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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.

Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) 2026 Board Meeting Feb. 12

The SWCD will be holding their monthly board meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 12. The meetings will be held in the SWCD offices located at 300 North State Street - Door 4.

SWCD Meeting Schedule: March 12, April 9, May 14, June 9, July 10, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, and December 10.

Ready, Set, Duplos at the Waseca Public Library Feb. 13

Join us for loads of Lego activities, from Lego Ring Toss to a Lego Minifigures Scavenger Hunt at the Waseca library at 10 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 13. Ages 4-7, with an adult.

Pizza and Puzzles Competition at Farmamerica Feb. 13

There will be a Pizza and Puzzle competition at Farmamerica starting at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 13. Teams in groups of 2-4 will compete with 500 piece puzzles. Pizza from Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm included. Registration required and tickets must be purchased online.

V-Day Crafts at the Waldorf Public Library Feb. 13

Make Valentine's Day crafts at the Waldorf Public Library during open hours on Friday, Feb. 13. For all ages.

Trinket Dishes at Waseca Public Library Feb. 13

Transform a simple dish into a sweet trinket holder by adding pretty paper to the surface at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13. Ages 13-18.

Pour Some Brunch on Me at Starfire Event Center Feb. 14

The Starfire Event Center is throwing a Valentine's Day 'Pour Some Brunch on Me' eating event from 10-11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14. Celebrate Valentine's in the morning with a special hair band singalong. Cost is \$31.

Toners Lake Vintage Ride Saturday, Feb. 14

The Toners Lake Vintage Ride will take place from 11 a.m. through 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14. Registration is at 9 a.m. till 10:30 a.m. For questions contact Marissa at 507-461-4501.

*A word from
The Word*

For you created my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Psalm 139: 13-14

Garza, Benson, crowned

WHS snow week concludes

Kaden Garza and Madalyn Benson were named Waseca Junior Senior High School's Snow Week king and queen during a coronation ceremony the morning of Thursday, Feb. 5.

Emcees for the event were seniors Ava Bruhn and Allen Kopetzki. Since the coronation was held during the school day, students in grades 9 through 12 attended, as did people from the community. Members of all winter sports teams were seated in front of the crowd near the royal dais.

In turn, the coaches for each sport summarized their seasons. Crowd members heard from girls' hockey coach Chas Benson; cheer coach Ashley Semmann; girls' and boys' wrestling coach Jake Janike; boys' basketball coach Seth Anderson; girls' basketball coach Brian Rupe; boys' hockey team coach Chris Storie; and the gymnastics team was introduced by Layla Keith and Katelyn Weber.

Queen Madalyn Benson is the daughter of Chas and Nikki Benson. Maddy is a captain of both girls' hockey and tennis, she works at the Mill Event Center, the Jays Nest and as a lifeguard for Community Ed; she is involved in Youth Service League (YSL). Maddy is a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

King Kaden Garza is the son of Raul and Lacie Garza. Kaden is involved in football, baseball and is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church. He works at Borneke Construction. Kaden enjoys fishing and hunting and spending time with family and friends.

Snow court member Jude Gehring is the son of Jason and Bridget Gehring. Jude is a captain of the boys' hockey team, and participates in golf. He is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville. Jude works at Kamp Dells in the summer and is a hockey referee in the winter. He enjoys hunting and fishing and hanging out with friends and family in his free time.

Ella Bulfer is the daughter of Philip



SNOW COURT ROYALTY - Queen Madalyn Benson and King Kaden Garza were crowned during the Snow Week coronation on Thursday, Feb. 5.

Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

Royalty continued on 5



BIG SMILES - Deb Dobberstein and Nancy Kelling, members of the Auxiliary, were volunteering at the Waseca Legion Adult Carnival's Wine Wall on Friday, Jan. 30, 2026.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Legion adult carnival getting popular

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca American Legion Post 228 held its annual Adult Carnival the evening of Friday, Jan. 30. Parked cars lined the streets surrounding the Legion about a block in every direction. They seemed to find the cold walk from the car worth it, however, because everyone inside was smiling.

It could have been the adult beverages that played a small part in

the good humor, or the charity, the act of making a donation for a good cause. Liza Buker, Club Manager for the Legion was working in the ballroom. She observed, "There were certainly a lot of donations made, and it looks like there were more made than last year." She was working a new stand for the carnival titled, "Redneck Tasting," where people paid to take a shot of different kinds of beer including Hamm's, Corona, and others. Said Buker, "We have only had a dozen

or so people try our tasting, but it's our first night trying it, this is still in the test stages. But I think we'll try it again next year."

While she spoke, the ballroom was shoulder to shoulder with visitors, armed with big bunches of red tickets. One of the ticket sellers was David Anderson, who admitted he had missed the last few adult carnivals, but had previously been a fairly regular volunteer performing a variety of tasks. "I volunteered filling food orders in the

kitchen. I also once made a lawn dart game, cut the wood, finished it, gave it a camouflage case, and donated it to the auction. I'm also in the Sons of the American Legion and I believe a lot of the volunteers around here are from the Legion Auxiliary, too. We have about 30 volunteers working tonight." His wife Penny was also volunteering.

In keeping with the crude humor

Carnival continued on 4

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

County to build "re-use" facility

By DEB BENTLEY
News Editor

During their Feb. 2 meeting, members of the county board of commissioners signed documents to accept a \$225,000 grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The money will be used toward constructing a \$300,000 "re-use" facility at the county recycling center.

County engineer Jim Kollar explains the grant was applied for last fall under an MPCA program intended to encourage "projects that focus on best practices for waste reduction, reuse, recycling or composting collection systems" outside the metro area.

Under the grant, the county will construct a 32- by 36-foot building at the recycling center where it can display things brought to the landfill for disposal but which still have "value" or "usable life." The intent is that recycling center staff will select and set aside such items and place them on display; members of the public will be able to view and consider them, and when desirable take them home at no cost.

Plans for the project include the building, a furnace, and a concrete parking pad. Furnishings inside will be shelves and spaces suitable to display items which

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

Frosty continued on 4



Compostings

by Al Batt

Minnesota's 14,444 lakes

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

My sister is a librarian. She hit me with a grammar book.

Did you get a concussion?

No, but I was in a comma for a week.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. We'd been dodging weather for a month. The temperature had been in the three-dog-night realm, which refers to a night so cold you needed to sleep with three dogs to keep warm. That converts to a 29-dog night if you had Chihuahuas.

We talked about baking bread and making lfeise at an exercise class. I don't eat breakfast before the workout. The talk of food made me hungry. Remember Euell Gibbons? He became nationally famous back in the mid-70s while promoting Grape-Nuts cereal with his quote, "Ever eat a pine tree? Many parts are edible." No pine tree was safe until I had a bowl of oatmeal.

ROUNDBALL REPORT

I attended a high school basketball game. While the national anthem played, I held my hand over my heart and faced the flag. When "The Star-Spangled Banner" ended, I remembered Catherine O'Hara, the talented actress from "Beetlejuice" and "Home Alone," who had recently died. She had dextrocardia with situs inversus, a condition in which the heart and other major internal organs are reversed from their normal positions. If she'd put her hand over her heart, she'd have gotten odd looks in the gym.

I played basketball for the Cardinals. After a victory, the bus filled with song. "We are the Cardinals; mighty, mighty Cardinals. Everywhere we go, people want to know who we are. So, we tell them. We are the Cardinals; mighty, mighty Cardinals."

My parents moved here from Iowa. If they'd have purchased a farm near Mallard, Iowa, our bus would have been alive with this song: "Black and gold, gold and black, Mallard Ducks go quack, quack, quack."

SNIPPETS OF CONVERSATIONS

The man introduced me to his dog, who shared his first name. I asked the man why. He said, "Because it's easy to remember."

My wife told me one of her cousins was in a better place. I told her I was sorry to hear that. "Why?" she said. "What's wrong with spending the winter in Arizona?"

I'VE LEARNED

When the cat lies in the sun in February, she will creep behind the stove in March.

A friend had a hip replaced. She is experiencing some discomfort. She needs hip balm.

I gave a eulogy recently and was reminded once again that it's impossible for words to do a life justice.

It wasn't Camelot, but it had a camel lot. Southdale Center in Edina was the first enclosed, climate-controlled shopping center in the country. When it opened in 1956, it had animal-themed parking lot signs to help people remember where they'd parked. One was a camel.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

What do you call an empty jar of Cheese Whiz? Cheese was.

A truck filled with Worcestershire sauce and a truck hauling quinoa collided in front of a charcuterie shop. When asked by a reporter what had happened, a witness replied, "Well, it's hard to say."

I keep randomly shouting out "Broccoli!" and "Cauliflower!" I might have florets.

Which month has 28 days? All of them.

A misplaced modifier walks into a bar owned by a man with a glass eye named Larry.

NATURE NOTES

Politifact said Minnesota has 14,444 lakes of 10 acres or more. Ten acres is about seven-and-a-half football fields, including the end zones. The DNR says Minnesota has 11,842 lakes of 10+ acres. Mower, Olmsted, Pipestone and Rock Counties have no natural lakes. The 10 most common lake names are Mud, Long, Rice, Bass, Round, Horseshoe, Twin, Island, Johnson and Spring. The motto "10,000 Lakes" has been on license plates since 1950.

With Groundhog Day and Elvis singing, "You ain't nothin' but a groundhog," why isn't groundhog a popular team nickname? Why don't we have the Woodbury Woodchucks, Grand Rapids Groundhogs or White Bear Lake Whistlepigs? There is the Punxsutawney High School (PA) Chucks, the St. John (ND) Woodchucks and the Wausau Woodchucks, a baseball team in the Northwoods League. The Princeton WhistlePigs were a baseball team in the Appalachian League based in Princeton (WV). Whistle-pig is another name for a groundhog.

The mosquito danger level was low as I walked on a blustery January day. A man asked me to identify scat along a trail. I told him it was a nincompoop.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Human kindness has never weakened the stamina or softened the fiber of a free people. A nation does not have to be cruel to be tough."—Franklin D. Roosevelt



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Fascinating people everywhere

Here I am back in Minnesota after five days in poor, chilled Florida.

In last week's column I joked my sister-in-law Joan and I were victims of a weather conspiracy—jinxed by snow that delayed our southbound flight and by overnight freezes with low temperatures the state had not seen in 15 years or more.

Perhaps you will be glad to learn the weather did not spoil our trip but, as Joan and I discussed during our on-time northbound flight, had perhaps made it even more memorable.

Probably most of you have been to one or more of the Disney theme parks and don't need much description from me. Frankly I hope that's the case, since only a quick summary of all we saw and did would require many thousands of words of description, even though we were only there for three days.

A point I am focusing on here is that many attractions and locations at the parks offer atmospheres, cuisine and merchandise meant to represent places and practices from all over the world. That led Joan and me to talk about places we have already traveled to and places we would still like to visit.

Both Joan and I had "life abroad" experiences during our years in college. She lived in Great Britain for about a year, I had the good fortune to study in Germany for about half as long. Since then, she has been quite a few places including Italy, Australia, and the Virgin Islands. I returned to Europe for three weeks on a trip with my mother, but have made much less use of my passport than she has.

Joan listed numerous places she would still like to go—and I bet she'll get to many of them.

My perspective is quite different. I have decided the world is so full of variety and uniqueness I will never experience it all, so I am mostly content to learn what I can through reading, viewing, and having conversations with people whose paths intersect with mine.

Rather than a general acquaintance with many places, I tend to focus on an intimate connection with the places and people special to me.

I am not claiming either approach is better, only that they are different ways of deciding our priorities.

I have said more than once that the best part of being a writer for a



FINE DINING - Deb Bently's recent trip to Disney World included a meal at a Japanese style restaurant where the chef not only prepared excellent food, but entertained diners with energetic showmanship.

small-town paper is getting to know the people who live here, their stories, and their connections. There is no one who is not fascinating.

I was reminded of how fascinating people can be when I met "Prince," the chef who prepared our meal at Teppan Edo, a Japanese style restaurant at Disney's Epcot Park.

Prince informed us he had worked at the Disney park in Tokyo for six years before moving to the U.S.

As he prepared our food at our table, he handled his spatula and other items with remarkable dexterity, flicking them lightly from one hand to another and even tossing them over his shoulder and catching them behind his back. He shared hu-

morous banter the whole time as well.

Along with all that, the food he served us was delicious.

As we asked him questions, he informed us he has always enjoyed preparing food and found it an ideal career. He said the food we were being served was prepared and served much like it would have been in Japan.

But as for the flipping, spinning and showmanship techniques, he admitted lightheartedly, "I learned those on YouTube."

There are fascinating people everywhere. The fun is in finding them and getting them to share their stories.

Valentine's Day history runs red and sweet

Happy Valentine's weekend, end to the football season, the thick of the Olympics, and whatever else you might be celebrating or grieving.

This Valentine's, my boyfriend and I are going to a fancy sushi restaurant and then coming home to do our own version of paint-and-sip. Look out Bob Ross YouTube videos, here we come.

Fun fact, Valentine's Day is thought to have started in Rome, when Romans celebrated the feast of Lupercalia. They would sacrifice dogs and goats and then whip women because they believed it would make the women fertile. Then men would draw women's names from a jar and be "coupled" up with them for the rest of the night. Very romantic, no?

As time went on, the holiday of "fertility and love" became sweeter and more innocent, romanticizing love in a gentler way.

The history of holidays is always fun to research, especially since they are like fairy tales – originally dark



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

and maybe a bit bloody, but evolved into something innocent and fun. Then again, history in general is just fun.

Jack's grandfather is in Denver this week, and we went to visit him. At dinner, he told us stories that he remembered from his childhood.

He told us of his own grandma, whom they called "Z," and how she traveled from a northern corner in Germany to the States. When she got here, she headed west in search of Colorado's rumored gold rush. It was over by the time she got here, but she still settled in Central City, the mountainous town with the popular

Blackhawk Casino. He told us of how, despite the fading of the gold rush, mining was still popular. One day, Z was standing out on her porch when a worker came running shouting for help. So she ushered him over and hid him under her skirt as authority figures arrived asking her if she had seen someone run by. Z pointed off to the distance and said she saw him run that way.

Jack's grandfather chuckled as he told the story, remembering the grandmother who lived with him when he was a boy. His ability to recollect a story of his history was impressive.

Jack admitted he had never heard the story before himself, and I mentioned I wanted to ask around for more of my own origin stories to cherish in memory.

I still keep a journal, updated every once in a while with what is going on in my life. So I guess I'm writing down my own story, as my grandfather did. Maybe some day far in the future, someone will find pleasure in flipping through my thoughts as they struggle to read my half print, half cursive handwriting. I sure hope someone does at least, because if not, does that mean I'm doing this for nothing? I know journaling can be therapeutic, but that's not what I do it for. Well, someone can find the treasures I have hidden in the pages if they please, and if not, I guess I did it for me.

My Determination: "Don't say we are not right for each other, for the way I see it we might not be right for anybody else." - Doug, The Cutting Edge

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

Florida's scrapbook



Eli, Deb, and Deb's sister-in-law Joan spent a day in the Everglades during their briefly coinciding trips to Florida. Though wet and windblown thanks to unusually cool weather, they enjoyed a drive through the national park, two rides on airboats, and an alligator show during which all participants were invited to hold an alligator.



**American Legion
Riders of Waseca Ice
Fishing Event Clear
Lake Feb. 14**

The American Legion Riders of Waseca Post 228 will hold an Ice Fishing Winter Adventure on Clear Lake from noon till 4 p.m. on Feb. 14. No experience necessary, free hot dogs, chips and hot chocolate. Ice holes predrilled, ice fishing rods provided and warming houses available. Free will donations accepted.

**Valentine's Dinner at
Indian Island Winery
Saturday, Feb. 14**

There will be a Valentine's Dinner at the Indian Island Winery at 6 p.m. on Feb. 14. Includes wine tastings and glasses to win, three-course dinner featuring Chinese cuisine, live music from Indigo Moon, a rose for each couple and multiple gifts.

**Sleigh and Cutter
Fireworks on Clear
Lake Saturday,
Feb. 14**

There will be fireworks for Sleigh and Cutter on Clear Lake in Waseca at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14. Bundle up, bring a blanket and thermos and settle in for the show.

**Silver Lakers Ice Fish-
ing Contest at Lake
Elysian Sunday, Feb.
15**

The Silver Lakers will be holding their 38th annual ice fishing contest from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 15. Pre-drilled holes; lunch will be served in clubhouse following contest, many prizes available.

**Mark Braun and
Lauren Jacobson at
Waseca Art Center
Feb. 17**

Artists Mark Braun and Lauren Jacobson will be presented at the Waseca Art Gallery starting on Tuesday, Feb. 17 through Friday, March 20. There will be an opening reception from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21.

**Personalized Clay
Designs at Waseca
Public Library
Tuesday, Feb. 17**

Use polymer clay, paint, and stamps to make tiny tags, motivational houses, and message magnets at the Waseca Library at both noon and 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 17. For ages 18 and up.

**Minnesota School Bus
Driver Appreciation
Day Feb. 18**

This day has been chosen for honoring school bus drivers and their role in student safety and transportation. School bus drivers are often the first and last school representatives students see each day; they ensure students arrive home safely in all conditions and throughout the school year. Don't forget to thank your bus driver!

NRHEG Snow Week Feb. 2-6



CROWNING ROYALTY - The NRHEG Snow Court crowned its king and queen during coronation on Tuesday, Feb. 3. King Quen Meyering and Queen Winter Pederson were honored with the crowns.

**Meyering, Pederson crowned
NRHEG's snow week brings pageantry, fun to February**

NRHEG Snow Week from Feb. 2 to 6 was filled with activities, most notably the coronation ceremony which crowned Winter Pederson and Quen Meyering from among the 10 members of the snow court, who were Pederson, Meyering, Gabrielle Schlaak, Meela Budach, Nora Flatness, Kaitlyn Dobberstein, Kayden Warke, Ezekiel Morrison, Kaleb Hughes, Justin Beauvais, DeShawn Jones and Isaac Bauleke.

Held early the afternoon of Tuesday, Feb. 3, the coronation was attended by all secondary school students and

many friends and family members of the court. Activity coaches and advisors gave brief summaries of their seasons. Speaking were Krey Cory, wrestling; Brooks Gilliland, boys' basketball; Onika Peterson, girls' basketball; Winter Pederson, one-act play; Krista Reeder, choir; and Seth Schaefer, band.

Dress-up days for the week included "Pajama/Comfy Day," "Generation Day," "White Lie," "Dress as your type," and "Meme Day." Daily prizes were awarded; those who dressed up

all five days were eligible for a "championship."

A semi-formal dance was held in the high school gym on Saturday evening.

The 2026 Snow Court included: Meela Budach, daughter of Dan and Kari Budach.

Justin Beauvais, son of Carina and Matt Beauvais.

Kayden Warke, daughter of Josh and Kelly Warke.

Quen Meyering, son of Tawnya and Terry Meyering.

Kaitlyn Dobberstein, the daughter

of Josh and Linda Dobberstein.

Isaac Bauleke, son of Jerry and Kathy Bauleke.

Gabby Schlaak, daughter of Kim and Justin Schlaak.

Kaleb Hughes, son of Angie and Zack Hughes.

Winter Pederson, daughter of Nikki Cromwell and Michael Pederson.

Ezekiel Morrison, son of Shayne Morrison and Kim Morrison.

Nora Flatness, daughter of Karen and Brandon Flatness.

DeShawn Jones, son of Mariah Britton.

**Deer
Hunters
gather at
VFW**

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca VFW hosted the annual Minnesota Deer Hunters Association South Central Chapter Bingo and Membership Drive the evening of Saturday, Jan. 31. Among the sponsors for the event were the VFW and Wiste's Meat Market.

It was a very busy evening, with many people taking part. There was food for sale and the atmosphere inside was warm and friendly. Pat Hammond was sipping on a ginger ale when his name was announced for the meat raffle. They had an industrial strength Cabela's cooler set up behind the table from which to choose meat. Hammond said, "I picked the two packs of bacon, then I ran out to my truck and put them in there, so they don't thaw." Asked why he got the bacon, he replied, "Bacon was the most expensive and I know I'll eat it be-



BINGO - Shirley Kunze and Pat Hammond were hoping to be winners at the VFW's annual Minnesota Deer Hunters Association South Central Chapter Deer Hunters Bingo and Membership Drive on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026.

cause it's bacon." He said he was feeling lucky tonight. "I also won a drink ticket earlier, and I'm on the hundred number board for the handgun." Everyone who won their silent auction item was automatically registered to win the handgun; Hammond had about 1 in 10 chances. Sitting quietly next to him was Shirley Kunze. She was waiting for the bingo game to start. Mayor Steven Bailey of Geneva was also present. "I am a big supporter of all this," said Bailey. "I always try to help out when I can."

For the silent auction, there were wine baskets, a giant or-

ange hoodie, a trail camera set, beer, flashlight kits, rancho road liquor, barrel gin, coffee baskets and assorted honeys. There were also rare items like an ammo box and numerous beautiful examples of deer artwork. Tickets were available for a June 3 raffle drawing; the prize will be a lifetime Minnesota Deer Hunting License and lifetime membership to the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association. Another raffle has a Chevy Silverado 1500 as a prize.

Volunteer Jim Keltgen was monitoring the silent auction table. "I'm helping make sure everyone has fun and spends money. This is

for conservation education for the kids. This also helps out with land projects and gets kids to camp. That's what's most important: getting those kids, the young kids used to hunting and camping, so they develop those skills and they'll be so much more eager to protect the land and natural resources when they get older."

Evelyn Barnes was with her husband Joe of Barnes Gunsmithing. They had just finished dinner. She said, "All funds go towards kids for a special camp. I come here every year; my husband does the background checks for the gun winners."

**WASECA
SCHOOL BOARD**

**Board
spotlights
retiree,
staff update**

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

The staff spotlight at the Feb. 5 Waseca school board workshop session was WJSH head custodian Mike Buker who has been with the district for almost 38 years, and who is retiring. Buker stated he's worked with five different buildings and grounds directors and several superintendents, and it's been a good experience. "I have a lot of ownership in this district, and I'm pretty dedicated," Buker said, "but I think I'm ready to go," he laughed. When asked about the hardest part of his job, Buker's answer was immediate; "I won't mind leaving the pool. I'm tired of the pool." Buker says he is looking forward to a fishing trip in Canada next month, and not using an alarm clock.

Superintendent Eric Hudspith gave a staffing update for the 2026-27 school year. He said he does not anticipate coming to the board with any program cuts or adjustments for staffing. Julissa Garcia has accepted the position of Cultural Liaison for the district and Kyle Gallagher will be stepping into the WJSH head custodian position. Andrew Adams has accepted the position of director of business services and will begin full time in March.

Hudspith updated the board on the district vision cards; over 80% of students surveyed continue to agree that their school is a safe place to be, and over 95% of students in grades 9 to 12 are on track to graduate. The Alternative Learning Center shows improvement with 80% of their grade 9 to 12 students on track to graduate. Between 80 and 90% of families feel they are engaged with their child's teacher, school staff, and the school community as a whole. Hudspith reported the school district continues to establish and maintain active high-quality community partnerships with local businesses, higher-education institutions, non-profit organizations, and civic organizations that align with district goals.

The next regular business meeting will be held on Feb. 19.

■ County
from Page 1

might include furniture, decorative objects, electronics, or many other products otherwise destined for the landfill.

Recycling center supervisor Tammie Bramer estimated items totaling to about half a ton of weight have already been diverted from the landfill through a small-scale, informal pilot program which has been underway over the past 18 months or so. Kollar provided estimates that a dedicated facility and accessible viewing area might increase the amount to 6,000 pounds or so a year. With the funding now in place, Kollar believes construction will begin this summer and the facility could be in operation by fall.

PH
&B

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OBITUARIES

Kenneth Eaton

Kenneth William Eaton, age 101 of Waseca, passed away on Friday, February 6, 2026, at Mill City Senior Living in Faribault surrounded by his family.

Ken was born to Oscar and Mabel Eaton on July 26, 1924. He served as a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army during World War II from May 1945 to October 1946. He was honorably discharged. Part of his tour was training new recruits. The trainer never left him. He would lead his children and Bible Campers in the cadence "You Had a Good Home and you Left, Right, Left, Right.." where Ken stopped at "left" and the children responded "right".

On May 3, 1946 he married Harriet Elaine Peterson. They were married 78 years and began raising children and invested themselves in what they truly loved, farming. Ken ran the family farm for 69 years until he retired at age 90. After doing his part (planting the crop) he would say that "the rest is up to the Lord". His favorite part was bringing in the harvest with people he loved. Ken chose not to work on Sundays to honor the Lord. He wrote and presented The Miracle of Corn, to his grandchildren's school groups, giving credit to God's great design.

On January 20, 1950, Ken trusted the Lord at a Billy Graham gathering in Austin, MN. His life was never the same. His walk of faith guided his life and attitude. He was devoted to Vista Covenant Church and the community. He held most, if not all, of the church's leadership positions. However, the one that brought him the most joy was Lake Beauty Bible Camp Coordinator for 30 years. One year, he had 75 kids attend camp, a testament to his passion.

Ken was a faithful, generous and joyful man who always made time to be of service to his family, Vista, and the community. He helped organize and went on several mission trips.

His desire to celebrate God led him to learn how to play the trumpet and start a band at Vista, and his kids followed in his musical steps. Ken and Harriet kept "family first" alive building multi-generational memories by hosting a three-day annual gathering for all the extended family at Cedar Valley Resort near Lanesboro, MN. Ken had a good, dry sense of humor. When a friend asked for a wagon of corn for his horses, Ken delivered the corn in a child's Red Flyer wagon. Evidence of a well-



Kenneth Eaton

lived life can be seen in the breadth of connections Ken and Harriet had with friends of all ages, from young to old.

Ken and Harriet loved to travel visiting all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, Panama, Israel, Norway and Sweden. He was blessed with a curiosity about people and places and particularly enjoyed mountain scenery and traveling to the southern states to see the dogwoods bloom in the spring. He converted a van into a camping vehicle in which they traveled across the country for many years. Ken was a physical activity enthusiast. He inspired family sit-up contests and enjoyed bike riding. He could frequently be spotted riding his 3-wheeled bike around Clear Lake until age 98.

Ken was preceded in death by: his wife Harriet Eaton, his daughter Gail (Ted) Johnson, his parents Oscar and Mabel Eaton, and his siblings Harold (Donna), Mary (Milan) Prechel, Emily (Paul) Speakman, and Stanley (Dorothy). He is survived by his children, Steve (JoAnn) Eaton, Dave (Shawnee) Eaton, Sherrie (Pat) Murphy, Brian (Cindy) Eaton, and Ted (Marge) Johnson. He leaves behind 14 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, February 12, 2026 at Vista Covenant Church, 14679 275th Avenue, New Richland, MN 56072. With visitation starting at 10:00 am. Rev. Brian Schanil will officiate. Visitation will also be held from 4:00 - 7:00pm on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at Dennis Steffel Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Services, 109 3rd Street NE, Waseca, MN 56093. Instead of flowers, memorials may be directed to Vista Covenant Church.

Dsofuneral.com

Waseca Police Department Goodbye



RETIREE - On Feb. 6, the Waseca Police Department (WPD) posted this on the department Facebook page: "Today we say 'See you later' to the longest tenured co-worker in the history of WPD as she steps into retirement. For 42 years, Barb has been the steadfast anchor that has always been here--during the best times and the worst. As a records and evidence tech, she's seen hundreds of thousands of files and pieces of evidence; managing a system that demands organization and accountability at every turn.

"Barb has been more than a 'technician.' She's been our rock, a second mother to some, many times our cheerleader, and always a friend. Never has she crossed the threshold of our doors with anything but a smile and a willingness to help. Patience is a virtue, and Barb has served with legendary compassion and grace. Humorous, generous, caring and honest- every interaction with the public started with W'hat can I help you with?' She has been an exemplary leader without even trying.

"So, Barb, Waseca PD will miss you, but we are so happy you get to celebrate this day. We are proud of you and wish you nothing but the best. Barb's final words as she left were experienced words of wisdom: 'Take your vacation days. They keep you sane.'

"Thanks for everything, Barb!"



Watercolor pansy class

Waseca Art Center's class starts beautifully

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Local artist Cherie Jacobson has recently taught two different classes at the Waseca Art Center (WAC) including one which gave class members tips on how to paint a pansy flower in watercolor, held the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 4.

Jacobson had a gallery display at the WAC this past October; this year she's decided to share her craft with local painters.

Six eager students were set up at two tables in the upper level of the art center, armed with paint brushes, drawing boards, masking tape, and a palette of paints. Their ages ranged from 15 to 65. Their work began with a pencil outline of their flower. From there Jacobson took tubes of paint and added 5 spots from her Daniel Smith tubes of paint, spots a little smaller than a dime and said, "You can make almost any picture with just the bare minimum of paints on your pallet." She referenced a zebra watercolor painting she had done a while

ago and said, "That zebra," which was many shades of white, gray and black, "was done with only two colors."

Jacobson revealed there are more than 50 different colors of pansy in the world, but this group was going to be using lighter and darker shades of blue and lavender alongside a green stem and leaves. Jacobson instructed the students to get their canvas wet before applying the paint because, "The water will take the blue wherever it wants to. Enjoy the personality of the watercolor and be sure to give it at least two coats." There were gasps of amazement when a few of the students tried this for the first time, and the water did indeed take the paint and spread it out.

Sue Hanson, former employee of Viking Woodcrafts said, "I used to do painting like this and I want to give it a try again. I think I'll be good at it." Alexis Olson and Joya Paczkowski were high school students also applying the paint to their canvases. Alexis said, "I've had my watercolor set



ARTISTS - Young painters Joya Paczkowski and Alexis Olson prepare to learn new techniques during the Watercolor Pansy class at the Waseca Art Center on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

from Walmart for the last three years, that's how I usually paint, is with that. I just want to get better at it, and it's fun."

Jacobson told students she underwent surgery years ago and used her recovery time to build her skill as a painter. "There's a million different styles and a lot of stuff to learn online. One of my favorites is Jean Hanes, an

excellent teacher, she does her paint pallets this way and I like that."

For anyone interested, the Waseca Art Center offers numerous classes each month, anyone can sign up and Center members receive special pricing. To find a complete list of classes visit: <https://www.wasecaartcenter.org/classes>.

■ Frosty

from Page 1

names will be drawn for \$100 – 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 4 Clue

*Starting out small,
Frosty explored their options
Farming and bartending
Until degrees were the concoc-*

*tion
In their free time now,
Frosty can be found around sports*

*Watching and participating,
Centered around the ice, of course.*

*Family and friends serve
To Frosty, as an activity base,
But for peace and the views,
Time on the lake front space.*

■ Carnival

from Page 1

of the event, a game for choosing suckers was called "Suck It," a Coney Island bag toss, and a Minnow Race, for which eight minnows in a wooden structure swam around in their little boxes waiting for their gate to be lifted. Once it

was, a group of screaming minnow fans watched from the sidelines. Other events included Axe Throwing, Plinko, and a wine wall featuring 72 different kinds of wine. Apparently the most popular attraction for the night was the Human Slot Machine where a ticket got customers a single spin. For the game there were three people with four different fruits to choose from, another person would ring a bell and when the noise stopped the

A new trail on the horizon



The Songbird Trail project survey

The Songbird Trail Project is coming to Southern Minnesota, and we want to hear from you! We are currently seeking community input to help guide the development of the Songbird Trail. Please take a moment to share your thoughts through our brief resident survey.

Quick & easy

The survey takes less than 5 minutes to complete.

Direct impact

Your responses will help shape the final vision of the trail!

Deadline

Please submit your feedback by February 18, 2026.

for more info: www.co.freeborn.mn.us/597/Songbird-Trail

Survey link



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4-H Graduates



GRADUATES - Congratulations to all the 2025 4-H graduates: Ella K., Ben H., Cole G., Bailey H., Sydney L., and Payden H. Pictured here are Bailey H. (left) and Sydney L.

Janesville Business Challenge enters phase two

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Janesville Business Challenge for 2026 is well underway with five different applicants competing for a prize worth over \$20,000 for any business opened before December 31 to encourage new businesses and growth. The deadline for phase one of this contest was Feb. 2.

Applicants were required to share a one- to two-page summary of their business concept, along with specific information about their plans, including the ways their products or services would have a positive impact on the Janesville community; their personal skills and training, especially when it comes to operating a business; and resources already acquired and still being sought.

Katelynne Kratz, Janesville’s community development director said, “This has been tried with success in a few of the smaller towns scattered throughout Minnesota. Over the last few years, it has brought in at least eight different businesses, and not all of those were winners of the contest. Some of them had gotten so far in the preparation of their business plans that when the contest was over, they just decided to go ahead with their plans anyway. Either way it’s a win/win.”

Kratz has been the director in Janesville since January first of this year and she’s optimistic, “All applicants moving on to phase two will be listed on the

city economic development authority’s (EDA) website in the coming weeks. The judging will take place at the city hall.” Before joining the Janesville city staff, Kratz had worked in an advisory capacity with the EDA since March of 2025.

All applicants selected to move onto Phase 2 are eligible to receive free business plan aid from the South-Central Small Business Development Center, which might come in handy because they’ll need an executive summary and business description which will include a timeline, full market analysis and marketing plan, along with a list of owner qualifications as well as two professional references. Their financial and building plans as well. They must also answer the question: How will the business positively impact the downtown Janesville business district? Contestants must complete all of these in under 30 pages with the phase two deadline of May 4.

Phase three will be an oral presentation with the option to include media such as Power Point or video recording. Applicants will be pitching their ideas to the judges by May 25, with those results forwarded to the Janesville city council and the winner to be announced on July 7.

This contest is being sponsored by the Janesville Economic Development Authority, Waseca County and Ginger P. Designs in Janesville.

Continuing a Legacy



DONATION OF HONOR - The Waseca Legion Riders Chapter 228 recently shared this post on Facebook, “Waseca American Legion Riders had the incredible honor of receiving a donation made in honor of Brady Anderson. Brady was a selfless man who would help anyone, at any time. He passed away two years ago [Jan. 27], but his legacy continues to live on through his family and the lives he touched.

Brady’s son, Clay, and Clay’s mother, Abbie Hanson, honored Brady’s memory by presenting the Legion Riders with a donation to support our upcoming kids fishing day. Brady had a deep love for the outdoors and was always passionate about encouraging the next generation to get outside, learn, and experience all it has to offer. It is especially meaningful that this donation will help provide those very opportunities for youth in our community.

We are truly humbled by this gesture and incredibly grateful to Clay, Abbie, and the rest of his family. Thank you for allowing us to help carry Brady’s legacy forward—one cast, one kid, and one memory at a time.”

Kids build on ‘cool car’ storyline at a Feb. 7 library event

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

During a Lego Story Time hour at the Waseca Public Library the morning of Saturday, Feb. 7, the room was split between 8 excited children who ranged in ages from four to six and the eight accompanying adults who brought them.

The format of the event begins with the adults and children reading an age-appropriate picture book. Afterward, the children grab cups full of assorted Lego pieces to build what they just saw. The book for the day was “Pete the Cat’s Cool New Ride” by Kimberly and James Dean. Those children in attendance sat attentively as children’s librarian Brianna Bleeker read the book, which was chock full of colorful pictures.

As she finished, Bleeker told the children, “You can come in and scoop up whatever pieces you need to build.” Every child in the room ran to the big, clear plastic bins containing the assorted Lego pieces. There were medium-sized red Solo cups for scooping. One child brought Bleeker a broken cup and was informed, “That’s okay, if you aren’t able to use it for scooping then just throw it away.” It is not known what



TINY BUILDERS - Wilfred Jones, accompanied by his parents Jesika and Dustin were among the many children enjoying the Lego Story Hour at the Waseca Public Library on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

the child did with the cup, but soon after he was handed a Lego base board to stick the pieces to and hold them in place.

The most popular item the children kept choosing to build was a vehicle similar to the one used in the story. Wilfred Jones, an intelligent and kind young gentleman, said as he attached pieces together, “I’m building this car and it’s powered by a power plant, and I am also building power plants for this car to go to and drive by.”

His parents Jesika and Dustin were watching him construct his auto, starting with the wheels first. Said Jesika, “I found out about this event on Facebook, but regardless we come to the Waseca library often.” Referring to Wilfred she

added, “He’s homeschooled and he’s an only child and we thought the more social events he attends the better.” Dustin, who does horizontal directional drilling for laying fiber optics said, “Yesterday we visited a power plant, and now Wilfred is all about power plants.”

Bleeker said about the story time hour, “This event has been here long before I got here, and it will probably be here long after I’m gone. The next session will be with children 7 to 12 but theirs won’t be a story, just a prompt for the kids to follow, and we always have room for more kids if they show.”

For a full line up of upcoming events at the library visit, <https://wasecalesueur-libraries.com/events/>.

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Royalty from Page 1

and Amber Bulfer. Ella is a member of the Minnesota Honor Society and Sacred Heart Church. She is on the art team, and is captain of the girls’ soccer team. Ella contributes to the Explore Waseca County Website project and plays soccer for Minnesota Thunder Academy, Minnesota Twins Star and ETS Athlete.

Lucas Selthun is the son of Chris and Deb Selthun. Lucas is a captain of the football and wrestling teams, a member of Sacred Heart Church and he works

at Greener World Solutions.

Khloe Fuller is the daughter of James and Kristen Fuller. Khloe is one of the captains of the girls’ soccer team, she is in select choir, show choir, student advisory and yearbook. Khloe is employed at Tails and Trails in Owatonna.

William Mansfield is the son of John and Edita Mansfield. William is a member of the Minnesota Honor Society and Sacred Heart Catholic Church. He is involved in football, track, BPA and he also volunteers at the food shelf. William works at Pepito’s Pizzeria.

Lauren Grant is the daughter of Joe and Melinda Grant. Lauren is involved in Business Professionals of America (BPA), Superintendent Club, select choir, jazz choir, and Sextets; she is also

a softball captain. Lauren volunteers at the Waseca Intermediate school after-school program and works at the Starbucks in Hy-Vee.

Liam Biddle is the son of Jon and Stacy Biddle. Liam participates in football and is a wrestling manager. He is a laborer at JB Exteriors and JB Seamless.

Tailyn Kaput is the daughter of Ryan and Vilay Miller. Tailyn is involved in BPA, DECA, and YSL, she is employed at the Jays Nest and as a nanny for the Watje family in the summer. Tailyn is a member at North Waseca Lutheran Church.

Deven Parpart is the son of Jeremy and Michele Parpart. Deven is involved in football, wrestling and baseball. He pours concrete for his dad.

Madison Rasche is the daughter of Jason Rasche and Corrine Schumacher. Madison attends Christ Community Church and is a part of the student leadership team, she is a Fellowship of Christian Athletes huddle leader, involved in DECA, BPA and Student Council. Madison is a golf captain and on the tennis team, she is also a member of the swim club. She works at Waseca Lakeside Golf Club and Bixby Feed Mill.

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The Pastor's Column

Trusting God's word during Lent

By Rev. MICHAEL GRANNIS

Lent is just around the corner. Years ago I read an article titled, Five Reasons Not to Observe Lent, written by Aaron Damiani. My first inclination was to scoff at the title - Lent is among my favorite parts of the Church year. As it turns out, the article was not about doing away with the Lent. Rather, it was about approaching Lent in a right way. It highlighted 5 bad reasons to do a Lenten fast, namely:

- To slim your waist line
- To make God happy
- To cure an addiction
- To showcase your spiritual
- Because it's a cool trend

As I read through the article, I had to admit that I have approached the Lenten season with wrong motives. Even so, as I reflect on my past Lenten journeys, and the motives behind my chosen fasts, I can clearly see some areas of my life that were reshaped for the better, and in long-lasting ways.

But if Lent is not the Church's 40 days to quit smoking plan...if it is not an ancient tradition for getting your best beach body before swimsuit season arrives, then what is the point? Why have 100s of millions (perhaps billions) of people down through the ages, practiced this yearly ritual of giving something up for Lent?

More than just "giving something up for Lent" Fasting, prayer, and alms giving are the three spiritual practices that are commonly associated with the Lenten season.

These practices are good practices in and of themselves, but Lent is about more than these. At its best, Lent is about helping strengthen us against the oldest and most pressing problem humanity has faced. From the beginning, our problem has been that Satan gets us to fall for the oldest trick in the Book. And do you know what that trick is? Satan's oldest trick is getting us to doubt God's Word. ("Did God really say...?")

This is the main weapon the great accuser has to wield against us. It is a deadly weapon...the deadliest weapon of all. God commanded Adam and Eve not to eat of The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, but through a strange combination of questions, half-truths, and insinuations the devil caused our first parents to doubt God's loving word of warning, and to trust his empty promise of something better.

Wherever Satan rears his ugly head, there he is, calling into question the clear Word of God, and falsely promising something better. From the Garden of Eden to Christ's 40-day wilderness fast, the father of lies is there willing to promise anything if it will get us to lose faith in God's Word of truth.

With the 40-day fast of Christ in the wilderness, people often focus on the temptations: hunger, recognition, power and authority.

However, when we take a step back and compare the words of fallen Lucifer with God's Word of truth, it becomes clear - the ancient serpent was up to his old tricks again.

Just before Christ's temptation in the wilderness we can hear the voice of our Heavenly Father proclaiming at the baptism of Jesus, "This is my beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased." And what are the first words out of the devils mouth not 3 verses later? "If you are the Son of God..."

If? It almost doesn't matter what comes out of his mouth next. It doesn't matter if Jesus is hungry or not. It doesn't matter if Jesus wants the world to acknowledge Him or not. What matters is that Satan is up to His old tricks, trying to cause Christ to doubt the Father's Word of truth. Satan even uses Scripture, twisting it in order help call into question God's motives...His intentions...His purpose in our lives.

The Word says that humanity was created in the image of God...Satan says "God doesn't want you to be like Him. He's holding out on you." The Father says, "You are my beloved Son." Satan says, "If you are God's Son, prove it." The Scriptures teach us time, and time, and time again that God loves us and forgives us, that in Christ He did all that is needed to reconcile us to Himself. Satan says, "You'll have to do more if you want His love." Or on the other hand, "You have gone too far this time. There's no hope for you."

During Lent, people often attempt to give up certain vices in the name of being more healthy, or holy, or to gain some deeper connection with God. But all of it is vanity if it doesn't accomplish the true purpose of Christian devotion. The purpose of Lent - the purpose of the whole of the Christian faith - is simple. True Christian devotion helps us to know God more, to trust Him more, to love Him more. God's purpose in giving us the Scriptures is that we might know Him, love Him, and trust Him above all things.

Satan's greatest goal and desire is that we would not know, or love, or trust God.

Satan wants us to live opposed to God's Word and then lose hope because of our failures, and sins. But God assures us in His Word that we can trust Him. He assures us that even though we are faithless, He is faithful to His promises. In Christ, God came in the flesh to save us from Satan's lies, from our sins, and from death itself. At its best, Lent is about leaning into God's Word and growing in our faith in Christ, as we seek to live faithfully according to His Word.

During the upcoming Lenten journey, remember that true devotion lies in trusting God's Word. Trusting God's Word is lived out by hearing it and obeying. May we each hear God's Word, trust in His grace, and follow where He leads; through Jesus

Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Janesville Fire Department



HONORED MEMBERS- The Janesville Fire Department held their annual meeting on February 4, inviting retired firefighters, members of the city council, township boards, sheriff's office and the North Memorial ambulance. They also held an election of officers for the department. Pictured here are the active and retired members that attended the meeting.

Officers for the next year include Mike Santo, Chief; Brian Neegaard, Assistant Chief Fire; Cody Dobberstein, Assistant Chief Rescue; Jason Gerdts, Captain; Eric Blasing, 1st Lieutenant; Tim Jaeger, 2nd Lieutenant; Brooke Kline, Secretary; Amanda Hermel, Treasurer; and Ryan Rohwer, Boards of Directors (three year term).

Region Nine Development Commission receives grant

Region Nine Development Commission (RNDC) has received a \$10,000 grant from the Mankato Clinic Foundation to be used to develop more consistent routes to food access partners, expand options for the Mankato Clinic Produce Place Fridge program, and support work to begin collaboration with area landfills.

Since launching its food rescue initiative, RNDC has helped distribute a significant amount of surplus food to families across South Central Minnesota. In 2025 alone, RNDC coordinated the rescue of 109,365 pounds of food, valued at approximately \$181,526, which

was distributed regionwide through partner organizations. This work continues to grow in 2026, with seven food rescues completed so far, saving 8,664 pounds of food. The support from the Mankato Clinic Foundation is expected to help expand these efforts and increase the amount of food rescued and distributed throughout the region.

To learn more about RNDC's food rescue efforts, visit https://www.rndc.org/food_rescue/.

"We are very excited to have this opportunity through the Mankato Clinic Foundation, and their team has been wonderful to work with in

serving our community. RNDC participates in a partnership with Mankato Clinic for the fresh produce refrigerator program known as Produce Place, and it has turned into one of the greatest successes in our region's food rescue efforts," said RNDC Regional Food Rescue Coordinator Tom Polich. "With this funding, we look forward to expanding our efforts and rescue a larger variety of options for Produce Place, as well as our regional food access partners such as ECHO, SCMNF, FOCP, and the St. Peter Food Shelf. Thank you to the Mankato Area Clinic Foundation for the generous funding to this pro-

gram, as well as all the efforts they have supported in our community."

The Mankato Clinic Foundation provides grants to organizations and initiatives that promote and improve health and wellness in the communities the clinic serves. The physicians at the Mankato Clinic provide the majority of the Foundation's funding as a means to give back to the community and support organizations that strive to improve health and wellness.

For more information, contact Communications Manager Nate George at nate@rndc.org.

Minnesota Valley Action Council receives grant

Minnesota Valley Action Council has received a \$3,000 grant from the Mankato Clinic Foundation to be used for the purchase of children's bicycle helmets. The helmets will be given to Head Start children at MVAC Head Start Books, Bikes, and Ice Cream socials held in May.

"Words cannot fully express our gratitude to the Mankato Clinic Foundation," said Executive Director Amanda Mackie. "This grant to help some of our littllest program participants is truly appreciated."

Minnesota Valley Action Council

(MVAC), a Community Action Agency, people secure affordable housing, viable transportation, employment and training for employment, as well as creating educational opportunities for children and parents. Head Start is a vital part of this mission. Head Start encourages the role of parents as their child's first and most important teachers.

The Mankato Clinic Foundation provides grants to organizations and initiatives that promote and improve health and wellness in the communities the clinic serves. The

Mankato Clinic Foundation is proud to support these organizations.

The physicians at the Mankato Clinic provide the majority of the Foundation funding as a means to give back to the community and support organizations that strive to improve health and wellness. Grants are awarded on a quarterly basis and are considered through the application process. Applications are available at www.mankatoclinic.com.

About the Mankato Clinic Foundation

A small, dedicated group of phys-

icians started the Mankato Clinic Foundation in 1965, making it one of the oldest foundations in Minnesota. Since that time, the foundation has expanded its reach by funding local programs, scholarships and organizations that improve people's health and wellness. The foundation receives the majority of its funding from Mankato Clinic physicians, along with giving by Mankato Clinic staff and the greater Mankato community.

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SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
111 4th St NW, Waseca
Father Glenn Ferichs
507-835-1222
Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m.

REAL LIFE CHURCH
620 W Elm Ave, Waseca

507-833-0017
Sunday worship 10 a.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS
1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca
507-835-4640
Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
1221 8th St SE, Waseca
507-835-2213
Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.

CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY
900 14th Ave SE, Waseca
507-833-1082
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m.

ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship
Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship

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

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Father Glenn Ferichs
Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays
p.m. Mass
Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m.

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 METHODIST 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

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

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ETHANOL

Janesville

25 years ago



- On Saturday, Jan. 20, the JWP Bulldogs participated in the Bulldog Duals along with Kasson-Mantorville and Loyola. Members of the winning team include (front row) from left: Erik Huxford, Bryan Monahan, Ben Daschner, Matt Oeke, Tyler Gunsolus and Danny Stencil. Back row: Travis Gunsolus, Rai Echeverria, Casey Roeker, Josh Isebrand, Jon Wheelock, Joe Fude, John Beelow, Dan Groh, Brandon Krienke, Clayton Cowdin, Jon Fasnacht and Reid Olsen.

- Jenna Ziemke is a starting forward on the JWP basketball team this winter. The 5'11" sophomore is enjoying her first season on the Bulldog varsity hoops' squad. Ziemke earned Athlete of the Week honors for her performances against Le Sueur-Henderson, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown and Kasson-Mantorville. She poured in 73 points and grabbed 29 rebounds in the three wins.

- Lindsay Adams, daughter of Richard and Luane Adams, and Sara Prechel, daughter of Wayne and Linda Prechel, all of Janesville, have been accepted for admission at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato. Founded in 1927, Bethany is a private residential liberal arts college now offering a select number of four-year degrees. Adams and Prechel are both members of the 2001 graduating class of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School.

- We are happy to announce the arrival of our son, Hunter James Hanel, on Friday, Jan. 19, 2001, to Kelly Mueller and James Hanel. Grandparents are Pamela Mueller of Janesville, and James and Willa Hanel of Mankato.

50 years ago

- The M.L. Devereaux No. 97 Janesville Woman's Relief Corps met on Jan. 14, at the home of Angelina Fisk. The president opened the meeting in form with six members present. The president opened the meeting in form with six members present. After the chaplains prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given and the secretary and treasurer reports were read and approved. For relief work, \$9.50, other than money, was reported and for the Red Cross, \$13.25, other than money. Thirteen sick calls were made. A card from the department president was read telling that Mrs. Lura LaDue received a prize at the executive board Christmas party, which consisted of three bottles of vanilla extract.



- Five Janesville Club Scouts received awards at the den meeting last week. The Cub Scouts and their awards, from left: John Lopez, Bobcat Badge; Billy Johnson, Wolf Badge; Brent Wiebusch, Wolf Badge and Gold Arrow; Greg Graff, Bear Badge; and David Struck, an Activity Badge for Showman.

- Wayne St. John, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred St. John and Jane Mittelsteadt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Mittelsteadt, both of Janesville, are currently enrolled in the Food Industry and Technology program at UMW, Waseca. The Food Industry and Technology program at the University of Minnesota Technical College, Waseca provides technical level training for the food industry through its two majors, Food Marketing and Distribution and Food Products and Inspection.

- Randy C. Burmeister, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Burmeister of Waldorf, enlisted in the Air Force's Delayed Enlistment Program and is slated to begin four years of active duty with the Air Force in June. At that time, Randy will attend six weeks of basic training at Lackland Military Training Center, San Antonio, Texas. Following basic he will receive training in Air Traffic Control Radar Repair. Randy, who will graduate from Waldorf-Pemberton High School later this year, was recruited by Staff Sergeant James LuMaye, Air Force Representative in Mankato.

75 years ago

- The Janesville Bears defeated a determined Alden quint last Friday night by a county of 42-37. The Bears led all the way but Alden was coming fast at the finish. For Janesville Jack Prehn and Ory Strauss were Wed for scoring honors with nine each. For Alden, Hamsdell had 14 and Peterson connected for eight.

- Kenneth I. Born of Janesville, a member of the Army Reserves, has been called back to active duty. He left Sunday morning for Ft. Sheridan, III. Mrs. Born will remain at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas Stankey, in Smiths Mill.

- Kenneth Born, who leaves soon to join the United States army with the reserve, was the guest of honor at a dinner party given by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Art Born in Janesville. The guests were Mr. Ida Stankey, Mr. and Mrs. Chas Stankey and daughter Marilyn, Audrey and Norma, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Born, all of Smiths Mill, Elmer Dimmel, John Manthey and Keith Born of St. Paul. A social evening was spent.

100 years ago

- Merritt, 89 years old, a veteran of the battle of Bull Run, died here last week. His intimate friends say he is the last surviving member of the First Minnesota regiment which participated in that battle.

- Little Rock, Ark. "Tex," went on a rampage near Augusta, Ark., tore up crops and was sought through the countryside for several days, is to be electrocuted when the owner, Mr. Newton, arrived here. "Tex," who is about 100 years old, and is reputed to have killed nine men in all, is staked out near Hot Springs.

- Brother Joe Reynolds of the Mankato Free Press declares that Annie Dickie Olson is a "dead ducklet politically." Joe's republicanism is of such a hard boiled type. And yet he dearly loves the ladies. -Blue Earth Post.

Waseca

25 years ago



- What is great/special about Sacred Heart?

Samantha Drager: I think Sacred Heart is special because the people here are very kind. We get to have a lot of art projects. The days seem to go by fast, the teachers are nice, and we go on a lot of field trips that are really fun. We get to have a Super Bowl party at school. An artist, Gary Fey, comes and we get to do art projects with him. The Penny Carnival is the best. It is where the fourth grade puts up fun games that the other kids in the school get to play.

Jessica Heagy: I think Sacred Heart School is great because we have the best food, cooks, teachers and fun days. Our friends at Sacred Heart are the most fun and best friends. I like it because we get the Penny Carnival. We get first grade friends. I like my first grade friend, she is lots of fun. We learn lots of stuff at Sacred Heart. But most of all I like the whole school. Our teachers in 4th grade are really fun. It's great because we get to do lots of fun things like, field trips, super bowl part, etc. We don't want to leave this school. I like the teachers and everyone at Sacred Heart.

Andrew Keck: I like Sacred Heart School because they have good food, and the teacher are nice. I like Sacred Heart because they have Fun Day and fun things to do. I like it because we have lots of days off of school, and we have a marathon. We have the penny carnival, a lot of fun field trips, the Fall Festival in September, and we have the Super Bowl Friday in January.

50 years ago

- Waseca County authorities were searching today for a Waseca woman who was reported missing last night by her husband, Clarence Hoffman, 416 7th St. NW. Constance (Connie) Marie Hoffman, 32, was last heard from shortly after 4:30 p.m. Thursday when she reportedly used the couple's two way citizen's band radio to contact her husband at their home. She reportedly told her husband she was on her way home from work, but then called back a few minutes later and told her 10-year-old daughter Mary, that she was going to the doctor in Owatonna.

- Jane Foels, a senior at Waseca High School, has been named "Good Citizen" of her school. "Good Citizen" is a program sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Jane was selected by her classmates and faculty at Waseca High School. A "Good Citizen" selection is based on seniors possessing these characteristics: dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism. Jane is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Foels of rural Waseca. Jane is an honor student in the class of 1976.

- Joel Leslie G. Rew, born Nov. 30 to Mr. and Mrs. Leslie E. Rew, 408 19th Ave. NE, Waseca was dedicated at the United Pentecostal Church, Albert Lea Jan. 11 by Rev. D. Stirneman. Sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Horn, Waseca. Maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Guadalupe Garza and daughter Anastasia, Racine, Mo., attended the service.



75 years ago

- Over 200 toys collected by the Waseca Legion Post No. 228 have been shipped to Europe under the Tide of Toys program. Local toys were collected from Sunday school organizations, business men, and individuals. Most of the toys were accompanied by notes from Waseca children. Gordon Larson, chairman, and the Waseca Legion Post, wish to thank the community for their fine response to the project.

- Inspection of the city jail by the Division of Public Institutions brought a complimentary letter from Dan M. Egbert, inspector of Jails and Lockups, he stated: "On the 4th of January I inspected the Waseca city lockup and found it well kept and apparently very well managed. Your Chief of Police, Mr. Kahnke and his department deserve commendation."

- The Senior Troop Girl Scouts met Thursday, Jan. 18, at the Community building after which they were entertained at the home of their leader, Mrs. Bruce Lundholm, who had planned a surprise party. After the business meeting, one group of the girls invaded the kitchen to make fudge and pop corn, while the others learned the fundamentals of bridge and other games until the popcorn fudge, apples and pop were served. The latter group then were the clean-up committee while the girls who had prepared the treat played.

100 years ago

- Officers almost need a sixth sense to ferret out the hiding places for liquor. Two Northfield homes were raided recently. In one rug was rolled back, a loose board in the floor disclosed and beneath it a quantity of liquor was found. In another, a pint bottle was found in an overshoe behind a door and several fruit jars containing liquor were found in a cupboard.

- Complaint is made that a number of the squirrels in the city have been killed. A few days ago boys were noticed going into a yard where they shot and carried away a squirrel. These squirrels are city pets and are not to be killed. Everybody should understand that. Parties killing the squirrels should be reported.

- The Hawaiian Islands, sometimes called the Sandwich islands, were so termed by the discoverer, Captain Cook, who found them in 1778 and named them for the earl of Sandwich, first lord of the admiralty. There were quite generally known as the Sandwich islands until, on closer acquaintance with the Hawaiian people, the rest of the world came to adopt their name for their land.



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New Richland

25 years ago



- David Haugh (left) and his father Howard, an attorney in Mankato, were among a Global Volunteers team who assisted with construction - related projects in Los Tornos in Costa Rica's northwestern highlands near Monteverde Cloud Forest. "My most memorable moment was noting the appreciation for the work that we did," said Howard. "I was pleased to be referred to by my host as a 'very good carpenter.'" Howard and David helped build door frames and tables for a community in Los Tornos.

- Jill Anderson of Ellendale, Laura Edwards of Hollandale and Ryan Fure of Kiester completed academic requirements for degrees following fall semester 2000 at Winona State University. Anderson earned a Bachelor of science degree in physical education and school and community health. Edwards earned a bachelor of science degree in recreation and leisure sciences. Fure earned a bachelor of science degree in computer science.

50 years ago



- David Schlaak of New Richland has taken over the management of Dick's Mobil station in New Richland. He is an experienced mechanic. His open house at the station will run through Saturday, February 14.

- Kristine Hagen and Sarah Hagen, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Hagen of rural New Richland, won the honors at the Waseca County 4-H Public Speaking contest held at the county extension office in Waseca, Monday, February 2. Kris won the Senior division title and is overall county champion. Her sister, Sarah Hagen, was the junior division winner.

- Christopher Harrison, Schiebel, son of Mr and Mrs. William Schiebel was baptized at All Saints Catholic Church, Sunday, January 25 with the Rev. Patrick Russell officiating. Sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Larry Bull of Clear Lake, S.D.



- Waterville-Elysian took the Gopher Conference Wrestling Tournament the past weekend at Blooming Prairie with 138 1/2 points. Champions in the various weight classes were from the left: 98 lb. - Mike Wallin of New Richland. 105 lb. - Craig Bailey of Ellendale-Geneva. 112 lb. - Bob Quiram of Waterville-Elysian. 119 lb. - Terry Keller of Medford. 126 lb.- Paul Vaith of Blooming Prairie. 132 lb.- Pat Sheehy of Waterville-Elysian. 138 lb.- Randy Warke of New Richland-Hartland. 145 lb.- Barry Reysack of Morristown. 155 lb.- Brad Wenker of Morristown. 167 lb.- Cliff Keyes of Janesville. 180 lb.- Tom Glende of Waterville-Elysian, Hwt.- Steve Quam, Ellendale-Geneva.

75 years ago

- Coach Bob Westland of the New Richland high school has been named to the All-City team picked from players in the Albert Lea City Basketball League by the Evening Tribune, entered in league play as the Morleat team.

- Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Berg of Albert Lea are the parents of their second son, born at the Naeve hospital, March 2. Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Berg of near New Richland are the paternal grandparents.



RECORD-SETTING NIGHT — Deron Russell, left, became Waseca's all-time scoring leader last week in a big 61-57 win at JWP. At right, the Bluejays' Brody Dufault guards the Bulldogs' Gavin Bauer. Photos by Jim Lutgens



WHS boys top Worthington, edge JWP

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It was a perfect week for the Waseca High School boys' basketball team, which prevailed 66-52 at Worthington last Friday after starting the week by knocking off the state's top-rated Class A team.

The Bluejays, who improved to 14-7 on the season and 7-5 in the Big South Black, played some of their best defense of the season in the first half at Worthington, assuming a 32-13 advantage at halftime.

"We had a great defensive first half," said Waseca coach Seth Anderson. "But we really struggled to get stops in the second half. We shot the ball better tonight than we have in the past few games."

Senior Deron Russell added to his record-setting career total with 24 points, adding seven rebounds, six assists and five steals. Senior Ethan Hiller finished with 14 points, eight rebounds, an assist and two steals.

Others: Cyrett Long 5P, 2R; Wyatt Hager 9P, 6R, 2A; Owen Honstad 9P, 1A; Toby Jeske 4R, 1A, 4S, 1 blocked shot; Brody Dufault 2P, 2R, 4A; Owen Rupe 2P, 3R, 1A.

The Bluejays began the week before an overflow crowd at previously unbeaten Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton. They trailed 11-2 early before an Anderson timeout appeared to settle things, and the Bluejays battled back in a game that was close until the final buzzer. The final: Waseca 61, JWP 57.

Russell becomes Bluejays' all-time scoring leader

Russell became the Bluejays' all-time scoring leader as the Bluejays forged a 29-26 halftime lead.

Hiller and Long hit key free throws down the stretch as the Jays held off the Bulldogs in a back-and-forth second half.

"That was an awesome atmosphere, and felt like a playoff game," said Anderson. "Winning a game like that helps reinforce what we are doing can work. We can still improve some on things to be better."

Russell totaled 25 points, 12 rebounds, five assists and two steals. Hager hit several key baskets, going 8-for-11 from the floor, while scor-

ing 16 points with five rebounds and one steal. Hiller had 12 points, 10 rebounds, seven steals and two assists.

Others: Long 5P, 1R, 2A; Honstad 3P, 4R, 2A, 1S; Jeske 1P, 3R; Dufault 1S; Rupe 1S, 1R, 1B.

"Give credit to Waseca," said JWP coach Nick James. "They made more plays, especially down the stretch."

Russell's performance pushed his career total to 2,025 points, surpassing the previous school record of 2,005 points set by Malik Willingham (2015-2019). Russell takes his place atop a distinguished list of Waseca's all-time leading

scorers, which includes Willingham (2,005 points, Class of 2019), Nick Dufault (1,913 points, Class of 2016), Andrew Morgan (1,811 points, Class of 2021), Ryan Dufault (1,774 points, Class of 2021), Kyreese Willingham (1,516 points, Class of 2021), Damarius Russell (1,508 points, Class of 2025), Eric Wood (1,467 points, Class of 2001), Monte Dufault (1,461 points, Class of 1988), and Kellen Driscoll (1,412 points, Class of 2002).

After a Tuesday game at Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, the Bluejays are in action tonight at 7:30 at Fairmont. They host Pine Island Feb. 17 at 7:15.

WHS hockey boys make it six in a row

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It appears as if the Waseca High School boys' hockey team is hitting its stride as the section tournament looms.

The Bluejays, hoping to play their best hockey at tournament time, extended their winning streak to six games with a 10-1 victory at Marshall Saturday, capping a dominating three-victory week while lifting their season record to 17-5-2.

Griffin Storey got the visitors going at Marshall, scoring unassisted at 2:45 of the opening period. Jayden Gehring quickly made it 2-0, scoring at 3:07 on an assist from Jude Gehring. Otto Schoenrock added a goal at 8:58, assisted by Owen Weiseler, and Waseca led 3-0 after one period.

The Tigers cut it to 3-1 early in the second, but it was all Waseca after that.

Schoenrock scored on assists from Henry Huttemier at 4:21 and completed his hat trick at the 9:11 mark on an assist from Storey. Cash Lynch and Aydan Kath added sec-

ond-period goals on assists from Storey and Jackson Dahl and Waseca led 7-1 after two periods.

In the third, Storey scored a short-handed goal, assisted by Huttemier, before Lynch scored on assists from Huttemier and Jude Dahl. Kath closed the scoring on assists from Huttemier and Dahl.

Waseca outshot Marshall 43-9.

Josiah Schmidtke was in goal for the Bluejays.

It followed a 24-0 triumph over Fairmont on Thursday at Waseca Community Arena that saw the Bluejays outshoot the Cardinals 71-8.

Huttemier had a big game with five goals and six assists. Storey, Schoenrock and Jude Gehring each had a hat trick, with Storey adding five assists and Schoenrock and Gehring getting one apiece.

Lynch scored twice and handed out six assists, with Avery Selvik getting two goals and five assists. Kath and Nathan Hager also scored twice.

Ty Krautkremer and Max Bodenweiser both had a goal and an



BIG WEEK — The Waseca High School boys' hockey team had a big week, posting three victories. Here, the Bluejays' Griffin Storey (22) advances the puck against Windom in a 14-0 victory at Waseca Community Arena.

Photo by Jim Lutgens

assist. Dahl totaled three assists, with two each by Jayden Gehring, Beckett Srp, August Hanson and Dawson Slechta. Weiseler and Jayden Hervey had an assist apiece. Schmidtke recorded the shutout in goal.

Two days earlier, the Bluejays blanked Windom 14-0 at Waseca

Community Arena. Waseca led 6-0 after one period and 12-0 after two while outshooting the visitors 71-9.

Storey led the scoring, netting four goals and seven assists. Schoenrock had three goals and two assists, Selvik two goals and one assist. Huttemier scored twice. Jude Gehring, Hervey and Avery Wetzel

added a goal apiece. Kath had four assists, Jude Gehring and Dahl one each.

Schmidtke secured the shutout. The Bluejays finish the regular season tonight with a non-conference game against North St. Paul at Tartan Arena.

Defense does it for Lady Jays in win at Worthington

The Waseca High School girls' basketball team took the long road trip to Worthington Friday night hopeful of a victory.

The Bluejays got it, thanks to great defense, coming home with a 49-42 triumph. Waseca was up 24-23 at halftime.

"We played our best game defensively," said WHS coach Brian Rupe, whose squad totaled 21 steals while winning the turnover battle.

Reese Rodriguez and Hannah Sommers led the way, Sommers with 16 rebounds and Rodriguez with 17 points and seven steals. Ava Miller scored 19.

"Reese was all over the place and

filled up the stat sheet picking up a lot of big steals which allowed her to score in transition," said Rupe.

Individual totals: Adrianna Willingham 1 point, 2 rebounds, 1 steal; A.Miller 19P, 5R, 2 assists, 4S; Belle Miller 2P, 5R, 3A, 4S; Rodriguez 17P, 4R, 1A, 7S, 1 block; Maren Schimming 3R; Libby Miller 2P, 5R, 2S; Sommers 7P, 16R, 1A, 1S; Alexa Welander 1S; Shakiyah Powell 1P, 6R, 1S, 1B.

The Bluejays dropped a 64-58 decision at Sibley East last Monday. They trailed 29-26 at the intermission.

"We dug ourselves a hole early in this one, but the girls did a great job

adjusting and kept grinding away.

The Lady Jays trailed by as many as 14 points in the first half before finishing with an 11-0 run to narrow the gap to three.

The second half saw the Bluejays take an early lead, which they held until about the midway point.

The difference in the second half was free throws as Sibley East made 12 of 20 while the Bluejays only got to the line six times, converting twice.

"The girls did a great job keeping their head in the game no matter up or down," said Coach Rupe. "They battled all night. Those games are great to gain the experience for us as

the season wears down."

Ava Miller led the Lady Jays in scoring with 20 points. Rodriguez scored 12.

Individual totals: Willingham 6P, 2R, 1A, 1S; A.Miller 20P, 4R, 3S; B.Miller 2R, 1A; Rodriguez 12P, 4R, 3A, 3S; Schimming 4P, 6R, 1A; L.Miller 6P, 2R, 1A, 2S; Sommers 8P, 7R, 1A; Powell 2P, 5R, 1A.

The Bluejays hosted a talented Marshall squad Friday, Jan. 31 and lost 73-23. The Tigers were on top 51-11 at halftime.

"We did a good job handling the press of Marshall early on in the game," said Rupe. "The pressure did wear us down over time, causing us

to commit a lot of turnovers; that is what a great team like Marshall is going to do to you. We continued to battle and look to get good shots on the possessions we were able to get into our half-court offense. Marshall just is so athletic and does so many good things it is tough to get much going against them."

Individually for Waseca: A.Miller 6P, 1R, 2A; B.Miller 3P, 3R; Rodriguez 10P, 2R, 2S; L.Miller 2R, 2A, 2S; Sommers 2P, 2R, 1S; Welander 2R; Powell 2P, 6R, 1S, 2B.

The Bluejays host Fairmont tonight at 7:15 and face JWP at home Monday at 7:15.

Gymnasts conclude regular season

The Waseca High School gymnastics team wrapped up the regular season last Thursday with a home meet against Blue Earth Area.

The Bluejay varsity fell just short in the team score, with the Bucs totaling 136.375 points to 133.525 for Waseca.

Honored were WHS seniors Layla Keith and Nora Flatness.

Keith finished second in all-around with 38.275 points. Following for the Bluejays were K a t e l y n Weber, 4th, 32.9; Hannah Parks, 5th, 32.65; Ellie Clark, 6th, 36.625; Avery Carda, 9th, 23.4; Flatness, 13th, 7.0.

Places and scores, by event:

Vault - Keith, 2nd, 9.075; Clark, 3rd, 8.95; Weber, 5th, 8.725; Carda, 6th, 8.625; Parks, 10th, 8.4.

Uneven parallel bars - Keith, 2nd, 8.475; Parks, 4th, 7.75; Weber, 6th, 7.5; Clark, 7th, 7.3; Carda, 10th, 6.55.

Balance beam - Parks, 3rd, 8.435; Keith, 4th, 8.15; Weber, 6th, 7.925; Flatness, 10th, 7.0.

Floor exercise - Keith, 2nd, 9.625; Weber, 4th, 8.55; Clark, 6th, 8.45; Carda, 7th, 8.225; Parks, 8th, 8.175.

The Waseca junior varsity totaled 104.3 points to Blue Earth Area's 122.7.

The Bluejays' Sydney Hayes finished second in all-around at 25.85, followed for Waseca by Miley Anderson, 3rd, 25.0; Lydia Bjortomt, 4th, 24.05; Adelyne Kruger, 5th, 23.45; Lindy Bergdale, 6th, 23.2; Flatness, 9th, 20.15; Kyla Morgan, 10th, 16.4; Carda, 21st, 8.0; Aubrey Peterson, 26th, 4.35.

By event:

Vault - Hayes, 1st, 8.35; Flatness, 3rd, 8.2; Bjortomt, 9th, 7.8; Bergdale, 10th, 7.7; Anderson, 12th, 7.6; Kruger, 13th, 7.35; Morgan, 15th, 6.3.

Bars - Anderson, 9th, 4.25; Flatness, 10th, 4.15; Kruger, 11th, 4.1; Bjortomt, 12th, 4.0; Bergdale, 13th, 3.8; Hayes, 14th, 3.9.

Beam - Carda, 4th, 8.0; Hayes, 8th, 7.2; Anderson, 10th, 6.8; Kruger, 11th, 6.6; Bjortomt, 12th, 6.55; Bergdale, 14th, 6.1; Morgan, 15th, 5.4; Peterson, 16th, 4.35.

Floor - Flatness, 3rd, 7.8; Hayes, 5th, 7.3; Anderson, 6.35; Bjortomt, 12th, 5.7.

"It was a really great way to end our regular season," said Bluejays head coach Kim Wendland.

The Bluejays compete in the section meet Friday at 5:30 at Mankato K&G Gymnastics.

Flyers' season ends in section

The South Central Flyers girls' hockey team saw its season end last Wednesday with a 10-0 loss at Simley in the opening round of the Section 1A tournament.

Simley, seeded third in the section, advanced to face No. 2 Albert Lea in the semifinals. The other semifinal had No. 1 Dodge County against No. 4 Austin. The Flyers were seeded sixth among six teams in the section.

The Flyers finished the 2025-26 season with a record of 0-20.

Coached by Chas Benson, the Flyers will graduate just two seniors, Madalyn Benson and Kelsey Lawson.

South Central was a co-op program between Waseca High School and Faribault.



Keith



Flatness

STANDINGS

Boys' Basketball

Big South Conference - Black		
	Conf.	Ov.
Belle Plaine	9-1	14-4
Marshall	7-3	9-10
St. Peter	8-4	13-7
Waseca	7-5	14-7
New Ulm	5-6	10-10
Worthington	1-9	3-16
Tri-City United	0-9	0-16

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Conf.	Ov.
Fairmont	12-1	17-2
Jackson Co. Central	10-2	16-5
Luverne	11-3	16-4
Blue Earth Area	7-5	12-6
St. James Area	6-8	10-8
Pipestone Area	3-10	5-16
Windom Area	2-11	8-13
Redwood Valley	1-12	3-19

Gopher Conference - West		
	Div.	Ov.
Janesville-WP	6-0	20-2
New Richland-HEG	4-3	8-12
Waterville-EM	3-3	7-12
United South Central	2-4	3-16
Medford	1-6	5-17

Gopher Conference East		
	Div.	Ov.
Triton	8-0	19-3
Hayfield	5-3	13-8
Blooming Prairie	4-4	16-6
Bethlehem Academy	3-5	8-10
Randolph	3-5	8-15
Kenyon-Wanamingo	1-7	9-13

Girls' Basketball

Big South Conference - Black		
	Conf.	Ov.
Marshall	10-0	18-3
New Ulm	9-2	14-7
St. Peter	7-5	11-9
Belle Plaine	4-5	10-9
Tri-City United	4-5	8-12
Waseca	2-10	4-18
Worthington	0-9	2-18

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Conf.	Ov.
Fairmont	13-0	21-1
St. James Area	11-3	18-5
Pipestone Area	10-3	18-5
Windom Area	6-8	16-8
Luverne	6-8	12-11
Jackson County Cent.	5-8	10-13
Blue Earth Area	3-10	7-15
Redwood Valley	0-14	0-23

Gopher Conference - West		
	Div.	Ov.
New Richland-HEG	6-0	21-2
Janesville-WP	4-2	15-7
Waterville-EM	1-4	6-15
United South Central	0-5	7-14

Gopher Conference - East		
	Div.	Ov.
Triton	7-1	13-5
Hayfield/Schaeffer Ac.	6-2	17-5
Blooming Prairie	6-1	12-7
Randolph	3-5	9-12
Kenyon-Wanamingo	1-7	7-13
Bethlehem Academy	0-8	5-13

Boys' Hockey

Big South Conference - Black		
	Div.	Ov.
Waseca	5-0	16-5-2
New Ulm	3-3	12-8
Minnesota River	3-3	10-11
Marshall	0-5	7-17

Big South Conference - Gold		
	Div.	Ov.
Luverne	8-0	20-3
Fairmont	5-4	6-13
Windom Area	5-5	7-16
Redwood Valley	3-6	4-16
Worthington	1-7	2-21

Wrestling

Big South Conference - Black		
	Div.	Ov.
New Ulm	6-0	18-0
Marshall/Lakeview	5-1	17-3
Tri-City United	3-2	11-8
St. Peter	3-3	13-7
Worthington	3-4	5-16
Waseca	1-5	5-13
Martin County	0-6	6-12

WEM/JWP girls send one to state

The WEM/JWP wrestling team had seven girls compete in the Section 2 meet at Rochester Saturday.

Kayle Langford won the championship at 136 pounds, qualifying for state.

Anaelyse Skidmore placed third at 106, BreAna Masso third at 118, with Kiersten Amundson taking fifth at 142, Payton Miller sixth at 112 and Ivy Shaw sixth at 124. Rayel Sammon wrestled at 130 but did not place.



BIG WIN — The JWP girls' basketball team knocked off Triton at Dodge Center last Friday. Nevaeh Weimert, left, and Katie Olson, center, led the Bulldogs in scoring with 22 points each. Ashlynn Wolff, right, pulled down a team-high 11 rebounds. Photos by Jim Lutgens

Weimert, Olson lead JWP girls past Triton

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School girls' basketball team picked up a big win last Friday, knocking off Gopher Conference East leader Triton 71-55 at Dodge Center.

The Bulldogs played well from the opening tip, according to head coach Brandon Goebel, coming out with a high level of energy while building a 38-29 halftime advantage.

"That was good to see," said Goebel.

Neveah Weimert led the Bulldogs with 22 points, eight rebounds and three assists. Katie Olson also scored 22, adding six rebounds and two steals. Ashlynn Wolff grabbed a team-high 11 rebounds while scoring 14 points.

Others: Jacelynn Mulder 10P; Kwynn Krause 5R; Ellie Morsching 4R.

"The girls did a great job playing together, sharing the ball, and executing on both ends of the floor," said Goebel. "If there was one thing

we need to continue to improve on, it's taking care of the ball against pressure. We struggled tonight at times with that, but made plays when we needed to build a solid lead. I was really proud that they fought through adversity and runs that Triton went on throughout the game."

The Bulldogs, 4-2 in the Gopher Conference West and 9-2 overall in conference games, improved their season record to

15-7. The Cobras, 8-1 in the East and 10-3 overall in the conference, fell to 14-6 for the season.

After a Tuesday game against Kenyon-Wanamingo, the Bulldogs host Southland tonight at 7. They play Monday at 7:15 at Waseca and host Sibley East Feb. 17 at 7 p.m.



PLAYOFF INTENSITY — It was a playoff atmosphere when the Bulldogs hosted Waseca last week. At left, Jaxon Wolff - who hit some big three-pointers early in the game - drives to the basket. At right, Caleb Quast goes up for two. Photos by Jim Lutgens

Bulldog boys sustain season's first setbacks

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

After scoring almost at will all season long, the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School boys' basketball team found points tough to come by last Friday at Dodge Center. Especially in the second half.

The Bulldogs, who started the week rated No. 1 in the state in Class A, were held to just 15 points after halftime while falling 65-45 to Triton.

"We really struggled offensively

tonight," said JWP head coach Nick James, whose team trailed 34-30 at halftime. "They did a nice job limiting our transition game and we just couldn't knock down any outside shots."

The loss left the Bulldogs 20-2 overall and 11-1 in all conference games. They still lead the Gopher West at 6-0.

The Cobras improved to 19-3. They're 8-0 in the Gopher East and 13-0 overall in the conference.

Sophomore Gavin Bauer led the Bulldogs in scoring with 16 points,

adding eight rebounds. Senior Daulton Bauer finished with 12 points, nine rebounds and five assists. Caleb Quast scored eight, Gavin Weedman seven.

It was the second loss of the week for the Bulldogs, who fell just short 61-57 to Waseca Monday in a game straight out of the movie, "Hoosiers."

Fans from both squads packed the Janesville gym and many who were turned away watched the game via closed circuit television.

"It was an unreal environment,"

said Coach James. "It's what high school sports are about!"

The Bulldogs, buoyed by a boisterous hometown crowd, jumped to an 11-2 lead, prompting a timeout by Waseca coach Seth Anderson, whose Bluejays battled back to hold a 29-26 halftime advantage.

The second half was back-and-forth, with the outcome in doubt until Waseca hit some clutch free throws down the stretch.

"We obviously would like a different result," said James. "But I'm not sure we will see that environ-

ment again for a while. It's been a long time since that gym was that full. Give credit to Waseca. They made more plays, especially down the stretch. We didn't shoot well very well from field. I'm not sure if was the legs or some nervousness from the atmosphere."

Daulton Bauer led the Bulldogs in the scoring column with 28 points. He pulled down eight rebounds. Gavin Bauer finished with 16 points, 11 rebounds and four steals.

The Bulldogs play this Friday at Medford.

Waseca wrestling squad splits at Madelia triangular

The Waseca High School wrestling team split in a triangular at Madelia last Thursday.

The Bluejays wrestled well against St. James/Madelia, registering a 48-29 victory.

Winning matches for the locals

were Keegan Glynn, 114 pounds; Deven Parpart, 133; Braxton Nelson, 152; Sam Selthun, 160; Alex Bethke, 172; Slade Barnett, 189; Lucas Selthun, 215; and Matthew Veroeven, 285. Glynn, Parpart, Nelson, Sam Selthun,

Barnett, Lucas Selthun and Veroeven won by fall.

The Bluejays were edged by Adrian Area, 35-32.

Victories for Waseca were by Kole Nelson, 107; Glynn, 114; Jackson Janike, 139; Braxton

Nelson, 152; Barnett, 172; and Veroeven, 285. Winning by fall were Glynn, Barnett and Veroeven.

Also wrestling for Waseca: Owen Sommers, David Haley and Ton Bethke.

The Bluejays ran their dual-meet

record to 4-12.

They open the Section 1AA team tournament tonight at the site of the higher seeded team. The tournament concludes Saturday at the Rochester Mayo Civic Center.



MILESTONE — Camryn VanMaldeghem topped 2,000 career points last Friday, joining Carlie Wagner and Oakley Baker as the only NRHEG players to do so.

Photo courtesy Steele County Times

VanMaldeghem, Panthers nip Hayfield

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The NRHEG girls' basketball team got the win, and Camryn VanMaldeghem got the milestone. VanMaldeghem, a senior, scored the 2,000th point of her career in the first half Friday as the Panthers prevailed 56-53 at Hayfield.

"We came out swinging and had a dominant first-half effort," said NRHEG coach Onika Peterson, whose team won its 21st consecutive game.

The Panthers played solid first-half defense and VanMaldeghem supplied the points.

"It seemed like whatever Camryn shot in the first half went in," said Peterson.

She needed 18 to reach 2,000, becoming the third NRHEG player to do so behind Carlie Wagner and Oakley Baker.

"Congratulations to her on this huge accomplishment," said Peterson.

The Panthers led 32-17 at halftime, but things tightened up in the second half.

"Hayfield came out in the second half and made some big shots and had a couple bounces go their way,"

Senior tops 2,000 points as NRHEG completes 3-0 week

said Peterson. "We started playing not to lose rather than playing to win. We missed some shots we normally would hit; that's part of the game. I'm proud the girls held their composure and were able to pull off a solid conference road win."

Camryn VanMaldeghem finished with 39 points, including five three pointers. Her twin sister, Quinn, led the team with 14 rebounds.

Totals: C.VanMaldeghem 39 points, 5 rebounds, 3 steals, 1 assist; Q.VanMaldeghem 12P, 14R, 10S, 3A; Gabby Schlaak 1R, 3S; Ezra Boerner 1R, 1A; Clara Buendorf 5P, 4R, 1S; Savannah Farr 1R; Chloe Stork 4R.

The Panthers survived a scare at Southland Tuesday, where they trailed 32-21 at halftime before rallying for a 58-57 victory.

"What a game," said Peterson.

"We had two to three great possessions to start the game and then the rest of it seemed like an uphill battle. Hats off to a tough Southland team. Their mid-range jumpers are extremely impressive; they have solid defense and rebound very

well. We ended up looking to our bench in the first half with three starters having three fouls."

Southland stretched the lead to as many as 14 in the second half before the Panthers regained their composure.

Boerner's three-pointer won it. Quinn VanMaldeghem had 14 steals.

"This was truly a team win," said Peterson. "We had a lot of kids step up. I'm very proud of this team, their resilience, and their ability to play and step up for each other when things get tough. I'm sure we will be seeing Southland again come play-off time."

NRHEG totals: Schlaak 20P, 4R; Boerner 3P, 4R; Q.VanMaldeghem 11P, 15, 14S, 6A; Buendorf 5P, 5R, 3S, 2A; C.VanMaldeghem 15P, 2R, 3S; Farr 3R, 1S; Stork 4P, 3R, 2S.

The game was a sharp contrast to Monday, when the Panthers led USC 56-4 at halftime en route to a 77-25 decision at New Richland.

"We knew going in that we would have a good opportunity to pick up a win, because USC is adjusting after

the loss of their point guard and one of better guards in the gopher conference, Olivia Bungum," said Peterson.

The Panthers came out firing, making 10 threes in the first half, led by Schlaak with three.

In the second half, Peterson rotated her lineup hockey-style, running five in and five out while mixing starters with our subs/younger players.

"It was great to get everyone meaningful time on the floor," said Peterson.

Totals: Schlaak 13P, 1R, 1S, 2A; Boerner 3P, 1S, 2A; Q.VanMaldeghem 6P, 10R, 7S, 5A, 1 block; Buendorf 8P, 1R, 2S; Kenley Gehrke 1R; C.VanMaldeghem 31P, 4R, 4S, 4A; Farr 11P, 4R, 1S; Stork 2P, 3R, 4S; Emelia Stadheim 1R; Joey Rossing 3P.

After a Tuesday game at St. Clair, the 21-2 Panthers play Friday at 7:15 at Alden-Conger. They host the Gopher Conference championship game Saturday against an opponent to be determined.

NRHEG matmen drop two

Tufte 5th in girls' section tourney

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School wrestling team finished the regular season last Thursday with a triangular at New Richland.

The Panthers first faced the Maple River/United South Central Longhorns and dropped a 54-18 decision. Victories for the Panthers were by Owen Schlaak, 107 pounds; Grahm Jacobson, 114; Dakota Schlaak, 133; and Ryan Schlaak, 189. Dakota Schlaak won by forfeit. The Panthers forfeited the 285 match.

Also wrestling for NRHEG were Charlie Tufte, Bo Holland, Chase Johannsen, Adrian Naser, Wyatt Hendrickson, Noah Weller and Wyatt Larson.

The Panthers fell 54-18 to Grand Meadow/Leroy-Ostrander/Southland, with NRHEG victories by Owen Schlaak, Jacobson and Ryan Schlaak. All won by fall.

First-year Panthers head coach Krey Cory was pleased with his wrestlers' effort.

"Everyone went out and competed very hard tonight," said Cory. "Everyone is getting more confident with their offense attacks. Our team is young and lacks a lot of experience at most weights, but we go out there and try to compete with whoever steps on the mat."

It was also Senior Night for the Panthers. Recognized were senior wrestler Larson, manager Winter Pederson and cheerleader Madioson Bogue.

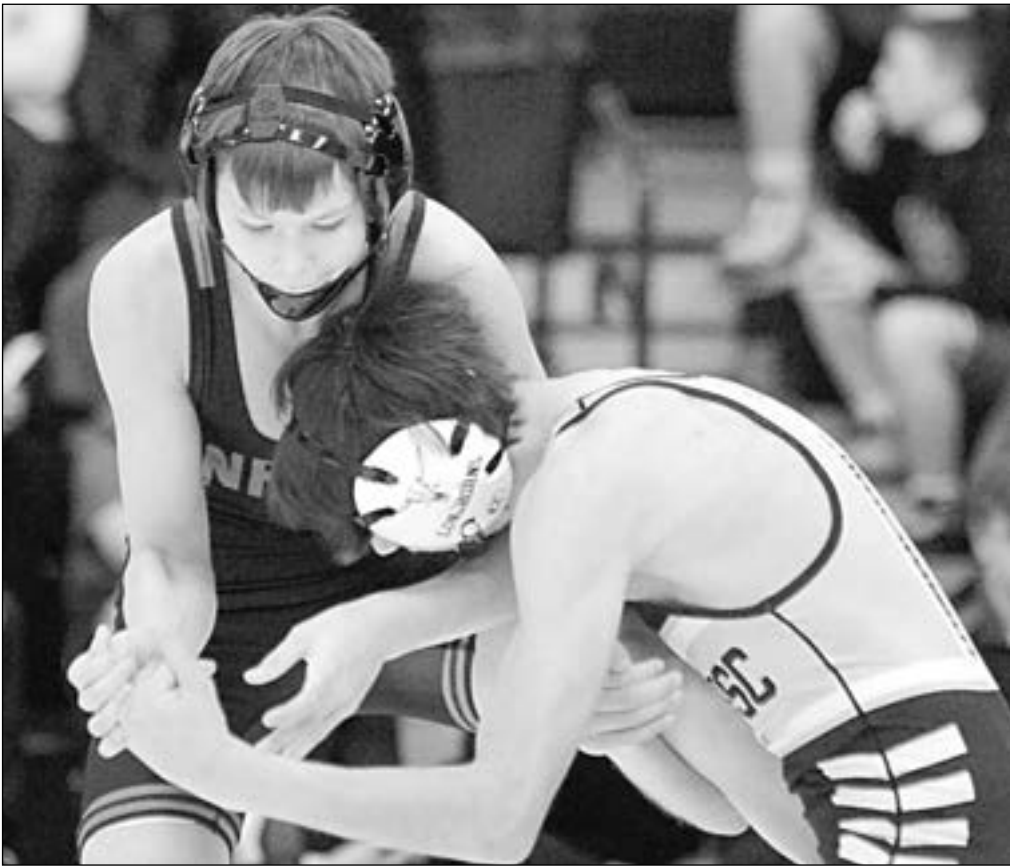
The Panthers finished the season with a dual-meet record of 5-16.

NRHEG's Josie Tufte completed in the Section 2A girls' individual wrestling tournament Friday and



PANTHER POWER — Above left, the Panthers' Wyatt Hendrickson lifts his Maple River/USC opponent last Thursday in New Richland. Above right, Bo Holland battles in the 127-pound bout. Below left, Charlie Tufte tangles with his opponent. Below right, Noah Weller, left, clashes with his foe at 172.

Photos by Jim Lutgens



Saturday at Rochester.

On Friday, Tufte received a bye in the first round and won her quarter-final match by a major decision, 11-1.

On Saturday, Tufte got pinned in

her semifinal match and battled a hard-fought match in the consolation semifinal, where she lost 14-12.

In the fifth-place match, Tufte wrestled tough and won by a score of 25-17.



"Josie wrestled great, and I'm really proud of how she finished her first-ever season of wrestling," said Cory. "It was very encouraging to see her apply everything she's learned this year and see how far she

has come. She has a great work ethic and attitude towards the sport and I'm extremely excited to see what the future holds for her."

The first round of boys' team sections is tonight, hosted by the higher

seeded team, and the semifinals and final are Saturday at WEM High School.

NRHEG boys can't hold on against Cleveland at MSU

Panthers start week with win at United South Central; Mack Gilliland breaks thumb Friday at Hayfield to end his season

The NRHEG boys' basketball team traveled to Minnesota State-Mankato Saturday to face Cleveland in a Coaches vs. Cancer Showcase.

After losing Mack Gilliland for the season Friday to a broken thumb, the Panthers started strong, roaring to a 37-27 halftime lead, but the Clippers rallied in the second half for an 82-70 decision.

"The boys came out very tough on defense, and capatized on open looks on the offensive end," said NRHEG coach Dan Schmidt.

The second half was another story, with Cleveland battling back to take the lead with about five minutes to play, getting to the basket and hitting their free throws while the Panthers struggled to get rebounds.

"This was a very tough loss as it was a section opponent, and we played so well in the first half," said Schmidt.

Calvin Nissen led the Panthers with 17 points, 4 assists, and 4 steals. Dom Olson added 16 points, Brock Holland 13 points and 9 rebounds. A.J. Deen added 11 points, and 11 rebounds.

Totals: Deen 11P, 11R, 2A, 2S; Olson 16P, 3R, 2S; Nissen 17P, 1R, 4A, 4S; Brooks Gilliland 10P, 8R, 3A, 1S; Fynn Baumann 2P, 1R, 1A; Brendan Schmidt 2P, 3R, 4A, 2S; Holland 13P, 9R, 5A.

A night earlier, the Panthers played at Hayfield in the second half of a girl-boy doubleheader and lost 86-47.

"We were never really in this game," said Coach Schmidt. "We failed to execute

everything that we had worked on all week. Hayfield plays very tough defense, and doesn't really throw anything complicated at you on the offensive end, yet had their way with us."

The Vikings led from start to finish and the Panthers could not fight back.

"Hayfield shot very well from the field, as a result of slow closeouts and late switches, so a lot of credit goes to them for exploiting us in that regard," said Schmidt.

Nissen led in scoring with 14 points. Deen, Olson, Brooks Gilliland, and Mack Gilliland all had 6 points. Brendan Schmidt added 5, and Brock Holland finished with four. Deen had another great night on the glass with 13 rebounds.

"He's really done a good job this last

month with the work we've done at practice on positioning and physicality when it comes to rebounding," said Schmidt.

Holland added 9 rebounds of his own. Brendan Schmidt had 6.

Individual totals: Deen 6P, 13R, 1 block; Olson 6P, 1S; Nissen 14P, 4R, 1A, 2S; B.Gilliland 6P, 2R, 2A, 2S; Baumann 1R, 2A, 1S; B.Schmidt 5P, 6R, 3A, 1S; M.Gilliland 6P; Holland 4P, 9R, 1A.

The Panthers started the week Monday with a solid 74-58 victory at United South Central. They trailed only once, 2-0, and led by 17 at the halftime break.

"It was a great defensive effort by all the guys, and we kept going with great balance on the offense," said Coach Schmidt.

Olson came off the bench and continued

to play well on both sides of the ball with 19 points, including 8-for-8 from the free-throw line down the stretch. Nissen added 15 points, Brendan Schmidt 10, Deen 9 to go along with a team-high 12 rebounds.

NRHEG totals: Deen 9P, 12R, 1A, 1B; Olson 19P, 1R, 4A, 1S; Nissen 15P, 1R, 1A, 1S; B.Gilliland 5P, 5R, 2A, 1S; Baumann 6P, 1S; B.Schmidt 10P, 3R, 1A, 3S; M.Gilliland 4P, 4R, 3A, 3S, 1B; Holland 6P, 6R, 2S.

The Panthers, 8-13, played Tuesday at 16-3 Madelia. They host Alden-Conger Friday at 7 p.m. and face Nicollet at home Saturday at 2:30.

"We have a very tough week ahead of us," said Coach Schmidt.

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NEW LISTING
2-bedroom, 2-bath home with potential for additional bedrooms. Features a 2-car garage, a large yard, and is located in a nice, quiet neighborhood.
**616 S State St
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NEW LISTING
Remodeled 2BR home in great central location featuring refinished hardwood floors, updated bath w/ tiled tub/shower, and kitchen w/ new counter-tops & sink. Zoned B3 for res. or small business use; previously a rental (license expired), unfinished basement w/ 3/4 bath, deep lot w/ garage potential, and adjoining lot may be negotiable w/ acceptable offer.
**312 2nd Ave SE
Waseca, MN
\$179,900**

NEW LISTING
Remodeled 3-bdrm, 2-bath home; move in now! This home features a brand-new kitchen with stainless steel appliances, new laminate and ceramic tile flooring, updated insulation, a new furnace and AC, and a new sewer line.
A great opportunity to own an updated home at an affordable price—don't miss out!
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NEW LISTING
Adorable two-story home tucked into a cul-de-sac in a great Janesville location, offering 3 bdrms & 3 baths. The main level features a spacious living room, open dinette & kitchen with peninsula seating, ample cabinetry, pantry, & patio doors leading to an inviting deck. Upstairs are two bedrooms & a full bath, while the finished basement includes a large family room, third bdrm, & ¾ bath. Enjoy a landscaped backyard, plus a double attached finished & heated garage with cabinets & countertop—perfect for entertaining. This is a must-see home!
**523 Allyn Cr
Janesville, MN
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SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642
February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Burger nite 5-7pm	4 6pm BAR Bingo	5 7pm HALL BINGO	6 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	7
8 Breakfast VFW 8:00am to noon WASECA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE	9 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	10 Burger nite 5-7pm	11 6pm BAR Bingo	12 7pm HALL BINGO	13 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	14
15	16	17 Burger nite 5-7pm	18 6pm BAR Bingo	19 7pm HALL BINGO	20 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	21
22 BREAKFAST VFW 8:00am to noon	23	24 Burger nite 5-7pm	25 6pm BAR Bingo	26 7pm HALL BINGO	27 SLEIGH & CUTTER DINNER	28

HOURS OF OPERATION
SUN.– MON. CLOSED
TUE.– 1pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady's nite 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm.
WED.– SAT.-1pm to 11 pm
POST & AUX MEETING 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license number 00385

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY WASECA

DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.: 81-PR-26-90

In Re: Marilyn J. Lund, a/k/a Marilyn Jean Lund and Marilyn J. Peterson, Decedent

ment purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated May 6, 2014 (“Will”), and for the appointment of Matthew J. Lund, whose address is 9955 Killdeer St., Coon Rapids, MN 55433, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED ? a SUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate. Please see Notice of Remote Hearing. Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

BY THE COURT
Dated: 02/04/2026, 13:05:06 P.M.
/s/Carol M. Hanks
Judge of District Court
Shannon Asselin
Court Administrator
Attorney for Petitioner
Susan T. Peterson-Lerdahl
Henningson & Snoxell, Ltd.
6900 Wedgwood Road, Suite 200
Maple Grove, Minnesota, 55311
Attorney License No: 032159X
Telephone: 763-560-5700
FAX: 763-560-0110
Email: speterson@hennsnnox-law.com
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer February 12 and 19, 2026

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA

DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
PROBATE COURT DIVISION
Court File No.: 81-PR-25-943

In Re: Estate of
MARK J. PAULSON,
Decedent

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

will be held in the above named Court at Waseca, Waseca County, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the will of the above named decedent, dated November 17, 2025, and for the appointment of Sarah Marzinske whose address is 32088 20th St, Janesville, MN 56048, as personal representative of the estate of the above named decedent, in an unsupervised probate, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the probate, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereunto entitled as ordered by the Court and close the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Dated: 2/2/2026
/s/ Carol M. Hanks
Judge of District Court
/s/ Shannon Asselin
Deputy Court Administrator

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, P.A.
Ellie J. James, #505790
215 E Elm Ave, PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093
507-835-5240
ellie.james@phblawoffice.com
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer February 12 and 19, 2026

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Waseca City Council will hold a public hearing on **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 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

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