



■ Inside:

- 3-4 - Prom
- 5 - Obituaries
- 6-8 - Sports
- 9 - Looking back
- 10 - Church/faith
- 11 - Mental health
- 12 - Mr. Zika
- 13-14 - Prom
- 16 - Waldorf Haven

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 18 Vol. II \$2

Office at 103 South State Street Waseca

Friday, May 5, 2023



■ Inside

Waseca Prom

Waldorf plant sale set for May 13

The Waldorf Petal Pushers Garden Club will hold a plant sale Saturday, May 13 from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Waldorf Community Center. Annual and perennial flowers, tomatoes, succulents, house plants, etc., will be available.

Waldorf Ladies Spring Salad Luncheon May 9

All ladies of the community are invited to attend Ladies Spring Salad Luncheon on Tuesday May 9 at noon at First Lutheran Church of Waldorf. Speaker Julie Tesch will be sharing her "Faith Journey."

Graduation Open house ads available

Celebrate this year's graduates in the paper with a photo and open house announcement. Cost is \$20 for one week or \$30 for two weeks.

Please email news@waseca-countypioneer.com or call 837-6767

Music at the Museum May 7

The Waseca County Historic Museum is hosting a musical event featuring Mary DuShane and Nick Jordan from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 7.

Sponsored by the former Bothy Folk Club of Mankato, the event will include a spicy range of roots music, bluesy old time, and jug band songs. The event is free and open to the public at 315 Second Ave NE in Waseca.

Jeff Yalden to speak on suicide prevention May 11 at Waseca PAC

Nationally known speaker Jeff Yalden will speak to Waseca high school students during the school day on May 11, and then again to the public at 7 p.m.

Margarita Mingle at Mill May 5

The third annual "Margarita Mingle" will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 5.

Salad Luncheon May 5 at 11 a.m.

First Congregational Church is sponsoring a salad luncheon from 11 to 1 on Friday, May 5. Cost is \$12.

The Mill's fifth-year anniversary May 13

The Mill will celebrate its fifth anniversary by bringing back the first band which ever performed at the venue: the Blue Ringers on the evening of Saturday, May 13. Doors open at 7 p.m. No cover charge.

A word from The Word

Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. Preserve my life, for I am godly; save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God. Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all the day.

Psalms 86:1-13

JWP speaker shares harrowing experience

By **MICHAEL ROY**
Editor

Anxiety, depression, and suicide are serious topics that are tough to discuss.

On Thursday, April 27, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton invited speaker Emma Benoit to tackle these mental health topics with JWP students in grades 5-12 along with Trinity Lutheran's students grades 5-8.

Sponsored by Greater Mankato United Way, the program featured a film "My Ascension," which was two hours long and documented Benoit's journey tackling mental health and bringing awareness to it. After the film, those attending were given the chance to submit anonymous questions for Benoit to answer; some were also able to meet with her one-on-one.

The film's name was inspired by the county of Ascension Parish, Louisiana where Benoit was raised.

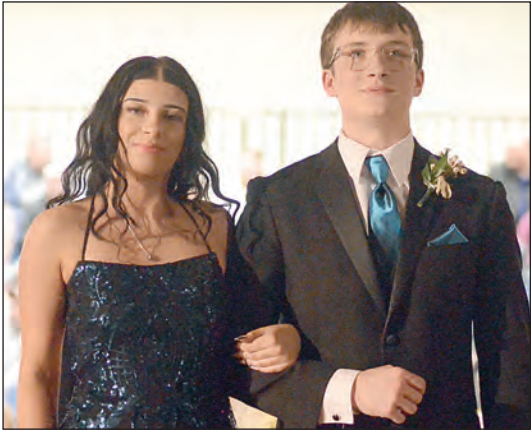
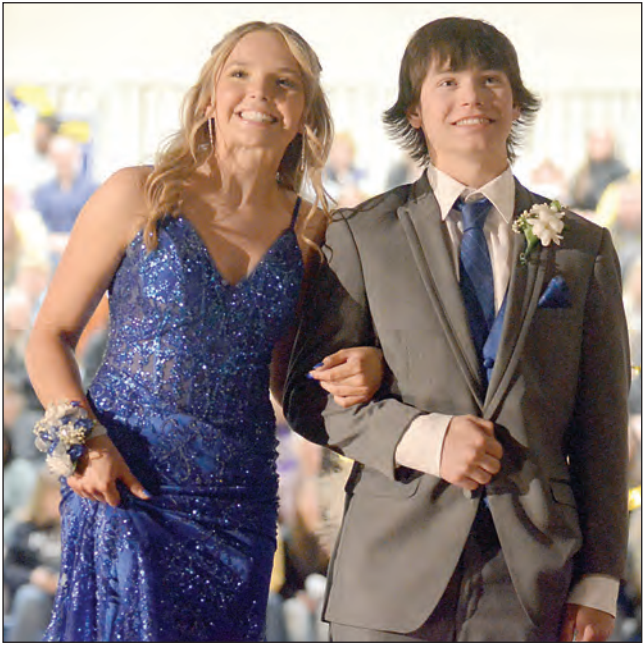
When Benoit was 16, she attempted suicide using a firearm. Although her shot wasn't fatal, she

Speaker continued on 11



Emma Benoit, a survivor of a suicide attempt at 16 years old, spoke to JWP and Trinity Lutheran students about mental health awareness on Thursday, April 27. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

'Midnight Masquerade' Saturday, April 29



A NIGHT TO REMEMBER - A total of 117 couples walked the magic carpet during Waseca prom Saturday, April 29, 2023 in the high school gymnasium. The night's theme was "Midnight Masquerade." Photos of couples walking at Grand March can be found on Pages 3, 4, 13, and 14. All other photos can be found on the Pioneer's Facebook page.

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



Sacred Heart Catholic School Principal Chris Dahle jumps for joy at the school's annual marathon Wednesday, April 26. The school raised \$43,576 by the end of the month, well over its goal of \$35,000.

Sacred Heart exceeds goal

Fundraiser brings in \$43,000

By **MICHAEL ROY**
Editor

For any school district, especially a private one like Sacred Heart Catholic School, it's always important to receive support from the local community. Waseca has provided it in spades.

After setting a fundraising goal of raising \$35,000 by Friday, April 28, as Principal Chris Dahle put it, they didn't only reach the goal—they crushed it.

"We couldn't do it without the help of everyone in our community," he added. "We are so fortunate to have such generous businesses and individuals in Waseca who care about us and the students at Sacred Heart."

Fun-drive continued on 12

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Vandalism at three city parks

By **MICHAEL ROY**
Editor

A report by city manager Carl Sonnenburg that there had been recent vandalism at three Waseca parks led to some heated discussion at the Tuesday May 2 city council meeting.

Most of the damage occurred in restrooms. Clear Lake Park received the worst vandalism; Sonnenburg claimed that the soap dispensers for both bathrooms in the park's beach house were ripped off the walls, with the soap bags ripped and strewn all over the floors.

"Toilet paper was also all over the floor," he added. "It looks like they tried setting it on fire."

Trowbridge Park received similar damage to the men's restroom; a soap dispenser and toilet seat were broken by vandals.

Perhaps the most vulgar act had been done the previous week at Northeast Park, where someone defecated on the floor of the men's restroom.

To "bring a shining light" to the conversation, Sonnenburg shared that, at a cost of about \$7,900, the city is in the process of installing cameras at Lakeview Park. The cameras come from Streamline, a security company out of Waseca, which is providing the cameras and performing the installation.

Sonnenburg pointed out that cameras for University, Northeast, and Trowbridge parks are already included in the city's capital improvement plan for 2024-26. However, he suggested that the recent acts of vandalism may warrant expediting those installations. He informed council members that adding cameras at the three additional parks would bring the total cost to about \$25,000. He talked to the city's financial advisor for recommendations, and it was agreed that since the city saved so much on its road construction projects, a financial amendment would not be needed to move forward with this.

"If the council wouldn't want to do this, my alternate recommendation would be to close the bathrooms and rent port-a-potties," Sonnenburg offered. "But I don't feel like we should close the bathrooms for [nearly all] our citizens because of a few brats."

Council members Jeremy Conrath and John Mansfield were pretty passionate about this topic.

"If it's an issue with juveniles, unfortunately I'm not sure there's much we can do," Conrath said. "Would they be held accountable?"

Council continued on 11



Compostings

by Al Batt
copyright © 2022 by Al Batt

Can the GPS tell me why I'm driving?

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I lost my job, my wife left me, the bank foreclosed on my home and my car was stolen.

You're in a good mood for someone who had suffered through all that.

Well, I'm not going to let one day ruin the entire week.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. In "A Christmas Story," Schwartz triple dog dared Flick to stick his tongue to the school flagpole. I knew no one who admitted to having a tongue stuck on a frozen flagpole until I was working in Hungary. What was I doing in Hungary? I was looking for Hungry Hungry Hippos, of course. Not really. I was field testing binoculars for Zeiss. I'm not sure how we came to talk about that movie, but he admitted his goofy action happened for two reasons: he was a boy and not a smart one. Why did he tell me? He tells everyone.

REMNANTS

A sign in the restroom at The Amboy Cottage Cafe read, "Men, put 25 cents in the jar if you intend on leaving the lid up." Outside the kitchen, a sign read, "Many have eaten here, few have died."

I HEARD

Carolyn Goolsby of Bethel, Alaska, told me that in Bethel, a dog park isn't a place for dogs to play. It's a place where a team of sled dogs is tied.

A woman in a store's aisle by the pain relief shelves: "What part of your body doesn't hurt?"

I'VE LEARNED

Three Dog Knight wasn't a member of King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table.

I love picnics because ants and dirt taste better outdoors.

A GPS is great at telling me how to get somewhere but I need one that will tell me why I'm going there.

BAD JOKE DEPARTMENT

Why do dolphins live in salt water? Because pepper makes them sneeze.

The police department introduces a new roadside sobriety test. A suspected impaired driver must fold a fitted sheet.

A man washed the car with his little son because he couldn't find the sponge.

YOUNG MAIL'S YOUNG MALES

In 1858, a stagecoach dropped the mail in Geneva, where 12-year-old Mike Sheehan of Bath grabbed the mail for Hartland and Freeborn, and walked it to Hartland. He was paid \$.50 a month for

this weekly job. Another youngster picked up Freeborn's mail from Sheehan in Hartland and carried it to Freeborn, also pocketing the princely sum of \$.50 a month.

NATURE NOTES

Earwigs don't make wigs in your ears. An earwig is about 3/4 inch long, with a flat, reddish-brown body, short wings and a pair of strong pinchers (cerci) on the tip of the abdomen. Females have straight-sided forceps while male forceps are strongly curved and larger. They use the forceps-like appendages for defense and courtship. It's a myth that earwigs crawl into the ears of sleeping people and bore into their brains. Earwigs inside the house don't cause harm.

Skunks can spray six times before running out of perfume. It could take them over a week to reload. They don't have a 60-shooter like the pistols used by John Wayne. When I mentioned this on the radio show, Jack May of Mankato said he could hear a skunk saying in Dirty Harry's voice, "I know what you're thinking. 'Did he fire six shots or only five?' Well, to tell you the truth, in all this excitement, I kind of lost track myself ... you've got to ask yourself one question: 'Do I feel lucky?' Well, do ya, punk?"

At fall's end, deciduous trees lose their leaves, but some deciduous trees hold on to their dry, brown leaves throughout the winter. The term for this is marcescence. The abscission layer, an area at the base of the petiole containing a layer of thin-walled cells that break readily allowing leaf drop, doesn't completely form on these trees until spring, which allows them to hold their leaves longer. Marcescence typically occurs on parts of the tree that haven't yet formed flowers and the leaves usually remain on the lower branches. Commonly, trees exhibit marcescence when young, but lose this characteristic when they get older. Many oak trees retain their leaves until they drop them when the new season's leaves develop. One theory is the dried leaves serve as protection for the trees from being eaten by deer because the leaves are low in nutrients and difficult to digest, and/or protects the buds and twigs from frost. Another idea is that when the leaves drop in the spring, there is more organic material available to the tree. Another thought is that the dried leaves are an effective way to trap snow, which leads to more moisture at the base of the tree in spring.

MEETING ADJOURNED

A kind word might not be as welcome as a tax refund, but it lasts longer.

About to begin my twenty-sixth year

This upcoming Saturday will be my 25th birthday. It's crazy to think I've been on this earth for that long.

25 years...a quarter of a century. How do I plan on celebrating it? Well, for starters, I get to cover JWP prom. Yes, I'm working; the news doesn't stop flowing in for my birthday.

I know a lot of people work on their birthday, so this isn't meant as a complaint. After all, I've had a lot of great birthdays.

For instance, I remember my eighteenth vividly. All of my friends and I were hanging out at the AmericInn in St. Peter (where one of my friends visited her father on the weekends). I received a bunch of cool gifts, but the day after turning eighteen is one I'll remember forever:

My senior prom.

In high school, prom wasn't something I ever considered going to. I didn't really have a lot of confidence (even though coming into junior year I was the most fit I ever was in high school), I was socially awkward. Since I couldn't ask my then-girlfriend out to prom (she was a freshman, so she wasn't eligible to go), I wasn't interested in going.

I had decided I would definitely ask someone to prom during my senior year. This determination was



Music to my Ears

by Michael Roy
copyright © 2022 by Michael Roy

based, to a great extent, on the pestering I had gotten from my friends telling me I seriously couldn't leave high school without going to at least one prom.

By the time I had developed the courage to ask, my first choice was already taken. She was the new kid who had arrived during April of my junior year. In my opinion — to steal a few words from a classic rock song — she was terminally pretty. She was also a huge AC/DC fan, despite coming from a heavily Christian family (my understanding is she wore dresses because that's how strict they were). Anyone who knows me knows that any girl who's into classic rock is ten times more attractive to me.

But anyway, I had spent so long dreaming up a cheesy way to pop the question, another guy beat me out. Though I had been warned that fall was the time to get things cemented,

I had not had the intestinal fortitude to ask back then. With me having missed that chance, I was going to have to watch my first choice walk grand march with a different guy.

Next I thought about asking a friend, but ended up asking my then-ex girlfriend (who I started dating again before prom) instead, and she surprisingly said yes.

Needless to say, it was a good time. We had the whole weird couple photo session at her parents' place, my best friend had his photo session with his date. (And her father, who was a veteran, was involved in the photo session, so you can probably imagine what the pictures involving him looked like.) We went out to Lakeview Park for a photo session, and I think we ended up being really early to the grand march.

Once we showed off our style to an audience of hundreds in the high school gym, we went on a boat ride

Buenos dias to Spain, Europe and Teresa

My last "buenos dias" to you all. As this is (sadly) the last column I will be writing abroad, I have in consequence reflected on all that I have learned while being in Madrid for four months and wish to share some of those musings with you.

What's nice about studying abroad is that you are able to learn more not only about the country and culture you are temporarily living in, but you get to learn more about yourself. And I have learned things about myself.

For example, I learned that I'm good at directions. In Minnesota, I could've sworn that I was awful at remembering where places were, let alone how to get to them. I remember having a conversation with my grandma and my cousin; they were talking about Kilkenny and somehow it came up that I did not know where it was in relation to Waseca. Embarrassing, I know. But here in Europe, I am actually really good at directions and knowing where I'm going. I don't need maps to get around and even if I only know the general direction, I am really good at finding it anyway. It's so odd.

Also, I learned that I may be a bit more "free spirited" than I thought before. In reality, it's just me accepting my curious nature, but it's something I've embraced strongly while being here. My friends can attest to



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler
copyright © 2022 by Amelia Roessler

the number of times they've turned around to discover I'm just not there, but have gone off exploring something.

I also learned that my love of castles and antique settings is not fake: Now that I've seen castles and stuff, I still love them strongly. I mean, come on, I bought a sword.

But I learned more about myself here than I ever expected to because I also started going to therapy. The program I'm on offered free therapy. I took them up on that offer because I was curious what therapy is like. I ended up walking away from every session having learned something new about myself. It was great.

I've also learned a lot about Spanish culture, something which I enjoyed very much. The first thing I learned was that the Spanish people are incredibly social. They have very close, tight-knit groups of friends that they hang out with all the time.

When they go drinking, they don't go for the alcohol. Instead, it's an excuse to hang out with friends, which is why shots are practically nonexistent in Spain. As we were told on our first day, Spanish people approach drinking like running a marathon while American people treat drinking like sprinting.

I also learned that Spanish food has little flavor (like spices and such), but most of their food is still pretty good. Some of the "classic Madrid dishes" I find kind of sketchy, but it is what it is. On that note, I learned that I do like eating baby eels, called "angulas." The bread here, though, is absolutely amazing. Someday I will come back to Spain just for the bread. It's possible to buy a 50-cent baguette of fresh bread at any grocery store. I may or may not have eaten an entire one in a single day simply because I couldn't stop.

Ok, European fashion. Fashion here is odd: It's like a hodge-podge of unrelated items. Europeans like unique and colorful pieces of clothing but sometimes, those pieces don't mesh as well as they believe they do; some of their outfits are a bit unsettling. The thing I'm most excited about is to be able to come back and wear sweatshirts without being judged: They are taboo here - how dare I be comfortable and wear a sweatshirt in public.

Anyway, that was a long list of rambling thoughts, but I learned so much here that I can't remember all of it. I just know that this has been an absolutely amazing experience for me and that I am truly grateful for having had the opportunity to come and live, not only in Spain, but also with a Spanish host family. Shout out to Teresa, who is the best host mom I could've asked for.

Until next time, Europe.

My Determination: "All those separate people were a part of my life, strings strung on the frame of *Amelia*, and though they were separate they affected one another and together they would make the music of my life." — Bernard Cornwell, The Last Kingdom

Wishing I could drown my troubles

I was visiting my friend Jake the other day and somehow the conversation ended up on the topic of Jimmy Carter.

In third grade or maybe first grade, I gave a presentation on President Carter. Everyone in the class was asked to pick a president from the list of all presidents at the time and Jimmy, well, that was my dad's nickname. So I went with him. (I remember sitting there, thinking, man, there are a lot of people named Jim, James, and Jimmy, as I read through the list.)

So, for a long time, Jimmy Carter was my favorite president.

None of that was part of this conversation, however.

The conversation was about Carter, his life, his presidency, and his faith. My friend strongly argued/stated that Carter believed his faith, there was no questioning that. And he was personable, sometimes to a fault.

In history class one afternoon, I remember a short lesson about Carter. Towards the end of his first and only term he got upset with something and gave a presidential address that was widely received as the president scorning/giving a talking to, to the public. That wasn't received well, and many people say this cost him his second term.



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens
copyright © 2022 by Eli Lutgens

I remember reading, in elementary school, a lot about the Camp David Accords and was astonished at the amount of running around President Carter did between the leaders of Israel and Egypt. My recollection is that Carter just really wanted them to come to an agreement and both leaders—it seemed to me—finally only did it because they liked Carter. If I remember correctly, there's a comical photo in which Carter pretended to shake hands with both leaders and switched so they ended up shaking hands with each other. Ahh, politics.

For those who don't know, Carter was recently put in hospice care at the age of 98.

So what's new in my world of newsing?

Prom, prom, but wait...more prom.

NRHEG held its prom on Saturday afternoon (grand march) and Waseca held its in the early evening.

I must say, the number of people

complaining about Waseca's prom seemed high. Numerous people told me they found it boring, uneventful, and/or unoriginal. There were also some complaints over the fact there is no after prom party.

With so many kids, I don't know what else Waseca could plan or do. The numbers are just so big.

At NRHEG, back when I was attending school, we went on a riverboat and then somewhere afterwards for "after prom." The cruise included a fancy dinner and dancing. Also, the bus ride included snacks and games. When the night was done, we all arrived back at the high school at about 4 a.m. Then there were more games and prizes before everyone headed home that Sunday morning. It was incredibly eventful and fun.

But that was only about 100 people.

Waseca had about 300.

The Grand March was nice and the lighting was good for photos (for

me) so I have no complaints. Brenda, the prom advisor, even called me the week prior to make sure I could get set up for good photos. Thank you Brenda.

What else happened? Well, Michael has been running around like a madman covering events. My hands are on light duty due to tendonitis affecting my thumbs. Which means little to no writing due to ridiculous amounts of pain.

The rest of my time has been spent talking to folks. One of those conversations yielded the new "briefs" column on the front page announcing upcoming events. The inclusion of said column was dubbed a "5-star addition" by one reader. I basically just took my calendar and copied it onto the front page. Readers looking to participate/contribute are encouraged to email the Pioneer with news of upcoming events/happenings/announcements. Thank you for your continued participation in your local news!

"I have often wanted to drown my troubles, but I can't get my wife to go swimming."

Jimmy Carter

"We must adjust to changing times and still hold to unchanging principles."

Jimmy Carter



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

PHONE: 507-837-6767

email: news@wasecacountypioneer.com
Address: 103 S. State Street

Mail: PO Box 578, Waseca MN 56093

DEADLINES: Pioneer: Noon Tuesday
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

ELI LUTGENS	Publisher
MICHAEL ROY	Editor
JON LUCCA	Production Manager
DEB BENTLY	News Editor
JIM LUTGENS	Sports Editor/Dad
TRISTAN JENSEN	Editorial Assistant
RACHEL LOVERINK	Staff Writer
MELISSA DUNN	Staff Writer
JESSICA LUTGENS	Staff Writer
AMELIA ROESSLER	Staff Writer

Contributing writers/photographers: Chris Schlaak, Santiago Ramirez, Al Batt

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$55 Per Year, Waseca County Residents
\$65 State of Minnesota • \$75 Outside Minnesota

Waseca County Pioneer (USPS permit #25304) is published weekly on Friday, by Pioneer Publications Inc., 103 S. State St., Waseca, MN, 56093. Periodicals Postage at New Richland, MN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to Waseca County Pioneer, P.O. Box 578, Waseca, MN, 56093.

Subscribe to the Pioneer • 837-6767

Waseca High School Prom • Saturday, April 29, 2023



Pioneer photos by
Eli Lutgens

Attending Waseca Prom

Lexi Spielman, Erin Jacobson, Erika Bowers, Avery Madson, Arianna Krogseng, Ella Sexton, Eva Keck, Ava Norland, Maia Bartelt, Grace Lapides, McKenna Miller, Hannah Wilder, Lola Guggisberg, Sophie Farris, Aubree Hansen, Josie Madson, Alex Anhorn, Evelyn O'Brien, Randi Piha, Tricia Cox, Samantha Azure, Logan Bultman, Alivah Barstad, Morgan Honstad, Kendra Young, Katelyn Hodgkins, Veronica Dela Fuente, Leah Bartelt, Kya Hoof, McKyla Hasselquist, Lucia Mansfield, Josie Perrizo, Megan Kanewischer, Brooklyn O'Malley, Ines Sanchez, Cade Kalbow, Leo Harguth, Oliver O'Brien,

Alexander Honstad, Adam Eustice, Alexis Miller, Noah Flom, Ran Cloutier, Ralph Roesler, Joseph Feldkamp, Eli Allen, Branden Busse, David Hodgkins, Tristan Gross, Alison Mumme, Christian Rodriguez, Joshua Wright, Trista Stinehart, Maxwell Wirtz, Jay Wieman, Jenaro Delgado, Samuel Nelson, Payton Garza, Isaac Sipe, Camille Ring, Jakub Eull, Rudy Moncada, Elias Nevalainen, Griffin Krautkremer, Kaelyn Larrabee, Carter Miller, Tristan Godwin, Logan Hansen, Reagan Thompson, Stormie Schmidt, Lilly Droisbach, Jan Schoen, Isabella Hadley, Meghan Callahan, Braelen Budin, Katrina Brekke, Macy Ander-

son, Sage Barnett, Janeli Garcia, Kyrie Walker, Madelyn Malecha, Shanece Brown, Kloe Wadd, Jayme Sandbeck, Sarah Robbins, Lindsey Kopetzki, Hannah Fordham, Cecelia Huttemier, Abbey Titus, Destiny Woitas, Evelyn NyDegger, Haydn Lynch, Alexis Kaus, Teagan Flatau, Bailey Hodgkins, Takara Slattery, Kendall Bowers, Cierra Ingalls, Riley Ruedy, Eustice Raetz, Piper Srp, Olivia Frye, Lexi Kanewischer, Joshua Cummins, Michele Menghini, Xavyer Torres, Timothea Volkmer, Cole Schultz, Kaleb Robeck, Jacob Kehler, Levi Flom, Mason Droog, Mackenzie Hoffman, Kanin Hable, Jaden Wilson,

Ejay Spears, Jared Beranek, Tyson Reger, Jacari Jellum, Eddie Herman, Kamryn Rice, Hailey Dettmer, Lucas Androli, Leah Davis, Corbin Connors, Kedrik Volkmann, Elijah Biehn, Korbin Schumacher, Hunter Myers, Carter Ellis, Keaton Roeker, Benjamin Schoenrock, Connor Bjorling, Chloe Schumacher, Brice Anderson, Ruweida Osoble, Seth Eaton, Jennifer Hernandez, Ava Hansen, Hannah Petersen, Cassie Tuma, Elizabeth Mortensen, Ava Omtvedt, Hannah LeCroix, Cheyenne pilaczynski, Gabriela Lopez, Catrina Headline, Jaydyn Gaul, Ella Bartelt, Caliann Owens, Thyme Lang, Cecelia Bjerke, Elaina Andrs, Aliyah

Taylor, Makenzi Ferch, Quinn Dahle, Stacy Reyna, Savanna Benson, Ella Dufault, Callie Dufault, Sarah Haley, Paige Swenson, Mia Kanewischer, Cherilyn Thissen, Samuel Hyland, Tyler Jellum, Ashley Barrientos, Britney Ross, Kiana Sands, Addison Bomsta, Maria Magana-Torres, Kelsey Tobon, Jack Anderson, Joshua Azure, Thomas Mens, Preston Miller, Gabriel Emery, Joshua Teachout, Eli Wetzel, Mason Jes, Maximilian Neaves, Carter Roemildt, Grace Below, Eduardo Gallegos, Kiera Landrum, Anthony Fette, Ashton Groves, Andrea Herrera, Zachary Theobald, Joseph Adamek, Andrew Robran, Addison

Wieseler, Bobby Mortensen, Cody Vagts, Brandon Jascha, Colten Schroeder, Jayde Donovan, Colton Muntean, Jordyn Sturdivant, Elijah Miller, Charlet Harguth, Jersey Castle, Melanie Quintero, Sydney Kofstad, Bridget Blowers, Josie Von Bank, Isabelle Wilhelmi, Sophia Krause, Emma Allen, Kami Hager, Grady Hoffman, Tayler Williams, Rylie Smith, Jena Androli, Destynie Gomez, Misha Gilomini, Kayley Lindsay, Tayla Schaal, Ava Drake, Hailey Smith, Hannah Thursdale, Jacqlyn Mather, Ahmed Farroog, Logan Bultman, Jordan Sell, Alexis Guse, Jalysa Acevedo, Emma Keith, Haylee Sommers, Riley Myrom.

Waseca High School Prom • Saturday, April 29, 2023



Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



THE SCORPION DEN
SELF DEFENSE & TRAINING

Robert Tackett • 661-616-7026

101 State St South, Waseca MN • The **RED** Alley Door

Serving Waldorf and Surrounding Communities for over 47 years

MCCARTHY OIL LLC



Waste Oil Pickup and Recycling
507-420-7429



JAY'S AUTO SERVICE INC

OWNER
JAY LONGENECKER
507-380-6359
jaysautoserviceinc@gmail.com
228 3rd Ave N, Waldorf, MN 56091





iWealth
Your Dreams Become Our Goals
Planning • Investments • Insurance
507-835-9111 • Waseca
www.iWealth4me.com



FARMERS INSURANCE
TIMOTHY LOONAN
Agency Owner
TIMOTHY LOONAN AGENCY

104 STATE ST N
WASECA, MN 56093
Office: 507-835-5070
Fax: 507-835-5071
Cell/Text: 507-382-4528
tloonan@farmersagent.com
MN Producer LIC 17881



Edina Realty
a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate
Jodie Thompson
REALTOR
507-371-7064
jodiethompson@edinarealty.com
jodiethompson.edinarealty.com



OBITUARIES

Ronald Fuchs

Ronald David Fuchs, age 74 of Waseca, died in the early morning of Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at Oaklawn Rehabilitation Center in Mankato.

Ron was born on November 4, 1948 in Wells to Alvin and Marie (Demmen) Fuchs. He graduated from Wells High School before serving in the United States Navy during the Vietnam Conflict. Ron received several awards during his military service, and was a Purple Heart recipient. After his honorable discharge, Ron attended Albert Lea Vo-Tech where he was trained in mechanical drafting. On November 30, 1968 Ron married Adoris Meyer at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Wells. He went on to work for the E.F. Johnson Company in Waseca before his retirement. Ron enjoyed hunting, fishing, tinkering in the garage, and building things with his grandchildren. He was also known to friends and family to be a master of silicone caulk... and there wasn't much he couldn't "fix". He was a long-time member and former commander of Waseca's Sweet-Sommers VFW Post 1642, and led the effort for hundreds of military funeral honors.

Ron is survived by his wife Adoris of Waseca; two sons, Christopher (Roben) Fuchs of Waseca and Matthew (Cara) Fuchs of Shakopee; three grandchildren, Bella,



Ronald Fuchs

Braden, and Brody Fuchs of Shakopee; and three sisters, Nancy (Larry) Nelson of Freeborn, Linda (Cliff) McGuire of Grand Rapids, and Shirley (David) Fuchs of Conger. He was preceded in death by his grandparents; his parents; and one brother, Kevin Fuchs.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, 2023 at the third street chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Services in Waseca, with Rev. Jillene Gallatin officiating. Visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the service at the funeral home. Interment will follow at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca, and a reception will be held at Sweet-Sommers VFW Post 1642 in Waseca. dsfuneral.com

Helen Guyer Smith

Helen passed away Tuesday, May 2nd at the age of 99, in Seminole, FL. She was the daughter of William and Gena Guyer. She graduated from Waseca High School and received her RN from the School of Nursing at Mayo in Rochester, MN. She continued her nursing career in Rochester and Medford, OR. She retired to Largo, FL with her husband Bill Smith.

Left to survive Helen is her sister, Margaret Hasslen of Waseca. She was preceded in death by her parents, one brother George, and husband Bill.

Burial will be in Illinois with her husband Bill.



Helen Guyer Smith

Third Root brother, William Burchard

By COLBY ROOT
Contributing writer
Introduction

Between January 1942 and December 1972, the Hound Street family of Burchard Bailey Root, (born 1889) and Esther (Gehring) Root (born 1900) was greatly affected by WWII and the conflicts which followed. Of the couple's seven sons, five served in the US military. Of the two who did not, one had died shortly after birth; the other sacrificed his wishes of fighting in Korea to the responsibility of maintaining the home farm during a time of family crisis. In order of age, the brothers are: Vern Russell Root born in 1921, US Navy WWII; Marvin "Hans" "Tiger" Curtis Root, born 1923, US Navy, WWII, Korea, Vietnam; William "Bill" Burchard Root, born 1927, US Navy WWII, US Army Occupation of Germany and Vietnam War; Donald Jack Root, born and died 1928; Orville "Buck" Keith Root, 1931 farmer; Gene "Buzz" Harlan Root born 1933, US Marines, Korean Conflict; and David Wayne Root born 1938, US Navy 1956 to 1959.

William Burchard Root

The third son of Hound Street residents Esther and Burchard Root to sign up for the Navy during WWII was William "Bill" Burchard Root, who turned 18 on February 26, 1945. He signed up just in time to chase his brothers into the Pacific arena and be part of the action. After boot camp, Bill was assigned to serve on the USS Gordonia, a stores ship in the Gulf of Mexico. In June of 1945, it left Mobile Alabama with frozen stores for the fleet in the Pacific. After passing through the Panama Canal, it crossed the Pacific and arrived in Oahu on July 1, 1945.

It is hard to imagine what Bill might have been thinking as his ship docked in Hawaii; his emotions must have been mixed. On one hand he was seeing the exotic place his brother had spoken about while on leave almost a year before. On the other hand, he must have known this was as close as he would get to the Pacific theater of war. Undoubtedly, he already knew that the minute the Gordonia docked, he would be reassigned and sent back to the states rather than continuing on with the USS Gordonia to resupply boats in the Asiatic Pacific Theater. By this time the "Sullivans rule" had become the standard of all branches of the United States Military. Ever since the five Sullivan brothers were simultaneously killed when the USS Juneau went down in the sea battle off Guadalcanal in 1942, brothers were restricted from serving in the same theater of war. Vern and perhaps Hans were already in the Asiatic Pacific Theater. Bill would not be allowed to continue on, even

though his shipmates on the Gordonia would sail forward in ten days for rendezvous with ships in Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Bill was transferred stateside on the very day he arrived in Hawaii. He would serve on the USS Eucalyptus, stationed in San Francisco. To a boy who wanted to follow in his older brothers' footsteps, it must have been disappointing.

The USS Eucalyptus was a net tending ship. In its own right, net tending is a dangerous job. It involves setting metal anti-submarine and anti-torpedo nets around vulnerable vessels, or around entrances to harbors and docks. Bill remained on USS Eucalyptus until he was discharged from the Navy in 1946.

By that time, his two older brothers Vern and Marvin were already home. Vern was starting a family while Marvin tried his hand at the gravel hauling business—a venture which lasted only a few months before he reenlisted in the Navy in 1946. Bill knew of his brothers' exploits during the war.

After his discharge, Bill rented some acreage near the home farm and tried his hand at farming: Perhaps his heart wasn't in it, since by 1949, he too reenlisted. This time he joined the army; the Navy wouldn't give him a level of pay that acknowledges his former service. The Army would. Joining this different branch, however, meant he had to redo boot camp, or as the army calls it, basic training. After that, he was assigned to the town of Bad Kissingen in Bavaria, Germany. Bad Kissingen is near the Fulda Gap on the border with what was then the Soviet occupied zone of Germany. The Western Allies recognized the Fulda Gap as a likely location where the Soviet Union would push tanks and battalions into Western Europe, should they choose to invade. During the Cold War, the region was of significant strategic importance. It is likely Bill was in that area for most of his time in Germany.

Because the National Archive in Saint Louis hadn't provided all Bill's DD 214 forms, he would have resubmitted them each time he re-upped between 1951 and 1964; his family has no record of his movement in Germany. It is known that he worked as a mechanic for the Second Battalion 14 Armored Cavalry for some of that time. It is also known he met and, in 1960, married Karolina Lien of Germany.

Other than that, his history is a blur until he resurfaces in Cam Rand Bay, Vietnam, in March of 1970. On his very last DD 214 (one of only two available for his 20-plus years in the Army) he is recorded as a Sergeant first class (SFC) in Vietnam reenlisting at Cam Rand Bay reenlistment center. Now the story becomes a complete enigma. Without his previous DD 214 forms, there is no way



William 'Bill' Burchard Root
MOMM 3, U.S. NAVY
MSG, U.S. ARMY
WWII, KOREA & VIET NAM

to know how long he was in country prior to reenlisting. On this DD 214, it appears he left Vietnam only six days after reupping and was gone for seventeen months before returning to complete another six months service there. One ex-Army major who was in Vietnam and wishes to remain anonymous, reviewed the document and speculates Bill may have been on special assignment outside of Vietnam—in someplace like Laos or Cambodia. The only other explanation might be that he was back in the United States—which doesn't seem very likely.

The last information about William B. Root's military career is that he retired to the United States Army Reserve on December 31, 1972 in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He had achieved the rank of E8—Master Sergeant.

William Burchard Root died 1996 and is buried in St. Peter Cemetery, New Richland. Part 4 next week.

Editorial Note : The girls of the Root clan were no less patriotic than their brothers and bear mentioning here as their names may be scattered throughout the coming articles: Anita (Root) Jewison born 1922 who quit her job as a beautician to work at a factory making radio equipment for the military during WWII; Barbara (Root) Tolzmann, 1925 who was training to be a teacher at the time of WWII; Nona (Root) Smith, January 1929, who married David Smith a sailor in WWII, and whose son George was wounded in Vietnam; Lola "Odie" (Root) Schroeder Borchert December 1929; Thelma (Root) Yess 1934 who married Orville "Ibb" Yess who served in Korea; Opal (Root) Hofius 1935, who married Charles Hofius, US Army Korea. Opal Hofius, her two sons also served in the military, Donnie Hofius and Chad Hofius.

Sign declared 'waste of tax dollars'

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

The New Richland City Council heard from the owner of a local home during its second meeting of the month on Monday, April 24, regarding a high water bill resulting from a leak in the home. The leak occurred following a frozen pipe after the heat in the home went out, causing a bill of over \$1,000. After some discussion, City Administrator Tony Martens suggested that the owner at least cover the cost of water treatment. The matter was tabled until the next meeting in order to obtain costs of the water treatment and determine what amount the homeowner should pay.

Three resolutions were approved appointing council members to the housing and redevelopment authority of New Richland: Loren Skelton, Randy Lewer, and Gary Korogi, in Resolutions 23-05, 23-06, and 23-07.

This month's Care Center report was submitted in writing due to the illness of Bob Johannsen. The report stated that the March census at the Care Center was about 80%, or 36/45 at the time the report was

written. The center has 17 nursing openings, and celebrations for Nursing Home Week will take place May 15-19.

"March was a good month," the report stated. "Census was steady throughout the month at 38."

It was also noted that the infection transmission rate for Waseca County is low, and staff is currently able to work without masks. Visitors, however, are still asked to wear masks. Multiple grants are being applied for, as well. The report was approved.

The PeopleService report, submitted in writing, was approved after some discussion on plug valves, which were replaced in early April.

The Water and Street report stated that 22 blue cards were delivered in March, resulting in two shut-offs due to lack of payment. Road sweeping has been completed, and weekly maintenance is being done at Legion Field, City Park, City Hall, the city shop, the library, the water plant, and St. Olaf Lake. One part-time applicant was approved pending background check, and the report was ap-

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

proved.

An update on the city's noise ordinance was provided, and following contact with the Minnesota Department of Transportation by Martens, it was discovered that the cost of "vehicle noise laws enforced" would amount to over \$6,000.

"Signs aren't going to stop [the noise]; I think it's a waste of taxpayer dollars," Martens said. "I think the best bet is for the police department to put a little extra enforcement out on the highway."

Martens also stated that signs are not necessary to enforce the noise ordinance, as it is a state statute. A motion was made to approve the cost of the signs, and with no second, it failed to pass.

The council approved an increase to the trash collection fee of \$0.35 per household per month along with a \$25 rent increase at Cedar Point apartments, with the rent increase to be effective July 1. The labor contract discussed in

closed session at the last meeting was approved. The administrator's report was also discussed and approved, and the meeting adjourned just before 7:30 p.m.



DENNIS STEFFEL OMTVEDT
FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICE
109 3RD STREET NE, WASECA, MN 56093
WASECA • JANESVILLE • WATERVILLE

\$300 OFF
ANY SERVICE
Express Lube

1201 State St. N., Waseca, MN 56093
507.833.7667
Mon.-Fri. 8:30-6; Sat. 8:30-3

Specializing in fast, friendly service, with no appointments.
Locally Owned and Operated Since 1997

- Oil Changes
- Air Filters
- Cabin Air Filters
- Serpentine Belts
- Free Engine Light Resets
- Transmission Fluid Changes
- Power Steering Fluid Flush
- Free Antifreeze Testing
- Fuel System Cleaning
- Free Battery Testing



WASECA
FLORAL

Life's Moments Deserve Beautiful Flowers - Let Us Help!

810 N. State St.
Waseca, MN 56093
(507) 835-3790

wasecafloral.com
rickmorris982@gmail.com

Family owned and
operated since 1972

Store Hours
Mon-Fri.....8 AM-6 PM
Sat.....9 AM-5 PM
Sun.....Closed

THE S.H.O.P.

32452 Hwy 13 South
Waseca, MN 56093
507-835-7040

BRIAN HARGUTH

KEITH JOHNSON



Patton, Hoversten & Berg, P.A.
A Professional Association / Attorneys at Law

Waseca
507-835-5240
888-835-5245

Owatonna
507-451-9000
866-451-9010

Janesville
507-234-5106
888-835-5245

Faribault
507-332-7425

www.phblawoffice.com

FEED • SEED • PET FOOD
"NOT JUST A FARM STORE"



CONDON FARM SERVICE
Downtown Waseca

206 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 (507) 835-5533

Holly Harguth

507-835-5533
condonfs@gmail.com

GUARDIAN ENERGY

Guardian Energy
4745 380th Avenue
Janesville, MN 56048
www.guardianNRG.com

Collaboration. Scale. Excellence.

Marianna Mayo
Associate Merchandiser

O: 507-234-5002
C: 507-720-1443
F: 507-234-5011

Marianna.Mayo@guardiannrg.com



In 1998, Monte Larson of Hi-Way 14 Auto and Motor Sports received his First Dollar Award from the Janesville Chamber of Commerce. Pictured from left: Monte Larson, Linda Grisim, Sharon Ewert, Bev Oelke, and John Gardner.

Mr. Basketball finalist at JWP

1923

-While in Waseca Friday morning we happened accidentally to meet Mr. Percy Ward, president of the Farmers National Bank. He said to us that he had just returned from Miami, Fla., where he spent six weeks and where he and Mrs. Ward found delight in viewing the throngs that sweep from the North to that far-famed resort. It was not so much the balmy climate as it was the hurry and rush of the tourists who come from all sections of the North in countless numbers.

-James Moonan was seriously injured in an auto accident Monday evening. He was returning from a trip to Waterville in company with his two children, his brother Andrew and Henry Schafer. When this side of the Joe Miller place and about half a mile from the concrete bridge east of the lake the car became unmanageable. It is inferred that the steering gear broke. The car went over the embankment on the north side of the road and turned over against a tree. Had it not been caught it would probably have rolled over several times, as the embankment is twenty or twenty-five feet high.

-A Spring Music Festival of greater and grander proportions than ever attempted before in this section of the state will be given in Mankato's new Armory seating 2,700 persons on Wednesday and Thursday, May 16th and 17th. On Wednesday evening the Mankato Orpheus Club, composed of 50 of the enterprising young businessmen of that city, will present its annual Spring Concert, an event which alone attracts music lovers from adjoining communities.

1948

-Under a blue sky and amidst apple blossoms and soft music, the Junior Class of Janesville High School held their annual banquet and prom in honor of the 1948 graduating class. Their theme, "Apple Blossom Time," was carried throughout their decorations making the auditorium a very beautiful place.

-Coach Chiodo's high school baseball team got off to a flying start in the Gopher League here Wednesday afternoon by tripping the New Richland Cardinals 5-2. Billy Quast, chucker for Janesville High, had Coach Kraupa's kids at his company by whiffing 13 of New Richland's clubbers. Kelk Scheuneman performed the receiving act in fine style. Denoso, who twirls from the Portside, also performed in good style on the mound for the Cardinals, with Dunnette as his battery mate.

-Over a period of about a year, nine bones believed to have been parts of mastodons 30,000 years or more ago, have been unearthed in a gravel pit east of Austin. One is a tooth, another seems to be the petrified tip of a huge tongue. Latest find is a tusk 59 inches long. Scattered all over the vacant house of a deceased doctor in St. Paul were found fruit jars crammed with currency in various denominations, totaling between \$30,000 and \$50,000.

1973

-As the Argus went to press this week, five local girls have entered the annual Miss Janesville Contest. One will be crowned Miss Janesville at coronation festivities here Saturday, June 16. The entries, all juniors at Janesville High School, are Karen Tietz, daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Fred Wilke; Sheryl Westphal, daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Harold Westphal; Jane Borneke, daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Donald Borneke; Patti Zimmerman, daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Herbert Zimmerman; and Vicki Wolff, daughter of Mr. And Mrs. LeRoy Wolff.

-Vern Walther, Janesville insurance man and real estate agent, has purchased the Janesville Hatchery building on the west corner of Main Street and Second Street. The building was used for chicken hatching until 1969. Since then the hatchery has used it for storage and has loaned part of it to the Janesville Recycling Center. Walther told the Argus that he plans to move his insurance and real estate office into the building after it has been remodeled. The rear of the building will be used for an auto repair shop, managed by Walther's son, Tom.

-Jerry Halverson, a Janesville native, has returned to town to manage the Smoke House. He is in the process of painting and remodeling the Main Street building and will be serving 3.2 beer and hot sandwiches. Halverson, 39, is the son of Mr. And Mrs. Les Halverson of Janesville. For the past 16 years he has been in police work, serving as deputy sheriff in Tuscon, Arizona, and Minnesota cities. His most recent police job was in Marshall.

1998

-After a tough year for testing in 1996, the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School District came through with better than average on the state's Basic Standards testing. In February of this year, students in grades eight and nine were tested on reading and mathematics. Eighty-two percent of the eighth-graders passed the reading test and 84 percent passed mathematics. The district's ninth-graders also scored well with 79 percent passing the reading and 80 percent passing mathematics.

-With the end of the school year just a few weeks away, the National Honor Society's induction ceremony is always certain to leave students with lasting memories. This year the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton chapter expanded its induction ceremony into a banquet for members, parents and teachers on Wednesday, April 29. The induction ceremony, held in the school cafeteria, saw the addition of 17 new members to its chapter.

-A four-run seventh inning propelled the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton baseball team to a Gopher Conference victory on the road. The Bulldogs overcame five errors in the field to bring home a 9-7 victory over Glenville-Emmons at Glenville April 20. JWP, which split with the Wolverines last season, won its second straight game after opening the season with three consecutive losses. G-E fell to 2-2 in conference play, 2-5 for the season.

-Josh Ziemke, four-year varsity performer for the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton boys' basketball team, was one of the five finalists for the coveted Mr. Basketball Award, presented annually to the best boys' basketball player in the state. Joe Przybilla of Monticello, who will play for the Minnesota Gophers next winter, and Darius Lane of Totino-Grace shared the award, which was announced Sunday, April 19, at the 23rd annual awards banquet. Ziemke finished his varsity career as JWP's all-time leading scorer (1,679 points) and rebounder (1,011). He was a four-time Gopher All-Conference and All-Area performer.

Dedication open house for Eustice

Waseca Journal, 1923

-Women from all parts of Waseca County numbering on hundred and fifty attended the second meeting of the County Federation of Women's Clubs, held at Janesville Saturday, April 28. Janesville clubs were hostesses and served a delicious luncheon to their guests at one o'clock. During the luncheon music was furnished by a five piece orchestra.

-It was just twenty-five years ago last Wednesday when Congress declared war on Spain and Captain Walter Childs received orders to organize a company from Waseca County. The company was organized and disbanded after the war and now they are scattered to all ends of the earth. Shortly after the company returned to Waseca they formed the Schaumkessel Camp No. 10, in honor of August Schaumkessel who died in the service.

-With the slogan "Cities Do Not Happen, They Are the Result of Co-operative Building," the drive to put over a live Chamber of Commerce for Waseca began last Monday morning when Dan Weigle arrived in the city to take charge of the campaign. twenty-five hundred cities in the United States have a Chamber of Commerce and the purpose of the drive is to enlist Waseca among these progressive cities.

Waseca Herald, 1948

-Two unions of the E. F. Johnson Company of Waseca have filed notice of the intent to strike with the state conciliation office. It was announced this week. The strike notice was filed on Monday and under the law, there will be a ten day waiting period. The notice was filed by the Local B949, Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and Local 497 of the Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers. Both locals are affiliates of the American Federation of Labor.

-The plans for Waseca's two-day celebration, "Overall Days," are on the way and a general chairman has been chosen to head the committees and the events sponsored by the Senior Chamber of Commerce. William Baker was announced as the general chairman by a steering committee for the celebrating which is composed of Joseph Powell, G.M. Hammerstrom, and Roy Blumenshein.

-William Deef, local contractor, started Tuesday on the construction of a regulation size ring for the Waseca Horse Show which is scheduled for Sunday, June 6. The new ring, which will be one of the best in Minnesota when it is completed, will measure 200 feet by 100 feet and will be located in front of the grandstand at the Waseca County Fairgrounds. It is expected to be completed by the end of the week, weather permitting.

Waseca Daily Journal, 1973

-Over 200 people attended the open house and dedication ceremonies Thursday of "Eustice Center," a school recreation complex at Minnesota Sheriffs' Boy's Ranch at Austin. The school and recreation complex was dedicated to Donald Eustice Waseca in recognition of his untiring efforts to construct many buildings to accommodate the successful program of rehabilitation for youths before they get into more serious trouble. Eustice is president of the association of sheriffs of Minnesota that support the ranch and has held that position for several years.

-The fate of the University of Minnesota Technical College of Waseca now rests in hands of a conference committee. The full Senate Saturday considered the Omnibus Education Bill, which includes the provision from the Education Subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee to phase out the UMW program. No amendment on UMW was offered at the session Saturday afternoon and the bill was passed by a 48-10 margin.

-Jack Cousins has accepted the position of Waseca County Highway Engineer and began work May 1. He is replacing Fred Stenger whose retirement became effective May 1.



PUTTING UP THE NAMEPLATE on the door of the school recreation building at Boy's Ranch in Austin in 1973 was Waseca County Sheriff Donald Eustice. Holding the plate with him is Jim Fischer, director of the school.

Stenger served as the County Highway Engineer for 11 years. Cousins was formerly employed as the County Highway Engineer of Cass County, North Dakota in the Fargo-Moorhead area for 3 1/2 years. Previous to that he served as the Assistant County Engineer in Cass County for five years.

Waseca County News, 1998

-The Janesville City Council passed a moratorium on any further action with leasing or selling the Janesville Nursing Home all related matters until Sept. 1, 1998. Council member Jim Hesch introduced the idea to the council after the city received a letter from Ebenezer Social Ministries (ESM). In the letter, Jamie D. Maddeaux, ESM director of new business development, wrote that ESM does not believe that it would add value to the nursing home or community. ESM's analysis of the Janesville Nursing Home is that it is currently running efficiently and smoothly. "You should indeed be proud of the facility and its efficient operations," Maddeaux wrote.

-While Waseca County has known for several months that it will have a new sheriff after this year's Nov. 4 election, it now knows there will be a race this fall for the post. After Waseca County Sheriff Ed Kubat said he would not seek another term to add to his 16-year run as sheriff, Chief Deputy Leo Nissen said he would campaign for the spot. Now Waseca Police Officer Steven Luther is the second candidate who has announced his intention to run for sheriff.

iff.

-Mike O'Neil is moving his business closer to home, literally. He is relocating Mike's Upholstery, once at 1002 Second St. NW, to a building he constructed next to his home near Hartley Elementary. With the previous location on Second Street being rented out to the Waseca Arts Council, O'Neil said many of his customers have been wondering what will happen to his business. He said he has been planning this move for some time and bought the previous building with the intention of having employees. However, O'Neil's business has taken a slightly different direction.

-Coach Lori Miller and the Waseca softball team are enjoying their current streak much better than the last one. The Lady Jays stretched their winning streak to five consecutive games by winning three games last weekend. The current streak is following a five-game losing streak. Waseca captured its third straight South Central Conference victory by blanking Fairmont 10-0 in five innings.

-Coach Lori Miller and the Waseca softball team are enjoying their current streak much better than the last one. The Lady Jays stretched their winning streak to five consecutive games by winning three games last weekend. The current streak is following a five-game losing streak. Waseca captured its third straight South Central Conference victory by blanking Fairmont 10-0 in five innings.

Largest building contract

1923

-The Hartland village council has found it necessary in order to meet demand for day current to operate the electric light plant three mornings a week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays.

-The largest building contract in New Richland this year will be for the erection of the Trinity Lutheran church. As planned, the building will accommodate 500 people in the church proper and will be the largest church in the village.

-The Waseca high school ball team won the first game of the season at Janesville last week, defeating Janesville by a score of 5 to 2. Only seven innings were played. Harvey Wolter pitched 6 innings and "Peanuts" Miller the 7th. But Webber caught. The Waseca team was to have played here this week, but owing to the death of coach Lang, will be postponed. Coach Lang succumbed to scarlet fever.

-Vernon Smith was shearing sheep for Glen Root one day last week.

-Buttermaker E. Tollin is now the owner of a new Maxwell car.

-J. H. Discher was in town Monday afternoon on business, but he could not resist the temptation of seeing the high school baseball game and he said, "Darned if the boys didn't up a fine game, at least."

1948

-The New Richland High School music organization started their post-war contest activities just where they left off by bringing home four "A's" out of six groups entered. The music contest which was held in Owatonna last Saturday was the first since 1941 to be held in the local music district.

-"Professor How Could You?" a three-act farce by Aune Coulton, will be presented by the senior class on Friday evening, May 10. The cast of characters is as follows: Keats Perry, a young professor, Harvey Laudert;



Ornate bonnets decorate these third graders' heads as they start their annual Easter parade. They are from left, front: Jodi Stadtherr, Mark Parriott, Joell Solberg, Denise Johannsen, Lorna Bauman, Jennifer Flor; middle: Lyndel Lohberger, Thomas Ignaszewski, Laurie Mortenson, Patricia Schuman; back: Jeffrey Boelter, Dean Hintz, Tammy Wenzel, Denise Ferguson, Brenda Frisk, Sandi Peterson and Gretchen Proehl. Their teacher is Miss Leona Crain.

Vicky Randolph, the bane of his life, Marianna Shelp; Grandma Perry, an obliging soul, Ruth Miller; Grandpa Perry, and innocent bystander, Carrell Raymo; John Appleby, a helpful friend, Jack Jensen; Priscilla Marley, a sweet young thing, Marjory Swenson; Tootsie Bean, a plump spinster, Evelyn Haushahn; Battling Bob Bean, her brother, Rodney Zwiener; Valerie Whitman, southern charmer, Donna Hansen; Boggins, the sporting butler, Arlo Dahlager; three young children. -

-Resolutions from organizations throughout the county in favor of hiring an all around year public health nurse for Waseca county will be presented at the next commissioners' meeting.

-Miss Catherine Bruzek, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Bruzek, entertained several friends and classmates Tuesday evening after school at a party in honor of her 12th birthday.

-Mr. and Mrs. Russell Roe and family attended a farewell party at Jensen's Grove Inn Friday evening in honor of Harvey Scholljegerdes who left for the army Monday.

-First skate for 1946 at the Lake-side Roller Rink will take place Sunday, May 5. Rink Located at St. Olaf Lake.

1973

-Sunday evening, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Bethke were visitors at the Alvin Lewer home.

-Dinner guests at the Clarence Lechner home Saturday were Mr. and Mrs. Tom McCarthy and Jeffrey of Waseca.

-The New Richland Red Caps opened their season here last Sunday to the tune of a 10-0 victory over Elysian. Babcock, Hatle and Prescher were on the mound for New Richland. In the hitting department Johnson, Roesler and Schultz led the way.

1998

-New Richland residents were shocked to see an automobile backing north on Broadway with no one behind the wheel last Friday morning. Evidently the automobile had some city business to take care of, for it rolled right down Broadway

and up onto the steps leading into the city hall. The auto was not damaged, but the railing on the south side of the city hall steps had to be removed to allow the vehicle to be extracted from its precarious perch.

-Students of the month for April at the NRHEG elementary school in New Richland were: Kayla Reese, Amanda Wenzel, Marcus Shurson, Clay Krueger, Tyler Schroeder, Betsy Donovan, Colton Eustice, Tori Larson, Kayla Reed, Jennifer Routh, Onika Peterson, Rebecca Morgan and Derek Olson.

-The only girls' track and field team in last Thursday's Panther Relays to earn more than 100 points was the host team. NRHEG claimed the meet with 136 points, followed by Waterville-Elysian-Morristown in second with 95 and Byrono third scoring 92. Shannon Wilker led the Panthers' individual performances as she crossed the finish line first in both the 100 and 200 meter dashes. Stephanie Snyder, Heidi Crabtree and Kim Johnson continue to claim first places in their events.



The Pastor's Column

Preparing to hear God's word

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

I have plans for my yard. My wife, Naomi, wants to be able to grow things in the yard. I want to make it easy on her, which means work for me. Now, about 50%, or more, of the time Naomi reads these articles when they come out, but she is really busy this week with her classroom and the chicks that she hatched with her 3-year-olds. So, I will share my plans with you.

I plan to make her a couple of eight foot by two or so foot raised planting boxes for Mother's Day. In making this plan there is a lot of research I have yet to do, but I have hopes that I can pull it off and give her an awesome present. In my initial research I have found a couple of methods of preparing the soil that would be easy, but at the same time there are some more ideal ways to prepare. No matter what I do though, one of the greatest gifts I can give is to leave it undone and support Naomi as she completes the project and puts in her plants.

My plant projects are a little different than hers. I like to do things uniquely and with very little expectations, so when something happens it is a blessing and if nothing happens that is fine as well. Now I know you aren't reading this to hear about my crazy ideas of planting a pumpkin in a pail or potatoes in straw, but we can talk about that in person sometime if you want. There are a few things that I do know about planting, and it isn't much.

I know that the soil needs to be ready for the seed. There is a parable in Matthew 13 that Jesus teaches the people about soil, in His explanation we gain clarity about the different types of people, represented by soil, who hear the word of God and how they respond.

18 "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means:19 When

anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.20 The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy.21 But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.22 The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.23 But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

I know in reading this passage we are challenged to consider how much fruit we produce through hearing and responding to God's word. I think we need to consider how we approach going to church, or bible study, or in our daily devotions. Are we prepared to hear the word of God? What do we need to set aside to focus on God? How do we pray to prepare our hearts to hear God's words?

Sometimes we inadvertently harden our hearts to what God is saying by just not being ready to hear it. The soil of our soul must be tended to so that it can receive the truth of God's word. God wants to continue to work in your life to see you produce much fruit.

Prepare your soil, hear the word of God, and respond with growth. Be ready to share with others as well, they may not be ready to hear it, but we are called to be faithful in sharing. And above all things, trust that God's word will not return back void, it will produce fruit in the sower or the soil.

A marathon of blessings



Father Thé Hoàng led a prayer before the marathon began.



CRUSHING THE GOAL — The Sacred Heart Catholic School students revealed how much the school had raised as of the day of the marathon Wednesday April 26. They raised \$39,821, nearly \$5,000 more than their goal. Pioneer photos by Michael Roy



After Sacred Heart students sprinted ahead and finished the marathon around Loon Lake, they greeted and high-fived other marathon participants at the finish line.



Sacred Heart principal Chris Dahle, right, grins at the camera as Father Thé Hoàng addresses the crowd.



WHO'S HUNGRY? — Marathon runners enjoyed a nice dinner provided by Sacred Heart school staff and marathon volunteers.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * *	503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * *	6:30 p.m. * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville Father Brian Mulligan 10 a.m. - Mass * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * *	GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 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 * * *	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 Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * *	SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca 507-835-1222 Worsihp Saturday 5:15 p.m., Sun- days 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., weekdays 8:30 a.m. Tues., Wed. and Fri., 7:00 a.m. Thurs. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass * * *	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 Activ- ities, ages 12-18 * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Vacancy Sunday = 1 p.m. Worship * * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays 9 a.m., 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship * * *	REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-607-8245 Sundays 9 and 10:30 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. Confirma- tion; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor Sundays: Sunday School 9 a.m., Bible Study 9:20 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Interhim Pastor Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:00 a.m. Worship * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LU- THERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Vacancy Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * *	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * *	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Pamela Jensen Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METH- ODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * *	NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second sunday "Young at heart" Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.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 * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship * * *	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening		ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC		

PERSONALIZED PRINTING & APPAREL

Barb & Mark Buker
100 S. STATE ST. - WASECA MN
PHONE: (507) 835-7565
INFO@PPRINTWASECA.COM

WE PRINT
BUSINESS CARDS, SIGNS,
BROCHURES, PACKAGING,
MULTIPART FORMS, LABELS,
ENVELOPES, POSTCARDS,
EVENT TICKETS, FLYERS,
ADVERTISING, CARDS,
...AND EVERYTHING ELSE!
& DESIGN



WASECA FLORAL

It's Spring!
(507) 835-3790 wasecafloral.com

**INSURE CAREFULLY,
DREAM FEARLESSLY.**
CALL (507) 835-2770 FOR A
NO-OBLIGATION FREE QUOTE.


American Family Mutual Insurance Company, SI.
American Family Insurance Company.


Matthew R. Petsinger Agency, LLC
Matthew Petsinger, Agent
101 S State St, Waseca
MRPAgencyLLC.com
6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783
006441 - Rev. 11/13 ©2015 - 10793941

School board views standards

By **MICHAEL ROY**
Editor

With American College Testing (ACT) tests and Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) taking place throughout the state, the main topic of discussion at JWP’s School Board meeting Monday, April 17, was finding ways to bring students back to standards set by both the state and the school itself. Two academic subjects considered were art and math, while the board asked how athletic director Paul Brunner would evaluate the athletic standards in his first year.

The school district found out that career and technical education (CTE) classes (for example, welding) may no longer be eligible to count as an art credit for graduation. “Students have to take art, band, or choir to fulfill the one credit towards graduation,” Superintendent Jeremy Erler informed the board. “We’ll have time to make sure this year’s juniors have it in their schedule if they haven’t already fulfilled the credit.”

The district is also out of compliance with the state’s art requirements for elementary students. The state requires all schools to offer at least three (and require two) of the five arts areas from grades K-12: dance, media arts, music, theater, and visual arts. While the high school is more than compliant, the elementary school only offers music.

Because of this, one thing figured into budget assumptions for next school year was the potential of hiring an elementary art teacher. “We may need to do this to be in compliance,” Erler said.

During this discussion, board member Laura Seys asked Erler about how Brunner was conducting evaluations with the sports teams. Erler explained that Brunner prepares summaries of students’ assessments, but not parents’.

“He wants to know from the athletes about what and how the coaches are doing,” he elaborated. “Sometimes, parents may be biased. That’s why he wants the facts from the kids.”

Erler then talked about having a math interventionist. Ryan Luedtke, one of the districts’ high school math teachers, was asked to provide information on what the mathematics department’s days look like and how the position of a math teacher has evolved over the years.

The superintendent then provided the school board with a sheet comparing grades from all four quarters of the 2021-22 school year and the first two quarters of the 2022-23 school year. (Third quarter grades were not made available.) When comparing the first quarters of 2021 and 2022, grades showed a twenty-one percent improvement, which some board members thought was positive.

However, board member Kevin Born asked whether the numbers included student performance on standardized testing. When told no, he then pointed out that most students showed a decline in

JWP SCHOOL BOARD

grades between quarters one and two of this school year. Fellow member Joan Olson explained that it’s hard to tell why that was. “There could be harder material in the second quarter that they don’t understand,” she reasoned.

However, Born indicated that comparing quarters between 2021-22 and 2022-23 was insufficient, since part of the 2021-22 school year was hindered by Covid-19 and state regulations. “You can’t manage what you can’t measure,” he said. “If these measurements aren’t helping us other than giving us feel-good gains between Covid and today, we need better.”

He added that he was all for interventions, calling them “imperative.”

“The other problem is, last year’s tests would not have shown any value.”

Seys said she wanted to make sure the school was working to help learners who had failed during the previous year. “I want to make sure we catch people who getting failing grades in class before end up with a failing quarter grade. We need to work with them before, not just after.”

Born argued that the district shouldn’t help only those who are failing, but also those who are showing success, but could be doing better. “My kid gets a B+ or an A- in math; he’d fail in college math,” he shared. “During Covid, grades meant nothing. The kids didn’t actually know how to do it.”

Board member Tim Oelke felt like the issue goes deeper than a lack of reliable data because of Covid. “We have four math teachers, and the students are required to take three classes to graduate,” he pointed out. “Why are we having this many students fall behind? Why can’t the teachers help them? They’re the first line besides the parents. We’re throwing a bandaid on a big hole, and it’s a deeper thing we need to look at.”

The practice of standardized testing has also been a sore spot for the school. Student council representative Zach Groh was asked how the students were feeling about the ACTs. “There’s a lot of lack of motivation between students,” he replied. “The way the ACT is structured, ten will finish a section within the first ten minutes of the test.”

Erler added that students can opt out of the test, which hurts schools in the eyes of the state. “ACTs are no longer required to get into a state college,” he added. “Decisions are based more on class rank and GPA.”

Whatever the solution is to bring standards back to what they were while complying with the state, it’s apparent that this issue goes beyond the JWP school district; schools all over the country are having difficulty.

Yalden to speak at WHS on May 11

Free Flags for Vets is proud to organize a community event highlighting mental health and suicide awareness with Jeff Yalden at our local Waseca High School on May 11. Yalden will have 3 speaking engagements throughout the day, one for the faculty and staff in the morning, one for the students in the afternoon and one for the entire community at 7p.m. All engagements will be in the high school performing arts center. After the event, an informal meet and greet with refreshments will take place in the front visitor parking area.

It is well known that many mental health challenges are on the rise. In 2020, suicide was the second leading cause of death for youth between the ages of 10 to 14 and also for young adults between the ages of 25 to 34. It was the third leading cause of death for young adults between the ages of 15 to 24. Unintentional injuries (accidents) were the number 1 cause. This event is intended to bring mental health issues out into the light and make difficult discussions normal and easy, as they should be. We take a day off of work or school when we are feeling ill or get injured. Emotional and wellness days are just as important. No one can predict when they will be sick or injured, just as no one can predict when they may feel overstressed or have anxiety. It happens and it is normal. How we react to those emotions is the key to good mental health and well-being.

The pain and suffering from self-destructive behaviors and suicide affects everyone in the community. Everyone. It takes a whole support team to help individuals learn how to identify and manage these actions. Parents, siblings, teachers,

Coming Soon

WASECA HS PAC

Speaking to Students During the Day
Parents & Community 7pm (FREE to the Public)

Since 1992, Jeff Yalden has traveled to 50 states and 49 countries working with school communities. He’s a 4X bestselling author, TEDx speaker, Teen Mental Health and Crisis Intervention Expert. From 2005-2012, Jeff was a Celebrity Teen and Family Life Coach on MTV’s EMMY Award winning hit reality show television show MADE. He’s a Gulf War Veteran and a two-time Marine-of-the-Year recipient (1991-1992). Get ready for an engaging, compassionate speaker who is real and heartfelt in his messages “About Life and Self” to audiences worldwide. Jeff is a yogi, avid golfer, and resides in Jacksonville, FL with his English Bulldog, Sugar Bear where he is a psychology teacher at a local high school.

For more information, please visit www.JeffYalden.com.

counselors, family members, children and friends can all help. The first step is to CHECK your own emotions and recognize that there are issues, CALL someone you trust to let them know how you are feeling and to help identify those issues, CARE for your own mental health and well-being by following the advice of professionals and CONTROL what you can control to promote good mental health. Well known healthy choices—for example, a nutritious diet, regular exercise, consistent rest, and keeping a balance between work and social time—will also benefit mental health. Try to keep yourself busy in a positive way. If you remain isolated, you may hyper-focus and exacerbate negative issues, leading to a “vicious circle.”

For some, mental health issues are a stigma and persons suffering may not want to seek help out of fear of looking weak or incapable. No one wants to be labeled as “crazy.” These terms are not even close to how someone with too much stress or anxiety feels. It is normal to have some stress, some anxiety. When these emotions become overwhelming, we need a little help. Mr. Robert Tackett, who spoke at the high school’s last Veteran’s Day event says, “You can’t fight an enemy you cannot name. State the difficulty out loud and then you and your support team can begin to understand the issue. Once you understand it, you can take the steps to protect yourself from it.”

Jeremiah Miller with Free Flags for Vets, a local non-profit group, is partnering up with other local veteran organizations to bring mental health expert

Yalden to our quiet community for the entire day and half the evening. As a troubled youth himself and a former Marine, Yalden knows first-hand the issues facing our youth, our veterans and our community. He is well-versed in getting through to the individual, their family and their support team. Proud sponsors of the community event are Invisible Wounds Project, Operation 23 to 0, 23rd Veteran, DAV, CVSO, Owatonna Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, Waseca County Public Health Dept, Owatonna’s Open Arms Suicide Prevention, Christ Community Church and the Combat Veteran’s Motorcycle Association.

After the event, local food trucks will be on hand for refreshments and an informal meet and greet, where community members can sit around and visit, gather resources and other information to better protect themselves and their loved ones from this devastating enemy.

If you or someone you know feels the need to talk to someone. Please call or text: 9-8-8 the National Suicide and Crisis Hotline, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Lifeline provides confidential support to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. Support is also available via Live Chat. Para ayadu en espanol, llame al 9-8-8.

No one knows better than our veterans how difficult it is to discuss this topic. Miller and Free Flags for Vets wants everyone to know that “We got your six. Do not hesitate to reach out in your time of need. Call on us and we will answer.”

Free artist workshops in May

Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council is sponsoring a series of three free Artist Workshops on Tuesday nights 6 to 8 p.m. at the 410 Project, 523 South Front Street, Mankato. Topics are May 2 “Artist Marketing”; May 16 “Pricing; and June 6 “Engaging Customers and Selling Your Work.” Dana Sikkila, executive director of the 410 Project, will present each workshop, all of which are funded by the McKnight Foundation in Minneapolis. Anyone interested in registering may do so by emailing plrac@hickorytech.net to register; new artists are encouraged to attend.

Dana Sikkila is a Minnesota-based interdisciplinary maker and creator. At just 37 years old, Sikkila has been named one of the most well-known creative leaders of Southern Minnesota. Known for her social practice

and activism programs, creative consulting, public speaking, and her theory development within creative curriculae, Sikkila’s practices span from working in communities ranging from rural to the Twin Cities. Her self-defining administration style has bridged the gap between arts creation and administration, developing numerous grassroots cultural projects and exhibitions throughout the state.

Artist Professional Mid-Career Grants of \$3,000 are available; application deadline is October 1. A Professional Mid-Career Artist’s professional achievement includes, but is not limited to, juried exhibitions, performances, and publications. Eligible artists are beyond the “emerging” stage in their careers. They have proven to be deeply engaged in their art form and may be

ready to take a new “leap” in their career. Prairie Lakes encourages artists who are black, indigenous people of color (BIPOC) or LGBTQ+ to apply, as well as artists with disabilities. A grant writing workshop will be presented at 6:00 p.m. each night by Cindy Lewer, Prairie Lakes Program Manager.

Prairie Lakes can help artists and leaders find access to grant funding from a variety of sources, with deadlines approaching in July, August, October, and next March. Organizations and individuals can access applications online; organizations may apply once per year for a grant. Prairie Lakes is encouraging arts projects for cultural activities and underserved populations as identified in our Equity and Inclusion Policy. This includes BIPOC, economically dis-

advantaged, youth, senior citizens, people with disabilities and LGBTQ+. Anyone with questions should contact the Prairie Lakes office in Waseca, 1-800-298-1254 or plrac@hickorytech.net.

Annually, the arts council awards more than 200 grants to artists, non-profit arts organizations, community groups, and for youth scholarships; In fiscal year 2023, the organization awarded more than \$450,000. A monthly newsletter and calendar of arts events in the nine-county area is posted on the group’s website www.plrac.org.

The Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council is committed to supporting and expanding the arts in the nine-county area; knowing that the Arts improve the quality of life in our region. We serve a nine-county area including Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca, and Watonwan Counties.

■ Speaker

from Page 1

would have died had it not been for her mother finding her in the house and calling 911 right away. The shot, however, paralyzed her, leaving her with what doctors estimated at a one percent chance of ever walking again; Today, about five years later, she can walk with some assistance, but most of the time, she uses a wheelchair.

According to her testimony in the film “My Ascension,” she spent most of her senior year either learning from home or visiting the hospital. She did join her graduating class when receiving her high school diploma from Dutch Town High School.

Benoit suffers from anxiety and depression. Her suicide attempt inspired her to bring more awareness

to mental health and to break the stigma of talking about it.

“Many people never suspected me because I seemed fine on the outside,” Benoit said in the film. “But on the inside, I was dying.”

She admitted that she also was afraid to tell her parents about her anxiety and depression. “I thought they would be disappointed in me,” she said. “They were afraid, and parents are going to be afraid because they care about you.”

She visited with Louisiana State University professors to learn more about the science behind depression and anxiety, choosing to become a speaker in the process. She felt a calling to share her story and help those facing their own battles with mental health.

At a rally for Mental Health Awareness Month, Benoit met Karyn Poche, who was going through her own battle with depression. Sadly, Poche died from suicide shortly after, prompting Benoit to visit her hometown school in Lutchter, Louisiana.

■ Council

from Page 1

“It’s a tough issue, and we might not get help on the state level,” he continued. “The state needs to stop giving them ‘get out of jail for free’ cards. Defecating in a bathroom? That’s disgusting. There are videos out there of kids stealing cars and they think they’re funny. And we don’t get to hold them accountable because the lawmakers at the state

level are a joke.”

Mansfield stated similar sentiments. In a figure of speech, he said, “You can’t throw tomatoes at someone for a day for destroying public property anymore.

“I’m just saying there needs to be accountability. The judicial system is not inclined to do that. If we can identify them...what will happen? Nothing?”

He continued, “This is public property, something for the public good being destroyed. At least with the cameras, we can identify who did it. We can warn people to watch a certain person if they’re caught on

camera. It’s like a neighborhood watch, but that’s where we are in society right now.”

Mayor Randy Zimmerman asked about the police department’s opinion on getting these cameras, to which everyone responded that they would take any help they get in capturing vandals.

“It’s another tool for them,” council member Stacey Schroeder pointed out.

A subtopic of the vandalism was the need to look at the city code concerning trespassing. “It won’t be as simple as last time,” Sonnenburg said.

only you there is.”

Pastor Bjornstad concurred, adding that he and the staff at Trinity Lutheran want the school and church to be a “safe, loving community.”

Strunk knew a person in high school who dealt with depression. “I became his person to come to in times of trouble,” she said. “I still am today, and I am thankful he is still here with us.”

Warner said that, as a social worker, she understands that students may be scared to talk with her. “Some may be afraid of what will happen to them if they talk to us,” she said. “But we’re here for you. We care about you. Our doors are always open.”

During the Q&A session, Benoit wrapped it up best. Concerning dealing with depression if a therapist isn’t working out, she said, “It’s something you won’t fix overnight. You have to work on it and put in the time. It isn’t easy, but I’ve been working on it and have never been happier.”

Council member Daren Arndt agreed. “We need to get to our trespassing code immediately,” he said.

The council agreed to look into possibly getting the security cameras for University, Trowbridge, and Northeast Parks as soon as possible. Sonnenburg admitted that there was no definite time or a final price until the city committed to ordering the cameras.

“The prices for cameras haven’t skyrocketed so far,” he assured the council. “And I’d like to get the ball rolling sooner rather than later.”

DRS. AKRE & CLARK
FAMILY EYE CARE

\$75 Off

Can't be combined with any other offerers or insurance plans. Valid May 1st - 31st, 2023

1715 S. Broadway
New Ulm, MN 56073
507-354-8531

623 W. Rook St
Springfield, MN 56087
507-723-2020

1111 2nd St. NE
Waseca, MN 56093
507-835-2020

50% Off

Any additional pairs

Season high



Destiny Woitas, a Waseca student who participates on the JWP/Waseca Blue dog Bowling team, bowled a season high 178 this week at Janesville Bowl. She bowled at the MSHSL State Qualifier on Thursday in the singles competition, as well as the doubles competition.

Suicide Prevention will be focus at May 11 event

By MICHAEL ROY Editor

Mental health is always a topic that's uncomfortable, almost taboo to talk about.

But many local communities are hoping to overcome that discomfort to facilitate real conversations.

On Thursday, May 11, the Waseca High School will be hosting speaker Jeff Yalden throughout the day.

Originally from Florida, Yalden is a teen mental health and suicide prevention expert of nearly thirty years. He is mainly a youth motivational speaker and, as part of his day on May 11, he will be speaking to the high school faculty and students in separate sessions.

Later on in the day, event sponsor Free Flags for Vets wants to "Pack the PAC" with an open community event from 7-9 p.m. in the high school performing arts center. This part of the event is free and open to the public and will include area organizations

which share a common goal of bringing attention to mental health and preventing suicides; Free Flags for Vets, for example, has a mission to bring awareness to the ever-increasing rates of suicides among military veterans.

"You may not be dealing with mental health problems yourself, but chances are you might know someone who is," Free Flags for Vets founder Jeremiah Miller said.

As part of the May 11 event, everyone throughout Waseca County is encouraged to "green out," or wear green, the color for "Mental Health Awareness Month" this May. Local businesses will distribute green ribbons people can wear to show support for mental health.

"We want to raise awareness of the importance of mental wellness," said Grace Lutheran Church Pastor Jillene Gallatin.

The county-wide green out is sponsored by the Waseca County Suicide Prevention Cohort.

■ Fun-drive from Page 1

By the end of Friday, April 28, the school had raised \$43,756, nearly \$10,000. The amount was not only more than their goal, but also more than \$20,000 over the amount they raised last year.

Every year, the school starts a fundraiser in April, leading up to its annual marathon. Students accompany teachers to businesses to try and gain financial support; students also work hard to get pledges from family and friends. Although Dahle or the school staff couldn't recall how long the school had been doing the marathon, he knows that it's been a fundraising effort for the school for "a very long time."

By April 14, halfway into the fundraising campaign, the students had raised \$12,000. Not even a week later, they were at \$29,000. Pledges from churchgoers at Sacred Heart Catholic Church as well as sponsorships from businesses like the Mill, Alee Services, Ameriprise Financial, and American Family Insurance helped them more than fulfill their goal.

To celebrate different milestones, various teachers were pried in the face throughout the month of April to keep the morale of students high.

The marathon, which took place on Wednesday, April 26, was a 2.5 mile walk around Loon Lake starting on the Doodlebug Trail.

Waseca's Knights of Columbus were stationed around the lake to guide people (especially the children who sprinted ahead) in the right direction.

"They're here to protect us," Dahle told the crowd. "I think that's pretty cool."

By the time everyone was prepared to walk, Dahle announced the students had raised nearly \$40,000, shattering their \$35,000 goal.

Father Th   Ho  ng, who led the prayer before the walk, gave thanks to all the pledgers, business, volunteers, school staff, and everyone in Waseca for their generosity during the fundraiser. "We thank God every day for how fortunate we are," he said. "Thank you all for supporting our students, our school, and our Catholic community."

After the marathon, hundreds of participants enjoyed a hot dog meal with homemade baked goods provided by the school with the help of volunteers, many of them either parents or grandparents of Sacred Heart students. Cornhole and hula hoops were among the marathon activities for children looking to burn more energy.

The well-known saying claims it takes a village. The statement rings true for smaller, private parochial schools such as Sacred Heart.

"Our students put in a lot of work every year to get pledges for our school," Dahle said. "We are thankful for their willingness to help keep this school here in Waseca."

Keeping it clean for Earth Day 2023

Earth Day is celebrated worldwide on April 22: Its theme is global protection. It was first held in 1970 and includes more than a billion people in more than 193 countries investing in our planet. The Pioneer had an article in the last edition sharing information about the annual lakes and parks cleanup projects completed as part of our local Earth Day observance. I was a participant and would like to write about my experience.

As I was leaving to help with the food at Maplewood Park, I observed a dozen people, young and old, picking up garbage at the Northeast Waseca Park. After completing their work at assigned locations, participants report back to Maplewood for a lunch provided by the Waseca Lakes Association. It's a first-class meal: hot dogs, chips, beverages, and even pizza for the kids.

Aaron Kanewischer and Duane Rathman from the Association have the grill fired up and food waiting for hungry participants. It was a cold, windy day and the fireplace in the girl scout pavilion was blazing, making the room a welcoming place for people to warm up. I served hot dogs with Joan Mooney from the historical society and we had a great time



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika

copyright   2022 by Dave Zika

visiting with adults and youngsters.

Many families and adults have participated in this event for years and look forward to April. 22 every spring. If you are looking to make a contribution on Earth Day and have a great time as well, report to Maplewood Park next April. See you there!

Clear Lake is now free of ice, and its clear water is now a beautiful shade of blue; no litter washed up on shore on the beaches. Every spring, Marty Hofmeister and a group from Minnesota Southern Lakes Angling and Spearing Association mount their four-wheelers and pick up all the garbage on the ice just before ice out. If you have kids who enjoy fishing, check out the annual kids fishing day sponsored by the Association at Clear Lake in early June.

Off the beaten topic, we had a visit with our neighbor Violet Yerhot. A

lovely woman who served us flavored coffee, a homemade blueberry muffin, and a fruit cup on her fine china. It was delicious!

Our conversations were all over the place. One topic was our favorite sounds; tough one. We thought deeply. Violet's was listening to the rhythm of a gentle, peaceful, falling rain. Lisa's was the sound of silence. No sound, just a gentle fresh breeze blowing in your face. Mine was the sound of church bells ringing in the distance on Sunday morning; also the soft, peaceful cooing of the morning side.

I took the question to a couple of friends over breakfast at the Pheasant. Jay Nicolin lives on Clear Lake. He enjoys waking up to the call of a loon on the lake; also the special chatter of a red-winged blackbird. Walter Mishek enjoys the sound of

the wind, and waves splashing on the beach from the ocean. On a cold winter night, he enjoys the sound of a howling wind outside. It makes the fireplace and a warm room all the more cozy.

In closure, I'd like to share two random facts. The farmers will soon be busy planting in the fields. I've always felt that I had a wealth of knowledge about things growing in a field. I was driving home from our cabin and Lisa asked, "Is that sweet corn growing in that field?" I replied, "No honey, that's field corn." She said, "Did you know that only one ear of corn grows on those corn stalks?" "Honey, that certainly isn't true. There are many ears of corn on a stalk."

I pulled over on the shoulder and walked into the corn. After surveying several corn stalks, what did I find? One ear on every stalk! Once again, I swallowed my pride.

I was having breakfast with a friend; he said, "Bet your breakfast you can't lick your elbow." I paid for our breakfast. Just for fun, try licking your elbow.



LIVELY INSPIRATION - Dancers and fans had trouble staying in their chairs during a lively performance at the Waseca Arts Center on Friday, April 29. Pioneer photo by Missy Dunn

Jivin' Ivan draws fans to the dance floor

By MELISSA DUNN Staff Writer

"You don't have to go very far to take advantage of good music. That's a good thing for Waseca." Variations of those words were repeated many times during the Waseca Arts Center's second presentation of the Jivin' Ivan and the Kings of Swing Band on April 29. Jivin' Ivan vocal-

ist (and leader of frivolity) Dallas Musselman commented that they had a special song prepared just for Waseca-"April Showers"-because it rained on both nights they performed at the arts center. "A year apart-how'd you guys do that?"

Along with Dallas, the Faribault-based band is made up of drummer Mark Whillock, fiddle and banjo player Mike Hildebrand, Doug

PHEASANT CAFE

• SINCE 1942 •

Great Home Cooking • Catering

Full Breakfast Menu • Daily Lunch Specials

104 State Street, Waseca MN • 835-1259

BATTENFIELD LAWN CARE

Lawn Maintenance & Residential Snow Removal

Zach Battenfield

507-521-0226

zachbattenfield@gmail.com

UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP!

DAVE'S Body Shop

Waseca, Minnesota

715 S State St, Waseca, MN (507) 835-8615

Hours:

Sat-Sun Closed

M-F 8 AM-5 PM

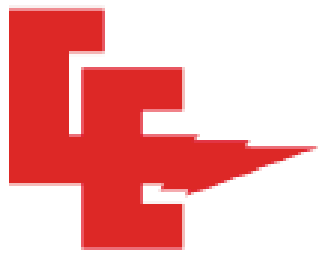
Ali and Willy Malecha are excited to continue to bring you the excellent service you have come to expect at Dave's Body Shop!

Serving Waseca and the surrounding areas for more than 30 years!

Waseca High School Prom • Saturday, April 29, 2023



Pioneer photos
by Eli Lutgens



COLE'S
ELECTRIC, INC.

Residential • Farm • Industrial • Commercial

Call Us For Your Complete Electrical Needs

7596 NW 40th St
coleselectric.com

Owatonna MN 55060
507-451-1387

DJ

Daniel J.
Johnson
ACCOUNTING
LLC

I'm Daniel J. Johnson. For the past 13 years, I've proudly served our community by offering personalized accounting services for you and your small business. From tax preparation and bookkeeping to financial planning, I'm here to provide you with professional, trustworthy, and reliable assistance. Let's work together and make your financial dreams a reality!

Our Services

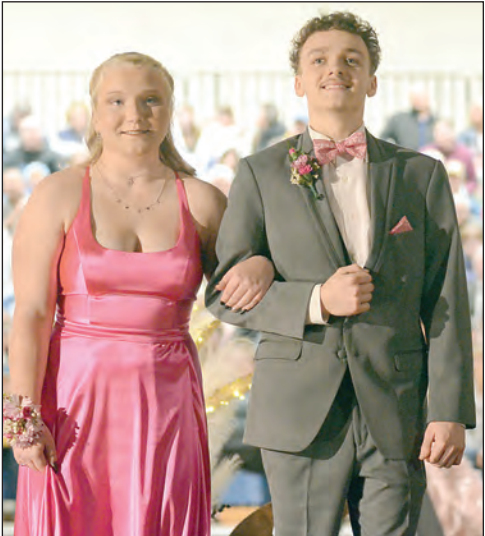
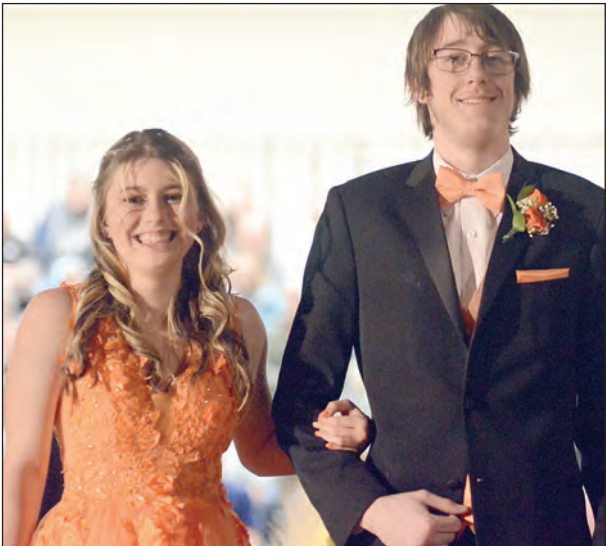
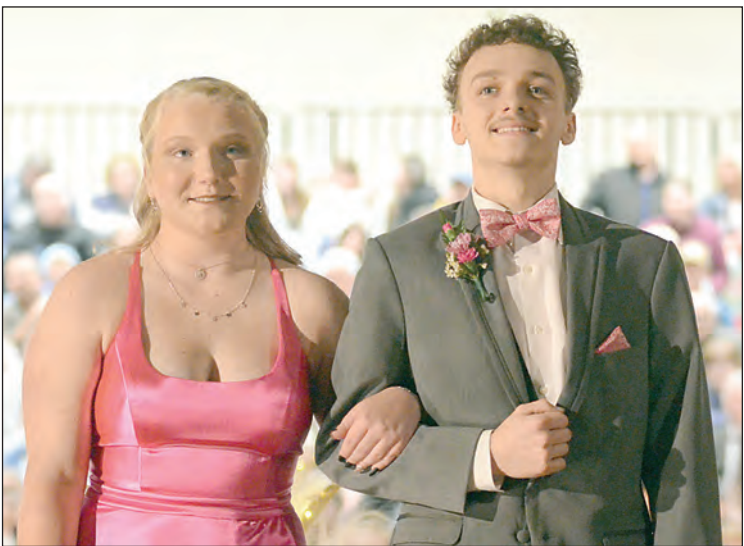
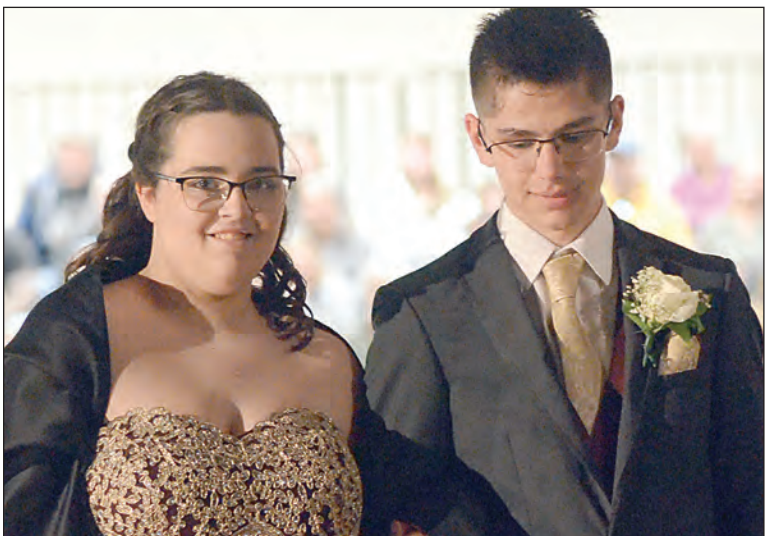
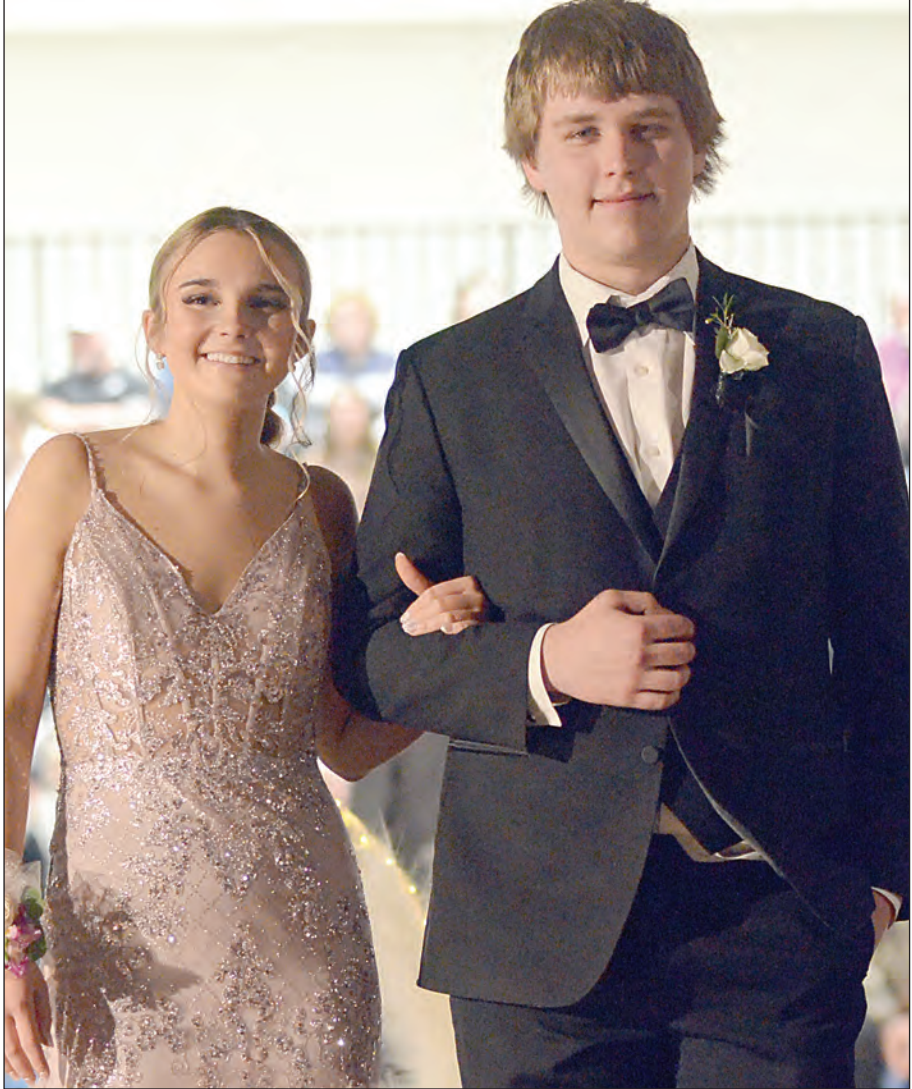
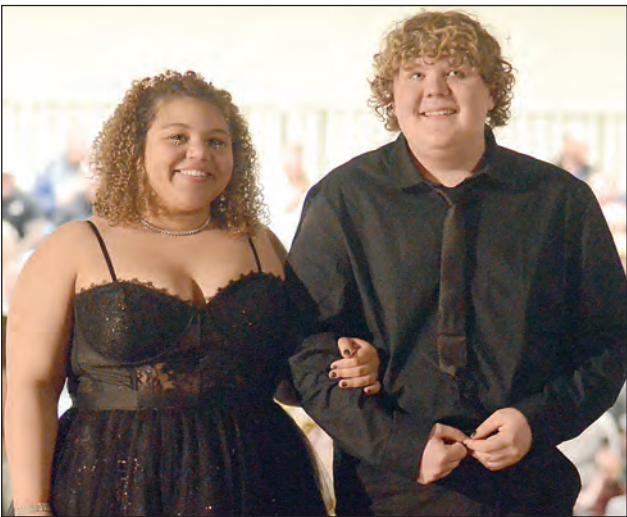
- Tax Planning & Return Preparation Services
- Estate and Trust Planning & Tax Preparation
- Financial Planning
- Accounting Services
- Bookkeeping
- Payroll Services

115 North State Street,
Waseca, MN 56093
(507) 201-2484

Hours:

Mon - Thu
8 am - 4 pm
Fri
8 am - 12 pm

Waseca High School Prom • Saturday, April 29, 2023



Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



Oscar's
All American Food & Drinks

1312 N. State St.,
Waseca, Minnesota
(507) 833-4040
oscarswaseca.com

WHERE THE FOOD
LOOKS GOOD &
TASTES EVEN BETTER!



T: 507.835.7080
C: 507.521.1360
F: 507.835.7082

203 2nd St NE
Waseca, MN 56093

kevin.x.walter@ampf.com
ameripriseadvisors.com/kevin.x.walter

An Ameriprise Financial franchise



Ameriprise
Financial

Kevin W. Walter, CRPC®
Financial Advisor

Tesch Service Center
Family-Owned Automotive Repair

- wheel alignments
- brake services
- suspension repairs
- towing & more!

Call us today!





321 Elm Ave W, Waseca, MN
Call Us! (507) 835-4610
teschservice@mediacommbb.net



RE/MAX
Always Here To Help!
Local & Loyal, Buy and Sell –
and we know the area!
We can show anyone's listing!

BLAIR NELSON
Owner/Realtor
(507) 213-1100
BlairNelsonReMax@gmail.com



Each RE/MAX® office is independently owned and operated.



BLAIR NELSON
Owner/Realtor
(507) 837-9851
BlairNelson1@gmail.com

NEED SEED? WE'RE NOT YOUR
AVERAGE SEED COMPANY!



TYLER HUBER
BECK'S HYBRID DEALER
31908 State Hwy 13, Waseca, MN
(507) 461-3756
corncountryseedco@gmail.com
beckshybrids.com



El Molino
Mexican Restaurant



214 North State
Street, Waseca
(507) 835-4223
elmolinowaseca.com

HELP WANTED

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

*DQ is now **HIRING**. To Inquire go to: fourteenfoods.net/playlikeachamp. Or for more information visit the Guidance Office.

*Waseca Vet Clinic is **HIRING!!!** Do you have a love for cats and dogs? Are you a self-starter and able to work independently? Waseca Vet Clinic is looking to fill a few Kennel Assistant Positions. Hours would include evenings, weekends and holidays, some morning shifts once summer arrives. Some duties include but are not limited to Feeding/Watering/Picking up/cleaning up after animals, dishes, and completing daily task lists. Please Stop into the High School Office or stop in to the Waseca Vet Clinic (1400 State St South) for an Application. You can also return the application to the School office or the Waseca Vet Clinic. We encourage anyone who may have applied in the past to reapply!

*Become a part of our Mc Family! 14-15 y/o starting @ \$10.60/hr, 16-17 y/o starting @ \$12.00/hr, 18 y/o+ starting @ 16.00/hr. We also offer tuition assistance, flexible schedule, free uniform and free meal program at work. Text "MN64" to 38000 to apply TODAY!

*Mayo Clinic is hiring Environmental Service Technicians- Mayo Clinic invites HS students to start their life changing career at Mayo Clinic. Students will play a vital role by ensuring a safe and clean environment for our patients, visitors, and staff each day by working with our Environmental Services Department.

https://jobs.mayoclinic.org/job/mankato/environmental-services-technician-high-school-student-opportunities/33647/33896701712#content

*Yellow Mushroom is hiring Cooks and Servers for night and weekend hours. Applications are available at Yellow Mushroom, 1208 S. State St.

*ICAN Inc. of Waseca is hiring Part Time Personal Support Staff. Part Time positions can range from 7 – 29 hours a week. This position does include every other weekend. This is a great position if you are looking into the healthcare field, teaching, coaching, etc.

ICAN is a premier residential service provider to individuals with disabilities. We provide training for all aspects of the job. ICAN is currently offering a \$300 hiring bonus after 6 months of employment.

To apply, go to www.icanmn.us or stop in our office, 118 North State Street Waseca. If you have any questions, you can contact us at 507.835.9140.

* Lakeshore Rehabilitation Center has part-time server positions (16 years or older) for 3 pm-7 pm, part-time evening cook position for 11 am-7 pm (or any afternoon hours the candidate would be able to work, part-time cook for the assisted living facility 9:30 am-1:30 pm. Interested candidates will need to apply on our website, monarchmn.com. On that page, click the header "Careers" and choose "Find a Monarch Career" under the drop down menu. From there, navigate to: "Current Openings>Culinary Services Aide Lakeshore" or "Culinary Services Cook, Lakeshore ALF". The starting pay is \$15.00.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

*Waseca County has an opening for a Weed Harvester position. This is a temporary position which is 40 hours a week (will not work nights or weekends). The job is about 6-8 weeks and starts in early June. The individual needs to be 18. The pay starts at \$20.32 per hour. I have the application attached if you have a student that would be interested please let me know! Here is the link to the job description:

https://www.co.waseca.mn.us/Jobs.aspx?UniquelId=111&From=All&CommunityJobs=F

alse&JobID=Aquatic-Weed-Harvesting-Operator-Seasona-165

*Southern Research and Outreach Center is hiring for grounds and maintenance jobs for any students or others that might be interested? You need to be 16+ years old to work here. Pay is \$15/hr. Typical schedule is 7:30 am to 4 pm for a 40 hour work week. If anyone has questions please

Mobile: 507-461-6899 | Office: 507-837-5615

E-mail: jstenzel@umn.edu

Website: www.sroc.cfans.umn.edu

*Fun, Summer Job Opportunities at Kiesler's Campground and RV Resort! We are hiring lifeguards, activities coordinators and guest services team members - Learn more at www.kieslers.com/apply.

*University of MN Southern Research & Outreach Center has positions in Agronomy, Soil Science and Groundskeeping available for this summer. Must be 16 years old. For more information call 507-835-3620. Pick up, complete, and return an application to the SROC main office @ 35838 120th St. Waseca.

In Memoriam

The family of Roger Groskreutz would like to thank everyone for all the cards, telephone calls, and food brought to the house. Our lives are blessed by your kindness.

A special thank you to Hospice. You were all wonderful, especially Mary and Roger's "angel nurse" Jenna.

To my "sisters" by marriage, Margaret and Eunice, and especially my niece Cindi, who spent many days and nights by my side, we couldn't have kept Roger's wish to pass away at home without you.

To Brandon, Sue, Kelsey, and Ron, who cared for our family during and after the funeral with such kindness, our heartfelt thanks.

Jeanette, Chad, Layne, Charity, & Aiden

Johnson
APARTMENTS
507-456-9514
OPERATING IN
WASECA, STEELE,
FREEBORN
COUNTIES
johnsonrents.com

REAL ESTATE
TAXES DUE

To avoid payment of penalty, 1st Half Real Estate Taxes must be paid on or before
MAY 15, 2023
Make Checks Payable To:
WASECA COUNTY

Open weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Use drop box (located north side of courthouse)
Pay on-line at www.co.waseca.mn.us
or postmark by due date
PO Box 47, Waseca MN 56093

YOU DESERVE THE VERY BEST

American Family is proud to be named one of **America's Best Insurance Companies of 2022** by Forbes. Plus, when you bundle your home and auto insurance with us, you may save up to 23% on both policies together!*

Contact me today to learn more about our customizable insurance options.

*Customers who bundle auto and homeowners insurance policies with American Family Insurance may save up to 23% on both policies together (as of October 2021).



Matthew Petsinger, Agent
Matthew R. Petsinger Agency, LLC
101 State St S, Waseca
MRPAgencyLLC.com
mpetsing@amfam.com



American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. & its Operating Companies, 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783 ©2021 20504 – 12/21 – 16554773



Professions In Pork



Experience
It For
Yourself

EST. 1991
Wakefield Pork
INCORPORATED

Check Out Wakefield Pork
On Indeed, Facebook
or call 507-237-5581

Paid Volunteer Opportunities
in your Community

Lutheran Social Service of MN is seeking volunteers age 55+ in your area to provide companionship to older adults.

Make a difference in someones life by offering support and friendship. Volunteers commit to regular weekly hours for a tax free stipend and mileage reimbursement.

Please contact Joyce at 507.512.1036 or joyce.lehman@lssmn.org for more information and to make an impact in your community!



Lutheran
Social Service
of Minnesota



AmeriCorps
Seniors

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

P.O BOX 578 • Waseca, MN 56093

Send me 1 year of the **WASECA COUNTY PIONEER!** Enclosed is:

NEW ☐ \$55 (Waseca Countyt)
NEW ☐ \$65 (Minnesota resident)
NEW ☐ \$75 (outside MN)

Subscription For: _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____



Dwight Tostenson, CEO and co-founder of the Redemption Project, explained his program to the Waseca Exchange Club on April 25. Redemption helps previously incarcerated men build their lives after release from prison.

Redemption paves new way

By SALLY TAKALA
Contributing writer

A Christian childhood buddy opened Wasecan Dwight Tostenson's eyes to another side of life – life after prison. Serving two years for a financial infraction, his friend learned a lot about the people who land there. That firsthand experience birthed the Redemption Project.

“These guys are behind the eight ball right from the start,” Tostenson observed. “They haven’t learned the basics. Often they’ve never had a legal job, never seen a parent hold a legitimate job. They don’t know about calling in sick, or telling their employer they have a court date and can’t be at work. They just don’t show,” he said. That results in losing the job, and then they’re back in prison.

Without support, 40% return to prison within 3-5 years. They experience problems in four areas: housing, employment, addiction and education. “It’s nearly impossible to find an employer or landlord who will take them on,” noted Tostenson. Redemption recruits employers willing to take on “second chance” workers, supporting both the employer and employee. In addition, the organization teams

up with nonprofits that provide additional services.

The program starts while participants are still in prison. For 14 weeks, candidates take weekly two-hour classes that teach the values of wisdom, courage, self-control, and justice. When they are released, the men have a mentor who keeps in touch with them for a year, helping them find work and solve problems. “We give them the type of skills and support many members of society take for granted,” said Tostenson.

The formula is working so far. Fifty-six participants have completed the program: In the nearly five years since Redemption started, only three have returned to prison. Two were for technical violations such as failing to keep an appointment with their parole officer, or moving without notifying authorities.

Not only does the project help prisoners, it helps Minnesota taxpayers. “The average cost of imprisonment is \$55,000 per inmate. Redemption is less than a tenth of that, about \$5,000 per inmate,” explained Tostenson, “A bargain for those of us who pay taxes.”

To learn more or donate, go to: info@redemptionproject.org

Haven Studio open in Waldorf

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Editorial Assistant

“Our community members were having to go out of town for a hair-cut, which I thought was silly since I live right here,” declared Ruthie Webster of Waldorf. She’s been a hair stylist for more than twenty years and in November opened Haven Studio in Waldorf. “We dabble in all things hair,” Webster said of her services – cuts, color, balayage, styling, extensions; they’ll do it all. Webster also has experience with nails and is considering adding that to her company’s service menu. Webster is working together with her good friend, Heather Oachs. Oachs works Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 4-8 and Webster is available Thursdays from 10-7. These hours are expected to change in the summer; the business is also open to welcoming a third stylist. Schedule with Oachs online at Heather-at-Haven or by calling 507-381-8519, and with Webster by calling 507-317-5309.

Sunday, May 7 from 2-4 p.m. there will be an open house at Haven Studio, to welcome community members and forge connections. Haven Studio is located in the historic B&S grain weigh station, on Main Street across from Papa Ole’s liquor store. The building is owned by Peter and Lori Sonnet: its scales are still used during harvest season. The location was previously used as a salon, but closed about a year and a half before Haven Studio opened. Significant updates have been made to the interior with the help of Webster’s longtime partner, Doug.

Webster grew up in rural Waldorf, where her mother, Suzy, still lives on the farm. She originally thought to study music and says she went to visit a cosmetology school because it was offering free manicures, then found herself “enamored” with the field. Webster worked at Ulta Beauty for eleven years, ten of which she spent as manager, which she says taught her how to run a salon the right way. Webster is also currently renting space at Vida Salon Suites in Mankato to continue serving the longtime clients she developed in her years there. “I’ve watched kids grow up in my chair, styled their prom hair, been with them for their weddings and soon trimmed their babies’ hair,” she said of her long career as a stylist. “It’s been a rewarding experience.”

Oachs grew up in rural Pemberton, married her husband, Corey, in 1994 and raised three daughters with him in Mapleton. She graduated from cosmetology school in Mankato in 2001, and spent 20 years working in a salon there. Circumstances demanded a change, and she left that job to spend more time at home. In 2022, Oachs started working as a paraprofessional at Maple River



Ruthie Webster



Heather Oachs

Schools, and continues to work there now. “I was fortunate to have my good friend, Ruthie, reach out to me to help with wedding hair in the summer,” she says of how she found her way to Haven Studio. “With that, she ignited my passion for hair once again.”

“I felt like I was just sleeping here and living in Mankato,” Webster ex-



Haven Studio is a new salon in Waldorf run by Ruthie Webster and Heather Oachs. They are holding an open house on Sunday.

panded on her desire to open Haven Studio in Waldorf. She says she wants to get to know the community better through her work. She appreciates that Haven is a small salon; she says that she feels like she can make a more authentic connection with the people in her chair than in a corporate salon setting. The name

“Haven Studio” was chosen because “haven” means a safe place or retreat, and Webster and Oachs want everyone there to feel safe, comfortable, and appreciated.

“I think gratitude is the secret of life,” Webster said about her philosophy. “You have never met a person who is grateful and doesn’t have joy.”

11 May 2023

WASECA HS PAC

Speaking to Students During the Day
Parents & Community 7pm (FREE to the Public)

Since 1992, Jeff Yalden has traveled to 50 states and 49 countries working with school communities. He’s a 4X bestselling author, TEDx speaker, Teen Mental Health and Crisis Intervention Expert. From 2005-2012, Jeff was a Celebrity Teen and Family Life Coach on MTV’s EMMY Award winning hit reality show television show MADE. He’s a Gulf War Veteran and a two-time Marine-of-the-Year recipient (1991-1992). Get ready for an engaging, compassionate speaker who is real and heartfelt in his messages “About Life and Self” to audiences worldwide. Jeff is a yogi, avid golfer, and resides in Jacksonville, FL with his English Bulldog, Sugar Bear, where he is a psychology teacher at a local high school.

For more information, please visit www.JeffYalden.com.

FOLLOW

www.JeffYalden.com

PERSONALIZED PRINTING & APPAREL

Barb & Mark Buker

100 S. STATE ST. - WASECA MN
PHONE: (507) 835-7565
INFO@PPRINTWASECA.COM

WE PRINT

... & EMBROIDER T-SHIRTS, HATS, UNIFORMS, CAPS, WORKWEAR, WARMUPS, JACKETS, CHILDREN'S APPAREL, TEAM & CREW APPAREL, MAGNETS, SIGNS ...AND EVERYTHING ELSE!

& DESIGN

Join us for our 3rd Annual

MARGARITA MINGLE

AT THE MILL

Friday May 5th

Cinco de Mayo

4pm to 7pm

The Mill

310 2nd Ave. SW

Waseca, MN 56093

Brought to you by: The Matthew R. Petsinger Agency, LLC

Performing Live: Mona Montenegro

Lucia's Cocina and International Cuisine

Carne asada tacos and quesadillas

Homemade Chips and Salsa

Lucia's Cocina