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WASECA
COUNTY
PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 1 Vol. V \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, January 1, 2026



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Sports

Waseca County Winter Farmers Market at Farmamerica Jan. 3

The winter farmers market at Farmamerica will be from 8 a.m. till noon Saturday, Jan. 3. Find locally grown, baked and made while supporting our local producers. Farmamerica is located at 7367 360th Ave., Waseca.

CORRECTION: Ice Sculpture presentation at Waseca County Courthouse Jan. 29-30

An earlier listing in this section said the Sleigh and Cutter ice carving event would be Jan. 4. The Pioneer has learned that information was released in error; the ice carving event will be Jan. 28 and 29.

Blood drive at Farmamerica Jan. 5

Donors are invited to either make an appointment online or walk in during a blood drive at Farmamerica from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5. Those wishing to register in advance can visit www.redcross.org.

Christ Community Church Revival Nights January 8, 9, 10

Christ Community Church is proud to host three nights of revival meetings featuring Pulse Evangelism. Join them January 8, 9, and 10 at 7 p.m. each evening. Everyone is welcome. Check out pulse.org for more information about Pulse and ccwaseca.org for more information about the church.

St. Peter Lutheran Church of New Richland Soup and Dessert Jan. 11

Women in Mission is offering a soup and dessert luncheon at St. Peter Lutheran Church of New Richland from 11:30 a.m. till 1 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 11. Choose from chili, vegetable beef or chicken wild rice. \$10 for adults, \$5 kids 12 and under.

Jackpot Junction Trip Sunday, January 11

There will be an overnight trip with departure from the back parking lot of the Waseca Legion at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 11, and return Monday, Jan. 12. There will be bingo this trip. \$115.00 per person, paid 30 days in advance. Interested parties call 507-456-3617.

Waseca Choirs Burger Fry at Waseca Legion Friday, Jan. 16

Waseca Sons of the American Legion Burger Fry fundraiser on behalf of the 8th Grade Choir at the Legion from 5:30-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16. Tickets \$10, includes burger or fish sandwich with fries.

Raise A Toast at Farmamerica Jan. 16

A farm-to-fork dinner experience, Raise A Toast at Farmamerica from 6-8:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16. Together we'll raise a toast to the inspiring women in our community. Tickets are available online.

A word from
The Word



Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.
Hebrews 10:23

Johnson wins Junior College National Championship

Former Waseca Bluejay running back, Kaeden Johnson, played in the Junior College National championship game Wednesday, December 17. Kaeden transferred to the Iowa Western Reivers from the Minnesota Gophers program earlier this year. The Reivers claimed the programs 4th national championship over previously unbeaten Hutchinson with a final score of 28-10 at Bain-Schaeffer Buffalo Stadium in Canyon Texas. The Reivers players dedicated the win to Coach Scott Strohmeier's daughter Emily, who passed away in May of this year.

Iowa Western totaled 409 yards of offense and limited Hutchinson

to just 159, nearly 240 yards below their season average. The Title win gives Iowa Western their third championship in the last 4 seasons, including 2 wins over Hutchinson. Coach Strohmeier has now posted 165 victories in 196 games in Council Bluffs. The Reivers will begin defense of their most recent title at home with the 2026 schedule set to kick off in Council Bluffs against Highland on August 29, 2026. Kaeden Johnson will plan on returning for his final season with the Reivers in 2026 in the hopes of helping them return back to the Championship game.



CHAMP - Kaeden Johnson, from Waseca, played in the Junior College National championship game with his team, the Iowa Western Reivers.



ICY ART - Ice sculptors Adam Scholljegerdes and Joe Christenson have been creating sculptures for the Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Festival since 2012. Scholljegerdes says one of the most meaningful pieces for him was in 2020, when the sculpture included replicas of racing snowmobiles once owned by Tracy Kruger, the victim of a tragic killing in 2007.

Sakatah Carvers continue tradition

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The Waseca Sleigh and Cutter parade will be Feb. 28, but the Sleigh and Cutter Festival is already underway, with a special display at the Waseca County Historical Society covering the "history and highlights" of Waseca's unusually durable celebration, now in its 76th year. Bingo nights at Barden's Bar in Waseca are every Monday beginning at 6:30

through the end of February.

Beginning mid-January, clues will be released for the annual "Frosty" and "Medallion" contests. Clues will be published in the Pioneer and announced on KOWZ Radio to assist in the tasks of identifying which Waseca area individual has been selected as this year's secret "Frosty" and searching for the Sleigh and Cutter medalion, which is hidden on public property somewhere within Waseca

city limits. A cash prize is awarded to the first person or group to complete the challenges. Winners are officially announced during the Sleigh and Cutter dinner and dance, set for Feb. 27.

Fireworks over Clear Lake will be after dark on Feb. 14.

Ice carving will take place the weekend of Jan. 29 and 30, with the finished sculpture on display afterward as long as weather allows. Adam

Scholljegerdes of Sakatah Carvers out of Faribault reveals the carving and display will be near the Waseca County Veterans Memorial on the county courthouse lawn, rather than the parking lot of the city public safety building, where it's been in the past. Starting times for the carving will be made available as they are deter-

Sakatah continued on 2



LOVE - Barb and David Denn celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at St. Paul's Lutheran Church the afternoon of Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Barb and David Denn pass 50 year marriage mark

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Barb and David Denn celebrated their "golden," that is, fiftieth, wedding anniversary the afternoon of Saturday, Dec. 20. The couple were surrounded by a room full of family, friends, food and music.

According to a heartfelt speech shared by maid of honor and sister of the bride Debbie Roemhildt, the couple married on Dec. 20, 1975. Roemhildt mentioned she was only 15 years old at the time, and did not give the expected speech and toast at the time. She fixed that shortcoming

during the celebration. "They got engaged at the Pizza Hut over in Mankato. With God's blessing they had three children, Chanda, Aimee and Adam. With the addition of grandchildren, Barb and David's names were added to when the grandkids started calling them G'pa and Mimi. Ten sweet grandchildren, Corbin, Georgia, Carlee, Stella, Milee, and Carson were the first ones. In a while James, Brenнын, Ethan and Kinsley were added to the family mix.

"Dave and Barb enjoyed many

Denn continued on 4

JWP SCHOOL BOARD

JWP hears bad news from auditor

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

During their regular monthly meeting on Dec. 15, members of the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (JWP) school board heard an audit summary from Greg Burkhardt of the Burkhardt accounting firm of Mankato. Looking at numbers from the 2024-25 school year, he reported the district's "unrestricted fund balance," the amount of money school districts keep on hand in case of any type of income shortfall, shrank by \$1.3 million.

During his presentation, he pointed out that, in violation of the district's policy that the unrestricted fund balance should be maintained at about 25% of the annual budget, the \$700,000 currently remaining equal about 6 percent.

Showing a chart which represented balances over the past five years, Burkhardt said, "It was really the last two fiscal years that have had a pretty negative impact on those fund balances and your cash balances overall."

Acknowledging that the district is receiving less income from the state because of lower enrollment numbers, he pointed out that expenditures in fiscal year 2025 were \$956,000 over budget. He went on to say, "I don't believe that's something that can continue, given the level of fund balance that you have at the end of last year.

Burkhardt acknowledged \$350,000 committed to lease Chromebook computers had not actually been spent, but had to be registered as an expense under the standards of the audit process.

With that taken into consideration, the "over budget" expenditures could be viewed as being more like \$600,000.

Burkhardt went on to report that expenditures for fiscal year 2025 were 6 percent higher than they had been in 2024. He attributed part of the increase to "significant capital expenditures in the kitchen."

Burkhardt recommended that future budgets use predicted student enrollment as a fundamental element, since district income from the state is based on "average daily membership" (ADM), which is the typical number of students present in the school on any given school day.

Early in the meeting, school board members recognized that their bowling team took fourth place at the state tournament on Nov. 22 and Kayla Wheelock had broken a school record broke a school record the other night with eight three's. The members also wanted to observe and give prayers to the families and students at Stewartville High School over the past weekend.

JWP school board also accepted and approved donations of \$544 from the Janesville Preschool for a storage unit and \$1,000 from JWP Softball to update softball dugouts.

In other matters, the school board approved the levy certification.

The school board approved a two-year cooperative agreement between JWP and WEM for boys' and girls' track and field.



Compostings

by Al Batt

Never judge a day by its weather

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I didn't expect to see you here at Medicine Square Garden.

I fell.

How did you come to fall?

I didn't come to fall. I came to skate.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. The weather had been warm enough that I no longer needed to wear a parka indoors. At this time of the year, I become a sentimental fool, a promotion from my usual perch as a mere run-of-the-mill fool, but I've lost my mood ring. I don't know how I feel about that. I've panned for gold. I found little. The guy with me brought his golden retriever. That man found no gold, and his dog retrieved none. I may start panning for mood rings.

FROM THOSE THRILLING DAYS OF YESTERYEAR

My mother had cataract surgery. Doctors once used bricked pillows (classy sandbags) to keep patients' heads still during the procedure, preventing movement that could ruin the delicate operation. They told my mother that after the surgery, she'd see cobwebs in her house she'd never noticed before and the world would become a brighter place.

As we drove her home, she asked, "How long has that white line been on the road?"

It was a joke that let us know she was still her old self.

CARDIAC REHABILITATION

I had surgery recently and have started a cardiac rehab program. I exercise at home, too. I began by standing while holding a 5-pound potato sack in each hand, extending my arms straight out from my sides and holding them there for a minute. Each day, I could hold that position longer. After a couple of weeks, I moved up to 10-pound potato sacks. Then on to 50-pound sacks. Next week, I'll start the process over again with the 5-pound sacks, and this time I'll put a potato in each.

THE CHRISTMAS GOAT

The legend of the julebukk, julebock or Christmas goat goes back to the times of the Norse god Thor, who rode across the sky in a chariot drawn by two goats. In Sweden, the Christmas goat is a beloved Yule symbol that evolved into a mischievous figure who visited homes during Yule to demand gifts or food before morphing into a gift-bringer. The name "Jul" refers to the ancient pagan winter festival known as Yule, celebrated long before the region adopted Christmas. The julebock is a popular

Christmas decoration as a straw goat. HAPPY NEW YEAR'S

The small Pacific island nations of Samoa and Kiribati/Christmas Island are the first to see the New Year due to their position on the International Date Line.

In Spain, you eat 12 grapes at midnight on New Year's Eve for good luck.

I'VE LEARNED

Aurélien conducted a study to identify which states have the highest concentration of dollar stores. The study ranked states based on the number of stores per 100,000 residents. Mississippi was number one. West Virginia came in second, followed by Arkansas, Alabama and Kentucky, with Louisiana, Oklahoma, Tennessee, South Carolina and Missouri rounding out the top 10. Iowa is 11th and Minnesota 33rd.

I wonder how messy my desk would be if it weren't for the cat knocking things to the floor?

BAD JOKES

DEPARTMENT

"It's no good, sir," said the hopeless pupil to his English teacher. "I try to learn, but everything you say goes in both ears and out the other."

"Goes in both ears and out the other?" asked the puzzled teacher. "But you have only two ears."

"You see, I'm no good at math, either."

How did the snow globe feel at Christmas? A little shaken.

How do you invite Santa to a party? You request his presents.

Why did Santa's helper see the doctor? Because he had a low "elf" esteem.

NATURE NOTES

The day was not strikingly perfect, but it was the best day available. Dick Van Dyke said, "We should never judge a day by its weather." That's good advice, but advice that's not easily followed.

I'd detected the hooting of owls during the night. A pair of great horned owls exchanging "Who's awake? Me too" calls. These owls don't build their own nests and aren't significant remodelers of purloined nests. An owl can turn its head 270 degrees.

A female downy woodpecker tried to land on me twice while I stood peering through my binoculars and counting birds. Apparently, in my dotage, I've come to resemble a lanky bird feeder with numerous construction flaws. It was nice being mistaken for something useful.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Every time we are kind, every time we are thoughtful, every time we forgive, every time we are generous, it's Christmas."—Mary Davis. Happy New Year.

Look how much good is performed

With the end of 2025, I find myself doing the expected thing: looking back over the closing year.

I wish to thank everyone who contacted the paper to make sure we know about interesting people and occurrences.

I want to point out we have a marvelous community occupied, for the most part, by people who make positive contributions because they have positive outlooks. I have mentioned before that I like to read books which describe "near death experiences." I came across one recently in which writer Jim Woodford tells of asking an angel why God puts up with humans, given the many evils our race commits. The answer stays with me.

It was something like "But look how much good is performed. Taken all together, the acts of good and kindness vastly outweigh the evils."

The delight of being a writer for a small-town newspaper is that, to our publication, everything is news. The big, far-reaching decisions involving



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

millions of dollars as well as small acts of craftsmanship or kindness; hard-fought battles with disease; inspiring accomplishments; poignant memories; entertaining anecdotes; exceptional dedication; small actions and decisions which grow beyond all expectation.

Our ultra-local focus allows us writers to speak personally with people who leave us awestruck and impressed, who touch and warm our hearts, or who make us think about who we are and who we want to be. Then it's our job to encapsulate those stories, allowing readers to feel as if they had been present at the interview.

The task would be intimidating if it were not also a privilege.

Naturally, it cannot be performed perfectly. For those among you who have been dissatisfied with the way your stories appeared in the paper, I am sorry. We try very hard and we have the best intentions, but sometimes things go wrong. I wish it weren't true, and mostly, I regret any feelings of disappointment or anger you experienced.

For those of you who were pleased, we are glad to have done well for you. Equally importantly, we are glad your story is now not only told, but recorded. As our "Archives" pages

prove each week, newspapers are a durable medium. It is one thing to have a personal circumstance that "everyone knows" about. The information is shared and reshared, spreading rapidly—especially thanks to social media. But it's hearsay. One doesn't know how well it can be trusted, and years from now, it will be buried so deep in the landslide of online information that it will never be found.

Newspapers, on the other hand, must meet certain standards of professionalism and accuracy. Any which do not meet those standards do not last long, and are "a jest and byword" while they exist.

There are many, many people I became acquainted with because it fell to me to learn and record their stories. To a person, you have helped me become better informed, more knowledgeable, and more deeply impressed with the versatility and stamina of humankind. I am glad and grateful that we met and I learned your story. Thank you.

Coming back home for the holidays

I was home for 10 days during the holidays. I got to experience life at home again, living with my parents, younger sister, and our three dogs.

Despite my sister trying to convince me to let her take my room (which is bigger) and my mom asking me if I was sick of my family members yet, I had a wonderful time.

It was 70 degrees when I left Denver the Monday night before Christmas, so it felt very good to arrive and see some snow on the ground. The holiday season just isn't the same without snow, and especially without it being cold. Needless to say, I was very grateful to have a white Christmas.

I tended bar again for the first time in months while I was home. It was interesting. When I stepped behind the bar, I expected I would be just as smooth and automatic about it as I was before, so I was taken by surprise when I was a bit rusty. Thankfully, I fell into



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

it pretty easily. Turns out it's not difficult to remember how to pour drinks and give sass to people.

Of course, there were the regulars who missed me, and then those who didn't even recognize me. I worked with my sister, and the number of times we got comments asking us if we were twins actually surprised me. Or they thought she was older, although I am three years her senior. It doesn't upset me at all, it just makes me curious what features she has (or I have) that make people think that.

I asked one regular how his holiday was and he said it was good. "It's nice when it comes, and then it's over, and it's nice when it's done." In a sense, I understand. While it's amazing to be home and with family and enjoying our time together, it can sometimes be stressful. Do I have all the gifts? All the food we need? What if I don't like a gift someone gives me? And as always, eating way too much good food.

I also attended Sunday mass at Sacred Heart Church for the first time in years. It feels like high school was

the last time I went to a mass there, so it was quite nostalgic to step back into the building, sit in the wooden pews, look at the stained glass windows, and sing all the hymns I still somehow know. Although a lot of things have changed since I grew up in that church, it was still the same. My religious journey through the years hasn't always been easy, but if we need faith at any time, it's now more than ever.

On my new year's resolution list is to attempt to find a church I might enjoy in Denver. Hopefully they will have a choir I can join, because my other resolution is to involve myself in music again, most likely in choir. Then again, resolutions are hard, so we'll see how successful I am.

My Determination: "Bless this highly nutritious microwavable macaroni and cheese dinner and the people who sold it on sale. Amen." - Kevin McCallister, Home Alone

Learning life lessons at Christmas

I hope everybody had a good Christmas and a happy new year.

Christmas this year started for me on Christmas Eve.

My dad and I went to church together at 3:30. Afterwards we went to his house to open presents. From there, we went to my mother's house for dinner and another round of present opening.

It is rare that my brother, sister and myself along with my parents are all in the same room together. It happened twice this year: once on Thanksgiving and again on Christmas.

Thinking back to my youth, I could not have predicted that this is how adulthood on the holidays would feel. At that age it felt like I couldn't get away from my siblings. Now I only see my sister maybe once or twice a month. She tends bar at Bardens Bar in Waseca and these last couple months I have gone up to visit after city council meetings on Tuesdays.

As for my brother, I really only see him when we're doing some sort of recreational activity together. In the summertime, we drove jet skis, now that it's winter we drive snowmobiles.

I kind of wished with all of us to-



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

gether that we would've reminisced on more of our Christmases together. From their perspective, my dad and my mother were relieved nobody cried or got upset this year.

As a kid, my favorite Christmas memories included late night drives with my dad, my sister and my brother singing Christmas songs together along with the car stereo. My dad loved to make CDs and he went all out for Christmas.

Along with memories of family members getting upset, another unpleasant memory for me is the time I cheated and found out ahead of time what I would be receiving. We were shopping in the toy aisle at Walmart and I pointed to what I wanted. After learning our wishes, my dad sent us away as he walked through the store. My older siblings and I roamed Walmart for a while, then I decided to

check the toy aisle to see if the toy I pointed to was still there. It wasn't. I learned a valuable lesson that day. Don't spoil life's surprises.

The present, by the way, was an elaborate Lego set.

In 2002 or so, my brother and I were avid cartoon watchers when the TV show Yu-Gi-Oh released. The only items on our Christmas list that year were Yu-Gi-Oh cards. I still remember Christmas Day waking up with my brother and opening that first starter deck. The joy and excitement I still feel make it seem as if it happened yesterday. I still remember a year or maybe two years later my dad buying me an entire box of Yu-Gi-Oh packs to open. Somewhere near the end of the box I opened the only foil (shiny) card in the box. The card was a magician riding a dragon; I still have it to this day, it was my favorite card

in the TV show. Thank you for an amazing Christmas, Dad.

I remember another Christmas when all I wanted was a pocket knife and my dad came through. I learned another valuable lesson that day: Be careful with sharp objects. I nearly sliced my finger off as I used the knife to open another boxed present. I still have the scar on my right index finger.

My mom will tell you I'm tough to shop for. This year she came through. After opening the present, she said I would enjoy the most, I exclaimed, "Actually something I wanted!"

She got me a ringing doorbell for my apartment. It was not on a list anywhere, but I've been thinking about it for more than a year. Thank you for a thoughtful gift, Mom.

I have few material wants in life. A roof over my head, good, healthy food and most importantly, people to spend my time with whom I love and care about.

My dad called my life "fortunate" after we enjoyed lunch together last week. I corrected him—"blessed."

I wish you all a happy, merry and joyous year in 2026. Please try to bring kindness to yourself and others this new year.

the reverse osmosis process to minimize air bubbles and impurities. Ice cut from a lake, he says, would include more air, be white rather than transparent when carved, and would melt more quickly. Sculpting ice is sold in uniform-sized blocks that are 40 inches long, 10 inches wide and 20 inches tall. They are easily set side by side because of their square edges and can then be carved as a single piece.

The process begins with chainsaws—Scholljegerdes says he uses the same ones for ice carving as he does for cutting wood. With the main shape formed, he and Christenson then use grinders and, eventually, chisels to create fine details.

He says they typically spread the work on large sculptures—including all of them made for the Sleigh and Cutter festival—over a two-day time span so that they can take their time and do their best work.

"I look forward to coming to Waseca each year," Scholljegerdes says. "I enjoy seeing the familiar faces. It feels good to be part of something so lasting."

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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DEADLINES: Pioneer: Noon Monday
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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■ Sakatah

from Page 1

mined.

Scholljegerdes, a 2000 graduate of Waseca High School, now owns and operates Sakatah Carvers Signs and Creations in Faribault. His partner in ice carving endeavors is Joe Christenson. Scholljegerdes says the two of them have worked together on every project. He also mentions his work in ice carving has waxed and waned over time. Although he and Christenson once found themselves doing a fair number of carvings of various sizes over the course of a winter, they now do only a few because the majority of Scholljegerdes' time is devoted to his sign business.

He says he looks forward to the project for the Sleigh and Cutter festival each year because, in a way, it's where his career as an ice carver began. He and Christenson had created sculptures for the St. Paul

Winter Carnival a few times when long-time Sleigh and Cutter president Ken Borgmann reached out asking whether they would be willing to create an ice sculpture for the Waseca celebration in 2012.

The project that year was the largest Scholljegerdes has ever taken part in: an ice sleigh large enough to seat six people and a horse positioned in front as though pulling it. Looking back on it, Scholljegerdes remembers the piece as a learning experience. "I had my family members helping," he recalls. "We were working with rather primitive tools compared to what we have now, so we weren't very efficient."

"But it turned out very well."

A sculpture he remembers with gratitude and pride was in 2020, a memorial to Tracy Kruger, who was 40 years old in February of 2007 when an intruder entered his rural Waseca home and—apparently at random—shot him, his wife Hilary, and his 13-year-old son Alec. Tracy and Alec died; Hilary was critically wounded and spent months in the hospital.

The memorial sculpture, Scholl-

jegerdes recalls, consisted of replicas of two of the snowmobiles Tracy Kruger restored and raced, based on input from his brother, Theron. Scholljegerdes said it was humbling to be part of something so meaningful, and he found it deeply fulfilling that the carvings turned out to be near-perfect replicas of two of Tracy's machines. Alongside them was a Herter's snowmobile in honor of those machines having been manufactured in Waseca.

Scholljegerdes says preliminary conversations are for this year's design to include snowflakes, with the intent of matching the theme of the newly installed lighted decorations along downtown State Street. He mentions that he can use some of the computer-based tools which help him operate his sign business as he conceives and refines the design. Good plans are necessary, he points out, so he knows how much ice will be needed.

Scholljegerdes reveals the ice used for sculptures is specially ordered, and comes in the form of 300-pound blocks made from water run through

Sheriff’s Office reminds public not to push snow onto roads

The Waseca County Sheriff’s Office and Waseca County Highway Department reminds residents that it is illegal to deposit snow from private property on or next to public roads. Under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 160.2715, violation of the above is a misdemeanor and civil penalties may apply if snow placement contributes to a crash. Liability can extend to both the property owner and the person who moved the snow.

Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas asks for the public’s help in keeping roads clear, as snow piles can cause drifting, blocked sightlines and unsafe conditions for motorists and snowplow operators. Roadways, intersections, entrances and exits should remain clean and unobstructed for everyone’s safety.

Waseca County Sno-Secas Club Ride Saturday, Jan. 17

The Waseca County Sno-Secas Club Ride will gather snowmobiles at the Waseca American Legion at 10 a.m. with departure at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17. Call Jake for more info at 507-461-2510.

Category 5 at Boxcar Bar Saturday, Jan. 17

Category 5 will be playing at the Boxcar Bar from 8:30 p.m. till 12:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17. They play a variety of music favorites.

Puzzle Competition at Indian Island Winery Jan. 17

There will be a puzzle competition at the Indian Island Winery from 1-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17. A 500 piece puzzle to complete and keep. Four drink tickets to use during event. Prizes and bragging rights.

VFW breakfast for St. Paul Lutheran Mission trip Sunday, Jan. 25

There will be a pancake breakfast at Sweet-Sommers VFW on behalf of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Mission Trip Team from 7 a.m. till noon on Sunday, Jan. 25. Adults \$12, kids 6-13 \$7, kids 5 and under free. Proceeds go towards St. Paul Mission trips.

Sleigh and Cutter Ice Carving Jan. 28 and 29

The annual ice carving event sponsored as part of the Sleigh and Cutter festival will be Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 28 and 29 near the Veterans Memorial on the county courthouse lawn. Carving begins at 11 a.m. on Wednesday and noon on Thursday.

‘Rugroden’s 3-Ds’

A young entrepreneur at work at the market

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Winter Farmers Market at Farmamerica was the busiest it’s ever been on Dec. 20 There were wall-to-wall vendor tables offering items brought in by local merchants, farmers, experts and hobbyists. One of those hobbyists is only 14; his name is Oliver Rugroden, and he deals in 3-D printed objects.

“This is my first time at the Winter Farmers Market, I worked the other one out at the Waseca fairgrounds over the summer, I was next to my mom’s stand.” On his table was a wide assortment of 3-D printed objects, all toys of some sort, dragons, dragon eggs with baby dragons inside, octopuses, tiny turtles, snakes, cats, other little animals, a ghost, and a variety of fidget spinner items. He picked a little half-inch-high blue dog that was solid plastic, but it looked like a tiny balloon animal. He compared it to a giant snake that was about 24 inches long and said, “The little balloon dog took 15 minutes, the big snake took 14 hours to print



ENTREPRENEUR - Oliver Rugroden, 14, was working at the Farmers Market at Farmamerica on Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025, selling the 3-D printed items that he had created using his own printer.

Rugroden says his grandmother got him his first 3-D printer, “That was a smaller one and it doesn’t work anymore. My mom got me the bigger one I’m using now.” Rugroden first got his start because he saw someone in Mankato selling their 3-D stuff, “I saw this at a trade show over in Mankato with my mom. I have a couple of hobbies that need funding and this can always lead into a career as I get older.” The way his printer works is with an app on his phone, “Through my app, when I find a design I like, I download the file, adjust the colors to what I want and then

3-D continued on 7

Looking back at 2025

In the past year the Waseca County Pioneer has covered many exciting stories worth remembering. Here is a look back at the best highlights from the year that was 2025.

- January**
- Bethlehem Inn, a Waseca shelter which provides short-term housing for women and their children, received \$39,630 in unanticipated funding during a special meeting of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners
 - Having begun in 1950, the Waseca Sleigh and Cutter festival marks its seventy-fifth anniversary in 2025. To the best of anyone’s knowledge, the festival is the longest-running event of its kind in the country.
 - The Greater Mankato Area United Way (GMAUW) together with the Mankato based publishing company Capstone have teamed up to present area children, kindergarten through second grade, with a picture book titled “The Kindness Booth.”
 - It was a campaign that ran a little on the quieter side, but the evening of Jan. 7, Waseca’s newest council member, Gary Conrath was sworn in to a four-year term. Conrath, who graduated from Waseca High School in 1973, has been a very active member of the Waseca community his entire life.
 - It may very well be worth the price of admission for Waseca High School boys’ hockey this season. The Bluejays are unbeaten and ranked No. 15 in the state in Class A, the most recent conquest a 15-0 shellacking of visiting Worthington on Saturday. Waseca led 5-0 after one period and 11-0 at the end of two, outshooting Worthington 52-10.
 - Trinity Lutheran Church of Janesville installed its newest pastor, Jason Wolter, in November. Pastor Wolter was born Sept. 15, 1972. He grew up in Waconia, Minnesota, which is a suburb of the Twin Cities.
 - The Waseca Area Chamber of

- Commerce Legislative Committee, alongside local stakeholders, sent numerous representatives to the Minnesota Chamber’s annual “Session Priorities” event and dinner the evening of Jan. 16 in St. Paul. Representing a broad spectrum of interests from business, agriculture, tourism, and government, Waseca sent its largest-ever delegation of 12 attendees to this gathering.
- The Minnesota Department of Health has announced cases of Norovirus infection, commonly referred to as the “stomach flu” are on the rise, having so far reached nearly double the rate of infection from last year. Common symptoms are vomiting and diarrhea.
- The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that Minnesota State Representative Tom Sexton has officially joined the Chamber.
- The Minnesota State Archery Association conducted its Regional Indoor Qualification this past weekend using five separate host sites around Minnesota: the Duluth Archery Club, Southwest BowBenders of Worthington, Bwana Archery of Little Canada, Alexandria Shooting Park and The Waseca Archery Club.
- On Thursday morning, January 23 the Waseca County 911 Dispatch Center received notification that someone appeared to have broken into Papa Olie’s Bar and Grill on South Main Street in Waldorf and caused damage inside. Law Enforcement responded and found an unlocked door. The business was checked and found to be unoccupied. There was heavy interior damage to the business and items had been stolen.
- Though the project is working its way through some extensive planning stages, excitement runs high at the Waterville State Fish Hatchery for some long-awaited upgrades due to enter the construction phase in the spring of 2026.



Waseca’s Business Professionals of America (BPA) chapter was a dominant force at their regional competition on Wednesday, Jan. 8 2025. After participants competed against more than 300 students from ten area schools, 20 Waseca BPA members qualified for the State Leadership Conference in Minneapolis last March.

- Anyone who happened by the Mill on Saturday night, may have heard some disturbing sounds, including the hoots and hollers of spectators and the sound of faces slamming into floors. Pinnacle Pro Wrestling was back in town.
- The area formerly referred to as “Gaiter Lake” - among other names - was officially named Clearwater Preserve by the Waseca City Council via Resolution 25-11 during its second meeting of the month on Tuesday, Jan. 21.
- February**
- The Waseca County Pioneer and its writers took home 14 awards during the Minnesota Newspaper Association’s (MNA) annual awards banquet January 30, 2025 at Marriott North in Brooklyn Park.
- The yearly Mike Filzen Memorial Poker Run Ride took place Saturday, Feb. 1, organized by the Waseca Sno-Secas snowmobiling club. A part of the Sleigh and Cutter Festival, the event starts and ends at the Waseca American Legion. This year, more than 30 people took part.
- The Waseca Art Center opened

2025 continued on 5

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OBITUARIES

Troy Holling

Troy Russell Holling, age 62, of Waterville, passed away at his home with his loving wife by his side on December 24, 2025, following a seven-month battle with cancer.

Troy was born on December 27, 1962, in Luverne, Minnesota, the son of Ronald and Elsie (Gentry) Holling. He grew up with a strong work ethic that carried him throughout his life. As a teenager, he worked at Gambel's and Simpson Furniture doing deliveries, and he often shared fond stories of his time on the Golombesk Farm in Morristown, where he milked cows and helped with daily farm chores.

A 1981 graduate of Waterville-Elysian High School, Troy began his long career at EF Johnson, where he worked in the warehouse as a forklift driver for 25 years. He proudly loaded the company's final truck before its relocation out of state. Troy later joined Faribault Foods as a forklift driver in their distribution center. Though he briefly served as a supervisor, he soon returned to the floor, where he enjoyed the camaraderie and daily banter with his co-workers. He remained with Faribault Foods for 20 years, retiring after his cancer diagnosis in May.

Troy was united in marriage to Lisa Bauer on August 31, 1991, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Waterville.

Throughout their 34 years together, Troy and Lisa built a life centered on family, friendship, and simple joys. Troy was always willing to lend a hand—helping his brother-in-law at Waterville Construction, assisting his friend John Spoor at Lakeside Sports, or stepping in as the family handyman. There was truly no job he couldn't do or wouldn't help with.

Troy's greatest passion was fishing. Whether taking family and friends out on the local lakes or enjoying the annual Bauer Family trip to Williams Narrows, he was happiest in his boat with a line in the water. He was also a master of the grill



Troy Holling

and smoker, constantly experimenting with new recipes or preparing beloved favorites for those he cared about. Hosting meals and sharing good food brought him tremendous joy.

Above all, Troy's proudest accomplishment was his family and the many friendships he cherished throughout his life.

Troy is survived by his loving wife, Lisa; his children: Kelsey Bauer of Waterville, Kayla (Dan) Perry of Bloomington, and Kyle (Kay) Holling of Elysian; three grandchildren: Raylin and Ronin Holling and Evelyn Perry; siblings: Todd (Marie) Holling, Traci (Bob) Nordstrom, and Terri Holling; brother-in-law and sisters-in-law: Linda (John) Lamont, Doug Bauer (Elaine Carr), Darren (Lori) Bauer, and Dean (Cheryl) Bauer; as well as many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Donald and Marna (Jackson) Bauer.

Visitation was held from 4:00 to 7:00 PM on Monday, December 29, 2025, at the Waterville Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service. Visitation continued one hour prior to the service at the church on Tuesday. Funeral services were held at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Waterville with Rev. David Mumme officiating. DSOFuneral.com

Steven Peterson

Steven John Peterson, age 66 of Owatonna, formerly of Waseca, died on the evening of Saturday, December 27, 2025 at the Benedictine Living Community in Owatonna.

Steve was born in Waseca on December 16, 1959, to parents Kenneth Stanley and Donna Mae (Hammann) Peterson. He graduated Waseca High School with the class of 1978 before continuing his vo-tech education in Austin, MN, graduating in 1980. Over the years Steve worked at Stucky's Drug Store in Waseca, Brown Printing in Waseca, and finally at Winegar's, Inc. in Waseca. He was a member of

Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca, and he enjoyed going to flea markets, playing at casinos—especially in Deadwood, SD, welding yard art, photography, and giving hugs to those he loved. He will be dearly missed.

Steve is survived by two sisters, Jan (Mark) Wolff of Janesville and Rebecca (Dave) Kamm of Decorah, IA; nieces Marissa (Keith) Tourville, Michelle Riegert, Bailey (Todd) Tacheny, Kim (Ryan) Patterson, Lisa Kamm; nephew Karl Kamm; Brother-in-law Mike (Brenda) Riegert; and friends Doug and Lynn Steck. He was preceded in death by both of his parents; a brother, Mark Peterson, sister, Jane Riegert; and his maternal and paternal grandpar-

ents.

A visitation will be held from 4:00 until 6:45 p.m. on Friday, January 2, 2026 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. A closing prayer service will begin at 6:45 p.m. after which friends and family are invited to join Steven's family at Barden's Bar in Waseca to finish the evening. All who attend are encouraged to wear clothing that would have made Steven smile, including brewery or beer shirts or funky socks. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be directed to St. Croix Hospice of Owatonna or the Benedictine Living Community in Owatonna.



Steven Peterson

Verna Bobby

Verna Mae Bobby, age 67 of Janesville, died at her home on the morning of Wednesday, December 24, 2025.

Verna was born in route to the hospital in Ponsford, Minnesota on November 30, 1958 to Susan Margaret Fineday. She was one of twelve children. Verna and one of her sisters were removed from their home and put up for adoption at an early age. After living in various foster homes, they were both adopted by the Bill Loge family in Burnsville. The Loge family had a hobby farm with horses, and Verna grew

to love grooming and training them. She graduated from Lakeville High School where she excelled on the softball team. Her passion for the game continued well into her 50's. On June 18, 1983, Verna was married to Dale Raymond Bobby in Albert Lea, and together they raised two boys. Verna's working years included Walters Cookbooks in Waseca and Birds Eye Foods in Waseca although she was a homemaker for most of her life. Her family remembers her cooking and her constant work around her home. She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville.

Verna is survived by her husband of 42 years, Dale Bobby of Janesville; two sons, Jason (Krista) Bobby of Mankato, and Joshua Bobby of Sauk Rapids; three grandchildren, Trevon Bobby, Maizen (Jordan) Bobby, and Aubrey Bobby; and siblings Sue Stommes of LeRoy and Pat Fineday of MN. She was preceded in death by her mother; two brothers; and one sister.

Verna's family will host a celebration of her life in the summer of 2026. More specifics will be determined at a later date. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Janesville is caring for the Bobby family.



Verna Bobby

School board 2026 levy lower than 2025

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

At the Dec. 18 regular business meeting, members of the Waseca school board approved a total 2026 property tax levy about \$110,000 lower than in 2025: \$5,340,139. District business manager Sarah Brandt explained during a legally required "truth in taxation" summary that local property tax levies are limited by statutorily defined formulas that are driven by pupil counts, population, voter authorization, specific eligible expenditure types and districtwide property valuations. The Waseca school district is one of 91 Minnesota districts that does not have

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SCHOOL BOARD

an operating referendum above and beyond the local optional revenue for taxes payable 2025.

As part of her summary, Brandt showed a comparison of school-related taxes imposed on a home with an estimated market value of \$250,000 in surrounding communities. Waseca's levy fell between JWP's and WEM's. NRHEG and Blue Earth ranked lower, while Medford, Albert Lea, Owatonna, and St. Peter were higher. Brandt said the majority of the district's funding comes

from the state at 80.5%, and federal revenue is 3.3%.

Also during the meeting, the board learned the annually required audit of the 2024-'25 school year yielded positive results. A report was presented by Clifton Larson Allen representative Craig Popenhagen; there were no statutory findings, and he stated internal processes seem to be working smoothly as designed. As it's said in the trade, the audit was "clean."

The board's 2026 organizational meeting will be on Jan. 8; the next regular business meeting will be Jan. 22.

William McNamee

William "Bill" James McNamee, age 67, of Waseca, passed away on Friday, December 26, 2025, at Central Health Care in Le Center following a short battle with throat cancer.

Bill was born on March 23, 1958, in Waseca, the son of James and Betty (Abbe) McNamee. He was baptized as an infant and later confirmed in his Catholic faith at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca. He received his education at Waseca Central High School.

Bill was known as a hard worker throughout his life. He spent more than 15 summers working for Birds Eye and held various other jobs around town. He also worked alongside his brother at the Cenex Distribution Center, loading and unloading semis. Outside of work, Bill enjoyed fishing, riding his bike, listening to rock music, and cruising in muscle cars with his brothers. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Bill is survived by his siblings: Laura (Robert) Maas of Janesville, James McNamee of



William McNamee

Mankato, and Don McNamee of Faribault; nieces and nephews: Jason Maas, Kenneth Maas, Christopher Maas, Joy McNamee, and John McNamee; eight great-nieces and great-nephews; and many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his baby brother, Ronald; and his sister-in-law, Diane.

Private family services will be held.

Interment will take place at Calvary Cemetery in Waseca. DSOFuneral.com.

■ Denn

from Page 1

of God's creations, traveling around the USA, Mexico, Alaska, Canada and Hawaii. Always giving their time to help others with consideration; keeping God in their lives was a top priority."

The get-together was from 2 to 5 p.m., but the room was still filling up at 3:30 p.m. and no one showed any signs of leaving. For refreshments there was a table filled with freshly baked assorted bars, sandwiches, salad, coffee

and pickles—lots of pickles. In fact there were pickles on every table. There was a balloon arch and although it's been a while, there was Barb's original wedding dress and her wedding veil: She was nice enough to wear the veil for a picture. David, who was dressed in a gray checkered suit said, "Remember me wearing this because this will probably be the last time you'll see me in it."

Daughter Chanda was the only child present, the other two are living in Texas and Florida. Barb's mother, Anita Risto, was also there, as was Pastor Grannis of St. Paul Lutheran and his wife

Kristy. Before they turned up the music, Barb had too few words to say, but she meant them when she said, "I can't believe you all came. It's been a while since I've seen many of you. Thank you." Then she reminded everyone that they should eat, and that there was plenty of food to go around.

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Sacred Heart School



GENEROSITY - On the last day before Christmas break, Sacred Heart School acknowledged students who display the December "Virtue of the Month," generosity. These students were chosen by the school's teachers and staff for having demonstrated selfless giving and caring toward others all month. Congratulations to Matilyn, Grayson, RaeAnn, Palmer, Michael, Henry, Ben and Ellie!



HONORED - Wasecan Bill Fitzsimmons was honored with the Bishop's Medal on Sunday, Dec. 21. The medal was presented by Bishop Robert Barron in gratitude for Fitzsimmon's lifetime of faithful service to the Sacred Heart Church and community.

Bill Fitzsimmons honored with Bishop's Medal

On Sunday, Dec. 21, at Sacred Heart Church in Waseca, Bill Fitzsimmons was honored with the Bishop's Medal, presented by Bishop Robert Barron, in gratitude for a lifetime of faithful service to the Church and community.

Born in 1934, Bill was baptized at Sacred Heart, graduated from Sacred

Heart High School in 1952, and has remained deeply rooted in the parish ever since—having known nearly every pastor to serve there. Known as humble, dependable, and faith-filled, many say, "If you need to get something done, ask Bill."

For decades, Bill has served Sacred Heart as a sacristan, altar

server, usher (for more than 65 years), Eucharistic Adorer at 5:00 a.m. every Monday for over 20 years, and a steady presence at daily Masses and funerals. He has also given generously of his time and talents to parish administration, finances, and campus improvement projects, while quietly encouraging

others to return to the faith.

Beyond the parish, Bill has served the wider Waseca community, including 40 years as head of the Minnesota Valley Action Council, supporting individuals and families in need.

Bill has been married to his wife, Sandy, for more than 65 years.

■ 2025

from Page 3

Waseca County Commissioners gave the go-ahead to purchase a scanning unit which will use x-ray technology to examine the contents of bags and other containers brought into the courthouse as people enter.

- The South Central Flyers girls' hockey team saw its season end last Wednesday with a 6-0 loss at top-seeded Farmington in the Section 2A quarterfinals.
- The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the addition of Katie Gonzales to its board of directors.
- Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton snow week concluded last week with crowning of Brielle Bure and Eric Daschner.
- Newly elected and installed Waldorf city council member Jamie Beckstrand, 28, is a lifelong area resident and 2015 graduate of NRHEG High School.
- The student body of the Waseca Alternative Learning Center heard from Emma Benoit, now in her twenties, who became wheelchair bound after a suicide attempt that took place when she was 16. The Feb. 3 event took place in the school district Central Building in Waseca.



A Southern Minnesota Pageant Competition was held Saturday night, January 25 at the Waseca High School Performing Arts Center. The following ladies were crowned: Miss Owatonna Teen: Kaylee Smith; Miss South Central Teen: Amaya Rath; Miss Waseca County Sleigh & Cutter Teen: Paige Johnson; Miss Owatonna: Jasmin Kotek; Miss South central: Lainey Donahue; Miss Waseca County Sleigh & Cutter: May Diddy.

- Entering the Section 2A gymnastics meet Thursday, Feb. 13 at Mankato East High School, Waseca High School senior Bella Wikan was fairly confident of advancing to state in the uneven parallel bars or maybe one other event. She did better than that. Wikan scored 36.45 points in all-around, reaching state in the coveted event.
- The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton girls' basketball team knew it would be a tall task to upend Triton Saturday at Dodge Center for the outright Gopher Conference championship. Mission accomplished.
- Bit by bit across three weeks, the clues revealed that Penny Vought, the 2025 "Frosty," was not a Waseca native, but has lived in the area for 40 years, that she is a friend and supporter of the arts, that she earned college credits at both Gustavus and Mankato State universities, and graduated college in 1983.
- The Waseca County Republican Party held its annual convention on Saturday, February 15 at the Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC), bringing together local members to deliberate on key policy issues, strategize for upcoming elections, and elect new Committee Members.
- Three Waseca High School wrestlers have extended their season for one week. Juniors Slade Barnett and Matthew Veroeven, along with senior Ben Hagen, ad-

vanced to state out of Saturday's Section 1AA tournament at Rochester.

March

- Waseca County schools sent 13 wrestlers representing Class A and AA to compete in the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) state tournament this past weekend, Feb. 27 to March 1, 2025. Senior Keegan Kuball of WEM-JWP won his third straight state championship at 285 lbs in class A. After finishing fourth place a year ago, fellow WEM-JWP senior Carson Petry captured his first state title at 127 lbs.
- As he had announced earlier in the year, long-time lead of the Sleigh and Cutter committee Ken Borgmann is abdicating his role after "at least 30 years"; he and his wife Pug have been married 59 years, and lived in Waseca since 1979. They have decided to move back to their roots in the vicinity of Sauk Centre, Minn. sometime in the next few months.
- A section of a song written and performed by Alison Dufault, a 2018 graduate of Waseca High School, is featured in the 2025 film "Love Me" starring Kristen Stewart and Steven Yeun.
- Over the past two years, city and county officials report hearing increasing numbers of concerns regarding the status of vegetation on the small island located in Waseca's smaller body of water, Loon Lake. Despite being located within city limits, the island is under county ownership.
- Many rumors and concerns were put to bed the evening of Thursday, Feb. 27, when the City of New Richland and the engineering firm of Bolton and Menk held an open house at which residents could learn details and have their questions answered regarding the \$3.2 million street and utility reconstruction project set to take place this summer.
- The second annual Memorial Bockfest to honor the life of Wayne Breitbarth took place at the American Legion on Saturday, March 1. Hosted by Waseca brewing club the Fermentals, the event included a silent auction, beer and wine tasting, 'beer poking' and live music provided by Bob's Rubber Band.
- The big news Saturday at the Minnesota state high school wrestling tournament was that a WEM/JWP individual captured a state championship. The even bigger news



The annual Cub Scout Pinewood Derby was held the weekend of Feb. 15 and 16 at the Scout building on the Waseca County Fairgrounds. Awards were given for fastest cars first through fourth place. According to organizers, derby cars built this year were some of the fastest the competition has ever seen.

was his name was not Keegan Kuball, but 127-pound senior Carson Petry. Kuball also won a bit later in the tournament, taking his third state championship in the 285-pound class.

- Loon Lake island, and what to do about the bird species causing deterioration of the island, was once again a main topic of discussion at the Waseca City Council's first meeting of the month on Tuesday, March 4.
- The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School boys' basketball team, seeded fourth in Section 2AA, advanced to the semifinal round with a 68-53 victory over LeSueur-Henderson.
- NRHEG Girls' Basketball is state bound for the first time since 2017; It is the sixth time in program history.
- The Irish American Club of Southern Minnesota presented the 2025 Miss St. Patrick and Miss Irish Rose pageant the evening of Saturday, March 15. Stella Ziemke of Mankato was crowned as Miss St. Patrick and Lilly Quast of JWP as Miss Irish Rose. The venue was the Mill Event Center in Waseca, which was richly decorated in green streamers, shamrocks, and Irish wear.
- Although he was appointed as Waseca's Chief of Police by the city manager last July, Kris Markeson, 46, took on the full responsibilities of the role in November, when longstanding chief Penny Vought retired after 40 years on the force.
- Despite a biting wind and temperatures

around 20 degrees, seating at the city community center stayed full during the Waldorf Fire Department's St. Patrick's Day fundraiser the morning of Sunday, March 16. By the end of the event, about 380 people had been served at the pancake feed: the menu included pancakes, sausage, ham, eggs, and milk or juice.

- The Waseca Arts Council is proud to announce its newly elected Board of Directors, the largest in the organization's recent history, signaling a renewed commitment to fostering artistic expression and community engagement.
- An incredible, impeccable run by the Waseca Bluejays boys' basketball team came to its end at the hands of the undefeated Albany Huskies, 70-63, Saturday night at Williams Arena in Minneapolis.
- Bevcomm, the Blue Earth based communications company working with Waseca County to have high speed fiber internet made available to residents in the unincorporated parts of the county, drew about 200 people to a barbecue dinner and information session offered at the Waldorf Community Center the evening of March 18.
- The Waseca Exchange Club proudly presented an Award of Appreciation and Recognition to the Waseca Fire Department for their heroic response to the historic wildfire that broke out near Moonan Marsh on March 3, 2024.

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The Pastor's Column

Holiday season brings abundance of celebration

By FATHER GLENN FRERICHS

For many Christians, this time of year is celebrated with an abundance of holidays. We begin with Christmas, which celebrates the birth of Jesus. This birthday is unlike any other. When people gather for a loved one's birthday, we do not celebrate the birth itself. Instead, people come together to recognize that this person is a gift to the world and that their presence is something worth celebrating. We are telling the person that he or she is valued. It is an expression of our appreciation and care.

Christmas, on the other hand, is also a celebration of what God has done for us by sending Jesus, the second person of the Blessed Trinity, in the flesh, to bring salvation to his people. One can hardly imagine the vulnerability that divinity embraced in allowing Jesus, in his humanity, to be placed in the hands and care of fallen humanity. While still in the womb, Jesus was guided by Joseph to be born in a humble cave: in his poverty, the king of the universe is laid in a manger. At the end of his life, Jesus was led by Joseph of Arimathea to another cave, this time a grave he did not own, emphasizing his poverty. The difference is that the second cave would not be able to contain him. Having been given the message by an angel, the shepherds came to greet Jesus, perceiving that one day he would become the shepherd of all.

Epiphany, which marks the end of the twelve days of Christmas, celebrates the manifestation of Christ's divinity. The three magi reveal his divine nature through the offering of gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold symbolizes his kingship, wisdom, and authority. Frankincense represents

prayer, worship, and the divine nature of Christ. Myrrh, associated with death and burial, symbolizes suffering, mortality, and humanity. Through their understanding of the star, the three magi were able to offer proper worship to God.

A beautiful celebration of this season observed by many Christian denominations is the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Jesus spent the first thirty years of his life sanctifying family life and showing the world how important family is to our spiritual growth. Terms like domestic church, Christian family, and household faith are often used to describe the role of Christian families in the world today. As a small community of believers, the prayers of spouses for each other and parents for their children are powerful. It is mainly through the family that children learn how to pray, understand what it means to love, to be loved, to work together, and serve others for the good of everyone.

I am often impressed by the creative ways and unique opportunities parents use to pass on faith and strong virtues to their children. A few years ago, one family introduced me to their annual tradition of having each person pick one gift from under the tree to donate to someone in need. Since each gift was wrapped, the children did not know which of their toys would be given to another child who had fewer than they did.

As stores focus on clearing their shelves, we are reminded to reflect on what God has done for us 2000 years ago and what He continues to do for our families today. May the New Year be filled with blessings that only the graces of the incarnation of the Son of God can bring.

The Greatest Gift



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM- Sunday School children from the First Lutheran Church of Waldorf presented "The Greatest Gift: The Birth of Our Savior" on Sunday, Dec. 21. They acted out the story of Jesus' birth while the congregation sang songs that corresponded with each part of the story. Shepherds: Emma Brunson and Alayna Cordes, angels: Lillyan Page, Kena Weimert and Genny Cordes, Joseph: Colten Bluhm, Mary: Emma Bittner, the star: Inara Cordes, wise men: James Brunson, Carsten Page and Huxley Weimert.

Child's History of Waseca County

Chapter V, 1855. More settlers in midwinter – Chris Scott and family – Build a log hut and cover it with hay – Scott makes trip to La Crosse for flour the last of February.

About two weeks after the arrival of Mr. Sutlief and his company, as detailed in chapter three, Mr. Christopher Scott and family, accompanied by a man called "Pat," came over from Straight river, where they had been staying since the previous fall. They, too, were from Wisconsin, near Fox Lake. This family stayed, or "hung up," in the Sutlief cabin, which, on their arrival, was pretty well filled; at least, it contained twelve persons, although it was only 14x16 feet with no chamber room. But in those days the stranger was welcome so long as there was standing room in the abode of the pioneer.

Mr. Scott immediately made a claim about a mile north of Sutlief's. This claim is now owned by Mr. John Carmody, Sr. Mr. Scott commenced building a cabin, which was constructed of logs notched together at the corners; the building was "shingled" with basswood troughs; the crevices between the logs and troughs were chinked with prairie grass, cut in February, and then daubed, or plastered, with mud: the

floor was the frozen ground, and the "banking" around the cabin was made of snow. There was no lumber in the country nearer than Mankato, and such a cabin was all that could be constructed with the materials at hand. Mrs. Scott having two or three small children, the bottom of a wagon box was brought in and laid upon the ground for them to play on, and for Mrs. Scott to use as a sort of sitting room.

Near the close of February Mr. Sutlief started for Dodge county with the cattle, he proposed that I should go with him to the Scott cabin where Mrs. Scott could poultice my eyes and care for them. The proposition was gratefully accepted.

"Sim" said that as soon as spring should arrive, he could furnish the eyes if "Pat" would the legs, and they would "leg it" back to the scenes of their childhood, etc.

After being kindly treated for a week, I so far recovered my sight that I was able to return to the Sutlief cabin and attend to my duties. The country was really having a second winter in March. The weather was cold, and ice had again formed on all the streams and ponds. A morning or two after I had returned to the Sutlief cabin, and while I was preparing my breakfast, I heard a rapping at the door and said "come in." A stranger,

looking haggard enough, walked in, and, grasping me by the hand, expressed his joy at finding a cabin and some one living in it. He said that he and another man, during the warm spell of weather had left the northernmost settlement, on the Des Moines river, in Iowa, with a horse and "jumper," bound for Mankato. On the third day of their journey they had met the heavy snowstorm which had swept over the Northwest, and partly lost their course, but struck the headwaters of the LeSueur on the east side, and, supposing it to be the Blue Earth river, had followed along down, expecting to find the Mankato settlement.

For three days preceding their arrival here, they had been without anything to eat, except a few ears of corn that they had brought along for horsefeed. The horse had subsisted for several days on nothing save dead prairie grass, and the browse from the bushes in the small groves along their route. One of the men was nearly blind from exposure to wind, sun, and storm, and both were very much reduced in strength for want of food and rest. The horse was nearly starved. They had come into the river bend opposite the Sutlief cabin the evening before and had camped over night, almost discouraged and with little hope of ever reaching Mankato

or seeing their families again. Within the night they thought they could hear occasionally, the sound of a cow bell, and at early dawn they surely heard the roosters crow. Hope revived; and, as daylight came on, the man who could yet see, following the sounds which they had heard, crossed the river and found the shanty. They were gladly welcomed, and remained at the cabin several days before they and their horse were strong enough to pursue their journey to Mankato. I never saw nor heard of them afterwards.

Editorial Note - Upon rummaging through the vast library of contents, I stumbled across a very old blue book titled, "Child's History of Waseca County Minnesota for Fifty Years, 1854-1904."

After thumbing through the first several pages it was determined this book was too interesting to go back on the shelf. So, it was used as a stand for a computer monitor. Several months later, after finding a more suitable stand, I opened the book to show a reader who stopped into the office. I made the decision that this piece of history should not be lost to time. Since then the Star Eagle has included, "a little bit of this and a little bit of that," from the book. Eli Lutgens

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4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. *****	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. *****	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark *****	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Pastor Jason Wolter Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship *****
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. *****	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. *****	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Ferichs Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m. *****	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship *****
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service *****	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship *****	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class *****	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter) *****
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. *****	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship *****	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship *****	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St. Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass *****
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. *****	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. *****	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship *****	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak *****
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. *****	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting *****	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship *****	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship *****
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca Father Glenn Ferichs 507-835-1222 Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m. *****	LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting *****	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1 *****	NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship, Second sunday "Young at heart" Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation *****
REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca *****	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota *****	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.

Janesville

25 years ago

- A damaged sprinkler head is responsible for triggering the fire alarm at the Janesville Public School on Monday. The Janesville Fire Department responded to the call just before noon. According to Don Hainlen, Superintendent of Schools, the sprinkler head may have been inadvertently damaged during the repairs recently. Due to the damage, the sprinkler system was draining, resulting in an alert being sounded by Red Wing Services, the company that monitors the alarm system.



- Senior choir members recognized this week include: Kristen Voges: 4th year choir, soprano 1, 4th year swing show; Lindsay Adams: 4th year choir, soprano 1, 4th year swing show; Amanda Beelow: 1st year choir, alto, 1st year swing show; and JR Weingartz: 2nd year choir, tenor and 1st year swing show.

- Sarah Denn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Denn of Janesville, will be touring the week of Tuesday, Jan. 2 through Sunday, Jan. 7, with the jazz ensemble at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato. Denn is a 2000 graduate of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School. The Bethany Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Erik Hermanson, will perform at various schools and churches in Iowa and Missouri before returning to Mankato for a Homecoming Concert with professional jazz trumpeter, Kirk Garrison, on Monday, Jan. 8.

- The N.E. Alton Club met Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the home of Therese Wheelock. Fourteen members enjoyed a 12:30 p.m. potluck. After a delicious meal, cars were played. Prize winners were Ester Ryan high; Norma Witt, second; and Mary Burns, low. Members brought food which was donated to the local food shelf. Gifts were exchanged. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 10, at the home of Norma Witt.

50 years ago

- The Smiths Mill-Janesville Sportsmens Club will offer the first of two snowmobile safety classes tonight at JHS. The class will begin at 6:15 p.m. in Room 116. Fred Arnoldt and John Graff will be teaching the two sessions. Students 11 or over can take the class. Those who pass the tests are eligible for Minnesota Snowmobile licenses. The second session will be December 23.

- Mrs. Walter Manke was the big winner in the second Janesville Jack drawing last Friday. She won \$20 worth of Janesville's script money. Ten dollar winners were Ida Storjohann and Blanche Cahill. Winning 45 each were Gwen Gahler, Dave Born, Mrs. Richard Senne, Mrs. Herman Krienke, Wilber Ewert, Amee Keyes, Mrs. Elden Schlessner, Emil Westphal, Mrs. V.I. Born, Irmgard Cowdin, Elaine Strunk and Darlene Schlie. Winners can pick up their bucks at the Argus.

- A skit entitled, "I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve" will open the program at Medo Lutheran Church. The tree will be as colorful as a Maypole as it is decorated with Norwegian and American flags in honor of the Bicentennial and the Norwegians 150 years in America. A song, sung by the cast, will introduce the Norwegian delicacies such as lutefisk, lefse, rommegrot, krumkake, rosettes and the Christmas rice.

75 years ago

- The Janesville Community Club will meet on Wednesday evening, December 14, at the club rooms. Movies will be shown of the work completed at the Fred Goltz farm several weeks ago. All those who took part in the work are invited to come and view the pictures. Committees will contact you soon to collect for Christmas decorations on our streets.

- A co-hostess card party was sponsored by Moms Ida Hess, Bessie Hall, Orga Glamm, Augusta Dumdel and Ethelina Born on Sunday evening at the home of the latter. Snouse was played at eleven tables. The snouse prize was won by Albert Schubbe. High score prizes went to Keith Born and Gertrude Krause, low score prizes to Julius Krause and Betty Joyce. An enjoyable evening was spent by all present. The party was a benefit affair to help make a Christmas party for veterans in both St. Peter and Rochester hospitals. Lunch was served at eleven o'clock.

- Soil sample boxes were delivered throughout the county Tuesday. The following places will be soil depots and will be in position to receive your soil sample to be sent to the Soil Testing Laboratory at University Farm: Janesville-Commander Elevator, J.G. Dill Elevator, Doss Implement Co. Volkmann Livestock. Waseca-Byron's Farm Store, Farm Bureau Service Station and County Extension Office. Waldorf-St. Clair John Elevator. New Richland-High School, Ag. Dept. Bole Implement, Babcock, Hunting Elevator.

100 years ago

- According to a few letters received by this newspaper, there is still a minute section of public opinion that does not believe in the lash and the gallows as crime deterrents. These few people, animated by the religious idealism, sentimentalism or demagoguery, say these methods are not "justice" that it is unjust to punish one man for the potential sins of other men.

- Postcards bearing holiday greeting must be mailed with two cent stamps and will not be delivered if sent with one cent stamps, according to a 1925 ruling of the United States post office department. Patrons of the Janesville office are requested to heed this change, due to the amount of mail that will pile up and the non-deliveries occasioned by failure to pay attention to it.

- A man leaning over the parapet of a bridge looked so glum that a kindly pedestrian stopped to make sure the gloomy one was not contemplating suicide. "No, it's this way," explained the latter, "I like to come here once in a while to rest my face. I get tired of smiling all day at the store and I don't think I ought to be grouchy at home."

Waseca

25 years ago

- Mark and Kim Macht, of Waseca, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Sawyer John Macht, born December 5, 2000, at the Waseca Medical Center. He weighted 8 pounds 7 ounces and was 19 ¾ inches long at birth. He is welcomed home by his sister, Samantha, age 7. Maternal grandparents are Curtis and Louise Roemhildt, of Janesville.

- John Arnold of Waseca has been named by the Minnesota Basketball News to the Minnesota Pre-Season Top 100 Player List in its December issue. Arnold, a 6'0" senior guard, averaged 11.7 points and 2.3 assists per game as a junior. He is averaging 13 points a game to start the current season. Arnold plays for coach Joel Hayford at Waseca.

- Amy Jo Bethke: If you were Santa Claus
If I was Santa Claus I would make twice the amount of presents and give the children 4 each and give presents to poor or old people that are in nursing homes or are sick. In the workshop, I would put a deli so the elves could eat on break. I would also make a present drop off so the elves could get more work done and so they don't have to walk far.

50 years ago

- The Waseca census takers have now uncovered 6,600 people, a figure still below the 1970 total of 6,789. However, a number of homes in the northwest part of the city as well as many call-backs to people not home during the first canvas earlier in the week have yet to be completed. Census takers will be working over the weekend, and a first count is expected sometime late Monday.

- Jena Morris of 715 North State St. recently put in a Journal classified ad asking for a babysitter. "I don't know what to say, Journal classified worked for me!" Ms. Morris exclaimed when asked if her advertisement had helped her find a babysitter. Does Jena's luck make you just a teensy-weensy bit jealous? Wish you had her luck? Well, you can, but need the Journals help. Dash on down to the Journal now, or give Julie a call this very minute at 835-2220, and let her help you draw up just the right ad for you.

- Ambrose Dulas of Waseca County Sales, Waseca recently attended one of a series of regional one day product, program, and sales sessions presented by Modern Farm Systems, Inc., held at Minneapolis. Don Reimer, president of Modern Farm Systems, Inc., conducted the meeting designed to increase product knowledge as part of the continuing program to keep Modern Farm Systems' dealers and their employees out in front as experts in grain and materials handling and storage.

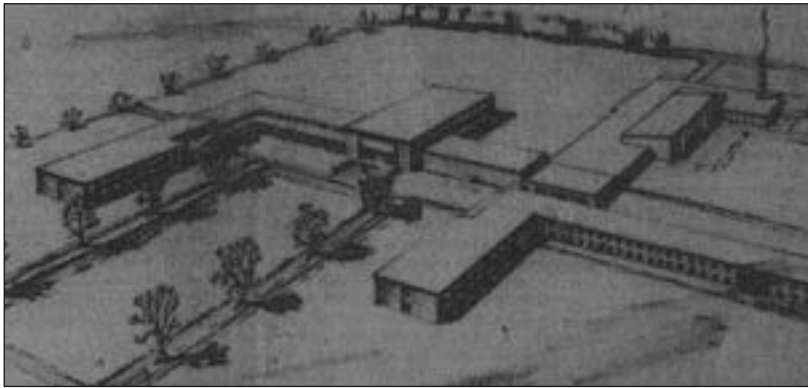
75 years ago

- The Waseca County Rural Youth climaxed their 1950 activities with their annual Christmas banquet last Saturday night. Fifty young men and women attended the event, which was held at the Congregational church. Bill Jewison, president of the group, acted as master of ceremonies. The invocation was given by Rev. Thomas.

- On Monday evening, Dec. 11, a very large number of the Catholic Daughters assembled in Sacred Heart auditorium for the last meeting of 1950. After the business meeting, an enjoyable program of Christmas entertainment was provided under the direction of Hulda McCarthy. Ruth Kozan rendered two vocal selections with accordion accompaniment. LaJune McCabe next gave her version of "Tis the Night Before Christmas."

- The members of the Waseca Fire Department entertained their wives Wednesday evening, Dec. 14, at a 6:30 turkey dinner at the I.O.O.F. hall. Following the dinner, movie films of the Legion Convention parade and "A Tour Through Holland" were shown. Bingo furnished the remainder of the evening's entertainment, with everyone receiving prizes.

100 years ago



- Contracts totalling \$1,342, 643 were let by the University of Minnesota Board of Regents Friday for the construction of a Southern Minnesota Agricultural School at the Southeast Experiment Station, Waseca. Utilities, roads and sidewalks are expected to bring the total cost to \$1,705,000. Only one change was made in the serial drawing above to get the contract within the appropriation. That is the elimination of one wing (center foreground) of the boy's dormitory.

- Yesterday the Waseca Journal received a communication from "Kelly The Eel," the well known wrestler, who staged several watches in Waseca last season. Kelly states in his letter: Is the wrestler by the name of Fred Ross in your city now? If he is I would like to meet him in a match there soon on any terms. I have won my last 14 bouts and believe I can trim him now. An answer will be appreciated.

- A skating rink, a block long and half block wide has been laid off on Clear Lake and is now in readiness for use. The pump will be installed to flood the rink regularly and will be in operation this week. As usual the warming house will be operated and every precaution will be taken to avoid accidents to children.

- Sacred Heart high school lost their first basketball game of the season last evening to the Columbus high team of Austin. The game was played on the local floor before a large crowd of fans. The teams have long been rivals in every branch of sports and much interest was shown in the game. The local team showed a great deal of fight and played remarkably well for the first game. Sacred Heart was forced to long shot throughout the game and were able to sink only four field baskets.



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New Richland

25 years ago

- New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva's FFA Soils Judging team placed fourth in Region 7 competition, recently with 767 points. They are from the left: seated, Derek Chicos, who was second individual with 300 points and Dustin Wayne, seventh individual with 273 points; standing, Shawn Kadlec, who scored 167. Nakia Berg, who scored 194 points, was not present in the photo, when it was taken.

- Among the students who recently graduated from the University of Minnesota, Mankato, were: Leah Enger, Mary Fenger, Heather Krause and Robert Routh, all of New Richland. Jessica Androli, Ben Carleton, Erica Ellsworth, Kasey Gahler, Tina Holecek, Angela Quast, Tami Sens -Coonrod and Laura Seys, all of Janesville. Connie Bach, Mary Larson and Leslie McGregor, all of Mapleton: Amy Hinkley of Minnesota Lake.

- Janesville- Waldorf- Pemberton's basketball squad sailed past Alden-Conger, Friday night winning at Alden 62-30. Jenna Ziemke led the Bulldogs with 18 points and seven rebounds. Melissa Cummins scored 14 points and pulled five off the boards. Darlene Guse topped the rebounding with 11 while adding 9 points.

50 years ago

- Here Tom Ribbe gives blood at the Christmas visit of the Bloodmobile to New Richland. A successful visit, 60 pints were donated and certainly tells everyone that New Richland area residents have the true Christmas spirit.

- Mr. and Mrs. MArk Foster of Ellendale are the parents of a son, born Sunday, December 28th. He weighed 6 pounds and 12 ¾ ounces. He has one brother, Micheal who is 1 ½ years old. The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Karl Pederson, Albert Lea, and Mr. and Mrs. Orvis Foster, Ellendale.

75 years ago

- Carrell Raymo of St. Peter and Rosemary Bungarden of Waseca are to be married at Sacred Heart church, Waseca, Monday morning January 29.

- Mr. and Mrs. Russell Hanson (Ruth Haug) of New Richland became the parents of a daughter on Friday, January 19 born at the Wesece Memorial hospital. The baby weighed 6 pounds and 13 ½ ounces and has been given the name Victoria Leigh. The Hansons also have a son, Gary. On the same day a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Haug (Lorraine Hagen) also of New Richland community. They have named their son Dennis Robert. This little fellow weighed 7 pounds and 12 ½ ounces, he also has a sister, Mary Ann. Mrs. Haug and Mrs. Hanson shared the same room at the hospital and returned home together on Monday.

3-D

from Page 3

I hit print and wait."

He was asked about the dragon eggs, which kind of resembled pinecones. He picked one up, screwed the top off, took out the little dragon inside and found a few plastic pieces stuck to the dragon's face. "I guess I missed a little bit of excess plastic. Sometimes the printer leaves a little bit extra and it has to be scraped off," he explained.

His parents were selling a

few tables over. He indicated them and said, "I want to give a shout-out to my dad, Jesse, and my mom, Krista ,who sells here too, "She's the owner of Barefoot Lane MN at barefootlanemn@gmail.com. She sells baked goods and you can find her on Facebook."

Oliver emphasizes that "Rugroden's 3-Ds" aren't going to be going away anytime soon. He says he plans to keep selling, so anyone interested in futuristic art from a Waseca teenager can seek him out at the Farmers Market.



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SCOREBOARD

Boys' Basketball

Big South Conference - Black		
	Conf.	Ov.
St. Peter	4-0	8-1
Belle Plaine	2-0	5-0
Marshall	3-1	5-2
New Ulm	2-3	3-4
Waseca	2-3	3-4
Worthington	1-3	1-6
Tri-City United	0-4	0-6

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Conf.	Ov.
Luverne	5-1	7-2
Fairmont	5-1	6-2
Jackson County Cent.	4-2	5-3
Blue Earth Area	3-2	6-2
St. James Area	3-2	3-2
Redwood Valley	1-4	1-5
Pipestone Area	1-5	2-6
Windom Area	0-5	2-7

Gopher Conference East		
	Conf.	Ov.
Bloomington Prairie	3-0	8-0
Triton	2-0	6-1
Hayfield	2-1	5-3
Randolph	2-2	2-6
Bethlehem Academy	1-2	2-5
Kenyon-Wanamingo	0-4	2-7

Gopher Conference - West		
	Conf.	Ov.
Janesville-WP	4-0	9-0
New Richland-HEG	2-2	3-5
United South Central	1-2	2-5
Waterville-EM	1-2	1-6
Medford	0-3	2-6

Girls' Basketball

Big South Conference - Black		
	Conf.	Ov.
Marshall	5-0	6-2
New Ulm	4-1	6-2
Tri-City United	3-1	4-6
St. Peter	3-2	6-2
Belle Plaine	1-3	2-5
Worthington	0-4	2-7
Waseca	0-5	0-10

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Conf.	Ov.
Fairmont	6-0	7-0
Pipestone Area	5-1	8-1
St. James Area	4-1	5-2
Windom Area	3-2	8-2
Luverne	3-3	5-4
Jackson County Cent.	1-5	3-8
Blue Earth Area	0-5	1-9
Redwood Valley	0-5	0-9

Gopher Conference - East		
	Conf.	Ov.
Hayfield/Schaeffer Ac.	5-0	7-2
Bloomington Prairie	3-1	7-2
Triton	2-1	4-2
Randolph	1-4	3-5
Bethlehem Academy	0-4	3-6
Kenyon-Wanamingo	0-4	3-6

Gopher Conference - West		
	Conf.	Ov.
New Richland-HEG	4-0	8-2
Janesville-WP	3-1	7-3
United South Central	1-2	6-3
Waterville-EM	1-3	3-7
Medford	0-0	0-0

Boys' hockey

Big South Conference - Black		
	Conf.	Ov.
Waseca Area	3-0	5-4-1
Minnesota River	2-2	4-4
New Ulm	1-2	5-4
Marshall	0-2	2-7

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Conf.	Ov.
Luverne	4-0	11-0
Fairmont	2-1	3-3
Windom Area	2-2	2-5
Worthington	0-2	1-7
Redwood Valley	0-3	1-6

Girls' hockey

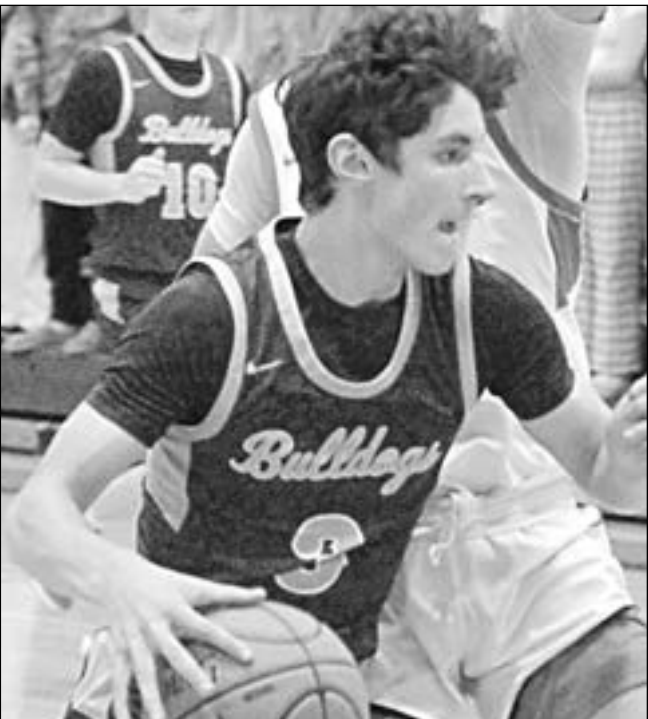
Big South Conference - Black		
	Conf.	Ov.
Minnesota River	4-0	11-1
Marshall	1-1	12-4
New Ulm	1-2	3-8
South Central	0-3	0-12

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Conf.	Ov.
Fairmont	2-0	6-3
Luverne	2-1	7-5
Worthington/Fulda	1-1	6-8
Windom Area	0-3	4-10

Wrestling

Big South Conference - Black		
	Conf.	Ov.
Marshall/Lakeview	2-0	10-2
Worthington	2-0	3-1
Tri-City United	1-1	4-3
Waseca	1-1	3-3
New Ulm	0-0	4-0
Martin County	0-2	1-2
St. Peter	0-2	2-5

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Conf.	Ov.
Jackson County Central	2-0	2-0
Pipestone Area	1-0	7-1
Windom/Mt. Lake	1-0	5-4
St. James-Madellia	1-1	4-3
Redwood Valley	1-1	3-4
Luverne	0-2	4-4
Blue Earth Area	0-2	3-7



UNDEFEATED — Taking the basketball to the hoop for the JWP boys against St. Clair Monday, Dec. 22 in Janesville are, from left, Caleb Quast (10), Parker Gearity (3), and Seth Dahlberg (5). The Bulldogs are 4-0 in the Gopher Conference West Division and 9-0 overall, ranked among the top teams in the state in Class A. Photos by Jim Lutgens

So far, there's nobody better than JWP boys

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It was an festive atmosphere, a capacity crowd buzzing with excitement and, unless you made the short trip from St. Clair, you went home happy. The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School boys' basketball gave an early Christmas present against what JWP coach Nick James called "A very solid team," taking a commanding 51-24 half-time lead and cruising to an 84-45 victory Monday, Dec. 22 in Janeville. The Bulldogs, 4-0 in Gopher Conference play, extended their winning streak to 7-0 for the season.

"I felt it was our best half of basketball to date," said JWP head coach Nick James. "I thought we really ran the floor well and pushed the ball the best we have." Sophomore Gavin Bauer had a stellar night, totaling 33 points and four rebounds. His big brother, Daulton, a senior, finished with 21 points, 5 assists and 4 steals. Caleb Quast contributed 12 points, Jaxon Wolff 6. "There are still things to keep getting better at," said James. "We still need to rebound better and we still have many times we stood and watched. We need to go get the basketball." James praised his squad's play on

the defensive end. "We did a nice job making things tough for them," he said. "We need to keep teams from feeling too comfortable on the offensive side of the ball, which I thought we did for the most part." The Panthers had a rematch with St. Clair in the opening round of the Kwik Trip Holiday Tournament at Bethany College in Mankato Friday, Dec. 26. It wasn't as easy this time, but the Bulldogs emerged 77-66 victors after leading 43-35 at halftime. Daulton Bauer had 25 points, 5 assists and 3 steals, Quast 18 points and 4 assists, Wolff 15 points and 4 assists, and Gavin Bauer 9 points and 8 assists.

"St Clair came out and gave us everything," said James. "They really played well and hit some big shots. We didn't make things as tough on the defensive end tonight, which limits our transition game." The Bulldogs nullified New Ulm 83-76 in the tournament semifinals Saturday, Dec. 27. It was knotted at 42 at the break. The Bauer brothers again came up big, Daulton registering 31 points, 5 rebounds and 5 assists, with Gavin getting 23 points, 8 rebounds and 4 assists. Quast added 11 points and 5 rebounds, Gavin Weedman 7 points. "It was a great back-and-forth game," said James. "We made some big plays down the stretch and hit

some big free throws. We gave up, I believe. a 13-point lead and then let them back in it." The Bulldogs were slated to meet Maple River or Minnesota Valley Lutheran in the championship game Monday, Dec. 29. The Bulldogs blew out NRHEG Dec. 19 at New Richland, 98-61. The halftime score was 63-25. If you guessed the Bauer brothers led the way, you were right. Gavin had 27 points, Daulton 25. Weedman scored 17, Quast 10 and Wolff 10. The Bulldogs. 4-0 in the Gopher Conferencer West Division and 9-0 overall, face Springfield in Kasson Saturday, Jan. 3.



ROUGH NIGHT — Waseca's Belle Miller (2) and Ava Miller, right, bring the basketball up the court at Marshall Friday, Dec. 19.

Waseca girls humbled at Marshall, 81-30

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It looks like the Marshall Tigers could have called off the dogs a bit earlier against the visiting Waseca High School girls' basketball team Friday, Dec. 19. But they didn't. The Bluejays, who were improving every game, sustained their most lop-sided loss of the season, 81-30. Marshall led 52-6 at halftime. No, that wasn't a typo. The Bluejays

trailed by 46 points at the intermission, leaving many wondering about Marshall's motive. At least first-year Waseca head coach Brian Rupe was kind with his comments. "We played an extremely talented Marshall team," said Rupe. "They press you and force you to make a lot of turnovers. They are very athletic, and on top of that they can shoot the ball with a lot of success. We had a lot of struggles with their press in the first half, only attempting 14 shots. When they pulled their

pressure off, it allowed us to get into a little more of an offense, which was good for the girls to get some things going." Marshall shot 52 percent overall and 47 percent from the three-point line. "We turned the ball over too much against a great team," said Rupe. Individually for the Bluejays: Ava Miller 10 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal; Belle Miller 3P, 1R, 1A; Reese Rodriguez 10P, 6R, 1S, 1A, 1 blocked shot; Maren Schimming

2A, 3S, 4R; Libby Miller 2P, 2R; Hannah Sommers 1R; Alexa Welander, 2P, 3R; Tyler Stagman 1R; Shakiyah Powell; Anna Benson 1R. The Bluejays lost 74-35 at NRHEG Monday, Dec. 22. The Panthers, whose coach, Onika Peterson, picked up her 200th career win, led 38-22 at halftime. The Bluejays played in a tournament at Winona State Dec. 26-27.

Bluejay boys blow out NRHEG

Win at Marshall makes it two in a row

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It appears the Waseca High School boys' basketball team is finally recovering from a football hangover that saw the Bluejays struggle early in the season. The Jays won twice in recent action, 69-66 at Marshall Friday, Dec. 19 and 84-51 at home against NRHEG Tuesday, Dec. 23. The Bluejays were without starter Ethan Hiller against NRHEG, but it didn't much matter as they were up 49-21 at halftime. "Owen Honstad really played well and a few other guys are start-

ing to figure out ways to contribute," said Waseca head coach Seth Anderson. Individually for the Bluejays: Deron Russell 22 points, 6 rebounds, 6 assists, 1 steal; Cyrett Long 6P, 5R, 5A, 5S; Wyatt Hager 8P, 6R, 1A, 3S; Honstad 14P, 1R, 3A, 2S; Logan Reger 1R, 1A; Brody Dufault 10P, 2R, 1A; Riley Mitchell 1A; Owen Rupe 2P, 6R, 1S; Darius Powell 8P, 4R, 1A; Julius Oviedo 2P, 1S, The Jays played in the Rochester Lourdes Invitational Dec. 29-30. The first action in the new year is Jan. 6 at St. Clair at 7 p.m.



TWO IN A ROW — The Bluejay boys' basketball team made it two straight wins with am 84-51 victory over visiting NRHEG. At left, Waseca's Owen Rupe pulls down a rebound. At right, Darius Powell looks for the basket. Photos by Jim Lutgens

Peterson joins 200-win club

Lady Panthers top Waseca, JWP to run win streak to six

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

There was a time when certain coaches would celebrate a 400 or even 500-win career record. It rarely happens these days. With so many coaches throwing in the towel after just a few seasons, reaching 200 victories is a big milestone, one reached by NRHEG girls' basketball coach Tuesday, Dec. 23 as the Panthers defeated visiting Waseca 74-55. It was 38-22 at half-time.

"We had a rough start to the game defensively," said Peterson. "We didn't play to our full potential, and we struggled with our shooting early on. The girls responded with a quick run right before halftime to pull away and build a 16-point lead. They came out aggressive, made the extra pass to find the open shooter, and really played Panther basketball in the second half.

Peterson said it was great to see improvement in the second half with rebounding, attacking the basket, and knocking down shots.

Individually for NRHEG: Gabby Schlaak 11 points, 4 rebounds, 5 assists, 2 steals; Ezra Boerner 5P, 6R, 1A; Quinn VanMaldeghem 11P, 8R, 5S, 3A, 1 blocked shot; Clara Buendorf 7P, 4R, 2A, 2S; Camryn VanMaldeghem 37P, 6R, 6S, 2A; Chloe Stork 2P, 5R, 1S; Emilia Stadheim 1A; Alayna Groskreutz

1P; Joey Rossing 1R.

The Panthers downed Gopher Conference foe JWP 56-48 at Janesville Friday, Dec. 19. The halftime score was 27-18 in favor of NRHEG.

"We had two very competitive games this week - Lanesboro early in the week and JWP tonight," said Peterson. "JWP does a lot of things really well. They attack the basket and are able to kick it out to multiple three-point shooters. Our first half was a very solid defensive performance. I was really happy with how we played on that end of the floor. We tweaked and adjusted a few things from the Lanesboro game, and the girls did a great job executing those changes. This was a hard-fought, competitive conference win for us, and we'll see JWP again in January."

Individually for the Panthers: Schlaak 10P, 8R, 1S; Boerner 2P, 1R, 2S; Q.VanMaldeghem 10P, 16R, 8S; Buendorf 13P, 4R, 1S; C.VanMaldeghem 21P, 10R, 3S; Stork 2R.

"It was a tough battle from start to finish," said JWP head coach Brandon Goegel. "NRHEG was a



Peterson



REBOUND! — The Panthers' Quinn VanMaldeghem (4) and Clara Buendorf (10), fight for a rebound against Bethlehem Academy's Brylie Becker during a recent home victory for the NRHEG girls' basketball team. VanMaldeghem pulled down a game-high 16 rebounds as the Panthers defeated JWP for first place in the Gopher Conference West Division.

Photos by Jim Lutgens

"This was a hard-fought, competitive conference win for us."

— NRHEG coach Onika Peterson

very physical team, and at times we were not matching their level of physicality. We dug ourselves into a little bit of a hole in the first half. We battled back in the second half to pull it within a few points, but credit to NRHEG, they hit big shots down the stretch when they needed

to. We have to learn from this game, continue to stay together and play for each other."

Leaders for the Bulldogs: Nevaeh Weimert 8P, 2R; Kwynn Krause, 8P, 4R, 4A; Mikayla Wheelock 5P, 7R; Ashlynn Wolff 10P, 10R; Katie Olson 17P, 9R, 3A, 3S.

The Panthers, 4-0 in the Gopher Conference and 8-2 overall, won their eighth consecutive game. They played in a tournament at LCWM Dec. 29-30 and play Jan. 6 at United South Central and host Triton Jan. 9.

The Bulldogs, 3-1 in the conference and 7-2 for the season, played in the Rochester Lourdes Invitational Dec. 29-30. They face Minnehaha Academy Saturday, Jan. 3 at Kasson-Mantorville before hosting Minnesota Valley Lutheran Jan. 12.



ACTION AT WASECA — At left, the Panthers' A.J. Deen (1) dribbles as Waseca's Brody Dufault defends during NRHEG's nonconference game at Waseca. In the middle, the Panthers' Mack Gilliland passes the basketball. At right, NRHEG's Brooks Gilliland (4) and Brock Holland (13) battle for a rebound.

Photos by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG boys bounce back quickly

Coming off tough loss to unbeaten JWP, Panthers handle Martin County West

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

After facing their toughest opponent of the season three nights earlier, it did not take long for the NRHEG High School boys' basketball team to bounce back.

The Panthers pounced on visiting Martin County West - a sectional opponent - 71-47 Monday, Dec. 22 in New Richland.

Both teams started slowly and battled back-and-forth through the better part of the first half before the Panthers put together a little run and went in to the locker room with 33-22 halftime lead.

The start of the second half saw MCW chip away at the lead, eventually pulling within six at the midway point.

The Panthers, according to coach Dan Schmidt, then settled in against MCW's zone defense.

"We kicked it in gear and stretched the lead back out," said

"We did a good job of pulling things together rather than panicking when they were making a little comeback."

— NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt

Schmidt. "We did a good job of pulling things together rather than panicking when they were making a little comeback. The boys played hard, and saw some things cleaned up as the game progressed."

Leading all scorers was Calvin Nissen with 19 points and 4 steals, including going 9-for-13 from the free-throw line. Brooks Gilliland dropped 14 points, with three 3-pointers, to go along with 8 rebounds, 3 assists, and 2 steals. Brendan Schmidt added 11 points, 6 rebounds, 4 assists, 1 steal, and 3 blocks. Dom Olson came off the bench and hit a couple of huge 3-

pointers in the second half, to add 11 of his own (three 3-pointers) and a couple of assists. Brock Holland and Sean Lassahn each scored 4 points, with Holland corraling 8 rebounds and 2 steals, and Holland adding 4 assists and 3 steals. Mack Gilliland added 3 points, and Zander Hanna rounded out the scoring with 2 points along with 6 rebounds. A.J. Deen had a good game on the glass adding 7 rebounds to go along with some really good looks attacking the basket.

The Panthers traveled to face undefeated JWP Friday, Dec. 19 at Janesville and lost 98-61 in a game

rescheduled from the previous night because of too much snow.

"JWP is currently ranked 4th or 5th in the state in Class A, and as they've done all year, proved exactly why," said Coach Schmidt.

But the Panthers did not fold easily.

"We played right with them for the better part of the first half, but then fell victim to a big run that turned the game completely around going into the half," said Schmidt. "We never quit, and we did get a lot of good looks at the basket and just didn't convert. We outscored them in the second half, which is something we talked about in the locker room at halftime. We wanted to go out and play hard and win the half. JWP can come at you in so many ways, and they are extremely fast and athletic. They put a ton of pressure on teams trying to defend them, and they've shown it all year. Tonight was a character building

game for us, and I believe we did a great job of holding our heads up and battling until the final buzzer.

The Panthers had pretty good scoring balance, led by Calvin Nissen with 12 points. Brooks Gilliland added 10 points, 8 rebounds, 5 assists, and 3 steals. Hanna had a great game off the bench, dropping 10 points and four rebounds. Brendan Schmidt added 8 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists and a block, Holland 6 points and 8 rebounds. Lassahn had 5 points and a couple of assists. Mack Gilliland added 4 points, Olson and Fynn Baumann had 3 each, and Deen added 2 points and 7 rebounds.

The Panthers lost 84-51 Tuesday, Dec. 23 at Waseca. No statistics were available from this game.

The Panthers were on the road Monday against Ortonville in Cottonwood.

Grizzlies 1-1 at Mankato East

The WEM/JWP wrestling team competed in a triangular at Mankato West Friday, Dec. 19, defeating Delano 42-33 while falling to the host team 54-13.

Winners against Delano: Finn Root, 121 pounds; Brenden Masso, 127; Trey Richards, 133; Brady Murphy, 145; Charles Adams, 172; Trenton Huber, 189; Kavin Sheehy, 215. Root, Masso, Richards, Murphy, Adams, Huber and Sheehy won by fall. The Grizzlies forfeited at 285. Also wrestling for WEM/JWP: Jacksten Knish, 107; Otto Root, 114; David Mielke, 139; Parker James, 152; Ben Root, 160.

Winning against East were Otto Root, Finn Root and Murphy.

The Grizzlies hosted a quad Tuesday, Dec. 23 at Waterville.

"We had a number of kids absent due to sickness sweeping through the lineup," said WEM/JWP co-head coach Adam Roesler. "We have a relatively deep roster, so we were able to fill in many of the holds. We saw a lot of new faces in the lineup."

The Grizzlies defeated Blue Earth Area 45-30 behind wins from Bre'Ana Masso, Finn Root, Brenden Masso, Richards, Murphy, Ben Root, Adams and Sheehy. Filling in some one of the holes in the lineup was Gus Roesler.

WEM/JWP lost a close 40-33 decision to Grand Meadow/LeRoy Ostrander/Southland, getting victories from Brenden Masso, Richards, James, Adams and Huber.

The Grizzlies fell 44-27 to Lake Crystal/Wellcome Memorial. Winning were Roesler, Bre'Ana Masso, Finn Root, Huber and Sheehy. Among the backups in the lineup were Devin Cowdin and Zach Quast.

The WEM/JWP girls were defeated 24-15 by GMLOS. Wins were by Payton Miller, 106, Bre'Ana Masso, 112; Kayle Langford, 136. Also wrestling were Ivy Shaw and Kiersten Amundson.

The Grizzly boys, 1-1 in the Gopher Conference, ran their season record to 5-8.

WHS wrestlers 1-2 at Lake City

Friday, Dec. 19 saw the Waseca High School wrestlers take a long road trip for a quad at Lake City.

The Bluejays defeated the host team 35-33 with wins from Kole Nelson, 107 pounds; Deven Parpart, 133; Braxton Nelson, 152; Ton Bethke, 172; Slade Barnett, 189; James Quade, 215; and Matthew Veroeven, 285. Scoring pins were Barnett and Veroeven. Also wrestling for Waseca: Owen Sommers, 121; Jackson Janike, 139; Jacob Knutson, 145; Sam Selthun, 160.

Kole Nelson, Parpart, Braxton Nelson, Selthun, Bethke, Barnett and Veroeven won against HLWW, with falls for Barnett and Veroeven.

Waseca winners against LARP: Kole Nelson, Selthun, Barnett and Veroeven. Again, Barnett and Veroeven pinned their opponents.

WHS icemen skate to 3-3 tie

The Waseca High School boys' hockey team skated to a 3-3 tie with Minneapolis Saturday, Dec. 27 at Waseca Community Arena.

The Bluejays led 2-0 after one period and 3-2 after two, outshooting the visitors 39-30. Waseca took one penalty, Minneapolis three.

Griffin Storey, son of Waseca head coach Chris Storey, netted the first two goals on assists from Cash Lynch and Jayden Gehring, respectively. Otto Schoenrock scored on an assist from Storey.

Josiah Schmidtke was in goal for Waseca, which saw its record slip to 5-4-1.



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4	5	6 Burger night 5-7pm	7 6pm BAR BINGO	8 7pm HALL BINGO	9 MEAT RAFFLES:30pm HORSE races 6:30pm	10
11 VFW BREAKFAST FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE 8am to noon	12 7pm Post & AUX & Meeting	13 Burger night 5-7pm	14 6pm BAR BINGO	15 7pm HALL BINGO	16 WALLEYE OR SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 TO 7pm	17
18	19	20 Burger night 5-7pm	21 6pm BAR BINGO	22 7pm HALL BINGO	23 MEAT RAFFLES:30pm HORSE races 6:30pm	24 Steak or Shrimp Dinner 5pm to 7pm
25 VFW BREAKFAST St. Paul Mission 8am to noon	26	27 Burger night 5-7pm	28 6pm BAR BINGO	29 7pm HALL BINGO	30 MEAT RAFFLES:30pm HORSE races 6:30pm	31

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Document No. 317570

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Dated: September 11, 2025
Recorded: September 15, 2025
Waseca County Recorder Document No. A341302

Transaction Agent: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
Transaction Agent Mortgage Identification Number: 100039034199912330
Lender or Broker: Quicken Loans Inc.
Residential Mortgage Servicer: Rocket Mortgage, LLC
Mortgage Originator: Quicken Loans Inc.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Seven (7), Block One (1), Hodgkins Addition to Waldorf, Minnesota according to the Plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the County

Recorder in and for Waseca County, Minnesota

This is Abstract Property.

TAX PARCEL NO.: 163260060

ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 224 3rd Ave N
Waldorf, MN 56091

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Waseca

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$95,959.00

AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE: \$99,659.17

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by

such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part;

PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 5, 2026, 10:00 AM

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff’s Main Office, 122 3rd Avenue NW, Waseca, MN

to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys’ fees allowed by law subject to redemption within 6 Months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns.

DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: The date on or before which the mortgagor must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under Minnesota Statutes section 580.30 or the property redeemed under Minnesota Statutes section 580.23 is August 5, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: NONE

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR’S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE

NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: November 19, 2025

Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc., Assignee of Mortgagee

By: HALLIDAY, WATKINS & MANN, P.C.
Attorneys for: Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc., Assignee of Mortgagee
1333 Northland Drive, Suite 205
Mendota Heights, MN 55120
801-355-2886
651-228-1753 (fax)

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

MN25157.
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2025 and Jan. 1 and Jan. 8, 2026.

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

Mortgagor: Zachery Twa, a single person
Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Prosperity Home Mortgage, LLC, its successors and assigns
Dated: June 28, 2024
Recorded: June 28, 2024
Waseca County Recorder Document No. A337309

Assigned To: U.S. Bank National Association
Dated: April 14, 2025
Recorded: April 15, 2025
Waseca County Recorder Document No. A339882

Transaction Agent: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
Transaction Agent Mortgage Identification Number: 100083010027684924
Lender or Broker: Prosperity Home Mortgage, LLC, a Limited Liability Company
Residential Mortgage Servicer: U.S. Bank National Association
Mortgage Originator: Prosperity Home Mortgage, LLC, a Limited Liability Company

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Six (6), except the West 40 feet thereof, and Lot Seven (7), except the East 2 feet thereof, all in Block Nine (9), Original Plat of the City of Janesville, Waseca County, Minnesota

This is Abstract Property.

TAX PARCEL NO.: 141001140

ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 202 1st Street E
Janesville, MN 56048

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Waseca

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$186,240.00

AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE: \$205,260.50

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has

been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part;

PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 5, 2026, 10:00 AM

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff’s Main Office, 122 3rd Avenue NW, Waseca, MN

to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys’ fees allowed by law subject to redemption within 6 Months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns.

if the mortgage is not reinstated under Minnesota Statutes section 580.30 or the property redeemed under Minnesota Statutes section 580.23 is August 5, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: NONE

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR’S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: December 2, 2025

U.S. Bank National Association, Assignee of Mortgagee

By: HALLIDAY, WATKINS & MANN, P.C.
Attorneys for: U.S. Bank National Association, Assignee of Mortgagee
1333 Northland Drive, Suite 205
Mendota Heights, MN 55120
801-355-2886
651-228-1753 (fax)

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

MN24473.
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Dec. 11, 18, 25, 2025 and Jan. 1, 8 and 15, 2026

STATE OF MINNESOTA- COUNTY OF WASECA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICTDIS- TRICT COURTPROBATE DI- VISION
Estate ofRoger F. Volkmann, aka Roger Fredrick Volkmann, Decedent Court File No. 81-PR-25-920NOTICE TO CREDITORS: FOREIGN PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE ACTING IN MINNESOTA

Notice is given that John Volk-

Johnson APARTMENTS

507-456-9514

Operating in Waseca, Steele, Freeborn Counties

johnsonrents.com

SUMMIT ON SECOND APARTMENTS

FOR RENTAL INFO CALL 507-201-3474

We are accepting applications for:

1 bedroom apartments
*Income guidelines apply
Vouchers accepted*

2 bedroom & 3 bedroom
Rent based on income

Professionally managed by: BRUTGER EQUITIES, INC.

mann, residing at 3569 Olsen Avenue, Jewell, Iowa 50130 is the domiciliary foreign Personal Representative (“Personal Representative”) for the estate of Roger F. Volkmann, aka Roger Fredrick Volkmann, a resident of the State of Iowa.

On _____, the Personal Representative filed with the Court a document stating an intention to exercise, as to assets in Minnesota, all powers of a local Personal Representative and to maintain actions and proceedings in Minnesota in accordance with Minnesota Statutes section 524.4-205.

Notice is also given that any Minnesota creditor who objects to the Personal Representative’s exercise of power over assets in Minne-

sota must file a written objection within 60 days from the Personal Representative’s filing. If no objections are filed, the representative may, after the expiration of the 60-day period, exercise all powers of a local Personal Representative.

Dated: _____ Court Administrator
Attorney for Foreign Personal Representative:Daryl D. BailPatton, Hoversten & Berg, P.A.150 W. Park Square, PO Box 506Owatonna, MN, 55060Attorney License No: 191978Telephone: (507) 451-9000FAX: (507) 451-0907Email: daryl.bail@phblawoffice.com

OTISCO TOWNSHIP

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION OF OFFICERS & BOARD OF CANVASS MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Otisco Township, County of Waseca, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026. The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:00pm to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March.

The Election Polls will be open from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at which time the voters will elect:

One Supervisor – term of three years

One Clerk – term of 2 years

The Annual Election and Meeting will be held at:

Otisco Township
Otisco, MN, 56093

The Board of Canvass will meet at 8:00pm to certify the official Election results.

Jenae Peterson
Otisco Town Clerk

Get your news in the Pioneer

• news@wasecacountypioneer.com

TOWNSHIP OFFICER FILING NOTICE

Any eligible resident of Freedom Township wishing to file for Township office for the March 10th,2026, election may file an affidavit of candidacy with the clerk.

Offices open will be one Three-year term for the office of Supervisor and one Two-year term of office for Clerk.

Filing begins at 9:00am on December 30, 2025, and closes at 5:00pm on January 13, 2026.

The filing fee is \$2.00. Affidavits will be accepted at the Clerk’s residence listed below.

Peg Sikel, 2360 264th Ave, Waldorf, MN.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WASECA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

The Waseca County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner’s Room), 300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 on Thursday, August 7, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.to consider the following item:

A. Request for a Conditional Use Permit to Transfer Development Rights between two owners and into another township.
TBS Farms and Sean Klugherz are requesting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to transfer development right pursuant to Section 6.09 of the Waseca County Unified Development Code (UDC). The UDC requires development rights transferred between two owners and into different Townships within Waseca County to be completed by CUP. The proposal is to transfer one (1) development right from a sending site in the NE¼ of the NE¼ of Section 36, T.107N R.23W (PID 09.036.0100) to a 1.96 acre receiving site in the NE¼ of the NE¼ of Section 06, T108N R23W (PID 05.006.0115). Both the sending site, located in St. Mary Township, and the receiving site, located in Isosco Township are in the A-1 Agriculture Protection District.

B. Request for a Conditional Use Permit to conduct agritourism-related business. Calonett Venues requests a Conditional Use Permit to an existing building on their parcel (PID: 12.016.0300) as an event center. The parcel is in Section 16 T107N R22W of Woodville Township and zoned A-1 Agricultural Protection.

The staff report on this item will be available at the Waseca County Planning and Zoning Office, 300 N State St., Waseca during regular business hours 8-4:30, and will be on the county website www.wasecacounty.gov at the agenda tab. Oral comments will be accepted at the meeting. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all Waseca County services, programs and activities.

Maame Quarcoo, AICP, County Planner.

