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Sports

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

Sewer plans reviewed Sonnenberg addresses school board

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff writer

Waseca city manager Carl Sonnenberg stepped to the podium at the March 16 school board meeting to introduce himself, thank board members for their support, and ask for continuing assistance with the resolution regarding Waseca's inflow and infiltration water issue which has been ongoing since 1922. Sonnenberg encouraged board members and the public to contact him at city hall whenever questions arise. Board member Charlie Priebe asked Sonnenberg if the construction work around the hospital's emergency room on Second Street NW has resolved the need for frequent sewer pumping in that area during excessive rain. "The short answer is we will have to continue doing that," Sonnenberg responded. "The slightly longer answer is that the hospital sewer watershed is a huge area. It's a lot of the downtown, extending east to Clear Lake, North to Seventh Avenue, South to Elm Avenue... It's a huge area. So we're planning to reconstruct Second Street NW in 2025. We are currently evaluating that entire sewer shed. Hopefully, we are able to find where some of the big leaks are and we're going to solve those. We'll take a big dent in fixing the public system (the pipes that everyone owns) before going to the individual homeowners on that street and their private sewers." Sonnenberg again emphasized that overhauling the underground systems is a long-term solution for a 100+-year-old problem.



Sonnenberg

In their PowerPoint presentation, WJSH Principal Jason Miller and assistant principal Justin Johnston reported a current enrollment of 848 students (a decline of 30 from June of 2022) and 109 staff. Miller went on to explain the vision card goals specific to the WJSH school: communication, student/family connectedness, and assessment for learning. "Communication is constant, changing, difficult, messy, all those things. So it's a good goal to have. And we want students and families to have authentic connections to the school community. We know that when students are connected to school, they thrive and it's a better place. That's always a good goal."

School continued on 4

A word from The Word

The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.

Psalm 12:6

Farm and City Luncheon

Area Ag leaders honored

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Good food, conversations, and stories were shared during the annual Farm and City Luncheon March 16, hosted by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce at the Mill in Waseca.

Following a lunch catered by the Pheasant Cafe, the following families were honored with awards:

Farm Family of the year (FFOY): Cedar Crate Farms, Dan and Lara Zimmerli of Waldorf.

The FFOY award goes to a Waseca County food producer involved in the community. This family has made significant short-term progress and/or innovative contributions with their agricultural endeavors and has demonstrated a commitment to enhancing and supporting the fields of agriculture and production. The Zimmerlis will be honored and recognized among farmers across the state at Farmfest this summer.

The Waseca County Outstanding Young Farmer award is presented to a farmer between 21-39 years of age, who utilizes innovative methods, has made improvement in farming operations, and demonstrates service to community organizations and conservation practices. This year's winner was the family of Adam and Anne Harguth

Senior Active Farmer: Charlie Priebe, rural Waseca County

Active Ag award winner: Mark Bernard, New Richland

Posthumous distinguished ag award: Alfred Trahms, Janesville

This posthumous award recognizes distinguished individuals who dedicated their life to the advancement of agriculture in Waseca County. Trahms, who died in 1984, demonstrated outstanding leadership in the community, his farm, and the advancement of the agricultural industry.

The annual Farm and City luncheon has been a staple in Waseca County, recognizing local farmers and their achievements since 2011.

"It's an opportunity for businesses to see all the awesome things our farmers are doing," said Ann Fitch, Chamber executive director, "and to award leaders in agriculture in the county, the region and the state."

"Farmers do much more than farm the land," Fitch continued, explaining that, historically, Waseca County farmers have propelled Minnesota agriculture to the forefront

The Farm and City Luncheon is a time to acknowledge those achievements. "It's amazing hearing all the stories," Fitch explained. "It's time to recognize them."

The program started with a presentation from Waseca and Janesville



CEDAR CRATE - Dan. Lara, and Addie Zimmerli of Cedar Crate Farms, Waldorf, were recognized as Waseca County's Farm Family of the Year during the March 16 Farm and City Luncheon.



Mark Bernard listens as he is introduced

chapters of Future Farmers of America, followed by the awards portion around 12:30 p.m.

Waseca Mayor Randy Zimmerman opened the program sharing a little bit of his family history prior to handing the presentation off to speakers Gyles Randall, Lisa Dierks, and Vicky Singlestad who introduced the various award winners.

Articles about each of the awards given out during the program can be found in this week's edition of the Pioneer.

The annual luncheon was made possible through the generous support of the following sponsors:

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Vicky Singlestad presents Adam and Anne Harguth with their Outstanding Young Farmer award.



Charlie Priebe accepts the award for Waseca County Active Senior Farmer.

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Council accepts Kopachek's decision

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

The Janesville City Council held a special early morning meeting on Thursday, March 16, to recognize the resignation of council member Melissa Kopachek, effective immediately.



Kopachek

Council member Ivan Maas was the only one to oppose accepting her resignation.

There was plenty of discussion after the council passed the resolution, including council member Jim Mulcahey paying some tribute to Kopachek's time on the council.

"I am disappointed that Melissa decided not to participate on the council any longer," he started. "She was a voice of liberalism that was essential for a good board. Most of us here are a little more conservative, and she gave us good insight into that framework."

"She was strong-willed and very dedicated to her philosophies. That will be missed."

After Mulcahey shared his thoughts with the council, Maas suggested they all send her an official letter thanking her for her time, a motion that passed unanimously.

Kopachek's resignation means that there will be a special election for her seat in 2024. Until then, City Attorney Jason Moran urged council members to begin "charting a course forward" to fill her vacancy as soon as possible, although they technically don't have to according to the law.

"It's an incredibly important position," he told them. "We have a lot of stuff coming down to you guys in the next six months."

Moran offered several paths to fill Kopachek's vacancy, including finding candidates through applications, holding an election right away instead of waiting for election time in 2024, or making a direct appointment. The council will discuss options further at the March 27 meeting.



Fifteen members of the Waseca County Sheriff's Mounted Posse hosted representatives from many other posses around the state Saturday, March 18. Among those in attendance were former and current sheriff's department officers, their families, and volunteers "who just want to help out their community."

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

Posses gather from around the state

'We come whenever they need us'

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

After 15 years, the Waseca County Sheriff's Posse was the host of the Minnesota Sheriff's Mounted Posse Association's convention, which took place at the Mill on Saturday, March 18.

The state convention brings around 250 people from throughout Minnesota to its event. Every year,

one of the state's 87 counties with a sheriff's posse gets a chance to host.

"We usually get people throughout the state to come," posse member Ken Borgmann said.

For those who may not know who the Waseca County Sheriff's Posse are, or what they do, Member Troy

Posse continued on 4



Compostings

by Al Batt

copyright © 2022 by Al Batt

More than 4,400 mouse trap patents

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I love going for a walk every morning.

How far do you walk?

I walk 5 miles or to the end of the block, whichever comes first.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. You'd think winter would have run out of snowflakes by now. The joy of spring is tempered by an hour's less sleep. My neighbor Crandall (who claims to have lost his ambition but doesn't care) refuses to change any timepiece that refuses to change itself.

I replaced the battery and changed a tire on my bride's car while winter reloaded. I didn't revel in it, but I did it without injury or police backup. When I was a pup, I knew a guy who drove a junker that had been new when Lewis and Clark drove it during their expedition. It burned so much oil, he never changed the oil. He just kept adding more oil. Car problems are minor problems. May all your troubles be automotive.

"This is the way the world ends," T. S. Eliot wrote at the end of his 1925 poem, "The Hollow Men," "not with a bang but a whimper." If you have seen the live-action Batman television series from the 1960s, you'll remember the fight scenes including oversized words followed by exclamation points like bam, pow, ouch, crunch, biff, kapow, zlonk and zok. I don't know if zoom was ever one of those words, but Ralph Kramden (played by Jackie Gleason on "The Honeymooners") said, "BANG, ZOOM! To the moon, Alice!" To which his wife Alice replied, "Ahhh, shaddap!" I'm writing this after spending nine hours on Zoom meetings. That's like, well, er, eh, over nine of 24 hours on Zoom. I'm not complaining. My grandfather worked in a coal mine. He likely wouldn't have considered a virtual meeting much work. Maybe the world won't end with a whimper. Maybe it will finish in a zoom.

I'm a chronic photographer of nature. While taking photos of birds in a land far away, I leaned back against sharp rocks. I didn't realize they were treacherous until it was too late. Suddenly it was as if I were in a pillow fight or a molting goose flew overhead. My jacket had been torn. I called the company that made it. I sent it to them as they instructed and they sent me a new jacket. That worked so well that it didn't take me long before I damaged the new one. This time I paid \$5 and they sent me another new jacket. A few years later, that third jacket is shed-

ding feathers. I don't have it in me to call the company again.

A cat adopted us. It pulled the tea bag out of my cup on my desk. I should have expected such behavior. The cat came wearing an ankle monitor.

IOWA-MINNESOTA OR MINNESOTA-IOWA JOKES

Someone asked if I knew any. Why doesn't Iowa have a pro football team? Because if they did, Minnesota would want one.

How do you get a (pick a college) graduate off your porch? Pay him for the pizza.

How many college freshmen does it take to change a lightbulb in Minnesota or Iowa? None. That's a sophomore course.

Why cover the football fields at the University of Minnesota and the University of Iowa with cardboard? Because the teams always look better on paper.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

The brown ones are clear M&M's.

You can never lose a homing pigeon. If it doesn't come back, you've lost a regular pigeon.

Walla Walla is located between Ting Tang and Bing Bang.

What do you get when you divide a bovine's circumference by its diameter? A cow pi.

An orange ocean is just a Fanta sea.

IN GRATITUDE

I'm saddened by the unexpected death of Kellie Peterson of Geneva. Kellie was an accomplished and caring nurse at Mayo's Cancer Center. I'm one of many who leaned on her for help.

NATURE NOTES

Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary's Crane Camera in Gibbon, Nebraska, features spectacular views of the sandhill crane migration along the Platte River. The five-mile stretch covered by this camera is a densely populated roost with up to 200,000 cranes at its busiest. The best times to view them are early morning and evening. Here's the link: <https://explore.org/livecams/national-audubon-society/crane-camera>

Between 1838, when the US Patent Office opened its doors, and 1996, over 4,400 mousetrap patents were awarded. Researchers advise against buying ultrasonic devices. Consumer Reports found no proof they work. This doesn't stop companies from making false claims. The FTC has investigated sonic repellent makers for false advertising.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Albert Einstein said, "Hail to the man who went through life always helping others, knowing no fear, and to whom aggressiveness and resentment are alien." Be kind.

Sports, enrollment, and jumping classes

So, this column may be a bit boring because, for some reason, an item discussed at JWP's School Board meeting is very interesting to me.

The Minnesota State High School League had its two-year assessment regarding which competition classes sports teams in many area schools should be placed. JWP has competed in Class A for the past two years; they spent the previous two years in AA. Before that, we were only Class A (and were a 9-man football team at one point in the early 2010s).

When we switched to the Gopher Conference in 2021-22, we had to downgrade to Class A. St. Clair took our spot as a Class AA team in the Valley Conference. I honestly couldn't understand how we downgraded and St. Clair went up a class.

I did some research on other schools in the Gopher Conference; five other schools are Class A with us currently: Kenyon Wanamingo (who was Class AA like us a few years ago), Hayfield, Bethlehem Academy (Faribault), United South Central, and Randolph.

Medford kept its Class AA status, and I thought, "No way they have a bigger school district than us." (Dis-



Music to my Ears

by Michael Roy

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trict enrollment plays a major role in deciding which class schools compete in.) Turns out their district is much bigger than ours, though the high school count isn't much different. In fact, we're bigger than Blooming Prairie (only slightly).

I was surprised that the MSHSL downgraded us a class anyway, even with schools like St. Clair and Medford being slightly bigger than us. Now that we're going back to Class AA in volleyball, basketball, and football (which is up in the air yet), I'm nearly as surprised now as I was then.

This is because we sent one of the biggest graduating classes in a long time out the door last June: 59 seniors graduated in 2022. Enrollment has only gone down since then, despite this year's sophomore class

staying steady at 70 students.

If we were placed in a lower class two years ago, then why are we going back up? Maybe that was the thinking of JWP's athletic director, Paul Brunner. He, like many other schools, tried to appeal the upgrade to Class AA. Don't quote me or him on it; it's just my guess as to one of the reasons why he's appealing.

I don't really understand how it all works. I did more research after the school board meeting where Superintendent Jeremy Erler announced this news. Class AA is the biggest class for most sports, especially basketball. Why not keep some of those schools in Class A?

I guess I really shouldn't be hung up on something that doesn't concern me. This will only give us an opportunity to reignite some other rivalries

in the playoffs with schools like NRHEG — who have competed in Class AA for probably decades now — and St. Clair.

What will be a challenge from here on out, however, is the boys' basketball team now facing the Section 2AA gauntlet with teams like Maple River dominating the conference and section and rising teams like Waseca, Blue Earth Area, and Lake Crystal. The girls' basketball team will now have the issue of facing NRHEG — which has churned out great teams time and time again — and Waterville-Elysian-Morris-town, which was a nice surprise this season.

As far as football is concerned, maybe a change to a former class will inspire us to do a bit better. I'm not sure. Then again, St. Clair-Loyola has a great football team, as does Blue Earth Area.

I'm interested to hear people's opinion on all of this, especially the coaches. Maybe it's not a big deal like it's been made out to be. At the end of the day, as I've heard many times throughout my life, you get what you get, and you don't throw a fit.



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

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Seeing the sights in Seville, Spain

What's up gang? I don't know about all of you, but I had a pretty good week. I spent most of it trying to rest up from the crazy-busy prior weekend so I would be ready for this past Saturday and Sunday - Seville!

On Thursday night, three friends and I took a night bus to Seville. It left at midnight and delivered us at our destination six hours later. I will say, I don't think I will ever get used to bus rides longer than about four hours. That six-hour ride was awful. I think the only reason I survived the eight-hour bus ride to Lisbon a couple weeks ago was because I had no one sitting by me for that ride and could stretch out. I wasn't so fortunate this time. Trying to sleep sitting upright on an uncomfy chair squished next to a stranger is not ideal.

Anyway, besides that I had a good weekend in Seville. We visited the Plaza de Espana, which is so beautiful

I can't even describe. The paving features decorative tiles with every province of Spain surrounding the outside. They even have a little canal where we rented boats and went for a ride.

We also saw the famous cathedral which was insanely beautiful. Inside was the tomb of Christopher Columbus: who would have thought we could visit a grave from the 1400s? The cathedrals here are so big and so beautiful, I sometimes wonder whether they're still active churches or only tourist destinations. Who knows.

On Saturday we visited the Parque de Maria Louisa, a giant park between the river and the Plaza de Espana. It has many beautiful fountains and trees and walkways. Then we went and visited the Royal Palace de

Amelia continued on 3



Amelia Roessler and her friend stand at the Plaze de Espana

Giant, huge announcement

Another week, another sore thumb.

Last week my left thumb was throbbing from all the writing I was doing. To compensate I switched my spacebar thumb to my right side. And, well, now both my thumbs hurt.

It was another incredible week of newsing.

Tuesday evening was the NRHEG sports banquet.

Thursday was the annual Farm and City Luncheon.

I must point out something Deb, our editor, and myself realized as we were putting together this week's front page. Every town in the county was represented at the Farm and City Luncheon. It may have been a happy accident, but Deb and I agree, it was intentional. Waldorf had a winner. New Richland had a winner. Janesville had a winner. Waseca had a winner. And Charlie is famous in New Richland and Waseca. The whole county was represented. I thought that was pretty cool.

Some people, kids mainly, dream of fame and fortune in the big city. I think it's worth noting that everyone is famous in a small town. The only difference is you're still treated just like everyone else. I think we call that the bit of both worlds.

As I sit here pondering what to write about, it occurs to me that I buried the lead.

The Pioneer office will be in a new location this summer. The sale was fi-



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

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nalized last week: The Pioneer is buying the building located next to the VFW. Thank you, Barb and Mark Buker.

We've been incredibly blessed this first year in business. There's a saying that luck favors the hard working or something along those lines. Regardless, we've forged some incredible relationships this year.

Barb and Mark are right on the top of that list. They show incredible kindness. I could not be more grateful.

Before I go on another tangent about Barb, let me first tell the story of this new venture.

Last year when I was looking for an office to house our newspaper, I knew renting a space would be temporary. My plan was to be in a more permanent home after a year.

Well, when Matt Petsinger offered to rent me a space behind the Remax office, he told me he wanted me for at least two years.

I didn't argue.

I also didn't have to argue with him when I told him I wanted to

leave after a year.

So, when John and the Ward House Brewery changed locations recently, Barb, who owns the building they left behind, was looking for a new renter.

I told her I wasn't interested in renting the space. The next move I wanted to make was into something I could call home for the newspaper.

She asked what I was paying Matt in rent and I told her she couldn't beat it.

Well she did, but in the form of a contract for deed. I really couldn't say no. She quoted me a good price and that was that.

I looked at the building, asked the appropriate questions, then signed on the dotted line.

The whole process took about a month, maybe six weeks. The plan is to start renovating the inside space in April/May and move in during June.

Oh the memories piled up quickly in our current space.

Matt, his family, Becky (wife), kids, Matelyn, Mitchell, Markus, and Michael hold a special place in my

heart.

The Nelson family. Seeing Blaine and Blair every week has brought incredible joy, conversation, and, well, news into my life. I'm gonna have to stock Coca Cola in my new office just for Blair to have a reason to visit. He told me the day I broke the news to him. "Well crap, now I'm gonna have to buy you a cup of coffee to have regular conversation."

There's also Jon Butler. He's a busy man, but sharing a space we've had quite the conversations as well. And, well, he married a Nelson and my cousin married a Nelson so that makes the whole office family.

Oh and Stacy. She is the proudest mother of Waseca's famous archer Zoie. Stacy is our neighbor and she's been a joy.

It's a little bittersweet moving away from our spot, but as Blair jokes, now I'll be able to get actual work done. I don't think Blair realizes I stay on top of the news by talking to people.

I'm going to miss our office, but I'm glad we'll have a place to call our own.

Thank you Barb. Thank you Mark. Thank you Blair, Blaine, Stacy, Matt. Thank you all.

"We must be willing to get rid of the life we've planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us. The old skin has to be shed before the new one can come."

— Joseph Campbell



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Always Looking Up

by Melissa Dunn

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Teaching my dog how to walk

It never occurred to me that a dog would have to be taught how to take a walk. I’ve been owned by a handful of dogs and they have always, always loved walking outdoors. Things to smell! Sticks to find and carry! Grass to roll on! New places to poop! Let’s go-ooo! On goes the harness (better for backs and necks) and leash. I grab my pack of treats and some plastic bags (because I am a responsible citizen who respects other people) and we’re off. Exercise! Sunshine! Fresh air! Nature! Other dogs to meet! Life is so good! The senior dogs have taken many a hike with me on our trails over the years, and now with their health concerns, walking the perimeter of the backyard with an occasional stroll down the street will be the new norm.

And then...there was Wallace. Having a January birthday meant last summer was his very first one to experience the great outdoors. I was confident that watching two older siblings happily walk the trails would be guidance enough for Wallace to join in. After all, he followed us around any time he wasn’t napping, so this should be easy. For days we’d go in the backyard and spend time getting used to his little harness and leash. I went through a lot of bacon. Things went very smoothly and fairly rapidly—Wallace even got excited whenever he saw me get out his equipment. (Side note: Have you ever watched a joyful dachshund? The front end and back end wiggle separately in a canine Cupid Shuffle.) It’s somewhat difficult to harness a dancing little puppy, but finally, FINALLY, we were ready to try walking down the street! Wallace proudly trotted out the front door in his striking royal blue leash and harness, looked around...and sat down on the driveway. He gazed at me with a quizzical puppy head tilt.

Ah, I thought. He’s just used to walking on grass, and this is a different feel under his feet. No big deal, he just needs some more practice on concrete. I rolled favorite toys in front of him hoping he might chase them. My brilliant daughter came outside, attempting to lure him with a new person. The

Seniors were called in as reinforcements, modeling their red walking gear and snuffling the pavement. Wallace just sat and watched. Maybe a trail of treats...yeah, that’s it. But alas, it was not. Wallace would take one or two tentative steps and sit down again: No amount of coaxing (even with bacon) could convince him that his legs were, in fact, NOT made of spaghetti. As his cute little posterior end plopped down on the pavement yet again, I saw my hopes of summer hikes with my new pup fade away...

Over the past year, Wallace has decided that the driveway is not harmful and he does not have spaghetti legs. He wears his winter puffer vest—royal blue, of course—and happily trots down the street with both speed and strength. It seems like he travels around the block and is back inside about five minutes before I am (those deep chests are made for pulling and hounds sure can do the job!).

And now, a new twist to our walking adventures. While doomscrolling the other evening, I came across Michael J. Fox’s Parkinson’s Disease Foundation page. According to the page’s information section, the MJFF is dedicated to finding a cure for Parkinson’s through an aggressively funded research agenda and to ensuring the development of improved therapies for those living with Parkinson’s today. Having lost two immediate family members to this disease, I am a frequent viewer/donor to this foundation so it wasn’t anything out of the ordinary for me to come across it. What caught my IMMEDIATE attention is that April is Parkinson’s Disease Awareness month and the MJF Foundation is sponsoring a 30-mile dog walk challenge fundraiser. Dogs AND a fundraiser to eradicate a disease that is my close personal enemy??

The perfect blend of two things I am passionate about—of course I am down for that! Beginning April 1, Team Wallace will be ready to go (complete with plastic bags), and we are hopeful the snow is gone by then. It’s rather deep in the park right now!

■ Amelia

from Page 2

Alcazar: it was also very big and very beautiful. It had a bunch of tiles and such again and a lot of it is derived from Arab culture. Actually, a lot of Spain’s design is based on Arab style, so it’s beautiful.

I guess one down side I want to mention is that my group stayed in an AirBNB with one of my friend’s friends and people from her program, so we essentially

shared a space with three strangers. They were all nice but I don’t know whether they like us very much. At one point one of them was late and the other two didn’t want to wait for her. We thought that was rude and made them wait anyway. I don’t know, I just don’t think I would choose to be friends with them if I had a chance. I like my friends here now and I am very grateful to have them.

Only about seven weeks until I’m home, though, and I know the time is going to fly by.

My Determination: "The purpose of our lives is to be happy." - Dalai Lama

Farm family of the year

Dan and Lara Zimmerli honored

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

The most distinguished ag award given out Thursday at Waseca’s Farm and City Luncheon went to Dan and Lara Zimmerli of Waldorf. Cedar Crate Farms was selected by the Minnesota Extension office as Waseca County’s Farm Family of the Year.

“Thank you so much,” Lara said during her acceptance speech. “We’re honored to have a seat at the table. It seems like larger operations tend to get awards, which makes it humbling for our small acres to be selected.”

Cedar Crate is a small-scale, intensive and diversified vegetable farm. They successfully market their products directly to the community through the Mankato Farmers Market and a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. The Zimmerli’s grow over 90 varieties of produce on about 3 acres of land. Besides growing the produce, the couple

sells their crops directly to community members.

Dan grew up on his parents’ farm in Redwood County, while Lara’s mother grew up on a farm near Pepin, Wisconsin. Cedar Crate is on land that Dan’s maternal grandfather Ron Coy farmed. As with many farming operations, success for Dan and Lara hinges on division of duties. Dan is the head farmer, master planner, and organizer, while Lara is responsible for telling the story via social media and community conversations. Both Dan and Lara plan together about the direction they want the farm to go.

The Zimmerlis are active members of their community. Lara is a special education teacher. The two are members of the Minnesota Farmers Union, the Minnesota River Chapter of the Sustainable Farming Association (SFA), the Mankato Area Growers Association, and the Region 9 Growers Network. Dan serves on



CEDAR CRATE - Dan, Lara, and Addie Zimmerli of Cedar Crate Farms, Waldorf, were recognized as Waseca County’s Farm Family of the Year during the March 16 Farm and City Luncheon.

the board of the Mankato Area Growers Association and does consulting work for SFA. Dan has also served on the board of directors for the Saint Peter Food Co-op.

Moreover, the farm places a priority on community building, regularly inviting CSA members out to learn about agriculture. Cedar Crate Farm is committed to offering fresh, locally grown produce that is healthy

for families, economically sustainable, and ecologically responsible. According to the Zimmerlis, Cedar Crate Farm is more than just a farm; it’s a community.

“It’s not easy,” Lara admits. “There’s a lot of CSA farms that don’t make it.”

“We’re very grateful,” Lara concluded. “Thank you.”

Harguths honored

Outstanding young farmers

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

The Adam and Anne Harguth family was celebrated with the Waseca County’s Outstanding Young Farmer award during the 2023 Waseca County Farm and City Luncheon Thursday, March 16.

“I think I knew [I wanted to be a farmer] since about three,” Adam remembers. “I tore my mom’s carpet up to be deck with small tractors, and then we just kind of went from there.”

The Harguth farm enterprise consists of a cattle feedlot, hog operation, and crops.

Named A & A Farms, the business thrives on the efforts of Adam, Anne, and their seven kids: Jacob, Nicholas, Claire, Joseph, Noah, Alex, and Charlotte.



OUTSTANDING - The Harguth family, from left: Adam, Nick, Jacob, Anne and Claire. Nick is 12 and currently in sixth grade at Waseca junior high school; Jacob is 14 and in eighth grade; Claire is 10 and a fifth grader.

Adam says he counts the Below family among his mentors in farming, one of the reasons he stayed “in the field.”

“Our parents, grandparents, the Below family,” Adam responded when asked about who had influenced A & A’s success.

“I would agree they’ve had a big impact,” Anne added.

Both Adam and Anne grew up on family farms and were active in 4-H and FFA as children. The couple went to high school together with Adam graduating first. After high school, the couple went separate ways, but found their way back to each other. They’ve now been married for 14 years.

“I would also include Charlie [Pribe],” Adam said. “He was our marriage mentor.”

What is the secret to a successful marriage?

“(Farming is) A lot of faith, hard work and dedication. ”

— Adam Harguth

“Mentorship, right?” Adam jokes with a smile.

“You have to have a lot of love and faith and compassion,” Anne explained.

The Harguths have successfully planted the farming seed in their kids, who are actively involved in 4-H.

“They have their own little calf operation,” Adam smiles. “They’re very hardworking and very enthusiastic in school activities.”

The Harguth family has also been

heavily involved in the Taste of the Farm event in Waseca County for many years. They are active members of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca and Knights of Columbus.

As for the secrets to farming, Adam admits it’s much like marriage.

“A lot of faith, hard work and dedication,” he speculated. “And then diversity too. Keeping up with technology and a willingness to think outside the box.”



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OBITUARIES

Margaret Krassin
Margaret J. Krassin, age 81, of Waseca passed away at her home on Saturday, March 18, 2023 surrounded by her family.

Margaret was born to Roy and Helen (Gibson) Wendland on February 28, 1942 in Waseca, MN. She graduated from Waseca Public Schools. On September 10, 1960, she was joined in marriage to Kenneth Krassin, and together they raised four children. They were married for 47 years until Kenneth's passing in 2008.

Margaret was a farm wife, and stayed at home when her kids were young. As they got older, she worked various jobs. She cleaned for service master, worked at Colony Court, volunteered for hospice, and helped with the ladies' aid at Trinity Lutheran Church - Wilton. She was a member at Trinity Lutheran Church - Wilton and Red Hat Society. In Margaret's spare time, she enjoyed old movies, music, bingo, crocheting, knitting, gambling, playing bridge at the Senior Center, fishing, camping, and spending time with her family. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Margaret is survived by her children, Ron Krassin of Waseca, Dawn (Mark) Zuehlke of Eagle Lake, Diane Tester of Waseca; nine grandchildren; fourteen great-grandchildren; one great great-grandchild; and brother, Jon (Janet) Wendland of Texas. She was preceded in death by husband, Kenneth Krassin; son, Kevin Kras-



Margaret Krassin

sin; parents, Helen and Roy Wendland; brothers, Robert, Donald, Ronald, Kenneth and Dick Wendland; sisters, Evelyn Kahnke and Mary Wendland.

Visitation was from 4:00 – 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Visitation continued for one hour prior to the service at the church on Wednesday.

The funeral service was 11:00 AM on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at Trinity Lutheran Church – Wilton with Rev. Larry Sipe officiating. Interment will be in Woodville Cemetery.

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Terrell R. Quiram

Terrell Robert Quiram passed away on Tuesday March 7th, 2023 at Honor Health Osborne in Scottsdale AZ. Terrell was born on June 6th, 1957 to Kenneth and Mona (Beckham) Quiram in Mankato MN.

Terrell attended Waterville Elysian Schools, graduating with the class of 1976. He enlisted in the US Army and served from August 1977 to August 1980. After he was honorably discharged he started his life long career of driving truck. He met his future wife (Dawn) in

July 1983 and they were married on September 1, 1984.

Terrell enjoyed spending time with his family and the great outdoors ; especially traveling to northern lakes where he would fish. His grandchildren brought him extreme joy and he loved surprising them with visits and projects.

He enjoyed playing board games and quality time spoiling them.

Terrell is survived by his loving wife Dawn, son David (Deidra Mack), daughter Aimee (Korey Condon) and 7 grandchildren: Xavier, Mona, Gage, Renly, Jaxon, Trislynn and Jacob. His father



Terrell R. Quiram

Kenneth (Carol), his brothers Damon (Nicole) and Bryan, his sisters

Sharon (Tim) Holzer and Lori (Robert) Goettl. Sisters in law, Donna Duchene and Suzann Thomas. Along with many other relatives and family friends.

He was proceeded in death by his mother, Mona. His paternal and maternal grandparents, and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Edward and Doris Thomas. Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday May 20, 2023 at 11:00 am at Trinity Lutheran Church, Janesville, MN.

Todd L Gerdts

Todd Loren Gerdts, age 56 of Waseca died on Thursday, March 16, 2023 at Laurel's Peak Rehabilitation Center in Mankato.

Born on November 13, 1966 in Waseca, Minnesota, he was the son of Loren and LaVonne (Bushlack) Gerdts. He attended Waseca High School and graduated in 1985. Todd was employed with Birdseye Division of General Foods in Waseca for 27 years. He later drove taxi for several years. Todd married Melissa Ann Farley on September 12, 1998 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca.

Todd enjoyed fishing, doing word search puzzles, playing bingo, hunting, bowling, golfing, and playing darts. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and a former member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles

where he was past president.

He is survived by his parents, Loren and LaVonne Gerdts of Waseca, siblings, Lisa Gerdts of Waseca, Steve (Julie) Gerdts of Le Sueur, and Tammy (Charles) Bennett of St. Peter; many nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his father-in-law, Bob Farley. He was preceded in death by his wife, Melissa; mother-in-law, Maureen Farley; and his grandparents.

Visitation will be held at State Street Chapel of Dennis Steffel Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Services in Waseca on Saturday, April 1, 2023 from 12:00 PM until 1:00 PM. A prayer service will follow visitation at 1:00 PM. Burial will follow at St. Joseph's Community Cemetery in Waldorf.

Dennis Steffel Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service
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School

from Page 1

Miller explained staff is “digging in” to their assessment practices and understanding what is best practice when assessing learning.

Superintendent Eric Hudspith

reported that dates in April and May are set for work on the strategic plan “refresh” and described the process for the leadership team. He commented that the 2019 plan focused on academics and teaching and learning, but there’s a gap in the operations aspect which needs to be fixed. “We are also knee-deep in planning for next year with staffing and budget planning.”

Policy updates, construction approved

By **TRISTAN JENSEN**
Staff Writer

In the absence of commission chair Blair Nelson, vice chair Brian Harguth led the March 21 regular meeting of the Waseca County Board. John Donahue attended as a visitor and took the podium during public comment to inform the board he felt like they'd given a “slap in the face” to Warnecke Construction regarding bids for the bridge northeast of Janesville. Warneke lost the bid by a very small amount, about \$150 according to Donahue; he observed that a statute exists which would have allowed the county to choose the “best value” bid over the lowest bid. Warnecke, Donahue said, has done a lot of great service for Waseca County and he feels the company should have won the bid under the best value statute.

Christopher Dieker asked the board to enter into a three-year maintenance agreement for an updated

version of Microsoft Office. The board approved the agreement after county administrator Michael Johnson explained there was little choice in the matter. The county had previously been using a perpetual license for Microsoft 13, and Microsoft has chosen to discontinue support for their offline programs in favor of a subscription-based cloud storage product. The yearly cost for the new agreement will be \$56,075. For the first year, it is suggested this is paid from the Recorder Compliance funds, which started the year with about \$105,000, but this fund doesn't take in enough yearly to continue to cover the costs so the agreement may be a factor in future budgetary decisions.

Chris Howard of Land and Water resources received permission to individually purchase numerous tools and pieces of equipment to establish, maintain and repair the nearly 250 miles of buffer strips which Waseca

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

County took responsibility for during the March 7 board of commissioners meeting. The total cost of the purchases is not to exceed \$164,000. These will come from the Riparian Fund, which is an assigned fund and has no impact on the 2023 county budget or future tax levy dollars. Maame Yorke of Planning and Zoning brought two conditional use permits, both of which were approved, before the board. The first was for the construction of a kennel in Alton Township, where Seth and Nicole Hollerman plan to convert an existing 16' by 14' shed into a kennel building and attach a dog run. Standards will restrict their kennel to 7 dogs at its current size, though the owners already hope to expand it in the future. The second is for Nnl Properties, LLC, of Janesville, who

are permitted for a recreational camping area for private use.

The board also approved four policy updates brought forth by Melissa Sexton of human resources. First was to add Juneteenth to the holiday schedule, in compliance with the collective bargaining agreement, now that it has been acknowledged as a holiday by the state legislature. The second and third updates brought policies for ID and facility access and county vehicle usage in line with current and best practices. The fourth was for cybersecurity needs in Information technology policies, and resulted in the most changes, according to Sexton. The updates were approved as a slate without discussion.

The scheduled public hearing for fee changes for public health services went without public comment. “I am confident that these are wise adjustments to our fee schedule,” said Commissioner Malterer prior to the board's vote in favor of the changes.



Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas presented Dave Lienke with an award during the convention for being the longest serving member of the county's mounted sheriff posse. Lienke has been a member since 1976.

Posse

from Page 1

Keane explained. “We are the ones that usually get called by the sheriffs to help out whenever they need us.”

Most of the help they provide can range from finding leads on stolen vehicles or missing persons. “We’re on standby to round up the members and help the sheriffs with whatever they need help getting done,” Keane elaborated.

Posse members include current members of the Waseca County Sheriff’s Department (Sheriff Jay Dulas and Chief Deputy Doug Gerdts among them), past sheriffs and deputies, former law enforcement, and those who want to help keep their communities safe.

“Some families have members spanning generations,” Keane shared. “My kids are part of the posse.”

The Waseca County Mounted Sheriff’s Posse was happy to report representation from sheriff offices as far north as Crow Wing County (which includes Brainerd). “We even have a former posse member who moved to Kentucky attending this event,” Borgmann said.

Local Waseca royalty — Miss South Central Jasmin Kotek and Miss Southern MN Outstanding teen Kloe Wadd — were also attendees and volunteers at the event.

There are always plenty of activities to do at the meetings. Infinity Catering of Janesville provided a dinner for the afternoon; throughout the day there were meat raffles, silent and live auctions, scholarship awards, and more.

One award recipient was Dave Lienke. Lienke was acknowledged as the longest-serving posse member. He joined in 1976, and so has been serving for more than 47 years. “It’s been an honor being with the posse for that long,” he said.

All in all, it was a great time that



The Mill in Waseca was host to more than 250 people during the Waseca County Sheriff’s Mounted Posse event last weekend.



Waseca Sleigh and Cutter royalty Jasmin Kotek, left, and Kloe Wadd, right, along with Miss Minnesota Teen Rodeo, Joy Hill, center, were in charge of the meat raffle at the convention.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

provided sheriff posse members and their families from across the state a chance to socialize and catch up.

“It’s always a lot of fun,” posse member Troy Keane said. “We have

a good time at these conventions.”

The funds raised at the convention will go toward scholarships for students.

Internships benefit area students

By **AMELIA ROESSLER**
Staff Writer

The Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) is presenting its summer internship program for the second year in a row, following the program’s successful start last summer.

MVAC is a non-profit community action agency that provides resources and opportunities to empower people in low-wage work.

The program presented by MVAC is a paid internship for college students from Waseca County meant to help them develop skills and learn about local career opportunities.

By being paired with a business in Waseca County, students can work in their field of interest while advancing their career goals locally.

“The program was great,” said Amelia Roessler, a Waseca High School graduate and University of Minnesota college student who participated in the program when it first started in 2022. “It was the summer after my freshman year of college and I wanted to do something related

to my journalism field. MVAC connected me with a newspaper in Waseca and I was able to learn a lot more about journalism than I could ever learn in class. The best part was that I could stay at home in Waseca.”

This year, the program is able to take on eight interns on a first-come, first-served basis, as long as a suitable business can be found. Students can apply for the program by going to mvac.org; businesses interested in taking on interns can also go to the website to apply.

“It was a good opportunity to get a head start in a career I can see myself pursuing for the rest of my life,” said NRHEG graduate Jonah Stafford, who partnered with the Waseca County Pioneer last year. “It was really cool being there from the start with the Pioneer.”

In order to apply, students need to be 18-25 years old, a resident of Waseca County, eligible to work in the U.S., and a college student in good academic standing at their college.

A successful completion of the in-

ternship will result in legitimate work experience for a resume and can possibly earn college credit for the experience gained.

For summer 2023, the program has a budgeted grant amount of \$50,000 from the Waseca county commissioners, an increase from the \$35,000 budget in 2022.

The internship pays \$15 an hour and allows the student to work up to 29 hours per week. Any host businesses which wish to supplement the internship wages so that the student acquires a 40-hour work week is welcome to do so. Even though

MVAC would like the internship to be the main priority for the student, a student may have a second job if they are only working 29 hours per week.

“I was lucky enough to work 40 hours a week,” Roessler said. “When I started, MVAC was very helpful with all the paperwork and went over the expectations and rules of the workplace and even showed me how to do things like filling out time cards and getting feedback from my manager. It was a very positive experience.”



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New Richland to look at flooding

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

The New Richland City Council heard from an owner of Neighbor's Meats during its first meeting of the month on Monday, March 13 regarding flooding and drainage concerns. Due to significant damage in the past to the building as a result of flooding, the council was asked what is being done.

"We're working on it - that's all I can tell you," said Mayor Chad Neitzel.

City administrator Tony Martens stated that a \$100,000 study needs to be done before the city can work with the county on the flooding issues. After further discussion, the council assured the individuals that the matter is being looked into and they will be updated on future meetings.

The ambulance report, submitted in writing, stated that the New Richland ambulance has responded to 41 calls this year as of March 9. The ambulance will be holding another Bingo event on May 20 to kick off EMS Week, and it was noted that the annual inspection on the ambulance's L.U.C.A.S. and Lifepak went well. The ambulance was also awarded with a Certificate of Clinical Excellence from EMSRB. The report was approved.

The fire department report, which stated that the NRFD responded to one fire call in February, was approved.

Tanyce Bruegger presented the police report, which stated that the NRPD responded to 93 calls for service in February, bringing the total number of calls for the year to 198. A purchase request for a 2018 squad vehicle from the Waseca County Sheriff's Office at a cost of \$16,000 was approved pending approval from the county board. The council also approved a payment of \$558.75 towards a vehicle for the South Central Drug Investigation Unit along with the police report.

In unfinished business, the council approved the purchase of a new lawn mower at a cost of \$25,800 to be paid from the capital fund for the street department. A request from All Saints Church to place four handicap stalls in front of the church on 1st St. SW was approved, along with the installation of a hydrant at Legion Field, along with a hose reel and supplies at a total cost of \$1,875. The February check registry was briefly discussed and approved, along with the administrator's report. Resolution 23-03 updating the city fee schedule raising the lifetime animal license fee from \$10 to \$25 was approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

Art Center hosts photographer

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

The Waseca Art Center hosted photographer James Taylor at a reception for the closing of his art gallery Friday, March 17 for his project, the Semaj Roytal Tarot.

Taylor, of Mankato, started taking pictures twelve years ago at sixteen and says he got his start because his father, now retired, was a professor of photography at the time. In the beginning, he didn't want to do photography, he explained, but when he tried portraiture he was "hooked." Taylor explained that he finds something special in the uniqueness of faces that he really enjoys. He eventually attended Utah State University for photography, graduating in 2021.

Taylor is also a self-taught photo editor, doing all of his own editing. He says he's learned from YouTube videos and online workshops, and he now has a full-time job as a photo editor for fun.com in Mankato in addition to his art.

Taylor says he's always been interested in spirituality and that he first tried out Tarot in 2020. It became a guiding tool for him during what was a difficult year for so many. "Tarot work is just energy work," he explained. "It's not as intense and dark as it's shown in TV and movies," Taylor said, going on to explain that, like life, what you get out of Tarot is directly the result of what you put into it.

When Taylor started the Semaj Roytal Tarot project, he said it was to find a creative outlet after his graduation from USU. He added that he knew it would be a huge project and says he didn't entirely expect to ever finish it. A tarot deck is 78 cards, each of which had to be designed individually, then shot and edited. Initially, he started the project with the 22 cards that make up the "major arcana," or the cards which represent archetypes and do not belong to one of the four suits. Once he'd finished the major arcana, which took a number of years, Taylor says he wanted to fill out the deck with simpler cards for the minor arcana. When asked about his favorite aspect of the project, he says "In a silly way, it's the fact that I did it." Another thing Taylor says he enjoys is that the cards exist in decks that can be used, which provides some tangibility for him.

The photos for the Semaj Roytal Tarot were all shot on location. The



TAROT DECK - Area photographer James Taylor used his skill at portraiture in creating a unique deck of Tarot cards, now on display at the Waseca Art Center. Pioneer photo by Tristan Jensen

first few were done in Utah before Taylor moved back to Mankato in the spring of 2021, but most were shot locally between 2021 and the present. Taylor used his friends as models, but also people he found on social media or through USU's arts department where he took the portraits. He also says he will ask anyone, anywhere, to model for his projects if he feels the need, and has no fear of rejection. "The worst they can say is no," he said lightly. He says much of his inspiration comes from other artists whose work he enjoys and from music. An example is his card for "the Lovers," who are posed together in a garden with their eyes blurred. The blurred eyes are meant to represent the adage "love is blind" and the fact that the lovers card in a tarot reading does not necessarily indicate finding true love; the composition of the card was inspired by a piece by painter Norman Rockwell.

JWP to rejuvenate track surface

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Perhaps some of the most important discussions at the March 20 JWP school board meeting came from reports given by Superintendent Jeremy Erler and by various committee leaders.

Tim Burke shared that the school's finance and operations committees went through the project fund and had updates to share. Buildings and grounds director Mike Daschner suggested the school should look into getting sound pads for the auditorium. Also under consideration is a wood roof to help with the sound quality in the space.

"We're also looking into coating the track," he said. "It's suggested every five years. We're starting to see some wear and tear on that. We'll see if we need to get the coating done this year or if we can afford to wait another year."

The coating would cost the district \$70,000, some of which can be covered by funds already set aside for the track and field.

The committee is also looking into resurfacing parking lots and installing a wall in the media center to create an extra room that could potentially act as another classroom in the future.

Erler reported that the sports side of the school may change. The Minnesota State High School League is realigning sections and classes, which they do every two years. After spending only two years in Class A and in the Gopher Conference, the JWP football, volleyball, and basketball teams will upgrade back to AA, where they were before the change between conferences in 2021.

"[Athletic Director] Paul Brunner sent an appeal to the state to avoid being bumped up," Erler said. "But talking to other athletic directors in the area, there wasn't much confidence that the appeal would go through. We found out that our appeal did get denied."

JWP SCHOOL BOARD

Many other local area schools also had appeals denied.

The change means that Brunner now has to set up new football games as well as make sure all the other sports are okay. "We're changing to play against non-conference teams for more section games," Erler said.

Erler mentioned that there was a lot of talk at the Janesville city council about a potential community center. The school was approached about joining the discussion.

In a legislative update, he mentioned that the bill allowing universal free meals for students was approved and signed into law the previous Friday. The law will go into effect next school year.

Business items approved were to appoint Katie Cahill as a volunteer track and field coach and authorize

the Janesville State Bank to give "any info requested" to Erler. Erler explained the reasoning for having this on the agenda is that he did not have access to the district's safe deposit box at the bank; it was still under the name of the previous superintendent Kurt Stumpf.

The board then had the first reading of five school policies receiving substantial changes: the Unpaid Meal Charge, Transportation of Nonpublic School Students, Student Transportation Safety Policy, Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources, and Public Data Requests.

The only discussion on those policies was from board member Sherri Daschner, who said that the "Unpaid Meal Charge" policy will be renamed the "School Meal Policy" to match the wording of the Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA). The shorter than usual meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.



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Jack and Julie Anderson present in the Hartley Media Center. Also shown are Hartley's SpEd team 'rockin' their socks on World Down Syndrome Day.

Students learn about Down syndrome

Hartley elementary students "rocked their socks off" for World Down Syndrome Day March 21. All students and staff across Waseca Public School district were encouraged to wear fun, bright, and/or mismatched socks to show support for individuals with Down syndrome.

Former Hartley Bluejay, Jack Anderson, and Waseca Public School Board chair, Julie Anderson, gave their annual presentation at the elementary where every student had the opportunity to hear them speak.

Some of the information they shared included:

Down syndrome occurs when there are three copies of the twenty-first chromosome, instead of the usual two copies. This is why March 21 (3/21) is designated as World Down Syndrome Day.

There is no cause for Down syndrome. It randomly occurs across both genders and all ethnicities while cells are dividing in the very beginning stages of pregnancy.

Individuals with Down syndrome lead active, full, successful, productive lives.

Common traits are low muscle tone, small stature, upward slant to the eyes, and a single deep crease across the center of the palm. They generally have mild to moderate intellectual disabilities.

Down syndrome occurs in one out of every 700 births in the United States and this is the most common genetic disorder.

Heart conditions, gastrointestinal conditions, and other health complications are common.

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Waseca FFA members helping with the Farm and City Luncheon March 16 at the Mill in Waseca, are, from left: Senior Kloe Wadd, sophomore Addison Kelm, junior Bailey Hodgkins and senior Ava Nolland.



JWP FFA members from left: Cole Schlueter, Zach Groh and Sam Carlson.

FFA groups help with luncheon

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Helping serve more than 200 people during the annual Farm and City Luncheon held March 16 at the Mill in Waseca were members of the Waseca and JWP Future Farmers of America organizations.

The students gave a brief presentation about the FFA License plate program during lunch.

Presenting, and serving, from the Waseca Chapter were:

Kloe Wadd, Addison Kelm, Bailey Hodgkins, and Ava Nolland.

Wadd, a senior, has been in FFA since seventh grade; Kelm, a sophomore, has been a member for four years; Hodgkins, a junior, for five years, and Nolland, a senior, has been an FFA member since eighth grade.

“To me, being a part of this FFA chapter is being involved in the agricultural community and advocating for agriculture,” Wadd said. “It is definitely fun. Honestly, this is probably my favorite event of the year. Not only do we get delicious food from the Pheasant each year, but we also get to communicate and talk with other agricultural experts and industry majors and people who are involved. And then we also get to represent those agricultural leaders.”

Nolland said her time in the Waseca FFA has taught her to be a better leader.

“There are so many opportunities in FFA to help people and give service to the community.”

Wadd said her future plans are related to agriculture. She plans to attend the University of Minnesota, Crookston and major in agribusiness/ag communications.

“I love wearing this blue jacket,” Kelm, a junior added. “I’m going to miss wearing it; I get one more year.”

Also assisting Thursday were JWP FFA members Cole Schlueter, Zach Groh and Sam Carlson.

All have been in FFA for three or four years since the chapter was re-established in 2019.

“I think it’s really great to kind of show the world that our chapters exist,” Schlueter, a senior, said. “Janesville hadn’t had a chapter since the eighties. I think it’s really good for our community, because we are an ag based community. It gets more kids involved in agricultural experiences.”

Schlueter credits Mrs. O, which he says is her nickname because, “no one can spell it” who helped start that chapter four years ago. Last year the chapter had about 30 members. This year it added more than a dozen students.

“We love serving people!” Groh, a junior, exclaimed.

“It was a good meal,” Carlson, the other senior, stated. “It was a great, great meal.”

Bernard honored, surprised

Farm and City Distinguished Ag Leader

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

During the 2023 Waseca County Farm and City Luncheon Thursday, March 16, local Mark Bernard was recognized as a leader in area agriculture and honored with the “Distinguished Agricultural Leadership” award.

“I was a little surprised by the nomination,” Bernard said after the program. “When I was first nominated it was before Covid. I thought, well, they probably forgot about this thing. And, you know, it took a little time to go through the process. It gave me the chance to reflect on my career.” Bernard mentions that 40-some years is a long time to reflect upon, and that doing so caused him to think about how much has changed.

New Richland resident and Star Eagle columnist Bernard has made a name for himself in the field of agronomy. Born and raised on a family farming operation in the Spring Valley area, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree with a double major in agronomy and soil science at the University of Minnesota-St. Paul Campus.

“My parents, John and Betty, were mentors,” Bernard remembers. “But I had many mentors over the years—teachers and then, after I got into college, guys like Jerome Lensing. Once I was in business, Gyles Randall was definitely a mentor of mine. And the list goes on. I had some great employees to mentor along the way myself. So that taught me what this whole thing means. You just pay it forward. That’s all you do.”

After graduating in 1981, Bernard found his way to North Dakota, where he worked for Centrol/Cenex as an agronomist. There, he experienced the challenges of working with a wide range of crops, including durum wheat, hard red spring wheat, oats, barley, soybeans, sunflowers, flax, yellow mustard, Oriental mustard, dry edible beans, and safflower.

In 1985, Bernard moved to New Richland and began working as an agronomist with Hunting Elevator. In 1987, he started working for Paul Miller and his young company, Agro-Economics. Soon after, Bernard became the sole owner of the company, which specializes in crop consulting, soil sampling, and yield analysis. He has since added drone capabilities to Agro-Economics’ services and stays up-to-date with changes in technology.



Mark Bernard accepts the Waseca County Distinguished Agricultural Leadership – Active award from Gyles Randall.

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

“LaVonne asked me to write a column once in ‘02. I thought she wanted just one.”

— Mark Bernard

Bernard and Agro-Economics have had a significant impact on area agriculture, particularly during the ag crisis of the 1980s. Bernard’s recommendations focus around using soil samples to determine what inputs, at what level, would most benefit crops grown in a specific field. This allowed farmers to save money by using, usually, decreased amounts of fertilizer, especially nitrogen. Site specific chemical and pesticide application saved producers even more money while helping improve production. Agro-Economics has long been recognized as a well-informed, independent source for crop production guidance.

Much of that guidance results from Bernard’s own small farming operation, which he says, helps him to “keep the pulse” of the land. Bernard raises hay, crops, and livestock. “It’s like my own little laboratory,” he says. “I use the information and experience generated to help my business and other livestock people, especially sheep producers.” He remembers an incident long ago, for example, when he noticed the differences in soil composition between land where he had spread manure and where he had not, and some of the realizations that led him to.

Bernard is an active member of various agricultural professional organizations, including the Crop Science Society of America, Soil Science Society of America, Weed Science Society of America, North Central Weed Science Society, American Society of Agronomy, and The American Cheviot Sheep Soci-



Mark Bernard, Mrs. Cheviot

ety. He has also maintained his certification as a Certified Professional Agronomist since 1992 and adheres to the organization’s code of ethics.

He is also the agronomist for the annual Pro Farmer Crop Tour, a survey which travels throughout a seven-state region during the month of August assessing the production potential for corn and soybean crops. Bernard refers to it as “the first boots-on-the-ground look at the US corn and soybean crop in the seven top-producing states.” This year will be Bernard’s twentieth with the “eastern leg” of the tour.

In addition to his work and involvement in professional organizations, Bernard is a well-known figure in the New Richland farm and non-farm communities. He has been writing the “Fencelines” column in the Star Eagle for more than two decades, resulting in more than 1,000 columns. “LaVonne Meyer asked me to write a column once in 2003,” Bernard recalls. “I thought she wanted just one!”

In his column, Bernard keeps readers abreast of local weather, crop conditions, happenings on the Bernard farmstead, updates on his trusty

Studebaker, and the latest news of the weather eye and the “scurs.” With weather being a critical factor in crop production, Bernard has been a Skywarn weather spotter for more than a decade, giving him valuable insight into the behavior of storms and their impact on crops.

Bernard, along with his wife Jo, has also been an integral part of New Richland and Waseca County society. They have been involved in various activities, including the Lions Club, being members of the state (Northstar) and national chapters of the Studebaker Drivers Club, assisting with 4-H, and their local church.

Bernard’s accomplishments are numerous, and he has made a lasting impact on the field of agronomy, as well as the local community.

Toward the end of the program, it was joked that it would take an entire special edition of the Star Eagle to document Bernard’s achievements in agriculture.

“I’m not used to that,” Bernard said about going from being a writer/reporter to being “reported on.”

“It’s a little different,” Bernard joked. “You just don’t think about it.”

Farm and City Luncheon



Scenes from the Farm and City Luncheon held March 16 at The Mill.

Photos by Eli Lutgens

VFW Auxiliary holds patriotic art competition

High school students invited to submit work by March 31

VFW Auxiliary 1642 is looking for aspiring artists for the 2023 Young American Patriotic Art Contest. All students grades 9-12 can get details at vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships. Deadline is March 31 and artwork must be submitted to VFW Chair Barb Klampe at the VFW.

A VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship

The VFW National Auxiliary is pleased to present this National Scholarship to assist students who wish to further their education. The scholarship contest recognizes young artists and encourages patriotism in youth. Entries will be judged on originality of concept, presentation, expression of patriotism, relation of content to patriotism, clarity of ideas, design technique, and total impact of work.

Contest Rules

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two dimensional.
- Entry must be on canvas or paper.
- Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board. Other entries if matted must be matted in white. Do not use color mats.
- Reinforce the back with heavy paper. Mounted and floating mats may also be used. Do not frame art.
- Entries may not be smaller than

- 8" x 10" and not larger than 18" x 24", not including mat larger than 18" in any direction.
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker or other media may be used.
- Complete contest application and attach to back of entry.
- Parent or guardian signature required on contest application.
- If the American Flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, number of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Digital art and photography are not accepted.

Contest Eligibility

- Students in grades 9-12 by the March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial, or home school program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen.
- Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or older, GED and adult education students, or national winners of previous Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests are NOT eligible.



FAMILY - Those in attendance to watch Charlie Priebe accept the 2023 Senior Active Farmer Award during the Farm and City Luncheon are, from left: Isaac Thompson, Noah Thompson, Jacob Thompson, Jodie Thompson, Charlie Priebe, Monica Priebe and Charlie's sister, Charlott Priebe Wilhelm.

‘Still excited’ to farm

Charlie Priebe awarded during banquet

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

During the 2023 Waseca County Farm and City Luncheon Thursday, March 16, local Charlie Priebe was recognized for his role in Waseca County agriculture earning the “Senior Active Farmer Award.”

“My life started with farming,” Priebe smiles. “I rented my first piece of land the spring of my senior year, and I went on from there.”

The son of Harold and Agnes Priebe, Charlie grew up on a family farm outside New Richland and went to NRH High School, class of 1962.

“I knew that’s what I wanted to do as a kid,” Priebe says with confidence. “There was no question about what I wanted to do when I went off to college. And I knew I was coming back.”

“I had a lot of mentors along the way,” Priebe recalls. “Mom and Dad, they were important to me. My teachers, all of them. I’m a country school kid after all... Mr. Broecker, the Ag teacher was probably my favorite.”

After earning a Bachelor’s Degree in Soil Science from the University of Minnesota-St. Paul, Priebe and his wife, Bonnie, began farming on their own property outside of Waseca.

Starting with just a few hundred acres and dairy cows, the Priebe family eventually moved on to a

“My life started with farming.”
— Charlie Priebe



Charlie Priebe, Mark Bernard
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

hog operation. At their peak, they were managing 1,500 acres of land and over 3,000 hogs.

Priebe became an expert in his field, traveling to Mexico to share his best practices and assist with research to help other farmers.

“Agriculture, it’s been such a ride,” he observes. “Growing up, the neighbor across the road from us was still farming with horses and a little tractor. To go from that to self driving tractors, yield monitors and monitoring systems. Farming used to be by the acre, now it’s by the square foot.”

In addition to his work in agriculture, Priebe has also sold crop insurance and Pioneer seed corn. He is well known for providing young farmers with more than just seed, helping them weigh their corn, organize their records, and set up tractor field mapping devices. He truly cares about their success and is willing to go the extra mile to help them achieve it.

Priebe is known throughout the community as a true advocate for farmers and the agriculture



VISIBLE HISTORY - A wide variety of items help visitors to the Waseca County History Center help visitors to visualize area history.

History Center merits repeated visits

By DAVE ZIKA
Staff writer

The Waseca County History Center is truly one of Waseca County’s hidden treasures. I’ve been on the board of directors for several years, yet as I gathered information for this article I learned how much I didn’t know about the many interesting stories, artifacts, and displays there are at the center preserving and reminding us about our county’s historic past.

Did you know the Millers raised a family of 22 children? A tornado hit Waseca County in 1967 leaving behind massive destruction and even deaths. Waseca native Leroy Shield brought his music to a nation of radio listeners and movie goers. His lasting legacy is the Little Rascals theme song. You can study and read about these stories and many others on the second floor balcony timeline exhibit at the museum. There are 17 timeline panels and 19 new unique story exhibit cases, along with many interesting artifacts on the balcony floor. If you have bad wheels, like I do, you can take an elevator ride to the balcony.

For those with questions about anything from our county’s past, maybe even about some genealogy, the museum has a wonderful, qualified group of folks to answer your questions. Joan Mooney is the direc-

tor and is surrounded by a welcoming, helpful staff. Pauline Fenelon, Jan Hunter, Amanda Larkin, and Virginia McCarthy are all waiting to meet and answer questions for you!

The Waseca County Historical Society was organized in 1938 in the Waseca County Courthouse. In 1940 John Oleson and the A. F. Sponberg family donated original hand-hewn logs which were used to reconstruct a pioneer dwelling on the south lawn of the courthouse. The society’s collection was displayed inside the cabin for a number of years. By the mid-fifties, the space had become too small—and the county needed the area where it stood to expand. The cabin was moved to the county fairgrounds and enclosed in a cement block building dedicated as Hodgson Hall. In 1962 Edgar Johnson, his brothers and family, bought the former Methodist Church building. Two years later, after renovations, the Johnson families donated and officially dedicated the building as Waseca County’s museum. Today the museum houses over 40,000 artifacts which help showcase more than 150 years of Waseca County history. To this day, Hodgson Hall, located at the fairgrounds, still houses the original cabin and is also used for displays during the Waseca County Fair.

The Bailey-Lewer House is one of Waseca’s oldest homes built in 1868,

as Waseca County was being settled. Originally built by Dayton Smith, an accused horse thief, it was acquired in 1872 by P.C. Bailey, a hardware merchant, county official, and director of the first committee to build a school in Waseca. Bailey died in 1907 and the house was purchased by the Ewald Lewer family, who owned it until 1991. At that time, the Lewer family donated not only the house, but a generous amount of funding, to the Waseca county Historical Society. The house stands in a great location, right across the street from the museum. The Bailey house was restored and placed on the National Historic Register in 1994. The structure now serves as the research center for the Waseca County Historical Society. For the landscaping around the house, plants were selected that had been available and popular at the time it would have been built in 1868. The plants have become historical gardens to be viewed May through October.

Hofmann Apiaries, the honey farm, has been an ongoing project of Joan Mooney and the WCHS staff. The farm is being restored, showcasing and preserving bees and pollinator habitat. Hofmann Apiaries is the ONLY apiary listed on the National Register of Historic Places offering public programming, education, and tours in the United

States. The honey farm is located in Waseca County near Janesville.

The museum also provides educational services for all the public schools in Waseca County. In the past, the facility has hosted programs for all of the sixth-graders in Waseca County. Many elementary classes visit the museum, fairgrounds, or the honey farm for instruction. The main floor at the museum has hosted Herters exhibits, township exhibits, and many others. The floor is ever changing with holiday and seasonal displays.

The WCHS is a non-profit organization. It offers access to all, young or old, with an elevator and handicap ramps. The WCHS is now in the process of running its March membership drive. Volunteers for museum projects and events are greatly needed. If you’re like me, maybe you’re looking for a way to serve your community in your spare time. PLEASE JOIN US – WE NEED YOU!!

You can become a member or volunteer by contacting the museum.

Open Tuesdays – Fridays, 9-5 PM.
Museum Address: 315 2nd Avenue NE, Waseca

Online:
www.historical.waseca.mn.us
Phone: 507-835-7700

Look forward to seeing you! Tell them Zika, the Pioneer, sent you!!





Jae Trahms of Janesville accepts a posthumous award on behalf of his grandfather, Janesville farmer Alfred Trahms.

Trahms farmer leader

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Beloved Janesville farmer and community leader Alfred Trahms was honored posthumously as a distinguished leader in Waseca County Agriculture during the annual Farm and City Luncheon Thursday, March 16.

Each year Waseca County recognizes a deceased leader who dedicated his or her life to the advancement of agriculture in the county.

When Trahms passed away in 1984 at the age of 74, he left behind a legacy of hard work and dedication to family and public service. Trahms, along with his wife, Dorothy, raised eight children while running a successful farm just south of Janesville. He focused on hogs, corn, and soybeans, and later turned over operations to his sons. Under his leadership, the farm grew in both size and productivity.

Trahms was known throughout the area for not only his farming skills, but also his acumen as a leader. In the early 1960s, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the Janesville Creamery Association and then served as Chairman of the Board before retiring in 1974. He was also named to the Governor's Board of Land O' Lakes from 1966 to 1976.

Janesville residents also benefited from Trahms' commitment to public service, as he served on the Janesville Public School Board



Jae Trahms

"It's true what we heard today."
— Jae Trahms

from 1960 to 1978, serving as treasurer, and on the Waseca County Zoning and Planning Commission from 1968 – 1978.

Trahms was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church and served in many leadership positions throughout the years.

"Few farmers have given more leadership to this county and perhaps the state than Alfred Trahms," the Farm and City program read. "His long-time, diversified leadership exceeded industry standards at all levels."

Trahms has left behind a strong legacy. His grandson, Jae Trahms, accepted the award on behalf of the Trahms family. Jae, a 2016 graduate of JWP, said he didn't have the chance to know his grandfather, but family members had assured him: "It's true what we heard today."



Eighteen girls' hockey players were celebrated at their banquet Thursday, March 16. They were, in no particular order: Kiya Pospisil, Madalyn Benson, Maizee Storey, Kaylee Lawson, Izabela Slechta, Emily Gordon, Madelyn Malecha, Emma Huelsnitz, Ryley Bartz, McKenna Mortensen, Katlyn Schueller, Stevie Johnston, Makayla Forthun, Timmi Volkmer, Cece Huttemier, and Ilamay Draheim. Not pictured but still recognized were Alicia Kelt and Emma Keith.

Best season in 7 years

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

It was a pretty good first season for Waseca girls' hockey head coach Chas Benson.

At the girls' hockey end-of-season banquet Thursday, March 16 at the Lakeview Golf Course clubhouse, he shared what his ambitious goals for the team were, which included getting them to a winning record. They ended the regular season 12-11, the team's best record in seven years. "We worked really hard to get there," Benson said.

However, Benson's second goal of winning a section game wasn't realized; Albert Lea, the defending Section 1A champions, defeated the Lady Jays in the first round of sections.

"We did get a first round bye, though," he said. "That was huge. And we did give Albert Lea a run for their money in the first two periods."

Benson said earlier this season that he wanted to build a positive team culture on the ice. "But I've talked about how it's not only how the girls are on the ice; it's also about how they are off the ice," he told the crowd of parents. "They showed up at games and other events together as a team, which was great to see."

Award winners
The awards given out were all voted on by the players and coaches; the only exception was the MVP award, which was a players-only vote.

Eighth-grade goaltender Ilamay Draheim was awarded the MVP, which was well-deserved. Benson claimed that it was a near unanimous



HONOREES: From left, defensive player of the year Cece Huttmeier, most valuable player Ilamay Draheim, "Muck and Grind" award winner Izabela Slechta, offensive player of the year Maizee Storey, and "most improved" Kaylee Lawson. Emma Keith, not pictured, was an all-conference honorable mention.

selection by the players, and there was no question as to why. Draheim ended the year thirtieth among all goalies in the state in saves with a .922 percentage; she placed twelfth in Class A. "That's fantastic, especially for an eighth-grader," he said.

Maizee Storey, another eighth-grader, won the offensive player of the year award, and was also recognized for making it to the Big South All-Conference team. She had a total of 28 points on the season, which included 18 goals and 10 assists. "She knows how to put the puck in the net," Benson said.

Cece Huttemier was named the defensive player of the year. "We all breathed a sigh of relief when she was on the ice," Benson shared.

This year, an additional acknowledgment was added: the "Muck and Grind" award. "Coach Anthony Scheid always told the girls between periods, 'We need to muck and grind,'" Benson explained. "We need to get our elbows out and push some girls around."

Junior Izabela Slechta was the recipient of that award.

Although Junior Emma Keith was not present for the banquet, she was

also recognized for making the Big South Conference All-Conference Honorable Mention list.

Seniors recognized

As Benson called up the letter winners, he started by recognizing the seniors, beginning with goaltender Alicia Kelly. "She came up in clutch for us in many situations, including the section playoff game against Albert Lea," he shared. "I think one of the hardest things in sports is to be a backup goalie and have to come in cold. She did that a handful of times for us this season."

Madelyn Malecha was the next senior recognized. "She was the locker room leader. She made everyone laugh and had the best one-liners...some that I can't say here. But the effect she had in the locker room will be sorely missed."

Senior Jacqlyn Mathern was also recognized. She was unable to play most of the season due to injuries. "She tried so hard in practice," she said. "It was a bummer she couldn't finish the season with us. She gave it her all and was a bright spot for us."

Cece Huttemier was next to receive recognition. "She was a 'fourth head coach' for us," Benson claimed.

"I appreciated having coached her. It was an absolute pleasure all year long. She led the girls on ice, off ice, verbally, and mostly by example."

Timmi Volkmer was the last senior recognized. A former goaltender for Waseca, she hadn't played hockey for two years prior to rejoining the team this season as a forward. "I was thoroughly surprised," Benson admitted. "She was a bit rusty at first, but how quickly she picked it up...you can tell that there was a skill still there. She was always willing to work, such a coachable kid, and had a smile on her face, which I enjoyed."

At the end of the banquet, Benson announced the captains for next season's team: Emma Keith, Izabela Slechta, and Kaitlyn Schueller. "We couldn't pick any better three," Benson said. "They'll do an excellent job. I'm looking forward to them leading our team."

"We accomplished a lot this season," he concluded. "The most important part — which was another goal of ours — is we had fun throughout it all."

All Conference Honors



Waseca girls and boys basketball receiving all conference team honors were, for the boys: sophomores Damarius Russel and Carson Ohnstad. Junior Laird Keeton received an honorable mention.

For the girls, earning all-conference honors were seniors: Kloe Wadd, Samantha Azure and Avery Madsen.



At the boys' hockey banquet, six players were given awards. From left: Hunter Anderson was named Mr. Hustle, Karson Lindsay was voted most improved, Griffin Krautkremer earned the Todd Mann Heart Award, Kyle Ahlschlager earned MVP and Mr. Offense, Lucas Groll was Mr. Defense, and Brayden Hesch-Priem was awarded the Shea O'Neill Character Award. Bottom: Seniors Griffin Krautkremer and Kyle Ahlschlager received their awards for making the Big South All-Conference team.

Ups and downs for boys' hockey

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

After a big season with many highs and lows, the Waseca boys' hockey team held its annual banquet recognizing players for their hard work.

The Bluejays' season ended 10-15. In the first round of playoffs, Waseca fought with Rochester Lourdes but was stopped short with a close 4-5 loss in February.

Despite the way things ended, the boys had a lot to celebrate. Senior forward Kyle Ahlschlager received recognition for breaking the all-time goals and all-time scoring records. Ahlschlager scored 106 goals and 190 points in his career.

The work he put in this season won him the Mr. Offense and MVP awards. Junior Hunter Anderson won the Mr. Hustle award with fellow junior Lucas Groll taking the Mr. Defense title. Karson Lindsay, a JWP student who played his first and only season of hockey, won the Most Improved award. Rounding out the recognition was Griffin Krautkremer winning the Todd Mann Heart Award and Brayden Hesch-Priem the Shea O'Neil Character Award.

During the banquet, Krautkremer and Ahlschlager received their certificates for making the Big South All-Conference team.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

@ AMERICAN LEGION CLUB

WASECA LIONS

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
7:30 AM - 12 NOON

ADULTS: \$8.00
KIDS, 12 AND UNDER: \$4.00 AT THE DOOR
TODDLERS: FREE

PROCEEDS BENEFIT:
WASECA BOY SCOUTS AND GIRL SCOUTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND LION'S EYE BANK



BEA AT WORK — In 1973, Mrs. Joe Stepan (Bea to Janesville residents) showed Mrs. Bill Sexton a new pair of canvas shoes. Bea helped her husband in his shoe store business for 25 years, and celebrated with an open house.

Six JWP wrestlers receive all-area

1923

-If we were to judge of the value of an article on account of its reception by the public and the encomiums bestowed upon the editor for writing it, then the article appearing last week in this series of local historical sketches was the most valuable and the most accurate article every published in Janesville. Following the day of publication, the editor was kept busy answering questions relative to the matter discussed. In no one instance was there criticism.

-After serving several years, Marshal Cris Grams will retire upon the completion of this term of office the first week in April. He has been urged to file again, but he feels that he has given of his time sufficiently to serving the public and accordingly he says no to those who have urged him. It is due to say that Mr. Grams is a very capable and superior official. Universally in town and country the sentiment is repeatedly reflected that he has made one of the best marshals the town ever had an for that matter the state.

-St. Patrick's Day was observed in Janesville on Saturday last in an entertainment of unusual interest and of inestimable value. It centered around the very pleasing and impressive play by home talent at the Town Hall presented both in the afternoon, and evening. It was highly pleasing from the fact that the personnel of the caste rendered their respective roles in a masterly manner, reflecting dramatic ability and a true conception of dramatic interpretation.

1948

-A meeting was held Tuesday evening, March 19, at the Janesville Council Rooms to discuss and find ways and means to secure a public road from Janesville to the Dam at Lake Elysian. Delegations of the following organizations were represented: The Village Council, Public School Board, Fire Department, Sportsmen's Club, American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

-Bringing his Mountain lake basketball team into Mankato for the Region two tournament is more or less a trip back home for Coach Paul Munson. Sixteen of his 19 years of coaching have been spent in this section of the state. Following his graduation from St. Olaf in 1927, Munson coached at New Richland. In 1931, he moved to Janesville where he took over coaching all sports at the high school. Munson gained a reputation as a coach during the next 12 years.

-Young men who have reached the age of 18 after January 1, this year, and who wish to join the Navy, must enlist before May 15 or they will be subject to the draft. Ronald K. Seales, Motor Machinist's mate in charge of the Mankato Navy recruiting office, said this morning. Many superintendent in 19 counties covered by the Mankato Service have agreed to issue diplomas of seniors in high school before May 15, if such seniors wish to enlist in the Navy, Seales said.

1973

-Nine Janesville High School students were inducted into the local chapter of the National Honor Society at ceremonies held last night at the high school. They are seniors John Jewison, Ann Wagner and Cindy Miller; Juniors Randy Witt, Vicki Wolff and Carol Bergmann; and sophomores Randy Hoversten, Betty Kopischke and Lori Born. The selection was made by a vote of senior high school teachers from a list of sophomores, juniors and seniors who have attained a "B" average, or above, during their high school studies.

-Janesville's Bombers basketball squad ended its most successful season in eight years with a string of five wins in their last six games. Coach George Tuvey said, "This strong finish is really typical of our entire season. We played well early in the year, fell apart for several games, then came back strong - in one word, we were an 'erratic' team." Throughout the season, the B squad set many records in statistics compiled over the last seven seasons. Against Morristown the Bombers scored 65 points and allowed only 16. Against Glenville, Janesville could only manage 22 points, and against Loyola they allowed 60. The Bombers allowed an average of 36.5 points per game, while scoring 39.7.

-Janesville students, from fourth through twelfth grade demonstrated everything from the effects of temperature on a grog to deficiency of Vitamin E in mice at the annual JHS Science Fair Friday night. Science Fair Director, Dave Ostrem told the Argus that there were over 74 displays set up in the gym for the occasion. Judges gave first, second and third places in grades four, five and six, junior and senior high. Ann Sens won first place in the fourth grade category with her display on cats, Bradley Hays placed second with his Wood Ducks and Bill Bartelt and Teddy Johnson claimed third with their Water Purification project.

1998

-The following wrestlers were named to the Waseca County News all-area wrestling team, which consists of wrestlers from Waseca, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, and Waterville-Elysian-Morristown: 103, Jason Folie, 8th-grader, Waseca; At 112, Jake Kaiser, junior, JWP; 119, Dan Petsinger, NRHEG, Sophomore; Ben Blegen at 125, JWP, senior; 130, Jeremiah Morsching, WEM, Junior; 135 Joe Johnson, JWP, senior; 140-pound Trent Gunsolus, JWP, junior; 145 Jeff Adams, JWP, senior; Tony Stoering at 152, WEM, senior; 160-pound Dana Gostomczik, JWP, senior; Adam Christ at 171, Waseca, senior; Jeremy Berg at 189, NRHEG, senior; and 275-pound Mike Schuch, JWP, junior.

-The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School District is changing the face of elementary education. At the end of this school year, a coordinatorship will be replacing the position of elementary principal, Dave Beaty, who is resigning at the end of this school year. Recently, Superintendent Don Hainlen reassigned Sherry Trahms as elementary coordinator and Beth Jorgenson as elementary office coordinator. Trahms will continue to work part time and Jorgenson will be working full time. Hainlen said the discussions have been very deliberate to address areas the district wants to improve and modernize on. The elementary plan address cooperation and coordination, both areas the school board wants to address.

-The bid outlook looks positive for the city of Janesville with the Teal and Second Street project proceeding on schedule. The city's project is situated well for good bids because of an early start and the large size of the project. Mark Kasma, city engineer, anticipates the city will be one of the top 10 percent for bids.



JUMP FOR JOY — In 1998, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown students collected more than \$6,400 in the Jump and Shoot for Playgrounds program in cooperation wit the WEM Future Leaders of America (FLA) chapter. The money was used to purchase new playground equipment for the elementary students.

End of an era, beginning of another

Waseca Herald, 1923

More money will be spent in building improvements in Waseca and vicinity this year than in any year in the history of this city. There is some consolation in this news for the taxpayers who must "pay the freight" later on. The new Waseca High School to be built this year will cost in the neighborhood of \$400,000; the new Sacred Heart high school will cost between \$75,000 and \$100,000, while a large number of new residences to be erected in the city will cost more than \$100,000. Among those who have plans for new homes are E.C. Ward, Dr. McIntire, Ed. Weckwerth and R.B. Passer, while the remodeling of a number of buildings are in prospect, including the Grant House, or Hotel Waseca, on which about \$20,000 will be spent in improvements.

-From present indications, there will be no lack of candidates for city offices this spring. Petitions are now being circulated, or have already been filed for every elective city office, and there are rumors of more entries. Candidates have until Saturday night to file petitions. The only real surprise was the filing of George Goodspeed for mayor. As soon as it became known that George was a candidate, several delegations called on Mayor Smartwood and requested him to reconsider his decision to retire. The mayor, we are informed, at first refused to consider the matter but finally stated that if the people of this city nominated and elected him he would feel it his duty to serve them.

-The Cathedral High School basketball team of Duluth, coached by D.M. Coughlin of this city, won the state parochial school championship at St. Thomas College, St. Paul. St.

Paul Pioneer Press refers to the event as follows: "Danny Coughlin's lightning fast Cathedral basketball team returned to the former scene of its coach's conquest for a two day stand and climaxed matters by winning the state parochial championship Friday night at the St. Thomas Armory, defeating St. John's of Collegeville, 30 to 16."

Waseca Herald, 1948

-The annual meeting of the Waseca County Horse Thief Detectives got off to a slow start last Thursday evening because the Central High School Basketball team was playing Mountain Lake and a majority voted to listen to the game via Bob Mishek's radio. Minutes were read between halves and during timeout periods. When the final score was announced, the meeting proceeded. All of the old officers were re-elected, Fred Gray for his 26th year as president. Art Brisbane is again secretary and Bob Mishek, treasurer.

-The excavation for a building at the northwest corner of Second Avenue and State Street was started Tuesday morning and work is expected to continue until a new structure is completed to replace the old wood frame building which burned last fall. Plans for the building, according to L. E. Rutledge of the insurance company, calls for a two story fully modern building 44 feet by 106. It will be occupied by stores and officers.

-The city council Tuesday night at its regular meeting gave the go ahead sign for the installation of parking meters, and work is expected to start this week. The council had bought 150 parking meters from the Duncan Meter Company late last fall and the meters were delivered, but early



snow and cold weather stopped the installation. The original plan and location of the meters will be followed by having them placed along both sides of State Street from the city hall to the corner of Third Avenue N.W. and N.E.

-Shirley Kelling, daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Cecil Kelling of 421 Second Avenue, N.D. won first place in the county-wide spelling bee which was held at the courthouse last Saturday. By winning the top honor she earned the right to take part in the Minneapolis Tribune Spelling Bee which is scheduled for April 17 at the Radisson Hotel in Minneapolis.

Waseca Daily Journal, 1973

-If you miss the championship game of the state tournament it's okay. But you really should not fail to tune in for six scintillating minutes at the half — preferably on a color TV set. The occasion is the appearance of 60 Waseca High School juniors and seniors dancing up a storm during the halftime of the final playoff game between the Class A winner and Class AA winner. Athletic Director Whitey Aamot said, "We were invited by the State High School League six weeks ago to perform at the state tournament. I didn't know whether or not we were gonna do it."

-The city council passed a resolution to pay \$400,000 as the city's share for proposed hospital improvements to Waseca Memorial Hospital and also to request an amount from the county. The total bill for the work is \$990,000. The city will ask the county commissioners that the county pay \$330,000 of the total cost.

-“This is the end of one era and the beginning of another.” The Southern School of Agriculture is the final one of these 118 [agriculture schools

around the country] and now completes its tenure with this Commencement. The beginning of the new era is the University of Minnesota Technical College.

Waseca County News, 1998

Jack Williams, Waseca High School drama department advisor, made a presentation to the Waseca School Board on Thursday night regarding the need for a new theater in Waseca. Williams pointed out that the school district has not built any new facilities to accommodate the needs of the drama department since 1972 when the little theater was built as part of the high school. However, since 1972 the district has built or will build several athletic facilities including the following at the junior high school: two basketball courts, a gymnastics room, two football practice fields, two baseball fields, and two softball fields.

-Farmamerica may find a way yet to access \$1.6 million in state funding through the state's general fund bill currently being deliberated at the capitol. Minnesota's Agricultural Interpretive Center aims to use the funds to build a visitor center at its facility, west of Waseca on County Road 2. Ed Frederick, chair of the Farmamerica board, hopes the state's healthy surplus will work in the group's favor.

-Angela Britton will be representing the Irish-American Club of Southern Minnesota in parades and appearance for the next year after she was crowned March 14 as Miss Irish Rose. Angela, who is a Waseca High School sophomore, was named Amon the club's royalty along with schoolmate Shannon Frisk. Shannon, a senior, earned the title of Miss St. Patrick.

Berg takes second at state

Editor's note: Some bits from the New Richland Star archives did not make last week's issue of the Pioneer. Here is what was cut.

1948

-Misses Peggy and Patsy Doyle, twin daughters of Dr. And Mrs. A. A. Doyle, are to complete their training in nursing in September, having been attending the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul. They will be members of the class which is to be graduated next May 16 and of which their sister, Miss Catherine, is a member. The young ladies are expected home March 25 and will remain until April 1 when they leave for Chicago to enter Heinz General hospital under the V.A. administration, expecting to remain six months.

1973

-The economy of the state of Minnesota will perform better than the national average during the next 12 months, Harvey N. Daniels economist, from the First Minneapolis banking system told a gathering of southern Minnesota bankers and newspapermen at a noon luncheon



MOTHERS' TEA — In 1973, these New Richland Girl Scouts formed a color guard at the annual Mothers' Tea which was held each year during Girl Scout week. From left: Jenny Flor, Jodi Stadther, Michelle Berg, Lynn Kalbow, Lisa Wacholz, Sheila Adams and Suzanne Adams.

last Thursday in Mankato. Daniels sees the strong economy holding into the second quarter of 1974.

1998

-The Panther wrestling squad completed another successful season with Jeremy Berg wrestling to a second place finish at 189 pounds at the MSHSL State Tournament and being selected to the All State team. All five of the panthers who earned the right to enter State competition did a good job in their matches at St. Paul. Joe Moon wrestled to a fifth place finish at 160 pounds, while Dan Petsinger and Nathan Schlaak placed sixth at 125 and 145 pounds respectively. Justin Berg suffered a severely injured ankle early in State action. Receiving honorable mention for All State were Dan Petsinger, Nathan Schlaak, and Joe Moon.



Lyle Schlaak visited with Dale Groskreutz, who took on the role of running Richland Coop Service's Matawan plant.



The Pastor's Column

Recognizing the cost of sin

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS
Dirty. Shoes, carpets, pants cuffs...they are all dirty right now. Going from the car to the inside and my shoes are wet and if I am not careful covered in mud. My stairs going to the second floor in my house are dirty, you can see the muddy footprints from kids running upstairs. With the change in weather, it becomes muddier and muddier, nothing is protected from the dirt that travels with us.

This dirt we see on our shoes is a good example for us to recognize the cost of sin in our lives. Sin is knowing what is right and choosing not to do it. Our sin travels with us like the mud and dirt on our shoes in the springtime. We may not notice it, but it is here, and there, and then everywhere, the effects of sin are dragged with people everywhere, even when we don't think others will notice it shows up.

So what can we do about sin? We must acknowledge it, recognize that there are points of brokenness in our lives, and seek to be restored. How do we recognize sin and be forgiven?

In the Old Testament the price of sin was clear. You would read the law, see the sin you had committed, and pay the price through sacrifice. Now this explanation is much simpler than the actual work of sacrifice as seen in Leviticus, but we must recognize the price for our sin. (In particular you could read about the Atoning Sacrifice in Leviticus 16)

In Leviticus we are told that Aaron and the other Levites are to offer sacrifice for the people, the law and prescription for atonement

“Our sin travels with us like the mud and dirt on our shoes in the springtime.”

— Pastor Ken Andrs

is complex and requires attention to detail. In those details the mess of our sin becomes clear. The priest's robes were white, the sacrifice of animals required the throats of the animals be slit while they were still standing.

The blood would get everywhere, and the priest's robes would soon be stained red with the blood of sacrifice. A priest would walk to the temple, put on their bright white linen robes, and begin the sacrifices. At the end of the day of the day their robes would be red, sticky with blood, and swarming with flies. Sin and its price are messy business.

When we recognize the price of our sin, the mess it creates, and the need for forgiveness we realize that it is God's work to pay the price of our sin. We cannot keep up with the sacrifices necessary to pay the price of sin. God is in the business of bringing us to the point of recognizing our sins, the mess it creates, and the need for forgiveness. He is willing to forgive, clean up the mess, and pay the price of the sacrifice through His Son's death on the cross, will you accept His offer of forgiveness and salvation?

‘Come and see’

Grace Lutheran renews chapel

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor
Parish members of Grace Lutheran Church got a long-awaited look at their renovated chapel on March 15 during an event dubbed “Come and See.”

Following a 6:30 p.m. service, the Grace Lutheran council opened the doors to the chapel: As the congregation filed in, council vice president Joyce Thompson referenced Isaiah 43:19 in the Bible: “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

While unquestionably a work of beauty, the chapel renovation was also one of necessity, according to Pastor Jillene Gallatin. “It wasn't safe for anyone to be in there anymore. The walls weren't going to collapse or anything, but things were definitely in disrepair.”

“Our church leaders were faced with a dilemma,” Thompson added. “We needed to make some decisions. The roof needed repair, the walls were rough, and the inside needed some attention.”

Goodrich Construction in Mankato took on the project. Project coordinator Randy Dinsmore concurred regarding the space's poor condition. “The walls were bowing in,” Dinsmore said. “As we were jacking things up, we had a bit of a scare.”

It was obvious to Dinsmore that most of the chapel hadn't been touched since at least the 1920s. Some parts were apparently unchanged since the church was first built. But all things considered, the few months of work on the chapel went quite smoothly. There were some pleasant surprises with the project which made the process quite enjoyable.

“We were actually able to salvage a lot of the old wood on the roof and ceiling in the chapel,” Dinsmore claimed. “I think some of it is already being used in other projects.”

The most difficult part of the undertaking, according to what Thomp-



Members of Grace Lutheran Church took a look at the renovations made to the chapel Wednesday, March 15. Work included ripping out old carpet, installing new roofs, restablizing the walls, and putting in new electric wiring. Pioneer photos by Michael Roy



The chapel also received a fresh coat of paint, and the new roof has copper trimming. Right, church council vice president Joyce Thompson explained the renovations to parishioners.

son told the congregation, was putting the electrical wiring in order. “The amount of different wiring we had in this place...it was quite a puzzle,” she said. “We may still have a few more areas to figure out.”

Dinsmore said that his favorite part of the project was working with the copper trimming on the roof. “I love soldering copper, and we were able to do that in parts of the chapel,” he said.

Once all work is complete, the church plans on using the newly remodeled space for its future events. However, members don't intend to limit the use to themselves.

“We'd like to host other com-

munity events here,” Pastor Gallatin shared. “We want to be able to provide another space for everyone in Waseca.”

Thompson echoed Gallatin's words. “For many of us who have been here for years, this space holds great memories,” he said. “God has provided us an opportunity. In fact, he's provided us an invitation to do something very special not just for the family of Grace Lutheran Church, but for the Waseca community, to host parties and other special gatherings.”

Thompson acknowledged Dinsmore of Goodrich Construction, Chris Proft of Proft Painting, Keith



Johnson of M and R Electric, Troy O'Neil of Genuine Hardwood Floors, Kat Peterson, the “Chapel Use Task Force,” and the church facilities team for their work on the renovations from the planning stages to its final touches.

There is still some work to be done. Thompson shared that the parish plans to add a kitchen in the space and reconstruct the northwest entrance of the church. But with the bulk of the work out of the way, the parish plans to make the space available for rentals soon. May is a tentative goal.

Story idea? • 837-6767

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Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship

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Pastor Mary Iverson
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Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting
Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting

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Waldorf, Minnesota
Father Brian Mulligan
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship

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Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship

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NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.

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5 SEABEE Birthday	6	7 Burger nite 5- 7pm	8 6pm BAR Bingo	9 7pm BINGO	10 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	11
12 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host Waseca Youth Baseball	13 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting K-9 Veterans day	14 Burger nite 5- 7pm	15 6pm BAR Bingo American Legion Birthday	16 7pm BINGO	17 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm St. Patrick's Day	18 ST. PATRICK'S BINGO 7PM
19	20	21 Burger nite 5-7pm Rosie the Riveter Day	22 6pm BAR Bingo	23 7pm BINGO	24 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	25 Medal of Honor Day
26 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host Neighbor- hood Service Center	27	28 Burger nite 5- 7pm	29 6pm BAR Bingo National Vietnam War Veterans Day	30 7pm BINGO	31 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	

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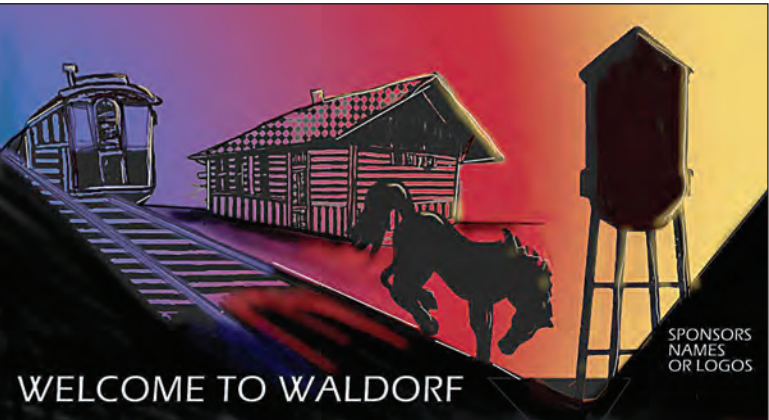
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PROTOTYPE - A design submitted alongside Waldorf's grant application to Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council. Note, this is not the final design.

Mural to grace Waldorf building

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

The City of Waldorf was awarded a \$3,000 arts grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council. The grant was announced on Monday, March 13 at the Waldorf City Council meeting; Funds will be used for a 50-foot-long, 12-foot-high mural on the old "Eisen" building across the street from the community center. Artist Nell Tryst will be painting the mural. A rough sketch was provided, but the design is not final. Charlie Barnes, who owns the building which the mural is being painted on, has requested that the mural feature a large American Flag prominently displayed somewhere near its center. A dedication ceremony is planned for Waldorf Days in August.

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Signs of spring



SIGNS OF SPRING - Indications are everywhere that, just maybe, our weather has taken a turn toward the warmer part of the year. Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

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You can sign up online for either class at: dmr.kd0tgf.com.
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