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Sports

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

County has big projects underway

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

Waseca County Public Works Director Jim Kollar brought four matters to the Waseca County Board of Commissioners during its April 4 meeting. The first was a formalized policy on assistance given to townships within the county to maintain roadside signage; county staff developed the policy. The second was a contract for rehabilitation of County State Access Highway (CSAH) 15 between State Highway 13 and Steele County. The project was granted to Crane Creek Asphalt; the company's \$2.3 million bid was nearly 17% under the projected estimated cost. Most of the project will be paid for using federal funds which will come in the form of an 80% reimbursement up to a maximum of \$2.16 million. The board also approved a cooperative design and construction agreement with the City of Waseca for the 2024 reconstruction of Eighth Ave NE; its terms stipulate that the county will cover 75% of the costs for the project. The last matter Kollar brought before the board was a resolution to adopt the Public Works Department Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plan, which was developed in 2019 but not brought to the board before now. The plan affirms that Waseca County will comply with the ADA in that, as roadways are reconstructed, access points will be brought up to current standards.

Two matters came to the board from the University of Minnesota Extension office by Lisa Dierks. First, Bob Pierce was appointed to fill one of two vacant seats on the County Extension Committee, with a term ending December 31, 2025. Second, the board gave permission to the extension office to seek a summer coordinator, having failed to find a college student intern. The summer coordinator position will be open to qualified applicants over the age of 18. While a summer coordinator will command a higher hourly rate than an intern, the change will have no budgetary impact because extension staff members are preparing to have this position filled fewer hours each week.

The Waseca Lakes Association and Reeds Lake Association were each awarded \$5,000 from the county for the local aquatic invasive species prevention aid grant established in the 2023 budget. The funds will be used for chemical treatment of Clear and Reeds Lakes to combat invasive plant species.

The board of commissioners approved submitting its draft of the Le Sueur River "One Watershed, One Plan" initiative to the Minnesota Board of Water and

County continued on 8

A word from The Word

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me."

John 14:1

Waseca's 'pet' projects receive financial support

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

During the April 4 Waseca Council meeting, Furry Friends of Waseca presented two separate checks totaling nearly \$11,000.

When the group's fiscal agent dissolved, it had \$9,775.26 leftover in funds, which was the first check they presented to the city; it was followed by another for \$1,104.48, an amount the group raised at a March 24 burger and fish fry at the Waseca American Legion.

Tom Hindt, a member of the group, said that Jeanne Sexton and Michelle Oswald were the reason the dog park on the southern shores of Clear Lake came to fruition. "If it weren't for them, it would be a mere thought in someone's head," he said. "Once they have a clear direction...stay out of their way."

Moving forward, Furry Friends plans to continue presenting checks to the city after each of its fundraisers.



Michelle Oswald, Jeanne Sexton, and Tom Hindt from Furry Friends of Waseca, present a check to city council member Mark Christiansen; all four are members of the city's park advisory board. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

A Beautiful Easter



The Miss Waseca County Sleigh and Cutter/Miss South Central organization sponsored an Easter event with the current 2023 royalty volunteering. From left: Miss Southern Minnesota Outstanding Teen Kloe Wadd, Miss South Central Outstanding Teen Maura Erickson, Miss Waseca County Sleigh and Cutter Teen Olivia Johnson, Miss Waseca County Sleigh and Cutter Bailey Thom, and Miss South Central Jasmin Kotek.



Left: Cecelia Kopischke, daughter of former Waseca royalty Molly Kopischke, stands with the Easter bunny. Hundreds of kids were in attendance for the Waseca egg hunt at Clear Lake Park on Saturday, April 8.



Hundreds attend Easter event

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

It was a beautiful day for an egg hunt. The weather couldn't have been better for the hundreds of kids in attendance at Clear Lake Park Saturday, April 9. The hunt was sponsored by the Miss Waseca County Sleigh and Cutter/Miss South Central

Association.

Starting at 11 a.m., there were two areas where treasures were spread across the open grass near the west side of the park, one for ages 7-10 and another for younger children.

Waseca Royalty members Jasmin Kotek, Olivia Johnson, Kloe Wadd, Maura Erickson, and Bailey Thom,

along with former Waseca Royalty member Molly Kopischke, helped run the egg hunt, hiding more than 7,000 eggs. A few of the Waseca County princesses also volunteered to help.

Egg Hunt Sponsors were Waseca Sleigh & Cutter, Waseca Pageants Organization, 4 Seasons, Subway,

Sharlene Winegar, ERA Gillespie, Elise Ferguson, Amy Miller, Sue Sather, Dan & Alyssa Kuphal. The volunteers who stuffed eggs were Crystal Myers and family, River Ramblers 4-H members, Elise Ferguson, Owatonna Exchange members, and Steve Harguth and family.

'Time in a bottle'

Chorale celebrates 50-year anniversary

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

The Waseca Chorale's concert on Sunday, April 23 at the Central Building Auditorium is a celebration of 50 years of beautiful music. Dubbed "Time in a Bottle," the evening will feature numbers from across five decades.

"We thought it would be a good idea to celebrate our fifty-year anniversary by performing pieces that the group did in the past," co-director John Hoehn explained. "That's how we came up with the idea of naming



The Waseca Chorale has 39 members who will perform their spring concert "Time in a Bottle" Sunday, April 23. The choir is directed by Josh Hoehn and Deb Wantoch-Yess.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

the concert 'Time in a Bottle.'"

The choir has 39 members and is under the direction of Hoehn and new co-director Deb Wantoch-Yess. Singers come from all local communities: Janesville, Waldorf, New

Richland, and Waterville, and commonly also from Owatonna and Mankato.

Wantoch-Yess has plenty of experience directing vocal music, having only recently left a long-standing

position with Waseca High School. Hoehn grew up in the area, graduated from Wartburg College, and directed

Chorale continued on 5

Waseca utilities praised

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

The City of Waseca's utilities department has a great deal to celebrate this month.

On Wednesday, April 5, utilities office manager Lori Hanson received an email from the American Public Power Association stating that the city's utilities department is receiving national recognition for "achieving exceptional electric reliability" in 2022.

The APPA is an organization that has represented over 2,000 towns with non-profit and community-owned utilities since 1940.

"It's confirmation of what we suspected," Hanson told the Pioneer. "We know we have pretty good reliability here. But it's still good to receive that recognition to confirm that we do provide

Utilities continued on 3

Altered approach includes cribbage

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

When Burger King first arrived in Waseca in the summer of 2018, it was cause for excitement. Once the fast food store was up and running, though, patrons were somewhat disappointed with the service and the food quality.

"We don't currently have a good reputation in Waseca," said general manager DeWayne Ketchum. "We want to change that."

One plan meant to encourage people to give the store another chance includes hosting cribbage tournaments every weekend, with a free meal as the prize.

"We want to get more involved in the community and improve our reputation," Ketchum explained.

Ketchum became the general manager in December of 2022. He says he's well aware of complaints that included slow service and unsatisfactory food quality. Since he's new to the area, he says he's been trying to get familiar with the city of Waseca. "The people here are great," he said.

His idea of getting Burger King back on good terms with area consumers is to host events which encourage people to spend time at the restaurant. One recent example are the Easter-themed coloring sheets which were dec-

Cribbage continued on 3



Compostings

by Al Batt
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Wonder Woman could end politics

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFER'S CLUB MEETING

The world seems an odd place without Bud Grant in it. I did a great favor for Bud once.

What did you do?

He told me to stay away from him and I did.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. My mother and I walked from the post office to the fire hall to see my brother, the fire chief. The side-walk was uneven. Mother tripped and fell right in front of the liquor—on a Wednesday. The good news was that she was uninjured. My mother was the strictest of teetotalers and had never tasted alcohol in her life. And of all places to fall, in front of a gin mill. In that odd juxtaposition, she found a tee-hee's nest with a haha's egg in it and laughed uproariously as a parade of people we knew drove by. I loved my mother, but I was at the age where having parents was embarrassing. My mother said I'd made a run for it and left her behind. That was said for comedic effect. I made three steps at the most before helping her to her feet.

SOMEBODY OWES ME \$1

I wore my best cheap suit at the snazziest hotel I'd ever been to and attempted to act civilized while being blinded by the flash and dazzle. I was getting an award for doing what I was supposed to do and would be expected to mumble a few words. I'd get to eat like a famished wolverine by using more forks than necessary. I'd been advised I shouldn't drink from the gravy boat and there would be restroom attendants. It was important to tip them. I figured they were there to keep me from using the display towels. I visited a restroom to make sure my tie and my smile were straight before heading to the ballroom for the banquet. I gave a \$1 bill to a man standing there and thanked him for his good work. He seemed surprised but took my money. I worried the tip had been too small, but learned later that the hotel had no restroom attendants.

PEACH PITS SAVED LIVES

Germans used poison gas on World War I battlefields. It was initially chlorine, a yellow-green gas that caused death by asphyxiation, with phosgene and mustard gases introduced later. An American scientist found that charcoal made from the pits of stone fruits

(peaches, plums, apricots, cherries) and the shells of certain nuts (walnuts, hickory nuts) could be used as filters in gas masks to stop the effects of poison gas. It took 200 peach pits or 2 pounds of nut shells to produce enough carbon to outfit one gas mask. Peach pits were collected. "The Army Wants Your Peach Pits," read headlines in 1918. A Girl Scout campaign asked people to "Gather up the peach pits, olive pits as well. Every prune and date seed, every walnut shell." It's another reason to like peaches. They're good eating and I've fond memories of peaches because we had an outhouse, which used recycled catalogs as toilet paper, but there were those glorious days when peach papers were the TP.

I'VE LEARNED

The Lasso of Truth is Wonder Woman's primary tool and weapon. It's a magical, golden lariat that compels anyone captured within its noose to tell the truth. It'd eliminate politics.

My neighbor Crandall has a button labeled "Rear wiper" in his pickup truck. He's afraid to push it.

Americans eat more bananas than monkeys.

That's because bananas taste better than monkeys.

Everyone wants to believe a Bigfoot exists.

Heredity runs in families.

NATURE NOTES

I watched a "Nature" TV episode about squirrels. Dr. Mikel Delgado of the University of California at Berkeley discovered the fox squirrels in her study remembered and located about 90% of the nuts they buried. Their brains grew larger during the fall to help them create a mental map of buried treasures. A fox squirrel can stockpile 3,000 to 10,000 nuts a year.

The male American robin produces a rich and melodious caroling: "Carol carol carol, carol carol carol." "Cheerily, cheer up, cheer up, cheerily, cheer up." Males and females produce a variety of calls and notes—the most familiar being a spirited tut-tut-tut or pick, given as an alarm call in response to predators.

Migration is more for food than temperature. Birds migrate to find food and/or a welcoming climate and to avoid predators, parasites and diseases. About 75% of North American birds migrate.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Save money, but give away kind words.

Season inspires peace, reflection

I hope everyone had a great Easter. The weather over the holiday weekend had to be some of the best in a long time.

This week, I made an effort to attend church: Faith Ryan over at St. Ann Catholic Church in Janesville asked me if I wanted to be one of twelve people to get their feet washed during the Holy (or Maundy) Thursday mass.

It is tradition in the Catholic Church for twelve to get their feet washed as Jesus washed the feet of the Apostles before the Last Supper in the Bible. It was traditionally a ritual that only men were asked to be a part of. It wasn't until 2016 that Pope Francis decreed women could take part in the foot washing. (In my case, however, it was still twelve males.)

The mass itself was otherwise normal. The only other difference was when we went to the chapel where we reflected on Jesus's agony in the garden.

As a younger man who struggled with his faith mightily (and still does), I didn't quite understand what we were doing. But after we left in silence, I had to continue that silence



Music to my Ears

by Michael Roy
copyright © 2022 by Michael Roy

to reflect. It's the first time in a long time (if ever) that I went to a Holy Thursday mass.

I also decided to attend the Easter Vigil (Saturday Night) because I thought it would be another meaningful service to attend; I was also concerned I wouldn't be able to attend Easter Sunday mass. I had, unfortunately, procrastinated a bit more than I should have with some work. That was one of the longest services I've ever attended, but not necessarily in a bad way. It was an experience I'll hold with me for a while. The lighting of the candles, the homily...it was both solemn and euphoric.

I've been trying to explore my faith a little more lately. Maybe it's the interest I have in the various

churches that I pass on my walks or drives to places that makes me want to invest more time in my faith. Maybe it's all the church-related events I end up going to for my job. Perhaps it's the prospect that the world is not in a very good place and that being at church gives me some comfort, some hope.

Whatever it is that's bringing me back...it's helping.

See, when I go to mass, a service, a luncheon, or anything like that, all of the world's problems seem to be left at the door. In mass, we offer prayers for various things going on in the world, but we don't let them personally bother us.

When all of us offer each other the sign of peace, I don't see the person in front of me as a Democrat or Re-

publican. When I talk to church people, I don't see them as a Catholic or a Lutheran. The political, racial, and other tensions seem to be left behind as soon as we enter the church sanctuary. They simply become irrelevant the moment we sit down in our pews. Let those problems stay outside for an hour. Right now, let's rejoice and enjoy the service.

I think the masses leading up to Easter have given me time to reflect. I mentioned once that I tried being an atheist. That choice left me feeling empty and lost, perhaps at least partly because religion once had an important role in my life, even when we only went to mass occasionally. Another reason, though, is because I truly believe science, logic, or any human faculty cannot explain some of the phenomena—including some very common ones—that happen around us.

But whether or not you are a Christian, I hope you enjoyed Easter. At the end of the day, it's about being with family and celebrating all that's good. I think we can all support that, regardless of whether or not we believe in God.

Fitness trainer offers advice for runners

Have you ever started a new fitness journey only to find yourself bored or suffering new pain in a couple of weeks? At this point, you may be asking, "Is this routine really for me?"

This is common, but you need to find ways to make the process better to overcome these obstacles.

The link between boredom and injuries is strong. As you get bored with a fitness routine, it is easier to skip workouts, take shortcuts with stretching or use poor form. Doing so can increase the risk of injury, which can delay or sideline your exercise goals.

As you settle into your new running routine, keep these tips in mind from Troy Hoehn, a licensed athletic trainer in Orthopedics and Sports Medicine at Mayo Clinic Health System, to overcome boredom and avoid common injuries:

Combating boredom

If you find the thought of spending another minute on the "dreadmill" or elliptical trainer is just too much, it

may be time to set SMART goals and change your exercise routine. Cross-training, which incorporates different types of exercise in your schedule, can challenge and strengthen your muscles and joints that don't get used much during your normal routine.

Here are 3 ways to change it up:

Try a new activity.

Cardiovascular training is any activity that increases your heart rate for a set amount of time. Explore a variety of options at home, outdoors and in the gym. You might try walking, running, cycling, swimming, cross-country skiing, stair-climbing or jumping rope. Try one of these 15-minute workouts you can do at home. Try multiple activities within the same workout.

Many people enjoy a "10-10-10" workout. You start on one machine for 10 minutes, then move to a second machine for the next 10 minutes and finish off with a third machine for the last 10 minutes. The little change

of scenery seems to help the minutes fly by. You could even call yourself a triathlete by swimming, biking and running in the same workout. Learn about 5 inexpensive workout items to start your home gym.

Try a new routine during your favorite exercise.

Many days of the same routine can lead to boredom, whether you are running, using an elliptical trainer or cross-country skiing outdoors. If you exercise in a gym, many newer fitness machines are preprogrammed with a range of workouts designed to vary the speed, grade or resistance, simulating rolling hills, large mountains or high-intensity intervals. Varying the effort level required not only helps keep you from getting bored, but also can increase your fitness gains. If you exercise outdoors, try a new location or time of day, or exercise with a friend. If you exercise in your home, try to watch your favorite TV shows or binge that latest season

to help the time go by faster.

Proper form

Technique and proper form are important when starting a new program. Don't concentrate on the amount of weight you are lifting. Instead focus on how you are doing it. Many people will perform exercises wrong and increase their risk for injury from improper form.

Here are some reminders:

Keep your knees behind your toes when doing any type of squat.

Watch your knees in a mirror to make sure they remain parallel and don't move inward when doing squats.

Stop your elbows from going below your body when doing a bench press.

Common aches and pains

It's normal to feel sore as you begin a new fitness program and use your

Fitness continued on 3

Trip to Rome brings special blessing

For all of you wondering, yes I did end up seeing the pope; it was a story to tell for a lifetime. Even though it was quite cold, we stayed for an hour and a half so that we could be blessed. So yeah, not to brag, but I've been blessed by the pope.

Anyway, it's reached a point in the academic semester where finals are approaching, so now I actually have to apply myself to my classes. This whole semester has been pretty easy because the Spanish way of teaching doesn't really emphasize homework; instead the grades are mainly based on midterms and finals. Sadly, most of my classes have finals that include a presentation and then a separate exam as well. I can work with this, though, since I have a fair amount of free time when I'm not traveling, or being blessed, or visiting castles.

One distraction has been a super cute, almost "fatally" adorable yellow lab puppy that one of the teachers here brought in because



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler
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she's training it to become a service dog. She let us pet it before and after—but not during—her class, since it's "working" during instruction time. Sadly, she's not my teacher so I didn't witness its charming antics; I'm told the puppy rolled around on the floor and napped during class so I am disappointed I wasn't there to see it.

There is a giant "elephant" in our classes: it's a little less than four weeks until our stay is over. Before, I was ready to go home and take a long shower, sleep in my own bed,

and pet my doggies. Now, I realize how much I am going to miss Madrid: It's a great city, and I have come to love it. No offense, Minneapolis, but Madrid is a lot better. Minneapolis has a more beautiful skyline, but that's its only advantage over Madrid as far as I'm concerned. I've probably said all this before, so I won't get into it here.

Even though it's exhausting, I'm going to miss traveling to all the places with exotic names. This weekend I'm heading to Barcelona for a couple of days to enjoy the warm

weather and see the Sagrada Familia. The weekend after, I'm going to go to Bilbao (northern Spain) and San Sebastian, which my host mom says is her favorite city in Spain, so I'm truly excited.

For now I'm focusing on Barcelona, though: the region is trying to gain independence from Spain. In case some of you don't know, a majority of Barcelona is Catalan and speaks Catalan (similar to Spanish but NOT the same - good luck trying to tell them it is) and doesn't actually want to be associated with Spain. Spanish news is very interesting; they include quite a bit of information about the United States. My host mom claims it's because Spain is pretty small, and doesn't generate that much news of its own.

My Determination:" Cool, cool, cool, cool, cool. No doubt, no doubt, no doubt." - Jake Peralta, 'Brooklyn Nine-Nine.'

'Pioneering' has its challenges

Another week, another seven days of 'newsing.'

As I think through the past week, nothing 'news related' jumps immediately to mind. I spent the majority of Thursday and Monday talking to folks, organizing future "news."

We have a new addition to our 'newspaper team.'

Jon Lucca is now and has been for the past month designing ads for the paper. He's incredibly talented and I count myself lucky that we found him. Prior to hiring Jon, it was kind of ad creation by committee around the paper. I have my production manager in New Richland, Reed Waller, but he's aging and also semi-retired so that was really the last resort. Option two was my mother at the Journal. She simply doesn't have the time. Also, I'm a fussy budget when it comes to ads and she's more stubborn than I am. (It's tough to tell your mom to do something over.)



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens
copyright © 2022 by Eli Lutgens

So cross those off the list.

Next was Michael Roy and myself. We're both amateur graphic artists when it comes to ads. So, yeah. Adventures in the first year of newspapering in Waseca.

I say all of this because I told Jon something, "It's challenging to sell newspaper ads: It's really hard to sell bad newspaper ads."

Needless to say, I'm grateful Jon has come aboard. (Also, shoutout to his parents who were excited Jon now has a 'real' job.)

What else is new at the paper?

We're officially chamber members. It took awhile, but I finally just showed up and told Ann we would like to join. We had talked about it a few times and I was reminded, 'when it doubt, show up in person.'

Kristie, the front office lady at the chamber was complimentary of the paper. We got to chatting and she showed me her attempt at 'preserving' a story in the form of laminating it. The paper had become folded in the process, so she asked whether I had an extra copy of the particular

February edition. Yes, we do keep back copies on hand.

I came back later in the day and, since the office was closed, taped the desired copy to their front door. My hope is they received it intact, but I realized the flaw in my plan the next day, when I realized it had rained the night before.

Update on our building. There is no update. I'm still waiting on Mr. Mansfield to get the last of his possessions out of it. My plan is to move into the digs in May.

Personally, I spent this past weekend with my family for Easter. My brother was hosting in his new home for the first time. That was something special, and hopefully a new tradition. I hope our readers had a happy Easter too.

"I still believe in Santa, the Easter Bunny, the Tooth Fairy and true love. Don't even try to tell me different." — Dolly Parton



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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

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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

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Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika

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Hope for Twins fans everywhere

It's officially spring and time for major league baseball. We're gonna win Twins, we're gonna score; we're gonna win Twins, watch that ball soar. Crack out a home run, shout a hip hooray; cheer for the Minnesota Twins today!!

Any senior citizen or baby boomer could easily join along with me and sing this Twins song from the past. They could share their impressions of two world series wins, tell you about the heroics of Kirby Puckett or Jack Morris, and even tell you about the Hamm's Bear commercials. Many seniors—women and men—look forward to spending the summer listening to the Twins on the radio or TV.

Major league baseball has made some rule changes this season in hopes of making the game more exciting and drawing a bigger fan base: America's pas-time has been losing ground to some other professional sports events, you see. A pitch clock, larger bases, and no more infield shifts hopefully will make the game more entertaining.

I've watched several recent Twins games and I think the new rule changes are outstanding. Games this season are now ending an average of one half-hour earlier. Pitchers now get the ball back from the catcher and deliver to the plate immediately. Batters no longer have time to rearrange things: They must stand ready, prepared to hit.

A pitcher can only check a runner at first base two times. When a relief pitcher comes in, he has to pitch to a minimum of three batters.

Going back to positioning the old school way on defense gives hitters the opportunity to get on base. The past few years, I didn't enjoy watching the pull hitters try to hit the ball through an entire team shifted to one side of the diamond. The larger bases establish a shorter distance to the bag, making base stealing and running bases much more exciting.

There are penalties if the baseball player doesn't adhere to the new rules. After watching a few games, I get the impression

players have adjusted easily.

The Twins' objective in the off-season was to add depth to the roster in pitching and position players. The team has a couple of star players signed: Carlos "Megabucks" Correa, a short-stop, and Byron "Always Hurt" Buxton, a center fielder. To date, Buxton has only played in a DH role to keep him healthy; the team needs his bat.

A couple of new Twins have already played an important role in some early wins. Joey Gallo is a big athletic hitter with tremendous power. He's been with several teams and has hit 3 homers for the Twins. Gallo strikes out mega times — anyone remember Sano? — but has the potential to lead the Twins in home runs.

Kyle Farmer, an infielder, has had a walk-off running hit and several other key hits in his Twins debut.

The Twins now have depth at pitching with five quality starting pitchers and a reliable bullpen. Luis Arreaz, the American League batting champion, was traded to Miami for a pitcher, Pablo Lopez. Lopez graduated from high school at age 16; his parents are doctors. Not only does he pitch well, he is highly intelligent. He's looked tremendous his first two outings and could be the ace of the pitching staff. Jhoan Duran is a lights-out closing pitcher. He can throw upwards of 100 mph in closing out games.

At the time of this writing, the Twins have a record of 6-3. I personally have great optimism for the team this summer and am figuring on tuning into many of their face-offs. Maybe Rocco Baldelli, the manager, will even have someone lay down a bunt in a close game?

Eli and Jim Lutgens, along with Michael Roy, just ran an excellent spring sports preview in the Pioneer for area spring sports high school teams. All three of the writers will echo that area spring high school sports are their favorite to cover! Stay tuned to the Pioneer for exciting spring sports action.

■ Cribbage

from Page 1

orated by area children and posted in the store's lobby. The restaurant also has a "book nook" set aside where people are encourage to spend time reading.

Ketchum hopes that the cribbage tournament idea catches on. "We already have a few people interested," he said. "I'm hoping it becomes a regular thing."

Among other ideas in the works is a summer cornhole tourna-

ment—more details to follow.

With the overhaul of store management within the past month and the ideas Ketchum has implemented, people are viewing their food—and the people who serve it—more favorably. Although the store commonly received one-star reviews on various internet rating applications in the past, five-star reviews have become more common, including five in a row on Google. Ketchum hopes this trend will continue.

"We want this to be a hangout spot for people in Waseca," he concluded. "We want to be more involved in the community."

THE S.H.O.P.

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



BRIAN HARGUTH KEITH JOHNSON

PH & B Patton, Hoversten & Berg, P.A.

A Professional Association / Attorneys at Law

Waseca 507-835-5240 888-835-5245	Janesville 507-234-5106 888-835-5245
Owatonna 507-451-9000 866-451-9010	Faribault 507-332-7425

www.phblawoffice.com

Wellness walk

Wasecan raising money to combat Parkinson's Disease

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"My family has a real connection to Parkinson's Disease," observes Melissa Dunn, Waseca resident and County Pioneer writer. "If there's something I can do to help contribute to a cure, I'm glad to do it."

Dunn's maternal grandmother, Dorothy Ohmann, was diagnosed with "early onset" Parkinson's disease at age 40, when Dunn was an infant. Dorothy's uncle, Rudolph Stoll, was also diagnosed at an unknown early age for Parkinson's. Both lived with the disease for decades, gradually losing mobility and muscle control until eventually succumbing in their early 70's. Later, in Dunn's young adulthood, her mother's sister, Susan Groff, was diagnosed with "early onset" Parkinson's at age 50 and passed away at age 65.

"We can't help asking ourselves who's going to be next," she says.

It is the memory of what her family members experienced which motivated Dunn to join a fundraiser being sponsored by the Michael J. Fox Foundation. Actor Fox founded the organization in 2000; he had been diagnosed at age 29 in 1991. Dunn says she is impressed by the impact Fox's foundation has had, and so occasionally takes a few moments to look through its website.

"I saw that there was a fundraiser

that's just right for me," Dunn said.

The objective is to find friends and family members willing to support a 30-mile "marathon" of dog walking carried out over a few weeks' time in the month of April. Dunn decided that she and her cream-colored dachshund Wallace would do their part.

Wallace, along with Dunn's other dogs Shelby and Otto, has gained minor celebrity status in Dunn's Pioneer column, "Always Looking Up." The regular feature shares the antics and eccentricities of the animals who occupy the hearts and home of Dunn and her husband, Dave.

Dunn jokes that, with Wallace as company, the 30 miles that she could walk in 7 hours may take 30 or more.

True to the personality Dunn has told about in her columns, Wallace views a "walk" as more of a "meander," with scents, pedestrians, other dogs, and various mystery sightings to be considered or explored. Then there are the dance-like steps required as Dunn disentangles herself from Wallace's leash, which has a way of wrapping itself around her legs as the explorations draw her charge from one side of the trail to the other.

"We're not efficient," she admits, "but we're determined."

For now, with the weather having finally shown signs of cooperating, she and Wallace are in their "training" phase, still finding the synchrony that



ONLY 30 MILES TO GO - Melissa Dunn and her dachshund Wallace are raising money to fight Parkinson's Disease by taking part in a walk-a-thon for the Michael J. Fox Foundation. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

comes with practice and experience—or at least learning to watch out for wrapped leashes. Finding sponsors is also underway.

In the meantime, their walks are a reminder to Dunn to remain grateful for the mobility and independence she continues to enjoy. She recalls the tightened muscles, tremors, and gradual loss of faculties experienced by her family members almost as though they

were a vicious attack.

"Finding a cure wouldn't be 'revenge' exactly," she observes. "But it would mean other people's loved ones never have to go through those indignities and losses."

Donations can be made to Team Wallace & Melissa's 30 mile dog walk at <https://www.facebook.com/donate/899426134410146/>

■ Utilities

from Page 1

great service to Waseca."

Waseca's utilities department provides electricity to 4,100 residential, commercial, and industrial customers. The department currently has four employees dedicated to taking care of the electrical side of things: a foreman, two line workers, and an apprentice line worker.

"The recognition from the APPA is reflective of the excellent staff we have," Hanson added. "Their response time is quick, and they are reliable with fixing any problems we have."

Hanson shared the news through the city's official Facebook page

Kloe Wadd wins agriculture scholarship

Plainview, MN - The Minnesota FFA Foundation announced the twenty-five Minnesota students who will receive the James W. Tracy scholarship. The scholarship is available to Minnesota students who are enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited post-secondary school and pursuing a degree in Agriculture. The Scholarship is scored on leadership, involvement, agriculture interest and financial need.

The scholarship is possible due to the generosity of James W. Tracy, a farmer from Dennison, Minnesota

who lost his battle with illness in 2014. Jim had a deep love for the land, farming and the desire to support youth which led him to donate his farm to the Minnesota FFA Foundation. Generations of high school seniors interested in studying agriculture will benefit from this donation through the James W. Tracy Scholarship.

Kloe Wadd of Waseca was one of these 25 recipients.

Scholarship recipients will have the opportunity to be recognized for their James W. Tracy scholarship on

stage at the 2023 Minnesota FFA State Convention. Recipients will be honored during the Fifth General Session on Tuesday, April 25th beginning at 12:00pm Noon at Williams Arena – University of Minnesota Minneapolis campus.

The scholarship guidelines and application for school year 2023-2024 will be available November 15, 2023



at www.mnffaafoundation.org.

The Minnesota FFA Foundation partners with individuals and businesses to provide resources that promote and enhance premier leadership, personal growth and career success for Minnesota youth in Agricultural Education. For more information about the Minnesota FFA Foundation, contact Program Coordinator Amanda Sommers at 507-461-2214 or visit us on the web at www.mnffaafoundation.org.

■ Fitness

from Page 2

muscles in new ways. Don't let this soreness stop you from working toward your goals. Stretching, ice, massage, heat and light exercise, such as walking or biking, may help alleviate any discomfort. However, keep moving to keep your muscles loose as you recover. As you progress on your exercise journey, your muscles get stronger, and you will experience less soreness and quicker recovery.

It's important to distinguish between mild soreness and muscle in-

juries. Sore muscles feel tender, tired or achy. In contrast, a sports injury usually produces sharp, stabbing or deep pains. This pain could linger even after resting. Talk with your health care provider if you are experiencing this type of pain.

Here are tips for preventing the most common exercise injuries:

Knee pain

Similar to shoulder pain, knee pain can be caused by the joint, muscles,

ligaments, tendons or bursae around the joint. The severity of knee pain can vary widely, from a slight twinge to pain that interferes with daily activities. A common type of knee pain occurs around your kneecap. This type of knee pain, called patellofemoral pain, is sometimes referred to as "runner's knee" and is common in people who participate in sports that involve running or jumping. It is caused by overuse, injury, excess

weight, poor alignment of the kneecap or changes underneath the kneecap. This injury is also common in young athletes, especially female athletes.

You can prevent runner's knee by practicing proper form and mechanics during squatting and jumping activities, as well as performing exercises to stabilize the knee joint and promoting proper alignment of the knee cap.

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OBITUARIES

Shari Rae Quast

Shari Rae Quast, age 78, of Waterville passed away from complications of COPD and lung cancer on Saturday, April 8, 2023, at Traditions of Waterville, surrounded by her family.

Born on December 28, 1944, she was the daughter of Raymond and Delores (Keogh) Smith. She received her education at St. Mary Parochial School and graduated from McKinley High School in Le Center with the class of 1962. On October 9, 1965, Shari was united in marriage to Derold Quast at St. Mary Catholic Church in Le Center. Together they had two children and later divorced.

Shari worked at ADC in St. Peter, Green Giant in Montgomery, Sportsmen's Lounge/Villager in Waterville, EF Johnson Company, Brown Printing and Itron. She was very proud to be 100% Irish. Shari enjoyed playing bingo and cards and going on trips to the casino. She had the gift of gab. Shari was a loving mother and grandmother and cherished spending time with her family and friends.

Shari is survived by her children: Jeff (Carol) Quast of Waseca, and Heidi (Chris) Tracy of Waterville; grandchildren: Kyle Quast of Maple Grove, Hannah (Eddie) Schmit of Albertville, Mya Tray



Shari Rae Quast

and Deegan Tracy both of Waterville; other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, aunts, cousins and friends.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 2:30 PM on Friday, April 14, 2023, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Waterville with Fr. John Powers as Celebrant. Interment will be in Calvary Cemetery in Le Center. Visitation will be for one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday.

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Gertrude Ann Schubbe

Gertrude Ann Schubbe, age 92 of Pemberton died on Saturday, April 8, 2023 at Foxdale in Waseca.

Born on June 24, 1930 in Mankato, Minnesota, she was the daughter of Verner and Stella (Geary) Crane. She graduated from Pemberton Public School in 1948 and went on to attend Mankato Commercial College. Gert was united in marriage to Darrell Schubbe on August 15, 1951. She worked in the clerical and secretarial field for many years. Together with her husband and son, they owned and operated the Waldorf

Kerr McGee Station in Waldorf from 1980 until their retirement.

Gert was a long time member of Medo Lutheran Church in rural Pemberton until it's closing. Most recently, she had attended Zoar United Church of Christ in Waldorf. Gert had served as secretary of the Morrow Cemetery for many years. She was a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and the Minnesota Society of Mayflower Descendants being a 10th generation descendant from John Alden and Priscilla Mullins. Gert and Darrell also worked in Admissions at the Coliseum at the Minnesota State Fair for 20 years. She was KEYC TV's 2004 Good People Jefferson Award

recipient.

Gert is survived by her husband, Darrell of Pemberton; two children, Linda (Larry) Born of Waseca and Larry Schubbe of Pemberton; three grandchildren, Jess (Angie) Brandt, Travis (Emily) Schubbe, and Brent (Aley) Schubbe; and one great granddaughter, Ava Schubbe. She was preceded in death by her parents and two sisters, Neva Ikier and Edith Hopman.

A celebration of Gert's life was held at the Main Street Plaza in Pemberton on Thursday, April 13, 2023 from 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. Private family services are being held. Burial will be at the Morrow Cemetery in Beauford Township, Blue Earth County.



Gertrude Ann Schubbe

Waseca Rotary hosts international program

WASECA, MINNESOTA — The Congressional Office for International Leadership (formerly known as the Open World Leadership Center), an agency of the U.S. Congress, will send a delegation of Moldovans professionals to Waseca from April 21 to the 28. The delegation consists of six professionals and will be accompanied by a bicultural/lingual facilitator and an interpreter. While in Waseca, the Open World program participants will be hosted by the Waseca Rotary Club.

Prior to their arrival in Waseca the participants completed an orientation in Washington, D.C. Delegates had policy meetings with members of Congress. In Waseca, delegates will collaborate on best practices for Agritourism. Delegates will meet local leaders in Waseca. Additional activities include trips to area wineries, Farmamerica, Conagra, SROC,

Metta Meditation Retreat Center, the sites of Blooming Grove Township, and many other businesses that focus on the marriage of agriculture and tourism. The delegation will stay in the homes of local residents who serve as hospitality hosts.

More than 30,000 current and future leaders from post-Soviet era countries have participated in the Open World program. Open World offers one of the most effective U.S. exchange programs to promote mutually beneficial options for depolarized engagement between future national leaders. It is a unique but no less powerful tool for Congress to engage legislatures in critical regions of the world.

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globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

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Rotary members believe that we have a shared responsibility to take action on our world's most persistent issues. Our 46,000+ clubs work to-

gether to:

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- Protect the environment

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We provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

Rotary International's Vision statement

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

Roger Groskreutz

Roger Groskreutz, age 85, of Wells, MN went to his heavenly home on Sunday, April 9, 2023 at his home on the family farm where he was born, as was his wish after a nine-year battle with multiple myeloma. The Funeral Service will be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Wells, MN at 11 a.m. on Monday, April 17, 2023 with Pastor Joe Smith officiating. Burial will be in Rosehill Cemetery in Wells. Visitation will be held on Sunday, April 16, 2023 from 4-7 p.m. at Nasinec Funeral Home in Wells. Visitation will continue one hour prior to the service at the church on Monday. Military Honors will be accorded by the Wells Color Guard. Nasinec Funeral Home in Wells is entrusted with arrangements. Please see www.nasinecfh.com to leave on-line condolences.

Roger Richard Groskreutz was born to Alfred and Helena Groskreutz on April 20, 1937 in Vivian Township, Waseca County. He attended rural country school district #47, then graduated from Waldorf High School in 1956. He served in the U.S. Army on active duty from 1960 to 1962, then in the Army Reserves until 1966. He was proud of his service to his country. On September 14, 1963 he was united in marriage to Jeanette Bakken at Central Freeborn Lutheran Church in rural Albert Lea, MN. They would have celebrated 60 years together this September. To this union, two sons were born, Chad and Layne. He was extremely proud of his sons, who both pursued agriculture degrees. He worked the family farm his entire life, first with his father and brother, Gerald, and then with his wife and two sons. It was important to him to maintain the family farm in good order, so his siblings and their families could always come visit. He was very active in Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, serving as usher, singing in the choir, serving on church council,



Roger Groskreutz

caring ministry team, promise keepers, and call committee. And in earlier years teaching Bethel classes and playing on the men's Dartball Team. Some of his accomplishments in life include being a member of the Wells Jaycees, being chosen as outstanding young farmer, being a member of Harmony Junction Barbershop chorus, and serving on the Waldorf-Pemberton and JWP school boards. His proudest accomplishment was singing with the "Just Friends" gospel group.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Jeanette, his sons: Chad Groskreutz of Wells, MN, Layne (Charity) Groskreutz and grandson Aiden (Roger's pride and joy) of Waseca, MN; sister: Margaret Melcher of Albert Lea, MN; sisters-in-law: Bonnie Groskreutz of Sioux Falls, SD, Mardella Groskreutz of Oakland, CA, Jean Groskreutz of New Albany, IN, and Eunice Bakken of Albert Lea, MN; along with many very special nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, siblings: Dorothy Osland, Gerald Groskreutz, Rev. Donald Groskreutz, Dr. Harvey Groskreutz; brothers and sisters-in-law: Ronald Osland, Gerald Melcher, Harold Bakken, Donald and Carcie Bakken.

Waseca American Legion receives donation



The Waseca American Legion received a \$1,000 donation last week from the Twin Cities Auto Show during their Military Appreciation Day. This donation was given in recognition of our service to the community. It was received during a presentation by Club Manager Liza Buker, Post Commander Shelby Barbknecht, and Post Vice Commander Jackie Barbknecht.

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Training complete



Sheriff Jay Dulas, Deputy Josh Knudtson and Chief Deputy Doug Gerdts celebrate Knudtson’s completion of a four-phase training in “credible leadership.” Those who complete the program show great personal motivation, since coursework must be accomplished independently on personal time.

Noise law sign on 13 considered

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

Noise concerns from semi trucks on Highway 13 on the edge of New Richland were discussed during the New Richland City Council’s second meeting of the month on Monday, March 27. Present to discuss the noise concerns was local resident Eleanor Schlaak, who asked if anything could be done to reduce noise from semis braking prior to reaching the 50 MPH speed limit on the edge of town. The noise, according to Schlaak, has been occurring late at night and keeping her awake.

“We would need signs to enforce vehicle noise laws,” said Mayor Chad Neitzel, who added that, because Highway 13 is a state highway, there are “more hoops to jump through.”

The cost of signs would be roughly \$4,800, and after some discussion the council agreed to discuss the matter with city administrator Tony Martens, who was absent for the meeting. Schlaak noted that she will check back in a month to see if any progress has been made.

A request from councilperson Jason Casey to install a free library on his property was approved, along with Resolution 23-04 establishing handicap parking at All Saints Catholic Church.

Bob Johannsen presented the care center report, stating that the census has been steady since the end of January at about 38/45, or 84%. The center operated in the black financially in February, largely due to a rate increase from the state, though spending continues to be monitored with a focus on putting dollars into staffing and the care center building. A recruitment party was held on March 16, which resulted in three candidates being hired, and the center continues to utilize agency staffing for nursing and CNAs, with about 60% of nursing slots being covered through agency staffing and 35% of CNAs through agency staffing.

Due to the county infection transmission rate going from mod-

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

erate to high, care center staff are wearing masks again and the center asks that all visitors wear masks. It was also noted that families will not be served for Easter due to the increased transmission rate in the county.

Johannsen noted that “operations are doing great” at the center, and mentioned that the center is still in need of advisory board members. The report was approved.

Shell Johnson presented the PeopleService report, noting that two violations received last February and March were due to an error in limit numbers, which have been straightened out, with the violations to be removed. A broken water line at the plant was noted, though the location of the break and when it occurred is not known. Inspection to locate the break is scheduled. A purchase request for a camera for the sewers was approved at a cost of \$609.99, to be paid for from water, sewer, and street funds. The report was approved.

Eric Hendrickson presented the water and street report, noting that, though he wanted to discuss road work at the meeting, not all bids for the roads have been received yet. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

“The roads are getting pretty beat up,” Hendrickson said.

Purchase requests for cold mix at a cost of \$1,500, along with three loads of gravel at a cost of up to \$1,500, were approved, along with the report.

An update to the ambulance policy manual was discussed, and the council agreed to table the matter until the next meeting in order to discuss it with ambulance director Sarah Sundve. A request for new furniture and layout in the council chambers was approved at a cost of \$776, and the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Council swears in Johnson

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Newly appointed council member Sarah Johnson took her oath of office at the Janesville council meeting Monday, April 10. The council approved a resolution officially appointing her to fill the vacant seat left behind by former member Melissa Kopachek.

Johnson had a relatively easy meeting as it only went for half an hour. The council approved David Drown and Associates (DDA) to move forward with its “Classification and Compensation Study Benchmarks.” The intent of the study is to compare the pay received by Janesville city employees to that earned by workers in “benchmark” cities at about the same level. City administrator Clinton Rogers explained that, as part of the study, employees will review their job descriptions and responsibilities before their documentation goes to their supervisors for review later in the week.

“An employee from each department formed a working committee and gave various descriptions,” he elaborated. “Benchmarks would be the terms from the cities we’re going to use.”

City office manager Andrea Moen added that DDA will provide spotlight benchmarks for not only for city positions, but also for Prairie Ridge Golf Course. “It’s pulling some of what the bigger communities are doing,” she said. “For example, Kasson is in close proximity to Rochester. Therefore, Rochester is a spotlight benchmark for them.”

In Janesville’s case, many of its “spotlight benchmarks” will be from cities like Mankato, North Mankato,



Council members Andy Ahlman, Ivan Maas, Mayor Andy Arnoldt, and Jim Mulcahey welcomed newly appointed member Sarah Johnson Monday, April 10.
Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

and Waseca.

Council member Jim Mulcahey expressed some concern about having pay rates at Prairie Ridge compared to those at eighteen-hole golf courses around the area, suggesting that doing so is “inadvisable.”

Moen explained that the reason for those comparisons is that far more cities have larger golf courses as opposed to ones with nine holes. “We had to do that to get good comparisons.”

However, council member Ivan Maas wasn’t convinced. “I don’t think we should be comparing ourselves to golf courses in Cottage Grove and New Hope,” he said. “They’re in the metro, and they run a higher fee. That means their employees probably get paid much more.”

In the end, he opposed moving forward with the benchmark cities suggested by DDA.

Council members also decided to have the golf course purchase a Toro heavy utility cart outright to replace the current one. The alternative was

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

to put \$20,000 down and finance the remaining \$12,600 through the Janesville State Bank.

The golf advisory board felt it was the best option to pay for the cart in full with the course’s funds. The city’s fund balance policy states that the city keeps 40 percent of the golf budget in the fund; the amount is currently shy of that mark. But the board and the council expressed the opinion that, given they way things are going for the golf course, another great year will make up for the deficit.

“I think we can afford to take money out of the profits,” council member Mulcahey said.

The council then approved advertising the city’s Community Development position with a May 19 deadline.

Council member Andy Ahlman reported that the golf course expects to receive the golf carts it purchased a

couple months ago sometime this week. The golf advisory board is looking into future work on the siding, roof and indoor countertops at the clubhouse.

“The roof is going to make it a couple more years,” he informed the council. “But it will need to be addressed at some point.”

Jacob Lehrke, who helps manage the golf course, will look into getting a rough mower soon.

The season started the day of the council meeting, and things were already looking good. A record 210 golfers signed up for the men’s league this season; the membership drive saw an increase for the third straight year.

Mayor Andy Arnoldt shared that the utility board is waiting on bids for the power plant’s substation upgrades. Crews will start installing new electric meters sometime between May and June, and they only have a few water meters left to install.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

■ Choral
from Page 1

a music ensemble for the first time during a past Choral concert.

The spring performance will be the group’s first since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. After making their comeback November 27 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church the group is still rebuilding.

“The group usually had about fifty members,” Wantoch-Yess said. “As we’ve started practicing again, some people are still hesitant. But slowly and surely we’re growing back to normal numbers.”

Board member Deb Vetter agreed. “It’s been slower, but people are coming back.”

What the group has noticed is there is more of a mix between older and younger people coming back to the chorale. Cathy Dey and Jacque Storby, who were with the group

when it chartered back in 1973, were excited to see that.

“We’re getting pretty old, of course,” Dey joked.

Wantoch-Yess is also ecstatic to see new people joining. “As some of our charter members fall away — voices change as you get older — we’ve seen that more younger people are joining,” she said. “It’s fun for me, because most of them came from the school program here in Waseca. To see kids I worked with from junior high to seeing kids like John now leading the group is gratifying.”

She also made a point of expressing her gratitude toward Waseca’s enthusiasm for the arts, especially music.

“We’ve received a lot of support from the community over the years,” she observed. “Fifty years is a really unusual length of time for community choirs. It’s unique and shows what’s pretty special about Waseca. It supports the community and school musical organizations. It’s what brings music lovers here and

keeps the music programs going.”

Board member Toni Bauleke said that the Waseca Area Foundation deserves a great deal of the credit for supporting the chorale. “If it weren’t for their grants, we couldn’t do this.”

Having a chorale in Waseca has been enjoyable for singers at a variety of skill levels. “We don’t necessarily have professionals here,” Wantoch-Yess elaborated. “People come because they love to sing not just because of the music, but because of the people.”

Bauleke agreed. “Even if we didn’t do a concert, I would just come to sing. I love being with other people who love to sing, too. And that’s really what it’s all about. The concert’s only one day.”

Speaking of their concert, tickets for the group’s “Time in a Bottle” spring concert April 23 are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children 12 and under. They are available in advance from chorale members or in limited numbers at Waseca Music. Tickets will also be available at the door. The

group is thrilled to present their concert celebrating fifty years in Waseca.

“Waseca has been blessed to have this group for fifty years,” co-director Hoehn said. “With any hope and luck, we’ll have it for another fifty, and another fifty after that.”

Chorale members include altos Charleen Arnold, Toni Bauleke, Sheryl Brisel, Karen Dahle, Mary Jo DeLaitich, Mallory Malecek, Rita Miller, Susan Poepping, Jodie Pollock, Mary Schultz, Jacque Story, and Deb Vetter; Bases Mike Anthony, Gary Arnold, Maynard Breck, Paul Byron, Doug Engstrom, Don Frankenberry Sr., Matt Jirele, and Jon Stagman; Sopranos Cathy Dey, Aimee Hill, Sallene Hoehn, Janice Hoverstad, Michaela Kerner, Nancy Lehman, Kelli Lenz, Susan Manson, Kathy Kathy Roycraft, Isabella Sorenson, Stacy Stenzel, and Sarah Whitest; and Tenors Rodney Born, John Hoehn, Al Judd, Domain Kerner, Andrew Miller, Immanuel Mueller, and Michael Myers.

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Opening-day domination

Bluejays bomb Medford

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Call it Throwback Night at Tink Larson Community Field.

Back in the day, the Waseca High School baseball team was accustomed to facing powerful squads like New Ulm, and would have feasted on the likes of Medford.

That's what happened in the Bluejays' season opener Tuesday, April 11. The Jays batted around the order in the first and second innings, plating 17 runs, while Sebastian Teague pitched a two-hitter and struck out eight as Waseca romped to a 17-0, five-inning triumph on a beautiful day for baseball.

After Teague retired the Tigers — who had but one reserve on the bench — in order in the top of the first, Waseca's offense went to work while Medford's defense struggled in the bottom of the inning.

Kedrick Volkman reached on a leadoff error, and a fly ball to right by Tyson Reger was dropped. Griffin Krautkremer drove in a run with a single, Payton Garza walked and Grant Cox delivered an RBI hit. Max Neaves walked, Keaton Roeker singled and drove in a run, and Teague was hit by a pitch. The Jays' No. 9 hitter took a called third strike for the first out. Reger added a two-run double before the inning finally ended with Waseca up 8-0.

Teague had another 1-2-3 inning in the top of the second, and the Jays exploded for nine runs in their turn. Teague, who walked one, did not allow a hit until the top of the fifth.

Reger went 2-for-3, scored twice and drove in three runs. Cox, Neaves and Roeker also tallied two hits, while Volkman scored twice with two RBIs, Krautkremer scored twice and Garza crossed the plate three times.

The Bluejays expect a much tougher test Tuesday, April 11 at New Ulm.



SEASON-OPENING ENJOYMENT — The Waseca High School baseball team rolled to a 17-0, five-inning victory over Medford Tuesday, April 11 at Tink Larson Community Field. Top left: Max Neaves reacts after his second base hit. Left: Griffin Krautkremer is congratulated by assistant coach Bob Lueken. Above, the Bluejays' Sebastian Teague fires a pitch on his way to a complete-game shutout.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



SUCCESSFUL OPENER — At left, Jeff Reese watches the action from the dugout during the NRHEG Panthers' 5-2 victory over Blue Earth Area at Jeff and Carol Reese Field Tuesday, April 11. At right, Andrew Phillips is greeted at the dugout by head coach Mark Lee.

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



Panthers prevail upon Reese's return

NRHEG baseball team beats Blue Earth Area as former long-time coach returns to dugout

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Not to be overshadowed by the return of legendary coach Jeff Reese, the NRHEG Panthers sailed to a 5-2 win over Blue Earth in their opener Tuesday.

Reese returned home about a month ago and joined the team as an assistant about two weeks ago. The 1973 New Richland-Hartland high school graduate began his coaching career in New Richland in 1979, coaching until his retirement in

"The story isn't me, it's the kids. This is a special group."

— Jeff Reese

2013. Reese most recently coached baseball for Mankato Loyola, officially retiring after last season.

"The story isn't me, it's the kids," Reese pointed out. "This is a special group."

Backed by a complete game by junior Daxter Lee, the Panthers jumped out to an early 2-0 lead.

Future division 1 ballplayer, committed to South Dakota State, Andrew Phillips led the Panthers with two doubles and a walk, scoring three times while snagging four stolen bases.

Phillips got the Panthers on the board early after a leadoff double. He was plated by Lee, who reached

via error. Lee later came around to score on two stolen bases and a passed ball.

A solo home run from the Buccaneers put them on the board in the fourth. The Bucs only managed six baserunners in the contest.

"We've got some kinks to work out, but I was really impressed with how we played today considering we've only had one outdoor practice," NRHEG head coach Mark Lee said.

"As for Reese, he gave a modest

introduction to the kids when he returned, which I followed with a very boastful introduction. The amount of knowledge, experience, and baseball IQ Jeff brings to the team is invaluable. And it's fun. Reese was my coach and truth be told we don't know how many more days he has left. We're all grateful to see him back on the diamond and back home."

The Panthers play on Saturday, at home, at noon.

JWP teams end indoor track & field season

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

The final indoor meet of the season Thursday, April 6 saw good results for the JWP track and field teams once again. The girls took first place while the boys were beaten by St. James Area by less than 1.5 points.

JWP girls had 84.33, while Waterville-Elysian-Morristown took second with 60.33. St. James Area was third with 35.33. Blue Earth Area scored 33.

The St. James boys had 68.58 points to JWP's 67.17. WEM took third with 45.5 while Blue Earth Area's boys had 31.75.

The relay teams were a strong part of both squads once again, with the girls' 4x200 and 4x400 (both with Presley James, Nevaeh Weimert, Katie Olson, and Lilly Strauss) taking first.

The boys' 4x200 relay took the top spot while the 4x400 team took second.

It was a great day for those competing in multiple events.

Ava Appel had arguably the best day, taking the gold in the 55-meter intermediate and 60-meter high hurdles while tying for first in the high jump. The boys also had a top hurdler in junior Kaden Baker, who swept the 55-meter intermediate and 60-meter high hurdles. Strauss took the gold in the long jump silver in the 55 dash. Ryan Kronbach took second in the high and long jump.

Other first place finishers were Jack Cahill in the pole vault, Raquel Fischer in the shot put, and MaKenzie Westphal in the 1600. Second-place finishers were Isaac Gahlon in the 55 dash (tie), Alex Kleve in the 1600, and Luke Cahill in the pole vault.

Third-place finishers were Gahlon in the pole vault, the 4x400 relay team, Noah Brock-Oxner in the 55 hurdles, Nevaeh Weimert in the long jump, Claire Walz in the triple jump, and Michael VanRavenhorst in the shot put.

WHS track teams face tough foes at Bruce Smith Field

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Waseca High School track teams faced strong opposition in the Faribault True Team Invitational at Bruce Smith Field in Faribault Tuesday, April 11.

The Bluejay girls finished fourth among nine squads with 77 points. Byron and Rochester Century tied for first with 160.

Camille Lopez led the WHS girls, winning the 100-meter high hurdles in 17.14 seconds and fourth in the long jump at 15-3.5. Ella Dufault was second in the 800 in 2:29.77 while Stella Omtvedt took third in the 3200. Kalea Sartori was third

shot put, sixth, in discus.

Others: Callie Dufault, 7th, 1600; Vivian Mader, 6th, 100 hurdles and 8th, 300 hurdles; Sam Azure, fourth, shot put; 4x100 relay, 4th (Brooklyn Flatau, Azure, Thyme Lang, Gabby Lopez); 4x200 relay, 4th (Azure, Layla Keith, Lopez, Lang); 4x400 relay, 5th (Dufault, Dufault, Lopez, Azure); 4x800 relay, 7th (E.Dufault, Kya Hoof, Maren Schimming, Omtvedt).

Owatonna's boys ran away with first, totaling 238 points. The Bluejay boys tied St. Peter with 72.

Eddie Herman had a strong night, taking second in the shot put (47-00.75) and second in the discus

(139-08).

Kyle Ahlschlager just missed winning the 100, taking second in 11.45; the winning time was 11.37.

Isaac Fjeldkamp was second in the 1600 in 5:01.86. Joe Fjeldkamp clocked 10:53.44 for third in the 3200 and Addison Sampson cleared 11-6 for third in the pole vault.

The Jays were nipped for first in the 4x200 relay, where Ahlschlager, Kaeden Johnson, Carson Ohnstad and Christian Rodriguez took second in 1:31.28.

Others: 4x400 relay, 9th (Israel Nelson, Bobby Mortenson, Isaac Fjeldkamp, Colton Schroeder); 4x800, 5th (Lucas Vasquez,

Sampson, Godwin, Joe Fjeldkamp; Ethan Stenzel, 7th, discus; William Mansfield, 6th, pole vault.

The Bluejays completed the indoor season April 4 in Mankato, with the boys taking second and the girls fourth. Four schools competed.

Ahlschlager won the 55-meter dash in 6.65 seconds, while Damarius Russell was third in 6.82. Ahlschlager went 20-8.75 to win the long jump, with Russell second at 20-0.25.

The Bluejays claimed the top two spots in the pole vault, where Sampson cleared 12-6 for first and Mansfield was second at 11 feet. Ohnstad clocked 56.61 to win the

400, Eddie was first in the shot put at 48-9, and the 4x200 relay team of Ahlschlager, Rodriguez, Ohnstad and Russell won in 1:35.64.

For the girls, Lang posted a personal-best 8.22 for first in the 55 dash. Ring won the 55 hurdles.

Azure, Lang, Lopez and Ring combined for second in the 4x200.

Callie Dufault took second and Omtvedt third in the 800. Ella Dufault was third in the 800. Camila Marquez and Lang tied for fourth in the high jump. Satori was third and Azure fourth in the shot put.

The next action for the Bluejays is the Waseca Invitational Friday, April 21 at 4 p.m.



TOUGH OPENER — The NRHEG softball team had the task of hosting No. 1 ranked Randolph in the 2023 season opener at Legion Field and lost 13-0 in five innings. At left, Faith Nielsen delivers a pitch. At right, Erin Peterson bunts.



Photos by Judy Tweeten

NRHEG softball team falls to No. 1 ranked Randolph

By JIM LUTGENS Sports Editor
It was a challenging opener for the NRHEG High School softball team. Fortunately, or unfortunately, depending on how you look at it, it only lasted five innings.

The Panthers hosted the state's No. 1 ranked team, Randolph, on Monday and lost 13-0 at Legion Field in New Richland. "We got throw into the fire to start the season," said Panthers coach Wendy Schultz. "Randolph is ranked No. 1 in the state for a reason." One of the main reasons is pitcher Carter Raymond, who allowed only two hits while striking out 10 and walking none. "They have a dominant pitcher and catcher duo," said Schultz. Sidney Schultz started in the circle for the Panthers, giving up two earned runs on one hit and six walks in 2 1/3 innings. She had one strike-

"We got thrown into the fire to start the season."
— NRHEG coach Wendy Schultz

out. Faith Nielsen went the final 2 2/3 for NRHEG, allowing seven earned runs on eight hits and five walks, with one strikeout. Paige Nielsen and Isabel Stadheim had the Panthers' lone hits. "There isn't a weak spot in Randolph's lineup," said Coach Schultz. "We struggled a bit trying to find the strike zone. Over half the walks were full counts and I'm confident consistency will come with each game." The Panthers travel to Dodge Center to face Triton on Friday.

NRHEG track teams shine at USC

By JIM LUTGENS Sports Editor
After a long, cold, snow-filled winter, Tuesday, April 11 produced a picture-perfect outdoor season opener for the NRHEG track and field teams at Wells. The Panthers capitalized on the weather conditions, with the girls taking second and the boys fourth among six teams in the Viesselman Invitational, named after long-time United South Central track and cross country coach Kent Viesselman. "The girls had a great meet tonight," said Panthers coach Duey Ferber. NRHEG totaled 242 points, 35 shy of first-place LCWM/N. Blue Earth Area totaled 238, USC/AC 177.5 and Maple River 132. Evelyn Nydegger had a big night with three firsts. She won the 100-

meter high hurdles in 18.74 seconds, the 300 intermediate hurdles in 51.71 and the triple jump at 33-1. "Evelyn had a superlative night," said Ferber. The other firsts were by Anika Ladlie, high jump, 4-8; and Lauren Crowell, discus, 96-11. Other places: Gabby Schlaak, 2nd, 100 hurdles and 3rd, high jump; Kiera Lenort, 2nd, high jump; Malonna Wilson, 2nd, shot put; Paige Johnson, 3rd, 100; Crowell, 3rd, shot put; 4x200 relay, 2nd (Sierra Misgen, Chloe Riewer, Schlaak, Ladlie); 4x200, 3rd (Josie Strom, Riewer, Orianna Degen, Johnson); 4x800, 4th (Annabelle Petsinger, Holly Bartness, Winter Pederson, Clara Buendorf; 4x400, 4th (Lenort, Nydegger, Misgen, Buendorf); Strom, 4th, triple jump; Riewer, 4th, long jump and 6th, 100; Makenzie Mueller, 4th, discus;

Bartness, 5th, 800; Petsinger, 5th, 3200; Kylie Olson, 5th, shot put; Johnson, 6th, 200 and long jump. "This being our first outdoor meet, I was very pleased with all our performances," said Coach Ferber. Maple River won the boys' division with 304 points, followed by LCWM/N with 255, Blue Earth Area 203.5, NRHEG 201.5, JWP 179.5 and USC/AC 77.5. Will Tuttle paced the Panthers, winning the 110 hurdles in 16.71 and the 300 intermediates in 43.3. He joined Aiden Deyle, Sawyer Prigge and Jaylin Raab for first in the 4x400 in 3:42.91. Lucas Hanna took the other first, tossing the discus 130-05. Deyle, Prigge, Tuttle and Raab took second in the 4x100, as did Raab in the long jump and Prigge in the high jump. "The boys had a very nice night,"

said Ferber. "The weather was amazing and the kids performed well." Other places: 4x800, 3rd (Sam Christenson, Conner Nelson, Charlie Fuller, Jacob Karl); Levin Kitzer, 3rd, 110 hurdles; Nelson, 3rd, 800; 4x200, 4th (Parker Bunn, Kitzer, Harbor Cromwell, Cohen Riewer); Karl, 4th, 1600; Deyle, 4th, 200; Raab, 5th, 100; Bunn, 6th, 300 hudles; Cromwell, 6th, pole vault; Hanna, 5th, shot put; Evan Beckmann, 6th, discus. "Tuttle had a very good meet," said Ferber. "Lucas Hanna is throwing very well after taking a year off. The 4x400 and 4x100 teams are looking good. The younger guys really contributed tonight." The Panthers compete Tuesday, April 18 at Maple River.

WHS softball team nearly knocks off St. Peter in opener

Saints rally for extra-inning win

By JIM LUTGENS Sports Editor
The Waseca High School softball team was three outs away from shutting out a strong St. Peter squad Tuesday on the Bluejays' home diamond. It's as close as they would get. The Saints scratched together a run in the top of the seventh inning and it remained 1-1 until the visitors scored twice in the ninth to leave town with a 3-1 decision. Despite the loss, Waseca coach Abby Bloomquist was far from disappointed.

"We played a great game tonight," she said. "With the exception of a couple unforced errors, our defense was solid. We definitely didn't walk away hanging our heads as we played great ball against a great Big South team. We look forward to playing St. Peter again in two weeks where we hope to put on more pressure offensively.

"We look forward to facing St. Peter again."
— Waseca coach Abby Bloomquist

McKyla Hasselquist scored the lone run for the Bluejays, walking, stealing second and crossing the plate on an RBI double by Cameron Stagman. Hannah Sommers added one hit. Ella Bartelt was hit by a pitch. Hasselquist pitched all nine innings, giving up three earned runs on five hits and one walk with 10 strikeouts. The Bluejays play Tuesday at New Ulm, Friday at Medford and have a Saturday doubleheader at Worthington. They're at St. Peter April 25.

WHS tennis boys top BEA in opener

By JIM LUTGENS Sports Editor
It was an exciting and successful season opener for coach Kyle Collins and the Waseca High School boys' tennis team Tuesday, April 11. The Bluejays traveled to Blue Earth Area, where they battled to a 3-3 tie through six matches before pulling out a hard-earned 4-3 decision on the Buccaneers' courts. In the end, 8th-grader Henry Huttemier's three-set, come-from-behind victory at No. 4 singles was the difference. After dropping the first set 6-1 to junior Jamie Johnson, Huttemeier stormed back to win the final sets and the match 6-3, 6-4. The doubles teams set up Huttemier's dramatic match by sweeping. Senior Jacari Jellum and junior Oliver Rohwer defeated freshman Mitchell Stevermer

and 7th-grader Ryder Dutton 6-3, 2-6, 6-1 at No. 1 doubles. Seniors Jenaro Delgado and Jan Schoen swept juniors Seth Matthews and Gustavo Chavero 6-2, 6-1 at No. 2. Waseca's No. 3 doubles team of senior Corbin Connors and 7th-grader Armaan Bhatti won 6-0, 6-3 over freshman Noah Hanson and senior Mateaus Sanchez. Tyler Jellum, a sophomore, fell 6-4, 6-1 to junior Joe Frundt at No. 1 singles. Junior Dominic Grunzke was swept by junior Brady Lorenz 6-3, 6-1 at No. 2. Eighth-grader Otto Schoenrock was defeated 6-4, 7-6 by sophomore Devin Haase. The Bluejays faced St. James Area in their home opener Thursday. They host Red Wing Monday, Redwood Valley Tuesday and Fairmont Thursday, April 20.



OPENING DAY — The JWP softball team lost 8-2 to Blooming Prairie in the season opener Tuesday, April 11 in Janesville. At left, Jessa Westphal lays down a successful bunt. At right, senior Vanessa TerBeest delivers a pitch.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy



JWP softball girls drop long-awaited opener

By MICHAEL ROY Staff Writer
It took over a week for the fields to dry enough for the JWP softball team to play its first game. But when it happened, the Bulldogs hosted Blooming Prairie on Tuesday, April 11 only for the Awesome Blossoms to defeat them 8-2. Blooming Prairie used a little trickery to get a run in the top of the first. After earning a single, a bunt gave their first runner a chance to

steal two bases, eventually leading to the first run of the game. The Bulldogs couldn't reply. The next two innings were quiet, with Bulldog pitcher Vanessa TerBeest striking out three within that stretch. A successful bunt by Jessa Westphal in the bottom of the third did not yield any runs, as when Isabelle Rider went to bat, Haven Carlson handed her one of 10 strikeouts on the day. After Blooming Prairie made it 3-

0, JWP freshman Victoria Blomstrom earned her first single of her varsity career, helping create a bases-loaded situation. Four balls by Carlson allowed Bulldogs freshman Brielle Dessner to walk home for the Bulldogs' first run of the game. In the fifth inning, Blooming Prairie cushioned its lead to 4-1. Solid hits by Rider and sophomore Ellah Oliver helped the Bulldogs get another run on the board to make it 4-2. Unfortunately, Blooming

Prairie became too much for them near the end, as they scored four more runs to make it an 8-2 loss for JWP. The JWP softball team traveled to Hayfield Thursday, April 13 and are making up their postponed game against Bethlehem Academy the following Friday. They host Kenyon-Wanamingo on Monday and travel to Triton Tuesday.

Story Idea?
(507) 837-6767

Over-the-counter animal prescriptions restricted

Starting June 11, 2023, all currently available over-the-counter antibiotics for use in animals will only be available as prescription medications.

Which antibiotics will no longer be over-the-counter starting June 11, 2023?

This list includes but is not limited to the following:

- Penicillin
- Oxytetracycline
- Sulf antibiotics
- Mastitis tubes

Which medications will remain over-the-counter after June 11, 2023?

Some medications are not considered crucial for human medicine and will remain over-the-counter. This includes the following:

- Ionophores, i.e., Rumensin, Bovatec
- Parasiticides, i.e., Ivermectin
- Oral pre/pro/postbiotics
- Topical non-antibiotic treatments

Which livestock species will be affected by this rule change?

This new rule will impact all livestock species.

Why are over-the-counter antibiotics moving to prescription only?

Over-the-counter antibiotics are moving to prescription only to provide more veterinary oversight. Similar to the Veterinary Feed Di-

rective, placing antibiotics under the supervision of veterinarians should result in more judicious use and less antibiotic resistance.

What do you need before you can get a prescription from a veterinarian?

Livestock producers must have a valid Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) in place before they can be prescribed antibiotics by a veterinarian.

What is a Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR)?

A VCPR is a working relationship between a veterinarian (veterinary clinic) and a client. Ideally, a VCPR is a documented agreement between both parties that includes a dedicated visit to the animal location(s) the client operates. This visit and documentation must occur at least once every year.

What questions about antibiotics from your veterinarian should you be prepared to answer? The main question you should be prepared to answer is, how are you using antibiotics right now? This includes the following:

- What antibiotics do you use?
- How do you administer each antibiotic?
- When do you administer antibiotics?
- Why do you administer antibiotics?

Housing trust is a ‘no brainer’

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

According to a regional housing expert, Waseca County has around 200 families or individuals who are either homeless or currently seeking housing assistance; the county has also shown the largest decline in renter income in the southern region of Minnesota. During the April 4 meeting of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners, the group heard from Karina Schmitz, the Housing Resource Specialist for MN Prairie.

Schmitz shared information about funding which will be coming to the county; the money’s designated purpose is to increase the availability of housing for specific groups, including homeless people, at-risk families with children, and unaccompanied youth.

Schmitz told board members that housing money will be allotted to the county with or without any action on their part. She informed them that county government could increase its control over how the money will be spent by forming a Local Housing Trust Fund (LHTF) using Local Homeless Prevention Aid (LHPA) dollars. The board is considering the information and recommendations Schmitz offered, and has directed county staff to consider what action will be most appropriate for local circumstances; depending on those recommendations, MN Prairie may be asked to assist with the appropriate forms and applications.

Schmitz informed the board that, if Waseca County does wish to form an LHTF, it will need to officially authorize the LHTF, establish methods of funding, and arrange necessary oversight.

Under the LHPA program, counties will receive twice-yearly payments, the first due to come in

4-H celebrates volunteer week

Waseca, MN (04/16/2023)— Each year, thousands of volunteers in Minnesota donate their time and energy to make their communities a better place. These volunteers will be among the millions across the country who will be spotlighted during National Volunteer Week, April 16-22, 2023.

One group that relies heavily on volunteers is the University of Minnesota Extension’s 4-H Youth Development Program. During National Volunteer Week and every week throughout 2023, Minnesota 4-H celebrates and appreciates its more than 6,700 volunteers - each one critical to the success of 4-H programs and making a difference in the lives of youth. In Waseca County, 65 adult volunteers serve as club leaders, project leaders, committee members and in advisory capacities for the 4-H Youth Development Program. Research shows that Minnesota 4-H volunteers help youth gain leadership skills, serve their communities, improve their decision-making skills and develop career readiness.

Shawn Stoley, a volunteer who has given more than 10 years of her time to the Waseca County 4-H program as a club leader, a dog project trainer, and county fair livestock assistant, says she volunteers with 4-H because, “I enjoy the kids and families and all the connections and friendships I’ve made. I see a lot of growth in the members from year to year, which is very fulfilling.” Jill Christensen, a club leader of the Palmer Sunbeams 4-H Club, agrees. “I volunteer within Waseca County 4-H because well, simply, ‘I love 4-H!’ I loved 4-H as a youth within this same club. I love seeing kids get excited about learning and living, including animals and plants, and



Waseca County 4-H volunteer Jeannie Feldkamp teaches a group of 4-H members about ethical treatment of livestock. More than 225 youth members in Waseca County 4-H rely on more than 75 adult volunteers to train, mentor, and support the many opportunities the organization provides.

seeing new innovative real-life farming, health and technology.”

The work of 4-H volunteers is continuous. Every day volunteers lend a helping hand to make 4-H programs more beneficial to the residents of Waseca County. Those interested in joining the team of 4-H volunteers are invited to contact the

University of Minnesota Extension - Waseca County at 507-835-0600, www.extension.umn.edu/Waseca, mnext-waseca@umn.edu.

Learn more about 4-H Youth Development at extension.umn.edu. University of Minnesota Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Days pass slowly, but year ends quickly

After what has felt like an extremely long winter, it is energizing to see the sun appearing, temperatures rising, and the snow melting. Along with the nicer weather comes the opportunity to get outside and enjoy some of our favorite activities. Spring also marks the last stretch of our school year. With just about eight weeks to go, our students and staff are working hard to complete their goals for the year, and celebrating the successes along the way. Events such as field trips, picnics, prom, and of course commencement will give students, staff, and families much to look forward to as we end the school year.

Spring is also a time for the district administration and School Board to do some intentional work to plan for next school year’s budgeting and staffing. Student enrollment and registration choices are the primary driver of our staffing plans. We use our forecast models to predict how many students we’ll be serving, and then work to ensure we have adequate



Superintendent’s Corner

by Eric Hudspith
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staff to support students. As junior and senior high students complete their registration, we may also need to adjust staffing so that we can honor students interests and needs, and unfortunately that does mean sometimes that we cannot offer classes that did not get enough student interest.

WPS uses this information, combined with the revenue projections from state, federal, and local sources to determine if the staffing we have predicted will fit within our budget parameters. In some instances we have to take a second look at get more efficient in order to meet the expectations of a balanced budget. In

other years, we may have more flexibility to increase staff for high need areas. And still in some years, the district will project a strategic and intentional deficit spend in order to ensure our dollars are being used for students and not just sitting in our fund balance.

Along with the budget and staffing plans, WPS is also beginning the process of reviewing our current strategic plan in preparation of refreshing this plan next school year. Our strategic plan is a document that guides our work daily and on a big picture scale, and at least every five years we look to refresh this plan and think about the next part of the dis-

trict’s future. One of the ways we accomplish this is by asking our students, staff, and families what they see as their desired daily experience in our schools. Unsign this information, we can develop a plan that move our work closer to meeting these needs for our stakeholders. As the process develops, community members will be asked to weigh in as well. Please watch our website and social media for an invitation to do so this summer.

As they say, the days go slow sometimes but the years go fast, and this school year is no different. I am extremely proud of our students and staff and the gains we are making this school year. While we take the time to celebrate this year’s accomplishments, the district is also working diligently to ensure the sustainability so that WPS continues to exceed long as this school year has been completed. Thank you for the support for our students and staff, and we look forward to what comes next!

■ County from Page 1

Soil Resources (BWSR) and other interested agencies. It also approved

paying about \$2.1 million to the Soil and Water Conservation District, which had invoiced the county for various riverfront project costs not covered by various grants.

County Administrator Michael Johnson received authorization to execute documents related to settlements in civil court between the State

of Minnesota and opioid manufacturers, supporting the State-Subdivision Agreement and opting in to all future state settlement agreements on the topic.

Melissa Sexton, of Human Resources, will be offering an early retirement option to 23 county staff members, with the same payout pa-

rameters as a previous early retirement program offered in 2021. The goal of this early retirement program is to help some of the highest-paid staff members who would like to retire, thus allowing staff restructuring while avoiding extreme cost-cutting measures such as layoffs.

Superintendent ‘right sizing’ programs

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

Music teachers David Schmidt and Craig Brendan introduced themselves at the April 6th school board work session, highlighting their programs and the many benefits of music for students. At Hartley elementary school, Schmidt explained that the music program is designed so students can learn to make sense of music through listening and playing, celebrating culture through music, and giving students the choice to build their own music. Schmidt emphasized that music at the elementary level is important as it helps to build community and teaches

young students confidence in expressing themselves. Brendan, who teaches 4th-grade general music and 5th and 6th-grade band at the intermediate school, expressed his reasoning for teaching music; “music is scientific because it is built in a very specific form that one needs to understand how all the forms fit together, music is mathematical because of the timing and the division of it, music is language because of the words of the basic classic languages, music is physical education because it builds finger dexterity, coordination, and lung capacity, and music is art, the center and core of who we are as human beings.”

Superintendent Eric Hudspith

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

gave his preliminary budget update for the next fiscal year. “We are really using our money responsibly to provide what we need to provide without having to gouge anything.” Hudspith refers to the work the finance committee has done as ‘right-sizing’ the budget, not budget reduction. “When we talk about reductions or ‘cutting’, I equate that to what our kids are not going to have next year. If I were to say we are going to offer half as much of a certain service or program as pre-

viously, that’s a reduction. But if we are able to offer the same programming and opportunities for students with just a little bit less staff to do it, that’s a right-sizing of our budget. I’m not going to pretend that some of our high school classes might not have 32 kids in them as opposed to 24. That’s a painful part of the process. But I classify it as a right-sizing because the opportunities for kids don’t change.” Board Chair Julie Anderson commented, “Essentially we are making our revenue fit our student population.” Hudspith agreed; “Yep, we are living within our budget. This is the most responsible way to do it.”

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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The Pastor's Column

Heaven is like a new cell phone

By SANTIAGO RAMIREZ OCAMPO

Directly or indirectly, today, we are children of globalization; the vast majority of things that the world offers have already broken the barriers of distance, and the most distant and alien products to our reality are usually just a click away in our hands and through smartphones. The flow of information is frenetic; news, advertising, and the invitation to consume any product in any presentation reach us in quantities we cannot manage. The globalized world sets the pace of life.

It is said that more than two thousand years ago, in a reality different from ours, a man named Jesus was born of a virgin. It is also said that this man went from village to village, speaking of something he called the kingdom of God. On a particular occasion, in order to give some sense to what he was saying, he declared: "(...) the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field, which a man findeth, and hideth again; and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field."

Let me translate this statement to our globalized days: the kingdom of heaven is like a newly released cell phone, which a man or woman finds, and rejoicing over it, goes and sells all that he or she has and buys that cell phone.

The kingdom of God, to which

this man referred in his statement, was and is an entirely innovative and ridiculous message. The invitation to this man-made can only be understood with complete sanity or dismissed as total insanity. The kingdom of God of which he spoke, as is natural to any kingdom, requires people who will obey what the king of that kingdom asks. At the time, the statement got people talking; who in their right mind sells everything to buy a piece of land with hidden treasure? It's a very high bet. My translation sounds even more ridiculous; who in their right mind sells everything to buy a cell phone? I know; only I can think of such stupidity! When we bring that message to the reality of the globalized world, the announcement of the kingdom of God is entirely countercultural; it is to understand the world in which we are immersed instead of investing our energies in the personal success that is offered to us as the order of the day, we are asked to invest our lives in the love of that God, king of that kingdom; in the love of our neighbor as the source of life, with the extraordinary hope that one day, this world will be like that kingdom: A hidden treasure or the most complete cell phone we can imagine.

I know, I know, the message lacks sanity. In fact, it is madness.

Serving kindness

Congregational Church offers community Easter dinner

By MICHAEL ROY Editor

While Easter Sunday is traditionally a day to spend with families or relatives, a certain contingent of people do not have plans. The First Congregational Church of Waseca provided meals for those people.

The church served about 180 people throughout its ministerial dinner April 9 from noon to about 1:30 p.m. The offering was a classic ham dinner with mashed potatoes and gravy, coleslaw, and a choice of either a vanilla or chocolate cupcake for dessert.

Pastor Ken Andrs explained that, traditionally, the First Congregational Church served these dinners every other year. "We work together with other local churches to put this on," he said.

This was the first time in a few years for the church, however, as the last time they were supposed to have the dinner was during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We're glad to be doing this again," Andrs said.

The purpose of the dinner was to bring people together who otherwise had nothing going on for Easter Sunday. "Some of the people we serve



First Congregational Church of Waseca hosts its ministerial Easter dinner biannually with other churches hosting on their off year. Pictured in the kitchen are Tracy Pomeroy, Robert Dickerson, Phyllis Mercuro, Karen Below, and Lilly Schultz. Photos by Michael Roy

are shut-ins," he added. "A lot of our church congregation also stick around after the service to enjoy dinner."

Several of them volunteered to prepare and serve the dinners as well. There were two options for those interested in eating the Easter dinner: eat it in the church basement, or get it to go. A little over 60 chose the latter option.

Andrs had a lot of people to thank, starting with Kwik Trip for donating the rolls and some other foods for the Easter dinner. "If it weren't for the volunteers, it wouldn't be possible," he added.

Several of the volunteers commented that they were happy to help out, as the church usually puts on other dinners, but Covid-19 has reduced their opportunities for a while now.



Out of around 180 meals served, more than 60 were made "to go." Volunteers Ian Pomeroy, Alex Dickerson, Nathanael Andrs, Shawn Pomeroy, and Roy Miller packed the meals. As many enjoyed their food, it was a reminder that serving others can be rewarding, especially during Easter. "We hope everyone had a great Easter Sunday," Andrs said.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * *	507-607-8245 Sundays 9 and 10:30 a.m. * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	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 * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * *	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METH-ODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 10:45 a.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 * * *	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor Sundays: Sunday School 9 a.m., Bible Study 9:20 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville Father Brian Mulligan 10 a.m. - Mass * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Vacancy Sunday = 1 p.m. Worship * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Vacancy Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * *	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Pamela Jensen Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * *	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18 * * *	NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second sunday "Young at heart" Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation * * *
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca 507-835-1222 Worship Saturday 5:15 p.m., Sundays 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., weekdays 8:30 a.m. Tues., Wed. and Fri., 7:00 a.m. Thurs. * * *	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 * * *		NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.
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STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.: 81-PR-23- 168
In Re: Estate of
LINDA M. MULKENTHIN,
Decedent
NOTICE AND ORDER OF
HEARING
ON PETITION FOR FORMAL
PROBATE OF WILL AND AP-
POINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE IN UNSU-
Pervised ADMINISTRATION
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PER-
SONS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 10th day of May, 2023, at 9:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in the above Court at Waseca, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instru-
ment purporting to be the will of the above named decedent, dated June 1, 2012, and for the appointment of Diane Lorentz, whose address is 33700 35th Street, Janesville, Minnesota 56048 as Personal Representa-
tive of the Estate of the above named decedent in unsupervised administration, and that any ob-
jections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper and no objections are filed, a Personal Representative will be appointed to administer the Estate, to col-
lect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and ex-
penses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate. Upon completion of the administration, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereunto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said Estate are required to present the same to said Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or said claims will be barred.
Dated: 03/22/2023
/s/ Carol M. Hanks
Judge of District Court
/s/ Shannon M. Asselin
Deputy Court Administrator

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG,
P.A.
John D. Scott, #270635
215 E Elm Ave, PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093
Phone: 507-835-5240

Published in the Waseca County
Pioneer on Friday April 7 and
14, 2023

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The Catholic Daughters of America, Court Sacred Heart #1424 invites everyone to Carlson’s Pillow Cleaning Service, which will be operating in front of the Sacred Heart Parish Center from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday April 15. A mobile unit will deodorize, sanitize, fluff and re-tick the pillows. Pillows will be ready and returned on the same day. Custom made NEW pillows and comforters are for sale. Proceeds go to support Sacred Heart School, Habitat for Humanity and other local charities.
Pillows accepted for fluffing include feather and microfiber. Cost is: \$14.95 for a standard size pillow, \$16.95 for a queen, and \$17.95 for king. Cost includes cleaning and a new ticking. There is an extra charge if feathers or down are added to the pillow, and that depends on the amount added.

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Funds used in support of
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Bethlehem Inn,
Pregnancy Options,
Habitat for Humanity
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2	3	4 Burger nite 5-7pm	5 6pm BAR Bingo GOLD STAR SPOUSES DAY	6 HALL 7pm BINGO	7 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 7:PM GOOD FRIDAY	8 SPRING BINGO 7PM
9 EASTER NATIONAL FORMER POW DAY	10 7pm Post & AUX. Meeting	11 Burger nite 5-7pm	12 6pm BAR Bingo	13 HALL 7pm BINGO	14 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 7:PM AIR FORCE RESERVE BIRTHDAY	15 GUN BINGO DEER HUNTERS
16	17	18 Burger nite 5-7pm	19 6pm BAR Bingo	20 HALL 7pm BINGO	21 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm or sold out YOUR HOST HONOR GUARD AND AUX. MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 7:PM	22
23 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am -Noon Your Host Waseca High School Football	24	25 Burger nite 5-7pm	26 6pm BAR Bingo	27 HALL 7pm BINGO	28 STEAK FRY 5:30 TO 7:PM or sold out YOUR HOST FOOD SHELF AND AUX. MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 7:PM	29
30 NATIONAL MILITARY BRATS DAY	ARMY RESERVE BIRTHDAY 4-23	MONTH OF MILITARY CHILD				

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

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* 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?UniqueID=111&From=All&CommunityJobs=False&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 life-guards, 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.

Easter happenings



Miss Waseca Royalty with the Easter Bunny. From left: Kloe Wadd, Bailey Thom, Olivia Johnson, Jasmin Kotek, and Maura Erickson.

Children at the Waseca Egg Hunt Saturday, April 9, were divided into two groups based on their ages: 7-10 and everyone six and under.



The New Richland ambulance department helped host an Easter egg hunt Saturday at the New Richland city park. More than 1,000 eggs were scattered for children to find during the well-attended event. Above from left: Jason Colvin, Shelby Schlie, Jeff Johnson, Sarah Sundve, and Jennifer Lacey. Pioneer photo by Tristan Jensen

Janesville chamber hides eggs

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor
Easter brings the Easter bunny—and eggs.
The week before Easter, the Janesville Chamber of Commerce took steps to brighten the days of elementary students at both Trinity Lutheran and Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton schools. Trinity students got the “egg” rolling Tuesday, April 4 while JWP received a visit from the chamber on Thursday.
Laura Seys, chamber chairperson, dressed up as the Easter bunny. “It’s

something fun for the kids,” she said. “We come by every year and do this for them. It gets them out of class and excited for Easter.”
Each student was allowed ten Easter eggs — no more, no fewer. JWP’s egg hunt took place in the auditorium. The eggs were placed in between, on, or under the seats. Kids then collected and opened the eggs, removed the candy, and returned the plastic casings for future use.
Students took part in grade-level groups, beginning around round 9 a.m. at JWP. Seys said that at around lunch

time (11:30 a.m.), the volunteers took a two-hour break before finishing the day with the other grades. The schedule was similar at Trinity, where the students took pictures with the Easter bunny afterward.
Aside from chamber members Seys and Katie Cahill volunteering, various JWP students helped out throughout the day based on what their schedule allowed.
“It’s always fun doing this,” Seys concluded.



Janesville Chamber of Commerce member Laura Seys (dressed as the Easter Bunny) explains the rules of the organization’s egg hunt to a group of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton fifth-graders. Each student was allowed ten eggs. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

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