

# THE Jamesville Journal

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SERVING THE JANESVILLE-WALDORF-PEMBERTON-ST. CLAIR AREA

Wednesday, April 3, 2024



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### American Legion Post 281

will hold its monthly meeting

April 8, 2024  
at 7:00pm

@The Purple Goose

\* \* \*



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## Quote of the Week

*The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit.*

- Nelson Henderson

## Rebuilding a relic of the past

By JORDAN CARRILLO  
Staff Writer

With Easter signifying one of the most important events in the Christian faith, many supporters sought out a place of worship for the holiday. However, in an ever-changing landscape of beliefs, it can be difficult to decide what church best suits a person's own faith. Thankfully, a man by the name of Richard Klakeg hopes to repurpose a relic of the past into a house of worship for all believers in the love of Jesus Christ.

Klakeg attended a recent City Council meeting in Pemberton and spoke briefly about an upcoming rebuild of the old Medo Lutheran Church a few miles south of Pemberton. He has lived most of his life in Santa Barbara, California, but his wife and father were born and raised in Minnesota. "So our roots are planted in Minnesota," noted Klakeg.

He served in the Air Force for several years, but an injury during his service set him on a path of fellowship and faith. He admitted that his career as a missionary began without "me even knowing it" but has been a driving force in spreading the message of love for Jesus Christ. "It is so important to have a relationship with Jesus Christ,



our Lord and Savior; he created us, but so many people are frustrated with the legalism and the formal nature of religion... it's off putting to many folks and we want to create a place where all believers of Jesus Christ can come and pray and worship."

Klakeg came across the Medo Lutheran church by happenstance when pursuing locations to found a place of worship as he noted that the location "had been listed as a residential property when we started looking for potential projects." According to Klakeg, the Medo Lutheran church was founded way back in 1868, and served as a prime location for many to

practice their faith.

Over the years, whether it be the location of the church or shifting religious ideals, the church soon saw itself struggling to get residents to sit and worship. With interest in the church waning, the previous owner decided to close the building as a house of God and instead restructured it into a residential home.

During the reformation of the building from church to residence, the previous owners sold off much of the sanctuary and parsonage attributed with the church—they even sold the pews. However, in just a few short years after the remodeling, the

building was cleaned out completely; leaving nearly any trace that it was a church at one time.

Once he learned more information about the location, Klakeg was certain the once-forgotten church could be restored as a beacon for believers of the Christian faith. "We wanted to create a church that supports and includes all denominations of Christianity. We might have our differences, but the love of Jesus Christ and his sacrifices will be what connects us." Reconstruction for the church is underway, but Klakeg remarked that one of the initial roadblocks he's encountered is the lack of a boiler in

the building. "That was certainly unexpected when I took over the building, and it's one of our priorities to replace to make sure people are warm and comfortable when they come to worship." Additionally, Klakeg will need help in supplying is the addition of church pews...which he declared is a vital piece of the puzzle when it comes to the rebuild. "There's nothing like a pew when it comes to churches; they're symbolic in the sense that it brings people together to learn about God and praise His love."

There isn't a set deadline for the rebuild of the church and Klakeg noted there "won't be a label" attached to the church. If anything, the name of the church will center on the Love Like Jesus mantra he has followed so closely. Klakeg, who lives in California, recently hauled a box truck full of donations from California to Pemberton and plans to do so again soon.

Once the project is finished, Klakeg looks forward to sharing the love Christ has for all mankind and to grow the neighboring community's faith. "We have a lot of work to do before we can make this building a place of worship for the community; it's going to be a real challenge, but it's going to be worth it."

## St. Clair "Egg My Yard" for Easter



By RICARDO MORENO JR.  
Staff Writer

The St. Clair FFA fulfilled their first 'Egg My Yard' fundraising event on Saturday March 30th, 2024. In the weeks prior to the event, the FFA advertised 'Egg My Yard' as an easter egg delivery service for the St. Clair community. This Easter event is an opportunity for the FFA members to be a part of the community's holiday festivities and raise money for their upcoming field trips. The FFA members acted as the 'Easter Bunny' for those who purchased their candy filled Easter Eggs. Led by their Council and with the support of their advisor McKinsy Rew, the FFA prepared everything an Easter Bunny could use.

For every house on the FFA's deliver list, they prepared the

dozens of eggs requested, a poem as proof of the Easter Bunny's appearance, and would hide the eggs all over yards; with attention to customer preferences. Hannah Brekke was one of the FFA members volunteering their time to 'Egg My Yard' and says, "It was a good way to spend time outside of class." The FFA's eight acting 'Easter Bunnies' and Advisor Rew gathered outside of St. Clair high school on Saturday evening to assign groups their deliveries. The FFA was in high spirits as they prepared to egg peoples yards. They broke off into groups after receiving their assignment and went off to have fun as the Easter Bunny.

The funds raised by 'Egg My Yard' will go towards the St. Clair chapter's attendance at State and National FFA

for the second time. Three FFA members, including FFA Vice President Nealy Barna, attended last year's National convention in Indianapolis. Being able to share her experience at the conventions with the growing FFA may be a reason why the number of hopeful attendees has grown to fifteen. FFA conventions allow students to grow their knowledge of agriculture through sessions; instructional seminars on different ag topics. Conventions are also opportunities for FFA members to compete in different categories and St. Clair's Mackenzie Levos will be representing the chapter in two Proficiency categories. The FFA hope to make 'Egg My Yard' an annual event and their successful first year will help set it on that path. With the support of the community, St. Clair's FFA will continue to reach its goals.

## Pemberton's 15th Annual Easter Egg Hunt



By RICARDO MORENO JR.  
Staff Writer

Pemberton's 15 annual Easter Egg Hunt brought together a fantastic number of families on Saturday, March 30. The Pemberton Town Hall hosted the event and decorated it with all the Easter flair, befitting the Egg Hunt. Candi Baer, the head of the event's coordination and a tenured Easter Egg Hunt participant, greeted guests and led the activities. Baer has enjoyed being a part of the event's history and is happy to see the kids of the past bring their own children as the parents of today. While the Egg Hunt was the main attraction, the prizes and amenities provided were a cooperative complement.

The community members of Pemberton prepared the main hall for the 0 - 2 Egg Hunt and included multiple photo stations, a large prize display, and an Easter Bunny. Nineteen



separated by age, with five minutes between each hunt. 0 to 2-year-olds went first inside the gymnasium and went about the Egg Hunt at their own energetic pace. Outside, the children had

**Egg Hunt**  
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Community Happenings

Mamma Mia!  
St. Clair High School  
April 5, 6

Tribute to Trinity  
Masquerade Ball  
April 12 5:30pm

Harmony & Humor Show  
JWP Auditorium  
April 4,6,7

City Council  
Janesville  
April 8 7pm

City Council  
Pemberton  
April 8 7pm

Janesville Food Shelf  
Hours:  
Thursdays 1-3 p.m.  
Second Thurs. of month  
6-7 p.m.  
First & Third Sat. of  
month 1-3 p.m.




**Canvas Bag Design**  
Teens can transform a canvas bag into a custom tote at **Waseca Public Library on Monday, April 8th at 1 pm.** Teens can add vibrant patterns, intricate illustrations, or inspiring quotes. Geared for ages 13-18. Free.

**Romp and Rhyme Winter Story Time**  
Waterville Public Library will hold a story time on **Monday, April 8th at 10 am.** From puppets to pumping music, from bubble machines to banging bands, these are not your average story time. The Library uses movement, STEAM activities, curiosity, imaginative play, and active learning to keep kids engaged. Free and open to the public.

**Level Up: 3Doodlers**  
Doodle in the air! Create projects in 3D with this cool pen by drawing whatever you like or using molds to create ready-to-make projects at **Waseca Public Library on Monday, April 8th at 10 am.** This free event is geared for ages 7-12.

**Walleye Wisdom**  
Walleyes have a reputation for being difficult to catch. Fishing expert Terry Tuma will reveal the secrets of how to find these finicky fish as well as techniques and tools for catching them. Tuma's advice will improve the success rate for novice and veteran anglers alike. Tuma will speak **6 pm on Monday, April 8th at Elysian Area Library** and at the rescheduled time of **6 pm on Tuesday, April 23rd at Janesville Public Library.** Born in Northfield, Minnesota, Terry Tuma has become one of the nation's top fishing communicators. He has been angling since age 4 and has spent nearly his entire professional life sharing the virtues of the American fishing lifestyle. Today, Tuma is featured on many television

shows and can be seen regularly on Minnesota Bound and Due North Outdoors. He also has a strong presence in print media and has been featured in many major publications including In-Fisherman, North American Fisherman, and Outdoor News. Tuma's massive radio presence extends across the Midwest and nationally via several podcasts. He has been inducted into the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame.

This project is made possible by a grant provided by the Traverse des Sioux Library System and is funded in part with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage fund.

**Author Event: Joshua Moehling**  
Joshua Moehling, author of the Ben Packard mystery series, will share his writing process and newest novel, *Where the Dead Sleep*, at **6 pm on Monday, April 8th at Le Center Public Library** (10 W Tyrone St, Le Center, MN 56057) and **6 pm on Tuesday, April 16th at Waseca Public Library** (408 N State St, Waseca, MN 56093).

"With *Where the Dead Sleep*, Joshua Moehling solidifies his place as one of the best new voices in the mystery genre. Moehling nails the spirit of small-town life in Minnesota's unique North Country. His understanding of the darkness that can haunt the human spirit twists his story in wonderfully unpredictable ways. Fans of Walt Longmire or Joe Pickett or my own Cork O'Connor have reason to celebrate and look forward to a long life for Moehling's series and its fresh, vibrant protagonist Ben Packard." —William Kent Krueger

This event is made possible in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant provided by the Traverse des Sioux Library System, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Echoes from the Loafers' Club Meeting

Do you always stir coffee with your right hand? Yes, I'm right-handed. Try using a spoon next time.

Driving by Bruce's drive

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. When the sun rises and sets, it makes my day. Bright sunlight makes me sneeze three times. I have photic sneeze reflex. It's pepper on the sun. Achoo represents the sound of a sneeze and is an acronym for Autosomal Dominant Compelling Heliophthalmic Outburst (ACHOO) Syndrome, characterized by uncontrollable sneezing in response to sudden exposure to bright light, typically intense sunlight.

I exchanged pleasantries with a fellow traveler in Bethany, Missouri. She was from Goshen, Indiana. She asked where I was from. I told her. She said the winter weather here might be too much for her. I told her our weather wasn't as bad as she'd heard, and it was worse than she'd heard. She mulled that over for a minute and left. She was a hurrying Hoosier.

When I was in school, I formed the AI Club. I was in it because I started it. Others shared the lovely name: Routh, Waldhauser, Morstad, Loe,

I work knights at a chess factory



Compostings

by Al Batt  
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Tappe, Hanson and Berkvam, to name a few. Al Berkvam was a teacher and a coach. I told him he was a member. I was afraid he'd get all weepy on me, but he didn't. Those who had Allen, Allan, Alan or Allyn as middle names were awarded trial memberships. El Kabong was an honorary member. In the "Quick Draw McGraw Show," Quick Draw spent cartoon time as his alter ego, the masked El Kabong, who used a guitar (a Kabonger) to bash bad guys into submission. In the AI Club, there were no dues, no secret handshakes, no mission statement and no meetings. The first rule of AI Club was: there are no rules.

I was in a large store in Missouri because it was handy to buy some drinking water to put in the cooler in my car. I stumbled around a bit before locating my prey. As I grabbed a 12-pack of water, a man thanked me. I replied, "You're welcome," out of habit. His young son told me I was a hero and then they left. I was confused. When I got to my car, I grabbed my hat from my head. It said "Kiester Fire Department" on it. The city was named for state senator and judge Jacob Kiester.

The Kiester Fire Department, which is made of heroes, had given me the hat. If I could have found that man and his son, I'd have told them so.

I've learned

I use a level only in the evening. The lady who lived next door to me in the Twin Cities was 80% Irish. Her name was Iris.

Most conspiracy theories are mythunderstandings.

I like a banana that's a little green and firm. "No brown bananas" could be my shopping motto, although banana bread is great. Why are most banana-flavored things yellow? We don't eat the yellow part.

Bad jokes department

What is yellow, delicious and dangerous? Shark-infested lemon meringue pie.

If you've never tried blindfolded archery, you don't know what you're missing.

If he left a voicemail, would you call Johann Sebastian Bach?

I got a job at the chess factory. I work knights.

Welcome to IKEA. Come in and make yourself a seat.

I cut a log in half with my vision. I saw it with my own eyes.

Nature notes

Terri Guillemets wrote, "My favorite weather is bird chirping weather." Anonymous wrote, "Spring has sprung. The grass is riz; I wonder where the birdies is." The birdies are here or on the way. I believe in the miracle of birds each time one swings into my field of view. If I'm fortunate, I might get to enjoy the terpsichorean talents of sandhill cranes. Reason number 397 why I like birds: just because.

House finches are permanent residents of Minnesota, but some undergo a short-distance migration south. It might be to avoid paying taxes.

If the inside of a house window hosts flies that resemble house flies, they are cluster flies. They don't harm people or property and don't reproduce indoors. They are parasites of earthworms.

Birds need to transfer and preserve heat to eggs and nestlings via brood patches, bare areas of skin on the belly that lose their feathers toward the end of the egg-laying period. Most birds shed automatically, but some pluck their brood patch and use the plucked feathers to make an insulating lining for their nests.

Meeting adjourned

"Kindness is always fashionable, and always welcome." —Amelia Barr.

Burning the bridge



Mikes Corner

by Michael Roy  
Staff writer

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power to forgive?

There are many people in my life that I still haven't found the capacity to forgive. It takes a lot for me to cut ties. But when I do, I burn that bridge down, and rebuilding it takes twice the effort. Some may have genuine remorse and are sorry for what they did to me, but others don't care. It's challenging for me, for anybody, to forgive someone who isn't sorry for what they did.

But what's the definition of forgiveness beyond letting go of resentment, to make other people's wrongs toward you alright in your head? Is it simply to let go?

I think that's the intention of forgiveness in the Bible. However, many (especially those who seek forgiveness) may think that the act of letting go isn't enough, that the true sign of forgiveness is you letting them back into

your life. I think that's more telling of their character than anything.

That used to be me. I was a very immature teenager. (Yeah, who wasn't?) But I was not ready for any kind of relationship. I was mature in a way that I had seen the dark side of life, but I didn't know how to handle my emotions. My first girlfriend and I lasted two months, and I was not nice to her. But no matter how many times I apologized, I couldn't let it go.

I think that's the other side of forgiveness, that it's not up to you to decide if you can be forgiven for your actions. That's up to the other person to decide.

She decided not to let me back into her life, and I thought that we could at least be friends if I just said sorry enough. Wrong.

Whether you're religious, only spiritual, or don't believe in a higher power at all, I think the Bible's lesson on forgiveness can be relatable to anyone. If anything, it can teach us that forgiving ourselves for mistakes is important. But it doesn't mean we can make the same mistake again. We have to work toward fixing that mistake.

I want to end this by congratulating the MSU Maverick basketball teams on winning the Division II National Championship. I'm seriously wondering if they'll become a full Division I school in the next several years (they're D1 in hockey). It'd be interesting to see how the Maverick football team compares to the Gophers or the Iowa Hawkeyes.

Happy Easter, everyone. He is Risen!

TID-BITS OF TRIVIA

1. Not connected to another bone in the body, the hyoid bone is supported by a network of muscles located in what area?
2. Not just an Asian-inspired menu item, which of the following is a publicly traded commodity that is sold as an investment?
3. Not just found on fish, which of these growing things have also ribbed structures referred to as "gills"?
4. Not quite as American as apple pie, what came in second on the American Pie Council's 2008 survey of favorite flavors?
5. Not surprisingly, what classic novel figures prominently in the plot of the 2010 teen comedy "Easy A"?
6. Not surprisingly, which of these countries often ranks lowest on the Reporters Without Borders "Press Freedom Index"?
7. Not surprisingly Khalifa's rap hit "Black and Yellow" served as what NFL team's unofficial anthem in 2011?
8. Notable for its narrow, curly outer leaves, which of these fancy green salads is also called "curly endive"?
9. Now present in all 50 U.S. states, in 1962 the very first Wal-Mart store opened where?
10. Now produced around the world, Riesling is a white variety of wine that originated in what country?



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PO Box, 219, Janesville, MN 56048  
**PHONE: 507-231-6371**  
email: jjournal@frontier.com

TRACIE ROSACKER	Publisher
MICHAEL ROY	Editor
JORDAN CARRILLO	Staff Writer
JONAH STAFFORD	Staff Writer
RICARDO MORENO JR	Staff Writer
KATHY RICHARDSON	Editorial Assistant
LINDA EWERT	Advertising Sales
SUZY HABERMAN	Editorial Assistant

**DEADLINE: FRIDAYS by 4pm**

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
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# Gahler house has hundred year history

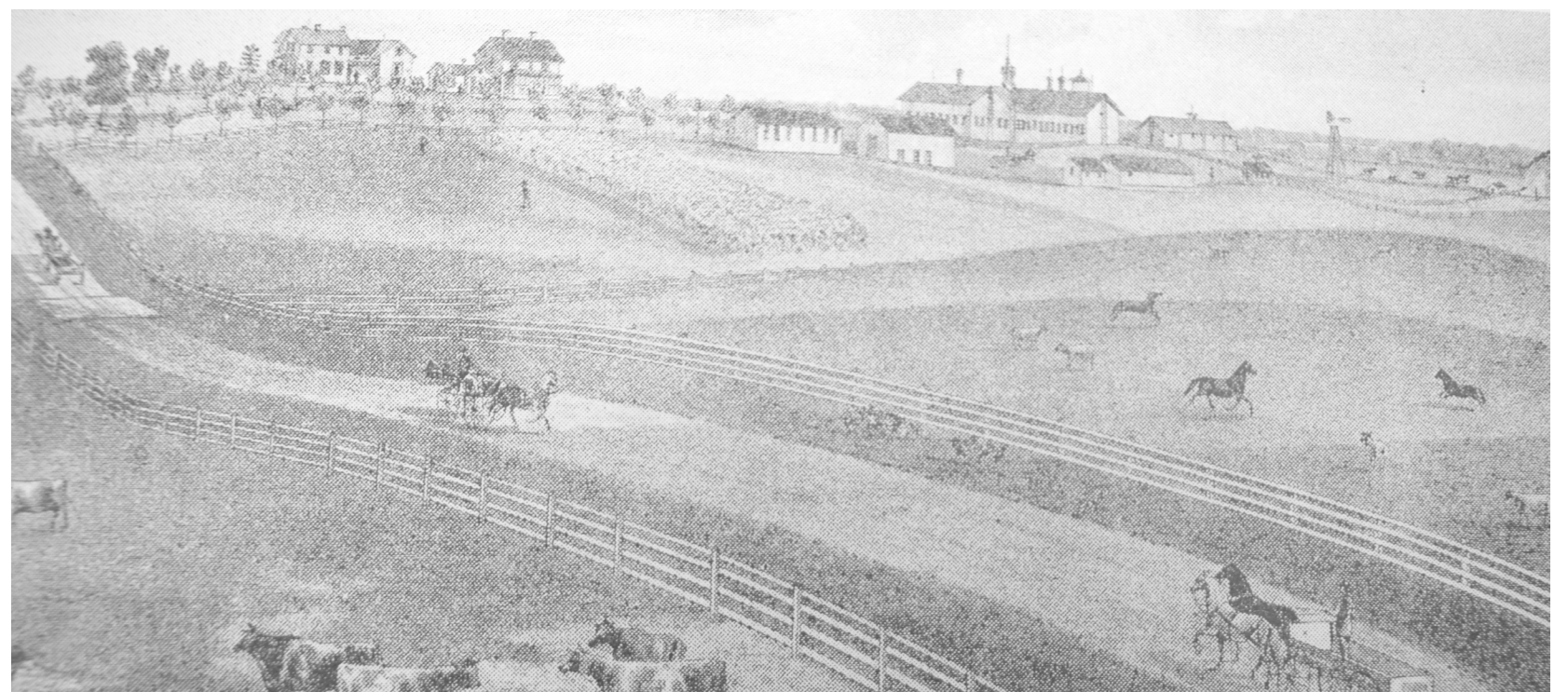
By MICHAEL ROY  
Editor

Some places in Janesville have an enormous history within its walls. Ernie and Betty Gahler's house seems to have an essential place in very early Janesville, as do his neighbors.

Many who are aware of Janesville's beginnings, starting in 1856, may have heard of the McGraffs. Much of Janesville's history was archived and collected in "A History of Janesville 1856-1956," compiled by the historical committee of the Janesville Chamber of Commerce. The McGraffs and the Lake Elysian Stock Farm make up nearly four pages of the book.

In 1858, Charles McGraff was interested in setting up a stock farm in the Janesville area. At that time, he was working with his father, Colonel Andrew DeGraff, on railroad construction within the local area. In 1862, Charles DeGraff fully committed to creating a stock farm in Janesville and bought 1,760 acres of land on the eastern edge of the "Big Woods." It was the beginning of the Lake Elysian Stock Farm. At the time of its founding, Charles was only one of three men to initiate a breeding of blooded

stock, or thoroughbred horses. So, where does the Gahler house come into play? While cultivating 300 1,760 acres of land for oats, corn, rye, and barley, he used much of the land to build housing for himself and his employees. Ernie Gahler claimed that McGraff built his house, and the abstract for his home proves it. Abstracts contain records of when the house was bought, sold, foreclosed, or renovated. In 1866, Charles DeGraff purchased the land the home



sits on for \$4,000; in 1868, he took out a \$6,000 mortgage to build the house. The DeGraff house often switched hands until Gahler bought it in the late 1980s.

DeGraff's fame went far past Janesville. According to the "History of Janesville 1856-1956," he was known for his advanced ideas, and his farm often had visitors from other states interested in his methods. His biggest claim to fame was his horses, which won numerous awards at fairs and stock shows. However, perhaps the most significant indictment of his horse breeding was that the 21st President of the United States, Chester McArthur, purchased DeGraff's famous trotting team, Walrus and Washetaw, for \$3,000.

In July 1887, Charles DeGraff died suddenly, leaving his father, Col. DeGraff, the executor of the estate. He decided to continue with the enterprise of Lake Elysian Stock Farm until June 1889, when he

held auctions to sell the land and all its stock. Alexander Gunn,

who purchased half a section for a sawmill.

On Sanborn fire insurance maps, the current Janesville Fire Department's location was once marked as where DeGraff Farm and Stock was. A hotel was also located there for decades.

Gahler shares that one of the houses across the street from him was part of the DeGraff house in the past. He also shared that much of the wooden trim in his house came from an old mansion in Madelia. It became his mission to restore some of the house's character. He also wants to create a plaque



honoring DeGraff, stating the year the house was built.

"I think it's important to honor this man that had done so much for Janesville in the early days," he said. "And I want people to know about him."

who had helped manage the farm since Charles DeGraff's death, bought 900 acres (buildings included) in July of 1892. The rest of the land was split between various buyers, including Charles McBeth and Charles Bennett of Mankato,

Gunn sold his land in 1911, and at that time, the Lake Elysian Stock Farm was divided into smaller farms owned by Ernest Ewert, Reinhold Trahms, Morris Hodgkins, Gardner Fischer, Martin Winters, William Quade, and Bill Lange.

## St. Clair celebrates "Music in our Schools" month



By RICARDO MORENO JR.  
Staff Writer

The first annual St. Clair 'Music in our Schools' performance took place on Tuesday, March 19th. The Elementary School students assembled in the Big Gym for performances by the elementary and 6th grade bands and choirs. Music in our Schools is a campaign aimed at increasing student involvement in music programs. Performances like this are meant to showcase the fun of music and the musical skills students have developed.

Principle Nadine Holland greeted the students and introduced 'Music in our Schools' to the kids before the 4th grade recorders opened the show.

The recorder band played very harmoniously. Their performance was followed by the 5th grade choir. They opened the choir performance with a song called 'Shout'.

The 6th grade choir then joined them on the choir stands.

5th and 6th grade had only performed together one time before and sang 'We are the Young' as if they practiced it together weekly. The 6th grade choir ended their performance with a song called 'Chumbara'; a song made up of nonsense words that the audience of students really enjoyed. The 5th grade band was next to perform and began with 'Surprise Symphony'.

Next were the 5th grade bucket drummers. They played a variety of unique songs using the bucket drumming techniques they have been practicing. One of their songs was improvisational, giving drummers a chance to freestyle a beat for all to hear.

The bands and choirs had a fantastic performance. The gym was alive with the sound of applause at the end of every piece, and their fellow students were commenting on the best songs of the performance. This first annual 'Music in our Schools' performance surely inspired students to find their own musical talents.

## Board approves new weighted grade system

By MICHAEL ROY  
Editor

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School Board and the district's administration share one goal: keeping high school students enrolled in college courses in the building.

Discussions about that blossomed after the school board approved a new weighted grade system at its meeting on Monday, March 18. The district wanted to adopt a weighted grade system for those taking college or honors courses because High School Principal David Rysdam explained, "It gives an opportunity to students that want to achieve to achieve, to push themselves academically and to write their own story."

Weighted grading will award students enrolled in CIS (College in the Schools), PSEO (Post-Secondary Enrollment Options), and Honors Classes with a higher point average. For example, an A would be a 4.0 GPA in standard classes, while the weighted GPA is 4.4. B grades, which are 3.0, would be a 3.3 when weighted, and so on.

## JWP School Board

Rysdam and Director of Teaching and Learning Casey Rose liked this system. The weighted grading system was based on schools around the area that used a similar point system, such as Waseca, Owatonna, and Triton. Rysdam said he'd notify students who may still want to apply for college-level or honors courses upon approval. "That way, all students can adjust classes and get that approved by the end of the month."

Student council Representative Eric Daschner, asked if there would be a possibility for backtracking for students who have already taken college-level courses without receiving the weighted grades. Rysdam explained that wouldn't be the case with "the difference principle." "It's the same with laws; you can't make a law today and charge someone with something related to what happened two years ago."

The board brainstormed ways to entice students to take PSEO or online college courses to stay in school. Board member Kevin Born suggested that parents sign an additional form stating that online and PSEO cost the district "lots of money" outside of the CIS courses that JWP offers; parents already sign a form to allow students to take the college classes, so this would be an

additional form.

Rysdam was up for anything to keep students within the schools, as he's made it clear that was one of his primary goals since becoming principal. "I would not be against anything that keeps the students here. We can at least let the parents know the benefits. Many studies prove keeping students within the school building improves learning. The culture of the building also drastically changes."

Rose admitted that part of the issue was trying to help students fill their schedules. "In the past, the schedule's been, 'Oh, you have a hole, here's an online course.' We haven't done that this year, but it was the default for quite a while."

Instead, she's shifted her focus on keeping the students within the building in any way possible. "Some of our children, I've been spending an hour with them trying to get them to stay here."

Board member Joan Olson suggested an in-person meeting

with the parents and students about the costs of PSEO college courses. Rysdam smiled and looked at Rose. "We've had several conversations about this," he replied.

He alleged that there was supposed to be a parent meeting done individually with the school counselor. However, Rysdam agreed with Olson. "We're of the mind that we need to get together in a room and talk about this."

He added that many parents may have heard that PSEO classes count more than CIS. "That's some misinformation and misinformation."

Rysdam did share that some teachers were already getting the extra education needed to teach CIS courses at JWP. "We're looking to expand that here," he said. "One teacher we're bringing for English is also bringing in a CIS course. We also have algebra for college and art coming in. If you're taking college courses within the high school building, you retain more. It's a better overall system. If we can process this early, how cool is that?"

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Business Spotlight

“Pitmaster Paul” is Head Chef in his catering business of 26 years

By RICARDO MORENO JR.  
Staff Writer

For twenty-six years Prairie Pride Catering has been serving delicious meals that have been the delight of their customers’ celebrations. Corporate events, parties and weddings, any event with hungry people, would benefit from having Paul the Pitmaster as their head chef. He began his culinary career at the age of fourteen and Paul still greets each day the same, “I’m going to make some really cool stuff today!”

Becoming one of the longest running barbeque establishments in Mankato does not happen by chance. On his father’s 40th birthday, he and Paul roasted a pig together using their smoker. Paul’s interest in barbequing grew from that memorable experience and he was quick to pursue it. Soon, Paul and his father competed in a barbeque contest in Kansas City, where they were quite successful. The competitions did not stop in Kansas City as Paul would later place second at a national competition in Indiana. Paul also ranked first in Minnesota for



barbeque. Having put his skills to the test in competition, and having a lot of fun cooking, Paul and his father entered into the world of catering. They began advertising in the yellow pages and were called upon by a neighbor to cater a wedding. That was Prairie Pride Catering’s first job.

Paul attended South Central College for restaurant management and spent time working in restaurants to help him improve his business. Prairie Pride Catering has had its share of change over the years but Paul’s love for his job has remained the same, “I’m excited every morning I wake up. I can go and cook food. Make that prime rib or chicken for them and they’re just like ‘wow that is the best thing I’ve ever had.’”

That is one-hundred percent worth it for me.” Paul’s catering used to rely on a caravan of vehicles, but being completely self-contained has become a point of pride.

Prairie Pride Catering’s truck is a kitchen on wheels that has served Paul and his customers well for twenty years. The only accommodation needed is a place to park it. Serving customers is a practiced skill of Prairie Pride’s, so whether there are fifty people or five hundred, Paul and his crew will have everyone served faster than they can eat. All of Prairie Pride Catering’s ingredients are locally sourced and Paul does all the preparation himself. Every meal is crafted with a lot of love but sometimes things just do not work out in the kitchen.

However, that never stopped Paul, as each failure took him a step further to becoming the Pitmaster, “You’ll become a better cook all around if you just keep practicing at it. Especially barbeque.”

Prairie Pride Catering is on course to expand its menu. While creating a new menu does take time, Paul is always open to customer input, “If you call me and you want something, I can make it.” One dish in particular is a ‘vegan barbeque chickpea salad’ that Paul is always excited to hear a customer order. Vegan options, steak and chops are among the menu items Paul will be including in the revamped menu.

With Spring and Summer on the horizon, Prairie Pride Catering will soon be operating at full force. Paul the Pitmaster can be reached through Facebook and on the Prairie Pride Catering website; just type the name into the search bar and they will be right there. They will be offering graduation party packs that customers can pick up for their graduate’s celebration. Paul’s birthday will mark the 26th year of Prairie Pride Catering’s operation. Paul has managed his business as he wants and has years of success to show for it. With growth ever on the horizon, and delicious food ready to serve, Prairie Pride Catering will continue to be a part of countless memories.

Local author publishes latest book; “We suffered much”

By MICHAEL ROY  
Editor



There are fewer things more rewarding than making a discovery, whether it’s coming up with a new idea, creating an invention, or even rediscovering lost history. Local author Cindy Wilson’s latest writing endeavor involved the latter.

In her latest book, “We Suffered Much,” Wilson tells the tale of Charles Wood Irish, a railroad worker and land surveyor who was responsible for creating the railroad from Tracy, Minnesota, to South Dakota’s capital, Pierre, from 1879 to 1881. The book also details Irish himself and his family.

The idea for this book partially stemmed from her research for her previous book, “The Beautiful Snow.”

“When I was researching for that book, I sought out the dairies about where the rail lines would go from Tracy onwards,” she explained. “DeSmith, South Dakota, was one of the towns that sprung up on the railroad in the wake of Irish and his men.”

Although her love for history makes it seem like she’s been writing for years, it’s more of a second career for her. After growing up in Bloomington, MN, Wilson spent most of her adult life in Lakeville, MN, where her initial career had been computer work, including creating websites, marketing, and communications. Even after moving to Elysian 14 years ago, she hadn’t thought of a career change until her friends encouraged her to look into it.

“I had helped several friends develop their books, creating story arcs, developing ideas, and proofreading and editing their work,” Wilson explained. “But I had never thought about creating my own book despite encouragement from teachers back in elementary school. My career was different than that.”

After thinking about it, she leaped and made an intentional career switch to writing.

The first book idea, “The Beautiful Snow,” came to her when it was her turn in her neighborhood book group to pick a story to read. She chose “The Long Winter,” an autobiography by Laura Ingalls Wilder detailing life during the harsh winter of 1880-81.

“We had been reading some pretty heavy books, so I wanted to pick something lighthearted,” she reminisced. “Well, ‘The Long Winter’ definitely wasn’t a lighthearted book to lighten the mood.”

Wilson’s friends had asked her how close the actual story of that 1880-81 winter was to Laura Ingalls Wilder’s tale, which had her researching the topic out of “personal curiosity.” When she found out more information, her friends “in the Laura Ingalls Wilder world” encouraged her to make a book about it. Still, despite making a conscious career change to writing now, “The Beautiful Snow” was a side project while she still worked full-time.

After finishing her first book, she did more research about the

railroad. “In the first book, I wanted to see where the railroad was during the winter,” she said. When all was said and done, I found the diaries to be so interesting.”

To her, though, the most interesting was that of Charles Wood Irish.

In 2019, she officially began work on what would become “We Suffered Much.” However, she had delayed work on the book to go through a knee replacement. After a full year of recovering by hiking and biking, she had a fresh and clean mind. “My enthusiasm for the book never waned,” she said.

Research for “We Suffered Much” involved plenty of travel. One place she researched was the South Dakota State Historical Society in Pierre. She also did plenty of research at the University of Iowa in Iowa City where Charles Wood Irish’s maps, diaries, and letters were.

“I made multiple trips to Iowa City, a few to Pierre, and more than a handful of trips to western Minnesota and South Dakota on the ground, tracing their path, gathering camp locations, and figuring out where the routes they selected were and alternatives they contemplated and explored.”

The most rewarding part of this book to Wilson was pulling out the history of this man who was “incredible and yet lost to history.”

Irish’s family was also special. “He had 20-something-year-old daughters, and he was not your stereotypical Victorian-era father. He encouraged them to learn science and engineering, and to exercise intellect instead of falling for the cultural norm of the time and staying home. They are every bit as interesting as he is.”

Digging and exploring these facts are her favorite parts of history. “I like putting different pieces together and tying them into context,” she said. “I can’t explain why I enjoy it. I just really love doing it.”

Wilson is continuing to research and unearth some history. She’s already working on a third book about the Stockman house in Mason City, Iowa, and she’s anxious to get started. She also has an additional story on the railroad she hopes to write, but is “not fleshed out.”

To purchase the book “We Suffered Much,” visit ItascaBooks.com and other retailers. For more information on Cindy Wilson, visit her website cindywilson-author.com.

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Time is a force that can never be stopped

I would like to talk about time, because it is a force that can never be stopped. I looked at my hands and saw what my father was talking about years ago.

There are more lines on my hands, wear on my hands, and age on my hands. If I’m not careful, the next time I examine them they’ll be the hands of an old man. There is nothing that can be done about it, and there is nothing I would want to do about it. “It’s fun getting old, son.” My dad has said as he groans his way out of a chair.

Time is constantly coming and going, so you, and I do mean you, ought to make sure you’re aware of how it’s being used.

Some people have used their time to amass wealth beyond belief. Others squandered it away chasing mirages that could never be reached. Many use it to find comfort in the time they have.

Regardless of an individual’s use of it, time will continue its unyielding march to an end no human could ever truly fathom. It really is a precious commodity. People will pay you for your



time, waste your time, and/or make your time meaningful; a grace that all should find for themselves. Meaning, I believe, is the most important thing Man could use their time to create. In fact, Man is quite capable of that task.

The growing cynicism and selfishness of the world may make it difficult for a person to find meaning with their time. I understand that myself. My days feel as if they’re no different from the last, at times. Each one bleeding into the next with no markable difference besides the growing weight of my responsibilities. Bills need to get paid so work has to get done, and the days when work feels like WORK can really drag

you down. I wonder about my time a lot. How much of it has been wasted on social ‘brain rot’ media? My phone could easily tell me, but minutes and hours are only part of time. I could spend the same amount of time staring at the ceiling as I do on my phone and feel more fulfilled for it.

The activity of my mind is what makes my time meaningful. Minutes and hours don’t seem like much after you’ve been alive for nearly three decades, so I wonder at what point I started to value them a little less. Probably when I started to look at my phone a lot more, because it definitely wasn’t when I was playing video games. Nothing could be more

important to a gamer than the time they have to game. The ones I played always had a story to tell, and I could find meaning in each one. Some even inspired the ideals to which I hold myself now. I’ve yet to find anything that meaningful from an hour of 60-second videos.

I hope that everyone can find meaning in their time, and I thank everyone for reminding me to keep a hold of meaning. Not because they told me, but because they showed me. Families gathered to celebrate holidays, kids working together to achieve their goals, and people expressing their pain of loss return me to my appreciation of time.

Their influence, their being, their use of their time reminds me of how important it is to make the most out of it. To not remain stagnant in meaninglessness when meaning is all around. Time won’t stop for the stagnated, not for anyone, in fact, it will carry them on regardless of their want. They’ll have traversed the sea of time before realizing how grand of an adventure it was, but by then, the only adventure left is oblivion.

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**SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW**

**Bulldog Softball**



Front: Hudson Miller, Raylen Blasing, Victoria Blomstrom, Ellah Oliver, Lily Quast, and Manager Lydia Sack. Middle: Head Coach Nicci Malecha, Ryleigh Donner, Lilly Ewert, Kayle Langford, Assistant Coach Jace Emory, and Assistant Coach Jeff Simonson. Back: Lexie Dahlberg, Autumn Thissen, Sophie Coulsey, Brielle James, Brielle Dessner, and Addison Miller. (Journal photo by Michael Roy)

**Ready to hit the field with Malecha as Head Coach**

By MICHAEL ROY Sports Editor

The JWP softball team are ready to hit the field and have already been getting some work in with scrimmages and practices, even if the winter season had one last hurrah in the past week.

This year's team will be going through a bit of change. For the past few seasons, Megan Christopher took the head coaching position. This year, JWP athletic director Nicci Malecha will be taking the lead in her first-ever season for the Bulldogs.

**2023 season**

The softball team has shown signs of growth in the past few seasons. Their only win in 2022 was a major upset against Randolph, a team that later advanced to the state championship.

However, they vastly improved to 7-10 last year with a 3-8 record in the conference, their best finish since 2018-19, when they went 9-9.

The team vastly improved on offense last season, with four games where they scored 12 or more runs. They defeated Nicolet, Medford, Alden-Conger/Glenville-Emmons, Martin Luther-GHEC-Truman, Cleveland, Triton, and Kenyon-Wanamingo. However,

their season ended in the first round against United South Central.

**Key returnees and losses**

The group will be returning a solid core of its players this year, which include senior Lexie Dahlberg, juniors Brielle Dessner, Ellah Oliver, Autumn Thissen, and Addison Miller; and sophomores Lilly Quast, Brielle James, Victoria Blomstrom, Lilly Ewert, and Kayle Langford. Dessner was an all-conference player while Dahlberg earned an honorable mention.

Losses to the team include Isabelle Rider, who was a starting catcher for the past two seasons, starting pitcher Vanessa Terbeest, and second baseman Jessa Westphal. Rider and Westphal were outspoken leaders of the team, and Terbeest won the Gopher Conference Sportsmanship Award.

**Expectations**

Malecha has high expectations for the girls this season. "I expect the girls are going to hold themselves to high standards and compete within the conference and the section," she says. "We have a lot of great talent on this team, and as long as we connect both offensively and defensively, we will be able to compete against any team."

**Strengths and weaknesses**

Team strengths include the vast amount of experience the players on the roster bring to the team. "They have put in the time during the off-season to work on their mechanics," Malecha shares.

She expects the team to be strong on defense, which they

showed flashes of last season.

Malecha says that team bonding is another great strength of theirs. "I look forward to seeing their skills come out during the game."

One weakness is the lack of experience within this year's pitching crew. Terbeest pitched in all of last season's games. So, they are looking for someone to take her place.

"We have a young pitching crew," Malecha admits. "However, they have worked hard during the off-season and over the last couple of weeks to be ready to go for game day on April 2nd."

She adds that the team is filling second base and catching positions with players who didn't see much or any varsity playing time last year.

**Key to success and favorites**

Malecha says that the team's key to success is to "have fun and compete." "I'm telling them not to dwell on the little things as I want the girls to focus on one pitch, one out and one inning at a time. This is a great group of girls that want consistency and to be able to advance their mechanics."

She feels this year's favorites in the Gopher Conference are Randolph and Bethlehem Academy. Both teams made it to state last year. She also has BA as a favorite in Section 1A along with Southland.

The team will travel to St. Clair for its season opener April 2. Home opener is a triangular against New Life Academy-Woodbury and Lyle-Pacelli on April 6.

**Bulldog Baseball**



Front: Manager Adarius Radunz, Jaxon Miller, Chase Gerdts, Lucas Morsching, Carter Quast, and Manager Avery Fall. Second: Head Coach Cory Jewison, Cole Blomstrom, Ethan Born, Peyton O'Brien, Max Davis, and Assistant Coach Tyler Fellows. Back: Austin Carda, Austin Quast, Cole Gartner, Gavin Krause, Ty Melchior, Josh Bengtson, and Nolan Morsching. Missing: Drake Herschberger. (Journal photo by Michael Roy)

By MICHAEL ROY Sports Editor

The JWP baseball team has been working its way toward success the past few seasons. Head Coach Cory Jewison is entering his fourth year as a head coach, and every year, the team has improved in multiple ways, including a 10-8 season last year.

**2023 Season**

The team had a good season overall, going 10-8. While they struggled in the Gopher Conference slightly with a 4-6 record, they did pretty well in the section (3-3) and defeated Hayfield, a team that had won the state championship in 2021 and were runner-ups in 2022 after a 2-1 loss to Randolph.

However, JWP's success in the regular season didn't carry over into the playoffs, where they hosted Rushford-Peterson and lost 13-2.

**Expectations**

Coach Jewison expects the Bulldogs to do well this season because of the vast amount of upperclassmen. "This group has lots of leaderships and starters returning," he says. "Five of the players will have a minimum of two or more years of varsity experience. I think this will give us a great opportunity to have a successful season. Our seniors lead by example and hopefully, they continue being great role models for the underclassmen."

**Returning athletes and losses**

Returning athletes this season are seniors Gavin Krause, Nolan Morsching, Ty Melchior, Josh Bengtson, Cole Blomstrom, Cole Gartner, Austin Carda, Austin Quast, and Drake Herschberger; juniors Ethan Born and Lucas Morsching; and sophomore Chase Gerdts.

Krause will be one of the team's most significant returnees since he missed 2023 due to injury. He is also the team's lone three-year letter winner. Melchior also won third-team all-conference honors, while Gerdts was an honorable mention.

Key player losses are Ian Barnes, pitcher and second basemen, catcher Kelton Eler, and Ryan Hanson, closing pitcher who often played corner field positions. Jewison said Barnes was a solid contact hitter while Hanson was a power hitter who led the team in slugging percentage, doubles, and triples while taking second in RBIs.

"Eler will be a very big loss," he adds. "He was our starting catcher for three years. We will miss his leadership on the field with defense and his offense. He was a huge contributor and he led our team in batting average, hits, walks, and stolen bases. He was also great behind the plate on blocking and calling the game."

**Strengths and weaknesses**

Team strengths include the sheer number of starters returning in many positions, strong leadership by the seniors, and a strong offense. "Having 12 home games should help as well," Jewison adds.

A potential team weakness is a lack of depth in some positions, which is to be expected given how many seniors and juniors make up the roster.

**Favorites**

Jewison believes that the Gopher Conference will be difficult this season, making it challenging to judge a favorite team. "It's always so unpredictable," he admits. "I think all the teams have a strong chance of competing for the conference title."

Section 1A will be difficult as well. "I believe in the last five

years, a teacher from our section has gotten to the state championship."

However, he does share that Lyle Pacelli is the "heavy favorite" since they competed in the state tournament last season and will be returning many of the same players this season.

Last year, JWP played Cromwell-Wright, a team several hours away from Janesville. This was because the Cardinals, like many other teams up north, couldn't play most of their names in April due to the snow still covering their fields. A doubleheader against the Bulldogs on April 18, was the first bit of action they had in the 2023 season.

This year, JWP will host a triangular with Cromwell-Wright and International Falls. "I am very excited to play those two teams," Jewison says. "I think it is fun for the northern teams to come down here and play to get more experience for themselves. I know both Cromwell-Wright and ourselves enjoyed playing against each other."

They will also travel to the Twin Cities to play Heritage Christian Academy. "I think it is very important to play a different variety of teams for experience."

Jewison is ecstatic for the season to begin. "This group has been an integral part of our baseball program since I started coaching at JWP. This is a special group and they deserve so much success and need to be rewarded with their hard work the past four years."

The team traveled to Loyola Catholic on Monday, April 1 before hosting St. Clair on April 2.

They will host Blooming Prairie on Thursday and travel to Madelia on Friday.

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**JWP SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW**

**JWP Track Teams**

By MICHAEL ROY  
Sports Editor

The JWP track teams are running, jumping, and leaping into the 2024 season. Both teams have already been working with indoor track meets, and they are looking to continue the successes of last season.

Sam Schruin will return for his second year as head coach of the JWP track teams. Assistant coaches this year are John Kaplan, Liz Kvebak, Scott Thompson, Andrea Kronbach, and Emily Olson. Ella Stenger, Ashlynn Wendt, and Ali Olson are the managers this season, with Tim Johnson, Mike Cahill, Katie Cahill, and Kenzie Miller volunteering.

**2023 Season**

It was a fantastic year for both teams last season. Aside from the team's many firsts in meets, the girls were Gopher Conference champions last year. Both teams were also subsection 2A south champions.

There were also many records broken by the two teams: 8th-grader Makenzie Westphal in the 1600 and 3200; the team of Katelyn Olson, Nevaeh Weimert, Lilly Strauss, and Raquel Fischer in the 4x100 and 4x200 relays; the team of Weimert, Westphal, Ashlin Keyes, and Strauss in the 4x400; Ryan Kronbach in the triple jump; the team of Isaac Gahlon, Isaiah Berndt, Alex James, and Daulton Bauer in the 4x100; and the team of Berndt, James, Bauer, and Kronbach in the 4x200.

**Returning athletes**

There are 17 returning athletes for the girls and 24 returning to the boys' team this season. Out of all these athletes, Ryan Kronbach, Lilly Strauss, Katie Olson, and Nevaeh Weimert were state participants.

Kronbach went to state in the High Jump; Strauss, Weimert,



Front: Coach Tim Johnson, Isaac Gahlon, Luke Cahill, Alex James, Ryan Kronbach, Dylan McWaters, Memphis James, Kaden Baker, and Coach Liz Kvebak. Second: Coach John Kaplan, Ethan Born, Dylan Gustafson, Carter Hoehn, Gavin Marinenko, Isaiah Berndt, Eric Daschner, Shane Witts, and Coach Emily Olson. Third: Coach Sam Schruin, Charles Adams, Carson Schultz, Tyson Johnson, Noah Brock-Oxner, Daulton Bauer, Elo Flo Sola, Alexander Kleve, Alison Olson, and Coach Kenzie Miller. Fourth: Evan Mulcahey, Karson Middlestaedt, Jacoby Harris, Jason Wheelock, Gavin Bauer, Tyson Kronbach, Samuel Hoehn, Brennan Welvaert, and Coach Andrea Kronbach. Back: Ashlynn Wendt, Syler Kelley, Gavinn Kaiser, Preston Johnson, Christian Reyes, Leighlan Harris, Jacob Passow, and Coach Katie Cahill.

and Olson were part of the 4x100, 4x200, and 4x400 relay teams at state; and Strauss made it individually in the long jump.

Kronbach was all-conference in the triple jump, while the team of Strauss, Olson, and Weimert were all-conference in the 4x200. The 4x800 team of Ava and Kwynn Krause, Faith Olson, and Lauren White were all-conference honorees, while Makenzie Westphal went all-conference in the 3200.

Isaiah Berndt, Alex James, Alexander Kleve, Ava Appel, and Presley James were all-conference honorable mentions.

**Key losses**

Although both teams will return many athletes, they still lost many talented ones. Michael VanRavenhorst, Zach Groll, Jack Cahill, and Nick Johnson graduated last season. Jack Cahill was a state participant in his junior year as a pole vaulter.

The girls lost Ashlin Keyes, Raquel Fischer, Faith Olson, and Madison Kunst. Keyes was part of the 4x400 team that made it

to state last year while qualifying individually in the high jump; she was an all-conference honorable mention. Fischer was part of the all-conference 4x200 team and ran with the 4x100 and 4x200 at state last season. Faith Olson was part of the 4x800 all-conference team and earned the Conference Sportsmanship Award.

**Expectations, strengths, weaknesses**

Coach Schruin's expectations for this team are simple: "We're looking to develop champions and graduate leaders."

He highlights the team's culture as its top strength. "As cliché as it may sound, it's more like a family where everyone feels welcome and is pushed to become their best self," he explains.

Another strength he notes

and make the program very inclusive. Everyone is very driven and has a strong work ethic."

That is thanks to a great coaching staff, which Schruin says is a "very knowledgeable group of individuals who are committed to the social, emotional, and physical growth of the athletes."

Although Schruin joked that team weaknesses were "having too much fun, winning too much, and getting too strong," it's objectively challenging to find

are already taking their place. "We're looking to do better every day," Schruin summarized.

JWP will be a favorite in the Gopher Conference this season, especially the girls' squad, which is returning most of their state participants and all-conference honorees to the roster.

**Additional comments**

Schruin shared a few quotes that have become mottos for the teams at every practice. One is from Henry Ford: "Whether you think you can or can't, you're right." The other is what the team members and coaches always say: "It's a beautiful day to be a track athlete."

"I am really proud of everyone and all the hard work they put in," Schruin says.

As mentioned, JWP has already participated in two indoor track meets at MSU in



Front: Head Coach Sam Schruin, Brielle Bure, Onikia Herme, Kwynn Krause, Aubrey Adams, Sarah Bulman, Lauren White, Caitlin Kleve, and Coach Liz Kvebak. Second: Coach John Kaplan, Paige Walz, Katie Olson, Nevaeh Weimert, Autumn Thissen, Camilla Montorsi, Ariana Aguilar, and Coach Emily Olson. Third: Coach Tim Johnson, Madeline Hoehn, Claire Walz, Lilly Strauss, Madyn Holland, Presley James, Ava Appel, Alison Olson, and Kenzie Miller. Fourth: Ashlynn Wendt, MaKaela Westphal, Clare Groh, Kayleigh Donner, Anne Adams, Ava Krause, Makenzie Westphal, Coach Andrea Kronbach, and Coach Katie Cahill. Back: Ashlynn Wolff, Madilyn Gustafson, and Kiaya Hoehn.

is the team's strong leadership from the upperclassmen. "They do a great job of teaching and mentoring our younger athletes

weaknesses in the team. Even in areas of the team with key losses from last season, some athletes

Mankato. They will have their final indoor meet on Thursday, April 4.

**JWP Golf**

By MICHAEL ROY  
Sports Editor

It's a new year with a new head coach for JWP's golf teams. This year, Tim Burke will be the head coach for the first time, while Mike Gardner (the head coach last season) will be the assistant coach.

The golfers have always looked like a superior team in whatever conference they are in and have been a top team in Section 2A for many seasons. In 2021, the girls' team won the section, while the boys took the section in 2023 and were runner-ups in 2022.

The boys also won the conference championship last season and were 7th in the state tournament. Perhaps the Bulldog golfers' highest accomplishment last season was sending every

single golfer to state. Lone girls' golfer Hope Dimmel was joined them after placing in the section tournament.

**Returning athletes**

The best part about this year's team is that they lost no players from last season.

Logan Thell will be golfing his final season with JWP. Thell has qualified for the state championship in the past three seasons and placed in the top 20 in the past two years. Fellow seniors Steven Dimmel, Ryan Kronbach, Carter Miller, Alex James, and freshman Jeffrey Simonson join him. Junior Hope Dimmel quali-



Front: Abby Balzotti, Steven Dimmel, Dylan Hood, John Bublitz, and Evan Mulcahey. Back: Hope Dimmel, Logan Thell, Carter Miller, Ryan Kronbach, Jeffrey Simonson, Alex James, and Head Coach Tim Burke.

fied for state as an individual in 2023, and was also a member of the 2021 girls' team that won its section and went to state.

**Expectations**

While Burke hasn't been with

the team that long, he shares that they are looking to improve on last year's success. "We're looking to improve from an individual standpoint and as a team," he says. "I haven't had

Coach Burke believes a team weakness is putting. "The short game is where you score," he says. "I feel they can always improve in that area."

Burke also believes that reducing some miscues can help the team improve even more.

**Keys to success and favorites**

"The key to success for our golfers is to play our game and not let the outside noise bother them," Burke concludes.

He shares that JWP's boys will be this season's conference and section favorite. Another key to the team's future success is getting more players in the JWP golf program. "We are always looking to improve our team numbers," he says. "Five of the boys are seniors, and we only have two girls out this year, so it will be critical to get recruits in here to have a solid program."

The team will be traveling a lot this season. Their first meet will be an invitational on April 13 at the Oaks Golf Club near Hayfield.

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**SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW**

**Cyclone Track Teams**

By **JORDAN CARRILLO**  
Staff Writer

With a majority of their athletes returning for the 2023-2024 season, the St. Clair/Immanuel Lutheran Boys and Girls track teams are determined to build off the previous season's success that resulted in two athletes qualifying for State.

Coach Ashley Swanson is confident the two teams are ready to put in the work for the upcoming season. "I'm excited for this year... we have nearly all the athletes from last year coming back, but roughly 25 new athletes that are only going to help us get better as a team." Swanson enters his third season as coach for the Cyclones and she has helped lead St. Clair to a number of accolades, State competitors, and even a few new school records. The team lost several seniors in Brandon Karels, Alexis Hagen, Jacob Youngerberg, and more, but Swanson noted that a "solid addition" of 7th and 8th graders joined the team and while the team overall is young, she stated, "there is some talent from everyone that can make this season really something."

Many returning athletes are hungry to improve upon the previous season as Valerie Quast and Kate Daly both qualified for State and have played an early role in motivating the other athletes to train hard during the team's practices.

Swanson had high regards for both athletes, "They are both excellent role models for so many on this team... they coming back this season is big for us." Other notable returning athletes for St. Clair/Immanuel Lutheran are Alex Kruse, Levi Thompson, Bergan Loeffler, Janessa Carstensen, and others who all had varying degrees of success throughout the season. If memory serves, the Girls relay team of Carstensen, Daly, Brook Hagen, and Ashley Mills took first at several track meets during the 2022-2023 season. For the Boys team, Peter Dumdei and Thompson have been the



St. Clair's girls track team. Front row: Caitlin Murphy, Lila Quast, Janessa Carstensen, Emery Erdman, Ashley Mills, Brooke Hagen, Teagan Tietje, Abigail Ward, Maddy Bailey, and Lily Jacobs. Middle: Mackenzie Carstensen, Morgan Casto, Cloe Busse, Claire Rossi, Bergan Loeffler, Valerie Quast, Charlotte Dauk, Isabelle Grekoff, and Paitlyn St. Peter. Back: Maycee Schaefer, Jordyn Mariner, Sylvia Zeldenrust, Samantha Lynch, Abby Schwandt, Morgan Roemhildt, Hannag Odegard, and Paige Daly. (Journal Photos by Jordan Carrillo)

standouts for the track and field events respectively. Dumdei led the pack during a variety of the team's practice runs and several of the younger athletes aspired

at least as the chilly weather left them to practice indoors, but the intensity of their conditioning remained. The track groups underwent a rigorous training

grimace during the 45-second planks made this reporter glad he's no longer in high school. Quast and Dumdei appeared to be the top dog for both groups

In the gym, Assistant Coach Tim Andree worked with a number of athletes through the techniques needed to be successful in shot put. Thompson also

ing ability in the field events. Another practice later that week had him working with students eager to compete in pole vault as several athletes worked on

the routine, the footwork, and the fearlessness associated with the event. Swanson worked on technique and footwork when it came to the hurdle events and made sure to drive home the point of "keeping your knee straight" when hurdling.

Swanson is eager to get the season underway as the track teams have already competed at several meets in the final week of March as they kicked off at MSU on March 26. She highlighted the practices have been a good opportunity for such a large and young team to bond. "We had so much fun last season bonding as a team and we're looking to build that bond as the year goes on. We support each other and always cheer each other on and that kind of thing can really help our young athletes get on board with what we're capable of doing as a team."



The St. Clair boys' track team. Front row: Skyler Bryant, Leland Garza, Quincy Enderle, Parker Bryant, Connor McNamara, Henry Dauk, Elijah Bailey, Jack Nicolai, Carter Cords, and Carson Goodrich. Middle: Pete Dumdei, Levi Thompson, Roland Matecjek, Max Wilson, Oliver Schall, Jacob Olmanson, Alex Kruse, Graig Hensley, Jackson Bilitz, and Coltin Olmanson. Back: Nolan McReynolds, Kaden Hainlen, Huntly Lentz, Archer Richter, Carter Bilitz, Paxton Haala, Andrew Olmanson, Jayme Kranz, Jack Stratton, Wyatt Lien, Andrew Clobes, and Kasen Kliner.

to "get on his level." Thompson returns as one the team's premier throwers in both shot put and discus with Loeffler returning for the Girls.

The opening practices for the track teams were limited to say

session that included a mile-long run through the hallways and commons area of the school while another group worked on conditioning their bodies through core strength exercises. Watching several of the athletes

as they would usually finish first with a few athletes just a few steps behind. In fact, a dynasty might be in the works as the younger Quast, Lila, wouldn't be too far behind her big sister Valerie during some of the runs.

played a role in helping some of the younger athletes through the motions of an effective throw; the thuds of the practice shot puts hitting the wooden floor flooded the gym as Andree has been renowned for his coach-

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**SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW**

**Spartan Softball**



The St. Clair-Loyola's softball team. Front row: Rihana Irvin, Savannah Heinbaugh, Rayann Kruse, and Lydia Klaseus. 2nd row: Kadence Wilmes, Natalie Kasprovicz, Adeline Lotton, Maria Miller, and Addison Nicolai. 3rd row: Paige St. Peter, Grace Ireland, Kira Schumman, Avery Wilmes, Aubrey Will, Braxton Brezee, Bryna Irvin, and Addison Wilmes. Back: Haddie Jobe, Amelia Speckel, Reese VanHoudt, Ava Osmonson, Khloe Linde, Leah Bowe, Madison Winkler, and Payton Blount.

By **JORDAN CARRILLO**  
Staff Writer

With a new coach leading them into the season, the 2023-2024 Spartans softball team will look to bounce back after a 2022-23 season plagued by injuries left the team with a 4-13 record.

Ashley Sander will replace former longtime coach Beth Kozitza, but was an assistant coach for the Spartans back in 2019 and is currently the volleyball coach for St. Clair. Sander is experienced with coaching, but acknowledged that changing a new regime for the Spartans will be a learning process. "With a new coaching staff coming in, we are learning about this team's strengths and weaknesses while the players work on understanding our philosophy and expectations."

Sander noted there are several key players returning to the Spartans and the disappointing season last year has them motivated to improve. "We're going to have several players returning from last season who already have that varsity-level experience. They're eager to get back on the field and do what it takes to get better." The Spartans lost three All-Conference players

in Irie Hanson, Jaylee Ely, and Haily McGehee, so the time for returning players like Adeline Lotton, Natalie Kasprovicz, Savannah Heinbaugh, and Lydia Klaseus to step up and assume a leadership role will be at the forefront of this team's mind.

The team's opening practices showcased a variety of warmups and drills for the softball team as they started each practice with a brief stretching session followed by a 10 minute game of catch to warm up the arms. One practice focused on the fundamentals.

Sander worked with a young varsity team, and she emphasized "doing the little things right" on the field, which would "lead to good things." The team then broke off into groups that worked on specific elements of the game, like fielding ground balls, and baserunning scenarios for both the offense and defense, and pitchers/catchers worked on their timing and chemistry. Klaseus was limited for the 2022-2023 season, but she looked determined on the mound as she worked through her routine.

Another practice had the team indoors as they worked on the more offensive fundamentals of the game; once again, the team broke into three main groups which focused on batting

practice, bunting, and plate discipline. The joyous sound of the metal ping of the bats filled the gym as the players took great pride in stepping into the batter's box and letting out their fury on the ball. The bunting drill especially highlighted the team's speed as several players blazed down the basepath with relative ease.

The team's opening practices gave much for Sander to consider as the season began on April 2 against Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton at St. Clair. She reflected on the team's opening practices as they prepared for their first game of the season, "The girls were really great during practice and really embraced the coaching staff; it can be a challenge learning a new system, but they put in a ton of time and hard work to get ready for this season." Sander looks forward to the season and building a bond with her players as they work to rebuild the team to its former glory, "We want to bring back a love of the game to this program and it starts with making the game an enjoyable experience. Our goal for this season is to build confidence, develop our skills, and grow as a team. If we do those things right, good things will happen."

**Cyclone Baseball**



St. Clair's baseball team has plenty of younger players but also features five seniors on the roster. Front row: Carson Preston, Orrin Gessner, Will Youngerberg, Luke Vaughan, Steven Loeffler, Jakob VanBerkom, Brock Prange, Brody McClinton, and Ethan Byrne. Back: Joseph Origas, Lucas Loeffler, Austin Segal, Coleton Prange, Zach McGowan, Cody Wiederhoft, Avery Anderson, Danny Nicolai, Dylan Blount, Braydon Cousins, and Hunter Farris.

By **RICARDO MORENO JR.**  
Staff Writer

Unseasonable weather is nothing new in Minnesota and the St. Clair Cyclones Baseball team was ready to practice despite it. Steve Willaert returns for his second year as head coach, and he hopes to build of the successes of last year. Coach Willaert is assisted by Mark Thompson and Landon Little.

He now understands what his team can do and what they are capable of accomplishing. However, the departure of starters Caleb Mathiowetz and Ethan Preston, has left a leadership vacuum. The returning senior starters, Dylan Blount, Lucas Loeffler, and Coleton Prange, may find themselves to be natural leaders as they take the field with their returning sophomores;

Avery Anderson, Cody Wiederhoft and Will Youngerberg.

The Cyclones held their March 19 practice in the school's multipurpose gym. Coach Willaert and his staff lead the team through different batting practice drills. Each section of their practice was meant to improve their form and execution at bat. The assistant coaches led batting drills that allowed the Cyclones to practice the full range of motion on their swings, and Coach Willaert's drill focused on form and keeping swings tight. The twenty Cyclones not only took the advice of their coaches but helped and encouraged each other throughout the practice.

The Cyclones baseball team is made up of more freshman and sophomores than the previous season, but that youth

could prove to be a benefit to the teams growth. On the subject of a young team, Coach Willaert foresees more 9th and 10th graders competing, and learning, in a varsity setting, "However, that gives us a good three years for these kids to learn, improve and mature...and we hope that it pays off for them as they continue through their playing careers." The underclassmen have a lot to gain over the next few years, but their success cannot be built alone. It will take the leadership of their upperclassmen and support of their coaches to keep them motivated and practicing their baseball skills. Looking toward the future, Coach Willaert says, "Everyone has a role in pointing this program in the right direction. If we can get everyone to understand the big picture, then I believe we'll be successful."



Boys' golfers for St. Clair this season are as follows: Front row: Jon Pierce, Jack Will, Hunter Winkle, and Garrett Mills. Back: Connor VanErdeWyk, Sam Freitag, Connor Whittet, Noah Seys-Marshall, and Logan Landsteiner.

By **RICARDO MORENO JR.**  
Staff Writer

On a fair-weather day, the St. Clair Cyclones golf teams visited Terrace View golf course for some spring training. Thirteen boys and girls were in attendance for the practice led by head coach Brian Noyes. While the team will miss their seniors, this year's Cyclones are sure to build a greater future on the foundation left for them. A future that starts with an afternoon on the driving range.

Their March 19th practice was focused on driving and getting the ball down range and was a great opportunity for the team to build camaraderie. Some of the familiar faces on the green include Logan Landsteiner, Sam Freitag, Marie Andree, Clara Jeddelloh, and Brynn Hansen. These players lettered in their previous season and look to be part of the teams' main force this year. The golfers enjoyed their time on the range and were vocal about their hopes for the season. Head coach Noyes shares their sentiment, "We hope to work hard each day and continue to

**Cyclone Golf**



Pictured are girls' golfers Brooklyn Meng, Marie Andree, Brynn Hansen, Hannah Olson, and Clara Jeddelloh. Not Pictured: Rachel Ammann and Celia Johnson.

improve both individually and as a team as we move forward to both the conference and section tournaments." Following their accomplishments from last season, the boys may strive for another conference victory and the girls may take first in the conference this season to overshadow their previous second place finish.

Less than two weeks away from their first meet, the

Cyclones will have to take every opportunity they can to prepare. Their first meet is scheduled for Tuesday April 9th at the Madelia Golf Course. It will be a great opportunity for the team's leadership to rise and for all the golfers to see what their capable of. The only force that could stop these Cyclones from developing their golf game is Minnesota's weather.

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## Fighting the good fight

# Jay's Way

By Jordan Carrillo



It hasn't taken all that long, but boy, does a vast majority of the public have their hang-ups about the media. Hell, even the phrase "the media" comes with its own preconceived notions of distrust and target pieces; albeit there are news outlets that deal in the muck of slamming celebrities or invading people's personal lives for the sake of profit, but the essence of journalism is to get the facts right and write a story that has the readers draw up their own narratives.

The past few years have seen a direct shift in the public's response to media, and even in small towns like Janesville, Pemberton, or St. Clair, a local newspaper can still draw a similar level of hostility or reservation when we're present to cover an event.

I've rarely faced resistance during my time with the Journal, but there have been times when the facts I've presented in Council meeting minutes or details outlined for an annual dinner stir up the frustrations of subscribers. I've even come across locations that "didn't see the value" of having a newspaper cover an event that's already happening.

Uh, not sure you fully understand how the news works in that we go to an event to cover it, then write a story about it later to be viewed by hundreds of readers.

I bring this entire discussion because the latest reports of LSU women's basketball coach Kim Mulkey, spitting venom at sports media have reignited the tense relationship between the press

and the entities they cover.

Now, to be fair to Mulkey, she has an incredible career in basketball from playing on the USA team in 1984, an impressive start as an assistant coach with Louisiana Tech, helped form Baylor as a basketball power for 20 years with a perfect 40-0 season capping off her excellence back in 2012. Her prowess in this sport is undeniable as she has been a dominant presence for 40 years; however, she has also been one of the more polarizing personalities in the sport with her animosity toward the media and anyone who objects to her way of coaching.

Kent Babb of the Washington Post took notice of an incident earlier in the women's college basketball season when Mulkey, who now coaches at LSU, reported that several of her players, including star Angel Reese, had come to terms after a dispute regarding Reese's behavior on social media caused some strife in the locker room.

Mulkey has been under the media's microscope in the past due to her comments regarding LGBT rights—with one former player speaking out about her behavior—and her outright frustration surrounding the reporting behind the Baylor sexual assault scandal back when she was the

women's basketball coach. The piece by Babb focused solely on one of the core tenets of journalism—who exactly is Kim Mulkey? What does she believe in as a coach, and what have been her methods that made her so successful as a coach?

Of course, Babb's reporting led him to a common conclusion that comes with a majority of coaches that have had historic success—she runs a tight ship. A really tight ship. It's not surprising that a coach who wants to dominate the competition would hold no punches when it comes to preparing her players for battle.

We've heard stories about Bob Knight's treatment of his players during his time at Indiana—we saw him bop his own player in the chin. Mulkey's treatment doesn't exactly cross over into the physical territory, but her complete control of her programs have produced the results any university would want.

It takes pressure to create diamonds, and while Babb's story highlights Mulkey's success, it frames it with a lens that it hasn't always been sunshine and rainbows to reach that pedestal...and that is where Mulkey draws the line.

The crux of this issue stems from the imbalance of power

that can come from reporting on a specific person rather than an incident or event; the person of interest wants to dictate the narrative how they see fit, but sometimes the legacy of a polarizing figure like Mulkey can bring us to multiple conclusions. I know how important it is to take control of a narrative when the story is about you, but Mulkey's response to the story is one that speaks to the greater divide between media and the public. Her initial response to Babb and the Washington Post was to prepare for a defamation lawsuit in what she called a "false story." Babb has been a renowned journalist at one of the final absolute pillars of journalism, so let's not pretend that anything he put into his story is false.

Now, the extent of his journalism did go into some moral gray areas as he reached out to Mulkey's estranged father and sister for the story and interviewed several players from her past who already had complicated feelings about her. This may have been what triggered her hostility as she called Babb a "sleazy reporter" and the story as a whole a "hit piece."

I don't know Babb personally, but the Washington Post wouldn't have posted a story that had any false information or dabbles in the mudslinging business of attack pieces like other media outlets. The amount of reporting, vetting, and editing will outweigh the paranoid fury of Mulkey as her LSU Tigers fight to claim their second straight title in the Women's March Madness.

## "Tatcho Night" raises funds for Tator Days in Eagle Lake



By JORDAN CARRILLO  
Staff Writer

From time to time, attending certain events for the Janesville Journal makes you a bit more giddy than others. I like the bureaucracy of a City Council meeting in St Clair as much as the next guy, but the concept of a small boat of tater tots covered in a whole mess of toppings had me jumping at the chance to cover Tatcho Night at the American Legion in Eagle Lake. The proceeds for the fundraising event would go to a number of events for Eagle Lake's Tator Days hosted from July 14-21.

The fundraiser began at 6 pm on Friday, March 29, as many casual attendees of the American Legion in Eagle Lake filled not just their glasses with spirits but their bellies with a towering stack of tots piled high with lettuce, sour cream, ground beef, nacho cheese, and other ingredients that left this reporter with a smile on his face. Sweet treats like brownies, cookies, and others were also offered as part of a "dessert bar." The planning committee for Tator Days helped put on the event, and I spoke with a familiar face, Colleen Bidwell, to discuss the details of the fundraiser.

Bidwell noted this was the second year the committee put on Tatcho Night and outlined where exactly the proceeds for the event would go, "Our funds tonight will go to a number of

causes like the kids' games, the parade, advertising, our pageant, marching bands, and so much more." The group raised roughly 950 dollars in 2023.

According to Bidwell, the committee has been growing steadily in the past year. "We started out really small, but we're getting more and more people interested." She did state that they are still looking for more volunteers for Tator Days. I even got a backstage look at the system involved with Tatcho Night, with one person, Dale, manning the fryer for the majority of the night as he maintained a consistent flow of tater tots for the next station to prepare each order. Attendees were provided an order sheet that allowed them to customize their order; I kept my order simple—ground beef, onions, tomatoes, jalapenos, and lettuce.

The fundraiser went on until about 7:30, and Bidwell briefly spoke to all who attended and thanked them for their generous donations before announcing they had raised nearly "2000 dollars for Tator Days." 2000 dollars doesn't seem like much in the full context of a week-long festival like Tator Days, but doubling their profit from the previous year makes events like Tatcho Night worth it to a planning committee determined to put on the best fair it can. All I know is that 2000 dollars can buy you a really big bag of tater tots...and who wouldn't want that?

The raffle drawings were completed during the Egg Hunts and awarded as guests made their way out. Those who did not win a raffle prize did not leave empty-handed as prizes were available for everyone. Because of the community's support and the unity of Easter, Pemberton hosted an Easter Egg Hunt capable of being the highlight of any Saturday.

## JWP School Board

### Proceedings of the JWP School Board February 12, 2024 5:30 PM Media Center

1. Chair Daschner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Those present were: Sherri Daschner, Laura Seys, Tim Oelke, Tim Burke, Katie Cahill, Madyn Holland, Abby Compton, Superintendent Jeremy Erler, Business Manager Wendy Dieker, Anika Adams, Michael Roy of the Janesville Journal, Marlene Lau, and Mark Vanderwilt.
2. Reading of the district's mission statement
  - a. Strategic Plan
3. Additional items for the agenda
  4. A motion to approve the agenda was brought by Burke and seconded by Seys. Upon vote, motion carried 5-0.
  5. Recognition of visitors and open forum
    - a. Policy 206- Public Participation in School Board Meetings
    6. Reports and presentations
      - a. Student Representatives Report
      - b. Superintendent Report

- c. Budget Information (Strategic Plan- Community Engagement Goal 12)
  - i. Enrollment Update
  - ii. Historical Cash Balances
  - d. Committee Reports
  7. A motion to approve the consent agenda was brought by Burke and seconded by Seys. Upon vote, motion carried 5-0.
    - a. Minutes from the January 22, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
    - b. Financial Documents (Strategic Plan- Community Engagement Goal 12)
      - i. Payroll: \$527,880.56
      - ii. Expenditures: \$1,572,103.02
      - iii. January 31, 2024 bank balances:
        1. General checking \$858,390.42
        2. General CD \$2,030,000.00
        3. Project checking \$647,604.78
        4. Project CD \$1,283,000.00
    - c. Personnel Staff Changes
    8. Old business
      - a. A motion to approve the Halo Vape Detection System on a 5 year renewal was brought by Seys and seconded by Oelke. Upon vote, motion carried 5-0.
        - i. Halo Vape Detector 1

- Year Renewal
  - ii. Halo Vape Detector 5
- Year Renewal
  9. New business
    - a. A motion to approve Agreement between JWP ISD#2835 and IUOE Local No.70 Paraprofessionals (Strategic Plan- Community Engagement Goal 12) was brought by Burke and seconded by Oelke. Upon vote, motion carried 5-0.
      - i. Redline
      - b. A motion to approve Agreement between JWP ISD#2835 and IUOE Local No.70 Custodians (Strategic Plan- Community Engagement Goal 12) was brought by Seys and seconded by Burke. Upon vote, motion carried 5-0.
        - i. Redline
        - c. A motion to approve Agreement between JWP ISD#2835 and IUOE Local- No.70 Clerical (Strategic Plan- Community Engagement Goal 12) was brought by Burke and seconded by Oelke. Upon vote, motion carried 5-0.
          - i. Redline
          - d. First Reading of existing policies with substantial changes

The following policies need to be added or revised and will be

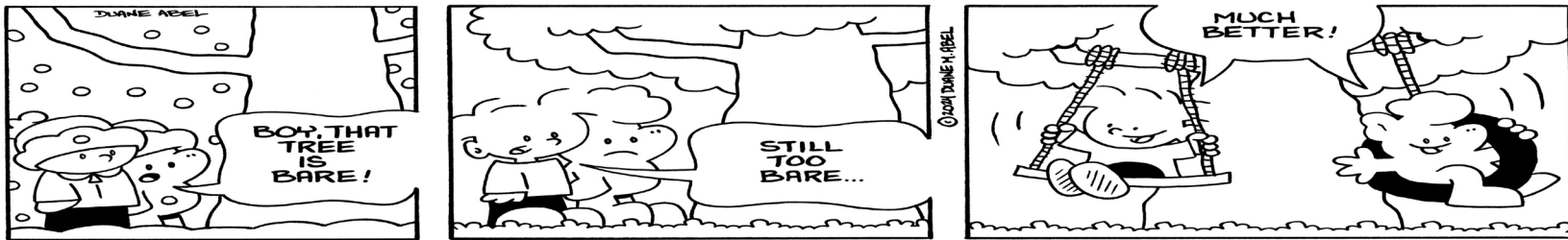
- available on our district website or by contacting the district office upon approval.
- i. 504 - Dress Code Policy
  - ii. 618- Assessment of Student Achievement Policy
  - iii. 708 - Transportation of Nonpublic School Students
  - iv. 709 - Student Transportation Safety Policy
  10. Approve Resolution Accepting Donations, with many thanks.
  11. Upcoming Meetings
    - a. February 12, 2024, Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting following the Regular School Board Meeting.
    - b. March 4, 2024 5:30p.m. School Board Study Session followed by a Finance and Operations Committee Meeting.
    - c. March 18, 2024, 5:30 p.m. School Board Regular School Board Meeting
    - d. April 8, 2024, 5:30 p.m. School Board Study Session
    - e. April 22, 2024, 5:30 p.m. School Board Regular Meeting
    12. Chair Daschner adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m.
- Official Minutes,  
Tim Oelke, Clerk

## Egg Hunt

cont from pg 1

more room to speed around and gather Easter Eggs. After the kids gathered a haul, they popped open the 1,900 plastic eggs and returned them to bins for use in next year's Egg Hunts. One boy remarked to his friends, "Lets go crack these boys open!"

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# Back in the Day & Archives for the Surrounding Area

**1923**  
Clothing bandits at three o'clock Thursday morning held up S. Bruce, Marshall of Waterville, Minn., bound and gagged him, threw him in the basement of the Leuthold Clothing company's store next to the city hall, then robbed the store of \$5,000 worth of valuable clothing and furs. They then made a clean getaway.  
Editor, Ties, Madison Lake, Minn.: Columns have been furnished by newspapers of the state advocating the twenty million dollar bond issue, but seldom do we hear anything from those that are opposed to the measure. I hear it, however, by petitions from different farm organizations, through resolutions passed and more

authoritatively by petitions with each individual's signature, and some of these contain forty names, so please do not think for a moment that there is not exceedingly strong opposition to the proposition.

**1949**  
There area 500 Horse Thieves in Waseca County. Anti-Horse Thief Detectives, that is. It's one of the old organizations which has kept going, first because of necessity and lately because of the historical interest and the sentimental memories it brings of the old pioneers, their trials and hardships in subduing the wild prairies so that we could enjoy our present abundance.  
How much corn can a chicken eat in one hour? That is the question that is being asked

all over Madison Lake these days, and we certainly wish we knew. Reason for all this excitement is the contest the local Boy Scouts troop is sponsoring, in which a chicken will go without feed for 24 hours, and then everyone will be given a chance to guess how many kernels of corn he will consume in one hour's time.

**1974**  
It was announced this week by President Better Bisch of the Legion Auxiliary 269 of Madison Lake that Jaclynne Fasnacht, daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Cy Faschnacht has been selected as Madison Lake's representative for Girl's State. Peggy Frederick, daughter of Mr. And Mrs. George Frederick of rural Madison Lake is her

alternate. Minnesota Girls State is sponsored each year by the American Legion Auxiliary. It teaches a selected group of girls, Americanism and good citizenship through a week for intensive living of government, in groups patterned after our regular governing bodies.

**1999**  
The St. Clair boys and girls' track teams opened the 1999 season with a quadrangular track meet at Minnesota State University-Mankato on Saturday, March 20th. Though both squads finished the day in 4th place, they had many fine performances and also set two new indoor school records.

Compiled by Michael Roy



In 1998, Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura hit the campaign trail on behalf of Reform Party candidate Terry Anderson. Anderson declared his candidacy for the State Senate District 26 seat following the resignation of Terry Beckman.

**1924**  
Mr. And Mrs. Henry Clausen of Pemberton were in Janesville Saturday on a shopping expedition. They were accompanied by their grandson, Conrad. Mr. Clausen states that farm work in that vicinity savors of early spring seeding which will be in full force in a day or two. They have a richly productive farm two miles south of town. Something of a philosopher in his statement when discussing the plight of the farmer whose mortgages aggregate fifty two percent of the total in the state he asserted that such indebtedness might be lessened largely by substituting payments on costly motor cars. This bit of advice might apply with equal force to many who imbibe the spirit of extravagance in the towns. In his opinion, it is better to sacrifice a few luxuries rather than to imperil the whole. Mr. Clausen should have been designated by the government as one of its analytical dirt farmers.

**1949**  
Lawrence Gilday, owner of the Waseca Cafe in Waseca, and Mrs. Barbara Amberg narrowly escaped death when fire broke out in the Gilday home in Waseca early Monday morning. The interior of the Gilday home was damaged by the fire. Six of the rooms were completely butted and two suffered from smoke and water. Mrs. Amberg smelled the smoke at 3 a.m. She had her second floor bedroom door slightly ajar which saved hte lives of both her and Gilday. She ran downstairs and called the fire department and then hurried back to awaken her son-in-law. When the pair returned to the stairway the flames blocked their exit. Filday kicked out a window and screamed for help. The firemen arrived in a few minutes and the ladder rescue of Mrs. Amberg was made. Gilday made his way down the ladder with the help of firemen. Gilday suffered a slight scorch on the right side of his face and Mrs. Amberg from shock.

**1974**  
There were tears in Ella's eyes when she talked about the years she has spent cooking, cleaning, and waiting on people in Ella's Log Cabin. She took over the restaurant 35 years ago today. In a month or so the old building will be torn down to make way for an addition to Janesville State Bank. We sat with Ella in one of the brown painted booths last week while she talked about the restaurant business. She never has owned the building and has more or less watched it crumble around her over the past few years. Over the years she has painted, both inside and out, but as she grew older and realized that she would have to quit, the old building just went downhill.

**1999**  
"It is a humbling experience," said Tim Roemhildt, mathematics teacher at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School having been chosen as the 1999 Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberotn Teacher of the Year. Roemhildt first came to the JWP School District 16 years ago. A recent graduate of Winona State, he was ooking for the opportunity to teach with thoughts of eventually moving on to a career in computer science. However, the teaching bug bit and Roemhildt soon found that he enjoyed teaching young people. "It would be awfully hard to leave teaching now," he said. Today Roemhildt enjoys the "best of both worlds" turning computers into a hobby.

Elmer Dimmel, 17, son of Mrs. Ida Dimmel of Janesville and Edmund Cahill, 17, son of Dave Cahill of Janesville were injured early Monday morning, March 28, when the car they were in slipped off Highway 14 near Eagle Lake. Dimmel suffered a neck and back injury and Cahill a broken hip. Both are in St. Joseph's hospital in Mankato.

Compiled by Michael Roy

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(507)362-4379  
Pastor Kathy King  
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**BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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(507)384-2483  
Pastor Kathy King  
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship

**ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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Father Rob Schneider  
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**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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Father Swaminatha (Swamy) Pothireddy  
Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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Pastor Michael Matthews  
Sunday-8 a.m. Worship  
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PROBATE DIVISION  
Court File No.: 81-PR-24-136  
In Re: Estate of  
DOROTHY A. DORN,  
Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER FOR  
HEARING ON PETITION FOR  
DESCENT OF PROPERTY

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
A Petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years ago, leaving property in Minnesota and requests the probate of Decedent's last Will and Codicil and the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property. Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted. It is ordered and Notice is further given, that the Petition will be heard on the 22nd day of May, 2024, at 10:30 am, by this Court via Zoom technology.

1. Notice shall be given to all interested persons (Minn. Stat. 524.1-401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minn. Stat. 524.3-204.  
2. Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by mailing a copy of this Notice and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing date.  
BY THE COURT  
Dated: March 14, 2024

/s/ Carol M. Hanks  
Judge of District Court  
/s/ Shannon M. Asselin  
Deputy Court Administrator

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SPORTS

# Track season starts off with a bang

By MICHAEL ROY  
Sports Editor

It was a great week to be a JWP track athlete this past week. The boys and girls started the season indoors at Minnesota State University's indoor track on Saturday, March 23, with a meet against Gopher Conference opponents and were by far the best of five teams competing.

Last Thursday was also showcased the teams' potential. Although they took second place behind talented Mankato East squads with larger rosters, they still did well.

### Gopher Conference Indoor Meet

As Head Coach Sam Schruin described, the JWP track teams started the season with a bang. The girls were in first place with 105.5 points, and it wasn't even close. Second-place Hayfield had 42 points. United South Central/Alden-Conger took third with 35.5 with Blooming Prairie in fourth with 20.

The boys had just as impressive of a day, with the team taking first with 113.5 points, sprinting past Blooming Prairie and leaving them in the dust at 57 points. USC/AC took third with 23.5, and Hayfield had 16 points for fourth. JWP was arguably the team with the largest roster of athletes, as they were everywhere on the stats sheet.

### Relays

The boys' 4x800 relay (Derek Gustafson, Carter Hoehn, Luke Cahill, and Memphis James) only had one other team to race. They took first with 9:48.19, with Blooming Prairie in second with 10:05.40. The 4x200 relay team (featuring Dylan McWaters, Isaac Gahlon, Isaiah Berndt, and Daulton Bauer) with a time of 1:41.71 while the Blossoms clocked in at 1:51.89.

JWP's boys were the only ones to field a relay team for the 4x400 (featuring Berndt, James, Bauer, and Leighann Harris). They collected six points and clocked in at 4:16.17.

On the flip side, the girls also swept all the relays run in the meet. The team of Brielle Bure, Katie Olson, Nevaeh Weimert, and MaKaela Westphal took first in the 4x200 out of three teams at 1:58.49. The team also fielded two more relay teams in the 4x400 and 4x800 despite no other teams to face against. The 4x800 team of MaKenzie Westphal, Ava Krause, Kwynn Krause, and Ashlyn Wolff clocked in at 11:29.03, while the 4x400 team of Wolff, K. Krause, Weimert, and MaKenzie Westphal had a time of 4:47.87.

### Other track events

Ava Appel and Kaden Baker were the top athletes in the hurdles for JWP. Both took first place in the 55 intermediate and high hurdles. Additionally, Onikia Herme took third in the intermediate hurdles and fourth in the high hurdles.



How about that for a photo finish for Kaden Baker?! Baker matched each hurdle and step with Mankato East's Wesley Norman and took first by two-tenths of a second last Thursday at MSU. Below Ava Appel took second. (Journal photos by Michael Roy)



In the 55-meter dash, MaKaela Westphal placed third for the girls, Isaac Gahlon took the gold for the boys, and Ethan Born also placed third. In the 200, Katie Olson took first place, with teammate Brielle Bure behind her in second. Isaiah Berndt took first for the boys, while Gahlon placed second.

Kwynn Krause took second in the 400, while Ava Krause and Ethan Born took third for their respective teams. In the 800, Lauren White and Alex Kleve both earned first place and in 1600, MaKenzie Westphal earned first place, while White placed second. In the boys' 1600, Derek Gustafson took second while Luke Cahill placed third.

### Field events

It was just as fantastic of a day for all the JWP throwers and jumpers in the field events.

Nevaeh Weimert placed first in the triple jump, and Onikia Herme was third in the same event. Katie Olson finished second in the long jump. Ryan Kronbach took first in the triple jump while also taking the gold in the long jump event. In the high jump, Kronbach settled for second while Ashlyn Wolff took third for the girls.

In the pole vault, Paige Walz took first, while Isaac Gahlon took second. The throwers had a great time, with Ethan Born taking first and Aubrey Weedman placing third in the shot put.

### Mankato East Indoor Meet

Mankato East hosted JWP's next indoor meet at MSU. Both their boys and girls took first out of three teams. East's boys had 142 points, while JWP took second with 50.5. Blue Earth Area took third with 34.5. East's girls also placed first with 133, while JWP took second with 57 points. BEA had 30.

"This meet had a lot of tough competition, but we still had

a lot of success," said Coach Schruin. "Several athletes had an opportunity to set a benchmark time, distance, or height for a variety of events, so we can strive to see those broken at future meets."

Although facing a highly talented Cougars team, Kaden Baker still snagged a first for JWP in the 60-meter hurdles. Otherwise, most of the teams still took second.

### Track events

The team of MaKaela Westphal, Presley James, Katie Olson and Kayleigh Donner took second in the 4x200 while the team of Donner, Anne Adams, Madeline Hoehn, and Autumn Thissen took second in the 4x400. For the boys, the team of Luke Cahill, Preston Johnson, Memphis James, and Eric Daschner took second in the 4x400.

In the 60-meter hurdles, Ava Apple took second. Katie Olson placed second in the 60-meter dash, and Isaac Gahlon was third for the boys in the same event. Gahlon also snagged a second in the 200, while Katie Olson took second for the girls in the 200, and Presley James placed third in the 400. Alex Kleve and Luke Cahill took second and third, respectively, in the 800 with Cahill taking third in the 1600.

### Field events

Memphis James took third in the high and triple jumps, while Alex James took second in the long jump. In the pole vault, Madeline Hoehn and Paige Walz tied in the girls' event, while Gahlon took second on the boys' side. Aubrey Weedman placed second in the shot put, while Eric Daschner placed third.

The teams' first outdoor meet at Tri-City United this Tuesday was postponed to April 11. Instead, they will look forward to another indoor meet at MSU on Thursday.

# Cyclone Track place in top five at invitational meet with Loyola

By RICARDO MORENO JR.  
Staff Writer

The St. Clair Cyclones began the track season on the campus of Minnesota State University, where Mankato Loyola hosted an invitational meet at Myers Field House on March 26th. The competition was friendly as the teams' tested their abilities against their neighboring schools.

As the Cyclones warmed up to the competitive environment, head coach Ashley Swanson moved about the track, coaching and supporting her athletes through each event. Swanson was glad to be back in competition and hoped the Cyclones would learn a lot from the first meet.

The varsity girls placed in the top five in Shot Put, 800 meter run, 200 meter dash, and 55 meter dash. Brooklin Hinze placed second in the Long Jump and first in the 55 meter dash, an 8.28 second run. Valerie Quast took second in the 1600 meter run, 6:11.81. Kate Daly won first place in the High Jump. The St. Clair girls took first in the 4x200 meter relays.

The varsity boys had three top 5 finishes in the 400 meter dash. Alex Kruse took first in the Long Jump and followed by Jacob Olmanson in second place. Olmanson also took first in both the 55 meter and 200 meter dashes; 7.20 and 25.31. Peter Dumdei placed first in the 800 meter run; 2:23.27. Levi Thompson took first place in



Coltin Olmanson matches each step with Loyola's runner in the relay. (Journal photos by Ricardo Moreno Jr.)



Levi Thompson keeps up the pace in the relay.

### Shot Put.

Coach Swanson is hopeful that the athletes mentioned, along with Morgan Roemhildt, Delilah Quast and Bergan Loeffler, will be invaluable to the teams success and progress throughout the season. Their next meet will be an away visit to Mountain Lake before returning to MSU for a conference meet. The Cyclones veterans will improve their standings while the younger athletes continue to find their place on the team. The season is coming at them fast, but with the support of Coach Swanson and her staff, the Cyclones are sure to endure and achieve success.

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