



■ Inside:

- 3 - Crocodile productions
- 4-5 - Government
- 6-7 - Sports
- 8 - Local housing
- 9 - Mystery solved
- 10 - Bible seminar
- 11 - Classifieds
- 12 - 2022 highlights

WASECA
COUNTY
PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 2 Vol. II \$2

Office at 103 South State Street Waseca

Friday, January 13, 2023



■ Pages 6-7



Sports



SAFETY - MnDOT snowplow driver Adam Wacholz frequently puts in long hours to keep his section of I-35 clear and open.

Heart-racing moments

Driving a plow requires more than pushing snow

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

“I enjoy being out here when it’s crappy,” declares Adam Wacholz, snow plow driver with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), based out of Albert Lea. The 37-year-old Hollandale resident has had the job for the past 9 years, and has acquired an interesting collection of experiences and knowledge. Not all of which he is willing to share. But given the chance to tell the driving public anything, he knows exactly what he wants to say: “Give us room!”

When the weather calls for it, Wacholz is one of about 20 drivers who keep 10 MnDOT snow plows on the road around the clock, driving 12-hour shifts which last either from midnight to noon, or noon to midnight. The state-owned plows monitor interstate and state highways—in the case of those based out of Albert Lea, I-35 north and south and state highways 13 and 69 north to Highway 30 (New Richland and Ellendale) and south to the state line, as well as sections of I-90.

Snow continued on 3

Chief deputy decision not final

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

The Waseca County Sheriff’s Dept. is in the process of filling the chief deputy position left open by the departure of Trevor Kanewischer, who held the post for the past 10 years. Recently elected and installed Sheriff Jay Dulas reached out to New Richland City Administrator and former chief of police Anthony Martens in December to fill the post and offered him the job. The two parties are still in talks and nothing has been finalized.



Martens



Dulas

Waseca County Commissioner Doug Christopherson confirmed that the hiring process has several steps before the appointment can be finalized. “A background check for one thing,” he said. “There are details that need to be stepped through. “I know Jay is a good man and I respect his decision making.” Ultimately, according to Christopherson, the commissioner has the ability to approve the position, but not the person appointed to fill it. If county leadership is unhappy with the sheriff’s choice of chief deputy, their only option is to terminate the position. Ultimately, the decision regarding who will serve as the next chief deputy lies with Dulas.

As of Jan. 11, nothing was finalized, according to Dulas, Martens, and a number of county officials. Martens tendered his resignation to the city of New Richland during an emergency city council meeting on Jan 3. He is contractually obligated to give a 30-day notice and if installed as chief deputy, said he would be willing and able to help train his potential replacement. On Dec. 31, Dulas named Martens as his next chief deputy in an email to all Waseca County staff reading: “The time has come to announce that Anthony Martens has been offered the Chief Deputy position. A start date has not yet been set.” Martens was hired as New Richland City Administrator in March 2022 and previously served for five years as the city’s chief of police.

“The path has been a little strange to get where I’m at,” said Martens during a June interview with the Star Eagle. Martens had worked toward becoming qualified for the role of an administrator for the previous four years, having earned his degree in administration in 2019. Martens, a 20-year resident of New Richland, came to know the area when he began working at The Creamery restaurant in Otisco in the early 2000s. In 2005, he purchased his New Richland home. He married his wife Kelly (Nelson) in 2016 and the pair have two children, 16-year-old Carter and 14-year-old Corbin.

Decision continued on 4

JWP High School goes on lockdown

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

JWP High School went into lockdown procedures early in the afternoon on Tuesday, Jan. 10, after reports that several students received “air dropped” electronic messages and photos from an unknown student displaying a picture of a gun and the words “school shooter.”

The entire lockdown procedure, which included an evacuation of the school, spanned about four hours. Part of the normal lockdown procedure, according to Superintendent Jeremy Erler, included barricading doors and windows prior to an evacuation of the high school, classroom by classroom to a “reunification location” where parents could pick up their children.

It remains unknown, at this time, who sent the threatening message.

“We’re working with the Janesville Police Department and Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) to identify the person responsible,” Erler told the Pioneer. “Our number one focus at JWP is to ensure the safety of our kids.

“Kids are responding appropriately for everything that went on yesterday,” Erler continued. “We have social workers meeting with students and/or staff if requested. We’re handling each situation individually.”

The investigation is still ongoing. School officials feel all appropriate lockdown procedures were followed, and that there is no ongoing threat to the school or community. The Janesville Police Department was assisted at the scene by the Minnesota BCA, Waseca County Sheriff’s Office, Waseca Police Department, New Richland Police Department and Mayo Security.

A word from The Word

He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness.

Psalm 91:4-6



Practitioner Hua Zhu demonstrates “cupping” and acupuncture techniques on a volunteer. Hua has been offering her services to Wasecans for more than two decades.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Making a point

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

Acupuncturist Hua Zhu tells of a saying in Chinese medicine: “Everyone has a pharmacy inside his or her body; acupuncture is a key that opens the pharmacy’s door.” She explains that, in traditional Chinese medicine, the body has fourteen “meridians,” or “energy highways” that allow energy—the Qi [pronounced “chee”]—to circulate. Acupuncture points, located all over the head, torso and limbs, are those places where the meridians are closest to the surface and so can be stimulated by inserting a needle. The purpose of the stimulus is to restore balance, thus relieving pain or inflammation or increasing immunity.

Acupuncture has been practiced for over 3000 years. The number and locations of needles used are determined based on the nature and severity of a patient’s symptoms. Zhu explains that clients seeking treatment for only one complaint may have 6 to 10 needles used. Someone with a number of long-standing complaints may need 20 or more. Acupuncture needles come in different sizes, but all measure in the hundredths of millimeters: one internet source refers to them as “not much thicker than hair.” Therefore, no matter how many needles are used in acupuncture treatment, the sensation will be nothing like receiving a shot from a doctor or getting a piercing. Acupuncture treatment is often pleasant and relaxing for most patients. Although acupuncture clinics are more commonly found in larger cities (many Western practitioners support acupuncture as a form of treatment, including Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, Maryland, and the Mayo Clinic in Rochester), Waseca has been fortunate to house Zhu’s Acupuncture since 1999. Owned and operated by Hua Zhu, the clinic is located in the Beschnett building on 15th Avenue NE.

Zhu explained the body remains healthy when the Qi flows freely. Illness can take hold when the

Point continued on 8

Time and effort

Drivers asked to adjust to conditions

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Mike Dougherty recognizes that it’s frustrating to have to slow down in bad weather conditions. But he points out that it’s even more frustrating to end up in the ditch. “You’ll get there faster driving safely,” he says.

A spokesman for the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), Dougherty’s territory covers the 11-county region in the southeast corner of the state, from the Wisconsin border to Freeborn County, and just north of Minnesota Highway 19 at Northfield.

In a recent conversation dealing with travel safety, and specifically with safety around snow plows, Dougherty observed that plow drivers are human, too. “They get into

this because they want to help,” he says. “They take that responsibility personally.

“We put them out in some of the most difficult conditions you can imagine—in the dark, in blowing snow, on ice and in sub-zero conditions.

“It’s disheartening when people express anger at them.

“We don’t have a magic wand that can fix things. It takes good, old-fashioned time and effort.”

Dougherty has three strong recommendations when it comes to safety around working snow plows.

Slow down: Adjust speed to the circumstances.

Leave room: Recommended distance is 10 car lengths.

Conditions continued on 3



ONLY HUMAN - MnDOT spokesman Mike Dougherty wants the public to know that snow plow drivers are giving their all to do a difficult job. Below: I-35 during a December storm.



In My Humble Opinion
by Deb Bently
copyright © 2022 by Deb Bently

Know when
not to swerve

Drifting snow fascinates me. Among the most noticeable phenomena are what my family has always called “snow snakes.” These happen when the wind walks snow along the length of the highway: suddenly it’s as if the air has become visible. Lines of snow slink and swerve, forming patterns that are not patterns at all. It’s hypnotizing—so much so that, if I am at the wheel, I have to compel myself to look away or risk driving off the road.

Equally fascinating is what happens when the “snakes” go airborne—for example in the wake of a semi, or on the downwind side of any barrier. In the summer, the effect is called a “dust devil,” a miniature tornado that forms just long enough to catch the eye and then dissolve.

Then there are the snow sculptures: the forms and shapes which develop as wind carries, drops, and perhaps reclaims the snow. I could watch for hours—as long as I have the luxury of being sheltered and warm—as airborne snow sweeps over and around various obstacles. It is a healthy reminder that a great deal more is always going on than we are aware of.

A similar message is sent by the lines of gray and black which develop as windblown dirt is mixed in. The sweeps and curves and shading which occur are as hypnotizing as the snow in motion. Though they are the product of chance—of the strength and direction of the wind as modified by the swells of the landscape and any random obstacles—they seem like design. It makes me glad to be a Minnesotan: Who cares if I have to suffer for “my” art?

Speaking of snow, I used my position as a newspaper reporter to finagle a ride in a snow plow last week. In the amicable company of Hollandale area resident—and snow plow driver—Adam Wacholz, I saw I-35 from the lofty, 9-foot-high perspective of a snow plow cab. It was a breezy day; snow drifts were attempting to form, but at least in the short term, they had little chance against a 55,000-pound tandem truck and a 12-foot-wide plow.

Though not a chatterbox, Mr. Wacholz was kind and patient enough to answer my many questions. There was no escaping me as we drove his usual 26-mile circular route on the interstate, so he was what could be called a captive audience. I’m not sure what stories he has to tell about me (and my camera), but the story I have to share is on the front page of this newspaper.

Perhaps surprisingly, despite the size of the truck and its engine, the ride did not give me a sense of invulnerability. At the risk of jinxing myself, it has been...decades...since I last found myself in the ditch. Yet Mr. Wacholz shared story after story of stranded cars, and observed with stoic candor that he regularly sees vehicles spinning out on the interstate. Though he did not say so, circumstances implied the spinouts happened because drivers were perhaps careless or inattentive as they passed his truck and its “snow cloud.” He described how, even if a collision (pretty much always from behind) seemed imminent, he knew better than to swerve, since a vehicle the size of his would crush a typical car. Still, along with the accounts of danger and potential disaster, were stories of rescued motorists, cleared highways, and long shifts successfully completed.

Mr. Wacholz and his observations reminded me that, at least figuratively, we are always subject to swirling winds, and our only choice is to plant our feet one at a time and keep moving. If we are like him, we will be persistently aware of the needs of others, and be doing what we can to provide assistance while also enjoying the ride.

So perhaps that’s why drifting snow fascinates me. It’s hypnotic, beautiful, wispy and yet startlingly persistent. It’s moving, but somehow stays in the same place. It introduces an air of uncertainty while remaining surprisingly predictable. It opens my eyes, and my mind, while reminding me how lucky I am to be safe, warm, and surrounded by beauty.

Crocodile
gun show

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

For two days, Crocodile Productions held a Gun and Knife Show at the Mill. The show began Friday, Jan. 6 from 4-8 p.m. and resumed the following day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It was the first-ever gun and knife show for the organization.

Over 100 booths offered chances to buy, trade, and sell firearms and assorted blades—a true destination for connoisseurs. Items included pistols such as the desert eagle, rifles commonly used for hunting, accessories for firearms such as scopes, different sizes of knives, and pocket knives with various designs. Gun designers were available for consultations.

Vendors came from all over the state, including Liberty Laser De-



More than 100 booths offered chances for Waseca area residents and travelers to buy, sell, or trade fire arms, or assorted blaes at the Mill Event Center in Waseca on Jan. 6 and 7.

signs of Stewartville and Outkast Custom Coatings of Kasson. The Friends of the Minnesota National Rifle Association offered raffle tickets. A simulator allowed those in attendance to test their marksman-ship.

Crocodile Productions is based out of Cambridge, Minnesota and collaborates with dozens of gun show dealers while partnering with gun clubs around the state to provide a safe environment for sportsmen and gun owners to do shows. Aside from

■ Snow
from Page 1

As the Dec. 22 storm began, he had already been working 9 days straight. Then he put in five more, including Christmas day. All through the bad weather, in addition to driving as many as 300 miles a shift, he estimates he stopped at least 10 times to check on people in stranded vehicles. In other cases, when he could readily see people were unharmed, he radioed state troopers to the location.

“It’s a service,” he says. “I feel a sense of satisfaction knowing I made it possible for people to get where they wanted to go—or at least made sure they were safe.”

Since Wacholz drives his 55,000-pound truck at a typical speed of 20 to 30 mph along the interstate, and since he is frequently surrounded by a “snow cloud” created by the process of plowing, he has no need to be told drivers sometimes find him and his “service” an irritation—certain rude gestures send the message clearly. He seems to approach the problem philosophically.

“I just remember they maybe couldn’t even be on the road if it weren’t for me,” he says as he shrugs his shoulders.

“I count my shift a success when nobody goes in the ditch.”

Like all the drivers out of the Albert Lea location, Wacholz has a “route.” In his case, the 13 or so miles of I-35 between I-90 and Ellendale. He will leave the garage and head north, checking conditions and determining what can be done to keep the four lanes clear and safe; just past Hwy 30, he uses the cross-over in the median to head back

south. On Dec. 27, with a fairly strong wind from the southeast, he stays to the east side in both directions, breaking up drifts which are working their way toward the traffic lanes. The equipment in his truck tells him the air temperature is 18 degrees, but the road surface, thanks to friction from traffic, is 23. He, too, is constantly monitoring various factors: his hope, he says, is to leave the road “bare, dry, and cold.”

“I usually get out of the truck a few times each shift to see whether ice is building up anywhere,” he explains. If there is ice, he can choose between spreading a briny solution or solid salt, depending on conditions. “I know people sometimes get mad when we’re not putting salt down,” he observes. “But what they don’t understand is that, once the temperature is a ways below freezing, it’s not effective.”

When it comes to drifting, his best weapon, he says, is persistence: “There’s more to it than just pushing the white stuff,” he comments.

“We try to play the wind.”

By this, he explains, he means that he tries to leave any removed snow in a position and shape which will not encourage, and hopefully even decrease, the amount of buildup on the road. When the weather is bad, though, it’s simply a losing battle which must continue, one shift after another. “You know it’s going to be a busy day when you come back about an hour later and you can’t even tell you’ve been there.”

All snow plow drivers, Wacholz claims, have stories from such days.

A storm in February of 2019 seems to have inspired many of them. According to the National Weather Service, that particular system began with a wintry mix on Saturday, Feb. 23, and followed up with snow that fell at a rate of up to 3

inches an hour, leading to accumulations of up to a foot.

During that particular storm, Wacholz recalls driving a 17-hour shift because his replacement could not get to work. He also remembers a point at which the interstate was so blocked by snow that he and a second driver had to work together, with the first truck pushing the accumulation from one lane into the other, and the second maneuvering it off the shoulder.

At another point that weekend, Wacholz’s snow plow was rear-ended by a car that was driving too fast for conditions and, in the course of the collision, pushed well under the bed of his truck. A volunteer firefighter and EMT for Hollandale’s emergency services, he was better equipped than most to act as a first responder, but he wishes there had been no need for his skills. It’s well known among snow plow drivers, though, he says, that “It’s not ‘if’ you’re going to get hit, it’s ‘when.’”

“People should just slow down,” he says. “When visibility is bad, it’s what you do.”

In speaking with people from stranded vehicles, Wacholz says plow drivers are often astounded at the reasons they give for being out in dangerous conditions.

“They’ve told us they had a gift certificate they wanted to cash in, or they just wanted to get a coffee,” he recalls. “We always hear that they didn’t realize how bad conditions were.”

Wacholz also mentions out-of-state drivers who sometimes step out of their vehicles into the snow wearing flip-flops, shorts and a short-sleeved shirt. “You can tell they don’t know much about Minnesota winters,” he observes. Plow drivers are also taken aback by the number of people who, even though con-

ditions are bad, are using their cell phones or distracting themselves in other ways.

Despite having a view from 9 feet or so above the road surface, Wacholz says, there are occasions when even he has trouble. During the Dec. 23 storm, and during nearly all significant snowfalls, he recalls, “There are times I can’t see past my hood.”

He has a photo taken in 2019 of a snowbank which came level with his shoulders—while seated in his plow.

He also remembers a time when he looked in his rearview mirror to see a semi approaching at much too high a speed. The next thing he knew, the semi was passing him—in the median. “He must have decided it was better to take the median than to rear end a snow plow,” Wacholz suggests. “That’s the kind of moment that will make your heart race.”

But whatever might be happening around him, he shares, he has little choice but to watch it unfold. “You can’t swerve,” he says, pointing to the 12-foot-wide blade at the front of his truck. “Think what might happen to other traffic if a vehicle like this one suddenly swung toward them.”

Still, Wacholz says he is grateful that, in 9 years and who knows how many miles of driving, the heart-racing moments have been widely spaced. While he admits he enjoys the challenge and occasional excitement of being on the front lines of the state highway system’s battle against the elements, he’s acutely aware that his job is to make it possible for people to reach their destinations.

“Whatever is happening, bad weather, an accident, we can only do our best,” he says. “We take conditions into account—whatever those ‘conditions’ happen to be.”

■ Conditions
from Page 1

Stay vigilant: Let phone calls or adjustments to music wait.

Dougherty says that, as one who works with crews across 11 counties, he is always impressed by the dedication and fortitude he sees. “These folks have your best interests at heart,” he says. “You can respond to that by keeping yourself safe.”

The first step, in times of bad weather, is making an informed decision about whether to be on the road at all. Dougherty mentions that MnDOT has a number of services to help with the task. Both a website and an app are available at 511.MN.org. Information is kept current there regarding developing road conditions, including road closures. There is also access to live cameras broadcasting images from snow plows and from locations along many state highways. People can also follow along on social media with Twitter (www.twitter.com/mndotsoutheast) and a Facebook group (https://www.facebook.com/groups/MnDOTsoutheast) to get updates and information.

For those who decide to travel, Dougherty suggests having proper emergency equipment, including a shovel and tools for those who become stuck, and cold weather gear to stay comfortable and safe in case of being stranded.

If an emergency situation should

develop, Dougherty suggests remembering the “big picture.” It’s not only a matter, for example, of getting one’s own car out of a ditch, but doing so without causing further harm—perhaps by stepping too close to traffic lanes. He points out that, if one car has hit a slippery patch and slid off the road, another one might hit the same patch. “People are safest inside their vehicles, wearing their safety belts,” he observes, especially since cell phones make it possible to call for assistance without ever getting out. Even for those whose cell phones might be out of commission, stranded motorists can feel assured their welfare is being looked out for. Snow plow drivers frequently stop to check on vehicles, or at least notify law enforcement of the circumstances.

Incidents along highways can have a whole “ripple effect,” which affects the safety of, potentially, hundreds of people, from other drivers to emergency response personnel, Dougherty observes. “Don’t let the distractions of the moment keep you from truly considering your circumstances.”

Regarding incidents along highways, he says, law enforcement officers and snow plow drivers acquire quite an array of experiences. Dougherty tells of a plow driver who, during the storm which began on Dec. 22, suddenly noticed a pedestrian walking along the highway shoulder he was in the process of clearing.

The woman had been in a disagreement and exited a vehicle. Since her phone happened to be dead, she saw little choice but to

begin walking toward the nearest exit. But at 4:30 in the morning and in bad weather conditions, she was barely visible.

“The driver was quite shaken up about what could have happened,” Dougherty observes. “Fortunately, he saw her and was able to stop in time.”

The driver then gave the woman a ride to the nearest convenience store where she was able to warm up, charge her phone, and call for a ride.

“They’re called ‘safety personnel’ for a reason,” declares Dougherty. “They have your best interests in mind and are out there to serve you. “Please respond by making choices which keep you—and the people around you—safe.”

In the meantime, MnDOT is persistently looking for ways to improve safety. For example, the flashing amber and blue colors used for snow plow lights has been shown to have the best visibility in poor conditions such as blowing snow. “We’re a learning organization,” says Dougherty. “We certainly ‘respond’ to problems, but we also work to prevent them in the future.”

Waseca Music
C O M P A N Y

10-5:30 M-F, 10-2 Sat, Closed Sunday
- Since 1952 -

- Rent/Buy/Lease Band Instruments new/used
- Best Seller • Repairs • Accessories
- Sheet Music & Books
- Guitars & String Instruments
- Piano & Digital Keyboards
- Drums & Percussion
- CD's, DVD's & Vinyl

507-835-2980
wasecamusic@gmail.com
www.wasecamusic.com
111 South State Street - Waseca, MN

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

Winter Fest

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

AT THE MILL

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
\$10 adults
\$5 children 10 and under

EARLY BIRD BINGO
12:00 Noon

SUPER BINGO
1:00 p.m.
\$25.00 in advance. Purchase by 1:00 p.m. on Friday, January 27
\$30.00 at the door.

RAFFLES
Party Bus Raffle \$10.00
50/50 Cash Raffle \$5.00

CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE AT 12:00 NOON



Judge Carol Hanks administers the oath of office to Sheriff Jay Dulas January 3, 2023. Photo from Facebook

Commissioners, sheriff take oath

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Five county officials were sworn into public office by the honorable Judge Carol Hanks during the regular meeting of the Waseca County Commissioners January 3, 2023. They were: County Attorney Rachel Cornelius (2nd term); County Sheriff Jay Dulas (first term, replacing retired sheriff Brad Milbrath); county commissioners, re-elected, all of which ran unopposed: Blair Nelson, DeAnne Malterer, and Brad Krause.

The board chair rotates among the commissioners each year; Blair Nelson was voted chair.

The consent agenda was approved, including bills; a procedural leave of absence; the 2022 Transfer of Development Rights report; transfer of development rights for Richard and Kristine Eustice and Wendell J. and Ruth A. Armstrong and Black T. and Emilee N. Kortuem; the previous transfer also included a conditional use permit; amendment to exclusive agricultural use zone restrictive covenants for:

Curtis W. & Sandra K. Hendrickson.

Gregory D. Moe Trust & Donna M. Moe Trust

Elmer R & Luann V Kath Trust

The Waseca County News was designated as the newspaper of record for county legal notices to be published in 2023. Their bid was 33% lower than the Star Eagle newspaper's bid from a year ago.

The board approved a mileage reimbursement rate of 65.5 cents for staff for 2023, in line with the state's approved rate.

The crop damage rate for Waseca County was approved. It is the policy of Waseca County to set a rate of pay for crop damage that may occur due to repair, improvement, or construction projects. This price is set for the entire year and was determined as follows: The yield was determined by using a three-year average yield for the county from data received from the National Agricultural Statistics Services branch of the United States Department of Agriculture. Sale prices were determined by using the average sale price of corn and soybeans from three local commodity buyers and prices were acquired on 12-28-2022. The proposed corn damage rate for a standing crop is 200.3 bushels at \$5.60 for a total of \$1,122 per acre. The proposed soybean damage rate for a standing crop is 61.4 bushels at \$13.24 for a total of \$813 per acre. The proposed damage rate for an unplanted crop is \$660 per acre.

More than three dozen committee assignments for the various commissioners were approved.

The 2023 fee schedule was approved.

A contract with Growing Tree Montessori for nursing consultation services was approved. All childcare centers are required to have a nurse under contract for a variety of services, including consultation regarding health and safety issues, communicable diseases, child growth and development, and connection to community resources. Growing Tree Montessori has reached out to request this service be provided by Waseca County Public Health. The county agreed: "We would find it

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

mutually beneficial to provide this service, as it provides opportunities for regular conversation and early intervention planning with some of our youngest residents."

Waseca Public Health applied for and was awarded a Public Health Corp Project Coordinator position and was accepted into the Minnesota Department of Health Suicide Prevention Pathways to Care Cohort.

Two opportunities became available simultaneously for departmental support. "The staff input time is minimal for the potential benefit to the community and the timing is ideal for the two programs, providing support for projects to get off the ground and setting the county up for sustained activities," a report from public health director Sarah Berry read. "In response to our community's growing mental health concerns, we applied to be a part of the Minnesota Department of Health Suicide Prevention Pathways to Care Cohort. This two-year cohort provides support to a community team for assessment and planning of prevention efforts. Our school districts have been actively engaged around suicide prevention and they, along with other partners and community members, are excited to begin working as a team to dig in and work towards comprehensive prevention measures, especially for our teenagers and young adults. The team lead for this project is Colin Ayers, Community Educator/Planner. Additionally, we have been awarded an eleven-month contract with an AmeriCorp Public Health Corp Project Planner. A Project Planner will be able to assist in data gathering and some planning efforts with the Suicide Prevention Team, but will primarily focus on other comprehensive data collection, community assessment and health improvement planning that will occur in 2023. These are items already in Colin's work plan, but occur in a more focused and intentional way as we reach out to our community partners to plan conversations this year. Our Project Planner, Nicole Fleming, will provide support to Colin and the rest of the public health team as we move forward to implement intentional communication and conversations in 2023."

The board approved re-appointments to the planning commission, board of adjustment, and economic development authority. The list included about two dozen names.

A conditional use permit to allow the transfer of development rights between two owners and into another township by Blake T. and Emilee N. Kortuem and Wendell J. and Ruth A. Armstrong was approved.

The Waseca County website was designated as the official publication for transportation projects.

Per state law, the board approved a "bridge priority list" showing the cost of each bridge in the county and a possible timeline for future construction.

Sheriff Jay Dulas salary was approved at about \$120,000.

The next meeting of the Waseca County Commissioners is scheduled for January 17 at 9:30 a.m.

New Waseca council sworn in

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Waseca city council members Daren Arndt, Jeremy Conrath, and James Ebertowski were sworn in Tuesday, January 3. Mayor-elect Randy Zimmerman was not present, so after being selected unanimously, Jeremy Conrath took over mayoral duties for the meeting.

The main topic of discussion was the approval of acquisition of real property near the city wastewater and treatment plant from Conagra foods. Interim City Manager Carl Sonnenburg explained that at the February 21, 2022 meeting, the city passed a motion to allow Mayor Roy Srp and former City Manager Lee Mattson to sign a purchase and sales agreement with the company. The action was "required to be memorialized by resolution."

The land, which is three parcels of land near the treatment plant, cost \$100. Sonnenburg clarified that in 1947, Birds Eye owned and operated the land and the lagoon. "The reason for the transfer is when they decommissioned the lagoon to build the new pond south of town, the state restrictions to decommission a wastewater lagoon for a private business are less strin-

gent than for one owned by a city."

Conagra and the City of Waseca arranged a trade knowing that the city would want to purchase a portion of land from Conagra in the future. The land can be used for future expansion as well.

Sonnenburg explained that an easement area near the land wasn't marked on the map handed out to the council and that an access road to the new land would be needed. "We can't just cross over from the treatment plant directly south, because there's a high pressure gas line there," he added. "It'd be much more expensive to build an access road there than to build a longer road."

Council member John Mansfield asked about the tax revenue on the property, but Sonnenburg said that it wasn't in city limits. "Will we bring it into city limits?" Mansfield questioned.

"That is currently in conversation," Sonnenburg responded. "The treatment property is not in the city limits."

Public Comment

Michelle Oswald brought up the Gaiter Lake project, urging council members to seek public opinion about the project. She reminded the council that any land devel-

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

opment at the site is restricted by the state department of natural resources in "such a manner that 30 acres of it needs to be green space."

Oswald suggested making it a park, more specifically a disc golf course. "It's a rare, golden, once-in-a-hundred-year opportunity for us to have one," she explained. "The current plans don't allow that. I feel like the public was ignored by the land developers."

Council member Jeremy Conrath agreed that a disc golf course would be a great idea. "It's one of the good parks to have down there because we have so much area that can't have development."

Oswald said that it needs to be in the development plans from the very beginning. "You can't add to the development later," she said. "The in-permeated surface will be already set at the maximum once every inch of permeable surface is designated where it's going to go. Once that's happened, you can't make changes."

Conrath understood Oswald's concerns. "Everyone wants to get

it right the first time," he said. "If it takes longer to do it, well, we really want to do it right because it affects a lot of people."

Reports and Announcements

Sonnenburg informed the council that on Dec. 30, the State Employment and Economic Development awarded the city a reclamation cleanup grant of \$102,297 for the old Corchran building. It was a pass-through grant for warehouse storage LLC, matched 30 percent by GT Express with 70 percent of it reimbursed by state deed. He informed the council he did not have instructions for how the council can use the grant at this time.

Conrath announced that the Waseca Fire Relief Board was inviting the entire council to attend their annual meeting. He added that the council will have to vote on a representative for the city's airport board at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at around 7:25 p.m. Ebertowski opposed adjourning, something former council member Allan Rose would do as a joke.

"Sorry, I had to," Ebertowski chuckled. "I'm in Al Rose's former seat now."

Local conservationist honored

Conservation practices are increasing across Minnesota to protect the land and waters, and those leading the efforts on their land were recognized recently at the state level.

In December, Brad and LeAnne Krause were honored as outstanding conservationists at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Dis-

tricts (MASWCD). They were selected by the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for the award.

MASWCD hosted its convention December 12-14, 2022 in Bloomington, Minn.

Each year, the state's SWCDs recognize individuals and organizations for outstanding accomplishments in implementing conservation practices

and improving Minnesota's natural resources. The award program is done with support from The Farmer magazine.

"Brad and LeAnne were recognized for a variety of conservation practices," said Mark Schaeetzke, Waseca SWCD District Manager. Some of those practices or achievements include ridge till, and currently committed to no-till beans and

strip till corn. They also have a RIM Easement on a marginal field that provides tremendous wildlife habitat.

"We're really proud of Brad and LeAnne and what they have done for conservation in Waseca County," said Mark Schaeetzke.

For more information on the program, contact the Waseca SWCD at 507-835-0603.

Johnson APARTMENTS
507-456-9514

Operating in Waseca, Steele, and Freeborn counties

johnsonrents.com

Rick's Appliance Sales & Service!
Rick Maas Owner

108 2nd Ave. NW
Waseca, MN 56093
507-461-9615
ricksappliance108@gmail.com

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

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

Sikkens Car Refinish Systems
CAR-O-LINER Computerized UNIBODY/Full Frame Measuring/Pulling System

DAVE'S BODY SHOP
Complete Body Shop Services
715 S. State Street
Waseca, Minnesota 56093

DAVE KRAMPITZ, Owner
Ph (507) 835-8615
Fax (507) 835-8708

GUARDIAN ENERGY

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

O: 507-234-5002
C: 507-720-1443
F: 507-234-5011
Marianna.Mayo@guardiannrg.com

Collaboration. Scale. Excellence.

John's Service GARAGE ASE CERTIFIED

General Repair • Tires • Tune-Up • AC Repair
DOT Inspections • Autos and Trucks

JOHN HUEBL, Owner
711 South State Street • Waseca, MN 56093
507-835-3008

WARD HOUSE BREWERY Est. 2017 WASECA, MN

Taproom, Growlers, Flights!
111 West Elm Avenue • Waseca

WASECA FLORAL

810 N. State Street
507-835-3790 or 800-469-3790
www.wasecafloral.com
Hours: 8-6 M-F, 9-5 Sat
Rick Morris Master Florist

■ Decision from Page 1

Former New Richland Mayor Gail Schmidt praised Martens service, but commented that his decision to resign would put the city in a difficult position. Martens is the third administrator in New Richland since the retirement of longtime clerk Wayne Billing in Dec. 2020.

When Martens was asked this past June whether he envisioned himself as New Richland's administrator for the foreseeable future, he said his only likely career change would be moving into a parallel position in a larger city.

According to many, Martens' education and experience in administration would compliment Dulas' skills..

Both Martens and Dulas have been contacted and a more in-depth article detailing the decision, if finalized, is planned for a future edition of the Pioneer.



In her last official act as mayor, Gail Schmidt read the oath of office to New Richland Mayor Chad Neitzel. Councilman Loren Skelton is shown sitting. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

To tow, or not to tow, that is the question

New mayor, reelected council, sworn in

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Chad Neitzel, newly elected New Richland mayor, was sworn in by Gail Schmidt, her last official act as mayor, during the regular meeting of the city council Monday, January 9, 2023.

Loren Skelton and Jason Casey were next to take their oaths of office.

A relatively quick meeting included approving basic organization details and procedures for the 2023 calendar year. The most controversial item discussed was the possibility of towing cars which were not moved after a snowfall requiring snow removal. Police Chief Tanyce Bruegger said she and the department are working hard to enforce the “parking after snowfall ordinance.” Through the end of November the department issued 20 citations. Nine remain unpaid. Those residents have been sent followup letters stating they must pay or the ticket becomes a state citation. The department is working with the county attorney on a possible ordinance change that would allow for a vehicle to be towed after a ticket remains unpaid for 10 days.

Council members shared many observations and thoughts, not reaching any definitive conclusion or action. A public hearing would be required before any new ordinance could be put in place.

Councilman Jody Wynnemer asked about repeat offenders, leading Bruegger to respond that most were repeat offenders. Officer Ryan Gehkre was present and shared that he makes every attempt to speak with folks before citing them with a ticket. “But some people don’t listen anyways.”

Councilman Casey asked about public parking and everyone was in agreement to provide more information to the public that the Wagner parking lot is considered public parking and, after it is plowed, can be used to park a vehicle during regular plowing to avoid a ticket.

In the end, this discussion was purely educational and informative, and was the most lengthy conversation of the short meeting.

The consent agenda was approved and included minutes from the Dec. 12 and the January 3 “emergency” meetings. Debit card and bank authorizations were approved prior the the announcement of Mayoral appointments, which follow:

Appointments for 2023 include (new in bold): Newspaper, NRHEG Star Eagle; Bank Depository, State Bank of New Richland; Attorney, Jason L. Moran; Engineer, Jones/Haugh/Smith; Deputy Mayor, Loren Skelton; Street/Parks, Jody Wynnemer; Personnel Committee (new Committee): Schmidt and Skelton; Water/Sewer, Neitzel; Police, Neitzel; Care Center, Loren Skelton; Fire Chief, Josh Moen; Fire Relief Board, Neitzel and city administrator; Ambulance Department, Neitzel; Fire Department, Neitzel; Ambulance Executive committee, Neitzel and Wynnemer; Planning Commission, Jason Casey; EDA, Jody Wynnemer and Chad Neitzel; County Environmental Waste, Jason Casey; County Economic Board, Jason Casey; Waseca Area Foundation, Neitzel; MN Valley Council of Governments, Casey; Historic Preservation, Pam Goehring.

The fire, ambulance, and police reports were all approved.

The ambulance report, submitted in writing, tallied the final count of runs for 2022 at 210. Four calls have been received this year. The ambulance Christmas party is scheduled for January 14. Director Sarah Sundve wrote that there wasn’t much to report on and said the crew is working for a regular upcoming inspection. Sundve did ask council members if they would like her to attend meetings in person in 2023. No

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

decision was made.

The fire department report, also submitted in writing, calculated the total number of calls for 2022 at 35; 5 for mutual aid requests; 5 for rural fires; 18 for lift assists/medical; and 7 rescues.

The report stated training to respond to chimney fires was completed during December. The annual fire department banquet will be held in January and, as is custom, all retirees will be invited.

Police Chief Tanyce Bruegger was present to deliver her report. The department responded to 1,312 calls in 2022, down from 1,556 in 2021.

Bruegger and officer Herrmann participated in the annual holiday “Shop with a Hero” event at Walmart in Waseca with other local law enforcement agencies and fire departments. The pair also attended Minnesota South Central Investigator’s Coalition annual conference January 9 - 10 in Mankato. Bruegger said, when asked, that she learned about catalytic converters, and participated in seminars regarding self defense and investigations following deaths.

One squad vehicle received an oil change and maintenance on its front tires. The other had a Verizon Internet pack replaced after the previous one “exploded.”

The council approved a timeline to fill the now vacant council seat previously held by Mayor Neitzel.

January 9, 2023: city council directs staff to initiate an application process to appoint an individual to the city council

January 19: application deadline

January 23: city council reviews applications and makes appointment

February 13: appointed individual takes oath of office and joins the city council for the remaining term

Interested persons can acquire an application from city hall.

In the City Administrator report, Tony Martens shared numerous tasks he’s worked on, mainly centered around putting the 2022 year to bed and preparing for ‘23. On a lighter note, the following employees are celebrated for their years of service:

Jan. 10, Jeff Johnson, ambulance 12 years; Jan. 14 Kari Gehring, police department 3 years; Jan. 14 Colleen Howard police department, 3 years.

Sarah Sundve and Shanon Young celebrated birthdays on Jan. 11 and 12, respectively.

The council approved a letter of engagement for the financial service company ABDO, for the 2022 audit process.

Just before adjournment, a couple questions were answered.

Advance Waseca County, formerly known as BEST of Waseca, is in a transitional phase, but there are exciting opportunities coming for New Richland.

A spending bill approved at the federal level could mean dollars for New Richland sewer and water improvements.

“Can we try to get some of that money?” Councilman Wynnemer asked. “I’m sure we have some worthwhile projects.”

“I made a note of it,” Martens said.

“Great minds think alike,” Wynnemer chimed.

Councilmen Skelton asked if the city could purchase the car wash from the Bohlens, and was quickly told it wasn’t for sale, but Martens said he would “put some feelers out anyway.”

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

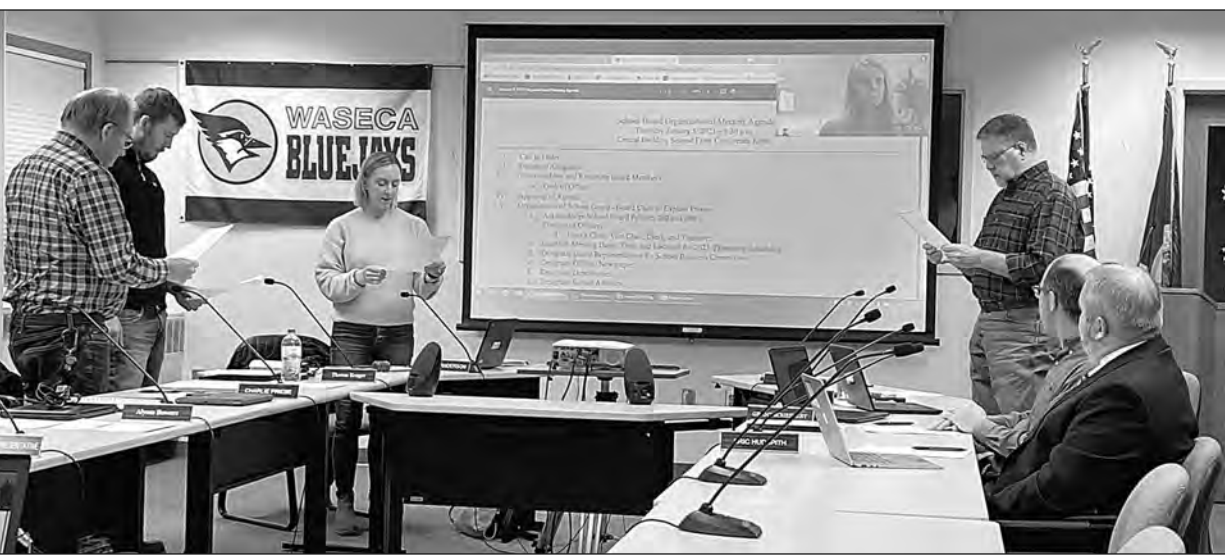
The next meeting of the New Richland City Council will be January 23, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Ready for 2023

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff writer

New Waseca school board member Theron Kruger was sworn in at the board’s January 5 organizational meeting. Alyssa Bowers, the other new member, was not present. School board chair Julie Anderson led the process of election of officers through school board policies 202 and 209, which can be found on their web site. Julie Anderson holds the chair position for the coming year, Edita Mansfield steps in as vice chair, Dave Dunn remains clerk, and Grant Scheffert is taking over as treasurer. Charlie Priebe and the two new members hold director positions.

The board went on to establish a tentative meeting schedule for 2023, designate the Waseca County News as the official newspaper, designate depositories, the school attorney, the



OATH - In slightly anticlimactic fashion, school board members Dave Dunn, Julie Anderson, Charlie Priebe and new member Theron Kruger, took their oaths of office by reading aloud from a sheet of paper on January 5, 2023. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

board member per diem and other allowance, the payment of claims schedule for 2023, and the school board representatives for the school business committees of negotiations, school board education liaison, arena board of directors, advisory council, insurance and safety, policy review,

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

superintendent evaluation, finance, district accountability, facilities, professional growth and development, continuing education, and district

personnel. No information items or action items were covered at this meeting, but Superintendent Eric Hudspeth reminded members and visitors of the next meeting on January 19.

County to help with Lakeview park project

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

The Janesville Council swore in two members and the mayor at its Monday, January 9 meeting: incumbent Melissa Kopachek, incumbent Mayor Andy Arnoldt, and new council member Ivan Maas. Kopachek and Maas beat out Daniel Frenk for the two open seats, while Arnoldt was left unchallenged for the mayoral position.

To start the meeting, the council was presented with a housing study performed by Stantec, a city development and engineering company out of St. Paul. Tom Leighton, senior urban planner for the company, presented the results of the study to the council. Further details are available as a separate story in this week’s issue of the Pioneer.

Public Forum

Dan Seys brought up concerns about the lack of plowing on Main Street on the block with the Janesville Bowl, the Mayo Clinic, and the library. He explained that he took a picture of a truck parked four feet into the road and presented it to the city’s office manager Andrea Moen. Moen confirmed that she did get the pictures and presented them to public works manager Joe Ziemke.

“He has been made aware of the situation,” she assured.

Seys also questioned whether the county was to maintain the roads, not the city. Moen confirmed that, too. “They plow that road since it’s considered a county highway, while we clean the sidewalk.”

After getting his questions answered with that issue, Seys claimed that after 20 years of paying taxes to Prairie Ridge Golf Course, the taxpayers should get some return on investment from them.

“I go there, don’t get me wrong,” he said. “But I have a problem with them giving discounts to people living ten to 20 miles from here. Yet people who live here don’t get much of a discount. I think if they’re doing so well, it’s time to think about the taxpayers getting something from them.”

Other Business

The council approved the agreement between the city and the county for a rehabilitation project planned for the trail leading from the north end of Janesville to Lakeview Park.

City Administrator Clinton Rogers explained that last November, the council adopted a resolution of sup-



Representing the City of Janesville the next two years will be, from left, Andy Ahlman, Ivan Maas, Mayor Andy Arnoldt, Jim Mulcahey, and Melissa Kopachek. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

port when Waseca County applied for a MnDOT Active Transportation Infrastructure grant to get funding for a new pathway for Lakeview Park.

He reminded them that, if the grant is acquired, funding for the park would be through the state. “If not,” he said, “The county and city will split it 70-30. The cost is about \$100,000, which means we’d be paying \$30,000.” He did point out that the council could allocate some money from the American Rescue Plan Act to fund the project.

The council then made its annual appointments. Andy Ahlman was selected to be Acting Mayor once again. After that, the five council members decided who would hold positions on each of eight city boards: Ahlman would stay on the golf advisory board and personnel committee; Jim Mulcahey will continue to be on the park board and join the planning commission; Melissa Kopachek will join the Whispering Creek nursing home board and remain on the personnel committee; Andy Arnoldt will remain on the Economic Development Authority and utilities commission; and Ivan Maas will officially join the EDA and Housing Redevelopment Authority.

The council discussed President Joe Biden’s executive order which requires law enforcement to inform their local governing body of what items they plan to purchase using federal grants. In this case, the Janesville Police Department must notify the council when it makes purchases using federal grants.

After approving the master fee schedule, the council discussed allowing Janesville-Waldorf-Pember-



Reelected to the Janesville City Council, Melissa Kopachek, takes the oath of office. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

ton school to put temporary handicap signs out in the front of the school (Third Street) during events. Rogers used an example of polling places that do this on a regular basis.

Mulcahey suggested that no more than three temporary handicap parking spots be allowed at a time. He also noticed an error in the language of the resolution that stated the council would allow the school to establish a temporary no parking area, not a handicap spot.

Reports

Rogers reported that the city received the other half of its Local Government Aid for 2022, which was \$424,000.50. The city also received \$17,649 in insurance dividends which pays for city staff’s insurance. He was also happy to share that the golf course had another record year with its membership drive. No specific details were given.

Mayor Arnoldt told the council that the utility board is getting bids on different items for the power plant’s substation. The board also discussed the early stages of acquiring territory from Xcel Energy to prepare for the possibility of new houses on the west end of town.

“It sounds like a headache, and it’s expensive,” he admitted. “But it needs to be done.”

Mulcahey asked him how much the current power system can handle with expansion. “When it comes to residential, a lot,” he replied. “Commercially, we’re not exactly set up for that.”

Ahlman added that the city may need a lift station to meet future demands for commercial electricity.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Winter charm on the farm set for Jan. 14

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

With winter in full swing, the Waseca Sleigh and Cutter is preparing to ring in the new year with its annual festival. What better way to kick things off than enjoy the beauty of the winter season.

Farmamerica will be hosting its annual “Winter Charm on the Farm” event on Saturday, January 14 and Saturday, February 25. A staple for Farmamerica and the Waseca Sleigh

and Cutter Festival for years, the event brings in hundreds of people every year who wish to enjoy seeing the site blanketed in snow. KEYC has even been out to cover the event in recent years.

“Winter Charm on the Farm” is catered toward families, featuring attractions such as a scavenger hunt, snow painting, and a logging camp experience provided by Rockin’ Circle R Ranch of Janesville.

Those who are feeling a little more

adventurous can rent snowshoes (free with admission), take a ride in a horse-drawn carriage, and enjoy the cross country ski routes available. (Farmamerica asks you to bring your own skis.)

When the cold gets a little too much, Farmamerica will have a warm campfire waiting for everyone in the back patio area, complete with s’mores and hot cocoa while supplies last.

This year, anyone who signs up

and pays online will pay an admission cost of \$8 for adults and \$7 for children (Age 2 and under are free). Admission doubles to \$12 for adults and \$10 for kids on the day of the events. To sign up online, go to bit.ly/WinterCharm.

As always, proceeds from “Winter Charm on the Farm” will go to Farmamerica to pay for agricultural education programming for local youth.

New Ulm hands WHS boys first loss of season

Bluejays snap short losing streak with 48-33 win over Fairmont, improving overall record to 8-2

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

It was a rollercoaster week for the Waseca boys' basketball team. After having its best offensive performance against Medford Tuesday, Jan. 5, the Bluejays lost to conference rivals New Ulm and Jackson County Central. They snapped the two-game losing streak with a win against Fairmont on Monday, Jan. 9.

Waseca 92, Medford 63

Medford arrived to Waseca with a two-game winning streak after starting the season 0-3. But Waseca was willing to do anything to stay undefeated.

The Jays had the best first half of the season, scoring 54 points to Medford's 34. While the Tigers' Austin Erickson and

Connor Jones gave Waseca a bit of trouble, the Jays continued to pour it on with 38 more points to Medford's 29.

The match ended up being Waseca's highest scoring game. On the flip side, however, it was the most points they had given up.

"I am proud of the effort we put out there tonight," coach Seth Anderson said. "I feel we are prepared to take on New Ulm."

Damarius Russell led the team with 18 points while Laird Keeton and Carson Ohnstad had 17 each. Others: Andrew Robran 8, Zach Hulscher and Tyson Reger 7 each, Tauston Rupe, Addison Sampson and Deron Russell 4 each, and Sabastian Teague and Logan Heyer 2.

New Ulm 81, Waseca 71

Both teams gave a great offensive battle

on New Ulm's court Friday, Jan. 6. But with home-court advantage, the Bluejays found themselves behind the Eagles 39-29.

"The Russell brothers were absent for this game, the one again Jackson County Central, and Fairmont to watch their brother play in the championship game between NDSU and SDSU," Anderson explained.

The team still held its own without them. Ohnstad and Reger had their best games of the season scoring 25 and 17 points, respectively. But New Ulm's Cotton Benson had a 39-point night, which ultimately cost Waseca.

"I felt the kids battled well against New Ulm," Anderson said. "But we got rebounded by 20. That is what really cost us the game."

The loss snapped their undefeated streak at seven.

Other scorers for the team were Hulscher 10, Rupe 6, and Keeton and Robran 4 each.

Jackson Co. Central 88, Waseca 85

A schedule change between Waseca and Jackson County Central meant that the Jays went from the hosts to the visitors last Saturday. It was another offensive shootout. Ohnstad again put the team on his back with a 26-point night. Keeton also had a great game with 18 points.

But the result of the game came down to one play.

"We had the ball in a tie game with 30 seconds left holding for the last shot," Anderson explained. "We had a pass intercepted for a breakaway layup on the other

end. Tragic loss."

Noah Thompson scored 12 points, Hulscher and Reger 9, Robran 6, and Jacob Thompson 5.

Waseca 48, Fairmont 33

Waseca stopped the losing streak at two with a big win against Fairmont. Anderson said the team changed things up on defense, which helped them get the victory.

"We made a switch to a 2-3 zone in the first half that really gave Fairmont a tough time," he said.

Ohnstad led the team with 14 points. Keeton contributed 9, Hulscher 8, Reger 8, N. Thompson 4, Rupe 3, and Robran 2.

The boys' record is now 8-2. They travel to Blue Earth Area Friday, Jan. 13 and host Glencoe-Silver Lake the next day.

Defense does it for Lady Jays

Waseca girls stand at 5-3 overall

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

They say defense travels. Waseca's girls' basketball team has lived by those words since late December.

After a 3-0 start, which included scoring about 62 points a game, the offensive production has not been there as much for the Lady Jays. But a 39-17 win against Blooming Prairie Jan. 5 proved that when the shots aren't there, the defense becomes the most important part of the game. Although they fell short in a 48-38 battle at New Ulm, the Jays managed to get back into the win column right away against Tri-City United.

Waseca 39, Blossoms 17

This was the lowest-scoring matchup Waseca was a part of this season.

The Awesome Blossoms don't amaze that much in offensive production, scoring only 41 points a game. But they rely on defense to keep games close, allowing only one of the five teams they faced to score more than 50 points.

New Ulm 48, Waseca 38

Waseca had its first Big South Conference matchup against New Ulm Friday, Jan. 6. The Eagles were in second place heading into the match, and the game proved the

Bluejays still had some work to do. Waseca was again held to under 40 points for the third consecutive time. The Eagles kept the tempo slow throughout the game.

Waseca 49, TCU 25

The Bluejays were still feeling the sting from the loss against New Ulm when hosting Tri-City United the following Monday. The Titans caught the girls flat-footed and scored five points within the first minute of the game.

Senior Avery Madsen gave Waseca some life with a three-pointer, with fellow senior Kloe Wadd tying it up with an easy layup shot.

It was mostly Waseca from there. After a 7-7 tie, they went on a five-point run to make the lead 12-7. Slowly but surely, with Wadd going on an eight-point run, the lead was lengthened to 22-12 by halftime.

Madsen opened the half for the Bluejays, who seemed difficult to stop. She collected an additional five points, with Azure supplying six throughout the half and Wadd contributing seven to make it 47-25. Addison Wieseler's two-point contribution was the cherry on top.

The Bluejays have a 5-3 record (0-1 in-conference). They host Blue Earth on Friday, Jan. 13 and travel to Medford the following day.



I'VE GOT IT AND YOU CAN'T HAVE IT — The Bluejays' Kloe Wadd (54) hangs onto a rebound despite the efforts of Tri-City United's Grace Hennen during Waseca's 49-25 victory Monday, Jan. 9 in Waseca.
Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

Three WHS wrestlers win at N-YA

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

The Waseca High School wrestling team eased its way back into the season after the well-deserved winter break. They were one of 10 squads at the Norwood Young America Invitational Saturday, Jan. 7.

It was a great day for three Bluejay wrestlers: Christian Rodriguez, Payton Garza, and Matthew Veroeven. They took first place in their respective weight classes. Lucas Selthun was fourth while Jacob Root took fifth.

Results by weight class:

120: Jacob Knutson lost by technical fall to WEM-JWP's Carson Petry in 2:11. Ryan Neubarth of Central Public Schools (NYA) pinned Knutson in 2:45 with Maple River-USC's Brayden Mithun pinning Knutson in 1:36.

132: Peyton Sommers fell to Central's Ryan Neubarth in 3:15 before falling to Maple River-USC's Brayden Mithun.

138: Slade Barnett won a 4-1 decision against Paynesville's Brandon Hess. He lost by fall to Maple River-USC's Braxton Simon and lost by 5-2 decision to Robbinsdale Armstrong's Eli Heteen before losing by fall to Central's Reese Lentsch.

145: Root won 6-4 over Central's Roman Holland before losing to WEM-JWP's Lucas Morsching 16-5. Root took a loss 13-6 to Maple River-USC's Garrett Bollmann. He ended his day against Holland, winning by fall in 3:22.

152: Lucas Conser of Central defeated Eduardo Trejo in a 4-2 decision. Trejo bounced back with a pin of WEM-JWP's Patrick Adams in 3:57. Armstrong's Diego Terriquez pinned Trejo in 58 seconds. Trejo lost by 8-3 decision in the 5th-place match against Maple River-USC's Chad Shull.

170: Rodriguez won by technical fall against Pipestone's Xavier Manjoko. He pinned Madelia-Truman's Logan Slater in 1:42. He won first place by 12-3 major decision against Paynesville's Aaron Mages.

Selthun also wrestled in this weight class. He lost a 14-2 decision, won a 6-5 decision and was pinned for 3rd place.

182: Carter Ellis lost 7-2, pinned Trevor Imbach of Armstrong in 2:44, and lost 14-3 and 10-4 decision.

195: Garza pinned Pipestone's Aiden Voss in 1:46. His championship match against St. Clair-Loyla's Jacob Schimek was cut short as Schimek got injured and forfeited.

220: Matthew Veroeven had a perfect day, pinning Pipestone's Claudio Wegener in 46 seconds. After pinning Dizel Butler of Maple River-USC in 46 seconds, he defeated Centra's Lucas Urness by fall in 1:13.

The Waseca wrestling team hosted St. James Thursday, Jan. 12 before traveling to Pipestone the Big South Conference tournament.

WHS hockey boys take one of two

Ahlschlager continues to light it up

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

The Waseca High School boys' hockey team is struggling to find the magic that helped it start off the season 4-1.

After dropping one to conference foe Minnesota River Thursday, Jan. 5, the Bluejays stopped a five-game losing skid with a win against Worthington over the weekend.

Minn. River 8, Waseca 4

It was a good start for Waseca in the LeSueur hockey arena. Waseca poured it on in the first period, outshooting Minnesota River 11-8. Kyle Ahlschlager opened up the scoring five minutes into the game. Hunter Anderson scored his first goal of the season about 10 minutes later, resulting in a 2-1 lead after the end of the first period for the Bluejays.

The Jays and Bulldogs split 29 shots in the second period, with Ahlschlager being the only one suc-

cessful in scoring on the power play. After taking a 3-2 lead, however, the Bluejays struggled defensively. The Bulldogs split scoring duties, with Alex Schaffer, Isaac Schaffer, and Kellen O'Keefe cashing in to give the home team a 5-3 lead at the end of the second.

Anderson scored his second goal eight minutes into the third period to cut the Bulldogs' lead to 6-4. But two shorthanded Minnesota River goals officially killed any potential momentum Waseca had.

Waseca netminder Carter Martens saved 30 out of 38 shots for a .789 save percentage.

Waseca 7, Worthington 5

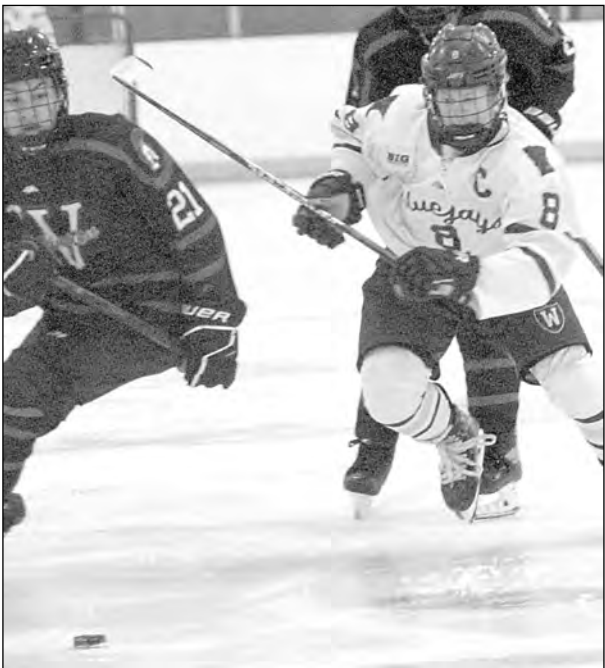
If there's anything teams could learn from this game on Saturday, it's that if you can't stop Ahlschlager, you are going to have a bad day.

Brayden Hesch-Priem started the scoring for the Bluejays five minutes in, with Ahlschlager suppling the second goal for a 2-1 lead after



SCORING BARRAGE — At left, the Bluejays' Brayden Hesch-Priem (33) tees up a shot during Waseca's 7-5 victory over Worthington. At right, the Bluejays' Kyle Ahlschlager (5) races for the puck against Worthington's Dawson Duangapai (21). Ahlschlager, a senior forward, scored four goals, marking the fourth game this season in which he scored four or more.

Pioneer photos by Michael Roy



the end of the first period.

After Worthington's Caden Van Briesen tied it up early in the second, Ahlschlager scored a natural hat trick with three goals within four minutes of each other to give his team a 5-2 lead. Early in the third, Lucas Groll and Griffin Krautkremer made it 7-2.

Worthington did attempt a comeback with a three-goal offensive attack in two minutes, but with short time and the Bluejays cleaning up on defense, the comeback was unsuccessful.

This game marked the fourth where Ahlschlager scored four or more goals. Senior Karson Lindsay

earned his first career point in the game by assisting Ahlschlager with his first goal.

Despite a 5-6 overall record, the boys' 5-3 record in the conference puts them in second in the Big South.

The Bluejays host Luverne on Saturday.

Keith second in all-around as WHS gymnasts compete at Fairmont

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

It was a great weekend for the Waseca gymnastics team. The Bluejays traveled to Fairmont Saturday, Jan. 7 to face Fairmont-Martin County West, Jackson County Central,

and Blue Earth Area.

A handful of gymnasts placed high at the meet. Freshman Layla Keith had the best day, finishing second in all-around with a score of 33.9. She took first place on the vault with an 8.825 score and took the gold in the uneven

parallel bars event with an 8.125. She also placed fifth on the floor exercise with a score of 8.7. Katelyn Weber took sixth on the vault with an 8.65 score.

The junior varsity gymnasts also had a good day. Macy Anderson placed third on the bal-

ance beam with a score of 7, while Maddie Root took fifth in all-around with a 23.65 score.

The Bluejays travel to St. James Friday, Jan. 13.

Storey hat trick sparks WHS hockey girls past Worthington

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

The Waseca High School girls' hockey team continued a six-game home stand last week. After losing a 3-1 contest to New Ulm Friday, Jan. 6, they shut out Worthington the following day.

New Ulm 3, Waseca 1

New Ulm and Luverne are currently neck and neck in the Big South Conference title race. A win for the Eagles would put them within striking distance of Luverne. A win for Waseca meant a chance to take second in the conference.

The Eagles started the first period with two goals. Montana Pumper of the Bluejays responded with her first goal of the season, making the score 2-1 after the first.

Aside from another New Ulm goal 9:33 into the second, the rest of the game was silent. Waseca placed 21 shots in the net throughout the game, but Pumper's lone shot was the only one that got through.

On the other side, goaltender Ilamay Draheim faced 42 shots, saving 39 of them for a .929 save percentage.

Waseca 5, Worthington 0

After a frustrating loss, Waseca started off the Worthington game right. After a quiet nine minutes, Maizee Storey made a slick wrist shot to get the opening goal. Less than three minutes later, freshman Maddy Benson scored the team's second on a breakaway.

In the second period, Storey had two more goals for her first hat trick of the season. Benson assisted her on the second goal while McKenna Mortensen helped her on the third. Katlyn Schueler supplied the fifth goal of the game with assistance from junior Izabela Slechta.

It was a scoreless third period.

Draheim had a much easier day, denying all 14 shots that came her way for the shutout.

Waseca continued its home stand by hosting Austin Tuesday, Jan. 10. The Bluejays host Red Wing the following Monday.



PUCK CONTROL — The Bluejays' Emily Gordon (10) wins a face off against Worthington in Waseca's 5-0 victory.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

Love for Lily

JWP basketball girls dedicate game to Quast

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

After going 1-1 at the Tri-City United tournament, the JWP girls' basketball team turned things around with a two-win home stand against Mankato Loyola and New Ulm Cathedral this past week.

The rescheduled game against Cathedral Saturday, Jan. 7 was dedicated to freshman basketball player Lily Quast, who fell seriously ill and was hospitalized during a family vacation in Costa Rica in December. All basketball squads and the JWP Athletic Band wore green to show their support for her.

Bulldogs 53, Loyola 33

In this contest Thursday, Jan. 5, both teams started off slow. It wasn't from a lack of trying from the Bulldogs, though. Coach Cory Jans confirmed that they were a little more inaccurate to start the game than usual.

"In the first half, there were many shots where we didn't have our feet set or we were unbalanced," he said. "We also had a few times where we limited our opportunities with self inflicted error, a few errant passes, and some traveling violations."

After a 24-19 halftime lead, the girls started getting things going again. With freshman Katie Olson supplying points via layup shots and senior Faith Olson making a three-pointer look easy, the team took initiative and found ways to shoot more accurately.

Loyola, on the other hand, couldn't keep up. On two occasions, the Bulldogs applied enough pressure in the second half to keep the Crusaders from advancing the ball over the center line within 10 seconds.

Individually: K. Olson, 15 points; James, 11 points; Dahlberg, 7 points; F. Olson, 6 points; Strauss, 6 points; Krause, 4 points; P. Walz, 2 points.

Bulldogs 70, New Ulm Cathedral 64, OT

The girls can be proud of the effort they put into their game against New Ulm Cathedral for Lily Quast.

Despite the game being non-conference, the two teams have formed somewhat of a rivalry. Last season, the Greyhounds defeated JWP 53-29, but the Bulldogs had the last laugh when they eliminated NUC in the first round of playoffs 56-51.

Both teams put on a clinic. But out of all the players for the Bulldogs, one had a standout performance. Sophomore Presley James sparked the offense with 27 points. It marked her fourth consecutive game where her offensive production was in the double digits.

"It's really good to see players like her step into their roles and find opportunities to make themselves and others better," Jans commented. "I think we have many players willing to step up when called upon. The players also work to find ways to make each other better."

James' career-best night, along with Katie Olson providing another double-digit night, helped the Bulldogs edge out the Greyhounds in an extra period.

Individually: James, 27 points; K. Olson, 15 points; Weimert, 9 points; F. Olson, 5 points; Strauss, 5 points; A. Olson, 4 points; Dahlberg, 4 points; Krause, 1 point.

With the two wins, the girls are 4-5 on the season (1-2 in the Gopher Conference).

They started a three-game road trip in Blue Earth Monday, Jan. 9 and played Waterville-Elysian-Morristown the following Tuesday. They will end the road trip at Maple River on Friday.

NRHEG boys fall at Maple River

The NRHEG boys' basketball team has kept it close in more than one game this season.

Friday, Jan. 6 at Maple River was not one of them.

The Panthers, playing the first game of a boy-girl double-header at Mapleton, came home with a 74-37 loss, leaving them still seeking their first win of the 2022-23 season.

Statistics for the Panthrs: Dexter Lee 19 points, 3 rebounds; Will Tuttle 6 points, 7 rebounds; Jackson Chrz 4 points, 3 rebounds; Alden Dobberstein 4 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists; Sam Olson 2 points; Lukas Loverink 2 points.

Hayden Neibuhr of Maple River led all scorers with 33 points.

The Panthers faced Medford Tuesday, Jan. 10. They travel to WEM Friday, Jan. 13. They host USC Tuesday, Jan. 17 and play Friday, Jan. 20 at Randolph.



GENEROUS DONATION — Above: Bruce Nielsen (holding check) presented a donation of \$1,000 to the NRHEG Girls' Basketball Boosters on behalf of the Hartland Firefighters Relief Association. From left: Hallie Schultz, Adalyn Stadheim, Preslie Nielsen, Gabby Schlaak, Sidney Schultz, Erin Jacobson, Bruce Nielsen, Faith Nielsen, Trinity Smith Vulcan, Quinn VanMaldeghem and Camryn VanMaldeghem..

Pioneer photo by Judy Tweenen

NRHEG girls take care of Maple River

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It didn't go as coach Onika Peterson would have planned, but it was a win. Another win for the NRHEG girls' basketball team.

The Panthers remained unbeaten in Gopher Conference play at 4-0 and improved their overall record to 7-1 after defeating Maple River 56-42 at Mapleton Friday, Jan. 6.

"We are happy to get a win out of the Christmas break," said Peterson. "It wasn't the prettiest game with missed bunny baskets, some forced passes and shots, but it improved as the night went on."

And Peterson, whose squad held a 28-21 halftime lead, wasn't expecting a cakewalk.

"Maple River is a tough opponent, said Peterson. "We are expect-

ing a competitive game the second time around at home."

Individually for the Panthers: Faith Nielsen 1 point, 4 rebounds, 1 blocked shot; Quinn VanMaldeghem 5 points, 3 rebounds, 1 steal; Erin Jacobson 14 points, 8 rebounds, 1 steal; Gabby Schlaak 1 rebound; Hallie Schultz 4 points, 8 rebounds, 1 steal, 1 assist; Sidney Schultz 25 points, 7

rebounds, 2 steals, 6 assists; Camryn VanMaldeghem 7 points, 5 rebounds, 2 steals.

The Panthers have a busy week scheduled, hosting Medford Jan. 10, entertaining WEM Jan. 13 and traveling to Kasson to face Dover-Eyota Jan. 14.

JWP boys upset unbeaten BEA, but fall to USC

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

It was about as much of an up-and-down week as it could get for JWP's boys' basketball team. After hosting an undefeated Blue Earth Area team and upsetting them 62-54, United South Central soared to an easy 65-53 win at Wells.

Bulldogs 62, BEA 54

The boys put the upset into motion, putting together one of their better offensive performances in the season.

"It was a nice win for us," coach

Nick James said. "I felt it was our best effort of the season to this point on both sides of the ball."

James felt like the game's result started with how well the defense did. "We held them to 16 in the first half, with their best player only scoring three points," he explained. "In the second half, everyone stepped up to carry the load on offense. Tonight, we had six guys score six or more points."

Freshman Daulton Bauer led the team with 14 points, with Memphis James not too far behind with 11.

Other contributors were Landon Johnson, Caleb Quast, and Ryan Kronbach with 8 points each, Cole Schleter with 6 points, Austin Quast with 4 points, and Ethan Born with 1 point.

USC 65, Bulldogs 53

This game can be summed up in two words: mentally unprepared.

While the score makes it look like the boys took a typical road loss to a conference opponent, that wasn't the case. Six minutes into the first half, they were behind 25-3. The three points were a free throw by

sophomore Austin Quast and a two-pointer by Bauer.

James wasn't sure what happened.

"I'm not sure if we just had some tired legs from the previous night or what, but I do think USC wanted it more to start the game," he said.

USC's defense was unrelenting, leading to a 36-12 lead at the half. The boys miraculously outscored them 41-29 in the second half, cutting down the lead to single digits late into the game But with the lead so wide for the Rebels and the occa-

sional controversial call against JWP, it was just not in the cards."

Bauer led the team with 19 points. James had 13, Caleb Quast supplied 8, Schlueter 7, Quast 4, and Kronbach 2.

The 1-1 week resulted in a 5-4 overall record for the boys (2-1 in conference). They hosted WEM Jan. 10 before starting a five-game road trip at Maple River Friday.

"It's going to be a tough stretch for us," James commented. "Each of them is a big game. All we can do is take one game at a time."

Grizzlies' Kuball, Murphy take gold at Norwood-YA

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

The WEM-JWP Grizzlies had a busy week after winter break. They lost two of three matches at a quadrangular at Sibley East Thursday, Jan. 5. The following Saturday, they traveled to Norwood-Young America for an invitational.

St. Peter, the largest school in the quadrangular, easily defeated the Grizzlies 57-16. Only Brady Murphy, Carson Petry, Jack Cahill, and Keegan Kuball were victorious.

Murphy won by fal.

Their match against the hosting Wolverines was much better as they took a 51-23 victory. Murphy at 106 again won by fall. After Sibley East earned 17 straight points, Zach Quast and Kelton Erler collected wins by forfeit, giving WEM-JWP the lead again.

From there, outside of a win by fall for the Wolverines, WEM-JWP won every match. Lucas Morsching at 152 won 2-0, Avery Fall at 195 won by fall, and Max Davis overwhelmed Gavriel Godinez in the heavyweight

matchup in 4:23. Maddox Moreno, Jack Cahill, and Keegan Kuball won by forfeit.

The best dual of the night was against Tri-City United. Murphy made his night perfect with a 16-1 technical fall. After Parker James at 113 fell short, Petry took a win by technical fall. Collecting other wins for WEM-JWP was Morsching at 145, Isaac Quast at 160, and Moreno at 170 (in 20 seconds). Fall and Kuball had wins by forfeit, making it 37-36 Grizzlies. The dual was decided between Max Davis and Marco Reyes. The 285-pounders

duked it out, but Davis fell in 1:05, making it a 42-37 victory for TCU.

NYA Invitational

It was a great day for the Grizzlies, with Kuball taking first at 285, Murphy taking first at 106 division, Petry taking second at 120 , and Morsching placing second at 145.

After a long week, WEM-JWP will host St. Clair-Loyola and Westfield in Waterville Thursday, Jan. 12 before traveling to St. Croix Lutheran for an invitational on Saturday.

NRHEG wrestlers endure rough night in quadrangular

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The NRHEG wrestling team hosted a quadrangular in New Richland Friday, Jan. 6.

It was a tough night for the Panthers. The NRHEG crew absorbed three dual-meet losses, falling 48-21 to Goodhue, 50-27 to St. Clair/Mankato Loyola and 39-21 to Red Rock Central.

"Our team is in a tough position right now and we are trying to make the best of it," said

Panthers coach Shaun Larson. "We are going to be making a few adjustments with our lineup in the next few weeks."

Winners against St. Clair/Loyola: Deven Parpart, 138 pounds; Aidan Schlaak, 145; Harbor Cromwell, 160; Aden Berg, 220; and Makota Misgen, 285.

NRHEG victories vs. Goodhue: Jacob Karl, 113; Parpart, 138; Ryan Schlaak, 152; Misgen, 285.

Winning against Red Rock Central: Karl,

106; Annabelle Petsinger, 126; Parker Bunn, 132; Ryan Schlaak, 152; Cromwell, 160; Wyatt Larson, 170; Misgen, 285. Ryan Schlaak won by fall.

"Our inexperience continues to show, and it was especially that way in the St. Clair match," said Larson. "We did not compete to the level we could have. In the Goodhue and Red Rock Central duals, we wrestled about as well as we could expect against those teams."

The previous night, the Panthers faced a

pair of Rochester schools, defeating John Marshall 35-33 and falling to Century 43-36.

Winners for NRHEG against JM: Karl, 113; Petsinger, 126; Bunn, 132; Parpart, 138; Ryan Schlaak, 152; Cromwell, 160; Misgen, 285. Misgen won by fall.

Winning against Century: Parpart, 138; Ryan Schlaak, 152; Cromwell, 160; Larson, 170; Cole Hutchens, 195; Misgen, 285. Misgen, Parpart and Ryan Schlaak won by fall.

STAR ARCHIVES

25 Years Ago – The New Richland Star, January 1, 1998

- Waseca County Farm Bureau Young farmers Jason and Kathy Witt competed in Minnesota Farm Bureau's Young Farmer & Rancher Achievement Award contest during the MFBF annual meeting December 7-9 at the Radisson Hotel South in Bloomington. For placing in the top ten, they will receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., March 25-29, as part of the YF&R leadership program.

- Waseca County Farm Bureau President Chuck Schwab attended the Minnesota Farm Bureau (MFBF) 79th annual meeting held recently in Bloomington. Waseca County Farm Bureau won a 1997 Gold Star Award for Outstanding Program Recognition for Young Farmers & Ranchers.

- Jodi Routh, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva area's Junior Miss, will be competing with 17 other representatives from across the state for the title of Minnesota's Junior Miss and over \$10,000 in college scholarship money on January 31 at Jefferson High School in Bloomington. In addition to being named NRHEG Junior Miss this summer, Jodie, the daughter of Mitch and Suzy Routh of New Richland, won awards in Creative and Performing Arts, Presence and Composure and Panel Evaluation, along with \$2,050 in college scholarship money.

75 Years Ago – The New Richland Star, January 1, 1948

- Good eyesight, or glasses to compensate for defective vision, will be the first essential in the tests which must be passed by all new applicants for driver licenses in Minnesota after the new law goes into effect January 1. Tests will be given in Waseca and other county seats at designated times and places at least once each week by examiners from the State Highway Department. The law provides that the examination shall include a test of applicant's eyesight; ability to read and understand highway signs regulating, warning and directing traffic; knowledge of traffic laws; and an actual demonstration of ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a motor vehicle.

- That Wesley Schultz, who farms the J. W. Kreuzer farm a few miles west of town, escaped from an automobile accident without injury is indeed remarkable. His car dropped ten feet and landed with the wheels in the air. Wesley started for home at about 5 o'clock Saturday evening. When he reached the New Richland school building on No. 30, the car of Isaac Greenwood was stalled in the middle of the road. Thinking there was enough room to pass the stalled car, he crowded a little too far to the north and one wheel of his car dropped off the grade and the car was precipitated to the bottom of the high culvert. Schultz was not injured in the least and when Greenwood opened a car door he crawled out.

- The fact that Assistant Postmaster Walter E. Johnson arrived at the New Richland post office at least a half hour early Christmas morning saved the building from complete destruction by fire. As he began his task of mail distribution, a crackling sound attracted his attention and looking upward he saw small flames trickling through the ceiling around the chimney. Quickly an alarm was sent in and by the time the firemen arrived, Postmaster J. W. Kreuzer, himself a fireman, was on the scene. Joe says the matter of saving the building was so dubious that precautions were taken at once to save the mail. Every piece of mail in sight was gathered into mail sacks and placed in Henry Hanson's dairy truck. Guards were put in charge and the removal of fixtures was next undertaken. But the flames by that time had been subdued by the active firemen.

Studying local housing in Janesville

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Tom Leighton, a senior urban planner with Stantec out of St. Paul, presented the results of a Housing Study of the city of Janesville during the January 9 council meeting.

The first thing Leighton pointed out is that Janesville has many features desirable to potential residents. "There's a real desire to live in Janesville," he said. "It's an attractive community. People like the schools, and you have great amenities."

He added that this tends to create a shortage of housing: "The prices may also be out of reach for people interested in a town like this."

The housing study was split into two main parts: Analysis and observations of the community (housing stock, for example), and tailored strategies to respond to the city's development. Leighton presented a graph showing the employment growth in town. After a low point in around 2011 when 443 people were employed in Janesville, the number spiked to 630 in 2020.

"The job growth is not just in one sector either," Leighton pointed out. "It's in multiple sectors."

Janesville has also grown "modestly" - about five percent. Projections show it going down slightly from the current population of 2,421 to 2,339.

Leighton then presented a Venn diagram showing that 1,077 people live in Janesville and work elsewhere, making the city effectively a "bedroom community." Conversely, 481 people work in Janesville and live elsewhere: Only 149 people both live and work in town.

Leighton was almost shocked by the demographics. "There's a lot of children in Janesville," he said. About 28.6 percent of Janesville residents are under the age of 17, while another 27.6 percent are age 35 to 54.

Those numbers were explainable with the next statistic, household types. Some 38 percent of Janesville households are families with children. "This is pretty unusual," Leighton admitted. "But it fits the narrative that families want to live here."

According to the measures of in-

JANESVILLE
CITY COUNCIL

come, the median household income is \$77,546. The average Minnesota household income is slightly higher, but Janesville's median is much higher than that of Waseca County, which is at \$63,498.

Leighton stated that Janesville is also an outlier in housing occupancy: 89.2 percent of city residents own their home, while the remaining 10.9 percent rent. Cities like Madison Lake and the entirety of Waseca County are closer to 80 percent, while only 72.6 percent of Minnesotans as a whole own their home.

Janesville had a wide range of housing types according to Leighton. The city offers mostly single-family homes but does have 4-plex housing, apartments, multi-family, and a mobile home neighborhood. In 2021, there were 16 single-family homes produced, much more than in recent years.

The current average single family sale price in Janesville is \$139 a square foot, a 50 to 60 percent increase in only five years. "It's not all bad," Leighton assured. "If you're owning, it's good equity. But if you're trying to buy in, it's a lot harder."

In summary, he explained that the city's diversity of housing options is a strength, but that houses don't remain on the market long. "These days, new housing is occurring at a slower pace," Leighton explained. "Development is challenged by rising construction costs."

With the first part of the presentation out of the way, it was time for the suggestions. What should Janesville do?

Leighton said that the city should develop more multifamily and rent-restricted housing. He showed a comparison of what other cities were doing. Dodge Center, which is almost a Rochester suburb at this point, is currently developing 56 units of multifamily housing. Zumbrota developed 57 units in 2022, and Eagle Lake developed a total of 114 units in a two-year span.

He suggested the city get into a

"There's a real desire to live in Janesville. It's an attractive community. People like the schools, and you have great amenities."

— Tom Leighton, Stantec senior urban planner

public-private partnership to get multifamily housing. "The typical format that cities do is develop places with a garage on the ground level rather than underground parking," he added.

The rent restricted housing research may yield more challenges. "Models for affordable housing that are most common are competitive on a statewide basis and are likely not to occur in Janesville," he said. "The way you can attend to this if this is a value is if you get a market-rate developer, dedicate a certain number of units, set aside for people under a certain income, subdivision development to target some of that mix to be more modest homes that are for more people."

The subdivision strategies he covered for further development include things Janesville has already done. "Any time you can front load the utility costs, it helps," he said.

For example, the city of Eyota went a few steps further by doing a city-owned development. They built the streets and utilities and funded it themselves. "The hurdle for developers was lower," Leighton concluded.

He then talked about the mobile home park in town. "I care a lot about mobile home parks," Leighton said. "Sadly, it's all too common for people to buy the property and jack up the rates of rent in a mobile home."

An organization in Rochester works to fix that problem by buying that type of property and running it as a cooperative. Leighton suggested Janesville could look into that or other ways to help out the mobile home park.

The last thing Leighton suggested

as a strategy is developing land trust homes. The idea is that the price of the home is solely based on the building, not the value of the land. It's the same when selling. Although it's usually not as successful in most rural communities, the city of Mankato is giving the strategy a try.

After the presentation was finished, council member Ivan Maas was the first to ask a question. "You pointed out a lot of ways we could proceed. Are there any things that could lead us into a pitfall in the future?"

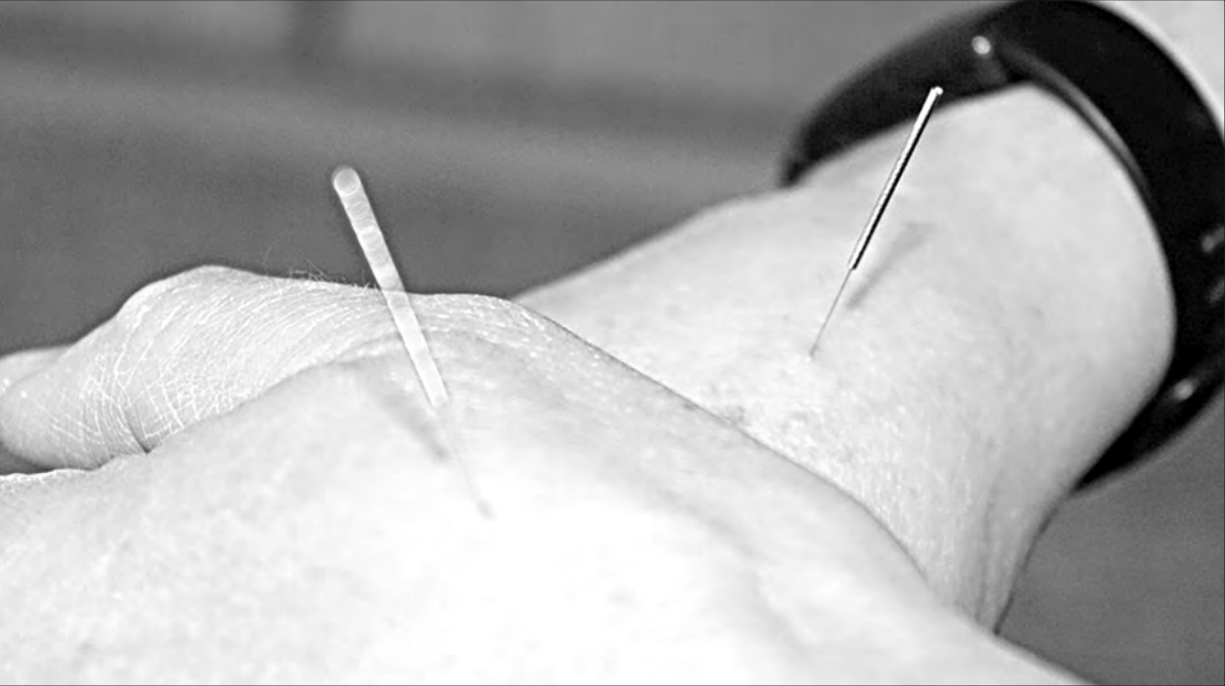
Leighton responded, "This is sort of all over the map. You may want to take on one or two at a time and reach out to communities that have done similar things and ask them about their pitfalls."

Council member Melissa Kopachek expressed thanks to Leighton and his team. "I would be really sad if all this work goes for nothing," she said.

Jim Mulcahey agreed. "I would expect between now and summer, we'd have a work session to go over this," he said.

Terry Gardner, a member of the Janesville Economic Development Authority, was interested in how the study ties into the needs of daycare in town. "This is not just about housing, but making sure we get apartments with amenities and how it ties into the town's growth," she spoke.

The city will enroll in the Minnesota Housing Partnership Institute to further understand how it can potentially grow the city. With all the possibilities offered during the presentation, the city has plenty of options to choose from as it determines strategies to continue growing and keep up with housing demand.



Research has shown that acupuncture can relieve pain by releasing endorphins, the natural pain-killing chemicals of the body.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

■ Point

from Page 1

body's meridians become blocked and Qi is clogged or stagnant. Zhu says she determines a treatment regimen by hearing a description of the problem from patients, studying the mucus membranes of their tongues, and checking the status of their pulse, meridians, and acupoints. With all necessary information gathered, she inserts fine, sterile, disposable needles into the acupoints along the meridians. "Research has shown that acupuncture can relieve pain by releasing endorphins, the natural pain-killing chemicals of the body," Zhu says. "It can also help with anxiety and depression by stimulating the part of the brain that governs serotonin or reduce inflammation by stimulating the body to produce steroid-like substances. Acupuncture can help from head to toe."

Zhu studied both western and traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) while earning her medical doctor (MD) degree in her home country of the People's Republic of China, where she practiced as a neurologist for three years at Tiantan hospital in Beijing. When her husband, who holds a Ph.D. in plant pathology, was offered a position at the University of Minnesota's experiment station in Waseca, Zhu and her family relocated to the area in 1995. Zhu rented

treatment rooms in the Beschnett building to open an acupuncture clinic early on, then became part of Healing Hands Wellness Group in 2000, and now again has her own facility where she offers a range of TCM treatments: "I do moxibustion along with acupuncture if it is needed." Moxibustion entails burning an herb called mugwort close to the skin's surface. The combination of the heat and the properties of the herb "can improve blood circulation and nourish the body." A patient of Zhu's being seen for treatment of migraines has undergone this several times: "It's an interesting sensation. I couldn't see it because the procedure was done on my back, but it's certainly effective."

Cupping, Chinese herbal medicine, and food therapy are also TCM services offered at Zhu's clinic. "Cupping is putting suction cups on the skin. The suction can improve blood circulation, which helps pain." A former Waseca Marching Jay can attest to the effectiveness of cupping; she had the procedure done every marching season for pain in her ankles, hip, and neck. Chinese herbal medicines have been used in China for thousands of years. Based on their effectiveness and safety, many herbs have been found to have a broad range of benefits, including fighting against colds and flu, reducing pain, helping skin issues, and more. "Chinese herbal medicines are generally only used for a short period of time with no or minimal side ef-

fects," Zhu explains. "I have a master's degree in human nutrition. Food is medicine. I believe that before using western drugs or herbal medicines, we should try to get help by eating certain foods. In China, there is a saying: 'Eating ginger in summer and daikon radish in winter keeps doctors away.'"

Zhu says she is continually inspired by the attitudes and spirits of her patients. "We have a very open-minded and supportive community. When my patients say they feel better after their treatments, that is the best reward for me." She seems to be rewarded frequently in that manner; a patient who sought treatments for a joint injury posted on Hua's acupuncture Facebook page: "Oh my gosh! I can bend my thumb all the way! It doesn't hurt or snap! It hurt so bad when I left. I cannot believe this! Sorry for the late text but I haven't been able to do this for four months! Thank you!" Zhu has no objection to having her services labeled as "alternative" medicine; "I think this will change as time goes on. Many doctors are starting to refer their patients to acupuncturists. As long as it can help people, I don't care much about the name. Every road leads to Rome."

Appointments at Hua Zhu's clinic can be made by emailing her at huazhu099@yahoo.com, calling 507 271-2970, or messaging her on Facebook.

1919

Same Great
Classic American
Root Beer

Ice Golf Benefit for Logan Nessel & Family

@ The Boat House Grill & Bar in Waseca

Saturday, January 28, 2023

#LOGANSTRONG



On July 17, 2022, Logan sustained a spinal cord injury of his C5 and C6 vertebrae after a diving accident and is classified as a quadriplegic. He was hospitalized and in rehabilitation for 11 weeks and just recently moved into a handicap accessible home in Waseca. Money raised at the benefit will go toward a medically equipped vehicle that Logan will be able to drive on his own with his family.

100% of the proceeds raised will go to Logan and his family.

Your \$80 team registration fee includes:
18-hole mini golf on the ice (4 players per team)
Burger or brat, chips & free drink ticket for each team member

The Crown Royal girls are scheduled to be onsite giving out free samples
We will have a DJ outside (weather permitting)
Optional additional fee contests throughout the course for your chance to win prizes
(Including MINNESOTA WILD TICKETS!)

Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for the mini golf



Sign up using the QR code above or send an email to
loganstrongbenefit@gmail.com

There will be a silent auction to bid on a Henry Golden Boy 22 Long Rifle,
autographed Twins memorabilia and more!

**If you would like to donate items for the silent auction, please contact us at
loganstrongbenefit@gmail.com

There is an account set up in Logan's name at Keen Bank in Waseca for monetary
donations or they can be made through Venmo @loganstrongbenefit

*All proceeds from the event are considered a donation, in the case of bad weather, an indoor event will take place instead

Thank you for your understanding and generosity!!

1919

ARGUS ARCHIVES

100 years ago - 1923

-When Janesville was armed and in search of the notorious Younger and James Gang of Murderers: When school was out we came home and spent some weeks; in fact until the time of the raid of the Younger brothers on the Northfield bank. It will be recalled that previous to the raid the gang visited Janesville. They put up at the old Johnson House and afterwards it was recalled that they spent a large part of the two or three nights they were here in playing cards, presumably gambling.

-Within 60 days after the passage of those state laws made possible by the good roads amendment more than a thousand men with a thousand teams were patrolling Minnesota roads, says the Minneapolis Daily News. From that moment Minnesota roads began to improve and that improvement has continued until today they are the talk of the touring world.

-Martin Sexton passed away at his home in Janesville township Monday morning, after an illness covering several months duration. The cause of death was a complication of diseases. He was an old settler and a man in whom the people reposed the utmost confidence. The funeral was conducted at the Catholic Church, Rev. Father Condron officiating. The remains were laid to rest in the Janesville Catholic cemetery.

-The fellow who growls the most about the town being on the toboggan is the last man to turn out to a meeting of any local civic organization where plans to better such conditions are discussed and where he might do his own little bit by putting his shoulder to the wheel. -Dassel Dispatch

-During the summer of 1876 there were various interesting details as to local matters in Janesville, some of which were extremely exciting. These culminated in the late fall when just after the election the country became embroiled in the electoral dispute which nearly precipitated civil war. The excitement of course reached Janesville as it did every hamlet and city in the country. On the morning after the election everyone supposed Tilden had won. The second morning daily papers reported that Hayes had probably won by one majority in the electoral college. Instantly there was discussion and turmoil. Partisanship ran high. The result hinged on the returns from Louisiana where fraud was alleged. On the face of the returns Tilden carried the state. But on account of alleged frauds certain precincts in the state were thrown out. And that gave the state to Hayes.

-E. C. Luedtke has received a communication from the art department of the Tribune enclosing an aerial photograph of Janesville taken last summer by a Tribune aviator. The aviator neglected to designate the name of the town and for that reason it has not appeared in the Tribune. The artist finally suspected the town and submitted it to Mr. Luedtke for verification. This has gone forward and now undoubtedly within a short time the Sunday Tribune will present the cut to its readers. The photo is an exceedingly plain one. It shows the entire town and the surrounding country in fine shape.

-The proposition to authorize the issuance of twenty millions in bonds to put over the proposed Babcock plan of good roads is meeting with almost unanimous opposition throughout the state. The original estimate was placed solely upon the car tax. This it is figured will not meet the demands that will be made from time to time upon the fund. As an emergency this proposition is clothed in alluring figure and put before the people. But it will not become a law. In fact, it will hardly pass the first base when it comes up for consideration.

75 years ago - 1948

-Judging of the Christmas Lighting Contest, sponsored by the Janesville Water and Light Board, was done by four prominent Waseca men. So that all contestants would be judged alike, each person who entered the contest was assigned a number and the houses were viewed and judged by number. The judges did not know the names of the owners of the houses being viewed and after their selection had been made they were informed of the names of the winners. The winners are as follows: First prize: Frank R. Cahill, \$20; First Prize, George Strunk, \$20; Second Prize: Herman Pautz, \$15; Third Prize: R. E. Donahue, \$10; and Fourth Prize: Geo. Schmidt, \$5.

-“Here is my number one nomination for the most outstanding achievement for 1947. It goes to Janesville, Minnesota. It certainly is a grand and inspiring thing for a group of folks to do, to go to work and bring to success the acquisition of the grounds for park purposes, to plan to equip same and beautify it, build a road to it on the shores of Lake Elysian. The thing that makes it outstanding is that it was done by voluntary subscriptions. These are the things worthwhile in this old world. Hats off to Janesville.” -H. A. Panzram

-Art Chiodo, the former Marshall boy who started out as a student manager before playing seven years of high school and college ball under as many coaches, is now THE successful man of Janesville, Minn. art stepped into this southern Minnesota community last fall for his first years of football coaching and came up with the best high school football team Janesville has had in 15 years. Now it’s basketball time and Art claims he has the makings of a title challenger in the Gopher Conference of which Janesville is a member. Janesville’s football team won seven games and lost one last fall under Chiodo.

-While snoopin’ around the old Burg, it has come to the knowledge of the Argus pencil pusher: That most of the shadows of this life are caused by standing in our own sunshine.

-Mr. And Mrs. James McBride celebrated their golden wedding anniversary last Sunday with an open house from two until five o’clock in the afternoon. Many neighbors and friends of Janesville and the surrounding territory, as well as from Waseca, Waldorf, Minneapolis and other communities visited the McBride home to extend greetings and to wish Mr. and Mrs. McBride more years of happy wedded life. The afternoon was spent in renewing old acquaintances and visiting with many old friends.

-The Golden Bears of Janesville High School defeated the Sacred Heart basketball team of Waseca at the latter place Tuesday night by a score of 48-36. It was the second defeat for Sacred Heart by the Bears this season. Tomorrow night Freeborn H. S. Will be here to take on Coach Chiodo’s gang. Freeborn has always been tough for the Bears and a close battle is looked for when the two quints meet.

-Residents of Waseca County will be given the opportunity of sending, in the fourth week of January, large amounts of grain to aid the starving people of Europe, announces the Rev. E. Stein, county chairman of the Christian Rural Overseas Program - CROP. This CROP program is the answer of the rural people of America, who have been called the world’s best neighbors, to European starvation and dark evil forces.

50 years ago - 1973

-T. Sgt. David F. Born, son of Joyce Born and Ervin Born of Janesville, is taking part in mercy missions to aid victims of the Nicaragua earthquake. Stationed at McChord Air Force Base, Sgt. Born is a member of the 62nd Military Airlift Wing. The jet transports, on which Born flies as a crew member, flew a portable 100-bed mobile Army hospital to the disaster area as well as some of the hospital’s 180 Army personnel.

-Twenty years ago Mark Hauck, Argus publisher, spent his entire column pleading with people to get their news submitted earlier. He said it takes six hours just to set the locals in type and that material coming in late was a real headache. His deadline was 11 a.m. Wednesday and he couldn’t understand why people would wait until Wednesday morning to bring in something that happened right after last week’s paper came out! If you were still in the newspaper business, Mark, you’d see that times haven’t changed that much!

-Mike Niemczyk, Janesville’s varsity wrestling coach, says the Gopher Conference title will be decided Friday night when the Bears travel to Morristown. The locals take a five-win, no-loss, one-tie record into the march. If they defeat Morristown, the Bears will only have Waterville standing in the way of the conference dual meet championship.

-Once a month the Argus staff goes through our subscription list, checks the cards, and stamps the papers whose subscriptions are due or overdue. Your paper is due on the first of the month printed with your address, above. Because of the large number of subscribers, we do not send out bills. We will stamp your paper SUBSCRIPTION DUE once and a month later the card will be pulled if not renewed. If it is not convenient for you to get in to renew your subscription just give us a call and we will take care of it for you.

Geese die off due to pneumonia

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

In late November, 2022 the City of Waseca and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources fielded multiple reports of an unusually large number of dead birds on Waseca’s Loon Lake. Jeanine Vorland, Waseca and Owatonna’s area wildlife supervisor for the DNR, counted around 100 carcasses in a single visual scan when she responded to reports. Most by far were Canada Geese, though mallard ducks were also represented among the birds that had died.

As soon as ice was thick enough for cleanup to begin, samples were sent to the University of Minnesota for testing. Preliminary results received in November indicated all the birds had signs of pneumonia. Michelle Carstensen, in charge of wildlife health at the DNR, told CBS News following that preliminary testing that the most likely cause of the pneumonia was Aspergillosis, a respiratory



In November, more than 100 geese were found dead on Waseca’s Loon Lake.

infection caused by mold which is rarely contagious. This contradicted speculative fears that the die-off could be the result of avian influenza, which the City of Waseca had not yet been able to deny.

The DNR has continued to monitor the situation at Loon Lake. Deaths dropped off significantly in the beginning of December and no unusual deaths have been noted in several weeks, with a final body count roughly between 120 and 140 birds. During the DNR’s monitoring period, hundreds more apparently healthy birds have continued to use the lake.

WASECA ARCHIVES

Waseca Journal - 100 Years Ago

-Jay E. Gould, owner of a circuit of 6 moving picture theatres has arranged to open the New Garden theatre after changing the equipment and improving the interior in many ways. He will open with Harold Lloyd’s new film, “Grandma’s Boy” and declares that he will run Friday and Saturday of each week to begin with. One of the features of his circuit is his orchestra. This orchestra is composed of selected players who play music appropriate to each situation in the film.

-With a record of having presided over approximately 2,375 contested civil actions and criminal triads, Judge Arthur B. Childress will retire as the judge of the Fifth Judicial district, January 1, 1923, to resume his practice in law. The judge, who has served on the bench for 12 years, will resume his law practice without delay. On Jan. 2 he will be in his law office on the second floor of the Citizens National Bank building in Faribault to where his large law library will be moved from the Rice County courthouse.

-It pays to tell the truth because you can always remember just what you said before. This was fully demonstrated in the play “Step Lively” given by the Sacred Heart Dramatic Club last Thursday evening at the Palace theater. Here it was demonstrated that one little lie made it necessary to tell one lie after another until the characters had to step lively to keep peace in the family.

-Last Thursday morning two big trucks, one a ten ton and one a two ton truck, smashed together at the curve two miles north of Waldorf, damaging the front of both machines and injuring both drivers badly. Arthur Halland of New Richland, was driving the smaller truck which was empty. The large truck was filled with gravel. Halland was pinned in the seat so tight by the collision that the back of the cab had to be torn away in order to free him. The doctors found that he had suffered injuries to his leg, shoulder, and spine. The driver of the other truck was Walter Hagaman of Minneapolis. He is laid up with a big gash on his forehead and an injured leg. Both men are in Waldorf under the care of Miss Need, a trained nurse from Faribault.

-Friday night the high school basketball team took on the Alumni team and beat them 28 to 18. The game was quite rough and both teams missed many good chances to score, due mostly to lack of practice on the part of the alumni and lack of accurate passing on the part of the high school.

-Last week the two Pemberton banks consolidated, feeling that the field was entirely too small for two banks. The Pemberton State Bank was bought by the Farmers State Bank. The negotiations took place in the office of the State Bank Examiner’s office in the state capital in St. Paul. People of Pemberton have long been convinced that two banks were too many for that community. The overhead and expense necessary to carry on the business of one community could easily take care of the business of both and neither bank was paying the dividends they should.

-The friends of A.J. Olson, who formerly taught agriculture here but is now running a farm in Renville

County, will be pleased to learn that he has been elected Vice President of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation. While here, Mr. Olson was a very successful agricultural teacher.

-Howard Casebeer and Lucille Studer slipped quietly away from their homes in Blooming Grove and were married by Judge of Probate Brown at the courthouse. They are residents of this county, where they have many friends who wish them happiness.

Waseca Herald - 75 Years Ago

-The residents of Waseca County will be given the opportunity to send large amounts of grain to European countries, according to Reb. S. E. Stein, pastor of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church of New Richland, who is county chairman of the Christian Rural Overseas Program.

With Rev. Stein, a county committee along with city, village and township chairmen will make arrangement for the donation of large amounts of grain by rural groups and money from others to be used to purchase grain for gifts. The collection will be made in the last week of January throughout the county.

-Ticket sales for the Junior Chamber of Commerce Golden Gloves boxing card which will be held next Saturday at the Central high school gymnasium opened this week and the demand has been heavy, according to Bernard Staley, chairman. Approximately 1,000 seats will be available to boxing fans for the evening with the opening fight at 8:30.

-The first public showing in Waseca of the new 1948 model Ford trucks will take place Jan. 16 at an “open house” to be conducted by J. A. Tyrholm & Co., Inc.

With the streamlined new trucks - first post-war products of the Ford Motor Company - as the main attraction, the Tyrholm Company will welcome the public to its showrooms, service, parts and accessory and used vehicle departments.

-The Central basketball team defeated Faribault last Friday night in a game there which showed Central was in top form as it entered the winter season. The final score was 54-39 with Central leading for the four quarters of play and keeping the initiative all the way.

-The city council at its regular meeting heard Waseca County doctors urge an addition to the Waseca Memorial hospital to provide more space for patients. Dr. Hottinger, who opened the discussion by speaking for the group, told the council that the hospital should be enlarged to provide more space for patients, but the physicians were not pressing for immediate action. He stated that doctors felt that they, themselves, had probably been negligent in not presenting the problem earlier. There have been times when patients needed hospital care and room was not available.

-A verdict of \$5,000 for damages was awarded to Loretta Besser by a jury late Wednesday evening at Waseca for the death of her five year old son, Allan, last July in the family farmyard. The case was the first to be tried by district court in an adjourned term of court. Edward Besser, father of Allan and administrator of the estate, filed suit for the heirs who are himself and his wife, against Glen Passer, a truck driver. Damages

asked were \$10,000 and \$300 funeral expenses.

-The City of Waseca has good credit and people are looking for places to place extra savings, according to F. L. Manthey, city treasurer, who has charge of selling \$63,000 in interest bearing orders for the city by orders of the council.

-Tommy Barrett, Waseca shortstop last year, will not be back with local baseball team for the 1948 season, according to Don Herbst, Waseca field manager. Barrett has been named as manager of Faribault’s Southern Minnesota league ball club and has already informed Don Herbst of the change.

Waseca Daily Journal - 50 years ago

-The Bluejay basketball team won their own holiday tournament Friday night clipping Kenyon 62-53. Albert Lea won the other game 55-40 over Hayfield. It was the fourth time the Bluejays have won in the seven years of the tournament.

-Peter Kunst has informed his brother David by phone that he will accompany him on the remainder of the World walk. The brothers are planning to resume the walk March 1. Peter will be coming to Waseca before they leave to assist with the final arrangements. According to David, Peter’s wife, Nancy, is all for the walk and has encouraged her husband to go. “She knows he wants to go and has to go for John’s sake.”

-In men’s basketball action last night Corchrans beat the Wanderees 61-59 and the Dairy Queen won over Jack’s Webb 81-50. Corchrans now have a league leading five wins and one loss followed closely behind by the Dairy Queen and Brown Printing at 4-1.

-The Irish of Janesville will host the Irish-American Club of Southern Minnesota on Saturday evening at the American Legion Club Rooms in Janesville. Sure ’twill be an evening that you will long remember. There will be singing, dancing, Irish storytelling, and before the night is over, you’ll probably believe that a “Little bit of Heaven” fell on Janesville.

-According to Police Chief Earl Halleck, residents of Waseca have a lousy batting average when it comes to driving their vehicles with caution. There were a total of 195 accidents in Waseca in 1972, with 127 of them occurring in December. This is an increase of 41 more accidents than in 1971. February of 1971 was recorded as the most accident prone month with 24 mishaps.

-Robert Jewison, Waseca was hired as appraiser in the Waseca County Assessor office to fill the vacancy created by Dave Hodgkins’ resignation. He was hired at the salary of \$500 per month, at Thursday’s County Commissioners meeting.

-Wine, a woman, song and plenty of ice fishing mixed in with football are on the agenda for the retired Senior Farm Foreman at the Southern Experiment Station. Howard Greeney, 64, called a halt to his employment Dec. 29 at the station and handed his pitchfork and tractor keys over to successor, Rene Greenwald and stepped over the threshold into the magic world of retirement.

-Janesville got three pins Friday night on the Morristown mat to defeat the Comets 27-19. The three pins for Janesville came from Jack Eustice at 1:45. Tom Trahms at 5:55,

and from Hwt. Bill Hollor at 4:46. The pin by Hwt. Bill Hollor assured the Bears of a victory as their slim two point lead going into the last match was in danger.

Waseca County News - 25 years ago

-Question of the week: Why do you collect Beanie Babies? Dee Andrew, Waseca: “I don’t. I’m buying them for my grandchildren.” Ashley Kruse, Waseca: “They’ll be worth money someday.” Linda Ellis, Owatonna: “I buy them for my kids. The only one I want is the Princess Di bear.” Bethany Lewis, Waseca: “Because they are cute.” Jodie Bathke, Wells: Because they are going to be worth some money.” Betty Wencil, Owatonna: “I collect them for my grandkids.”

-Despite scoring its lowest total of the season, the Waseca gymnastics team easily kept its winning streak intact. The Bluejays romped past Kasson-Mantorville 137.2 to 113.35 in Kasson Tuesday. It was Waseca’s seventh straight win without a loss this season, and the Bluejays’ 17th consecutive victory over the last two years. Waseca, which defeated the KoMets 141.15 to 99.6 last year, won its third dual meet without a loss on the road.

-Two surprises were announced at Saturday’s Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet and Jaycee Community Service Awards Ceremony. Waseca School Superintendent Virgil Christianson was named the winner of the annual Don Eustice Community Service Award. The naming of the winner is kept a secret each year until the banquet.

-The face of education is about to change in Waseca area school and the rest of the state of Minnesota with the adoption of the Graduation Rule this year. Beginning next school year, students will have to pass the standards established by the Graduation Rule to graduate from high school. Students in third, fifth and eighth grades will be tested annually with a single statewide test. The high school component of the MCAs is scheduled to begin in the 1998-99 school year.

-Despite the recent stretch of cold weather, many of the lakes in the Waseca area are not safe. With the abnormally warm fall and early winter many lakes in the area have not frozen uniformly enough to support all terrain vehicles (ATV), snowmobiles or cars. To safely support an ATV or snowmobile there should be at least five inches of solid ice and to support a vehicle there should be at least 10 inches of ice, said Waseca Fire Chief Bob Johnson.

-Lynn Donovan began as a customer at Nifty Thrifty when it opened tow years ago. On Dec. 15, Donovan became manager of the store. Donovan said she loves working at the thrift store. Donations come in every day. “It comes in from everywhere,” Donovan said. The store has even had donations come in from neighboring states.

-Taking his Percheron horse team on a 16-hour road trip is something Al “Cob” Kath of rural Waseca never thought he would be doing. Without the support of family and friends Kath would never be in a Denver horse show. “I couldn’t do it if it wasn’t for the ones backing me,” he said.

The Pastor's Column

Starting point in faith journey

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink. An old idiom that we all have a rough idea what it means, mainly that you can't force someone to do what is good for them. People can make up their own minds and chose things that are not the best, but what can we do about it?

I sometimes feel like this as a Pastor, Father, or Coach. You can teach and teach, demonstrate and show, even demand and force, but people will only put in the effort that they want to into any given circumstance. It is a hard lesson to learn, but many people struggle to know what the next best thing to do is, and even then, prioritizing time to get it done is tough.

A football season may be won in a few short months, but that winning season takes 4 years to build toward in the High School and College realms. Once a coach learns how to encourage their students to put time into wind sprints, early morning training sessions, spending summer days in the heat and rain to just get to the point of learning to trust each other until they become starters then a winning season is built. The same is true for anything that takes work.

If you don't put in the work nothing will change. It is the same for every area of our lives. To learn a new skill takes time and intentionality, to grow a garden you need to prepare the soil and water, to get stronger you have to lift things till becomes easy and then add more weight. Everything we do takes work, some of that work is more enjoyable than others.

Good musicians become great musicians because they love their craft and desire to learn everything

they can and then push the limits of their musical talents. Good athletes become great by taking care of their bodies and planning on how to not overwhelm themselves. Good students become great by enjoying the process of learning and applying the knowledge they have.

We have a starting point in faith that begins the same, but each of us have very personal gifts and talents that can be used by God. The problem is sometimes we don't want to think or act in Godly ways. We know what is good for us and for the kingdom of God, but it can be inconvenient and stressful at times. It takes work to do the best things that God has for us.

The hardest part of growing in faith is putting in the effort that will cause the most growth but is seemingly mundane. I was reminded just this past weekend that there are ways that are simple for people to grow in their faith. There are 31 Chapters in the book of Proverbs, read a proverb a day. There are 365 days in a year, read a Psalm a day, there are 150 of them. There are 7 days a week, pray intentionally one day each for your family, church, community, a lost friend, a saved friend, your church leaders and then yourself beyond your regular prayers.

Galatians 6:9-10, "9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Prayer and scripture reading is not a chore, it is a gift to grant us faith and growth in the Lord, let us continue in the hard work of training in faith to reveal who God is.

New faces

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The NRHEG school board completed its legally required annual organizational meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023. The agenda included swearing in new board members Amy Ihrke and Pat Theuer; also newly elected, but not present at the meeting was Aaron Phillips.

With all present members installed, board members proceeded to elect officers: Incumbents Rick Schultz (chair), Dan Schmidt (vce chair), and Terri Engel (clerk) were reelected to their positions. Loren Schoenrock was selected as treasurer.

The NRHEG Star Eagle was named as the school's official newspaper, meaning that any legally required notices will be published there.

The board's depositories were again named as the State Bank of

School Board NRHEG

New Richland and the Minnesota School District Liquid Asset Fund. Superintendent of Schools Michael Meihak was authorized to handle electronic transfers of funds and investments.

The regular meeting time was reinstated as 6:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month, except when displaced by a holiday, in which case the meeting is moved to the next day, Tuesday; meeting locations will alternate between the New Richland and Ellendale school buildings, with the January 17 meeting occurring in New Richland.

Board member compensation for regular meetings was maintained at



New NRHEG school board members Pat Theuer and Amy Ihrke.

the same rate as last year, \$75; payment for full day meetings will be \$250.

Committee memberships were also set. Buildings and Grounds: Schultz, Engel and Schoenrock. Finance: Schoenrock, Theuer and Ihrke. Policy: Schmidt, Schoenrock and Engel. Transportation: Schmidt, Schultz and Phillips. School activities: Schmidt, Phillips and Ihrke. Negotiations (paraprofessional): Schultz, Schoenrock, Phillips. Negotiations (Clerical, custodial and food service): Engel, Schmidt and Theuer. Negotiations (Certified staff/teachers): Schmidt, Ihrke and Schultz.

Seminar examines end times

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

The Waseca Bible Church took a first step in establishing itself with a bible prophecy seminar at the Starfire Event Center on Saturday, Jan. 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event was free of charge with a free will offering suggested for the sloppy joe lunch.

"We had a pretty good turnout," founder John Conway said. "People came in and out as they wanted, but I believe everyone learned something. It's a blessing to be able to do this."

Everyone who attended received a folder with resources to follow along and take notes during sessions and videos. Useful links were offered for study after the seminar. There was also a glossary defining terms used throughout the seminar and in the Bible.

The seminar was split into seven sections. The first one was titled, "Why Study Prophecy?" The group delved into the dangers and benefits of studying prophecy. One benefit included arming themselves with the knowledge of what is to come; a danger is that prophecies in the Bible can be read the wrong way.

One video recommended not "jet-tisoning," that is, completely disregarding, prophecy. According to one resource, Barton Payne's Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy, there are 1,239 Old Testament prophecies, 578 New Testament ones, and 817 total Bible verses that mention it. All in all, 27 percent of the Bible talks about prophecy.

The next segment (which the Pioneer attended) was "The Seventy Weeks of Daniel," which talked about the prophecy of 70 years of captivity, the Antichrist and desecration of the Temple of Jerusalem, the rapture, and the rebirth of Jesus. Andy Woods, the speaker in the videos on the subject, pointed out that the prophecy talked about in Daniel 9:27 - in the Old Testament - was mentioned similarly in the Book of Revelation 19:20 - in the New Testament.

Conway admitted the session was the deepest part of the seminar. He was not wrong, as the sermons about the 70 weeks of Daniel were split into ten parts.

After a noon lunch, the group talked about the dispensations mentioned in the Bible. According to the Church of Jesus Christ, "Dispen-

sations are time periods in which the Lord has at least one authorized servant on the earth who bears the holy priesthood and the keys, and who has a divine commission to dispense the gospel to the inhabitants of the earth."

The bible group examined Ephesians 1:10 and 3:1 when talking about the dispensations. Conway noted, "Dispensationalism is not something imposed on the Bible, rather it allows the Bible to speak for itself."

At 1 p.m., the group talked about the Church Age and the Rapture, a subject touched upon during the "Seventy Weeks of Daniel" portion of the seminar. The group examined Acts chapter two to John 14:1-4, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, and 1 Corinthians 15:51-53. Junk food was a subject also talked about during the one-hour segment.

At about 2 p.m., the Bible study group talked about the book "The Time of Jacob's Trouble," written by Donna VanLiere, whose plot involved prophecies about the end times. Conway gave a handout to the attendants and also presented a display explaining the end times prophecies.

At 3 p.m., the group then talked about the Millennium and the Eternal State. A video of David Jeremiah talking about verses in the Book of Revelations was presented. The words "a thousand years" are included six different times from Revelations 20:2-7. The verses mention how the dragon - emulating the devil - was bound and thrown into the abyss for a thousand years and would be set free when that time had elapsed.

The last hour included talk about current events and how they are tied to the prophecies in the Bible. A video by Andy Woods labeled "7 Signs" talked about seven topics: Israel, international politics, technology, society, economics, spirituality, and understanding prophecy.

Near the conclusion of the seminar, Conway opened the floor for a question and answer session. He was happy to report that they were able to finish the seminar right on schedule.

"We're hopeful that with the will of the Lord, this will grow into a regular thing," he mentioned. "I feel all of this is important information to know about."

PERSONALIZED PRINTING & APPAREL

Barb & Mark Buker

100 South State Street • Waseca
507.835.7565 • pprint@mchsi.com

PHEASANT CAFE

SINCE 1942

Great Home Cooking • Catering
Full Breakfast Menu • Daily Lunch Specials
104 State Street, Waseca MN • 835-1259

AND

RESIENTIAL
SNOW REMOVAL
Call Today!
Zach Battenfeld
521-0226

Battenfeld Lawn Care

DRS. AKRE & CLARK
FAMILY EYE CARE

\$75 Off

FRAME AND LENSES WITH EXAM IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Cannot be combined with any other offers or insurance plans. Valid January 2023. See an optician for details.

1111 2ND ST. NE.
WASECA, MN 56093
507-835-2020

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. ***** 4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. ***** FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. ***** CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays 9 a.m., 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship ***** ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. ***** ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. ***** FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: tcwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. ***** GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. ***** SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca 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. ***** REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-607-8245 Sundays 9 and 10:30 a.m.	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. ***** GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. ***** 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. ***** 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 ***** ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Ortson, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship ***** 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 ***** FIRST CONGREGATIONAL New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Pamela Jensen Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship ***** LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl	Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting ***** VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship ***** VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanbl 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 ***** ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass ***** 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. ***** IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship ***** ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship ***** ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship ***** TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 10:30 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 ***** TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Interim Pastor Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:00 a.m. Worship ***** JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship ***** BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship ***** ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville Father Brian Mulligan 10 a.m. - Mass ***** FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Interim Pastor ***** ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Vacancy Sunday = 1 p.m. Worship ***** TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Vacancy Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship ***** NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.
---	---	--	---

Waseca Floral & Gift

810 N. State Street • 507-835-3790 or 800-469-3790
www.wasecafloral.com
Hours: Sat. 9-5 Sun. 11-3

We Deliver in Waseca, Janesville, & Waterville

INSURE CAREFULLY, DREAM FEARLESSLY.

CALL (507) 835-2770 FOR A NO-OBLIGATION FREE QUOTE.

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

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

American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I.
American Family Insurance Company,
6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783
006441 - Rev. 11/15 ©2015 - 10793941

Meet your neighbor, Jack

Name: Jack Williams

Town: Waseca

Occupation: Teacher and play director (Retired)

Hometown: Ely, MN

Family (Parents, siblings, grandparents): Mary and I have been blessed to have 5 children and 8 grandchildren. My father (Eddie) was an underground iron ore miner and my mother (Hannah) worked as a waitress and bartender. I had two brothers: Ronald worked in the mines and owned a motel. Barry worked in the mines and was an avid fisherman.

Hobbies: Writing plays, painting and traveling

My Dream Vacation Would Be To: Traveling to England, Italy, and Slovenia

The Best Thing About Small Town Living:

Being able to travel anywhere in town in 7 to 10 minutes

Last Book I Read: I'm Not Lost – I Just Don't Know How To Get Home

Favorite TV Show: News and talk shows

Favorite Food: Any soup. Garlic Bread Soup, Cabbage Kielbasa soup, etc.

All Time Favorite Movie: It's A Wonderful Life

All Time Favorite Play: Les Misérables

Favorite Musical Artist: Jon Batiste

Favorite Sports Team: Twins, Vikings and Loyola Chicago Ramblers - Women's soccer team (my granddaughter plays on the team.)

My Favorite Activities When I Was Growing Up: Playing Tin-can Alley and Work-up Baseball with kids in the park.

My Biggest Pet Peeve: Anyone that tells lies - especially politicians!

The Best Advice I've Ever Received: "If you expect no gratitude – you will never be disappointed." From a Chinese fortune cookie.

If I Could Have Lunch With Any Person Throughout History, Living Or Dead, it Would Be: Leroy Shield born in Waseca and went on to write background music for The Little Rascals and Laurel and Hardy movies. He also toured with conductor Arturo Toscanini.

Something About Me That Would Surprise People: I ski jumped one winter just for fun. Inspired by the 1960 winter Olympics.

Favorite Quote (Optional): "I disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." Evelyn Hall's illustration of Voltaire's beliefs on free speech issues.

Biggest Regret (Optional): Not seeing Mel Torme perform before he died.



Neighbor Jack Williams took a "Meet your neighbor" form home and filled it out and email it back. Thank you Jack.

In brief

Duelli Noted at the Starfire Event Center Jan. 14

Those interested in musical battles should duly note the following event: On Saturday, January 14, the piano duo "Duelli Noted" will be performing at the Starfire Event Center starting at 7 p.m. This is a 21 or over event. Tickets will be \$25 in advance and at the door. No refunds.

Waseca American Legion hosting the Paul Stewart Show Jan. 13

The Waseca American Legion Post #228 will have live music presented by the Paul Stewart Show on Friday, Jan. 13 from 7 to 10 p.m. fans of 50s and 60s country, rock, and blues are especially encouraged to come for the fun.

Declutter with Dana White Jan. 17

On Tuesday, January 17 at 1 p.m. the Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System invites everyone to start the new year cool, calm and collected by learning to be better organized and clutter free. They will host a virtual event featuring Dana K. White, creator of the popular podcast and blog "A Slob Comes Clean." White will share tips from her book Organizing for the Rest of Us and Decluttering at the Speed of Life.

Mother-Daughter Book Club starting Jan. 19

Girls in grades 3-6 are invited to

bring a significant adult female to join them as we discuss great new books, do activities, and enjoy treats. Book club begins at 6 pm on Thursday, January 19

at Waseca Public Library. Stop by the library to pick up this month's book, Garlic and the Vampire by Bree Paulsen.

Fundamentals of Playing Pool

Tuesdays one day a week

Jan. 10 through Feb. 7
11 a.m. to noon
Waseca Senior Center

\$10 (total)
payable to Waseca
Community Education

Class size
limit of 12 players

Sign up through
Community Education
and ask for how to sign up
(507) 835-5626

Taught by Larry Olson 507-340-2321



IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

SUMMIT ON SECOND APARTMENTS

FOR RENTAL INFO CALL
507-201-3474
Under new ownership

We are accepting applications for 1 bedroom apartments in Waseca, a community you can get attached to. Rent based on income. Now professionally managed by

BRUTGER
EQUITIES, INC.
Income guidelines apply.

WILTON TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF TOWN OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED

One (1) SUPERVISOR - Term of 3 Years
One (1) TREASURER - Term of 2 Years

Filings begin Tuesday, January 3, 2023 and CLOSE at 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

Candidates for Town Office may file Affidavits of candidacy with the Town Clerk at Wilton Town Hall with \$2.00 filing fee.

Deadline is 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 17, 2023.
Annual Meeting will be held on March 12, 2023.

Norman Gehring
Wiltown Township Clerk

YOU DESERVE THE VERY BEST

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

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

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



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

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

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



Have the WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

Waseca County's NEW source for news and events
COME TO YOUR MAILBOX EVERY WEEK!



The WASECA COUNTY PIONEER is gathering fans and praise all over the Waseca County Area with its comprehensive coverage of local sports, news, commentary, events, and people! Don't miss a week!

IF YOU LIVE IN WASECA COUNTY, YOU CAN SUBSCRIBE to the PIONEER for just \$55 a YEAR!

STAY INFORMED! and enjoy a whole year of local news, events, profiles, and the BEST PHOTO COVERAGE EVER!

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

P.O BOX 578 • Waseca, MN 56093

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

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

Subscription For: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642

JANUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Burger nite 5-7pm	4 6pm BAR Bingo	5 7pm BINGO	6 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	7
8 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH	9 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	10 Burger nite 5-7pm	11 6pm BAR Bingo	12 7pm BINGO	13 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm County Holiday Party	14
15	16	17 Burger nite 5-7pm	18 6pm BAR Bingo	19 7pm BINGO	20 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm Your Host Fraternal Order of Police	21
22 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host Waseca County Sheriff Posse	23	24 Burger nite 5-7pm	25 6pm BAR Bingo	26 7pm BINGO	27 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	28
29	30	31 Burger nite 5-7pm				

HOURS OF OPERATION
SUN.- MON. CLOSED
TUE.- WED.-3pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady's nite 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm.
THUR.-1pm to 11pm
FRI.- SAT.-11am to 1 am
POST & AUX MEETING 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license number 00385

A GREAT FIRST YEAR

Looking back at 2022

Part two of three highlighting the best of the best

Following are excerpts from some of the best stories published in the Pioneer during the year 2022:

August

• The Waseca Art Center hosted another swanky soiree on Friday, July 29, as the month-long Home-town Art Show Silent Auction, a fundraiser for the Waseca Area Care-giver Services (WACGS), culmi-nated in a gathering of art enthusiasts to make final bids on their favorite art pieces.

• Night to Unite, a national event, was observed at the Waseca Water Park on Tuesday, August 2 from 5 to 7 p.m. This celebration, sponsored by public safety agencies to encourage a sense of community and offer neighbors a chance to get to know each other better, has been held at the waterpark for the last five years (disregarding a year skipped because of Covid) with attendance ranging anywhere from 300 to 500 people. The celebration included free admis-sion to the waterpark, grilled hot dogs, giant freeze pops and water. The Waseca Food Shelf accepted non-perishable food items and the Waseca-LeSueur Public Library had a booth. Bike helmets were also given away on a first-come, first-served basis and a raffle which gave away two bikes at the end of the evening.

• Though she has been driving—legally—since the age of 12, Helen Fowler has never taken a driver’s test. “Well, back then,” she explains, “you just went to town and paid, and they gave you a license.” The cost, “back then” in 1932, was 25 cents.

Fowler, who turns 102 today, grew up on the Gallagher family farm lo-cated about 5 miles west of Waseca. At 12, she only drove the car to the

for a gunshot wound to the back. Two men, William Peavy, 31, of Waseca and Devonte Phillips, 26, of Mankato, are in custody at the Waseca County Jail after being charged with, in Peavy’s case, aiding an offender to avoid arrest, and in Phillips’, first degree assault leading to great bodily harm.

• The Royals sent the Braves home for the final time this year after a bases-loaded, two-out, walk-off error ended Waseca’s season 3-2 Saturday in Minnesota Lake.

Veteran left-hander Kelvin Nelson pitched another gem, going the dis-tance, only allowing three runs, one earned, while striking out two and walking four.

• “We want to continue the legacy created by Pete [Madel] and keep building,” says Marc Halpert, Chief Executive Officer of Monarch Healthcare Management, Inc. The corporation, based out of Mankato, owns 44 facilities across the state of Minnesota: It took ownership of the two aspects of “Lakeshore Rehabilitation Center” as of July 15.

• A lot of pillows were cleaned last Saturday, August 6, at Sacred Heart as part of the Catholic Daughters fundraiser that went from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Professional Mike Carlson sta-tioned his trailer near the church and offered his unusual service.

• Although he “didn’t grow up thinking I wanted to be a county as-sessor,” there are many ways it seems newly instated Waseca County Assessor Brock Nelson, who took of-fice July 11, seems born and bred for the position.

• Zoie Thompson, a rising sopho-more at Waseca Junior and Senior High School, recently competed in two national qualifier tournaments in

County.

• The community of Janesville never fails to pull together and show support in tough times.

That’s precisely what happened at the Willow Bense Benefit on Sat-urday, August 20. Supporters from all around the area rallied at the Ja-nesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School to show their love for the Bense family.

• Waseca Lakeside Club cele-brated its 100th anniversary on Sat-urday, August 20, 2022. The day kicked off with a Hickory Club tour-nament.

• Auctions are a way of life for Tina Mittelsteadt, owner of Waseca’s newest online auction site, Wa-Seekers.



Helen Fowler plays Bridge during the weekly tournament at the Waseca Senior Citizens' Center.

Growing up, Mittelsteadt attended auctions with her family. As an adult, she feels as if she leaves an auction without a full car, or two, she’s done something wrong.

This experience comes in handy since WaSeekers sells about 175 items per auction, every other Wed-nesday.

• In May of this year, Blaine Brooks was elected as the Com-mander of the Waseca Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1642, also known as the Sweet-Sommers Post.

• The same time that Blaine Brooks was elected commander of the Waseca Veterans of Foreign Wars, his wife, Carol, was elected to be the local auxiliary’s president.

• Waldorf Days was more than just another festival in another small town. It was a chance for everyone in attendance to learn the rich history of the town and its school during the last weekend of August.

September

• With the announced retirement



HORSES IN THE ROUND - Jack Kuhns, 13, found himself surrounded by horses seeking his at-tention Sunday afternoon when he stepped briefly into their pasture. Quarter horses Blondie, Sa-mika and Roxy and Percherons Bonnie, Legend, and their foal James, all stood by awaiting their turn. The horses are owned by Lyle and David Kuhns whose farms are located south of Waseca.

of principal LeAnn Dahle from Sacred Heart Elementary School in Waseca in April of 2022, Sacred Heart teacher Chris Dahle stepped into the position July 1st for the up-coming 2022 school year.

• Lifelong Iowan and retired fire-works pyrotechnician Arlen Tirevold has been named as this year’s Friend of the Classic. He will be recognized for his years of service to the Waseca community through an appearance in the Waseca Marching Classic parade on September 17.

• “This was a complete surprise to me. I got that letter in the mail, and I thought it was for a meeting or some-thing. I was never expecting this,” says Gary Bohm. He and Dave Dunn will be riding in the Grand Marshal seat of honor for this year’s 35th Waseca Marching Classic parade, set to begin at noon on Saturday, Sept. 17. Like Bohm, school board member and band volunteer Dunn was taken by surprise. “I like to work in the background. I’m not a front guy,” he comments.

• John Clemons was unanimously approved to fill the open Ward 1 seat during a special meeting of the Waseca City Council Wednesday, September 7. Clemons will hold the position until after the November election, at which time he will yield it to the winner, who will finish out



Kit Krmpotich



Beth Stankiewicz

the two-year vacancy created by the resignation of former council member Ted Conrath.

• “It has become a true com-munity event over the years.”

Waseca Marching Board’s Deputy Treasurer Mary Williams is excited to announce the 35th Annual Waseca Marching Classic happening Sat-urday, September 17. Sixteen bands from around the state will be per-forming during the Classic, with eight taking part in the parade and more competing in the field event. Around a hundred units are expected for the parade.

• Daniel Cahill, a Janesville native, received a brand-new Ford Escape from the Military Warriors Support Foundation in collaboration with Wells Fargo and Apple Autos of Apple Valley.

• In an emotional return to the sideline, after a 45-13 blowout vic-tory at St. Peter, Waseca High School head football coach Brad Wendland said he would be lying if he said he hadn’t thought about his return to the field after suffering a heart attack during last year’s season opener. “I’m very blessed and very lucky to be here,” he said. “I’m thankful for a lot



Eighty-year old Tink Larson jogs off the field after catching warm-up pitches.

of people. I’m not ever gonna forget it.”
Editorial note: This is part two in a series which will conclude at the end of this month. If readers express interest in reading about previous stories, the Pioneer is considering a monthly feature which will feature briefs and highlights from the pre-vious months stories.



HICKORY TOURNAMENT - From left: Robin Bluhm, Gene Glynn, Mike Hintz, and John Gutfleisch

fields to deliver lunch to the workers. “And the cars didn’t move very fast,” she admits.

She’s driven a lot further since then, during a life which has moved very fast indeed.

“I don’t feel old,” she declares. “Time just rolls along, and I roll with it.” Fowler still lives in a Waseca res-idence where she’s lived the past 29 years. She manages her own affairs and prefers getting news and infor-mation on her iPad rather than by watching television. She loves to read, devouring a book every five to seven days. A member of the Lake-side Golf Club since the 1940s, she stopped golfing when she was 99—but still meets friends almost every week for a “Ladies’ Night” meal. To commemorate her 101st birthday, the golf club began waiving the usual an-nual membership fee indefinitely.

• Following a drive-by shooting on Main Street in Janesville Tuesday afternoon, a man in his 20s is in stable condition after being treated

archery - the Outdoor Junior Olympic Archery Development (JOAD) Nationals in Alabama from July 20-24 and the Buckeye Classic in Ohio from July 29-31.

• Already at age 14, Nathan Kaiser has been granted membership in an elite international hunting and con-servation organization. At the Boone and Crockett Club’s July 22 banquet in Springfield, MO, Nathan received a plaque acknowledging his “out-standing accomplishment” of taking a bear which scored 20 8/16—that is, the measurements of whose skull to-taled 20 and a half inches.

• About 15 people, including Waseca County Commissioners Brad Krause and DeeAnne Malterer and several business owners were in at-tendance for a “thank you” breakfast put on by Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) Thursday morning at North East Park in Waseca in rec-ognition of their five college students who participated in a Summer Intern-ship program throughout Waseca



An outstanding performance given by the cast of *Imaginary Invalid* left audience members smiling with pleasure after the play’s performances July 29, 30, and 31 at the Performing Arts Center in the Waseca High School. From the grumpy old man “Argan” played skillfully by Andrew Harrison, to Emily Rux’s wit and sarcasm as “Toinette” the servant, to the purposely off-key opera singing of Ryan Wendland as “Cleante” and Kit Krmpotich as “Angelique,” there was never a dull moment in *Imaginary Invalid*. In a director’s note, Waseca graduate Patrick Leigh, commented: “We would not have been able to do it without the hard work of the rest of the individuals involved. The cast and crew have worked endlessly to bring this show to a point Waseca hasn’t seen in com-munity theater for some years now. I am incredibly proud to know each and every one of these people.” Photos by Amelia Roessler

Happy New Year!

THE SHOP

Waseca

(507) 835-7040

Happy New Year!

There's no place we'd rather be than at your side.

Member FDIC

keen.bank

keen BANK

Health & Prosperity

IN THE NEW YEAR

McDonald's

WASECA