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Opening Sept. 26

Waseca Marching Classic Sept. 23

The 36th annual Waseca Marching Classic will be Saturday, September 23. Parade will begin at noon along State Street, with awards to follow in Trowbridge Park. The field show competition will begin at 5:30 p.m., with awards announced at 9 p.m. Tickets for the field show are \$5 in advance, \$7 the day of the show. A spectacular fireworks display will follow. Also included in the day's festivities is the 18th annual classic car show, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Club 57. More information is available at wasecamarchingclassic.com

Relay For Life of Steele/Waseca County. Sept. 23

Steele/Waseca County will be having a Relay For Life event from 5-10 p.m. at the Steele County Fairgrounds. There will be a silent auction, entertainment, survivor recognition, raffle, kids activities and food.

Varsity Hockey Fundraiser Sept. 23

Waseca's Varsity Hockey teams will host a fundraiser at Waseca Glass on Saturday, September 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Blake's Food Truck will be present, and will donate \$1 for each item sold. Car washes and vacuuming will also be available for \$10 per service. The boys' team is raising money for a trip to Warroad for Hockey Day Minnesota in 2024; the girls' team is raising money for Gear for Girls.

Pop Club Party Sept. 23

The Waseca Power of Produce Club Program is hosting a party at the Waseca Farmer's Market Saturday, September 23. The Pop Club Party is from 9:30 a.m. to noon, with "Touch a Truck," where kids can get up close with emergency vehicles beginning at 10 a.m. The Farmer's Market is held at the Waseca County Fairgrounds from 8 a.m. to noon.

Childbirth Class Sept. 24

A "Birth Blessings Childbirth Education Class" will be held at Vibrant Family Chiropractic in Waseca Sunday, September 24, from 1 to 6 p.m. The class will be presented by two birth doulas. Light snacks and drinks will be provided. To join, email Vanessa at doulav4@gmail.com.

Waseca Stitchers in Time Quilt Show September 29

The Waseca Stitchers in Time is holding a quilt show until September 29. It is located in the Waseca Art Center in the inside exhibit and it is open during the art center hours.

Leonardo Drake Exhibit through Sept. 29

Waseca Art Center is showing an exhibit of Leonardo Drake's recent work through September 29 at its gallery at 200 State St. N. Gallery hours: Tues. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Wed.-Fri. 12 Noon-5 p.m., and Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. www.wasecaartcenter.org or (507) 835-1701.

A word from

The Word

For those who love God all things work together for good.

Romans 8:28



Record Fall Festival

More than \$81,000 raised at annual event



Roughly two dozen "tent committee" members take care of putting up and taking down the giant tent used at the Fall Festival. Pioneer photo by Becky Petsinger

More than 1,100 attend weekend gathering

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The weekend-long Fall Festival at Sacred Heart Church drew an estimated 1,000 people to its various events, according to co-chairs Becky Petsinger and Kellie Moseley. Although final numbers are not yet tallied, the two are certain funds raised will match or exceed last year's \$81,000.

To hear the two planners talk, it seems the weekend was one highlight after another. "The meat raffle was fun," comments Petsinger. "People got truly excited when they would win," she says, claiming their pleasure was greater than even the bingo winners'.

Also a highlight were the expanded number of events for children, says Petsinger, mentioning the children's dance. "The kids were also really excited to see their teachers at the book fair," she observes, describing how students could not only shop for books for themselves, but parents and grandparents could help fulfill classroom

"wish lists" created by teachers.

The weekend's live auction was also exciting. Bidding went into the hundreds of dollars for items such as a jar of pickled asparagus and a batch of homemade caramel. The hottest competition the ladies recall, however, was for a "Walleye Shore Lunch" to be served in the home of Jim and Bonnie Britton next May. Those who won the bid paid \$650 for each of four couples.

Another source of enthusiasm that Moseley names is the weather. "I don't think we've ever had a better weekend," she claims.

This year's Fall Festival marked year 51 for the event. "And we're aiming for at least 51 more," says Moseley. "We had a good mix of people, both regulars and some who had never come before." She comments that the number of participants from the New Richland area seemed higher, and credits the fact that Sacred Heart and New Richland's All Saints are now both served by recently-installed priest Father Glenn Frerichs. She was also pleased to see



Louisa Rohe and Betsy Koble, both 8 years old, enjoy the bounce houses that were part of Sacred Heart's Fall Festival celebration this past weekend. Pioneer photo by Deb Bentley

that multiple generations of some families came together.

"You can't beat the fellowship," says Moseley. "That's at least as important as the fundraising."

Moseley and fellow co-chair Angie Storvick have been on the event's planning committee for the past 17 years, and will be stepping down after the final elements of this year's Fall Festival are taken care of.

Petsinger and co-chair Marya Eustice will be the chief planners for next year's event.

Asked when planning will begin, Moseley responds confidently, "Tomorrow."

While the Fall Festival is Sacred Heart's most elaborate fundraiser, a number of other events are typically scheduled each year, including a marathon in May, "Winterfest" bingo, and the sale of "raise right" gift cards.



Sacred Heart Parishioner Grayson Neff is part of the "tent committee." Pioneer photo by Deb Bentley

JWP Homecoming Court



JWP Homecoming held its homecoming coronation Monday night. From left: Nolan Morsching, Ty Melchior, Gavin Krause, Cole Schlueter, King Ryan Kronbach, Queen Ali Olson, Caitlin Kleve, Lauren White, Lexie Dahlberg and Kylie Moravec. Photo by Leanne Kavitz

Fiber internet plan proposed

By TRISTAN GEHRING
Staff Writer

Bill Eckles, the CEO of Bevcomm, Inc. visited the Board of County Commissioners during their September 5 meeting to describe his company's plans for a future fiber optics project aimed at unserved or underserved wireless internet customers in Waseca County.

Eckles said that, if Bevcomm wins this grant, it plans to extend beyond its existing hub in Wells, serving from south of Waldorf up to the St. Mary and Wilton township area while remaining west of Highway 13. The project as currently proposed will serve 520 homes. Estimated cost of the construction is \$6 million; \$4.5 million would come from grant money, \$675,000 would come from Waseca County, and Bevcomm is committing to pay \$825,000 plus any overruns. The project, if the grant is awarded, could begin construction in the spring of 2024 with internet service to households and businesses beginning in 2025.

During the initial construction of the fiber network, home and business owners in the area will be asked for permission to extend the fiber onto their property – a necessary step to provide them with service. There will be no cost to property owners who give permission, according to Eckles, during this initial phase. Any property owners who withhold permission will not be able to use the service; any who change their minds and allow it later will be imposed with a fee.

Eckles also promises that Bevcomm will manage and pay for any repairs to damage caused by construction – such as in the event construction collides with a tile system – for seven years after construction is complete.

This is not the first time Eckles has approached the board with such a proposal. Bevcomm did not win the competitive grant from the state when the company last applied. For that grant application, Bevcomm combined its Waseca County project with one in Faribault County. The Faribault side of the project was receiving money from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and Eckles believes that is the reason Bevcomm was passed over for the grant. In the combined proposal, Bevcomm intended to extend service to 200 homes in Waseca County with a cost of \$2.3 million and 800 in Faribault County with a cost of about \$7.7 million. New Richland was included in the original plan for Waseca County, but is excluded from the current plan due to changes in network design. Staying west of Highway 13 also means not overlapping with a fiber cable running along the roadway, which the FCC considers coverage for that area and could damage the grant application.

The next round of grant applications opens in October, and winners will be chosen by February of 2024.

Football Breakfast Sept. 24 at Legion

Waseca Youth Football will host an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast September 24, from 8 a.m. to noon at the American Legion. The cost is \$12.



Compostings

by Al Batt

A cornerstone in Hartland since 1912

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I dropped my gym membership. Those memberships are hard to cancel. How did you do it?

I gave my too-weak notice.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. While narrating a boat tour, I pointed out evening primrose with its lemon-scented yellow flowers opening in the evening and remaining partially open until noon, especially on cloudy days. A popular song said, "Primrose Lane, life's a holiday on Primrose Lane." I've always thought my hometown's streets should include a Lois Lane and an Either Way.

I watched the others in my large group walk chopsticks across their plates. My fellow board members and I had ordered by the number from a menu and passed our meals around so everyone could place a bit of each onto their plates. It was a cooperative buffet. I used a fork.

I told a couple of stories at the delightful Farming of Yesteryear in Kiester. The tractor parade had ripe tractors and some that were green. I watched sorghum making. The plant was cut and the seed head and leaves were removed, leaving a long sorghum cane stick which was fed into a mechanism called a mill, similar to the wringer mechanism of an antique washing machine. This sorghum press was powered by a horse attached to a long pole. As the horse walked slowly in circles, it caused the equipment to squeeze the juice from the sticks. The juice was boiled over a fire and the impurities skimmed off, causing the juice to thicken to the consistency of syrup before bottling. I was told sweet sorghum syrup is also known as molasses, but it's not the bitter-tasting blackstrap molasses made from sugar cane. Grain sorghum (also called milo) is shorter and used as livestock feed. Its seeds are round, reddish and resemble BBs, and are used as a filler in birdseed mixes where they go uneaten.

I'VE LEARNED

Being out of style never goes out of style.

Life is much easier today. When I was a young man, I'd have to rip the phone from the wall to drop it into a toilet.

It's difficult to look refined while drinking gravy.

Five out of every four people are bad at math.

The turn signals never work on shopping carts.

Exit signs are on the way out.

I told stories in Yuma, Arizona. It was so hot, people stopped telling me it was a dry heat.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

Will glass coffins ever become popular? Remains to be seen.

The chiropractor's family was well-adjusted.

What do you call a potato without any feet? A potato.

YELLOWJACKETS NEED A BANK, TOO

I attended the Grand Opening of Arcadian Bank in Hartland. Formerly called Farmers State Bank, it's been a cornerstone of the community since 1912. A great number of yellowjackets attended as well. The wasps were attracted to the delicious sweet rolls that were served outdoors. The yellow-jacket colony had stopped production of new wasps and the staff was laid off. The workers were on their own, trying to establish their fastballs. They can sting multiple times. A couple of days later, the wasps visited the Farmers' Market.

NATURE NOTES

Flickers migrated through the yard. The handsome brown woodpeckers with a white rump fed upon ants on the ground. I saw many flower flies mimicking bees or wasps and lots of flying ants, and watched American kestrels perched on utility wires. Falcons have small bony protuberances in their nostrils that baffle air flow and allow them to breathe while flying at high speeds. I saw leopard frogs hopping across the road. They live in wet meadows and open fields near wetlands. In the fall, they move to the bottoms of lakes and ponds to spend the winter.

Male and female mourning doves look similar. An adult male is slightly more colorful than a female, with a pale rosy breast versus the tannish female breast. A male's head has a bluish crown and nape, the female's is brownish.

Bumble bees don't maintain colonies over the winter. Each new queen mates and then finds a safe place (a small hole in the ground or another protected spot just big enough for her) to hibernate until spring. The rest of the colony dies.

Skunks make a shallow hole surrounded by a ring of loosened soil on the lawn. Chunks of sod ripped up and flipped over are the work of raccoons. They're hunting for grubs, earthworms and other soil insects.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"I've been searching for ways to heal myself, and I've found that kindness is the best way."—Lady Gaga.

Things that made me smile

Things that made me smile on my drive to work:

When I turned on my car, the airflow from my air vents was impressive. My husband had done me the favor of changing the "cabin" air filter, and it made an amazing difference.

The hummingbirds on my yard were buzzing around the feeders; they're still here—or at least, some of them are. Hummingbirds always make me smile.

Driving toward Waseca, I saw a small flock of turkeys as they ducked into the grass along the roadside.

A few moments later, there was a group of pheasants. Some of them were half-grown at most, and seemed utterly confused how to respond to the passing of my car. I couldn't help smiling at their innocence.

The geraniums outside Trinity Lutheran Church of Wilton, which I pass on the way to Waseca, were still



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

blooming. The church was outlined beautifully against the crystal blue sky.

A rustic-looking farmer was driving a rustic-looking tractor along the road ahead of me. He smiled and waved as I passed.

I thought of my interview with Caleb Penic, operations manager with Cathedral Crafts, a stained glass window company located in Winona. Caleb spoke with me while working on a refurbishment project at All Saints Catholic Church in New Richland. I could not help smiling as I thought of his dedication to his craft,

his deep appreciation of the craftsmanship in All Saints' windows, and the fond memories he expressed of Father Michael Cronin, who initiated the window work in 2018.

Thinking of sweet people, I then thought of my interview with NRHEG school counselor Liz Stier-nagle, who chose to be a "gestational carrier"—sometimes phrased "surrogate mother"—for a Minnesota couple. I had to smile as I remembered the motive she named for taking on the year-long task. The simplest way to phrase it is, she wanted to help make the world a better place by

helping an infertile couple become parents.

As I passed a cemetery, I thought of some of the people I know who are no longer with us, and all they have meant to me.

Stopping at a convenience store for a glass of soda, I smiled at the sound of the ice landing in the cup. It is a summer sound, and since it's not September 21 yet, I like to think of it as still being summer.

Walking into the Pioneer's new office, I smiled at how pleasant it looks, and remembered the time, work, and people it took to get it looking this way.

Sitting down to write, I smiled thinking of the many opportunities I have to learn people's stories and write them.

I smiled at the idea of writing a column about smiles. We are all truly blessed; we should never fail to recognize the positive and beautiful things that happen all around us.

Patriot's Pen writing contest

VFW Post 1642 and Auxiliary have announced the 2023-24 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay contests.

Any student in grades 9-12 may enter the Voice of Democracy program to compete for prizes and scholarship money. Each year nearly 27,000 students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students are asked to

write and record an audio script on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is: "What are the greatest attributes of our democracy?" Entrants should record their original three- to five-minute essay on CD or a flash drive, include their neatly typed essay with their name, and complete the entry form. An entry form may be obtained online at www.vfw.org/VOD. Entrants may

also contact VFW Chairperson Barb Klampe, or contact Karen Pfarr Anderson through Waseca Junior Senior High School.

The Patriot's Pen is a VFW youth essay competition open to students in grades 6, 7, and 8. This contest gives students the opportunity to express their views on democracy. The 2023 theme is: "How are you inspired by America?" Interested students

should write and type an essay 300 to 400 words long and attach it to the student entry form. The top essays are eligible for cash prizes and may be entered at the district level of competition. For details contact Barb Klampe, or visit www.vfw.org/Patriot'sPen.

Entries for both contests must be submitted by October 31.

I'm curious to know how his room smells



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

In order to avoid focusing or thinking about homework or things I should be doing, I like to observe things happening around me. The following are a bunch of random things that I have remembered observing in life around me lately.

I saw a student talking on a red flip phone coming out of class one today. Its oddness struck me as I don't remember the last time I've seen a flip phone, especially not one on campus.

The clothing style around campus reminds me of Europe. College is the place to try new styles, whether they be eccentric or something just out of your comfort zone. Or stay the same, I don't think anyone cares. I saw a girl wearing knee high socks that were fuzzy, hot pink with white hearts. But I'm not sure they were actually socks - they had elastic just under the knee and then they flowed down over her boots or whatever shoes she was wearing.

A lot of people are using the word "delulu" in their vocabulary and it's an odd word for me that I don't know how to feel about. Delulu is slang for delusional, but it's been used in cases such as someone "staying delulu" about something. There's also the

word "dupe" meaning duplicate, or something that is the cheaper, non-brand version of something.

A lot of students have charms or key chains on their backpacks. Some are places, or sayings, or I saw one shaped like a little iguana lizard the other day. Backpack chains are a way people express themselves, I guess. But when they go "clink-clinking" past me, it definitely draws my attention. The athletes all wear the same backpack given to them by the University (so you can easily spot who is an athlete) and some of them have name tags tied to them, so if you walk behind them you can try to spot which sport they are from. It's a fun game.

Speaking of clink clinking of backpacks, a lot of people like to put

ice in their water bottles that becomes extremely apparent as they walk to class. Personally, I don't think I could put ice in my water bottle. Not for that reason, but because I don't necessarily like super cold water. I prefer to gulp down my room temperature water, thank you very much.

I walked out the side door of my apartment building the other day and practically hit a guy standing there. I am assuming he is homeless or in need considering he was a) standing there and b) had his stuff all played out over the step there. I apologized for hitting him with the door but he didn't seem concerned. He actually called me gorgeous and asked what my name was as I was walking away, so an overall good interaction in my

book.

Speaking of my apartment, there's a guy who lives a couple apartments down from me who very much enjoys wearing his cologne. You can tell if he's recently been in the hall because the smell is just pervasive; I think it sticks to the walls or something. I'm curious to know how strong his room smells.

The University of Minnesota landscapers are hard at work completing their last projects before it gets cold again. I think a lot of the workers are students, but I can't be sure. I've walked past them working in their neon jackets with LANDSCAPING printed across the back as they plant trees by the alumni center. Whatever it takes to make the campus look better.

As a student also working at the school's newspaper, I get to interact with a lot of hard-working and inspired students. Which is awesome and amazing, but I don't know how they do it all, I barely do it all myself sometimes.

My Determination: "The great art of life is sensation, to feel that we exist, even in pain." - Shirley Jackson, The Haunting of Hill House

My favorite part of the interview

I enjoyed lunch with Deb at Oscar's this week. I'm reminded how much I enjoy their "fry" sauce. It seems to be essentially mayonnaise with some added seasonings or sauces, but it is delicious.

Musing between the two of us, I recalled happenings in Waseca that should be mentioned in the paper:

1. Yellow Mushroom is for sale.
2. Casey's North is remaining Casey's and will no longer be sold to whichever company it had been supposedly sold to.
3. Too many other upcoming events are happening for me to list in this space. Please check the "briefs" column on the front page.

Yellow Mushroom has always been a favorite for my family. Dad brought us there many times growing up. He and I also went there for dinner on my most recent birthday. The strongest memory I have, however, is Dad getting really mad when the staff took too long to get us our pizza. Growing up, Nathan, my older brother, had ADHD and would become very impatient. On this occasion Dad called ahead so our order could be started before we got there. It must have been a



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

Thursday, because it was a long wait. But who could beat a free medium pizza with the purchase of a large?

Just so I don't send the wrong message, the majority of memories from Yellow Mushroom are fond, warm and happy.

This week I had the pleasure of sitting down with Jon Butler to talk about his new bank. He sent me a text message last week telling me about the soft opening. As I drove to town on Thursday, I saw the billboard on the south edge of town reminding me to interview him. A few hours later I walked into the newly minted FM Bank Building.

It was a little surreal. For the previous year and more, Jon was in the front office in the same building as where the Pioneer was located,

along State Street in Waseca.

Seeing him in his official bank attire, standing proudly in the new location, is something I have few, or rather many, words for.

It was a little breathtaking. Being president of a bank is a big deal and an important job. But I've only known Jon as Jon for the past year. He's been a friend to me as I have been, I hope, to him. I think the word I'm looking for is proud.

I'm proud of Jon for what he's accomplished.

Despite only knowing him for a year, it's among the greatest accomplishments/leaps (professionally) I've seen someone in my life make.

All of that raced through my mind, and then some, as I walked up and shook his hand as he stood there smiling his big Jon smile.

Jon gave me an extended tour of the new location while telling me about the vast number of improvements and renovations. (It really is/was/will continue to be a significant investment in Waseca.)

My favorite part of the interview was when Jon talked about his kids. (In his new office he still has Brooks' "letter to Santa" which was printed in the paper last year, as were all such letters written by Hartley second-graders. I had set that letter aside to give him after we were done scanning them into the paper. I never expected him to put it on his wall.)

It was cool to hear him talk about his kids coming into the bank with ideas. It reminded me of when I was a kid walking into my dad's office and telling him my ideas for the newspaper.

"It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels. There are two kinds of pride, both good and bad. 'Good pride' represents our dignity and self-respect. 'Bad pride' is the deadly sin of superiority that reeks of conceit and arrogance." - Bear Bryant



SERVING THE WHOLE OF WASECA COUNTY including the communities of Waseca, Janesville, New Richland, and Waldorf

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NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

Council talks nearly 20% levy increase

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

The New Richland City Council discussed a potential 19.4% preliminary tax levy increase for the 2024 budget during its first meeting of the month on Monday, Sept. 11.

“It’s important for the citizens to understand that 19 is not our end goal,” said City Administrator Anthony Martens, referring to the proposed increase. After naming the figure, Martens said he hopes to bring it down closer to 15% by the time the preliminary tax levy is approved at the next meeting. Starting with the higher figure, he explains, gives the council some room to work with before the final budget is approved in December.

Under state statute, organizations supported by taxes must specify a preliminary tax level at one meeting, finalize it in another, and then hold a public “truth in taxation” session prior to the end of the calendar year. Once named, the preliminary tax levy may be reduced, but cannot be raised.

“We have to provide services that the community expects to be provided,” said Martens, adding that substantial steps have been taken over the last year to reduce the amount of money spent by the city: he cites the cost of acquiring equipment, which was kept “budget-neutral” by trading out used equipment instead of buying new.

A 19.4% levy increase is equivalent to about \$100,000. “The cost of everything is way up,” Martens said after the meeting. “If we got everything we want it would be closer to 25%.”

When pressed for specific reasons behind the increase, Martens said, “Ask yourself, is stuff more expensive to buy today than it was a year ago?”

Pressed further, Martens said health insurance went up 14%. He also stated that “everything else” went up from 5-10%.

Last year’s adjusted tax levy totalled \$626,000 and included a 5.71% increase over the previous year.

Further discussions on the budget, including ways to reduce the tax levy increase, will be ongoing through the end of the year.

“We’ll be working diligently from here until December to get as much out as we can, but still need to provide the services that the city needs,” Martens added.

One local resident was present for the meeting to again discuss the idea of allowing chickens in town, asking the council to consider having another vote on the matter. Loren Skelton, acting as mayor in the absence of Mayor Chad Neitzel, said that the matter can be put on the agenda for the next council meeting on Sept. 25.

The ambulance report, submitted in writing, stated that the New Richland ambulance has had 122 runs for the year. The report was approved.

The fire department report stated the NRRFD responded to two fire calls and one medical call in August. Condolences from the department were extended to the Neitzel family, and the report was approved.

The police report stated the NRPD responded to 35 calls for service in August. The number of calls this year is down significantly from last year, mainly due to the department being short officers. Citizens are reminded that with school back in session, it is important to be mindful of school zones and kids walking and biking in town.

Recently hired Officer DeRaad has begun field training with Chief Bruegger; it was noted that he “is doing an amazing job.” Of the two applicants for the department, one is still undergoing the required background check. The other has not returned the background packet. The report was approved.

Council continued on 11

Opening September 26

FM BANK refurbishment complete

‘We wanted to take an empty building and bring it back to life’

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

After nearly half a year of construction, renovation and upgrades, Waseca’s FM BANK is ready to open September 26.

“Warming, comfortable and inviting,” is how local bank president Jon Butler describes the remodel of the former Wells Fargo building at 220 East Elm Avenue.

“We didn’t want to just slap some paint on it and call it good,” Butler explained. “We wanted to take an empty building and bring it back to life.”

Acting as the general contractor for the construction, Butler made sure nearly every aspect of the remodel was performed locally. More than a dozen local businesses contributed, including Bartelt Construction, BC Electric Service, Bill Kortuem, BIN PRO Dumpster Rental, Britton Plumbing and Heating, Gleason Carpentry and Design, Gutter Pros, Home Sweet Home Remodeling, Jason Folie, Johnson Masonry of Waseca, Lenz Lawn Care, Michael Bowers Drywall, Miller Homes, Rick’s Appliance, Streamline Communications, Suburban Furniture and Flooring, Waseca Glass and Woodridge Interiors.

“All these businesses helped make it unique instead of ‘Hey, it’s the old Wells Fargo building,’” Butler said. As far as staff is concerned, Butler, and FM BANK also maintained a local focus, employing five different Waseca natives. Emily Nelson is serving as a retail supervisor and mortgage lender. “She was an exceptional hire and an important part to this process,” Butler states.

At the helm, of course, is Butler. Without him, there likely would be no FM BANK location in Waseca.

Butler, 41, is a Waseca resident who grew up on a farm between Blooming Prairie and Geneva. His parents, Tom and Christine Butler, worked about 1,000 acres on a Newry Township farm whose history dates back to the 1860s.

In 2009 Butler married Waseca native Lyric (Nelson), daughter of Blain and Jody Nelson. The couple has two boys, Brayden, 12, and Brooks, 7. Brayden is a seventh-grader at Waseca Intermediate School and Brooks is a second-grader at Hartley Elementary.

Butler has worked for FM BANK for much of the past decade, most recently serving as executive vice president for all branches. Somewhere along the path of his 18-year banking career, he acquired and nurtured a dream of opening a bank in Waseca.

“When you grow up on the farm, you can’t wait to get away from the farm; as you get older you really learn to appreciate it,” he recalled. “I know banking and I know agriculture... I had a strong feeling that an FM BANK located in Waseca could be something special. And now it’s happening.”

Butler explained the process, the story, of how FM BANK came to its decision. With a smile, he recalled how his longtime dream became reality.

This opportunity was born with the closure of Wells Fargo. The owner of FM BANK had always told Butler if the opportunity to open a bank in the Waseca area presented itself, the company would explore it.

“After the building sat on the market for a while, I asked if he would consider it. He told me to put together a proposal.”

Based on Butler’s assessment and later a feasibility study, the company ultimately decided to purchase.

FM BANK and Butler say the decision to open the Waseca branch is an expression of confidence



Retail supervisor Emily Nelson and FM BANK President Jon Butler
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

“All these businesses helped make it unique instead of ‘Hey, it’s the old Wells Fargo building.’”
— Bank President Jon Butler

regarding Waseca and its Ag and business communities—the group of people whose interests and needs Butler is intimately familiar with.

“We’re a small town, community bank at heart,” Butler explained. “We feel the stress of our customers because ultimately, we want to succeed with them. It’s very rewarding helping someone through the good times and the bad. We don’t want to be there only when things are good: We’re here for the long haul.”

Sticking around for the long haul will not only be Butler, but the FM BANK Charter.

FM BANK is the second oldest family-owned community bank in Minnesota, originally chartered in 1878.

Butler shares that the name FM BANK is a salute to a history which began with Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Clarkfield (MN), commonly referred to as FM. While the F in the name is intended to be seen as focusing on Agriculture (F as in Farmers) and the M as focusing on local community businesses (M as in Merchants), the name can also be interpreted more broadly considering the many consumer products offered, including home loans and consumer accounts.

When asked about what makes FM BANK dif-

ferent, Butler cited the organization’s pride in service. “Our commitment to the communities we serve, our ability to make local decisions, and our understanding of agriculture and business. These values are what drive our consistency - In any business or agricultural environment with economic cycles, it’s important to have a consistent bank that doesn’t waver in the ups or downs... Besides having a local touch, we offer a suite of products customers expect from larger banks - cash management, mobile banking, online banking with bill pay - but we offer these along with the level of responsiveness and service customers are familiar with at a smaller bank.”

Butler says he looks forward to continuing FM’s tradition of community connection. “When my son comes home from school with ideas of community projects we should get behind, or tells me something new we should put in the bank; that makes it special.”

FM currently serves the communities and surrounding areas of Granite Falls, Clarkfield, Olivia, and Fergus Falls, where it has had branches located for many years; Butler says he looks forward to establishing the same strong record and reputation in Waseca. “Even though we’re new to town, with the support of our other bank locations, we’ll have the ability to help finance very sizable projects and operations in this area,” added Butler.

With the “soft opening” set for September 26, the bank will be open regular bank hours, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A grand opening celebration is scheduled for Wednesday Oct. 25 with more details to follow. More information about the bank is available at the organization’s website, www.mybankfm.com.

Janesville author pens ‘Copy Desk Murders’

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

Minnesota author Newell Searle says his latest book, Copy Desk Murders, tells of crime in a fly-over country where people are more complicated than they seem, and where learning the truth is dangerous. He also claims it is not much different from his previous writing. “Saving Quetico-Superior (Searle’s previous book, published in 1977) was about a group of people dedicated to protecting a particular wild place. It is a historical narrative of how humans and nature interact. This novel is about people, the place they live, and the culture that shaped them during the farm crisis of the 1980s when the urban-rural cultural divide became visible. The genre has changed, but interactions between humans and nature are still there.”

Searle says when he was writing his earlier pieces, it was as a historian and a non-fiction writer, “recounting a historical narrative with as much impartiality as humanly possible. After that, I spent 35 years conducting public affairs and government relations. All of

that writing was nonfiction.” During his career, Searle was employed at Cargill, Inc., held an appointed post at the state’s Department of Agriculture, and retired from an executive post (Vice President of External Relations) at Second Harvest Heartland, a major hunger relief organization.

“Nonfiction writing—like good journalism—produces clarity that spares the reader the process of analysis and interpretation. Fiction writing is just the opposite. The writer creates a story that engages the reader in a dialogue of questions and interpretations, possibilities and doubts that keep her turning the pages to find the answers to recurrent questions. In fiction, unlike history or nonfiction works, the writer can suppose, imagine, and insert thoughts and emotions into characters. Copy Desk Murders is in the mystery genre, but it is principally a story that unfolds the character of the central figures.”

Searle, who grew up on a farm near Janesville, says he draws inspiration from the people and landscapes that formed him, though surprisingly, Searle says he did not appreciate and

value the land until much later in his life. “I was more interested in aviation and books than farming. I didn’t value the landscape I grew up in (no mountains, no seashores, no vast unbroken plains) until later in life,” he says. “Then I realized that I had lived through a transformation of the region as drainage and fencerow-to-fencerow farming wiped out the natural world I had known as a child. No meadowlarks, no plovers, no bobolinks, no bluebirds. Their habitat was gone.

“I think this story idea grew out of an essay I wrote about our farm that was published in the fall of 2000 in Voices for the Land. It was an unconscious and intuitive process and I didn’t connect that essay as the possible germ for the novel until recently. The tipping point was sometime in the 1970s and the disaster was the Farm Crisis of the 1980s.” Searle wrote a rough draft in about three months in 2001. “Then I put it away and didn’t get serious about it until about 2017.”

It is said that authors always learn something new while writing; Searle confirmed this. “First, I learned how to write fiction with some style and



grace that people enjoyed reading. Second, I have eighty years of life experiences and acquaintances as raw material for the flawed but relatable persons who inhabit my stories. Third, I found a way to express my opinions on a range of questions by putting them in the mouths of my protagonists,” he said. “Each author has his own way of shaping a story. Mine is to create fully rounded characters and turn them loose to live out their destinies while I follow them and record the story of what they are doing.”

Newell Searle will be available at the Masonic Temple from 4 to 7 p.m. September 28 for those interested in chatting about Copy Desk Murders and perhaps obtaining a signed copy. He lives in Minnetonka and has a cabin in Finland, Minnesota. He posts occasional essays at <https://fetterly-road.com>.

WALDORF CITY COUNCIL

Council discusses chicken ordinance

Hens provide ‘potential blessing,’ says new resident

By TRISTAN GEHRING
Staff Writer

A public hearing on potential changes to the local animal ordinances was held during the monthly meeting of the Waldorf City Council on Sept. 11. The ordinance currently only details rules for cats, dogs, and tank or cage pets. The topic on the table was whether chickens should be allowed within the city limits and, if so, what requirements and restrictions should be in place. The matter is to be voted on at the next city council meeting, October 16.

Three residents, two accompanied by their families, presented public comments.

First to speak was Alexander Boshir of Third Avenue. Boshir stated he has five hens, and has five specifically so that they can warm each other in the winter to prevent frostbite without the use of heat lamps; he asked the city council not to set limitations on chicken ownership below that benchmark. Boshir also raised concerns about statements made during the meeting that invisible fencing was not considered adequate for dog owners when no mention of this is made in the animal ordinance. Boshir owns two dogs, and an invisible fence.

Kathy Grenel of Fourth Street, a new resident in Waldorf, spoke next. Grenel told the council she was called by the Lord to sell her home in the metro area and acquire five acres and chickens; she currently has a flock of four hens. Grenel purchased the former Waldorf school building, and told the council about her goal to host farmer’s markets there with fresh eggs and other natural products. In her impassioned defense, Grenel stated, as a former city dweller, she understands the need for regulation, but feels her chickens pose no threat of harm to the residents of Waldorf. Instead they have potential to be a “blessing.” Grenel also expressed her concern over the difficulty she had accessing ordinances since moving to Waldorf.

Charlie Barnes of First Avenue was the last to give public comment. “We are a country farm community,” Barnes told the council, explaining that he felt Waldorf’s animal ordinances should therefore be “relaxed.” He cited ordinances in Waseca which allow not only chickens, but also a larger number of cats. Barnes owns four cats, and asked the council to consider raising the limit from two while making changes to the ordinance.

Sherri Sandry, Waldorf City Clerk, explained that the topic of chickens was up for discussion following complaints from residents that, along with rabbits kept outdoors, the fowl may bring coyotes into town. Barnes responded to that remark, with agreement from Boshir, that coyotes, foxes and other predators were already in Waldorf, since some properties in the town are “right up against a cornfield.” Council member Missy Sorbo spoke briefly on research she’d done which stated that Waldorf is about average in terms of the strictness of its animal ordinances, but that most neighboring towns do allow chickens with varying restrictions.

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OBITUARIES

Jurgen Peters

JURGEN CURT PETERS, age 87, of Waseca, passed away on Sunday, August 20, 2023 in Waseca.

Jurgen was born on September 22, 1935, in Neunkirkensar, Germany to Hubert and Henrietta (Dielke) Peters. At 6 months of age, Jurgen and his parents immigrated from Germany to the United States, settling in Waupaca County, Wisconsin. He began his education at Sheridan Country School and graduated in 1953 from Waupaca High School in Waupaca, Wisconsin. Jurgen furthered his education at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, being awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1957. Several years later, Jurgen was awarded his Masters Degree in Agricultural Education from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities in 1967. While attending the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Jurgen met Penelope Tinkham and they were united in marriage on March 15, 1957, in Waukegan, Illinois. Jurgen and Penny began their life together in Goodhue, Minnesota where Jurgen taught High School Vocational Ag. For a few years, he went on to work in the Turkey Industry in Rochester before moving to Waseca in 1962, where Jurgen and Penny called home and raised their family of five boys. Together they shared 40 years of marriage before Penny passed away on October 30, 1997. On May 27, 2000, Jurgen was united in marriage to Jaqueline Mettler at Farm American in Waseca, and they shared the past 23 years together.

Jurgen served the Waseca community in many capacities. Mainly as ag teacher for Waseca High School, which he did for 30 years before retiring in 1992. He also was an extension educator for the University of Minnesota in Waseca for several years following his retirement from teaching. In addition to his career, Jurgen will be remembered by the several community organizations he was a part of over the past 61 years in Waseca.

Throughout his life, Jurgen was continually educating and a mentor to many. He was a student of all American wars, conservation and politics. Jurgen was generous and giving of his time, always willing



Jurgen Peters

to help anyone. He enjoyed trout fishing, splitting wood, and spending time outdoors, tending to his garden, and his various animals on the farm. He is remembered by his family as a kind, caring and thoughtful man that was bigger than life and could put a smile on anyone's face just by his presence. Family was very important to Jurgen and he cherished them deeply. He lived every day to the fullest and will be thought of fondly as a champion of life learning and community service. Blessed be his memory.

Jurgen is survived by his loving wife, Jackie Peters; sons: David (Deb) of Northfield, Thomas (Lori) of Oregon, IL, Charles (Diane) Peters of Lonsdale, Benjamin (Amy) Peters of Normal, IL, and Jon (Shelly) Peters of Wales, WI; 11 grandchildren; 7 great grandchildren; step-children: Anzette (Jess) Brandt, Jason Kramer, Jarrod (Deb) Kramer, Allyz (Bart) Polacsek; 10 step grandchildren; 9 step great grandchildren; sister-in-law Marilyn Larson and many friends.

Preceded in death by his parents; first wife, Penny; brother-in-law Jerry Larson and an infant daughter.

A Gathering of Family and Friends will be from 4:00 – 7:00 PM on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service.

Private family services will be held.

Memorials are preferred to the Jurgen Peters Scholarship Fund, Sacred Heart Catholic School or donors' choice.

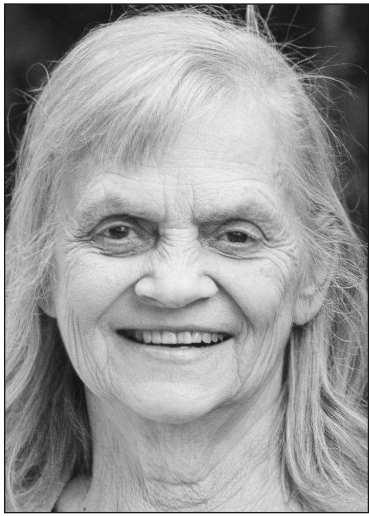
Viola Buske

VIOLA ADELINE BUSKE, age 84, passed away on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at Villages of Lonsdale.

She was born on October 1, 1938 in Echo, MN. Vi was the 3rd of 5 children born to Harold and Augusta (Hartke) Marquardt. Viola enjoyed many things in life including gardening, all her pets, spending time dancing with her husband and reminiscing with family and friends. Many things of importance, but nothing compares to what she enjoyed the most, spending time with all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She met the love of her life, Murlin J Buske Jr in Willmar and they were united in marriage on April 9, 1960 in Holloway, MN. From this union six children were born, spanning 20 years which kept her really busy. No matter how busy she was, she always had time for a kind word, a listening ear, a hug and of course, a cold beer.

Viola is survived by children, Ray (Janelle) Buske of New Auburn, WI, Tammy Syrstad (Todd Jacobson) of Bloomington, Caroline (Mitch) Anderson of Rochester, Dawn (Terry) Odenthal of New Prague, Melissa Buske of Waterville; son-in-law, Peter Streed of Waterville; 16 grandchildren; 9



Viola Buske

great-grandchildren; her two sisters, Janet Ousky and Shirley Williamson; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; daughter, Susan Streed; two brothers, Ronald and Roger Marquardt; and brothers-in-law, Dwayne Ousky and David Williamson.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 1:00 PM on Sunday, September 24, 2023 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis Steffel Omtvedt Funeral & Cremation Service in Waseca. Visitation will be two hours prior to the service at the funeral home. Burial will take place at a later date at Oakwood Cemetery in Rochester.

Penny advocates for local communities, programs

By TRISTAN GEHRING
Staff Writer

Former Congressman Tim Penny spoke to the Waseca Exchange Club at its meeting held at Pizza Ranch on September 12. His topic was the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, of which Penny is President and CEO.

Penny began by briefly summarizing his career in politics which began for him at age 24 and continued through age 42. At that time, Penny worked on issues via high-level government projects while he says his late wife Barb did endless volunteering at the local level. It was Barb's volunteer work that he says inspired him by showing him how much could be achieved working "from the ground up, instead of the top down," and influenced him to take a position with the Foundation, which he describes as a "community economic development foundation."

Penny took a job with the foundation 16 years ago, and says he felt at the time that the board was trying to do too much with too little money. Under his leadership, he says the organization narrowed its focus and began partnering with other organizations to work more effectively. Now, he says, the group's efforts focus on three "buckets."

The first is early childhood development, which

Penny says is vital because children who enter kindergarten behind their peers almost never catch up. The foundation invests in early childhood through trainings and grants for schools and teachers and through partnering with AmeriCorps for LEAP Initiative sites.

The next "bucket" is entrepreneurship, because the foundation came into existence following the farm crisis and wants to focus on building stronger communities. Here the foundation again partners with AmeriCorps for VISTA sites, as well as providing loans and grants, investing in equity, and a peer council.

The final area of focus is community vitality, which includes small town grant programs. Penny said the foundation provides small town grants because in the 20 counties it serves, there are more than 150 towns with small populations which the group would like to support. According to the foundation's "community investment map," between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 within Waseca County the foundation provided early childhood support at three sites, economic development support at three sites, and small business relief grants to 12 businesses. Across the region, according to the organization's 2022 impact report, the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation

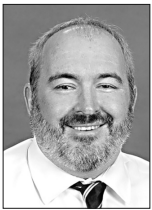


Mikhail Rostislavovich, Tim Penny and Caryn Wendt. Photo by Tristan Gehring

supported 1,546 entrepreneurs, 21,892 children, and 113 communities. "Love where you live" were Penny's closing words, which he says reflect the foundation's fundraising motto. He says the organization wants people to invest in their hometowns through the foundation's work.

Plans were briefly discussed to revitalize and rededicate a "Freedom Shrine," or a collected series of plaques featuring speeches and documents that celebrate Americanism and freedom, at the Waseca County Courthouse. New members of the Waseca Exchange Club were introduced, and are Jessica Stuckmeyer, Dwight Tostensten, Amy Schmidt, Jennifer Losenge, Joe Haeger, and the Waseca County Pioneer.

Please answer Hartley survey questions



Superintendent's Corner

by Eric Hudspeth

Part of the ongoing work of our school district is considering the learning environment for our students. The buildings they spend their time in each day are an important part of their educational experience. Like any property owner, we do our best with the revenue we have to maintain and keep our buildings in good condition. At times, it isn't possible to do all of the necessary projects with the dollars in our budget, so things get prioritized and a plan is created to accomplish as much as possible over a number of years. This is perfectly normal and isn't different from any organization or individual managing and living within a budget.

This strategy and long term planning is successful for our day to day operations, but it becomes more challenging when addressing the larger projects that a school building may need. These could be items such as HVAC, plumbing, or roof projects. Individual large projects such as these have costs that can exceed the budget revenue allocated for our en-

tire district. Again like any property owner, the district has to look for alternatives to accomplish these goals, or delay them and prepare for the risk that prolonging the life of these systems may create. Additionally, as education and instructional strategies have evolved over the years, we may need to adjust how our current buildings operate to meet these needs.

Now is one of those times when Waseca Public Schools is considering how to respond to some facility challenges at Hartley Elementary that are beyond the regular long term facility maintenance budget. One option that the Board is reviewing is the

renovation of Waseca Intermediate School to accommodate additional grades and creating a K-6 facility. Although this option could produce some efficiencies and instructional advantages, there are also some challenges to consider, as well as considering the cost required to invest in this project.

Before the School Board considers this option, or any others, we need your feedback regarding this idea. Previous surveys have asked community members to consider two options, and the results have come back almost even, so the purpose of this feedback request is to get input on

only one of the options. The Board will then consider the results and determine how to proceed, which could include moving forward with this idea or moving on to other options. No decision about any potential election dates will be made until this feedback is received and considered, so we encourage everyone to participate and share your perspective.

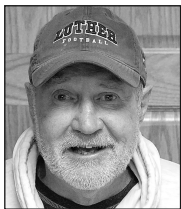
Please be on the lookout for a mailing that should arrive this week. Consider the information shared in the linked presentation, and respond to the short survey at the end of the presentation. If you'd prefer, please access the information and survey on our website at www.waseca.k12.mn.us and click the link for the Community Facility Feedback Survey. Thank you for taking the time to carefully consider the information provided in the slide-show, and for sharing your feedback. We value all of our community thoughts and will share results when the survey is complete.

Fall season brings many changes

It's my favorite season of the year, fall, and it's officially here. The kids are back to school—much to the delight of moms and dads—and the Friday night lights at the football games are now lighting up the fall sky. When I take Sammy out for her early morning duty I can hear the band practicing at the high school; the Marching Jays fall classic is just around the corner. The days are shorter; the 90-degree days are over; the air conditioner is off; windows are open. A peaceful sleep is a welcomed event on the ever cooler evenings.

Birds of many varieties are a sign I always look for. Seagulls of all sizes have now invaded Waseca. Hundreds of them check in at the Grandstay Motel, take up residency on the roof, and paint the shingles white. Hundreds of them relax on the high school lawn while others roam parking lots looking for whatever they eat—maybe french fries in the McDonald's parking lot. Canadian Geese join them in numbers on large grass areas. The blackbirds have now gathered in large flocks; it amazes me such a tiny bird can migrate to Mexico or Central America.

The sumac trees are now a fiery red; you can observe them in any roadside ditch. Some of the trees are just beginning to show a shade of color. At the cabin we have been bombarded with acorns from our oak trees. They come down with an impressive bang. On windy nights they hit the roof with the sound of a hailstorm. Television weather forecasts have begun including the percentage of fall colors throughout our state.



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika

Many of us are busy now preparing a trip to the north shore or Red Wing to observe and enjoy fall colors. Any evening now our first frost could polish the landscape. Many people have sheets ready to cover any potted plants they wish to enjoy just a bit longer. I also have to mention that it's a myth: The leaves don't change color because of cold evenings or frost. The change in color is strictly a result of less daylight.

In the insect world, monarch butterflies can be seen high up in the clear blue sky or resting in trees in the evenings in your backyard. The beautiful, orange butterfly is now on its migration route to Mexico. Crickets are chirping away, rubbing their legs. This could be a real nuisance in your basement or garage. Insects are cold-blooded, that means their body temperature is the same as the temperature outdoors. Have your fly swatters handy. Flies are now attracted to screen doors seeking indoor warmth, so you'll be getting a few of them in the house. Woolly Bear caterpillars are seen during the fall on driveways and houses. They are fat, hairy, little brown-and-black critters with orange stripes preparing to turn into Isabelle Tiger moths. It's said that if the woolly bear has large orange

stripes it will be a mild winter. If it is mostly thick and dark brown, prepare for a long, cold, harsh winter.

The fall is prime time for hunters to hit the woodlands and countryside to harvest wild game for the sake of their favorite recipes. Pheasant hunters are getting their dogs in shape for the field. Duck hunters are setting up blinds and loading their boats with decoys. Deer hunters are busy setting up tree stands; bear hunters have headed north to pursue a black bear. A bear is a very smart, elusive animal. In order to harvest one, the hunter has to prepare a bait area, then sit and wait for one to come in.

A few miles west of town, Tom Kaiser, his sons Nathan Kaiser and Jonathan Gransee, along with Heidi Wiitanen operate a bear bait business. Heidi gave me a tour of Honey Hole Bear Bait—it was beyond expectation. Now in their second year, they market their product on Facebook and their website. The Honey Hole is the hunter's version of Sam's Club or Costco to purchase interesting foods and goodies to bait bear.

The Honey Hole purchases the bait from businesses that have damaged or outdated products that don't meet the standards. The product is purchased at a discount, sometimes by

the semi load. Buckets of frosting, dry granola, powdered sugar, fruity gummy candy, orange lemon slices, peanuts, trail mix, caramel, honey, cookies, licorice, molasses, and trail mix are some of the products the company searches for. They get grease for their mixtures from local restaurants.

Bear hunters can buy bait of their choice in a \$70 barrel, a good sized \$20 bag or a smaller \$6 bag. The Honey Hole building is full of products the owners have put together. Heidi said that trail mix is the best seller—so much so that they were at least temporarily sold out. Shipping costs add a lot to the expense, so most clients take a trip to the Honey Hole to select their mixture of bait and pick up the order. The company has sold products to bear hunters residing in all areas of the state. Outfitters and guides have purchased from Texas, Carolina, Arkansas, Wisconsin, and even Manitoba. The Honey Hole is known in the bear hunting world for putting out an excellent bear bait product.

I asked Heidi if they still do business in the off season and she answered, "they do." Last December she had a dad from Mankato come over and buy a barrel of bait for each of his sons for Christmas. They'd been drawn in the lottery to hunt bear the next season.

Yogi and Booboo no longer have to sneak around stealing picnic baskets in Jellystone Park. They simply have to call the Honey Hole at 507-461-0796 and put in an order for their favorite, delicious bear snack.

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Two decades celebrated at TEAM Academy



Community leaders gathered to celebrate the start of TEAM Academy’s 20th school year on September 5.

September 5 ribbon cutting starts new year

By TRISTAN GEHRING
Staff Writer

September 5, 2023 began the twentieth school year since the founding of Waseca Charter School, TEAM Academy. The event was marked with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, during which the Chamber of Commerce presented the school with the Milestone Award.

“I was thinking about how we made it twenty years, and one reason is our staff,” said Jill Courtney, Director, in her speech. “We have such a dedicated staff and they are always willing to help out with anything.”

TEAM Academy began operation in 2004 with two classes – Kindergarten and fourth grade – and 42 students. At the time, TEAM Academy leased a wing in the Central Intermediate School, now known as the Central Building. Today, the school has its own space customized to its needs, along with more than 30 staff members and 100 students.

TEAM Academy was actually the second charter school proposed to the Waseca School Board for authorization, Chris Hering recalls. Hering was one of the people to make the presentations to the school board, and alongside Director Courtney was one of the school’s first teachers after its founding. The original proposal was for a school called ACES Academy, which the Waseca Public School Board shot down. Hering recalls going back to the drawing board, making some changes to their proposal to better benefit both their charter school and the public district, and TEAM Academy was born. “Before this it was just forms – filling out this, filling out that – but that’s not the heart and the reason behind it,” Hering said.

“TEAM” is an acronym which stands for “Together Everyone Achieves More,” as that is one of the

core values of the school. TEAM Academy seeks to foster a sense of togetherness and belonging for all of their students through positive environments, character education, and other school-wide initiatives. “When we started the school and started to talk about that stuff,” Hering explained emotionally, “Today it’s exactly what I envisioned. That kids could be happy. It’s not that they’d be the smartest kids when they left school, it’s that they’d be loved. We’re teaching them everything we can, but we’re also making sure they feel loved, and they feel happy and wanted every single day.”

After opening with two classes, TEAM Academy expanded each year in a manner that allowed it to continue educating its founding students. In their second year, the school added first and fifth grades, in their third year second and sixth, and in their fourth year, third grade, making them a K-6 school as they continue to be today. Director Courtney said that while there have been requests, there were never any real plans to extend beyond sixth grade, since secondary education becomes more complex. In its first few years, TEAM Academy had many heads. In 2009, the role of Director went to Jill Courtney who has continued in it ever since.

In 2010, laws changed and Waseca Public Schools could no longer serve as authorizer for TEAM Academy. At the same time, the school board decided that if they were not authorizing TEAM Academy, they’d prefer to discontinue leasing space and contract services to the charter school. TEAM Academy sought a new authorizer and found themselves working with Novation Education Opportunities, or NEO. NEO is a non-profit organization whose mission is “to authorize and oversee

charter schools through consistent, ongoing and robust evaluation to achieve significant and measurable student growth.”

That summer, the school also moved to its current location at the north end of Waseca. Courtney discussed how the move ultimately benefited TEAM Academy. “We have our own space here. We can make it our own school and personalize it. We have room to grow here and fit all the kids easier, with everything in one location.” Separating from the public school also allowed TEAM Academy to begin hiring its own staff for special classes – including art, music, Spanish, and physical education. Prior to the move, TEAM Academy contracted services from the Central Intermediate School for these classes, or had them taught by the classroom teacher.

TEAM Academy is a public charter school. A common misconception, according to Courtney, is that the facility is either a private school or a “behavior” school, but anyone can attend TEAM Academy and attendance is free. Because they are a public school, TEAM Academy receives the same yearly funding per student that any other public school does. Another related challenge TEAM Academy faces is that parents must choose to enroll their children – it’s not automatic. Coupled together, these challenges can present some difficulty in maintaining both funds and enrollment numbers.

One of the things Hering says she is most proud of about TEAM Academy is that after twenty years it has both a healthy fund balance and a consistent student body; the school had 37 new students enroll this fall. There is also the fact that the school is intentionally small – TEAM Academy maintains one class per grade-level with a maximum class



TEAM Academy began operations in 2004 with just two classes, kindergarten and fourth grade.

size of 25 students. At the administrative level, this means that Director Courtney, along with her office manager and business manager, are in charge of everything from food service to building maintenance concerns.

“We wear a lot of hats,” Courtney said, adding that she was grateful for her teachers and their willingness to help.

As far as hopes for the future go, there is a tentative goal to add an early childhood program to TEAM Academy’s offerings. “I’d love for us to be full,” Courtney adds. A full roster for TEAM Academy would currently equal 175 students across seven grade levels.

TEAM Academy has numerous types of evidence that it continues to be successful. In 2012, the charter school was named a National Blue Ribbon School, and Courtney and Hering went to Washington DC to accept the honor. Tim Walz spoke to

the House of Representatives on September 8, 2012, saying, “As a teacher on leave from Mankato West, I know that achieving success for all students takes a commitment from the entire school, from the principal to the counselors to the teachers. Their dedication every day toward success and achieving a higher goal motivates students to do their best. This is exactly what TEAM Academy has done for its students.”

TEAM Academy is also named as a PBIS Exemplary School for its school-wide initiatives in positive behavior interventions, and receives a yearly School Finance Award. Courtney also learned recently that TEAM Academy is to receive an award for being one of America’s healthiest schools. Aside from the accolades, Courtney says she knows the school is successful because TEAM Academy families continue to enroll younger siblings in the school – and now that it’s been twenty years,

former students have begun enrolling their children, because their recently graduated seventh graders return to visit, and because despite the school’s small size it employs two social workers, reading and math interventionists, and other dedicated staff to provide the extra help that any student may need.

As for what they are most proud of? “Twenty years. That’s a huge one – that we’ve lasted this long,” Courtney said. “And the community we’ve built. Every staff member knows all the kids’ names.” Hering agreed. “It’s no small feat for a charter school,” she said. “I think a lot of people didn’t believe in us, but I am proud of the fact that we’re still here. It attests to the fact that there is a need in this community. We have choices, and I think there are so many choices in this community that meet certain needs for certain people. Everyone should have those choices.”

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The Pastor's Column

Fall is the best

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS
We live in Minnesota, I was born and raised here, and I have an opinion about the weather. Fall is the most beautiful time of year; I love the warm fall days and cold nights. The fall rains remind me that snow is coming and then the spring. I love the overcast days where you can see your breath and the first snowflakes fall.

One thing I do know is that every Minnesotan has an opinion about the weather, the best time of year, and we have a comment for every type of weather. Cold enough for you? At least it isn't humid. We need the rain. Better go to the store, it is about to snow.

We often spend a lot of time thinking about the weather and how it will affect our plans, but in the grand scheme of things one day and its plans can be changed. God reminds us that His plans are greater than ours in Isaiah 55:8-12. In all our plans let us remember that God will accomplish His purposes and we should respond in praise.

8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.

9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I de-

sire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
12 You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

Soon we will be experiencing the songs of the hills and the clapping of the trees, as the leaves turn their varied hues and the hills show how creative our God is. These changes are a promise from God that His plans are greater than ours, summer leads to fall to winter and the new life of spring. Each change occurs as a promise of God's plans for all eternity.

Our plans are small in comparison to God's plans, God is orchestrating His plans in front of a full complement of master musicians while we are just learning to play the cowbell in hopes to make a difference in this life that we have. Our plans, no matter how great or small, can be used by God to make an impact in our community. His plan is to see as many people come to see Him as Lord and Savior as possible. So He creates rhythms in life to give us work, rest, refreshment, and equipping for service, just as He does with the passage of the seasons.

Do not work till exhaustion, nor rest till death, do not cease to learn about God or stop growing in faith. Take every day as God intended it, as an opportunity for Him to work in and through you to build faith in every area of life. Today may be the day your cowbell sounds in the heart of another and they come to know Christ as Savior or are encouraged by your work. Their praise will join the orchestra of faith that proclaims the glory of God.

'Re'Built to last
100-year-old windows at All Saints refurbished



FINAL STEP - Caleb Penic of Winona's Cathedral Crafts previously worked on All Saints Catholic Church's windows in 2018. Photo by Deb Bently

'We want to help them last a millenia'

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer
"These windows are 100 years old," observes Caleb Penic of Winona's Cathedral Crafts. "We want to help them last a millenia."
Penic and coworker Jason Peterson were in New Richland last week to "storm proof" the large stained glass windows at the north and south ends of All Saints Catholic Church. The work entailed refinishing—even to some degree refurbishing—the wooden framing around the windows.

Made of cedar, the frames were beginning to weaken in places. Penic describes finding a small 12-inch tree growing from the wood easily 30 feet above the ground.

Sections of the frame were replaced and the whole frame was expanded and tightened by inserting bracing screws.

A protective coating was also put on the windows themselves. Then an outer covering of acrylic plexiglass was installed.

"Let's face it," comments Penic, "these large windows have to withstand a lot of weather that is tumultuous and turbulent. We want to make sure they're protected."

Penic had previously worked on the stained glass windows at All Saints in 2018, when the windows on the eastern and western sides of the church were removed and taken to Winona, where they were disassembled, refurbished, repaired, and reassembled. The larger windows on the north and south ends received the same attention in 2020.

One church member commented that the windows were far more beautiful and allowed in much more light after they were reinstalled.



An especially unusual feature of All Saints' windows, according to Penic, is this image of a WWI soldier complete with an American flag.

Photo by Deb Bently

Penic, who is Cathedral Crafts' operations manager, admits he was "born into" the business of stained glass. The company was founded by his grandfather, LaVern Campbell, more than 50 years ago. His mother, Heidi, and father, Eric, are the current president and vice president.

His enthusiasm for the art form is irrepressible. The windows were made by the Tyrolese Art Glass Company of Innsbruck, Austria, nearly 100 years ago. Penic comments that, although the company did not attain a reputation as strong as those of Zetter or Tiffany, its workmanship is comparable to the two more famous companies'. He says he feels privileged to work on these windows, commenting that they are now "priceless."

"You would more commonly find windows of this quality in large cities in Europe," he observes. He speculates that the order for the windows was likely placed during a World's Fair or other large-scale international gathering. Given the much more primitive state of communication in the 1920s, it was one of few ways churches could get in touch with European craftsmen.

He speculates further about what it must have

"You would more commonly find windows of this quality in a large city, or in Europe." — Caleb Penic

taken to transport the finished windows. "They were 'horse-and-buggied' to the nearest port in Europe, then put on a ship, then probably a train, and finally 'horse-and-buggied' to the church," he says. "And yet they arrived whole and added so much beauty."

One especially unusual feature which Penic notes regarding All Saints' large southern-facing window is that it includes a World War I soldier in an olive drab uniform holding an American flag. Penic comments on the gratitude many European communities felt for America's intervention during the war and wonders whether that gratitude may have contributed to the impressive workmanship of the window.

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Argus Archives

100 Years Back - 1923

R.L.H. Britton, Frank Pream and Frank Keyes are making apple cider. Their orchards are so literally filled with apples that it is a timely thought to get rid of a few of them in this manner. To the statement that the cider will ferment and the manufacturers then be liable to arrest on account of moonshining, the reply is made that no such thing will occur.

Through the L. W. Converse Land Co., the Hotel Grand in Janesville, owned by J. M. Byron, has changed hands, a deal having been made Saturday whereby it becomes the property of parties from Minneapolis, whose names we failed to secure.

Some time ago Melvin Hartwick installed a radio in his father's home in the north part of town. On Friday night it brought the news of the big fight by rounds just as it occurred. In fact, the listeners were as closely in touch with the fight as were the ninety thousand who paid from twenty-five to fifty dollars each to see it.

At the next election the voters of Minnesota will pass judgement on a constitutional amendment to provide for a tax on gasoline used by motor vehicles, and to permit the use of the funds so raised by the state highway department. At the present time gasoline is taxed in this manner in thirty-six states. Inasmuch as the money will be used for highway maintenance, the persons who get the greatest amount of use out of the roads cannot consistently object to the tax.

Lawrence Gilday and George Nicholson left on the evening train Sunday for Winona, where they will go to enter St. Mary's college.

Among the enthusiastic visitors at the county fair Friday was Mr. A. C. L. Gottschalk, who resides south of Janesville.

75 Years Back - 1948

Margaret Chase Smith heads the list of victors in the Maine general election. She is the first woman elected to the Senate without having first served by appointment.

The Golden Bears H. S. football team showed promise of developing into a real contender for football honors this year when they held the heavy Loyola team of Mankato to a scoreless tie in their opener at Northside Park Friday afternoon. Coach Chiodo's boys were not too hot on offensive play but played a good game on the defense.

Minnesota traffic law violators apprehended by the Highway Patrol in its efforts to make the state's highways safer last month hit an all-time high for the patrol's 19 years of existence with 2,094 arrests and 4,062 drivers tagged for operating with illegal or unsafe equipment.

Mrs. Alma Ballweber and Miss Bonnie Doyle of Mankato were Sunday overnight guests at the Ed. Doyle home. The former attended the Bleck-Ewert wedding on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Marquardt and son, Phillip, were Wednesday evening callers at the Eldor Tesch home.

Tuesday evening, Sept. 14, the S. E. Alton group surprised Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kopischke on their 15th wedding anniversary. Cards were played at five tables during the evening, and prizes won by Mrs. Al Dumdei and Harold Langenberg, high, and Mrs. Marvin Dimmel and Edwin Erdman, low.

Mr. and Mrs. Billie Schafer and daughter, Betty Ann, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Stankey and children and Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Geckeler and son were Thursday evening visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Flemming and helped the latter celebrate her birthday anniversary.

50 Years Back - 1973

The dream of every Boy Scout became a reality for 15-year-old Jon Morrill Monday night when he received Scouting's top achievement - the Eagle Scout rating. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Morrill, Jon was presented the award by Ken Jonansen, a local businessman who helped Jon through the years and was the scout's choice for making the presentation.

Miss Nancy Wiebold of Minneapolis was a weekend guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Wiebold. Other Sunday afternoon and supper guests were Mr. and Mrs. Dale Wobschall and family of Gaylord. Mrs. William Wobschall of Waldorf was also an afternoon caller.

Audra and Amber Nissen, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Nissen of New Richland spent the weekend at the home of their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hinton. Other Sunday afternoon and supper guests were Mr. and Mrs. John Nissen of Waseca.

Mrs. Martha Lienke attended a birthday party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Owens near Wilton on Friday evening in honor of the birthday anniversary of Mrs. Owens.

This interception by Janesville's Mike Finley (20) set up the Golden Bears' first touchdown against Morristown Friday night. Before the game was over, ending in a 31-6 win, the Bears had intercepted two more aeri

25 Years Back - 1998

Park Road Plaza in Janesville will be celebrating its 15th anniversary with an open house on Sunday, Sept. 27.

After building a career in Janesville, Jack Frank of State Farm Insurance has decided to take time to explore other avenues of interest. Jack will be retiring from the insurance agency after 35 years on Wednesday, Sept. 30.

Five new teachers joined the JWP School District this year: Kathy Anderson, high school English teacher; Dennis Dobie, high school and elementary school special education teacher; Terry Gardner, seventh and eighth-grade science teacher; Richard Langland, high school combination agriculture and industrial technology teacher; Janice Srnec, high school Spanish teacher.

The WEM volleyball team had a 3-1 victory over JWP in Waterville Thursday, keeping the Buccaneers second in the Gopher Conference. JWP had a two-match winning streak snapped and fell to 2-3 for the season.

JWP sophomore Sara Blegen won the second cross country race she's ever run to lead the JWP girls to the Maple River Invitational championship at Mapleton Thursday.

Compiled by Jessica Lutgens

An itch for farming?

100 Years Back - 1923

Mr. Olaf Sotebeer arrived Monday to take charge of Herter's Shoe Department. He has been engaged in this line of work at Denver, Colo., and at Santa Fe, New Mexico, during the past few years and comes to Waseca very highly recommended.

Due to the chilly weather and other causes the forty-fourth annual Waseca county fair last week was not as successful as its officers and others had hoped for. The receipts totaled approximately \$4,676.20 which was about the same as last year.

In the old days when a man got an itch for office his first move was to buy or start a newspaper. Now when the itch for office afflicts him his first move is to begin hollering that we must pass laws to help the farmer. This is a much cheaper plan and it seems to get results in many cases.

Neil Whalen and a Mr. Busse of Albert Lea drove two auto trucks to this city Sunday to be used in hauling gravel for the road north of town.

At the special meeting of the city council Friday evening, the budget for the coming year was taken up and the following was decided upon: Bond fund, \$13,500; Street Imp. Fund, \$9,500; General fund, \$18,000; Total, \$41,000.

Some hot times are expected now that the surveyors of the State Highway Department have laid out Highway 13, also known as the Wilson Highway, all east of the railroad track from Waseca to the Waseca county line. As surveyed the road will not go through New Richland but will go a quarter mile east of that village. It is expected that New Richland will make a vigorous protest.

Alice Sheldon and Helen Maloney, champion bread makers among the boys' and girls' clubs in the county, were on the job at this year's county fair baking the staff of life. Even some of the veteran bread makers got a twist or two on the subject they hadn't thought of.

S.A. Thorson left Monday morning for Nebraska where he will complete his work adjusting nail losses. He has been visiting his family in this city the last two weeks.

75 Years Back - 1948

The final stag party at Lakeside was held last evening. Prizes were won by Linn Sommerstad, Ralph Grant, Harvey Wolf and George (Pete) Mahler. After dinner the trophies were awarded to the winners of the 1948 tournament, as follows: Championship--Arthur Peters; First flight--Marvin Mortenson; Second flight--Robert Gray; Third flight--W. T. Smith of Owatonna; Fourth flight--H. N. Rohde; Fifth flight--R. N. Weise. A special prize was awarded to Lloyd Kelly for shooting an eagle on No. 8, a dogleg hole of 300 yards.

Mrs. Cletus Murphy accompanied her daughter, Patricia, to the University of Minnesota, Wednesday, where Patricia will be a freshman.

Mrs. Johanna Byrnes left for her home in Rochester yesterday after spending the past two weeks with her son, Arthur Byrnes, and her brother, John Reibold.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lake and daughters of Conger and Mrs. Amelia Robinson and daughters of Albert Lea were Sunday afternoon visitors of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Papke and also visited Mrs. Joseph Powell and daughter, Carol.

The "decoy" type of burglary was tried again Saturday night by five youths, just shy of their teens, at the R. G. Brown Electric Co. on East Elm Ave. Shortly before closing time, Rodney sat in the living room of his house and kept one eye on the entrance to his business building. He heard the door bell ring but as he got up he noticed a small boy enter the store. Mrs. Brown had answered the front door bell. There was no one there. Rodney walked out in the yard and saw five boys running about a block from his home. He returned to re-examine the store but found nothing missing.

Mr. and Mrs. John Pitts and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Condon and son, Tom, of Clara City, spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Harguth and Mrs. John Harguth.

50 Years Back - 1973

City police will report their activities for the month of August to the city council tonight. According to the report there were 230 incidents requiring police attention. Included were shooting a muskrat, kids swimming with a picnic table, loose horses, a truck misplaced and a car misplaced.

Bluejay cheerleaders give the football team a cheer displaying their new uniforms just before the start of the Windom game are, left to right: Elsie Buck, Mary Gahler, Paula Johnson, Julie Larson and Carrie Hanson. The girls on top are, left to right: Cathy Gahler, Laurie Wendland and Jane Arvesen.

The city council last night decided to end a \$200 a month payment to the Chamber of Commerce for an industry search. For about a year now the city has donated \$200 a month for the purpose of attracting new business and industry to the city.

Three world-famous exhibits will be on display Tuesday in downtown Waseca. The display will feature the car depicted from the record-smashing movie "Bonnie and Clyde," Joseph Stalin's \$87,000 Russian Limousine and the world's smallest horse.

Farmer Duane Tolzmann will plow against the best in the world at the World Plowing Contest in Ireland next month. He has been in plowing competition for 11 years and for the last two years he has won the national light-plowing title.

25 Years Back - 1998

A squirrel caused a four-hour citywide power outage in Waseca on Sunday morning. The squirrel managed to find its way into the paralleling switch between the two transformers in the substation west of City Hall. The squirrel caused the switch to overheat, which also damaged the circuit breakers and insulators in the transformer. The cost of the damage is not known at this time, but Waseca City Manager Kris Busse said it will be at least \$20,000.

Officials estimated that more than 5,500 people, including 3,000 students, migrated to Waseca for the 11th annual Waseca Marching Classic.

The Waseca Marching Jays were in step Saturday during the parade portion of the Waseca Marching Classic. Pictured are, front row from left: Candice Cosens, Elizabeth Goetz and other members of the horn section; back row: Tyler Ryan, Josh Cosens, Chris Reid and other members of the trombone section.

After 81 years the Lewer name will no longer stretch across the marquee of the prominent State Street corner building. Henry Lewer decided to turn the reins of the business over to another family.

Compiled by Jessica Lutgens

Looking Back (New Richland)

100 Years Back - 1923

Editor Joe Reynolds of the Mankato Free Press was in New Richland on Sunday to secure information on our "Dairy Days" celebration. The idea of the farmers and businessmen working together on an occasion of this nature so impressed Editor Reynolds that a special reporter will be here to cover the event thoroughly.

Carl Herold, a brother-in-law of Al Buboltz, arrived Monday from Owatonna and remained until Wednesday to assist with the steam fitting work at the C. A. Newgard residence.

The village council has ordered electric lights installed in all the alleys adjacent to the business district. Tuesday of this week electricians installed lights in the alley-ways to the rear of the J. A. Christianson, Kreuzer Sons and Tyrholm Furniture stores. These lights will burn all night as will three or four of the main street lights.

There are two more pupils from Hartland attending the Freeborn high school. They are Nora Rugroden and Clara Hanson. This makes a total of nine high school students from Hartland attending the Freeborn school. All are enthusiastic over the advantages offered in all departments and also over the building and equipment made available through consolidation of Freeborn school districts.

Miss Irene Bowers entertained the following relatives from Waseca Sunday: Mrs. Sarah Bowers and daughter, Florence; Mr. and Mrs. James Conway and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bowers.

A free clinic for infants and children will be conducted in Waldorf on Sept. 24 from nine o'clock in the morning until four thirty in the afternoon, under the direction of the County Public Health Association.

Notice--Anything left in my shop after thirty days will be sold at cost of repair.--Henry C. Anderson, Blacksmith.

77 Years Back - 1946

Twelve women machine operators are now engaged at the local factory of Minneapolis Knitting Works and eight new machines arrived last week. The process of occasional additions will continue until the factory has become active to the extent of 50 machines and as many or more workers.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Hoelz and family helped Mrs. Fred Zander celebrate her birthday Saturday evening at her home at Janesville.

Sunday afternoon visitors at the Peter Jacobson home were Mr. and Mrs. Ingbert Wangen and Phyllis of Owatonna, Mrs. John Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Michaelis and family, and Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Jacobson and children.

Mr. and Mrs. John Dusza, Kenneth and Lorraine, Mrs. Jule Boettger and Julie, Mrs. John Greenwood and Johnny, and Mrs. Blake Swanson were dinner guests at the John Boettger home Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Paulson and family attended the wedding of Miss Nona Root and David Smith at the Wilton church Sunday evening. Miss Caroline Paulson sang for the wedding.

B. E. Gilbertson, former buttermaker at Matawan, who for the last year has been in charge of the Co-op creamery at Freeborn, has resigned and accepted a position with the Northern Creamery Supply Co. at Albert Lea.

50 Years Back - 1973



Randy Knutson, Jim Swenson and Terry Hansen of the New Richland FFA are pictured here in a "snow storm" with a snow gauge which is a new community service program carried on by the FFA to correlate with the rain gauge program in cooperation with the State Climatologist. The reports should be helpful in predicting precipitation for spring runoff.

Bob Westland, Counselor at New Richland-Hartland High School, has announced that Vicki Kraupa, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arleigh Kraupa, has been named a Semifinalist in the 1974 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Gilsterand Mrs. Anna Marquardt attended the 42nd wedding anniversary reception of Mr. and MRs. Hans Kohnert at the Waldorf Legion clubrooms.

Mrs. Russell Swenson, Mrs. Hannah Espee, Mrs. Hild Friedrich, Mrs. Edgar Peterson, Mrs. Lester Walstrom, Mrs. Hugo Frisk, Mrs. Bernel Hamson, Mrs. Emanuel Swenson, Mrs. Lloyd Peterson, Mrs. Oliver Roesler, Mrs. L. H. Peterson, Esther Johnson, Ruth Peterson and Mrs. Virgel Johnson were Thursday afternoon luncheon guests at the Frank Swenson home.

25 Years Back - 1998

Candidates for Homecoming Queen at NRHEG High School are: Amber Schroeder, daughter of Steve and Diane Schroeder; Breanna Schimek, daughter of Wayne and Debbie Schimek; Stephanie Hagen, daughter of Steve and Lynn Hagen; Faith VanBockern, daughter of Doug and Deb VanBockern; Jessica Perry, daughter of Jon and Cheryl Perry.

Homecoming King candidates at NRHEG High School are: Nate Waldhauser, son of Al and Jeanne Waldhauser; Evan Berg, son of Neil and Renae Berg; Shawn Ebnet, son of Gordon and Brenda Ebnet; Justin Berg, son of Rodney and Barbara Berg; Chad Knudson, son of Al and Kathy Knudson.

Ana Werner was hired in August for the position of manager at the American Legion Post #75 in New Richland.

Compiled by Jessica Lutgensv

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Bluejays blast Marshall, 28-0

Waseca registers another shutout

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The week one loss to Stewartville is looking more and more like an anomaly for the Waseca High School football squad. You can't help but wonder what would happen if the teams met again.

Since that game, which the Bluejays lost 27-13 on their home field, Waseca has been literally unstoppable. And they're stopping everything in sight.

The Bluejays blanked perennial power Marshall 28-0 at Waseca Friday, Sept. 15, a week after rolling to a 42-0 triumph at St. Peter.

The Marshall contest was a Minnesota Football Coaches Association Tackle Cancer game, with Waseca cancer fighter and survivor Bea O'Brien honored.

"It was a great event," said Bluejays coach Brad Wendland. "We were thrilled to recognize Bea O'Brien. She is an amazing person in our community and an inspiration to everyone."

Tackle Cancer games in 2022 raised more than \$473,000 for the Randy Shaver Cancer Research and Community Fund. Since 2012, more than \$2.9 million has been raised. The goal for this year is \$500,000.

It's safe to say the Bluejays achieved their goals against Marshall. Waseca's big-play offense continued to roll, and the defense was, for the second week in a row, stifling.

"I'm very proud of how you played and what you can become," Wendland told the team after the game. "Our defense was tremendous, and the special teams took a huge step."

Wendland said his seniors, especially, have stepped it up, led by Kaeden Johnson, Shane Engel-Mueller and Carter Ellis.

The Jays jumped to a 14-0 lead at the end of the first quarter, thanks to a 40-yard touchdown run by sophomore quarterback Jordan Johnston and an 11-yard scoring pass from Johnston to Johnson.

But the fireworks were just beginning.

In the second quarter, Johnson broke loose for a 63-yard touchdown run, making it 21-0 at half-time.

Johnson returned the opening second-half kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown. Zach Hulscher kicked his fourth extra point of the game.

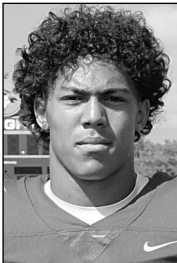
Johnson finished the night with 115 rushing yards on seven carries and three pass receptions for 25



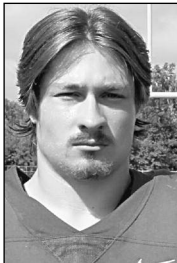
Johnson



Johnston



Ellis



S.Engel-Mueller

yards. Johnston ran for 60 yards and was 5-for-8 passing for 48 yards.

Ellis registered seven solo tackles and five assists to lead the defense.

For the second straight week, the Bluejay reserves saw plenty of action in the second half.

The Bluejays are home again this week, facing Belle Plaine at 7 p.m.

Waseca 28, Marshall 0					
MSHL	0	0	0	0	0
WAS	14	7	7	0	28

First Quarter

WAS — Johnston 40 run (Hulscher kick)

WAS — Johnston 11 pass from Johnston (Hulscher kick)

Second Quarter

WAS — Johnston 63 run (Huelscher kick)

Third Quarter

WAS — Johnston 93 kickoff return (Huelscher kick)

Fourth Quarter

No scoring

	MSHL	WAS
First downs	6	12
Rushing	34-116	31-202
Passing	10-25-20	5-11, 48
Passing Yds.	20	48
Penalties	8-75	5-45

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — WAS: Johnson 7-115; Johnston 12-60; Da.Russell 2-13; Mixteco 5-14; Roeker 2-2; Allen-Haas 3 —2; MSHL: Condezo 7-41; Kraft 13-34; Schaefer 5-11; Smidt 3-12; Bouwman 1-0

Passing — WAS: Johnston 5-9, 48; Roeker 0-2, 0; MSHL: Kraft 6-27, 25

Receiving — WAS: Johnson 3-25; De.Russell 1-16; Da.Russell 1-7; MSHL: Baynard 3-14; Maeyaert 1-5

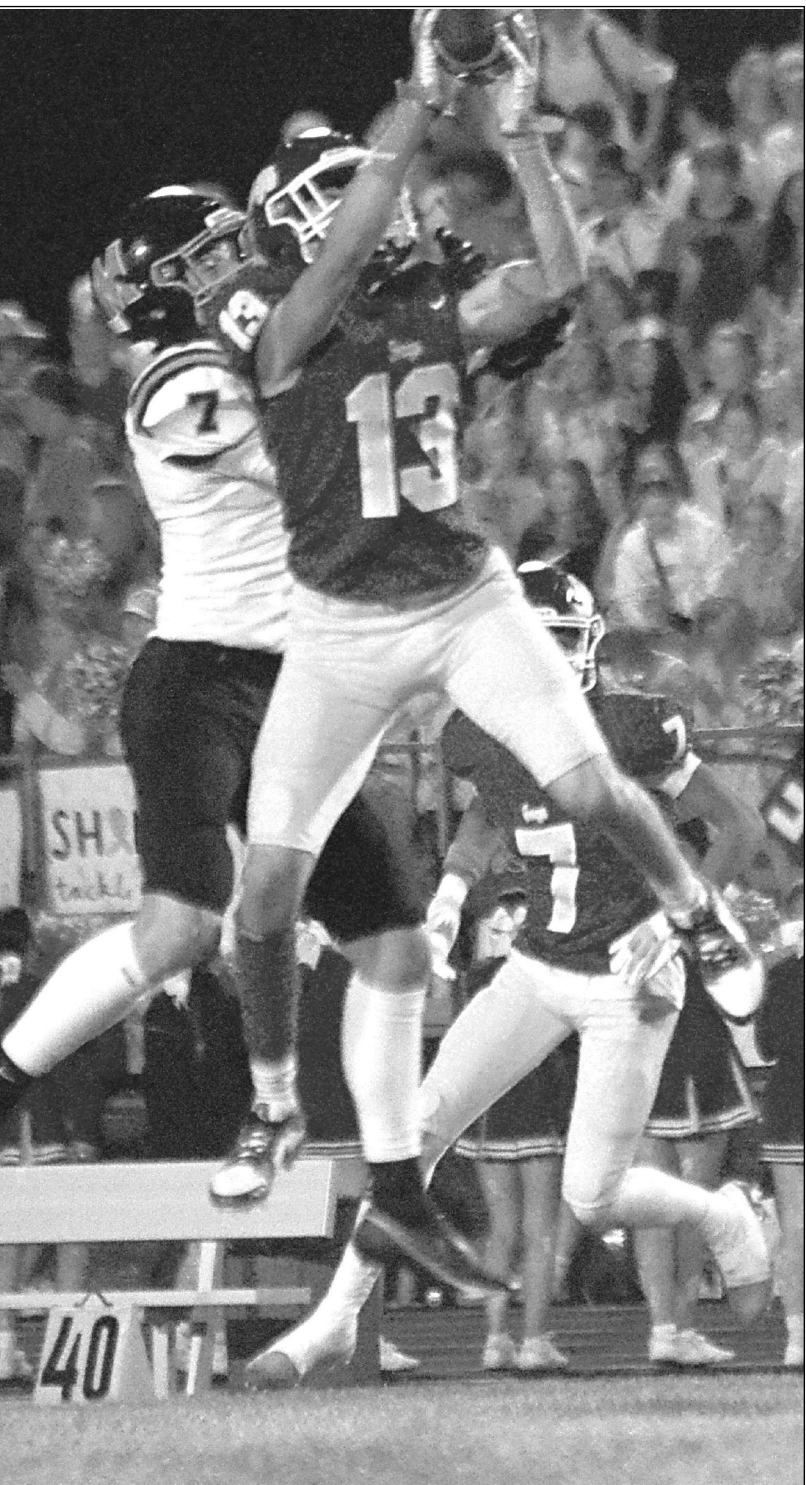
Waseca Defense — Ellis 7 solo tackles, 5 assists; Rupe 4 tackles, 3 assists; Thompson 10 tackles; Mixteco 1 tackle, 2 assists; Da.Russell 1 tackle; Ludwig 4 tackles, 2 assists; Allen-Haas 1 tackle, 1 assist; De.Russell 1 tackle; Keeton 2 tackles; Rodney 1 tackle; S.Engel-Mueller 1 tackle, 3 assists; Stenzel 1 tackle, 1 assist; Oviedo 1 tackle; Moncada 3 tackles; N.Engel-Mueller 1 tackle, 1 assist; Robran 1 assist; Jasch 3 tackles; Roeker 1 tackle



PLEASED TO MEET YOU — Tauston Rupe (33) gets up close and personal with a Marshall ball carrier.



GOOD GRAB — Deron Russell (7) extends for a pass reception.



HANG TIME — The Bluejays' Rudy Moncada (13) goes high in the air for an interception.



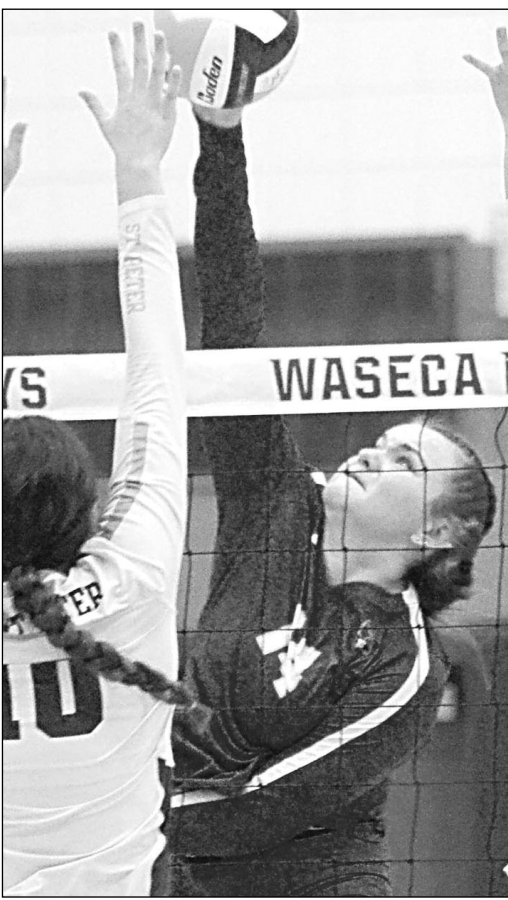
ALL NIGHT LONG — At left, Waseca assistant coaches get excited as the Bluejays' Damarius Russell (3) looks to break free in the open field. At right, sophomore quarterback Jordan Johnston fights for extra yards.



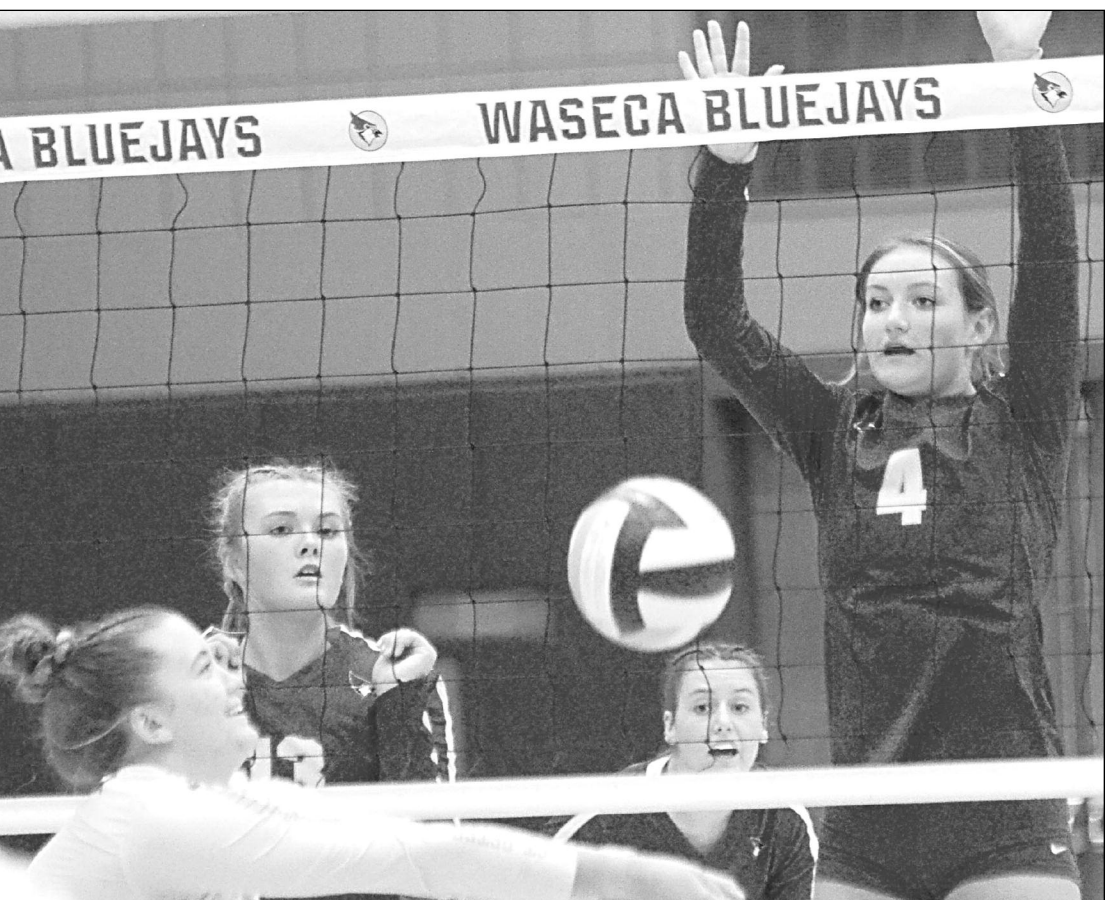
Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



TALL TALL TREES — Waseca setter Siri Kuhns (6) tries to tip the ball past St. Peter's Hailey Telshaw (8).



AT THE NET — At left, the Bluejays' Kalia Sartori (14) spikes as St. Peter's Olivia Seys attempts to block during Tuesday's match in Waseca. At right, Evelyn O'Brien (4) and Ellery Waldrom (13) defend.



Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

WHS volleyball team wins two of three

The Waseca High School volleyball team got off to a great start Tuesday night.

But then St. Peter seized the momentum and the Bluejays could never get it back in a 3-0 loss in the WHS gym. The final in favor of the Saints was 25-22, 25-18, 25-22.

Siri Kuhns dished out 18 set

assists for Waseca.

Aliyah Taylor led the Bluejays in kills with 10. Ellie Hoehn tallied five.

Kalea Sartori and Evelyn O'Brien led Waseca with five blocks each. Takara Slattery was tops with 12 digs.

A night earlier, the Jays swept

Fairmont 3-0, winning 25-16, 25-16, 25-17.

Kuhns connected with 28 set assists. Blocking leaders were Taylor with 14, Hoehn with seven and O'Brien six.

The Bluejays traveled to New Ulm Sept. 14 and defeated Minnesota Valley Lutheran 3-0.

Game scores were 25-22, 25-17, 25-21.

The leaders: Kuhns, 27 set assists; Taylor, 10 kills; Hoehn eight digs and six kills; Slattery seven digs.

The Bluejays are back in action Tuesday, Sept. 26 at home against Fairmont. They host Tri-City Thursday, Sept. 28.



RETURN TO SENDER — At left, Lizzie Roessler hits a forehand with No. 1 doubles partner Mia Kanewischer in the background. At right, the Bluejays' Takya Schoenrock



Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

Girls' tennis season winding down quickly

Regular season concludes Sept. 28

The Waseca High School girls' tennis team defeated the New Ulm Eagles 4-3 in New Ulm Tuesday, Sept. 19. The JV lost 3-2.

This was the first win in the Big South Conference and first road win of the season for the Bluejays. Both teams were 0-3 in conference matches.

Maddie Benson and Addie Pfeiffer provided singles wins for the Jays, with Benson cruising 6-1, 6-0 at No. 3 and Pfeiffer winning 6-4, 6-2 at No. 4.

The No. 1 doubles team of Mia Kanewischer and Elizabeth Roessler took a straight-set victory, 6-1, 6-2, while Paige Dufault and Vivian Mader prevailed at No. 2 doubles 6-0, 6-1.

The Owatonna Huskies defeated the Bluejays 5-2 in Owatonna on Monday. The JV lost 2-1.

Wins for Waseca were by Benson, 6-4, 6-4 at No. 3 singles, and Kanewischer and Roessler at No. 1 doubles, 2-6, 6-3, 10-5.

The Blue Earth Area Buccaneers defeated the Bluejays 5-2 in Waseca on Thursday, May 14. The JV lost 2-1.

Pfeiffer was the lone singles winner for the Bluejays, 6-0, 6-2 at No. 4 singles. Dufault and Mader won 6-3, 6-3 at No. 2 doubles.

Waseca (6-10, 1-3 in BSC-East) will travel to River Valley (Sleepy Eye) on Thursday for the final BSC match of the season. The Bluejays play Monday, Sept. 25 at Northfield and finish the regular season Thursday, Sept. 28 at Cannon Falls.

Section team play begins Oct. 5, with section individuals set for Oct. 16-17.

St. Peter hands soccer girls season's first loss

Monday, Sept. 18 saw a girls' soccer battle of undefeated and Big South Conference favorites Waseca and St. Peter. The match did not disappoint.

Both teams traded and repelled several good attacks, with St. Peter finding the back of the net in the 35th minute on a 30-yard launch by Adeline Letts, getting just above the hands of goalkeeper Ella Bulfer. St. Peter took a 1-0 advantage into halftime.

In the 50th minute, the Lady Jays adjusted their attack to a two-forward, two-midfield formation that quickly set the Saints defense off balance. The result was a Gabby Lopez goal in the 64th minute off a nice centering pass from sister Angelica Lopez.

St. Peter scored the final goal of the night when Keira Friedrich capitalizing on a mishandled ball by the Jays defenders and winning the one-on-one, sent the ball to the corner of the net with under 8 minutes to play. From that point the Saints were able to repel a flurry of attacks by the Lady Jays.

Final score: St. Peter 2, Waseca 1.

"It's hard to explain the amount of personal effort that was left out on the field tonight," said Waseca coach Phil Bulfer. "Every single player on that team gave 110 percent! As a coach, it is an amazing feeling, win, lose or draw, when you know your players give their maximum effort. It is all you can ever ask for."

A week earlier, on Tuesday, Sept. 12, the Bluejays played at St. Peter.

St. Peter's stifling defense and aggressive playing style was countered by Waseca's ball handling and speed up front. The first half ended with a 0-0 tie as Evelyn Nydegger's penalty kick was stopped by a great

"Every single player on that team gave 110 percent!"
— WHS girls' soccer coach Phil Bulfer

play by the St. Peter goalkeeper as the clock showed 00:00.

The second half saw St. Peter light the scoreboard on a long ball from Adeline Letts at the 53-minute mark. Each team traded attacks, with tremendous goalie play from Waseca's Elle Bulfer and St. Peter's Baylee Nygard.

As the game clock ticked off the last seconds of the match, Addie Wieseler found Nydegger alone on the left wing. She won the foot race to the ball and toed the game-tying goal into the net with 37 seconds showing on the clock. The resulting collision between Nydegger and Nygard left both players on the ground for a few moments.

Final score: 1-1.

There was little rest for the Lady Jays as they traveled to Worthington to take on the Trojans. The game featured strong passing and lots of goals scored by the Bluejays, with the final score showing Waseca 10, Worthington 0.

Leading the scoring was Nydegger with 5 goals on 8 shots. Wieseler had 2 goals on 4 shots. Also scoring were Gabby Lopez, Ashley Sanchez, and Ella Bulfer on a penalty kick.

"It was a really good game for us to rebound with after the disappointment of the St. Peter game," said Coach Bulfer. "The girls distributed the ball extremely well, producing a number of scoring opportunities."

On Thursday, Sept. 14, Waseca hosted the New Ulm Eagles.

New Ulm scored first on a corner



E. Bulfer



Nydegger



Wieseler

kick at the 25th minute of the first half. The Jays had an opportunity to score on a penalty kick by Nydegger, but that effort was thwarted by New Ulm goalie Ariana Dreyer. The Jays finally answered with a score off the Wieseler-to-Nydegger combination to tie the game before halftime.

Waseca scored the deciding goal midway through the second half on a wild combination of shots by Gabby Lopez, Nydegger and finally Rylee Schaffer putting the ball to the back of the net.

The Jays won, 2-1.

The Jays will likely be without forward Ava Bruhn due to a broken collarbone she received in the first half of the contest.

The Bluejays play Tuesday, Sept. 26 at Red Wing and host Worthington Sept. 28.



TOUGH LOSS — Evelyn Nydegger, a senior from New Richland, maneuvers the ball during the Bluejays' 2-1 setback to St. Peter, the team's first loss of the season. Photo by Mackenzie Mueller

Sports in brief

Waseca boys' soccer team falls to Worthington

The Waseca High School boys' soccer team hosted Worthington Tuesday, Sept. 19 and dropped a 4-0 decision.

The Trojans broke open a scoreless tie just before halftime, tacking on three more in the second half.

"It was a good game," reported Waseca coach J.D. Delgado.

The Bluejays ended the regular season Thursday at Kasson-Mantorville.

White leads Grizzly girls at NRHEG Invitational

The WEM/JWP cross country teams traveled to the NRHEG Invitational Tuesday, Sept. 19.

"We were a couple of runners short today, but even so, we had lots of great successes," said coach Eric Kehoe.

Lauren White was the top placer today, in 10th place and getting an award. Gavin Brown ust missed medaling in 11th place, still pretty amazing considering he was not feeling great before the race. In addition to placing, the Grizzlies had some other great accomplishments:

"We had five athletes beat their course PR, includ-

ing Madalyn (HoeHN) who absolutely crushed hers by around 5 minutes," said Kehoe. "Ellie (Schlie) had set two goals for herself before the race and told me she met both of them."

JWP volleyball team bows to Medford, BA

The JWP volleyball team lost 3-0 to Medford Tuesday, Sept. 19, falling 25-19, 25-16, 25-12.

For the Bulldogs: Brielle Bure 1 assist, 16 digs; Nevaeh Weimert 2 aces, 1 kill, 7 assists, 10 digs; Katie Olson 3 kills, 1 dig; Lilly Strauss 6 kills, 2 blocks; Claire Walz 5 kills, 2 blocks, 1 dig; Aubrey Weedman 2 aces, 5 kills, 1 block, 11 assists, 3 digs; Presley James 2 kills, 3 blocks, 2 digs; Paige Walz 1 kill, 1 block, 3 digs; Lexie Dahlberg 1 ace, 7 digs; Olson 1 ace, 5 digs

The previous Thursday, the Bulldogs fell to Bethlehem Academy 3-1. Game scores were 25-22, 25-13, 22-25, 25-7.

Individually: Bure 1 assist, 20 digs; Weimert 1 kill, 14 assists, 14 digs; Katie Olson 3 kills, 1 block, 8 digs; Strauss 5 kills, 4 blocks; Claire Walz 8 kills, 1 assist, 5 digs; Weedman 3 aces, 6 kills, 2 blocks, 17 assists, 17 digs; James 8 kills, 1 block, 1 assist, 4 digs; Paige Walz 4 kills, 1 block, 6 digs; Dahlberg 1 ace, 1 assist, 13 digs; Ali Olson 7 digs

BLUEJAY FOOTBALL



PLAYER of the WEEK

Shane Engel-Mueller

2 tackles, 2 qb hurries, 1 pass deflection

Bluejay Football Player of the Week Sponsored by:



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A NIGHT TO REMEMBER — It was a victory to savor for the JWP football team Friday, Sept. 15 as head coach Ryan Luedtke, at left getting a Gatorade bath, and dominating visiting Cleveland 41-13. In middle photo, the Bulldogs' Avery Fall (52) celebrates after Luedtke's drenching. At right, Alex James (4) and Ryan Kronbach, celebrate a touchdown.

Photos by Leanne Kavitz

An historic night for JWP's Luedtke, Kronbach

Coach registers first career win; senior breaks school record for receiving yards in a game

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

After starting the season with two straight setbacks, week three proved to be the charm for coach Ryan Luedtke and the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School football team.

Luedtke registered his first career coaching victory and Ryan Kronbach broke the school receiving record as the Bulldogs lambasted visiting Cleveland 41-13 Friday, Sept. 15.

Kronbach, a senior, had 181

receiving yards to break the old mark of 178 set by Sean Finley in 2003. Kronbach caught touchdown passes of 74 and 68 yards while catching six passes.

Nolan Morsching also had a big game, rushing 14 times for 149 yards. Quarterback Daulto Bauer completed 10 of 14 passes for 258 yards, with no interceptions.

The Bulldogs had their way from the start leading 14-0 after one quarter, 28-0 at halftime and 41-0 after three periods.

The Bulldogs host Waterville-

Elysian-Morriston in their homecoming game Friday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m.

JWP 41, Cleveland 13				
CLE	0	0	0	13 — 13
JWP	14	14	13	0 — 41
First Quarter				
JWP	— Melchior 4 run (James kick)			
JWP	— Johnson 40 pass from Bauer (James kick)			
Second Quarter				
JWP	— Morsching 50 run (James kick)			
JWP	— Kronbach 74 pass from Bauer			

(kick failed)

Third Quarter	
JWP	— Kronbach 68 pass from Bauer (James kick)
JWP	— Melchior 8 pass from Bauer (James kick)
Fourth Quarter	
CLE	— Kelley 15 run (PAT failed)
CLE	— Lyons 4 run (Possin kick)
CLE	JWP
56	42
18	13
127	189
19-32-3	10-14-0
247	258
0	0
3-35	7-50

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — JWP: N.Morsching 14-149; L.Morsching 9-43; Bauer 4-6; Gerdts 1-3; Melchior 1-1; CLE: Kelley 10-66; Possin 7-52; Lyons 6-28; Sullivan 1 — 1

Passing — JWP: Bauer 10-14-0, 258; CLE: Lyons 19-32-3, 247

Receiving — JWP — Kronbach 6-181; Johnson 1-40; Melchior 1-25; McWaters 1-12; CLE: Lyons 12-98; Bartell 1-44; Simmonette 4-41; Kelley 7-39; Possin 1-11; Seeman 1-8; Sullivan 1-6

JWP Defense — N.Morsching 2 solo tackles, 1 assist, 1 interception; O'Brien 1 solo, 2 assist; James 3 tackles, 1 assist, 2 interceptions; Weis 2 assists; Weedman 1 tackle; Quast 1 assist; Melchior 4 solo, 4 assists;

Walker 1 assist; Cahill 2 assists; Scholl 1 tackle, 1 assist; McWaters 3 tackles, 3 assists; Born 3 tackles, 4 assists; Gerdts 1 tackle, 2 assists; L.Morsching 3 tackles, 2 assists; Rider 1 tackle; Miller 2 tackles, 4 assists; Carda 2 assists; Davis 1 tackle; Schluter 1 tackle, 2 assists; Garner 2 tackles, 2 assists



Kronbach

NRHEG spikers top USC, fall to WEM

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The NRHEG High School volleyball team went 1-1 this past week, falling 3-0 at WEM Thursday, two days after a marathon 3-2 home victory over USC.

The WEM match was tough. The Panthers hung in there in game one before losing 25-21. Game two saw WEM win 25-19. The Bucs put it away with a 25-19 decision in game three.

"We came out pretty excited to be on the court and kept up well in our first game," said NRHEG coach Ashley Tolzman. "Our second game our mistakes and frustrations got the best of us. We were in the net, had a

hard time with serve receive, and keeping it in. In the third game, we made some adjustments and came back to fight. We were able to get set up and make some plays."

Individually for NRHEG: Gabby Schlaak 3 kills, 10 digs; Camryn VanMaldeghem 1 kill, 7 blocks, 8 digs; Elsie Schultz 1 kill, 6 digs; Ary Howe 1 kill, 1 dig; Tayler Schmidt 3 kills, 1 block, 10 digs; Hallie Schultz 14 set assists, 1 kills, 4 blocks, 7 digs; Keira Lenort 2 kills, 3 blocks, 1 dig; Madi Murray 3 kills, 9 blocks; Faith Nielsen 15 digs.

The USC match was back-and-forth. The final tally in favor of the Panthers was 23-25, 25-19, 25-23, 22-25, 15-6.

"It definitely wasn't our strongest win."
— NRHEG coach Ashley Tolzman

"We started out slow and not moving our feet," said Coach Tolzman. "We started to gain momentum by the end of the first game, but not quite enough. Overall, we made a lot of mistakes throughout the whole match. When we were getting set up and swinging, we were successful. Overall, we were able to walk away with a win, but it definitely wasn't our strongest win."

Individually: Schlaak 11 kills, 1 block, 13 digs; VanMaldeghem 1 set

assist, 7 kills, 3 blocks, 5 digs; Izzy Stadheim 7 digs; Schmidt 12 kills, 2 blocks, 12 digs; Hallie Schultz 42 set assists, 2 blocks, 2 kills, 16 digs; Lenort 7 kills, 4 blocks, 3 digs; Murray 10 kills 6 blocks; Nielsen 1 set assist, 23 digs.

The Panthers played Tuesday, Sept. 19 against Medford. On Saturday, they travel to Wells for the USC Invitational.

Wobbrock, Nelton pace NRHEG CC teams at BP

The NRHEG High School cross country teams participated in the Blooming Prairie invitational on Tuesday, September 12.

On the girls' side, the team's top finisher was 7th-grader Julieann Wobbrock with a time of 24:00.5. That put her in fifth place overall and she won a T-shirt. She was followed by Annabelle Petsinger with a time of 26:36 (14th), Madison Corkill 28:42 (19th), Ella Jeno 29:59 (23rd) and Amelia Duruyee with a time of 36:32 (34th).

For the boys, Devon Nelton took second overall with a time of 19:49, garnering him a shirt as

well. Jackson McGannon had a time of 23:10 (17th), Owen Flatland 26:26 (32nd)

"This was a big day for our younger runners as they all were running at the varsity level for the first time," said NRHEG coach Larry Nydegger. "It was nice to have the girls' team able to compete and be scored. And they did a great job, taking fourth place out of six teams scored."

After hosting a home meet Tuesday, Sept. 19, the Panthers are off until Thursday, Sept. 28 when they run at Janesville's Prairie Ridge Golf Course.



GOOD DAY — NRHEG quarterback Alden Dobberstein (6) had a good game running and throwing the ball at Minnesota Valley Lutheran.

File photo by Jim Lutgens

Panthers let it get out of hand at MVL

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The final tally makes it look like a lop-sided game, but it truly was closer than the score indicates as the NRHEG High School football team succumbed to Minnesota Valley Lutheran 34-12 at New Ulm Saturday night.

"It was much closer than the scores shows," said NRHEG coach Marc Kruger. "It was a 1-2 possession game most of the night."

The Panthers, 0-3, took their first lead of the season when they drove for an opening-possession touchdown, which came on a 7-yard run by quarterback Alden Dobberstein. A two-point conversion try failed.

Minnesota Valley Lutheran answered with a pair of first-quarter touchdowns. After a scoreless second period, NRHEG trailed 14-6 at halftime.

MVL made it 21-6 in the third quarter, with the Panthers answering with a 10-yard touchdown pass from Dobberstein to Sam Olson. Again, a two-point conversion try was stopped.

MVL tucked on touchdowns in

"Our boys came out and played really well."
— NRHEG coach Marc Kruger

the third and fourth quarter.

"Our boys came out and played really well, scoring on the first drive behind some great runs from Alden," said Kruger. "He had a heck of a game on the ground and in the air. Our defense was able to do some really nice things against a very strong rushing attack from the Crusaders."

Dobberstein, a junior, finished with 145 yards passing while going 10-for-24 with two interceptions. Jackson Chrz caught four passes for 102 yards. Olson had three receptions, Harbor Cromwell two.

The Panthers were outgained 352-217 in total yards, including 233-72 rushing. Dobberstein was NRHEG's leading ball carrier with 57 yards on 10 carries.

Chrz led the defense with seven tackles. Carter Flatland had six tack-

les and a sack. Jaylin Raab made five stops.

George Roesler had an effective night punting the ball, averaging 42 on three tries.

The Panthers host St. Clair/Mankato Loyola Friday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m.

MVL 34, NRHEG 12

NRHEG	6	0	6	0 — 12
MVL	14	0	14	6 — 34
First Quarter				
NRHEG	— Dobberstein 7 run (two-point conversion failed)			
MVL	— Grimsley 17 run (Stephenson kick)			
MVL	— Grimsley 16 pass reception (Stephenson kick)			
Second Quarter				
No scoring				
Third Quarter				
MVL	— Grimsley 17 pass reception (two-point conversion failed)			

NRHEG — Olson 10 pass from Dobberstein (two-point conversion failed)

MVL — Grimsley 2 run (Stephenson kick)

Fourth Quarter	
MVL	— 5 run (kick failed)
NRHEG	MVL
48	68
11	12
72	233
10-25-2	9-20-0
145	119
217	352
3-9	5-11
0-2	1-4
1	0
5-15	8-55

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — NRHEG: Dobberstein 10-57; Cromwell 3-11; Raab 8-4; MVL: Grimsley 21-158; Shimanski 5-20; Rest of team 14-54

Passing — NRHEG: Dobberstein 10-24-2, 145; Roesler 0-1-0, 0; MVL: 9-20-0, 119

Receiving — NRHEG: Chrz 4-102; Cromwell 2-33; Olson 3-20; Raab 1-1; MVL: Grimsley 2-21; Rest of team 7-98

NRHEG Defense — Chrz 7 tackles; Flatland 6 tackles, 1 sack; Raab 5 tackles; Bartelt 4 tackles, 2 assists; Roesler 3 tackles, 1 assist; Parpart 3 tackles; Olson 2 tackles; Ihrke 2 tackles, 1 assist; Cromwell 1 tackle, 3 assists; Brouwers 1 tackle; Flatness 1 tackle; Knudson 2 assists; Fleming 1 assist; Rest of team 3 tackles



EF Johnson Foundation Fund, which is part of the Waseca Area Foundation, awarded two scholarships to non-traditional students attending the South Central College N Mankato Campus this past week at their annual scholarship appreciation luncheon. EF Johnson Foundation was founded in 1964 through the EF Johnson Corporation based in Waseca. One of the focus areas of this fund includes education and specifically scholarships to non traditional students from Waseca County. Pictured from L to R: Rochelle Wingen, who is studying accounting; WAF board member David Oraskovich; and Laura Jewison, who is in the "medical assistant" program.

Council

from Page 3

In unfinished business, switching to a new provider for the city website was discussed. The current provider plans to raise its price starting Jan. 1 from \$650/year to \$2,500/year with a built-in 5-6% yearly increase. Administrator

Martens has been looking into a new provider who will match the \$650/year price for the first year, charging \$2,000/year following the first year. The new provider, Town Web, would eliminate the current \$300-400/year currently spent on text messaging alerts as well as provide more options for the city and residents while saving the city money. The council approved the switch to the new provider with a unanimous motion.

In new business, the new scoreboard for Legion Field was discussed. The total cost of the scoreboard is \$33,929, for which roughly \$23,000 has already been pledged among the fire department and donations obtained by Jeff Reese. The council approved spending up to \$10,500 out of donated funds for the 30% down payment required to purchase the scoreboard. Council members approved donating surplus candy bars and chips

from the St. Olaf concession stand to the school, to be sold during football and volleyball games under the condition that a sign be posted regarding who donated the food and what the funds from purchases will be used for. In the administrator's report, the care center was discussed; it was noted that the care center "is in good shape right now" according to Skelton. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION	NATIONAL SERVICE DOG				7 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	2 V-J DAY
3	4 LABOR DAY	5	6 6pm BAR Bingo	7 7pm BINGO	8 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	9
10 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host Relay For Life	11 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting PATRIOT DAY	12	13 6pm BAR Bingo	14 7pm BINGO	15 NATIONAL POW/MIA DAY MEAT Raffle 5:30 pm Horse racing 6:30pm	16
17	18 AIR FORCE BIRTHDAY AIR NATIONAL GUARD BIRTHDAY	19 Burger nite 5-7pm	20 6pm BAR Bingo	21 7pm BINGO	22 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	23
24 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host Bantam Hockey	25	26 Burger nite 5-7pm	27 6pm BAR Bingo	28 7pm BINGO	29 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm VFW DAY	30

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TUE.- WED.-3pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady's nite 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm.
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Waseca County 4H State Fair Results

4-H Youth exhibit their best at the 2023 Minnesota State Fair

4-H youth from across Minnesota again showcased their learning in the 4-H Building at the Minnesota State Fair. Over 140 demonstrations were delivered and over 1,900 general exhibits were on display. In a continuation of the virtual state showcase format developed in 2020, over 70 of the general exhibits were judged virtually this year.

Throughout the year, 4-H youth select project areas that reflect personal areas of interest and pursue hands-on learning in both self-directed and guided environments. The results of their learning are exhibited at county fairs and other showcase events across the state. A collection of the best exhibits from each fair and showcase are brought to presentations in the 4-H Building at the Minnesota State Fair.

Exhibiting project work and delivering public presentations at the state fair provides youth an opportunity to showcase their achievements and continue learning through interactive conference judging with project experts and team experiences.

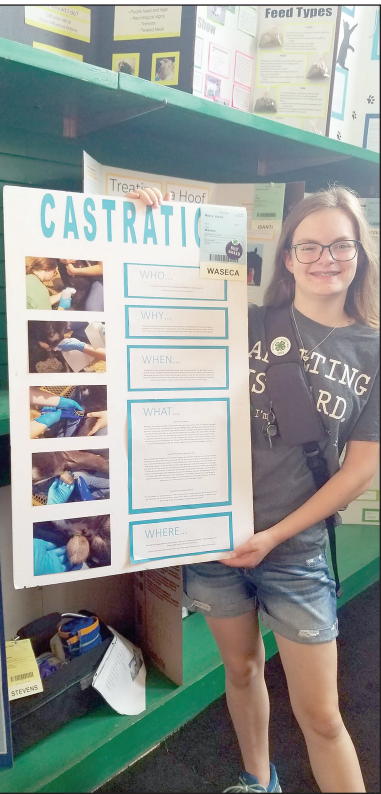
The presentations, exhibits and presence of 4-H youth from diverse communities across Minnesota brought renewed and welcomed energy to the 4-H Building. See the full results and photos at z.umn.edu/4h-state-fair-results.

Waseca County had 17 youth participating in the following areas:



Oriana Jewison

- Isiah Alvarado - Blue Ribbon Mechanical Science
- Julia Alvarado - Blue Ribbon Foods, County Arts-In participant
- Addison Anderson - County Arts-In participant
- Elaina Berg - County Arts-In participant



Alexis Myers

- Isabel Berg - County Arts-In participant



Mackenzie Moorman

- Kaylee Ahna Berg - Blue Ribbon Industrial Technology: Woodworking
 - Rylie Cromwell - County Arts-In participant
 - Kenley Gehrke - Blue Ribbon Consumer Education & Money Management, Blue Ribbon Individual Presentation & Speeches
 - Audrey Gray - County Arts-In participant
 - Avery Hopper - Blue Ribbon Fine Arts, County Arts-In participant
 - Oriana Jewison - Blue Ribbon Needle Arts
 - Alexis Myers - Blue Ribbon Veterinary Science, County Arts-In participant
 - Angel Myers - Blue Ribbon Crafts, County Arts-In participant
 - Hunter Myers - Blue Ribbon Home Environment
 - Mikael Nelson - Blue Ribbon Elements of Photography
 - Alexis Olson - Blue Ribbon Food Preservation
 - Molly Volovsek - Purple Ribbon Entomology
- 4-H empowers youth with the skills they need to lead for a lifetime. Congratulations to all the Waseca County youth who participated in 4-H at the 2023 Minnesota State Fair!



Karley Hamilton

2023 Minnesota State Fair 4-H Livestock Results

St. Paul, MN (8/23/2023) – Minnesota 4-H'ers from 87 counties arrived with over 2,562 animals at the 2023 "Great Minnesota Get-Together" for this year's 4-H livestock encampment, which was held Wednesday, Aug. 23rd through Sunday, Aug. 27th. The number of livestock exhibits over the weekend included:

- Beef: 579 exhibits
- Dairy: 422 exhibits
- Goats: 293 exhibits
- Poultry: 230 exhibits
- Rabbits: 268 exhibits
- Sheep: 312 exhibits
- Swine: 398 exhibits
- Lama: 60 exhibits

Minnesota 4-H'ers have been preparing for this event all summer long. Members consider several components when deciding to exhibit livestock, including selection and preparation of the animal; educational programming; scholarship applications; and participation at county fairs. Results from the Minnesota 4-H State Fair Livestock

Shows for the Waseca County 4-Her's include:

- Beef**
 - Brielle Gunsolus, Waldorf Peppy Peppers - 1st place Market Registered Angus Steer, Champion Black Angus Steer, 3rd Place Intermediate Market Beef Showmanship
 - Paige Gunsolus, Waldorf Peppy Peppers - 1st place Breeding Heifer Registered Black Angus Summer Yearling, Senior Breeding Beef Showmanship participant
 - Olivia Johnson, Vista Busy Bees - 4th place Purebred Black Angus Cow/Calf Pair, Senior Cow/Calf Showmanship participant
 - Paige Johnson, Vista Busy Bees - 7th Place Steer Prospect Calf, 3rd Place Intermediate Prospect Calf Showmanship
 - Addison Kelm, Clover Clan -



Brielle Gunsolus

1st Place Breeding Heifer Registered South Devon Junior Yearling, Champion South Devon Heifer, Senior Breeding Beef Showmanship participant

- Siri Kuhns, Riverside Ramblers - 2nd Place Registered Simmental Spring Calf
- Hailey Levos, Janesville Jacks & Jills - 2nd Place Breeding Heifer Registered Junior Yearling, Reserve Champion Other Breeds Heifer, Intermediate Breeding Beef Showmanship participant
- Mackenzie Levos, Janesville Jacks & Jills - 5th Place Market Steer Crossbreds & Other Breeds, Senior Market Beef Showmanship participant
- Sydney Lewer, Riverside Ramblers - 9th place Market Steer Slick-Shorn, Senior Market Beef Showmanship participant

- Dairy**
 - Maia Bartelt, Riverside Ramblers - 2nd place Crossbred & Other Breeds Senior Yearling
 - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers - 6th Place Holstein Registered Spring Calf
 - Jadyn White, Riverside Ramblers - 1st place Registered Holstein Fall Yearling, Champion Total Merit Registered Holstein Heifer



Kaylee Ahna Berg

- Dairy Goat**
 - Bailey Hodgkins, Clover Clan - 2nd Place Lamancha Senior Doe Kid
 - Jacob Klaras, Waldorf Peppy Peppers - 4th Place Nigerian Dwarf Milking Two Year Old Doe, Champion Intermediate Showmanship A
 - Alexis Myers, Riverside Ram-



Jadyn White

blers - 1st Place Lamancha Milking Yearling Doe, Senior Showmanship participant

- Meat Goat**
 - Oliva Eaton, Homegrown Explorers - Red Ribbon Meat Market Wethers, Market Goat Intermediate Showmanship participant
 - Sam Feldkamp, Clover Clan - Blue Ribbon Senior Meat Breeding Doe Kid, Breeding Doe Intermediate Showmanship participant
 - Ty Krautkremer, Homegrown Explorers - Blue Ribbon Meat Market Wethers, Market Goat Intermediate Showmanship participant
 - Cole Schlueter, Janesville Jacks & Jills - Blue Ribbon Meat Market Goat Does, Market Goat Advanced Showmanship participant

- Rabbit**
 - August Bethke, Waldorf Peppy Peppers - Red Ribbon Dutch Junior Doe, 3rd Place Intermediate Showmanship
 - Isaac Feldkamp, Clover Clan - Blue Ribbon Mini Rex Senior Doe
 - Joe Feldkamp, Clover Clan - Blue Ribbon Flemish Giant Senior Doe
 - Mya Gartner, Riverside Ramblers - Blue Ribbon Mini Rex Senior Buck
 - Mackenzie Moorman, Janesville Jacks & Jills - Purple Ribbon Californian Junior Doe, Overall Champion Californian
 - Angel Myers, Riverside Ramblers - Blue Ribbon New Zealand Senior Doe
 - Chloe Vogt, Independent - Blue Ribbon Other Small Purebred Breeds Senior Buck

- Sheep**
 - Cole Gartner, Riverside Ramblers - Purple Ribbon Wether Dam - Black Face Ewe Lamb
 - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan - Champion Black Face Wether Ewe Lamb, Champion Wether Dam Ewe Lamb, Champion Overall Wether Dam, Market Lamb & Wether Dam Senior Showmanship participant
 - Avery Hopper, Riverside Ramblers - Red Ribbon Other Breeds Registered February Ewe Lamb, Intermediate Lamb Lead participant, Breeding Ewe Senior Showmanship participant
 - Jaiden Johnson, Clover Clan - Blue Ribbon Registered Suffolk

Yearling Ewe, Intermediate Lamb Lead participant, Breeding Ewe Intermediate Showmanship participant

- Hannah Sommers, Riverside Ramblers - Purple Ribbon Black Face Market Lamb, Champion Market Lamb Intermediate Showperson
- Kloe Wadd, Homegrown Explorers - Blue Ribbon Black Face Market Lamb

- Swine**
 - Landen Haefs, Homegrown Explorers - Red Ribbon Crossbred Market Barrow
 - Nathan Hager, Vista Busy Bees - 7th Place Market Gilt
 - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers - 4th Place Crossbred Breeding Gilt
 - Jacob Knutson, Homegrown Explorers - 10th Place Market Gilt
 - Aaron Merritt, Waldorf Peppy Peppers - 10th Place Registered Berkshire Market Barrow
 - Aiden Merritt, Waldorf Peppy Peppers - 4th Place Market Gilt
 - Mikael Nelson, Vista Busy Bees - Red Ribbon Crossbred Market Barrow
 - George Roesler, Waldorf Peppy Peppers - 5th Place Crossbred Breeding Gilt

Education is integral in the "learn by doing" philosophy of 4-H. As part of the educational component, Minnesota 4-H requires every youth participating in the livestock encampment to participate in a livestock interview. Examples of the interview process include an online knowledge test, skill-a-thons, and personal interviews about their project area. Youth from Waseca County who were recognized for their knowledge with interview callbacks included



Jacob Knutson

- Beef - Olivia Johnson
 - Dairy - Charley Kietzman
 - Dairy Goat - Bailey Hodgkins
 - Meat Goat - Olivia Eaton; Sam Feldkamp
 - Rabbit - Isaac Feldkamp
 - Sheep - Karley Hamilton; Hannah Sommers, Champion Grades 6-8; Kloe Wadd
 - Swine - Oriana Jewison, Champion Grades 6-8
- Along with interviews, all 4-H youth participating in livestock programming are required to complete



Hailey Levos



Hunter Myers

the Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics (LQA&E) Training. Through this certification, youth are educated on biosecurity, educating the public on the role of livestock, and caring for their animal's welfare.



Alexis Myers

Many 4-H participants also have the opportunity to finance their education as recipients of scholarships. This year the Dairy Project will continue with the 15th annual Dairy Showcase and award special recognition and scholarships to 25 outstanding participants based on their dairy industry knowledge, 4-H dairy project involvement, along with state fair dairy show results. The annual 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction sponsored by the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association (MLBA) presented 58 scholarships to youth with well-rounded leadership, community service and livestock involvement throughout their 4-H career.

4-H not only produces purple ribbon animals, but more importantly is focused on producing purple ribbon kids! Congratulations to all the youth that participated in the Livestock Encampment at the 2023 Minnesota State Fair.

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