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LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
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Sports

Natalie McGuire and Heidi Jeub at Waseca Art Center through Feb. 13

Artist Natalie McGuire and Heidi Jeub will be presented through Feb. 13 at the Waseca Art Center. McGuire does photozaics, and Jeub does abstract expressionism.

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.

Bead Art Keychain at the New Richland Public Library Jan. 29

Use a pattern to make fun animals and shapes by weaving pony beads together at the New Richland Library at 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29. Then turn them into keychains to create a colorful accessory. For ages 9-12.

Adult Carnival at the Waseca Legion, Jan. 30

The Legion in Waseca will be holding another Adult Carnival starting at 5 p.m. on Friday Jan. 30. There will be a silent auction, live auction, food, games, prizes, wine wall and tastings. Donations wanted, drop off at the legion before Friday.

Deer Hunters Bingo and Membership Drive at VFW Jan. 31

The Minnesota Deer Hunters Association South Central Chapter will hold a Deer Hunters Bingo and Membership Drive at the Sweet-Sommers VFW starting at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31. Contact Tim at 507-201-7933 with questions.

Waseca County Winter Farmers Market at Farmamerica Jan. 31

There will be a winter farmers market at Farmamerica from 8 a.m. till noon Saturday, Jan. 31. Farmamerica is located at 7367 360th Ave., Waseca.

Sixty Years of Herter's Snowmobile Show and Ride Jan. 31

There will be a snowmobile show and ride celebrating 60 Years of Herter's at Southside Marine and More on Saturday, Jan. 31. Contact Terry for more info: 507-461-5424.

Johnny Frost and the Heatseekers at Indian Island Winery Jan. 31

Musical group Johnny Frost and the Heatseekers will be performing at the Indian Island Winery from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31. These guys perform seven decades of music and give off a smooth 50s vibe.

A word from The Word

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of [challenges], for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

Deut. 31:6



SNOW COURT - Front row, from left, is Lauren Grant, Madison Rasche, Tailyn Kaput, Maddy Benson, Khloe Fuller and Ella Bulfer. Back row, from left, is Liam Biddle, Kaden Garza, Deven Parpart, Jude Gehring, William Mansfield and Lucas Selthun.

Waseca Snow Week kicks off

It's snow week at Waseca High School from Feb. 2-6. Coronation and a pepfest will be on Thursday Feb. 5, in the morning, followed by pictures. A semi-formal snow dance for students will cap off Thursday evening from 8 to 10:30 p.m. in the high school commons.

Candidates for queen are: Maddy Benson, daughter of Chas and Nikki Benson; Ella Bulfer, daughter of Philip and Amber Bulfer; Khloe Fuller, daughter of James and Kristen Fuller; Lauren Grant, daughter of Joe and Melinda Grant; Tailyn Kaput, daughter of Ryan and Vilay Miller; and Madison Rasche, daughter of Jason Rasche and Corrine Schumacher.

Candidates for king are: Liam Biddle, son of Jon and Stacy Biddle; Kaden Garza, son of Raul Garza and Lacie Mitchell- Garza; Jude Gehring, son of Jason and Bridget Gehring; William Mansfield, son of John and Edita Mansfield; Deven Parpart, son of Jeremy and Michele Parpart; and Lucas Selthun, son of Chris and Deb Selthun.

Dress up days are scheduled for students throughout the week beginning with Monday: "Monochromatic Monday," followed by, "Circle of Life," "Team Theme or Partner Day," "Dress to Impress," and concluding with "Hot vs Cold."

Wednesday, high school students are encouraged to show their school spirit and wear student colors and/or colors representing their dodgeball team in preparation for a dodgeball tournament at 1:05 p.m. At 1:05 p.m. there will also be a "Geography Bee" for the Junior High. The talent show is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at the PAC on Wednesday night.

Windows, doors, and signs throughout the school will be colorfully decorated by students for the week-long celebration.

Police department confirms ICE arrests

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Waseca Police Chief Kris Markeson confirms that officers from the Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency have taken three individuals into custody in Waseca since Jan. 14. Both Markeson and Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas report that ICE does not communicate with their agencies regarding its local activities, and acquiring information from ICE officers can be a

slow process.

After hearing from someone in Waseca that a 28-year-old man and his 10-year-old son had been detained during an arrest which took place downtown on Jan. 14, the police department was eventually able to confirm ICE had taken them under a "final order of removal." Another report from a citizen allowed the department to confirm the arrest of a 47-year-old man within city limits on Jan. 22.

Markeson and Dulas both shared with the Pioneer that their departments place great value on positive relationships with all members of the community. They urge people to report any incidents which they find unsettling or disturbing.

"It's not uncommon for federal agencies to take action without notifying local law enforcement agencies," observes Dulas.

"As you might imagine, this is a very sensitive subject for a lot of

people," says Markeson regarding concerns that ICE might be carrying out investigations in the area. "It has a lot of moving parts."

Sheriff Dulas acknowledges many people have strong feelings when it comes to the controversies surrounding ICE operations. He states, "If anyone has concerns about ICE activity in Waseca County, I encourage residents to contact our dispatch at

ICE continued on 12

Resident gives lifetime of service

By ANN STALOGH

The Waseca Exchange Club has chosen Mikhail Rostislavovich the recipient of the prestigious Book of Golden Deeds, an honor reserved for individuals whose selfless service and lasting contributions help build a stronger, more connected community.

The Book of Golden Deeds recognizes those who consistently give of themselves to help others and make a positive difference in the world around them. In fewer than five years as a resident of Waseca, Rostislavovich has done just that consistently and with an unwavering commitment to service.

City Manager Carl Sonnenberg describes Rostislavovich as someone whose presence alone sets a tone. "With the mere mention of his name or acknowledgement of his presence," Sonnenberg said, "people tend to straighten up and immediately consider their own sincerity for the occasion at hand." He added that Rostislavovich's intentions are never in question. "His speech and actions are clear, precise, and sincere. There is nothing left to wonder about concerning his motivations."

One of Rostislavovich's most visible contributions has been the restoration of a residential icon in the heart of Waseca. Through painstaking, historically accurate work, he brought the Tudor Revival back to life, restoring it to what it once was and elevating it even further. Today, the Alexander House on North State Street stands as a community landmark and gathering place, generously opened to the public for fundraisers, events, and tours. It reflects his belief that preservation, when done thoughtfully, should serve the entire community.

That same philosophy has guided his leadership at the Waseca Art Center. Under his direction, the organization underwent a complete transformation. Bylaws were updated, the Board of Directors reconstituted, and long-needed policies such as accession and deaccession processes were implemented. A permanent gallery was installed, a ceramics studio opened, and the Tea Room was created to make the space more welcoming and accessible. The Art Center's public image was strengthened, and today it is recognized as one of the premier art centers in Southern Minnesota, one where artists actively seek to exhibit their work.

County Commissioner Brad Milbrath notes that few individuals



Mikhail Rostislavovich received the Book of Golden Deeds award, which recognizes someone who helps others.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

have had such a broad and meaningful impact on Waseca in such a short period of time. "Since making Waseca his home, Mikhail Rostislavovich has taken on leadership roles across several cornerstone institu-

tions," Milbrath said. "His work has helped elevate Waseca's visibility, strengthen community engagement, and promote the city and county as

Mikhail continued on 4

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

County board looks at STD testing, deer hunting

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Along with completing fairly routine business, members of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners addressed two somewhat controversial topics during their regularly scheduled meeting the morning of Jan. 20.

An item published elsewhere in this edition describes grants awarded to three area initiatives using funds acquired after the Minnesota State Attorney's office joined a multi-state lawsuit against companies which profited from the marketing of highly addictive opioid pain relief medication.

As a result of the lawsuit, all Minnesota counties are receiving money earmarked for programs which combat and work toward preventing addiction. Spread out across about 15 years, Waseca County is due to receive more than \$1 million toward such initiatives. In the first round of grants approved by the 16-member opioid settlement advisory council, the group recommended awarding just over \$29,000 to programs meant to prevent or reduce the use of addictive substances. More information is available in that separate piece of writing.

Commissioners engaged in a

County continued on 3



Identify Frosty for share of \$1,500

It's time again for the annual Waseca Sleigh and Cutter Identify Frosty event. Continue reading for week two's clues.

Who is Frosty?

Identify Frosty and win some cash! Prize money totaling \$1,500.00 is waiting to be won.

Frosty is a Waseca County resident chosen to be an ambassador for the Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival. Follow the clues and guess FROSTY'S name.

The grand prize is \$300.00. If you are at the official unmasking at the Waseca VWF @8:30 p.m., on Friday, Feb. 27, 2026, you will win an additional \$50.00. The first correct guesses from Janesville, New Richland and Waseca win \$150.00; and if you are at the unmasking, you will win an additional \$50.00. Only five names will be drawn for \$100

Frosty continued on 4



Compostings

by Al Batt

Kindness is a gift that should always be returned

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I want to be a millionaire just like my dad.

Was your father a millionaire?
No, but he wanted to be a millionaire.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. The week had been like folding a fitted sheet. The weather wouldn't leave me alone. Grocery stores were rushed like a quarterback dropping back to pass in the last few seconds of a game. Coffee was being served on a stick. When it was 21 degrees below zero, minus 37 with the wind chill; it was cold enough for me. It could have been worse. The wind chill was minus 61 degrees at the Grand Marais Airport. I walked like a penguin to keep physics from taking over and putting me down on the ice.

I saw a "no passing" sign that had been clipped and ditched. Who knows what hit it, but it wasn't one of the two empty plastic trash bins that had been stationed side by side at the end of a driveway along a highway before they parted ways. One was in the ditch on the east side of the road and the other on the west side. They were victims of our varied weather patterns.

A DAY OR TWO IN A LIFE
I had a sliver or a poisonous blowgun dart in my foot. I'm not sure which. I soaked my trotter in Epsom salt. The sliver came out. I'm not saying it was big, but if the sliver had been a walleye, it'd been a keeper.

I watched a high school basketball game (not in the Midwest) in which four fans were kicked out of the gym for offering constructive criticisms complete with vulgarities to the referees. I expect that school will hold a referendum to pay those four to stay home on game nights.

I'M A TRUCKER HAULING STORIES

I used to make a daily walk across the Washington Avenue Bridge to move between the East Bank and West Bank portions of the University of Minnesota. My mother gave me a scarf the length of two VW Bugs I wrapped around my melon to keep my thoughts from freezing.

I no longer own that scarf, so I needed to drive to the eastern edge of Iowa, not far from the Mississippi River, near the town of Walcott, to get to the Iowa 80 Truckstop, the World's Largest

Truckstop, which features seven restaurants, barber shop, chiropractor, dentist, movie theater, workout room, showers, laundry facilities, library, truck wash, pet wash, chapel, service center, trucking museum, 900 truck parking places, 225 acres, convenience store—oh, yeah, and fuel. They are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and haven't closed their doors since opening them in 1964.

ASK AL
"What should I do if my dog gets sprayed by a skunk?" Give the canine to a brother-in-law as a surprise birthday gift.

"What did people do before there were cameras?" They stared at things for a long time.

"What caused the sinking of the Titanic?" An impatient and rude passenger who yelled, "What does a man have to do to get ice around here?"

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

A friend has two tickets to the Super Bowl. She didn't realize that was on the same day as her wedding. If you're interested and want to go instead of her, it's at the biggest Lutheran Church in Kansas City and the groom's name is Bruce.

How do sheep laugh? Baha.

NATURE NOTES
A great horned owl hoots "Who's awake? Me too" outside Darwyn Olson's residence near Hartland. Darwyn wondered how to attract owls. After figuring out whooo is in your area, you could do several things to encourage these raptors. A large birdbath can entice owls. Installing nesting boxes and keeping tree branches long for owls to perch on make for a hospitable habitat. Since owls are nocturnal, keep outside lights to a minimum at night. Downed logs and brush piles lure owls. If you raise rabbits or domestic fowl, a great horned owl might not be good company. If nothing else works, try dressing like a vole, the potato chip of the prairie, or like a skunk if you can pass the sniff test. Great horned owls eat skunks.

I saw a robin stubbornly spending the winter here. They are tough. That's why one of them became Batman's sidekick.

There are signs of spring that might be overly optimistic. Black-capped chickadees are singing "fee-bee" or "spring's here," and woodpeckers are drumming.

MEETING ADJOURNED
Kindness is one gift that should always be returned.

Gray designs drawn in the ditches

Given that we are currently in the "basement of winter," none of us Minnesotans can say we are surprised by our lingering cold snap. It does, however, give us strong motive to anticipate the figurative stairway—February and March—that will get us out of here.

In the meantime, though, I have found myself not necessarily liking, but at least appreciating the beauty created by the wind.

Either in this edition or an upcoming one, you will find an article about wind erosion. I became inspired to get in touch with the local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) first, when I had the unlikely problem of having mud tracked into my house during the month of January—not because the ground outside was soft, but because it was on top of the snow. Overnight from Sunday, Jan. 18, to Monday, winds county-wide blew so much soil off area fields that the snow turned gray.

When people would walk outside and get it stuck on their shoes, then come inside, what would normally have been a small puddle of water was instead a pool of watery mud.

Even without the irritation of a dirty



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

floor, there was something eerie about the discolored snow.

If you're wondering what there was to "appreciate" about that, you are wise to ask.

The gray snow was an inspiration to find out more, and certainly got me thinking, but the appreciation comes from other factors.

The largest was the designs drawn in the ditches.

They're mostly covered since we got some fresh snow, but for a while the designs on the snow made it seem as if the wind had been daydreaming while it swept a black paintbrush across a white canvas. There were distinct curving lines, arches of shading, reversed-out areas that were mostly black with small patches of white, astoundingly parallel

lines.

It was windy and cold, but more than once I was so taken by the designs I stopped my car to take a closer look. When I wanted to take a picture, since my electric car windows were held shut by ice, I went so far as to open the door, step out, and hold myself upright on an often slippery surface while being pushed around by the wind. Though I was outside the car for moments, my fingers were chilled as I got back inside.

If the weather hadn't been so hostile, I would have stopped more often than I did. I can tell you I was tempted over and over again, the designs were so intriguing.

The other element I appreciate is the snow in motion.

Conquering the little things in life

I finally did it: I am officially a Colorado resident!

My new Colorado ID arrived in the mail this past week. It looks weird to see my face on a green background instead of a white and blue one. Although the mountains on the ID are cool, the best part is that Colorado has an app you can download on your phone that allows you to pull up your ID on your phone. Most places will accept it too, so it's nice if you ever lose your physical copy.

On top of that, I spent four hours the other day getting my car registered here in Colorado. My tabs were soon to expire and since I plan to be in Colorado for a while, I decided to spend a bunch of money and get registered.

This meant getting off my parents' car insurance (super devastating, the biggest blow of the year), buying my own car insurance, getting my car's emissions tested, and then spending a couple hours at the DMV waiting for my number to be called.

After waiting an hour in my car, then waiting another hour in the DMV building, then spending a whole five minutes at the counter, I finally walked



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

out with new plates! Another Minnesota identification that I have to set aside to assume my Colorado identity. Is it weird if I keep one of my old plates? I have to figure out how sentimental I want to be.

I'm not going to lie, I felt very accomplished walking out of there.

Another thing that felt "adultlike" recently was that I decided to give up my childhood bedroom.

When I was home for Christmas, my sister tried convincing me to give her my room. My room at my parents' house is bigger than hers, and while I now live in Colorado, she plans to move home long-term in a semester to start student teaching in Waseca. She made some good points.

But it's hard to say goodbye to my bedroom. I survived middle school and high school in that room. I made it my own, learned who I was and how to express myself through what I put in it and what I decided to hang on the walls. It was where I had great laughs, went through tough times, and took many, many naps. I had my mother paint a tree on my wall where I hung things most important to me in pictures and notes. I spent hours reading, watching tv, and doing homework. I spent countless nights dreaming of the future and enjoyed some great cuddles with the dogs, who I shared the bed with.

So of course I hesitate to give up my room for good. When my mom heard of my sister's idea, she told me the

room is mine until I get married. It was a nice thought—until I started feeling guilty. I'm not using the room, and I'm states away while my sister will be using her room as a home base. She would be 20, living in her small room while she could just as well have a bigger space with a bigger closet (and better views, mind you).

My parents are planning on redoing our two rooms soon. Carpet, paint, all that jazz. So if there's any time to give her my room, it's now. She can choose her color and make it her own. They'll just have to figure out what to do with the 400 books that currently take up all the space in my room. Meanwhile, my furniture and possessions will be downsizing to her old room.

So I'm growing up. Giving up my room, officially settling down states away. I have my own car insurance now, real jobs, and student loans. That's about as adult as it gets, right?

My Determination: "Life, with its rules, its obligations, and its freedoms, is like a sonnet: You're given the form, but you have to write the sonnet yourself."—Madeleine L'Engle, A Wrinkle in Time

Miami: a wedding, jellyfish and food

This week, Thursday morning, I drove to Miami for my friend Paul and Heathers' wedding scheduled for Saturday.

A three and half hour drive, arrival at the hotel and unpacking was followed by Paul's Bachelor party. I use the term party loosely. Our destination was a large, semi-outdoor, four story mall in downtown Miami. The weather was beautiful, 72 degrees, 90% humidity.

We went to dinner at a nice Soushi restaurant, ate outside on their porch, and enjoyed many different varieties of sushi. My favorite fish this time around was the salmon. Very fresh, very good. We walked around downtown, and got dessert, gelato, at a nearby spot.

While getting dessert, we were sitting outside this little Italian ice cream shop when two gentlemen at a table engaged in conversation.

"You know it's rude to eat food out here," one said. "We're hungry."

They were homeless.

Paul's brother-in-law Ian couldn't hear them so he got up to sit with them. After a couple minutes he got up with them and started walking off, saying nothing to us. We had to chase him down to find out what he was doing.

"It's fine," Ian said. "Don't worry." After more prodding as we chased, Ian said, "They're hungry. I'm buying



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

them some food."

About five minutes later he walked out of the neighboring 7-11 with some sandwiches for the gentleman. He sat down and prayed with them before we left.

I don't know how typical bachelor parties go, but I did not have praying with the homeless on my bingo card.

We returned to the hotel for the evening and everyone went to sleep earlier. Everyone was tired from the long trips.

Friday morning I picked up Ian and we headed to South Beach. I really, really wanted to go swimming in the ocean. Paul was busy getting last minute tasks done for his wedding or else he would have come with.

Before the ocean, Ian insisted we stop at a film store. Yes, the kind of film that goes in old cameras. Ian buys, sells and repairs and photographs using classic cameras. He was in need of some new film. A brief visit to the film

store made me feel like I time traveled. An old photo booth sat inside, along with film, and retro cameras. The atmosphere in the room, the air, felt old, comfortable. It even had a certain smell, although that may have been the chemicals from their dark room.

Fifteen minutes later, we were standing on Miami's South Beach. The water was beautiful, Miami Dolphin Blue.

Our hour in the ocean swimming made me feel like a kid again.

The most memorable part of the trip, however?

I was stung by a jellyfish. I didn't want to leave so I was lingering near the shore, when my right arm suddenly was suddenly engulfed in pain. I quickly thrashed my arm and marched towards the sand. (You're not actually supposed to do that when stung. I'm told you're supposed to sit still in case there is a school of jellyfish.) My arm was red, hurt and within

five minutes broke out in hives and bumps. I googled what I should do and the internet said to rinse off with sea water before doing anything. After this, Ian and I debated what to do and decided, on a whim, to ask the lifeguard. He sprayed my arm with a solution and informed me that if I was going to die of an allergic reaction, it would have happened within the first five minutes.

Within two hours, my arm was just a little red, by the evening time there were no visible indicators that I was stung at all.

After a drive back to the hotel, the group of bachelor party goes departed for 'part 2' of Paul's Bachelor party. Our destination, an Escape Room. A game where we were given an hour to escape from a 'prison.' Clues and puzzles were intended to be solved to escape from this four room contraption. We began with our parties split, four persons in each cell, communicating with each other how to find numbers and identify combinations to locks, etc. A long string with a chain was used to throw keys and magnets back and forth between our side by side cells, separated by about four feet of wall. It was quite the scene trying to throw a chain up and sideways to our companions.

Travel continued on 5

Find the Sleigh and Cutter Medallion

Medallion Hunt rules
The medallion is hidden outdoors, on public property within the Waseca city limits. There are many natural areas in Waseca, both new and old. A \$1,500 prize of Chamber Dollars will be awarded at the Waseca VFW at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 27, 2026. Bring the medallion to Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce or Waseca

chamber.com. Medallion hunt sponsors: KEEN Bank, Xcel Energy, Blaze Credit Union, Ace Hardware, Waseca VFW Club 1642, and M Peters Enterprises. Please thank these sponsors for supporting the 29th Annual Medallion Hunt!

Medallion: Week 2 Clue
In a spot

*Its location sought
The distant sound
Of feet on the ground
In the summer heat
The sound non-discrete
Children playing
Nature splaying
Activities for any
Opportunities are many*

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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HIGHLY ACCOMPLISHED - The Waseca Area Chamber of commerce held its annual meeting which welcomed 50 members, partners and community leaders. This meeting provides an opportunity to report on the previous year's work and celebrate progress.

Chamber hosts annual meeting highlighting 2025 accomplishments

The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual meeting Jan. 12 at the Starfire Event Center, welcoming approximately 50 members, partners, and community leaders for a morning focused on reflection, accountability, and looking ahead.

The Chamber's annual meeting serves as a cornerstone event for their nonprofit organizations, providing an opportunity to report on the previous year's work, celebrate progress, and ensure transparency to members and stakeholders. For the Chamber, the event also serves as a moment to recognize the collective effort that drives its mission of supporting local business and strengthening the community.

Chamber President Mikhail Rostislavovich delivered the president's report, outlining key accomplishments from 2025 and emphasizing the organization's continued focus on structure, collaboration, and impact. His remarks reflected on a year defined by growth in engagement, stronger partnerships, and the Chamber's role as a connector and convener for the community.

Following the president's report, each committee chair presented updates on their respective areas of responsibility, highlighting milestones achieved, challenges addressed, and priorities moving forward. These reports underscored the vital role volunteer leadership plays in advancing the Chamber's work and ensuring that initiatives are both strategic and member-driven. An impressive 21 new members were ushered in last year. Additionally, the Chamber grew its member participation by leaps and bounds; they boast an active assembly of over 75 volunteers mastering the operations of nine committees: Agribusiness, Ambassadors, Events, Finance, Governance, Legislative, Membership, Workforce Development, and Young Professionals of Waseca.

"The annual meeting is an important moment to pause, take stock, and acknowledge the many individuals who give their time and expertise to this organization," said Rostislavovich. "The progress we've made in the past year is the direct result of engaged members, committed volunteers, and a shared belief in the value of working together."

The meeting reinforced the Chamber's commitment to transparency, good governance, and continuous improvement, while setting a clear foundation for the year ahead. Attendees were encouraged by the momentum built in 2025 and the strong organizational footing that positions the Chamber for continued success. Chamber Executive Director Robin Dulas stated with confidence, "I am proud of the momentum we've built, and I'm excited about what's ahead as we continue to support our members, grow programs, and support our business community in Waseca County."

For more information about the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce or to get involved, visit www.wasecachamber.com or contact Robin Dulas at 507-835-3260.

County-wide political precinct caucuses 7 p.m. on Feb. 3

All citizens are invited to attend political caucuses for the county Republican and Democratic parties. Registration will be at 6:30 p.m., with caucus business beginning at 7 p.m. One does not need to be a party member to attend. Information about locations, times, and more is available on the Secretary of State website.

Watercolor Pansy class on Feb. 3 or Feb. 4

There will be a pansy watercolor class on either 1-3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3 or 5-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4 at the Waseca Art Center. For questions call 507-835-1701.

Pottery Wheel for all levels every Thursday starting Feb. 5

There will be a pottery wheel class for every level at the Waseca Art Center every Thursday from 5-7:30 p.m. starting Feb. 5 through March 26. Cost for all eight sessions is \$210 for members and \$235 for non-members, kids 13 and up.

Annual Mike Filzen Memorial Poker Run Saturday, Feb. 7

The Annual Mike Filzen Memorial Poker Run will take place Saturday, Feb. 7 with registration at 11 a.m. and a noon departure. Contact Jake for more info: 507-461-2510.

Painting Mushrooms with felt class Feb. 7

There will be a painting mushrooms with felt class by instructor Char Johnson at the Waseca Art Center from 1-5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7. Cost is \$40 for members and \$45 for non-members. Call 507-835-1701.

Drifting soil turns snow gray

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Research done by the Universities of Minnesota and North Dakota indicates that a typical acre of farmland in our states loses a bit over five tons of soil to wind erosion each year—about the capacity of a single axle dump truck.

Mark Schaetzke, district manager, and Cammi Phelps, resource technician with the county Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) shared numerous observations inspired by recent high winds which sent soil airborne across Waseca County, turning snow cover gray.

According to Kyle Holling at the U of M Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC) in Waseca, the county experienced a number of days with winds exceeding 30 m.p.h. between Jan. 14 and 18.

Schaetzke speculated, "It seems the faster the wind, the more susceptible the soil is to becoming windborne. We've had some high winds lately." He also mentioned, "The wind is always moving soil around. It's because we have a white canvas at this time of year that we really notice it."

Phelps points out the level of tillage, field topography, the presence of natural or planned windbreaks, and the amount of material on the field—including the amount of snow cover—will affect how much soil is set in motion. She says the soil is best protected when plants in the field are at canopy, creating the most effective

windbreak of the year.

The flip side of that, she mentions, is that in fields using traditional tillage methods, the soil is exposed from the time crops are harvested in the fall to the time they reach canopy the next summer—a total of at least six and sometimes up to nine months.

Taken over the size of an acre, 5.2 tons of soil is only about a dime's width, Phelps reveals.

"But the effect is cumulative," she points out. "Over decades of erosion, farmers are losing inches of depth."

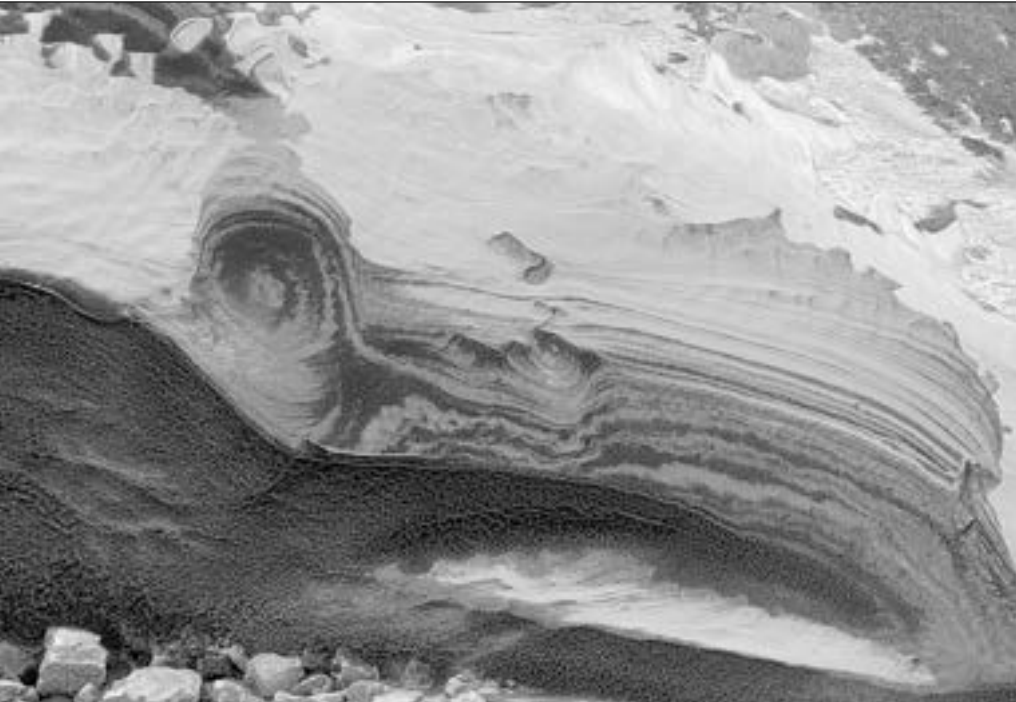
"Soil is a finite resource, and it's being blown away."

Perhaps even more significantly, she goes on, wind tends to take the topsoil, the most productive layer. Along with that are naturally occurring and manually distributed nutrients including phosphorous, nitrogen and potassium.

Research by the U of M in 2014 indicated wind erosion was taking more than \$55 worth of nutrients per acre—a value which will have grown since then due to inflation.

Schaetzke and Phelps want area farmers to know the SWCD offers information, advice and even financial support for land owners who want to take steps to reduce erosion to their fields. They encourage land owners to stop by their office at 300 N. State Street in Waseca, or to call 507-835-0603.

The different measures have to do with re-



ARTFUL - Winds as high as 33 mph over the weekend changed the snow county wide from white to gray. Businesses and schools spent Monday cleaning up muddy footprints.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

ducing tillage, leaving more residue on the field, planting cover crops or even—for land with a poor production record—putting it in an easement program.

Phelps mentions on-going research and advancing technology have created new possibilities when it comes to many of these preservation techniques. "For example, drones make it possible to plant a cover crop while the

cash crop is still in place," she offers. "People who may have looked at these options years ago will find they are worth looking at again, thanks to these new possibilities."

Article "Reduce Wind Erosion for Long-Term Productivity," by Jodi DeJong-Hughes, UMN Extension, David Franzen and Abbey Wick, NDSU Extension. 2011.

■ County from Page 1

lengthy discussion regarding another matter brought to the board by Waseca County Public Health Agency director Sarah Berry.

Berry had previously sought board permission to investigate adding testing for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) to the services offered by public health nurses. She returned to the board Jan. 20 to share what she had learned.

Berry said that based on information gathered from state agencies and other counties, cases of the common STDs

chlamydia and gonorrhea have been on the rise throughout society. Test kits for the diseases cost about \$65; administering the tests would not require much time commitment on the part of staff.

She estimated the public health department would administer somewhere between 20 and 30 tests a year; she stated she did not believe it was likely a number as high as 30 would ever be reached.

Finally, when patients taking the test are covered by insurance, she anticipates about \$62 of the cost would be reimbursed, so even accounting for the possibility a few people would not be covered by private or public insurance, Berry estimated the cost to the county to add STD testing would be minimal.

Commissioners consented to a "pilot" program, requesting an update after one year, and possibly even a report at 6 months.

A second controversial topic was how Waseca County will respond to a new law implemented during the 2025 legislative session. Under the law, unless individual counties say otherwise by March 1 of this year, rifles of .22 caliber and larger will be allowed statewide during deer hunting season, eliminating the "shotgun only" restrictions which have been in place for decades in the southern and western parts of the state.

County administrator Michael Johnson had researched how other counties in the region are going about

making their decisions, and admitted he had difficulty getting clear responses. Numerous counties indicated they would be "following the statute," that is, allowing the use of rifles.

He reported that Rock County chose to hold a public hearing; more than 40 people attended to state their opinions.

County board members had asked Johnson to look into having a representative from the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) attend a board meeting to share the agency's stance on the issue. Johnson reported that the DNR seems to have taken a rather "hands off" position on the matter.

Statements online from DNR officials claim the shotgun laws were in place not because shotguns are safer

than rifles, but to reduce the number of deer harvested. Since deer populations have increased over recent decades, the agency says the reduction is no longer important.

Commissioners commented they have received mixed feedback from constituents, some of whom have very strong feelings on the matter.

Another topic mentioned during the meeting is that the county has again applied for a permit to reduce cormorant populations on Loon Lake island. The hope is that the permit will be granted in time to allow removal of existing nests even before the birds return to the area this spring. The permit also seeks approval to terminate some of the birds before they establish nests.

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Meghan and Todd Selvik

Selviks finalists for National Outstanding Young Farmer

Outstanding Farmers of America (OFA) announced today that Todd and Meghan Selvik of Waseca, Minnesota have been named finalists for the 2026 National Outstanding Young Farmer of America (NOYF) Award.

Nominations were submitted from across the United States by a nationwide network of county extension agents with the National Association of County Extension Agents, as well as members of OFA, former NOYF winners, and agricultural industry professionals. Nominations may be submitted by anyone, and while multiple nominations from a single state are allowed, no more than two finalists may represent any one state.

Eligible nominees must be between the ages of 21 and 40, not turning 41 prior to January 1, must be active farm operators, and must derive at least two-thirds of their income from farming. Nominees are evaluated based on progress in their agricultural careers (50%), soil and water conservation practices (25%), and contributions to their communities, states, and

the nation (25%).

“There are challenges in agriculture today, but there are also opportunities. These 10 finalists exemplify their ability to take on challenges, their love for their families and communities, and their desire to improve their operation for generations to come,” said Mary Johnson, National Outstanding Young Farmer of America coordinator. “These finalists represent the best of American farming. This award recognizes their hard work and dedication while welcoming them into Outstanding Farmers of America, where they can connect and network with top farmers from across the country.”

The finalists were notified in December and invited to attend the 2026 Outstanding Farmers of America Convention, scheduled for Feb. 4–7 in Hershey, Pennsylvania. During the convention, finalists will participate in in-person interviews to determine four honorees who will be named the National Outstanding Young Farmers of the Year for 2026. Winners will be announced during the final banquet on Saturday, Feb. 7.

■ Frosty

from Page 1

– must be present to win.

Five names are drawn to win \$50.00 – attendance at the unmasking is not necessary.

Contest rules Clues are published by the Waseca County Pioneer, NRHEG Star Eagle, Facebook; and Waseca County News; Waseca Chamber of Commerce; KOWZ/KRUE radio; Waseca Sleigh & Cutter Festival.

2. One guess allowed each week.

3. Each entry must have name and complete address of person making the guess. Entries without complete information are not valid.

4. Entrant must live in Waseca County and be over 18 years of age.

5. If there are multiple correct guesses, a drawing will be made to determine the winner.

6. If there are no correct guesses, a drawing will be made from all entries received.

7. Entries must be received before 3:00 p.m. February 27, 2026.

8. Submit entries to:

a. WASECA: Submit entry at Waseca Music; 111 South State, Waseca, MN 56093; or via mail.

b. JANESVILLE: Mail or drop off at Waseca Music; mark your entry as Janesville.

c. NEW RICHLAND: Drop off at NRHEG STAR EAGLE NEWS; or mail to Waseca Music - mark your entry as New Richland.

Frosty sponsors: iWealth – Brad Connors; Domino’s; Latham Place; Mediacom; Lake Shore Inn; and Xcel Energy. Please thank these sponsors for supporting the 29th Annual Frosty Contest!

Frosty: Week 2 Clue

Have you seen them?

Have your paths crossed?

The legend of Frosty

Much like that of Jack Frost.

When Frosty was asked, What do they think of them self?

Frosty responded, average

Although accolades are on their shelf.

A friend to all,

A household name

Blending in with the crowd

Watching family in games.

Waseca Library puzzle competition gets heated

By BEN REVERMANN

Staff writer

While the snowplows were busy outside the Waseca Public Library the morning of Jan. 21, inside starting at 10 a.m. five people were locked in competition, and things were getting intense.

The Jigsaw Puzzle Derby competition was split up between a team of three women—Sheila, Amy and Allie—cyn—in one corner, and full-time mother of four Angela Deraad and her 2-year-old son Dominic. Angela is a 2007 graduate of Waseca High School. She has four children, one each in second, fifth, and sixth grade, and of course little blond Dominic. Angela’s husband, Drew Deraad, is a police officer for the city of New Richland.

Dominic could not truly be said to be competing. He was busy watching a cartoon on his mother’s phone, so his contributions were his good behavior and keeping his hands to himself. As the music played lightly from Dom-

inic’s video, his mother was a little further ahead of the three women at the other table. Friendly competition or no, she had some obvious skills. When asked about her love of puzzles, Angela replied, “I just enjoy doing them. A while back I used to live up north in Alexandria. I was there for three years or so; their library had a large collection of puzzles on a table, and I would pick through those.” As she spoke, she found piece after piece and added each to the picture. Both teams were working on the same puzzle: an old-fashioned main street scene with coffee shops and a grocery. There were trees in the background and a bike parked out front. With an ease most might attribute to professionals, Angela fitted the cardboard pieces together one by one. She was asked about the hardest puzzle she’s ever done and she replied, “There was this one puzzle in Alexandria that was two-sided, but once the first side was finished, and it was flipped over, it had to be rotated 90 degrees and another puzzle was on the



PUZZLING - Angela Deraad and her son Dominic were one of two teams competing in the Waseca Public Library’s puzzle competition on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026. The winner gets a candy bar and bragging rights. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

back side. It was very complicated, but I finished it. Again, I’m not an expert, I just like doing puzzles.”

At the other table, Shirley, Allie and Amy were doing their best to keep up with Angela. Allie, who served in the Army from 2003 to 2009, was stationed in Iraq from 2005 to 2007. Of her team, she said, “We just like doing puzzles, the three of us live close to each other in town here, so it makes sense we would do this together.” She then lightheartedly suggested more

questions should be asked of Angela in order to distract her, since a cursory glance showed Angela was in the lead. Shirley said, “The winner of the puzzle competition gets a candy bar, and I really want it.”

A phone call later in the day revealed Allie, Shirley and Amy were the winners, but at that moment, the three ladies and the mother of four were left to their own devices, and to see who was the best puzzler.

Opioid settlement money supporting local efforts

By DEB BENTLY

News Editor

Three area initiatives will receive more than \$29,000 to combat opioid addiction under a set of grants approved during the Jan. 20 meeting of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners. The grants were recommended by a 16-member Opioid Settlement Advisory Council offered through the county’s department of public health.

According to information shared at the meeting, the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton school district will receive \$15,800 to initiate a “Hope Squad” program. According to information online, the program trains two staff members as counselors and advisors, giving them tools to help students become peer-to-peer supporters. The program also provides tools for activities and interactions meant to help build a positive atmosphere grounded in mutual trust.

Hope Squad was founded in 2004 by a high school principal in Utah who made a personal vow to design a system that would help improve student mental health, reducing harmful trends toward drug addiction and suicide.

The Waseca County Department of Corrections will receive \$10,500 toward a specialized youth counseling program operated through Fernbrook Family Center. Nicknamed RESET, the program works especially with youth who have entered the court system or who are in a less formal “diversion” process meant to help change their behavior before it potentially leads to criminal charges.

According to information shared during the county board meeting, the therapy is meant to help lead youth to examine the motivation behind certain behaviors and increase their recognition of what makes those choices undesirable. The therapy is meant to provide

“structured intervention to address decision-making, coping skills, accountability, and goal setting.”

A group of community-building, family-centered events for graduates from the Waseca County Drug Court will be supported by a \$3,000 grant from opioid settlement funds. According to county attorney Rachel Cornelius, who will be planning the activities, graduates gather for events like picnics, bowling, outdoor sports and the like to help continue the atmosphere of mutual support and community that was created during their drug court experience.

Cornelius mentioned the events are very important in building a stable, new lifestyle which helps graduates keep from being drawn back to habits and places they frequented before entering recovery.

As she presented these three recommendations to county board

members, county public health nurse Sarah Berry shared that these three agencies were among six which had applied for funding. The other applicants, she commented, will have a chance to update or modify their requests and submit them again for a March deadline.

She also revealed the grants are on a “reimbursement” basis—that is, recipients must submit evidence of expenditures made and will then receive the allotted funding.

Money for the grants comes from Waseca County’s share of about \$300 million awarded to Minnesota from a set of multistate lawsuits against pharmaceutical companies which profited from highly addictive opioid medications.

At this time, Berry stated, the county’s opioid advisory committee has more than \$300,000 available for dispersal.

■ Mikhail

from Page 1

vibrant places to live, work, and visit.”

Rostislavovich’s civic influence extends well beyond the arts. Beginning in 2024, he worked closely with Chamber leadership during a critical period of transition, helping reorganize the organization and put durable structures in place to ensure long-term success. His efforts helped empower emerging leaders, strengthen communication between the city, county, and Chamber, and foster a more collaborative civic environment. Tourism efforts were also completely overhauled, bringing renewed focus and energy to promoting Waseca’s assets. Chamber Executive Director Robin Dulas expounded by saying, “Mikhail comes from a place of genuine care for people and community. His commitment is not driven by recognition, but by a deep belief in showing up for others.”

As Chamber President, Milbrath noted, Rostislavovich brought a global perspective shaped by earlier work in federal and state government. “That experience translated into a strategic approach to local economic development, business advocacy, and community promotion,” he said, adding that partnerships between government, businesses, and civic organizations were strengthened under his leadership.

Rostislavovich has played a pivotal role in several of Waseca’s most significant community initiatives in recent years. He was instrumental in helping move the Marketplace development from concept to reality, providing steady guidance, thoughtful collaboration, and a unifying presence among public and private stakeholders. Equally impactful has been his work to strengthen relationships between the community and its elected leaders. Through organizing a major bonding bill visit and hosting visits from Congressman Brad Finstad and Secretary of State Steve Simon, Rostislavovich ensured that local priorities were clearly understood and that Waseca had a direct seat at the table in state and federal conversations. These efforts not only advanced key projects but also reinforced Waseca’s voice and visibility beyond its borders.

City Councilor Stacey Schroeder emphasized how quickly Rostislavovich became deeply embedded in the community. “When Mikhail moved to Waseca, he didn’t just make it his home, he immediately became a driving force,” Schroeder said. “Dedicating more than 40 hours weekly to service, he has transformed how our organizations work together.”

Service has long been central to Rostislavovich’s work with the Exchange Club. He helped resurrect the local club, growing membership from just three members to 24, while expanding its mission and footprint. He was a driving force behind nationally recognized Child Abuse Prevention initiatives, help-

ing the club earn back-to-back national awards. Drawing from his own lived experiences, he became a vocal advocate for protecting vulnerable children and strengthening families, even appearing before the Waseca County Board of Commissioners and Waseca City Council to encourage official recognition of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Beyond that work, he pulled service clubs together rather than allowing them to operate in isolation, reinstated honoring local law enforcement, and helped launch the Special Olympics committee.

Schroeder described his ability to unify people as one of his greatest strengths. “He has a unique ability to pull people together and close gaps,” she said. “Mikhail is always showing up, leading by example, and fostering collaboration across service clubs and community initiatives.”

Rostislavovich’s service extends further still. He serves as Chairman of the Board and Chief of Staff for The Redemption Project. He regularly speaks at City Council meetings, continually advocating for what is best for the community he now proudly calls home. During his tenure serving as chair of the local Republican Party, he set a firm expectation of civility, making it clear that personal attacks would not be tolerated.

Despite his visibility, Rostislavovich is never focused on promoting himself. Instead, he consistently uplifts businesses, nonprofits, and worthy causes, using his platform to tell

the community’s story rather than his own. As Milbrath noted, “Across all his roles, he has become one of Waseca’s most visible ambassadors, encouraging residents, newcomers, and visitors alike to explore the community’s natural beauty, cultural assets, and welcoming spirit.”

Those who work alongside him know that when he is asked to help, his answer is always the same: “Sure, we can do that.” He attends nearly every community event, opens his home freely, and serves with generosity, humility, and purpose. For a man whose phone is always ringing, text notifications coming through, and a barrage of daily emails needing his attention, one would think that he collects several paychecks from all the organizations he works with. On the contrary, he does all this for the community that he lives in.

“I don’t believe in keeping score,” Rostislavovich said. “If you see a need and you can help, you help. This community welcomed me and serving it is both a responsibility and a privilege.”

In honoring Mikhail Rostislavovich with the Book of Golden Deeds, the Waseca Exchange Club recognizes not just a list of accomplishments, but a pattern of service rooted in sincerity, collaboration, and a steadfast belief that Waseca is a place worth investing in, and worth discovering. Rostislavovich will formally be recognized at the Community Awards Banquet on Monday, January 26, at Starfire Event Center.



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The Pastor's Column

My light and my salvation

By PASTOR GLENN FRERICHS

I've always found mid-January to early February to be a time of hope and anticipation. As the tilt of the earth begins to favor the northern hemisphere, the rays of dawn and the evening sunset start to separate a little more each day, sharing sunlight and bringing greater warmth to the land. Psalm 19:1 gives meaning to this by declaring that "the heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." And, in another psalm, the Scriptures reveal that "the Lord is my light and my salvation" (Ps. 27).

The scriptures use many images to convey the mysteries of our salvation: marriage, water, fire, shepherd, and the cross. Among these, light is one of the least tangible. Light is invisible when it is in transit. It only becomes visible when it strikes an object. Light provides warmth to what it touches and also helps us navigate the world around us, avoiding dangers and gaining clarity about God's creation and the people nearby.

A 17th-century philosopher, René Descartes, began to question the world around him. He noticed that some experiential knowledge didn't make sense. For example, as one pokes a stick into the water, our eyes tell us that it is no longer straight. Modern science can now explain this. However, Descartes wrongly concluded that we cannot trust our senses, only our inner consciousness. This idea is captured in his timeless phrase "I think, therefore I am." The impact of this dangerous statement has, over the centuries, developed into a desire to emphasize one's religious experiences over revealed truth. How does this look in our daily lives? Is the importance I place on having God in my life and knowing who He is based solely on my experiences? Or is my understanding of God guided by the revelation given to us through Jesus Christ?

"The Lord is my light and my salvation." These words assure us

that the Lord always provides clarity of vision regarding things not visible to the naked eye. This clarity of vision primarily comes through the scriptures and the teachings of the Church. Christ's teachings offer light and guidance, helping us avoid difficulties, recognize graces and blessings, and know how we are to live. There may be dark times in life when the light of truth challenges us and becomes hard to follow. The three Magi would have had to travel by night. They show us that although the walk of faith may be difficult at times, the faithful will always reach the Divine One.

There is a long tradition of placing stained glass windows in church buildings. The theology behind this is often more than just artistic design. The sunlight passing through stained glass windows represents divine grace, with the colored, shifting light representing God's presence, the illumination of truth, and the transformation of the soul. In a sense, the sun represents the Son of God, whose "light of grace" helps enlighten worshippers, with the vivid colors changing dark interiors into spiritual, heavenly spaces.

Each of us knows someone who exudes grace beyond the rest of us. Their lives are guided by God's revelation, a deep and personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and a livelihood that demonstrates a grace-filled life to everyone around them. People close to God often see their own failures more clearly, but others can easily recognize how the Lord guides their perspective and acts as a source of salvation in all they do.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation." We can ask ourselves, how is the Lord with me now? Do I rely on my own understanding of who He is, or am I allowing Him to reveal Himself through the Scripture and His teachings? Is the Lord my Savior in every way and throughout each day, or does He want me to let Him into deeper parts of my life?

February meeting scheduled for Cannon River watershed joint powers board

In February, the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board (CRWJPB) will meet in person for its quarterly board meeting. The meeting will be on Wednesday, February 4th, 2026, at 9:00 am in the Rice County Government Services Building, located at 320 3rd Street NW in Faribault.

The CRWJPB was formed in June of 2020 to implement

the Cannon River Watershed Comprehensive Management Plan and improve local water quality. The CRWJPB represents the members of the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Learn more about this organization and its efforts to improve the Cannon River Watershed at <http://www.riceswcd.org/crwpjo>.

Waseca JSHS A Honor Roll recipients

7th Grade A Honor Roll:

Madysen Bailey, Isabel Berg, Lindy Bergdale, Colten Bluhm, Olivia Brunner, Halle Casterton, Noah Cisneros, Ryan DeWees, Benjamin Dobberstein, Caleb Dufault, Amelia Ellis, Nicholas Ferris, Owen Fierke, Avery Fliflet, Abigail Gilson, Audrey Gray, Peyton Groskreutz, AshtonHayes, Sydney Hayes, Leilla Johannsen, Keian Klinger, Kayla Knutson, Adelynne Kruger, Brayleigh Kuball, Riley McGuire, Cooper Nelson, Macy Nelson, Layne Nusbaum, John Olson, Josephine Olson, Mila Porter, Cullin Ristau, Levi Rohe, Riley Root, Emma Sather, Easton Schlueter, Elly Schroeder, Jaxon Selvik, Crosby Srp, Lennox Swatkowski, Daniel Switzer, Peyton Teders, Zoey Wald, Addison Wheelock, Ariala Xiong

8TH Grade A Honor Roll:

Owen Arndt, Regan Barr, Wyatt Bartz, Finley Byron, Lincoln Castro, Lujah Entinger, Brooklyn Frederick, Autumn Fritz, Charles Galle, Keegan Glynn, Evelyn Griffin, Kiayanna Gwilt, Oliver Haekenkamp, Claire Harguth, Alexander Henry, Jazmyne Johnson, Mya Kath, Ellie Kopischke, CorineKratzer, Sydney Langager, Kelsey Lawson, Joseph LeMieux, Liam Malterer, Kinley McMurphy, Taelyn Nowak, Miles Popp, Jade Rice, Emely Rivera Perez, Carson Roesler, JordanR o-senthal, Tobin Rutt, Shannon Sanchez, Kaia Sartori, Jozy Schlaak, Ellie Schleicher, Aidan Spotts, Mal-lory Wetzel, Autumn Zimprich

9th Grade A Honor Roll:

Aiden Andreen, Avery Barto, Annabelle Benson, Brayden Butler, Maxwell Deml, Shylo Driessen,

Nolan Dufault, Chloe Hagen, David Haley, Ethan Harwood, Abbigail Jarrett, JaideenJohnson, Ella Linnes, Ava Miller, Kenna Miller, Libby Miller, Lilly Miller-Williams, Jordan Neidecker, Braxton Nelson, Wyatt Partain, Macy Peterson, Shakiyah Powell, Gavin Riehm, Lorelai Russell, Cadence Stenzel, Samantha Sutton, Enrique Tovar, Connor Vosejpka, Aiden Walker

10th Grade A Honor Roll:

ChaylaCalderon, Ashley Fliflet, Mailee Gilmore, Toby Jeske, Story James Kasl, Charley Kietzman, Kellen Klinger, Jacob Knutson, Ty Krautkremer, Mya Lynch, Archer O'Brien, Violet Patterson, Lillian Petersen, Reese Rodriguez, Claire Roemhildt, Madalynn Root, Mandi Root, Hannah Rugger, Patsy San-doval, Asha Sharif, Ava VanDen-

Hemel

11th Grade A Honor Roll:

NoelleDrake, Brody Dufault, Zoey Dunn, Chelsia Eneboe, Jacob Harguth, Eryn Harrison, Megan Hudak, Jacey Jensen, Amilya Lynch, TaylorMarkeson, Fushen Mei, Tristan Nelson, Elsie Owens, Elleiot Palleschi, Isaac Pfeifer, Troy Ryan, Katelyn Weber, Alexa Wel-lander, Owen Wieseler

12th Grade A Honor Roll:

Slade Barnett, Andrew Bartelt, Ella Bulfer, Rylee Burt, Simon El-deen, Destiney Gustafson, Isabelle Hetchler, Sophia Hillsman, Jordan Johnston, Nathan Kaiser, Sullivan Kasl, AlyssaKilmer, Allen Ko-petzki, Samantha Langer, Madilyn Larrabee, Madilynn Meyer, Riley Mitchell, Christian Possin, Logan Reger, Deron Russell, Hannah Teague, Caleb Wulf

Straight A Honor Roll students at Waseca

Seventh Grade Straight A Honor Roll

MariahBartelt, Korbin Collins, William Deml, Alayna Eastwood, Kaylee Fierke, VioletH u g h e s , Margaret Johnson, Eben Linnes, Ashlynn Lopez, Amelia Madsen, Mya Marlin, Grant Quade, Ad-dyson Rugger, Brynda Rupe, Logan Stiernagle, Virgil Stuck-mayer, Lauren Tegmeier

8th Grade Straight A Honor Roll

AshleyGarcia, Aryana Garza, Olivia Hagen, Ryan Harguth, Luke Jeske, Kayla Landrum, Kolby Lindquist, Lillian Muff, Cayden Page, Charles Randall, Olive Scheffert, Caiden Scheller, Mateo Vasquez-Neigebauer, Milo Wa-chal, Carter Walker, Leah Wilson

9Th Grade A Honor Roll

Liah Adams, Rylee Ahlschlager, Abigayle Berge, Keenan Collins, Bryan De Jager, Kooper Lindquist,

Maurice Lopez, Hannah Sommers, Tomas Vasquez-Neigebauer, Jenna Yoder, Quinn Yoder, Ava Young, Carson True

10th Grade A Honor Roll

Armaan Bhatti, Brier Hayes, Al-lyson Holmseth, Oriana Jewison, Carly Kratzer, Allison Mader, Khloe Nelson, EnochP o s s i n , MarenSchimming, Cyrus Wilson, Ryan Yoder, Addison Zimmerman

11th Grade A Honor Roll

Grace Chawra, Lauren Holm-seth, Henry Huttemier, Kasey Ibarra, Nolan McQuery, Gavin O'Brien, Violet Rohwer, Aera Zim-prich

12th Grade A Honor Roll:

Paige Dufault, Khloe Fuller, Hannah Heusinkveld, Jolee Lar-son, Kaylee Lawson, Vivian Mader, Chloe Roemhildt, Sadie Schimming, RomanSiler, Andres Vasquez-Neigebauer

Waseca JSHS B Honor Roll students

7th Grade B Honor Roll:

AlvaroAlvarez, Maci Anderson, Maci Bramer, Jase Buker, Maya Christensen, Parker Determan, Riley Dunn, Violet Farley, Jose Gaona, Cynthia Haines, Joseph Harguth, Avery Hill, Meah Hoy, Ashton Hyatt, Charlyze Johnson, Daniel Johnson, Christopher Juarez, Olive Maas, Veda McDaniel, Ryder Monahan, Ashlynn Now-acki, Gracelyn O'Malley, Avery Pe-chacek, Aubrey Peterson, Jakobie Rierson, Tyler Ryan, Myles Schultz, Mychel Tollefson, Michael Vargas Garcia, Alexandra Vega

8th Grade B Honor Roll:

Reagann Attenberger, Ethan Babcock, Trey Bohannon, Drake Bubak, Kiara Carlson, Ella Eaton, Madison Frederick, Brody Gray, Kylie Grey, DanielGuritz, Vaira Guse, Keira Holmgren, Taylor Koch, Brooklyn McColley, Cam-

den Nelson, Cruz Nesenson, Hai-ley Proehl, Keira Rohl, Raya Sie-berg, Aubrey Sietsema, Mayson Smith, Owen Sommers, Norah Swindle, Kinley Thostenson, Keera Wolske

9th Grade B Honor Roll:

HectorBeltran, Luis Bethke, Aiden Cisneros, Aiyana Davis, Jos-celin Ebnet, Hunter Fairbanks, Gavin Farley, Sienna Hanna, Nich-olas Harguth, Dalisaya Howe, Aysia Ingram Bratts, Jacob Jyrkas, Cruz Lynch, Ahvah Maas, Dom-inik Mansfield, Addison Monson, Kenzie Morrissey, Nicholas Nel-son, Michael Petracek, Nalyce Quillen, Keegan Rodriguez, Jaxson Roemhildt, PeytonRoss, Gabriel Sanchez, Ava Trumbull, Delilah Vereoven, Sophiel Weber, Tyler Welander, Carter Wernimont, Evan Worke

10TH Grade B Honor Roll:

Claire Bartelt, Amiyah Benson,

Joseph Calhoun, Charley Castro, Filiberto Caudillo, Isaiah Dymeck, Ashlynn Eldeen, Jadon Entinger, Kavita Ewest, Kelly Hernandez-Verde, Claudia Islas, AydanK a t h , Jack Kelly, Logan Konz, Miley Licea, Aileen Lindsay-Brothers, LandanMadsen, Max Malouff, Hannah Marzinske, Kaylee Matz, Gavin Reger, Landon Rutt, Peyton Sommers, Ella Swindle, Megan Thursdale

11th Grade B Honor Roll:

Kori Barto, Brandon Bartz, Sophie Benson, Lucas Danner, Isabella Eaton, Lacey Frank, Melody Galle, Isabella Garza, Aiden Greenwald, Amber Hagen, Josie Hagre, Jameson Haley, Corbin Hanna, Emily Hansen, Elli Hoban, Owen Honstad, Tatyana Johnson, Landon Lewer, Blake McElligott, Belle Miller, Kaylie Morrissey, Mia Nesenson, Stella Omtvedt, TrennaPeterson, Titan Rahe, Jose-

phine Ross, Owen Rupe, Savannah Schlueter, Otto Schoenrock, Mal-lory Schulz, Avery Selvik, Hayden Stencil, Megan Tegmeier, Tucker Thompson, Jonah Worke

12th Grade B Honor Roll:

JalysaAcevedo, Hunter Barnes, Liam Biddle, Ryan Borneke, Victoria Calderon, Teagan Collier, Kelsey Draeger, Kaden Garza, Jayden Gehring, Jude Gehring, Maddyn Gostomczik, Jonathan Gransee, Lauren Grant, Wyatt Hager, Aiden Harrison, Aaliyah Hayes, Kody Hess, Grayson Hiller, Meraina Hiller, Jenna Hudak, Ste-vie Hunt, Emmalee Jes, Cyrett Long, Jayden Mann, Dakotah Marik, Madisyn McClune, Connor Miller, Deven Parpart, Jude Robin-son, Jett Rohl, Jacob Root, Lilli-anna Sanchez, John Schulz, Lucas Selthun, Amin Sharif, Zane Sta-loch, Emma Yokiel

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* * *

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507-835-3167
Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m.
* * *

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
* * *

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507-833-1703
Sundays 9:00 a.m.
* * *

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
314 4th Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-2647
Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m.
* * *

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net)
Worship Sunday 10 a.m.
* * *

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 E Elm Ave, Waseca
507-835-1709
Worship Sunday 9 a.m.
* * *

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
111 4th St NW, Waseca
Father Glenn Ferichs
507-835-1222
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* * *

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* * *

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1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca
507-835-4640
Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.
* * *

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* * *

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Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship
Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship
* * *

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Otisco, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship
* * *

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Mary Iverson
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee
Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting
Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting
* * *

LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting
* * *

VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
* * *

VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Brian 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
* * *

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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.
* * *

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
* * *

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Freedom Township
Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship
* * *

ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Pastor Ava Adams-Morris
Waldorf, Minnesota
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
* * *

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC
Waldorf, Minnesota
Father Brian Mulligan
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship
* * *

TRINITY LUTHERAN
Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
Services 6 p.m. Saturday
* * *

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Brad Donner, Branch President
Waseca, Minnesota
www.lds.org
Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages

12-18
* * *

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
412 N. Main Street, Janesville
Pastor Jason Wolter
Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship
* * *

JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
401 N. West St., Janesville
Pastor Kathy King
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship
* * *

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METH-ODIST CHURCH
43089 180th St., Morristown
Pastor Kathy King
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter)
* * *

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH
307 W. 2nd St, Janesville
10 a.m. - Mass
* * *

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 Owen St., Janesville
Pastor Sarah Krolak
* * *

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH
Alma City, Minnesota
Pastor Robert Harting
Sunday - 10 a.m. *Worship
* * *

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Smiths Mill, Minnesota
Pastor Robert Harting
Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship
* * *

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
* * *

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Janesville

25 years ago

- Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) recently presented \$5,520 to Trinity Lutheran School in Janesville through the AAL Member Gift-Matching Program. The total reflects AAL's matched portion of contributions received from members during the third quarter. Annual gifts of \$25 to \$100 made by AAL members to participating Lutheran elementary or secondary schools, colleges or seminaries are matched dollar-for-dollar by AAL.



- JWP's Brian Finley, pictured from an earlier game, led the team in points in their loss to Hayfield during the Rotary Classic opening game on Friday.

- Three men took the oath of office on Monday night at the Janesville City Council meeting. Frank, "Buzz" Morrill was sworn in as mayor for another term and Jim Hesch was sworn in for another term on the city council. The only new member of the council elected in November was Gerald Schendel. Dean Lotter, Janesville City Administrator, gave them the oath of office and congratulated each of them on being elected. As the new member of city council, Schendel asked many questions throughout the meeting. "Being new, I'm going to need to ask a lot of questions," said Schendel. "But I think I'm sitting here because I'm not afraid to ask."

- The Janesville City Council accepted the resignation of police officer Justin Jackson at its Monday night meeting. In his letter of resignation, Jackson thanked the council and city staff for their time and efforts during the two years he worked in Janesville, and said he greatly appreciated the support and friendliness of his co-workers and the community. Jackson also requested that his "sick time" be donated to fellow officer John McGuire, who is recovering from injuries suffered in a recent car accident.

50 years ago

- Laurie Lynn Brandenburg, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Brandenburg was baptized Jan. 4 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Janesville with Pastor Stanley W. Rosenau officiating. Sponsors were Mrs. Duane Lau, Gary and Marlene Brandenburg Pemberton. A baptismal dinner was served at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Brandenburg.

- Olof Lundquist, Route 2, would wholeheartedly agree that Sunday was a beautiful day for a fishing contest. The weather was mild, a huge crowd of people were on hand, and Lundquist's name was drawn for the first prize. Faced with the decision of which first prize to accept (car, boat, snowmobiles, trip or camper) the soft-spoken Janesville farmer could only smile and say, "Thank you." Lundquist is the first Janesville person to win the top prize for several years. Even better, he was at Lake Elysian Sunday to accept it.



- Janesville's Olaf Lundquist was lucky twice Sunday - first when Mary Ann Donahue drew his name from over 8,000 ticket stubs as the first place prize winner, and again when she planted a congratulatory kiss on his cheek. The Janesville farmer is the first local person to win the Sportsmens top prize in several years. Note the youngster, behind, wondering what is going on.

- The Janesville Polar Bears have announced the course for their January 24th March of Dimes snowmobile marathon. Marathon chairman Cliff Gardner of Janesville said he expects approximately 25 riders to take part in the 50-mile ride to prevent birth defects. The Polar Bears will start at Memorial Park in Janesville, head south for approximately three miles, and then begin a roughly circular ride heading west and north which will bring them to the finish point in Janesville.

75 years ago

- Four Janesville youths will be among those who will leave with the Mankato National Guard in the near future for Camp Rucker, in Alabama, for continued military training. They are: Tom and Donald Strand, Bob Cahill and Jim Ryan. As we go to press we were unable to learn when the Guard unit will leave Mankato but it is believed to be next Monday morning.

- Pvt. James L. Schramsky, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Schramsky of Janesville, has completed his AF basic airmen indoctrination course at Lackland Air Force Base, the "Gateway to the Air Force." Lackland, situated near San Antonio is the world's largest air force basic training for airmen and women, indoctrination station for prior service reenlistees, and home of AF'S Officer's Candidate School. His basic training has prepared him for entrance into Air Force technical training and for assignment in specialized work. The course included a scientific evaluation of his aptitude and inclination for following a particular vocation and career.

100 years ago

- The passage of a resolution providing for the sentencing of county prisoners to hard labor on county roads and in other public works made good the Steele county board's promise that it would provide such punishment for liquor law violators and other law breakers given county jail terms at a meeting held at Owatonna this month. Through the resolution, District Judge F.W. Senn and Municipal Judge Woods are requested to sentence prisoners to hard labor terms and Sheriff Fischer is instructed to make such arrangements as will insure the working of such prisoners, and to put balking prisoners on a diet of bread and butter.

- Belle Plaine claims to have the oldest "hired man" in the person of Fred Falkenberg who is in his 96th year. Continuously since 1870 until a few years ago Mr. Falkenberg has "worked out."

- The bug that does the greatest damage to the agriculturist is the humbug, of the political variety.

Waseca

25 years ago



- Vicki Hoehn and Jon Ginther were united in marriage on July 8, 2000, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, in Waseca. Fr. John Kunz and Fr. Lawrence Ginther officiated at the 3 p.m. ceremony. The parents of the couple are DuWayne and Barb Hoehn of Waseca and Dennis and Geraldine Ginther of Owatonna. Matron of Honor was Jennifer Campbell, friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Colleen Lacy, sister of groom, Debbi Hoehn, sister of the bride, Amanda Hoehn, sister of the bride and Karin Revering, sister of the groom.

- Christopher Brent Sondag graduated from Minnesota State University-Mankato Cum Laude in Law Enforcement, with a double minor in Corrections and Sociology on Saturday December 16, 2000. Chris is the son of Dale and Maureen Sondag of Waseca. Chris is currently employed at the Hoffman Center in St. Peter, a facility for male sex offenders.

- Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant Ronald Dahnert, son of Rodger and Vada Dahnert of Waseca, was promoted to his present rank on November 1, 2000. GySgt Dahnert is a 15-year veteran with the Marine Corps stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif. And is presently on a six month deployment with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit aboard the USS Tarawa Amphibious Ready Group.

- Waseca Area Learning Center announces students named to the first trimester 2000-01 academic school year honor roll. These students were names to the A honor Roll: Jessica Proechel, Darla Reinhardt and Alicia Strand. These students were named to the B Honor Roll: Sarah Britzius, Kari Burgdorf, Luke Hoff, Katie Johnson, Kera Kramer, Ayan Mumin, April Schultz, Norah Schultz and Jessica Spotts.

50 years ago



- Here one of Manny's varsity players, John Hesch helps fourth grader Kurt Schwieters with his dribbling...the little tikes look up to the varsity players and coach Beckmann tells us the players like to come down Saturday mornings to help out...

- The Catholic Daughters of America, Court No. 1424, met in the Sacred Heart Church Hall Jan. 12. The Rosary was led by Mrs. Lucille Miller. A business meeting was conducted by Regent Mildred Jackson. All members, who are not receiving a monthly newsletter are asked to please send their correct address to Mildred Jackson, 219 Vista Villa. Lunch was served and cards. Prizes were won by Lucille Miller, Dorothy Powell and Loretta Schwartz. The door prize was \$10, was won by Mary McArdle.

- Angie Lee Grotberg, born Nov. 3 to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Grotberg, 501 11th Ave. NW, Waseca was baptized at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church Jan. 4 with Rev. Fancis Kunz officiating. Sponsors were Jolene Hawkins, Mankato and Tom Goetz, Waseca.

75 years ago

- There is a strong change that construction work on the Waseca agriculture school will get started this month. This was revealed Tuesday by Bob Hodgson, superintendent of the state experimental station here after his return from a committee meeting Monday in Minneapolis. "Start of construction will depend for the most part on what action is taken by the board of regents when it meets Dec. 15." Hodgson said, "The way it looks now, the contractor could be ready to start within a few days after the board approves the letting of contracts."

- Nine young men from Waseca county have enlisted in the U.S. air force and were sworn in for service Dec. 6, after passing physical examinations. All were enlisted through the Owatonna office of the air force recruiting service. The men who were sworn in Dec. 6 include Willard Manthey, James A Gigeay, Wayne R. Seewald, Lyle Ostreich, Merlin M Mittelstaedt, Norman E. Klinger and Doyle Iverson, all of Waseca and Orville Linde, Janesville, and Victor Miskoff, New Richland.

- Major Wilbur II, Fischer, 120 West Second Street, Waseca was recently promoted to his present rank in the Army of the United States, according to an announcement from Service Operations and Corozal General Depot Headquarters, Fort Clayton, Panama Canal Zone. He is a son of Mrs. Ruth Fischer, formerly of Janesville. Major Fischer is Executive Officer, Finance Section, Service Operations and CGD.

100 years ago

- Radio fans will have occasion to listen to another one of Henry Ford's Old Fashioned Dance orchestra programs Friday evening from 9 until 10 o'clock. A large number of Waseca residents, young as well as old, listened in on their program Tuesday evening and enjoyed the "Virginia Reel" and "Heel and Toe Polka" which were so popular in the days gone by. Friday evening's program follows: Two-Step-"Golden Slipper" Medley Old Time Waltz. Medley Virginia Reel, "Irish Washerman."

- Thirteen is supposed to be the unluckiest of numbers. In ancient times it was quite the reverse! Men in those days always counted in dozens, and it was customary to add one "for luck." The baker's dozen is a modern survival. The present belief that thirteen has a baleful influence comes from the Last Supper, when Judas Iscariot was the thirteenth at table and the first to rise from the meal.

New Richland

25 years ago

- With the widespread community support, Crossroads of Owatonna will move into a new facility in Early February to serve more troubled kids in southeastern Minnesota. "This is a dream come true," said Carl Evans, Director of Crossroads of Owatonna. "We have wanted to grow and expand our services to kids for a long time. With remarkable support from the Owatonna community, our dream has become reality." Crossroads of Owatonna, a program of Lutheran Social Service, is a group home/shelter that provides counseling support and a safe haven to at-risk kids from ages 10-17.

- Ricky Tollefson and Jamie Sorenson are the parents of a daughter born Saturday, January 13, 2001, at Naeve Hospital, Albert Lea. Tylie Ray as she has been named, weighs 7 pounds 4 ounces and 20 1/2 " in length.



- Virginia Peterson of Trinity Lutheran Church, New Richland, AAL Branch #9968 and Jim Peterson, president of the New Richland Lions, presented a check in the amount of \$1070 to Brian Lokus (left) of the New Richland Ambulance squad for a new cot. The funds were raised at a New Richland Lions breakfast December 3 and matched by the AAL Branch.

50 years ago



- Mrs. Ladonna Flowers, home economics instructor at New Richland-Hartland high school is pictured discussing the fact that Marlene Dorn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Dorn of near Otisco, was named Family Leader of Tomorrow at the school.

- A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. David Hueper of rural Wells, January 16 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Mankato. The husky little fellow weighed in at 8 pounds and 14 ounces. The little fellow has been given the name Grant David. He has 5 sisters, Kerry, Jerillee, Kimberly, Tamy and Stacie. His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Holly Casper of Richfield and Emil Hueper, Sr. of Wells.

- The New Richland-Hartland Girls Basketball team took Waterville-Elysian to the cleaners, last Thursday night when they defeated them 35-16. Coach Ann Goudy was pleased with the girls showing.

75 years ago

- Miss Genevieve Frisk of the Vista Busy Bees 4-H club near New Richland won the County Radio speaking contest, last Friday evening. Genevieve's original talk on "What The American Creed Means To Me" won her the privilege of participating in the district contest over KD /HL Saturday.

- The New Richland boys played good ball last night as they defeated Freeborn by a score of 46-30. Schumacher dumped the first one in for the Cards as well as the first free toss. Captain Dineen was the high point man for New Richland with 13. He tied with the Freeborn center who was also high with 13 points.

- Mr. and Mrs. John Possehl (Florance Neumann) of Lerdal, are the parents of a daughter, born at the Naeve hospital, Albert Lea, today (Thursday) February 22, weighing seven pounds, seven and one half ounces.

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STANDINGS

Boys' Basketball		
Big South Conference - Black		
	Conf.	Ov.
Belle Plaine	5-1	10-2
St. Peter	6-2	11-4
Marshall	5-3	5-5
Waseca	5-4	10-6
New Ulm	4-4	7-7
Worthington	1-5	2-12
Tri-City United	0-7	0-13
Big South Conference - Gold		
	Conf.	Ov.
Fairmont	9-1	12-2
Jackson County Central	8-2	12-5
Luverne	6-3	11-4
Blue Earth Area	5-4	9-4
St. James Area	6-5	9-5
Pipestone Area	3-7	5-11
Windom Area	1-8	7-9
Redwood Valley	1-9	2-15
Gopher Conference - West		
	Div.	Ov.
Janesville-WP	5-0	17-0
New Richland-HEG	3-2	6-10
Waterville-EM	2-3	6-8
United South Central	2-2	3-9
Medford	0-5	3-13
Gopher Conference East		
	Div.	Ov.
Triton	6-0	14-3
Blooming Prairie	4-2	13-3
Hayfield	3-4	9-8
Bethlehem Academy	2-4	6-8
Randolph	2-4	6-13
Kenyon-Wanamingo	1-7	6-10
Girls' Basketball		
Big South Conference - Black		
	Conf.	Ov.
Marshall	7-0	13-2
New Ulm	6-1	10-4
St. Peter	5-3	9-6
Belle Plaine	3-3	8-7
Tri-City United	3-4	6-9
Waseca	1-8	3-14
Worthington	0-6	2-13
Big South Conference - Gold		
	Conf.	Ov.
Fairmont	10-0	15-1
St. James Area	8-2	13-4
Pipestone Area	7-2	14-2
Windom Area	6-4	15-4
Luverne	3-6	8-9
Jackson County Cent.	3-6	7-11
Blue Earth Area	1-8	3-13
Redwood Valley	0-10	0-17
Gopher Conference - West		
	Div.	Ov.
New Richland-HEG	4-0	16-2
Janesville-WP	4-1	12-6
Waterville-EM	1-4	5-12
United South Central	1-7	7-11
Gopher Conference - East		
	Div.	Ov.
Hayfield/Schaeffer Ac.	5-1	15-4
Triton	6-1	11-5
Blooming Prairie	4-2	9-8
Randolph	3-4	7-11
Kenyon-Wanamingo	1-6	7-11
Bethlehem Academy	1-7	6-10
Boys' Hockey		
Big South Conference - Black		
	Div.	Ov.
Waseca	5-0	11-5-2
New Ulm	3-3	12-7
Minnesota River	3-3	8-9
Marshall	0-5	5-13
Big South Conference - Gold		
	Div.	Ov.
Luverne	7-0	17-3
Fairmont	4-3	5-9
Windom Area	3-5	5-13
Redwood Valley	3-5	4-13
Worthington	1-5	2-17
Girls' Hockey		
Big South Conference - Black		
	Div.	Ov.
Minnesota River	5-1	17-5
Marshall	4-1	19-4
New Ulm	1-4	4-16
South Central	0-4	0-14
Big South Conference - Gold		
	Div.	Ov.
Luverne	4-1	13-7
Fairmont	3-1	8-9
Worthington/Fulda	2-2	8-12
Windom Area	0-5	4-14
Wrestling		
Big South Conference - Black		
	Div.	Ov.
New Ulm	6-0	11-0
Marshall/Lakeview	5-1	16-3
Tri-City United	3-2	7-6
St. Peter	3-3	5-6
Worthington	3-4	4-10
Waseca	1-5	4-10
Martin County	0-6	5-11
Big South Conference - Gold		
	Div.	Ov.
Jackson County Central	5-0	9-2
Windom/Mt. Lake	4-1	14-9
St. James-Madelia	4-3	11-7
Redwood Valley	3-3	10-9
Pipestone Area	2-3	12-5
Blue Earth Area	2-5	5-14
Luverne	0-5	7-11



LAST-SECOND HEROICS — Above left, the Bluejays' Wyatt Hager (4) was mobbed by teammates after hitting a buzzer-beating basket at St. Peter last Tuesday. Above right, Deron Russell goes in for two of his 43 points. Below left, Owen Honstad drives to the basket.

Photos by Cassie Rupe



Hager's buzzer-beater lifts WHS boys past St. Peter

Bluejays drop 94-87 shootout at Glencoe-Silver Lake

The last time the Waseca High School boys' basketball team faced St. Peter, the result was not a pretty one for the Bluejays.

They turned the tables this time.

Entering the game as underdogs after falling by 30 points to the Saints earlier this season, the Bluejays sank a last-second shot and came home from St. Peter with a thrilling 79-77 victory last Tuesday.

"We won a wild one," said Waseca coach Seth Anderson.

Wyatt Hager provided the buzzer-beating basket for the Bluejays, while Cyrett Long made four of four free throws down the stretch to help secure the win as Waseca rallied from a 39-34 halftime deficit.

Senior Derek Russell continued to have a banner season, finishing with 43 points to go along with 9 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals and 2 blocked shots.

Others: Ethan Hiller 2P, 8R, 4A, 2S, 1B; Long 6P, 1R, 2A; Kamern Ferch 10P, 2A; Hager 10P, 8R, 3A; Owen Honstad 10P, 1A, 2S; Owen Rupe 2R, 1A; Toby Jeske

4P, 1R, 1S.

The Bluejays improved to 5-4 in the Big South Conference Black while St. Peter fell to 6-2.

According to Coach Anderson, the Bluejays played great offensively Thursday but could get a stop defensively in a 94-87 nonconference loss at Glencoe-Silver Lake. Waseca led 44-42 at halftime.

"Glencoe was impossible to stop all night," said Anderson. "They torched us all over the place."

Russell was again unstoppable for the Bluejays, totaling 46 points and adding 3 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals and 1 block.

Others: Hiller 16P, 5R, 11A, 2S; Long 8P, 6R, 4A, 1S; Hager 10P, 3R, 1S;

Honstad 5P, 4R, 1S; Rupe 2P, 2R, 1A; Jeske 2R.

The Bluejays, 10-6 overall, host Marshall Friday at 7:15 and have a big game Monday at 7:15 at JWP, currently undefeated and ranked No. 3 in the state in Class A.



FAST BREAK — The Panthers' Hadley Roeker (33) brings the ball up the court in the waning moments of NRHEG's 77-44 victory over Randolph last week. Alayna Groskreutz (21) trails the play.

Photo by Jim Lutgens

Lady Panthers defeat Randolph

Schlaak leads NRHEG with 28 points

When leading scorer Camryn VanMaldeghem found herself in foul trouble in the first half, the NRHEG High School girls' basketball team had to look for points from other sources against Randolph last Thursday.

The Panthers found it from seniors Gabby Schlaak and Chloe Stork.

Schlaak finished with a a season-best and game-high 28 points while Stork added 10 first-half points as the Panthers blew past Randolph 78-44 at New Richland.

The win was the 16th straight by the NRHEG girls, who dropped the first two games of the season. They're 8-0 in the Gopher Conference, 4-0 in the West Division.

It came as no surprise for NRHEG coach Onika Peterson to see other girls step up with VanMaldeghem on the bench.

"Different kids have been stepping up all season," said Peterson. "It's been fun to watch their confidence continue to grow."

The Panthers led comfortably 38-24 at halftime.

Schlaak, who made eight three-pointers, finished with 28 points, 5 rebounds, 5 steals, 3 assists and 1

blocked shot. VanMaldeghem totaled 25 points, 5 rebounds, 6 steals and 2 assists.

Others: Ezra Boerner 3R, 1S, 3A; Quinn VanMaldeghem 6P, 13R, 5S, 4A, 3B; Clara Buendorf 3P, 2R, 3A; Kenley Gehrke 1R; Savannah Farr 6P, 3R; Stork 10P, 5R, 1S.

The Panthers prevailed 71-41 in a nonconference game at Grand Meadow on Tuesday. They led 32-25 at halftime.

"It wasn't our prettiest performance," said Peterson. "We struggled defensively at times, but a win is a win."

Camryn VanMaldeghem had her usual strong game with 31 points, 11 rebounds, 3 steals, 3 assists and 1 blocked shot. Two other scores reached double figures.

Individual totals: Schlaak 9P, 6R, 2S, 2A; Boerner 10P, 2R, 2S, 1A; Q.VanMaldeghem 5P, 9R, 6A, 5S, 1B; Buendorf 12P, 2R; Gehrke 2R; C.VanMaldeghem 31P, 11R, 3S, 3A, 1B; Farr 4P, 1R; Stork 5R, 1A.

After a girl-boy doubleheader against JWP Monday, the Panthers return to the court Friday at Kenyon-Wanamingo. They host United South Central for Senior Night Feb. 2 and play Feb. 3 at Southland.

Grizzlies top Medford, win one of four at Sibley East

Buoyed by six forfeits, the WEM/JWP wrestling team defeated Medford 57-15 last Thursday at Waterville.

Winning by fall for the Grizzlies were Otto Root at 114 pounds, Parker James at 152 and Kavin Sheehy at 215. Trenton Huber, 189, won by major decision. Receiving forfeits were Jacksten Knish, 107; Brenden Masso,

121; Trey Richards, 127; Wyatt Jans, 133; Devin Cowdin, 139; and Brady Murphy, 145.

The Grizzlies traveled to Arlington for the Sibley East Duals, where they won one of four.

Victory came in the final action of the day as the Grizzlies defeated Minneapolis North 58-14.

Richards and Sheehy won by fall. Winning by forfeit were Knish, Otto Root, Masso, David Mielke, Cowdin, Charles Adams and Isaac Miller.

The Grizzlies lost 53-9 to Rocori, the lone WEM/JWP wins being a fall from James and a 10-7 decision by Huber.

It was closer in a 43-30 loss to Tri-City

United. Winners were Knish, Masso, Adams, Sheehy and Quinn Anderson.

The Grizzlies fell 41-29 to Sibley East, with wins by Otto Root, Masso, Richards, Huber and Sheehy.

The Grizzlies face Triton tonight at 7:30 at Janesville.

Slow-starting NRHEG boys top Medford

If there's one crew the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva boys' basketball team could count on beating in recent years, it's Medford.

That was again the case in New Richland last Tuesday when the Panthers hosted the winless Tigers.

It did not come without at least a little drama.

The upstart Tigers connected on a couple early threes and jumped to an early 11-3 lead, prompting a time out and lineup change by NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt.

It must have helped.

The Panthers pulled even at 31 at the intermission and went on to a 73-66 victory in the first of a second round of games with Gopher Conference opponents.

"For some reason, we always start out sluggish against them," said Schmidt, whose team improved its record to 6-10 overall and 3-2 in the Gopher Conference West while the Tigers fell to 3-13 and 0-5.

“For some reason, we always start out sluggish against them.”

— NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt

So what did Schmidt have to say at halftime?

"We talked about coming out with intensity," said Schmidt. "And the boys really did."

The Panthers fought to a 14-point lead to start the second half, only to allow a flurry of three-points to tie it.

The Panthers put it away with free throws down the stretch.

Brendan Schmidt, son of Coach Schmidt, led the Panthers with 14 points and 5 steals.

"He did a great job of attacking the basket, like we've been begging him to," said Coach Schmidt.

Mack Gilliland turned in another strong night with 14 points and 5

rebounds. Calvin Nissen added 13 points, 4 assists, and 3 steals. Dom Olson came off the bench with some big buckets down the stretch and kicked in 11 points. Brock Holland added 11 points, and played very poised all game.

Brooks Gilliland added 6 free throws at the end of the game. A.J. Deen added 5 points and 4 rebounds. Fynn Baumann again provided some great minutes defensively, and added 3 points.

Individual totals: Deen 5P, 4R, 2S; Olson 11P, 2R, 1A; Nissen 13P, 4A, 3S; B.Gilliland 6P, 6R, 2A; Baumann 3P, 2R; Schmidt 14P, 3R, 1A, 5S, 1B; M.Gilliland 14P, 5R, 1A, 4S; Holland 7P, 2R, 1A, 1S.

The Panthers again started slowly in a cross-conference meeting at Randolph on Thursday, but this time there was no comeback as the Rockets raced to a 95-58 decision.

"It was a tough game from the start," said Coach Schmidt. "We we lacked focus on both sides of the court. The effort was there, but mentally we just weren't in the game."

Individually: A.J. Deen 4P, 7R, 1B; Olson 2P, 3R; Nissen 15P, 1R, 1A; B.Gilliland 3P, 1R, 4A; Baumann 2P; M.Gilliland 13P, 2A, 1S, 1B; Holland 10P, 3R; David Deen 1A; Jackson McGannon 1B; Sean Lassahn 2P, 1S; Levi Whiteside 2P.

After hosting JWP Monday, Kenyon-Wanamingo comes to town tonight at 7 p.m. They Panthers play Monday at United South Central at 7 and Tuesday at 7 at home against Nicollet.



TOUGH WEEK — Jude Gehring scored a goal last week as the Waseca boys' hockey team skated to a 3-3 tie with Dodge County. The Bluejays lost 5-1 to Blake Saturday. Photo by Jim Lutgens

Lady Jays narrow the gap at St. Peter

After allowing 60 first-half points to St. Peter earlier this season, the objective in the rematch was obvious for the Waseca High School girls' basketball team.

"We wanted to put some emphasis on what we needed to do to stop them," said WHS head coach Brian Rupe.

The Lady Jays found a way. And it narrowed the gap considerably.

The Bluejays, who lost 79-35 to the Saints in December, gave up only 25 points in the first half while falling 63-52 at St. Peter last Tuesday.

Waseca kept it close despite not shooting well, according to Rupe, whose team trailed 25-15 at half-time.

"The girls continued to battle in the second half, hanging around a 15-point deficit," said Rupe. "We made a small run at the end but just didn't have enough to get there. Overall, I was happy with the performance we put out there, showing a great improvement from early in the year."

The loss dropped the Bluejays to 3-13 overall and 1-8 in the Big South Black. St. Peter improved to 9-5 and 5-3.

Ava Miller and Reese Rodriguez scored 14 points apiece to pace the Jays. Miller added 2 rebounds, 2 assists and 1 steal, Rodriguez 8 rebounds, 2 steals and 3 assists.

Others: Adrianna Willingham 5P, 2R, 1S; Belle Miller 3P, 2R, 1S; Maren Schimming 2P, 5R; Libby Miller 7P, 4R, 2S; Hannah Sommers 6P, 7R, 2A; Shakiyah Powell 1P, 3R, 1 blocked shot.

The Bluejays are in action Friday, hosting Marshall at 6 p.m. in the first game of a girl-boy doubleheader in Waseca. They play Monday at 7 p.m. at Sibley East.



HERE WE GO BLUEJAYS — Above, coach Brian Rupe greets the Bluejays' Hannah Sommers during player introductions for Waseca's game at St. Peter last Tuesday. The other Waseca starters are, back from left, Reese Rodriguez, Belle Miller, Ava Miller and Audianna Willingham. Below, Rodriguez and Willingham go on the offensive. Photos by Cassie Rupe



WHS matmen rally past NRHEG, 46-27

The Waseca High School wrestling team won at least one dual meet in last Thursday's home quadrangular, come from behind to defeat NRHEG 46-27.

The Bluejays - thanks to forfeits at 114 and 121 pounds and NRHEG victories by Owen Schlaak and Bo Holland - found themselves

trailing 24-0 after four bouts.

But it was almost all Bluejays after that, aided by forfeits to Deven Parpart at 133, Sam Selthun at 160, Slade Barnett at 189 and Matthew Veroven at 285.

Waseca got falls from Braxton Nelson at 152 and Alex Bethke at 172 and a technical fall by Jacob

Knutson at 145.

Also wrestling for Waseca were Kole Nelson, 107; Owen Sommers, 127; and David Haley, 139.

The Bluejays lost 40-27 to St. Peter, with victories by Parpart, Braxton Nelson, Selthun, Bethke, Barnett and Veroven.

Results were not reported from

the Bluejays' dual meet against St. Clair/Mankato Loyola.

The WHS wrestlers are at Plainview/Elgin-Millville for a 5 p.m. triangular. Then they're off until a 5 p.m. Feb. 5 quad at St. James.

NRHEG wrestlers drop dual meets to Waseca, St. Peter

The NRHEG High School wrestling team traveled to a triangular at Waseca last Thursday to take on the Bluejays and St. Peter.

The Panthers lost 58-11 to St. Peter, with NRHEG victories by Owen Schlaak, 107 pounds; Charlie Tufte, 121; and Dakota Schlaak,

133.

The Bluejays wrestled well in a 46-27 loss to Waseca, according to Panthers coach Krey Cory.

NRHEG wins were by Owen Schlaak, 107; Graham Jacobson, 114; Tufte, 121, Bo Holland, 127, Deven Parpart, 133; and Dakota Schlaak,

139.

"It was a much better dual than the first match where everyone went out and fought to score points," said Cory. "We need to stay confident in our ability and continue what works for us."

The Panthers wrestle at Kenyon-

Wanamingo tonight at 7 p.m. and compete in the Maple River Invitational Saturday starting at 10 a.m. They host Hayfield Feb. 5 at 6 p.m.

WHS hockey boys fall to Blake, tie Dodge County

The Waseca High School boys' hockey team went 0-1-1 this past week, dropping a nonconference game to Blake Academy at home Saturday after skating to a 3-3 home-ice tie with Dodge County last Tuesday.

The Bluejays, still atop the Big South Black standings at 5-0, fell to 11-5-2 overall.

Blake improved to 13-5-2 Saturday, leading 1-0 after the first period and 2-1 at the end of two while outshooting the Bluejays 49-30, including 21-5 in the final stanza.

Trailing 2-0, the Bluejays got on the scoreboard at 10:44 of the second period on an unassisted goal by Griffin Storey.

The Bears scored early in the third and tacked on insurance goals at 8:09 and 12:05.

Josiah Schmitte was in goal for Waseca.

Both teams took two minutes on one penalty each.

All night long, through the first two periods and almost all of the third, it looked like the Bluejays would skate to victory against

Dodge Center - and they almost did. Trailing 3-0 after one period and 3-1 after two, the visitors scored at 10:01 of the third and sent it to overtime with a goal at the final horn.

Waseca outshot Dodge County 8-6 in a scoreless overtime.

Storey, Avery Selvik and Jude Gehring scored for the Bluejays, with assists going to Storey and Jayden Gehring.

Schmitte was again in goal.

Waseca held a 49-23 shots advantage.

Both teams served 10 minutes on five penalties.

The Wildcats ran their record to 10-6-1.

After a Tuesday nonconference game at Owatonna, the Bluejays make their annual trek north, playing Friday at 7:15 p.m. at Little Falls and Saturday at 1 p.m. against Northern Lakes at Hallett Community Center. They're back at Waseca Community Arena to take on Fairmont Feb. 5 at 6 p.m., finishing the regular season Feb. 7 at Marshall and Feb. 12 at Tartan.

Bauers combine for 54 as JWP boys top WEM

In a playing week shortened by sub-zero temperatures, the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School boys' basketball team hosted area rival WEM in its only game last week Tuesday.

The Bulldogs were not as hot as usual from inside and outside the three-point line.

But they were plenty hot enough.

The JWP boys remained undefeated, improving to 17-0 overall and 8-0 in the Gopher Conference, surviving an off shooting night while walking away with an 88-58 triumph.

The Bulldogs got off to a strong start, leading 33-9, before the Bucs rallied to pull within 40-31 at halftime.

"WEM did a nice job to finish the half," said Bulldogs coach Nick James. "We had a few bad rotations defensively and didn't shoot real well tonight. We also didn't finish well through contact

at the rim. We did a better job in the second half."

The Bauer brothers - senior Daulton and sophomore Gavin, did a good job all night. Gavin totaled 30 points to go along with 16 rebounds, 7 assists and 5 steals. Daulton finished with 24 points, 5 rebounds, 4 assists and 3 steals.

Others: Caleb Quast 18P, 10R, 4A, 3S; Gavin Weedman 6P, 3R, 2A, 1S; Parker Geariety 6P, 3R, 2A; Michael Walker 2R; Jaxon Wolff 3R, 1A, 1S; Maddux Bauer 2R; Tyson Kronbach 3R, 3A, 2S.

The Bulldogs shot 51 percent on two-pointers and 24 percent on threes, but outrebounded the Bucs 50-34 - including 22-9 on the offensive end, while capitalizing on 23 WEM turnovers. JWP turned the ball over eight times.

Friday's game at Blooming Prairie was postponed by cold, rescheduled for Jan. 30. The Bulldogs host Bethlehem Academy tonight.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Before the
BLUE EARTH & WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SITTING AS DRAINAGE AUTHORITY
FOR JOINT COUNTY DITCH 83

In the Matter of: Final Survey Report Hearing for Improvement Petition for portions of Joint County Ditch 83 (JTD 83)	PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE: Joint Judicial Ditch 83 Final Survey Report Hearing
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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, the Blue Earth and Waseca County Board of Commissioners, sitting as the Drainage Authority for Joint County Ditch 83, will host a Detailed Survey Report Hearing on **February 3, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. in the 2nd Floor, Board of Commissioner’s room at the Blue Earth County Historic Courthouse, 204 South 5th St., Mankato, MN.** The purpose of the hearing is to hear public comment on the final engineering plans for the improvement petition affecting portions of Joint County Ditch 83. Any party wishing to comment may appear at the hearing and be heard. The hearing will be conducted in-person. Agenda information is available at www.blueearthcountymn.gov/agendacenter on the Thursday prior to the meeting. Written comments will be accepted at the hearings. Comments made by mail will be accepted up to the date and time of the hearing at the office of Property and Environmental Resources, Drainage Management, 410 South 5th Street, PO Box 3566, Mankato, MN 56002-3566.

The petition for improvement is still pending final approval by drainage authority for JTD 83. The draft Detailed Survey Report and draft Viewers Reports have been filed with the joint drainage authority. The DNR Commissioners Final Advisory Report has also been filed with joint drainage authority staff.

A draft copy of the Detailed Survey Report is available for inspection at the Blue Earth County Property & Environmental Resources Department, Drainage Management, or available online at <https://blueearth.drainagedb.net/#/portal>.

The proposed improvement includes enlarging current subsurface tile sizes and capacities for portions of Joint County Ditch 83, mainline public drainage system. Affected areas of the proposed improvement include Sections 6 and 7 of Alton Township, Waseca County; and Sections 1 and 12 of McPherson Township, Blue Earth County, Minnesota.

The following owners of property are affected by the current petition for improvement affecting portions of Joint Judicial Ditch 83, Main Line subsurface tile.

Blue Earth County:

ANDERSON, IVAN H & SANDRA E (LE) & KOBYLINSKI, BADE, ERVIN A & MARY L, BADE, ERVIN A, BADE, GERRY D, BENNING, JEFFREY P, BENNING, KYLE R, BERG, NAKIA P & WITT BERG JANELLE R, BILITZ, DAVID PAUL & KARISA K, BONNIFIELD, DAVID C & TAMARA, BORCHARDT, IVAN D, BRITTON, ADAM E, BRITTON, TODD R REVOCABLE TRUST, CORDS, COREY & JENNIFER, DELING, KEVIN J & DIANE R, DIMMEL, ANDREW S & HEATHER A REV TRUSTS, DRUMMER, ANDREW GERARD, EILRICH, NICHOLAS, FLITTER, JON LYLE JR, GLAMM, DAVID LIVING TRUST, GLAMM, DAVID, GUSE, HERBERT & MAVIS LIV TRST, H & J PROPERTIES LLC, IRELAND, FRANK J, KRUSE, ROBERT S & MARY PAT, LANG, JEROME A & KRISTINE K, LANG, JEROME L & MARY A, LANG, THOMAS A & KATHRYN, LOEFFLER, BRIAN & SHELLY, LOEFFLER, BRIAN H & MICHELLE J, MAKI, CAROLYN PENN, MCDONNELL, MAUREEN A & JOHN, MILLER, JUDITH ANN TRUST AGREE, NICOLAI, TROY & KIMBERLY (CFD), PAGE, DAVID, PEMBLE, JOHN R & LYNNELL M REV TRUSTS, PENN, JOHN C W & NANCY J (LE), PETERS, MICHAEL & LINDA, ROESSLER, CURTIS D REVOCABLE TRUST, SACK, GREGORY R & TERESA M (CFD), SACK, MICHAEL D & CASSANDRA C, SCHWANDT, JOYCE E, SCHWANDT, MATTHEW & TAMMY J, SCHWEIM, RALPH & ROBERTA LIVING TRUST, SIEBERG, JEROME D, SIMMONS, WILLIAM S, STATE OF MINNESOTA, SWANSON, DANIEL G & CAROL J, TAYLOR FAMILY FARMS FOUNDATION INC, THOOFT, KEVIN R & KRISTIN L, TRAHMS, DAVID & JAE, TRAHMS, R DAVID, TRAHMS, THOMAS H & SHERRY L, VICTOR, OHNO & SUE LUNDQUIST REV TRST AGMT, WARD FAMILY TRUST, WOLFE, MALCOLM G & KAREN M FAMILY TRUST, WOLFF, CHARLES L JR & YVONNE H (LE), WOLFF, GERALD W & MARY K REV TRUSTS, WOOD, SPENCER D & MICKY L, YOUNGERBERG, MICHAEL & VICKI (LE), YOUNGERBERG, ORVILLE L & CYNTHIA A REV TR, YOUNGERBERG, TODD O & KIMBERLY A (CFD)

The following road authorities in Blue Earth County are affected by this petition for improvement:

LERAY TOWNSHIP - ANN ARNDT – CLERK, MCPHERSON TOWNSHIP - LYNDA KRUSE – CLERK, BLUE EARTH COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS – RYAN THILGES,

The following government entities in Blue Earth County are affected by this petition for improvement:

BLUE EARTH COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA

Waseca County:

LYNCH, SCOTT D, JORGENSON, BETH A, HALEY, KAREN R TRUSTEE WILLIAM J HALEY TRUSTEE, LOTTON, DUSTIN J, LAMPHEAR, LUCY

The following road authorities in Waseca County are affected by the petition for improvement:

ALTON TOWNSHIP - DEB WESTPHAL – CLERK, WASECA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

The following governmental entities in Waseca County are affected by the petition for improvement:

WASECA COUNTY

Ryan Hiniker
Blue Earth County,
County Drainage Systems Coordinator
507-304-4264

Dated: January 13, 2026

Chris Howard
Waseca County
Land & Water Resources Director
507-835-0534

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF WASECA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Civil Division
Case Type: Quiet Title
Court File No.: 81-CV-26-24
SUMMONS

Shirley Keeley,
Plaintiff,
vs.
The Unknown Heirs of Alice Mariska; the Unknown Heirs of Arthur Mariska; the Unknown Heirs of Bernice M. Mariska; the Unknown Heirs of Douglas Mariska; the Unknown Heirs of Joseph Mariska; the Unknown Heirs of Lawrence Mariska; the Unknown Heirs of Leigh Mariska; the Unknown Heirs of Marjorie a/k/a Marjolane Ells; the Unknown Heirs of Mary Mariska; the Unknown Heirs of Milton Mariska; Danny Labs; Virginia Del Carmen Weber and Toby D. Weber, Jr.; Joseph and Lea Zak; and Gene A. Schwarz and Nancy B. Lee, Defendants.

THIS SUMMONS IS DIRECTED TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:
1. **YOU ARE BEING SUED.** The Plaintiff has started a lawsuit against you. The Plaintiff’s Complaint against you is on file in the Office of the Court Administrator of the above-named Court. Do not throw these papers away. They are official papers that affect your rights. You must respond to this lawsuit even though it may not yet be filed with the Court and there may be no court file number on this Summons.
2. **YOU MUST REPLY WITHIN 20 DAYS TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.** You must give or mail to the person who signed this Summons a **written response** called an Answer within 20 days of the date on which you received this Summons. You must send a copy of your Answer to

the person who signed this Summons located at 215 East Elm Avenue, PO Box 249, Waseca, MN 56093-0249.
3. **YOU MUST RESPOND TO EACH CLAIM.** The Answer is your written response to the Plaintiff’s Complaint. In your Answer, you must state whether you agree or disagree with each paragraph of the Complaint. If you believe the Plaintiff should not be given everything asked for in the Complaint, you must say so in your Answer.
4. **YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASE IS YOU DO NOT SEND A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT TO THE PERSON WHO SIGNED THIS SUMMONS.** If you do not Answer within 20 days, you will lose this case. You will not get to tell your side of the story, and the Court may decide against you and award the Plaintiff everything asked for in the Complaint. If you do not want to contest the claims stated in the Complaint, you do not need to respond. A default judgment can then be entered against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.
5. **LEGAL ASSISTANCE.** You may wish to get legal help from a lawyer. If you do not have a lawyer, The Court Administrator may have information about places where you can get legal assistance. **Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still provide a written Answer to protect your rights or you may lose the case.**
6. **ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** The parties may agree to or be ordered to participate in an Alternative Dispute Resolution process under Rule 114 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice. You must still send your written response to the Complaint even is you expect to use alternative means of resolving the dispute.

7. **THIS LAWSUIT MAY AFFECT OPR BRING INTO QUESTION TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY** located in Waseca County, Minnesota, legally described as follows:
See Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof.
The object of this action is to obtain a judgment that Plaintiff is the owner, in fee simple, of the above-described real property, and that none of said Defendants have any estate or interest therein or lien thereon.
Dated this 7th day of January 2026, PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, P.A.
/s/ Keith L. Deike
By: Keith L. Deike (#148635)
215 E. Elm Ave., PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093-0249
(507) 835-5240
keith.deike@phblawoffice.com

**EXHIBIT A
Legal Description**
Land in Waseca County, Minnesota, described as follows: That part of Large Lot 6, Block 5, Bennett’s Addition to the City of Waseca, according to the Plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the County Recorder in and for Waseca County, Minnesota, described as follows: Commencing at the southeast corner of said Large Lot 6; thence N 00°09’42” W a distance of 171.35 feet along the East line of said Large Lot 6; thence S 88°52’33” W a distance of 238.54 feet; thence S 00°09’57” E a distance of 161.02 feet to the South line of said Large Lot 6; thence S 78°07’29” E a distance of 36.12 feet along said South line; thence N 89°29’48” E a distance of 203.17 feet along said South line to the point of beginning.
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on January 15, 22 and 29, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

2026 OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Waseca County has designated its website, www.wasecacounty.gov, as the 2026 Official Publication for Transportation Projects, as allowed by MN Statute §331A.12. Waseca County will publish any transportation project advertisements for bids on its website.

Contact:
Jim Kollar, Public Works Director/County Engineer, (507) 835-0661

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Waseca City Council will hold a public hearing on **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.** in the City Hall Council Chambers, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093, to consider the following Ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 1134 – Amend Chapter 54.40 Lead and Galvanized Water Services

A complete copy of Ordinance No. 1134 is available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Julia Zuehlke
City Clerk
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on January 29, 2026

CITY OF WASECA
PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the **City of Waseca Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing at **5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 2026**, in the **COUNCIL CHAMBERS of CITY HALL** located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

The purpose of the public hearing is to gather information regarding the following:

- ORDINANCE NO. 1136:** Rescinding and replacing the City of Waseca Comprehensive Plan.

Complete copies of the proposed ordinance are available in the office of the City Clerk located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

The proposed Comprehensive Plan (Draft Comprehensive Plan 2050) is available online at:

<https://www.ci.waseca.mn.us/community-and-economic-development/pages/comprehensive-plan-land-use-regulations>

A quick link to that page titled "Draft Comprehensive Plan Info" can also be found on the City’s homepage at: <https://www.ci.waseca.mn.us/>

Those interested in commenting may appear in person or by counsel or may submit written comments to the City of Waseca at 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Upon request, accommodations will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Waseca services, programs, and activities.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Thursday, January 29, 2026.

Jon M. Froke
City Planner

Got news?
507-837-6767

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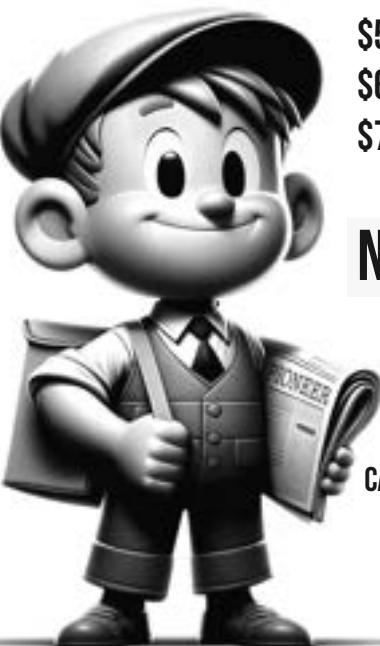
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SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642 JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7pm HALL BINGO	2 MEAT RAFFLES:30pm HORSE races 6:30pm	3
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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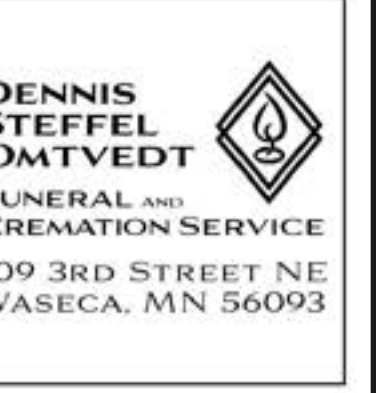
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Waseca Fire Department Awards



Brian Voss, 30 years of service



Certification FAO & Aerial to Jacob Hines (left) and Brian Lange



Charlie Rohwer, 5 years of service



Kyle Petersen and Ryan Bruegger, 15 years of service



Gold Training awards to (from left) Kayla Corneliussen, Kevin Chindlund, Kyle Gallagher and Noah Alinder



The new award this year, Firefighter of the Year 2025, goes to Kyle Gallagher



Jim Groll, 40 years of service



Paul Walker and Jay Dulas, 20 years of service



Silver Training awards go to Kyle Peterson, Noah Schmidt and Jay Dulas

School from Page 5

garding the privately constructed garage which extends into the high school parking lot at the New Richland site. The garage is due to be removed, he said, within the next couple of weeks, which will create a more open entry into the parking lot from State Highway 30.

He also shared that, as the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) continues planning and preparations for work due to be performed on Hwy 30 in the summer of 2027, the removal of the garage has led to a planned wider entryway into the parking lot—from the current 20 or so feet to about 30 feet.

An informal discussion regarding school policy when it comes to weather-related closures led to the shared conclusion that, with 365 square miles of land spread across three counties, decisions about closures can be complicated. “It might be snowing hard in one part of the district,” observed board member Amy Ihrke during the conversation, “but everything might seem fine in another part.”

Another discussion involved district teaching and learning coordinator Kendra Peterson, who had mentioned during her report that preparations for the spring round of Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) is underway.

The tests are administered at school districts statewide. Students in grades 3 to 8 are tested in reading and mathematics; tests in

science are administered in grades 5 and 8. High school students are tested in reading in grade 10, mathematics in grade 11, and at various grade levels in science.

The Department of education states the purpose of the tests is to “determine mastery of concepts and skills and to measure progress toward goals and objectives.”

Scores on the tests do not affect student grades, but can be implied to send a message about the success of various education programs and systems.

The tests tend to be unpopular among high school students, leading a significant number to take advantage of the possibility of “opting out,” something which can be done if parents sign appropriate forms. While there is no penalty to the student for choos-

ing not to take the test, the district’s standing is harmed when the number reaches certain thresholds.

A spontaneous discussion among staff and board members speculated about incentives which could change student attitudes toward the test from one of withdrawal to a mood of challenge and shared achievement.

It was mentioned that other districts have built incentive programs around student activity passes—not so much about whether students achieve strong scores or not, but about whether a target number of students in a grade choose to take the test.

No conclusions were reached, but all present were encouraged to give the matter further thought and to share any ideas in the future.

Test/retest homes for cancer-causing radon

With doors and windows shut tight against the cold, dangerous levels of cancer-causing radon gas can build up in homes during the winter months, posing a health risk. Waseca County Public Health reminds residents that now is the time to test or retest homes for radon.

Radon is a colorless, odorless gas that occurs naturally in soil and can enter homes through cracks and other openings in the walls or foundation. When inhaled over a long period of time, radioactive radon particles can damage lungs and lead to lung cancer. It’s estimate that radon causes about 21,000 lung cancer deaths in the U.S. each year.

Due to its unique geology and cold climate:

The average Minnesota home radon level is more than 3x the national average.

As many as 70% of Southcentral Minnesota homes have high radon, compared with 40% in the rest of the state.

“You can’t see or smell radon, so

the only way to know if it’s in your home, and help prevent future cancers, is to test for it,” said Dan Tranter, supervisor of the Indoor Air Unit at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). “People who have detected high radon levels and installed a radon mitigation system should test every 2 years to confirm the system is working. People who have tested before and results were low should test every five years.”

Test sooner if the home has had significant changes (such as significant renovations, changes to an HVAC system or openings to soil), and if you use ground contact spaces that weren’t tested before (such as a basement or new addition).

Waseca County Public Health provides test kits at no cost. For information about the availability of these test kits, stop at the front desk or contact Katie Reyes at 507-835-0657. Test kits also can be purchased at hardware and home improvement stores or ordered for \$12.95 at mn.radon.com.

ICE from Page 1

507-835-0500 and report what they’re observing. Officers will work to verify what is being reported. I also encourage bystanders and observers not to physically engage with ICE officers.”

The Department of Homeland Security website provides a list of arrests which indicates Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) had arrested 12 people in Waseca prior to Jan. 14: Elsa Eldonada Morales, My Dung Chau,

Rosa Rivera Chavez, Suzanna Salazar Amaya, Nohemy Bobadillo Oliva, Maria Millan, Lin Chen, Miranda Bustamante, Antonia Vega, Aracely Garza De Lopez, and Dolores Bautista Lopez (dhs.gov/wow). The website lists their countries of origin as Honduras, Ecuador, China, Vietnam and Mexico and states they have been convicted of crimes including human trafficking, drug trafficking, smuggling and selling drugs, and driving under the influence.

Based on input from numerous sources, it seems likely most of these arrestees were housed in the federal prison, rather than having been part of the general population.