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WASECA
COUNTY
PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

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Sports

Waseca County Farm & City Luncheon at Farmamerica March 19

The county farm and city luncheon at Farmamerica will begin at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 19 to acknowledge the hardworking individuals who continue to move our ag industry forward. Tickets are \$20 per person and must be purchased in advance at the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism. The deadline to purchase tickets is March 9. Must have a ticket to attend.

Spring Multi-Sale at the Mill Event Center March 19 to 21

Area families and individuals can book a table at the Mill Event Center for a gigantic indoor multi-family sale. Buyers will find a wide variety of items at bargain prices. Takes place noon to 6 p.m. March 19; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 20; and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 21. For more information contact The Mill at 507-461-1434.

Burger/Fish Fry at Waseca Legion on Friday, March 20

The Sons of the American Legion is hosting a burger/fish fry for the Waseca High School bands from 5:30-7 p.m. on Friday, March 20. Cost is \$10 and includes fries. Waseca Jazz Band will provide music, desserts and drinks available for purchase.

Rosemaling Bread Board Class at Waseca Arts Council March 21

Participants will paint a rosemaling design on a bread board during a class at the Waseca Arts Council on Saturday, March 21, from 10 a.m. to noon. Cost: \$35 Members / \$40 Non-members. All supplies are provided. Limit to 12 students.

Puzzle Competition at the Indian Island Winery March 21

There will be a puzzle competition at the Indian Island Winery from 1-5:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 21. Gather teams of up to four and don't forget to buy tickets online.

Natalie Reynolds Wolff and High School Student Art at Waseca Art Center March 21

Work by artist Natalie Reynolds Wolff and by area high school age students will be presented at the Waseca Art Center beginning Saturday, Mar. 21 through May 1. There will also be an opening reception from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 28.

Annual Farmamerica Meeting on March 27

Farmamerica will hold their annual members meeting at 1 p.m. on Friday, March 27. The public is welcome to attend to reflect on the past year and share updates on what Farmamerica has been up to. Voting members are encouraged to attend and participate in the election of new board members. Please RSVP by calling 507-835-2052 or email hilary@farmamerica.org.

A word from
The Word

My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life.

Psalm 119:50

Luck of the Irish



WEARING OF THE GREEN - Irish Royalty from left: 2025 Miss St. Patrick Stella Ziemke, Nora Flatness, Kayle Langford, 2026 Miss Irish Rose Bella Gerdts, 2026 Miss St. Patrick Hudson Miller, Haylee Appel, and the 2025 Miss Irish Rose Lily Quast at the Irish American Club celebration at the Mill on Saturday, March 14, 2026.

Grand marshal, honored couple chosen for Irish celebration

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Irish America Club of Southern Minnesota started off its 58th annual celebration on Saturday, March 14 with a 10:30 a.m. mass at Waseca's Sacred Heart Church. During a half hour of Irish choral music prior to the service, everyone in the pews was given a chance to talk and build community.

Traditional Irish tunes were incorporated into the service; local celebrities like Stella Ziemke and Lily Quast, the Miss St. Patrick and Miss Irish Rose 2025 pageant winners who presented the communal gifts and offerings during the service.

After mass the parishioners remained seated for the crowning of the new Mr. and Mrs. Emerald Isle. During the crowning, male members of the choir sang "Mother Machree." As Doc and Barb Hoehn, Mr. and Mrs. Emerald Isle 2025, handed over their crowns and capes to Gordy and Pat Frisk, Mr. and Mrs. Emerald Isle 2026; Gordy took a moment to express his thanks, but kept it short.

The 2025 Grand Marshal, Faith Ryan, presented the sash of the office to the 2026 Grand Marshal, TJ Anderson, who shared a few words before he reclaimed his seat.

From there it was the Parade of Clans, with everyone walking in family groups from the church to the Mill. Carrying banners to identify themselves, family groups taking part included the Burns Clan, followed by the Fitzsimmons Clan. Behind them was the Jewison Clan, then the



Selected as Mr. and Mrs. Emerald Isle 2026 were Gordy and Pat Frisk. With them is this year's Grand Marshal for the Irish celebrations, TJ Anderson.

Glynn Clan. Last but certainly not least were the Hoehns, carrying a banner which declared them the "O'Hoehn" Clan for the day.

The parade traveled only a short distance, around four blocks. In spite of the cold, those in the parade were cheerful and smiling and gave out plenty of waves. The Irish American Club extended thanks to all who assisted with the day's celebration of Irish faith and heritage.

Irish continued on 4



EXCEPTIONAL - Ashley Speckmeier, Angela Motz, Christyn McClure, and Allie Johnson performed "YMCA" by the Village People at the eighteenth annual ICAN Talent Show on Tuesday, March 10, 2026. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

ICAN Talent Show celebrates 18 years

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The 18th annual ICAN Talent Show, "Waseca Super Stars" took place on March 10 at the Central Building auditorium along Elm Ave East. It featured 24 different performances before a full house; nearly

every seat inside the auditorium was full of fans, friends and family.

The emcees for the day were usually in groups of twos and included Katrina Davidson, Jacob Leiser, Jay Cowell, Anna Marken, Beth Lieser and Jackie Shato.

The first to perform was Tasha

Volkman who sang for her boyfriend, "My Heart Will Go On" by Celine Dion. After that was Kolton Flitter who sang and performed, "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor. Then Caden Clark sang, "You Talk Too Much" by Run DMC. Jay Boyce had a pre-recorded video which featured

him in various situations titled, "The Best of Jay Boyce" with help from Emily Guerra; his nickname in the videos was "Macho Man."

As performers arrived or exited, emcees provided entertainment,

ICAN continued on 5

Miss Irish Rose, Miss St. Patrick crowned

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Irish American Club of Southern Minnesota celebrated its 58th annual celebration on Saturday, March 14. After an Irish Mass at Sacred Heart and the crowning of the 2026 Mr. and Mrs. Emerald Isle and Grand Marshal at the church, many followed the Parade of Clans over to the Mill where there was a full day of festivities and the Miss St. Patrick and Miss Irish Rose Queen Pageant. Bella Gerdts was selected as Miss Irish Rose 2026; Hudson Miller was crowned Miss St. Patrick 2026. The raffle winners were Ann Clayton, necklace. Jenny Gentz, ring. Amanda Morsching, 50/50 prize of \$1,250.

As the participants of the day finished their walk from Sacred Heart to The Mill, they were tempted to a lunch of Irish fare: Mulligan stew, Rubeen egg rolls, corned beef and cabbage. For those not in a mood for Irish cuisine, hot dogs and burgers were available from Blake's Food Truck. Musicians Becky Borneke and Muriah Keith Miller entertained the crowd with Irish tunes.

For the children there were green activities, crafts and treats for sale. The Irish auction and bingo filled the afternoon hours until dinner service started at 4 p.m.

The Battle of the Clans took place at 6 p.m. but the Miss St. Patrick and Miss Irish Rose pageant followed soon after. Lily Quast, Miss Irish Rose 2025 gave a short speech before she passed along her tiara and sash: "I was excited but had no idea how wonderful being Miss Irish Rose would be. I would like to thank Stella's mom for driving us safely in all the parades and thanks to Stella. Also, to my family and especially my mom for making sure I was ready for everything." She followed up her goodbye speech with the song, "Til we Meet Again."

Stella Ziemke, Miss St. Patrick 2025, spoke next: "Thank you to the Irish American Club for making all this possible. Thank you Clare Miller, we both appreciate you so much. Lily Quast, I wouldn't have made it without you, all those parades and events, sitting next to you made them so much easier. My parents and family for being with me every step of the way. Thank you God for being my rock." She followed up her words with the song, "Wild Mountain Time" accompanied by her mother on harp on vocals.

Five contestants took part in the pageant. Bell Gerdts, a senior at John Marshall High School, went first. Emcee and Queen coordinator Clare Miller asked each contestant one question before she performed for the group. Miller asked, "What are your most memorable memories of this celebration?" Gerdts replied, "It would be listening to the Irish song 'Tura Lura Lural (That's an Irish Lullaby)' with my family. Gerdts played a Three-Piece Irish Movement on violin with slight modifications and a Charlie Daniels Band "Devil Went Down to Georgia."

Next went Haylee Appel, soph-

Crowned continued on 6



Compostings

by Al Batt

Texas: the unlucky state

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

The lottery is up to \$496 million. If you knew you were going to win the lottery, what would you do?

The first thing I'd do would be to buy a ticket.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. By this time of the winter, I hear, "If it's snowing, I'm not going." Spring marches in March. I am fond of each day, but some more than others. Meteorological spring begins on March 1 or when the spring equinox falls on March 20, or the day Mother Nature allows us to have it. The real March madness isn't basketball. It's the weather. It makes people mad. Winter can be a sore winner. I pre-shoveled this year. I did all my shoveling right before the latest blizzard when there was no snow on the ground. Easy peasy.

THOSE THRILLING DAYS OF YESTERYEAR IN THREE MEMORIES

I recall riding on the school bus, and pressing my face against a frost-covered window, like an algae-eating aquarium fish, so my breath would allow mirror writing. When I was riding a bus to school on a day I thought should have been a snow day, I used my forefinger to scribble "lqlslH" in the steam on the window.

Growing up, when foodstuffs tumbled to the floor, we had the 3-second rule in our house. If we picked it up within that time and blew on it (to remove whatever might have climbed aboard), it was OK to eat it. Sugar cookies were subject to a 5-second rule. If no one was watching and the dog didn't get to the food first, I could pick it up at my leisure and eat it. I was on a dirt diet, but I didn't know it.

Perpetual towel contraptions were found in public restrooms and gas stations. Metal dispensers allowed users to pull down a fresh section of cloth while the used portion was rolled back into the dispenser. A long roll of clean cloth fed from one spool, passed over a roller, and was collected onto a separate take-up roll in the back. The devices were criticized for being unhygienic when not maintained properly, leading to their replacement by paper towels or air dryers. The lack of maintenance led to a user pulling the cloth, only to find the entire roll had been used and the part available was completely soaked.

I'VE LEARNED

If nothing ever changed, there would be no butterflies.

Always carry plastic silverware in a sandwich bag. You never know when pie might happen.

Apathy is the leading cause of whatever.

What was more important than the invention of the first telephone? The invention of the second telephone.

The luckiest state is New Hampshire, based on lottery wins, chances of being struck by lightning, cost of living, housing affordability, average credit score, car accident deaths, natural disasters, workplace accidents and divorce rates. Iowa is the second luckiest and Minnesota is third. The unluckiest state is Texas. <https://www.actionnetwork.com/entertainment/the-luckiest-unluckiest-states>

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

I just flew home from a ravioli convention and Boyardee's arms tired.

How do you turn cake into pie? Measure the ratio of its circumference to its diameter.

Everyone knows about the famous painter Bob Ross, but few have heard about his brother Albert, who was famous for his 6-foot wingspan.

I know only 25 letters of the alphabet. I don't know y.

NATURE NOTES

Knock, knock, who's there? A woodpecker drumming on a tree. Blackbirds and robins filled the cheep seats in the trees. They perform community service by returning in the spring.

Red-winged blackbirds flock together, which is a wing-wing situation. The males return before the females show up. They hurry back to compete for choice territories. They must be aware to survive, so they travel in flocks, which offer more eyes to spot predators and food. Their arrival is a harbinger of spring. The red-winged blackbird could be the most commonly seen bird in the Gopher State. The females, with streaky brown plumages, don't need to rush as they know there will be males to welcome their triumphant arrival. The males will be singing "Look-at-me" at full throttle.

I kept an ear out and heard sandhill cranes giving voice to a call that stirs the soul. Aldo Leopold wrote this about that sound, "High horns, low horns, silence and finally a pandemonium of trumpets, rattles, croaks and cries that almost shakes the bog with its nearness."

IN LOCAL NEWS

I visited with Dave Hagen of Blooming Prairie. He's a graduate of Ellendale, and although he'll deny it, my former teammate. His son Gabe was an All-American football player at Minnesota State-Mankato in 2024.

I watched the Minnesota State High School Girls' Basketball Tournament. My granddaughter, Joey Batt, is an assistant coach at Providence Academy, which won its fifth straight state championship. Huzzah!

MEETING ADJOURNED

A kind word is sunshine for the soul.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Visiting Pipestone

My travels took me to Pipestone this week, and I was deeply grateful.

I had never before visited the national monument located there: the extent of my knowledge was that a special type of stone is found there that is the preferred raw material for "peace" pipes made by Native Americans across history.

I left myself only a little more than an hour to walk through the visitor center. There is an outdoor trail that takes a person past the quarries and through some of the natural prairie, but the day was too cold and windy for that to be appealing. Inside the center, there are many photos, illustrations, videos and even a whole simulated wall that shows how the rust-red catlinite stone is in a vein under much harder limestone. A video includes footage demonstrating the steps needed when using hand tools to expose the catlinite.

Even today, only manual methods are allowed in the quarry. Along with that, only persons of Native American heritage are permitted to work there.

The best part of my visit was a

conversation with Mark Pederson, a member of a local Native American family who occupies a work station inside the visitor center. He crafts demonstration items and answers people's questions. Relatives of his also serve as demonstrators, but on a Thursday afternoon only an hour or so before closing, I was one of very few visitors, and he was the only person at a station. We talked for a half hour or more.

Thanks to our exchange, I learned catlinite is very soft compared to other types of stone—one display claimed it is the world's "second-softest." It also revealed that signs of quarrying at Pipestone can be dated back tens of thousands of years.

Mark made a point of showing me a "drill" used before metal tools became available. A sharpened piece of dark-colored rock was tied at the bottom of a stick about a foot long. A pair of leather straps led to a horizontal "handle" which caused the leather to wrap around the stick first in one direction and then in the opposite one. As the handle moved up and down, the point would spin, changing directions



CRAFTSMAN - Native American Mark Pederson is among the group of people who demonstrate stone working techniques at the National Monument located near the town of Pipestone.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

as the straps wound and unwound, but always in motion—always grinding away at the catlinite below.

I was impressed with the ingenuity, craftsmanship and stamina it must have taken to make and use tools like that one.

Other elements at the visitor center made it clear the special rock is not the only way Native Americans used the area at Pipestone. A wide variety of native plants with medicinal properties grows there. Some of the plants were also used in mixtures to be

burned in the pipes; elements of the display explained different plants were also regarded as having specific significance, for example in hopes of bringing health or plenty or harmonious relationships.

As I said, I am grateful to have been there and to have widened my understanding of the place and the people who venerate it. Considering other people's perspectives is one important way to reach a stronger understanding of our own view of the world.

Colorado catastrophes with the family

I had the great pleasure of seeing my family this past week. My sister, mother, grandmother, and godmother hopped on a plane and came out to see me for two days as part of a girls' trip, and it was awesome.

Typical of our family, we exuded chaos wherever we went.

I picked them up at the airport late in the afternoon on Tuesday, and we stopped at a Target on our way to the hotel to get some snacks, water, and some wine. Then we got to the hotel, where our adventure began. First, they had some trouble checking in because we hadn't realized both rooms had been booked under different names, not the same. Then, as my sister and I were pushing the suitcase cart to the elevator, her backpack fell over and crashed onto the floor, where the bottle of wine snuggled in her water bottle slot promptly shattered all over the lobby floor.

We stood and looked from the floor to each other, completely shocked, until a hotel employee said not to worry, he would clean it up. So my sister and I fled to the elevator, away from the scene of the crime.

That was the first of it.



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

When we got to dinner, our waitress brought out our dishes with her arms full. We watched as one plate tilted a little too far, and half the food slid right off and onto the floor along with some silverware. We felt bad and apologized, convinced our bad juju was wearing off on her. A bit defeated, she explained it wasn't us, as she had the worst shift of her career the night before.

So that was the first day.

The next day, I took the fam up to Boulder to go hiking in the foothills. The hike was beautiful, with the last of the previous Friday's snow still melting and falling gently off the trees, riding the gentle wind to its next destination. Hiking, we could see the multitude of flatirons pressed into the mountainside; it was beautiful.

Our next funny came at lunch. I drove them to Pearl Street, a famous and popular stretch of pe-

destrian mall in downtown Boulder, where we found a place to snack and have a drink. We were seated fairly close to the bar/kitchen area, where the wait staff hung out. Although we were not eavesdropping, we clearly heard one gal say, "Minnesotans are snarky," in a rather negative tone in response to something said by another group member who was describing a friend of his from Minnesota.

The five of us looked at each other and laughed. We didn't think we were snarky. Sassy? Yes. Sarcastic? Of course. So my godmother piped up and told her that we were in fact from Minnesota. The woman apologized and said that she only said it because they had previously worked with a few Minnesotans who were all snarky. So we all laughed and went back to our conversations. After some discussion, we backtracked ourselves and decided

Minnesotans can, in fact, be snarky: We said it with love, of course.

And then, to top the day off, we got back to my car to find a parking ticket. I had paid on the app, but I realized I had forgotten to switch over my license plate after I recently got a new one.

Thankfully, the rest of that day went well and nothing chaotic happened.

The next day, Thursday, was also fairly calm. I dropped the family off at the airport at noon, but unfortunately their chaos continued as their flight was delayed an hour due to the snow and weather in Minnesota.

All in all, I believe we all had a great couple of days, kept entertained by the happenings in our lives.

My Determination: "Bedelia never meant to lead a pack of dogs on a wild-geese chase. She never meant to steal something and then sell it. She never meant to make someone look bad (very bad) or lead a parade astray or even stomp on a piece of perfectly delicious cherry pie. But all that and more actually happened." – Amelia Bedlia Means Business

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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Farm America Plant Bingo March 8



GREEN WINS - To the left, Stacy Larson, Brenda Hansen and Charity Groskreutz were playing Plant Bingo at Farmamerica on Sunday, March 8, 2026. Said Groskreutz, "We're just lifelong friends playing bingo." On the right, Brett Wadd and Ben Youngerberg were calling balls during the Plant Bingo game out at Farmamerica on Sunday, March 8, 2026. There will be another Plant Bingo game on Sunday, April 12.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann



OBITUARIES

Larry Severson

Larry Severson, age 80, passed away on Saturday, March 14, 2026 at Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park. A memorial service will be on Monday, March 23, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Aloysius Catholic Church with Rev. Joe Steinbeisser as celebrant. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are by Dirks-Blem Funeral Service of Olivia.

Larry Earl Severson was born on May 6, 1945 in Albert Lea, MN to Earl and Esther (Nagel) Severson. He graduated from Albert Lea High School in 1964. Through his previous marriages to Janice and Sandra, Larry was blessed with two daughters. He worked for many years selling real estate and doing loan origination. Larry owned and operated the Country Skate in Waseca and worked doing maintenance for the City of Waseca. On December 10, 2015 in McLeod County, Larry was united in marriage to Karen Zenk, gaining step-children and grandchildren. Larry enjoyed time spent outdoors fishing, hunting, and camping. He loved to travel, but when he was at home he liked to use his skills to remodel homes and work on inventions. His most successful invention was a universal gun sling sold on Amazon; he eventually sold that business in 2023. Together with Karen and their beloved dog, Daisy, they had many adventures. Larry had a crazy sense of humor with many jokes, and a creative approach to



Larry Severson

problem solving that will be greatly missed.

Larry is survived by his wife, Karen of Olivia; his daughters, Kelly Weis of Hanover and Michelle (Mike) Wolfe of Medford; his step-sons: John (Shelly) Caldwell of Rochester, Jay (Krista) Caldwell of St. Cloud, and Tony (Michele) Caldwell of Hutchinson; his step-daughters: Chelsea Baldwin of Minneapolis and Trista Baldwin of Haddonfield, NJ; his grandchildren: Grant & Mia Weis and Grace & Ava Wolfe; his step-grandchildren: Tate & Brody Caldwell, Ty, Reece & Olivia Caldwell, and Serenity, Echo, & Walker Baldwin; his beloved dog, Daisy; his sister-in-law, JoAnn Haroldson; and many nieces and nephews. Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Earl and Esther; brothers: Wayne (Gladys) Haroldson, Ronald Haroldson, and Keith (Pat) Severson; and his former wife, Sandra Sue (Lillie) Severson.

Edith Krause

I, Edith “Edie” Marie Krause at the age of 90 of rural Waseca, went home to be with Jesus on the afternoon of Thursday, March 12, 2026 surrounded by the love of my family.

I was born in Minneapolis on September 13, 1935 to my parents Iver and Florence (Erickson) Peterson. I was born-again when I gave my heart to Jesus at 10 years old one Sunday morning in Sunday School. I thank God for the Christian home I was born into and raised by the Word of God. I’ve failed many times during my lifetime, but Jesus always forgave me as I came to Him and repented of my sins. I’m very thankful that God gave His only Son to die on the cross so that I could have my sins forgiven and now I’m in heaven with Him. I’m also thankful for His presence in my life, His companionship, His love, His promise never to leave me nor forsake me. As the song goes, “without Him I could do nothing, without Him I’d surely fail, without Him I would be drifting, like a ship without a sail.” So, any good that I’ve done in my lifetime is all because of Him. He gets the Glory!

I attended school in the Twin Cities and graduated from Minnehaha Academy. After schooling, a friend and I moved to Colorado for a short time working as a telephone operator for “Ma Bell” which I continued to do upon returning to Minnesota.

God blessed me with a good husband and father to our four sons. On March 18, 1960, I was united in marriage to James “Jim” Krause in the Twin Cities. Though I have fond memories of visiting my grandparents’ farm in Wisconsin as a child, I soon became a full-time farm wife myself, supporting my husband as we raised our family and followed God’s path for our life together. It has been an honor to be a member of several faith communities and a pleasure to help others know the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I’ve had great joy in serving others, observing ways I could help, including supplying favorite snacks for children and grandchildren. I’ve also enjoyed compiling and studying our family’s history and genealogy. I love the family God has so wonderfully blessed me with!

I am survived by my four sons, Steve (Jill), Scott (Bev), Tim (Barb), and Kevin; grandchildren, Jason, Joseph, Nakia, Rachel (Andrew), Dakota (Aric), Sierra (Noah), Tyler (Callie), Nathan (Nicole), MesaJo (Christopher), Daniel (Sarah), Caleb; great-grandchildren, Tyler, Zaden, Hannah, Connor, Cayden, Ryland, Riddley, Olive, Elian, Cafourek, Iyoney, Trieghten, Adrein, Reagan, Eliott, Izon, Dovey, Kaia; great-great-grandson, Thorson. I am also remembered by sisters-in-law, Lorraine Peterson and Gladys Toews; and many nieces and nephews. I am preceded in death by both of my parents; my husband; two grandsons, Noah and Josiah; two brothers, Evert and Harold Peterson; my parents-in-law, Ervin and Esther Krause; siblings-in-law, Victor Krause, Jacob Toews, Rod Geary, Rachel Geary, Lilly Krause, and Margaret Peterson.

If anyone reading this does not know Jesus as your personal Savior, I invite you to repent of your sins and ask Him into your life. He will save you and I will see you in heaven.

Love and Prayers,



Edith Krause

Edie Krause
Funeral services for Edie will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, March 23, 2026, at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Visitation will be held for one hour before the service at the funeral home. Interment will follow at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca.

Donations ‘now’ give extra value

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Ask her anytime and Cindy Kolander, executive director of the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center and its associated food shelf, will almost certainly say “Now!” is the best time to donate to the organization.

“Now” is especially true through April 6, because donations during the window of March 1 to April 6 are being taken into account toward the 45th Annual Minnesota FoodShare March campaign results. After the campaign closes, more than 300 food shelf organizations will submit two numbers: the count of clients served and the value of donations (pounds of food and dollars) received within the time frame.

Minnesota FoodShare will then distribute funds it has raised in amounts relative to the reported numbers. The more donations an agency has garnered, and the more clients it has served, the larger the contribution the Waseca Area Food Shelf will receive from the March FoodShare campaign.

“Every dollar and pound of food counts,” proclaims Kolander, “so we’re doing what we can to get the highest numbers we can achieve.”

Kolander expresses gratitude for an arrangement through the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce to help promote this event. Organizations such as the local Rotary, Exchange and Lions clubs; along with churches, schools and businesses have been collecting money and food since the beginning of the month.

She also praises the local scouting organization, which has run an annual “Scouting for Food” campaign for decades. During March, many Waseca residents will find a note on their doors announcing when the Scouts will return; the hope is that people will set food out on their doorsteps to be collected on the morning of Saturday March 21st and brought directly to the food shelf. Kolander mentions last year’s Scout-

ing event brought in 2,500 pounds of food.

Still, Kolander says, “The need is great.” In 2025 the food shelf assisted 1,098 client households (2,539 individuals) which was an increase of over 20% from the record number of clients it served in 2024. The majority of the households required food support an average of 6 times during the year. This led to the Waseca Area Food Shelf assisting these households 6,708 times (14,791 individuals) with 212,791 pounds of food taken home to their families.

Kolander shares that, when she was hired to be the executive director for the Neighborhood Service Center in 2023, she did not understand how vital the organization’s support is.

Since then, she says, she has received statements of thanks from people who had tears in their eyes. “They tell me, ‘You helped me get my confidence back.’ They talk about how desperate they were feeling when they didn’t know where their next meal was coming from. They come back and make donations because they want to help other people.

“They let me and our staff know, in so many different ways, how valuable the food shelf and the thrift store have been for them.”

She goes on to explain that sales of donations made to the organization’s thrift store support many of the WANSC programs, including things as basic as paying the light bill.

“We had a rough summer,” she comments regarding sales, remembering that large-scale construction along Second Street Northwest closed not only the roadway, but even the sidewalks, making it difficult to continue operating the food shelf and impossible to maintain sales hours at the thrift shop.

The Waseca Area Food Shelf is open each weekday from 9 a.m. to noon, and then again from 1 to 4 p.m. The one-hour closure at mid-day is so that shelves can be restocked and



VOLUNTEER GOOD - Waseca Area Food Shelf volunteers Garry Huckfeldt and Jonna Moens stock supplies from a recent delivery onto shelves for distribution to clients.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

workers have time to eat lunch. Visits are by appointment; people are asked to call 507-833-4119, ext. 302 to schedule a time.

“We’re here to provide people with a balanced selection of food,” Kolander describes. “We want to send home a variety of choices from across the nutrition guidelines.”

This means, she says, clients are encouraged to take canned or frozen vegetables and fruits, proteins, grains, and dairy products. Fresh fruits and vegetables are also sometimes available through “retail rescue” arrangements with local stores. In summer, the food shelf also makes contact with area gardeners and the University of Minnesota Southern Outreach Center (SROC), where vegetables are grown as part of the facility’s research. Kolander recalled incidents from the past few summers when SROC offered the food shelf whole plots of vegetables, literally “ripe for the picking.”

Kolander says proteins—including

beef or pork, poultry, fish, legumes, nut products such as peanut butter – “are seldom donated,” and so the food shelf purchases them, when possible, from their Regional food bank named Channel One, operating out of Rochester and serving many food shelves across southern Minnesota. When Channel One has none to sell, she continues, the food shelf will make arrangements to buy meat and proteins from local retailers, who often agree to somewhat reduced prices.

As people consider making donations to the food shelf, Kolander says the facility welcomes all properly packaged and preserved foods. Thanks to the lower-than-retail prices offered by Channel One or other wholesale food outlets, she suggests money is an excellent choice because the food shelf can use it to order the foods it needs at any given time, and can buy them at wholesale prices, which is approximately 1/3 of regular retail costs.

■ Irish

from Page 1

Previous Mr. and Mrs. Emerald Isle couples:
2025-Barb and Doc Hoehn
2024-Kathleen and Joe Groh
2023-Mike and Jane Mulcahey
2022-Covid
2021-Covid
2020-Greg and Sue Harguth
2019-Paul and Mary Kubista
2018-Bob and Joan Burns
2017-Robert and Paula Beelow
2016-Jerome and Sue Stangler
2015-Tim and Delphine Farley
2014-Bill and Eileen Harguth
2013-Tom and Dianne Thissen
2012-Gale and Bonnie Johnson
2011-Ron and Margaret Eustice
2010-Bob and Lil Mulcahey
2009-Jack and Peggy Sexton
2008-Alvin and Donna Miller
2007-Cletus and Sharon Glynn
2006-Paul and Mayone Byron
2005-Burt and Sylvia Mulcahey
2004-Vince and Gladys Barden
2003-Lenny and LaVonne O’Meara
2002-Herb and Eileen Eustice
2001-Rodger and Marjorie

Mountain
2000-Mike and Winnifred Clemons
1999-Pat and Mary Ryan
1998-Jim and Rita Byron
1997-Bill and Anita Jewison
1996-Joe and Loretta McCarthy
1995-Joe and Rosie Jewison
1994-John and Verla Conway
1993-Tom and Rena Hinton
1992-Bud and Bette Miller
1991-Alvin and Lucille Miller
1990-Bob and Donna Connors
1989-Gene and Mary Glynn
1988-Frank and Elaine Sheeran
1987-Bob and MaryEllen O’Leary
1986-Lyle and Ellen Miller
1985-Paul and Mary Kehoe
1984-Harold and Maria McMahan
1983-Tom and Mae McCarthy
1982-Ray and Gen Farley
1981-Jack and Cora Dineen
1980-Paul and Louise Schroeder
1979-Ambrose and Grace Linnihan
1978-John and Amanda Barnett
1977-Edward and Catherine Brown
1976-Carl and Margaret Wheeler
1975-Leo and Regina Holmes
1974-Chester and Mary Morrison
1973-Richard and Cel Byrne
1972-Frank and Annie Jewison
1971-Hugh and Nell Noland

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Area food shelves benefit from statewide campaign

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

During the month of March, the Twin Cities based organization FoodShare holds a major fundraising drive to provide financial support for about 300 participating food shelves around the state. Local shelves keep track of the number of people served and donations received during the target dates—this year from March 1 to April 6—and provide a summary report to the organization.

Funds raised by FoodShare during this “Fight Hunger” campaign are then distributed among the organizations in amounts relative to their reported numbers.

Because the FoodShare drive creates an opportunity to get additional donations based on donations received, local food shelves work to increase awareness and encourage giving during the target dates. The FoodShare website indicates the Waseca, Janesville and New Richland food shelves are taking part in the program.

The organization Feeding America reports that nearly 550,000 Minnesotans are facing hunger. About a third of these individuals are under the age of 18.

FoodShare states that Minnesota’s charitable food system (food shelves and food banks, meal programs, etc.) is running “at capacity,” and goes on to list numerous contributing factors, including rising food prices, growing inflation rates, and slowing wage growth. Information available on the FoodShare website states, “Massive leaps in food shelf attendance over the last five years suggest emergency food assistance providers will continue to be a critical resource to communities across the state.”

Information on the site also states the annual numbers of visits to food shelves are now 150% higher than they were prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, with growing numbers of seniors becoming eligible for services.

Council paves way for Bevcomm to compete with Mediacom

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

During the Waldorf city council meeting the evening of Monday, March 9, it was announced council member Carrie Ferch has been moved to the New Richland Care Center for health reasons; it was stated the council members and all of Waldorf send their good wishes. It was also announced that Mayor Rob Wilkening will be out of town for the April city council meeting, but the meeting will go on as planned.

The council voted to notify Mediacom that Waldorf will not renew the current franchise agreement contract, which was signed 15 years ago and ends in July 2027. A representative of Bevcomm was on hand to explain how the company will be installing new fiber optic lines around town and signing up new Waldorf customers who might not want to stay with Mediacom. The Bevcomm fiber optic line will be installed in a two-week period this summer, and can support phone and streaming services. The representative stated Bevcomm’s intent is not to eliminate Mediacom from Waldorf, but to offer residents an additional option. This will be done at no cost to the city; Bevcomm will be notifying every resident in town via mailers or door to door.

The council voted to allow an autopay option for paying city water bills; it will include a \$2 convenience charge for each use. The council voted to approve Positive Pay fraud prevention through the city accounts at Minnwest Bank. The council voted to change the use of city debit cards to credit cards.

Charlie Barnes attended the meeting on behalf of the Waldorf Veterans Memorial, which borders

WALDORF CITY COUNCIL

his property. He said he would like to kill the crab grass that is becoming invasive this spring. Barnes would also like to turn the installation of the memorial brick path to include everyone, “I would like that to be a community event if possible.” Roger Witt of Witt’s Electric said he will help install the wiring for the gazebo and is willing to donate his time.

The next park committee meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26; community members are encouraged to attend. The next Waldorf Days committee meeting is scheduled at the community center at 6 p.m. Monday, March 23. Again, members of the public are invited.

Quotes are being sought from three companies for the installation of new playground equipment near the city ballpark: Pro Playgrounds, Flagship Recreation and Midwest Playscapes. Each has provided its own proposed different playground schematic and price structure, with various options to choose from. The council has been informed having the city dismantle and dispose of the old equipment would greatly decrease the bids from the companies. Around \$43,000 has been raised toward the project, with grant options available.

The water and sewer department reported nine residences failed to pay their water bill this month; another five submitted only partial payment. A total amount of \$1,587 was not collected; currently two non-paying residences have received shut-off notices and six are currently not receiving service.



www.heartlandhealthcare.net

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WCHS announces new exhibit: “This Old Thing”

Four Objects. Four Staff Picks. Countless Stories.

The Waseca County Historical Society (WCHS) is inviting the public to experience history in a new way this season — not through timelines or textbooks, but through something far more personal. The new exhibit, “This Old Thing,” features just four objects. Out of more than 270,000 items in the Society’s collection, only four were chosen.

They were not selected because they are the oldest.

Not because they are the most valuable.

Not because they are the most famous.

They were chosen because someone couldn’t stop thinking about them.

Each object in This Old Thing is a staff favorite — personally selected by executive director Amy Danielson, data manager/library manager Elizabeth Anselmo, head curator

Pauline Fenelon and assistant curator Anna Simmons. Each one carries a story that surprised, unsettled, delighted, or lingered long after it was first cataloged.

At first glance, there might not seem to be anything special about them. They deserve another look.

Why would a museum professional choose this object over thousands of others? What does it reveal about Waseca County’s past, and about the people who care for its history today? Visitors won’t know what the objects



UNFORGETTABLE - For an exhibit opening April 7, Waseca County Historical Society staff members Elizabeth Anselmo, Pauline Fenelon, Anna Simmons and Amy Danielson (not pictured) selected items which, having once seen, they could not forget.

are until they step inside the museum doors.

“We wanted to create something intimate,” said Danielson. “When you work with history every day, certain objects stay with you. This exhibit is about those moments — the ones that feel personal, unexpected, and sometimes even mysterious.” Each object is paired with a reflection from the staff member who chose it—and a glimpse into the story the object itself might tell, if it could speak about its travels through time.

This Old Thing is small by design. Fo-

Inaugural Jazz Choir



JAZZ CHOIR - These Waseca student singers recently represented Waseca at their very first jazz choir competition. A Waseca Choirs Facebook post reads, “Their hard work, teamwork, and passion for music were on full display. It was a great experience and a fun day of performing and learning together.”

■ ICAN

from Page 1

sometimes in the form jokes and riddles. For example, Jake Leiser asked, “What’s with the focus on the eye in the song “Eye of the Tiger”?” What about the other four letters?” This garnered a hearty laugh from the crowd. Leiser also stated his surprise that his sister, Beth, and one of her friends were what he called, “Country superstars” when they performed, “Something Bad” by Miranda Lambert and Carrie Underwood.

The talent show’s version of the Village People’s hit “YMCA” brought four entertainers on stage: Ashley Specmeier, Angela Motz, Christyn McClure and Allie Johnson. Jackie Shatto sang “Someone’s Watching Over Me” by Hilary Duff. Dan Wright performed “Waymaker” by Michael W. Smith. Kelsea Brinkman and Hope Weise performed a skit titled, “The Little Old Lady Who was not Afraid of

Anything” to thunderous applause. Todd Krueger and Maggie Gahler sang “I Got You Babe” by Sonny and Cher.

Annabel Gonzales, Maggie Gahler, Jolene Root, Megan Johanneck, Allie Johnson, Kari Redd, Todd Krueger, Emmet Siebsen, Katrina Flitter and Angie Ulmen performed a skit they titled “The Senior Center Dance Party.” Jay Cowell sang “I Never Cry” by Poison. Aiden Greenwald devised a humorous skit based on Thomas the Train. Angie Ulmen sang “Lucky” by Britney Spears. Nicole Rux, Landry Grose and Emily Guerra performed “You don’t need two people to do your job.” Nancy Thompson and Emmett Siebsen sang “The Fighter” by Keith Urban and Carrie Underwood.

Trent Kuball sang “Dark Horse” by Katy Perry. Jacob Leiser sang “Speechless” by Dan and Shay. Betty Tiede sang “Wanted” by Alan Jackson. Nathan Gottschalk performed “A Whole New World” by Peabo Bryson and Regina Belle. The final song for the evening was “Have a Nice Day” by Bon Jovi, sung by Erik Vlasak and the Wild Ones.



THRILL OF THE FIGHT - Kolton Flitter performed the hit song, “Eye of the Tiger” at the eighteenth annual ICAN Talent Show at the central building on Tuesday, March 10, 2026.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

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The Pastor's Column

I believe in the church

By PASTOR RICK WULF

I've been thinking a lot about Church lately. Now you'd expect a pastor to be thinking a lot about Church—it's kind of his job. If he didn't think about Church, you might question whether he cares about it. Because honestly, what we think about most, is what we care about the most. Is that why Paul told us to think about things that are lovely and admirable and excellent and praise worthy (Philippians 4)? But that's not the purpose of this article.

Instead, like I said, I think about Church a lot.

Here at Christ Community Church, we are currently in a series, entitled, "How We Have De-vised Our Devices". It's a creative play on words. Let me explain. We recognize there are things in our life that we would call vices—things in our life or about ourselves that we wish we could avoid, overcome, or stop doing. Things like smoking, drinking, gambling, swearing, stealing, etc. Those are called, vices. But, when we look at our phones and all of the things that happen on our phones that produce negative experiences, we tend to overlook those. Shrug them off even, or explain them away. For example, think of social media and all the negativity that can happen on these platforms. Now, I know there can also be amazing things, absolutely. But are they worth the pain, frustration, and anxiety they cause? Despite that, we find ourselves going back to these platforms. Remember the days when buying a house required calling realtors or driving every street to find the houses for sale? In this day and age, we can go on Zillow and look at hundreds of thousands of houses! Why could that become a negative thing? It can create a sense of jealousy and envy or dreamscrolling! But we don't see those as negative. So, we have in a sense, De-vised our devices.

So, in this series at church, we were talking about the early Church in Acts 2:42-47. There was something different about them. They didn't buy into the consumer culture. They didn't buy into the distractions that come with our technology. Instead, they lived to worship God regardless of the cost. And they were content with just simply chasing after Jesus.

And this is what I think about. Do we chase after Jesus? I'll ask you. Do you chase after Jesus?

You may respond and say, Rick, "That's hard to answer. The culture was different back then." You're right. You might even say, "It was simpler back then. Therefore, it must've been easier to follow Jesus." But if we take a moment to just actually think about that, we would know that that was the furthest from the truth.

Let me explain briefly. The early church existed at a time of the Roman empire. They had made crucifixion a science. They literally crucified thousands upon thousands of people.

You might not know that most died over the course of days by way of dehydration or starvation.

Or even worse, predators such as birds would peck at them and wild animals would eat at their flesh until they died. Just as an aside, we often see Jesus on the cross, high and elevated. But those being crucified were actually done so at eye-level, allowing people to continually spit on them, mock them, and scorn them as they were being crucified. It also allowed for dogs and other small animals to eat them while they were on the cross. I know, gross. Sorry if I ruined your lunch. But again, I digress.

Back to the point. The early church lived their lives daily being in fear of the Romans, and rejected by the Jews. Being a Christian made them politically, socially, and spiritually ostracized. It wasn't easy to be a Christian in the first century. And yet, they found so much joy from being a follower of Jesus. Acts 2 says that when they met together daily, with glad and sincere hearts, they praised God. Wow! But how? How could they find so much joy and sincerity of heart, praising God in the middle of such a difficult period of time? And what can we learn for our lives through that experience?

While, I don't have an answer so to speak, I do have a thought. What would happen if we chose to allow God's Word to tell us how to think rather than modern technology? How would our lives be different if we were more obedient to the Bible than to our device? Now before I come across preachy, this is the struggle of the pastor, too. We can so easily become obedient to our calendar on our device. It becomes projects over people and preparing a message over ministry. We understand it's not easy to balance the pressures of this life. Believe it or not, we're human, too!

I will just give you the titles of the three messages of this series and let them sit and simmer in your heart. Then, let the Holy Spirit guide you as you think about how Church is supposed to operate. Part 1 - Don't Think of Discipleship with a Digital Mindset. Part 2 - Don't Think of Community with a Consumer Mindset. Part 3 - Don't Think of Worship with a Worldly Mindset.

I have great hopes for the Church of Jesus Christ. The question is, do you? And how will you be part of living out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), the Great Commandment (Mark 12:30-31; Matthew 22:37-39), and the Great Empowerment (Acts 1:8)? How will you make your church a place where people find an authentic Jesus, where He brings truth, hope, and love? Or are you just expecting your pastor to do that, or will you be a part of the solutions needed for the church to thrive in the coming years? Will you reject the values of this culture of this world to pursue and live out the values in the cultures of the kingdom of God?

I've been thinking a lot about Church lately. I really have. And this is what I've come up with.

I believe in the Church. And I believe in us. Why? Because WE are the Church.

Sacred Heart Virtue of the Month



VIRTUOUS - Sacred Heart School's February Virtue of the Month was Honesty! This virtue is being truthful in words, actions, and intentions. It fosters trust and integrity in relationships with others. Congratulations to the exceptional students. Sterling, Emma, Rhett, Elliott, Adelyn, Jayvian, Bailey, Cole and Lucas.

■ Crowned

from Page 1

omore at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton. Asked Miller, "What are your best qualities?" Appel's reply: "I am very friendly; I'm outgoing and I get along with everyone." She sang, "Lady of Knock." Hudson Miller, a junior at Janesville-Waldorf Pemberton, was asked, "Which accomplishment are you the most proud of?" Miller's reply, "Making varsity as a freshman."

Kayle Langford, a senior at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton was asked by Miller, "What's your favorite part of the Irish celebration?" She contemplated for a moment before her reply: "It would be coming here and running around and dominating the dance floor with my cousins and the rest of my family." Last but certainly not least was Nora Flatness, senior at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva who was asked, "What inspires you to celebrate your Irish heritage?" Her immediate reply was, "My grandma, she's a big supporter of everything that I do." She read a book to children titled, "How to catch a Leprechaun."

Previous Miss St. Patrick winners include:

2025: Stella Ziemke
2024: Ava Appel

2023: Emma Keith
2022: Carmen Miller
2021: Carmen Miller
2020: Carmen Miller
2019: Madison Loken
2018: Clare Miller
2017: Erin Borneke
2016: Maddy Knoll
2015: Anna Hoehn
2014: Anna Burns
2013: none
2012: Jaclyn Schlaak
2011: Kayla Wolff
2010: Kaitie Borneke
2009: Brianna Miller
2008: Kate Byron
2007: Sammie Hoehn
2006: Kersten McManamon
2005: Dannielle Burke
2004: Jennifer Harguth
2003: Brittany Thomez
2002: Kathleen Byron
2001: Amanda Beelow
2000: Katie Jewison
1999: Lisa Yentsch
1998: Shannon Frisk
1997: Kelly Conway
1996: Karee Miller
1995: Meaghan McLoone
1994: Katie Conway
1993: Susie Conway
1992: Vicki Hoehn
1991: Connie Winter
1990: Paula Anderson
1989: Jane Farley
1988: Danielle McLoone
1987: Julie Ketchum
1986: Lisa Farley

1985: Dawn Malterer
1984: Lori McCarthy
1983: Darlette Armstrong
1982: Jennifer Miller
1981: Jennifer Miller
1980: Carol Eustice
1979: Sheila Vollmer
1978: Michelle Lundén
1977: Liz Ann Johnson
1976: Julia Ann McMillan
1975: Teresa Smith
1974: Bridget McGraw
1973: Molly Green
1972: Monica Mullenmaster
1971: Kim Goebel
1970: Peggy Randall
1969: Katie O'Grady

Previous Miss Shamrock winners include:

2023: Lauren White
2000: Theresa Eustice

Previous Miss Irish Rose winners include:

2025: Lily Quast
2024: Layla Keith
2023: Caitlin Slattery
2022: Rachel Borneke
2021: Rachel Borneke
2020: Rachel Borneke
2019: Emilie Adamek
2018: Kendra Connors
2017: Autumn Miller
2016: Sydney O'Brien
2015: Kaitlyn Kubat
2014: Sally O'Brien
2013: Ashley Ross
2012: Abbe Hoehn
2011: Kaitlyn Sebersson

2010: Molly Zellmer
2009: Brittany Malterer
2008: Ellie Stangler
2007: Molly McLaughlin
2006: Kyree Wobbrock
2005: Molly Jewison
2004: Sheila Jewison
2003: Catalina Jewison
2002: Molly Conway
2001: Elizabeth Henderson
2000: Jennie Burns and Teresa Eustice

1999: Jennifer Conway
1998: Angela Britton
1997: Kate Eustice
1996: Deb Hoehn
1995: Emily Mulcahey
1994: Mariah Miller
1993: Katie Dauk
1992: Ann Armstrong
1991: Marlette Armstrong
1990: Linda Reichle
1989: Stacy Huntington
1988: Jennifer Herold
1987: Karyn Kubista
1986: Renee Rossaeu
1985: Kelli McGraw
1984: Valeria Anderson
1983: Theresa O'Meara
1982: none
1981: Shannon Cody
1980: Diane Budin
1979: Lisa Krause
1978: Colleen Kennedy
1977: Karen Mulcahey
1976: Paula Eustice
1975: Vicki Wolff

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Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting
Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting
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Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting
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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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Janesville

25 years ago



- Mark and Rita Slama of Janesville, wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, LeAnn Marie, to Neal Robert Gustafson, son of Nan Gustafson of Minneapolis and Larry Gustafson of Bloomington. LeAnn is a 1995 graduate of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School, a 1999 graduate of St. Paul Technical College and a 2000 graduate of Metropolitan State University. She is currently employed as a sign language interpreter at St. Louis Park Senior High School. Neal is a 1991 graduate of Burnsville High School and attended North Dakota State University. He is currently employed as a restaurant manager at Chili's Grill in Plymouth. A Saturday, April 7, 2001, wedding is planned in Edina.

- The Mankato Campus Foundation provided over \$108,000 in scholarships to 220 South Central Technical College students during its annual awards ceremony held Monday, Feb. 5, on the North Mankato Campus. Local Janesville students receiving scholarships were: Angelie Anderson from Hickory Tech Accounting and Glen A. Taylor Foundation; Larry Flaten from Reliant Energy Minnegasco; Marlene Goettle from the Glen A. Taylor Foundation; Wesley Peterson from Jones Page Jacobson; Corey Schnepf from SCTC Foundation; Gary Seys from Reliant Energy Minnegasco and SkillsUSA-VICA; and Shawna Wheelock from Nicollet County.



- Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Middle School held their annual spelling bee on Friday, Jan. 26. Twenty-five students in grades 6-8 participated for the opportunity to advance to the regional spelling bee which was held on Tuesday, Feb. 27 in Mankato. Those participating include (front row) from left: Liza Hall, Bridgett Jewison, Betsy Priem, Breanne Voges, Travis Finch, Taylor Jahner, Jason Danberry, Annie Ulmen and Mary Beth Fasnacht. Row two: Dan Wolff, Lauren Voges, Ashley Gerdts, Kevin Pommier, Tyler Balow, Terri Peterson, Todd Adams and Dawn Dokken. Row three: Mike Borneke, Dustyn Fogal, Dustin Gerdts, Dustyne Kruse, Joe Joyce, David Ziegler, Richie Cummins and Greg Holmes. Winners were Ashley Gerdts, first place; Kevin Pommier, second place; and Mike Borneke and Dan Wolff, tied for third place.

- I like going to Trinity because we learn about God. He is a very important part of my life. I also like the teachers, who are very caring. My classmates help me when I am down and are very loyal. While we were still sinners Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8.) The faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.(Psalm 117:2.)

50 years ago

- Mark J. Yenish, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Yenish of rural Janesville, enlisted in the Air Force's Delayed Enlistment Program and is slated to begin four years of active duty with the Air Force in March. At that time, Mark will attend six weeks of basic training at Lackland Military Training Center, San Antonio, Texas. Following basic training he will receive training as a security specialist. The 1973 graduate of St. Clair High School was recruited by Master Sergeant Richard Harvey, Air Force Representative in Mankato.

- Mr. and Mrs. Duane Koehler of Rochester announce the birth of a baby boy, John Duane, born on Thursday, February 12. He weighed nine pounds and four ounces and joins a sister, Tammy, one year and eight months old. The maternal grandfather is Lloyd Sandberg of Janesville.

75 years ago

- After sitting in the driver's seat of the Janesville Argus chariot for over twenty years. Editor D.E. Bowe has concluded that it is time to let a new driver handle the reins. With this issue of The Argus Rex Clay of Jackson takes over as the new editor and publisher. Mr. Clay is a member of a newspaper family and his father before him owned and published country newspapers. In leaving the Janesville newspaper field Mr. Bowe desires to thank everyone in the community for the very fine treatment that he has received in Janesville since becoming the editor and publisher of the local publication.

- "Honesty is the best policy" is an old adage and is no doubt believe to be true by many Janesville residents, but we know there is one person in particular who is a firm believer in it. One day last week Theola, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Kuester of Janesville, lost a purse containing \$18.00. As there was no identification card in the purse Miss Kuester naturally believed it would never be returned. However, this little story has a happy ending. Someone whose name is unknown to the Kuster family, found the purse and promptly turned it over to Marshal Bailey to be returned to the loser, which he promptly did. As the Kuesters haven't the slightest idea who it was that found the purse, the wish through the Argus to say a hearty, "Thank You!"

100 years ago

- Friends here and at Minnesota Lake are extending congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Ben Lindeland on the arrival of a ten pound boy Tuesday. The mother and babe are at the former's parents' home and Granddaddy Fred Manthe is as proud as Daddy Lindeland.

- Little Patty Lou came running into the house. "Oh, mother," she exclaimed, "May I shoot the rabbits some time?"

"Why, honey, you don't want to hurt the poor little rabbits, do you?"

"It doesn't hurt them, Mother. You just shoot them down into the water at Broad Ripple park."

Waseca

25 years ago

- Andrea Jones, the daughter of Doug and Sharon Jones of Waseca, was named to the fall 2000 dean's list at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato. Jones is a 1998 graduate of Waseca High School. In order to be named to the dean's list, a student must carry at least 14 academic credits and maintain at least a 3.5 grade point average.



- Waseca High School (WHS) sophomores Andrea Hildebrant and Matt Hines will not have the opportunity to work on plant projects like these if the Waseca School Board approves the reduction of the agriculture program.

- According to a Minnesota Crime Alert released Friday, numerous vehicles were broken into and radios were stolen in the northeast part of Waseca between 10 p.m. Thursday, March 1, and 6:30 a.m. Friday, March 2. In most cases, entry was gained by breaking a window out of the vehicle. The vehicles were parked in the northeast part of Waseca on a city street; none of the vehicles was parked in a private drive. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Waseca Police Department at 835-2120.

- In a little more than an hour Sunday evening, several law enforcement backups were called, four downtown blocks were closed off and a building was evacuated. But none of that could prevent a Waseca man from committing suicide in an apartment above Four Season's. A Waseca man came to the apartment to visit Jeff Staloch and Betty Root Sunday night. He shot the television set, and Staloch ran out of the apartment and called the police. The police were finally able to talk to Root after several failed attempts to talk with the man. Root said the man wanted her to leave the apartment and she did. After 15-20 minutes of silence the police entered the apartment and found the man with a gunshot wound to his head. He was taken to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester but died early Monday.

50 years ago



- Gary Wilson, WCTV cameraman, focuses in on participants in the Clubs and Organizations segment of the Bicentennial series. Host Sue Jirele (left) discusses Waseca club history with guest Laura Spaulding. Seated at right is Elain Herbig, co-hostess.

- A two car accident that resulted in moderate damage and no injuries was reported to the Waseca Police department shortly before 11 a. m. Tuesday. Involved in the mishap, that has been blamed on slippery streets, was Joyce M. Brown, 410 2nd Ave. SE Robert R. Borchert, New Richland.

- The 3-act play, Dracula, will be present by the Drama Club at the University of Minnesota Technical College, Waseca on March 4,5 and 6 at 8 p.m. in the auditorium. The play is set in England. A vampire is suspected to be the cause of the anaemia present in a young woman in the area. See the characters discover the grave of Count Dracula, who must reside there by day or die, and attempt to drive a stake through his heart, ending the vampire's existence. Dracula is played by student John Benson of Hutchinson. Charge for the play is \$1.50 adults, 75 cents-students, and 50 cents for UMW students with I.D.'s.

75 years ago

- Two gifts were tendered to the city of Waseca at the council meeting Tuesday. The will of Mrs. Irene Starr provided a gift of \$2,000 to the Waseca Memorial hospital and the money was received by the council Tuesday. Mrs. Helen McCleary indicated a desire to give the city a lot 80x142 on the east side of Second St. N.W. provided the city will designate it as a playground. The council tabled the proposal so that the matter could be referred to the Park Board.

- Edwin J. Ruedy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Ruedy of rural Waseca, enlisted in the regular army last week at Mankato. He left for Minneapolis on Saturday for Fort Lewis, Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Chesney of this city, who arrived in the United States February 6 from Japan, where she had served with the Woman's Army Air Force, has recently received a medical discharge from military duty.

- Seven of eight fish houses remain on Clear Lake and the council is considering setting fire to them. They are so badly frozen in that they cannot be moved and it is doubtful if the lower portion of that some of them will burn. Game Warden Huber of Owatonna is to be contacted before action is taken.

100 years ago

- Gas pressure in the abdomen causes a restless, nervous feeling and prevents sleep. Adlerika removes gas in ten minutes and brings out surprising amounts of old waste matter you never thought was in your system. This excellent intestinal evacuant is wonderful for constipation or allied stomach trouble. Don't waste time with pills or tablets but get real Adlerika action!

- Quite a number of farm poultry raisers make the error of housing too many hens and pullets together during cold weather. Hens will lay as well if yarded and well cared for as if on free range. But they dare not be crowded when they are confined. If the hens are being fed and forced for egg yield alone, we must get them into winter quarters in their pens early in the fall and keep them there without changing them about. Introducing new hens into the flock of laying birds always causes more or less confusion, and this helps in decreasing the numbers of eggs laid.

- Old corn fed partly whole and partly cooked, with boiled potatoes, and thickened into a mash with meal, is one of the best fatteners for turkeys. Give the mash in the morning and the whole corn at night. Do not confine them. If new corn is given, the tendency is to have bowel trouble. For this give boiled milk. They must be free from lice to fatten. Turkeys will be so high this year that each carcass should be made to bear as much flesh as possible.

New Richland

25 years ago

- The Exchange Club Center for Family Unity - A partnership for the Prevention of Child Abuse - gratefully acknowledges the following businesses, organization and individuals for their fourth quarter contributions to the Center; Kathleen V. Anttila, Caryn Wendt, Children Trust Fund, Thomas J. Curran, Robin Roberts, Wells Fargo Bank, Waseca County Human Services Phyllis Beschnett, Waseca Are United Way, and the Exchange Club of North Metro Minneapolis.

- Heather Wayne of Ellendale has been named to the St. Olaf College Deans List for the first semester of 2000-2001. The Dean's List recognizes St. Olaf students with semester grade - point averages of 3.75 or higher (on a 4-point scale).

- Bruce A. and Betty Berg of New Richland announce the engagement of their daughter, Misty, to Micheal Como, son of Dean and Sue Como of North Mankato. A Saturday, April 14, 2001, wedding is planned at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Richland.

50 years ago



- Steve Scheffert, son of Eugene Scheffert of rural Waseca and the late Mrs. Scheffert is pictured as he accepted a State Award for having shown the top barrow at the Waseca County Fair, last summer, making the presentation at the Waseca County Pork Producers at the American Legion club-rooms, Tuesday evening was Bill Geotte, president of the Minnesota State Pork Producers.

- Chris Floden of the Waldorf-Pemberton FFA Chapter took first place in the FFA Extemporaneous Speaking Contest at both the district and regional levels, recently. He will enter competition at the state level in May.

75 years ago

- Miss Mary Bruzek, New Richland junior at the college of St. Theresa, Winona, will be initiated into Sigma aDelta Pi, National Spanish honor society, in a ceremony at the College April 19. Miss Bruzek is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Bruzek, of New Richland.

- A daughter, Jane Laell, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Engel of Matawan, Friday, April 6, at St. Mary's Hospital, Minneapolis. The little miss weighed six pounds, 15 ounces and has a brother, Kenley, and two sisters, Sherry and Kalia. Mr. Engel manages the Standard Lumber Co. yard at Matawan.

Child's History of Waseca County

Cont. CHAPTER IX, 1855. Lost man on the prairie – Heinrich F. Bierman out two days and nights without food – Michael Anderson in Otisco – Others come in 1855.

In July of the same year, Michael Anderson, a native of Norway, made a claim in sections 28 and 33 of Otisco. He was a first-class man, of native ability, and had the confidence of his countrymen to a marked degree. He accumulated a large farm property in that town, but wishing more land for his children, as they should attain manhood and womanhood, he removed to Norman county, in this state, some years ago, where he shortly afterward died.

Bergoff Oleson settled that fall on section 32, in the same town, where he resided until the time of his death. He was born in Norway, February 28, 1828, and came to America in May, 1851. He first settled in Dodge county, Wisconsin, where he married Julia Anderson, September 16, 1855. Mrs. Oleson was born in Norway March 14, 1837. They at once came to this country, thus showing what sensible young people they were. They have been the parents of twelve children, four of whom died in infancy.

Early the same fall, Hugh and Robert McDougall, two brothers from Canada, natives of Scotland, settled on section 6, Otisco. High, after remaining two years, secured his land and returned to Canada, where he still resides at this writing. Robert afterwards married and settled on his land, where he lived until his death, which occurred January 15, 1887.

G. Goetzenberger and family settled on section 21, Otisco, in November of 1855, where they remained until their removal to waseca. Here Mr. Goetzenberger died some years ago. His son Edwards now resides in Minneapolis.

Bernard Bundschu and family, now living on the Pacific coast, settled on section 8, Otisco, late in the fall. Mr. Bundschu died in the early part of 1894 in Oregon.

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

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

Eli Lutgens

To infinity, and Deron!

Russell leads WHS boys to another state tournament

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The nightmare continued for the Belle Plaine Tigers.

Another tournament run continued for the Waseca Bluejays.

For three consecutive years, Waseca and Belle Plaine met for the Section 2AA boys' basketball championship, with the Bluejays winning the first two.

Make it three.

The third time was not a charm for the top-seeded Tigers, who fell to the No. 3 seeded Bluejays 73-64 in the section title clash at Minnesota-Mankato's Taylor Center last Wednesday.

It will be the third state tournament trip in a row for coach Seth Anderson's Bluejays, who went 0-2 there two years ago while finishing as the Class AA runners-up last year. They improved their season record to 23-7, with four of the losses in the early stages of the season after an extended football season that went all the way to the state finals.

It would have been the first state tournament berth in 21 years for Belle Plaine, which finished the season 23-6.

"This has been an incredible year of improvement which makes this section title special, because we were certainly underdogs in the final two games we have played," said WHS head coach Seth Anderson. "I don't think anyone was expecting us to be in the mix this year after our 0-4 start to the season. We have certainly gotten better and better as the season has progressed. I think that's what is most exciting about this appearance is that we won some big games in very different ways with different people stepping up every game including a 51-point performance by Deron Russell in the semifinal, which was a program record. It never gets old. You appreciate each state appearance because they are all a different story with a different cast."

"This is the best," said Russell. "It's such a blessing to win three in a row with my team and with Coach Anderson. It means a lot to me. After starting 0-4, we just had to keep working every day. I just knew I had to do whatever I have to do to get my team the win."

Senior Ethan Hiller said what he'll remember most about this state tournament berth is how the Bluejays got there.

"We never complained," said Hiller. "We just put our heads down and kept working every single day. We knew it was going to come down to us (and Belle Plaine). We made a run, and it was amazing."

Hiller said this means no less than everything.

"It's my last year, obviously I wanted to go out on top," he said. "It means the world to me."

The Bluejays got off to a rough start against Belle Plaine, which saw them miss too many makeable shots while turning the ball over way too many times early in the game. They trailed by as many as nine points, 21-12, before the Bluejays tied it at 25, thanks to four points by Russell and three-pointers by Owen Honstad and Cyrett Long. Another three by Long made it 33-25 and that's the way the teams went into halftime. The Bluejays ended the first half on a 15-0 run.

The second half was more of a battle than the final score indicates. The Tigers tallied the first six points, but the Bluejays answered behind seven points by Russell and five from Honstad. It left Waseca up 48-34.

But Belle Plaine, in particular their school's all-time scoring leader Ethan Martin, weren't about to give up. The Tigers hit some threes, Martin converted a couple three-point plays, and quickly the lead was 48-46.

This time it was the Bluejays' turn to answer, and they did behind three three-pointers by Honstad and a solid menu of Russell, who at times seemed to score at will after a slow start to the night.

It was 57-53 with about five minutes to play, but the Bluejays never relinquish the lead despite some tough baskets by Martin.

Waseca totals for the game: Hiller 12 points, 13 rebounds, 5 assists, 1 steal; Russell 31P, 6R, 10A, 1S, 1 block; Long 9P, 1R; Wyatt Hager 5R, 2A, 1S; Honstad 19P, 4R 1A, 2S; Owen Rupe 3R; Toby Jeske 4P, 6R, 1A, 1S.

As strong as the Bluejays were on offense, Anderson was impressed by their

defensive efforts.

"We have been really good defensively in the second halves of these playoff games," he said. "I think that's something that has been able to stabilize us and allow us to go on the second-half runs that we have been able to get. It all starts on that side of the ball to give yourself a chance at winning big games."

"We played great defense," said Hiller.

It also helped to have Russell on the court.

"Deron has been absolutely phenomenal," said Anderson. "He is up for the Mr. Basketball award for a reason. He pretty much has every Waseca scoring record you can have, is an incredible leader, and now he can add a third state basketball tournament appearance to his resume. He's definitely the heart of our team. What's even more impressive is that he has been doing all of this on a badly sprained ankle, which hasn't allowed him to practice for over a month."

"Deron is the best player in the state," said Hiller. "He pushes us hard every day in practice."

And Russell has had a strong supporting cast.

"They have been the difference between our start to the season to where we are now," said Anderson. "Cyrett Long and Owen Honstad have turned into confident shot makers and their three-point shooting has gotten us to another level of offensive efficiency. Owen has scored at least 19 points in three of the last four games. Both of these guys made six threes against Maple River in the second-round game when we were struggling. Wyatt Hager is the steadiest guy on our team who just makes solid play after solid play. Ethan Hiller wins every contested rebound. I think he has over 50 rebounds in the last four games. Off the bench, Toby Jeske and Owen Rupe are playing their best basketball of the season. It's been fun to see it all fit together at the right time of the year."

The Bluejays, according to Anderson, have proven themselves mentally and physically tough throughout the playoffs.

"We have trailed by at least nine points in the last three playoff games," he said. "We have been able to keep grinding away and play through the adversity early in games to come through."

Anderson said he never doubted the Bluejays' ability to reach a state tournament but admitted he wondered at times if it would come to fruition.

"I think we have always felt we had enough pieces to make a run and be a factor this season, but geez, did it take a while," he said. "I think that's what makes this section championship even more special, because we had to put the effort in every day in practice to get to a place we needed to be."

Anderson said he's appreciative of all the community support his team has received.

"State tournaments are great for school morale and excitement," he said. "These are great memories for the players, fans, and community members. Cheering for the same team and watching them have success only improves the culture."

Russell agreed.

"This Waseca community is great," he said. "They show up every single game. They pour their hearts out for us."

Hiller was asked what makes this years Bluejay team special.

"We've never had issues, the whole year," he said. "There were plenty of times we could have said, 'It's just not going to be our year.' But this year's team worked hard and we achieved our goal. And there's still more work to do."

What does Anderson expect at state?

"I know our guys believe that if we play well, we have a shot to beat anyone the rest of the way," he said. "Our coaches were talking to each other on the way home last night and we all agreed that we weren't ready for the season to be over with because we have so many awesome kids that we get to be around every day."

Anderson himself is no stranger to the big stage, having played in three state tournaments at Maple River and now winning six section championships at Waseca. The Bluejays were the 2021 state champions, finishing second in 2019 and 2025.

As quotable as most everyone was after the game, the night's best one may have belonged to a fan, who yelled in the second half, "To infinity and Deron!"



ON TO STATE — Deron Russell (1), Wyatt Hager (4) and Ethan Hiller (0) celebrate the Bluejays' section championship victory over Belle Plaine. At right is Waseca High School Athletic Director Joe Hedervare, who presented the trophy.

Photos by Eli Lutgens



At left, the Bluejays' Cyrett Long (2) drives to the basket during the section championship game. At right, Wyatt Hager goes up for two.



At left, the Bluejays' Deron Russell drives to the basket with his left hand. At right, the Bluejays' Ethan Hiller is introduced before the game.



Bluejays coach Seth Anderson, left, glances at the scoreboard at halftime, wondering if his team can rally again. In the middle, Owen Rupe takes his turn cutting down the net. At right, Deron Russell demonstrates his smooth stroke.



Waseca fans, left, provided plenty of support at the section championship game. At right, Ethan Hiller goes up for a basket.





WE DID IT! — Members of the JWP boys' basketball team exalt in their Section 2A championship. From left: Tyson Kronbach (14), Gavin Bauer (4), Dailton Bauer (1) and Jaxon Wolff (11).

Photos by Eli Lutgens

Bulldogs win Section 2A, reach state

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Gustavus Adolphus College? No problem. Minnesota State-Mankato? Same story.

The next venue for the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton boys' basketball team? Target Center, Minneapolis.

The Bulldogs, seeded No. 1 in Section 2A, earned their trip to the state tournament with a convincing 80-65 victory over third-seeded Springfield last Wednesday at MSU-Mankato's Taylor Center.

The Bulldogs, rated No. 4 in the state Class A in one recent poll, posted their fifth straight win while improving to 28-3 for the season. Springfield finished 23-7.

The state tourney trip is the school's fourth overall and their first since 2008.

To put that into perspective, scoring leader Gavin Bauer and other Bulldogs were not even born yet the last time a Janesville school took a boys' basketball team to the state tournament.

Afterward, Bulldogs head coach Nick James had kind things to say about Bauer, his super sophomore.

"Obviously we knew how good he is," said James. "Now everyone knows. He took it to another level tonight, just way more aggressive on both ends. He's a talented player, and tonight he showed us what he can do."

"This is probably the best thing I have ever felt," said Bauer. "All that hard work has paid off, and playing as a team, it's a great feeling."

"Words can't describe it, really," said James. "I am so happy for the boys who have worked so hard to get here. We pushed them pretty hard this season, and they showed up day in and day out and worked so hard. They really deserved it."

Bauer finished with a game-high 37 points. Big brother Daulton scored 12, with Tyson Kronbach contributed nine points, Caleb Quast seven.

The Bulldogs won the section the way they have won almost all season, with plenty of defense and of course plenty of offense from Bauer.

JWP gradually broke the game open in the first half, taking leads of 6-2, 11-9 and 22-15 at the midway point. Bauer, Kronbach, and Quast took control from there, sparking the Bulldogs to a 45-31 advantage at the break.

The second half saw the Bulldogs extend their lead to 53-36 before the Tigers went on a couple mini-runs, pulling within 59-48 and 64-52 before Bauer and company put the game out of reach. Both coaches emptied their benches in the final minutes.

"Obviously this is huge," said James of the section championship. "It's something we haven't done since 2008. I've been (at JWP) for 10 years and this is the first time we've been here. It's not an easy thing to do. It feels great. We have a great group of kids. I just feel blessed that I'm their coach."

And the defense?
"The guys played so hard," said James. "They are so quick and fast and have great anticipation. It really gives some teams problems. We caused a lot of turnovers, which really leads to the transition game for us. I felt we really kept them from getting any offensive consistency."

Gavin Bauer acknowledged that has well as the Bulldogs have played offensively, defense may have been the difference throughout their playoff run. He also acknowledged their boisterous fan section.

"All the fans came out and provided most of the energy tonight," said Bauer.
"These moments are always so exciting for the communities," said James. "First, they just don't come around very often. I feel it just brings everyone together, whether you're still around, or grew up here! We see so many fans at our games that we haven't seen in a long time, which is a testament to the

boys. They are fun to watch. They play hard and fast, which is exciting."

Bauer is also appreciative that he'll be going to state with his brothers Daulton and Maddex.

"To be able to play at state with your brother, it's awesome," said Bauer.

And what does this mean?

"It means everything," said Bauer. "It's a dream come true. We haven't did it in so long. I think it's the greatest feeling I've ever had in basketball."

Full JWP statistics vs. Springfield: D.Bauer 12P, 3R, 5A, 2S; Partrick Gearity 6P, 5R, 1A, 1S; G.Bauer 37P, 9R, 4A, 7S; Quast 7P, 3A; Jaxon Wolff 6P, 2R; M.Bauer 2R; Zander Terbeest 1R; Kronbach 9P, 2S; Jeffrey Simonson 1A, 1S; Gavin Weedman 3P, 1A, 1S.

The Tigers were led by Madden Lendt, who had 25 points on 10 of 11 shooting, while Bryan Buerkle had 17 points and nine rebounds.

James had priase for everyone who took the court for the Bulldogs.

"They all played amazing," he said. "They all defended, rebounded, shot the ball. It was a total team game. Gav got the publicity with his 37, but it was a total team effort, our team defense and rebounding I thought was outstanding! Gearity hit a couple threes and always has the task of battling the other team's big. Weedman hit a big three and he is always solid defensively and in the correct spots. Quast took Kuehn completely out of the game, and also had seven points to help. Kronbach had nine points and a huge three and a big-time charge on a big-time hustle play. Wolff just adds so much to our pace when he gets on the floor. Then Daulton, who didn't have the scoring he usually does, but he had some drives and huge baskets every time it felt like we needed one. He also assisted on four of our threes; they were collapsing on him and he made the kicks. He also did an outstanding job defensively. The rest of our roster who does a great job of preparing those guys for the games. They do an excellent job giving us the other teams' looks and making those guys work in practice."

What does it say about the determination (and/or athletic ability) of this team to pull off four straight playoff wins in convincing fashion?

"It shows a ton about their determination," said James. "They have been doing it game in and game out; they just don't get outworked a lot. They always work their tails off. his is something they really wanted to do, something they all have dreamed of since they were little."

While this is James' first trip to state as head coach, he was an assistant at WEM teams that finished second in 2000 and third in 2010.

What is the coach expecting at state?

"I expect it to be very tough," he said. "Each one of the teams in the tournament are very good, so we need to bring the same energy and effort as the game on Wednesday. I do feel if we play like they did that night we can compete with any of them."

The Bulldogs haven't exactly had a roller-coaster season, but there have been some ups and downs. They opened the season with 20 consecutive victories before finally falling to Class AA power Waseca. They lost twice to Triton, in their final Gopher Conference game and then for the overall conference title, and battled through an injury to Gavin Bauer.

Other than that, the Bulldogs have played perfect basketball, at least in terms of wins and losses, and they won't have to worry about Waseca in the state tournament.

The state tournament runs March 26-28 at Target Center and Williams Arena in Minneapolis. The consolation round games are at Concordia University's Gangelhoff Center.

(Editor's note: For brackets, scores and more, see www.mshsl.org)



At left, the Bulldogs' Gavin Bauer goes to the hoop for an easy two points in the section championship game. At right, Daulton Bauer drives to the basket.



At left, JWP head coach Nick James, Gavin Bauer, Daulton Bauer and others celebrates as the final seconds tick off in their section championship victory. At right, Caleb Quast fights for points in the paint.



At left, JWP fans let people know exactly where their team is headed. At right, Gavin Bauer splits the defense.



The JWP bench, left, showed plenty of support for their teammates during the Bulldogs' section championship win over Springfield. In the middle, Jaxon Wolff takes his turn cutting down the net as his teammates watch. At right, Wolff drives the lane.

NRHEG girls drop two in state tourney

Panthers leave it all on the floor while finishing 27-5

By **JIM LUTGENS**
Sports Editor

Two things became inherently apparent during the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva girls' basketball state tournament opener against Hillcrest Lutheran Academy.

1. The Panthers, no matter how hard they try, are just not the same team without all-state guard and Minnesota Miss Basketball finalist Camryn VanMaldeghem.

2. Hillcrest will be a force to be reckoned with for several years.

Eighth-grader Elsa Retzlaff scored 31 points and her sister, sophomore Elin, scored 18 to lead Hillcrest Academy past the NRHEG girls 88-53 in a Class A quarterfinal game last Thursday at the University of Minnesota's Maturi Pavilion.

All VanMaldeghem could do was watch from the sidelines, wearing her team jersey and sweat pants, the result of a season-ending knee injury sustained in the Panthers' section championship win over Hayfield-Schaeffer Academy.

"I'm incredibly proud of what this team accomplished," said NRHEG coach Onika Peterson. "We had big goals coming off of last season and bringing everyone back. However, it has been a rollercoaster of injuries, celebrations, high and low emotions and everything in between. The girls never once complained, blamed, or had bad attitudes. They fought. They fought for the kid next to them on the court, they fought for the kid sitting on the bench, they fought for the injured player who should have been playing, they fought for their goals. They never once backed down."

The eventual blowout against Hillcrest developed rather slowly. The Comets scored the first four points, but a three-pointer by Gabby Schlaak and baskets from Chloe Stork and Quinn VanMaldeghem saw the Panthers trailing just 8-7 in the opening minutes. Unfortunately for the Panther faithful, that's as close as it would get the rest of the way.

Hillcrest led 16-9 after a couple of free throws from Schlaak at about the midway point of the second half, but then the Comets 24-7 run to take a 40-16 lead at halftime.

A three from Schlaak cut into the margin, but the Comets went on another run, and another one. The Panthers had trouble finding a rhythm and making free throws, a deadly combination in the state tournament.

By the end, exhaustion showed on the Panthers' faces as they successful fought off a running-time scenario.

Coach Peterson pulled out all the stops of a team playing less-than-100-percent, effectively changing from a 1-3-1 zone to a 2-3 zone defense while calling a lot of time outs.

In the end, it was just too much Comets. But anyone watching could see the NRHEG girls gave it their all. The Panthers left it all on the court, and it showed.

With 2:10 remaining and Hillcrest leading 83-53, both coaches substituted freely in order to give more girls the opportunity to play in a state tournament. Reserve Hadley Roeker scored the Panthers' final points on a lay-up in the final seconds.

Schlaak finished with 20 points to lead the Panthers. Quinn VanMaldeghem scored 15.

Full NRHEG stats: Schlaak 20P, 12 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal; Ezra Boerner 4P, 4R, 1S; Q.VanMaldeghem 15P, 9R, 7A, 2S; Clara Buendorf 1P, 2A; Stork 9P, 7R; Savannah Farr 3P, 1R; Emelia Stadheim 1P, 2R, 1A; Kenley Gehrke 1S; Roeker 2P.

"That game was a struggle," said Peterson. "Their pressure defense got the best of us and once we settled down, their three-point shooting was the dagger that we couldn't

"I'm incredibly proud of what this team accomplished."

— NRHEG coach Onika Peterson

come back from. However, again they didn't make excuses."

The loss dropped the Panthers into the consolation round Friday morning against familiar state tournament foe Braham at Concordia University's Gangelhoff Center.

It was the Panthers' third state tourney matchup with Braham. In 2013, NRHEG pulled off an upset in the quarterfinals, and the next year the Panthers defeated Braham in a memorable semifinal game on their way to a second straight state championship.

The teams were again well matched, and it was closer than the final score indicates, but in the end Braham came away with an 80-65 victory.

Schlaak put the first points on the board from the free-throw line, but the Bombers scored the next 12 as the Panthers had problems with turnovers. Three-pointers by VanMaldeghem and Buendorf and another basket by VanMaldeghem cut it to 12-10 at about the midway point of the first half, and the Panthers regained the lead on a Stork free throw with seven minutes remaining. It was back and forth the rest of the first half, with Boerner's basket sending the teams into half-time with NRHEG on top 33-29.

Both teams used several time outs in the first half in an attempt to slow the other's momentum, but it didn't appear effective.

The Panthers built on their lead in the second half, going up as many as 10 points at 45-35, but again they were plagued by too many turnovers and could not find much success from the free-throw line, allowing Braham back in it. The Bombers pecked away, and eventually took a 58-57 lead with about five minutes left. With Stork fouling out and other Panthers picked up their fourth foul, the Bombers salted it away by sinking 10 free throws down the stretch.

"We didn't get the win," said Peterson. "However, we went down in true Panther girls' basketball fashion, fighting tooth and nail for the kid next to them until the final buzzer."

For the game, VanMaldeghem finished with 30 points before fouling out in the final seconds. Schlaak scored 13, Boerner 10.

Full NRHEG stats: Schlaak 13P, 5R, 4A, 6S; Boerner 10P, 1R, 3A, 1S; Q.VanMaldeghem 30P, 18R, 2A, 2S; Buendorf 3P, 3R, 2A, 2S; Stork 3P, 4R, 1A; Farr 1R; Stadheim 6P, 2R.

Morgan Rysdam scored 23, Avery Shockman 22 and Emily Davis 15 for the Section 8A champion Bombers, who improved to 25-7. The Panthers finished 27-5.

"Thank you for everyone who followed us this season," said Peterson. "The amazing representation from our four communities at the state tournament. The girls appreciated all the support and so did I."

Despite a disappointing state tournament, a section championship game that brought an end to the Panthers' leader, and the preseason loss of projected starting center Kylie Olson to a torn ACL, the 2025-26 NRHEG girls' basketball team surprised some, but not all. The Panther faithful and the players themselves believed it could happen all along. The Panthers overcame incredible adversity in the section title game.

It was a sensational season.

No two-game appearance in a state tournament can take that away.



SCENES FROM STATE — At left, the Panthers' Chloe Stork (15) drives to the basket against Hillcrest Lutheran Academy. At right, NRHEG's Quinn VanMaldeghem (4) looks to the hoop. Photos by Jodi Wayne



At left, Savannah Farr (14) takes a shot at the basket against Braham. At right, Clara Buendorf (10) goes to the basket.



At left, the Panthers' Emilia Stadheim (21) drives the lane against Hillcrest Academy. In the middle, Gabby Schlaak leads the fast break against Braham. At right, Ezra Boerner takes a shot against Braham.



At left, the Panthers' Ezra Boerner looks to drive against Hillcrest Academy. At right, the Panther fans were faithful.



At left, NRHEG's Gabby Schlaak (1) drives against Hillcrest Lutheran. At right, Clara Buendorf (10) uses her left hand.

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The board will review quotes April 1, 2026 at 6:00 pm. The board reserves the right to reject any or all quotes and accept the offer the board feels is in the best interest of the township.

All quotes must be received by the clerk by 5:00 pm on Monday March 31, 2026.

Send quotes to:

Alton Township
Deb Westphal, Clerk
1711 370th Ave
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Phone: 507-461-3245

WASECA COUNTY NOTICE OF TAX-FORFEITED LAND
ONLINE PUBLIC SALES

Notice is hereby given the parcels of land described herein shall be sold to the highest bidder at an online public sale in accordance with M.S. Chapter 282. The initial sale, during which parcels were required to be listed at the estimated market value, has concluded. This first sale was based on the latest assessment. Any properties that do not sell at the first sale will be offered on a subsequent online public sale. The starting bid price for the subsequent sale will be the sum of all delinquent taxes, special assessments, penalties, interest, and costs assigned to the parcel.

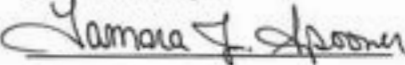
The Director of Property & Election Services shall conduct the minimum bid sales via online auction through Public Surplus. The second sale will be open for bids on March 23, 2026, at 8:00am and will close on April 10, 2026, at 8:00pm. The property listings will be available to preview on the Public Surplus website.

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	CITY	MINIMUM BID (if unsold)
14.601.0040	JANESVILLE CITY	\$35,788.69
15.777.0250	NEW RICHLAND CITY	\$4,379.92
17.018.2520	CITY OF WASECA	\$7,886.58
17.210.0060	CITY OF WASECA	\$3,795.60
17.210.0070	CITY OF WASECA	\$3,795.60

All property is sold “as is” and may not conform to local building and zoning ordinances. Waseca County makes no warranty that the land is “buildable”. ALL SALES ARE FINAL. NO REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES ARE PERMITTED.

Contact the Waseca County Property & Election Services office located at 307 N. State St, Waseca, MN 56093, Waseca County Courthouse for obtaining information. Information can also be located on our Waseca County website www.wasecacounty.gov or on the [Public Surplus](#) Tax Sale listings. Lastly you can call our office at 507-835-0610.

Given under my hand and official seal at Waseca, Minnesota, this **16th Day of March 2026.**


Tamara J Spooner
Director of Property & Election Services



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Section 2A Champions



The JWP Bulldogs boys' basketball team earned its first trip to the state tournament since 2008, their 4th in school history ('96, '97,) after winning four straight section playoff games, improving their record to 28-3. They defeated T/ML/GHEC, Cleveland, Nicollet, and Springfield. The state tournament begins March 26. Pictured, front row, sitting, from left: Gavin Weedman, Caleb Quast, Daulton Bauer, Gavin Bauer, Parker Gearity, Manager AJ Radunz, Manager Tate Nohner. Back row: Head Coach Nick James, Jeffrey Simonson, James Schoenrock, Tyson Johnson, Tyson Kronbach, Carson Schultz, Jaxon Wolff, Zander Terbeest, Michael Walker, Blake Bure, Seth Dahlberg, Maddex Bauer, Leighlan Harris, Brody Berndt, Manager Trayvn Shoultz, Assistant Coach Connor Morton, Assistant Coach Matt Dahlberg Missing Manager Ayden Peterson, and Assistant Coach Gabriel Hauer. Photo by Eli Lutgens

Section 2AA Champions



Rattling off four straight wins through the Class 2AA Section 2 playoff bracket, the Waseca Bluejays earned a trip to the 2026 State Tournament. The Bluejays defeated Sibley East, Maple River, Glencoe-Silver Lake and Belle Plaine, improving their record to 23-7. This year is Waseca's 14th appearance in the state boys' basketball tournament. They also went in 1918, 1919, 1948, 1974, 1975, 1987, 1988, 2002, 2016, 2019, 2021, 2024 and 2025. The Bluejays were state champions in 1918 and 2021, finishing second in 2019 and 2025. They reached the section finals in 2020, when the Covid pandemic prompted cancellation of the state tournament. Front row, from left: Crosby Hinna, Max Deml, Kamerin Ferch, Owen Honstad, Caleb Wulf, Owen Rupe, Julius Oviedo, Logan Reger, Aiden Cisneros. Back Row: Seth Anderson, Devin Buendorf, Richard Guse, Ethan Hiller, Braiden Nelson, Tucker Thompson, Cyrett Long, Toby Jeske, Deron Russell, Brody Dufault, Wyatt Hager, Nate Kaiser, Riley Mitchell, Austin Nagel, Alex Dickerson. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

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