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# WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 14 Vol. II \$2



Office at 103 South State Street Waseca

Friday, April 7, 2023

Pages 6-11



Sports Preview



Rick's Appliance is now located at 405 Elm Ave. West.

## Setting up shop

By MICHAEL ROY  
Editor

After five years on Second Ave NW in Waseca, Rick's Appliance has just opened at a new location.

Of the new building at 405 Elm Avenue West, owner Rick Maas says "It's been a good move; We're really excited to be here." The new facility, he mentions, has much more space than the old one, and will allow for appealing displays and a wider variety of in-stock appliances.

There has been one rather humorous development: since it is the former location of

"Sailor's Sweet Shoppe," the building still has an association for some of its past clientele.

"We got asked about them a lot," owner Rick Maas said. "But we don't sell ice cream; we sell appliances."

When it became known a few months ago that the property on Elm Avenue was for sale, Maas investigated almost right away. "There it was. We figured let's try to buy it and see what happens."

Once the purchase was complete, Maas

Move continued on 3



**Rick's Appliance**  
ricksappliancewaseca.com



Rick's Appliance opened at their new location April 3. They will have a re-grand opening this summer. From left: Deann Sutlief, Owner Rick Maas and his wife Anita. Photo by Michael Roy

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

## 8th Ave. upgrade approved

By MICHAEL ROY  
Editor

The Waseca city council authorized City Engineer Nate Willey to move forward with trail improvements as part of the Eighth Avenue NE reconstruction project during its Tuesday, April 5, meeting.

Willey noted that the city was not awarded a grant to help cover the costs of the trail improvements, observing that there were many applicants and a wide variety of requests.

Due to the planned replacement of water and sewer services, Willey pointed out that the sidewalk along Eighth Avenue between Third and Eighth Streets will also need to be replaced, despite there being no grant award to cover the costs.

As far as the trail itself is concerned, the council will still be eligible for state aid money to cover some of the expenses: \$15,000 will be allowed for lighting of the trail, while the trail design itself will be funded through the city's street capital funds. "It will be subject to MnDOT approval," Willey added.

The total cost of lighting is estimated at \$50,000, which Willey pointed out could go up or down.

Council member Stacey Schroeder asked whether the trail would be affected by flooding, which has been a recurring problem at Clear Lake Park.

"We'd be installing a swale, or a storm water feature," Willey replied. "We have to capture a certain amount of water because of permit requirements."

When the project is completed, city staff will maintain the trails while residents would be responsible for sweeping and clearing snow from the sidewalks.

Council member John Mansfield questioned whether ad-

Council continued on 4

## Against the odds

### Hammond winning battle with cancer

By JIM LUTGENS  
Sports Editor

In the fall of 1978, the landscape was changing at Waseca High School.

The infamous class of 1979, with a well-earned reputation as the most boisterous ever in school history, was finally going to graduate in the spring, and teachers could breathe a bit easier. But the school district leaders weren't taking any chances. They made some new hires among the faculty, replacing instructors who allowed themselves to be taken advantage of or otherwise compromised by students with some tougher, no-nonsense teachers.

Ted Hammond was among them.

Fresh out of the University of Wisconsin-Stout, the handsome, energetic, athletic, outgoing and almost always smiling Hammond earned immediate respect and was a big hit at WHS, where he quickly brought the business education department to order. Girls liked him; boys wanted to be like him. But everyone knew better than to mess with him.

Hammond's iron man reputation was perpetuated in city league sports, namely basketball, football and tennis. It was a sign he meant business when he put in a mouth guard before taking the basketball court. Only local legend Bruce Wessman could feel confident facing him at tennis.

Hammond was about the most clean-living person around. He was never seen in a bar or at a party.

Many things have changed in Waseca since 1978. Brown Printing closed; the college has been replaced with a prison. The grandstand at Community Field burned to the ground and was rebuilt. South Side School is an apartment building.



RELUCTANT ROLE MODEL - Ted Hammond, who started teaching at Waseca High School in 1978, continues to coach despite numerous physical setbacks.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

One thing, however, hasn't changed.

Hammond is still here.

And he commands more respect than ever.

Since 2008, Hammond has humbly and courageously battled prostate cancer and, despite many significant setbacks that might derail a lesser combatant, he's doing what he did so many times as a younger man in the athletic arena. He's winning the fight.

Hammond, though, proclaims himself as nobody's hero.

"There are a lot of cancer patients who have it a lot worse than me," he stated.

But he's been thrown his share of curve balls.

The cancer journey started when Dr. Jim Dey noticed Hammond's

"When you see how many lives you've impacted, it is quite humbling."

— Ted Hammond

PSA level increasing and suggested a biopsy. Reluctant at first, Hammond eventually agreed. Not only was the biopsy positive, but the cancer was extremely aggressive. Hammond and his wife, Penny, had two weeks to determine a course of action.

"Our choice was to have the prostate removed, but the surgery didn't get all of it," he said. "That's where we are today, a small portion is still in my body. We are trying a procedure called cryoablation, which is a freezing technique."

Hammond continued on 3

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

## Parks to get new trees

By MICHAEL ROY  
Editor

The first 20 minutes of the Waseca City Council meeting Tuesday, April 4 was dominated by members of the park board addressing questions and inquiries about planting more fruit trees throughout the city. This topic had been brought up by council member Stacey Schroeder during the previous council meeting.

Michelle Oswald was the first to take the podium during the public comment portion of the meeting. The park board has addressed the possibility of planting fruit trees in the past, and Oswald herself brought up the topic many times.

"What was relayed to me was that the fruit trees can be somewhat messy, and therefore it makes more maintenance work for city staff," she said.

Tom Hinton, a fellow park board member, confirmed this. "We're not totally against it," he clarified. "But there are more detriments to a fruit tree than positives, sometimes. A lot of work goes into having those trees, short-term and long-term."

The possibility has also been met with some negative feedback from city staff, and Hinton pointed out that it would be a "pretty big added expense" for cleaning up and the maintenance of the trees.

Instead, the park board plans on installing ten other kinds of trees: Kentucky coffee, crabapple, elm, Japanese lilac, American linden, honey locust, maple, red oak, swamp white oak, and white pine.

To play devil's advocate, Schroeder pointed out a discrepancy in the argument against more fruit trees in Waseca. "You're meeting resistance because fruit trees are messy, yet you're planting crabapple trees," she said. "I'm just putting that out there."

Oswald said that in any case, any resident in the city is encouraged to attend the park board meetings and make their voices heard. "We always need community input," she said. "We're ever growing and changing in Waseca, and we need those opinions."

### A word from The Word

And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

James 5:15



Actors gasp as the murder mystery begins at the St. Ann Parish Center Friday, March 31. From left: Becky Sea as Mayor Wilma Fliplappah; Paul Henning as the mayor's chief of staff, Gordon D. Piddley; Patrick Leigh as Dom D. Dahmdan; Ethan Becker as Boobles D. Henchman; and Mystique Deegan as the casino's interior decorator, Trixie Delighté.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

## 'Whodunnit?'

### Murder mystery at St. Ann

By MICHAEL ROY  
Editor

"Who done it?"

That was the question the members of the Communion of Saints Catholic Community had to answer Friday, March 31 as they were entertained with a Murder Mystery by the Murders 4 Fun Theater Company.

St. Ann Catholic Church of Janesville was the host of the murder mystery event in their parish center. About 120 people from the St. Ann, St. Joseph (Waldorf), and All Saints (New Richland) Catholic Churches attended the event.

The theme for this murder mystery was the "Murder at the

Mystery continued on 4





# Compostings

by Al Batt  
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## Once I learned it hadn't killed me..

**ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING**  
You live in a really small town. I know that.  
What do you do for excitement?  
We try not to get excited.

**DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE**  
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. I tried to avoid potholes deep enough to demand statehood. The weather couldn't make up its mind. Many people, not all of them wearing aluminum foil hats, believe it's bad luck to put winter coats away in April as it brings another storm of the century.

I'd polished my shoes by rubbing the soft inside of a banana peel over them. We had assigned pews. My wife and I sat behind an above-average bachelor farmer. He wore hearing aids that whistled. When they whistled, he was the only one in the church who couldn't hear them whistling. One Sunday, it occurred to me that the devices whistled only when the pastor's sermon had run long.

My mother worked for a grocery store in Algona, Iowa. She told this story. A little boy and his father visited the grocery store. As the two prepared to leave, the owner of the store offered the good customers candy from a large jar. "Get a handful of candy," the merchant said to the boy. The boy stood there, looking up at his father. The owner repeated himself, "Son, take a handful of candy; it's free." Again, the boy didn't move, continuing to look up at his father's face. Finally, the father reached into the candy jar and grabbed a handful of candy and gave it to his son. As they walked home, the father asked his son why he hadn't taken a handful of the free candy. The boy, with a big grin on his face, replied, "Because I know your hand is much bigger than mine."

I worked at Birds Eye. I wore an impressive hardhat and pretended to know what I was doing. A fellow I shared a lunch table with brought pickled peppers his wife had put in a jar for his culinary pleasure. We watched a woman refuse to eat the crusts of her sandwich, calling them bread bones. He twisted off the lid of the jar, releasing a little smoke, and offered me a pepper. I didn't want one because I'd grown up in a

household where ketchup was a hot sauce and the jar appeared to be melting from the heat of the peppers, but he was a good guy and I didn't want to offend him or his wife. I've forgotten what kind of pepper it was, but eating it was like shooting my father's shotgun when I was the same size as the shotgun. It had a kick. Once I figured out it hadn't killed me, I turned down the opportunity to eat a second one. I've raised a lot of peppers in the garden. I like peppers, but I don't need to sweat while eating one.

**NATURE NOTES**  
Terri Guillemets wrote, "My favorite weather is bird chirping weather." Anonymous wrote, "Spring has sprung. The grass is riz; I wonder where the birdies is." The birdies are here and on their way. I believe in the miracle of birds each time one swings into my field of view. If I'm fortunate, I might get to enjoy the terpsichorean talents of sandhill cranes. Reason number 397 why I like birds: just because.

House finches are permanent residents of Minnesota, but some undergo a short-distance migration south. It might be to avoid paying taxes.

Three mammals feast upon grapevines. A meadow vole girdles trunks. Deer find new shoots appetizing. Rabbits chew and remove the bark, and clip off branches of young vines. They feed on trunks of established grapevines in the winter.

A killdeer is so noisy it was called a chattering plover and a noisy plover by early naturalists. While leading a birding trip in North Dakota, I heard a participant call one a meadow plover. When foraging for insects or other invertebrates, killdeer move in fits and starts. When they pause, invariably they bob their heads up and down as if they have a severe case of the hiccups. They are pumping their tails and their heads follow along. This may be a strategy to make the birds appear larger than they are to an intruder or a perceived predator.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**  
"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."—Leo Buscaglia.

# We call this 'spring' in Minnesota

You know it's springtime in Minnesota when you have severe thunderstorms throughout the day followed by a blizzard overnight. I'm guessing Mother Nature didn't get the memo about April Fool's Day.

Friday was a crazy day. In New Richland, we had some thundersleet in the morning, and I am pretty sure we had some hail with it as well. I spent most of my day between Janesville and Waseca. You could tell some crazy weather was coming, because it got pretty hazy and even foggy in the afternoon.

New Richland and Waldorf were actually in a severe thunderstorm warning for quarter sized hail. I was in Janesville, and while the storm wasn't bad, we still had pea-sized hail. The wind was pretty wild as well.

To drive home with dark storm clouds over New Richland, go to bed, and find that it snowed at least four inches during the night was pretty crazy.

Iowa's weather was crazier. They started out the day in a moderate risk for severe weather, but were upgraded to a high risk (naturally the highest risk you can be in for severe weather).

Picture this. A tornado outbreak



## Music to my Ears

by Michael Roy  
copyright © 2022 by Michael Roy

where temperatures reach the 70s, and at night, the air becomes so cold that snow is possible. That was the case for cities like Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, and Davenport. It was supposed to be the case again this past Tuesday. (I'll have no way of telling you in this column since our press day is Monday.)

While all of that is insane, I remember back a few years ago when the National Weather Service issued a severe thunderstorm warning in the middle of a snowstorm.

It was April 11, 2019. It was a classic spring snowstorm in southern Minnesota. The day before, we received a bunch of snow, thus causing the National Weather Service (NWS) to issue a blizzard warning.

When it was all beginning to form, there were small clusters of cells developing with heavy snow and sleet. But just northwest of Redwood Falls,

there was a severe thunderstorm warning. Here's the funny part: Radar showed that most of it was coming down as snow, with a tiny portion of it coming back as a wintry mix. That means it was snowing and hailing at the same time!

The recent weather also made me question something: If thundersnow, or even hail in the middle of a snowstorm, is possible, what about a tornado? I mean, we had one part of the storm system on Friday produce a historic outbreak just to sweep through hours later and produce snow. My mom also remembered seeing snowflakes after the infamous St. Peter tornado from March 29, 1998.

In my research, tornadoes in snowstorms are unbelievably rare. You're probably more likely to get struck twice by lightning than witness a "snownado." But they are possible.

# Putting the scooper to proper use

Wallace and I were supposed to be starting our Michael J. Fox 30-mile walk for Parkinson's on April 1, but apparently, a higher power decided we needed another reminder that we live in Minnesota and therefore it does not matter what month or season the calendar declares it to be. We've been "training" the last week or so on the trail. He did fairly well, considering he hasn't been on longer outdoor walks in quite a while. There were maybe 3 or 4 times when he



## Always Looking Up

by Melissa Dunn  
copyright © 2022 by Melissa Dunn

just sat down for no apparent reason (his "stop and plop" move) but a word of encouragement and some

petting were all it took for my partner to get back in the game. Still, this turn in the weather apparently means

I will be training solo until the trails are dry once again. I'm disappointed, but not as frustrated as I am with my backyard. My husband and I have been putting the pooper scooper wonder tool investment to good use as the snow mountains are disappearing. We had it almost clean!! And now we are back to hidden poopsicles all over the place.

Looking up continued on 4

# Musings while I wait to see the Pope

Bonjour!  
Italy has been exciting and interesting. As I write this, I am in line to see the pope. Crazy right? This is the third day my friends and have been in Rome; we got up before 6 this morning so we could get a good spot in line to enter Vatican City. We wanted to see the basilica, but found out is closed on Wednesdays, since that's when the pope speaks to the people. An older lady in line showed us a ticket she had gotten to see the pope. She told us we could only get the ticket by faxing a request.

Well, we decided to wait and enter Vatican City anyway. Then we learned no ticket is necessary. So here we are sitting in the freezing cold (46 degrees) waiting an hour to see the pope. So worth it though.

Italy has been marvelous. My friend



## To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler  
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and I spent the weekend in Florence where we did a lot of walking and toured the museums. We were able to see the famous David statue, as well as many others. Of course we ate some pizza and pasta and had some aperol spritz—which are really good.

Then we came to Rome where we've seen the Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon, and the Colosseum. There are ancient buildings, structures, and ruins everywhere. It's humbling to be

surrounded by so much history.

Europeans definitely believe in the value of walking. I don't think I've consistently walked this much since band camp. I'm not really complaining. I enjoy the exercise.

The only weird thing is that when I want to go back to my bed to relax, my six-bed mixed hostel room is a pretty open concept. Usually a hostel will have curtains or something on the beds, but nope. I'm sharing a bunk

with my friend, but literally two feet away is another bed where some Canadian guy has been sleeping while he's visiting Rome. The guy on the other side of the room, though, is also from the University of Minnesota studying in Ireland; it's pleasant to run into someone I have so much in common with. It turns out each hostel is unique, so we never know exactly what to expect - so fun.

Also unrelated, but I want to congratulate the Waseca Marching Jays on their trip to Florida. Despite being extremely jealous because I had to go to Missouri instead because of COVID, I hope that everyone had an amazing time; the information online sure made it look like it was.

My Determination: "Life is a journey. When we stop, things don't go right." - Pope Francis

# Grateful for all the conversations

After I wrote last week about the carpal tunnel in my hands, my father reminded me that my column is not a diary. Sometimes I start writing and I forget to edit out things like that. Such is life.

So how was my week of newsing? Ed Frederick called to tell me what a great job we did last week with the coverage of the Farm and City Luncheon. That made my day.

While I was making phone calls to get sponsors for our spring sports preview this past week, another individual made my day: Kevin Walter.

Kevin, for those who don't know, owns Ameriprise Financial. If I remember correctly he took over the business/purchased it from his father and operates two locations, one in Waseca and another in Wells. Kevin has a son, Jacob, who is the same age as I am, and a daughter who is a dance major. She's graduating from the University of Minnesota this year.

I mention this because I reminded Kevin he should send me a photo from her upcoming graduation to put in the paper. Graduations, birth announcements, church confirmations, anything like that is free, and folks are encouraged to submit them.

Speaking with Kevin, I could tell he's really proud of his kids. Throughout the football season he and I would occasionally chat on the



## STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens  
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sidelines as he helped with defensive stats. His son Jacob graduated, oh about 7 years ago. When I was asking Kevin about how his kids were doing I remembered a story he told me about Jacob playing football and how it seemed he didn't catch many passes, but when he did, they were touchdowns. I'm kind of botching the story, horribly, but it made me chuckle when I remembered it.

Kevin will also be helping out with, don't quote me, announcing baseball this season. Baseball, of course, is my favorite sport. I've kind of worked my schedule out now to be able to go to sporting events in Waseca two, sometimes three times a week. Needless to say, I'm really excited about this upcoming season.

What other adventures did I have this week?

Well, I wrote about Waldorf some more. I spent all of Wednesday, it felt, calling folks and tracking down additional information for stories. I had a very pleasant conversation with mayor Randy Zimmerman. By

some colossal coincidence, I have been absent from every Waseca City Council session where the Gaiter Lake Development has been discussed. So, when I had questions, I called Randy. I chuckle as I type, because sometimes people get a little uptight talking to the press, but when I told Randy I wasn't looking for a quote, just somebody to explain some of the intricacies of what's going on out there, he relaxed and we had a pleasant conversation.

Thinking back to the conversation I'm reminded how important it is to ask questions, even those one might feel are "dumb." Twice during that conversation, Randy made mention of something I didn't understand, but felt as if I should. So I asked him. They say you only ask a dumb question once. Because, after you ask it, you never have to ask it again.

I continued newsing this Monday afternoon at Waseca High School. Michael and I finished taking the last of our sports preview photos of the high school kids and I must report

some of my findings.

I got there early and was treated to a home-baked dessert from Mr. Ted Hammond. I can't pronounce what it was called, so I'm not going to try putting it in print.

So what did we do with our time? Talk about Tink Larson of course.

Apparently Tink believed he would never marry again after his first wife died. Turns out his second wife had the same belief. The couple were together some time, which softened this believe. During a trip to Las Vegas where Tink was competing in a national baseball tournament it really softened. After they won their title (of course) Tink and his wife were married on the baseball diamond at home plate of all places. Talk about a memorable wedding.

In other conversations, I learned that Jodie Thompson, mother of the Thompson twins (Isaac and Noah) who are juniors at Waseca, is the daughter of Charlie Priebe. That was a pleasant conversation. Every time I have a conversation with Charlie, I leave telling myself, "I'm glad I talked to him."

Here's to another week of newsing.

If you set your goals ridiculously high and it's a failure, you will fail above everyone else's success. - James Cameron



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**GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday**

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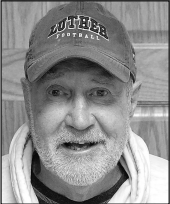
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# Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika

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## Goose gone wild

Winter high school sports are now behind us and all of the tournament results are in the books. I really enjoyed watching numerous games being televised from late morning into late evening. Many nights I went to bed with my peepers totally burned out.

Watching the boys' state hockey tournament, I witnessed something different and amusing. When the players are introduced they all skate up to the camera, show off their hair styles, and say something like, "Hi Mom and Dad," or "Hi Grandma or Grandpa." One never knows what a high school athlete may say or do.

A young hockey player from Luverne skated up to the camera with a message for his girlfriend taped on the blade of his stick. "Will you go to prom with me?" The next day there was a short segment with the girlfriend holding a hockey stick with a message accepting. The whole episode went viral and the Minnesota State High School League stepped in immediately with a change for introductions. No more messages, no more talking, just a nice wave to family or fans in the bleachers. Coaches addressed the rule changes, which were also carried over to the boys' basketball tournament.

Our two political parties can take a lesson from the MSHSL. Instead of, "You are not listening to us," maybe those politicians can compromise to get something done in a hurry. Maybe they can find a bipartisan way to put our billions in surplus funds to good use. I do have a question for our governor and elected officials, "With billions of dollars in surplus...think the good citizens of Minnesota are taxed too much?"

Spring high school sports are now in full swing. Athletic directors are busy scheduling gym spaces so the many outdoor teams can temporarily practice inside. A late, unpredictable spring creates challenges for athletes and coaches as they prepare for their upcoming games and events.

I coached softball with Lori Miller for years; we tried to make practices as fun and fundamental as possible. The gym was divided into hitting areas, fielding areas, and pitching stations. When the younger players were throwing and playing catch, I had one concrete rule: never turn your back to girls throwing a softball.

A softball is bigger than a baseball and just as hard. If an errant throw hits you, the head area is the worst. You may find yourself lying on the gym floor looking up at big white stars. Getting hit by a softball also leaves the perfect shiner if you are struck in the eye area.

During spring season, coaches have to prepare for cancellations. Snow, rain, wind, and cold temperatures can leave teams benched for a week.

We played in Kasson one year and arrived in a mini snowstorm. The game was played in the worst of conditions. The field actually turned white during the game. Our pitcher threw strikes with velocity, warming her hand in gloves between innings. Our hitters really hit the ball. We boarded the bus cold and shivering, but were rewarded by hot chocolate the parents of players had purchased. A great victory; I was so proud of those young ladies.

A few weeks later we were on the bus headed east on Highway 14 to play Owatonna. Just leaving Waseca, a Canadian goose flew through the windshield, shattering the glass but surviving to run around inside the bus. Players screamed and raised their feet onto their laps. I opened the door and ran the poor goose back out where it belonged.

No one was injured and the bus driver did a wonderful job guiding us through the crisis. Another bus was sent out, we boarded, and went on to play the game. Needless to say, the girls weren't in their best form, still in shock despite the relatively positive outcome. We returned to Waseca with no wins that day.

A big change for Minnesota high school basketball has been implemented for the upcoming season. Varsity must not play with a 35-second shot clock. I've attended two slow down basketball games; I would describe them as the most uneventful I have ever attended. One of the scores was 24-13; I'd rather watch paint dry.

I talked with Seth Anderson, Waseca boys' head varsity coach. Seth said the clocks have already been installed. He doesn't believe the new equipment will lead to any big changes, since most high school teams already play an up-tempo game. Fans like to watch athletes run and gun, a fast break, or shooting the three. Athletes enjoy playing this style of ball as well. Seth also stated that 35 seconds is plenty of time to run a play.

It will not take one person on the scoreboard and one to run the clock. Referees better be getting in the best of shape; they'll be running a few miles more. The days of stalling are now over, a relief to all of the fans in the stands.

Major League Baseball is now upon us. Tune in for next week's column; I'll be sharing some thoughts on baseball's new rule changes. Go Twins!!

■ **Move**

from Page 1

gradually began moving his inventory, finishing that work this past weekend.

Further upgrades and renovation are already in the works. "it's going to take a while to have everything the way it needs to be," he observes. For one thing, the new place is much larger than the old location, meaning more inventory to bring in.

"We moved all of our inventory from the old location into this space," Maas said. "You can see we still have a lot to do. There's

cabinetry we have to get in, and we're putting in kitchens and actual vignettes so that people can see different color appliances against different woodworkings and countertops."

Some of those materials won't come in for at least another month, though.

But once they get things "nailed down," Rick's Appliance is planning a re-grand opening at some point in the next few months. Maas was unsure of a tentative date. "But when we do hold it, maybe we'll serve some ice cream," he joked.

Maas and company want to thank Waseca for all their support over the years. "It's because of them we were able to expand and make this move."

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## ‘When all is said and done’

In September the Waseca Exchange Club requested 84 applications for "student of the year" honors. From those applications, 12 finalists were selected and asked to write essays. The winning essay for the 2022-23 Waseca High School year was penned by Christian Rodriguez. Alexander Honstad took second. Both winners received scholarships and Rogriguez's essay is entered in the district wide competition with a chance to advance to the national level.

Honstad's essay about Ted Hammond follows:

**Impact of Mr. Hammond**  
**By Alexander Honstad**

"When all is said and done, Jays are number one." These are words from Mr. Hammond who is my choice for someone who has greatly impacted my life. Not only do I think that he has had a great impact on just me, but many others that have had the chance to get to know him whether it's through sports or just being around the school. He has taught me many valuable things while being my coach for not only golf but for basketball as well. Every time I see him he always teaches me something new and most of the time it's something that I can use and apply to my life. Some of these include to always work hard, stay humble and happy no matter the situation, to stay dedicated to the things I love, and to be kind to others.

First, He has taught me to always work hard and that good things will come. One of his sayings that has stuck with me is "you have to pay your dues before you can collect your dividends." This saying has changed my perspective on many things including my golf journey and my gym journey. It has taught me to love the grind and grit of the process and that the harder I work the more it will pay out in the end. It has taught me that when you work hard for things, that it may not be enjoyable or come easily during the middle but the rewards at the end are what make it all worth it. I apply this not only in those two things, but in my everyday life including school. In school, this helps me make sure that I am always doing my best work and working hard to maintain good grades while being involved in extracurricular activities. This is just one of the ways he has impacted my life.

The second way he has impacted my life is that

**Winners of the Waseca Exchange Club "student of the year program" were, first place, (middle left) Christian Rodriguez and, second, Zander Honstad. Also pictured are Brad Wendland (left) and Ted Hammond (far right).** Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

he has taught me to stay humble and to always keep a positive attitude. This has impacted me to try and always live life with a smile on my face and to really take in each day to the fullest. In my opinion, he is always if not the most positive person in the room at all times and I think that when he is around that it rubs off onto others. Even though Mr. Hammond has been battling his cancer for these many years, he still finds a way to incorporate this into his life and to stay positive each and every day. I will use this in the future to have a more positive outlook on life and to have a better mindset through tough

times. On top of being positive, he is also one of the most humble people that I know as well. I feel like being humble is one of the most important traits to have because not only can it help you stay positive, but it can also change your outlook on certain things. It can help you be a better learner and thinker, while also helping you focus on achieving personal goals and organizational targets. Being humble and staying positive has impacted my life and will help me be able to set and achieve personal goals while having a positive everyday mental attitude.

The third thing that he has taught me is to stay dedicated to the things that I love and have passion for and to be kind to others. He shows this quality by always staying involved in the community and school by giving back and getting involved as a coach. Mr. Hammond has been retired for many

years now and has had some events happen in his life including his cancer, but he has still coached and stuck around because of not only his love for sports but for the kids he gets to coach as well. This has impacted me to make sure that I always continue to do the things that I love no matter what and to never give up the things that I am passionate for. on top of this, he also taught me to be kind to others and make sacrifices for people that you care about. He has shown this quality by sacrificing his time of the night and opening up the highschool gym to allow me and other golfers to hit small wiffle balls during the winter to help keep our swings in check during the snowy months. This sacrifice of time shows his kindness and willingness to do things for people he cares about. I will use this trait when meeting people and just going on each day.

All of these little traits and characteristics that Mr. Hammond portrays have taught me many things along my high school journey that I will continue to use throughout my life as I grow and continue my life. Mr. Hammond has impacted my life and I feel like everyone who has met him has been impacted in a positive way some way or another. Working hard, staying humble with a positive attitude, staying dedicated, and being kind to others will be some of the many lessons that I will remember and apply to my life. When I look back on my high school years and experience, Mr. Hammond Will always be one who comes to mind on making a strong impact on my life.

■ **Hammond**

from Page 1

Many sayings come to mind for Hammond when dealing not only with cancer, but hardships of all types: "The hotter the fire, the stronger the steel. You have to experience some rain before you enjoy the rainbow. You have to go through the valley before you get to the mountain top. Whether you think you can or think you can't – you're right."

Faith in God has also been a big part of the journey.

"When first diagnosed with cancer, I made all kinds of deals with God," said Hammond. "I've always believed there is a supreme being and have found comfort in prayer. Being conscious that I'm a role model for cancer survivors isn't a daily occurrence."

When Hammond was chosen as the Coaches Against Cancer honoree this year, his awareness increased.

"Especially when you see how many lives you've impacted," he said. "It is quite humbling."

Hammond has some help getting around in the form of what he calls a "kneelie," a four-wheel miniature scooter on which the user kneels.

"It sure beats crutches," said Hammond. "You can scoot around school or Wal-Mart at a pretty good clip. It's a real hassle for coaching, though. The scooter was recommended after my first toe amputation to aid in recovery. You could either rent it or buy it. We bought it, and it's been one of our better investments. When I'm not using it,

we've loaned it out a number of times."

Hanging up his basketball shoes for the final time was not easy. If he had his way, he'd still be playing.

"I had two hammer toes and a bunion operated on at the same time to prolong my athletic days," he said. "Unfortunately, I developed a bone infection called osteomyelitis after surgery and antibiotics can't touch it. You have to cut out the bad bone until you get to good bone. The most shocking experience Penny and I ever had was when a Mayo surgeon said they would cut off my leg at mid-calf and my problem would be solved. As luck would have it, he only took my small toe on my left foot.

That was four years ago. Unfortunately, it curtailed Hammond's physical activities including bowling, tennis, basketball, golf and his fledgling career in pickleball.

"But I can still coach," said Hammond, who has held numerous coaching duties at Waseca. He was the first to refer to the WHS girls' basketball team as Lady Jays when he was head coach in the 1980s.

"Since coaching is still in my blood, it is now my hobby," he said. "This year I gave up golf since I can't physically demonstrate it."

As for retiring, Hammond insists that won't happen.

"I was a substitute teacher a few years after retirement in 2011, but that got old," he said.

Hammond grew up in a busy household in Menomonee, Wis., the third of five children for Jack and

Lucille Hammond. Television was just starting, so he and his siblings played a lot of group games with the neighbors. Sports were a big part.

"My dad was a player on the UW-Stout basketball team and that's where I developed my love for buckets," said Hammond. "My favorite childhood memories consisted of playing pom pom pullaway, kick the can, Annie Annie Over, ice hockey on Lake Menomin, cowboys and Indians, starlight moonlight, a morning newspaper route and climbing trees."

Hammond played three sports in high school. As a senior he was an All Big Rivers Conference receiver and All Wisconsin Northwest. He played basketball four years, making the all-conference team his senior season.

In the spring, neither baseball nor track appealed to Hammond.

"So a buddy and I went to the school board to get boys' tennis added to our school sports," explained Hammond. "We recruited a coach and played tennis our junior and senior years. UW-Stout was an easy decision since Menomonie is my hometown."

Hammond played football and basketball at Stout; the future looked rosy.

"Unfortunately, my money ran out for school, so I took a job at a local Sanna Dairies to save up money to go back," said Hammond. "During this break I met my wife Penny and thought this might be the

real deal. She was a freshman at Stout. So at the end of the first quarter, I enrolled at Stout again."

And, again unfortunately, the college didn't give Hammond his student deferment of 2S back. His new classification was 1A, which meant he was eligible for draft into the military.

"Sure enough, the draft found me," said Hammond.

Since Vietnam was in full swing, he chose to join the Air Force. In March of 1970, the Air Force was his family. Hammond was married while on leave and he and Penny spent three years in Japan before his discharge in 1973.

They returned to Stout with a newborn son, Quinn, the first of their three children.

After a year teaching in Wisconsin, the family made the move to Minnesota.

It's safe to say a lot of Waseca has come to know and love the Hammond family.

And it's safe to say the feeling is mutual.

"We looked for a smaller community," said Hammond. "Minnesota had a number of job openings and Waseca hired me. That was in 1978 and here we are 45 years later. The school system was the main draw and still is. We raised our family here and have a number of fond memories. We used to have a sign as you entered Waseca that said, 'Waseca, for an hour, for a lifetime.' Who knew?"



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Chuck Wilmes presented Cindi Jo Trahms with a soybean science kit for Trinity Lutheran School in 1998.



The GTA Elevator and Mill, which was built in Janesville in 1873, burned to the ground Tuesday, April 3, 1973.

# 100-year-old mill burns down in ‘73

**1923**

-A farewell party and reception was tendered Mr. and Mrs. Gehrke on Saturday evening, when about fifty friends and neighbors gathered at their home. The evening was most pleasantly spent in playing games and in social converse. Each one present took occasion to express regret that Mr. And Mrs. Gehrke find it to their advantage to leave Janesville. Their kindly words also expressed the high esteem in which they hold these two good people. Mr. and Mrs. Gehrke will leave very soon for their new home at Madison, Wis.

-Otto Schafer spent two days last week at Austin transacting business with the Hormel Packing Company. Mr. Schafer has extensive business relations with that company and necessarily in the course of time he must visit the plant in order to keep in touch with its activities. He informs us it is a big institutions, one of the largest plants of the kind in the country. It buys millions of dollars worth of stock every year and dispenses millions of money to producers. As an industrial part of the Northwest, it plays an important part not less than any other line of productive industry. It's a big thing, financially, for the farmer and industrially for the city of Austin and the state.

-A well-known and prominent local contractor informs us that he will not bid on the Trinity church structure for the reason that he will be unable to secure the necessary help among bricklayers. The local bricklayers could be utilized, but on account of the magnitude of the job, it will be necessary to secure help from the bricklayers union. He cannot secure this help for the reason that as a contractor he does not recognize the union.

**1948**

-The Janesville Library Board has voted to join the Waseca County Library association and the affiliation will take effect on April 1. Under this setup, the Janesville community will retain its present library board, all of its books and equipment, but will get supplementary help from the county organization. New books will be supplied the Janesville library monthly.

-The 570 persons who met death in Minnesota traffic in 1947 represent but a small part of last year's traffic accident toll of human misfortune, according to a summarized analysis of all last year's motor vehicle accidents in the state, released today by the State Department of Highways. The exhaustive study, completed as a means to utilize every angle of the state's accident experience in efforts to avert or reduced similar mishaps, shows: \$1,819 fairly serious motor vehicle accidents that is serious enough to involve at least a personal injury or property damage over \$50, occurred in Minnesota in 1947.

-In a recent issue of The Mill Crier, "published every month for the information and amusement of Minneapolis Knitting Works employees," the following paragraph appears: "How they stacked up last month February production against planned quota: 1. Janesville, 2. Minneapolis, 3. New Richland, and 4, Waterville."

**1973**

-Steve Sens got approvals from both the Village Planning Commission and the City Council to proceed on his new Heritage House Restaurant at special meetings Monday night. Construction work is set to begin today on the remodeling of the Miner Block Building on the corner of Main Street and Highway 14. Sens recently purchased the building from Dr. Roy Hendricks.

-The Janesville Village Council voted unanimously last night to accept the low bid of Kasson Sewer & Water, Inc., Kasson, Minnesota, for the rehabilitation of the village sewage system. The low bid was \$57,900.00. the Kasson firm was one of four submitting bids for the sewer repair work. Other bids came from A.C.Schewer Construction Company, Mankato, (\$84,200.00); N.H. Snider Construction Company, Slayton, (\$65,642.00); and Selly Bros, Le Center, (\$59,125.00).

-Janesville lost a hundred-year-old landmark early Tuesday morning when GTA Elevator went up in flames which could be seen for miles around. The fire was reported at approximately 6 a.m. by fireman Mel Schmidt whose new home is located just south of the block-long GTA complex. When Schmidt, manager of Lampert Yards, spotted the blaze it was located in the southwest edge of the building near the feed mill. Within minutes the flames engulfed the office and feed storage area. Within an hour the blaze had spread throughout the entire building complex.

**1998**

-Angie Hines, Shelly Traynor, Jessica Bluhm, Chris Bollman and Ryan Berndt of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School participated in the 1998 Dorian Band Festival held Sunday-Monday March 1-2 at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. More than 600 high school students from five states took part in the Dorian Band Festival, participating in lessons, solo reviews, master classes and auditions with instructors from the college music faculty.

-A trip halfway around the world will bring a Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton student to her new home for a year. Jinnie Hinderscheit of Janesville will be traveling to Argentina this summer as a Rotary exchange student. Departing on Thursday, Aug. 20, her destination will likely be Buenos Aires where she will stay with three families. Although she has never really traveled much, Jinnie said she has always had a fascination for different cultures. "I want to see everything," she said. "I want to experience as many different types of things as I can." Having studies Spanish for three years, Argentina was her first choice because she wanted to live in a Spanish-speaking country.

# Pulitzer winner visits UMW

**Waseca Journal, 1923**

-Along with other progressive communities, Waseca will observe a week of civic introspection. We have had our various weeks, like Potato Week, Health Week, Prune Week, Raisin Week, and every kind of a week, but it remained for Dan Weigle, St. Paul, to bring out the idea of Home Town Week for the benefit of cities and towns. The objects of Civic Week are: First, to sell Waseca to its own citizens. Then, to sell the citizens the obligation they owe to the city which feeds them. And instill the advantage of modern methods in selling a community to the outside world.

-The St. Olaf Concert band, of which Ludvig Johnson of Waseca is a member, completed one of the most successful tours in its history last Thursday with a concert in Montevideo, Minn., after appearing in 25 cities and playing in all of them before capacity houses. Audiences and critics were most enthusiastic in their praise, and there were many requests for return engagements. Mr. Johnson will appear with the band during the annual Music Festival at St. Olaf, which this year is to be held May 12 and 13 in Northfield.

-Two verdicts totaling \$2,000 were returned by the jury against Fred Henkensiefken on charges brought against him by Charles Holteen for running into his song and daughter and killing the son and injuring the daughter. The jury returned a verdict against Henkensiefken for \$1,700 for the death of the boy and \$300 for the injuries to the girl. Attorney Henry Gallagher appeared for Holteen and Moonan appeared for the defendant.

B.F. McNeil who has been conducting a free eye clinic at a local medical office was brought before Judge Conway by the State Board of Optometrists yesterday on charges of operating in the state without a state optometrist license. Mr. McNeil claimed that he was a medical doctor and did not need an optometrist license to practice. He stated that he was registered as a doctor in Ramsey and Mower Counties. Bonds for \$5000 were signed and a public hearing will be held in municipal court April 12.

**Waseca Herald, 1948**

-Minnesota farmers received \$43 million dollars for their 1947 soybean crop of 14 million bushels. This ranks Minnesota the fifth most important state in the country in soybean production, according to a survey of corn belt experiment stations and agricultural colleges. At least three counties, namely Blue Earth, Faribault, and Mower, harvested well over a million bushels

each. Waseca County farmers grew 225,000 bushels of soybeans in 1947, which brought them some \$765,000. This figure is based on a conservative value of \$3.40 per bushel.

-Points on fire fighting and fire extinguisher equipment will be explained by a motion picture which is scheduled to be shown at the Firemen's Hall. The motion picture is free and has been arranged by the E.F. Johnson Company which has issued an invitation to the public. It is shown primarily for the benefit of the fire brigade of the company under its fire prevention plan.

-The city council at its adjourned reorganization meeting voted salary increases for city employees which were \$10 to \$30 higher than last year. The raise in wages was given, councilmen pointed out, to meet the high cost of living. Although most employees received a raise, a few salaries were left to the 1947 schedule.

-The first baseball practice of the 1948 season was held Sunday at the Community Athletic Field with players turning out to report at 2 p.m. both old and new faces were seen among the men out for the 1948 Waseca team, according to Don Herbst, and others have been urged to turn out. Work on the diamond has started also. Sodding the diamond began today and is expected to be finished as fast as possible. The field is expected to be in shape by the opening game with Rochester on Sunday, May 2.

**Waseca Daily Journal, 1973**

-Peter Arnett, a Pulitzer Prize winning reporter for the Associated Press, will present a public lecture at the University of Minnesota Technical College-Waseca on Tuesday, April 10. Arnett's address on "War's End: Timetable, Aftermath and American Guilt" will be presented as part of the ongoing convocation program at the college the address will be at 10 a.m. in the UMW auditorium and the public is invited to attend.

-NEW RICHLAND - Mrs. Orland Hagen is trying to laugh but it "hurts too much." Mrs. Hagen fell Wednesday, broke both arms and cut her head while on a tour in Minneapolis. That isn't much to laugh about but when considered with what happened last year it becomes humorous. In March of last year Mrs. Hagen sat on a faulty chair and broke her right arm when the chair collapsed. Before she broke her arm, her two granddaughters, Jan and Jody Johansen, each broke their right arms. They were the daughters of Mr. And Mrs. Kenneth Johansen of Janesville.



A DREAM COME TRUE — Waseca native Kelly Severson experienced March Madness as a member of the Minnesota Golden Gophers' cheerleading squad, witnessing the team becoming National Invitational Tournament Champions in 1998.

-The Waseca County Commissioners Thursday accepted the resignation of Fred K. Stenger, county highway engineer and after naming his successor rehired Stenger as solid waste officer. Stenger's resignation from the county highway post is effective May 1. The board had interviewed candidates for the post of county highway engineer and appointed John A. Cousins, 38, of Fargo, North Dakota. Cousins was hired at a salary of \$16,500 per year and Stenger will receive \$1,208.34 per month as solid waste officer.

-JANESVILLE - The village of Janesville may be the first community in the county to have Sunday liquor, if the vote is favorable in an upcoming election set for Tuesday, May 8. Steve Sens, owner of the Village Diner is especially hopeful that the community would give its approval at the election because he is proposing to build a supper club in Janesville.

**Waseca County News, 1998**

-Although Waseca was not hit by the tornado that ravaged Minnesota area communities Sunday, some Wasecans have relatives and friends who weathered the storm. Waseca residents Bernice Peterson's son Dough Peterson and wife Susan live in St. Peter. Bernice was unable to contact her son by telephone due to lack of phone service. However, Doug was able to call her to let her know that the house was still standing. The roof was partially missing, the car in the garage was damaged and the windows were also broken out in the house.

-Area farmers visited the third-grade students at South Side Elementary School on Friday as part of Agriculture in the Classroom Day. The students learned about pork, dairy, sheep and crop production. Scott and Vicky Singletstad talked to the students about what is involved in pork production. The students watched a video where Scott explained the step-by-step growth pro-



Associated Press reporter Peter Arnett gave a lecture at the University of Minnesota-Waseca on April 10, 1973.

cess of hogs.

-University of Minnesota basketball cheerleader Kelly Severson knows firsthand what March madness is all about. The Waseca native has bounced around the county from Williams Arena to Chicago to New York during March and saw the Golden Gophers go from also-rans to National Invitational Tournament (NIT) champions.

-You might say it was Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton's day at Saturday's Gopher Conference Girls' Indoor Track and Field Meet at Mankato State. The Lady Bulldogs set six new school indoor records to edge New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva for the top spot in the six-team meet. JWP had seven firsts, six seconds and three thirds to rack up 141 points, four more than the panthers. The Dawgs scored points in every event but three. NRHEG, which beat JWP 111 to 102.5 at last year's meet, picked up three firsts, six seconds and five thirds. The Panthers scored points in every event of the meet..

# NRHEG's Halgren visits Capitol

**1923**

- A packed house saw the first episode of "Speed," the new serial being shown at the Faust Theatre every Wednesday evening. Popular prices brought out the hundreds of people who were more than pleased with the production. Coupons were distributed before the show which with 25 cents admitted the entire family to the show.

- The Easter dance given by the American Legion was attended by 65 couples. Bad weather and roads cut down the usual large crowd that have attended similar occasions previously. The Legion through their committee wishes to clarify a mistaken impression by stating that the dance was conducted in an orderly manner under the supervision of men who were detailed for the purpose of maintaining order. Any disturbance that might have taken place outside the hall was beyond the jurisdiction of the Legion committee to rectify.

- Ross Marple has received an appointment from the Post Office Department at Washington, D.C. To the position as mail carrier on rural route No. One out of New Richland. The appointment was made to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the veteran carrier, K. O. Rotegard, who held the position from the time the route was first established. Mr. Marple's friends are much pleased with his appointment, the duties of which will begin April 16th.

**1948**

- Although it was reported that Roeder brothers, contractors who are to install the new storm sewers, had their equipment aboard cars at a point in Iowa two weeks ago it has not reached New Richland. Accompanying equipment, the contractors, the nucleus of a crew are expected. No less than 30 applications for jobs on the sewer construction and curb and gutter have been filed and many of these are likely to be honored. Not far behind the sewer workers will be a force of men installing curbs and gutters. With favorable weather it is possible to complete both jobs in 90 days, The Star is informed.

- Martin Jacobson, 62, Hartland farmer and father of Mrs. Russel Peterson and Mrs. Stanley Peterson of this community, met with an accident Tuesday afternoon in which he lost the thumb of his right hand. While working on his tractor the thumb became caught in some of the moving parts and was taken off at the first joint. Mr. Jacobson is recovering at Naeve hospital, Albert Lea. Mr. Jacobson is alone with the work on his farm near Hartland.

**1973**

- The Waldorf-Pemberton FFA Farm Management team took first in the Region Farm Management contest at the University of Minnesota, Waseca, March 26. The team score was 142.8. Members of the team, which will advance to the state Farm Management contest at the St.

Paul campus of the University of Minnesota, May 7 are Lac Lindeland, Curt Floden and Barry Bartelt. Farm Management deals with the organization and operation of a farm and the decision making activity of farming. The contest consists of the analysis of some phases of organization and operation of a farm business and the decisions one must make as a result of analyses.

- Lloyd Amundson and Cecil Stiernagle have reorganized their business interests recently and dissolved partnership, as of April 1. Lloyd will continue to operate Waldorf Grain company at Waldorf, while Cecil will operate Plum Valley Farm Supply just southwest of Waldorf on Highway 30. Stiernagle and Amundson leased the elevator in Waldorf from Henry Bluhm on August 15, 1968. Plum Valley Farm Supply was built and opened in 1966.

**1998**

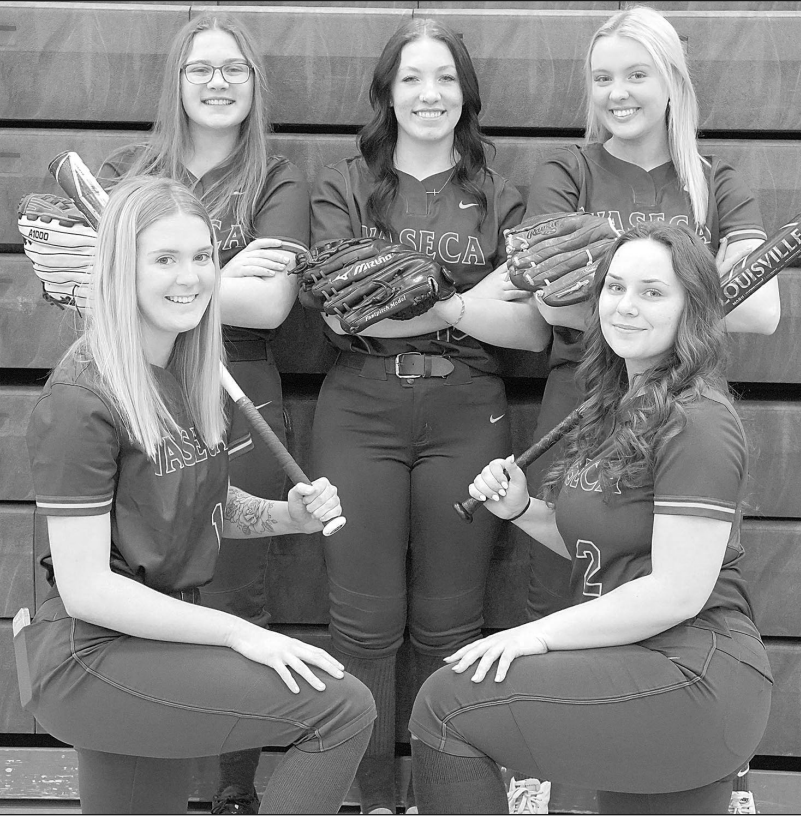
- The resignation of Margaret Koziolek from the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School District was accepted by the Board of Education on Monday, March 16. After being a part-time Title I instructor since 1979 in the local district, Margaret's last day will be May 15. "I'm going to be happy not to have to watch the clock." As a young girl Margaret grew up on a farm near Hayfield. Following her graduation from Hayfield High School she attended Austin Normal Training, a

nine month class, to qualify for teaching in rural schools. "I pieced my education together," she said.

- Cambria Halgren, a junior at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School, spent the week of March 23-27 at the State Capitol in Saint Paul and served as a High School Page for the Minnesota House of Representatives. Halgren, of New Richland, assisted in delivering materials in the House Chamber during sessions, and attended important committee meetings that involved hearings on issues of concern to all Minnesotans. Halgren also met with her legislator, State Representative Henry Kalis, from District 26B. "Students participating in the High School Page Program get an exciting and rewarding experience," said Representative Kalis. "The opportunity to be a part of the legislative process at the Capitol helps students to be more thoughtful and involved citizens."

- The New Richland Girl Scouts recently held a birthday party to celebrate the Girl Scouts' 86th birthday. Girl Scouting was organized in the United States on March 12, 1912. Every year Girl Scouts celebrate that day with parties and special ceremonies. Each one of the New Richland troops did a skit at the birthday party and games were played. The friendships of all the Girls Scouts were enjoyed. Balloons, games and a special birthday cake and punch was enjoyed by all.





**LEADERSHIP** — Seniors for the WHS softball team are, front from left, Emma Williamson and Haylee Sommers. Back: Ella Bartelt, Hannah Thursdale and Riley Ruedy.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

Optimism reigns for WHS softball

By JIM LUTGENS  
Sports Editor

Many more athletes return than were lost to graduation for the Waseca High School girls' softball team and second-year head coach Abby Bloomquist. It has led to optimism. "Given a year of growth, we expect to come out strong and to have solid offense and defense. We intend to be a much more aggressive team this year, and to capitalize on our opportunities." The Bluejays, 3-16 last spring, graduated center fielder, cleanup hitter and captain Jadyln Olsem and second base player Jordan Hofmeister. Returning are seniors Ella Bartelt, Riley Ruedy, Haylee Sommers, Hannah Thursdale and Emma Williamson, and juniors McKyla Hasselquist and Cameron Stagman. Sommers earned honorable mention all-conference last spring. Coach Bloomquist likes what she's

seen so far in terms of desire and the ability manufacture some runs through aggressive play. "Overall, we have a hungry, experienced varsity team," said Bloomquist. "We should be able to execute more on offense this year, and can rely more on our ability to play 'small ball.'" The one thing the Bluejays don't have is a lot of depth, so Bloomquist hopes they can avoid injuries. "Though we have solid athletes and have a variety of offensive and defensive combinations, we don't have a deep bench to turn to in the event that a player is struggling." Consistency, according to Bloomquist, is crucial for the Bluejays. "We need to be consistent both offensively and defensively," she said. "Last season we were often caught off guard by one bad inning and that caused us to crumble. If we show up the way we can every inning, we're going to shake it up in the conference."

"Overall, we have a hungry, experienced varsity team."  
— Coach Abby Bloomquist

Though Bloomquist said the Big South Conference consistently has a number of contenders, New Ulm and St. Peter always tend to lead the pack. "They have very solid programs and well-rounded, effective teams," said Bloomquist. "When we play our game, we can genuinely play with any team in our conference." New Ulm, LeSueur-Henderson and LCWM are the favorites in Section 2AA, according to Bloomquist, who's in her eighth year at Waseca. She's assisted by Cassie DeVos. In the girls opening round game with Blooming Prairie, the girls won 1-0 Tuesday night.

| WASECA HIGH SCHOOL<br>2023 SOFTBALL |                      |         |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| April 4                             | Blooming Prairie     | 5:30    |
| April 6                             | Blue Earth Area      | 5:30    |
| April 11                            | St. Peter            | 5:30    |
| April 18                            | at New Ulm           | 5:30    |
| April 21                            | at Medford           | 4:30    |
| April 22                            | DH at Worthington    | 1 a.m.  |
| April 25                            | at St. Peter         | 5:30    |
| April 27                            | DH vs. Fairmont      | 4:30    |
| May 1                               | at Rochester Lourdes | 4:30    |
| May 2                               | Maple River          | 5:30    |
| May 4                               | New Ulm              | 5:30    |
| May 6                               | DH at Marshall       | 11 a.m. |
| May 9                               | St. Clair            | 4:30    |
| May 11                              | at Sibley East       | 4:30    |
| May 16                              | at WEM, 4:30         |         |
| May 18                              | at Tri-City United   | 4:30    |
| May 20                              | at JWP               | 2 p.m.  |
| May 23, 25, 27                      | Section tournament   |         |
| June 1                              | Section finals       |         |

WHS baseball squad looks to light up the scoreboard

By JIM LUTGENS  
Sports Editor

If you're a fan of the Waseca High School baseball team and plan on attending any games this spring, it might be a good idea to pack a lunch. There could be some long evenings. Hitting, according to second-year head coach Taylor Phelps, is the strength of the 2023 Bluejays. "Hitting is going to be the way to our success and our strength across the board," said Phelps. "We are hoping to put up big numbers this year." Last year's crew did just that, compiling a school-record .320 batting average. "Expectations are to maintain that, or at least get close to that again," explained Phelps. "Fielding-wise, I think we'll be just fine." The Jays finished 10-11 overall last year, but most of the losses came in Big South Conference play, where they went 1-9. "Graduates off that squad included Mason Dekruif, Jarret Ahlschlager and Carter McQuery. Dekruif batted .287 and committed just one error in 29 fielding chances. Ahlschlager hit

"Hitting is going to be the way to our success and our strength across the board."  
— Coach Taylor Phelps

.367 while McQuery batted .481 and had a 2.82 earned run average as a pitcher. Senior honorable mention all-conference selections Griffin Krautkremer and Tyson Reger lead the list of returnees, which includes seniors Elijah Biehn, Grant Cox, Payton Garza, Max Neaves, Oliver O'Brien and Kedrick Volkmann, and juniors Armando Baldaras, Nate Engel-Mueller, Shane Engel-Mueller, Logan Heyer, Michele Manghini, Titus Mokoff, Keaton Roeker, Joshua Teachout and Sebastian Teague. "We have six returning seniors and then two juniors returning that got serious innings last year, so we should be pretty competitive," said Phelps. "And that's the biggest goal for us too here, to compete in every game and make sure that we are do what we're supposed to be doing."

Phelps is looking for leadership from Garza, Reger and the rest of the 12th-graders. "Every one of the seniors I'm expecting to really lead us and make sure that they're keeping everybody else in check," said Phelps. Reger, who has signed to play baseball at Bethany Lutheran College, looks to anchor the pitching staff, with help from Garza, Teague and others. Reger threw a no-hitter against WEM last spring. While Phelps is hopeful the Bluejays' bats will be able to keep them in games, he said adjusting to new positions is key to their overall success, as is continued improvement in all aspects of the game. "As a team, we need players to step in where they might be comfortable and be able to compete in those positions," said the coach. Phelps, assisted by Bob Lueken,



**FINAL SEASON** — Seniors on the WHS baseball team are, from left, Eljan Biehn, Tyson Reger, Kedrick Volkmann, Grant Cox, Griffin Krautkermer, Oliver O'Brien, Payton Garza and Max Neaves.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

listed Fairmont as the Big South favorite, with New Ulm, Belle Plaine, Sibley East and NRHEG leading the way in the section. "We're looking to compete in every game," said Phelps. "There's going to be a lot of moving parts. We got Max Neaves, a stud on the football team, coming out this year. He hasn't played in a few years. We got Max Wirtz, same kind of thing. He's a sophomore, but he hasn't played in two or three years. We have a solid core group of guys. They know that

we want to have fun, but you've got to get the job done, too."

|        |                    |         |
|--------|--------------------|---------|
| May 6  | DH vs. Worthington | Noon    |
| May 9  | at St. Peter       | 4 p.m.  |
| May 11 | at WEM             | 4:30    |
| May 13 | DH at Marshall     | 11 a.m. |
| May 16 | Sibley East        | 5:30    |
| May 18 | Belle Plaine       | 5:30    |
| May 20 | JWP                | 6 p.m.  |
| May 25 | Section tournament |         |
| June 1 | Section tournament |         |
| June 3 | Section tournament |         |
| June 6 | Section tournament |         |
| June 8 | Section tournament |         |

| WASECA HIGH SCHOOL<br>2023 BASEBALL |                  |         |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------|
| April 4                             | BP at Austin     | 4:30    |
| April 6                             | at LCWM          | 5 p.m.  |
| April 10                            | Kenyon-Wanamingo | 4:30    |
| April 11                            | Medford          | 5:30    |
| April 18                            | at New Ulm       | 5:30    |
| April 21                            | at LeSueur-H     | 4:30    |
| April 22                            | at Maple River   | 11 a.m. |
| April 25                            | St. Peter        | 5:30    |
| April 28                            | DH vs. Fairmont  | 4:30    |
| May 2                               | New Ulm          | 5:30    |
| May 4                               | TCU              | 5:30    |



**READY WHEN THE WEATHER IS** — Seniors on the 2023 WHS golf teams are, front from left, Hailey Dettmer and Miranda Breck. Back: Zander Honstad, Will King, Ethan Adams. Not pictured: Lindsey Kopetzki, Megan Kanewischer.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

New coach takes the reins for Waseca High golf teams

By JIM LUTGENS  
Sports Editor

New head coach Anthony Scheid doesn't know the exact records for the 2022 Waseca High School golf teams, but it doesn't much matter. He's not looking back. And a whole horde of returning letterwinners leaves the first-year coach feeling optimistic for the 2023 season. The boys return no less than 12 athletes: seniors Alexander Honstad and Ethan Adams, juniors Cody Vagtz, Charlie Cariveau, Preston Miller and Seath Eaton, and sophomores Hunter Anderson, Owen Wilder, Reed Anderson, Max Bodenweiser, Collin Dettmer and Alex Adams. Ten girls return as letterwinners: seniors Miranda Breck, Megan Kanewischer, Lindsay Kopetzki and Hailey Dettmer, juniors Tricia Cox, Emma Keith and Trista Steinhart, and sophomores Mia Kanewischer, Lexi Kanewischer and Avery Gaul. Scheid is excited for the season. "We want to help everyone im-

"I'm excited to help these young athletes become better people and golfers."  
— Coach Anthony Scheid

prove their scoring average," said Scheid. "We want to compete, with a chance to make it to state as a team and individuals." He likes what he's seen so far. "I think all our golfers are great student-athletes willing to learn and get better at the game of golf," said Scheid. "Our weakness right now is the weather. When will the snow leave us?" The key to success for the 2023 Bluejays, according to Scheid, is having fun on the course with the ability to move on and focus on the next shot. "I'm excited to help these young athletes become better people and golfers while instilling a fun atmosphere," said Scheid, an 8th-year Waseca teacher who's assisted by Maren Peterson.

| WASECA HIGH SCHOOL<br>2023 GOLF |                            |        |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| April 11                        | Home invite                | 4 p.m. |
| April 13                        | Belle Plaine               | 4 p.m. |
| April 18                        | Boys vs. BPr.              | 4 p.m. |
| April 20                        | Girls at Faribault         | 2:30   |
| April 21                        | Girls at Mankato East      | 2:30   |
| April 24                        | Girls at Waseca            | 4 p.m. |
| April 24                        | Boys' at Fairmont          | 4 p.m. |
| May 1                           | Girls at Jackson           | 4 p.m. |
| May 1                           | Boys at New Ulm            | 4 p.m. |
| May 2                           | Girls at Waseca            | 4 p.m. |
| May 2                           | Boys at Shoreland CC       | 2 p.m. |
| May 8                           | Girls at Riverside         | 3 p.m. |
| May 8                           | Boys at Shoreland          | 3 p.m. |
| May 11                          | St. Clair                  | 4 p.m. |
| May 15                          | Boys at Dacotah Ridge      | 9 a.m. |
| May 15                          | Girls at Dacotah Ridge     | 1:30   |
| May 16                          | at Tri-City United         | 2 p.m. |
| May 23                          | at LeSueur-Henderson       | 1 p.m. |
| May 30                          | Girls sect. at N. Prague   | 5 p.m. |
| May 31                          | Boys sect. at N. Prague    | Noon   |
| June 6                          | Sect. finals at New Prague |        |

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# Ready for a run at a title

High hopes for WHS girls' track

**By JIM LUTGENS**  
Sports Editor

After finishing second in the conference and second at the section level last year and a strong group of seniors this spring, the prospects are bright for the Waseca High School girls' track and field team.

The Bluejays graduated a slew of talent last year in nine seniors, including state entrants Samara Johnson and Maddie Thompson, but they return five talented seniors among nine returning letterwinners.

The returnees are seniors Sam Azure (sprints, throws, jumps), Ella Dufault (distance), Thyme Lang (hurdles, jumps), Camille Ring (hurdles, jumps) and Kyra Hoof (distance), juniors Sarah Haley (sprints) and Evelyn O'Brien (distance), and sophomores Callie Dufault (distance) and Gabby Lopez (sprints).

The rest of the roster includes seniors Olivia Frye, Inez Sanchez and Charlie Steglich, juniors Haydn Lynch, Evelyn O'Brien and Olivia Osterich, sophomores Brooklyn Flatau, Sierra Krause, Melanie Krueger-Einke, Kennedy Lynch, Lucia Mansfield, Camila Marquez, Neveah Sampson, Ashley Sanchez and Kalea Sartori, 9th-graders Ava Bruhn, Kelsey Draeger, Layla Keith and Vivian Mader, 8th-grader Stella Omtvedt and 7th-grader Maren Schimming.

"We've got some great leaders,"

"Our seniors will set the tone."  
— Waseca coach Dave Abel

said head coach Dave Abel. "I expect those guys to be pretty vocal."

Abel, who spent nine seasons as an assistant coach, enters his 18th year as head coach of the Bluejays, assisted by Brad Wendland (17th year, throws), Grant Popp (5th year, distance), Robb Winterfeld (2nd year, hurdles) and Kira Fosburgh (1st year, sprints, jumps).

"We have good numbers in our sophomore group and some 'new-to-track' athletes that we will need to step up and fill some roles for us," said Abel. "Sierra Krause, Camila Marquez, Kalea Sartori, Haydn Lynch, and Brooklyn Flatau come to mind as athletes who can make an impact this season."

As for goals and expectations, they remain high.

"Our season goals are pretty consistent year in and year out," said Abel. "We expect to compete for the conference championship, qualify for True Team state and move as many athletes on to state as we can."

And this year offers more opportu-



**VARSITY GIRLS—** The 2023 Waseca High School girls' track and field team. Front from left: Ava Bruhn, Kennedy Lynch, Lucia Mansfield, Maren Schimming, Ashley Sanchez and Vivian Mader. Row two: Charlie Steglich, Sarah Haley, Haydn Lynch, Inez Sanchez, Cami Marquez, Thyme Lang and Kelsey Draeger. Back: Kalea Sartori, Kya Hoof, Camille Ring and Sam Azure. Not pictured: Callie Dufault, Ella Dufault, Evie O'Brien, Stella Omtvedt, Sierra Krause, Gaby Lopez, Layla Keith, Melanie Krueger, Brooklyn Flatau, Neveah Sampson, Olivia Osteriech.

ities to compete at state.

"Track has been reclassified from two classes to three," said Abel. "We are in the new AA class and are competing in a new section as well. There are still a few unknowns and uncertainties about how things will play out. We think we can compete very well in this new setup. We stack up pretty well against this new group of teams. Last year's experience has helped us understand where to focus and told us we can really make

an impact at the section meet."

With 12 letterwinners anchoring the team and 29 total girls out for track, Abel believes the Bluejays will be strong in the distance, hurdles, long jump and throws.

"We will need some girls to step up and create the depth we need to really score well as a team," said Abel.

Avoiding injury is also key.

"Staying healthy is a must," said Abel. "Athletes stepping up will be

important to our success. Our seniors will set the tone and we will do as well as a team as they do. If we do what we are capable of doing, we can score well as a team."

The Big South favorites are the "usual suspects," according to Abel, and include Fairmont and Marshall. Byron, Winona and Stewartville are expected to be strong in the section.

| WASECA HIGH SCHOOL 2023 TRACK AND FIELD |                               |        |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|
| April 4                                 | Indoor at MSU                 | 5:30   |
| April 11                                | at Faribault                  | 4:30   |
| April 21                                | Home invite                   | 4 p.m. |
| April 28                                | at Plainview                  | 4 p.m. |
| May 2                                   | at St. Charles                | 4:30   |
| May 4                                   | at Mankato East               | 4 p.m. |
| May 9                                   | True Team at Faribault        | 3 p.m. |
| May 18                                  | Home invite                   | 4 p.m. |
| May 20                                  | True Team State at Stillwater |        |
| May 23                                  | Conference at Marshall        | 3 p.m. |
| June 1                                  | Section at Lakeville          |        |
| June 3                                  | Section at Lakeville          |        |
| June 9-10                               | State at St. Michael-Alb.     |        |

# Goals remain the same for WHS boys' track team

Bluejays have high aspirations

**By JIM LUTGENS**  
Sports Editor

The goals remain the same for the Waseca High School boys' track and field team.

The Bluejays aim to do more than just contend.

"Our season goals are pretty consistent year in and year out," said head coach Dave Abel. "We expect to compete for the conference championship, qualify for True Team state and move as many athletes on to state as we can."

In those terms, last season was a success as Waseca finished second in the Big South Conference and fourth in Section 1AA. Six athletes graduated from that squad, including state finalist Max Gaytko.

The 2023 Bluejays are a senior-laden crew that includes returning lettermen Kyle Ahlschlager (sprints, jumps), Joe Feldkamp (distance), Eddie Herman (throws), Christian Rodriguez (sprints), Addison Sampson (hurdles, pole vault), Cole Schultz (hurdles), Cade Kalbow (distance) and Israel Nelson (sprints).

The other returnees from last year include juniors Kaeden Johnson (sprints) and Ethjan Stenzel (throws),

and sophomores Isaac Feldkamp (distance), Damarius Russell (sprints) and Micah Allen-Haas (sprints).

The remainder of the roster: juniors Tarun Ewest, Bobby Mortenson, Andrew Robran, Javonn Rodney, Colten Schroeder and Lucas Vasquez, sophomores Andy Baldaras, Tristan Godwin, Jacob Hadley, Tanner Hanson, Elijah Johanneck, Bennett Ludwig, Joe Mixteco, Carson Ohnstad, Cejay Pickett, Tauston Rupe and Cody Weber, and freshmen Wyatt Hager, Jordan Johnston, William Mansfield, Jett Rohl, Deron Russell, Zane Staloch and Brady Tloughan.

"We have good sophomore numbers and some good freshmen as well as some 'new-to-track' athletes that we will need to step up and fill some roles for us," said Abel. "Carson Ohnstad, Bennett Ludwig, Lucas Vasquez come to mind as athletes who can make an impact."

With 38 total athletes, 15 returning lettermen, a strong group of sprinters, long jumpers and throwers, Abel is confident the Bluejays will fill out their lineup nicely.

"We should be able to find some



**VARSITY BOYS —** The 2023 Waseca High School boys' track and field team. Front from left Tarun Ewest, Tristan Godwin, Cade Kalbow, Addison Sampson, Jett Rohl and Zane Staloch. Row two: Joe Mixteco, Bobby Mortenson, Cody Weber, Ethan Stenzel, Lucas Vasquez, Damarius Russell, Kaeden Johnson, Bennett Ludwig, Carson Ohnstad and Kyle Ahlschlager. Back: Wyatt Hager, Joe Feldkamp, Eddie Herman, Colton Schroeder, Andrew Robran, Isaac Feldkamp, Javonn Rodney, Andy Baldaras, Jacob Hadley, Micah Allen-Haas, Deron Russell and Cole Schultz. Not pictured: Tauston Rupe, Jordan Johnston, Will Mansfield, Brady Tloughan, Israel Nelson and Christian Rodriguez.

gems in the group to fill the needed areas on the team," stated Abel, who added that the Jays still need to find more depth in the middle distance and improve in the triple jump, high jump and hurdles.

"We are going to be able to compete very well in the sprints, and have good top-of-the-line guys in the pole vault, long jump, and discus," said Abel. "We will need to find some guys to fill the other spots to really score well as a team."

Abel pointed at Fairmont, Marshall and St. Peter as the preseason Big East favorites and believes Faribault and Plainview-Elgin-Millville to be strong in Section 1AA.

The state meet moves from two classes to three this year.

"We are in the new AA class and are competing in a new section as well," said Abel. There are still a few unknowns and uncertainties about

how things will play out. We think we can compete very well in this new setup. We stack up pretty well against this new group of teams."

| WASECA HIGH SCHOOL 2023 TRACK AND FIELD |                               |        |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|
| April 4                                 | Indoor at MSU                 | 5:30   |
| April 11                                | at Faribault                  | 4:30   |
| April 21                                | Home invite                   | 4 p.m. |
| April 28                                | at Plainview                  | 4 p.m. |
| May 2                                   | at St. Charles                | 4:30   |
| May 4                                   | at Mankato East               | 4 p.m. |
| May 9                                   | True Team at Faribault        | 3 p.m. |
| May 18                                  | Home invite                   | 4 p.m. |
| May 20                                  | True Team State at Stillwater |        |
| May 23                                  | Conference at Marshall        | 3 p.m. |
| June 1                                  | Section at Lakeville          |        |
| June 3                                  | Section at Lakeville          |        |
| June 9-10                               | State at St. Michael-Alb.     |        |



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# Lots of spots up for grabs on WHS boys’ tennis team

**By JIM LUTGENS**  
Sports Editor

A break-even season would be about right for the Waseca High School boys' tennis team, according to 21st-year head coach Kyle Collins.

"Realistically, we hope to finish around .500," said Collins. "All seven varsity positions are up for grabs. It might take us awhile to see where everyone fits into the lineup."

The Bluejays, 5-11 overall and 1-4 in the Big South Conference East last year, graduated just two players, but they made up the No. 1 doubles duo.

"Hunter Supalla and Victor Feeley were 8-3 together and were a very solid No. 1 doubles team for us last season. They will be tough to replace."

Leading the 2023 Bluejays are senior co-captains Jacari Jellum and Jenaro Delgado.

The other returning letterwinners are juniors Oliver Rohwer, Dominic Grunzke and Ahmet Farooq, sophomore Tyler Jellum and 8th-grader Henry Huttemier.

The remainder of the roster includes senior Corbin Connors, juniors Jan Schoen and Eddy Gallegos, sophomores Nick Waldron, Aiden Groskreutz, Liam Hagre, Lucas McQuery an Brayden Hoof, freshmen Allan Kopetzki, Jacob Root, Brythton Rugger and Matt Veroeven, 8th-graders Trey Jenzen, Dawson Goodlander, Otto Schoenrock and Gavin O'Brien, and 7th-graders Armaan Bhatti and Kyler Carlson.

"We have a lot of returning letterwinners and our team chemistry should be pretty good with leadership from our seniors."

In order to be successful, Collins said the Bluejays need constency and hard work.

St. Peter and New Ulm are the preseason favorites in the conference, according to Collins, who picks Rochester Lourdes to lead Section 1A. Collins, who has a career record of 182-133, is assisted by Paul Marlin..

"Our varsity players do not have a lot of playing experience," said Collins. "Many are playing on the varsity for only the second year."



**LEADERSHIP —** Upperclassmen for the WHS boys’ tennis team are, front from left: Lucas Mcquery,Ahmed Farooq, Corbin Connors, Oliver Rohwer, Armaan Bahtti, Otto Schoenrock, Tyler Jellum. Back: Dominic Grunzke, Allen Kopetzki, Jacari Jellum, J.D. Delgado, Henry Huttemier, Jan Schoen, Trey Jenzen, Nicholas Waldron.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

| WASECA HIGH SCHOOL 2023 BOYS' TENNIS |               |        |          |                    |      |            |                      |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------|----------|--------------------|------|------------|----------------------|
| April 4                              | at Lake City  | 4:30   | April 18 | Redwood Valley     | 4:30 | May 6      | at Stewartville Inv. |
| April 6                              | at Lake City  | 4:30   | April 20 | Fairmont           | 4:30 | May 9      | Lake City            |
| April 11                             | at Faribault  | 4 p.m. | April 24 | at New Prague      | 4:15 | May 11     | at St. Peter         |
| April 13                             | at Blue Earth | 4:30   | April 25 | at Schaeffer Acad. | 4:30 | May 18     | Section tournament   |
| April 17                             | St. James     | 4:30   | May 1    | Rochester Lourdes  | 4:30 | May 23, 25 | Section tournament   |
|                                      | Red Wing      | 4:30   | May 2    | New Ulm            | 4:30 |            |                      |
|                                      |               |        | May 4    | at Worthington     | 4:30 |            |                      |



**VARSITY VETERANS —** Returnees for the NRHEG girls’ track and field team, are, in front, McKenzie Mueller. Back: Holly Bartness, Josie Strom, Quinn VanMaldeghem, Malonna Wilson, Sierra Misgen, Anika Ladlie, Evelyn Nydegger, and Lauren Cowell.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

# NRHEG track & field girls expect exciting season

**By JIM LUTGENS**  
Sports Editor

It should be an exciting spring for the NRHEG High School girls' track and field team.

The Gopher Conference championship, according to coach Duey Ferber, does not appear out of reach.

"I think the Gopher Conference is wide open this year," said Ferber, whose squad finished second in last year's conference meet.

While the Panthers are not blessed with great overall numbers, they hope the quality of their athletes will be enough to bring home a title.

A long list of athletes graduated last spring: Brittyn Anderson, Cora Harpel, Madison Johannsen, Natalie Johnson, Journey Utpadel, Torri Vaale and manager Brittney Rocha.

Decorated returnees include junior Evelyn Nydegger, the MVP of last year's squad, school-record holder and state qualifier Quinn VanMaldeghem, a freshman, and high-jumper Anika Ladlie, who missed state by one place last year as a 7th-grader.

Also returning are junior Kyra Spies, a two-time section qualifier, and juniors McKenzie Mueller, Malonna Wilson and Lauren Cowell in the throwing events. Ferber also expects points from senior Josie Strom and sophomore Sierra Misgen in the sprints, and freshman Holly Bartness in several events.

"Holly Bartness is like a jack of all trades," said Ferber. "She does anywhere from distance to sprinting. Quinn VanMaldeghem was our only state participant last year. She's got a good chance of going again. Ladlie has been jumping out of the gym right now. The way she's jumping, I would put money on her to possibly go to state."

Strom and Olivia Kofstad are the Panthers' lone seniors.

The rest of the roster: juniors Kyra Cain, Keira Lenort and Annabelle Petsinger, sophomores Elise Aronson and Madisyn Langfit, freshmen Janelle Garrido, Molly Johnson, Lexi McGannon, Winter Peterson, Chloe Riewer, Ava Schember, Gabby Schlaak and Emma Yokiel, 8th-graders Clara Buendorf, Orianna Degan, Paige Johnson, Kylie Olson and Madi Schlaak, and 7th-grader Scarlett Chance.

Ferber enters his 34th season as head track and field coach in New Richland. Assistants are Larry Nydegger, Marc Kruger, Kim Johnson and Brian Belcourt.

Ferber lists JWP and Maple River as the preseason conference favorites. He feels the Panthers should be strong in the hurdles and jumps, but he's concerned about their overall depth.

"We need to have more than one person score in each event," said the coach, who stated that hard work and grit are the key to success for the 2023 Panthers.

"We lost a lot of people that were like on the fence," said Ferber. "Last year, they came out to experience it. And this year, I didn't have as many of those kids come out. Everybody that's out right now is serious about it, and they're here to get better and to win. So, it's exciting."

| NRHEG GIRLS' AND BOYS' TRACK & FIELD 2023 SCHEDULE |                  |         |  |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------|--|
| April 4                                            | at Hayfield      | 4:30    |  |
| April 11                                           | at USC           | 4:30    |  |
| April 18                                           | at Maple River   | 4:30    |  |
| April 25                                           | at Bl. Prairie   | 4:30    |  |
| April 28                                           | at Blue Earth    | 4:30    |  |
| May 4                                              | NRHEG Inv.       | 4:30    |  |
| May 9                                              | True Team at USC | 3 p.m.  |  |
| May 13                                             | Conf. at USC     | 10 a.m. |  |
| May 16 Jr. high conf.                              | at Triton        | 4:30    |  |
| May 18                                             | at Waseca        | 4 p.m.  |  |

# NRHEG track boys ready when the weather is

**By JIM LUTGENS**  
Sports Editor

It looks like all the bases are covered for the 2023 NRHEG High School boys' track and field team.

Now if the weather would just cooperate.

The Panthers start the season with plenty of depth, but a snow-covered track awaits the melting and the competing.

All of which makes the key to success for the Panthers, according to coach Duey Ferber, keeping his athletes healthy and, hopefully, getting outdoors very soon.

"We need to keep everyone healthy and able to compete in all the meets," said Ferber. "We need to work hard even if we can't get outside until the snow melts. We may lose some of our early outdoor meets due to snow still on the track."

The Panthers graduated four athletes off last year's squad: Eric Arvis, Jaxon Beck, Matthew Mueller and Nik Petsinger.

Expected to lead this year's Panthers are senior throwers Lucas Hanna and Makota Misgen and senior high jumper Sawyer Prigge, who has cleared 6 feet in practice. Ferber is also high on middle-distance man Conner Nelson, a senior, and quarter-miler Aidan Deyle, another senior. Juniors Parker Bunn, Levin Kitzer and William Tuttle are expected to score points in the hurdle events.

Junior Jaylin Raab is the top returning sprinter. Senior Aden Berg and sophomore Cole Hutchens figure to score in the throws.

The rest of the roster includes seniors Evan Beckmann, Sam Christensen and Brady Schlaak, sophomores Owen Bartlett, Harbor Cromwell, Cohen Riewer, Logan Scheil and Gavin Sletten, freshmen Charlie Fuller, Jacob Karl, Devon Nelton, Trevor Selover and Wyatt Tuttle, 8th-graders Jack Bartlett and Brendan Schmidt, and 7th-graders Remi Johnson, Rowan Sletten and Kenny Spies.

"We have some good athletes in most areas," said Ferber. "We should be strong in our sprints and sprint relays. Our long distance has some good younger athletes as well as some upper classmen. We have seven boy throwers who have a lot of potential this season. Our jumps have some returners to hopefully score some points. We have most of our bases covered. We have a lot of good hard working kids that love to be out there competing and trying to get better. Our upper classmen do a good job of showing the younger athletes how to work hard to succeed."

Ferber, in his 34th season in New Richland, is assisted by Larry Nydegger, Marc Kruger, Kim Johnson and Brian Belcourt.



**RETURNEES —** Back for the NRHEG boys’ track and field team are, front from left: Parker Bunn, Harbor Cromwell, Jacob Karl, Sam Christensen, Aidan Deyle, Sawyer Prigge. Back row: Gavin Sletten, Devon Nelton, Connor Nelson, Lucas Hanna, William Tuttle and Jaylin Raab.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

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Can the Panthers top 2022 season?

Division I signee, six returning letter winners offer good start

**By JIM LUTGENS**  
Sports Editor

Last spring was an exciting time for the NRHEG High School baseball team, which finished 12-5 overall, 8-3 for third in the Gopher Conference and fourth in Section 2AA.

So how can the 2023 Panthers top it?

"The best thing is we have a lot of guys returning," said fourth-year head coach Mark Lee.

As usual, they had some quality players graduate in Alex Dobberstein, Clay Stenzel, Ben Schoenrock and Tyrone Wilson, all two-year starters who would have been three-year starters if not for the COVID epidemic.

"That's a lot of experience we lost," said Lee.

It has left the coach wondering who's going to play where, but he has a pretty good idea.

"We don't really know what's happening with our infield and catching positions yet, but we've got an idea," said Lee. "We're going to be able to mix and match pretty well with some returning guys and some younger guys that are coming up with some good experience."

The Panthers return some out-

standing talent in Andrew Phillips, Ethan Thompson, Daxter Lee, Jackson Chrz., Sam Olson and Alden Dobberstein.

Phillips, a senior, is a two-time all-conference player, two-time team Gold Glove Award winner and MVP of the squad last spring. He's committed to play Division I baseball at South Dakota State.

Thompson, the team's Best Bat Award winner last season, was third team all-conference. Three-year letterman Daxter Lee has been the Panthers' Best Pitcher Award winner two years in a row, being named first team all-conference last year.

Olson, Chrz and Dobberstein figure to lead the pitching staff.

"Andrew Phillips will throw for as well," said Coach Lee. "We also got Jared Lee, a freshman, along with Aiden Schlaak and Aden Hanna, to go with it. At times, we're going to need as many arms as we can as the season goes on. But we've got three really solid starters, and we've got two to three really solid relievers. So



Mark Lee



**CAN THEY TOP IT? — Hoping to better last season for the NRHEG baseball team are, front from left: Dakota Malakowski, Jared Lee, Ethan Thompson, Andrew Phillips, Daxter Lee, Jace Ihrke. Back: Sam Olson, Jackson Chrz, Alden Dobberstein, Aiden Schlaak, Brian Possin and Aaden Hanna. Not pictured: Seth Staloch.**

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

I think we're gonna be really solid on the mound."

The Panthers look to be led by Phillips and Daxter Lee.

"Andrew is a quiet leader, but yet he's getting more vocal this year, which is good to see. Daxter, he's always a leader. He's not afraid to, you know, help the younger guys. He's helping Andrew do things. Those two work together off each other real well. So they're feeding off each other again this year."

Phillips and Thompson are the lone seniors.

Coach Lee looks forward to watching Phillips.

"There's just a lot of little things

that he does," said Lee. "Not everybody's going to see it, but us coaches, some of us coaches, could see it. His swing is a man's swing. And his speed is unbelievable. His technique at the plate is what sets him apart. It comes down to his work ethic. He's got the 'it' factor."

Coach Lee hopes the Panthers, sparked by experience, leadership and speed, can contend for the conference crown. Unfortunately, he lists the squad's biggest weakness as depth, meaning they'll probably need to stay healthy to enjoy success.

"We need our pitchers to throw lots of strikes and get early outs," said Lee. "Along with being active

on the bases."

Lee, assisted by Aaron Phillips and Shawn Larson, lists the conference favorites as Randolph, Hayfield, NRHEG and USC. Belle Plaine, New Ulm and Sibley East look to be the class of Section 2AA.

"I believe that they need to be reminded that we're a good team," said Lee. "I keep telling them that we're a good team. We feel that we can win our conference if a couple of things go our way. We've got a good conference, but I think that we're going to be right up there. We've got a mix of good athletes. We got a lot of good ball players."

**NRHEG BASEBALL**

| 2023 SCHEDULE |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| April 4       | USC 4:30               |
| April 6       | WEM 4:30               |
| April 11      | Blue Earth Area 5 p.m. |
| April 13      | Triton 5 p.m.          |
| April 15      | ML-GHEC Noon           |
| April 17      | at Randolph 4:30       |
| April 18      | at TCU 5 p.m.          |
| April 20      | at USC 4:30            |
| April 27      | BP at Austin 5 p.m.    |
| May 1         | Hayfield 4:30          |
| May 4         | at JWP 4:30            |
| May 5         | Pine Island 7 p.m.     |
| May 9         | Triton 4:30            |
| May 11        | vs. Kenyon-W 4:30      |
| May 15        | at Maple River 4:30    |
| May 16        | at Albert Lea 5 p.m.   |
| May 18        | Medford 4:30           |

Softball Panthers primed for Schultz's 25th and final season

**By JIM LUTGENS**  
Sports Editor

No matter what happens on the field, this will be an historic season for the NRHEG High School softball team.

It's the 25th, and final, year for Wendy Schultz as the Panthers' head coach.

"I'm just always excited before every season," said Schultz. "It's my 25th one. It's amazing, you know, how every year I'm just still equally as excited to get going for it."

The Panthers enjoyed another successful campaign last spring, finishing 15-7 overall and 9-2 in the Gopher Conference, tying Randolph for the conference championship.

Longtime starting pitcher Sophie Stork, shortstop Ava Kylo, Brenlee Knudson and Haley VanWinkle were the most notable graduates off last year's squad.

Stork was last year's NRHEG co-MVP and was named the Player of the Year in the Gopher Conference. Kylo won the team's Golden Glove and Golden Arm awards.

That's the biggest question for the 2023 Panthers. Who's going to handle the pitching duties? The top candidates are senior Sidney Schultz - Coach Schultz's daughter - junior Faith Nielsen, junior Erin Peterson and freshman Chloe Stork.

Returning starters include Sidney Schultz, last year's co-MVP and Golden Bat Award winner (with Kylo and Faith Nielsen), senior Bree Ihrke, Faith Nielsen, Preslie Nielsen

**"I'm excited before every season."  
— NRHEG coach Wendy Schultz**

and Hallie Schultz, who returns after missing the entire 2022 season with an injury.

Other varsity prospects include senior Trinity Smith Vulcan, juniors Isabel Stadheim, Elsie Schultz, Tayler Schmidt and Payton Bunn, sophomore Aryanna Howe and freshmen Camryn VanMaldeghem and Adalyn Stadheim.

The captains are Sidney Schultz, Hallie Schultz and Ihrke.

"Obviously it's going to be different not having a Sophie Stork," said Schultz. "She was a five-year starter for us, and obviously just a phenomenal athlete. We'll find out when the first pitch is thrown. I guess we'll probably use a combination of our pitchers, maybe go with the hot hand sort of thing. We'll see."

The Panthers figure to be led primarily by their seniors, Sidney Schultz, Ihrke and Smith Vulcan.

"We also have some other girls on the team that have been on for quite a while," said Schultz. "We have Hallie. It's nice to have her back, because last year, with her shoulder injury, she wasn't able to play with us. But, you know, I think it's just going to be a group effort with the practices we've had so far. It's almost two weeks now of being inside. Of course, they've all jelled really well."

Does knowing this is her last season coaching before retirement make this year anymore special for Coach Schultz?

"Yeah, I mean, it is," said Schultz. "It's weird. It was weird going into the first day of practice thinking that it would be the last one. But I'm just kind of trying not to think about that and just going about business like I normally would."

Sidney Schultz is entering her sixth varsity softball season.

"It's special, obviously, to coach one of your one of your kids," said Coach Schultz. "It's been fun seeing her development to a decent player. Every year, she's actually played a different position for us. We kind of just throw her in wherever we need her. She's just been so fortunate to have so many girls around her that are great athletes and just overall good people."

Schultz expects the Panthers to show continual improvement throughout the season and be playing their best ball at playoff time. She said the team has hard workers, speed and great attitudes. The biggest concern is players moving to positions they haven't played much.

State tournament qualifier Randolph returns almost its entire team and is the preseason Gopher Confer-



**PANTHER POWER — The 2023 NRHEG High School softball team. Front from left: Sidney Schultz, Isabel Stadheim. Second row from front: Addy Stadheim, Faith Nielsen, Aryanna Howe, Preslie Nielsen. Back: Camryn VanMaldeghem, Hallie Schultz, Payton Bunn, Bree Ihrke, Erin Peterson, Tayler Schmidt, coach Wendy Schultz, and Trinity Smith Vulcan.**

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

| NRHEG SOFTBALL<br>2023 SCHEDULE |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| April 4                         | Blue Earth Area 4:30 |
| April 6                         | at WEM 4:30          |

|          |                         |
|----------|-------------------------|
| April 10 | Randolph 4:30           |
| April 14 | at Triton 4:30          |
| April 17 | ML-GHEC 4:30            |
| April 20 | USC 4:30                |
| April 21 | at TCU 4 p.m.           |
| April 24 | at Faribault BA 4:30    |
| April 27 | Bl. Prairie 4:30        |
| May 1    | at Hayfield 4:30        |
| May 4    | JWP 4:30                |
| May 5    | Tourney at Caswell Park |
| May 6    | Tourney at Caswell Park |

|        |                     |
|--------|---------------------|
| May 9  | BP at U of M 6 p.m. |
| May 11 | Kenyon-W 4:30       |
| May 12 | Austin 4:30         |
| May 15 | Maple River 4:30    |
| May 18 | at Medford 4:30     |
| May 19 | Southland 4:30      |



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Leadership is key for JWP baseball

By MICHAEL ROY  
Staff Writer

Just like the batters of the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton baseball team, the spring sports season is in full swing.

This year brings a lot of optimism for the Bulldogs' baseball team. Head coach Cory Jewison will be returning for his third year of coaching the varsity team with assistant coach Tyler Fellows at his side.

**2022 Season**

It was a bit of a tougher campaign for the Bulldog sluggers in 2022. After a 2-0 start, they went 5-14. They did put on a respectable performance at Rushford-Peterson — who were 10-6 — in the first round of Section 1A playoffs, but lost 5-4.

**Key Returnees and Losses**

The Bulldogs return seniors Kelton Erler, Ian Barnes, and Ryan Hanson; juniors Gavin Krause, Nolan Morsching, Ty Melchior, Josh Bengston, Cole Blomstrom, Cole Gartner, Austin Carda, and Austin Quast; and sophomores Ethan Born and Lucas Morsching.

Erler, the team's catcher, earned

third team all-conference last season and was named team MVP and Silver Slugger Award winner. Hanson was named the Most Improved Player. Krause, along with Erler and Hanson, is a three-year letterwinner.

Barnes, Morsching, Melchior, Bengston, and Blomstrom are two-year letter winners. Jewison called Melchior the team's "Cy Young."

Key player losses for the team are Blake Cowdin and Jonny Daschner. Cowdin was a starting pitcher who pitched 24 full innings for the team and was a three-year letterwinner. "He had great on-the-field leadership at shortstop," Jewison said.

Daschner was the team's utility player in the infield. A three-year letter winner, he also pitched 10 innings for the team. "He had a great on-base percentage and was a great base runner," Jewison added.

**Expectations**

This year, Jewison expects the team to massively improve on their 5-14 record from 2022. "We have eight returning letterwinners, seven of them starters," he explained. "Last season was a difficult season for us,



**BASEBALL —** The 2023 JWP High School baseball team. Front from left: Drake Hershberger, Cole Blomstrom, Jaxon Miller, Ethan Born, Chase Gerdts, Austin Carda, Lucas Morsching, Dylan McWaters, and Nolan Morsching. Back: assistant coach Tyler Fellows, Gavin Krause, Josh Bengtson, Ian Barnes, Ryan Hanson, Kelton Erler, Austin Quast, Cole Gartner, Ty Melchior, manager Avery Fall, and head coach Cory Jewison.

but it was also a learning season for lots of players."

**Strengths and Weaknesses**

What will give the team a better chance to prosper this season is having most players on the roster with valuable varsity experience over the years. "The team has a determination to be better," Jewison said.

Their offense, which showed sparks of potential last season, was noted as another strength.

According to Jewison, weaknesses of the team are team defense and pitching. With a regular pitcher from last season out of the lineup, it could present a challenge.

**Key to Success**

"We'll have to rely on strong leadership from the upperclassmen this season," Jewison said. "Holding each other accountable will also be important. We have a lot of new players stepping into big roles."

**Favorites**

Coach Jewison said the conference favorites this season will be New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva and Maple River. Maple River was eliminated from the Section 2AA quarterfinal before NRHEG defeated them in the elimination quarterfinal. NRHEG made it to the Section 2AA semifinals before

getting eliminated.

Section 1A favorites are Lyle-Pacelli and Southland. Lyle made it to the Section 1A championship bracket finals before getting shut out by Hayfield; Southland then defeated them before getting eliminated by Hayfield in the Section 1A final.

**Additional Comments**

"I am excited for this season," Jewison said. "Regardless of wins or losses, I have seen so much improvement on the upperclassmen's leadership. They have all taken such pride in being leaders here at JWP. I think good things will happen if they continue this leadership."

| JWP HIGH SCHOOL 2003 BASEBALL |                     |        |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| April 11                      | BP at Austin        | 4:30   |
| April 14                      | at St. Clair        | 4:30   |
| April 17                      | at Kenyon-W         | 4:30   |
| April 21                      | Triton              | 4:30   |
| April 29                      | Madelia             | Noon   |
| May 1                         | at Medford          | 5 p.m. |
| May 2                         | at Glenville-Emmons | 4:30   |
| May 5                         | Goodhue             | 5 p.m. |
| May 9                         | Hayfield            | 4:30   |
| May 11                        | at Randolph         | 4:30   |
| May 12                        | at Loyola           | 4:30   |
| May 18                        | at USC              | 5 p.m. |
| May 19                        | at NU Cathedral     | 4:30   |
| May 20                        | at Waseca           | 6 p.m. |



**RETURNEES —** Among returning players for JWP High School golf are, front from left: Steven Dimmel, Jeffrey Simonson, Hope Dimmel, Tyler Melson, and Carter Miller. Back: coach Mike Gardner, Alex James, Ryan Kronbach, Logan Thell, and coach Brandon Goebel.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

Bulldog golf teams hope to challenge in section tourney

By MICHAEL ROY  
Staff Writer

Everyone may be filling the stands to watch baseball, softball, or even track and field. But one thing has been consistent with Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton's golfers: Whether it's one person or a thousand people watching them on the course, they've been consistently, historically good.

Last year was head coach Mike Gardner's first season with the Bulldogs. An avid golfer, he took a great program from former coach Sharon Keyes (who under her final few years saw the girls make state twice) and has been able to maintain its winning ways. He hopes to see the boys' team — which played well last season — improve even more.

2021 was a great year for the Bulldogs. The boys had a nice showing, but the girls took the spotlight winning the Gopher Conference title and Section 2A crown. The team did well at the state tournament, too.

With most of the 2021 girls' team leaving in 2022, it was not as big of a year. However, siblings Kirsten and Logan Thell made the state tourna-

ment. Kirsten ended her high school career placing 33rd out of all girls' golfers, while Logan made the top 20 in the boys' portion.

The team returns most of its golfers from last season, four for the boys alone.

Thell, a junior, will be on the team for the third year in a row. Aside from making the top 20 in the state tournament, Thell also was the Gopher Conference Player of the Year.

Also returning to the team are Steven Dimmel, Alex James, Carter Miller, and girls' golfer Hope Dimmel. Hope was an all-conference honorable mention last season.

Key losses for the girls are Kirsten Thell, who graduated last year, and sophomore Ariana Aguilar, who will focus solely on track and field this year. Ethan Moravec, a reliable golfer for the boys, also graduated last season, and James Bleess will not return to the team for his senior year.

Coach Gardner knows that this season will be a tough one for the golfers. "We're looking to get a strong conference finish against AA teams," he says. "I also want us to

fight for a state appearance."

Gardner noted that a strength of the Bulldog golfers is having many returning players with experience in tournament play. He feels that this team does not have any notable weaknesses.

Gardner strongly believes that JWP is a section favorite but noted Blooming Prairie as the more favorable conference winner.

"We have a chance to make an impact this season," Gardner says. "We won many events last year and only got better over the season."

| JWP HIGH SCHOOL 2023 GOLF |                     |         |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| April 14                  | at Kenyon           | 4:30    |
| April 20                  | Home invite         | 4:30    |
| April 21                  | Girls vs. MTML      | 4:30    |
| April 22                  | Boys at Bl.Prairie  | 4:30    |
| April 25                  | at Blooming Prairie | 4:30    |
| April 27                  | Home invitational   | 1 p.m.  |
| April 28                  | Boys vs. MTML       | 1:30    |
| May 4                     | Home Inv.           | 4:30    |
| May 11                    | Girls at Kenyon     | 4:30    |
| May 12                    | Boys at Kenyon      | 4:30    |
| May 16                    | at NRHEG            | TBD     |
| May 18                    | at Waseca           | 10 a.m. |

JWP softball team returns almost all

By MICHAEL ROY  
Staff Writer

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton softball team may have an advantage over a few other teams this season; almost everyone is returning to their roster.

"That definitely helps us," head coach Megan Christopher says.

Christopher is returning for her sixth season as head coach for the softball team. Joining her this year to assist is Madison Loken, a JWP graduate who played while Christopher was just starting as a head coach.

The girls may have to wait a little bit to head onto the field this season. Their game against Martin Luther-GHEC-Truman Monday, April 3 was postponed to May due to wet field conditions.

**2021, 2022 Seasons**

The team has shown potential the past two seasons. However, it hasn't always translated to wins. A 3-10 season in 2021 was followed by a 1-14 record in 2022 despite satisfactory pitching in both seasons. If there was one saving grace for the JWP softball team last season, their one win came against Randolph, who split the Gopher Conference title with NRHEG and eventually took third place in the Class A state tournament.

Coach Christopher has always expected her upperclassmen to lead by example, and it will be no different this season.

"We have four seniors returning to the team this season," she said. "We'll be leaning on them to lead the team."

**Key Returnees and Loss**

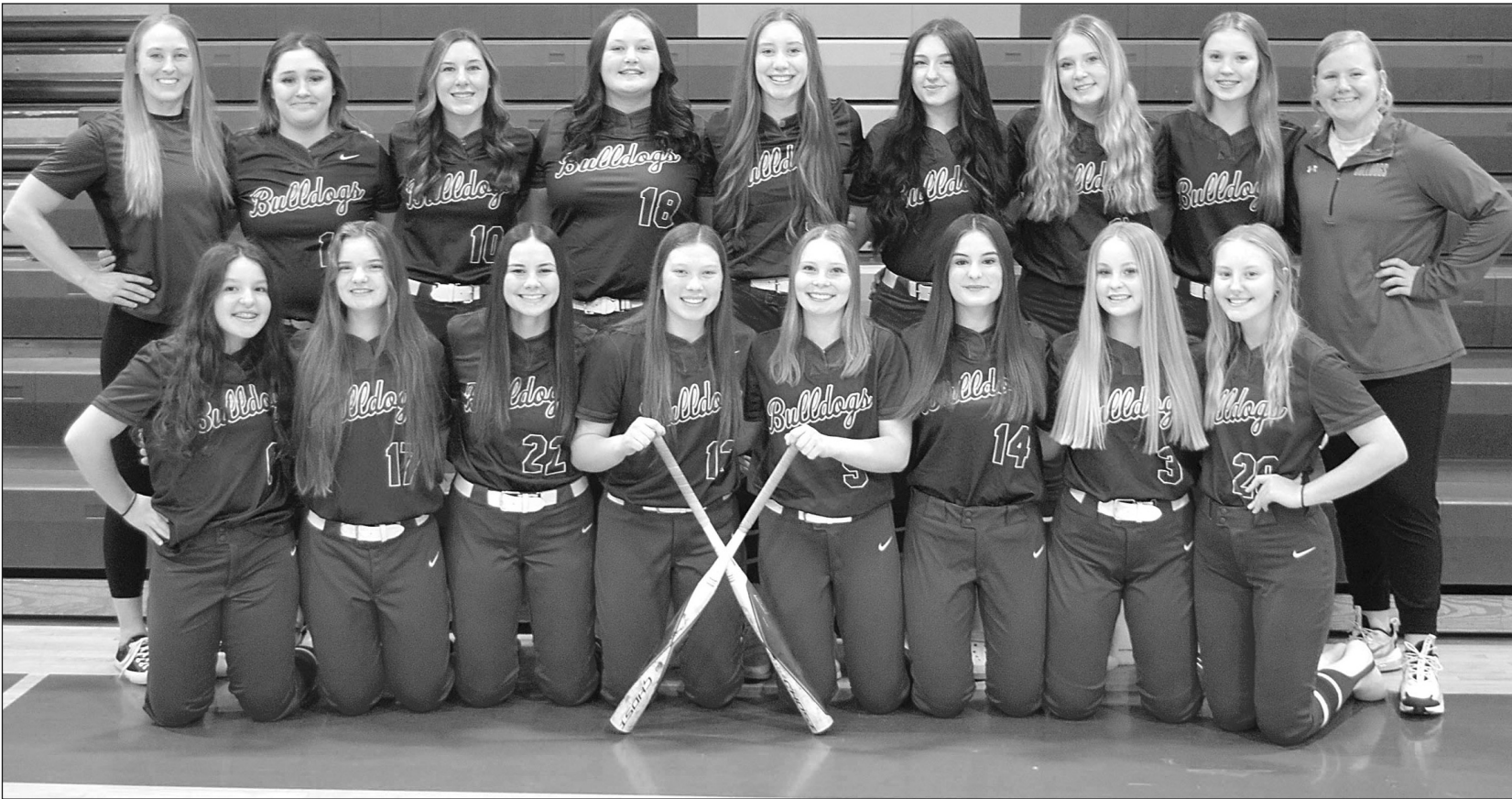
The four seniors Christopher talked about were Jessa Westphal, Isabelle Rider, Vanessa TerBeest, and Molly Snesrud. TerBeest was the starting pitcher for the Bulldogs last season and pitched some in 2021. Westphal provided great leadership (usually at first base) along with Rider at the catcher position.

Also returning to the team are juniors Lexie Dahlberg and sophomores Ellah Oliver and Brielle Dessner. Oliver was the lone all-conference recipient on the team, earning third-team honors. Both Dahlberg and Dessner were also reliable hitters for the team, with Dessner even hitting a couple of home runs.

The two losses to the team are Gracie Bluhm, who provided some great offense to the team, and graduate Lilli Cahill.

**Strengths and Weaknesses**

Strengths to this team are their depth of players with varsity experience and having a seasoned pitcher



**SOFTBALL —** The 2023 JWP High School softball team. Front from left: Lily Quast, Kaylie Langford, Brielle Dessner, Lexie Dahlberg, Victoria Blomstrom, Addison Miller, Lily Ewert, and Ellah Oliver. Back: head coach Megan Christopher, Molly Snesrud, Izzy Rider, Autumn Thissen, Jessa Westphal, Vanessa TerBeest, Aubrey Adams, Brielle James, and assistant coach Madison Loken.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

like TerBeest on the mound.

"Our seniors are also great leaders on the team," Christopher added.

A potential weakness is the lack of consistency on offense, which put them in tough situations last season. Christopher hopes that another year under the belt of most starters on the team will help them win more games.

**Key to Success**

"We need to play as a team," Christopher summarized. "If we do that, we have a chance to win in every game we play."

**Favorites**

Randolph and NRHEG are favorites in the Gopher Conference this

year, as both of them split the conference title last year. In Section 1A, Hayfield or Bethlehem Academy may be favored.

| JWP HIGH SCHOOL 2023 SOFTBALL |                  |      |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------|
| April 11                      | Blooming Prairie | 4:30 |
| April 13                      | at Hayfield      | 4:30 |
| April 17                      | at Kenyon-W      | 4:30 |
| April 18                      | at Triton        | 4:30 |

|          |             |         |
|----------|-------------|---------|
| April 20 | at WEM      | 4:30    |
| April 22 | at MCW Inv. | 10 a.m. |
| April 28 | Nicollet    | 4:30    |
| May 1    | Medford     | 4:30    |
| May 2    | AC/GE       | 4:30    |
| May 5    | MTMLGHEC    | 4:30    |
| May 11   | Randolph    | 4:30    |
| May 13   | Home Invite | 10 a.m. |
| May 18   | USC         | 4:30    |
| May 19   | Waseca      | 2 p.m.  |



JWP track teams hope to push for championships

By MICHAEL ROY  
Staff Writer

While the weather to start this spring is predictably indecisive, the JWP track and field teams are already showing promise, both taking first place in two of three meets already taking place this season.

Although the standards set by the track teams of the past are still the same, there are a lot of changes to the coaching staff. With both co-head coaches Jessica Keenan and Mike Dimler stepping down after last year, first-year head coach Sam Schruin will take the reins.

Helping him are coaches John Kaplan, Scott Thompson, Liz Kvebak, Eric Kehoe, and Andrea Kronbach. Also assisting are volunteer coaches Mike and Katie Cahill and Tim Johnson and managers Ali Olson and Kylee Hanks.

**2022 Season**

Last year, the girls could brag that they were better than the boys. They became Gopher Conference champions, and the 4x400 relay team of Lilly Strauss, Claire Adams, Ashlin Keyes, and Madison Kunst eventually broke a record that was unchallenged for over two decades.

However, the representation at the state from both teams was equal. Strauss competed in the long jump while Jack Cahill (who placed 2nd in Section 2A) competed in the pole vault for the second consecutive season.

**Key Returnees**

This year's team will keep a lot of its athletes from last season. Both state participants — Strauss and Cahill — returning. Both also earned Academic All-State honors.

Many other girls make their return: Ashlin Keyes (who holds the school record in the high jump and the 4x400 relay) and Madison Kunst (a member of the record-holding 4x400 team from last season), Strauss, and Kwynn Krause are just

four of the many returning. Kunst, Krause, and Strauss were All-Conference recipients.

For the boys, senior Michael VanRavenhorst, juniors Memphis James and Ryan Kronbach, sophomores Luke Cahill and Alexander Kleve, and many others will make an impact. Jack Cahill is returning as an All-Conference athlete from last season.

**Key Losses**

The girls lost a few valuable athletes. Claire Adams, who helped the 4x400 break a record, graduated last season. Other athletes gone to graduation are Sydney Gahlon (a reliable relay and mid-distance runner), Sammi Wehking (a top pole vaulter who previously held a school record), and Elizabeth White (a mid-distance runner).

The boys will be missing three athletes: thrower Deacon Dahlberg, runner Gable Adams, and runner Dylan Sheeran.

**Team Expectations**

It is very possible that both teams could go far this season. They have shown a lot of promise already at the indoor meets. The girls could very well compete for the conference title again, with the boys also having a shot at it.

"Throughout the season, I want the team to positively develop socially, mentally, and physically," Schruin explained. "While developing resiliency, I also want them to have fun."

**Team Strengths**

Both the boys and girls look like they will have great relay teams and long-distance runners.

The boys will be strong in the pole vault like they were last season too thanks to the return of Cahill brothers Jack and Luke, and sophomore Isaac Gahlon, who placed first in the season opener. The team is also improving in the long jump, triple jump, and hurdles.

The girls look solid in the hurdles thanks to the improvement of athletes like Ava Appel. Ashlin Keyes will also be a reliable athlete to get the team points in the high jump and the occasional relay race, and the team has the triple threat of Raquel Fischer, Aubrey Weedman, and Caitlin Kleve in the throwing events.

"These teams have a willingness to learn, a strong work ethic, and great leadership," Schruin said. "We have a great group of returning athletes with a drive to better themselves."

**Team Weaknesses**

Both teams have very few weaknesses this season.

The girls will have less reliable depth in the pole vault with the absence of Sammi Wehking. It will be up to athletes like Madeline Hoehn to make up for the loss in that category. The dashes may also be a weak spot.

The boys don't have a lot of weaknesses this season. Lack of depth in the throwing categories and in the longer distance runs may be two areas that are a weaker part of the team.

**Keys to Success**

It will be down to how the top athletes of the team compete in their respective categories. Both teams are very solid this year.

"It also depends on us keeping a positive attitude and how willing we are to work hard throughout the season," Schruin added. "I always tell the athletes to eat plenty, sleep a lot, and drink plenty of water."

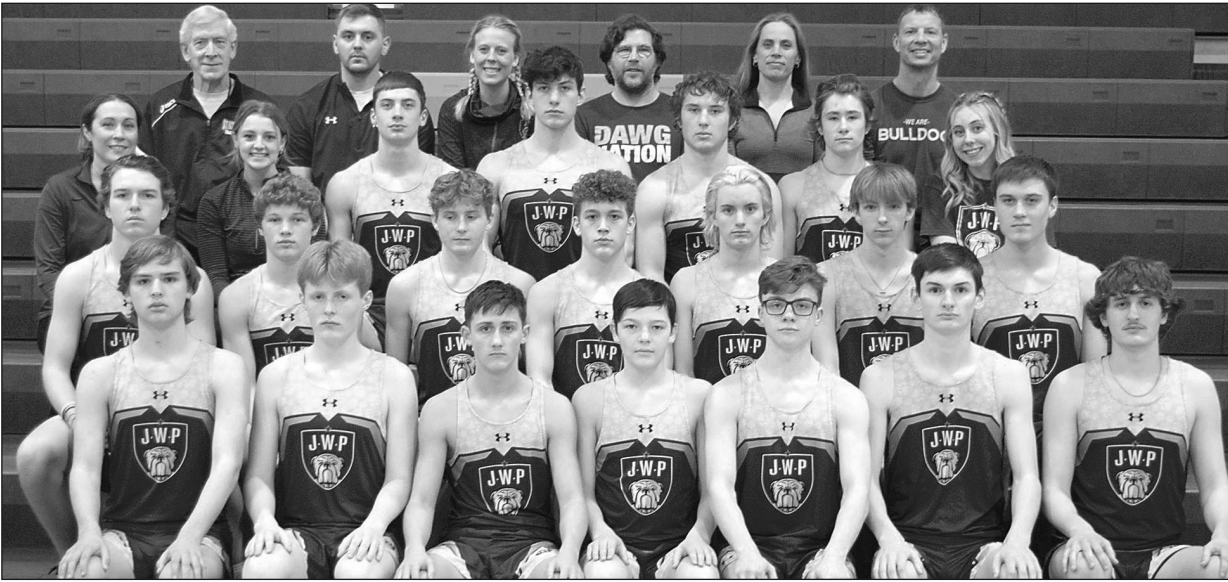
**Favorites**

The conference favorites this season are Maple River and JWP. The girls will be defending their title after winning it in their debut in the Gopher Conference. In the boys' competition the same schools may be duking it out, while NRHEG could be an upset team.



**GIRLS' TRACK AND FIELD —** The 2023 JWP High School girls' track and field team. Front from left: Katie Olson, Nevaeh Weimert, Onikia Herme, Lauren White, Brielle Bure, Madison Kunst, and Faith Olson. Second row: Ava Appel, Madeline Hoehn, Lily Strauss, Presley James, Paige Walz, Raquel Fischer, Ashlin Keyes, and Aubrey Weedman. Third row: Ali Olson, Madyn Holland, Kwynn Krause, Claire Walz, Caitlin Kleve, Ariana Aguilar, and Kylee Hanks. Back row: Katie Cahill, John Kaplan, head coach Sam Schruin, Liz Kvebak, Eric Kehoe, Andrea Kronbach, and Mike Cahill. Not Pictured: McKenzie Westphal, Chloe Kaiser, Sarah Bulman, Ava Krause, Anne Adams, and Kayleigh Donner.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy



**BOYS' TRACK AND FIELD —** The 2023 JWP High School boys' track and field team. Front from left: Alex Kleve, Eric Daschner, Noah Brock-Oxner, Charles Adams, Zach Groll, Memphis James, and Nicholas Johnson. Second row: Alex James, Daulton Bauer, Dylan Mcwaters, Derek Gustafson, Shane Witts, Kaden Baker, and Luke Cahill. Row three: Katie Cahill, Ali Olson, Ryan Kronbach, Michael VanRavenhorst, Jack Cahill, Isaac Gahlon, and Kylee Hanks. Back row: head coach Sam Schruin, John Kaplan, Liz Kvebak, Eric Kehoe, Andrea Kronbach, and Mike Cahill. Not pictured: Lucas Bjortomt, Leighlan Harris, Tyson Johnson, Brayden Blasing, and Gavin Weedman.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy



**PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT —** NRHEG clay target team members Keegan Peterson, Ciara Stenzel, J.P. Lynne, Alex Wyrum and Hunter Woodham prepare for the 2023 spring season.

Submitted photo

Almost everyone back for NRHEG clay target team

By JIM LUTGENS  
Sports Editor

If there's one program at NRHEG High School that has enjoyed consistent success throughout the years, it's the clay target shooting team.

This spring's crew, led by head coach Dan Sorum and assistants Matt Beauvais, Josh Burgess and Kim Olson, returns 42 of 46 athletes who competed last year. Among them are top shooters Adam Eustice, Alden Dobberstein, Eva Wayne, Keira Lenort, Seah Beauvais, Ned Bell, Brody Mudgett and Reese Routh, all varsity letterwinners a year ago.

High expectations go with the territory.

"It is always our goal to win the conference and qualify for the state tournament," said Sorum.

The 2023 squad includes 10 seniors and 21 junior high athletes.

"Our ability to sustain for the future is bright as well," said Sorum.

Something the Panthers can't control - the weather - is perhaps their key to success.

"Weather played a huge factor last year," said Sorum. "Since each team shoots at their home range on their chosen day each week, it can mean one team has great weather while another team does not. While this was not the only factor we faced, it was a huge obstacle to overcome."

Sorum invites anyone interested to attend the Panthers' events.

"While clay target shooting does not have a stadium or court with seating for fans, we do love it when supporters come and watch the athletes compete. As the weather gets warmer, we certainly encourage folks to come and enjoy this sport with us."

It's about more than wins, losses for NRHEG golfers

By JIM LUTGENS  
Sports Editor

The good part about going out for the golf team at NRHEG High School golf team is there's no pressure.

The vast majority of the Panthers are there to learn the game and have fun.

"A lot of these kids are out for fun," said Brad Root, a 13-year head golf coach who's been at New Richland 34 years. "It's not about winning."

The boys' team, 5-13 overall, sixth in the Gopher Conference and 12th in the sub-section tournament last year, returns its entire starting lineup with Maverik Bueltel, Nash Howe, Carter Schlaak, Shane Hanson and Tyler Kress.

"We had a good season last year and the boys got some good experience, so we are pretty well set on five varsity spots," said Root. "We will again have small numbers on the boys' side, so someone may emerge as a surprise to help us. We did not have many JV meets last year, so the non-varsity players didn't get much meet experience last year. The var-

sity boys have pretty good golf skills, but need to work on the mental side of the game, course management and consistency."

Root, assisted by Grant Berg and Kim Olson, sees Hayfield as the pre-season Gopher Conference favorite. He expects Waseca to be the class of the section.

The NRHEG girls, third in the Gopher Conference and ninth in the sub-section while finishing 8-5, graduated just one senior last year, Kaylee Kruger.

Returning are Grace Wilkenson, Laine Krohn, Tayla Sandry and Clara Stenzel who, according to Root, bring outstanding team chemistry and a good work ethic.

What can you expect from the Panthers this spring?

"A positive attitude in poor weather," said Root. "The girls will also take some aggressive shots."

Root said the Panthers are shooting for the top four spots in the conference and sixth in sub-section.

The bottom-line goal for both the boys' and girls' squads is a strong showing at the conference tournament and sub-section.



**GOLFERS —** The 2023 NRHEG High School golf teams. Front from left: Gabby Nelson and Alexis Olson. Row two: Laine Krohn, Meela Budach, Mallory Schlinger, Ciara Stenzel, Braydon Rollag, Jacob Klaras, Matthew Williams, Tyler Kress and Shane Hansen. Back: Nash Howe, coach Brad Root, Mason Reeder and Carter Schlaak.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

"The girls need to be mentally tough and focused this year," said Root. "We are counting on continued improvement, making sure they are prepared for whatever weather condition exist, as well as dealing with situations on the course. We want our student-athletes to enjoy the sport and have fun while representing our school well. In order to best enjoy the game, a good grasp of the rules of golf is necessary. We will be working on the rules and golf etiquette so our golfers will be knowledgeable and welcome wherever we travel to play."

| NRHEG GOLF 2023 SCHEDULE |                 |         |  |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---------|--|
| April 6                  | at JWP          | 4:30    |  |
| April 11                 | at Waseca       | 4 p.m.  |  |
| April 13                 | NRHEG Inv.      | 4:30    |  |
| April 20                 | at JWP          | 4:30    |  |
| April 25                 | at Triton       | 4:30    |  |
| April 27                 | Conference      | 1 p.m.  |  |
| May 4                    | at Hayfield     | 4:30    |  |
| May 11                   | Girls at Kenyon | 4:30    |  |
| May 12                   | Boys at Kenyon  | 4:30    |  |
| May 15                   | at Waseca       | 10 a.m. |  |
| May 16                   | NRHEG Inv.      | 4:30    |  |
| May 18                   | Conf. at Waseca | 10 a.m. |  |



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Holly Harguth



# Great week for JWP track teams

**By MICHAEL ROY**  
Editor

It was another great day “inside” the track for JWP at MSU Mankato’s Myers Field House. Both teams took first place at the Monday, March 27, meet while the boys were second only to Mankato East at the Thursday, March 30, meet.

**March 27 Meet**

Last week at the season opener, the boys sprinted past the competition. This week, it was the girls’ turn to run away with it with a 172-point performance, putting 83 points between them and a solid NRHEG team, who took second with 89. After that was USCalden Conger tying for third with Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop with 65 points, and Westbrook-Walnut Grove/RRC in last with 50 points.

The boys’ scores were considerably tighter. JWP had a comfortable 28-point lead over NRHEG with 148 points total. Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop took third with 88, Westbrook-Walnut Grove fourth with 53, and United South Central in last with nine points.

**Highlights**

Relays: Four JWP relay teams took first: the girls’ 4x800, the boys’ 4x800, the girls’ 4x200, and the boys’ 4x400. The 4x400 girls’ team took third.

Individuals: Lilly Strauss was victorious in the 55-meter dash and the long jump, placing first in both. Ava Appel also placed first in two categories: the high and intermediate hurdles. Michael VanRavenhorst took second in the 200 and triple jump while taking third in the shot put.

Other individuals placing in the top three in at least one event were Ryan Kronbach, first in the long jump; Raquel Fischer, first in shot put; Isaac Gahlon, first in pole vault; Nevaeh Weimert, second in the long jump; Katie Olson, second in the 55-meter dash; MaKenzie Westphal, second in the 400; Kwynn Krause, second in the 800; Madeline Hoehn, second in the pole vault; Memphis James, third in high jump; Aubrey Weedman, third in

shot put; Faith Olson, third in the 800, and Dylan McWaters, tied for third in the 55-meter dash.

“It was another beautiful day to be a track athlete,” Head Coach Sam Schruin summarized.

**March 30 Meet**

JWP was the smallest school at the March 30 meet. The next smallest was Blue Earth Area, a larger Class A school, while the other two schools — Hutchinson and Mankato East — were big Class AA schools.

“We had some injuries that prevented some of our athletes from competing, and we have some sore muscles that make competing harder,” Schruin admitted.

Almost unsurprisingly, Mankato East took first in both the boys’ and girls’ meets. In the girls’ case, Hutchinson took a distant second from Mankato East’s 150.66, settling for silver with 35 points. JWP’s girls took third with 30 points, with Blue Earth in last with 25.33.

The boys had a better day. Mankato East still had a winning 118 points, but the Bulldogs took a hard-earned second with 46.5, upsetting Hutchinson’s team, who took third with 40.5 and leaving 19-point Blue Earth Area in the dust.

**Highlights**

Despite a tougher time against mostly bigger schools, the teams still had a lot to celebrate. The boys’ 4x200 placed second while the girls’ 4x200 took third, as did the girls’ 4x800 team.

There was one nice surprise during the meet. While Anne Adams made her varsity debut at the March 27 meet, Kayleigh Donner, Sarah Bulman, and Ava Krause made their debut at this meet. The four of them competed in a sprint medley and took second place.

Individually, Jack Cahill placed first in the pole vault, and Kronbach was the top athlete in the high jump and the long jump. Shot putters Raquel Fischer and Michael VanRavenhorst took second and third, respectively.

The JWP track team will have one last indoor meet at MSU Thursday, April 6.

# Beautiful intarsia

## MN artist’s work featured at Trinity

**By MICHAEL ROY**  
Editor

After much anticipation, the members of Trinity Lutheran Church, Janesville, now have two pieces of “intarsia” art which will soon be installed on two interior walls near the church’s main entry.

Intarsia uses shaped pieces of wood in various colors positioned together to create a picture or sculpture. Trinity’s art represents two biblical themes, Psalm 23 and the passage from Revelations which says “Behold, I stand at the door and knock.”

The artwork was created by White Bear Lake area artist Clinton Smith, who not only produced it at the church’s request, but did so for only

the cost of materials. Smith, 85, has been working on intarsia art for over 21 years. He is a member of the North Star Scrollers Club (a non-profit formed to increase knowledge of the art of scroll sawing) and has won many awards for his work at the Minnesota State Fair, including being a two-time recipient of the Swede Bengston Memorial Intarsia blue ribbon.

Smith prides himself on using natural woods for his intarsia. In a Q&A in the White Bear Press, he stated he rarely uses stains or paint, relying on the natural colors of the wood to create his artistic effects. He uses both locally sourced and exotic woods.

Smith presented the works per-



**For over 21 years, Clinton Smith has worked with different woods to make Christian intarsia. Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville received two works of art from Smith.** Submitted Photo

sonally during a church service in February. The pieces will also honor the memories of Dennis Bakken, Edward Kopischke, and Deanna Summers, all members of the Trinity Lutheran community.

Currently, the works of art are stored away at the church until other details of the project are complete. Until then, temporary pictures are on display in their place.

# Celebrating a risen savior

**By PASTOR KEN ANDRS**

Holy Week details the final week of Christ’s life on earth before the resurrection. Starting on Palm Sunday we are given the daily details of the events of the week through the resurrection. These details are laid out through scripture but sometimes we don’t take time to dwell upon the details. Connecting these real stories to our life forces us to acknowledge Christ’s humanity and the truth of how His life affects our own.

From a young age I had a questions about these holy days and how we as followers of Christ were to interact with them. I was unsatisfied with the answers I got and wanted to learn more. Now that I am older it hit me afresh every year the details of Christ’s last week on earth and challenges me to think about what Christ has done for me.

Now during Holy Week we are confronted with the actions of Christ and the impact those actions have on us and our relationship with God. Starting on Palm Sunday we celebrate the establishment of Christ’s eternal kingdom through recognizing Him as King Eternal as He triumphally enters Jerusalem on the

*The Pastor’s Column*

back of a donkey. He is the king that brings peace between God and man, let us dwell on this work of peace on Palm Sunday.

Holy Monday is the day we remember the brokenness of our relationship with God and need for a Savior. As Jesus enters Jerusalem He sees the barren fig tree, cleanses the temple from the money changers, and responds to the question of His authority. These real events show that our sin affects our relationship to God (fig tree – are we producing fruit), our relationship to each other (temple cleansing – are we taking advantage of one another?), and our eternal security (as we question Christ’s authority).

Holy Tuesday forces us to recognize God’s eternal plan. Jesus predicts His own death and the price that He would pay. The disciples did not understand Christ’s plan, but we are now able to understand His plan a little better by getting more of the

have time we should spend time studying these details. On Thursday we recognize that God desires relationship with us to celebrate His work of fulfilling the law of sin and death.

Good Friday seems anything but good. Judas betrays Christ, the disciples scatter, Peter denies Christ, the city that celebrated His triumphal entry turned against Him, His trials and judgment, scourging, crucifixion, discussion with the thieves, death and burial. Good Friday is Good because the price of our sin is paid in Christ’s death. We celebrate and remember His good work.

Black or Silent Saturday Christ lays in the tomb. We wait for His return, we celebrate the soon and coming King. We anticipate His resurrection on Easter Morning.

Resurrection Sunday reminds us that God has conqueror the law of sin and death. He died and rose again. We celebrate a risen Savior and forgiveness of sin by the work of Christ. Truly a week to remember our sin and celebrate the work of salvation that Christ accomplishes on the Cross.

# Attend the Church of your Choice!

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| <b>CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH</b><br>2200 4th St NE, Waseca<br>507-835-2235<br>Service times 9:30 a.m.<br>* * * * *                                               | 507-835-4548 (office email: <a href="mailto:1cwaseca@hickorytech.net">1cwaseca@hickorytech.net</a> )<br>Worship Sunday 10 a.m.<br>* * * * *                                                                     | * * *<br><b>ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor<br>Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship<br>Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters<br>Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship<br>* * * * *         | <b>VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Pastor Dan Kordahl<br>Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship<br>* * * * *                                                                                                                                            | <b>Waldorf, Minnesota</b><br>Father Brian Mulligan<br>Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship<br>* * * * *                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH</b><br>307 W. 2nd St, Janesville<br>Father Brian Mulligan<br>10 a.m. - Mass<br>* * * * *                                                                                                         |
| <b>4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH</b><br>605 4th St NE, Waseca<br>507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker)<br>Worship Sundays 10 a.m.<br>* * * * *                    | <b>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>300 E Elm Ave, Waseca<br>507-835-1709<br>Worship Sunday 9 a.m.<br>* * * * *                                                                                                     | <b>ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>Otisco, Minnesota<br>Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor<br>Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study<br>Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship<br>* * * * *                                                                                     | <b>VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Brian Schanil Pastor<br>Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School<br>Tuesdays: The Shepherd’s Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark<br>* * * * * | <b>TRINITY LUTHERAN</b><br>Wilton Township<br>Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor<br>Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship<br>* * * * *                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>300 Owen St., Janesville<br>Pastor Sarah Krolak<br>* * * * *                                                                                                                                |
| <b>FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b><br>801 4th Ave NE, Waseca<br>507-835-3167<br>Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m.<br>* * * * *                                       | <b>SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH</b><br>111 4th St NW, Waseca<br>507-835-1222<br>Worship Saturday 5:15 p.m., Sundays 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., weekdays 8:30 a.m. Tues., Wed. and Fri., 7:00 a.m. Thurs.<br>* * * * * | <b>TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Pastor Mary Iverson<br>Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee<br>Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting<br>Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting<br>* * * * * | <b>ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Father Brian Mulligan<br>Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass<br>* * * * *                                                                                                                                         | <b>THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS</b><br>Brad Donner, Branch President<br>Waseca, Minnesota<br><a href="http://www.lds.org">www.lds.org</a><br>Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School<br>Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18<br>* * * * * | <b>ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH</b><br>Alma City, Minnesota<br>Vacancy<br>Sunday = 1 p.m. Worship<br>* * * * *                                                                                                               |
| <b>CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>309 6th St NE, Waseca<br>507-835-9176<br>Worship Sundays 9 a.m., 10:15 a.m.<br>Sunday School/Fellowship<br>* * * * * | <b>REAL LIFE CHURCH</b><br>620 W Elm Ave, Waseca<br>507-607-8245<br>Sundays 9 and 10:30 a.m.<br>* * * * *                                                                                                       | <b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Pastor Pamela Jensen<br>Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship<br>* * * * *                                                                                                                                              | <b>FIRST LUTHERAN</b><br>Missouri Synod<br>Waldorf, Minnesota<br>Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor<br>Sundays: Sunday School 9 a.m., Bible Study 9:20 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m.<br>* * * * *                                                                               | <b>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>412 N. Main Street, Janesville<br>Interim Pastor<br>Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship<br>Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:00 a.m. Worship<br>* * * * *                                                                                  | <b>TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>Smiths Mill, Minnesota<br>Vacancy<br>Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship<br>Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship<br>* * * * *                                                                  |
| <b>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca<br>507-833-1703<br>Sundays 9:00 a.m.<br>* * * * *                                                    | <b>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS</b><br>1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca<br>507-835-4640<br>Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.<br>* * * * *                                                                         | <b>LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>New Richland, Minnesota<br>Pastor Dan Kordahl<br>Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School<br>Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting<br>* * * * *                                                                               | <b>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>Freedom Township<br>Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship<br>* * * * *                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b><br>401 N. West St., Janesville<br>Pastor Kathy King<br>Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship<br>* * * * *                                                                                                                                                  | <b>NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA</b><br>404 30 120th St. Waseca<br>Pastor Sarah Krolak<br>507-234-6463<br>Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday “Young at heart”<br>Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation<br>* * * * * |
| <b>ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b><br>314 4th Ave NE, Waseca<br>507-835-2647<br>Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m.<br>* * * * *                                             | <b>GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH</b><br>1221 8th St SE, Waseca<br>507-835-2213<br>Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m.<br>* * * * *                                                                                      | <b>SOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST</b><br>Pastor Ava Adams-Morris<br>Waldorf, Minnesota<br>Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship<br>* * * * *                                                                                                                                         | <b>ST. JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC</b><br>* * * * *                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b><br>43089 180th St., Morristown<br>Pastor Kathy King<br>Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship<br>* * * * *                                                                                                                                             | <b>NOTE HOLIDAYS MAY AFFECT WORSHIP TIMES</b><br><br><b>NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.</b>                                  |
| <b>FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH</b><br>503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca                                                                                                   | <b>CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY</b><br>900 14th Ave SE, Waseca<br>507-833-1082<br>Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m.                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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Legal

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF WASECA  
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION  
Court File No.: 81-PR-23- 168  
In Re: Estate of  
**LINDA M. MOLKENTHIN,**  
Decedent  
NOTICE AND ORDER OF  
HEARING  
ON PETITION FOR FORMAL  
PROBATE OF WILL AND AP-  
POINTMENT OF PERSONAL  
REPRESENTATIVE IN UNSU-  
PERVISED ADMINISTRATION  
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PER-  
SONS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023, at 9:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in the above Court at Waseca, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the will of the above named decedent, dated June 1, 2012, and for the appointment of Diane Lorentz, whose address is 33700 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Janesville, Minnesota 56048 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the above named decedent in unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper and no objections are filed, a Personal Representative will be appointed to administer the Estate, to 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. Upon completion of the administration, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereunto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate.

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

*/s/ Carol M. Hanks*  
Judge of District Court  
*/s/ Shannon M. Asselin*  
Deputy Court Administrator

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

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

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Purified dreams

The Catholic Daughters of America, Court Sacred Heart #1424 invites everyone to Carlson's Pillow Cleaning Service, which will be operating in front of the Sacred Heart Parish Center from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday April 15. A mobile unit will deodorize, sanitize, fluff and re-tick the pillows. Pillows will be ready and returned on the same day. Custom made NEW pillows and comforters are for sale. Proceeds go to support Sacred Heart School, Habitat for Humanity and other local charities.

Pillows accepted for fluffing include feather and microfiber. Cost is: \$14.95 for a standard size pillow, \$16.95 for a queen, and \$17.95 for king. Cost includes cleaning and a new ticking. There is an extra charge if feathers or down are added to the pillow, and that depends on the amount added.

**PILLOW CLEANING**  
Same Day Service by Carlson's Pillow Cleaning

**Saturday, April 15**  
**8 am to 1 pm**  
**@ Sacred Heart**  
**Parish Center**  
**(use East door)**

Funds used in support of  
Sacred Heart School,  
Bethlehem Inn,  
Pregnancy Options,  
Habitat for Humanity  
and other local charities

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pillows are cleaned,  
deodorized, sanitized, &  
new ticking (cover) put on

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Court Sacred Heart #1424

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**LOCATION: East of Beaver Lake, Ellendale MN**  
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**Delivery of Consignments will be on April 16, 17, 18, 19, 2023 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
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**Tuesday, April 18, 2023**  
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**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

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

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\*Mayo Clinic is hiring Environmental Service Technicians- Mayo Clinic invites HS students to start their life changing career at Mayo Clinic. Students will play a vital role by ensuring a safe and clean environment for our patients, visitors, and staff each day by working with our Environmental Services Department.  
<https://jobs.mayoclinic.org/job/mankato/environmental-services-technician-high-school-student-opportunities/33647/33896701712#content> \* \* \*

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

\*ICAN Inc. of Waseca is hiring Part Time Personal Support Staff. Part Time positions can range from 7 – 29 hours a week. This position does include every other weekend. This is a great position if you are looking into the healthcare field, teaching, coaching, etc.  
ICAN is a premier residential service provider to individuals with disabilities. We provide training for all aspects of the job. ICAN is currently offering a \$300 hiring bonus after 6 months of employment.  
To apply, go to [www.icanmn.us](http://www.icanmn.us) or stop in our office, 118 North State Street Waseca. If you have any

questions, you can contact us at 507.835.9140. \* \* \*

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

**SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

\*Waseca County has an opening for a Weed Harvester position. This is a temporary position which is 40 hours a week (will not work nights or weekends). The job is about 6-8 weeks and starts in early June. The individual needs to be 18. The pay starts at \$20.32 per hour. I have the application attached if you have a student that would be interested please let me know! Here is the link to the job description: <https://www.co.waseca.mn.us/Jobs.aspx?UniqueId=111&From=All&CommunityJobs=False&JobID=Aquatic-Weed-Harvesting-Operator-Seasona-165> \* \* \*

\*Southern Research and Outreach Center is hiring for grounds and maintenance jobs for any students or others that might be interested? You need to be 16+ years old to work here. Pay is \$15/hr. Typical schedule is 7:30 am to 4 pm for a 40 hour work week. If anyone has questions please Mobile: 507-461-6899 | Office: 507-837-5615 E-mail: [jstenzel@umn.edu](mailto:jstenzel@umn.edu) Website: [www.sroc.cfans.umn.edu](http://www.sroc.cfans.umn.edu) \* \* \*

\*Fun, Summer Job Opportunities at Kiesler's Campground and RV Resort! We are hiring life-guards, activities coordinators and guest services team members - Learn more at [www.kieslers.com/apply](http://www.kieslers.com/apply). \* \* \*

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

**SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642**  
**April 2023**

| Sun                                                                                  | Mon                         | Tue                     | Wed                                      | Thu               | Fri                                                                                                                            | Sat                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
|                                                                                      |                             |                         |                                          |                   |                                                                                                                                | 1 APRIL FOOL'S DAY        |
| 2                                                                                    | 3                           | 4 Burger nite 5-7pm     | 5 6pm BAR Bingo<br>GOLD STAR SPOUSES DAY | 6 HALL 7pm BINGO  | 7 MEAT Raffle 5:30<br>Horse racing 7:PM<br>GOOD FRIDAY                                                                         | 8 SPRING BINGO 7:PM       |
| 9 EASTER NATIONAL FORMER POW DAY                                                     | 10 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting | 11 Burger nite 5-7pm    | 12 6pm BAR Bingo                         | 13 HALL 7pm BINGO | 14 MEAT Raffle 5:30<br>Horse racing 7:PM<br>AIR FORCE RESERVE BIRTHDAY                                                         | 15 GUN BINGO DEER HUNTERS |
| 16                                                                                   | 17                          | 18 Burger nite 5-7pm    | 19 6pm BAR Bingo                         | 20 HALL 7pm BINGO | 21 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm or sold out<br>YOUR HOST HONOR GUARD AND AUX.<br>MEAT Raffle 5:30<br>Horse racing 7:PM | 22                        |
| 23 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host Waseca High School Football | 24                          | 25 Burger nite 5-7pm    | 26 6pm BAR Bingo                         | 27 HALL 7pm BINGO | 28 STEAK FRY 5:30 TO 7:PM or sold out<br>YOUR HOST HONOR GUARD AND AUX.<br>MEAT Raffle 5:30<br>Horse racing 7:PM               | 29                        |
| 30 NATIONAL MILITARY                                                                 | ARMY RESERVE BIRTHDAY 4-23  | MONTH OF MILITARY CHILD |                                          |                   |                                                                                                                                |                           |

**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.  
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FRI. - SAT.-11am to 1 am  
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Correction

Last week's article about the Spring Craft Show said its location was at the Mill Event Center. The correct location of the craft show was the Starfire Event Center. The Pioneer regrets the error.



# 'Story sculptures' at local art center

McDill's works displayed in Waseca

By **TRISTAN JENSEN**  
Staff Writer

Layl McDill visited the Waseca Art Center Thursday March 30 for the opening reception of her gallery show wire. The show continues until May 5. The artwork on display is available for sale with pickup at the end of the gallery show period. "I'm so grateful to get to show in an art center like this," McDill said of Waseca's facility, which she saw for the first time when she came to hang the pieces for her show. McDill displays her art throughout the country, and calls Minnesota "a Mecca of Art Centers" for its plentiful and high quality arts facilities.

McDill's primary medium is polymer clay, which she combines with wire, beads, and miscellaneous found objects to create her "story sculptures of mystery and wonderment." The sculptures boast a high level of detail, with their clay components being made from many smaller pieces blended together. "You could spend hours just looking at it all," said one young observer at Thursday's reception.

McDill described two different methods she uses to create these impossibly small pieces, each of which bears its own imagery. Some are drawn in advance, McDill explained. "I love to sketch, everywhere I go," she said as she pointed to one image which she says she sketched while visiting the Louvre. These sketches are then transferred to clay using a laser paper technique. The second technique McDill uses is called "millefiori," and involves building much larger versions of the images directly into clay, then stretching and rolling them into elongated canes, many as small as a half-inch across, that are then sliced into the pieces used to assemble her larger works. McDill says

she discovered millefiori in a children's art book, where it was pictured as an example of big and small, and has learned to replicate the technique largely through trial and error. "And I'm still learning," she added, describing some of the unpredictable ways her highly intricate millefiori canes behave. "Even though I do it all the time, it's still like - how did that happen?"

McDill has small town roots, having grown up in Gillette, WY where she participated in 4-H and says it all got started. She has been making art since she was just a toddler, however, and says her earliest memory is of rolling homemade playdough in her hands. McDill attended the Columbus College of Art and Design in Columbus, OH after starting out at a community college with the initial intent to illustrate children's books. Around the same time as her graduation from art school, McDill says she did a gallery show like the one currently displayed in Waseca and thought, "I can make whatever I want, and people will buy it?" which led to her developing her current artistic endeavors.

McDill says she started producing her art using a lot more mixed media, and turned to clay for its portability when she had children. Now that they've grown and she has a larger studio to work with, that mixed media is becoming more prominent in her artwork again. "I think that's a direction I'm going," she said with a laugh. McDill says she loves stories, and connects many of her sculptures to them. "Stories are how we communicate, they make you think and imagine," McDill said. McDill also does "story slams," or performative storytelling, in addition to her visual arts. One piece on display is connected to stories very overtly as



Artist Layl McDill stands with one of her newest pieces on display for the first time at Waseca Art Center, titled "What's the Difference?" Asked by the Blue Heron."

Pioneer photo by Tristan Jensen

McDill asks viewers to write down the stories they see, either to keep or to leave behind with the artwork. This is not the only opportunity viewers of McDill's gallery in Waseca have to interact with the artwork in various ways.

Currently McDill lives and works in Minneapolis, where she keeps a studio at 2505 Howard St. NE, studio A. She can also be found at LaylMcDill.com and ClaySquared.com as well as on TikTok at @laylmcDill.



## Easter Egg Hunt



On Palm Sunday, April 2, Christ Community Church held its first-ever Easter Egg Hunt. Participating children were divided into four groups based on their ages (4 and under, 5-7 years, 8-10 years, and 11 and up), and were given about a minute to collect as many eggs as their baskets could hold.

In addition to the egg hunt, everyone enjoyed juice and cookies. Adults were able to take part in a raffle, the prize for which was a set of Waseca Water Park punch cards for the 2023 season; the church will announce the winner later this week.

Pioneer photos by Michael Roy

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