

# THE JANESVILLE INDEPENDENT



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Office at 110 N Main Street, Janesville MN 56048 - PO Box 388

Friday, May 1, 2026



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Midco is starting to break ground and install fiber cable all around Janesville. On Thursday, April 16, they held a ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park, which included council member Ivan Maas (far left), City Administrator Clinton Rogers (center left), and County Commissioner DeAnne Malterer (first to the right). (Photos by Michael Roy)

## Midco begins installing fiber internet for Janesville residents

PRESS RELEASE provided by JOSEPH SCHATZ

April 20, 2026 – Janesville, MN: Midco officially marked the start of construction on a new fiber network in Janesville last week with a groundbreaking ceremony that celebrated

the future of connectivity in the community.

Midco's fiber network will deliver multi-gig internet speeds designed to connect homes, businesses, education, health-care and economic development throughout Janesville.

"This groundbreaking marks

the beginning of a special partnership between Midco and the people of Janesville," said Midco President and Chief Operating Officer Ben Dold.

"Reliable, high-speed fiber helps local businesses grow, keeps residents connected to what matters most and ensures

Janesville is positioned to thrive for decades to come."

Midco's \$1.5 million investment will connect more than 1,250 homes and businesses using 100,000 feet (or 19 miles)

Midco on 3

## In memory of our Mayor Andy Arnoldt



Andy Arnoldt

Andrew Phillip Arnoldt, age 47, of Janesville, Minnesota, passed away on April 24, 2026, after facing cancer with strength and grace, surrounded by the love of his friends and family.

Andy was born on May 27, 1978, in Mankato, Minnesota, the son of Frederick and Diane (Murphy) Arnoldt. He grew up in Janesville and attended Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School.

After school, Andy worked for Trahms Farms. In 2001, Andy married Sarah Grams at Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville, MN. Together they built their life in Janesville, the place they proudly called home. Over the years, he poured his heart into Arnoldt Construction, Arnoldt Power Washing and Repair, Arnoldt's Good Spirits, Camp Lake St. Joseph in Northwest Ontario, Arnoldt Truck Wash, Arnoldt's Laundry Station, along with various rental properties. He was always working on a project, building something new, or thinking of what was next.

Andy was a devoted husband and dedicated provider. He valued his family and friendships deeply and showed up for the people he cared about. He had a personality that was truly one of a kind—full of stories and a way about him people will never forget. He could fix anything and was always willing to help when someone needed him.

He served as Mayor of Janesville and also gave his time to the St. Ann's Cemetery Board, the Janesville Hay Daze Committee, the EDA Board, the Janesville Utility Board, served on St. Ann's Finance Committee, and contributed his time to the Janesville Beautification Group. He was a lifelong member of St. Ann's Parish in Janesville, Minnesota, and cared deeply about the community in which he lived.

Andy found his greatest joy in fishing, time spent at his camp in Northwest Ontario, and keeping people on their toes with his antics or a well-timed joke. He also looked forward to local sporting events and a good game of cards. His dogs brought him comfort and happiness, and he deeply treasured time with family and friends.

He leaves behind those who loved him dearly: his wife of 25 years, Sarah Arnoldt of Janesville; his children, Taylor Grams of Waseca and Tucker Anderson of Aberdeen, South Dakota; and

Arnoldt on 3

## Waldorf Petal Pushers Plant Sale

The Waldorf Pedal Pushers are having a plant sale at the Waldorf Community Center on Saturday, May 9 from 8-11 a.m. Bedding plants, vegetables, and other plants will be on sale. Free seeds will be available to those who visit.

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## A great week for garage sales

You may have noticed that the Janesville area is filled with garage sales. It's that time of year for Janesville's annual citywide garage sales

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## Resuming printing May 8

The *Janesville Independent* has worked on getting print editions back to your doors again. May may have seen the posts on the Facebook page or seen the video on YouTube. For more information, check out the column on page 2.



Ten JWP sophomores became new members of the JWP National Honor Society on Wednesday, April 22. Front row, from left: Clare Groh, Ma'iyah Petersen, Desirre Weis, Mathea Meyer, and Avery Carda. Behind them is Alysa Sheeran, Mason Zimmerman, Ethan Cowdin, Ayden Peterson, and Dalton Ling. (Photo by Michael Roy)

## JWP inducts ten into National Honor Society

On Wednesday, April 22, the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton National Honor Society held its yearly induction ceremony, where ten new members were initiated, reinforcing their commitment to the four pillars of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. These students were Avery Carda, Ethan Cowdin, Clare Groh, Tyson Kronbach, Dalton Ling, Mathea Meyer, Ma'iyah Petersen, Ayden Peterson, Alysa Sheeran, and Desirre Weis.

The induction ceremony included presentations from the current NHS members showing off their service projects.

Vice President Tiera Anderson shared some details about the NHS's service projects.

There are many that the members take on throughout the year, including fall and spring ditch cleanups and volunteering in cleanup during Hay Daze. Each member is required to complete 15 service hours – five in the school, and ten within the community.

NHS members are also required to do one community service project either individually or with one other service member.

Hudson Miller's service project was a softball pups

camp, which was a camp to teach younger softball players skills important to the sport. This camp brought in \$1,000 for the JWP softball program. Rachele Oelke's project was helping run four American Red Cross blood drives. Grace Sanny's project was a book drive for students of all ages. As of the induction ceremony, the drive was ongoing.

Nevaeh Weimert and Mikayla Wheelock teamed up for an adult co-ed volleyball tournament which included ten teams. The two raised \$800 which went toward the after-prom. Allie Hanks did an elementary

coin war for her second year. The drive encourages students in each elementary grade to bring in specific coins (nickels, pennies, etc.) depending on the day. All the proceeds went to the library. Mason Zimmerman and Maija Tolbert took on the Caring and Sharing Tree event which gave over 70 children gifts this past Christmas.

Katie Olson's service project was helping St. Ann Catholic Church run its annual fall festival last fall. She was in charge of putting together activities for

NHS continued on 3

# An important update on the newspaper

Hello, everyone. I ended up taking two weeks off. These weren't planned. I know that some people don't want the world to know their struggles, but I feel I owe it to my subscribers, advertisers, and anyone else interested in my newspaper to be honest. In a world that makes it difficult to be vulnerable, I feel honesty is the best policy.

The reason I've taken this past week off... well, two weeks... is that I have struggled to pay for the printing of my newspapers. Unlike some other papers, I have to prepay for each batch that I print. While I always knew printing would be my top expense, I didn't fully grasp how much it would cost. Some things changed within the first few weeks of printing, and that threw my budget out of whack. To put it into perspective, I pay more for printing in a week than I do for monthly rent for my office space.

There are also some mental health and religious components to my struggles in the past month or two. But those, along with the printing issue, are only symptoms of the main problem. And that is that I have not been here enough.

My business model was that I would work a side hustle while I build this newspaper to where it needs to be. I was struggling at first to do both, and someone mentioned that I needed to be okay with asking for help. I'm not a salesperson, so I wasn't comfortable with selling advertising on top of doing everything else. So I thought, "Okay. Let me ask for help with advertising."

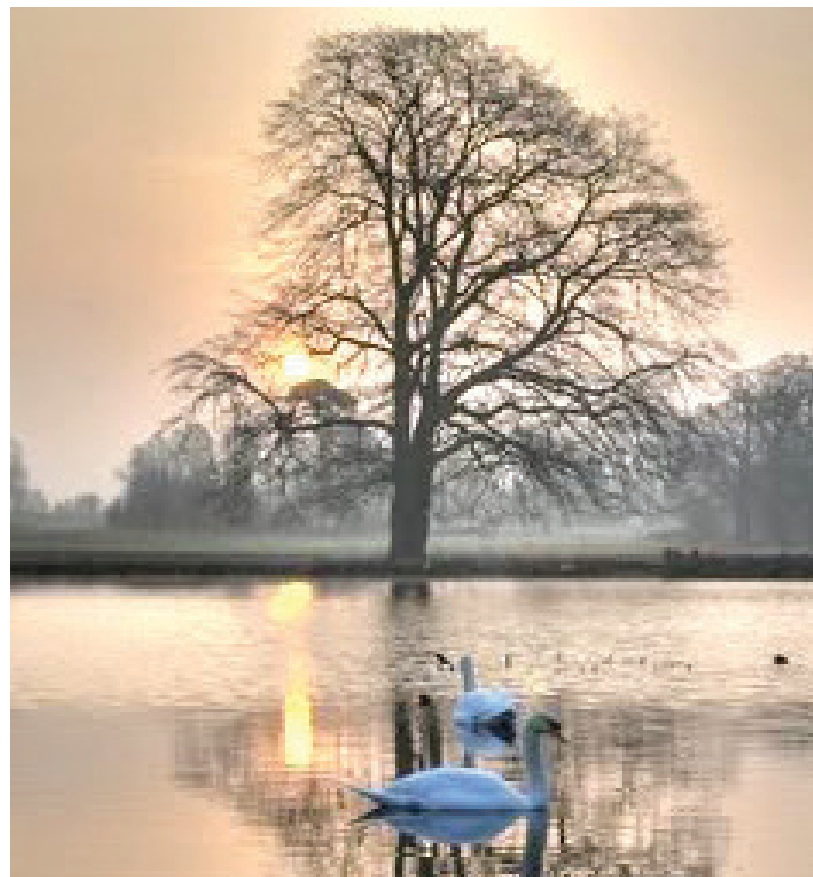
The business model didn't work. The person I brought on to help with advertising didn't have luck in March, and I wasn't there to pick up the slack on that end as much as I should have or to

hold them accountable. My side hustle is DoorDash, and while I had a great run with it, I was struggling to afford everything at the best of times. And in the past month, I haven't had any luck with it. It's not a steady income, but it depends on which orders come in and what the offers to drivers are. It's been horrible lately. I've tried applying to other jobs, but one of a few things would happen: I never heard back from them, the job didn't exist, the job was a scam, or, the rarest outcome, I heard back from the company only to be given some evaluation or test and get ghosted afterwards.

I don't want to get too religious, but I think this past month was God trying to tell me that I needed to stop doing things the way I was doing them. Instead of working a side job, I should have been putting everything into this business. I did most of that in the beginning, but I was working two full-time jobs, and the more important of the two took lower priority. I tried working 14 hours a day between the two instead of 10 or 12 hours on the business alone.

The other issue is that I'm really hard on myself. I'm pretty patient with others, but I don't give myself that same grace. And being a business owner, I have a lot more stress and stake in how my life goes, which means more pressure on myself and even less patience. I was also focused too much on how unfair things were for me instead of thinking about how to get over it.

I think the additional pressure came from the feeling that I was failing the same community that has given me so much. About a year ago was really the first time I felt like I belonged and loved since at least my college years. It's difficult to put into words. This career path has brought



Random photo I found on the internet.



## Music to My Ears

by Michael Roy

me many relationships, and this newspaper has only strengthened those relationships.

I started this newspaper for many of the wrong reasons. I was spiteful about what had happened at the other newspapers I worked at, and I wanted to prove that you could be a good person, work hard, contribute to the town regularly, and that people would be receptive to that. But the main thing was I didn't want to lose those relationships. I wanted to strengthen them. It became clear to me this

week that the problem wasn't only that I wasn't working hard enough. I was working too hard in the wrong areas. I was so afraid of losing all these relationships that I panicked. And in my panic, I lost focus on being there for the same people I claimed I loved. After all, if this failed, what would I do? I was already having trouble getting any job to work on the side while building this up. What if I had the same issues if this business venture didn't work out? I should have spent 10 hours

a day here instead of six hours a day here and eight hours doing DoorDash. Although I'm not a fan of selling ads, selling about \$1,000 in ads was much easier than grinding through 40, 50, maybe 60 hours a week of DoorDash to get \$1,000. It would be less wear and tear on the vehicle.

So, here's the plan. I'm changing my business hours a bit. I am looking to be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday. I'll be open at the office from 8 to 11 a.m. on Wednesday and Saturday. I'll be closed on Thursday and Friday. I'm closing those days because Thursdays are dedicated to newspaper delivery. I also want Friday to be the day when I catch up on newspaper business, whether that's visiting Waseca for historical tidbits or mailing out bills and newspapers. I chose Saturday to be open to give potential visitors who may work during my weekday hours a chance to come in during the weekend. I can't guarantee I'll always be around, but I will be in the area.

You know how I mentioned someone told me that I need to be okay with asking for help? Well, I'm asking all of you for help. I'm going to take this week to collect all the ad revenue I can. But to businesses out there watching this, I'd love to get you involved in advertising with my newspaper. My goal for this month is \$5,000 of advertising. There are a lot of events going on that I would like to highlight with special sections, but that's only possible with advertising.

If you haven't subscribed yet, that also helps. It may not be as much revenue as advertising, but every subscription helps. Not only does it add to revenue, but it also gives potential advertisers an idea of how many people would see their ad in the paper. The more subscribers, the more

eyes on their ads, and the more likely they'll go in the paper. At the end of the day, it's all about business.

While I'm not going to have a physical copy for May 1, I still want to put out something. So, I will be sharing a link to an E-Edition for this week. This will not be hidden behind a paywall for E-Edition subscribers. It will be free for everyone. Most stories featured in that will be in the May 8 paper.

I will be considering changing my ad rates, too. I don't want to, but I may need to, depending on how my advertising campaign goes this month. I interviewed someone about their business. I don't know if she wants to be mentioned by name, but when I interviewed her, one of the things she claimed was a challenge was figuring out how to bid out her work. She wanted to be cheap for her clients while also being fair to herself. I have to start doing that, too.

I'm also hoping to make time for music. Since starting, I've not had a ton of time to do music. I've participated in the JWP swing show and musical bands, but I haven't done much else musically. I need to do that to stay sane.

I'm hoping to turn things around here and make a strong comeback. I thought about switching to bi-weekly or even monthly. But I want to keep up with the competition. I know some out there want to see me fail. I don't want to give them any satisfaction. It's going to take a lot for me to give up. I'll do everything I can before I quit this. I love this job and this town way too much to just drop this.

Thanks to everyone's support. And I apologize for not being there for you all. But instead of saying it, I want to prove it. I love you all, and God bless.

### Ready, Set, Duplos

Join us for loads of Lego activities, from Lego Ring Toss to a Lego Minifigures Scavenger Hunt at Elysian Area Library on Monday, May 4th at 6 pm. Geared for ages 4-7, with an adult.

### Book Bedazzling

Give a book a glow-up! Bring your own beloved book from home—or choose one of our fresh and popular titles—and transform it into a sparkling masterpiece at Waseca Public Library on Monday, May 4th at 6 pm. Free and geared for adults.

Sponsored by Friends of the Waseca Public Library.

### Jigsaw Puzzle Derby

Assemble a team of up to 4 players to compete in a jigsaw puzzle competition at Elysian Area Library on Wednesday, May 6th at 9 am. The first team to complete the puzzle wins a prize... and bragging rights! Registration required.

Prizes sponsored by Friends of the Elysian Area Library

### Level Up: Stop-Motion Harry Potter and Star Wars Legos

Create your own Lego movie using iPads and Legos at Elysian Area Library on Thursday, May 7th at 5 pm. This free event is geared for ages 7-12.

### Virtual Author Event: Marjan Kamali

Internationally acclaimed author Marjan Kamali will speak about her novel, *The Lion Women of Tehran*, which tells the story of two young women coming of age and pursuing their own goals for meaningful futures as political turmoil in Iran builds to a breaking point, at a virtual

Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System event at 6 pm on Thursday, May 7th.

Marjan Kamali, born in Turkey to Iranian parents, is the bestselling author of *The Lion Women of Tehran*, *The Stationery Shop*, and *Together Tea*.

This event will be recorded and people who register will be emailed a link to the recording. Register at the library or at [wasecalesueurlibraries.com/getregistered](http://wasecalesueurlibraries.com/getregistered)

This event is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant provided by the Traverse des Sioux Library Cooperative, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. The event is held in coordination with Library Speakers Consortium and presented by Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System.

### Kindergarten Card Party

Kindergarteners and their families are invited to Waldorf Public Library to collect their first library card, play games, pose with a GIANT library card, collect giveaways, and more on Saturday, May 9th at 10 am! Exclusively for Waldorf-area kindergarteners and their families.

### Mini Book Birdhouse

Create an adorable mini bookish birdhouse at Waterville Public Library on Tuesday, May 12th at 5 pm. Geared for ages 8-12.

### Virtual Author Event: Dr. Vivienne Ming

Dr. Vivienne Ming will help viewers grasp the ugly and the amazing of how individuals, companies, and societies will respond to the changes that are already taking hold due to the advent of AI at a virtual Waseca-Le



## Library Events

in Janesville, Elysian, Waldorf, and Waterville

Sueur Regional Library System event at 1 pm on Tuesday, May 12th. Robot-Proof is a book about people, exploring what it means to be human in an increasingly automated world.

Dr. Vivienne Ming is a theoretical neuroscientist and co-founded Possibility Sciences to advance scientific discovery via massive scale hybrid intelligence. She develops AI tools for learning at home and in school, models of bias in hiring and promotion, and neurotechnologies for dementia, TBI, and postpartum depression. Vivienne was named one of "10 Women to Watch in Tech" by Inc. Magazine.

This event will be recorded and people who register will be emailed a link to the recording. Register at the library or at [wasecalesueurlibraries.com/getregistered](http://wasecalesueurlibraries.com/getregistered)

This event is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant provided by the Traverse des Sioux Li-

brary Cooperative, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. The event is held in coordination with Library Speakers Consortium and presented by Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System.

### Author Event: David Housewright

Join us for a conversation with David Housewright, the award-winning author of the Mac McKenzie and Holland Taylor mystery series, at Janesville Public Library on Tuesday, May 12th at 6 pm.

His latest book, *Them Bones*, centers around a stolen dinosaur skull. Twin Cities Pioneer Press described it as "a perfect book for the light of spring."

This event is made possible in part with a grant from the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund of the Minnesota Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment through the Traverse des Sioux Library System.

### Summer Book Preview

Join Waseca Public Library staff for a preview of the most anticipated books of the Summer on Wednesday, May 13th at 6 pm. Staff will help you load up your TO BE READ piles with steamy romances, charming settings, pulse-pounding action, and unforgettable characters. Geared for adults.

### Cook the Book

Visit Waseca Public Library to choose a recipe from the selected cookbook. Then bring the finished dish to Waseca Public Library on Thursday, May 14th at 12 pm, where the cooks will sample all the dishes and share their experiences. It's a great way

to meet people in the community, share cooking tips, and try out delicious food. Open to all cooking and baking skill levels!

The selected cookbook this session is: *Milk Street Shorts* by Christopher Kimball.

### Books and Brews

Waseca Public Library has found the perfect combo for a book club: bookworm babble and beer. Stop by the library to pick up this month's book discussion selection, *Wild Dark Shore* by Charlotte McConaghy. Book club begins at 4 pm on Saturday, May 16th at Half Pint Brewing Company. Drinks and food not provided but can be purchased.

## THE JANESVILLE INDEPENDENT

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NEW STAFF MEMBER! Suzy Haberman - Ad Sales Rep

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### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Local (Waseca, Le Sueur, Blue Earth) - \$50

State of Minnesota - \$53

Out of State - \$56

E-Edition - \$25

Print/E-Edition Bundles also available!

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## Got news?

Reach out to [michaelroy@janesvilleindependent.com](mailto:michaelroy@janesvilleindependent.com)!





National Honor Society members gathered for a photo op with the new inductees. Front row: Ellie Morsching, Kwynn Krause, Hudson Miller, Clare Groh, Ma'liyah Peterson, Desirre Weis, Mathea Meyer, Avery Carda, Allie Hanks, Tiera Anderson, and Mikayla Wheelock. Back row: Brielle James, Nevaeh Weimert, Grace Sanny, Alysa Sheeran, Tyson Kronbach, Ethan Cowdin, Ayden Peterson, Dalton Ling, Emma Huelsnitz, Katie Olson, Mason Zimmerman, Maija Tolbert, and Rachelle Oelke. (Photo taken by Teagan Knoblich)

**NHS** from 1

the kids and overseeing the bingo and raffles. All the proceeds went back into the church. Ellie Morsching's project was running the Christmas caroling at Whispering Creek Nursing Home, a tradition started by some other NHS members. This included band members playing traditional Christmas music.

Brielle James's project was handmankaing 30 handmade cards and 30 flower bouquets to show the residents at Whispering Creek some love on Valentine's Day. Kwynn Krause's project was making dog toys and blankets for the JWP FFA Chapter, which will be donated to an animal shelter. Emma Huelsnitz's service project is still upcoming; later this month, she will help run the Waseca Special Olympics at the JWP track and field. Tiera Anderson's project was collecting baby items from businesses in Janesville and donated to an organization in Mankato, which helps expecting and current mothers have supplies that they otherwise couldn't afford.

This year's guest speaker was Jace Emory, a 6th-grade teacher who is also a basketball and softball coach. He congratulated the inductees on being chosen to be a part of NHS. "While this is a night of celebration and triumph – and rightly so – I would be remiss if I didn't remind these ten that the real work starts now," he said.

He went through the four pillars of the NHS: scholarship, leadership, service, and character, highlighting one famous individual who was an NHS member for each pillar. This was to further establish



Guest speaker Jace Emory

the honor bestowed upon the inductees and current members and inform them of the prestige of the organization.

For scholarship, Emory chose Judith Resnik, who had a perfect 1600 SAT score and earned her Ph. D. in electrical engineering from the University of Maryland. She was part of NASA for eight years. "She pushed the boundaries of what we thought was possible by orbiting around the Earth for nearly 150 hours."

Sadly, Resnik's life was cut short, as she was part of the crew that lost their lives during the Challenger explosion on January 28, 1986. Emory references a quote from then-President Ronald Reagan, who stated at a press conference following the tragedy, "The future doesn't belong to the faint-hearted. The future belongs to the brave." Pivoting, he added, "I challenge you ten to boldly pursue your interests to the fullest extent. The sky is the limit."

For service, Emory chose Cal Ripken Jr., known best as a shortstop and third baseman, especially for the Baltimore Orioles. He didn't miss a single

game in his career between 1982 and 1998, setting a consecutive game streak of 2,632 games started. That record hasn't been challenged since his retirement.

"Not only did he show up every day, but he was one of the game's best," Emory added. "He amassed over 3,000 hits, was a two-time league MVP, and a first-ballot Hall of Famer. You ten inductees have many vocations...no matter what role you serve in, serve selflessly and lead by example. Perhaps by doing so, you may not end up in the Baseball Hall of Fame, but you'll do something even better: positively impact the lives of all around you."

Emory stated he was surprised that only one U.S. President was an NHS member. For leadership, he chose that lone president, the country's 38th, Gerald Ford. Emory noted his path to the presidency was "far from ideal." JFK was assassinated, the civil rights movement was in its climax, and the Vietnam War took over 67,000 American lives.

"Ford never sought this office," Emory added. "Both

President Nixon and Vice President Spiro Agnew resigned. President Ford had to provide leadership during a trying time in American history.

"You ten may never be president," Emory continued, "but you will all be required to lead. You may not plan for or seek a leadership opportunity. But you will have to be ready for it."

For character, Emory chose Fred Rogers, known as "Mr. Rogers" of PBS. Emory highlighted his importance in teaching children lessons like respect and managing emotions. Emory felt his character was best exemplified when the federal government looked to cut spending on public broadcasting. "He remained poised and composed while making a case for, and securing, full funding for public broadcasting."

"Rogers's lessons in character transcend grace, disability status, and income level," Emory said. "10 to 15 years from now, you will only be remembered for how you treated your peers. Your goal should be to leave a lasting impression on all you encounter."

His closing statement was, "Outwork everyone. Be the kindest, most loving person everywhere you go. Welcome those who are new and seek out those who are alone."

Leaving this year's group after graduation are President Katie Olson, Vice President Tiera Anderson, and members Mikayla Wheelock, Ellie Morsching, Alexandra Hanks, Brielle James, Kwynn Krause, and Nevaeh Weimert. Juniors Emma Huelsnitz, Hudson Miller, Rachelle Oelke, Grace Sanny, Maija Tolbert, and Mason Zimmerman will return next year.

**JWP SCHOOL BOARD**

**Board approves 2027 spring break choir trip**

The JWP school board approved a spring break trip to New York for the high school choir in 2027 after listening to a presentation given by choir director Josh Sorenson on Monday, April 20.

This five-day trip would include tours of the Empire State Building, the Lincoln Center, Central Park, the Financial District, Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, and several other stops. However, the musical part of the trip will be visits to two Broadway shows and a meet-and-greet with the Broadway actors on the third day. Dates would be from April 5 to April 9, 2027, and the cost for students and chaperones to go is \$2,740. The only costs to the district would be transportation to and from the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport.

The company that Sorenson chose for the trip was EF Explore America, which helps design educational tours. "I toured with EF as a student, Ireland and Germany, for language tours," he explained. "They primarily work with language educators, but they also do fine arts."

What set him at ease was the safety that EF guarantees. There's 24/7 tour director support, 24-hour emergency support, and the JWP choir group would have a one-on-one person with them with dedicated security just for their group. EF also provides fundraising opportunities for students who need them.

"EF has staff and liaisons that work closely with Broadway," he added. "They provide acting and singing opportunities from the pros. Sometimes, they've had actors from the show the night before be the ones working with the students. That's not guaranteed."

Sorenson has had several conversations with parents about the choir trip. He's also worked with a company, Upward Funding, to contribute some clothing, or "swag," to fund part of the JWP choir's trip.

Board member Kevin Born was the first to ask questions about the trip. "Do you have to be in choir to go?" he started. "Yes," Sorenson responded. "What if a kid drops out of choir and signs out of the trip?" Born asked.

"That'd be something I'd have to work out with Principal Rysdam," Sorenson answered. "The understanding would be that this is a year-long commitment."

Born then asked about academic requirements, which Sorenson assured were the same standards as a student-athlete competing in a sport. "It's just like solo and ensemble contests; in order to compete, you have to be academically eligible."

Board member Joan Olson then asked if there would be a refund for students who weren't academically eligible to make the trip. Sorenson said that they would be out \$900 due to an insurance policy with EF, but they should still be able to refund the rest of the \$2,740.

"If seniors register this year, they would be under the student price," Sorenson added. "Otherwise, it's the adult price."

The last question was what productions the choir would see. While nothing is set in stone – especially this far out – Sorenson shared a list of potential shows that included Aladdin, Hamilton, Little Shop of Horrors, and Newsies.

Another major part of the meeting was approving some staffing cuts. This included approving unrequested leaves of absence for Sorenson and Band Director Adam Hille. This doesn't mean they will not be at JWP next school year; this means their hours would be cut to fit the school budget. The board also approved non-renewals for Elementary Special Ed Teacher Melissa Smith and Media Center Specialist Nathan Pedersen. Board chair Sherri Daschner said that these were always the "toughest decisions" the school board has to make every year.

The board also took the first readings of two policies. One concerned the "Responsible Use of AI." While board member Laura Seys made suggestions on the policy itself, Born asked if the district's tech staff had looked at the policy yet.

"We should maybe get a committee together for this," he pointed out. "AI's going to play such a big role, both positive and negative. It might warrant a committee to review things, especially if it's brought into question whether a student used AI to complete work."

As the final weeks of school roll around the corner, JWP has stayed quite busy. MCA tests and field trips are in full swing, but nearly every JWP sports team has struggled to stick with its schedule due to the weather. "Games are being cancelled and not made up," Superintendent Jeremy Erler shared. "We may have to start scheduling events on Wednesdays. In the next two and a half weeks, we are hosting three track meets."

Among a few other announcements, Erler shared that the Waseca Special Olympics team will be hosting an event at the JWP track and field on Saturday, May 16.

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, May 18.

**Arnoldt** from 1

children who were like family to him, Lester Bronstad, Zabrina Bronstad, and Marianne Tapia, who will always carry his memory with them.

He is survived by his sisters, Kim Arnoldt (Sherri Jensen) of Waseca, Kelly (Keith) Eustice of Janesville, Katie (Tom) Nicolai of St. Clair, and Terri Arnoldt of New Ulm; his father-

and mother-in-law, Charles and June Grams of Madison Lake; his sister-in-law, Katie Morsching (Rob Malecha) of Janesville; and brother-in-law, Andy (Nicole) Grams of Madison Lake; and many nieces and nephews: Tj, Tyler, Travis, Ryan, Sam, Joe, Abby, Danny, Phil, Jane, Ben, Josh, Becca, Macy, Ellie, Preston, Parker, and Chloe.

He is met in peace by those who went before him: his par-

ents, Fred and Diane Arnoldt; grandparents Phil and Eileen Arnoldt; grandmother Esther Murphy; and his brother, Tim Arnoldt.

Andy will be remembered for his humor, generosity, hard work, and the way he could light up a room. His time here was far too short, but he leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and strong values that will continue through the people who knew him.

Visitation was held at Farm America on Wednesday, April 29 from 3–7 p.m. His funeral service was held on Thursday, April 30 at 11:00 a.m. at Farm America, with burial at Janesville Cemetery to follow.

Memorials can be made in memory of Andy to Mayo Clinic Cancer Research. DSOFuneral.com

**Heartland HEALTHCARE**  
Your Local Family Medicine Provider  
**KEN BENTSON, PA**  
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**Midco** from 1

of fiber. City leaders joined Midco at the ceremony and emphasized the impact the investment will have on residents and the local economy.

"It is a joy to celebrate the work and partnership that Midco is bringing to the City of Janesville as it overlays the city with broadband fiber," said Waseca County Commissioner DeAnne Malterer. "I couldn't be more excited for the benefit this will bring to our residents, including me! As a county commissioner, and a strong advocate of broadband service expansion in our county, every new foot of fiber is an opportunity to grow our economy and better serve our residents. We look forward to the completion of this project and welcome additional partnership and investment with Midco in other parts of Waseca County."

Highlighting Midco's force for good ethos and commitment to community partnership, the company provided the Janesville Community Food Shelf a \$2,500 grant at the event.

"I would like to thank Midco for the grant supporting the Janesville Community Food Shelf," said Janesville Community Food Shelf Director Kay Gottschalk. "This will help us provide more fresh produce and proteins to our clients."

Construction of the fiber network will continue in phases. Residents can visit Midco.com/Janesville to see a live map showing construction progress, projected launch dates and service availability. Once complete, customers will have access to Midco's full suite of fiber-powered internet services, including internet, MidcoTV, landline phone and Midco Mobile.



Senior Zander Terbeest was the starting pitcher in the team's 10-3 victory over International Falls.

## Bulldog baseball looking to build on great 6-2 start

There were some bumps in the road for JWP's baseball team at the beginning of the season.

For starters, they were having trouble getting on the field. And after getting their first game in with a 12-1 victory over Houston, it was even more trouble getting in a game as severe weather caused their game against Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial to be canceled.

Their second of the season was a nice 7-5 victory over Medford, a team that Head Coach Cory Jewison knew the team always struggled against, no matter what. There were some years when JWP was clearly the better team on paper, but the Tigers upset them. Not this time.

Things started off well for JWP, as they got a 1-0 lead after two innings. Medford took the lead after that with a solid top of the fourth, scoring two runs. But the Bulldogs went on a five-run team at the bottom of the fourth, tacking on another run at the bottom of the fifth for some much-needed insurance. Medford attempted a comeback, scoring three runs in the sixth, but JWP shut them down to end things after the top of the seventh.

Yale Johnson hit a double, with Chase Gerdts and Parker Gearity supplying two additional hits. Gearity had two RBIs, while Gerdts, Caleb Quast, and Ayden Peterson had one RBI each. The team combined for seven hits. Chase Gerdts spent six innings on the mound, striking out seven, walking two, and committing two errors while allowing five runs on six hits. Seth Dahlberg was the closer, pitching one inning and striking out two.

With a 2-0 record, the team felt pretty good about itself. A trip to Austin to face a strong

Lyle-Pacelli team showed them they had room to improve as they took a 2-13 loss on Friday, April 17.

The Bulldogs then traveled to New Richland-Hartland-Elendale-Geneva on Monday, April 20, for a conference matchup. The team joked that the coach ended up making an error in the first inning, but they got out of it. The game turned out to be a pitching battle, which JWP won 1-0.

On Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25, JWP played host to International Falls and Mayer Lutheran. Cromwell-Wright, who had played the Bulldogs for three straight years, didn't make the trip. It was International Falls' third annual trip down to Janesville.

The boys got the bats going right away against the Broncos, putting in a 10-3 victory. The team then took down Mayer Lutheran with a 13-3 win in six innings.

JWP had Randolph on the schedule next. The team did actually start the game against them on Thursday, April 23. However, the weather forced the game to be postponed and finished another day. JWP was down 3-2 at the top of the fifth before the game was called off. Sadly, the boys lost a close one when the game was made up Thursday, April 30, ultimately falling 5-4. But they made up for it with a 4-3 win.

The baseball team is currently 6-2 (2-1 in-conference play) and will look forward to hosting a five more games against Waterville-Elysian-Morristown tonight, Kenyon-Wanamingo and Martin Luther-GHEC-Truman on Monday, May 4, and Southland on Wednesday, May 6. They will face St. Clair on Friday, May 8.

## Golfers are preparing for conference championship

It's been a hit-or-miss type of season for JWP's golfers weather-wise.

Lately, though, things have been heating up. They've played in mostly beautiful weather, and the results have been just as gorgeous.

JWP hosted Triton on Friday, April 17. While the Bulldogs were bested by the Cobras, it was a pretty close matchup. The team scored 185 to Triton's 173.

While junior Jeffrey Simonson has usually led the team, it was sophomore Garrett Rienhardt taking the reins with a third-place finish off a 42-stroke performance. Simonson tied with freshman Evan Mulcahey for fourth with 46. Dylan Hood took ninth with a 51, with Oliver Dimmel taking 10th with a 55.

The golfers then traveled to Blooming Prairie on Monday, April 25. Out of a handful of teams, including a couple of B-teams, JWP took fourth with 387. The hosts lived up to their name of "Awesome Blossoms"

as they took first with a 305. Simonson placed second overall with a 75, while Mulcahey finished 20th overall with a 97. Oliver Dimmel was 21st with a 99, while Jack Bense fired a 116.

The team then traveled to Albert Lea on Monday, April 27, for the first round of the Gopher Conference meet. It ended up being quite the windy day, but the golfers were up to the challenge. Simonson led the team, firing an 87. Mulcahey wasn't too far behind him with 89 on the day. Dylan Hood fired a 91, with Rienhardt shooting 97 on the day. Oliver Dimmel had 108. Collectively, the team was 61 over par.

Senior girls' golfer Abigail Balzotti also got some playing time, firing a 133 on the day.

The golfers will look forward to another conference tournament meet, this time a little closer to home, at North Links Golf Course near North Mankato on Thursday, May 7.



Junior Ray Blasing has been an integral part of the team's offensive success. She provided three runs in the team's 13-12 victory over Medford while consistently bringing hits throughout the past few games.

(Photos by Michael Roy)

## Lady Dawgs are on a roll this season 6-1 record in last seven games

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton softball team is looking to have one of its best seasons in a long time. After going 3-3 in their first six games of the year, they have gone 6-1 in their last six games. The only team to beat them in that stretch is the defending Class AA champions, Randolph.

That's not to say they've been easy wins. Four of their wins have been by a run, with another victory by two runs. Still, the fact that they can work through close games and come out with a victory is going to help them, especially when they go into the playoffs this year.

With an even 3-3 record, they rolled into Medford on Thursday, April 16 and took down the Tigers 13-12 before surprising a New Richland-HEG team that's had their number for many years with a 6-4 victory at home. Following a 10-0 loss to Randolph on Thursday, April 23, the team traveled to Rochester this past weekend, defeating Lake City 3-2 and Rochester John Marshall 4-3. They traveled to Triton on Monday, April 27, winning a high-scoring affair 13-12 before downing WEM on Wednesday, April 29 with a 5-3 victory.

### Bulldogs 13, Tigers 12

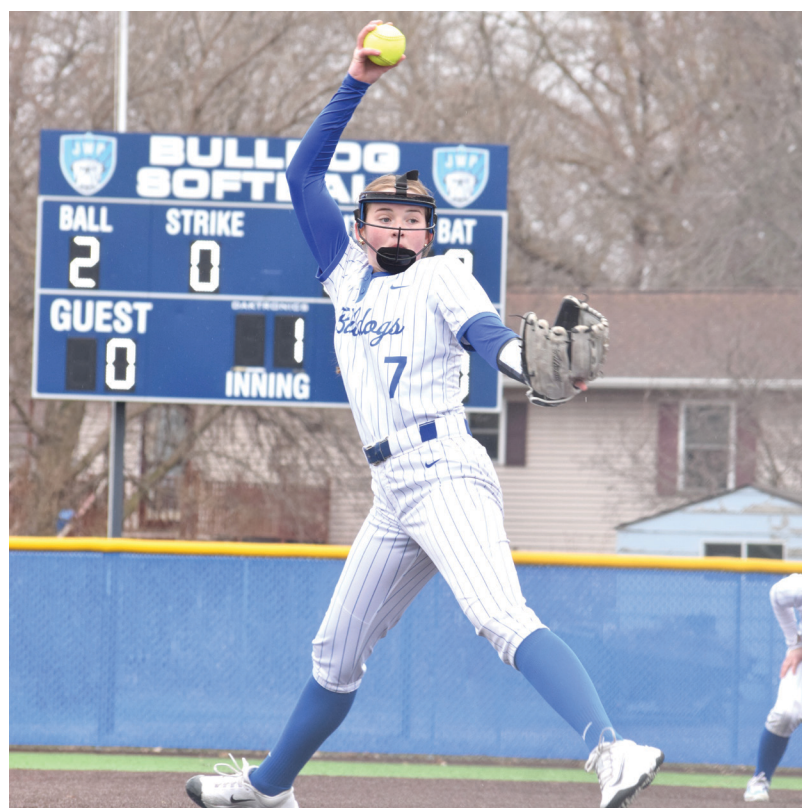
This one was a back-and-forth throughout the entire game. It was going to come down to whoever had the last run. Luckily for JWP, they had one more run. Out of over 30 at-bats, the Lady Dawgs had nine hits. Mya Wheelock had a perfect day, going three for three with a pair of singles, a double, an RBI, and a run.

Raylen Blasing led the team in runs with three, going 2 for 4 at bat with a pair of singles and a walk. She scored on each opportunity with three runs and four stolen bases. Although Haylee Appel went 0 for 3, she had two walks with a stolen base and a run. Kayle Langford went 2 for 3 with a pair of singles, two walks, and two runs. Sophie Okins was one for three, but she made it count with a double and a run. Lyla Simonson was 1 for 3 on hits. Lily Ewert, Victoria Blomstrom, and Chloe Kaiser contributed a run. Avery Carda had two runs.

On the pitching mound, Lyla Simonson allowed ten runs – three of them earned – in 4.1 innings. Medford got four hits and five walks, while she struck out two and left seven on base. Claire Loeffler pitched 2.2 innings, allowing four hits, two runs (one earned), and walking two while leaving two more on base.

### Bulldogs 6, Panthers 4

Credit to NRHEG's softball team. They've been a talented



In a 4-1 stretch, Lyla Simonson (above) pitched in four of those games for a 3-1 record. Below is Sophie Okins (right), who has been an crucial part of the team's offensive success lately.



squad for years. Last year looked like the opportunity for JWP to get past them, but it wasn't meant to be after some crazy back-and-forth.

This matchup wasn't as crazy, and JWP closed things with a 6-4 victory. Simonson pitched all seven innings, striking out seven and walking five. The Panthers earned three runs out of four, but Simonson left six on base.

Blasing was one of the leaders again, this time going 2 for 3 with a single, a double, and two stolen bases. While she only made it home herself once, she brought in three runners. Okins also went 2 for 3, hitting a single, a double, and had an RBI. Carda's 2-for-3 campaign brought her a run, a single, a double, and one strikeout. Simonson had two singles. Brielle James went 1 for 3 with an RBI. Hudson Miller's one successful

at-bat yielded the run, and Lily Ewert's one hit was the same. Victoria Blomstrom had a run and a stolen base. Haylee Appel went 0 for 3, but she still had an RBI.

### Rockets 10, Bulldogs 0

While JWP was on a winning streak, Randolph's Rockets were waiting for them. The Class AA contenders humbled them and dismantled their offense.

Head Coach Brianne Eldred felt the score didn't tell the full story. Much of the problems in this game came down to errors and miscommunication. "We were a few errors shy of staying with them for seven innings," she said. "We put the bat on the ball, which was impressive. But we need to get stronger physically and mentally."

Blasing and Appel were the only players on the team to get more than one successful hit.

Blasing went 2 for 3, earned a single, and stole a base. But she never got home. Appel couldn't steal a base off her pair of singles. Ewert and Simonson had a hit for a single. Okins, Miller, Carda, and James weren't able to record a hit.

Lyla Simonson pitched four innings and allowed seven hits and six runs (three earned), walking two and striking out two. Claire Loeffler pitched for an inning, allowing one hit, three runs (two earned), and walking one. Ryleigh Donner pitched 0.1 innings, allowing four hits and one earned run.

### Rochester Trip

JWP then traveled to Rochester to participate in a multi-team showcase. JWP opponents were Rochester John Marshall's Rockets and the Lake City Tigers. Both were decided by a run, and JWP won both.

The two teams were bigger schools than JWP. Lake City was AA (similar to the size of Waseca), with John Marshall being a 4A school, the highest class in softball. Both games were relatively low-scoring pitchers' battles.

JWP defeated Lake City 4-3, with Simonson all seven innings. The Tigers had 11 hits with three runs (all earned). Simonson walked four and struck out four.

Kayle Langford had a perfect game at the plate, going 3 for 3, all of them singles. However, she didn't record a run or an RBI, despite also having a walk. Ray Blasing went 2 for 5, but she had a single and a double, getting home once and recording an RBI. Sophie Okins had two runs off two hits, which included a single and a double. Simonson had a pair of singles and an RBI off her two hits. Chloe Kaiser recorded a run while Appel hit a double.

The Bulldogs then defeated Rochester John Marshall 3-2. Ryleigh Donner pitched all seven innings, allowing four hits, a pair of runs (both earned), and striking out five while walking two. Langford and Miller went 2 for three, both recording a pair of singles and an RBI. Langford also tacked on a run. Although Lily Quast didn't score a run or RBI, she displayed some great hitting, going 2 for 3 with a single and a double. Sophie Okins was probably frustrated she couldn't get him as she hit a triple. Donner had a double while Ewert hit a single. Simonson's one hit got her a single and a run. Kaiser tallied another run in the close contest.

The games against Triton and Waterville-Elysian-Morristown will be covered in next week's paper.



Top: Grady Grohman in the shot put with Aidan Rider in the background. He took first in that event. Below: Gavin Weedman, who took first in the long and triple jumps.



Rachel Mielke (center) between two St. Clair hurdlers. She took first in the 300-meter hurdles. (Photos by Michael Roy)



Left: Norah Welvaert keeping up with a NRHEG runner in the girls' 4x800 meter relay. Right: Charlie Denis in the boys' 4x800.



## A marathon for JWP track with three meets in a week

It's that time of year when spring sports teams are scrambling to play all their games on their schedule...if they aren't having to make up or cancel them.

JWP's track teams have been pretty fortunate to compete in most of their scheduled meets, but that hasn't made it any less busy. The team traveled to Blooming Prairie on Tuesday, April 21, for a meet against many conference and section foes. Both the boys and girls have had their shining moments, but it was the boys' day to be on top. They took first place with 180 points.

St. Clair's girls are giving the defending state champions a literal run for their money this year. They took first place with 144 points, leaving JWP/WEM to settle for a close second with 133 points. St. Clair's boys are looking competitive, too, as they took second with 112 points. But as you can see, the boys' race was much more decisive.

Although St. Clair's Oliver Schull took first place in the 100, JWP took the following three spots, with Gavin Atherton leading the Bulldogs for second, followed by Daulton Bauer in third and Ethan Einertson in fourth. Schull once again prevented any JWP runners from getting first, beating Atherton by slightly over a tenth of a second. Atherton settled for second with

Bauer behind him in third and Bartz taking fifth.

There were a handful of other first-place finishes along the way, including Atherton securing first in the 400. Wyatt Jans took on running the 1600 and came out on top. Gavin Weedman leapt his way into first-place finishes in the long and triple jumps. Grady Grohman swept the throwing events, taking first in the shot put and discus throw.

Weedman provided a second-place finish in the 800, with Aiden Gruber securing second in the 300 hurdles. The 4x400 team of Einertson, Tyson Kronbach, Weedman, and Jans took second in the 4x400, with Daulton Bauer going silver in the long jump. Trey Richards took third in the pole vault, while the 4x200 team of James Morgan, David Mielke, Leighlan Harris, and Richards took third.

The girls had strong finishes from all of their athletes. If you have to try to outrun Nevaeh Weimert or Addison Condon for any reason...well, good luck with that. Weimert took first in the 100 and 200, with Condon taking second in the 200 and third in the 100. Weimert clocked in at 12.92 in the 100, with Condon only behind by 0.6 seconds. While Weimert may have been ahead in the running events, Condon was golden in the long and triple jumps, taking first in each, while Weimert

placed third in the triple jump. Weimert then joined MaKaela Westphal, Rachel Mielke, and Jacelynn Mulder for a first-place campaign.

That wasn't the only first-place finish of the day, though. Mielke made her way through the 300 hurdles for the top spot in the event. The quartet of Kyla Schlingmann, Alesse Wolff, Katelyn Olson, and MaKaela Westphal took second in the 4x100 and 4x200 relays. Sara Bulman captured third in the pole vault, while Mielke placed third in the long jump.

### Lakeville North Meet

The track and field teams then traveled to Lakeville North for their yearly litmus test. Most of the teams in this meet – if not all of them – are bigger in size than JWP. But this year, the girls were entering the meet with all eyes on them as the Class A champions.

It was a rainy event, and they didn't place high. But given the competition, they held their own. Out of 15 schools, JWP/WEM's boys placed 8th, while the girls placed 7th. Both teams beat schools such as Apple Valley, St. Paul Highland Park, and Simley, all schools much bigger than the ones they're used to competing against. Belle Plaine took the boys' competition, while Chaska's girls took first.

The level of competition didn't stop Addison Condon

from taking first in the long and triple jump, a highlight of the girls' day. She then joined Katie Olson, Rachel Mielke, and Nevaeh Weimert in taking second in the 4x200. The same four shifted the order a bit and took third in the 4x100. Olson collected a second-place finish in the long jump, and MaKaela Westphal had an impressive outing, taking fourth in the 100 and fifth in the 200. Weimert wrapped up the day with an eighth-place finish in the triple jump.

Gavin Atherton had a great day for the boys. He took first in the 200 and was three-hundredths of a second short of taking the top spot in the 400. He joined the team of Ethan Einertson, Wyatt Jans, and Tyson Kronbach for a sixth-place finish in the 4x400. The 4x800 team of Kronbach, Jans, Teagan Mulder, and Gavin Weedman took seventh in the 4x800. Weedman snagged a top-five finish in the long jump and took seventh in the triple jump. Aiden Gruber took eighth in the high jump, while Trey Richards took eighth in the pole vault.

### Second JWP meet

While the first meet JWP hosted was cold and wet – much like the Lakeville North meet – they looked forward to much better conditions. There was filtered sunshine, and it was dry and near-perfect temperatures.

Both teams looked to snag

first place at home, but they had to go against a Class AA Fairmont team that is stacked with talent, giving other talented school in their section like Waseca trouble. It seemed like a showdown between JWP and Fairmont, with the rest of the teams left in the dust.

That's not to say it was that close of a competition. Fairmont's boys took first with 225 points to JWP's 184.5. Fairmont's girls had 210 points to the Lady Dawgs' 168.33. The difference between second and third place in the girls' competition was over 86 points. And for the boys? It was 110.


The girls took the top three spots in the 100. Condon led the way, with Weimert and Mielke by her side. In the 200, it was Ashlynn Wolff sprinting her way into first, with Mielke in second, Weimert in fourth, and Condon in fifth. Condon then took a first-place finish in the long jump, with Olson in second. In the 3200, Norah Welvaert finished first.

Wolff took second in the high jump. The relay team of Condon, Olson, Kyla Schlingmann, and Alesse Wolff took second. Kayleigh Donner switched places with Condon in the 4x200, and that relay team took second. Sarah Bulman collected third in the pole vault, with Aubrey Adams in third in the shot put.



On the boys' side of things, the relay teams put in some great work. The team of Gavin Atherton, Cole Bartz, Ethan Einertson, and Daulton Bauer took first in the 4x200. James Morgan took Bartz's place in the 4x100, which took second. The team of Gavin Weedman, Tyson Kronbach, and Einertson took second.

There were some great individual efforts, too. Atherton took first in the 200. Grohman continued showing off his throwing skills with a first-place finish in the shot put and discus. Cole Bartz provided second-place finishes in the shot put and high jump. Trey Richards took third in the pole vault, and Bauer collected a third-place finish in the long jump. The 4x800 team of Charlie Denis, Charles Adams, Wesley Heinz, and Parker Smith took third in the 4x800. Rounding out the third-place finishes were Wyatt Jans in the 800, Aiden Gruber in the 300 hurdles, Wesley Heinze in the 3200, and Teagan Mulder in the triple jump.

The track and field teams traveled to Tri-City United in Montgomery on Thursday, April 30, for their next meet. More information on that will be in next week's paper.



Stay up to date with the latest sports happenings from JWP, WEM/JWP, and Trinity Lutheran!

**Way to go, Bulldogs!  
Keep on trucking!**




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*A Word from our Pastors*

# Our need for Divine Mercy from God

Provided by FR. ROB SCHNEIDER, St. Ann

From Fr. Anthony Kadavil, St. Agatha Church, Bay Minette, AL

The first reading, taken from Acts, showed us the early Church as a loving, serving, and worshipping community (Acts 6:1-7). Hence, it easily solved a problem of perceived discrimination by instituting the Diaconate for the service of the community. In the second reading, St. Peter advises the early Christians to renew the memory of Jesus by allowing God to make them "living stones," and the build them into a spiritual edifice, a commu-

nity of believers, with Christ for its "Living Cornerstone" (1 Pt. 2:4-5). Peter praises Christians, both Gentile and Jewish, as "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and God's own people."

In today's Gospel, Jesus consoles his apostles (who are sad and disheartened at His announcement that He will be leaving them soon), by assuring them that he is going to prepare an everlasting accommodation for them in His Father's House in Heaven. He gives them the assurance that he will come back to take them to their Heavenly abodes.

It is then that Thomas says,

"Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus answers Thomas' question with, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me."

The basic doctrine of Judaism is that Yahweh is the Way and the Truth and the Life. Hence, Jesus is making a revolutionary claim that he is equivalent to Yahweh. Jesus also declares that he, himself, is the safest and surest way to God, discrediting the modern notions that all religions are equally sure ways to reach God, and that no organized religion but only living a good life of sharing love is necessary to reach God. But Jesus is the Way

which he calls narrow because it is the way of focused, loving, humble, sacrificial service.

Jesus is the Truth who teaches revealed truths about God and God's relation to man. Jesus also teaches moral truths and demonstrates them in his life. Jesus is the Life because, as God, he possesses the eternal life of God and shares his Divine life with his disciples through the Word of God and the Sacraments. In short, Jesus reveals the Father in the Way he lives, in the Truth of his word and in the new Life that he brings.



Principal's Corner  
Wade Stockman, Trinity Lutheran

## Take some time to talk to God

Prayer is a very simple thing to do. Prayer is talking to God. Talking to God is much easier than talking to other people. God will hear what we say and will patiently let us pour our hearts out to him without interruptions, clarifications or questions back to us. God will hear what we say and understand it, and we will not have to reexplain. Even if we cannot put it into words, the Holy Spirit helps believers in their weakness by interceding for them as stated in Romans 8:26. So to recap, we can do it any where any time, we do not need eloquent words or even words in some cases, and God hears our prayers. So, my question is, why do I find it difficult to be in meaningful prayer on a daily basis. I pray during crisis, I pray before meals, I pray at church and in many other instances. But rarely do I take the time to sit quietly and talk to God. How about your prayer

life? Do you run into the same issues as I do. I know part of the reason is I do not set time aside each day for this to happen. I already get up very early to do the things I need in the morning to get to school. By the time I get ready for bed, I am so tired I fall asleep soon after laying down or some nights I fall asleep before I make it to my bed. The answer is, I need to make it a priority for me and to set time aside. Instead of scrolling through your smartphone, maybe talk to God. Getting ready to watch TV or a movie or a sports event. Take some time before to talk to God. Find a place in your routine to talk to God. Don't know what to say. Give it some time, open up your heart and mind and I bet you will find you have a lot more to talk to God about then you think. Give it a try, set aside time where you can have meaningful time talking with God.

# Local Area Church Times and Schedules

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
412 N. Main St.  
Janesville, MN  
(507)231-5189  
Senior Pastor Jason Wolter and Associate Pastor Timothy Contreras  
Wednesday - 6:30p.m. Worship  
Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship  
Sunday- 8:00a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship  
9a.m. Sunday School & Bible Study

\*\*\*

**JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
401 N. West St.  
Janesville, MN  
(507) 234-5350  
Pastor Kathy King  
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship

\*\*\*

**WATERVILLE EVANGELICAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
319 E. Main St.  
Waterville, MN  
(507)362-4379  
Pastor Kathy King  
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship

\*\*\*

**BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
43089 180th St.  
Morristown, MN  
(507)384-2483  
Pastor Kathy King  
Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship

\*\*\*

**ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
307 W. 2nd St.  
Janesville, MN  
(507)234-6244  
Father Rob Schneider  
Sunday- 8:30 a.m. Mass

\*\*\*

**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
225 3rd Ave.  
Waldorf, MN  
(507)234-6244  
Father Swaminatha (Swamy) Pothireddy  
Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass

\*\*\*

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
120 3rd Ave  
Waldorf, MN  
(507)239-2431  
Pastor Michael Matthews  
Sunday-8 a.m. Worship  
9:10a.m. Sunday School & Bible Class

\*\*\*

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
114 4th St. NW  
Waseca, MN  
(507) 835-1222  
Father Glenn Frerichs  
Sunday: 10:00 a.m. Mass  
Tue-Thu: 8:30 a.m. Mass  
Saturday: 5:15 p.m. Mass

\*\*\*

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
300 Owen St.  
Janesville, MN

(507)234-6463  
Pastor Sarah Krolak  
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 9:00a.m.

\*\*\*

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
1891 321st Ave  
Alma City, MN  
(507)234-5353  
Pastor Robert Harting  
Sunday - 10:00 a.m. Worship

\*\*\*

**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
20574 631st Ave  
Smiths Mill, MN  
(507)234-5547  
Pastor Robert Harting  
Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.  
7:45a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Class

\*\*\*

**ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Waldorf, MN  
Pastor Ava Adams-Morris  
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10 a.m. Worship

\*\*\*

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
200 Front St. E  
St. Clair, MN  
(507) 245-3330  
Pastor Jeff Enderle  
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship, 8:15 am

Bible Study & Sunday School

\*\*\*

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
120 Church St.  
St. Clair, MN  
(507) 245-3447  
Father Rob Schneider  
Saturday - 4:00 p.m. Mass

\*\*\*

**ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
601 4th St.  
Madison Lake, MN  
(507) 243-3319  
Father Rob Schneider  
Sunday - 10:00 a.m. Mass

\*\*\*

**ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
305 Park Ave NE  
Elysian, MN  
(507) 362-4311  
Fr. Andrew Stueve  
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Mass  
Wednesday - 9:00a.m. Mass

\*\*\*

**ELYSIAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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Sunday 9 am

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**Bible quote of the week**

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." -Galatians 6:9

Confirmed Catholics



Over the weekend of Sunday, April 19, 14 students of St. Ann Catholic Church of Janesville joined members of All Saints of Madison Lake and Immaculate Conception of St. Clair in the rite of confirmation. At the top are all confirmants from St. Ann. Front row: Ava Krause, Clare Groh, and MaKenzie Westphal. Middle row: Haylee Appel, Rachelle Oelke, Fr. Rob Schneider, Bishop Robert Barron, Blake Bure, and Jaxon Wolff. Back row: Harley Eldeen, Gavin Weedman, Trenton Huber, Kyler Johnson, Gavin Bauer, James Schoenrock, and Anne Adams. To the right, the top, is the class from St. Clair, and the bottom is the class from Madison Lake.



Left: Fact Drill Champion Aidan Schlingmann with Math League individual champion Aubrey Lieferman. Right: The high school math league concluded in April, with the JWP team in second. The final five students to place individually were, from left, Clare Groh, Tyson Kronbach, Tyson Johnson, Hudson Miller, and Ellie Morsching.

Math League students wrap up the year on a strong note

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton high school students who participated in the Minnesota High School Math League got to rest after the sixth and final round concluded nearly a month ago.

JWP was in a deadlock with Hibbing High School for second place for most of the year. However, the Bulldog math-

emicians secured their spot, going silver after a great sixth and final round placed them at 87 points to Hibbing's 83. JWP also placed second last year. The team to beat, Mounds View, had no contenders to take away its spot at first, repeating the feat, this time with 151 points to end the year.

During this final stretch,

Clare Groh, Tyson Kronbach, Tyson Johnson, Hudson Miller, and Ellie Morsching placed individually. Long-time math competitors Ellie Morsching, Lily Quast, and Brielle James were recognized for competing since fifth grade.

Middle schoolers also wrapped up their Math League action with a contest on Friday,

April 17. 36 JWP fourth and fifth-grade students participated. Aidan Schlingmann won the championship with a score of 71 points. In the individual contest, Aubrey Lieferman scored 20 to win the championship. Carson Loeffler took second with 18 points, with Aiden Schlingmann in third with 17.

In the team event, Graham

Peterson, Chloe Oachs, and Aubrey Lieferman took first. The second-place team was Colin Gunsolus, Dekker Burke, and Hayes Jewison. The team of Avery Westphal, Aidan Schlingmann, and Fyscher Wolle took third.

In the Math League event, students with placing scores for the fourth grade were Henry

Haekenkamp, Gabby Gahler, Thomas Zimprich, Trenton Johnson, and Reid Blasing. For the fifth grade, Evelyn Demarais, Aidan Schlingmann, Hayes Jewison, Aubrey Lieferman, and Carson Loeffler.

It's been a great year for math at JWP, whether it's the elementary, middle, or high school students showing off their skills.

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State Finalist



Rachelle Oelke took home fifth place and a medal at the Class A speech tournament on Saturday, April 25. She is surrounded by her coaches Darien Kjolstad, Head Coach (and mother) Jessica Oelke, and Coach Jessica Possin. (Photo courtesy of JWP Speech)

## Oelke takes 5th at state tournament

Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton sent three members of its speech team to the Class A state tournament at Park Center High School in Brooklyn Park on Saturday, April 25: junior Annie Fuerstenberg, junior Rachelle Oelke, and senior Allie Hanks.

Hanks made it back to the state tournament in Great Speeches for her senior year after narrowly missing out on making state last season by one spot. Fuerstenberg qualified after becoming the champion in Original Oratory at the Section 2A tournament, and Oelke had narrowly made it with a third-place finish in the Informative category.

However, out of all three, it was Oelke who made it to the finals after going up against the

best Informative speakers in the state. The junior took fifth place, defeating three other finalists to make it to the podium. Allie Streit of Fairmont, likely a familiar opponent for Oelke, was the Class A champion.

Hanks will be one of a handful of seniors leaving the team upon graduation this year. The others are Claire Miller and Ruby Gunsolus. Although those two were short of making it to state, the two made it last year, with Gunsolus receiving a medal. They've been the core of a JWP speech team that's been on the rise for years. The hope is that the other speech members will be able to uphold the standards they have set for the team.

## Metal Sculpture off to Mankato!



The JWP metal sculpture class has worked on its turkey sculpture, made of gears and scrap metal, for months. It was powder coated and is now ready to be featured in the Mankato City Art Walk. It will be at its new home on Saturday, May 16.

## Peterson, Durbahn chosen for JWP Academic and Fine Arts Hall of Fame

In 2024, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton decided to start an Academic and Fine Arts Hall of Fame to recognize student alumni and educators who have shown excellence in either academics, the fine arts, or both. Becky Borneke was the inaugural educator chosen, with Cliff Gardner the inaugural student nominee. Since then, Ilene Blume (teacher) and Aaron Sheehan (student) have been recognized.

This year's nominees are Micahel Durbahn, educator, and Gina Peterson, student alumni. Durbahn will be recognized for his achievement on Wednesday, May 13, while Peterson will be recognized on May 20.

A biography on the two of them, compiled by the JWP Academic and Fine Arts Hall of Fame, is included below.



Gina Peterson

**Gina Peterson**  
A 2004 graduate of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School, Gina was actively involved in a wide range of activities, including volleyball,

basketball, softball, track (her senior year was the first year JWP allowed students to try 2 spring sports), FCCLA, show choir, musical, and NHS. One of the things she values most about the JWP community is its encouragement for students to explore many interests; believing that's how passions are discovered.

After graduating as valedictorian in her class, Gina attended the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, where she earned a degree in marketing. Her interest in both creativity and business began to take shape during her senior year of high school through an art class, paired with her college math classes. She knew that finding a career blending those two areas would be the right fit.

She began her career working for an agriculture company in Mankato. Around the same time, she married her husband, Bjorn, in 2010. While designing her own wedding invitations, she recognized a gap in the market for custom paper goods and began creating and selling designs via Etsy online as a side project; simply for fun and to stay busy, with no idea what it would become.

Just a year later, Gina took the leap to turn her side business into a full-time venture, launching Ginger P. Designs from her and her husband's first home in Janesville. In 2016, the now well-known building with the pink doors was built on Main Street, becoming the company's home.

Since then, Ginger P. Designs has grown into a wholesale paper goods company, offering greeting cards, notepads, and more to over 4,000 retailers

worldwide, including Barnes & Noble, Scheels, Anthropologie, TJ Maxx, and Paper Source.

Gina's work has earned national recognition, including three Louie Awards for her greeting card designs. She was also named one of Stationery Trends' Top 10 Designers to Watch in 2025 and recognized among the Top 40 Under 40 in the country for design and print.

In addition to running her business, Gina is actively involved in her community. She serves on the Bulldog Backers Association, the Janesville Economic Development Authority board, and has been a member of the Janesville Rotary Club.

Gina lives in Janesville with her husband, Bjorn, and their three children Graham, Lola, and Bode who all attend JWP. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, playing volleyball, watching sports, and spending time with family and friends.



Michael Durbahn

**Michael Durbahn**  
Michael Durbahn was born on July 22, 1950 in the Minnesota Iron Range town of Buhl, MN. He was the middle child of 5 born to David and Lillian Durbahn. Mike's grandfather was an Industrial Arts teacher at the Buhl High School and his father was a mechanic in the mining industry. Growing up, every day involved a do-it-yourself project out in the shop with Grandpa, Dad, and his two brothers.

After graduating from high school, Mike attended Mesabi State Junior College receiving an Associate of Arts degree and completed his Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Arts at St. Cloud State College. He started teaching at Waldorf-Pem-

berton in 1973, then completed his Master of Science Degree at Mankato State University in 1978. Throughout his teaching career, Mike kept studying at MSU and South Central Technical College. He added a license in Construction Occupations and taught building trades at Waldorf-Pemberton and St. Clair. He also, took classes in CNC programming, Electricity/Electronics, and computer programming. Mike was active in the International and Minnesota Technology Education Associations. Keeping current with changes in industry and careers was very important to him.

He is proud to have been a part of the JWP Middle School the year (1992) it was nominated for and received the Program of Excellence Award. The criteria for winning was based on the standards established by the International Technology Education Association. JWP was the only middle school to meet those standards that year, and by far the smallest school being considered for the award. This recognition came about because of the families, students, and school board who backed the program by providing curriculum, facilities, equipment, and staff education.

As much as he loved teaching at JWP, working with the families, and developing curriculum for 22 years, Mike felt he couldn't pass up an opportunity to keep growing his own interests in new technologies. He accepted a position at Mankato West High School developing and teaching computer-assisted drafting and computer-assisted machining. He worked with other Mankato Technology Education teachers introducing a program called Project Lead the Way to add classes in architecture and engineering.

Mike retired after 36 years and lots of changes in his career. Now he is back to his first love of woodworking. He's busy making cabinets, furniture, the art of marquetry, and carpentry projects on the house he designed and built.

Mike's family includes his wife of 52 years, two daughters, two son-in-laws, and four grandkids. A granddaughter-in-law was welcomed to the bunch last summer. Luckily, all are living nearby and stop by the shop for tool borrowing and project consulting.

## Pack & Troop 89's Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 10th  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Discipling Center  
412 North Main St  
Janesville, MN

Adults - \$12  
Children (5-10) \$6  
4 and under - Free

Pancakes, French Toast, Sausage, Ham, Scrambled Eggs

Proceeds help pay for summer camps, memberships, and weekend activities for the youth.

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