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WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

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Sports

Open for carryout



Pepito's Pizzeria is now open for carryout at the former Waseca train depot located at 308 S. State St. Hours are 3 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and Saturday noon to 9:30 p.m. The new pizzeria and brewery, owned by Ward House owner and brewer John Mansfield, shown above, will be open for in-house dining at a date to be determined. More photos of Pepito's before and after remodeling will be featured in next week's edition.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

Ice fishing event draws hundreds

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Southern Minnesota residents attending Saturday's annual New Richland Area Sportsmen's Club ice fishing contest could not have asked for better weather: 40 degrees and sunny.

Hundreds gathered Saturday, even more than last year, from all over the southern part of the state from 10:30 a.m. until about 4 p.m. when events wrapped up.

During that time, according to Lee Mendenhall, more than 150 kids' prizes were handed out. "Everyone got a prize," Mendenhall smiled.

The afternoon's largest reward, the 50/50 prize of \$1,650, went to Jack Mosley of Waseca.

Trey DeSchepper of New Richland won the \$500 raffle.

Among the fishermen, the winners, all of whom have been ice fishing for more than a decade each, were returning competitors.

Jack Ruehling of Waterville captured the highest angler's prize of \$75 with a 1- pound-1-ounce bass. Ruehling said he didn't think he was going to win, but joked he had a lucky beverage in one hand all afternoon.

Second place, and \$50, went to Ryan Weber of Blooming Prairie for his 15-ounce bass. "No secrets, just luck," Weber stated.

In third place was Cole Halsey of Faribault taking home \$25 with his 13.5-ounce bass. "Stay hydrated," Halsey joked. "That's my secret."

"It was a beautiful day and a nice turnout," veteran announcer Karl Proehl stated. "We started a little slow, but finished strong."

Proehl expressed gratitude to a long list of people and organizations who support the annual event he has announced since taking over from Bill Robinson when he passed away nearly 15 years ago. This year's sponsors and some

Fishing continued on 5



Jack Mosely of Waseca was the winner of the big prize, taking home \$1,650 during the New Richland Area Sportsmen's Club annual ice fishing contest at St. Olaf Lake.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



Michael and Sara Meihak have been married for two decades. Photo by Deb Bently

Meihaks find simple balance

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

A vacuum cleaner...an air fryer...When it comes to Valentines Day gifts, Sara Meihak has to admit her husband, NRHEG Superintendent Michael Meihak, isn't particularly romantic. "It's more a matter of getting me something I need, but spending more on it than I would myself," she says. "Some people might say they're too practical, too useful."

"But I think they're just right."

Well, except for that one time. The set of exercise weights went over like, if you'll forgive the wordplay, a lead balloon.

Sara, who has been NRHEG's food service director since the beginning of the school year, and who served in that position at JWP for about 10 years, says working together in the same location has not been harmful to their relationship. On one level, it's particularly rewarding, since she can always count on receiving honest feedback about her work.

It's just as well, though, she

Meihaks continued on 5

Fourth in the nation

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

Waseca archer Zoie Thompson, 16, traveled to Las Vegas early this month to shoot on the national stage at the South Point Hotel & Casino, nearly taking second place after two perfect rounds. On day three she found herself in a three-way tie for second place and a "shoot-off" ultimately ranked her in fourth among her class of 75. The event drew nearly 4,000 competitors. Only one other Minnesotan among the 75 in her class made the trip to Vegas. Taking fourth place may seem like a letdown, but Thompson's goal heading into the shoot was to place in the top 10. Thompson has a history of coming out of the gate strong; at her first Vegas Shoot in 2018 she placed second in her flight.

While this was Thompson's fifth time attending the Vegas Shoot, it was her first time advancing to the Championship Flight, where she shot against "the best of the best" in her age division with no division along gender lines. This was Thompson's first time competing in a mixed-gender class. Participating in the Championship Flight also comes with a chance for a cash prize. Thompson's fourth-place finish earned her \$1,000. With the winnings, she is buying a second bow for outdoor use, which will allow her to start preparing for the Youth World Trials taking place in Phoenix in April. A second bow is necessary for the longer distance required for outdoor shooting. Most archers keep a second bow as a backup in case of equipment failure during competition - a problem which Thompson has been lucky to have avoided during her nine-year career.

Thompson and her mother arrived in Las Vegas on Feb. 1. Following registration for the shoot, Thompson spent part of her time practicing and the remainder resting up for the competition. Throughout the weekend, she found little time for sightseeing or tourist activities. "We focus on what we're there for," said Mitch



VEGAS - Waseca archer Zoie Thompson at a national competition in Las Vegas over the weekend of Feb. 2-5. Submitted photo

Thompson, Zoie's father. While Mitch didn't attend this year's Vegas Shoot, he speaks from past experience. "A lot of people don't get that, but we're there for a reason."

The first day of competition for Thompson was Friday, Feb. 3. The rounds at the Vegas Shoot are 30 arrows, shot in 10 ends of three arrows with a maximum score of 300. The rounds take place in a large, professional arena with seating for thousands. "It felt quiet," Thompson

said after her father commented on the noise. That Friday, for the first time ever, Thompson "cleaned it" - or shot a perfect score of 300. "I was really, really excited and happy," said Thompson about the achievement. "I met one of my goals." Thompson and her mother noted with interest that, at the end of Friday's round, three of

Archer continued on 10

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Investors look at \$20 million in projects

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

It was announced Tuesday, Feb. 7 that a two- or three-story apartment and retail space could be coming to Waseca at the city-owned "marketplace location."

Jon Stagman, accompanied by six others, presented the Waseca city council with an exciting venture. The group, partnered with fiscal agent 'REVocity, an investment group out of Northfield, has raised more than three-quarters of a million dollars for a Waseca Real Estate Fund intended to invest in the city. The project is in the early stages, but has been underway for more than two years. Stagman's group gave a presentation to the Waseca City Council on Tuesday, Feb. 7 and asked council members for their blessing and to consider a partnership.

REVocity has more than 30 years of real estate investment experience and has partnered with numerous Waseca persons and businesses. So far the group has raised three-quarters of a million dollars en-route to their goal of \$3 million.

Some of their general partners in Waseca include Tim Collins, who has 30 years of experience as a superintendent; Benya Kraus, co-founder of Lead for America, National and Executive Director of MN Affiliate; Madison Murphy; Matthew Potter, COO at iWealth; Jon Stagman, owner and president of Pantheon Computer; and Lauren Swanberg.

The group provided a long list of reasons why it believes expansion in Waseca is a strong investment, including its status as county seat, its strong school system, its location near Interstate 35 and State Highway 14, its historic downtown and its Waseca 2030 development plan.

Once the group has raised \$1 million, the fund will activate. When it has \$3 in assets, the plan is to leverage that amount, through banks and financing, to invest between \$12 and \$20 million in "impact" or real estate in-

Investment continued on 5

A word from The Word

The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. *Genesis 1:2*



Adrian Arreguin

Snow show

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

Monday, February 13 Waseca High School kicked off Snow Week with the annual talent show. The show was organized by Karen Pfarr Anderson working with the Student Council's advisor, Brenda Nelson and the student chairperson for the talent show, Addison Wieseler. "I am

always amazed at the wonderful talent that we see at the talent show. There are always a few students that perform that I never knew held that kind of talent," Pfarr Anderson said following the show. "This year did not disappoint and again I discovered unknown talents in our stu-

Talent continued on 12



Lindsey Kopetzki



Compostings

by Al Batt
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A last-minute sale

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I'm reminded of what Grandpa said right before he kicked the bucket.

What was that?
He said, "Watch me kick this bucket."

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I lost my wedding band. You're likely thinking I didn't lose the band, they all retired to Florida. I walk outside a lot. I don't always wear gloves. Cold weather, I'd lost some weight and I wash my hands regularly. All those things conspired to help me lose a precious item. I miss it. Maybe I'll replace it with the tattoo of a ring on my ringless finger.

My wife and I visited the Watkins Museum in Winona. Growing up, Watkins was a household name with its door-to-door sales force, each member known as "The Watkins Man." Families were less mobile in those days and The Watkins Man brought spices, vanilla extract, liniment, mouse killer, cough syrup, petro-carbo salve, baking products, home remedies, household items and a case of samples to homes since 1868. The company sold coffee that folks sweetened by adding a drop or two of Watkins vanilla to the grounds. The company has moved away from its door-to-door marketing strategy, but currently offers 350 products through a wide range of retailers and independent consultants.

I'VE LEARNED
We all know a busybody, someone who wants to mind everyone else's business and has a tongue that wags at both ends. I don't mind them. I mind my own business.

There is a rabbit on the moon. The man on the moon was lactose intolerant.

Sunshine and laughter are miracle cures.

Small dill pickles aren't called dill pickles.

If you take the road less traveled, you've missed your turn.

BAD JOKE DEPARTMENT
I brush my teeth alongside my wife because dentists say brushing alone won't prevent cavities.

My neighbor's diary says I have boundary issues.

Do you know what ADHD stands for? It's Attention Deficit Hey Doughnuts.

Spy balloons shot down to combat inflation.

A priest, a minister and a rabbit walked into a bar. The rabbit was there because of autocorrect.

Does an apple a day keep the doctor away or is it just one of Granny's myths?

Only a snowman should pick his nose in the produce department of a supermarket.

IN LOCAL NEWS

Sale at Lloyd's Last Minute Shop is from 4:59 p.m. to 5 p.m.

First aid class proves to be a lost gauze.

Return to slender at Elvis's Fitness Center.

A work comp claim was filed after an employee wrenched neck watching the clock.

Man enjoyed his first season of beekeeping and plans to add a second bee next year.

PREDICTING THE WEATHER

Fog in January means we will have a wet spring.

For every fog in August comes a day of snow in the winter.

Note the day of the month with the first snow deep enough to track a rabbit. This indicates how many deep snows will fall in the winter.

A killing frost occurs 90 days after the katydids begin singing.

Hartland Harold

Tim Donovan of Hartland said my late neighbor Claudie Bias once made the long trip to Worthington. Upon his return, Claudie said, "You just can't beat Hartland."

My granddaughter Joey Batt, a junior basketball player at Minnesota State, ranks 3rd in career steals and 10th in career scoring for that program. Go, Jo!

NATURE NOTES

Valentine's Day brings the smell of skunk in the air, red-tailed hawks perched side-by-side, squirrels chasing one another in pre-mating behavior, bald eagle pairs restructuring nests, barred owls calling more often, chipmunks coming above ground for a look, white-breasted nuthatch males calling "Huh, huh, huh," woodpeckers drumming and black-capped chickadees singing, "Spring's here."

I enjoyed visiting with Kenny Blumenfeld, the Senior Climatologist with the Minnesota DNR. I gleaned plenty from listening to this interesting fellow. La Nina is present, but its influence is waning. It's been hard to find frost deeper than 10 inches. The 2010s were the wettest decade on record in Southern Minnesota. Harmony set a state annual precipitation record with 60.21 inches in 2018. Caledonia had 57.97 inches in 2018, Waseca 56.24 inches in 2016 and Mabel 55.55 in 2018. Summer highs have dropped since 1895, but the humidity has risen. Our grandparents had colder extremes than we do as average winter lows have warmed since 1895. Thunderstorms produce more rain than before. Trends are towards wetter and warmer conditions, with shorter and less severe winters, and a longer growing season on average. The annual blizzard around the state basketball tournament has moved into February. Kenny told me there would be no snow during the spring softball and baseball season unless it snowed.

I checked Iowa's records and they showed average temperatures have warmed 1.3° since the late 1800s.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Help wanted" signs abound. They prove we all need help. Be kind.

Considering THC product sales

Eli discussed Waldorf's drama about getting an apartment built in the city. One thing about it inspired me to write about Janesville's (and many other towns') recent debacle.

Many rejected Mayor Rob Wilkening's idea of growing Waldorf by using park space for apartments. There were many concerns with this, including bringing too many people into town, taking away park space, and growing a town that many people moved to for the sole reason that it's as small as it is.

Eli connected that public hearing with "contributing positive change for the future." Some may also call it moving forward, while others call it progressing.

That's what was talked about at Janesville's council meeting on Monday. The subject, of course, was how to approach the sale of THC in town. How does the city go about vetting people and issuing them the license to sell THC products in an efficient, yet regulated manner?

There's so much I could say in this column that it could possibly take a whole newspaper page. But I'll piecemeal what I thought were the



Music to my Ears

by Michael Roy
copyright © 2022 by Michael Roy

highlights.

Janesville's city attorney Jason Moran sat in on the discussion and was asked his opinion. One of them was he saw almost no point in going through the rigorous process of passing an ordinance on THC regulations when the state is already "halfway" into the process of creating its own regulations, and so might override the city's ordinance in as little as six months.

I think that's a big mistake.

When Janesville council member Melissa Kopachek debated with him, he said that he actually agreed the sale of marijuana should be legalized, but doing so had to follow state laws and procedures. I guess it's a good thing, then, that the state legislature was so clear on this matter

(which half the people didn't know was in last year's omnibus bill) that they're bickering at the Capitol about what should be in the bill right now.

I know he mostly meant that the proposed ordinance was based on how the state and city handles approving liquor licenses. But I feel that while some people boast their support for the legalization of marijuana (specifically THC in this case), they don't wholeheartedly agree that it should be legal.

I think the crux of this issue is whether THC is worse than alcohol. I honestly don't think so, but there are people who do. There is a stereotype that people who use marijuana often don't contribute much to society: Dimebag Dave, if you will.

I feel that same kind of logic is



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler
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Missing home while making another one

At this point I feel like I need a theme song to play every time you start to read my columns about being in Spain. A five- or ten-second clip of music that ends with a drumroll and final chord - like one of those singing birthday cards - so you won't get bored when I start my column with "it's been another week in Spain."

I miss food. Not that the food here is bad, don't get me wrong, but I just miss the sugary and unhealthy food of the States. I have created a list of all the food I want to eat when I get back and some of it includes Frosted Flakes (or any cereal), pancakes, my grandma's spaghetti, my other grandma's sloppy joes, chocolate milk, and some good ol' greasy American pizza.

While you can get most any type of food here, it's just not the same, you know? Like my desire for chocolate milk. They don't refrigerate milk here, so there's one way it's not the same. Besides that, I taste the chocolate much more than the milk. Oh well.

This week has been a week. On Saturday, my friends and I went to

Toledo, Spain: It was the most amazing thing. Toledo is an old military city so there's a castle and a military academy and a bunch of stores that sell swords. So you know what I had to do-buy a sword! And they say money doesn't buy happiness.

Not only that, though. The atmosphere and the landscape of Toledo made me dream about the past and what it would have been like living in that time, in a city built on the mountains. Once again, it gave me Outlander or like non magical Harry Potter vibes or something.

Then, on Monday, we toured the Royal Palace of Madrid. That, too, was amazing. Now I can't decide if I would prefer to live in a castle or in a palace because the palace also intrigued me to the point of daydreaming about banquets and balls. Both castles and palaces make me romanticize my time in Europe. Now, I ride the bus home with my airpods in, feeling my main character moment. Or at least I try, because if Europe isn't the place to romanticize my life, then I don't know where is.

I know it's cheesy, but one of my goals while studying abroad is to



Amelia Roessler stands in front of the Museo del Ejército (Museum of the Army) in Toledo, Spain.

learn to love myself more. My host mom keeps reminding me during our hour-long dinner conversations that I'm very young and that I should just enjoy my life-especially now that I'm in Spain! She's sweet and very encouraging; talking to her always helps my mood-which is surprising considering we only talk in Spanish. Sometimes we'll be in the middle of a conversation and then I realize, "Wow! She's speaking Spanish!" Although I don't really understand all the words, I can generally understand what she's saying, so that's something.

Having her as a support has been very beneficial, especially when I'm stressed. Not that I've been super stressed-the only thing that's really caused me to feel upset is booking and paying for hostels and train/plane tickets for weekend voyages. We're going to Lisbon, Portugal, this weekend and then we also booked plane tickets to Italy for spring break, going to Rome and Florence. I'm so excited.

My Determination: "It does not do to dwell on dreams and forget to live." —Albus Dumbledore

Is 'newsing' contagious?

This last week of "newsing" has really caught up to me. Literally.

I came down with a nasty cold which set in Saturday evening.

When I catch a cold, it typically starts in the evening. I feel like I have something in the back of my throat and it starts to get worse. But I come prepared.

I'm relatively prone to getting colds. I don't know if they occur more frequently for me than others, but they sure feel as if they do. Nonetheless, I have a plan:

1. I sleep a lot.
 2. I take a lot of vitamins.
 3. Canada Dry.
 4. Tea (sweetened with honey)
 5. I work from home.
 6. Oh, and I shower-often.
- This is one of my two go-to beverages for my ailing sore throat. I gave up soda a few years ago, but this still helps when I am feeling under the weather.
- Normally I drink lemon and ginger tea, but I ran out this time and settled



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens
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for green tea. The key here is the honey which has something in it that coats your throat. I think it's called "antibacterial," or "probiotic." I've even taken to just mixing hot water with honey. It helps.

It's very hard to work when you're sick. Regardless of my health, the newspaper needs to go to print, so I hunker down, try to get people to be in the office in my place and work from home.

The steam from a hot shower helps a lot. My friend told me, "When in doubt, sweat it out."

So, what if my "newsing" caused my sickness this week?
Monday: Waldorf public meeting regarding public housing. The city of

Waldorf, namely the mayor, is trying to build and grow the town. And, well, the residents of Waldorf would prefer that the growth not come in the form of a 32-unit apartment building.

Tuesday: I covered multiple city councils, including Waseca. On this particular evening, their regular meeting was accompanied by a presentation from a real estate investing group that wants to invest, well, millions of dollars in Waseca. It was quite neat.

Thursday: Sports, sports, and sports.

Friday: More sports.

Saturday: Ice fishing. Saturday morning, afternoon, and early evening were great. The ice fishing contest was splendid and Lee

Mendenhall insisted I join the sportsmen afterwards for chili. I'm grateful when I get to enjoy at least part of an event without having to work. This was an example of one such time.

I think I spent time in the company of more than a thousand-maybe 2,000-different people this week. Half of Waldorf on Monday, about 40 people on Tuesday at the council meeting; another few hundred between three sporting events Thursday and Friday. And finally, hundreds of anglers on Saturday. Thank you guys; you successfully got me sick again.

As this week began, I kind of had a feeling I would experience one of two outcomes: 1. I would be exhausted or 2. I would get sick.

Well, being sick made me exhausted, but I am an extrovert, so I do get energy from people. The crash can be a little fast and hard, but this time I was sick.

Another week, another "newsing" adventure.

"Because in the end, you won't remember the times you spent in the office or mowing your lawn. Climb that darn mountain." — Jack Kerouac



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Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika

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Nature has character

Sammy is our six-year-old Cavapoo; she is our best friend. She doesn't shed and doesn't chew shoes, socks, or furniture. Samantha barks a bit too much at times, and hides under the bed during fireworks, claps of thunder, or a running vacuum cleaner. Any time I run an errand she waits for my return home and always greets me at the back door. Sammy is in my lap whenever I'm in my chair watching TV. Twenty-six pounds of dog can be a bit uncomfortable at times. She is up with me every morning at 6 and is waiting on my bed every night at 9 to go sleeeeeeepy. We take a walk early every morning and late every afternoon so Sammy can do her duty. Zero temperature days can be a bit challenging because the pads on her feet can freeze up in minutes. Dave refuses to buy cute little booties to put on her feet. We go outside and do number one, go back into the garage to warm her feet, and back outside to complete number two. It's been wonderful taking Sammy outside over the past week: temperatures have been in the 30s and the sun has been shining. It's a joy watching her do her thing, and turning her nose to the south to sniff the warm, southerly breeze. Could we be experiencing the first signs of spring??

It was a beautiful day and I took a fifty-mile round trip to fish with my grandson on Lake Washington. It was a great nature sighting trip. Four eagles were perched on a road-kill deer carcass on the roadside. Two white-headed adults and two juveniles were picking and feeding away for a tasty meal. Further down the road I observed a flock of snowbirds picking gravel and seeds on the snow-plowed shoulder. Coming around a bend were at least fifty robins in the front yard of a farmstead. It was a welcome sight to see such a beautiful bird with a black head and reddish breast. Robins to me are always a first sign of spring: What are they doing here in the

middle of February?

Everyone knows that some birds migrate and some stay here over the winter. Birds can survive temperatures well below zero. Birds have an incredible ability to find the warm spots in which to sleep during the coldest nights. Some sleep in gaps between bark, tree trunks with cavities, old buildings, or evergreens. Their feathers are well insulated, their feet are scaled to prevent frostbite. Birds fluff their feathers at night and will shiver to keep warm. The problem for birds becomes finding enough food to maintain body energy. Snow and ice make that difficult, so as good citizens, keep your bird feeders full all winter long.

I'm an insect guy: had collections of them when I was younger. In the lake parking lot, I returned to my vehicle to find a small white moth on my door handle. A few insects amazingly make an appearance on the warmer days of winter.

Insects go through a stage of metamorphosis to reproduce. The stages may consist of egg, larva, pupa, nymph, and adult depending on the insect. During the winter, insects are tucked away in mud under water, brush piles, underground soil or a crevice in your house or building in some stage of development.

Our good friend the mosquito has eggs or larva in the water or pond under the ice. Insects also have a chemical, antifreeze, in their bodies during the winter and can survive extreme temperatures. Unfortunately for us, we will be swatting mosquitoes again this summer. Oh yes, I'm sure you all know that the females suck your blood for protein to reproduce. The males are friendly little guys, pollinators.

On the roadside I also observed a raccoon that didn't make it across. Most furbearers don't hibernate; they become dormant and make brief appearances on warmer days. Squirrels are active almost daily, as are cottontail rabbits. Raccoons, skunks, opossums, and others spend the majority of winter in tree holes or underground burrows.

I returned from my great outing to Washington and precious bonding time with my grandson. Sammy was waiting at the back door and gave me a warm welcome. I also was feeling a bit warm, so I took my temperature. The diagnosis was an easy one. Spring fever in the middle of February.

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Dinner supports area food shelf

Event raises more than \$3,000

By **TRISTAN JENSEN**
Staff Writer

"We got excited and built the building before we could pay for it," said Larry Sipe, chairman of the Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) board. A fundraiser to help fix this oversight was held Saturday, Feb. 11 at the American Legion hall. The event, which raised about \$3,200 featured a dinner, silent auction, bake sale, and meat raffle.

All the food for the dinner – ham, turkey, potatoes, beans, and rolls – came from the NSC's food shelf. "It's so people can see the quality of the food. You know, it's not stuff that's about to go rotten," Sipe explained. In a similar vein, many of the 20 items on the silent auction were sourced from the NSC's thrift store. All items on the bake sale were donations, and according to Sipe went very quickly at the start of the fundraiser. Ten meat raffles were held over the course of the evening, run by Jack and Mary Williams. Jack



Neighborhood Service Center board members serving dinner. From left: Julie Oslund, Bonnie Britton, and Jim Britton.
Pioneer photo by Tristan Jensen

Williams has been on the NSC board for about six months.

All of the board members turned out to help – even more than could be put to work, leaving some to support the fundraiser by buying a plate. Many of the NSC's staff also attended to work or eat. "I'm a figurehead," Sipe said, eager to credit those who put work into the fundraiser. Gretchen Priebe was the primary organizer for the evening. "It wouldn't have happened without Gretchen," Sipe observed. Gary Huckfeldt, one of two co-coordinators for the food shelf, was kept busy all evening cooking alongside seven-year board member Jim Britton. His fellow co-coordinator, Niki Schaffer, served dessert. She wants people to know that, in addition to helping pay for the new building, cash donations to the food shelf are always the most effective form of support. The food shelf is able to stretch money up to ten times further than it goes at grocery store prices, so while food

Waseca Caregiver Services receives grant

Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging, Inc. (MNRAAA) has awarded Waseca Area Caregiver Services (WACS) a \$70,529 Title III E grant and a \$70,529 Title B grant. The awards are funded under Title III of the Older Americans Act (OAA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

OAA funds are administered by MNRAAA, the state-designated Area Agency on Aging in the 27 counties of southwest Minnesota. Title III OAA

funds are awarded to agencies and organizations that provide direct services for older people (age 60+) and their caregivers to develop a coordinated and comprehensive system of services for older adults and their caregivers.

ARPA was passed by Congress in 2021 to provide further relief to older adults and caregivers caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding under ARPA follows the guidelines established by the OAA.

"MNRAAA is excited to be partnering with Waseca Area Caregiver Services to continue and expand support to older adults and caregivers in our 27 county area," MNRAAA Executive Director Jason W. Swanson stated. "These services are integral to keeping older adults in their communities and as independent as possible."

About the Waseca Area Caregiver Services
It is our mission to provide a holistic ap-

proach in supporting aging adults and their family caregivers with the goal of maintaining community living and a positive quality of life. Learn more about WACS at waseca-caregivers.com

About the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging
MNRAAA's vision is to assist older adults to thrive. MNRAAA provides advocacy, information, resources, and assistance so that older adults in southwest Minnesota can maintain the lifestyle of their choice. Learn more about MNRAAA at www.mnraaa.org.

Sonnenberg named full-time city manager

By **ELI LUTGENS**
Publisher

Carl Sonnenberg will no longer be Waseca's interim city manager. Following a work session Tuesday evening, Feb. 7, the city officially extended an offer to Sonnenberg to take the position full time, which he accepted.

He will continue as director of public utilities, in addition to his city manager responsibilities until a replacement has been found for that position.

"I'm very pleased with the job Mr. Sonnenberg has done," councilman Jeremy Conrath stated.

"You're gonna need a new name plate," Mayor Randy Zimmerman joked. "You're gonna be sticking around for a little bit."

"I appreciate the vote of confidence," Sonnenberg smiled.

Big things are coming to Waseca, it was announced Tuesday, possibly a two- or three-story apartment and retail space at the city's "marketplace location."

Jon Stagman, accompanied by six others, presented the Waseca city council with an exciting venture. The spokespersons with 'REVocity, an investment group out of Northfield, has raised more than three-quarters of a million dollars for a Waseca Real

Estate Fund intended to invest in the city. While the project is in its very early stages, Stagman and others outlined their plans and asked council members to consider giving their blessing, as well as to consider some level of partnership going forward.

"I had the pleasure to sit in on a meeting with this group last year," Mayor Zimmerman announced. "I came away ecstatic."

"I'm ready to proceed with this," Councilman Conrath said.

"No action should be taken tonight because this was not on the agenda," Zimmerman stated. "I feel that's just good practice."

Complications and concerns were raised regarding the city's contract with Walmart. Under the terms of that agreement, the store may have veto rights on the plan in its current form. Stagman stated, however, that the REVocity group does have at least 10 other locations of interest for possible investments.

No action was taken, but talks with the city will continue and a work session will likely be scheduled for a



Sonnenberg

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

later date.

The consent agenda included the approval of the Jan. 17 meeting minutes; payroll and expenditures; off-site gambling for Waseca Sleigh and Cutter; tax abatement for 305 22nd Ave. NW; an amendment to a MnDOT limited use permit; an annual solar report.

The city authorized seeking bids for a reconstruction project at the intersection of Second St. and Second Ave. SW. Adjacent property owners will not be assessed to cover project costs.

Council approved authorizing the Heritage Preservation Committee to issue a request for proposals. The committee is seeking a \$20,000 grant and the city would act as the fiscal agent of the project if the grant is approved. The terms of the grant require a 30% match; those funds would likely come from the Waseca Area Foundation.

"Connection," is the Visitation and Exchange Center located in the Waseca Public Safety building since 2014. The center was founded with and paid for through a "Safe Haven Grant." The grant process has be-

come considerably more competitive and now is set to renew every year instead of every two years. City Manager Sonnenberg informed the council of this and requested permission for the center's director, Penny Vought, to apply for the grant when the application window opens.

The center is open seven days a week, including holidays, and services more than 100 adults and/or children each year. Concerns were raised about whether the center could continue operation if it is not supported by grants this year and in the future. Council members asked whether a non-profit organization could run the center and apply for the grant in place of the city. The council gave a "collective head nod" for the director to apply for the grant. A possible work session was discussed, but not officially scheduled for further examination of the topic.

The fire department relief association welcomed a new president this month, Eric Cox, and new vice president, Nick Edwards.

The bidding process for the construction of new t-hangers at Waseca Airport opens Feb. 28.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6pm BAR Bingo	2 HALL 7pm BINGO	3 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm Four Chaplains Day	4 PRIVATE EVENT
5	6	7 Burger nite 5- 7pm	8 6pm BAR Bingo	9 HALL 7pm BINGO	10 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	11 PRIVATE EVENT
12 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am-Noon Your Host Waseca Youth Sacred Heart	13 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	14 Burger nite 5-7pm VALENTINE'S DAY	15 6pm BAR Bingo	16 HALL 7pm BINGO	17 Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival DINNER & DANCE	17 Sleigh & Cutter PARADE
19 COAST GUARD RESERVE Birth- day	20 President's Day	21 Burger nite 5- 7pm	22 6pm BAR Bingo	23 HALL 7pm BINGO	24 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	25 GUN BINGO DUCKS UNLIMITED MEAL 5:30 pm BINGO 7:00 pm
26 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am-Noon Your Host Neighbor- hood Service Center	27	28 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

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OBITUARIES

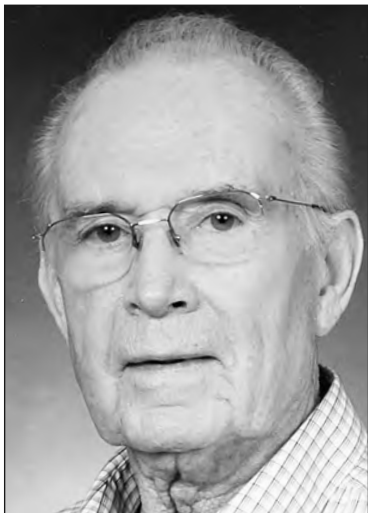
Keith C. Smith

Keith C. Smith, our beloved husband, father, grandpa, papa, and big papa passed away February 10, 2023 the same way he lived his life, with quiet, gentle dignity. He was born in Canton, Kansas to William and Emma (Linsenmayer) Smith on January 15, 1928. He grew up on the family farm, the youngest of 6 children.

In 1946 Keith joined the Navy, serving on the USS Orion, a submarine tender. With the assistance of the GI Bill, he was the first of his family to attend and graduate from college. Keith was proud to receive a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Kansas. "Rock Chalk, Jayhawk!" He began his business career with Westinghouse, in Sharon, PA. It was here that he met his wife and life partner, Wilda Heasley. His business pursuits took them on many adventures, where they made many lifelong friends. Keith and Wilda moved to Wausau, WI in the early 60's, where Keith worked for Marathon Electric. The next stop was Naperville, IL, where he was employed by Motorola. In 1990, he retired from EF Johnson, Waseca.

All of Keith's hard work made it possible to create wonderful memories for his children. As a family of four, Keith, Wilda, Doug and Alison took many vacations all over the US. They traveled to Pikes Peak, Dauphin Island, Jersey Beach, Williamsburg, Sanibel Island, Disneyland, in addition to yearly visits to family in Kansas and Pennsylvania.

During his retirement, Keith enjoyed visiting his four grandchildren and every winter he and Wilda headed to the warmth of Venice, FL. It was here that they reconnected with many lifelong



Keith C. Smith

friends.

In his leisure time Keith enjoyed singing and playing his banjo or bass ukulele, fishing, golfing, and giving of his time. He was an active member of the service organization, Lions Club. He was a member of Faith United Methodist Church.

Keith was devoted to his family and they will miss his love, guidance and sense of humor. He is survived by his wife, Wilda; children: Doug (Betsy) of Columbia, SC, and Alison Stoltenberg (Dave) of Oregon, WI; grandchildren: Kim Smith Heller (Jeremy), Brian Smith, Erin Smith Seel (Alex), and Brenna Stoltenberg (Peter Fox); great-grandchildren: Brooklyn and Madison Heller, and Jonah Seel.

One of Keith's last bits of advice that he offered was, "Do what you need to do, the best you can."

The family would like to thank the Waseca Area Caregiver Services and Foxdale Senior Living for the care and love that they gave to Keith. A memorial service will be decided upon at a later date. Memorials can be given to Faith United Methodist Church or Waseca Area Caregiver Services.

Rodriguez, Huttemier 2023 Triple 'A' winners

By **TRISTAN JENSEN**
Staff Writer

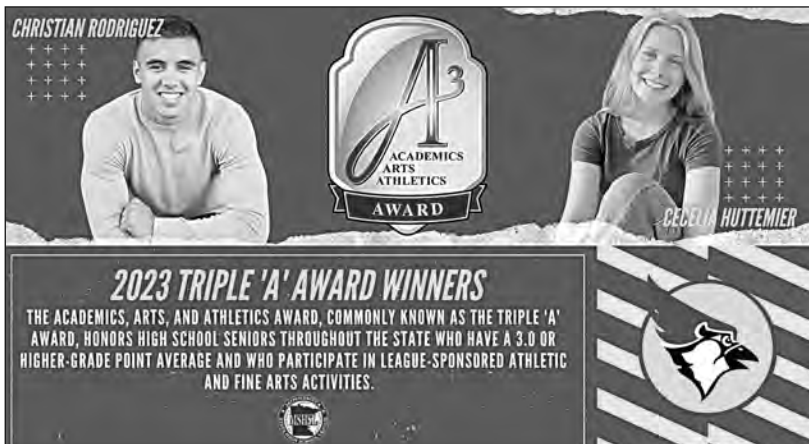
Waseca Public Schools recently announced Christian Rodriguez and Cecelia Huttemier as winners of the Triple 'A' Awards for 2023. The Triple 'A' Award, also known as the Academics, Arts, and Athletics Award, is given to high school seniors who maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) while participating in Minnesota State High School League-sponsored athletic and fine arts activities.

Recipients of these honors are selected by building administration. For the Triple 'A' Award, a list of eligible seniors is provided by the Minnesota State High School League.

Winning this award at the school district level also qualifies recipients to be considered at higher levels. Rodriguez won at the Region 2A Sub-section 5 level and was one of four finalists for the Region 2A award. Rodriguez and Huttemier will be honored at the annual Student and Staff Recognition Ceremony held mid-May.

Rodriguez participates in football, wrestling, track and field, choir, State Street show choir and the male sextet, and student council; he is also a member of the Minnesota Honor So-

ciety. He is the son of Debbie and Nathan Rodriguez and has two older siblings, Hunter and Gabriella, and a younger sister, Reese. "I was super excited to hear that I had gotten the Triple 'A,'" he says, "Just because I felt like I'd been working hard to try to maintain a really high standard, and I think that it feels a bit worth it to see myself winning awards like this." He says his academic success sometimes comes as a surprise to people, when they see the depth of his determination. Actually, he believes his "natural" level as a student is average; it's hard work that has propelled him to excellence. "AP classes are a bit more challenging," he says, "but it was worth it." Rodriguez enjoys spending time casually with his friends, talking football with his brother and wrestling with his dad, and listening to acoustic guitar and piano music. After graduation, he'll be attending Gustavus Adolphus College to play football and pursue a degree in Computer Science, which he hopes to use in a design or engineering role that will allow him to make new discoveries. "I'm very appreciative of an award like this," he said, "and there are a lot of people in my life I would like to thank - friends and family, and close individ-



uals - for helping make it possible for me to reach this kind of success."

Huttemier is in tennis, hockey, choir, show choir and the female sextet, Spanish club, and student council and is part of the Minnesota Honor Society. She started playing her sports as a child, joined the choir in junior high school, and gradually added her other activities throughout high school. She joined the student council last year at the urging of Brenda Nelson, the group's advisor. "I wanted to get more involved in the school." She says she particularly enjoys working on spirit week projects. Huttemier's dad, John, is the principal at Waseca Intermediate School and her mom, Kristi, is a school psychiatrist in the district. She has an older brother, Charlie, who is a sophomore in college and a younger brother, Henry, who is in eighth grade. "I was pretty surprised," she says about winning the Triple 'A' Award. "I guess I never thought

about it. I'm in all three - Academics, Athletics and Arts. To combine them is pretty cool, to be recognized. It was definitely not on my radar." Huttemier is outgoing in most settings, but also enjoys being at home. She loves cooking and baking in her spare time, and going on walks. After graduation, Huttemier plans to attend St. Olaf College for Biology or Environmental Science, hopefully with a minor in Spanish. Low enrollment in Spanish this year meant the class had to be held online, and she says she is looking forward to being in a formal class again. She doesn't know yet what she'd like to do with her degree, and suspects she may change her major at some point during college, calling herself indecisive. "I would like to thank the people who have helped me along the way," Huttemier said in closing, "Coaches, and teachers, and choir directors. And my parents - obviously they've supported me through all three."

Vasquez, Wieseler ExCEL winners

By **TRISTAN JENSEN**
Staff Writer

Waseca Public Schools recently announced Lucas Vasquez and Addison Wieseler as winners of the ExCEL Awards for 2023. The ExCEL Award stands for "Excellence in Community, Education, and Leadership" and is awarded to high school juniors who are leaders in their schools and demonstrate a strong commitment to community service while being highly active in school activities. Recipients of these honors are selected by building administration.

For the ExCEL Award, the selection is based on applications submitted by the juniors for the Minnesota Honor Society. Winning these awards at the school district level also qualifies recipients to be considered at higher levels.

Vasquez was named a statewide winner of the 2023 ExCEL Award, and will be featured on MSHSL State Tournament broadcasts and during an on-court ceremony during the 2023 State Girls' Basketball tournament. Both students will be honored at the annual Student and Staff Recognition Ceremony held mid-May.

Vasquez is captain of the soccer team and the speech team, and also participates in track and field, student council, choir, show choir and the male sextet, theater, and the Business Professionals of America. Additionally, he is a member of the Minnesota Honor Society. In past years, he's taken part in law team, but the activity was not organized for the current school year. While doing all of this, he maintains straight As in his classes, saying his parents expect nothing less. "I strive to be getting top marks all the time," he explained. "They're not perfect, but most of the time I'm completely on it." Vasquez is the son of David and Katie Vasquez and has three younger brothers.

The oldest is ninth-grader Andres Vasquez, followed by sixth-grader Thomas and fifth-grader Mateo. Vasquez lived in the Twin Cities area until after his fourth-grade year when his family moved to Ecuador, where his father's family is from, for about two years before moving to Waseca where Vasquez joined the seventh grade. He says he made his first visit to Ecuador at six months old, when he was baptized there. Regarding the two years he lived there, Vasquez says "It was a great experience. I've learned a lot, and I've seen a lot. It gives you a lot of perspective; when you see different customs and culture, it makes you appreciate the things you have, and also the things you don't have." After high school, Vasquez hopes to attend a university for an undergraduate degree in political science before attending law school - for which he said it would be great to be able to attend an Ivy League school. For his undergraduate experience, he says if he decides to stay close to home he's interested in St. Thomas University, since he's done soccer camps there and already formed a dialogue with the coaches there. Soccer is very important to Vasquez. It's something he'd like to play professionally if given the opportunity, what he most enjoys in his spare time, and what he says he could talk about endlessly. Regarding the ExCEL Award, he was wary of sounding over-confident as he said, "I wasn't very surprised. A close friend of mine has won it, my girlfriend has won it, and they both have very similar school lifestyles to mine. Along with all the volunteer hours I have, and the prestige I get in my extracurricular activities, I was kind of expecting it." He added that among the other boys in his grade, he can't think of anyone with more time spent on volunteering and extracurricular activities.



Wieseler participates in soccer, basketball, band, marching band, choir, State Street show choir, Spanish club, science olympiad, math team, Business Professionals of America, and is the Junior Class President on the student council as well as student representative for the school board. She says that student council and the junior school board are excellent ways for her to give back to her community and help people. Addison is the daughter of Pat and Tonya Wieseler; Pat supervises the setup of new HyVee stores and Tonya is a pharmacist. She has an older sister, Emma, who is a freshman at St. Olaf College and a younger brother, Owen, who is in the eighth grade. "I was very happy," she said about winning the ExCEL Award. "I was proud of myself and I was glad that I was able to be ambitious enough and show how hard I work in the community." In her free time, Wieseler spends as much time as possible with her family. "With my crazy schedule and their crazy schedules, we don't get enough time together," she says, "Even sitting down and talking is precious time." She also greatly enjoys reading. If

she had to choose a favorite book, she says it would be To Kill a Mockingbird, but she'll read anything her sister recommends. Wieseler recently took part in the Minnesota Page Program for high school juniors, which allows students to stay a week at the capitol, meet representatives and sit in on committee meetings. "That is the coolest experience I think I've had," she gushed. "You're with a group of people from different parts of Minnesota who share your interest in politics," she explained further, saying that often people in daily life are disinterested or annoyed by topics like lawmaking. While Wieseler's ambition leads many to believe she'd be interested in medicine, what she really wants to do is law or non-profit work. She says working on the student council and junior board showed her how much she enjoys public service. "For anyone who wants to be the one who takes the extra mile," she said before wrapping up, "know you don't have to be the best at everything. You just have to try your best. You don't have to be the smartest, or the best athlete, you just have to be the one who is willing to try the hardest and get stuff done."

Loy D. Spies

Loy Dwight Spies, age 57 of Waseca, died on the morning of Saturday, February 11, 2023 at his home.

Loy was born on September 5, 1965 in Waseca to Lynn and Lois (Sprengeler) Spies. He attended Waseca Public Schools and graduated with the class of 1984. Following his school years Loy began working for the City of Waseca in the Parks Department where he continued his employment until health no longer allowed. Many would recognize him trimming the shrubs along the road at Clear Lake Park every summer. On January 4, 2003, Loy was united in marriage to Sherri Bartz at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Otisco. Together they built a home in Waseca and shared 20 years of marriage. Loy enjoyed bowling, woodworking, and following Twins baseball.

Loy's family would like to thank and recognize special friends from the neighborhood, Jeremy and Michele Parpart; an instrumental nephew, Brandon Hoopengartner; and many other friends and family who's help allowed Loy to spend his final days at home.

Loy is survived by his devoted wife of twenty years, Sherri Spies of Waseca; three children, Erin Yenish of Waseca, Jeremiah (Stephanie) Yenish of Lady Smith, WI, and Alex (Devin) Yenish of Waseca; twelve grandchildren, Aliyah, Gabee, Grayden, Ayovi, Yosefin, Ethan, Josiah, Olivia, Jaxon, Jaya, Axel, and Esme; one great-



Loy D. Spies

granddaughter, Spring; one brother, Lane (Jody) Spies of Waseca; two sisters-in-law, Tricia Bartz (Lonnie Irwin) of Freeborn, and Gina Crumb of Portland, OR; and many nieces, nephews; other relatives; and friends. He was preceded in death by his father-in-law, Donald Bartz and mother-in-law, Barbara Crumb.

A public visitation will be held from noon-1 p.m. on Friday, February 17, 2023 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. A memorial service will begin at 1 p.m. with interment and graveside services to follow at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca.

After the completion of graveside services, Loy's family will host a reception for friends and family at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. dsfuneral.com

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STANDINGS

Boys' Basketball			
Big South Conference			
Big Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
New Ulm	11-1	4-1	17-4
Worthington	10-1	4-1	17-3
Marshall	6-6	2-3	9-14
St. Peter	3-6	0-5	4-17

Big South Conference			
East Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
Jackson Co. Cent.	10-6	2-3	13-8
Waseca	6-4	5-1	18-5
Blue Earth Area	6-4	4-2	12-7
Fairmont	2-13	0-6	5-15

Big South Conference			
West Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
Pipestone Area	8-5	6-2	12-8
Windom Area	7-6	5-3	15-8
Luverne	6-7	5-3	11-10
Redwood Valley	5-8	4-4	9-14
St. James Area	0-13	0-8	4-16

Gopher Conference			
East Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
Hayfield	12-2	7-1	19-5
Kenyon-Wana.	12-3	5-2	17-7
Randolph	9-5	5-3	13-9
Bethlehem Acad.	7-7	4-4	13-8
Triton	5-8	1-6	7-15
Bl. Prairie	4-11	1-7	8-14

Gopher Conference			
West Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
Maple River	15-0	9-0	22-2
United So. Cent.	10-4	6-2	16-7
JWP	6-9	5-4	9-12
NRHEG	3-11	2-6	3-20
WEM	2-13	2-6	3-17
Medford	2-14	1-7	2-21

Girls' Basketball			
Big South Conference			
Big Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
St. Peter	10-1	6-1	16-6
Marshall	10-2	5-1	17-8
New Ulm	8-4	2-4	17-7
Worthington	0-7	0-4	4-13

Big South Conference			
East Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
Waseca	6-4	5-1	14-7
Fairmont	9-9	5-1	13-9
Jackson Co. Cen.	7-10	2-4	10-12
Blue Earth Area	0-10	0-6	4-17

Big South Conference			
West Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
Luverne	13-0	8-0	21-2
Pipestone Area	9-4	5-3	14-7
St. James Area	5-9	4-4	13-11
Windom Area	5-10	1-7	13-10
Redwood Valley	3-10	2-6	7-16

Gopher Conference			
East Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
Hayfield	13-1	8-0	19-3
Blooming Prairie	9-6	5-4	10-11
Randolph	7-7	4-5	17-8
Kenyon-Wana.	7-8	3-6	11-11
Triton	5-10	4-5	8-15
Bethlehem Acad.	4-11	2-7	9-11

Gopher Conference			
West Standings			
	Conf.	Div.	Ov.
NRHEG	13-1	8-0	19-3
WEM	9-4	5-2	14-8
Maple River	9-6	4-4	12-10
JWP	4-10	2-6	11-14
Medford	1-16	1-7	2-21
United So. Cent.	0-1	0-1	3-11

Boys' Hockey			
Big South Conference Standings			
	Conf.		Ov.
New Ulm	16-0		21-3
Luverne	12-3		17-6
Marshall	9-6		11-12
Windom Area	9-6		10-13
Minnesota River	8-7		11-13
Waseca	7-8		9-13
Fairmont	5-9		6-17
Worthington	2-13		3-18
Redwood Valley	0-16		0-21

Girls' Hockey			
Big South Conference Standings			
	Conf.		Ov.
Luverne	14-0		20-6
New Ulm	11-2		17-8
Marshall	9-4		12-12
Minnesota River	8-5		12-11
Waseca	5-9		12-12
Windom Area	4-9		10-14
Fairmont	2-12		4-17
Worthington/Fulda	0-13		3-19

Wrestling			
Big South Conference			
East Standings			
	Conf.		Ov.
St. Peter	5-0		19-5
Fairmont/MCW	4-1		11-2
New Ulm	3-2		18-7
Waseca	2-3		5-11
Blue Earth Area	1-4		5-19
St. James Area	0-5		11-13

Big South Conference			
West Standings			
	Conf.		Ov.
Jackson Co. Central	6-0		15-5
Marshall/Lakeview	5-1		16-4
Pipestone Area	3-3		9-9
Worthington	3-3		8-13
Windom/Mt. Lake	3-3		7-12
Redwood Valley	1-5		5-16
Luverne	0-6		11-15

Reger's remarkable run paces WHS boys

Senior perfect from the field, including 9-for-9 on threes, as Bluejays stifle Sibley East 87-48

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

So many times this season, the Waseca High School boys' basketball team has looked at sophomore Damarius Russell as the Bluejays' clear-cut leader.

That was not necessary Tuesday. Tyson Reger picked up the slack. And then some.

Reger, a 6-foot-1 senior forward, was a perfect 12-for-12 on field goals, including 9 of 9 on three-pointers, as the Bluejays blasted visiting Sibley East 87-48. After research, WHS coach Seth Anderson said he believes the 9-for-9 performance on threes is a state record.

Regardless, it's impressive.

Reger registered 22 points in the first half alone as the Jays assumed a comfortable 52-25 advantage at the intermission. None of his shots touched iron. Everything was nothing but net. He also made his only free-throw attempt.

Reger finished with a career-high 34 points to go along with 7 rebounds and 2 assists. Laird Keaton scored 15, pulling down 3 rebounds and adding an assist. Carson Ohnstad contributed 9 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists and a steal.

Others: Damarius Russell 9P, 4A; Alexander Honstad 6P, 1R; Zach Hulscher 5P; Deron Russell 2P, 2R, 3A; Addison Sampson 2P, 2R, 1A; Cody Vagts 3P, 1A; Noah Thompson 2P, 4R, 7A, 1S;

Sebastian Teague 1R, 1A, 1S; Andrew Robran 6R, 2A,. 1S.

The Bluejays had some fun Friday, Feb. 7, sinking 14 of 24 three-pointers while stifling visiting St. James 75-57.

"We were absolutely on fire shooting the ball," said Anderson. "It helped us get out to a comfortable lead and hold on."

The Jays raced to a 47-29 halftime lead and never looked back, totaling just eight turnovers on the night while improving their record to 17-5 overall and 6-4 in the Big South, including 5-1 in the conference's East Division. St. James, 0-8 in the West, fell to 4-15 overall and 0-12 in the Big South.

Ohnstad topped the scoring chart

for Waseca, tallying 22 points while making six of nine three-pointers. He added 4 rebounds and 1 assist. Damarius Russell had another big night, totaling 21 points, 3 rebounds, 9 assists and 5 steals. Hulscher was hot from long range, drilling four of six threes while amassing 14 points, 4 rebounds and an assist.

Others: Deron Russell 5P, 2R, 5A, 1S; Keaton 1R, 1A; Thompson 2 P, 4R, 1A; Reger 9P, 7R, 4A; Robran 2P, 4R.

The Bluejays broke open a close game at halftime and defeated JWP 68-45 at Janesville Thursday, Feb. 9.

Ohnstad, scoreless in the first half, led the second-half rally by drilling four three-pointers to finish with 14 points. Damarius Russell



scored 15, Hulscher 11, Deron Russell 10, Reger 8, Keaton 5.

JWP's Memphis James scored 19 points, Daulton Bauer 14.

The Bluejays, 18-5, host Marshall Friday, Feb. 17, travel to Pine Island Feb. 21 and host the Big South Conference Showcase Feb. 25.

Waseca matmen take 1 in triangular

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Waseca High School wrestling team won one of two dual meets in a home triangular Tuesday, Feb. 9.

The Bluejays outscored Worthington 39-33 while losing 37-30 to Lake City. Waseca, which finished 2-3 in the Big South East Conference, ran its overall record to 5-11.

The Jays rallied to defeat Worthington after dropping the first two matches by fall.

Jacob Knutson put the home team on the scoreboard with a win by fall at 126 pounds.

After another loss by fall at 132, the Bluejays' Slade Barnett won 4-0 at 138 and Jacob Root got a pin with just 2 seconds remaining at 145.

The Jays forfeited the 152-pound bout.

Andrew O'Brien got a first-period fall at 160, Christian Rodriguez prevailed 7-2 at 170 and Carter Ellis scored a 4-0 decision at 182. Worthington forfeited to Payton Garza at 195 and Matthew Veroeven at 220.

The Bluejays could not catch Lake City, which led 37-0 after tak-



AGGRESSIVENESS — Waseca's Oliver O'Brien, top, scores back points during the Bluejays' home triangular Tuesday, Feb. 9. Carter Ellis, below, controls his opponent.

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

ing a forfeit at 152. But it wasn't for lack of effort.

O'Brien was strong again with a technical fall at 160 and Rodriguez got a second-period pin at 170. Ellis claimed a 15-1 major decision at 182, Garza garnered a first-period fall at 195 and Veroeven won 3-0 at 220. Jenaro Delgado received a forfeit at 285.

The Bluejays return to action Saturday, Feb. 18 with section team competition at the Rochester Mayo Civic Center. They're back in Rochester Feb. 24 and 25 for the section individual tournament.



Eagles 6, Bluejays 0



FORMIDABLE FOE — The Waseca High School boys' hockey team faced a tough New Ulm team last Thursday and lost 6-0 at Waseca. At left, the Bluejays' Keaton Roeker (9) races opponents to the puck. At right, the Bluejays' Kyle Ahlschlager (8) makes an abrupt stop near the New Ulm goal.

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



WHS icemen blanked by New Ulm

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

The action that the Waseca High School boys' hockey team saw this past week was limited. The Bluejays' game against Rochester Lourdes was pushed to Wednesday, Feb. 15.

The only game they had to look forward to was a rivalry game against New Ulm Thursday, Feb. 9.

New Ulm's Eagles previously beat the Jays on their home ice 12-3. While it wasn't as lopsided of a game, the Bluejays were still on the losing end.

The Eagles didn't hesitate when given a scoring opportunity 54 seconds into the first period. 11:45 into it, they scored their second goal of the game. Waseca's 11 shots on net in the first didn't result in a score.

New Ulm then piled on three more scores, one at 2:08, another at 8:41, and the last one with only a few seconds left on the clock for a 5-0 lead. Austin Uecker then gave the Eagles their last goal of the game 3:31 into the third.

Brayden Hesch-Priem was the only one to score 12 minutes after the Eagles' final tally. Senior Karson Lindsay gave him the assist.

The final shot total was 52 New Ulm, 17 Waseca. Senior goaltender Eli Wetzel had a good night given the circumstances, earning a .885 save percentage.

The Bluejays are currently 9-13 (7-8 in conference). After traveling Rochester Lourdes Wednesday, the Jays will end the regular season at home against Marshall Friday.

Lady Jays outlast St. James on Senior Night

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It was Senior Night for the Waseca High School girls' basketball team.

They were appropriately honored.

The Bluejays battled St. James to the finish and — thanks in no small part to the seniors — emerged victorious 52-47 in a Big South Conference game at Waseca Friday, Feb. 10.

"It was great to get a win on Senior night, and even better against a good team," said Waseca coach Joan Conway. "I was proud of our defensive effort against a team that really does score a lot of points."

The Bluejays, who won their pod in the Big South East at 5-1, bettered their record to 14-7 overall and 6-4 in the conference. The Saints dropped to 12-10 overall and 5-8 in the Big South.

The game was back and forth all night, with many lead changes. It was 22-22 at halftime.

The Bluejays made 17 of 39 two-point field goal attempts and 5 of 20 threes, compated to 14-for-34 and 5-for-16 for the Saints. Waseca outrebounded St. James 37-33 and committed 16 turnovers to the visitors' 19. St. James blocked five shots.

Senior Sam Azure led the Bluejays in scoring with 16 points, adding 2 rebounds, 5 assists and 2 steals. Avery Madsen, a 6-foot senior forward, had a big night with 13 points, 7 rebounds, 2 assists and 1 steal.

Another senior, Kloe Wadd, put up 12 points, 12 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals and 2 blocks.

Others: Mia Kanewischer 6P, 6R, 1A, 1S; Megan Kanewischer 5P, 6R, 3A; Callie Dufault 2R, 2S; Addie Wiesler 2A.

St. James' Madelyn Malkmgren led all scorers with 17.

Megan Kanewischer is a senior, as is the Bluejays' Ella Dufault.

After hosting Belle Plaine Thursday, Feb. 16, the Bluejays travel to Windom Saturday for the Big South Final Four against St. Peter or Marshall.



Azure



Madsen



Wadd

Season ends in rough fashion for Waseca girls' hockey squad

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

It was a tough end to what was a stellar season for the Waseca High School girls' hockey team.

Entering Section 1A as the No. 3 seed and receiving a bye in the first round, the Bluejays faced a heart-breaking 10-1 defeat in the semifinals to No. 2 Albert Lea — the defending section champions — on Saturday, Feb. 11.

The loss evened their record to 12-12, their best finish since the 2016-17 season, when they went 14-10-1.

"The score does not indicate how we played at all," coach Chaz Benson said. "In the first two periods, we stayed right with them. The third period just got away from us."

Ten minutes into the opening period, Waseca had a rare breakaway opportunity. After eighth-grade forward Maizee Storey took the initial shot, junior forward Izabela Slechta cashed in on the rebound.

The moment which Benson described as "taking the wind out of our sails" was losing starting goalie Ilamay Draheim a few minutes into the second period. The Bluejays were forced to send senior goaltender Alicia Kelly out on the ice with only a minute of warmup time.

"Ilamay is such a core of our

"This was a special group of girls."
— WHS coach Chaz Benson

team," said Benson. "Losing her definitely didn't help us at all."

Draheim ended the night stopping 25 of 26 shots.

Kelly faced 27 shots in less than two periods, 17 in the final period.

Benson commended the effort. "I thought she did well considering the situation," he said. "Coming in cold is not easy. She had some really good saves."

Waseca rallied around Kelly, allowing only two additional goals in the second period to keep it a 3-1 game. "Those two goals were rebound goals," Benson explained. "I tell the girls all the time that the goalie's job is to stop the first one and the other players need to clear it out."

Albert Lea put the game away with seven consecutive goals in the third period.

"I think we were playing a little too tight knowing Ilamay wasn't behind us," said Benson. "Once we



END OF THE LINE — The Waseca High School girls' hockey season ended with a loss at Albert Lea in the first round of section play. Above, the Bluejays' Maizee Storey (6) fires a shot as the Tigers' Elizabeth Willett (7) trails.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

started hanging our head in the third, that's when stuff went sideways."

Albert Lea outshot Waseca 53-11. "That's a good team they have," said Benson. "I'm excited to play them next year."

When the game ended, both Albert Lea and Waseca gathered in the center of the rink, kneeled, and bowed their heads — some in prayer — before leaving the ice.

After preparing to leave the arena, many of the Jays embraced each other in the final moments they

would be together this season. It didn't matter in that moment that Maddy Benson was a freshman and Madelyn Malecha was a senior. They were all one big happy family celebrating a bittersweet end to a great season.

"This was a special group of girls," Benson said. "This season went really well as a whole. We will be losing a good group of seniors, but the future's going to be bright."

He said the group worked hard and bought into a winning attitude.

"You could tell with the culture of the locker room and how we played on the ice that we were going out every night expecting to win," he said. "They're having fun out there, and we hope in the future to keep the ball rolling with that."

Four players will graduate this spring: Cece Huttemier, Malecha, Timmi Volkmer, and Kelly.

"All of them are great kids and leaders," said Benson. "I'm excited to watch what they do throughout their life. I'm so proud of them."

Grizzlies win 2 in triangular

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

Before the start of the section tournaments this week, WEM-JWP hosted one last meet Thursday, Feb. 9. They faced New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, Blue Earth Area, and Cannon Falls for a quadrangular.

It was a great day for the Grizzlies, who went 2-1.

Grizzlies 38, Panthers 29

It was a great start for WEM-JWP as Brady Murphy at 106 took care of NRHEG's Jacob Karl in 1:43. After Parker James collected a forfeit, Carson Petry at 120 defeated a very talented Annabelle Petsinger by a 16-0 technical fall in four minutes.

NRHEG swung back as the weight classes increased. Parker Bunn defeated Carson James at 126, with senior Jaxon Hulsing losing by fall to Devon Parpart. Aidan and Ryan Schlaak's victories gave the Panthers a six-point lead.

From then on, it was all WEM-JWP.

Lucas Morsching at 152, Patrick Adams at 160, and Isaac Quast at 170 all collected wins by decision. Wyatt Larson gave Adams a hard time as Harbor Cromwell did Quast, with both of them escaping with victories by one-point.

195-pound Jack Cahill took a win by fall over Zander Flatness to give the Grizzlies some breathing room before Avery Fall took a 9-5 decision victory over Cole Hutchens.

A hard-fought heavyweight battle between Grizzlies' Keegan Kuball and Panthers' Makota Misgen — both ranked in Class A — had to be decided with a tiebreaker. Kuball won 3-2.

Bombers 44, Grizzlies 32

WEM-JWP had a much tougher time against their next opponent, Cannon Falls. Murphy gave the team a good start with a victory by 8-0 major decision. And despite Cannon Falls tying it twice, Petry had win by forfeit and Jaxon Hulsing at 132 pinned Griffin Peterson in 5:38 to keep the Grizzlies in the lead 18-12.

Cannon Falls won the next five matches, four by fall and the other by technical fall.

The team needed to win the next four matches by fall to win it. But that was a tall order. Cahill settled for a 10-1 major decision victory while Fall took a 6-0 decision loss. The dual did end on a good note, however, when Kuball at 220 collected a forfeit victory and Max Davis at 285 won his match by fall in 1:11.

Grizzlies 36, Bucs 33

Most of the matches were short and sweet. Murphy took a win by fall over BEA's Timmy Nagel in 31 seconds. James then took a 15-6 major decision victory before Petry defeated Drake Engelby in 31 seconds. In return, Carson Sturtz defeated James in 46 seconds, Angel Martinez took down Hulsing in 3:32, and Kelton Erler fell to Cooper Peterson in 56 seconds.

After gaining a two-point lead, BEA had little time to celebrate as Lucas Morsching took a technical fall win (15-0, 4:21) over Will Weerts. Instead, they celebrated a bit longer as they won the next three matches, the 170-pound match a double forfeit.

What hurt BEA in the end and helped WEM-JWP gain a victory to close out the night was two gifts in the form of forfeit victories collected by Grady Grohman and Fall.

Kuball won the dual for WEM-JWP with a swift pin over Zach Benson in 51 seconds.

After a great quad meet, the team prepared for varsity sections. With the No. 4 seed, they hosted Westfield for the first action of section at WEM High School Thursday, Feb. 16. St. Clair will host the semifinals and finals the following Saturday.



HOME-COURT ADVANTAGE? — JWP's Daulton Bauer goes high for two points during the Bulldogs' "home" game at Waseca.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

JWP boys drop 2 of 3 Bulldogs top WEM, but fall to Waseca, Randolph

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

After a good start to the week with a 65-53 victory against Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Tuesday, Feb. 7, the JWP boys' basketball team was forced back into a losing record with a long-awaited game against Waseca that ended in a 68-45 loss the following Thursday and a 68-49 conference defeat to Randolph Friday.

Bulldogs 65, Buccaneers 53

Despite being on the road, the Bulldogs had a firm grip of the lead the entire time. They made 40.7 percent of their field goals and were much more accurate on free throws than WEM. While they hit 84.6 percent of them, the Bucs couldn't clear 50 percent.

After a 35-25 half, the Bucs tried their best to get back into it. But JWP still outscored them 30-28 in the second half for an easy 65-53 victory.

Four players had double-digit nights. Daulton Bauer led the charge with 17 points, while Memphis James had 14, Caleb Quast 11, and Ryan Kronbach 10.

Coach Nick James mentioned the previous week that the boys needed to execute better. "We are in the middle of the conference schedule, and every game is going to be a battle for us. This was an important conference win for us," he said.

Bluejays 68, Bulldogs 45

After two weather delays postponed this game, the cross-county rivalry between Waseca and Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton finally happened.

Because of the postponements and logistical issues, Waseca couldn't host the game as originally planned. JWP had the home-court advantage, and the fans made sure to show up in droves. The Bulldog fans were loud and proud in their Burger King crowns.

Perhaps the crowd noise affected the Bluejays' rhythm, or maybe they just got in their own way. Whatever it was, JWP took advantage early with Memphis James leading the charge with a five-point run. Bauer supplied 3, and after a 12-8 lead for JWP, Waseca called timeout.

The momentum slightly changed when Waseca started finding the basket. However, it was a tight 28-23 contest at halftime.

What ultimately cost the Bulldogs in the end were turnovers leading to easy layup shots for Waseca, allowing them to make a two-score game an easy victory. In the end, JWP lost control of the game.

Rockets 68, Bulldogs 49

JWP hosted Randolph for the first of three straight home games. The conference rival Rockets entered Janesville with a 12-9 record.

This one got away from JWP, and instead of evening their in-conference record, they came out of the game 6-8. Despite still keeping third place in the Western Division of the Gopher Conference, the boys are now 9-11 overall.

They hosted Maple River (and Snow Week coronation) on Valentine's Day as part of a doubleheader with the girls. They host Sibley East on Friday.

JWP girls can't keep pace with Sibley East, WEM, Randolph

By MICHAEL ROY
Staff Writer

Normally, a 72-point night including two players scoring 20 or more points would be enough for a victory.

That wasn't the case for the JWP girls' basketball team against Randolph last Friday.

The team had the chance to get a winning record for the first time this season. However, they were denied the opportunity for the second time this year with a 68-61 loss to Sibley East Monday, Feb. 6, a harsh 78-44 in-conference defeat to Waterville-Elysian-Morristown the next day, and an 84-72 loss at Randolph.

Wolverines 68, Bulldogs 61

Sibley East, who hosted JWP, were only 5-15 overall with only two wins in their conference putting them in second to last place. It was a golden opportunity for the Bulldogs to get a victory and get a winning record.

They couldn't rise to the occasion.

Sisters Katie and Faith Olson led the charge, scoring 19 and 17 points, respectively. Fellow sister Ali Olson contributed 6.

The combined 42 points, along with Presley James 11, Lexie Dahlberg and Nevaeh Weimert's two points each, and Claire Walz's free-throw completion weren't enough.

Defensively, the Bulldogs had a tough night, allowing four players double-digit performances. Wolverines' player Morgan Bednarek presented the biggest problem, putting on 22 points to lead the hosting Wolverines to victory.

Buccaneers 78, Bulldogs 44

This one will probably hurt the rest of the season.

WEM's Buccaneers have had a tough go of it throughout the season, dealing with injuries to prominent players on their roster. However, their resurgence helped them gain a 12-7 record going into JWP's court.

The Bucs wasted no time getting to work on JWP's floor. Despite keeping it close for the first few minutes, a 4-3 lead for WEM in the first half of the game turned into 17-6 five minutes later. Even after they called a timeout at the midway into the first half to regroup, the 27-13 lead for WEM grew to 43-18.

The Bucs reached a 35-point lead needed late into the second half to force the mercy rule into effect.

"Credit where it's due to WEM," JWP coach Cory Jans said. "They have a talented team that could make some noise in the playoffs."

Individually: K. Olson, 13 points; Weimert, 9 points; F. Olson, 5 points; Strauss, 5 points; and A. Olson, Dahlberg, James, Paige Walz, Caitlin Kleve, and Hope Dimmel all with two points each.

Rockets 84, Bulldogs 72

Despite not doing so well in the East Division of the Gopher Conference, Randolph had a great 15-8 record.

JWP's bad luck from the week continued. Despite one of their best offensive performances of the season, their defense lost them the game. Not only was it their toughest night defensively, but it was the Rockets' best game of the season.

It was the first time this season that two of JWP's players had 20-point nights in the same game. Katie Olson led the team with 23, while James had 20.

Randolph's version of an Olson, along with Paige Ford, told the both



COMING THROUGH — The Bulldogs' Alexis Dahberg drives past a WEM defender during their Gopher Conference game Tuesday, Feb. 7.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

of them to hold their water bottles. Ford scored 33 points while Anna Olsen scored 22.

"It really stinks when you do as well as our team did offensively and still lose," said Jans. "We just need to keep working on our defense. The playoffs are coming up, so it's important we fix whatever we need to fix."

It ended JWP's week with a 10-13 record (3-9 in conference).

JWP's end to the regular season is tough. They traveled to Hayfield — ranked 7th in Class A — Monday, Feb. 13 before hosting Maple River the following day in a doubleheader with the boys. They ended the season hosting Madelia Thursday.

Make it 2 in a row for NRHEG boys

Panthers top Blooming Prairie, Medford

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

The NRHEG high school boys' basketball squad looks like it's trying a new strategy: team basketball. The boys defeated a middle-of-the-pack Blooming Prairie squad at home Friday night 60-54. "We came out hot," said NRHEG head coach Dan Schmidt. Following good ball movement, Sawyer Prigge and Sam Olson hit three-pointers on the Panthers' opening two possessions. Two minutes later, Daxter Lee drove and passed to the open man and Olson hit another open three to put the Panthers up 9-3 early. "We did a great job of running our offense and being patient," explained Schmidt. They did more than be patient, jumping out to leads of 17-3 and 22-6 less than six minutes into the game. The Blossoms cut into the lead, getting within five with two minutes remaining in the first half. But more good ball movement led to baskets from Lukas Loverink in the paint and a basket from Lee to give the Panthers an 11-point lead.

"In the second half we came out and struggled protecting the ball and running our offense," said Coach Schmidt. "We let Blooming battle back."

The Panthers held onto a 10-point lead for about six minutes, and led by as many as 13 in the second half. A highlight-reel level play, a pass to a streaking Blossom who laid it in, ignited a run. The Blossoms scored 13 straight points. Back-to-back three pointers from Zachary Hein nodded it at 52-52 with two minutes to play. And finally, the Panthers knocked down some clutch free throws when they needed to. Prigge was fouled, and put to the line for a 1-and-1. He made both. Loverink had a crucial block in the paint on the Blossoms' next possession to help shut the door. Lee went to the line six times over the final minute and knocked down five free throws to put the game on ice. "Sawyer hit two huge free throws," said Schmidt. "It was a free-throw game for us to ice it."

Lee led all scorers with 25 points, 3 rebounds, and 5 assists. He was



BACK-TO-BACK — For the first time this season, the NRHEG boys' basketball team registered consecutive victories last week. At left, Lukas Loverink (13) goes to the hoop past Blooming Prairie's Brady Kittelson. At right, Sam Olson (4) leaves the Blossoms' Cooper Cooke in the rear-view mirror.

followed by: Olson 15 points; Prigge 5 points, 3 rebounds; Loverink 5 points, 6 rebounds; Jaylin Raab 5 points; Alden Dobberstein 3 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assist; Jackson Chrz 2 points; Will Tuttle 12 rebounds. The win capped a great week for the Panthers, who defeated Medford

73-60 Tuesday, Feb. 7 in New Richland. The Panthers were up 43-28 at halftime. "Ball movement was some of the best we've seen all year, as well our ability to attack the basket, and get some good looks at the basket due to that," said Schmidt. "Defensive effort was pretty good all night long.



Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



PULL UP AND FIRE — Sidney Schultz (12) shoots over a defender during the Panthers' 44-32 victory at Blooming Prairie Friday, Feb. 10. Photo by Johnnie Phillips/Steele County Times

Doing it with defense

Offense shines, but defense slams the door as NRHEG girls win three in a row

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The offense was outstanding last week for the NRHEG High School girls' basketball team. But the defense may have been better. The Panthers lit up the scoreboard, twice totaling 79 points, while twice allowing a high of 32 in three Gopher Conference victories, improving them to 18-3 overall and 12-1 in the conference. The streak started Tuesday at Medford, where the NRHEG girls rolled to a 40-17 halftime advantage on their way to a 79-32 triumph. "The girls came out focused and ready to play," said NRHEG coach Onika Peterson. "We controlled the game from start to finish. It was a great team win."

Erin Jacobson paced the Panthers with a double-double, totaling 19 points and 10 rebounds. Faith Nielsen finished with 18 points, 1 rebound and 1 steal. Sidney Schultz had her usual all-around strong game with 13 points, 4 rebounds, 2 steals and 4 assists. Others: Trinity Smith-Vulcan 8P, 3R; Camryn VanMaldeghem 8P, 6R, 6S; Quinn VanMaldeghem 7P, 6R, 2S, 1A;

"I am proud of the resilience we showed down the stretch."
— NRHEG coach Onika Peterson

Hallie Schultz 6P, 7R, 3S; Preslie Nielsen 2R, 1A; Addie Stadheim 2 R. Thursday night against United South Central at Wells was more of the same. The Panthers bolted to a 46-14 lead at halftime and cruised to a 79-28 victory. "We were able to get everyone a lot of playing tonight," said Coach Peterson. "Everyone scored and more importantly everyone rebounded well."

Individually: S.Schultz 15P, 4R, 6S, 3A; P.Nielsen 13P, 3R; Q.VanMaldeghem 11P, 5R, 3S, 3A; 2 blocked shots; F.Nielsen 10P, 3R, 1S, 1A; H.Schultz 8P, 4R, 2S, 1A; C.VanMaldeghem 5P, 3R, 3A; Gabby Schlaak 5P, 1R, 1A; Smith-Vulcan 4P, 6R, 2S, 2A; Stadheim 4P, 3R, 1A; Jacobson 2P, 4R, 1A; Chloe Stork 2P, 1R, 2A. The Panthers' road trip continued Friday at Blooming Prairie, where the Blossoms proved to be much

more of a challenge. After trailing 18-13 at halftime, NRHEG rallied to win 44-32. "It was a great team win tonight against a tough Blooming Prairie team," said Peterson. "I am proud of the resilience we showed down the stretch." Sidney Schultz put the team on her back and finished with 21 points, 6 rebounds and a steal as the lone Panther scorer in double figures. Others: F.Nielsen 8P, 7R, 2S; C.VanMaldeghem 6P, 1R, 3S; Jacobson 4P, 8R, 3S; Q.VanMaldeghem 3P, 5R, 4S; H.Schultz 2P, 3R, 2S, 2A; Stadheim 1R. The Panthers were back at home Monday against Blue Earth Area for Senior Night. They play Friday at WEM and host St. Clair Tuesday, Feb. 21.

Panther matmen win 1 in triangular

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The NRHEG wrestling team went 1-2 in a quadrangular at Waterville Monday, Feb. 6, defeating Blue Earth Area 45-36 while falling to WEM/JWP 38-29 and Cannon Falls 45-30. "We wrestled well tonight," said NRHEG coach Shawn Larson. "We started the season giving up 60 points or more in dual meets, and we finished with a night where we gave up 38. Even though we lost two of the three duals, I am proud that we are competing at the level we are going into the postseason. In the WEM/JWP dual we probably had the best matchup with another team we have had since we wrestled them last season. There were many good matches in this dual. When we can have that many close matches, even if we are losing, we are giving ourselves a chance to win as a team."

Against WEM/JWP, the Panthers had falls from junior Parker Bunn, 126 pounds; freshman Deven

Parpart, 132; sophomore Aidan Schlaak, 138; and a technical fall from eighth-grader Ryan Schlaak, 145. Aden Berg won by forfeit at 220 and Makota Misgen dropped a 3-2 overtime decision at 285. The Panthers competed well with Cannon Falls, according to Larson, earning falls from freshman Jacob Karl, 106; junior Annabelle Petsinger, 120; and Ryan Schlaak, 145. Parpart prevailed 11-4 at 132, Aidan Schlaak won 11-6 at 138 Misgen won by forfeit at 285. "Against Blue Earth we were fortunate enough to have good matches work in our favor to earn a win," said Larson. "We worked hard all night and it was nice to earn a win."

Falls were provided by Petsinger, Ryan Schlaak and Misgen. Reese Routh registered a 13-6 decision at 152. Winning by forfeit were Harbor Cromwell, 170; Cole Hutchens, 195; and Berg, 220. The Panthers wrestle in the section tournament Thursday, Feb. 16 at a site to be determined.



MUSCLE MOVES —At left, the Panthers' Parker Bunn fights his opponent from Cannon Falls during a triangular at Waterville last week. At right, Makota Misgen mixes it up with WEM/JWP's Keegan Kubal.



Pioneer photos by Brandon Schlaak



WARM WELCOME BACK — In 1973, Mrs. David Mazza returned to her second-grade class after her and her husband were involved in a car accident that broke her arm. Mrs. Gene Wiebusch and the students surprised her with a sign.

Solving politics, after-school life

Argus Archives - 100 years ago - 1923

-In the fall of 1877 Waseca County witnessed a very spirited political contest. In those good olden days elections came every year and every year the politicians had rich picking. Towards the close of the campaign the editor of the Argus, C. E. Graham, and the editor of the Radical, J. E. Child, became very personal and very bitter. Child supported Warren Smith for treasurer. Mr. Graham opposed him. It will be remembered by those who were on earth at that time in this particular neck of the woods that Mr. Child was an ardent advocate of temperance and had espoused the cause of the prohibition party. Such being the case, his sincerity in supporting Smith was questioned by Graham. Smith himself was a temperance man and a man above reproach. But he had compromised himself not long previously by becoming a surety for a saloonkeeper on a saloonkeeper's bond. This gave an opening and in the eyes of Mr. Graham was inexcusable from the standpoint of the professions made.

-Through a combination of respective interests, including the village, Alton and Janesville township, the two cemetery boards and the churches, whose contributions cover the cost, the road from Main Street on Finley's corner to the Catholic cemetery is being graveled. E. T. Dieudonne has the contract and is now working it out with trucks and teams. The gravel is secured at Lake Elysian from Roy Keyes and from the Jewison point.

-Cris Dalton brings in the information that on Tuesday night last a large barn on the farm of Martin Convey was burned to the ground. The origin of the fire is a mystery. It was located in Freedom Township. Thirteen cows were destroyed and eight horses. There was an insurance of three thousand dollars, but the amount does not cover the losses.

-Petitions have been circulated among the citizens of the village asking that leniency or parole be given to a local young man who unfortunately side-stepped the narrow path. Some 250 have signed their names to these lists asking that the law be more lenient with the young man. He has been a fine young fellow, hard working and congenial, and this his first offense could be overlooked when we realize that he would not delve into anything shady in the future.

50 years ago - 1973

-How do you solve the problem of kids going all the way through high school - and sometimes college - without having the slightest idea what kind of work they want to do in life? Nobody has all the answers to this complex question, but five area high schools are trying to fill this vocational gap through the establishment of the Waseca County Vocational Center. Norvin R. Rueckert, director of the proposed center, explained the idea to the Janesville Rotary last Thursday and said the purpose of the center will be to provide programs which the individual school districts have not been able to offer individually. "We hope to come up with a program that will make students aware of the jobs available and the actual demand for workers in each of the occupational areas," he said.

-Sixth graders of Janesville Public School tried their hand at copy-writing this past week as they turned out the first in a series of student-prepared advertising messages for Janesville State Bank. The completed advertisements will be judged by bank officials this week and the three top advertisements chosen. Prizes of five, three and two dollars will go to three sixth graders placing advertisements in the top three. Other students will receive honorable mentions for their copy-writing abilities.

-Births in the Village of Janesville were down by 13 and deaths increased by 13 during 1972 according to statistics released by Lawrence P. Krause, Clerk of District Court. Twenty three children were born to village residents in 1972, compared to 36 in 1971 and 32 in 1970. Deaths, on the other hand, took a dramatic jump from 12 a year in 1971 to 25 during this past year. From 1968 through 1971 an average of 14 people died per year. This almost doubled during 1972.

-“We lost to a good team” were the words coach Mike Niemczyk used to describe Janesville’s 27-15 loss to Waterville. The defeat, for all practical purposes, put the locals out of the running for the Gopher championship; to have a shot at the title, the Bucs would have to lose to Glenville or Blooming Prairie. That is not likely.

25 years ago, 1998

-A 10-point scoring advantage in the second quarter proved to be the difference for the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton girls' basketball team. The Lady Bulldogs outscored Waterville-Elysian-Morristown 19-9 in the second stanza, leading them to a 66-57 Gopher Conference victory at Waterville. The victory was the third straight for the Bulldogs, and their sixth in the last nine games.

-Trinity Lutheran School, Janesville, recently received \$5,300 from Lutheran Brotherhood through the Member Matching Gift program. The latest payment matches 53 gifts from Lutheran Brotherhood members made during the fourth quarter of 1997. Lutheran Brotherhood's Primary Partners program matches members' gifts of \$25 to \$100 per year to Lutheran elementary and preschools nationwide. Since the beginning of the Primary Partners gift program in 1987, \$42,359 has been received by Trinity Lutheran School.

-Mainstream Publications announced on Tuesday, Jan. 13 an agreement to sell its 25 Minnesota and Wisconsin publications include the Janesville Argus to James E. Huckle of Traverse City, Mich. the announcement was made jointly by Robert L. Bradford II, president and principal shareholder of Mainstream Publications and Huckle. A Saturday, Jan. 31 closing date is planned.

-Management firms appear to be a hot topic for the Janesville City Council. Leasing and management options have been opened for discussion concerning the Janesville Nursing Home, and the council is now looking at its Prairie Ridge Golf Course. During its Monday, Jan. 12 meeting the Janesville City Council began discussing the option of bringing a management firm to its Prairie Ridge Golf Course. City administrator Paul Grabitske said the council's discussions are philosophical, with the council trying to decide what direction it wants the golf course to take.

1973: Dahl sells Waseca Graphics

Waseca Herald, 1923

-On the afternoon of January 30, the School Board has called a special election for the purpose of bonding the district for \$350,000 for the purpose of building a new school or community house. The bond issue is to run for fifteen years as follows: \$350,000 to run for fifteen years at probably 5 percent. After the first five years there is to be paid for the next ten years, \$15,000 each year on account of the principal, after which time the balance of \$200,000 is to be refunded by a new bond issue.

-If Rev. And Mrs. R. P. Wasbotten had any doubt as to the esteem in which they are held by this community, that doubt vanished Thursday evening last when about 100 friends and neighbors from city and country surprised them on the twenty-fifth anniversary of their marriage. The guests came unannounced to the new family home on Hartley Heights and were cordially welcomed by the hospitable minister and his family, who were taken completely by surprise. After greetings had been extended, the guests were given an opportunity to inspect the new home fro cellar to garret.

-The jury in the Water Stavenau case, referred to in the last issue of the Herald, returned a verdict of guilty last Thursday evening. Their verdict was grand larceny in the second degree. The punishment may be a year or up to five years in the penitentiary. Savenau's attorneys have asked for a stay of sentence pending an appeal for a new trial.

-A fire in Wesley Mahler's chicken house in the east part of town last Sunday afternoon resulted in the loss of about 150 purebred chickens, valued by the owner at over \$300. He had the space under the rafters filled with straw, to absorb the moisture, and Sunday afternoon he placed an oil stove on the floor so that its heat

would dry out the straw. After watching the stove work for a while he closed the door and windows. About two o'clock neighbors noticed smoke issuing from the house and called the fire department. When the door was opened it was found that the straw in the attic had taken fire and that the smoke and fumes had smothered the chickens, only two out of the entire flock being alive. The interior of the building was only slightly damaged.

Waseca Herald, 1948

-Lavern Rosenthal of Waseca appeared in district court Friday afternoon before Judge Axel B. Anderson and pleaded guilty to the charge of attempting to receive stolen property. Judge Anderson referred the matter to the state parole and probation officer for a pre-sentence investigation. Rosenthal faces a maximum penalty of five years.

-O. R. Cochran, New Richland High School agriculture teacher, has been appointed state supervisor of agricultural education with the vocation position, State Department of Education, according to an announcement by Harry C. Schmid, director. He assumed his new duties on Monday and succeeds Leo Knuti, who resigned to continue graduate work at the University of Illinois. Mr. Cochran was formerly an agricultural instructor at Sleepy Eye and Lancaster, Wis. before accepting a position with the New Richland High School. He also participated in education programs for out-of-school farm youths and evening classes for farm men and women.

-The Sacred Heart basketball team lost Sunday afternoon at the Mankato Armory with a score of 41-26, when it played Loyola in a DeSmet conference game. The game was a hard, competitive four periods of play with Loyola moving out in front in the third quarter to make a nine



CELEBRATING 25 — In 1998, the Waseca Hockey Association celebrated its 25th birthday. Charlie Mathern and Bill Tuttle received outstanding volunteer plaques at the celebration.

point lead. The first quarter had Loyola leading 8-6 and the half was 16-11. The third quarter ended with Loyola totaling 26 points to Sacred Heart's 17 and the four was 41-26.

-The March of Dimes drive for funds which supports the National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis received an extra push this week with the report that a 14-year-old boy at Ellendale was suffering with polio and is now at the Sister Kenny Institute. He is Ardell Anderson, a freshman in the Ellendale High School. Suffering from what was thought to be the flu, he was taken to the institute when his trouble was diagnosed as polio. The case is unusual since polio does not often strike in the winter months.

Waseca Journal, 1973

-The Bluejay wrestling squad had to fight for its life for a come-from-behind 22-18 win over New Richland Tuesday night on the Jays' home mat. The Bluejays started out like they would run away with the Cardi-

nals at 13-0, but then the Cards took over in the heavier weights and took an 18-16 lead with two matches remaining only to lose both to the Jays.

-Vern Dahl, owner of Waseca Graphics announced the sale of his commercial printing business to a Minneapolis man Wednesday afternoon. William A. Butzler, president of the Barnes Printing Company and his partner, Ronald L. Ruehling, purchased the business Dec. 1. There will be no changes in the business with the exception of five employees instead of three. Dahl will be employed as the manager. Butzler is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and the Dunwoody Industrial Institute. He has a background in various print shops on machinery ranging from small duplicators to large four-color web presses. Butzler, his wife and two children will be moving to Waseca in a few months. Partner and Vice President Ruehling will remain in Minneapolis to manage the Barnes Qwik Print Company.

Winning close and returning home

100 Years Ago – 1923

- Lloyd Volling of New Richland and Adney Fletcher of Waseca have been selected as the boys to represent Waseca county at the 1923 Farm Boys Camp at the Minnesota State Fair, in 1923, and have been officially announced as such by T. A. Erickson, state leader of boys' and girls' club work. For a number of years the Minnesota State Fair Association has been selecting two boys from each county to attend the Minnesota State Fair as members of the Farm Boys Camp. A portion of their time is used for ushering and similar work for the fair association and the balance of the time they are taken on educational and sight-seeing trips about the fair grounds and the twin cities.

- When the sealed bids for the proposed new Lutheran church in New Richland were opened Tuesday afternoon it was found that 30 contractors had submitted figures on the work of construction. There were 16 bids on the general contract and 14 bidders on the heading and plumbing. A wide range in price prevailed in both the general contract and the heating and plumbing bids. A range of \$15,000 was found between the high bid on the general contract and the low bid.

- While returning from town Monday Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Bahr had an automobile accident in which their sedan car was badly damaged but fortunately they with their two babies were uninjured. The accident occurred just north of the Whiting farm on the level road. They were driving at a fair rate of speed when the car swerved suddenly striking a small obstruction on the icy road and turned turtle.

- A fire siren has been secured by the village council on thirty days approval, and is being installed in the tower of city hall. An official tryout will take place sometime today. If it is found satisfactory it will be accepted by the council. The siren is of a new type, and much cheaper than most machines, being sold for \$98.

77 Years Ago – 1946

- Early last fall Andrew Stenseth

of Albert Lea sent a large supply of clothes to a friend in Norway. Today he received a check for \$60 from the friend. It was intended as payment for the packages received. The check, issued on January 10 is believed to be the first money sent out of Norway to reach Albert Lea since the end of the war. "This friend of min," said Mr. Stenseth, "is quite well-to-do, and he explained in a letter that he wanted to pay for the things he received. He didn't want charity. But he was mighty glad to get the clothes."

- Pvt. Gerald Johnson called his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Johnson Monday morning to inform them he will not go overseas. "Jerry" said his squadron was graduated January 18 from the Weather Observation and Meteorological Training school in Chanute Field, Ill. Enrolled in the class were 600 and out of that number 400 failed to meet the requirements and only 200 passed. Of these, 198 were sent overseas. Jerry and a buddy were the only ones eligible for further training and they will soon begin a course in Weather Forecasting at a school somewhere in New Hampshire. Jerry was graduated from the New Richland high school with the class of 1945.

50 Years Ago 1973

- Over 200 area farmers and village residents attended the hearing on the proposed Waseca County Zoning ordinance at the New Richland Village hall, Tuesday evening. It was the opinion of a number of residents that it is difficult to question an ordinance, which one does not understand nor had the chance to read to know what it contains. Most persons present felt that either the ordinance should be published in county newspapers either in its entirety or a series of stories containing information about the ordinance. It was also suggested that mimeographed copies be placed in the public libraries.

- Gary Chicos of rural New Richland, a member of Freeborn County 4-H, showed a lightweight barrow in the Spring Barrow Show at Albert Lea last weekend, which



In 1998, the oldest and youngest fishermen at the New Richland Area Sportsmen's Club's Ice Fishing derby at St. Olaf Lake displayed their prizes. From left: An 87-year-old Hayfield man, 17-month-old Spencer Tollefson, and his mother Sandy.

placed third in the junior individual division.

- With less than a minute remaining in Tuesday night's game against Medford and behind 39-38, the Cards won when a 15 foot jumper by Jeff Reese coupled with a free throw by Jeff Arnfelt won the game for them, 43-41. New Richland-Hartland played a good zone defense, which forced Dave Mays, who scored 18 of the Tigers' points, to shoot from the outside.

25 Years Ago – 1998

- Students in business law, history and civic classes at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School had the privilege Monday morning to hear former Congressman Tim Penny explain the process of lawmaking on the federal level. The visit was arranged by Instructor Georgia Dinneen, particularly for the benefit of her business law students. Specific issues Penny acted on were on student financial aid, changes in the Department of Agriculture program to make available more loan money for young beginning farmers and initiated a pilot program for the new welfare reform.

- J's Auto Repair was opened on West Division Street in mid-January

by Justin Lestrud and Chad Wengart, both of New Richland. In charge of the business is Lestrud, assisted by Wengart. It was explained by Lestrud that the name of the business came about from his cousin, Jason Luoma, who had planned to be a third party in the business. "He was going through cancer treatment and if he got better he was going to help diagnose problems. We knew he couldn't work physically," Lestrud said. Jason passed away January 21 at Methodist Hospital in Rochester. Services to be offered at the New Richland shop include electrical trouble shooting, brake repair, tire repair, and general maintenance. "We'll do everything, but overhaul a motor," stated Lestrud.

- Members of the New Richland Girl Scout Troop 211 attended a horsemanship clinic at the Target Center in Minneapolis on Saturday, January 24. The Girl Scouts had an opportunity to attend a special session with rodeo cowboys and cowgirls and learn about safety, terminology, rodeo careers and hobby opportunities. After a short break the Girl Scouts and leaders attended the Longhorn World Championship Rodeo, with seating in the third row.



The Pastor's Column

Children talk like children

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

Love is in the air. Did you remember Valentines Day? Did you share with someone about how much you love them? I tend to bungle it pretty often. Not knowing exactly how to meet the expectations of my lovely wife, mother, mother-in-law or children I tend to speak my love more than anything else.

The struggle most people have is that we want to feel loved. If we have never experienced love before it is hard to define in simple terms, we tend to think that love is a feeling and fall into the lie that if we don't feel loved then we aren't in love. The problem I have with people feeling loved is that the feeling of love is in direct response to action of love.

Let me use scripture to clarify, let's look at 1 Corinthians 13.

1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.6 Love does not delight in

evil but rejoices with the truth.7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part,10 but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.12 Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

In this whole passage there is not one instance of the emotion of love, but rather the action of love is described and elaborated upon for us. We are told to demonstrate love in every action we take, to move with love as we interact with others. The feeling of love that so many people talk about is the direct result of the actions taken in love. The feeling of love is secondary to the action.

Chose to love others, in all things, at all times demonstrate the love of God to everyone you meet. In this way, we reveal God's love to the world. Do not wait for the next special day to share God's love, but today and every day take action to share God's love.



The Pastor's Column

Knowledge puffs, love builds up

By SANTIAGO RAMIREZ OCAMPO

Two weeks ago, in my last column, I said that this was the first of at least two installments I would make. Well, today, I begin with an apology because it won't be.

I am 28 years old, I have lived in the United States for almost four years, I have been married for less than two years, the Lord gave my wife and me a beautiful baby girl who is four months old, and we have been living in Minnesota since last spring. I have just started my online theology studies at a Spaniard University.

When my wife and I came to the United States, we were still single, and there was no engagement between us; we were part of a missionary program that used soccer as a tool to talk about God. Last year we left the program because of a mistake I made, and the organization decided that our time with them was over. They gave us a couple of days to leave Florida, and that is how we ended up here in Minnesota; the story of our American family is worthy of another column; for now, it is only fair to let you know that here in Minnesota, we were received by our American family full of mercy and love.

It is difficult to explain God's work because I don't understand it. Still, in the midst of those months of restoration and new beginnings, the Lord began to bring out in me gifts and passions that I have always had but that the 21st-century type ministry had hidden. Preaching and writing are the two passions I am referring to, I delight in doing them, and I feel passion and responsibility that I cannot describe. It was amid these passions that the Lord began to build in my heart the desire to study Theology. In my humble opinion, theology is nothing more than the study of God, as primary and vast as that. I have only been studying for a couple of weeks, and the demand for my time is so huge that last week made me stop and reflect.

On Saturday, February 4, I traveled to another state to work for a few days in a plant replacing inso-

lation material, it is a heavy job in terms of time and physical effort, and the days are 12 hours long. The company I traveled with accommodates my hotel mate, as the job involves workers from different states.

I arrived on Sunday, and we started to work on Monday, so I had to advance my studies to send my work on time while I was working. There I was, Santiago, the intellectual, the judicious, the preacher sitting at the desk studying God, when my roommate arrived, a super nice and talkative man. That same night, he told me that if we were to share a room, he believed that it would be essential that there was confidence between us, and we started a fascinating conversation. I must confess that I was worried about the time because that was my only time to advance my classes, but as the conversation progressed, it became more profound. It was then that I felt confronted with the reality of my Christian life, not with what I confess, but with what I live.

The picture ended up being the following: two men of different nationalities, just met, sharing a hotel room for several nights because of a job they are going to do together; one undocumented and a theology student, the other an American citizen, from the ghetto working for his future and his children; movie in the background on the TV, talking about marijuana while I knew three of their presentations, the abuses of the church and the place of God in people's hearts.

That night I went to bed thinking that theology and Christianity tend to put us in a bubble oblivious to the present; we are so busy in our Christian worlds and terms that we often forget to live. There is a world hungry for life's conversations, and at least I sometimes get so caught up in my theological issues that I turn my back on reality.

A former assassin once wrote in the face of a completely different matter: knowledge puffs up while love builds up. And it was recorded in a book we know as the Bible.

Luncheon provides fellowship

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Around 60 people from various Waseca churches gathered for a soup luncheon at the Waseca Christian Assembly Wednesday, February 8.

Pastor Brad Wickersheim welcomed everyone, made a few announcements and led the prayer before the meal. He informed all in attendance that the soup choices were chili and a chicken noodle soup called "the kitchen sink." "That's what I was told to tell you," he joked. Carol Ann made both soups for the luncheon.

Along with the soup was an assortment of dessert bars, lemonade, and coffee. After eating lunch, Pastor Wickersheim offered a devotion and the congregation sang a few hymns.

"We usually start with a luncheon in January," Wickersheim explained. "That's around the time when we get ready to observe the six weeks of



Servers Karen Pionteka, Don Bauman, Sue Schlieger, and Shirley Tangen.
Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

■ Archer from Page 1

the four top archers in the class were female.

During Saturday's round, Thompson said she tried not to think about the score. She felt calm until near the end, when it started to set in that she could clean it again. Thompson was the last standing on the line during this round. "I was nervous, so I was taking my time," she explained. After she shot her second 300, Thompson said she turned around and the archers she was competing with were all standing and watching, and congratulated her

with high-fives on the perfect score. The atmosphere in archery competitions tends to be very friendly, in Thompson's experience. "Even though I'm shooting against them they still support me." At the end of Saturday's rounds, Thompson was the only one in her class with a 600 score; there was a five-way tie for second place at 599.

"I wanted to get a 900; I knew that it was possible so I thought of that the whole day," Thompson said about the final round on Sunday. The three-way tie for second place was at a score of 898. "I was nervous, dropped one point and that led to another," Thompson explained. "I was nervous the whole day," as compared to the previous two when she became nervous only near the end. Both of Thompson's missed

points were near the middle of her round.

All ties at the Vegas Shoot trigger a shootoff. According to Thompson, at least 6,000 people were in the stands when she settled her tie. The shootoff consisted of three rounds of three arrows – the first as a warm-up, the second scored normally, and the third requiring archers to hit the X in order to score a 10. It was during the second round that Thompson found herself named fourth place with a score of 29 out of 30. "I've never felt that nervous about anything. The shot that was a nine felt great, but I was shaking so much that it went into the nine ring." Thompson says the judges spent a long time examining the shot, but she and her mom felt it was clear that it was a nine. By the

end of the experience, Thompson said she was mentally drained and slept 14 hours that night to recover. Wyatt Dorcas of Texas took third place; Beretta McKee of Washington won second. The first place archer was Dewey Hathaway of Massachusetts, with a score of 899.

This weekend, Thompson will be one of 13 archers from the Waseca Archery Club to compete in the USA JOAD and Indoor Nationals. The competition takes place at twelve locations nationally; Waseca's archers will travel to St. Michael, Minnesota. For Thompson and many others, this competition is the first leg of the journey to earn a place on the 2024 USA Olympic team.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * *	507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * *	day School Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Interim Pastor Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:00 a.m. Worship * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * *	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor Sundays: Sunday School 9 a.m., Bible Study 9:20 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship * * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays 9 a.m., 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St. Janesville Father Brian Mulligan 10 a.m. - Mass * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Interim Pastor * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Vacancy Sunday = 1 p.m. Worship * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: lcwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * *	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Pamela Jensen Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Vacancy Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * *	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 * * *	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 * * *	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.



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Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika

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‘Expert’ analysis of the Super Bowl

Super Bowl Sunday is the biggest sporting event on the planet, so I decided to spend the day watching all of the hoopla and the game. I turned on Fox at noon; the pregame show began five-and-a-half hours before kickoff. Hard to believe the pregame for Super Bowl I lasted 30 minutes.

Super Bowl XLVII had the potential to be one of the best ever. The Chiefs were the #1 seed in the AFC and the Eagles the #1 seed in the NFC. Neither team had trailed on the scoreboard beating opponents going through the playoffs. Both teams had a 16-3 record, 6 pro bowlers, and had scored the same number of points. Each team had a great quarterback: Patrick Mahomes Chiefs, and Jalen Hurts Eagles. Andy Reid, the old coach at 64 years, was coaching against the 41-year-old Nick Sirianni, the upcoming super coach from Philly.

I watched the panel of Fox broadcasters tell their human interest stories and entertain 120 million viewers before kickoff.

Terry Bradshaw, now 74, was a quarterback who won Super Bowls with the Steelers. He shared that he made \$30,000 when he won his first Super Bowl. He couldn't afford to fly his parents to the game. Now 69-year-old Jerry Johnson shared stories about coaching the Cowboys to two Super Bowl Championships. My memory of those Dallas teams was our Vikings trading away half their team and several draft picks for Dallas RB Herschel Walker. Walker was a bust as a running back and politician; Dallas won Super Bowls. I was proud of Bradshaw and Johnson for not taking a nap during the 5 ½ hour show.

One segment I found particularly interesting was on Tom Brady, who quarterbacked a team in 10 Superbowls, winning 7 of them. That record may stand forever. Also the Miami Dolphins, 1972, won the Superbowl with an undefeated season. Don Schula coached the Dolphins that year. I'm confident that a perfect season will not happen again in the present-day NFL.

Michael Strahan, my personal favorite analyst, carried out a great interview with Damar Hamlin, the Buffalo Bills player who suffered the critical, life-threatening injury against the Bengals. As America watched and prayed, Damar made a recovery. Damar observed, "My biggest win this season was winning the game of life."

Travis Kelce is an all-pro tight end playing for the Chiefs. Jason

Kelce is an all-pro center for the Eagles. The two brothers were about to play against each other in the Superbowl.

Their mother had some interesting observations to share. She had a custom pair of high top tennis shoes made for the game. One was plastered with Eagle colors and logo; the other with Chiefs colors and logo. She also sported a sweat-shirt designed half Chiefs and half Eagles.

America the Beautiful and the National Anthem were sung respectfully by Baby Face and one of my favorites, Chris Stapleton. Then the kickoff was away.

The Eagles were flying and appeared to have the game in hand at the half. Eagles 24-Chiefs 14.

The halftime entertainment featured Rihanna. Don't have much to say about the show; I'll always be a Creedence Clearwater fan. The fireworks sure were nice. Oh yes, the commercials were outstanding.

The second half was very exciting: The Chiefs pulled off a 38-35 comeback victory.

The Eagles were the most complete team and had the package: a great defense, a great offense, and great special teams. They were a slight favorite to win the game.

Story of the game was the Chiefs stripping the ball from the Philly QB and running for a touchdown on defense. A punt return for 65 yards setting up a short touchdown and a penalty against Philly allowing the Chiefs to run the clock down to seconds, kicking the winning field goal.

The game MVP was Chief quarterback Patrick Mahomes. My MVC – most valuable coach – was Andy Reid. Andy develops all of his players. He drafted and developed Mahomes. At one time this season, he had eight rookies starting on the team: He developed all of them. The Chiefs lost their all-pro receiver to free agency this year, he developed new receivers for Mahomes. His veterans will run through a wall for him, he's the ultimate player's coach, and finds a way to win. Reid called two great pass plays that scored two easy TDs that completely fooled the Eagle secondary.

Reid has been a head coach for 24 years. When asked if he's ready to retire after this Super Bowl victory he responded, "With a quarterback like Mahomes, I don't believe I'm ready to sit in the blue chairs down by the beach house yet."

Skol – Go Vikings – will I be watching you in Super Bowl XLVIII next year??

Waseca wrecking crew

The 1993 Bluejay Wrestling team - dubbed "The Wrecking Crew" - was acknowledged during a Feb. wrestling meet in Waseca. The team was considered young and not full of the "senior capacity" that other Waseca teams had before them. Despite this, they pulled off a 9-8 season with quality wrestlers at every weight "using their techniques to the best of their ability."

Three members of the Bluejays team qualified for the state tournament and represented Waseca well, pulling off one of the best showings in Jays history. All three brought back medals; Joel O'Brien took second, Jon Summer took third, and



The 1993 Waseca High School wrestling team, known as the "Wrecking Crew," gathered for a 30-year anniversary on Feb. 9. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

Matt O'Brien took fourth. Other members included Coach Meurer, the late Justin Below, Steve Berberich, Scott Christ, Dan Kuhns, Jeffrey Larson, Justin Manthe, Ben O'Brien, Wesley Ruedy, Peter Roessler, Nathan Rodriguez, Mark Staloch, Derrick Ward, and Steve Woltas.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No. 81-PR-23-4

Estate of
Uriel Morales,
Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING
ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO

CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on March 15, 2023, at 9:15AM, a hearing will be held via zoom in this Court at 307 North State Street, Waseca, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Marco Morales, whose address is 1129 Fifield Street, St. Paul, MN, 55108 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer

the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate. See notice of remote hearing.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: 01/25/2023 08:40:27 AM

BY THE COURT
/s/Carol M. Hanks

Judge of District Court

/s/Shannon M. Asselin
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Christine B. Courtney
COURTNEY LAW OFFICE, PLLC
2239 Carter Avenue
St. Paul, MN, 55108
Attorney License No: 393596 Tele-phone: (612) 356-2635
Email: chris@courtneylawoffice.com

(Published in the Waseca County Pioneer February 17 and 24, 2023.)

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Caution on Clear Lake



Caution: There is open water and thin ice on areas of Clear Lake. Barricades have been placed at the Maplewood Park landing/access as this is not a safe area. Use extreme caution as you will be traveling at your own risk.

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PREVIEW DATE:
Thursday, February 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



John Deere 4240, JD 317 Skid Loader, Ford 871 Tractors, Attachments

‘78 JD 4240, Westendorff TA28 Hyd. Loader, Joystick, 84" Bucket, Pallet Forks, 18.4x38, 3 Hyd., 8sp. PS, 10,099 Hrs, Clean; JD 317 Skid Loader, 2062 Hrs, Radio, Cage Cab, Weights; JD 72" Material Bucket; (2) Sets of Pallet Forks, Universal Skid Loader Plate; Ford 871 Select-O-Speed, 3pt., 1 Hyd., Fenders, 13.6x28, Older Restoration; Parsons 377 Trencher, 4x4, 6' With 2' Extension, 6 Way 6' Blade; Allied 8' Snowblower, Double Auger, 3pt., Hyd. Spout, 540PTO; JD 509 Rotary Mower, 540PTO; 3pt. 50 Gal. Sprayer, Booms; 5' Snowblower, Single Auger, 540PTO, 3pt.; Cosmo 3pt. Broadcast Spreader; 20'x8' Flatbed On JD 8 Ton Running Gear

PAYMENT & PICK UP DATES:
Monday, February 20, From 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 21, From 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Gooseneck Flatbed & Dump Trailers, Enclosed Trailer, Flatbed Trailers

‘13 Big Tex 20’x8’ Gooseneck Trailer, 5’ Dove Tail, Tandem Axle, Ramps; ‘05 Racer By Carson Enclosed Trailer, 24’x100”, Tandem Axle, Rear Ramp, Side Door; Gooseneck Hydraulic Dump Trailer, 12’x7’, Tandem Axle, 14,000GVW; ‘17 H&H Tilt Bed Flatbed Trailer, 20’x82”, 3000lb Tandem Axle; Schuster Gooseneck Flatbed Trailer, 16’x8”, Tandem Axle; 11’x92” Steel Snowmobile/Utility Trailer, Tilt Bed; 42’ Semi Flatbed Trailer, Tandem Axle, Needs Work; 1976 Flatbed Trailer, 16’, Tandem Axle

2003 Chevy 2500, 2003 Motorhome, (2) Grain Trucks
‘03 Chevy 2500HD, Duramax 6.6L, 226,362 Miles, Ext. Cab; ‘03 Chevy Coachman 16’ Motorhome, 94,801 Miles, 6.0L Gas, Runs & Drives; ‘78 Ford F600 Grain Truck, Single Axle, 16’ Omaha Box & Hoist, 360 V8, 5x2; 70’s Chevy C50 Grain Truck, Single Axle, 15’ Box & Hoist, Automatic, V8 Gas; ‘02 Buick Rendezvous SUV, AWD, Parts Car

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Senior night



Waseca's high school basketball team celebrated senior night last week on Feb. 7. Shown above are Waseca's four seniors with their parents. Front, from left, Addison Sampson, Alexander Honstad, Tyson Reger, and Jacari Jellum. Back row: Jerry and Sarah Raetz; Rich and Amanda Honstad; Jason and Andrea Reger; and Kari and Mark Jellum

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

Who's got talent?



Korbin Schumacher strums and sings to "If I Were the Devil" by Colby Acuff.

Pioneer photos by Tristan Jensen



Candidates for Snow Week king, Joey Adamek, Ethan Davis, Leo Harguth, Zander Honstad, Griffin Krautkramer, and Korbin Schumacher, put their hands up to Beyonce's "All the Single Ladies."



Thyme Lang



Talent show singer



Eddie Herman



Jackie Mathern

Show

from Page 1

dents. They were all amazing and worked hard.”

In addition to the night's emcees, Eddy Gallegos and Lucas Vasquez, the members of the Snow Week Court took turns introducing the acts, as well as themselves, to the audience. Members of the court are Joey Adamek, Ella Dufault, Ethan Davis, Lindsey Kopetzki, Leo Harguth, Thyme Lang, Zander Honstad, Sarah Robbins, Griffin Krautkremer, Chloe Schumacher, Korbin Schumacher, and Kloe Wadd. The coronation of Snow Week King and Queen will take place Thursday at 9:30 a.m. and parents and community members are invited to attend.

The school's Jazz 1 band, directed by Devon Lawrence, started the evening with two selections. “Clocks,” recorded by Coldplay and arranged by John Wasson, and “Bridge Over Troubled Water,” by Paul Simon and arranged by Paul Baker. Like bookends, the State Street show choir finished the night with selections from their show, “You Know My Name,”

which has a James Bond theme.

The Senior High School Student Council took the stage together to make the audience laugh with a fast-paced series of corny jokes. The Snow Week Court performed “their lifetime in song,” taking audiences through milestones in their lives by reviewing who was President, how much gas cost, then dancing to a clip from the year's top song. Some audience members found themselves surprised to hear the class of 2023 was born in 2004, when Usher's “Yeah 3x” was the number one.

Spread between the large group acts, sixteen solo or duet songs were performed. Performers were Adrian Arreguin, Sadie Schimming, Sophie Cawra, Kylie Snow, Patrick Howe, Adian Androli, Ava Norland, Madilynn Meyer, Lindsey Kopetzki, Eddie Herman, Jackie Mathern, Korbin Schumacher, Cece Huttemier, Ryan Leigh, Kamryn Rice, and Grace Lapidés. Each song had the audience moving: clapping along, bobbing heads, and on multiple occasions even launching into standing ovations. Acts were aptly described as “explosive,” and student performers were congratulated in the halls following the show time and time again.

Snow week



Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School crowned its snow royalty during halftime of the boys' basketball game against Maple River Tuesday, Feb. 14. It was a short and sweet coronation with Faith Olson crowned as queen and Michael VanRavenhorst becoming king. The other queen candidates were Adalynn Davis, Kylee Hanks, Paris Herme, and Ashlin Keyes. King candidates were Ian Barnes, Kelton Erler, Zachary Groh, and Ryder Thissen.

Groh, a student council representative, explained at JWP's School Board meeting Monday, Feb. 13 that the other council members wanted to try it out for this year. “It should provide a better way for the parents to be able to come,” he told them.

Last year's king and queen, Dylan Sheeran and Addison Oliver, had the honor of crowning Olson and VanRavenhorst. The student council, with the help of the Bulldog Backers, thought having the former royalty present was a great first step to try and bring back some of the traditions that had been in place for past homecoming and snow week celebrations.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy



Snow week royalty gathered together in the NRHEG high school gymnasium Tuesday afternoon, February 7 to find out who amongst them would be crowned King and Queen. Royalty for 2023 Snow Week front, from left: Gavin Wilkenson, Ethan Thompson, Evan Beckmann, Jed Pfundt, Lucas Hanna, King Dylan Ingvaldson, Queen Grace Wilkenson, Ashley Wobschall, Erin Jacobson, Katheryn Kofstad, Andrea Briggs, and Taya Lembke.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

Waseca senior wrestlers

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

The Waseca Bluejays' wrestling team celebrated senior night during its doubleheader against Lake City and Worthington Thursday, Feb. 9. There are seven members of the team: six wrestlers and one senior. They are wrestlers JD Delgado Jr., Payton Garza, Oliver O'Brien, Christian Rodriguez, Elijah Biehn, Eduardo Trejo, and manager Maia Bartelt. They were separately acknowledged during the meet, sharing their favorite wrestling memory and their future plans.

JD Delgado Jr. - JD Delgado is a heavyweight wrestler and a captain for the Bluejay team. He is the son of JD Delgado Sr. and Alberta Delgado. Delgado has been a wrestler for five years. His favorite wrestling memory is “getting to grow up with the other seniors and watching us get better.” He also added that he likes seeing coach Ben Janike do burpees when the Buffalo Bills lose.

His future plans are to attend Winona State University to study physical therapy. He then plans to attend the University of Minnesota to get his master's degree.

Payton Garza - Payton Garza wrestles in the 195-pound weight division and is a captain of the wrestling team. Garza has wrestled for 13



Waseca High School senior wrestlers recognized during a Feb. 9, 2023 home meet from left: Elijah Biehn, Payton Garza, Oliver O'Brien, Christian Rodriguez, J.D. Delgado Jr. and (not pictured) Eduardo Trejo.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

years. He is the son of Raul and Lacie Garza.

His favorite wrestling memory is staying in the hotels with the team for section tournaments. His future plans are to attend Rochester Community and Technical College to earn his general education credits. He has committed to play baseball there.

Oliver O'Brien - Oliver O'Brien is a captain of the wrestling team and competes in the 160-pound weight class. He is the son of Ben and Ria O'Brien.

O'Brien has wrestled for 12 years; his favorite memories are the bus rides after the matches. “The best conversations I've had are with the boys on the bus.”

His future plans are to attend Minnesota State University of Mankato to study construction management.

Christian Rodriguez - Christian

Rodriguez is a captain of the wrestling team and competes in the 170-pound weight division. He is the son of Nathan and Debbie Rodriguez.

Rodriguez has wrestled for 12 years; his favorite memory is making it to the state tournament as a freshman and rooming with Big Hertz. His future plans are to play football at Gustavus Adolphus College where he will pursue a computer science degree.

Elijah Biehn - Elijah Biehn wrestles in the 113-pound weight class for the Bluejays. He is the son of Matthew and Kristie Biehn.

Biehn has been a wrestler for ten years: He shares Oliver O'Brien's favorite memories of the bus rides with the team. He plans on attending North Iowa Area Community College. He has not decided his major yet.

Eduardo Trejo - Eduardo Trejo wrestled in the 152-pound weight class for Waseca. He is the son of Juana Trejo.

He has wrestled for two years; his favorite memory is getting the chance to meet coaches and friends whom he will never forget. His future plans are to focus on sports, work, traveling and having girlfriends.

Maia Bartelt - Maia Bartelt is a manager for the Waseca Wrestling team. She is the daughter of Brad and Crystal Bartelt.

Bartelt has been a manager for one year. Her favorite memory is when everyone screamed and cheered for the team during close matches. She plans to attend South Dakota State University for veterinary medicine.

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