

Homecoming 2023



2023 Waseca Homecoming Court: Cecila Bjerke; Hannah LaCroix; Ella Krautkramer; Evelyn O'Brien; Ava Omtvedt; Addison Wieseler; Jack Anderson; Ahmed Farooq; Andrew Robran; Kaeden Johnson; Thomas Mens; and Eli Miller.

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently



Lori Gehring and her grandchildren Addison and Alexander Harriger register for the door prize given away during the "Power of Produce" celebration on Sept. 23.



Elizabeth Koble and Olive Scheffert register for their "Power of Produce" vouchers while program supervisor Ashley Killday (standing) and volunteer Teresa Suek provide assistance.

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

Produce proving its power

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

For the past two months, the Power of Produce (PoP) club has set up its station at the Saturday morning farmers market held throughout the summer at the Waseca County fairgrounds.

Thanks to a program created by the University of Minnesota Extension office and funded by a host of local donors, the PoP club has been able to provide an incentive for people 18 and younger to include a wider variety of healthy foods in their diets. Each week, participants from ages 3 to 18 received a \$5 voucher to make purchases at any of the stands; children aged 2 and below received a \$2 voucher.

Over the past two months, at least 100 children a week have come to accept the offer.

"That first week, we thought we'd be lucky if 20 children came," recalls volunteer Teresa Suek.

"But 129 came," continues Ashley Killday, community health coordinator with the Waseca County public health department.

As surprises go, the strong numbers were a delight.

"We had one mom tell us," recalls Killday, "that her daughter never used to be awake on Saturday morning. But now kids are getting up especially so they can come down here and make their selections."

Both fresh and preserved foods are eligible for the program.

"We have kids who didn't even know what some of these vegetables looked like getting excited about coming down and making their purchases. Some of them look everything over very carefully before they make their choice," says Killday.

POP records show that nearly 600 different children have taken part this summer, purchasing a total of \$5,500 worth of vegetables, eggs, herbs and other eligible items. Vendors at the

farmers market have experienced about a 30% increase in sales. And, Killday and Suek observe, the median age of shoppers on Saturday mornings has fallen.

"More and more families with young children are coming," Suek says. "It changes the whole mood of the experience."

This past Saturday, the POP program set up its booth for the final time in 2023. In addition to the usual procedures, the group also held a low-key raffle. A donation in any amount made folks eligible to win a basket containing about \$50 worth of goods donated by farmers market vendors.

Thanks to the success POP demonstrated this year, Killday says, her agency definitely plans to hold it again next year. In fact, the hope is to expand it to the entire farmers market season, which typically begins in May.

A 10-member committee which

includes Killday, 4-H coordinator and U of M Extension educator Ann Nelson, farmers market vendors, a 4-H participant, other community representatives and two county commissioners, guides the local program.

Killday points out that the distribution would not be possible without local donors. This year's contributors were the Waseca County 4-H program, Molly Byron of Byron Law Office, Grace Lutheran Church, Mayo Clinic Health Systems, Winn-West Bank, Waseca American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion of Waseca, Spire Credit Union and The Riverside Ramblers.

"This has been a good thing for everyone involved," she says. "We definitely plan to expand it next year." Killday invites anyone interested in supporting the program by becoming a 2024 sponsor to contact her at the public health office: 507-835-0686.

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MEA Day Camp Oct. 19-20 at FarmAmerica

FarmAmerica will be hosting day camps for kids in grades 1-5 on October 19 and 20. The camps go from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and include STEM activities, time with animals, outdoor activities, crafts and more. The cost is \$50 per child per day and families can sign kids up for one or both days' activities. Get tickets at farmamerica.org/day-camps

* * *

Great Fall Get Together Oct. 28

The Waseca Art Center will host their annual "Great Fall Get Together" on October 28 from 6 to 9 p.m. There will be a silent auction, full bar, games and door prizes, photo booth, and costume contest. Until 8 there will be live entertainment by Pete Klug, followed by a live auction until 9. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. The Waseca Art Center will host their annual "Great Fall Get Together" on October 28 from 6 to 9 p.m. There will be a silent auction, full bar, games and door prizes, photo booth, and costume contest. Until 8 there will be live entertainment by Pete Klug, followed by a live auction until 9. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door.

* * *

Treats on the Streets Oct. 26

"Treats on the Streets" is returning Thursday, October 26, from 5 to 7 p.m. Treats on the Streets is a Halloween event which allows children to trick or treat at local businesses. Email treatsonthestreetswaseca@gmail.com or visit Waseca Treats on the Streets on Facebook for maps and other information.

* * *

Historical Society Haunted Library Oct. 19

The Waseca County Historical Society is hosting "The Haunted Library: a Riddle and Puzzle Room Experience" at the Bailey-Lewer Research Library October 19 from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$20, or free for Historical Society members. RSVP is required. Purchase tickets at the Waseca Historical Society Museum, or www.historical.waseca.mn.us.

* * *

Beer and Brat Night Oct. 6

The Mill Event Center is hosting "Beer and Brat Night" Thursday, October 5 from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. with Wiste's brats and beer specials for the duration, as well as happy hour from 3:30 to 5:30. Live music will be provided by Clare Miller.

* * *

Holiday Cookie Dazzle Dec. 2

Achieving Dreams for Disabilities will host a "holiday cookie dazzle" at the Waseca Senior Citizen Center on Saturday, December 2 from 9 a.m. to noon. Plates of 12 cookies will be available for \$7 with breads and other treats priced individually. To donate baked goods, contact Kari Haslip in advance at 835-2058. All proceeds go towards programs for those with disabilities.

* * *

One-of-a-Kind Treasure Sale Sept. 30 at NR City Hall

"One of a Kind Treasures – An Art Show" will take place Saturday, September 30, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the New Richland City Hall. For sale will include repurposed furniture, décor, handmade cards, framed art, pebble art, alcohol ink paintings, and artisan cookies and rolls.

* * *

NRCC Silent Auction beginning Sept. 29

September 29 at 10 a.m. the New Richland Care Center will open its 2023 silent auction, which will then continue for seven days, with all proceeds going to the NRCC Resident Council who will vote to use the funds for activities of their choosing.

Here for everyone

SMART offers public transit with personal touch



Waseca SMART bus drivers (from left) Vern Fette, Al Kingsley and John Simonette all say they find their job as public transportation drivers fulfilling and rewarding. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

'I don't know what I'd do without it'

"The service is really a godsend. A lot of us would be in a tough spot if we didn't have it."

— Linda Jones

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"We want people to know SMART is there for everybody," says Shelly Rockman, operations manager for the Steele and Waseca county branches of the Southern Minnesota Area Rural Transit service.

"If their car is in the shop, if for some reason they just don't feel like driving, they can get a ride with us. "That's what 'public transit' means."

Local lead driver John Simonette provides an example, describing how some riders avoid driving on snowy days. "They leave their warm house, get into a warm bus, and then arrive at a warm destination," he says. "It's a lot simpler than shoveling their driveway, scraping off their car, and then risking slippery roads and poor visibility."

"The service is really a godsend," says rider Linda Jones. "A lot of us would be in a tough spot if we didn't have it."

Wasecan Savannah Foster says she has been making consistent use of the transit system for about four years. "I only have good things to say about it," she declares enthusiastically. "The drivers are great people; they're always on time."

With a smile she adds, "And sometimes they give good advice; they're like family."

The positivity is mutual. "This is the best and most rewarding job I've ever had," comments Simonette, who was an over-the-road semi driver for more than 20 years and is now in his eighth year with

SMART. "The more people I can help, the better I like it."

Al Kingsley, a driver with the agency for more than three years, echoes the sentiment. "I love being here for people," he says. Thinking of the personality traits which make a good driver, he comments: "You've got to like people; you should be ready to talk with them. Sometimes I wonder if I'm the only person all day who's genuinely listened to my riders. Not all are happy and friendly, but you can still talk with them."

Both Kingsley and Simonette also suggest a transit driver should be ready for nearly anything. "Nothing surprises me," declares Simonette. "I just know anything could happen, and I have to do my best in whatever situation comes up."

"I do really like solving problems," says manager Rockman. "Sometimes we have to be creative in our solutions to keep drivers in the seats and buses on the road."

As for the drivers, their work has them supporting everyone from preschoolers to centenarians. Everyday complications include being slowed down by construction, being caught behind a train, or even a rare accident. Kingsley recalls one time he was rear-ended at a stoplight by an inattentive driver and had to wait while law enforcement performed its investigation. Another driver was recently approached by someone asking that he call 9-1-1 after a domestic dispute.

"You just never know," comments Kingsley good-naturedly.

The SMART bus frequently has



John Simonette and Shelly Rockman represented the SMART service during the Marching Classic parade.

only a few riders on board at a time. The only times drivers recall completely filling their buses have been for outings planned by various organizations. Kingsley remembers filling his bus with daycare participants all headed to the Waseca water park on one of this summer's hot days. More than one area elder care facility has used the "Demand" bus to take residents for outings at parks or area restaurants. The service's vehicles are well suited to the task, since they have a lift at the back for any riders who cannot navigate the steps.

Both Simonette and Kingsley claim to know essentially every nook and cranny of Waseca, and most for neighboring towns as well, since the demand bus does go out of town and to other communities essentially every day.

One special trick drivers must get the hang of is pulling up to their stops with the passenger door toward the curb. While delivering area resident Heidi Zimprich to her job at the Neighborhood Service Center, Kingsley discovers the need to avoid a large puddle which has formed on this rainy day. He begins to open the door and immediately closes it. Backing the bus up slightly, he calls out "Whoa. We can't have you stepping into that!"

Zimprich, who says she typically rides the bus about three times a week, echoes the appreciation stated by other riders: "I like riding the SMART bus," she says. "I don't know what I'd do without it."

"Demand" drivers are advised regarding their stops by an on-board computer tablet which informs them of the rider name, time, pickup loca-

tion, and requested destination for each. Dispatchers, who are located in Austin, use a mapping program to determine about how much time will be needed for each run, then create the driver's schedule accordingly. Drivers keep dispatch updated by indicating when they have arrived at a stop, when the rider has gotten on and paid the fee, when the destination has been reached and when the rider has departed.

Of the drivers in Waseca, Rockman says, "Our drivers there are very dedicated. It's refreshing to learn how much they like to help people."

Although Rockman does not usually drive a bus, it is part of her job to receive phone calls regarding the service. "We get a lot of compliments," she says. "We also get the occasional complaint. Sometimes I'm just answering people's ques-

"We try hard, but we can't always please everyone. I try to hear what people have to say, then let them know their input will give us a chance to do better next time."

Simonette takes great pleasure in a plaque presented to him and the Waseca SMART service at the end of the 2020-21 school year. At that time, the Waseca Education Association acknowledged the dedication and flexibility shown by SMART drivers in transporting students despite that year's unpredictability and last-minute changes. Simonette was surprised at that acknowledgement: "I was just out there doing my job," he says. But in the end, "Everybody that requested help from us, I was able to give them."

Transit service survives, serves

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"Anyone who has a car in the garage takes transportation for granted," observes Kirk Kuchera, transit manager of Southern Minnesota Area Rural Transit (SMART), a public transportation agency which serves an area that includes Austin, Albert Lea, Owatonna and Waseca.

"We offer a level of independence to people who wouldn't otherwise have it."

In Waseca, SMART buses are on the road every day of the week. One bus, which operates Monday through Friday, follows a specific route with stops spread across the city's length. Another, the "demand response" bus, will pick up a rider at a specific location and deliver him or her to another. The fare for the route bus is \$2, for on demand rides, it is \$2.50. Monthly passes are about \$35 for students and adults, and \$30 for seniors. Reduced and special rates are available for children and qualifying individuals. More information about costs and routes is posted on the organization's website, smartbusmn.org.

The SMART organization operates 34 buses region wide, and currently has two on the road in Waseca. According to Kuchera, there would be as many as four if the organization were able to find qualified drivers, who must have a Class B license.

"People are missing out," Kuchera laments regarding the reduced number of ride options. "There is definitely demand." He names disabled, elderly, low income, immigrants, and even students (including preschoolers) as the most likely folks to be using the transit service, but the service is available to anyone who pays the fare.

Funding for SMART buses comes mostly from state and federal funds, says Kuchera. Only about 15 percent is local, coming from cities, counties, philanthropic organizations, grants, and paid fares; the organization also partners with an advertising agency, collecting money to use the large-sized vehicles as rolling billboards.

The SMART organization began in 2014, when the state requested that transit systems in Austin, Albert Lea, and Owatonna consolidate and reduce overhead; Waseca joined in January of 2016. Administrative staff consists of Kuchera and four operations managers—one in charge of training and compliance, one overseeing vehicles and facilities, one in charge of operations at Austin and Albert Lea, and Shelly Rockman, who supervises both Owatonna and Waseca. A single dispatch office receives requests and notifies drivers in all four cities.

Kuchera recalls that, prior to consolidation, Waseca's transit system relied on a volunteer driver program. "It was a pretty successful program," he remembers.

The intended schedule in Waseca is that four would be on the road most days of the week, although not all of them would be "dawn to dusk" like the route bus. Ideally, rather than the five drivers currently on staff in Waseca, there would be 11.

Kuchera takes pride in the growth and accomplishments the SMART organization has achieved.

The service in Waseca has shown consistent growth, rising from 18,500 rides in 2015 to 24,250 in 2019. Ridership dropped 85 percent in 2020, but SMART vehicles were called into service in a number of their communities to deliver meals. Increased funding from both state and federal agencies helped the organization remain in operation. "We were doing a lot of good for our communities," declares Kuchera. "Often, our drivers were the only 'outside' person some of our area residents would see for the whole day. There was so

SMART continued on 5

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Compostings

by Al Batt

Honey, whining, and a secret place

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

Do you ever wonder why we can't hear dog whistles?

Yeah, why is that?
It's because dogs can't whistle.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I was there to have a trained medical professional paint over the ruins. The clinic has a scent. It's the smell of the angels who work there. I had dent repairs made by a surgeon so dexterous he could stop a gas pump at exactly \$20.00 if he wanted to. Every scar is a monument. Women know that an important part of a man's rehab after surgery is to whine about it. Nobody gets through life unscathed, so keep moving. My wife drove me home. In my muddled state, I sang a Monty Python's song for my wife's enjoyment while stopped at a red light. "I like traffic lights. I like traffic lights. I like traffic lights. But only when they're green." As we drove away, I wanted to add, "Oh do you know the muffin man, the muffin man, the muffin man? Oh do you know the muffin man, who lives on Drury Lane?" But I didn't.

My wife brought in a few bulbs of garlic. The cat found them and carried one away. The cat lives in a world filled with toys, food, staff, windows, poop gravel and napping areas. The garlic was deemed a toy. She bit into and it was a toy no more. She became offended. Curiosity didn't kill the cat. Vampires haven't bothered her. That reminded me of a woman and her emotional support animal seated in front of me on a flight. The cat meowed so much during the flight that I needed emotional support.

A TRAVELING GALOOT

The City of Hondo, Texas, is known for its iconic sign reading, "This is God's Country Please don't drive through it like hell." Drivers ignored the sign. The US states with the highest number of bingo halls are Texas, New York and Florida. I called bingo twice a week for a few years until I called "under the O, 7." I'm taking a break. It was in Texas where I first heard the joke about the rancher who said his ranch was so big, it took him all day to drive his pickup across it. To which a Midwestern farmer replied, "Yeah, I used to have a truck like that." South Dakota has kuchen as the official state dessert, milk the offi-

cial drink, frybread the official bread and chislic (salty meat on a stick) the official state nosh.

I'VE LEARNED

My car can mysteriously change its location in a parking ramp if I leave it alone for more than an hour.

Never spend much time in the company of an evil ventriloquist. Tarzan never once texted while he was swinging on a vine.

As I walked at night, I heard loud sounds coming from cars whose drivers wanted to share their music with the world. Secondhand smoke isn't good for us. Neither is deafening secondhand music.

There is a secret place known only to my wife where everything I'm looking for resides.

I'm surprised I don't get pop-up ads with my toast in the morning.

NATURE NOTES

While working in North Dakota, I was reminded that The Peace Garden State is the No. 1 honey-producing state in the nation. In its lifetime, a worker honey bee produces 1/12th of a teaspoon of honey. To make one pound of honey, workers fly 55,000 miles and tap two million flowers. In a single collecting trip, a worker visits between 50 and 100 flowers, carrying over half her weight in pollen and nectar. A beekeeper told me of the tradition of telling the bees—informing them of deaths in the family, births, marriages and long absences.

You've been there, walking down a hallway when you meet someone headed in the opposite direction. A nasty collision is in the offing if you don't do something. You move right. The other party moves left, presenting another opportunity for a head-on collision. That's what you'll see hummingbirds doing now. It's a territorial dance done to defend a dependable food source.

Minnesota's Big Tree Registry has 53 native tree species listed. You'll find the application here: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/trees/shrubs/bigtree/nominate.html>. The Iowa Big Tree Nomination Form is at <https://www.iowadnr.gov/Portals/0/dnr/uploads/forestry/urban/iowa%20Big%20Tree%20Nomination%20Form.pdf?ver=2017-09-29-113906-913>

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Kindness and politeness are not overrated at all. They're underused."—Tommy Lee Jones.

Every person has a story worth hearing

Something interesting about assumptions is that we often don't even realize we're making them. Let me offer a trivial example.

Once a month or more, I visit an aunt who lives in an elder care facility. As I finish my visits and want to return to the parking lot, I must follow a series of turns to get to the building's main entry which takes me out to one end of the parking area—the end that is always farthest away from my car.

There's another door that leads out to the lot. Since it's mostly glass, I can usually see my parked vehicle right in front of the door as I begin the series of turns to the entry.

On this door is a sign: "Emergency exit only. Alarm will sound."

One day my cousin and I happened to have coinciding visits, and were leaving the building at the same time. I was completely taken aback when my cousin pushed open the "emergency" exit door and walked out.

Seeing my look of surprise, frankly astonishment, she said breezily, "Oh, it says there's an alarm, but there isn't one."

Now, my cousin is my aunt's



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

daughter, and so visits the facility more often than I do. Also, when my aunt—who has mobility issues and can be frustratingly slow—decides to leave the facility, my cousin is the one who must get her to the parking lot for a drive. Given those circumstances, I can understand why a shorter path to the car would make it worthwhile to test the truth of the sign.

But I cannot picture any condition (short of a genuine emergency) which would have led me to do it.

In other words, I made the assumption an alarm would actually sound, followed by embarrassing questions and awkward excuses on my part.

As I said, this is a trivial example I am offering to make a point: our lives rest on assumptions. Every-

thing from the amount of time it will take us to get to our destination to the trust we will arrive there without incident.

But I was reminded this week that—just as it is unwise to judge a book by its cover— we shouldn't make assumptions about the people around us. What they look like, what they own, where they spend their time—none of these should lead us to make judgments about who they are. Most especially, they should not lead us to dismiss the person as uninteresting or unworthy.

I say this because every person has a story worth hearing; by overlooking or disregarding them, we lose the opportunity to enrich ourselves and our own perspectives. One genuine privilege of being a news reporter is being sent to

places I might otherwise choose not to go, thus meeting people I might never otherwise have encountered.

In the past week and more, I have felt privileged to interact with the SMART bus crew and the passengers I met while riding last Friday. I was delighted to learn more about Marty Nelson and his 40 years with Security Insurance in El-lendale. Though we didn't have any genuine conversation, I was deeply impressed by the drum majors from the bands which took part in the Marching Classic parade. Their composure and positive interactions spoke very highly of them all.

Anyone who was at Trowbridge Park for the award ceremony saw that the leaders from each band had contrived a short routine which they followed when their group was announced. The three drum majors from Eastview not only had a "winning" routine, they also gave a synchronized salute when other bands were announced.

Just think, I had assumed the award ceremony would be boring. Instead, it was enriching, uplifting, and downright fun.

An insider view of the Marching Classic

This past weekend, I had the lovely experience of being a band host at the Waseca Marching Classic. Being a band host means I am assigned to an out-of-town band; it's my job to answer questions, lead them where they need to go, and just generally be of help.

I was assigned to the Blaine Marching Band, a 65-strong band with an enthusiastic new director.

The day started out with the classic parade, which seemed like a completely successful event to me. I walked the parade route with Blaine's band, then waited near Trowbridge Park with their drum majors for the awards. When the Waseca Marching Jays came "parading" down the street, I was filled with emotion.

I miss marching, but I can still take joy in supporting and cheering for the Marching Jays. Those kids work incredibly hard; it's invigorating to see exactly how far they've come.

After the parade, Blaine had a bit of a break so my sister and I (she was helping me for the day) got food and ran home for some deodorant and change of clothes. You know, the usual things.

But that's when things started to get interesting. On Saturday,



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

the weather was very questionable from a band viewpoint. While the rain stayed away for most of the day, it started pouring down right when we wished it hadn't. Usually, the Classic field show is held outside, with all of the bands performing their field shows at the football field. With the rain, everyone and everything had to be moved inside.

Moving around ten marching bands inside with all of their equipment and chaperones and arriving fans was absolute chaos. Everyone was assigned designated weather spots in the high school, but soon those were switched and again we had to move all the equipment to another spot. Once that was done, it was a matter of making sure the kids had all they needed before going to a band director meeting for more information. Devon Lawrence, Waseca's band direc-

tor, along with Dr. Miller and others were fantastic at swiftly making decisions as to how the rest of the night was going to go with everything moved inside. Instructions were given and then we were off.

Blaine had to wait a bit until they could warm up and perform so I was running around the building helping my mother and grandmother with their band, Lu-verne, and offering assistance wherever I could. I'll just say by the end of the night it felt great to sit down again.

The "field" shows went fairly smoothly considering the circumstances. Instead of marching and moving across the field, bands stood in positions in the gym and played, while doing some movements. Of course that meant they were only judged based on musicality, so it all worked out, in my opinion.

Once Blaine was done, I was pretty much free to go, so I rushed back to the gym to watch Eastview's marching band perform. I love Eastview's band. Their field show this year was cowboy themed, and they had ditched the regular uniforms for jeans, button ups, ponchos, and cowboy hats. It was fantastic.

And then, of course, the Waseca Marching Jays. Obviously, it wasn't as good as if they had actually marched, but I still loved watching them perform their show, Nova.

At the end of the day, I went home happy and satisfied knowing I had just spent an entire day surrounded by not only music, but by the love of music. It was a comforting feeling that I hadn't felt in a while, one I made sure to take a minute to appreciate. Over all, it was a good day and I highly recommend anyone who might want to volunteer as a band host next year to do it! I was nervous at first but it was a lot of fun and I didn't have to worry.

My Determination: "I'm not the smartest man in the world, but I can always look back on my life and say I went for it." - Peter Griffin, Family Guy

News doesn't wait, it chases me

I did a little garage sale shopping on Friday. At the very last house I visited, I was greeted by the mother of Terry Huber. It was her garage sale, you see. She stopped me and asked, "Are you from the paper? I recognize your picture."

Yup. That's me. I wouldn't have thought the little photo with my column bug would make me a celebrity, but on this day, it did.

During our conversation I was informed that Terry, that day, had purchased Southside Marine from Neal Schauer. Congratulations Terry.

The adventures in newsing never sleep.

Last week I was walking to the post office when a reader stopped me with a question about her newspaper delivery—I believe it was a day late, or maybe her subscription was due. I took down her name and told her I would look into it. The next day she stopped by my office to tell me her newspaper had arrived and to let me know it was no longer a concern.

Leaving church on Sunday, Pastor Sipe stopped me to apologize for not having read my column yet. That made me chuckle. I told him there was still the rest



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

of the week left for reading.

Homecoming is next week. Congratulations to the 2023 royalty.

And that's pretty much been my week of newsing. Deb made an appearance at PoP club on Saturday after they requested, kindly, that we cover their Saturday party.

Gladly. Deb told me afterward how much gratitude the PoP folks expressed for the coverage. Of me, they said, "We call him and he sends someone right down."

Dave Zika was in my office on Friday. He asked me how many of our stories come from the readers. I told him I no longer keep track of story ideas myself because there isn't a need. So many people tell me what we should write about that I simply follow their instructions (with occasional exceptions). All of that, however, gets sorted out at our

weekly editorial meetings. I also told Dave, a staff of 15 probably wouldn't be enough writers for me and Waseca County. The reason I stopped keeping a separate list of story ideas outside our regular list, was because the list simply became far too long.

Dave and I talked about sports, among other things. Before diving into the Vikings and Twins, I'd like to congratulate Walter Mishek on his wedding celebration over the weekend.

I have two former Mishek employees on my staff. Reed Waller, production manager in New Richland, and Deb Bently. Both were once members of the Arabian Horse Times staff. Deb on editorial staff, and Reed in advertising.

I remember a story Reed told me about Walter—that is Reed told me of a time he went to Walter with a request for a piece of equipment, or something or other

needed for production. Walter asked him whether he really needed it or whether it was more of a "want." Reed said the request was a "need." Walter wrote the check and said something along the lines of "you only pay for quality once."

Reed speaks highly of Walter, and so does Dave Zika for that matter.

Reed also told me once a person earned Walter's trust, they would have it entirely. He then shared a story about the interview process when he was hired.

Now let's dive into sports.

The Vikings lost again, and are not worth expending any more energy on.

I'm hoping the Twins win at least one playoff game this year, so I can say I've seen it happen in my lifetime.

The Bluejays football team looks sharp. My dad has kind of pushed me out of the role of covering them as he now goes to the games and takes pictures. It's nice to see him excited to cover sports.

On another note, I ran into Waseca mayor Randy Zimmerman at Walmart last week. He tells me his court date went well and that he has a settlement hearing in December.



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OBITUARIES

Dennis Kopischke

DENNIS ROBERT KOPISCHKE, age 78, of Waseca passed away surrounded by his family on Sunday, September 24, 2023 at Mayo Clinic Health Systems in Rochester.

Born on October 9, 1944 in Alma City, Dennis was the son of Wilfred and Dorothy (Powell) Kopischke. He graduated from Waseca Central High School with the class of 1963. He joined the Army and served until his honorable discharge. Following his military career, he worked various factory jobs, most notably for Wengers Corporation for over twenty years. After Dennis's retirement, he worked various truck driving jobs. On January 20, 1968, he was united in marriage to Mary Kay Brown at Sacred Heart Church in Waseca. Together, they welcomed four children.

Dennis was a driver in the demolition derby for over twenty years. He was involved in enduro racing as part of the pit crew with his sons and grandson. He was known to be the trailerman for the snowmobile trips he would take with his family and friends. He enjoyed mowing, feeding the birds, taking care of his garden and spending time with his beloved dog, Buster Brown. He loved watching sports, especially NASCAR. Most of all, he loved spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren. He enjoyed when his family would get together to laugh and share memories, play cards, and shake dice. He was a member of Sacred Heart Church and American Legion Post 0228 for over 57 years. Dennis was a simple, quick witted, gentle man who will be dearly missed.



Dennis Kopischke

Dennis is survived by his wife of 55 years, Mary Kay Kopischke of Waseca; children, Denise (Jon) Ortloff of Glencoe, Kevin (Brenda) Kopischke of Elysian, Amy (Doug) Robinson of Waseca, Daniel Kopischke of Waseca; grandchildren, Derek and Blake Ortloff, Kole and Lindsey Kopischke, Rachel and Ryan Borneke, Beau and Maci Robinson, Ellie and CeCe Kopischke; brother-in-law, Robert Brown of Waseca; and many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Dorothy Kopischke; father, Wilfred Kopischke; in-laws, Eileen and Leonard Brown; and sister-in-law, Joyce Brown.

Visitation was held from 2:00 – 5:00 PM on Thursday, September 28, 2023 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Prayer service was at 5:00 PM at the funeral home. Interment was at Calvary Cemetery after the prayer service.

■ SMART

from Page 3

much despair and uncertainty, yet we were able to show up and make a difference." In Austin, SMART drivers delivered as many as 700 meals daily.

Ridership has been rising steadily since 2020, but still has not reached pre-pandemic levels. Kuchera speculates, however, that new records might be being set if Waseca were able to keep the four

intended buses in circulation.

Numbers aside, however, the benefits to the community remain strong.

For one thing, "We've only raised fares once since 2014," Kuchera mentions. "Costs continue to increase, but we have pursued other sources of funding and been able to keep the riders' fee as low as possible."

For another, "Our drivers are phenomenal at doing the hard work and making connections. We have so many great staff members who care about our customers and do what they can to make people's lives better."

■ Valuation

from Page 1

have brought in had they all been sold January 2 of the Assessment year.

Figures compiled by the assessor's office indicate the average price of tillable acres sold in Waseca County in 2021 was \$7,428. In 2022, it was \$9,430, an increase of 27 percent.

With the "trend" of 21 percent (1.65 percent per month) added on, the assessed value of Waseca County's tillable acres has risen by nearly 50 percent over the previous year.

Minnesota law requires that property owners receive notice of the assessed value of their property during the first few months of the year. Property owners are given the chance to learn more about the as-

essment and register any appeals with the Assessor's Office prior to the meeting date given on the notice. Appeal hearings are offered at the township, city, and county levels.

Nelson reports that around 20 property owners appeared at the county board of appeal and equalization meeting he presented this past spring.

"My office is not in charge of taxes," Nelson warns. "It's in charge of valuation and classification."

"But there's no denying there's a close correlation between the two."

"The good news is, an increase in assessed property value is not automatically an increase in taxes."

Nelson does observe that, for the past several years, residential property values have been rising rapidly while agricultural land has been "relatively stagnant."

"So residential taxpayers have been taking on an increasing share of the overall burden."

The principles behind assessment

are to determine any one taxpayer's "fair" share of costs for the governmental agencies which serve that property owner's area. Among those agencies are the city or township where the person lives, the school district which teaches the region's children, the county and the state. Each in turn provides various services many people take for granted, including building and maintaining roads, providing safety services, creating and maintaining recreational opportunities, and regulating and overseeing various elements ranging from drainage patterns to disaster response.

In November each year, those government agencies are required to establish their operating budgets, which become the foundation for the amount of money to be collected from taxpayers. The value and classification of property owned by the taxpayer is used to determine what share of the governmental services the taxpayer is responsible for.

In his time as an assessor, Nelson says he has frequently been approached by property owners who object to seeing an increase in their land's assessed value. He says he understands those objections and works to make adjustments when they are supported by sales data.

"But for the most part, I do my best to help them understand they are not the only ones—that they are being treated the same as everyone else who has similar circumstances"

"Usually, they don't like the change, but they understand it's justified, and it's been applied fairly."

"When we reach that level, people are at least willing to accept things and move forward."

Nelson adds his goal as an assessor is to do his job well and consistently while being thorough about following the rules and guidelines set by the state. "If people have a concern, I invite them to come talk with our office," he says.

■ Council

from Page 1

liminary investigation into the matter had brought in a lowest bid of \$2.1 million, with an expectation that the cost will be close to \$2.5 million by 2026.

Fire chief Jason Forshee appeared before the council to describe efforts the nine-member "truck committee" has been making to decrease the final price for any replacement vehicle. Forshee mentioned a number of changes to bid specifications—for example, acquiring a less powerful on-board generator—the committee had incorporated. He also suggested the resale value of the truck—which he placed at up to \$120,000 for the 30-year-old vehicle, would be higher in

the future if large vehicles were scheduled for replacement sooner than every 30 years. In fact, he said, the Waseca department was approached by another fire department about the possible purchase of the truck, and might have been able to get somewhere around \$300,000—if it had been prepared to sell the vehicle immediately.

Council members proposed numerous possibilities for reducing the city's cost, including asking area fire departments to contribute money toward the purchase of a new vehicle. Forshee said he had never heard of an arrangement like that, stating area fire departments have always supported one another, and implying that charging for that support might lead to an undesirable culture change.

Forshee also told council members the committee had looked into purchasing a used truck rather than a

new one, but after investigation had learned that used trucks with these features have typically "gotten some really hard use," and would likely require replacement in a relatively short time.

After about 20 minutes of discussion, council member Jeremy Conrath proposed that the truck committee be authorized to continue its search and collect bids, but added a "caveat" that the committee is expected to communicate with other fire departments regarding any way they could contribute to the acquisition, having said at one point during the conversation that area agencies were "mooching" off the city of Waseca by getting to use the vehicle at little or no cost.

Also part of the Sept. 19 meeting was a public hearing regarding a change to city statute. Under current law, the city has authority to issue up

to 10 off-sale liquor licenses, but 13 have been allowed. After a brief public hearing at which no one spoke, the council voted to authorize as many as 15 off-sale licenses. City code allows 10 on-sale licenses; at this time eight are in place.

During the "public comment" portion of the meeting, resident Deb Dobberstein shared strong misgivings regarding the city's decision to develop property it owns near Gaiter Lake. Dobberstein said council members weren't "grasping the dollar figures" surrounding the current plan, which she said would cost the city a total of more than \$6 million and create a debt which might not be repaid for up to 60 years.

She also asked whether council members are sufficiently "brave" to say "enough is enough" and stop moving forward with the development.

■ Conagra

from Page 1

Paulson, who worked at the former Bird's Eye plant and has 42 years with the Waseca operation, reveals that Conagra contracts with area grower to raise 18,000 acres of sweet corn, nearly all of which are located within 50 miles of the plant.

"About 95% of our growers come back from year to year," he says. "Some families have been growing crops for us for 40 to 50 years."

Contracts are spread out across as wide an area as possible, Paulson explains, to reduce the impact of isolated weather conditions, for example, overly heavy rains which might drown out part of a crop. Growers are provided with the seed and given a time frame in which it should be planted. Planting times are staggered so that harvest times will be spread out, allowing a reasonable pace for processing.

As crops mature, scouts travel to assess and report various factors. When it comes time to harvest, Conagra provides all equipment needed to get the cobs of corn off the plants, across the field, and into the over-the-road trucks.

When the trucks arrive at the Waseca plant, the tractor is disconnected and the 45,000-pound trailer is set on a hydraulic lift. One end of the trailer is raised, essentially pour-

ing the picked cobs into the plant for processing. The lifts empty the trailers in 45 to 50 minutes.

Inside, the corn is husked and then run past equipment which automatically grades it for the quality of the kernels and the length and diameter of the cob. Roughly one-third of what's processed is packaged and frozen as cob corn; the remaining two-thirds is cut off the cob and frozen as kernels.

Kraimer and Paulson both emphasize that the plant's smooth operations are made possible because of strong connections among Conagra and various facets of the community. Kraimer mentions the farmers who contract with the company, the workers who choose Conagra as their employer, and the truck drivers who transport crops.

"Our building is beautiful. Our equipment is state of the art. But it's the people who make the harvest go smoothly," says Jeff Kraimer, manager of Conagra's new 245,000-square-foot facility west of Waseca.

Kraimer mentions that the plant is capable of processing 45 million pounds of peas, 120 million pounds of corn and up to 20 million pounds of rice in their respective seasons. The plant employs roughly 100 people year round and adds another 200 during the harvest season.

Despite this year's drought, Gary Paulson, director of ag services for the plant, reports that harvests of both peas and corn have been strong. He says yields have been "very good," with surprisingly little impact

from dry areas in fields. In fact, he mentions, field work has been made simpler and smoother because the ground is dry.

The harvest season for Conagra's sweet corn is timed to begin just as the pea harvest finishes around the last week of July. It continues into the first or second week of October. During that time, trucks are kept on the road delivering roughly a hundred 45,000-pound trailer loads of corn to be unloaded and processed each day.

According to Paulson, the span of time from the moment an ear of corn is picked in the field to when it's processed, packaged and frozen is between four and six hours.

The speed, according to Kraimer, can be attributed to knowledgeable workers dedicated to ensuring a quality finished product and to modern equipment which performs a wide variety of tasks.

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Waseca County History Center



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



Adventures in coaching

I'm so blessed to have worked with so many fantastic students and athletes in the Waseca Public Schools. When I run into them around town and visit we share many stories and events they had in school. We laugh together and I listen to the details, many of which I've forgotten. Stories from the classroom, environmental trips to Isabella and Wolf Ridge, and so many athletic stories.

Marie Ross (Mulcahey) played for me on my ninth-grade girls' basketball team. She was a tall post player and played with consistent energy and passion. She always had fun playing the game, a joy to coach. Marie is now working, has a family, and a degree in journalism.

I ran into her parents, Mike and Jane, and we laughed and revisited a couple of unique experiences Marie had playing basketball that year. We couldn't recall all of the details, so they contacted Marie to recall them. She sent them a memo, much better than anything I could have ever written. You might imagine that our conversation was about making the winning free throw, or a winning basket. It is something much better. Here is the memo Marie sent, a couple of incidents Marie experienced playing ninth-grade Lady Jay basketball...

Tooth Incident

I believe the tooth incident occurred in St. James. I remember it was a long bus ride to get there because we had a painfully long reading assignment for English class. I hated reading, so I talked one of my friends into reading it aloud on the ride. She had already planned on reading it on the way there, why not do it aloud...two birds, one stone.

Then at the game, I was going for a rebound with an opponent. The opponent was slightly in front of me but we both had our hands on the ball when she whipped her head back and it directly hit my mouth. I immediately put my hands over my mouth knowing my tooth just got hit hard and was maybe gone. But the game continued on. Why, you ask? Because everyone, including the refs, thought I was laughing and that's why my hands were covering my mouth. Finally someone called a timeout and brought me over to Coach Zika.

With my hands still firmly covering my mouth, he asked to see my teeth. I was facing him and the entire crowd-filled bleachers were behind him. I adamantly refused, likely because I was in a state of

shock. When he finally talked me down, I opened my mouth slowly and saw the entire crowd cringe in disgust... No poker faces in that crowd!

My parents called our dentist and he said he'd meet us at his office. So we drove straight there. There were a lot of tears on that long car ride back to Waseca. And my loving father in a moment of trying to console his deeply distraught daughter said, "If it's any consolation, I bet that other girl has quite the headache."

Upon arriving at the dentist, he took a look at my front tooth that was now almost 90 degrees pushed back near the roof of my mouth. The treatment? Well that was none other than using an old-fashioned wooden popsicle stick to pry it back into place. And then sending me home with my very own popsicle stick to continue to angle it back in place. Horrifying, and yes, I still have teeth nightmares to this day. And it was so late by the time we got home, I didn't have to do any homework. But fear not, I was at least done with the English assignment!

Then fate decided to double-down about 25 years later when my 9-year-old son was playing basketball with some neighborhood kids. He again was going for a rebound and got knocked back by an opponent who was also jumping for the rebound. My son landed mouth-first on the cement...knocking his front tooth loose. And did I mention my father also had his front tooth hit and damaged in the 90s?...not from basketball, but from a roll-tarp on a semi truck. So apparently it's a 3-generation-deep curse!

Shoe Incident

The shoe incident was a different night, but the same basketball season. I had forgotten my size 11 sneakers for an away game, but only realized it when suiting up for the game in the locker room. Someone on my team had an extra pair, but not my size. Another teammate figured out if we all go down one shoe size, we can make this work. But before we started the elaborate shoe swap, Coach Zika caught wind of our plan and nixed it. He said this plan would end in many foot injuries. So I sat on the bench disappointed in myself the whole game. We lost.

This was all part of my ninth-grade and last basketball season. And no, I didn't quit b-ball because of these incidents. Mr. Zika, you were a wonderful coach. I hope you know that! Thank you.

Civics students observe meetings

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Waseca Schools social studies teacher John Hanson teaches a required course for seniors on the topic of civics and American government. For more than 20 years, he has required students in the course to attend at least 45 minutes of a local government meeting "at any level." He explains students are allowed to choose so they can find a meeting which fits into their time schedules. The levels most commonly chosen are city council and school board, since their evening start time tends to be most accessible. Some, however, have gone to township board meetings and others. The stipulation is that the board members must be democratically elected by public voters.

Another requirement for the year-long course is that, by the end of first trimester in December, participants must have passed an American government citizenship test—the same one required of all applicants who wish to become citizens. Hanson says Minnesota began requiring that all high school students take a civics test in 2018; he has been requiring it for two decades.

"It fits the goal of helping students become informed and engaged citizens," he says.

Student Lola Guggisberg attended a recent school board meeting. Her impression was that the discussion remained "very on point," and that the group seemed to use its time efficiently. On the evening she attended, she heard a presentation regarding the current rise in Covid cases, comparing current local statistics with some from the past.



Waseca social studies teacher John Hanson with interviewees Jose Cruz and Lola Guggisberg.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bentley

It also caught her interest when she heard a discussion regarding the social studies curriculum in use at her school.

Senior Jose Cruz attended the most recent Waseca City Council meeting, where he discovered he was part of a group of about 20 students in the audience. He said he was surprised to see that several people on the council commonly come into his place of work. "I had no idea they were part of city government," he commented.

Cruz said the most interesting part of the meeting, for him, was discussion regarding a possible \$2.5 million purchase of a ladder lift truck for the city fire department.

"Two million dollars is a lot of money," he said, "so it's good they talked about it and looked for possible alternatives."

Both Cruz and Guggisberg admit they were not pleased when they learned they would have to take some of their own time to attend a government meeting. But they also say they're glad they did.

"If you live in Waseca, you should go to a city

council meeting," said Cruz. "It's important everyone knows the basics."

Guggisberg said she expected to see only parents at a school board meeting, but instead learned that interested citizens come in many varieties. "It's really important that we go," she commented; both she and Cruz said they would consider attending more public meetings, even without a school requirement.

Hanson commented that student observations and questions often spark lively, beneficial discussions back in the classroom.

"I hope they recognize that local government should not be overlooked," comments Hanson. "This is the level where important decisions are made about day-to-day elements of our lives. Things like parks, streets, and fire departments. It's where a lot of tax dollars get spent."

"After being at a meeting, I hope they grasp more about how decisions are made, who makes them, and what processes are followed."

Waldorf sets preliminary 8% levy increase

By TRISTAN GEHRING
Staff Writer

Results for 2023 manganese tests for water in the City of Waldorf were discussed at the City Council's regular meeting September 11. Manganese levels in the water again came in high, and letters will be sent to residents with more detail. Manganese is a metal that is essential to life in trace amounts but becomes toxic at high levels. Symptoms of manganese toxicity include tremors, muscle spasms, tinnitus, hearing loss, and unsteady feelings while standing.

Manganese toxicity is most common in welders and others exposed on the job, but can also manifest through drinking water with particularly high levels of the metal.

Mayor Rob Wilkening gave a presentation on his proposed budget for Waldorf in 2024, which is to be voted on at the next meeting held October 16. The budget is based on an 8% levy increase from 2023. Once a preliminary levy amount is submitted, it can be lowered but not raised before its final approval in December.

WALDORF CITY COUNCIL

Cliffton Larson Allen, the accounting firm handling Waldorf's audit, locked the city's account pending a payment of \$6,300, which the city council approved. The firm's representative has guaranteed that with this payment the audit will be completed and submitted to the state by September 30, which is necessary to avoid the city losing their 2023 Local

Government Aid funding. Members of the city council expressed deep frustrations with the firm and discussed replacing them for future work, as the audit should have been completed in time for the first LGA payment of 2023 to be in July and now will not be received until December's disbursement.

The council approved the placement of signs by the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School's Future Farmers of America declaring Waldorf an "FFA community."

County sets preliminary levy

By TRISTAN GEHRING
Staff Writer

Michael Johnson presented the Board of County Commissioners with a preliminary levy of \$18,010,262, which represented a 1.5% increase from 2023. The board approved the recommended preliminary levy, thus guaranteeing the final certified levy will be 1.5% or lower. Constituents will receive notices on the topic, and are encouraged to analyze the effects on themselves and their community and bring comments to the budget hearing set for December 19 at 6 p.m.

A Special Primary Election is to be held November 7, 2023, and a Special

Election on February 13, 2024 to choose among the three candidates who have filed for the board seat left empty by this summer's sudden death of board chair Blair Nelson. As described in earlier Pioneer articles, area residents Ann Fitch, Brad Milbrath and Larry Johnson will be on the ballot. Absentee voting began Friday, September 22, to comply with state law, the Waseca County Commissioners established an Absentee Ballot Board, to be comprised of trained election judges, at their regular meeting September 19.

Waseca County is officially cooperating with Blue Earth, Faribault, and Freeborn counties in a joint

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

powers agreement for the implementation of the Le Sueur River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, long planned and resulting from the One Watershed, One Plan initiative. At their meeting, the board of commissioners adopted the joint powers agreement and the bylaws for the collaborative body formed by that agreement, as well as their resolution to adopt the comprehensive watershed management plan.

Funds have been allocated for the replacement of Bridge No. 7597 over

the Little Le Sueur River on County Highway 5; the contract has been awarded to Ulland Bros., Inc., who will be performing the work for slightly over \$520,000. Various federal and state funds, along with about \$18,000 of county money, will cover the cost.

Chris Howard, of the ditch authority, brought two ditches before the board to begin the process of redetermination, CD26 and CD32, both of which lie north of New Richland and outlet to Boot Creek. CD26 was established in 1953 and CD32 in 1956, and neither has had a redetermination of benefits since its establishment.

Waseca school sets preliminary levy

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

After the payment of claims review and approvals of consent agenda items at the regular Waseca School Board meeting of September 21, Superintendent Eric Hudspeth was eager to move in to his report to the board. Hudspeth presented the district's updated "vision card," a document which outlines the action steps of the strategic plan and identifies the baseline measurements for progress. The five-year goals for the school district have been identified based on feedback collected last spring from students, staff, and families who were surveyed regarding what they believed their desired daily experiences (DDE) at school should be like. "I feel really good about where we are heading," Hudspeth said. "I'm looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish this coming year in meeting those goals."

Board Chair Julie Anderson asked for clarification about Hudspeth's use of the term "baseline"; Hudspeth confirmed that its use signals the minimally acceptable rating of the scale. "At this point we haven't intervened with anything new, so baseline, or minimally acceptable, would be middle of the road."

The 2023-24 operating budget is \$32,553,525.

Business manager Matthew Moline began his 2024 levy presentation with a reminder that many factors affecting property taxes, including changes in market values, class rates, enrollment, resident populations and state education funding, are outside of the district's control.

Moline expects the district's levy

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

will increase by about 4%; he explained that numbers regarding external factors are in the process of being finalized at the state level. This means that, although the data the school district has entered regarding its budget and operations remains the same, the amount in tax dollars they would generate is continually shifting. By defaulting to the "maximum allowed" amount rather than a specific percentage, Moline explained, the district is allowing the state's numbers to stabilize.

"Ninety-five percent of all districts in the state approve the maximum," Moline said. He ended with a seven-year history of district levy percentages, highlighting the

3.244% average. "Most of the time we've asked for the same programs on the levy. It's just the play on enrollment," he said. The superintendent mentioned there is a link to the county assessor on the school website for those interested in finding information about their own property tax value.

Contacted after the meeting, Moline revealed that the Waseca School District's 2023-24 operating budget is \$32.5 million, but because a large share of school funding comes directly from the state, the district levies taxes for only about \$5.3 million in local property taxes.

Other items addressed included approvals of service agreements, reviewed/revised policies, and acceptance of received gifts and donations.

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Argus Archives

100 Years Back - 1923

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Abraham and Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Morrill drove to Mapleton Sunday, where they spent the day with Mr. and Mrs. Linde-land.

George Rachel has placed an order for 3,700 red raspberry plants which we will set out on his farm in Janesville township next spring.

Edward Willis, who has been with his parents for about two months, with the Bureau of Public Roads, left on Friday evening for Washington to resume his position.

Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Keeley and Mr. and Mrs. James McBride and Mrs. Thos. Foley drove to St. Paul early in the week, where they went to attend the annual Hibernian convention.

Tony Munz and Wm. Marsh are just now getting the lion's share and the credit for fine ducks and other of the feathery tribe.

Frank Kiffe has removed to the second story of the Schafer building, where he will reside in the future. This is a very desirable place, equipped as it is with modern facilities for comfort.

Mrs. Clarence Converse, Mrs. V. A. Hirscher and Miss Elizabeth Snyder, with George Converse as driver, last week formed an auto party on a trip to La Crosse, Wis., and other points in that state.

Dr. T. M. Joyce is fortunate in the skill he displayed in diagnosing his own case, an infection from a needle point in an operation, which threatened blood poison. Happily the swelling subsided, although it looked quite serious in its insipient stages.

Under the watchful eye of Theodore Schramsky, the Farmers elevator in Janesville has been greatly improved by the substitution of new sid-ing. It is now repainted and is thoroughly attractive in appearance.

75 Years Back - 1948

The following young folks from Waseca county have made arrange-ments to attend the University School of Agriculture at the St. Paul cam-pus for the fall term: Jeanette Bartelt, Waldorf; E. Rodney Geary, Pemberton; Leonard Monke, Waseca; Roger Nelson, New Richland.

A deal was entered into last week in which arrangements were made for the transfer of the ownership of the Waseca Herald to the Waseca Journal. After October 1st both the Waseca papers will be published in the Waseca Journal plant.

Sunday afternoon visitors at the W. C. Eichhorst home were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Eichhorst and Otto, Mr. and Mrs. George Eichhorst, son Gale, and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Tesch and family.

Misses Eleanor Kort and her friend of Colorado Springs, who are at-tending the University of Minnesota, spent the week end at the Dave Hodgkins home. Delbert Hodgkins, who is also a student at the Uni-versity, spent Sunday at home.

A very enjoyable time was had on Thursday afternoon, Sept. 23, at the C. M. Anderson home when Mrs. Lynn Andrews, Mrs. Henry O'Brien and Mrs. Anderson invited in a few near neighbors in honor of Mrs. Anna Veig, who will soon leave for California. Mrs. Veig was pre-sented with a handkerchief by each lady.

Pemberton is proud to have won its first football game of the season with Mapleton on their field Friday afternoon. The score was 18-14. It was a hard played game as Mapleton outweighed our boys. Coach Hall has been doing some strenuous training with the boys.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Sommer of Faribault, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Buker and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Popp, Jr., and daughter, Nancy, of Waseca were Sunday dinner and supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Kurzbein.

50 Years Back - 1973

Community Chest volunteers will be out to raise \$4,700 for 21 dif-ferent organizations when they open their month long drive here Oct. 1. President of this year's drive is Mrs. Gerold Chapman. She is assisted by Mrs. Gene Wiebusch, vice-president, and Mrs. Alvin Grams, secre-tary-treasurer. Serving on the Community Chest board this year are Miss Alice Elder, Mmes. Lorraine Brandmire, Tipple Bauleke, Sharon Miller, Sharon Radke, Nancy Gustafson, Debbie Hering, Marge Finley, Judy Tonolli and Jeanette Bartelt, Messrs. George Tuvey, Charlie Johnson and Ron Wiste.

A Mankato to Faribault recreational trail is making good progress to-ward completion. Called "The Sakatah Singing Hills Trail," it follows an abandoned railroad right of way of the Chicago and Northwestern.

Mrs. H. A. Stuart, Miss Angelina Fisk and Mrs. Carlos Holleschau called on residents at the Janesville Nursing Home Tuesday afternoon and took cake and a gift for those having September birthdays.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Auringer were Monday evening visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Bluhm. Tuesday supper and evening guests were Mr. and Mrs. Duane Oftedahl of Waseca.

Mrs. Peter Seys, Mrs. Tom Hinton, Mrs. Arnold Becker, Mrs. Marty Roecker, Mrs. Carl Tesch, Mrs. Bert Coy and Mrs. Luella Schlaak were among 32 ladies who enjoyed a tour to Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Tues-day, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Miller of Waterville and Mr. and Mrs. Nelmer Arndt and daughter of Eagle Lake were Sunday afternoon visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Miller.

25 Years Back - 1998

After 11 years of service in Janesville, Chief of Police Matt Peters will be moving on to St. Peter where he has accepted the police chief position.

JWP Homecoming Queen candidates are: Natalie Adams, daughter of Shelley Schultz and John Adams; Brooke Barbknecht, daughter of Dave and Vicki Barbknecht; Alicia Berndt, daughter of Doug and Bette Berndt; Hilary Lau, daughter of Jeff and Cindy Lau; and Katie Sikel, daughter of John and Peg Sikel. King candidates are: Mitch Gahler, son of Joe and Sheryl Williams and Lyle and Sue Gahler; Wayne Harring-ton, son of Tom and Lavonne Harrington; Ben Pooley, son of Terry and Arlene Pooley; Allen Quast, son of Burt and Colleen Quast; and Jason Wilmes, son of Chuck and Jane Wilmes.



Troy Summers of South Central Veterinarians in Janesville talk about animal safety as Cassie Goodnough, Adam Huxford and Christopher Schlie listen during last Tuesday's Farm Safety Day in Janesville.

The JWP girls' cross country team breezed to its second consecutive win at the Panther Invitational in New Richland Monday. The Bulldogs had the first three finishers in the 4,000-meter race at Riverview golf course.

Compiled by Jessica Lutgens

16 cents for gas at service stations

100 Years Back - 1923

George Kopman surprised friends here with the announcement of the sale of his photograph gallery. The buyer is Walter Marquardt, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Marquardt of this city.

George Meyer, Sr. and Jr., have bought Ralph Deverell's dray line and consolidated the two draying firms. They have retained Earl Phillips as driver.

Dr. Otto Groebner examined sixty-nine babies at the free clinic which was given under the direction of the County Public Health Association at the court house last Saturday. As a whole the clinic was the most successful ever held in this city.

Mrs. L. J. Sheldon and daughter Miss Hazel left Monday morning for Minneapolis where Miss Hazel has entered the State University to take up the regular college course.

The Long Prairie Leader says that the automobile is more to blame for present hard times than anything else. It is true that a lot of people buy autoes who do not need them and a lot of people drive cars more than they should. But, in the language of the street, what are you going to do about it?

Four residents of Waseca county received their citizenship papers last Monday when M. D. Herman, state examiner of St. Paul, conducted the naturalization hearing before Judge Senn. He asked them many questions regarding the government and its workings and the following men received their citizenship papers: Emil Zumbrowsky, New Richland; Peter F. Frodl, Janesville; Ole L. Harried, Janesville and Ernest A. Krueger, New Richland.

The Standard Oil Co. is quoting 16c for gas at service stations, a reduction of eight-tenths of a cent. Off of trucks the price is 14c. Kerosene is 9c off trucks and 11c at service stations.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Van Loh and family, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Haines of Madelia and Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Haines of Indiana motored to Reeds Lake Sunday to enjoy the fishing. The fish were presenting but not biting.

75 Years Back - 1948

Politicians are not competent to analyze the causes of inflation and the high cost of living. They do not approach the problem to get the truth, but to meet the requirements of a partisan formula, blaming the opposition.

Mrs. M. H. Tobin and Mrs. W. G. Williams of Garner, Iowa, were week end visitors at the L. W. Tobin residence. The ladies are sisters to Mrs. Tobin.

Mr. and Mrs. John Krenik of Waseca and Mr. and Mrs. Loftus of Mont-gomery enjoyed a nice trip to Duluth, Lake Superior shore, International Falls and Fort Francis, Canada, returning Monday evening.

The Waseca Horse club will hold a trail ride Sunday beginning at the Einer Iversen home at one o'clock Sunday. They will ride along the Wilton river and back to the Iverson home where a wiener roast will be held.

Mrs. Joseph Manthey was hostess to her bridge club Wednesday after-noon at their first gathering of the fall season. Bridge awards went to Mrs. Clarence Lueck, high, and Mrs. Louis Hanson, low.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Springer of Owatonna were Sunday afternoon visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Harold C. Weber.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Palmer were entertained at dinner Wednesday even-ing at the Mrs. Hazel Boeke home in Janesville by Mrs. Boeke and Mrs. Jack Boeke.

Mr. and Mrs. Marion Cunningham, Mrs. Gertrude Kuehnel an dPhyliss Larson motored Sunday to Osseo and Minneapolis where they visited with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Bartz and son, Charles, of Owatonna, were Sunday afternoon visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Wilker and family.

50 Years Back - 1973

Consumer prices jumped 1.8 per cent in August, the sharpest rate of in-crease in 26 years. The biggest one-month jump in food prices since 1917 was to blame.

Approximately 4,750 pills of assorted drugs, four radios, and \$117 in cash were stolen from Stucky's Drug Store in Waseca Saturday evening. Chief of Police Earl Halleck said it appeared the safety lock on the back door was twisted off with a vice grip or other instrument. Waseca police are investigating the theft.



A "ribbon" made of twine was cut by Student Senate President Nancy Hacmac this morning to signify the opening of fall quarter at the University of Minnesota Technical College-Waseca. Pictured left to right are: UMW Provost Ed Frederick, University of Minnesota Regent Lauris Krenik, Miss Hacmac, State Representative Rod Searle and State Senator John Patton.

The Bluejay cross country team out-ran Faribault and Northfield Friday afternoon at the Lakeside Golf Course and recorded still another victory. John Sybilrud crossed the finish line first with a time of 17:10. Dean Land-kammer was third, Steve Miller fourth, Mark McGuire fifth and Jon Wen-gronowitz 12 for the Bluejay team.

Over 200 people appeared last night at the Territori House in Otisco for the fall season kick-off dinner for the Waseca Players, and from what we were told, some had to be turned away because of the unexpected large turnout.

25 Years Back - 1998

Just one month short of the second anniversary of its opening, the Olde Towne Eatery is changing hands. Rick and Ranae Roberts have sold the business to David and Charlena Overland of North Mankato.



Katie Monahan, left, and Meghan Flor of Waseca check out the books that were available at the book fair at the Sacred Heart Fall Festival Friday.

New owners, Vern Nelson, Rich, Bob, and Milt Nielsen, assumed own-ership of the longtime Waseca business, Lewer Auto, Sept. 16.

Looking Back (New Richland)

100 Years Back - 1923

A. C. Matthies has purchased the Lee Cafe at Ellendale. The deal was closed Tuesday of this week. Mr. Matthies was formerly buttermaker at the Star Creamery and later operated a restaurant at Easton.

The Joe Dagley and Frank Dunnett families expect to move Monday of next week into the Miss Mary Swift residence. Miss Swift expects to leave this week for Tracy where she will make her home with her niece, Mrs. Hinckleman.

A parcel shower was given in honor of Miss Lillian O'Riley Sunday afternoon at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. O'Riley. About 175 people were present and Miss O'Riley was the recipient of many beautiful and useful gifts. She is to become the bride of Mr. Enoch Root, son of Mrs. C. E. Root.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Romig drove to Minneapolis Sunday and were accompanied by their daughter, Mrs. Frank Smith, and baby who returned to their home in that city after a week's visit in New Richland.

Andrew Henjin arrived Sunday from Faribault and is to take a position as head miller at the Eaco mill. He began his duties Mon-day morning. J. M. Johnston, head miller at Waseca, will be here until the last of the week.

Clarence Bluhm has resigned his position as assistant at the Waldorf creamery and will begin work on the Waseca-Morristown road.

77 Years Back - 1948

With the addition of another school bus another driver has been added to the three previously in service, Fred Sable, Joe Brecke and Emory Kisor. Howard Albright is the new driver.

Effective October 1, the Post Office department announces a reduction in the domestic air mail rate of postage from 8 cents per ounce to only 5 cents per ounce.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Ackland and son, Thomas, of Minneapolis came Friday evening and spent until Sunday evening at the home of Mrs. Ackland's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Keen. They were joined at Sunday dinner by Mrs. Knut Wangen of Manchester and Miss Lois Halinger of Minneapolis. Jay Ackland accompanied his parents home after a week's visit with his grandparents.

Misses Margaret Callahan of Albert Le and Lone Tapp of Austin spent the week end at the Ray Callahan home.

Eight couples partook of a dutch treat chicken dinner at Bath Wednesday night after which they all retired to the Tyrholm home where they were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Nock and Mr. and MRs. H. T. Tyrholm. The event was in honor of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Matz of Long Beach, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gunderson and children of Albert Lea were Sunday evening visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Sigurdson.

50 Years Back - 1973

Homecoming queen candidates at Waldorf-Pemberton high school this year are Patti Huxford, Mary Kaiser and Lorrie Holtz.

Sunday supper guests at the home of Mrs. Doris Christenson were Mr. and Mrs. John Peterson of Waseca, Mrs. Case Hoogland of Geneva, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Boot and Mr. and Mrs. Orval Hoyt of Albert Lea, and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Phillips of Bloom-ing-ton.

Mrs. Reinholt Johnson, Mrs. Roger Johnson and Annette and Mrs. Lloyd Brandvold were among those who attended a birthday party at the Arthur Edquist home at Mankato Saturday afternoon honoring Mrs. Brandvold and Evelyn Olson.

Thursday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Al Dirnburger were Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Elwood of Eugene, Oregon and Mr. and Mrs. Lester Young of Alden.

Monday evening supper guests at the Oluf Erickson home were Mr. and Mrs. Pete Erickson, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Warke, Mr. and Mrs. Gerhard Olson, Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth Gulbrandson and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Michaelson.

Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Reistad attended the open house in honor of Mrs. Clara Hatle on her 88th birthday at the Trinity Lu-theran church in New Richland.

25 Years Back - 1998



NRHEG Homecoming King Chad Knudson and Queen Faith VanBockern were crowned at special festivities Monday evening.

New Richland's Tele-Care program celebrated its 20th birthday Saturday with a special program and open house at the New Richland Care Center to honor those volunteers who call ill, lonely, elderly or shut-in persons every morning. Presently there are ten persons who are called every day, Monday through Saturday, by volunteers.

Stacy Bartness, a member of the Hartland 4-H Club, showed the Grand Champion Saanen Ewe in 4-H competition at the Min-nesota State Fair.

Compiled by Jessica Lutgens



Karin Gunderson

Music, stories part of inspirational program Oct. 19

Karin Gunderson, an international English teacher, musician and founder of Heavenly Harp, will present an inspirational program at 7 p.m. October 19 at North Waseca Lutheran Church.

A free will offering will be taken; CDs, DVDs, and other items will be for sale.

Gunderson will share her experiences teaching Afghan refugees in Albania. She uses stories and songs accompanied by harp to “unleash the light and love inherent within you – no matter where you are or what your current life situation may be.”

According to a news release, Gunderson’s program centers around her experiences in Albania and the people she met there. She will share information about the day-to-day challenges faced by refugees and “remind” those in attendance “of the immense power

each of us holds to create positive change.”

The songs and harp music she shares will represent “a place where barriers are broken, cultures are celebrated, and unity prevails. You’ll find yourself singing along, inspired by the universal language of music and the boundless possibilities it brings.”

The program is suitable for audience members of all ages, providing a “unique blend of storytelling, music, and personal anecdotes.”

North Waseca Lutheran Church invites, “Don’t miss this incredible opportunity to witness the profound impact of one person’s dedication and to help you tap into your own power to effect change. Join us for an unforgettable evening with Karin Gunderson and become a part of the movement to lift the world in loving kindness, one individual at a time.”



Antithesis of love is fear and hatred

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

Who do you love? I know it is not February, but can we talk about love now? I love my wife, I love the fall, I love cold mornings and good coffee. I love sitting by a fire and sharing it with good friends. There are a lot of things that I love, but there is a greater love in this world that we don’t always understand.

There are things that I don’t love, hot weather, broken cars, and mean people top my list. How do we love the things and people that are tough to love? A lot of the time we recite 1 John 4:7-8 to remind us of God’s love and our need for loving one another, but we don’t always know what will result from that love. Love’s action results in a reliance upon God.

John continues his discourse on love in 1 John 4:16-21 where he challenges us to consider that God’s love transforms the way we live.

16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. 17 In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

19 We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not

seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

John calls us to live in and rely upon God’s love. God’s love was demonstrated in Christ’s sacrifice for sin, we live in God’s love by actively following Him in all things. We turn in repentance to Him and choose to obey His commands as an act of love. Through this practice our perspective on life and relationship with others is transformed.

The antithesis of love is both fear and hatred. When we live in fear, there is no room for love. When we hold on to hatred, it consumes our heart. We must learn to live out love in every situation, whether we struggle with fear or hatred. We must capture those emotions and responses as Christ did as He willingly went to the cross to die for the sins of those that hate God.

Once we hated God, but because of His love we are being reconciled to Him. Our hearts must be transformed by God’s love, from fear to eternal hope, from hatred to compassion. In this transformation God’s love is made complete in us. His power is to turn us from what we were into His likeness and into more perfect disciples.

We are to be transformed in our actions towards others, not by what we have accomplished but what His love for us accomplished in us. Let us turn in reliance upon God any time fear or hatred rises in us. Let us turn from fear or hatred and be imitators of God in loving others as He first loved us.



From left: District Governor Christy Trutnau, Immanuel Mueller, Melissa Olson, Rachel Reese, Jenna Krassin, Samantha Strand, Mackenzie Hoy, Melissa Eaton. Not pictured: Angela Wilson.

Lions club inducts eight new members

Don Zwach, Ken Lenz recognized for five decades of dedication

Submitted by the Waseca Lions

The Waseca Lions inducted eight new members at their last meeting. District Governor Christy Trutnau presented all with certificates and pins to commemorate the event. Attending were: District Governor Christy Trutnau, Immanuel Mueller, Melissa Olson, Rachel Reese, Jenna Krassin, Samantha Strand, Mackenzie Hoy, Melissa Eaton. Missing was Angela Wilson.

Don Zwach and Ken Lenz were recognized for 50 years of dedicated service to the Waseca Lions. Ken was not in attendance. District Gov-

ernor Christy Trutnau and Diane Beckmann, President, presented Don with an engraved memento box.

Lions serve the needs of their communities. Our mission is so compelling, and so vital, that we are the largest service organization in the world. Our global causes present significant challenges to humanity: Diabetes. Vision. Hunger. Environment. Childhood Cancer. The Waseca Lions meet at noon on the first and third Wednesday of every month at Lakeside Golf Course. Anyone wanting more information can call Diane Beckmann, President, at 835-9899 for details.



District Governor Christy Trutnau and Diane Beckmann, President, present Don Zwach with an engraved memento box.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * * 4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * * FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * * CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays 9 a.m., 10-15 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship * * * ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * * ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * * FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * * GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * * SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca 507-835-1222 Worship Saturday 5:15 p.m., Sundays 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., weekdays 8:30 a.m. Tues., Wed. and Fri., 7:00 a.m. Thurs. * * * REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-607-8245 Sundays 9 and 10:30 a.m. * * * CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * * GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca	507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. * * * CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * * ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * * ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * * TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * * FIRST CONGREGATIONAL New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Pamela Jensen Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * * LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting * * * VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd’s Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * * ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH	New Richland, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass * * * FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class * * * IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * * ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * * ST. JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * * TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18 * * * TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Interim Pastor Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:00 a.m. Worship * * * JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST	CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * * BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter) * * * ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass * * * FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * * ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Vacancy Sunday - 1 p.m. Worship * * * TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Vacancy Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * * NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday “Young at heart” Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation * * * NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.
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BORN TO RUN — The Bluejays’ Kaeden Johnson (1 in left photo) and Damarius Rusell (3 at right) displayed their sprinter speed Friday, Sept. 22 as the Bluejays defeated Belle Plaine 42-8, almost getting a third straight shutout. The Jays play at Jordan this week.



Bluejays make it three straight

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Early in the first half, a Belle Plaine assistant coach gestured at the erroneous scoreboard - which showed the visitors with 1 point - and joked to a colleague, "Hey! We didn't get shut out."

It was a long time before they got actual points.

The Waseca High School football team rolled to a third consecutive victory Friday, Sept. 22 - and nearly a third straight shutout - as the Bluejays manhandled Belle Plaine 42-8 on the WHS field.

"It was a great win," said Bluejays head coach Brad Wendland. "We're very happy with the strides these guys have made. They have so much to be proud of, but they still know there are a lot of areas they can improve."

The Bluejays dominated Belle Plaine from the outset, taking an early lead as Russell caught a long pass from Jordan Johnston and Kaeden Johnson followed with a 22-yard touchdown run. Josh Hulscher kicked the PAT.

Johnson, who finished with 109 yards on seven carries, added touchdown runs of 12 and 43 yards as the Bluejays built a 20-0 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Johnson threw a pair of scoring passes in the second period, 42 yards to Damarius Russell and 10 yards to Koltyn Quillen, making it 35-0 at halftime.

In the third quarter, Johnston ran 64 yards for a touchdown, giving him 82 yards rushing on four carries.

Belle Plaine scored in the fourth quarter following a questionable pass interference penalty against Waseca.

Russell had his best game of the season with 153 yards on six pass receptions.

Johnston, a sophomore, was 8-for-12 passing for 164 yards.

The Bluejays outrushed the Tigers 242-65 and outgained them 409-102 in total yards.

While pleased with the fact the Bluejays experienced no cramping - a problem the previous week - Wendland said they have to do better than the eight penalties for 70 yards they had against Belle Plaine.

"We did come out of the game completely healthy, which is good," said Wendland.

The Bluejays know they'll face a tougher test Friday, Sept. 29 as they travel to Jordan.

"They're a little more physical this year," said Wendland. "They run the ball, and they're good on defense."

And the coaching staff looks forward to getting the Bluejays ready.

"It's going to be a fun week," said



Da. Russell



Stenzel

Wendland.

	Waseca 42, Belle Plaine 8			
BP	0	0	0	8—8
WAS	20	15	7	0—42

First Quarter

WAS — Johnson 22 run (Hulscher kick)
WAS - Johnson 12 run (kick failed)
WAS - Johnson 43 run (Hulscher kick)

Second Quarter

WAS — Da. Russell 42 pass from Johnston (two-point conversion run good)
WAS - Quillen 10 pass from Johnston (Hulscher kick)

Third Quarter

WAS — Johnston 64 run (Huelscher kick)

Fourth Quarter

BP - Perry 3 run (two-point conversion pass good)

	BP	WAS
First downs	4	10
Rushing	29-65	23-242
Passing	3-15, 37	8-12, 167
Total Yds.	102	409
Penalties	1-5	8-70

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — WAS: Johnson 7-109; Johnston 4-82; Da. Russell 1-11; Mixteco 7-22; Ohnstad 1-15; Allen-Haas 2-5; Ludwig 1-2; BP: Holbrook 12-49; Mohlin 4-7; Sparby 7-4; Perry 2-5

Passing - WAS: Johnston 8-12, 167; BP: Sparby 3-15, 37

Receiving — WAS: Da. Russell 6-153; Quillen 1-10; Mixteco 1-4; BP: Perry 1-28; Eppen 2-9

Waseca Defense — Ludwig 2 tackles; Da. Russell 1 assist, 1 interception; Hiller 1 tackle; Ellis 3 tackles, 2 assists, 1 interception; De. Russell 1 tackle; Roeker 1 tackle; Moncala 1 tackle; Ohnstad 1 tackle; Mixteco 1 tackle, 1 assist; Selthun 1 tackle; Rupe 1 assist; Veroveen 3 tackles; Allen-Haas 1 tackle; Hager 1 tackle; Thompson 1 tackle; N.Engel-Mueller 2 tackles; Norman 1 assist; Stenzel 4 tackles, 1 assist; Rodriguez 1 tackle, 1 assist, 1 fumble recovery; S.Engel-Mueller 3 tackles, 1 sack; Rodney 1 tackle



EXTRA YARDS — At left, the Bluejays’ Keaton Roeker (9) tries to elude the grasp of a Belle Plaine defender. At right, Kaeden Johnson (1) follows a big block by teammate Carson Ohnstad (18).



PLAYING TIME — Big plays from starters like Deron Russell (7, left) and Koltyn Quillen (21), produced some second-half playing time for Micah Allen-Haas (45) and Jose Mixteco (23).

SCOREBOARD			
Football			
South Central White		St. James/Window/Madelia	0-8 1-8
	Conf.	Ov.	
Waseca	1-0	3-1	
Jordan	1-0	3-1	
Tri-City United	0-0	2-2	
Belle Plaine	0-1	1-3	
Albert Lea	0-1	0-4	
Friday, Sept. 22 results			
Waseca 42, Belle Plaine 8			
Marshall 45, Tri-City United 0			
Saturday, Sept. 23 results			
Jordan 45, Albert Lea 6			
Friday, Sept. 29			
Waseca at Jordan			
Mid Southeast West			
Mayer Lutheran	4-0	4-0	
Lester Prairie	4-0	4-0	
Norwood-Young America	4-0	4-0	
Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop	3-1	3-1	
Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton	2-2	2-2	
Randolph	2-2	2-2	
United South Central	2-2	2-2	
Cleveland	1-3	1-3	
St. Clair/Loyola	1-3	1-3	
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	1-3	1-3	
Medford	0-4	0-4	
NRHEG	0-4	0-4	
Friday, Sept. 22 results			
St. Clair/Mankato Loyola 17, NRHEG 0			
JWP 14, WEM 6			
United South Central 29, Medford 0			
Norwood-Young America 42, Randolph 7			
Lester Prairie 32, GFW 18			
Boys' Soccer			
Big South Conference			
Worthington	8-1	10-2	
Marshall	8-1	9-4	
New Ulm	6-2	7-2	
Fairmont Area	3-5	3-6	
St. Peter	3-7	3-10	
Waseca	2-6	2-8-1	
Volleyball			
Big South Conference - East			
St. Peter	7-0	8-2	
New Ulm	5-2	9-4	
Waseca	4-2	5-3	
St. James Area	2-4	4-8	
Blue Earth Area	2-5	3-9	
Fairmont	0-7	2-11	
Big South Conference - West			
Redwood Valley	4-0	16-1	
Marshall	3-0	13-3	
Window Area	3-0	12-4	
Luverne	2-2	8-10	
Worthington	1-4	8-9	
Jackson County Central	0-3	5-12	
Pipestone Area	0-4	0-12	
Gopher Conference			
Kenyon-Wanamingo	5-0	11-1	
Randolph	4-1	5-1	
Bethlehem Academy	3-1	5-11	
Hayfield	4-2	6-6	
Medford	3-2	8-4	
Maple River	3-2	11-7	
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	2-2	9-7	
NRHEG	2-2	5-6	
Triton	2-3	5-10	
Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton	1-4	2-6	
Blooming Prairie	0-5	4-13	
United South Central	0-5	3-10	
Girls' Soccer			
Big South Conference Standings			
St. Peter	8-0	11-0	
Waseca	8-1	9-1	
Marshall	5-3	5-4	
New Ulm	4-4	4-6	
Fairmont Area	2-6	2-8	
Worthington	1-7	1-9	
St. James/Window/Madelia	0-8	0-10	

Volleyball milestone

Kuhns registers 1,000th assist as spikers split with New Ulm, Fairmont

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

With the match going to five games, there were plenty of opportunities for the Waseca High School volleyball team to compile statistics Monday, Sept. 25 at New Ulm.

Siri Kuhns made the most of it.

The 5-foot-7 junior registered 43 set assists, giving her 1,000 for her career, as the Bluejays lost 3-2. Game scores in favor of the Eagle were 14-25, 27-25, 25-19, 22-25 and 15-8.

But Kuhns' 1,000th assist seemed to overshadow the tough loss.

"It's a huge milestone," said Waseca coach Krissy Plonske. "I was super happy to be a part of it."

Aliyah Taylor and Evelyn O'Brien led the Bluejays in kills with 11 and nine, respectively. Digs leaders were Kendall Bowers with 15, Takara Slattery 10, and Kuhns 10.

Bowers and Slattery each served up three aces.

The Bluejays hosted Fairmont Tuesday and swept 3-0, winning 25-

"It's a huge milestone. I was super happy to be a part of it."

— WHS coach
Krissy Plonske

12, 25-18, 25-20.

Kuhns totaled 24 assists and also led the Jays with 14 digs.

Taylor tallied 13 kills, O'Brien three. O'Brien also had three blocks.

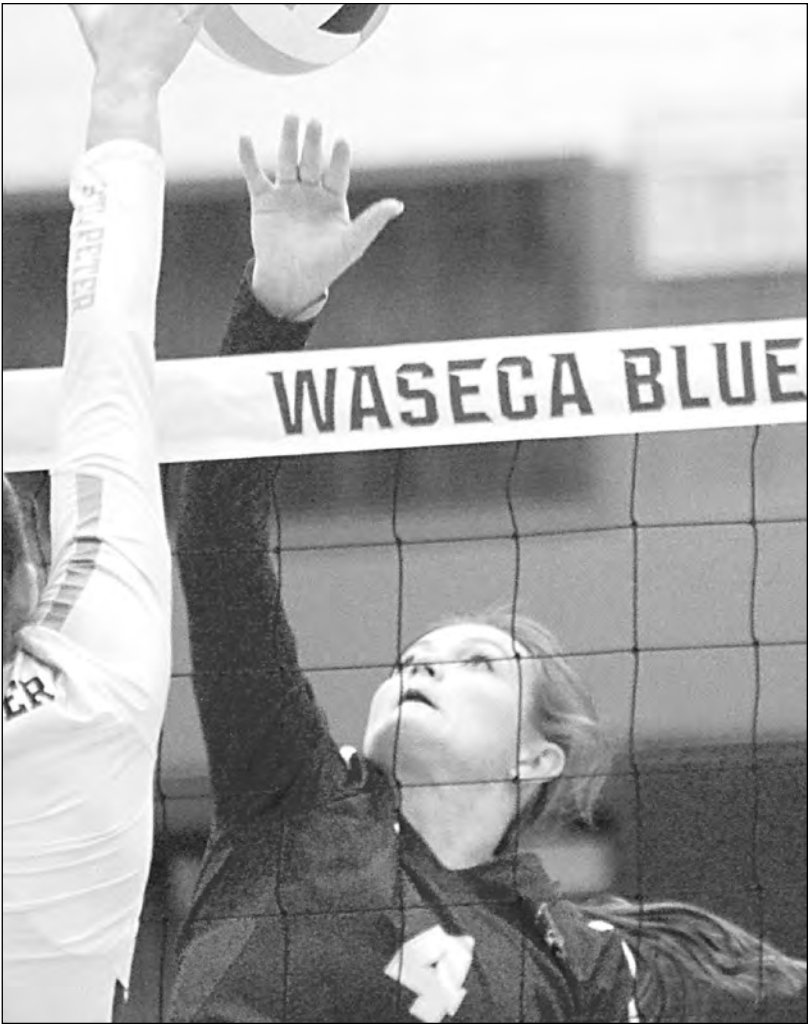
Bowers had 13 digs, Slattery 12.

The Bluejays ran their record to 4-2 in the Big South and 5-3 overall.

The Bluejays entertain Blue Earth Area Oct. 2 and play at St. Peter Oct. 3.



Kuhns

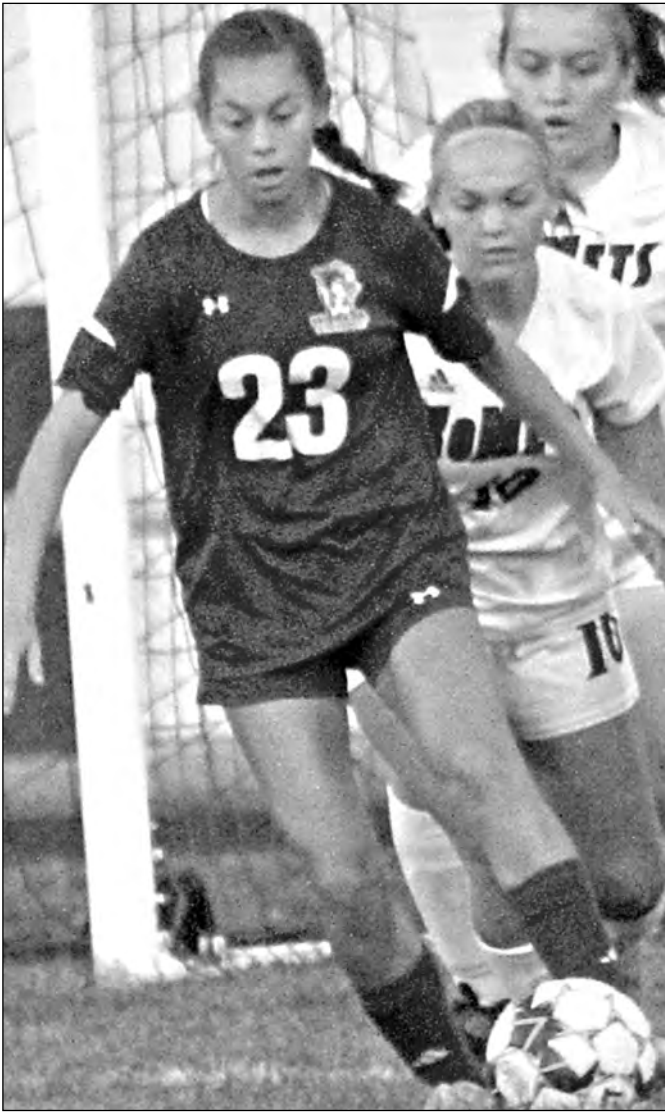


TIP DRILL — The Bluejays' Evelyn O'Brien totaled three kills as the Bluejays swept Fairmont.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

Soccer girls fall to K-M

The Waseca High School girls' soccer team hosted Kasson-Mantorville on Thursday, Sept. 21. Their Bluejays' third game in four days started out well, with Evelyn Nydegger scoring first on a nice leading pass by Mallory Bruhn five minutes into the match. But from that point on, it was all Kasson-Mantorville. Five unanswered goals gave the Lady Jays their second loss of the season, 5-1. "After that first goal, the wheels just seemed to fall off," said Waseca coach Phil Bulfer. "To Kasson's credit, they increased the energy of their play. Our girls just couldn't match that energy and it cost us in all phases of the match." The Lady Jays were missing a couple of players, and Nydegger left the match in the second half with concussion-like symptoms. "Hopefully, we can regroup and finish the season in a positive way heading into the playoffs," said Coach Bulfer. The Bluejays play Oct. 2 at Byron, and end the regular season the next day at Madelia. Section quarterfinals are Oct. 10.



SOCCER ACTION — The Waseca High School girls' soccer team lost its second game of the season 5-1 to Kasson Mantorville last Thursday. At left, the Bluejays' Rylee Schaefer (17) goes after the ball against a K-M opponent. In the center photo is Waseca's Bianca Hernandez. At right is the Bluejays' Gabriela Lopez. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

WHS CC girls win big at Albert Lea

Jays place four runners in the top 10 while taking first; boys finish in fourth

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Waseca High School girls didn't just win the Albert Lea Cross Country Invitational. They dominated it. With four runners in the top 10, the Bluejays ran away with first place Tuesday, Sept. 19 at Bancroft Bay Park, totaling 27 points to 48 for Red Wing and 51 for Albert Lea. USC/AC did not field a full squad. Callie Dufault, a junior, led the Bluejays on the 5-kilometer course, taking second in 21:39.07. Closely following were 8th-grader Maren Schimming, third in 21:39.29, and freshman Stella Omvedt, fourth

with a time of 21:43.67. Rounding out the WHS scoring were freshman Taylor Markeson, seventh in 22:31.57, and sophomore Kelsey Draeger, 11th in 24:03.39. Also running for Waseca were Violet Rohwer, 13th, 24:53.07; and Melanie Krueger, 14th, 24:59.12. The overall first-place finisher was Red Wing sophomore Nora Hanson, who clocked 19:40.49. Northfield took the boys' team title with 35 points. Albert Lea scored 54, Red Wing 60, Waseca 80. USC/AC had an incomplete squad. Junior Isaac Feldkamp led the Jays, taking second in 17:30.61 for 5 kilometers. Following: Tristan



Dufault



Schimming



Omvedt



Markeson

Godwin, 17th, 20:10.56; Tyler Jellum, 11th, 20:18.20; Colton Schroeder, 20th, 20:36.21; and Tanner Hanson, 23rd, 21:14.73. Missing the scoring cut were Bobby Mortenson, 24th, 21:14.96; and Sam Feldkamp, 30th, 23:28.95.

Albert Lea's Isaiah McGaffey, a senior, was first overall in 16:59.81. After running Sept. 28 at Zumbrota, the Bluejays are home for an invitational Thursday, Oct. 5 at 4 p.m. at Lakeside Golf Club. They run Oct. 10 at Jordan.

Sports in brief

Waseca soccer boys tie K-M

The Waseca High School boys' soccer team played to a scoreless tie at Kasson-Mantorville Thursday, Sept. 21. The Bluejays, 2-6 in Big South Conference play and 3-8-1 overall, play Monday, Oct. 2 at home against Fairmont. They finish the regular season Oct. 7 against St. James.

JWP spikers nipped by Hayfield

The JWP High School volleyball team lost 3-2 to Hayfield Thursday, Sept. 21. The final in favor of the Vikings was 25-19, 22-25, 29-27, 19-25 and 17-15. For the Bulldogs: Brielle Bure 1 ace, 2 assists, 30 digs; Nevaeh Weimert 12 assists, 4 digs; Katie Olson 6 kills, 4 digs; Lilly Strauss 3 aces, 8 kills, 1 block, 3 digs; Claire Walz 1 ace, 12 kills, 2 blocks; Aubrey Weedman 3 aces, 2 kills, 2 blocks, 30 assists, 18 digs; Presley James 1 ace, 9 kills, 3 blocks; Paige Walz 9 kills, 2 digs; Lexie Dahlberg 1 ace, 13 digs; Ali Olson 1 ace, 14 digs. The Bulldogs play Saturday in the TCU Invitational starting at 8:30 p.m. They play Oct. 2 at Mankato Loyola.

WHS tennis girls drop a tough one at Sleepy Eye

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Waseca High School girls' tennis team made a long road trip to Sleepy Eye Thursday, Sept. 21, where they were edged 4-3 by the River Valley Wildcats. The Bluejays won two of three matches in doubles. Lizzie Roessler and Mia Kanewischer prevailed 6-0, 6-2 at No. 1, while Paige Dufault and Vivian Mader won 6-1, 7-5 at No. 2. The sophomore duo of Tailyn Kaput and Pearl Moore fell in three sets, 6-2, 3-6, 7-5, at No. 4. The Jays' lone singles victory was at No. 4, where Addie Pfeiffer won

7-6 (8), 6-0. Waseca was close in two other singles matches. Sarah Haley was edged 6-2, 3-6, 7-5 at No. 1, while Takya Schoenrock was defeated 6-1, 1-6, 6-3 at No. 2. Maddie Benson fell 6-1, 6-1 at No. 3. The Bluejays' junior varsity won 5-0. The Jays, 6-11 overall and 1-4 in the Big South Conference East, were rained out Monday at Northfield and were slated to end the regular season Sept. 28 at Cannon Falls. Section team play starts Oct. 5. Section individuals are Oct. 16-17.



RETURN TO SENDER — The Bluejays' Maddie Benson hits a forehand. Sarah Haley, right, chases a forehand.



File photos by Eli Lutgens

After being nipped 3-2 by Medford, NRHEG spikers win two of four at USC

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The NRHEG High School volleyball team dropped a 3-2 marathon match to Medford Tuesday, Sept. 19 in the Panthers' gym. The final tally in favor of the Tigers was 25-18, 14-25, 25-9, 25-18 and, in game five, 15-13. "Unfortunately, we did not come out with the victory, but I was happy with what I was seeing on the court," said NRHEG coach Ashley Tolzman. "In four out of the five games, we were covering the court and the girls were pulling together and working as a team. I am proud of my team." Individually for the Panthers: Gabby Schlaak 4 kills, 1 block, 17 digs; Camryn VanMaldeghem 6 kills, 5 blocks, 4 digs; Elsie Schultz 5 digs; Tayler Schmidt 7 kills, 1 block, 14 digs; Hallie Schultz 20 set assists, 1 kills, 5 blocks, 14 digs; Erin Peterson 2 digs; Keira Lenort 2 kills, 3 blocks, 2 digs; Madi Murray 2 kills, 2 blocks; Faith Neisen 34 digs. The Panthers traveled to Wells Saturday, Sept. 23 for the USC Invitational, where they played some pretty good volleyball. The locals dominated Blue Earth Area 2-0 in the opener, winning 25-12, 25-12. Then came a tough 2-0

"I am proud of my team."
— NRHEG volleyball coach Ashley Tolzman

loss to Minnesota Valley Lutheran, which defeated the Panthers 25-19, 25-22. The Panthers bounced back to beat USC 2-1, with game scores of 23-25, 27-25, 15-13. NRHEG dropped its final match 2-0 to Blooming Prairie. Game scores were 25-22, 25-21. The Panthers, 2-2 in the Gopher Conference, ran their overall record to 5-5. The Panthers played Tuesday, Sept. 26 against Tri-City United at New Richland. They host Blooming Prairie Sept. 28 and play Tuesday, Oct. 3 at Hayfield.



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BLUEJAY FOOTBALL





PLAYER of the WEEK

Jordan Johnston

Passing 8-11, 178 yards, 1 td
Rushing 5-72 yards, 1 td

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Bulldogs rally past WEM, 14-6

JWP posts second straight victory

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The words 'JWP football team' and 'winning streak' have not been used much in the same sentence in recent years.

That changed Friday, Sept. 22.

The Bulldogs rallied past Waterville-Elysian-Morristown 14-6 at Janesville, their second win in a row after the previous week's xxxxxx blowout of Cleveland.

"It was an exciting Homecoming win!" said Bulldogs coach Ryan Luedtke. "We left a score off the table early in the game, and WEM did a great job sustaining drives. Our defense played great, and kept us in the game until we could figure it out on offense."

Special teams also came through for JWP. "Our special teams did a tremendous job by pinning WEM deep on kickoffs and punts, and our PATs ended up being a game changer," said Luedtke. "I'm proud of the guys for working through adversity and supporting each other throughout the entire game."

After driving into the red zone early and not scoring, the Bulldogs trailed 6-0 at half-time.

In the third quarter, Ryan Kronbach caught a 14-yard touchdown pass from Dalton Bauer, and Nolan Morsching scored in the fourth period on a 3-yard run. xxxxx James kicked the extra points.

Bauer connected on 17 of 24 passes for 199 yards. Kronbach caught six balls for 76 yards. Dylan McWaters had four pass receptions for 54 yards.

Morsching led the Bulldogs with 49 yards rushing on 14 carries. He also paced the defense with seven solo tackles and one assist.

JWP 14, WEM 6					
WEM	0	6	0	0	—6
JWP	0	0	7	7	—14
First Quarter					
No scoring					

"I thought I worked hard before I went to college."
— Spencer Tollefson

Second Quarter		
WEM - Touchdown (2-point conversion failed)		
Third Quarter		
JWP — Kronbach 14 pass from Bauer (James kick)		
Fourth Quarter		
JWP — N. Morsching 3 run (James kick)		
	WEM	JWP
Total plays	62	42
Rushing	35-118	26-19
Passing	7-27	17-24
Passing Yds.	111	199

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — JWP: N.Morsching 14-49; Bauer 6--5; Melchior 3-1; WEM: Kuball 6-35; Murphy 7-25; Quick 6-20; Taylor 8-15; Lange-Wenker 1-6; Atherton 1-6; Breyer 2-6

Passing — JWP: Bauer 17-24, 199; WEM: Taylor 5-20, 88; Grams 2-7, 23

Receiving — JWP — Kronbach 6-76; McWaters 4-54; Johnson 1-35; Melchior 4-25; N.Morsching 2-14; Quast 1-0; WEM: Tolzman 3-66; Atherton 2-22; Murphy 1-7

JWP Defense — N.Morsching 7 solo tackles, 1 assist; O'Brien 2 assists; Melchior 1 tackle, 4 assists; Walker 1 assist; Cahill 1 tackle; Berndt 1 tackle, 4 assists; McWaters 5 tackles; Born 4 tackles, 2 assists; L.Morsching 2 tackles, 8 assists; Fall 1 assist; Miller 1 assist; Cummins 1 assist; Quast 2 assists; Davis 3 assists; Schluerer 4 tackles, 4 assists; Gartner 1 assist



ALL OUT — The Bulldogs' Ethan Born (30) makes a diving tackle during JWP's 14-6 victory over WEM Friday, Sept. 22 at Janesville.



BIG PLAYS — At left, the Bulldogs' Nolan Morsching (1) gets into the end zone despite the efforts of a WEM defender. At right, JWP'S Max Davis (63) pressures the quarterback.



GOTTA LOVE A RAINY NIGHT — The NRHEG High School football team saw its record slip to 0-4 after a 17-0 loss to St. Clair/Mankato Loyola on a rain-soaked field Friday, Sept. 22. From left: the Panthers' Sam Olson (9) pressures St. Clair/Loyola quarterback Dylan Blount, with Reese Routh (52) in the background. In the middle, NRHEG's Zander Flatness (56) and Carter Flatland (41) chase a ball carrier. At right, Jaylin Raab (5) runs away from a diving Peter Dumdei (13).

NRHEG football team sees record drop to 0-4

On a rain-soaked New Richland field, St. Clair/Mankato Loyola slogs to 17-0 victory

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

There's a saying on a popular Twin Cities sports radio station whenever a pair of undefeated - or winless - teams square off: "Somebody's 'O' has got to go."

That was the situation as the 0-2 NRHEG High School football team hosted 0-2 St. Clair/Mankato Loyola Friday, Sept. 22.

Unfortunately, the Panthers' 'O' is still intact.

The visitors scored 10 first-quarter points and handed the Panthers a 17-0 setback on a rain-soaked field in New Richland.

"We had a tough time in the rain

moving the ball and the Spartans were able to use some good breaks to their advantage," said NRHEG coach Marc Kruger.

Among them were a big pass on a broken play that led to a touchdown, a safety on a bad punt snap, and a blocked punt to set up another touchdown.

"They did a great job at the end of the game keeping the ball away from us with some ground and pound," said Kruger. "We will look to get some things figured out for Medford next week."

The Spartans' first score came on a 4-yard pass, after which they were successful on a two-point conver-

sion. The safety, on which the Panther punter was tackled in the end zone, made it 10-0 at the end of the first period.

It remained that way until the Spartans scored on a 1-yard run in the fourth quarter. The PAT kick was good.

The Panthers were limited to 36 offensive plays to the Spartans' 59. NRHEG was outgained 231-104 in total yards, including 156-24 rushing, and managed only four first downs. The Panthers also fumbled twice, with the visitors recovering each time.

Quarterback Alden Dobberstein passed for 80 yards while going 9-

for-17 with two interceptions. He led NRHEG with 33 yards rushing. Jaylin Raab caught three passes for 52 yards, Sam Olson three for 23.

Jace Ihrke led the NRHEG defense with eight tackles, four of them for losses, and one sack. Dillon Parpart had seven tackles, Raab five.

The Panthers had a rough night punting the ball, averaging 26 yards in four tries.

The Panthers will try again for a win Friday, Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. at Medford. The Tigers are also 0-4 after being blanked 29-0 by USC last week.

The next week, NRHEG hosts WEM (1-3) for homecoming.

St. Clair/Loyola 17, NRHEG 0					
SC/ML	10	0	0	7	—17
NRHEG	0	0	0	0	—0
First Quarter					
SCML — Ward 4 pass from Blount (two-point conversion successful)					
SC/ML — Safety					
Second Quarter					
No scoring					
Third Quarter					
No scoring					
Fourth Quarter					
SC/ML — Kruse 1 run (Schimek kick)					
	SC/ML	NRHEG			
Total plays	59	36			
First downs	11	4			
Rushing	156	24			
Passing	5-11-0	9-17-2			
Passing Yds.	75	80			
Total offense	231	104			
Third down	6-12	1-7			
Fourth down	0-2	1-3			

Fumbles lost 0 2
Penalties 9-66 7-16

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — NRHEG: Dobberstein 4-33; Cromwell 3-9; Olson 1-2; Raab 6 —4; Roesler 1 —16; SC/ML: Bade 10-74; Kruse 16-40; Lentz 3 —4; Blount 1 —8; Rest of team 10-54

Passing — NRHEG: Dobberstein 0-17-2, 80; SC/ML: Blount 5-11-0, 75

Receiving — NRHEG: Raab 3-52; Olson 3-23; Knudson 1-3; Roesler 1-2; SC/ML: Ward 5-75

NRHEG Defense — Ihrke 8 solo tackles, 1 sack; Parpart 7 solo tackles; Raab 5 solo tackles, 1 assist; Cromwell 4 tackles; Flatland 3 tackles, 2 assists; Olson 3 tackles, 1 assist; Bartlett 2 tackles; Roesler 1 tackle; Schlaak 1 tackle; Degen 1 tackle, Baumann 1 tackle; Chrz 1 tackle; Jones 1 tackle; Staloch 1 assist; Miranda 1 assist; Flatness 1 assist; Rest of team 4 tackles, 1 assist

NRHEG cross country teams host their annual invitational

The NRHEG High School cross country teams hosted their annual invitational Tuesday, Sept. 19 at Riverview Golf Course.

The boys' varsity team champion was Mankato Loyola/Cleveland/St. Clair with 18 points, having four runners finish in the top 10.

NRHEG was led by Jacob Karl in 6th (18.39) and Devon Nelton in 8th

(19.07). Jackson McGannon finished 39th (23.13) and Owen Flatland finished 49th (25.51).

On the girls' side, Austin Pacelli took the team title with a score of 54. NRHEG's top finisher was Julieann Wobbrock in 8th place with a time of 22.48, improving her best time by more than a minute. Holly Bartness took the 23rd spot with a

time of 25.29. Madison Corkill was 41st with 28.57. Amelia Duryee was 56th with a time of 34.00.

"It was another nice day for running," said NRHEG coach Larry Nydegger. "Jacob, Devon, and Julieann continue to challenge themselves to be in the top tier of finishers. And all of the runners continue to impress me with their dedi-

"All of the runners continue to impress me with their dedication to get better each week."
— Coach Larry Nydegger

cation to get better each week."

The Panthers run Thursday, Oct. 5 at Waseca Lakeside Golf Course.

They run Oct. 10 at Oak View Golf Course, and finish the regular season Oct. 16 at Blooming Prairie.



Wobbrock



Karl

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