth was ignoring, all I could say was, "There are days I wish there were a way to open up their heads and put some knowledge inside."

But of course, there is not a way; our only real options are to provide the best example within our power, and to search for a way to deliver any advice we wish to share that will keep it from being rejected out of hand.

We have all taken our turn at considering those senior to us as being out of touch with modern-day reality. Those are the words we used if we were kind, anyway. When we were feeling less charitable, our words may have been something like "old and stupid," or maybe just "nosy and pushy."



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

I am on the fringes of two sets of difficult intergenerational situations being experienced by two different acquaintances. In both cases, the younger generation has chosen to disregard communications—let's call it "advice"—being offered by the older one. The word "helpless" has come up numerous times.

For one of them, it's a bit as if she has a bird's eye view of the road ahead and is warning a collision is imminent—but no one believes her. The other maybe feels as if she's in the bottom of a canyon, and though

her voice echoes all around her, no one is in a position to hear.

It's fascinating to think that, when we humans first approach parenthood, we think of the arriving baby, the equipment needed to care for it, and some of the activities or sports we definitely want to bring it up appreciating.

Yet we are parents of adults for much, much longer than we are parents of children. If we consider the image of teaching children to ride a bicycle, it's like we help them balance and get their footing, then push

them off down a driveway they will be riding for decades. They think of us as role models or advisors, and it's only a generation or more later that they figure out we're all human beings moving down the relentless continuum of life; we parents just happen to be a third of a lifetime ahead of our offspring on the path.

So whether they think us to be sages or fools, it won't be long until the next generation is casting similar judgments on them.

All the while, we love them, want the best for them, and in some cases, wish they would choose to take advantage of what we've learned and experienced. As the (slightly modified) saying goes, "Learn from the experiences and mistakes of others—you don't have time to take every wrong turn on the road of life."

My best wishes to all the parents out there who long to have their suggestions truly heard and considered.

Prosecutor's perspective – April 2025

By Rachel Cornelius, Waseca County Attorney

To continue on last month's column about sentencing factors and considerations, it's important to know and understand what it means when the news reports what a maximum sentence is for a crime, such as "Defendant is facing up to 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine." All crimes have a maximum punishment; some also have a minimum punishment. However, what does it mean when you hear someone is facing 10 years in prison and then they receive no prison, and in some cases, no jail time? Often, prosecutors and judges get blamed. What people do not hear is the full reason: sentencing guidelines dictate sentences. While the "10 years" may be the maximum

sentence, if a defendant has no criminal history, depending on the type of crime, they may not see any jail time, much less any prison, as the sentencing guidelines would not even permit a prison sentence. There is a sentencing guidelines grid that dictates what a person will receive for the same crime and the same criminal history.

So then why do some people get different sentences for the same crime? There are many factors that go into a plea offer such as the extent of someone's involvement in the crime, what their criminal history is,



Cornelius

if they are amenable to probation, how serious a crime they committed, is there a victim and what does the victim want, is there some issue (chemical dependency/mental health) underlying the criminal behavior that we can attempt to treat to avoid further criminal behavior. Alternately, things like race, gender, employment, occupation and marital/family status cannot be considered. As I've stressed in past columns, we are ministers of justice, and that has many implications. We do not make plea agreements without due consideration to all factors in an individual case, while also protecting public safety and taking a victim's wishes into consideration.

There has been a lot about diversion in the news lately. It should be

noted that diversion is only used in limited circumstances here in Waseca. There is a time and a place for diversion. It is generally used for first-time offenders with low-level (misdemeanor) thefts, not \$20,000 in vehicle damage. Something like that would never be diverted in Waseca County, regardless of the political climate, or who the person is or worked for. Diversion agreements and plea agreements like that create circumstances where justice is served. It only acts as a message that you aren't actually protecting public safety and holding people accountable for their actions.

Nothing in this article is intended to provide legal advice; this writing does not constitute an attorney-client relationship.

Appreciate every 'first' and every 'last'



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

overwhelming that I refuse to read or watch the news. Notifications from the New York Times will pop up on my phone and I just won't read the depressing headline and swipe it away. It's so easy to get caught up in the windstorm of voices, opinions, and activities happening nationally. It's also easy to ignore all of that as well. So I just try to appreciate the good things about every day.

It's just another reason why I love local news. Yes, keeping up with national news is important, but so is keeping up with what's happening in your town, your county. Why would I want to read about some big-name politician who did something bad or said something outrageous when I can read about the success of fellow Waseca High School graduates, and can read about how groups and or-

ganizations are working to better the community and doing it well.

In case anyone is at all curious, which I'm sure you're probably not, I still get the paper delivered to my college apartment and I still sit down to read it. Nothing beats sitting down to read a paper.

Speaking of how great it is to read on paper, I will forever die on the hill that paperback or hardcover books are better than any electronic version. Yes, I understand and see the appeal of being able to easily take it with you, not having to flip through pages, actually being able to read in the dark, and I'm sure changing the font sizes is very helpful.

But when I pick up a book, I flip through the pages and the sweet aroma of a story drifts up at me. Also, my eyes don't hurt after hours

of reading like they do after hours of staring at a computer or phone screen. I can physically see my progress and easily skip ahead while also saving my spot. Granted, I don't know a lot about using a Kindle or what have you, so I could truly be missing what is so grand about it. But I fully expect I will continue to read actual books and will never part from them.

Fun fact, the last time I counted, I had around 400 books in my bedroom at my parents' house. So basically, it's my bed, my desk, the piano that my parents shoved in there when I moved out, and then the rest of the space is literally filled to the brim with my books. And plants. It currently looks like the bedroom from "Where the Wild Things Are," where the main character's room slowly turns into a jungle. That's my room, but again, I am not complaining because I think it's fun and unique. Like I said, I'm just trying to appreciate every day.

My Determination: "Mary wished to say something very sensible, but knew not how."

— Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice

A perfect day begins the night before

Recently I found myself pondering the question, "What is my perfect day?"

My lady friend and I were out on a date and I posed the question to her. Her response took about five minutes after which she insisted I answer the question myself. Before answering, I asked numerous follow-up questions which gave her the opportunity to expand on the answer. It was a fun activity. Here is my answer.

My perfect day begins the night before. I enjoy an evening cup of tea, a good book and a peaceful night's sleep in a comfy bed at an ideal temperature, somewhere in the low 60-degree range.

On this "perfect day," I would awaken on my own schedule, well rested, with the sun shining through the window. My waking hours begin with a cup of coffee on the porch—the coffee would be flavored with an ideal amount of



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

vanilla cream, not too much, but not too little. There on the porch, I'm accompanied by a newspaper and maybe some pleasant music—but no smart phone. I should add this perfect day is far in the future. My children are grown, and perhaps my grandchildren have spent the night, and will soon be running around enjoying themselves. Out in front of me, waiting for their rambunctious arrival, is a beautiful view. What the view consists of is flexible, but mountains would be an option. So would a lake, a river, or some thriving trees.

My spouse sits down and joins

me for a light breakfast. We share some fruit and cooked eggs—perhaps either scrambled or "Benedict" style.

Between breakfast and lunch, I would enjoy a walk, reading, work, writing or activities with family and friends. Each day of the week would likely have some sort of schedule, with one or two days left open for "whatever we feel like."

Lunch would also be light, because I like to save room for a larger meal at dinner. In this world, I picture lunch as almost only a snack—maybe salad, lunch meats, cheese. Luckily, since it's

a perfect day, it will be just the right amount to satisfy.

The rest of the day is filled with more of the same. Dinner might even be chicken alfredo, which is what I was enjoying on this particular date night. The evening ends the same way the perfect morning begins, with a good book, tea and a restful night's sleep.

I went into such detail with my lady friend on our date that the conversation went on for almost two hours. The number of questions I was able to ask her as we went through this thought experiment led to an enriching conversation.

That said, what does your perfect day consist of?

"And we find at the end of a perfect day, the soul of a friend we've made."

- Carrie Jacobs-Bond



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DEADLINES: Pioneer: Noon Monday
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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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.

Kindergarten Card Party at Janesville Public Library Saturday, May 3

There will be a Kindergarten Card Party at the Janesville Public Library at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 3. Kindergarteners and their families are invited to collect their first library card, play games, pose with a GIANT library card, collect giveaways, and more.

Whiskey Whiskers at the Indian Island Winery Sat., May 3

Whiskey Whiskers will be performing at the Indian Island Winery from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, May 3. Online they are referred to as a “Southern Minnesota band playing music you love.”

The Emma Josephine Duo at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm Sunday May 4, 2025

The Emma Josephine Duo at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm from 1-7 p.m. on Sunday, May 4. The Summer season opener will feature music, pizza, animals and much more.

Waseca Choral Breakfast and Bake Sale at the Waseca Legion on Sun., May 4

St. Paul Lutheran Church of Waseca will be having a Breakfast and Bake Sale at the Waseca American Legion from 7:30 a.m. till noon on Sunday, May 4. Cost is \$10 per plate, to be served are pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice and coffee.

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.

Waseca Brush Cleanup begins Monday, May 5

Mark Christenson of the Waseca City Council and the Parks Board wants local residents to know that Brush Cleanup Week begins Monday, May 5.

Summer Book Preview at Waseca Public Library Mon., May 5

Get ready for the Summer Book Preview at the Waseca Public Library at 6 p.m. Monday, May 5.

Join library staff for a preview of the most anticipated books of the Summer. Staff will help you load up your TO BE READ piles with book club picks, sweet romances, and edge-of-your-seat thrillers. Geared for adults.



Brittany Pechacek was helped by Joe Edel of the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District and Taylor Rasmussen of Pheasants Forever as she picked up her order of trees at the 4-H building on the Waseca fairgrounds on Friday, April 26, 2025.

4-H passes out free saplings to kids in honor of Earth Day

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Young people ages 17 and under who signed up for free trees with Waseca County 4-H got the chance to pick them up the evening of Tuesday, April 22.

The tree distributed this year is a Minnesota favorite, the Northern White Cedar, a coniferous tree native to eastern and northern North America. This evergreen can grow up to 40 or even 60 feet tall. It contributes to the environment by providing food enjoyed by birds, deer, squirrel, porcupine, and caterpillars. It can grow up to 12 inches a year and is commonly used around houses as a wind-break or privacy curtain. These trees of the pine family also provide Minnesotans with a welcome spot of green during the winter.

New owners were instructed to water their trees after sundown every day for two weeks immediately after planting, then once a week after that.

During distribution, Mariana Izaquirre, Community Health Worker with Waseca Public Health, helped



Jayden Haefs, 8, was among the benefactors of a tree giveaway sponsored by 4-H. He was accompanied by his dad, Travis, on Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

with some education. “I’m here to educate on things people can do for Earth Day, and to heighten community awareness about our services,” she shared.

Amy Nelson, Extension Educator and 4-H Youth Development staff

SWCD delivers 3,500 trees

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) distributed trees ordered during the organization’s spring tree sale on Friday, April 25, at the Waseca County fairgrounds. Customers who had placed the 140 orders began arriving by 7:30 even though distribution did not begin until 8:30.

Cheri Brummond, administrative assistant for the SWCD became so caught up in her work,

she didn’t realize until she was asked about lunch that she never had it. The group of five adults were using the 4-H livestock building at the fairgrounds.

Brittany Pechacek pulled up in her SUV, her order was for a hundred different saplings and first-year trees. In the back of her vehicle were many bags of red mulch, “We’ve got a lot going on right now and I am getting started

SWCD continued on 4



Clay Rehtmeyer brought his daughters Katiana, 8, and Calina, 5, to receive their free White Cedar trees through the Waseca County 4-H Ambassadors free tree giveaway on Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

member, said, “We had 150 kids sign up this year and they’ve had since early February. This is the second year we’re doing this, and we’re definitely doing it again the next. Last year’s tree was the Red Maple, we won’t know what next year’s will be till then, it could even be a fruiting tree but we don’t know.”

Afton Finley, Waseca Librarian, was also on hand. “They invited us and we’re supporting the Earth Day celebration and letting people know

the library is here and we can provide support for blossoming gardeners. We have lots of books on planting, growing and harvesting, plus a ton of stuff you’ve probably never even heard of that would interest young gardeners this spring.” Travis Haefs brought his son Jayden, 8, in to grab his tree. Said Jayden, “I was told I was getting a free tree and it’s in my name.” His dad said, “We will definitely use it, that’s for sure.”

Street project to cost less than \$3 million

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

During the New Richland city council meeting the evening of April 14, Cory Bienfang, engineer from Bolton & Menk, informed those present that bids for the 2025 street improvement project were opened April 10; the low bid was approximately 15 percent below the engineer’s estimate. Based on the bid received, Bienfang stated the total project cost should be less than \$3 million. A hearing for the bid and project was set for 30 minutes prior to the next regular council meeting, 6 p.m. May 12.

Council members also set a hearing for a proposed new ordinance which would prohibit parking on the east side of South Ash Avenue for all

except those living on the street, who would be eligible to apply for permits. That hearing was also set for the night of the next scheduled council meeting, at 7:05 p.m. on Monday, May 12.

Sarah Sundve presented the ambulance report: There were 17 runs in March and only five for April. Sundve informed council members city emergency services paramedic Laura Beckman was not paid the full amount for her time in a required training “refresher”: Council members approved an additional \$200 reimbursement. Sundve also reported an upcoming expense to replace the batteries in city-owned pagers; anticipated cost will be \$520 each. The New Richland Ambulance service will no longer use Expert Bil-

ling for bookkeeping services, but is changing to EMS Management & Consultants. The city fire department requested \$15,700 for helmets and turnout gear. The police department reported it received 148 calls during April, 367 so far for the year.

The New Richland Care Center is hiring a Director of Nursing and full- and part-time nurses and Certified Nurse Aides (CNAs) for evening and overnight shifts.

The wastewater management department head Shell Johnson reported the city received 1.75 inches of rain across March 30 and 31. The flow spiked at 1000 gallons a minute.

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

The pumps ran 25 hours straight. Johnson requested around \$4,500 for a replacement pump diaphragm. She also asked for \$3,000 to purchase a dehumidifier for use in the wastewater building.

The bathrooms at Legion Field have been painted. Community Cleanup day is Saturday, May 10.

Property owners Lynn and Lane Wacholz applied to have city limits altered to exclude their property. The two stated they receive no benefits from the city, and so should be assessed by the township instead.

Council members recognized two employee anniversaries: Heather Christensen has been with the city administration for one year; Cody Huiras with the maintenance department for two years.

■ Council

from Page 1

on March 18. The \$50,000 purchase of 1112 Eleventh Avenue SE, is encouraged by city staff because of its location near a sanitary lift sewer station.

Council members learned the downtown walkway needs an up-

date. A restroom located there has not been in use for some time; Willey suggested the best choice financially would be to remove it.

Announcements were shared just prior to the meeting’s closing. Spring Brush Cleanup begins May 5. The

Holiday Lights committee received money to begin purchasing lights. The Happy Days event needs an organizer. The next city council meeting will be the evening of May 6.

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Rogers honored at council meeting

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

At the Janesville City Council April 14 meeting, representatives from the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) surprised city administrator Clinton Rogers with a visit and statements of thanks for his service as an LMC board member for the last four years.

Luke Fischer, president of the LMC board of directors, told those present the organization provides representation for nearly every city in the state, from Barry, which has a population of 19, to Minneapolis with 425,115 residents.

“We only get to provide our services to the cities in a way that is impactful and meaningful if we have a really great board of directors,” Fischer continued, adding he’s known Rogers for 15 years; the two became acquainted when Fischer took a position as city administrator in Watertown. “We were part of the same professional development group and we’d get together and read these books. Clinton would tell me what things actually mean and how they actually work in real life. He has been a good coach, mentor, and friend to me along the way.”

Upcoming LMC president and Lakeville City Administrator Justin Miller also visited on April 14; he, too, praised Rogers’ willingness to make contributions for the greater good.

Applause resounded as Mayor Andy Arnoldt announced he would close the meeting for ten minutes so all present could enjoy cookies and lemonade and chat with the visitors.

In his quarterly report, police chief Steven Johnson announced he has received 25 more calls to date than in the same time frame last year. Johnson stated numbers seem to either stay the same or go up every quarter.

“Thefts, frauds, scams are really big,” Johnson added. “Mental health again is just continuing to go out of control, assaults and weapons stuff. So it’s pretty much the bulk of what we’re getting hit with.”

Councilmember Ivan Maas expressed concern regarding what seemed to him as increased use of “side by side” vehicles. “Do they pose a problem for you at all?” he asked

“Well, per the DNR, we need to have an ordinance that specifically talks about side by sides, ATVs as well,” Johnson answered. “I think the main problem with side by sides and golf carts is people that are underage driving. We try to deal with that when we see it happening, but typically, the driving conduct itself isn’t problematic. It’s statutory issues.

“It’s not that they’re driving crazy,” Johnson elaborated. “It’s just that they’re driving.”

During the April 14 meeting, council members provided an extension giving property owner

Janesville continued on 4

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OBITUARIES

Gerald Roemhildt

Jerry was born on January 28, 1946 to Hazel and Ervin Roemhildt in Waseca, Minnesota. He passed away in Waseca on April 4, 2025, at the age of 78. Jerry graduated from Waseca Central High school in 1964.

After attending the University of Minnesota, he enlisted in the army for a 3 year tour, one year of which was spent in Viet Nam. After tour was complete at Fort Belvoir, he stayed in Virginia working as a VW mechanic. Then he moved to Alaska where he worked with his three brothers at a large salmon cannery as a mechanic for 30 years. He returned to Waseca after retirement to live at the Roemhildt homeplace until a heart attack in late February. He moved to Lake-shore Nursing Home for the rest of his days. Jerry loved fishing, hunting, watching the Minnesota Twins on TV and playing cards. He was



Gerald Roemhildt

always kind and loving to his nieces and nephews and a good brother to his family who will all miss him. He was preceded in death by his mother, Hazel, his father, Ervin, sister Elaine (Engel), sister Carmen (Haley), and brother Chuck Roemhildt.

Quinn Harguth

QUINN DANIELLE HARGUTH, age 28, of Chicago, Illinois, formerly of Waseca, left this world on April 24, 2025 to be with our Heavenly Father.

Born on May 11, 1996, in Owatonna, she was the daughter of Brian and Holly (Herrick) Harguth. Quinn was baptized and confirmed at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca. She grew up on a farm in rural Waseca with her loving parents and sisters. She began her education at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Waseca and graduated from Waseca Public Schools with the class of 2014. Quinn continued her education at the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management where she double majored in finance and accounting. Following her education, Quinn was proud to accept her first job with one of the Big Four Accounting firms. Quinn was a big city girl and her career allowed her to live in Minneapolis for a few years before bringing her to Chicago. Throughout her career she was a member of the MN CPA and IL CPA.

Quinn was a talented athlete and singer; she was eclectic, intelligent and beautiful. She could accomplish anything she put her mind to. Quinn enjoyed living the big city life and relishing all it had to offer, including walking around the city, touring, restaurants, and mostly shopping. Quinn's favorite hobby was traveling anywhere in the world. She valued family time and being with her friends. Quinn will be remembered as an independent, beautiful young woman who will be forever loved.

Quinn is survived by her parents, Brian and Holly Harguth of Waseca; sisters: Heather (Jake) Droessler of New Brighton, Serena



Quinn Harguth

(Quentin Tradup) of Rochester, Raquel (Matt Hovey) of Winona, Peyton (Carson Slattery) of Waseca, and Eliza (Brandon Dahnert) of Waseca; nieces: Adeline and Elsie Droessler, and Jacqueline Hovey; nephew, baby boy Tradup arriving any day; grandparents: Bill and Eileen Harguth of Waseca; many aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives and friends.

She is preceded in death by her grandma, Paula (Herrick) MacDougall and grandpa, Dennis Herrick.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 1:00 PM on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca. Private family burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery in Waseca. Visitation will begin at 10:00 AM and will continue until the time of the service at the church on Wednesday.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to NAMI – Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness).

Arrangements are with the Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service of Waseca. DSOFuneral.com

still has blankets available and invited anyone present to have a look and consider buying one.

Graduating senior members of the JWP NHS are Ethan Born, Isaiah Berndt, Luke Cahill, Sophia Coulsey, Eric Daschner, Brielle Dessner, Hope Dimmel, Madyn Holland, Lydia Huelsnitz, Presley James, Ellah Oliver, Abigail Sobolik, Autumn Thissen, Claire Walz, and Paige Walz. Members who will be returning next year are Tiera Anderson, Alexandra Hanks, Brielle James, Kwynn Krause, Ellie Morsching, Katelyn Olson, Nevaeh Weimert, Mikayla Wheelock, and the newly inducted members listed above.



JWP communications and language arts teacher Lisa Crockett was the speaker at the JWP National Honor Society induction ceremony the evening of April 23. She asked NHS members to "reflect on your purpose," suggesting they remember "this is your one 'wild and precious life.' Spend it wisely."

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Chamber Ambassadors honored with certificates of appreciation

Waseca, MN — The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce proudly recognized its dedicated Chamber Ambassadors this week with certificates of appreciation, presented by Ambassador Chair Kristie Biehn. This special acknowledgment celebrates the Ambassadors' unwavering commitment and continued service to both the Chamber and the greater Waseca community.

"The Ambassadors are the heart of our outreach and engagement," said Kristie Biehn. "Their passion for supporting local businesses and building connections across our community is truly unmatched. We are grateful for their time, energy, and the spirit they bring to everything they do."

The Chamber Ambassadors play a key role in welcoming new businesses, assisting with ribbon cuttings, and representing the Chamber at community events. Their volunteer efforts directly contribute to the vitality of Waseca's business environment and help foster a strong sense of community pride.

Their dedication to the mission of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce is not only appreciated, but also inspiring. Their collective efforts ensure that the Chamber continues to be a vital, forward-moving force within the region.

For more information about the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and how to get involved, visit wasecachamber.com.



Back row: Larry Johnson-Minnwest Bank, Diane Beckman-Thrivent Financial, Kristie Biehn-Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce, then the next is Tiffany Lynch-ICAN, Abby Clemons-Suburban Furniture, Katie Gonzales-State Farm Insurance, Bernie Gaytko-Keen Bank, Amy Potter-Waseca Area Foundation, Mikhail Rostislavovich-Waseca Arts Center, Molly Erdman-Landmark Realty. Front Row: Kevin Walter-Ameriprise Financial, Adam Worke-Colony Court Living Solutions, and Jodie Thompson-Edina Realty. Missing from photo: Marcy Buchele-United Prairie Bank, Tom Sankovitz-Keen Bank, Corey Stencil-Quality Print, Colin Worke-Colony Court Living Solutions, Theresa Sunde-Mediacom, and Dr. Ed Frederick-Retired U of M.

■ SWCD

from Page 3

today." She had just gotten off work and was making a quick errand run. Two able-bodied guys helped load her trees, Joe Edel, a fellow employee of the SWCD and Taylor Rasmussen of Pheas-

ants Forever. Said Edel, "Today is Arbor Day, that's why we're doing it. People can order these all through the end of winter, we're trying to conserve here, it's important."

Buyers had seven different shrubs to choose from in bundles of 25: American cranberry, red osier dogwood, common ninebark, lilac, black chokecherry, silky dogwood and arrowwood.

Also options were 13 types of trees: Siberian crabapple, white-spire birch, American plum, serviceberry, Norway poplar, hackberry, red and sugar maples, American 'Princeton' elm, autumn blaze maple, red and swamp and bur oak maple. Conifer selections included red cedar, white pine, Black Hills, Norway and white spruce; and five potted conifers: Techny and

America Arborvitae, Black Hills and Meyer and Norway Spruce, White Pine and Tamarack.

Potted conifers were \$10-30. Trees and shrubs were between \$40-70 for common. The most expensive were the specialty trees which were \$150 to \$170. Orders can be placed anytime by next February; information is available on the website www.wasecaswcd.org.

■ Janesville

from Page 3

Cody Stegeman 30 additional days to pay the remaining \$1,800 of his property taxes. Stegeman apologized for that oversight, and for not having renewed his rental license until that morning after speaking with city staff.

During public forum, Waseca County commissioner De Malterer brought two big concerns from the director of the Waseca-Le Sueur Library Stacy Lienemann and the rest of the library system. Malterer said the concerns involved protection of the Janesville library's book collection during the upcoming painting

process and also expressed hope the process would occur promptly so as to limit disruption to library operations.

"Obviously we know, however you go through this, you're going to make sure that you work with our local librarian to make it as least stressful for her as possible as she does her job so patrons can get in, use all the services of the library and feel welcome there while we're doing all those things," Malterer stated.

On a related matter, the council tabled the bids for the library painting project until the next meeting so they could review additional bids from Paint Boy for \$4,116 and Lake Glade Painting for \$3,950. Janesville Librarian and branch supervisor Kelly Koplen requested the project

be completed either before or after summer, due to Koplen's upcoming wedding in June.

Resident Lauren Tester suggested the city could save money if it receives a "Paint Your Town" grant through the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF). The organization provides grants to purchase up to 100 gallons of paint for community projects like murals, welcome signs, or public art projects. Tester also mentioned Home Depot may have a separate Community Impact Grant program that uses gift cards for materials, including paint,

for volunteer projects, particularly those benefiting veterans.

Tester added that she will know by April 28 whether or not the Paint Your Town grant was approved. She also said she knows a painter in town who is willing to volunteer their time if the supplies are covered.

In another related business matter, the council approved the closure of West Second Street during the Carnival Day on June 30 at the library starting at 12:30 to 3 p.m.

The council also approved an annual consumption and display permit for Janesville Bowling Alley.

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Online Event: author
Dr. David H. Rosmarin
Waseca Le Sueur
Library Wed., May 7

Dr. David H. Rosmarin will teach how to use anxiety to become more self-accepting, connected to others, and resilient at a virtual Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System event at 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 7. Author of ‘Thriving with Anxiety,’ Dr. Rosmarin’s constructive, compassionate, and evidence-based approach will not make viewers less anxious. Instead, it will empower viewers to use anxiety to thrive.

The Secret Science of
Bubbles at Waldorf
Public Library
Wednesday, May 7

Enjoy the Secret Science of Bubbles at the Waldorf Public Library at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 7. Why do bubbles pop? Is there a way to puncture a bubble and not have it pop? Why do bubbles float higher in cool weather? This free event is geared for ages 8-12.

The Wild Robot Party
at Janesville Public
Library Thurs., May 8

There will be a Wild Robot Party at the Janesville Public Library at 4 p.m. Thursday, May 8. Build a friendly robot, learn survival skills, take the camouflage challenge, and more while celebrating the extraordinary story of Roz, a robot learning to live in the wilderness. Geared for ages 7-12.

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.

Tell Your Story Public
Reading at Waseca
Library Friday, May 9

There will be a Tell Your Story Public Reading at the Waseca Public Library at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 9. This year, Cow Tipping Press and Waseca Public Library held three innovative creative writing workshop series entitled Tell Your Story, for adults with developmental disabilities. The writers are now authors with their work included in a published book. To celebrate the launch of their books, the writers will be holding a reading.

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.

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Waseca student survey results shared

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

During their regular business meeting April 24, members of the Waseca school board heard from Junior-Senior High School assistant principal Justin Johnson. Johnson reported enrollment is at 827, an increase of six above the previous year, which Johnson says is contrary to the experience of other districts around the state. “The trend in enrollment is that kids want to go to online schools. We are retaining kids because we have other options within our own school.”

The vision card focus at the Junior-Senior high this year has been on standards alignment, curriculum maps and formative assessment. Johnson explained teachers used time during their staff development days to analyze the Minnesota De-

partment of Education standards, then incorporate them into the curriculum “map” for that subject. The map breaks down what is taught, at what grade level, and in which class. Johnson also explained formative assessment as “that daily homework assignment” which could be a take-home assignment the teacher uses to check for understanding, as well as in-class methods such as thumbs-up/thumbs-down to see if re-teaching is necessary.

Johnson shared results from an anonymous survey designed to measure students’ feelings of school belonging; 76.2% of students responded feeling that people at school understand them as a person completely or quite a bit; 71.2% feel somewhat to extremely connected to the adults at school; 80.7% feel some to tremendous respect from other stu-

WASECA
SCHOOL BOARD

dents; 74.1% feel they matter to others, and overall 78.8% feel like they belong at the school. Regarding the results, Johnson said the school is “always going to shoot to do better.”

Attendance rates at each grade level are higher than 90% except for grade 12, which is at 89.5%. Overall attendance is at 91.81% . Johnson said this year has been the lowest number of times he has attended truancy meetings in a while.

Johnson shared anticipated graduation rates for each grade, explaining predictions can be made by using information from tracking the credits students have earned by the end of each trimester throughout their high

school career. Overall, 97% of students in grades 9-12 are on track to graduate.

Results of annual standardized assessment used to measure achievement and growth in math, reading, and language, Johnson said, were somewhat sobering: 67.6% of seventh- and eighth-grade grade students are reading at grade level; 68% of ninth-graders are reading at grade level. “In my twenty-four years in education, this is the highest number I’ve seen of kids being identified as special needs,” Johnson said.

It was announced during the school board meeting that the Community Education summer brochure has been published online with paper copies available in the community education office in the Central building.



L to R: Row 1 Bernie Gaytko, Chamber President Mikhail Rostislavovich, Councilwoman Stacey Schroeder, Alicia Fischer. Row 2 Mayor Randy Zimmerman, Commissioner Brad Milbrath, Chamber Executive Director Robin Dulas, Chris Kennelly of REVocity, Amy Potter, and Chief Kris Markeson.

Marketplace development addresses local housing needs

WASECA - A transformative housing development is underway in Waseca, as plans move forward for the Marketplace Apartment Development, a 36-unit residential complex to be constructed at the intersection of 19th Avenue NW and 4th Street. This \$6.98 million project will address growing demand for housing in the area, where over 3,000 individuals commute daily for work.

The development, known as Marketplace, will consist of 28 market-rate units and 8 income-restricted units designated for residents earning 50% of the area median income (AMI). These AMI units are not voucher-based and will remain income-restricted for the duration of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

designation. In total, the three-story building will offer 42,000 square feet of space, including 30,000 square feet of rentable residential space divided among 12 one-bedroom and 24 two-bedroom units. “This is the first new apartment building in Waseca in over 30 years,” said Councilwoman Stacey Schroeder

The Marketplace is being developed through a partnership between Rebound Partners, REVocity, local investors, local businesses, and nonprofits. The project has drawn strong support from within the community. Local investors have already committed over 70% of the needed equity. Additionally, the development has received public financing of \$852,000 in TIF support and

are confident in securing forgivable loans from both the City and County Economic Development Authorities.

The Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) has also joined as a recent supporter, recognizing the vital role housing plays in rural economic development. The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism has thrown their full backing behind the project. Chamber President Mikhail Rostislavovich confidently stated, “Housing is one of the most significant needs in our community currently. Industry will not look at Waseca as an option if we do not have a robust workforce and the workforce will not seek us out if we do not have a place for them to create opportunity.”

Key Project Dates:

- Q2–Q3 2025: Pre-development activities
- Q3 2025: Construction begins
- Q1–Q2 2026: Pre-leasing phase
- Q3 2026: Construction completion and tenant move-in

The site was selected for its proximity to major employers and high traffic volumes, approximately 9,200 vehicle trips per day, making it ideal for working professionals and families. This project is expected to boost local economic development by increasing the resident population and attracting further investment.

For More Information contact the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce.

JWP approves Chromebook carts for classrooms

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

At their April 17 meeting, members of the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (JWP) school board approved the purchase of Chromebook carts at a cost of \$57,440 from Data Center Warehouse. The purchase supplies one cart designed to hold 25 “Chromebook” computers for each classroom; the carts come pre-wired with charging plugs built in. Superintendent Jeremy Earlier told board members he worked to expedite the purchase because, although the company typically provides quotes guaranteed for 30 days, they are currently good for only 15 days because of uncertainty regarding tariff rates.

The school board approved its 2025-’26 agreement concerning spe-

cial education staff shared with Waseca High School for \$53,451 for the school year. Erler explained a number of area districts work together to support a director of special education, financial administrative assistant, and secretary for special education.

Board members approved spending just over \$5,000 for another shared position, behavioral interventionist Megan Johnson, who will spend five percent of her time at JWP.

Kathryn Cahill was approved as the junior high track and field coach.

A revised budget for the current fiscal year was approved. District business manager Wendy Dieker noted changes in enrollment numbers contributed to changes in revenue.

JWP
SCHOOL BOARD

“My preliminary budget used a number of 645 students, but our reported annual daily membership (ADM) is at 623 right now,” she said. “After I took out a few more post-secondary option students that will get entered in by June, I’m looking at budgeting 607 students.”

Dieker listed projects completed at the district within the last couple of fiscal years, including repairs to the roof, resurfacing the track, and installing vape detectors. That in mind, she admitted more money was spent than was intended.

Superintendent Erler pointed out the district has purposely “under-

levy-ed” in some recent years, which means it has not requested as much in property taxes as it might have. Dieker mentioned the decision was strategic, to keep local taxpayers from experiencing a sudden, sharp increase.

The district subscription for Frontline Education software was renewed. Erler told board members the program tracks student attendance and manages the hiring process for substitute teachers.

“There are other systems,” he mentioned. “Our recommendation is to stay with this one.”

The JWP School board accepted and approved a donation of \$2,000 from the Janesville Chamber of Commerce for four \$500 scholarships.



NRHEG School
establishing
elementary life
skills classroom

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

During their regular meeting the evening of April 22, NRHEG school board members heard from special education coordinator Lara Chicos about plans to create a “life skills” classroom at the elementary site. Life skills programming, she explained, is for students who, because of a disability, do not learn at the same pace as their classmates. Students typically served in the setting include those with Down Syndrome, autism, or other cognitive or behavioral disabilities.

Chicos told board members the objective is to keep the students in “mainstream” participation as much as possible, so all life skills group members will take part in activities in typical classrooms when feasible. At this time, Chicos said, she expects eight students to be part of the life skills program at the elementary site.

Chicos also mentioned there are currently 50 students in grades kindergarten through five who are on “individualized education plans,” or, in other words, are part of the special education program.

District superintendent Michael Meihak informed board members a solution has already been found to the question of how NRHEG can begin offering online schooling. Board members had been told at a previous meeting that, when students have chosen to disenroll from the NRHEG district, a strong percentage of them were transferring to online schools—that is, programs which make it possible for them to meet Minnesota’s graduation requirements by logging into classes remotely and completing required work without leaving home.

Meihak shared that the Owatonna district already has an online school and would be open to an arrangement which keeps students on NRHEG’s rosters while they participate in learning activities through Owatonna’s program.

Meihak stated the per-student fee for the service is reasonable, constituting a “forty-percent savings over losing the student.” Board members heard from Jake Berg, representing the engineering and consulting firm SiteLogIQ. The company took a leadership role in assessing physical systems at the Ellendale and New Richland sites, then planning and coordinating the numerous construction projects which took place last summer.

Jake Berg (not to be confused with secondary principal Grant Berg) stated at the beginning of his presentation that he hopes the district and SiteLogIQ will have an ongoing partnership when it comes to “long-term facilities maintenance,” a budget and planning element which the state requires school districts to report on yearly’ projecting

NRHEG continued on 6

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Knights of Columbus



The Waseca Knights of Columbus organization is raising money for the local Special Olympics program. Members Lyle Sopkowiak (left) and Kevin Burns distributed Tootsie Roll candies and accepted donations outside the Waseca Walmart the afternoon of Friday, April 25. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

The Pastor's Column
Personal encounters

By Rev. Glenn K. Frerichs
Clustered Parishes of
Sacred Heart and All Saints

The Easter season is a comforting time as we transition from the penitential season of Lent to focus on the resurrection. I’ve always found the new growth that comes with spring to be inspiring as we celebrate the new life found in our risen Saviour. After the resurrection, a sense of wonder and awe washed over the disciples as they recognized the Lord. We see this as Jesus called Mary by name after she discovered the tomb to be empty. Then there are those moments of wonder and awe when the risen Lord invited his disciples to breakfast along the Sea of Galilee and when he revealed himself in the breaking of bread on the way to Emmaus. The Easter season is a time when Christians can make an extra effort to recognize those moments when God reveals Himself to us in more profound ways.

One encounter, which I have always considered a powerful God-moment, happened about 20 years ago. I was serving as the Pastor of Saint Ann’s in Janesville. It was late evening when a man in a 1960s Volkswagen van drove into the parking lot. As I answered the door, the poorly clad gentleman kindly asked if he might borrow a blanket for the night, promising to return it in the morning. He seemed genuine, and I was already looking forward to a good night of sleep. We exchanged a few words and found a blanket so he could return to the van and get situated for the evening.

Content with the thought that I had served the man’s needs, I was surprised by his need to continue the conversation. Neither yawns nor subtle hints seemed to convey

the message that I was more than ready for bed. As time passed, I began to think that he wanted to share something, so I invited him in to sit down for a while. It soon became clear that there was no particular reason for the conversation other than to talk. After some time, I decided that neither bed nor anything else should matter more than the man before me. I let my defenses down and began to give him my full and undivided attention for as long as he wanted. Nothing in the world mattered to me more than the man sitting on my couch. To my surprise, almost as quickly as my intention changed, he decided that he no longer needed to talk. The conversation ended abruptly as he went out to his van.

This was confusing and I could not help but wonder what just happened? Then, in the very next moment, it made sense. The man did not have something to say so much as the need to have someone fully present to him: to connect in a way that went beyond merely hearing his story. I suddenly realized that I may have been the only human interaction he had that day. The look of serenity that filled his face had given this away.

We see Jesus providing many personal encounters in the gospels, each one is unique. Mary Magdalen recognized the resurrected Lord when Jesus called her name. St. Thomas received the invitation to touch Jesus’ wounds, which led to his full belief in the risen Lord. Peter leaped from the boat to eat fish with Jesus by the lake. As we journey through this Easter season, may the encounters we meet each day be truly personal. For Jesus says, “What you did for the least of my brothers or sisters, you did for me” (Mt. 25:40).

■ NRHEG
from Page 5

costs and projects out for the next 10 years.

Jake Berg was perhaps taken by surprise when school board chair Rick Schultz stated some dissatisfaction over a lack of closure regarding last summer’s work. Schultz and board vice chair Loren Schoenrock both stated the absence of a final report constituted a “gap” in SiteLogIQ’s service.

Jake Berg responded he would work with superintendent Meihak to schedule a report to the board of the type they were requesting and to answer any questions.

Elementary principal Craig Kopezki mentioned one of his current priorities is determining staff placements for the 2025-’26 school year. He mentioned special education teacher Zach Nelson had tendered his resignation and has accepted a position with the Hayfield school district; other than that, no turnover has occurred so far.

Superintendent Meihak reported Sarah Wacholz has been selected to serve as next year’s admin-

istrative assistant for district matters, taking the seat vacated as Sue Kulseth retires. Wacholz’s training for the position begins May 5; Meihak said she will be present at the May 19 school board meeting.

Secondary principal Grant Berg mentioned numerous special programs and events underway at the New Richland site. Included was a May 6 “Activity Fair” organized by senior class members Harbor Cromwell and Chloe Stork. The purpose of the fair, he explained, was to broaden students’ understanding of the many options they have outside of the classroom to build community and spend time with their friends.

Berg explained the fair will be all morning May 6; students are scheduled to cycle through by grade level, being given time to talk with the various representatives.

Board members tabled a decision regarding which company to hire to fix the roof on the New Richland bus garage. The lowest bid by nearly half the amount came from a company which did not have insurance; by tabling the matter, board members hoped they were leaving time to allow a solution to be found.



Back row from left: Nathan Martin, Devon Ellis, Bernie Gaytko, Tiffany Lynch, Jodie Thompson, and Colin Worke. Front row: Larry Johnson, Tom Sankovitz, Amy Potter, Ed Frederick, Austin Bell, Kristie Biehn, Abby Clemons, Katie Gonzales, Mikhail Rostislavovich, and Molly Erdman.

Waseca Chamber welcome K.A.N. Do It, LLC

WASECA, MN – The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and its Ambassadors are proud to welcome K.A.N. Do It, LLC as a new Chamber member. Co-owners Austin Bell, Nathan Martin, and Devon Ellis bring more than 30 years of combined experience to the Waseca construction industry, offering top-tier services in residential roofing, remodeling, tile work, deck and fence construction, framing, insulation, concrete, and more.

Founded with a mission to help homeowners turn their dreams into reality, K.A.N. Do It, LLC is known for its hands-on approach, open communication, and commitment to quality results—whether it’s a small roof repair or a full-scale home renovation.

Kristie Biehn, Chair of the Waseca Chamber Ambassadors, expressed her excitement about the newest addition to the Chamber community: “We are thrilled to welcome K.A.N. Do It, LLC to the Chamber. Their dedication to craftsmanship and community involvement is a fantastic asset to Waseca. We look forward to watching their business grow and thrive here.”

The Chamber Ambassadors recently visited K.A.N. Do It, LLC to officially recognize their membership and celebrate the meaningful impact they’re already making in the local community. More than just a construction company, K.A.N. Do It, LLC prides itself on building long-term relationships through transparency, trust, and personalized service. Their team of experienced professionals works closely with clients from concept to completion—offering free estimates, creative solutions, and a robust portfolio of completed projects that reflect both quality and care.

Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Waseca Area Chamber Board of Directors, also shared a warm welcome: “K.A.N. Do It, LLC embodies the entrepreneurial spirit that strengthens our community. Their experience and passion for their craft are valuable additions to our local business network. We’re excited to have them as part of our Chamber family.”

ICAN hosts 17th talent show

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca Independent Counseling and Advocacy Network (ICAN) held its seventeenth annual talent show titled, “Setting the Scene in Year 17” on Tuesday, April 23, at the Central building auditorium. ICAN serves vulnerable individuals, including some with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The show was dedicated to Dylan Fredrickson and Jessica Lunar who were taken from us earlier this year.

Seven emcees stepped behind the podium in mixed and matched pairs to introduce performers and provide comments and humor between acts. Emcees were Katrina Davison, Beth Lieser, Anna Marken, Jackie Shatto, Jay Cowell, Jacob Lieser and Nathan Gottschalk.

Maggie Gahler, Jolene Root and Annabel Gonzalez acted out the theme song for the hit kids show the “Wonder Pets.” Afterwards Annabel had a difficult time leaving the stage because she liked the clapping and cheering so much. After them was Kolton Flitter singing along with the Rodney Adkins song “Watching You.” Gavin Callenius slid out on stage and helped Michael Jackson sing “Beat It.”

Jacob Lieser said before he performed, “My song is only for those adults who are 21 and over.” He sang “Margaritaville” by Jimmy Buffet. Trent Kuball sang “Rude” by Magic! Todd Krueger shared George Jones’ song, “Who’s Gonna Fill Their Shoes?” Ben Sather sang “Liar” by Jelly Roll. Jackie Shatto, “The Sweetest Gift” by the

Judds. Christyn McClure sang an enthusiastically applauded rendition of “Strawberry Wine” by Deana Carter and Nathan Gottschalk performed by dancing to “Rave Up Up” by Seichroyamshita Kazukiuruta.

An intermission took place after the first hour. Patrons were invited to stretch their legs or grab some fresh air.

Angie Ulmen performed “You Are Not Alone” by Michael Jackson. Kelsea Brinkman and Hope Weise sang “We Are Going on a Bear Hunt.” Emmit Sieben presented “Save Me” by Jelly Roll. Betty Tiede signed to “Here in the Real World” by Alan Jackson. Beth Lieser and Erik Vlasak performed “Separate Ways” by Eva Under Fire. Caden Clark sang “Unbreak my Heart” by Tony Braxton.

Jay Boyce had a video for “The best of Jbeez.” Anna Marken performed “Always Remember Us This Way” by Lady Gaga. Ashley Speckmeier, Angela Motz and Allie Johnson performed “Watch Me (Whip/NaeNa)” by Silento End. Jay Cowell presented “Gimme All Your Lovin” by ZZ Top. Dan Wright brought Bette Middler’s “The Rose” to the stage. Erik Vlasak and the Wild Ones sang “Raise Your Hands, Get Ready, Won’t Back Down” which is a mashup of Bon Jovi and Tom Petty.

Organizers of the event expressed thanks to ICAN staff and performers’ friends and families for always showing appreciation to the talent show participants. Special gratitude was mentioned to the performers, Mike Jevning, Jen Williamson,



Erik Vlasak and the Wild Ones have been producing performances for the ICAN talent show for the past several years. For the April 23 show, the group prepared a mix of three rock songs. Pictured with Erik here are Jay Gottschalk, Megan Johannek and Jen Williamson.

Megan Johannek, Carey Root, The Mill-Hoehn family for the practice space. Chuck Pollock for sound and light. Sue Sather for stage décor. Linda Ebnet for the Power Point programs and the Central Building janitorial staff.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * * *	507-607-8245 Sunday worship 10 a.m. * * * *	Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * *	12-18 * * * *
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m.; 6:00 p.m. * * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd’s Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Pastor Jason Wolter Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * * *	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Frerichs 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 * * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * * *	CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service * * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class * * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter) * * * *
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. * * * *	LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting * * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1 * * * *	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 * * * *
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca Father Glenn Frerichs 507-835-1222 Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m. * * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota * * * *	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	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.
REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca * * * *			

Janesville

1925

- The Saint Peter Free Press states that Mr. James L. Markham, formerly of Janesville, left last week for Indianapolis and other eastern points in connection with a publicity campaign he had engaged to write material for, in the interests of financing the erection of a number of hospitals which are being planned for at Indianapolis, Gary, Indiana, and two other points. Mr. Markham's engagement was negotiated through the organization which handled the endowment campaign for Hamline university a short time ago. He will probably be in the east about two months, and was expecting to cover much of the territory visited by the recent disastrous tornado.

- So long as England with its cheap labor could manufacture and undersell goods manufactured in America and other nations free trade held sway. But now with cheap labor coming to the front in the economic life of other European nations and competing and underselling in the English market England is turning to protection. Through the Adam Smith free-trade doctrine of "buying in the cheapest market," manufacturing England built up a tremendous world trade that laughed at local competition. But now, England faced foreign favorites that can undersell her own, and the traditional English free trade policy leaves the English markets open to assault from a whole competitive world.

- In a letter to F. A. Miner, Clerk of the Board of Education for the Independent district of Janesville, Professor Theodore Utne, State High School Inspector, refers very flatter- ingly to the work that is being performed by Professor A. J. Cole and his assistants. Mr. Utne speaks as follows: "I was pleased to find the work of the school progressing in a satisfactory manner. I was particularly interested in the reaction of the pupils toward the inaugural address of President Coolidge which we had the opportunity of hearing over the radio. Your superintendent seems to realize the needs of your school. I believe you can safely trust his leadership."

1950

- For the first time in the history of the Janesville High School the Girls' Glee Club is going to enter the district four music contest at Waseca April 15. Having appeared at various programs throughout the year here and in Mankato the Glee Club has sung for the annual Christmas program, the minstrel show and was invited to sing for a Christmas program in Mankato. At all those programs the Glee Club was received with praise by all. Entering in the CC Class the girls will sing two required numbers, "Beautiful Savior" and "Old MacDonald's Farm." The Glee Club is under the direction of J. Perry Watson, music instructor.

- Series E savings bonds sales in Waseca county in March totalled \$38,343, \$2,737 more than the corresponding figure a year ago, according to Emerson C. Ward, county savings bonds chairman. Statewide figures revealed a March drop in Series E figures from \$8,232,894 in 1949 to \$7,699,221 in 1950. Cumulative E bond sales for January-February-March to date this year amount to \$26,282,690, while total sales to date for all series E, F, and G total \$42,165,148.

- Elmer Dimmel, Janesville high scoring center, has been named to the All-Gopher Conference team, beating out such highly rated players as Mathews of New Richland, McIllice of Blooming Prairie, and Roger Peterson of Alden. Others of the mythical five are: Staloch and Haas, both of Freeborn, at the forwards, and Anderson of Blooming Prairie and Walledom of New Richland at the guards. All but Dimmel who received six votes, were unanimous choices with seven. The selections were limited to seniors.

1975

- Trinity Lutheran's Spelling Team placed fifth out of 20 teams entered in the Southern Minnesota Lutheran Elementary Spelling Contest Saturday at Truman. Truman won the contest with 414 points. They were followed by Faribault, Cologne, Ceylon, and Trinity of Janesville with 403 points. One point was given for every correct word that was spelled.

- The Janesville School Board trimmed teacehrs' Capital Outlay requests by nearly \$5,000 before approving expenditures of \$15,136 for new teaching equipment at the April board meeting Monday night. Trimmed from the request list include items like a Balance Beam for gymnastics (\$600), a stereo system for the senior high library (\$400), two electric typewriters (\$400 each) for the business room, a monocular microscope (\$325) for the science department, and several calculators.

- Gregory Linde, Janesville, Chery Matz and Laurie Randheim, both of Waseca, were named to the winter quarter dean's list at St. Cloud State Colege. In order to be on the ean's list a student must have completed a minimum of nine credits with an honor point ratio of 3.5 or higher (4.0 A).

2000

- The Waterville-Elysian- Morristown and Janesville- Waldorf-Pemberton girls' track and field teams were nearly dead even in first place finishes at the Mankato State Fieldhouse March 28. But the Buccaneer depth proved to be the difference in a 77-58 WEM win. The Bucs picked up eight seconds and eight thirds, while JWP was held to five seconds and three thirds.

- For two hours last week, Waseca County residents listened to each other talk about feedlots. More than one hundred people filled the court room at the county courthouse. Twenty-six people signed ahead of time for the opportunity to address the group and the county commissioners. Also present were Angie Knish, county planning and zooming department, a representative of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and county feedlot inspector, Wayne Cords. The county commissioners will determine if additional limitations and/or changes to the Waseca County Feedlot Ordinance, in place since March 1998, are in order.

- Members of the newly created Janesville Clinic-Mayor Health Sustum Advisory Committee are looking for community feedback. The group was recently formed to address the needs of the Janesville Clinic, which less than a year ago became part of the Mayo Health System. "The goal of the Advisory Committee is to find out community expectations," said Mike Milbrath, Administrator of Waseca Medical Center-Mayo Health System. "We would like area residents to feel free to approach Advisory Committee members with feedback and questions, and we will do our best to respond." The group is made up of area residents and meets quarterly. The first meeting was held on January 31, 2000.

Briefs

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.

JWP Fine Arts Awards 7 p.m. Wed., May 14

The JWP Fine Arts awards ceremony will be 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 14 in the high school auditorium.

Waseca High School Vocal Concert 7 p.m. May 19

Students in grades 9 to 12 will present a high school vocal concert at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 19 in the Waseca high school performing arts center.

Waseca

25 Years Ago

-Hundreds of Waseca area children between the ages of zero and five participated in Waseca Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) Parent Advisory Council's fifth annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday at the Waseca County Arena. After the hunt, each child was given a bag full of candy.

- "Next year in Jerusalem," were the final words of the Passover supper on Maundy Thursday, as they always are. This particular Passover was unique only because it took place in Waseca and was celebrated by adding a new dimension to their Easter celebration. The Pesach Seder meal was presided over by Rabbi Stanley Farr of the Temple Kehailt Star Shalom in St. Paul, Messianic Jews. It was given for members of Faith United Methodist Church, the Evangelical United Methodist Church and the First Congregational Church of Waseca.

-A miracle in medical science has improved the life of a Waseca resident faced with the complete loss of his hearing. Despite the long and grueling process, 79-year-old Troy McDonald is doing well, and hearing better than ever. A device called a cochlear implant, introduced by the Mayo Clinic System, is giving Troy his life back. "This has been an absolute miracle in our lives," said Leona McDonald, Troy's wife of 12 years.

50 Years Ago



-Art show – ILENE BOJE is displaying 25 paintings, both oils and acrylics, at the Le Sueur-Waseca Regional Library for the next two and a half weeks. Ilene is not only an artist, but has been a teach as well for many area residents for the past four years. She taught Palette knife and brush painting through the local adult education program. She is moving in Late May to McAllen, Texas.

-Celebrating – THE WASECA EXPERIMENT station will be among those mentioned Friday when a special Centennial banquet us held at St. Paul in honor of the 100TH anniversary of the establishment of stations in America. Pictured is an aerial view of the station, located west of Waseca.



-Green thumbs – JULIE HELPER back, Brett Larsen left, Michael Bathke, and Dawn Troidahl are all sprouting up this spring along with the plants they planted in their second grade classroom at Hartley.

75 Years Ago

-Bucket Brigade – Neighbors of the Gostomeziks worked desperately to fight the blaze by whatever means were necessary. At this point of the fire fighting operations the well was emptied by the fire engine pump and these men ran for water from the cattle tank to replenish the supply.

-Last Tuesday evening a Father and Son Banquet was given in honor of the Senior Scouts, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and other boys of Waterville and their fathers or guests and a Court of Honor held at which two Waterville boys received their Eagle awards.

-The city council recently approved the application of Archie Jergenson and William Asmers, new proprietors of the café on third street for the following licenses: soft drink, cigarette, nontoxicating on and of sale malt liquor, pin ball, and music box machine.

100 Years Ago

-Mrs. Patterson who is directing the chorus which is to present Joan of Arc, a cantata, in Waseca during Music Week is very well pleased with the progress being made. In fact the chorus has already demonstrated that the voices possess a fine balance in the different parts, while the solo work which forms an important part of the production is showing a charm not often equalled in any city.

- "The Bo'sn's Bride" was a pretty little operetta that pleased the small but appreciative audience at the high school auditorium Friday evening. The operetta met with such approval that the Music Club at once requested that it be repeated during Music Week.



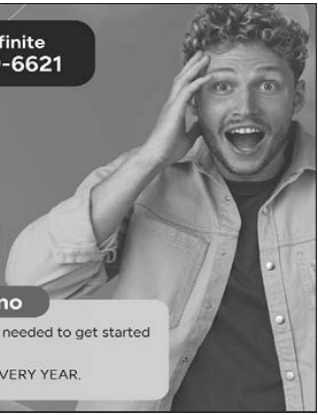
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New Richland

25 years back

- The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School bands competed in the World Of Music Festival at St. Louis, Missouri, last weekend. They returned home Monday morning carrying four of the five trophies they won in competition. The fifth, the first place trophy won by the jazz band, will be shipped later according to Band instructor David Haugh. These senior members posed happily with their trophies, Tuesday. They are from the left: front, seated Jan Vanderploeg; standing, Missie Wayne, holding the marching band trophy; Nick Kaplan, Lisa Hunnicutt, Ryan Paulson, holding the Concert Band trophy; Allison Groh, standing behind the Sweepstakes trophy, Mariah Ruth, Amy Kubista, holding the Colorguard Trophy and Adrian Barnett. The Sweepstakes trophy was presented to the local bands, when after totaling points earned in competition, it was discovered they had topped all the other bands entered.

- Recently, Supt. Richard Lorenz received the 2000 administrators of Excellence award for the south central Minnesota Association of School Administrators Region II. Lorenz was nominated by 51 school administrators in the region which extends from Jordan on the north to the Iowa border and from Sherburne on the west to Interstate 35. Lorenz came to New Richland-Hartland as superintendent July 1, 1986 from Welcome. He has been a member of the MASA for 16 years.



- Richard Chicos, chairman of the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School board presented Glen Herbst with a high school diploma, monday night before the board meeting. Herbst was one of the many young men, who left high school before graduation to fight for their country during World War II. He was inducted into the U. S. Army April 22, 1942, fought in North Africa and the European Theatre before being discharged on December 3, 1945.

- The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva boys golf team defeated Glenville - Emmons by 30 strokes, Monday April 10, at Riverview Golf Course. "This was a great outing for the first meet of the year in harsh conditions," said Coach Xan Johnson. An overcast sky, a cool breeze and occasional flurries were not conducive to the best golf. Medalist for the meet was Panther Tyler Moe, a sophomore, who shot 39. Nate Wayne, Andrew Routh and Rusty Routh, each shot 41. Leading NRHEG was Travis Broskof with a 49. Other Panther golfers and their score were; Dusty Wayne 51, Derek Chicos 52, Chris Matthies 53, Billy Root 57 and Josh Bruzke 61.

50 Years back

- Tim Donovan of Hartland was recently elected president of the Student Senate of 1975-76 at the University of Minnesota Technical College-Crookston.



- The Kindergarten classes in New Richland had a special treat last week when six year old Paul Krohn played a selection of songs on his accordion. Having taken lessons for over a year, Paul pleased his peers especially when he played old sing-along favorites like "Jingle Bells" and "Old McDonald". The first graders joined in on the fun in the afternoon making an audience of well over 70 people enjoying the talents of this budding musician. Paul is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Krohn.

- Members of the New Richland-Hartland High school Girls Track Team are pictured before practice last week. They are from the left; Marlene Tappe, co-caption; Jodi Bergner, co-caption; Jennider Johnson, Judy Bartness, Colleen Byron, Kay Smith; Middle: Kris Oehler, Beth Flor, Stacie Jessen, Karin Edwards, Stephanie Neumann, Mary Schultz, Jayne Parriott, Rita Smith, Back: Dawn Lundholm, Brenda Ganiere, Sue Bolduan, Coach Marcia Caneff, Kathy Oehler, Geri Jongbloedt, Peggy Peterson, Sarah Yerhot, Doreen Grotsun, Jill Bergner, Darla Kath, Cathay Crowe, Jan Yerhot and Carrie Severson. Missing when the photo was taken were Pam Quiram, Joyce Peterson, Lynn Wallin and Shannon Neumann.

75 years back

- Glen "Cotton" Tews, son-in-law of Mr and Mrs Will Heckes has resigned his position at the LeSueur high school effective with the end of his term and will go to Stillwater fr the fall opening where he has taken the position of head football coach.

- Mr and Mrs Lester Schlaak of Wilton are the happ parents of their first child, a son, born to them at the Waseca Memorial hospital Friday, May 19. The new arrival weighed 7 lbs and 2 ounces and has been named David Lester. The baby is the first grandchild for the Ben Schlaaks and is the first grandson for the maternal grandparents.

- Miss Mildred Bartsch, daughter of Mr and Mrs Aurther Bartsch of Claremont, became the bride of Robert H. Johnson, son of Mrs Lillie Johnson of New Richland last week in a double ring service at St. Johns Lutheran church at Claremont. Edwin Alpus was the organist, playing "Let us ever walk with Jesus," at the processional. The Bride's gown was of nylon, trimmed with lace. It had an off the shoulder neckline and a long train edged with lace. Braided pearls held her finger-tip veil in place. She wore a heart shaped bracelet, a gift from the groom. The bridal Bouquet was of white roses and snapdragons.

WASECA COUNTY
PIONEER

FARM & AGRICULTURE SPECIAL

Cropping season 2025: a perspective

‘Potential for a profitable cropping season remains less than optimal’

By MARK BERNARD
Staff Writer

The 2024 cropping season was one most farmers were thankful was over. The beating Mother Nature gave us with heavy rainfall made it one we would like to forget. However, hope springs eternal. We'll get out our lucky rabbit's foot to offer some insight for this cropping year.

We're coming off another one of the most bizarre winters ever. The La Niña finally materialized and despite being colder than the winter of '23 – '24, the snowfall accumulation was well below normal. Some welcome rain fell in November, allowing for decent fall tillage. More rain fell in December, with most picking up an inch or so as liquid precipitation before the soil froze. Total snowfall measured about 26.5" at the ranch and 23.7" in New Richland. Normal seasonal snowfall at the SROC is 52.3". The light snowfall total allowed the frost depth to reach 24" at the SROC in Waseca. After two winters with little snow removal required, we're getting out of practice. Oddly enough, few are complaining.

Ice out on St. Olaf and Beaver Lakes was March 15th. The soil was a tad slower to thaw with the SROC in Waseca reporting the frost out date on March 29th. 86° set a new record high at the SROC on March 29th. 8° above normal temps for the month allowed anhydrous to be applied and some small grain to be seeded before the rain and snow the last two days of March. After being fairly dry since December, March was the first month since November with above normal precipitation. Worries about dry soils quickly faded, so farmers could focus on worrying about something else.

April precip has been substantial, but not excessive to this point. Warmer weather and light precipitation the first half of April allowed some corn planting to begin from the 14th – 17th, not unlike 2024. Also, not unlike 2024, there were the odd soybean fields planted. Planting this year has taken a perhaps more measured approach. After farming for an insurance claim in '24, most want to do this once and do it right. There are some done planting, some who got a good start and others who haven't planted. At this point, everyone is still right or wrong.

If we continue to receive precipitation locally, it could push planting dates back, also not unlike last year. April temps have trended close to normal as of this writing. Much of the corn was planted last year by the final week of April and soybeans followed when conditions allowed until mid-May. Then it got ugly. Excessive rain did not make grain where the crop drowned out. Fields were riddled with drowned

out holes and crop missing. Crop insurance was suddenly your best friend. So far this year, we're holding our breath, hoping that doesn't happen again. April precip as of the 27th was 3.65" in New Richland and at the ranch and 3" at the SROC in Waseca. Normal for the month of April at the SROC is 3.3".

What do the growing season temperatures and precipitation outlooks look like? Released April 17th, NOAA's 30-day May outlook for our area shows an equal chance of above normal temperatures and even odds of above or below normal precipitation. Also released on April 17th, NOAA's 90-day outlook (April through June) is calling for even chances of above or below normal temps and for even chances of above or below normal precipitation. Our soil moisture is in similar shape to last year at this time. Tile lines are running, and the soil profile is full in many places. The much-ballyhooed drought dominating conversations here much of the winter is on hold for now. Transitioning into an ENSO-neutral period coming off a La Niña event, conditions may tend to be more normal, whatever that is anymore.

What sayeth the Drought Monitor? Most of South-Central MN was removed from the "Abnormally Dry" category as of the April 24th report. To our west and in the southern tier of counties, such was not the case. Much of Nebraska, Kansas and the Dakota's are all likely to remain under moderate drought for the foreseeable future. There are indications that the moderate drought will extend eastward, covering the western one-third of MN and continuing to affect the northern one-third of the state according to the Seasonal Drought Outlook perhaps by June or July. While much of Nebraska is irrigated, the potential to affect dryland areas always remains. The eastern corn belt remains relatively drought free, and while some areas are facing planting delays, the percentage is offset by well ahead of average progress in the western corn belt where it remains drier, particularly in IA, MO, KS, SD and MN.

Insect pest potential due to the open winter is mixed. Conditions for survival of corn rootworm eggs, particularly for western corn rootworm, may be somewhat diminished. The open winter and some of the below zero stretches in January and February likely didn't help their survival. Probably a bigger factor, however, was the waterlogged soil much of the early growing season last year when rootworm eggs were hatching. Waterlogged soils led to lower incidence of root feeding and adults when considering sticky trap data in our general area.

Soybean aphids appeared to be on the re-



Planting this year has taken a perhaps more measured approach. After farming for an insurance claim in '24, most want to do this once and do it right. There are some done planting, some who got a good start and others who haven't planted. At this point, everyone is still right or wrong.

Star Eagle photo by Deb Bently

bound after several years of being no-shows. Their ability of winged adults to fly in from one area and infest another plus their enormous reproductive capacity maintains their status as a force to be reckoned with. There were plenty of soybean aphids moving from soybeans to buckthorn where they lay eggs on the bud bracts, so one should never count them out. Those thousands of Asian ladybeetles that overwintered in your house can't be wrong.

The migratory insects such as black cutworm are also on the radar. There significant captures the week of April 12th – 18th. There have been some significant captures already in area traps this April. Larvae may hatch the first week of May, leaf feeding may occur the second week, and they could cut corn plants by the end of May. They could continue cutting corn until mid-June. Many of the corn hybrids with above ground Bt provide control of black cutworm. Not all, however, and with increased interest in non-GMO corn due to cheaper seed and some instances higher yields than their GMO counterparts, cutworms could be a factor. Even soybean stands can be occasionally reduced enough to require control measures.

A large flight of armyworm moths was also

detected the week of April 19th – April 25th. Predicting damage from armyworm is more difficult to pinpoint with any degree of accuracy. The distribution of pheromone traps is lower and there are no thresholds established based on trap captures. However, based on past experience, it's a safe bet if a large influx of moths has been captured in the traps, someone, somewhere within a 10-mile radius may be affected. The ensuing armyworm invasion can go undetected before the damage suddenly reaches critical levels. Sometimes it's discovered too late.

Lastly, tar spot, the perennial social media and coffee shop darling, made a later season appearance in some area cornfields. It was more problematic as one went east where excessive moisture was a lesser factor and inoculum levels are higher. That and with operators suddenly farming the insurance claims with low corn prices, there was little incentive for fungicide treatment in the local area. It is still a potential problem for 2025 and will bear watching as the season unfolds. Although the causal organism needs to be present first, it also needs a favorable environment for disease development and a susceptible host. Plant Path 101.

With the ahead of schedule planting pace and continued global economic uncertainty, potential for a profitable cropping season remains less than optimal. Watching input costs and timely marketing moves are crucial. It may mean pulling the trigger when an opportunity arises and resisting the temptation to wait and hit the ball out of the park. For the time being, we're back to playing small ball. To some extent, the same applies to planting. With more moisture to deal with, it makes the days when fields are truly fit even more precious. Corn that was planted April 14th – 17th sprouted nicely after a week in the ground. Likewise with the early planted soybeans. Some who missed that early planting window may start to get antsy. Patience, grasshopper. There is plenty of time yet in May to plant corn and soybeans, although the definition of "fit conditions" tends to become vaguer as we inch towards June. Visions of tractors pulling planter tractors (while planting) back in the early 90's still dance in my head. In the meantime, may the force be with you.

Century Farm award winners honored

St. Paul, Minn. — The Minnesota State Fair and the Minnesota Farm Bureau recognize 77 Minnesota farms as 2025 Century Farms. Qualifying farms have been in continuous family ownership for at least 100 years and are 50 acres or more. Century Farm families receive a commemorative sign, as well as a certificate signed by Minnesota State Fair and Minnesota Farm Bureau presidents and Governor Tim Walz. Since the program began in 1976, more than 11,000 Minnesota farms have been recognized as Century Farms.

Family farms are recognized as a Century Farm when three requirements are met. The farm must be: 1) at least 100 years old according to authentic land records; 2) in continuous family ownership for at least 100 years (continuous residence on the farm is not required); and 3) at least 50 acres and currently be involved in agricultural production.

2025 Century Farm families are listed by county, then by the farm's city or township, family or farm names and year of original purchase:

Becker
Park Rapids - The Homestead of Ferdinand Hensel, 1895

Benton
Foley - Carlson Family Farm, 1894

Blue Earth
Eagle Lake - Frank Family Farm, 1924
Good Thunder - Nathan Ulrich, 1866

Madelia - Gronewold Farming Est. 1925, 1925

Brown
New Ulm - Willard & Dorothy Waibel Family Farm, 1910
Carlton
Kettle River - Pasek Dairy, 1909

Carver
Waconia - EJ RIETZ FAMILY FARM, 1869
Watertown - Vanderlinde Farm, 1885
Watertown - Grandpa Schmidt's Farm, 1925

Clay
Hawley - JDD&K Farm, 1897
Hawley - Grefsrud Farm, 1923

Clearwater
Bagley - Titera/Skala (Jerry), 1925
Bagley - Titera/Skala (Mark), 1925
Clearbrook - The Thompson Farm, 1910
Clearbrook - Engebretson, 1910
Shevlin - Lone Pine Farm, 1912

Cottonwood
Lamberton - Marlene and Harvey Pedersen, 1924
Lamberton - Stavnes Farms, 1898
Sanborn - 343 Farms, Inc., 1906

Dodge
Hayfield - Ray Kylo Farm, 1882

Fillmore
Canton - Duxbury/Jones Farms, 1898
Harmony - Koliha Farms, 1923

Freeborn
Albert Lea - Nelson Family Farm, 1924
Ellendale - Langlie/Baarson, 1902
Hartland - Olson Farms, 1925

Goodhue
Welch - Carlson Family Farm, 1925
Zumbrota - Hoven Family Farms, 1925

Houston
Caledonia - Gavin Farms LLC, 1868

Jackson
Okabena - ATZ FARM, 1925

Kandiyo
Paynesville - Manz-Herding Farm, 1895

Kittson
Kennedy - Ron Fossell Farm, 1925

Lac Qui Parle
Bellingham - Hiepler Farm, 1925
Dawson - Kleva, 1882
Madison - Bauler/Goerger, 1904
Marietta - Kriese Family Farm, 1919

Le Sueur
Le Center - Jindra Family Farms, 1903
Le Sueur - Rolling Acres Farm, 1924

Le Sueur - Krenik Family Farm, 1925
Waterville - Triple T-MDC Farm, 1911

Marshall
Warren - D-J Nelson Farms Inc., 1881

Martin
Fairmont - McNeerney/Maday, 1894
Fairmont - Rodney and Debra Laue Farm, 1894
McLeod
Hutchinson - Howe Holsteins, 1919

Morrison
Pierz - Stangl Family Farm, 1906
Pierz - Tschida Family Farm, 1925

Mower
Grand Meadow - Calkins Farm, 1920

Norman
Ada - Klask Farm, 1925

Olmsted
Rochester - Luhmann Farms, 1925

Otter Tail (East)
Bluffton - Endres Farm, 1904

Pennington
Thief River Falls - Agassiz Acres, 1915

Pine
Hinckley - Sikkink Farms, 1925

Pope

Lowry - Karen R. Tauber Trust, 1892
Villard - Walker, 1925

Redwood
Clements - Rothmeier Family Farm, 1901

Renville
Hector - Thomas Koeberl Farm, 1923
Morton - Donald & Edna Wertish, 1918
Stewart - KurthHaven Farms, 1906

Rice
Montgomery - Pesta Family Farm, 1925

Rock
Hardwick - The Paulson Farm, 1906
Luverne - Kruse, 1918

Roseau
Greenbush - CMK FARMS INC., 1902
Strathcona - Bernat, 1918

Sibley
Arlington - Orlin Kurtzweg, 1887
Winthrop - Johnson Family Farms, 1925

Stearns
Belgrade - Braun Family Farm, 1887
Holdingford - Czeck, 1883
Melrose - Zierden Farm, 1896

Steele

Owatonna - Armstrong Farm, 1896
Owatonna - Partridge Farm, 1905

Swift
Benson - Lake Hassel Lee Farm, 1901
Murdock - Larson, 1886

Todd
Eagle Bend - Nelson Farm, 1919
Osakis - McKindley-Gray, 1917
Waseca
New Richland - Joecks Family Farm, 1925

Waldorf - Gerdt's Family Farm, 1924

Waseca - Eaton Farms, 1880
Information on all Century Farms will be available at the Minnesota Farm Bureau exhibit during the 2025 Minnesota State Fair. A Century Farm database is also available at fbmn.org.

About the Minnesota State Fair: The Minnesota State Fair is one of the largest and best-attended expositions in the world. Showcasing Minnesota's finest agriculture, art and industry, the Great Minnesota Get-Together is 12 Days of Fun Ending Labor Day. The State Fair is financially self-supporting and does not receive government appropriation. Follow along on Facebook, Instagram, Threads, X and TikTok @mnstatefair for year-round updates. The 2025 Minnesota State Fair is Aug. 21 through Labor Day, Sept. 1. Visit mnstatefair.org for more information

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FARM & AGRICULTURE SPECIAL

Country Blooms Greenhouse nurtures plants, persistence

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

When Janesville area resident Amber Ewert learned Mankato’s Hilltop Florist was putting a greenhouse up for auction in 2015 she was delighted. “I always thought it would be fulfilling to grow things for a living,” she remembers.

Many elements were already well placed for following that dream. She and husband Scott owned a piece of country property with a house, barn, and plenty of open space—the former Lemmy Erdman place—along one of Waseca County’s busier roads, County Road 3, going north and south between Janesville and Waldorf.

The easy-access location about 5 miles south of Janesville seemed ideal for the large structure and necessary parking to operate a business. Sales will begin there on Saturday, May 3. Hours of operation will be Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sundays, noon to 5 p.m.

Though it took a few years, the 100-foot by 30-foot structure was re-assembled and covered with the specially fabricated plastic which encloses the space within. Since the greenhouse became operational in 2022, various upgrades and additions have taken place, including adding side vents which open automatically when the temperature inside becomes too warm.

Ewert admits with a smile that,

aside from her love of plants and gardening, she had few qualifications to be the owner and manager of a greenhouse. Fortunately, she says, she’s found advisors and supporters who have provided guidance.

For one, she tells of having visited numerous other greenhouses and asked questions about their operations. She found they were “friendly and willing to share.” Based on their advice, she connected with wholesale suppliers who not only help her find the best possible pricing for items she needs, but act as a clearing house for trends and typical practices as well.

The greenhouse has been a very busy place since early March, when some of the first “plugs” arrived. Ewert explains it is typical practice for retailers like herself to purchase plants as just-emerging seedlings rooted in disks of growth medium. The plugs are then transplanted into appropriately sized containers of potting soil.

The arrival of the spring order is an “all hands on deck” call: Ewert’s children Kendra, 9; Nathan, 8; and Lydia, 6, spend time filling the 1,500 to 2,000 needed pots with soil. Adult family members and helpers including husband Scott, mother-in-law Linda Ewert, mother Gail Bianchi, employee Marlene Johnson and volunteer Teresa Suek insert the plugs and arrange the pots in the greenhouse not only to be watered and cared for over the next couple of

months, but for best display once sales begin.

Ewert visits the greenhouse daily to water and check on the plants as the days lengthen and the weather grows warmer. Her children also visit again to prune plants, a process which encourages them to become bushier prior to sales season. “They like that part,” says Ewert. “They call it giving the plants ‘haircuts.’”

“It brings me satisfaction and joy being in here,” she says of the bright space filled with color and vibrance. “Plants are good company.”

Ewert mentions that alongside the fulfilling elements of operating the greenhouse—working with family, making choices and decisions which bring personal satisfaction and also please customers, growing plants while also growing and improving the business—there are definite challenges.

“I love the greenhouse so much I’m willing to keep rebuilding it,” she says lightheartedly. Twice since she began operations, Ewert describes having to “rebuild” the greenhouse.

“The whole thing is so light,” she says of the structure, “in a strong wind it could just lift up and fly away like a kite.” Because of that, airflow

through the greenhouse must be carefully monitored. While ventilation is needed to keep the temperature from becoming harmfully high, having the vents open in a strong wind could lead to disaster—and has, at least once.

To help protect against that, Ewert installed a system which triggers closing the vents when the wind reaches a selected speed.

But then there are the things not set



Amber Ewert is the owner/operator of Country Blooms greenhouse, located about 5 miles south of Janesville along Country Road 3. The business will be open for sales beginning May 3 with a variety of vegetables, flowers, and potted arrangements.

of precautions can protect against: Last June’s storms which spawned 11 tornadoes also made it necessary for her to replace the special plastic. “It’s part of doing business, I suppose,” Ewert observes.

Customers who visit Country Blooms will find what Ewert describes as a “all the favorites” for their gardens, flowerbeds and containers.

She says she offers bougainvillea because the plants come in such varied colors, drape beautifully in hanging pots, and “because they’re Scott’s favorite.” There are also “a lot of colors of petunias,” and “choices for

different conditions,” including impatiens, lantana, verbena, geraniums and sweet potato ivy.

For the vegetable garden are tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, onions, rhubarb. Herbs available include chives, rosemary, oregano, and more.

Country Blooms will operate daily through the first weekend in June, when most gardeners are finished buying plants and instead busily caring for their gardens.

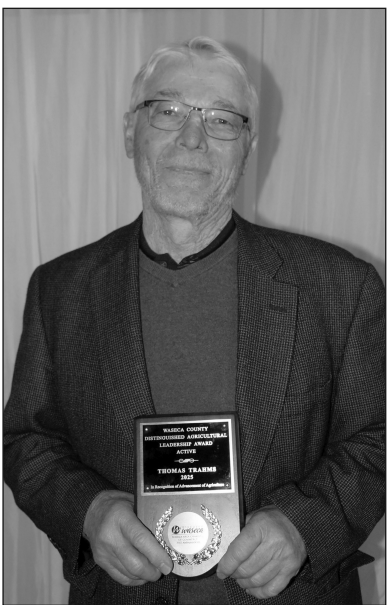
“Everything here is in good shape, ready to go,” Ewert says of her products. “We’re really looking forward to May 3.”

Waseca County Distinguished Agriculture Leader, Tom Trahms

Three significant local awards for leadership in agriculture were presented during the March 20 Farm and City Luncheon at The Mill, sponsored by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce. Tom Trahms was named Waseca County Distinguished Agricultural Leader; Todd Selvik was acknowledged as the county’s Outstanding Young Farmer. Tony and Cassie Schlaak were named Waseca County Farm Family of the Year.

Tom Trahms is with Trams Farm Incorporated, formerly Alfred Trahm’s farm in Alton Township near Janesville. He holds a degree in Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Minnesota, earned in 1984. Trams Farm Inc. specializes in corn, soybeans and hog production. The business has also transitioned from being a farrow-to-finish hog operation to sourcing weanling pigs from a South Dakota Hutterite Colony with over 30,000 hogs being produced annually through contract growers.

Trahms has been a member of the Crystal Valley Cooperative Board of Directors since 2004, having served over time as both vice president and president. During those terms, he helped to oversee significant expansions including grain and fertilizer facilities, a new feed mill and merging with other cooperatives. Crystal Valley farming membership includes up to 2,700 farming operations in 14 counties. Trahms has also served two terms as a member of the University of Minnesota Staff, Recruiting and Operations Center, (SROC) Advisory Committee.



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

Trahms has been a member of the Janesville City Council for 19 years and served as the city’s mayor for 8. He has been a chairman of the Board of Elders and Congregation for Janesville’s Trinity Lutheran Church for 16 years. The numbers add up to 62 elected leadership years, 18 of them as mayor or board chairman. According to Giles Randall, who introduced Trahms at the March 20 event, his work will have a lasting impact on Janesville, southern Minnesota’s ag industry and Crystal Valley.

This event and award was presented by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and the Agribusiness Committee and Ambassadors.



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WASECA COUNTY
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FARM & AGRICULTURE SPECIAL

Drones diversity fieldwork options, create possibilities

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Tenacity Ag dealer Daniel Nelson has a number of drones for agricultural use in the Waseca area. With his family, Nelson farms 3,000 acres of corn and soybeans near Windom, operates three turkey finishing barns, and has a custom spraying business. When it comes to drones, he admits to being something of a convert.

"Five or six years ago I saw a drone at Farmfest and I laughed," he remembers. "I didn't think they could ever be practical for the scale needed in agriculture."

Advancement has been rapid since then, Nelson observes. The largest agricultural drone Tenacity offers at this time is the XAG P150. When set up to be a sprayer, it can carry 18.5 gallons of fluid and deliver it across fields from a height of 12 feet. With batteries which recharge quickly enough to provide continuous operation, Nelson offers the example that a drone can treat a 120-acre field in about two hours.

The P150 drone has a base price of \$42,000; Nelson estimates the typical price of a high-boy at about \$500,000.

Nelson tells of having used two drone sprayers in his custom business last summer. "I had a lot of farmers who booked me to do 40-acre plots," he recalls. "They wanted to see what this new technology could do."

This year, enough of his customers have already arranged to have him spray their whole farms that, he says, he's started "turning away the customers who only want 40 acres."

When it comes to distributing fluids across a planted crop, Nelson explains, farmers have typically had three choices: They can use traditional "pull behind" sprayers hooked to a tractor, they can own or hire a "high-boy," or they can hire an airplane to spray.

Each system has specific strengths and weaknesses.

Most farmers own a "pull-behind" sprayer and can use it whenever they wish. However, the unfortunate collateral damage of crushing a certain percentage of the plants while driving equipment through a field leads to a reduction in yield. Also, the system becomes unusable in cornfields once the plants reach a certain height.

High-boys are expensive either to own or hire. Like the pull-behinds, their tires also damage growing plants, both as they drive down rows and as they turn around at the ends

"I've seen what the future is bringing and I'm glad to be part of it."
— Daniel Nelson

of the field.

Airplane sprayers, Nelson describes, have two down sides. First, they must lift away from the field if there are trees or power lines at the edges. Second, "spraying companies give the farmer a window of two weeks or more, and they come anytime in that window." In other words, spraying often becomes inefficient at field edges, and the farmer has little control over when the chemicals are applied. This can be particularly detrimental in the case of fungicides, Nelson mentions, because those are best delivered shortly after a rainfall or early or late in the day when condensed moisture is on the plants.

Nelson speaks of studies done by Pioneer and Beck's seed companies which show drones can outperform airplane or ground systems when it comes to the distribution of chemicals. "It's not always monumental," he says of the differences found in various studies. "But for the cost and the performance, I believe it's well worth it."

He mentions downdraft from a drone's propellers has been shown to push liquids further into the crops' canopy, leading to better coverage. Farmers who own their drones or who work closely with a custom sprayer can arrange the time liquids are applied. And, of course, drones have what Nelson calls "zero crop interference."

Nelson also brings up the "comfort factor," stating lightheartedly that drones are so autonomous the operator can sit in a lawn chair in the shade and watch as the equipment performs.

"They have obstacle avoidance built in," he says. "Once you turn them on and get them going, they automatically return to the station to refill themselves."

Nelson says those who own drones can transport them using "pickup box rigs" or can choose "elaborate tender units" with tanks for water and product and a generator to recharge batteries on site—a process which can take as little as nine minutes.

When outfitted as a "spreader," Nelson goes on to describe, the P150 drone can take up to 155 pounds of seed in a specially designed hopper. He mentions the possibility of delivering cereal rye, radish or turnip seeds among corn late in the season so the cover crop can begin growing prior to harvest.

Another use for the spreader option, he points out, is to replant drowned out spots in fields—either with soybeans, or with a cover crop to impede weed growth.

Nelson is in the process of expanding his role as a drone dealership, with a new shop under construction near Mountain Lake. Soon, he plans to have a staff member dedicated to customer service and repair and expects to expand his custom spraying as well.

"There are plenty of people waiting to see where this technology goes," he says of using drones in agriculture. "As for me, I've sprayed 4,000 acres. I've seen what the future is bringing and I'm glad to be part of it."

Nelson's branch of Tenacity Ag can be reached by calling 507-831-4072.



TenacityAg dealer Daniel Nelson and his son Benjamin, then 2, watch as a drone approaches. In addition to selling agricultural drones across a wide region that includes Waseca County, Nelson owns a custom spraying business near Windom.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON
PROPOSED COUNTY ROAD NO. 61 REVOCATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Waseca County will conduct a public hearing pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 163.11 for the purpose of receiving oral and/or written comments on the proposed revocation of County Road No. 61 (78th St/ 325th Ave/ 80th St) in St. Mary Township. The public hearing will convene at 7:00 pm, Monday May 19, 2025, at the St. Mary Township Hall, located at the intersection of 90th Street and 350th Avenue.

Persons wishing to make written comment may do so by mailing them to Waseca County Public Works, 1495 5th St SE, PO Box 487, Waseca MN 56093, or by email to jim.kollar@wasecacounty.gov.

Jim Kollar, PE, Waseca County Public Works Director/County Engineer

Publish in the Waseca County Pioneer: April 24, May 1, May 8, May 15

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CITY OF WASECA
PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Waseca Planning Commission will hold public hearings at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS of CITY HALL located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

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

- **VARIANCE REQUEST:** Beth Abraham is requesting the following Variance from § 154.053 of the Municipal Code:

Granting up to thirty-seven percent (37%) impervious surface, whereas the maximum impervious surface allowed is twenty-five percent (25%).

The purpose of this request is to allow for the construction of a new garage. The property is Parcel ID No. 174270310 and is located at 816 3rd Avenue SE. It is currently zoned R-2 (Urban Residential District) and is also within the Shoreland Overlay Zoning District.
- **REZONING REQUEST:** The City of Waseca is requesting the rezoning of Parcel ID No. 170170850, No. 170200850, and No. 170170875 from R-3 (Multi-Family District, Low & Medium Density) to R-2 (Urban Residential District).

The purpose of the request to rezone Parcel No. 170170850 and No. 170200850 is to facilitate the development of the Clearwater Preserve residential subdivision. The purpose of rezoning Parcel No. 170170875 is to avoid spot zoning. The total area of this rezoning request is approximately 62.37 acres.
- **REZONING REQUEST:** The City of Waseca is requesting the rezoning of Parcel ID No. 1744000010, No. 1744000020, and No. 1744000030 from B-2 (Community Retail & Service Business District) to R-4 (Multi-Family District, High Density).

The purpose of this rezoning request is to facilitate the development of residential apartment buildings. The total area of this rezoning request is approximately 4.89 acres.
- **ORDINANCE NO. 1118:** Proposed adoption of Chapter 124: CANNABIS BUSINESSES and proposed text amendments to Chapter 154 of the Municipal Code regarding cannabis business zoning regulations.

Complete copies of the proposed variance, rezonings, and Ordinance No. 1118 are available in the office of the City Clerk located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

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

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

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Thursday, May 1, 2025.

Jon M. Froke
City Planner

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MAY 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7pm HALL BINGO	2 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	5
4	5	6 Burger nite 5-7pm	7 6pm BAR Bingo	8 7pm HALL BINGO VE DAY	9 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	10
11 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your HOST VFW Baseball	12 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	13 Burger nite 5-7pm	14 6pm BAR Bingo	15 7pm HALL BINGO	16 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm YOUR HOST HONOR GUARD & AUXILIARY	17 ARMED FORCES DAY
18	19	20 Burger nite 5-7pm Last one	21 6pm BAR Bingo	22 7pm HALL BINGO	23 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	24
25	26 MEMORIAL DAY	27	28	29	30	31

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SINGLES ACTION — Manning the No. 4 and No. 1 singles slots, respectively, against St. Peter were Allen Kopetzki, left, and Tyler Jellum. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

WHS tennis boys notch key win over St. Peter

The Waseca High School boys’ tennis team remained undefeated for the season and picked up a key Big South Conference victory with a 4-3 decision over St. Peter last Tuesday on the WHS courts.

The Bluejays took an early 3-0 lead with wins at No. 2, 3 and 4 singles.

At No. 2, Henry Hutmier rallied from 4-1 down in the first set to win

7-5, 6-0. Otto Schoenrock won in straight sets at No. 3, 6-2, 6-2, and Allen Kopetzki swept at No. 4, 6-1, 6-1.

The clincher for the Bluejays was at No. 1 doubles, where Armann Bhatti and Keenan Collins outlasted their opponents 4-6, 6-1, 7-5.

The Bluejays’ No. 1 singles player, Tyler Jellum, dropped a hard-fought decision 4-6, 7-4, 6-2.

Tanner Hanson and Lucas McQuery played a close one at No. 2 doubles, falling 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (1). Hanson and McQuery had a 5-2 lead in the third set.

Bryghton Rugger and Braden Hoof were defeated in three sets at No. 3 doubles, 5-7, 6-3, 7-5.

The Bluejays, 6-0, were rained out Monday in key contest at Winona Cotter. They host

Stewartville Thursday, play Saturday at noon at Worthington, host Lake City Monday at 4:30 and New Ulm Tuesday at 4:30.

Minnesota State Boys’ Tennis ratings Class A

1. St. Paul Academy
2. Rock Ridge
3. Pine City

4. Rochester Lourdes
5. Minnewaska
6. Minnehaha Academy
7. Foley
8. Breck
9. Litchfield
10. Winona Cotter

Others to watch: Southwest Christian, Waseca, Mounds Park Academy

Softball Bluejays win 1 of 3

The Waseca High School softball team picked up one win in three games last week.

The Bluejays, 2-6 overall, upended Sibley East 15-7 on the road Monday.

Lily Owens connected three times in five at-bats, scoring three runs and stealing two bases. Madisson Roesler was 3-for-4 with a run and a stolen base, Madison Mader 2-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs.

Siri Kuhns singled, drove in two runs, scored twice and had one stolen base. Hannah Teague had two RBIs and a run, Avery Barto one hit, three walks, five stolen bases and two runs. Kenzie Sandborg also drove in two runs and scored twice.

Adding one hit apiece were Ellery Waldron and Hannah Sommers. Each drove in a run.

Barto earned the pitching win, allowing no earned runs on one hit in two innings. She struck out five and walked two.

Waldron pitched three innings, giving up five earned runs on seven hits. Sommers pitched two innings in relief.

The Bluejays traveled to



PLAYING IN THE RAIN – Waseca’s Lily Owens, left, makes a throw from her shortstop position during the Bluejays’ loss to St. Clair/Mankato Loyola last week. At right, Avery Barto delivers a pitch. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Worthington Tuesday and absorbed an 8-1 loss.

Lauren Grant, Kuhns, Barto and Owens had one hit each. Roessler, Sandborg and Sommers drew walks and Sommers had the lone RBI for Waseca.

Sommers, an eighth-grade left-hander, took the pitching loss. Barto also pitched.

The Bluejays were blown out 24-8 by visiting St. Clair/Mankato Loyola on Thursday.

The Bluejays are in action today

at New Ulm. They host Marshall Saturday in a doubleheader at 12 noon and 1:30. They host Blooming Prairie Monday and Tri-City United Tuesday at 5:30.

Worthington	4-1
New Ulm	3-0
St. Peter	2-1
Fairmont	1-1
Waseca	0-3
Marshall	0-4

Big South Big Standings

JWP baseball team falls to LCWM despite 8-6 hit advantage

The JWP High School baseball team dropped a 5-3 decision to LCWM in a nonconference game Monday, April 21 despite an 8-6 advantage in hits.

Caleb Quast and Gavin Bauer collected two hits apiece to lead the

JWP attack.

The Bulldogs got on the scoreboard after an RBI double by Quast in the third inning.

LCWM took a 4-1 advantage in the top of the fourth, powered by a three-run home run.

Parker Geariety, Quast and Jaxon Wolff drove in one run apiece for the Bulldogs. Bauer stole two bases among five for the day for JWP. The Bulldogs also turned a double play.

The Bulldogs, 3-6 overall and 1-2 in the Gopher Conference, play

Thursday at Randolph at 4:30 and host Maple River Friday at 4:30.

Gopher Conference standings	
Hayfield	4-0
Randolph	4-0
United South Central	3-0
Blooming Prairie	3-1

Triton	2-2
Kenyon-Wanamingo	1-1
Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton	1-2
New Richland-Hartland-Ell-Geneva	0-4
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	0-4
Medford	0-4

A great day at Blooming Prairie

Bulldog track teams take first, second

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School track and field teams had a great day at last Tuesday’s Blooming Prairie Invitational, where the girls finished first and the boys second among eight schools.

Girls’ team standings: JWP 149, St. Clair/Immanuel Lutheran 110, Mankato Loyola/Cleveland 107, Blooming Prairie 92.5, NRHEG 82.5, WEM 79, USC/AC 46, Medford 19.

Ashlynn Wolff and Katie Olson were the lone individual first-place finishers for the Bulldogs, Wolff taking the 400 meters in 1:03.05 and Olson the 200 in 27.59 seconds..

The 4x200 relay team of McKenzie Westphal, Nevaeh Weimert, Katie Olson and Lilly Strauss won with a time of 1:50.46.

The girls took second in the other relays. Brielle Bure, Weimert, Olson and Strauss ran the 4x100 in 52.06. Westphal, Onikia Herme, Wolff and Weimert teamed to clock 4:17.78 in the 4x400. A.Krause, Madeline Hoehn, Kwynn Krause and N.Welveart were second in the 4x800 in 11:29.33.

Other top-six places: Presley James, 2nd, triple jump, 32-4; Weimert, 3rd, triple jump, 29-11.5; Herme, 4th, triple jump, 29-19.5; Aubrey Weedman, 2nd, shot put 33-0; Sarah Bulman, 6th, pole vault, 6-6; Strauss, 2nd, long jump, 15-10 and 3rd, 100, 13.46; Olson, 3rd, long jump, 15-5.5; Wolff, 2nd, high jump, 5-0 and 4th, 200, 28.26; K.Krause, 5th, 400, 1:7.38; Herme, 3rd, 300 hurdles, 52.44; MaKela Westphal, 3rd, 200, 28.25; Ava Appel, 5th, 100 hurdles, 18.65;

The boys’ division was won by Loyola/Cleveland with 140 points, followed by JWP 121.5, USC/AC 109, WEM 89, St. Clair/IL 85, Blooming Prairie 72, NRHEG 45.5, Medford 33.

Finishing first for JWP was Isaac Gahlon, who cleared 11 feet in the pole vault.

Gahlon, Ethan Born, Patrick Morgan and Isaiah Berndt won the 4x200 in 3:41.93. Derek Gustafson, Gavin Weedman, Luke Cahill and Tyson Kronbach won the 4x800 in 9:12.6.

Also placing among the top six: Berndt, 2nd, long jump, 19-5.5 and 2nd, 100, 11.49; Daulton Bauer, 3rd, long jump, 19-0 and 3rd, 200, 23.73; Cahill, 4th, 3200, 11:11.86 and 6th, pole vault, 9-6; Teagan Mulder, 5th, 3200, 11:13.34; Born, 4th, 110 hurdles, 18.73 and 5th, 300 hurdles, 48.5; Weedman, 3rd, triple jump, 37-1; Kronbach, 6th, triple jump, 36-5; Tyson Johnson, 6th, 800, 2:33.86;

The Bulldogs faced extremely tough competition in Saturday’s Lakeville North Mega Meet, where the girls 12th and the boys 14th out of 15 teams.

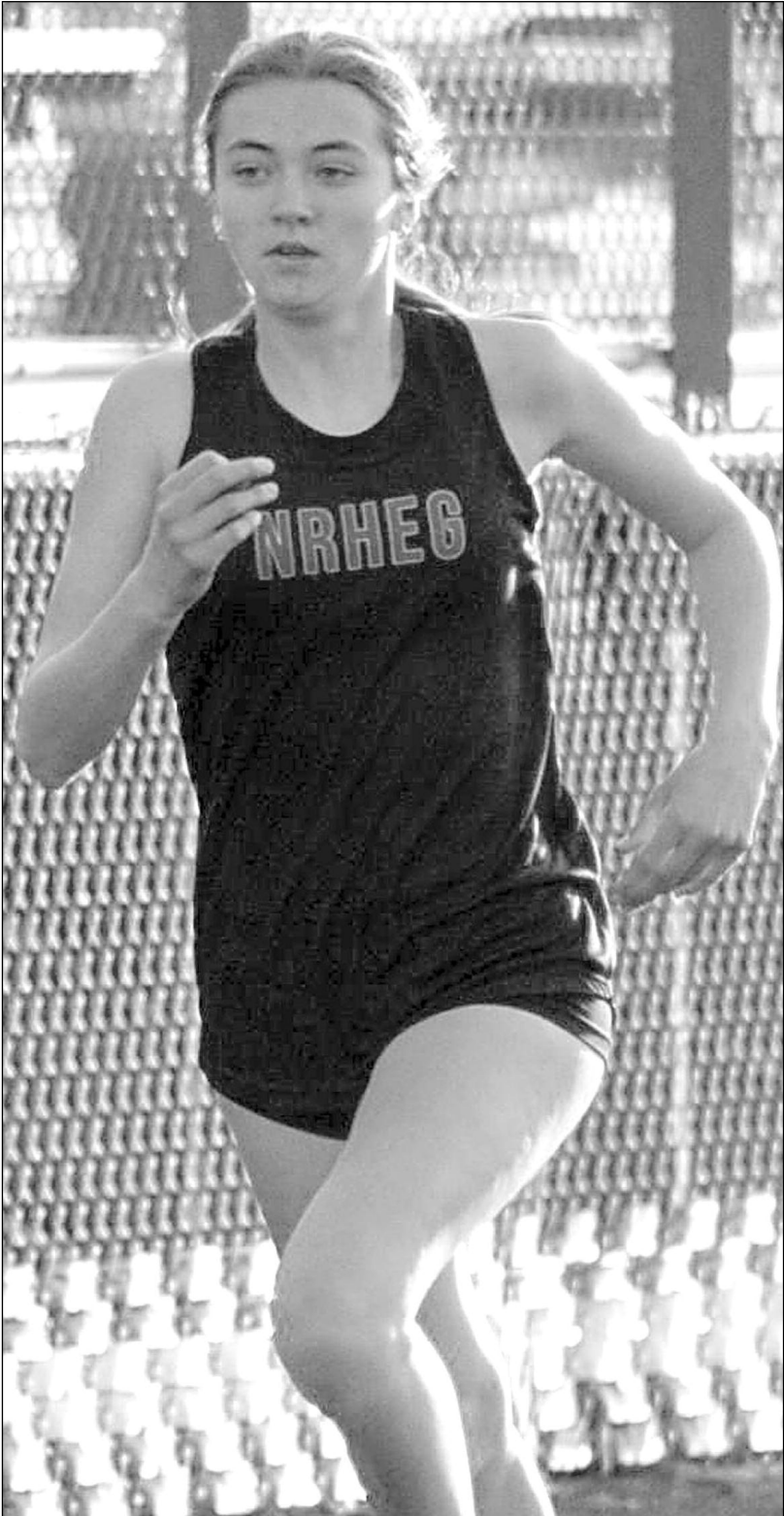
Top-eight finishers for the girls: Wulff, 800, 2:25.29; Strauss, 2nd, long jump, 1607.5; Autumn Thissen, 8th, shot put, 31-4; 4x100 relay, 3rd (Bure, Weimert, Olson, Strauss); 4x200 relay, 8th (Westphal, Weimert, Olson, Strauss).

Boys’ top-eight places: Berndt, 7th, 100, 11.51; Gahlon, 7th, pole vault, 11-6;

After hosting the JWP Invitational Tuesday, the Panthers are at the NRHEG Invitational today at 4:30. They host the Gopher Conference meet Saturday, May 10 at 10 a.m.



RACE PACE — Competing at the Blooming Prairie Invitational for the NRHEG High School track and field teams last week are Lavon Jewison, left, and Peyton Frye.



Photos by Larry Nydegger

Schlaak, Ladlie, Jewison lead NRHEG tracksters

Panthers finish fifth, sixth at Blooming Prairie Invitational

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School track and field teams competed in the Blooming Prairie Invitational Tuesday, April 22.

The girls finished fifth out of eight teams. JWP won with 149 points, followed by St. Clair with 110, Mankato Loyola 107, Blooming Prairie 92.5, NRHEG 82.5, WEM 79, USC 46 and Medford 19.

“We set some season and personal bests tonight,” said NRHEG co-head coach Larry Nydegger.

Among the top performers for the girls were Gabby Schlaak, Anika Ladlie, Juliann Wobbrock and Kylie Olson.

“They continue to be top performers in their respective events,” said Nydegger.

Top-four finishes for the NRHEG girls: Wobbrock, second, 3200, 12:31.1; Schlaak, third, 100-meter hurdles, 17.38 and fourth, 300 hurdles, 52.72; Ladlie, third, high jump, 4-10; Olson, third, shot put, 31-11 and fourth, discus, 86-11; 4x200 relay, third, 1:57.02 (Clara Buendorf, Sierra Misgen, Chloe Riewer, Ladlie); Riewer, fourth, 100, 13.65 and fourth pole vault, 7-0; 4x800 relay, fourth, 23:08 (Sierra Fish, Misgen, Ella Jeno, Wobbrock; 4x400 relay, fourth (Misgen, Buendorf, Morgan Studier, Peyton Frye.

The NRHEG boys finished seventh, behind Loyola with 140, JWP

“There were some personal bests achieved that we can build upon.”

— NRHEG coach Larry Nydegger

121.5, USC 109, WEM 89, St. Clair 85 and Blooming Prairie 72. Medford was eighth with 33 points.

“The guys had a tough go of it tonight with illness and injury keeping some of them from competing,” said Coach Nydegger. “There were some personal bests achieved that we can build upon. Lavon Jewison was impressive at the high jump again, tied for height but taking second based on number of misses.”

Jewison cleared 6 feet for second in the high jump.

Other top-four places: 4x200 relay, third, 1:45.86 (Gavin Lewison, Wyatt Tuttle, Charlie Fuller, Noah Weller); Brendan Schmidt, fourth, pole vault, 9-6; A.J. Deen, fourth, 100, 11.70; 4x100 relay, fourth, 48.58 (Harbor Cromell, Deen, Colton Conroy, Dom Porter).

The Panthers are in action twice this week, Tuesday at JWP and Thursday with the NRHEG Invitational at 4:30.

Baseball Bluejays still looking for first win after five games

It rained last Thursday, and that may have been a good thing for the Waseca High School baseball team.

The Bluejays are still looking for their first win after five games.

Last Tuesday, the Jays faced Worthington in a Big South game at Tink Larson Field in Waseca.

Plenty of umpire calls did not go Waseca’s way and neither did the final score, 7-2 in favor of the visitors.

The Bluejays totaled four hits, one each by Max Wirtz, Colten Ruedy, Owen Honstad and Logan Reger. Wirtz and Honstad scored runs.

Ruedy started on the mound and

took the loss, allowing five earned runs in five hits, with three strikeouts and three walks.

Wirtz went three innings, giving up on earned run on one hit. He walked five and did not record a strikeout. Honstad pitched one inning of scoreless relief.

A week earlier, the Bluejays were edged by Tri-City United 4-3 at Larson Field.

Kaden Garza had a hit and two RBIs. Wirtz, Honstad and Deven Parpart added one hit apiece.

Parpart pitched four innings and took the defeat. He gave up four runs – none earned – on two hits, with four strikeouts and three walks.

Honstad allowed one hit and no runs in three innings.

After a Tuesday game at Belle Plaine, the Bluejays are home Thursday at 5:30 against New Ulm. They have a Saturday doubleheader at Marshall with game times of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. They play Tuesday at 7:30 at Tri-City United.

Big South Big Standings

Fairmont	1-0
New Ulm	3-2
Marshall	2-2
St. Peter	2-2
Worthington	2-2
Waseca	0-2



BRINGING IT – Colten Ruedy releases a pitch against Worthington. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

Fielding woes costly for softball Panthers

Nine errors lead to 4-inning loss

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School softball team had a tough time at Hayfield Thursday, falling 18-3 in four-plus innings.

The Panthers struggled mightily on defense, committing nine errors on the day.

“The girls had been playing great defense the past couple of games, so we’re hoping to get back to that,” said Panthers head coach Wendy Schultz.

On the positive side, Camryn VanMaldeghe and Chloe Stork both went 2-for-2 at the plate. VanMaldeghe three bases and scored two runs. Also hitting safely were Ezra Boerner and Kyera Eustice. Olivia Berg drove in a run and scored a run.

Brooklyn Sommer pitched for the Panthers, allowing seven earned runs on eight hits, with six walks and no strikeouts.

The Panthers struck out four times and did not draw a walk.

The Panthers’ lone lead was 1-1 after one inning. They added one run apiece in the second and third. The Vikings plated four first-inning runs, adding six in the second and

“The girls had been playing great defense the past couple of games.”

— NRHEG coach Wendy Schultz



Stork



VanMaldeghe

eight in the third.

“Hopefully, we can bounce back,” said Coach Schultz.

The Panthers’ Monday game against JWP was rescheduled for May 7.

The Panthers are at home today to



IN THERE – Camryn VanMaldeghe of the NRHEG High School softball team hugs the bag after sliding safely to third. The junior had two hits and two RBIs in last week’s 18-3 loss to Hayfield.

Star Eagle photo by Jim Lutgens

face Kenyon-Wanamingo at 4:30. They play May 8 at 4:30 at Maple River.

Gopher Conference standings

Randolph	5-0
Hayfield	3-0
United South Central	3-0
Kenyon-Wanamingo	3-1
Bethlehem Academy	3-2
Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton	1-1
NRHEG	1-3
Triton	1-3
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	0-3
Blooming Prairie	0-5

JWP softball team tops Madelia, 10-5

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School softball team defeated Madelia 10-5 last Tuesday.

Winning pitcher Ryleigh Donner allowed only five hits and three earned runs while striking out two and walking four.

Offensively, Autumn Thissen went 3-for-3 with a double, three stolen bases and two runs scored. Ellah Oliver was 3-for-4 with two stolen bases and two runs, Donner

2-for-4. Victoria Blomstrom had a double, a walk and a stolen base.

“We put the ball in play today with nine hits,” said JWP head coach Brianne Eldred. “We ran the bases well and we took the bases we needed to put us in position to score. Ryleigh pitched well and we took care of it well enough defensively.”

The Bulldogs, 4-5, host Randolph today at 4:30.

NRHEG baseball team breaks into win column

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School baseball team broke into the win column Friday, defeating visiting Tri-City United 4-2 at Reese Field in New Richland.

The Panthers’ game scheduled for Monday was postponed until Wednesday.

The Panthers, 1-6, host Kenyon-Wanamingo Thursday at 4:30 at Reese Field in New Richland.

Gopher Conference standings

Hayfield	4-0
Randolph	4-0
United South Central	3-0
Blooming Prairie	3-1
Triton	2-2
Kenyon-Wanamingo	1-1
Janesville-Waldorf-Pemb.	1-2
NRHEG	0-4
WEM	0-4
Medford	0-4

Waseca High School Prom • A Night to Remember • Saturday, April 26. 2025



Pioneer photos by Deb Bently



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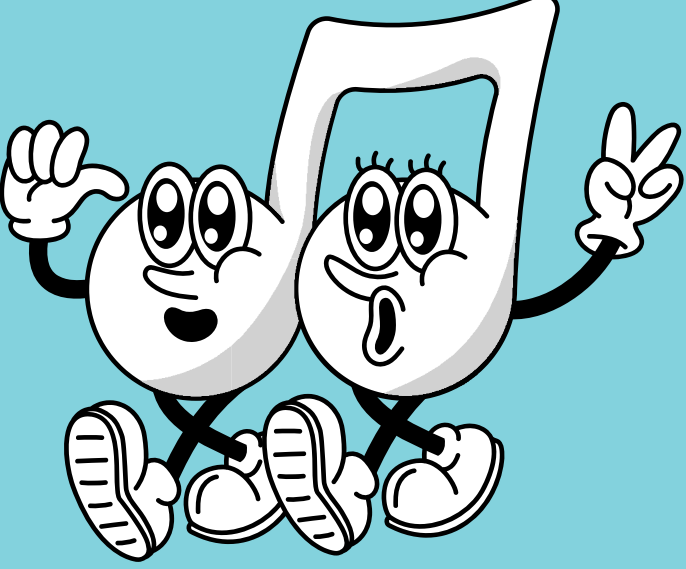
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Deb Wantoch-Yess and John Hoehn

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"Listen to the Music" "Crazy Little Things Called Love" "Jersey Boys Medley"
"Walking on Sunshine" "Over the Rainbow"



SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025
7:00PM AT WASECA H.S.
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

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