



Compostings

by Al Batt

Sweet to the bones, healing to the soul

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

What do you know?
You don't want to know.
That's good to know.
DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Lefty loosey, righty tighty doesn't apply to making turns with your vehicle. I know because I took a driver's improvement class. I learned important things: not wearing seatbelts caused 44% of fatalities, hands on the steering wheel should be at 9 and 3 or 8 and 4, I need to stay 225 feet behind a tractor-trailer to avoid its blind spot, and I should stop at an intersection with enough distance to see the tires of the car in front of me touching the road. Trunk Highways (Interstate, US and Minnesota highways) are 8% of the road mileage in Minnesota, but carry 58% of vehicle travel. Memorial Day to Labor Day is the most dangerous time to drive. When meeting a vehicle, dim your headlights to low beams at 1,000 feet and 200 feet when following a vehicle. Don't flash your brights if a car with high beams is approaching. This could cause accidents. Instead, focus on the right side of your lane or the white line near the shoulder.

I'd decided to go as a Star Wars character this Halloween. I can't wait to see the Luke on my face. Multi-colored Asian lady beetles and boxelder bugs stormed the doors of our house. My bride and I fled to take in a football game. As we drove by a Fastenal store, I commented on how I found that business fastenating. My wife didn't comment, but I could hear her eyes rolling.

I'VE LEARNED

The hospital I was born in, shout out to Doc Olds and reasonable room rates, is being demolished. No one has found the "Birthplace of Al Batt" plaque. Perhaps there had never been one. They might have been waiting for my bill to be paid in full before putting one up.

I got a carton of 2% milk and a carton of almond milk. I grew up on a dairy farm and I'm not lactose-intolerant, I'm lactose-indifferent.

Lori Reyerson of Glenville owns an ancient blackboard that once graced a wall of the grade school I attended. Lori claimed it shows a stack of faded sentences in childish handwriting, which say, "I, Al Batt, will not talk in class unless called upon."

You've been married for a good spell of time if you can finish your

spouse's sentences before they're started.

There are too many TV channels, but I don't have to watch any of them if I don't want to.

There is no education in the second kick of a cow.

Teachers are important. Without them, we wouldn't have the answer to a password recovery question.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

My neighbor Crandall watched an eclipse through a colander and it strained his eyes.

Gravity is one of the universe's fundamental forces and without it, we'd be left with nothing but gravity.

"What kind of shampoo did the Headless Horseman use?" Shoulders.

"How did the mini-pumpkin cross the road?" With the help of a crossing gourd.

"What's the time between stepping on a banana peel and hitting the ground called?" A banana second.

NATURE NOTES

No season makes any promises, but ours all deliver wind. Aeolus, the god of the winds in Greek mythology, gave a bag of wind to help with Odysseus's sailing. Today, we have politicians doing that work. Watch for storms when clouds are more wide than tall.

The science of dating events and variations in the environment by the comparative study of growth rings in trees and aged wood is dendrochronology.

Picnic wasps (yellowjackets) are responsible for most "bee" stings during outdoor dining events. Honey bees are fuzzy. Yellowjackets aren't. Wasps are bees that have escaped from prison. Yellowjackets feed many harmful insects that might damage trees or crops to their young. They devour many houseflies. Shakespeare wrote in "The Taming of the Shrew," "If I be waspish, best beware my sting." Pope Paul VI said, "Anger is as a stone cast into a wasp's nest." In the Bible, God said he would send hornets to pursue the Canaanites and drive them from the Promised Land. He might have been willing to call upon swarms of stinging wasps or have been speaking symbolically for a plague of another kind.

Flower flies mimic bees and wasps, and don't sting. Flies have only two wings. Bees and wasps have four membranous wings.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones."—Proverbs 16:24.

Truly a privilege to share their stories

For the sake of the New Richland Star Eagle and this edition of the Pioneer, I have interviewed two breast cancer survivors this week.

I feel truly privileged to have been given an excuse to meet with Hartland's Ronda Staloch and Waseca's Bea O'Brien and have a rich conversation about their experiences and their impressions. Both of them have overcome many challenges and shown remarkable strength, but are willing to be philosophical about what they've undergone.

Even more, they seem stronger for it; dare I say, wise?

Both of them were very open in their answers to the many questions an interview entails. They were friendly, gracious, forthcoming.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Even more, they seemed...merry. Not in a "Santa" way, of course. They simply emanated a sense of joy one does not expect when conversing about a grim topic.

Both of them provided the reason: gratitude. Let me add "appreciation," a recognition that every moment is one that might not have happened. A heightened awareness of the value of life. Therein lies the privilege, per-

haps. They shared that awareness with me. Thank you, ladies.

Speaking of appreciation, I share the sentiment expressed by Marcus McDonough in the article about harvesting Arron Bartelt's corn. He comments on the warmth and generosity shown by the 50 or so volunteers who helped with last Friday's event, saying he's proud to be part of a rural community where people are

willing to set aside their own tasks and go help others.

Something else I find very pleasing is that WQ3D, the company George Klug works with, is getting wider attention. George, in case you don't know, is the one who chose to test the "mechanical" water quality process on area bodies of water, including, eventually, Loon Lake. Watch for a story in next week's edition about how the state pollution control agency is providing funding for a "pilot" program covering three lakes located fairly widely across Minnesota. This is good news for everyone, I think. Consider the transformation Loon Lake has experienced, and now picture it happening in many, many more places.

Can ChatGPT be held legally responsible?

As school drags on, so do the lectures. This week was special, though, because I had another speaker outside all the usual ones. My media law professor required our class to go to a guest lecture by a Cornell professor who teaches law and has a degree in computer science. His talk was titled "The Defamation Machine: Can Chat GPT Commit Libel?" Or, in other words, can Chat GPT be held legally responsible for statements it fabricates? I honestly found it interesting, so I'll share some of the things I remember.

In case you don't know, Chat GPT is an online application that will write for you. You can tell it to create an essay on any topic you identify; you can have it craft a poem or—apparently—a statement to be used in court.

In his 45-minute lecture, the professor, (whose name is James Grimmelmann, so I guess I could call him that) talked about one legal proceeding during which someone speaking in court used Chat GPT to summarize some circumstances of the case. It seems the text created by the



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

app made a wrongful accusation, and so the plaintiff filed a lawsuit against it. I don't remember if he won or not.

But then James got into the question of why we expect Chat GPT to be correct. That stuck with me. Why do we expect AI to be correct all of the time? Chat GPT gets all of its information from things already on the internet, and we all know that the internet isn't completely factual. So then theoretically, how can Chat GPT be correct all the time? In my opinion, it can't. I don't like to use it anyway, although I know that students love to use it to help them with homework and writing essays and such.

James went on to say a whole lot

more, half of which I listened to. (I don't know how people attend night classes successfully. I'd either be tired or angry because I'm hungry.)

In completely other news, it was quite an interesting time watching the Gophers narrowly win against Iowa in football on Saturday. To be honest, we didn't deserve it, but now at least we have the pig, which I never knew about. I guess like the ax game with Wisconsin, there's this metal pig that goes back and forth between Iowa and Minnesota depending on who wins each year's designated game. We haven't had the pig since 2015, so it's been a long while.

While the Gopher men's hockey

sadly lost their second game to North Dakota last Saturday, they will be playing Wisconsin on Thursday and Friday, and I'm lucky enough to get to be there. I'll be in the band, but at least it means I get in free. I love watching games against Wisconsin because it's just a reason to hate on a school for theoretically no reason other than being rivals. Also, we tend to win against Wisconsin, so that's always nice. Although don't ask my roommates, who are die-hard Packer fans and don't hesitate to make fun of the Vikings whenever they get the chance.

Halloween is this coming weekend, and I can tell campus is getting ready. Correction, the students are getting ready. The number of Halloween parties that will be going on either in the fraternity houses or in peoples' homes and apartments is probably intense. Personally, I will be home this weekend to work at the bar, so I get to skip out on most of the crazy stuff. Lucky me.

My Determination: "I understand nothing." - Michael Scott, The Office



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

A full week

The world welcomed my niece Aria Leigh Nowak into the world Saturday evening at about 11:30 p.m. Congratulations to my sister Jessica and her fiance Damon.

My sister tells me she went into the Owatonna hospital at about 3:30 a.m. Saturday. Both she and the baby were pretty exhausted by the time she finally arrived nearly 20 hours later.

Aria weighed 5 lbs 14 ounces and measured about 19 inches long. My sister is 30 years old and this is her first kid, thus it was my first experience at being an uncle.

I sped over to the hospital first thing on Sunday. It was exciting.

I wasn't as emotional as my mother was, rightfully so, but my heart was warmed nonetheless.

Holding my niece for the first time was profound. I'm looking forward to being an uncle. I learned a great deal about what parenthood means when I saw how my sister and Damon were with Aria. I have to smile when I think about them all together. Monday afternoon they arrived home to Waseca as a new family.

It has been an incredibly busy week which followed all the excitement of becoming an uncle.

Going back to last Tuesday, the Waseca City Council meeting. It was rather uneventful, besides a 45-minute discussion about the Blain Nelson property. Uffida.

Last Wednesday was an exhilarating night for football fans. NRHEG gave fans an incredibly exciting come-from-behind win. Waseca, unfortunately, backed into the playoffs with a loss to Fairmont. I'm more optimistic about a potential rematch going the Bluejays' way.

Thursday I covered the Waseca/Steele County Drug Court. It was my first experience in a courtroom. I arrived early and was surprised by the large number of people in the waiting area. I recognized more than one person and more than one person recognized me. (Aside from inside the courtroom, where I was acquainted with Perry Berg, County Attorney Rachel Cornelius, and all of the other members of the Drug Court team.)

The officer monitoring the courtroom entry was kind enough to let me bring my camera in for the ceremony as well as my iPad to take notes. The graduates had powerful stories for which I'm grateful for the opportunity to share.

Over the weekend I was asked to attend a surprise party for Kipp Routh and his girlfriend Monica Olson. I had a pleasant time. I arrived early, the party started late and I got to know a lot of the Routh friends and family.



Jessica Lutgens, Damon Nowak and Aria Leigh Nowak.

Sunday, of course, was spent visiting my sister and baby Aria.

Monday night I asked Dad to cover volleyball as I was, by all conceivable standards, pooped.

Tuesday evening was football in the rain. Not a pleasant experience. The Panthers lost this time and the Bluejays won. The night was definitely a "loss" for me: I got poured on and went home dripping wet.

Wednesday morning I attended the grand opening of FM Bank. Congratulations Jon Butler and company. I don't know what it's like to open a bank, but I do know what it's like to start a business. Exhausting. Jon looked both energized and tired at the same time. Oh, and incredibly happy.

I was grateful to meet the staff and visit with folks. I'm grateful for FM Bank's investment in Waseca. I can only hope for continued growth.

This column was written just prior

to the candidate debate among those persons vying for county commissioner. My sister Jessica wrote three very good articles on the candidates. Each has a different opinion regarding the county jail decision. Ann Fitch believes we should outsource to other counties, that is, not have a permanent jail. Brad Milbrath is in favor of a new jail in Waseca County. Larry Johnson is unsure.

Unfortunately I'm also unsure. Prior to hearing Ann's opinion I was in favor of the jail staying here. After hearing her explanation I think she, and many others have sound logic. But as I sit here today, I feel the jail should remain here. I don't like the idea of the county, or its services, shrinking.

"As soon as I saw you, I knew a grand adventure was about to happen." —Winnie the Pooh

response teams (C.E.R.T.). Statewide agencies thanked for their assistance include the agents, analysts and missing persons staff of the bureau of criminal apprehension and the flight division of the state patrol. The Wayzata police department is thanked, as is Northstar search and rescue's "tracking K-9s" division. Finally, the Facebook page thanks all other law enforcement agencies which contacted the Waseca police to offer resources.

■ Found

from Page 1

and notify the police department via 9-1-1 if Madi Lynn had crossed their property.

Having learned of the situation, many residents offered assistance; a number used their private watercraft to check along the shorelines of Loon

and Clear Lakes. According to the Waseca police department, many also spontaneously went out on foot or in vehicles to help search. Statements posted on the Facebook page Wednesday morning thank the "hundreds" of residents who joined the search and assisted in other ways.

"You truly showed what small-town living is all about," wrote Captain Chris Markeson on the Facebook page. "We thank you for your efforts. You should be proud to

live here!"

The page lists local groups and organizations which supplied assistance. The Waseca police department staff and reserve officers are named, as are the city fire department and North ambulance service. Members of the Mayo Hospital security staff are thanked for helping. The county sheriff department, its 9-1-1 dispatchers, and its drone team are listed, as are the county emergency management and county emergency



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GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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DEB BENTLY
JIM LUTGENS
AMELIA ROESSLER
TERESA ROSACKER
JESSICA LUTGENS
TRISTAN GEHRING
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Staff Writer
Staff Writer

Contributing writers/photographers: Dave Zika, Santiago Ramirez. Al Batt

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Ann Fitch

Fitch hopes to ‘be a part of county growth’

Ann, 43, is one of three candidates vying for Waseca County Commissioner for District 3

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

Ann Fitch is one of three candidates vying for the District 3 seat on the Waseca County board of commissioners this year. Fitch, 43, is a native of Waseca, having graduated from Waseca High School in 1998. She is employed as the Executive Director of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce, a position she has held for five years.

Fitch is currently attending Waldorf University online to obtain her bachelor degree in Organizational Leadership and lives in Waseca with her husband. In her free time, she enjoys watching basketball. Her other hobbies, she says, are supporting and serving Waseca. When Fitch was a child, her father was chief of police while her mother ran the Neighborhood Service Center, both providing examples of the importance of serving your community.

“That’s why I do what I do in getting involved in my community, because that’s what my parents did,” Fitch said.

Fitch described her decision to run for

community commissioner as “the most tragic of opportunities” due to the sudden passing of former commissioner Blair Nelson.

“I would rather not be in this position - I would rather Blair be here,” she said.

Her experience on the city council, where she held a seat for almost six years, along with serving on the economic development authority (EDA) and with Discover Waseca Tourism, has prepared her for a role as county commissioner, Fitch said.

“I know I have the experience and the wherewithal to do this,” she said. “I enjoy serving my community. I’ve had people ask me if I would run, and having that community confidence was very helpful in making my decision.

“I want to be a part of the growth of the entire county. Since being the director of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce, I’ve gotten to know people in the other communities, so it’s nice to be able to expand my leadership in my county.”

If elected, Fitch says she plans to

“Our prisoner population here is low on average. I don’t know if it’s sustainable to continue to have a jail. Having court services, a courtroom, a probation office - absolutely.”

— Ann Fitch

focus on public transparency, accessibility, and sound decision making for Waseca County and District 3.

“The nice thing about the current county board is that they are a very functional board,” she said. “I want to keep that functionality going. I want to pick up right where Blair left off.”

She explained that at times, county government can be daunting to understand due to its numerous facets. Fitch hopes to make that aspect more accessible and transparent for the citizens of Waseca County. During her time on the city council, she was very active on Facebook, which allowed her to hear from citizens firsthand - and obtaining

that public input is something she would continue if elected.

“Something I’d like to add to the county board where I think they might be lacking is a little public transparency,” she said. “Not to say that the county board is hiding anything, but I think there is some accessibility that is missing. I want to be approachable and communicate with citizens of the third district and Waseca County as to what’s going on in county government.”

When asked about the situation regarding the future of the jail in Waseca County, Fitch questioned the sustain-

Fitch continued on 5

Johnson aims to ‘really help in government’

Larry, 49, is one of three candidates vying for Waseca County Commissioner for District 3

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

Larry Johnson, 49, is one of three candidates running to fill the Waseca County Commissioner seat for District 3 left vacant by the passing of former commissioner Blair Nelson. Johnson has lived in Waseca for over 30 years, having returned after living in San Diego for 10 years. He graduated from Waseca High School in 1992, going on to purchase a business after graduation - a tavern called Larry’s Downtown, which became PJ’s after Johnson sold it.

Currently, Johnson is the Mortgage Area Manager at Minnwest Bank, where he has been employed for more than six years. He and his wife, Linda, have been married for 31 years and have four children and three grandchildren. His hobbies include reading, collecting sneakers, and spending time with his family. His younger two children were very active in sports, which led to

Johnson helping out with athletics in town, including coaching seventh-grade football for a couple years.

Johnson’s decision to run for county commissioner came from his interest in the direction of the city and experience with local public service at various levels, including a number of organizations and serving on the city council off and on for 13 years.

“I think I have a unique set of skills that can really help in government,” Johnson said. “I was close with Blair Nelson - we would chat quite a bit about things while I was on and off the city council. I feel that there’s a big hole left by his passing, and no one can fill those shoes, but I certainly think I could continue his style of governance, his style of expertise, and help the county.”

If elected as county commissioner, Johnson says he will focus on issues he has heard talked about most from citizens and people in county government:

“I don’t have a clear-cut answer; we need to do more research. But I know it’s an issue we need to address.”

— Larry Johnson

the jail, which is in need of either upgrades or major changes; the west interchange and how development could help growth for Waseca; and health and human services - namely the MN Prairie joint agreement.

“We’ve got to take a look at what the future of [the jail] facility is,” Johnson said. “Are we going to maintain that facility in town, or are we going to try and partner with Steele County? Does that make sense from an economic standpoint?”

Deciding how best to move forward with the jail situation will require more

research, Johnson says.

“It’s been an issue for years,” he said. “It’s apparent that we need some upgrades; it’s been that way for a number of years, but there hasn’t been any action on it. Cities are responsible for maintaining the health and care of their prisoners, and we have to make sure we have adequate facilities and make sure they’re taken care of while they’re in our custody.”

Looking at the costs of upgrades ver-

Johnson continued on 5



Larry Johnson



Brad Milbrath

Milbrath believes ‘Waseca can still grow’

Brad, 57, is one of three candidates vying for Waseca County Commissioner for District 3

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

Throwing his hat in the ring for Waseca County Commissioner is Brad Milbrath, 57, former sheriff of Waseca County for 12 years. Milbrath grew up in Waseca County, having graduated from Mapleton High School in 1984 before going on to obtain a degree in criminal justice from Minnesota West Community College. He has three children and seven grandchildren and lives in Waseca with his significant other, Cindy Lou Johnson.

Currently, Milbrath is retired from law enforcement and works part-time with Borneke Construction in Janesville as well as helping the Schlaak family from New Richland with farming. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time outdoors and with his grandchildren, as well as farming and gardening.

His decision to run for county commissioner was due mainly to the untimely

passing of former commissioner, Blair Nelson.

“Blair and I have always worked well together,” Milbrath said. “Part of our discussion was that I wouldn’t run against him as long as he was there. He and I had the same philosophies on how things should be done.”

His passion for public service, Milbrath added, also contributed to his decision to run.

“I’ve been helping Waseca County for 24 years, and I believe Waseca can still grow and thrive with some push.”

If elected as county commissioner, Milbrath says his focus will be on development, progress for the county, and being mindful of the budget and taxes for the citizens of Waseca County and District 3.

“My vision is to keep the board’s vision progressing forward using common sense, yet being mindful of the budget

“I would like to see the jail stay here.”

— Brad Milbrath

and how it affects constituents, not only for District 3 but for Waseca County as a whole,” he said. “I want to be open to constituents within my district, as well - listen to their concerns and try to address those the best that I can.”

He noted the importance of a county commissioner’s role in helping the county government meet the requirements of unfunded state mandates, including identifying sources to pay for the required services. Examples he provides include the jail, public health, emergency management, planning and zoning, human services, etc.

“Most of these are unfunded or underfunded as a whole - that’s where property

taxes come in,” Milbrath said. “Granted, our taxes are high, but you’ve got to weigh those services with what you tax people and what people want for services. We can’t always lower taxes, but we can try to stabilize them as best we can while providing the services that everybody wants or needs and make sure that people are taken care of. It’s a balance.”

When asked about his take on the county jail, which is in need of either upgrades or replacement in order to remain functional, Milbrath said it would be beneficial to the county to keep the jail in Waseca. However, he commented the complexities involved make it a difficult decision that requires more input from local citizens and officials.

“One of the things that has been going around is that they would regionalize the jail,” he said, referring to the idea of con-

Milbrath continued on 5

Back to School Special!

We at the Waseca County Pioneer work hard to bring the latest local news and information to Waseca, Janesville, New Richland, Waldorf, and the many townships in Waseca County. Each week features new and interesting stories about local persons, businesses, and of course, the Waseca School district. Many of our editions include special coverage of important milestones for students, parents, and families, including: Graduation, Homecoming, Prom, and all Waseca Sports, all year long. Don’t miss out! Fill in the coupon and mail it to our office, or call and subscribe now! 507-463-8112

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OBITUARIES

Judy Blatter

Our dear mother, Judy Blatter, age 80, passed away on Friday, October 20, 2023.

The last of four children, Judy was born to Leonard and Lucille Bauman in Waseca MN. She married in 1960, moved around southern MN in support of her husband's farming profession, and had three children. Shortly after the birth of her third child, Judy divorced and became a single mother. At that time, Judy worked at the Faribault State School and Hospital. In 1973, she moved back to Waseca with her children. Over the years, she was employed at Carl's Snack Shop, Birdseye, Misheks, EF Johnson, and Itron. Judy often worked a second job, Mediacom and Walmart, on evenings and weekends.

In 2011, Judy retired to southern CA to be near her daughter. In early 2023, she moved back to MN with her daughter's family.

Judy enjoyed travel, cooking, shopping, family game night, interior decorating, and going to casinos.

Judy was preceded in death by both parents, her daughter in law Rohnna (Brian) Blatter, and two grandsons; Nicholas Schneekloth (Gary) and Derrick Blatter (Brian).

Judy leaves behind her three children, Gary (Lori) Blatter,



Judy Blatter

Dawn (David) Nagel, Brian (Tracie) Blatter; six grandchildren; Katherine Thies, Anthony Blatter, Jennifer (Mark) Lloyd, Matthew (Jenna) Blatter, Alex Nagel, and Kassandra (Steven) Hoffman; fourteen great grandchildren; three siblings, Jean Paschall, Leonard (Margaret) Bauman Jr., Barbara Wheelock.

Funeral services will be held at 12:00 PM on Saturday, October 28, 2023 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Interment will be at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca.
Dsofuneral.com

Janice Samaraka

JANICE KAY SAMARAKA (GILSTER), age 75, of Estherville, IA and formerly of Waseca, MN, passed away on October 18, 2023 at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD.

Born on January 14, 1948 in Waseca, Janice was the daughter of Arno and Alvina (Detjen) Gilster. She graduated from Waldorf High School. On June 17, 1967, Janice was united in marriage to Nick Samaraka at All Saints Catholic Church in New Richland. Together, they raised three children, Troy, Randy, and Mikole.

Janice spent much of her career working as a Title I Teacher at Hartley Elementary School in Waseca. She was a member of First Congre-

gational Church in Waseca where she served in various roles. She most recently was a member of First Christian Church in Estherville, IA. She was always lending a hand to those who needed it. Jan enjoyed playing piano, where she could learn a song just by listening to it. She especially loved playing ABBA songs. Her family was everything to her. She would cherish the time she spent with her children and grandchildren. She was a loving mother and grandmother who will be dearly missed.

Janice is survived by her children, Troy (Sarah) Samaraka of Hudson, WI, Randy (Deanna) Samaraka of Farmington, MN, Mikole "Mikki" (Tyson) Henriksen of Estherville, IA; grandchildren, Savannah, Mackay, Baley, Harper, Yates; siblings;

Wanita (Frank) Groskreutz of Waseca, MN, Alvin Gilster of LeCenter, MN, John Gilster of Waseca, MN, Judy Webber of Waseca, MN, Larry (Sue) Gilster of Mankato, MN, sister-in-law, Florence Gilster of Albert Lea and many other relatives and friends.

Janice was preceded in death by her husband, Nick Samaraka; parents, Arno and Alvina Gilster; brother, Daniel Gilster; sister-in-law, Violet Gilster; and brother-in-law, Blackie Webber.

Memorial service was held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at First Congregational Church in Waseca. Visitation was held two hours prior to the service at the church. Burial will take place at Woodville Cemetery.



Janice Samaraka

Robert A. Amsrud

ROBERT ALLEN AMSRUD, age 68, of Waseca died peacefully on October 24, 2023 at his home.

Born on May 19, 1955, in Waseca, he was the son of George and JoAnn (Wilker) Amsrud. Bob received his education at Waseca Public School. On May 18, 1974, Bob was united in marriage to Mary Ann Flintrop at St. Ann Catholic Church in Janesville. Together they lived in several homes throughout their married life but always in the Waseca Area. Although Bob and Mary never had any children of their own, Bob always held a special place in his heart for his nieces and nephews. Additionally, he was proud to be a part of raising boys

who he considered to be related by heart. Bob and Mary also cared for several children through foster care. Bob worked for various companies throughout his life as a machinist, tiler, and mechanic, but his real passion was vehicles. Bob loved detailing and restoring vehicles, as well as buying and selling at auctions. He started a local car club in Waseca called "Impressive Toys Car Club". In his spare time, he also enjoyed woodworking.

Bob is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Mary Ann of Waseca; sister, Stacy Amsrud; his family related by heart: Barb, Ashton and Marcus Hughes; several nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, and great great nieces and nephews;

brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Marty Flintrop, Helen (Jim) Hanks, Marcy (Leo) Vieths, Steve (Julie) Flintrop, Bernie (Theresa) Flintrop, Pat Flintrop, Rose Swanson, John Flintrop, Paul Flintrop, and Angie Flintrop.

He is preceded in death by his parents; mother-in-law, Dolores Flintrop; many aunts and uncles.

Memorial service will be 1:00 PM on Tuesday, October 31, 2023 at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Interment will follow at St. Mary Cemetery in rural Waseca. Visitation will begin at 11:00 AM and continue until the time of the service at the funeral home.
DSOFuneral.com



Robert Amsrud

Mary J. Shouts

MARY JANE SHOUTS (LAMONT) age 65, of Waseca, died on October 18, 2023, at her home.

Born on September 16, 1958 in Waseca, Mary was the daughter of Floyd and Patsy (Russell) LaMont. She attended Waseca High School and graduated with the class of 1977. On September 28, 1979, Mary was united in marriage to William Shouts and together they made their home in Waseca. Mary was employed by Brown Printing and worked there for 34 years.

Mary was a loving wife, mother, sister, and friend. Her friends and family were her world. She enjoyed spending time catching up with old classmates, having lunch with her sisters, and taking care of her sons. She especially cherished the time she would spend with her granddaughter. She was a member of Faith United Methodist Church.

Mary is survived by sons, William Shouts, and Patrick (Carrie) Shouts; and granddaughter. She is also survived by her siblings, Tom LaMont, Barb (Dan) Klampe, Lori Schneidewind, Susan Seeley, and Julie (Kevin) Sass; brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law; nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.



Mary Shouts

She was preceded in death by her husband, William Shouts; parents, Floyd and Patsy LaMont; sister, Denise LaMont; brother, Steven LaMont; father-in-law and mother-in-law, William Shouts and Jeanette Beyer; brothers-in-law and sister-in-law.

Memorial service was at 2:00 PM on Monday, October 23, 2023 at Faith United Methodist Church in Waseca with Rev. Jon Schultz officiating. Visitation was two hours prior to the service at the church. A private family interment will be in Woodville Cemetery.
dsofuneral.com

County

from Page 1

utilities, maintenance and other expenses into account, he sets the current cost of housing and supervising each prisoner at about \$144,000 a year. If a new jail is built, he estimates the cost will more than double, to about \$305,000 a year, "just to say we have a jail." Housing prisoners elsewhere, though, will reduce costs to about \$27,000 per inmate per year.

The justice center plan presented October 17 is for a three-story structure located in what is now a parking area directly west of the historic courthouse. In order to comply with a DOC expectation that prisoners arrive at court proceedings using paths and hallways that do not bring them in contact with the general public, the justice center would house the county courts on an upper floor. Prisoners would be brought up from holding areas below using a designated elevator and hallways. Most staff and all members of the public would arrive via other paths.

Also part of the plan is a fitness center, which Johnson mentioned

has been consistently requested by law enforcement for use by its staff.

Offices and workspaces for law enforcement personnel would be on the lower floor near the holding center. Other justice system workers—parole officers, counselors, members of the county attorney staff—would have office spaces in the building as well.

The BKV plan also showed proposals for upgrades to parking lots around the courthouse and the justice center, including one which would occupy the location of the current law enforcement building.

In response to commissioner questions, BKV staff suggested that, should the county someday decide to build a jail, it would likely be located directly north of the proposed justice center.

BKV estimated costs for the new structure and parking upgrades at a total of nearly \$26 million and presented a timeline which suggested construction would likely be completed in the summer of 2026.

Commissioner Doug Christopher-son mentioned that a target price for the project had been \$20 million. "What would it take to get it to that price range?" he asked.

The response was that BKV had

communicated with county staff members looking for any cost-reduction measures which seemed practical. The floor plan being presented already included most of those. It was also mentioned that construction costs rose sharply in 2020 to '22, and have come down only slightly, leaving typical costs for office space at about \$400 per square foot.

For reference, it was mentioned that the cost to construct jail facilities is now typically between \$500 and \$600 per square foot.

As the work session ended, the conflict between the "philosophical" and "fiscal" questions was far from resolved.

When asked about reactions they experience when speaking with members of the public about these questions, commissioners say that, generally, individuals support the idea of being "fiscally responsible" when it comes to satisfying DOC requirements. They also mention concerns people express about the unsafe elements of the current system.

Administrator Johnson mentioned that "listening sessions" will be scheduled to receive public input sometime late in November or early in December. Plans for the sessions

include summarizing work that has been done so far before asking for public feedback.

County business transacted during the October 17 meeting addressed future road construction projects as presented by county engineer Jim Kollar. Commissioners authorized Kollar to apply for state and federal grants that would support adding or widening paved shoulders along sections of County Roads 3, 5 and 14. Kollar also told how .75 miles of County Road 103, also referred to as 330th Avenue, will be "reconditioned" during the 2024 construction season.

Commissioners also learned that the new disc golf course recently completed in Courthouse Park has drawn a great deal of attention from enthusiasts and even professional competitors for the sport.

An online "app" which offers users information about the course as they're using it was accessed by 213 people in September. Johnson said county staff is impressed by the number of users and by the distance they have been willing to travel to use the course, currently regarded as one of the most challenging in a fairly wide region.



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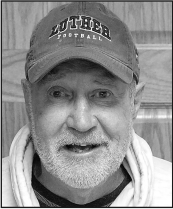
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Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



Row the boat

The life of a college football coach has become much more stressful and complicated. In the “good old days,” coaches studied elite high school athletes, called them, visited them, then wooed them to sign and play for their teams. The higher-profile programs and colleges located in recruiting hotbed areas had an advantage.

A college like Ohio State would get many five-star players: A college like U of M typically drew three-star recruits and a handful of four-star individuals. With recruitment taken care of, it fell on the shoulders of the coach and staff to develop their athletes into program winners.

Back then, the NCAA’s job was to oversee college athletics and quietly investigate programs suspected of recruiting violations.

A couple years ago, the NCAA decided to change things and has transformed college athletics into a wild, wild west show.

Enter the portal and the “name, image and likeness” (NIL) program. The portal means college athletes can transfer any time they wish, then be eligible to play immediately. The days of sitting out a year after transferring are long gone. If some athletes become dissatisfied with the coach, playing time, or whatever, they just enter their names on the computer and they are in the portal.

Coaches must now be aware and recruit these players—if they wish. The terms of the NIL make college athletes eligible to receive money or perks, maybe an automobile, if some company or organization wants to use their names, images, or likenesses in any promotions. Star college athletes can be paid by major corporations to advertise United Airlines, Nike, AT&T, Instagram posts, and more.

Caleb Williams is the quarterback at USC. He won the Heisman Trophy for being the best college football player last year. Williams is making \$2.6 million this year thanks to the NIL. Quite an income for a college football player.

Kaitlin Clark plays basketball at Iowa. She is a superstar in women’s college basketball and probably her league’s best player. Clark will make a million dollars this year due to the NIL rule. Minnesota’s star high school women’s basketball player Paige Bueckers plays for the University of Connecticut powerhouse. Due to her success and attention she has garnered on social media, Bueckers is now valued at \$824,000 and has an endorsement with Nike due to the NIL. She’s probably better off staying in college than coming out early to play in the WNBA. The top salaries for women there are in the \$500,000 range.

I really enjoyed watching several college football games on the

season’s first weekend. Time and time again, the announcers called attention to big plays made by players who had transferred to a college via the portal. Duke beat Clemson, a national power with a quarterback and wide receiver who came to Duke through the portal; Duke had not beaten Clemson for many, many years.

The most entertaining game was Colorado playing at TCU, a contest which drew national attention on every network. TCU had lost in the national championship final game last season and is a highly regarded football program. Colorado, on the other hand, has had many lackluster seasons in a row.

Colorado hired a new football coach, Deon Sanders. Sanders is one of the best defensive backs ever to play in the NFL; his nickname was “Prime Time.” He arrived in Colorado with an all-new coaching team, as well as a great number of athletes who followed him via the portal. Among them was his son, a quarterback. His players all address him as “Coach Prime.” Sanders stood on the sidelines, coaching hat turned sideways, looking like some rapper musician. The cameras were on him several times during the game. It was a fantastic contest to watch, a real shootout with impressively explosive offensive plays. Sanders’ son threw for a record number of yards and several touchdowns. Colorado won by a narrow margin. I’m sure that viewer ratings for the game were among some of the highest ever.

I’m a huge fan of Gopher sports: basketball, volleyball, football. The Gopher women have a new coach; it will be interesting to see the new look with remaining players and transfers through the portal. The men’s coach, Ben Johnson, has not done well in his early tenure. Maybe his team will become much more competitive with transfers in through the portal.

I enjoy watching Gopher football and its coach, P.J. Fleck. Coach Fleck is enthusiastic and has done very well guiding the Gopher football program. The Gophers are currently 3-3 and may be hard pressed to win six football contests and be eligible for a bowl game. Coach Fleck recruited a young freshman running back who was outstanding running the football in the opening Gopher games. He is now injured and I hope he’s healthy for the Iowa Hawkeye game.

I can’t help but wonder what decision that freshman will make at the end of the season. Will he enter the portal, transfer to a high-profile program with many ties to the NIL? Or will he stay with the Gophers and Coach Fleck, rowing a boat in Minnesota?

■ Fitch

from Page 3

ability of keeping the jail due to the low daily population and the cost not only of housing inmates but making the necessary upgrades required by the Department of Corrections (DOC) to keep the jail functional as it is.

“Based on the information that I have, it sounds like we’re the second oldest jail in the state,” she said. “Our prisoner population here is low on average. I don’t know if it’s sustainable to continue to have a jail. Having court services, a courtroom, a probation office - absolutely, we have to have those.”

Moving forward with a jail and a justice center, said Fitch, would cost about \$40-\$45 million. Eliminating the jail aspect of that would cut the price tag in half.

“That would be an annual savings of about \$600,000 per year for our residents,” she said. “Those net savings for our residents and still being able to serve our population - I think it might be worth it to not have a jail, but still have those court services.”

Fitch also talked about the possibility of losing jobs with the jail staff, which she said would be unfortunate.

However, she stated, some of those jobs could be moved to whatever county Waseca County decides to contract with, if they so choose, meaning not all jobs would be lost - just moved to different areas, such as transport.

“We need to think about what’s financially sound, and that \$20 million price tag - we can bond for that and not have it affect the taxpayers, based on the information I have,” Fitch said, referring to the cost of constructing a justice center without a jail.

Other issues Fitch is focused on for Waseca County include workforce and economic development - namely the Workforce Development Engineering Center for Excellence, a project started by the city and the Chamber of Commerce in 2019. The project was then passed to the county to be a grant writer/holder, and the county has partnered with MSU on the project.

“I think that is a program that needs to come to fruition,” Fitch said. “It is a focus on the trades - not only getting students ready for jobs in the trades with hands-on training, but also to help businesses work on innovation so they can develop new product lines and training for their employees.”

Access to broadband for the county, particularly the rural areas, is also something Fitch believes is important. She noted a project with

■ Johnson

from Page 3

something that’s got to be looked at and addressed,” Johnson said. “We’ve got to do some research and figure out the best path forward.”

When asked what sets him apart from other candidates, Johnson said that to him, personality and connection are critical.

“I’ve done a lot of growing over my public service career,” he said, explaining that when he was first elected to the city council, his view on governing was very different than it is today after years of experience.

“I can honestly tell you I was a bull in a china store,” Johnson said. “I didn’t care who I butted heads with, and it was a really ineffective way to govern because people put their guard up and they don’t want to work with you. As I’ve matured, learned, and grown, I’ve realized that it’s really about building coalitions, having meaningful conversations with people, and getting them to see your point of view - and listening, as well.”

I know I don’t have all the answers, but I’m willing to learn and

adapt, and I think that’s what makes me a great choice as a candidate.”

Johnson also said that his experience with numbers and budgets set him apart from other candidates.

“I dealt with that at both a business level and a governmental level when I was on the city council,” he said. He also explained why he would be a good representative for the city.

“I’m involved in a number of local organizations, I’m on a first-name basis with our legislators - they know who we are and we’re able to make those solid connections that we need to help our city and our county grow.”

When asked why people should vote for him as county commissioner, Johnson said, “What you see is what you get. I’m not going to tell people one thing privately and then vote publicly another way. I know a lot of people might not agree with my decisions, but I’m never afraid to tell them exactly where I stand and why I stand where I do.”

He stated that the social capital he’s built over the years within the

community shows the public he is someone who can be trusted to look out for the citizens’ welfare and well-being.

“We’re going to watch their dollars,” Johnson said. “As a former businessman and current banker, that’s really my stock and trade. We’re going to look out for them but also do what’s best for our community and try to make it grow.”

In closing, Johnson explained what he feels makes Waseca County a special place to live and represent.

“Getting married, raising your family here, you realize that we have a lot of intangibles that we take for granted but you don’t get elsewhere,” he said. “We’ve got a tight-knit community where everyone knows everyone. They’re willing to help each other when tragedy occurs, and there’s something special about that.”

I like where I’m at. I like that my children are living here and raising their families here, and I have a vested interest in making sure that we do well.”

knowing the subject matter, trusting staff, trusting the experts, yet knowing enough to ask questions that need to be asked.”

She noted she has a strong attendance record as an elected official, stating that she shows up for the citizens she represents. She also makes decisions for the long-term future, thinking about the next ten and twenty years for Waseca County rather than only the immediate future.

“I believe in what former commissioner Nelson would always say - as far as Waseca goes, so goes the county. What is good for Waseca will be good for the county as well,” she said. “I’m very approachable, and people know that I am here to listen. I will always tell them the truth about what is going on. They may not like the truth, but it will be the facts. If I don’t know something, I’m going to go and learn it. This is not a part-time job; I would have two full-time jobs, essentially.”

When asked why people should vote for her, Fitch stated her constituents will get a very dedicated public servant.

“They will not get a placeholder,” she said. “They will not get someone who is just there to show up to some meetings sometimes. They will get someone who is here to represent them and the citizens of Waseca County.”

■ Milbrath

from Page 3

tracing with a surrounding county - namely Steele or Blue Earth - to house prisoners. “Sometimes that’s not always the best answer. [Regionalized jails] work better for larger counties - the metro area, suburban areas. I’m not sure that Waseca would fit into that as well.”

The cost savings of contracting with another county are something to consider, according to Milbrath, who said that the county would save approximately up to \$800,000 per year on costs of housing prisoners.

“Our jail is one of the oldest in the state at this time,” he said. “It’s a huge cost factor as to which direction we want to go. I would like to see the jail stay here. What that shows is that we’re not sending where everybody seems to go, to Steele County, and we’re not going to start paying Steele County to house our prisoners, [which would] help their economy and not ours.

I think future businesses would

come in and say, ‘Well, they didn’t want to invest in the government part of it, why should we invest in Waseca County?’ I think that plays a factor.”

He also mentioned that the staff at the jail are all Waseca County residents and taxpayers, who would be out of jobs if the jail were to move to another county.

Milbrath discussed the multiple factors that come into play regarding the jail and the justice building, including the impact it would have on Waseca County citizens if they were to be arrested and had to be transported to another county as well as the safety of inmates and the public with the current system, which requires inmates to be transported in public areas from the jail to the courtroom.

“I know it’s all about the money - to save taxpayers money - but it would be tough to lose the jail. You lose a little bit of your identity,” he said. “At some point something needs to be done; we’ve kicked the bucket down the road for 20-some years now, and the cost has just increased. It’s a matter of how we’re going to do it and where the funding is going to come from. I believe the

board and county administrator have created a plan where it wouldn’t affect the levy quite so bad - it would be spread out over time.”

Another key issue on Milbrath’s radar for Waseca County is development - bringing new businesses and residents into Waseca County while keeping those which are already part of the community, rather than losing them to other settings.

“There are incentives out there - tax abatements that could be used, EDA (Economic Development Authority) monies that can help coordinate and work together with cities,” he said. “Our industrial park has empty buildings off Highways 13 and 14 that can be refurbished or utilized somehow. It’s trying to get out and tell people, ‘Come to Waseca County. We’ll give you whatever we can for breaks to help you get established and get going.’ Whatever we can to get the businesses back, along with housing here for all walks of life.”

What sets Milbrath apart from other candidates, he says, are his years of experience and knowledge in government and the goings-on in Waseca County. These were gained during his years as sheriff, where he

also attended board meetings regularly for more than 12 years, along with his years on the fire department, time on the Waseca Sheriff’s Posse, and other county activities.

“I have extensive knowledge of where the policies and procedures, department activities and responsibilities fall,” he said. “I’ve worked with everybody in Waseca County, not just at the city level but county-wide. I think my knowledge of how Waseca County operates will help me get going with the board right away without too much of a learning curve behind it.”

When asked why people should vote for him, Milbrath said it goes back to experience and knowledge.

“My history as sheriff has shown that I take care of Waseca County,” he said. “I think I’m a good leader - I’ve taken staff and people in general and helped them in any way I can. Part of our philosophy when I was sheriff is that we don’t just go to a call, we take those two extra steps, no matter what the cause. If it’s a flat tire on the side of the road or a leaky pipe - stop by and help them out. My goal is to help people in any way I possibly can, and make life a little bit easier for everyone.”

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Judge Carol Hanks with Mike Steffens and his family.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



Judge Carol Hanks with Nathan Frye and many members of his family.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

‘We cannot say congratulations loudly enough’

Nathan Frye and Mike Steffens are the 96th and 97th graduates of Waseca-Steele County Drug Court

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Nathan Frye and Mike Steffens were recognized as the ninety-sixth and ninety-seventh graduates of the Waseca/Steele County Drug Court during a ceremony at the Waseca County Courthouse Thursday, October 21.

Under the “drug court” system, individuals who repeatedly enter the criminal justice system because of their involvement with drugs are given a stayed sentence while they take part in a closely monitored program designed to help them turn their lives around. While in the system, they are subject to random testing to see whether they have used any substances; they also must attend support groups, acquire (or reacquire) their driver licenses, and hold down a job, in addition to other demands.

To participate, individuals must be recommended by a member of the county criminal justice system. Frye was the first participant Waseca County Attorney Rachel Cornelius recommended who was apprehended for sale of drugs. Convicted of

“third-degree sale,” he was sentenced to 21 months’ in prison.

Steffens was facing prison time for a second felony DWI; he had previously taken part in the Drug Court program, but had failed to follow through on the required commitments.

Helping these two, along with many others through drug court are the drug court team, which includes staff from both counties: parole officer Justina Baker, Waseca police captain Kris Markeson, Drug Court coordinator Nicole Grams, lawyer Perry Berg, Waseca County Deputy Scott Wolfe, South Central human relations counselor Kate Hendrickson, and mental health professional Dave Wright.

The combined Steele and Waseca county drug court, launched in 2014, brings two smaller court systems together to form a viable group. Many people, including these two graduates, claim drug court is much more intensive, while also more effective, than simply serving out a prison sentence.

“This program drastically changed

my life for the better,” Frye stated in a letter read aloud during his graduation. “I had no intention of getting sober when I started. I thought this was my get out of jail free card... No part of this came out free. Nothing worked to get around this program. As much as I fought or made excuses to fight my addiction... They gave me a second chance. Thank you for changing my life.”

As of graduation day, Frye has been sober 681 days and undergone 162 drug tests while in the program.

Steffens was subjected to 156 tests and has been sober 360 days as of graduation. His family, including his grandchildren who made handcrafted signs, were present for the celebration.

“Go with the flow and do what you’re supposed to,” Steffens said of what other drug court participants should do. “Quit fighting the system.

Both participants received a plaque and a letter from Senator Amy Klobuchar.

During the program, members of the drug court team shared memories, expressed gratitude, and ex-

“A lot of people can look at your story and say ‘Good. If he can do it, I can do it.”

— Judge Carol Hanks

perienced many emotions.

“Nate (Frye) really didn’t want to come back to Waseca,” Perry Berg said. “He fought it for weeks. But it turns out there’s a lot of support here. Maybe it was the best thing. Congrats. Good luck.”

Frye and his parole officer Baker apparently went many rounds together.

“Our first parking lot meeting did not go well,” Baker said. “We worked together to change the picture of what people see of you.”

“I have a very strong belief in you,” County Attorney Cornelius told Frye. “Visions and mindsets change because of positive, wonderful things you have done.”

“Nate, I remember chasing you around when you were 14,” officer Markeson said. “Let’s let bygones be

bygones. We’re older now. Keep your nose clean and you won’t see us at all. We’re very proud of you.”

Judge Carol Hanks shared some impactful statements.

“Nate you were a mess when you started, excuse after excuse,” Hanks told Frye. “Whatever clicked, it worked.”

During this two-year time in the drug court process, Frye’s mother passed away unexpectedly.

Frye said this program gave his mom the opportunity to see him sober again, something which he be-

lieves wouldn’t have happened otherwise.

“Your mom is looking down on this courtroom smiling,” Hanks said. “A beautiful thing. A darn good story to tell.”

More than a dozen of Frye’s family members were in attendance for the program. His brother Justin Frye, along with other family members shared their thoughts.

“I’m very proud,” Justin Frye said. “If not for Mom passing, he would not have stayed sober.”

“At one point I gave up [on Nate],” Frye’s father, Roger, said via Zoom. “So proud of you.”

Frye said his main motivation for staying sober is to make his mom proud.

“To people who are struggling, Show up,” he said. “It’s not hard if you do what the program asks... Except in the beginning.”

“A lot of people can look at your story and say ‘Good. If he can do it, I can do it,” Hanks concluded. “We cannot say congratulations loudly enough.”

The Pastor’s Column

I lost my keys

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

I lost my keys this fall and can only now just talk about it. It has taken me this long to come to grips with the frustration and concern I had for losing them as well as how they were found. It was an ordeal I do not wish to go through again.

Right now I have 4 sets of keys that I am the guardian and keeper of, keys that I am steward of. Set number one is the vehicle ring. I keep a key for every vehicle on my ring and keep those keys at hand just in case. I don’t have my own vehicle right now, but I could end up driving anyone of the three that our family owns on any given day.

The second set of keys are for football and track, for me as a coach to use to get into the building or to the equipment that we need for day to day practice. These keys get me to my locker, to the tackling dummies and to the bathrooms. Pretty important to be able to serve the students and parents of our community.

The third set is rarely used, but very important. These keys are for the hardware store that functions as heated storage that my family uses to work on cars and keep our treasures. If I want access to the tools, vehicles, or furniture that doesn’t “fit” in our homes I need these keys.

It is the fourth set that I lost, these are the keys to my office, the gun cabinet, the range, and the house. These keys that I use on a daily basis went missing. I searched everywhere. Where was I that I didn’t need to use the keys that I cannot

find and where did they get put so that I remember them? This question haunted me for weeks as my daily search continued.

I am not God, but I began to feel like God. I was looking for my lost sheep, my lost coin, or my lost son. Jesus took time to share these parables to help people understand God’s loving compassion for those that are far from Him. God searches for what is valuable to Him, but the best part is He already knows where we are and is calling us to be found.

In Luke 15:9 in the parable of the lost coin, Jesus reveals God’s joy at finding what was lost: 9 And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ There is great joy from God in finding what was lost, we continue in repentance and God continues to rejoice. We join in with joy at witnessing God’s work in people’s lives.

My keys don’t really matter a whole lot in the grand scheme of things, we found them after a few weeks in a place where they should have been found. I felt joy at finding them and frustration at losing them in the first place. Yet when people turn to God, we can all rejoice together. Join in with the work of God, praise Him for finding us, orchestrating our repentance, and giving us time to find our way back.

Let us rejoice in what God has done and how He has found His people.

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CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service * * *	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. * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass * * *	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. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.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 * * *	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 * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * *	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 * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * *	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Pamela Jensen Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 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 * * *
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. * * *	LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School * * *	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 * * *	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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Argus Archives

100 Years Back - 1923

Since Main street was graveled things have been different. Before that time the street was the object of derision, ribald and jest. Now it is known as one of the smoothest streets in all the country. It is known that a good graveled road is by far superior to a paved road.

The date of dedication for the new Trinity Lutheran church has been set for Sunday, November 11th. There will be three services. Rev. H. Strasen will preach the morning sermon and Rev. M. Winter the evening sermon.

Last Friday afternoon the high school football team were victorious for the first time this year when they defeated the New Richland high school team by a score of 19 to 0.

A deal was consummated last week whereby Mr. John Manthey, in company with his son, Herbert Manthey, succeeds to the proprietorship of the garage business heretofore conducted under the firm name of C.E. Woodhall & Co.

Herman Miller and family and Henry Werdin and family drove over to Owatonna Sunday to visit Mr. Fred Miller and family.

Willis Wilson, son of Chauncey Wilson, and grandson of Mrs. Wm. Wilson, drove down from St. Paul Sunday. He returned in the early evening, accompanied by Miss Bernice Wilson, who had been here for about two weeks visiting in Janesville and Waseca.

George Dunham is harvesting potatoes on the farm west of town and disposing of the crop at eighty-five cents per bushel. He is supplying a number of customers in town.

75 Years Back - 1948

Sunday supper guests at the Fred Possin home were Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Baer and family of Waseca, Mr. and Mrs. August Bluhm of Pemberton, Mr. and Mrs. Eldren Papke and Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Possin. In the evening Mrs. Caroline Pofahl and Roland also joined them. The occasion was in honor of Mrs. Fred Possin's birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Schlaak, Mrs. Charles Beelow and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Schlaak and family and Mr. and Mrs. H. Krassin were Sunday supper guests at the Herbert Fennert home.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Buker and Mrs. Fred Popp, Jr. and daughter, Nancy, of Waseca were Sunday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. H.G. Kurzbein.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Kolstad had their infant son, Duane Lee, born on Sept. 14, christened at Trinity Lutheran church Sunday morning by Rev. A.T. Koehler. Sponsors were Gilbert Erdman and Mrs. Kenneth Meyer. Guests entertained at the Kolstad home in honor of the occasion were Mr. and Mrs. Martin Mittelsteadt of Isoco, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Erdman and son, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Meyer of near Wilton, Rev. and Mrs. A.T. Koehler and daughter, Marilyn, and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Mittelsteadt and family of Waseca.

Members of the Fort-Nightly club enjoyed a hamburger fry at Lake Elysian Park on Thursday evening, October 14, after which they played cards at the home of Mrs. Emma Stearns.

Mr. and Mrs. Wally Myszka and children of Mankato were Saturday afternoon visitors at the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Sandberg and Mr. and Mrs. O.F. Arnoldt.

50 Years Back - 1973

Helen Jewison was crowned Homecoming queen at Janesville High School last Thursday.

A robber, or robbers, stole 150 cartons of cigarettes from Wiste's Food Market early Sunday morning. The burglars emptied out a Kleenex display in order to get some big boxes to haul the cartons out. They forced a back door to gain entry. The thieves also took a radio from the store and left a pocket calculator in a waste basket near the rear door.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hinton and children, Mr. and Mrs. John Nissen, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Fitzgerald and Sheryl of Waseca, Yvonne and Aaron Fitzgerald of Faribault were Sunday dinner and supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Nissen of New Richland where they helped Bryan Hinton, Amber Nissen and Larry Fitzgerald celebrate their birthday anniversaries.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Prehn and daughters and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schultz of Waterville were Friday evening guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bartelt.

Wilbert Gahler and children attended the 50th wedding anniversary open house of Mr. and Mrs. George Kurzbein in their home on Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Klinkhammer were Monday evening dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Schwab, in honor of their daughter, Ann's, birthday anniversary.

25 Years Back - 1998

State Farm Insurance Agent Sherry Sylvester has moved her office to 124 N. Main Street in Janesville, formerly the Arnoldt Building.

Adult volunteers are sharing their time and talents with fifth-graders at the JWP Middle School. This year there are 14 volunteers who will be spending time as senior friends: Marie and Wally Richman of Mankato; Mary Majeski of Wells; Ruth Fury, Anita Jewison, Bill and Kathy Gessner, Ray Cahill, Donna Cowdin, and Peg Schendel of Janesville; Milt Abraham of Lake Crystal; Bernadiene Peterson and Marie Tesch of Waldorf; and Karen Sanderson-Buschow of Pemberton.



Kathy Rusch and Donna Drganc, creators of The Basket Experience, are pictured at the Southern Minnesota Craft Fair.

Waseca Archives

100 Years Back - 1923

About midnight last night thieves broke into Castor Bros' garage on Elm street and stole a new Dodge touring car and 13 new tires. They also opened the cash register and secured \$15.18. Entrance was effected by climbing a telephone pole at the rear of the building, breaking a pane of glass and opening the lock on the window. When inside, they unlocked the east door of the garage and drove south.

Brozik & Sons have installed a Vaughan Meat Slicing Machine in their Meat Market. It is a great time saver--another win for electricity, as the machine is operated by a 1-horse power electric motor.

Mrs. Elizabeth Kreuzer went over to New Richland Monday for a few days' visit with relatives. Her daughter, Mrs. Thomas Benedict, joined her there yesterday and accompanied her home in the afternoon.

Miss Josephine Tallon, who spent the greater part of the summer at her home in this city, left Saturday for St. Paul, where she will spend the winter.

The cold spell has not nipped the building boom out at Elk's Park. Four new cottages are going up at the present time. Henry Papke and S.A. Hanson are each building a cottage on Doe avenue. Charles Spilane is building one on Fawn avenue and Mr. Gillis of Austin is erecting a cottage on the corner of Lake and Doe avenues.

The Waseca Telephone Company has decided to place its lines in the city under ground, so far as possible. This is a splendid improvement and will have the hearty approval of everybody.

Peterson Brothers are celebrating their tenth anniversary this week. They opened their grocery store in Waseca just ten years ago after conducting a very successful store for a number of years out at Otisco. They started their business in the Armstrong building but in 1919 they bought the store they are now in.

75 Years Back - 1948

Ursula Reimler, the 16-year-old German girl who came to America in May, will reign triumphantly over the Central high school Homecoming Friday night. Her fellow students at Central elected her as homecoming queen by a two-to-one vote over the combined vote of her two rivals. Ursula is from Minden in Westphalia Germany. She was able to come to America because of natural citizenship, having been born in Golden Valley, ND. She is living with her uncle, Rev. G.W. Malling, pastor of the Trinity Lutheran church southwest of Waseca.

President Harry S. Truman was greeted by 4,000 enthusiastic people in Waseca at 9:00 a.m.--1,000 more than turned out at Mankato an hour earlier. He urged election of Hubert Humphrey to the United States senate and Karl Rolvaag to congress from the First Congressional district.

Miss Arville Stucy returned Thursday from a month's vacation in northern Minnesota. She will resume her duties at Kay's Beauty Shop.

Mr. and Mrs. William F. Krenke and children, Bobby and Donnie, spent Sunday and Monday in the Twin Cities.

R.G.T. Emerald Strand of Fort Knox, Kentucky, arrived home Friday for a 17-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Strand. He will report to New Brunswick, NJ for overseas duty on Oct. 29.

Dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. R.W. Sell Sunday were Mrs. Olga Koechel and daughter, Martha, of Enid, Oklahoma; Mr. and Mrs. Will Roesler of Mankato and Mrs. Ida Goltz, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Johnston and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Sell.

Seymour Johnson has accepted a position as an Engineering Inspector for the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Co. and is located in Syracuse, New York at present. He is a son of County treasurer and Mrs. Melvin Johnson.

50 Years Back - 1973

Norman Dusek and Leroy Hertel assumed ownership of the Lakeview Restaurant, east of Waseca, Oct. 1. The two purchased the business from Bob and Arlene Carlson.

Helen's Bar and Grill will open for the first time in Waseca Friday. The new business is operated by Mrs. Homer Erickson and her cousin Gen Kouri. It is located in the former Erickson Upholstery Shop, 609 5th Ave. S.W.



The Bluejay cross country team successfully defended its title by winning the South Central Conference meet here Thursday afternoon at the Lakeside Golf Course. The Bluejays had to share the crown with Glencoe, however, as both teams ended up with 53 points. The Jays won the title outright last year at Glencoe when the Jays' young coach, Gary Meurer, in his first year, brought the title to Waseca for the first time ever.

Robert Ludvik is the new owner at the Village Bowl and Playmate Lounge. He assumed ownership Oct. 15 from Sam Juberian, who has operated the business for three years. Ludvik, at the present time, plans to continue operating the business in the same manner with no major changes. Entertainment will be featured five nights a week, with a go-go girl on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

25 Years Back - 1998

In an effort to forge stronger ties between German and American businesses and political leaders, the German organization Atlantik-Brucke will be in Waseca on Monday. Thirteen members of the organization will tour Brown Printing in the morning and have a roundtable discussion with local businesses and politicians in the afternoon. Brown Printing is one of only two Minnesota companies the group will visit during their stay.

Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador, Kevin Clemons, presented a First Dollar Award to the new owners of Katie O'Leary's, Marv and Bev Maas.

Looking Back (New Richland)

100 Years Back - 1923

Carl Halvorson brought in two mammoth sugar beets that were dug from his field Wednesday. The beets are of about the same size and of exactly the same weight, tipping the scales at 11 pounds each.

W.G. Gish, the deputy game warden, came down from Waterville on Wednesday to attend to details concerning the details of his office at this place. While here he drove out to look over St. Olaf lake which he states will be restocked with black bass and crappies next spring.

C.O. Hendrickson has rented his farm to Jalmer Olson who resides northeast of town. Mr. Hendrickson, who is employed as agent for the Raleigh company, expects to move his family to New Richland.

Mrs. J.S. Root and daughter, Agnes, attended the marriage of the former's nephew, Enoch Root and Miss Irene O'Riley at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. O'Riley, of Wilton township, at 7:30 o'clock Monday evening, Oct. 15. Miss Agnes acted in the capacity of bridesmaid and Bert Root, brother of the groom, was best man.

The following families spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Osten Matson: Mr. and Mrs. Albert Matson and family, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Matson of Waseca, and Miss Dorothy Crumb.

Gust Hoelz and Art Lechner were busy last week doing some road work around here. They also made a nice drive way at the Wm. Lechner place. The boys did a good job.

77 Years Back - 1946

An important business change took place early this week when the Keeley Farm Equipment company was taken over by the Byron Implement Co. The new firm is comprised of Robert E. and Robert J. Byron, father and son, the former a well known farmer of Wilton township.

Ernest Knudson and Lester Wenzel will leave next Sunday for Kansas City, Mo., for the national convention of Future Farmers of America. Fifteen thousand boys from every state in the union will be there.

Lloyd Nemitz, war veteran, has taken over the interests of Ward Stafford in the Standard Oil Service station which he will conduct from now on.

While the men attended a brotherhood meeting at the Meriden church, Mrs. George Dobberstein and Mrs. Russell Herbst and family visited Mr. and Mrs. Herman Steinberg of near Owatonna Wednesday evening.

Mrs. Seth Winegar, Mrs. C.W. Raymo, Mrs. Ernest Ganiere, and Mrs. Leo Parriott were among those who assisted with the supper at the Young People's Rally at the Congregational church Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. William Rosacker and daughter, Elsie, and Mrs. Leo Eckart were afternoon visitors at the Mary Partridge home Sunday.

50 Years Back - 1973

E.H. Engesser is shown as he receives one of the two National Awards given to State of Minnesota Newspapers at the National



Newspaper Convention.

A break-in and robbery occurred at Bruzek Hardware recently. About \$200 in cash and \$500 in merchandise was stolen by the burglars who entered through the front door, breaking the lock.

Mr. and Mrs. Craig Brandvold, Shari, Darol Draheim and Merlin Fette were Sunday dinner guests at the Lloyd Brandvold home. Joining them in the afternoon were Mr. and Mrs. Faye Boshynak of Mankato, Mrs. Emil Ryberg and Lenora Johnson of Waseca.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Seath, rural Hartland, accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Juveland and Sue of Albert Lea to Black River Falls, Wis., Saturday and returned Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Norvin Pederson and Mrs. Edna Reese of Albert Lea and Mr. and Mrs. Gifford Swanson and Douglas Myers of St. Paul Lutheran Seminary were Sunday afternoon coffee guests at the Ole Knudson home.

25 Years Back - 1998



Enjoying a "get-together" at a recent volleyball game were, front: Matt Felt; middle: Shawn Ebnet, Breanna Schimek, Jackie Hullopeter, Travis Simon; back: Nick Kaplan and Gabe Kofstad, NRHEG students.

An explosive offense helped the NRHEG football squad take an early lead in their 35-6 win over the Blossoms, Wednesday at Blooming Prairie. Due to lightning strikes in the area, the game started 65 minutes late and then was called with 11:30 left in the fourth period.

Compiled by Jessica Lutgens

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OCTOBER IS

NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



‘Mind over matter’

Staloch’s fight with breast cancer

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

“I kept getting bad news,” remembers Ronda Staloch, 49, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in July of 2016.

The Hartland resident and mother of three discovered a lump during a self examination in July and, since it was coming toward time for her annual mammogram, checked with her doctor. Strangely, though the lump was obviously present, the 27 different views taken by the radiography department in August did not show it; it was later learned its composition was a type not susceptible to detection on mammograms. An ultrasound led to the news that a biopsy was needed.

“It seemed like every time I left the doctor’s office, there was something I had to decide.”

Staloch tells of learning that what first seemed like a two-centimeter lump was actually three lumps with a combined diameter of about 9 centimeters. She describes learning that rather than a “lumpectomy” she would likely need a mastectomy. And then, when cancer was found in her lymph nodes, that chemotherapy would be necessary. The news that her genetics include a harmful mutation led to the suggestions she should have a double mastectomy.

With the cancer in her lymph nodes, doctors informed her the most thorough course would be to receive one 8-week round of chemotherapy followed by a 12-week treatment using a different “cocktail.” After that, surgery for the double mastectomy, and finally five weeks of near-daily radiation treatment for “insurance.”

Summarized so quickly, she consents, it sounds nearly unbearable. Encountered piece by piece over most of two years, she wants everyone to know, it was a case of “mind over matter.”

For her, she says, the most important factor was her faith. “The more I trusted in God, the easier things got,” she recalls. “Worrying gets you



The Staloch family, from left, Nick, Ronda, Chad, Seth, and Cole.

nowhere. When there’s nothing you can do to change the situation, worrying does more harm than good. If I tried to handle things on my own terms, it didn’t go very well, but if I handed it over to God, it was better. “That’s how it is for me to this day.”

For anyone intimidated by the idea of undergoing cancer treatment, Staloch also highlights the many forms of support which tend to arise.

“Friends and family, of course,” she says. “I had a lot of people praying for me. They also offered many different kinds of help.” Staloch mentions meals delivered to the family home two or three times a week, rides offered and given to various treatments and appointments. Words of compassion and quiet acts of kindness. She tells of her brother and a friend who bought her a wig so she could feel “more normal” after she lost her hair.

“My work family was very compassionate, too,” she recalls.

Staloch works with accounts receivable and payable at the Hy-Yield location in Hartland. She remembers co-workers stepping in to take care of some tasks, while she was also given flexibility to finish others outside of typical working hours. Thanks to that support, she was able to maintain her job throughout the ordeal.

An invaluable resource for anyone undergoing cancer treatment, Staloch says, is reaching out to cancer survivors, if any “reaching” is even necessary. She remembers others getting in touch with her to offer assistance and share their experiences. One person even suggested she could call or text any time—including “the middle of the night.”

“It’s amazing how many people want to help,” says Staloch.



Chad and Rhonda Staloch

Yet another source of support are fellow patients also undergoing treatment. For Staloch, this included New Richland area resident Jean Billing and a patient from Iowa who was also being treated at the Albert Lea facility. “We would pull our chairs together, settle down with our blankets and pillows, and just talk,” she remembers about their shared chemotherapy treatments.

Staloch remembers being advised by a friend in the medical field that she should keep a journal. She recommends doing so for anyone undergoing complicated treatments. She not only kept notes regarding medications, treatments and recommendations, but also personal thoughts and reactions.

“When you write things down,” she says, “you can go back over it

later. It helps to take the emotions out of things and let you think more clearly.” She also suggests following medical advice, including taking medications on time, eating a healthy diet, and generally doing things to take care of oneself.

Taking things one step at a time is also vital. “You can just sort of plot things out and chip away at the days,” she recalls.

“Every case of cancer is a little bit different,” says Staloch. “And everyone is going to react to it differently. But it’s important to know you can get through it. You won’t be going through it alone—people will help and support you. God will be there for you. And all of us are stronger than we realize.”

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This Breast Cancer Awareness Month, it’s time to RISE.

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OCTOBER IS
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Mike and Bea O'Brien, center, with most of their family, which includes nine children, 20 grandchildren, and a recently-arrived great-grandchild.

'Keep moving forward, don't look back'

Bea O'Brien's fight with breast cancer began in March of 2022

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Though her short stature, slight build and quiet voice might lead the unknowing to believe otherwise, Bea O'Brien is a force to be reckoned with. The oldest of five siblings and a 1961 graduate of the (then) newly consolidated Waldorf-Pemberton High School, she was invited to interview for a position as legal secretary to (then) county attorney Einer Iversen before even finishing her senior year.

In 1967 she married Mike O'Brien, whom she had met at the social hotspot of the day, the Mankato Ballroom. While Bea continued to work at least part time, she and Mike went on to have seven sons and two daughters between 1968 and 1982.

Bea continued to work for the office Iversen founded through 2015, when the sudden death of attorney Robert Sterling led to its abrupt closure, and left her to take over the task of managing the company's matters to their final disposition.

Already more than 70, she chose not to retire, but instead took up work with the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center and its associated food shelf. She accepted an offer to join the office of Waseca lawyer Molly Byron in 2018, where she continues to perform the many, varied tasks which support the business' operations.

In March of 2022, when she was 78, a routine health checkup revealed she had stage 4 breast cancer. The diagnosis, she admits, was a bit of a shock. Remembering the tribulations a family member had

experienced years before, Bea says her first inclination was to defer treatment. "I wasn't going to do anything," she recalls. "I was just going to let life play out as it would."

Her family, however, encouraged her to reconsider. "I'm definitely glad I let them convince me," comments Bea, who returned from a visit to North Carolina this week during which she met her first great-grandchild. She also continues to enjoy attending Waseca school events where some of her 20 grandchildren are participating. This week she looks forward to seeing Evelyn at a volleyball game and choir concert.

The cancer has managed to interfere with the usual course of her life, but has not succeeded in making her miserable. In fact, "I'm grateful for every day," she says.

"It's amazing how much cancer treatment has changed," Bea observes, mentioning that her experience has been vastly different from that encountered by others a decade and more ago.

"They personalize everything to each person's particular situation." In Bea's case, she currently reports to treatments in Mankato once every three weeks or so. Over a four-hour period, her blood is tested, treatment is delivered intravenously, and she meets with her doctor for any updates. The most recent visit, she reports, led to "excellent news" from her treatment team.

In addition to the chemotherapy, Bea undergoes periodic radiography and heart scans.

"The nurses and doctors are really

"I thank God for every day I can get up and be here."
— Bea O'Brien

amazing people," she comments. "They're patient and understanding. We're treated almost like royalty."

Bea says the chemotherapy she receives is not particularly draining; in fact, she often reports back to work at the law office upon returning to Waseca.

There have, of course, been some side effects. Bea has lost her hair, and currently wears stylish caps. Regarding whether to acquire a wig, she says she continues to think about getting one, but hasn't decided.

Of the challenges and difficulties caused by her cancer, Bea says, "It is what it is. I can't do anything about it, so I just keep moving forward." She admits she is not accustomed to relying on others, but that, too, has led to a philosophical adjustment: "You have to learn to accept that," she says.

In the time since her diagnosis, she has also experienced a stomach ulcer which caused pains she attributed to "something I ate," until the

discomfort sent her to the hospital for a checkup. "Before I knew it, I was on my way to Rochester," she remembers. A surgery has cleared the problem up, though, and Bea is back to working full time and attending her grandchildren's activities.

"I don't think of [the law office] as work," says Bea with a smile. "I thank God for every day I can get up and be here. I think of it as a chance to meet and help people, knowing we're doing good things for them that help make their lives better."

Bea wants others who may be diagnosed with breast cancer to know they are not alone. She says she has received tremendous support from family, friends, and medical staff. Treatments, she observes, are no longer as harsh as they once were, and many of life's usual activities can continue.

"There's a lot of reason for optimism," she says. "Keep moving forward and don't look back."



Bea O'Brien



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Bluejays gain victory, but lose another standout

Waseca to host Jordan Saturday at 2 p.m. in Section 3AAA semifinals

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The good news for the Waseca High School football team was another lop-sided shutout victory. The bad news? They've lost another standout player to injury. The Bluejays, who lost their No. 1 ball carrier Kaeden Johnson to injury earlier this season, were without another of their star sprinters — Damarius Russell — in Tuesday's 43-0 thrashing of Worthington in the Section 3AAA quarterfinals in Waseca. Like Johnson, Russell is expected to be shelved for the season.

"I like how our kids responded tonight," said Bluejays head coach Brad Wendland, whose team earned the No. 2 seed after falling 21-0 at Fairmont the previous week. "It was a lot of fun to get out and play. We needed that."

The Bluejays improved to 7-2 while posting their fifth shutout of the season. They also found a way to win big with Johnson and Russell watching in street clothes on the sideline.

"We talk a lot about patience," said Wendland after the game. "With Kaeden and Damarius in there, any play could be a 70-yard touchdown. I've been guilty of being impatient myself, and we've been talking a lot about that. We were more patient tonight."

The Bluejays were dominant from the opening kickoff, taking a 21-0 at the end of the first quarter on two Jordan Johnson touchdown runs and a pass from Johnston to Tauston Rupe.

Micah Allen-Haas scored in the second quarter, his first of two touchdowns on the night, and back-up quarterback Keaton Roeker added a third-quarter touchdown.

Johnson, the Bluejays' sophomore quarterback, had a stellar night, rushing for 116 yards on 12 carries and completing all eight of his passes for 100 yards.

Allen-Haas ran for 70 yards on 12 carries.

Jacob Thompson had an interception and DeRon Russell returned a punt 35 yards.

The Jays limited Worthington to 112 total yards, allowing only six first downs.

Last week at Fairmont, the Bluejays were stymied and saw their six-game winning streak end with a 21-0 defeat at Thomas Mahoney Field.

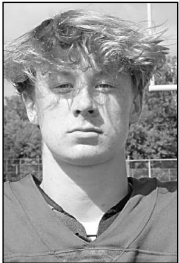
Current Fairmont coach Mat Mahoney — son of Thomas Mahoney — credited a balanced game plan for his team's success.

Fairmont allowed Waseca only 131 total yards — 59 rushing — and earned the No. 1 sectional seed.

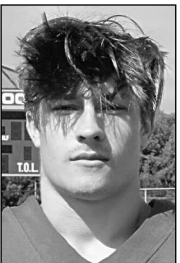
The Cardinals scored the only points of the first half in the opening quarter on a perfectly-placed pass than went for 72 yards and a touchdown.

The Bluejays remained within striking distance until Fairmont tacked on touchdowns in the third and fourth quarter.

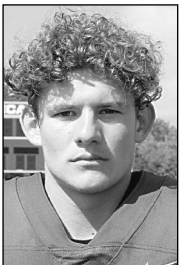
The section win advanced the Bluejays to the section semifinal round Saturday at 2 p.m. at Waseca against No. 3 seed Jordan.



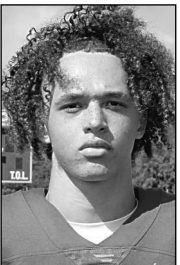
Johnston



N.Engel-Mueller



Rupe



Da.Russell

"We're not the same team than last time we met, but they aren't either," said Wendland. "It will be a real fun matchup."

The winner Saturday plays in the section final

Waseca 43, Worthington 0				
WOR	0	0	0	0-0
WAS	21	8	14	0-43

First Quarter

WAS — Johnston 1 run (Hoelscher kick)
WAS — Johnston 62 run (kick failed)
WAS — Rupe 14 pass from Johnston (Allen-Haas run)

Second Quarter

WAS — Allen-Haas 2 run (two-point conversion good)

Third Quarter

WAS — Roeker 3 run (Hulscher kick)
WAS — Allen-Haas 5 run (Hulscher kick)

Fourth Quarter

No scoring	WOR	WAS
Total plays	35	43
First downs	6	13
Rushing Yds.	99	231
Passing Yds.	13	100
Total Yds.	112	331
Penalties	8-75	7-55

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — WAS: Johnston 12-116; Allen-Haas 12-70; Rohl 5-33; Roeker 3-20;
Passing - WAS: Johnston 8-8-0, 100
Receiving — WAS: Rupe 3-33; Keeton 2-29; Ohnstad 1-26

Fairmont 21, Waseca 0				
FMT	7	0	7	7-21
WAS	0	0	0	0-0

First Quarter

FMT — Pooley 72 pass from Geiger (Stenzel kick)

Second Quarter

No scoring

Third Quarter

FMT — Johnson 18 run (Stenzel kick)

Fourth Quarter

FMT — Teveldal 13 pass from Geiger (Stenzel kick)	WAS	FMT
First downs	6	11
Rushing Yds.	59	168
Passing	8-18, 72	11-20, 151
Total Yds.	131	319
Penalties	8-40	3-20

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — WAS: Allen-Haas 9-37; Johnston 7-18; Mixtco 3-4; FMT: Johnson 25-145; Tumbleson 3-16; Gerdes Long 1-3; 2-2; Geiger 9-2;
Passing - WAS: Johnston 8-18, 72; FMT: Geiger 11-20, 151
Receiving — WAS: Ohnstad 2-30; De.Russell 3-22; Da.Russell 3-20; FMT: Pooley 4-115; Teveldal 6-25; Schultz 1-11

Waseca Defense — Ludwig 3 solo tackles; Da.Russell 3 tackles, 1 interception; Keeton 3 tackles; Hiller 1 tackle; Ellis 6 tackles, 1 assist; De.Russell 1 tackle; Selthun 1 tackle; Rupe 6 tackles, 1 assist; Hager 1 tackle; J.Thompson 1 tackle; N.Engel-Mueller 5 tackles, 1 assist; Robran 3 tackles; Norman 1 tackle; Stenzel 4 tackles; S.Engel-Mueller 7 tackles



ROOM TO RUN — The Bluejays' Micah Allen-Haas (45) finds plenty of daylight while scoring one of his two touchdowns in Waseca's 43-0 Section 3AAA quarterfinal victory over Worthington Tuesday night. Also pictured are Waseca's Noah Thompson (44) and Carter Ellis (6).

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



IT WINS CHAMPIONSHIPS — At left, the Bluejays' Ethan Stenzel (70) applies pressure to the Worthington quarterback. At right, Deron Russell (7) gets up in the air on pass defense.



SECTION ACTION — At left, the Bluejays' Jordan Johnson (12) leaves defenders in his wake during a 62-yard touchdown run in the first quarter of Tuesday's game. At right, Carter Ellis (6) and Tauston Rupe (33) team to corral a Worthington opponent.



GIVING CHASE — At left, Waseca's Carter Ellis (6), Nate Engel-Mueller (55), Ethan Stenzel (70) pursue a Fairmont ball carrier. At right, Ellis, Shane Engel-Mueller (75), Noah Thompson (44) and Tauston Rupe (33) do the same.



ACTION AT THE NET — At left, The Bluejays’ Evelyn O’Brien and Aliyah Taylor team up to block a shot by a Minnesota Valley Lutheran opponent during Monday night’s 3-0 Section 2AA tournament at Waseca. In the middle, Ellery Waldron goes on the attack. At right, the Bluejays’ Ellie Hoehn goes for the kill.
Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Waseca volleyball team prevails in section opener

The Waseca High School volleyball team cruised to a 3-0 victory over Minnesota Valley Lutheran in the opening round of Section 2AA tournament play Monday, Oct. 23 in Waseca.

The Bluejays won 25-19, 25-20, 25-23.

Siri Kuhns totaled 24 assists for the Bluejays. Leading in kills were Aliyah Taylor with 11 and Kalea Sartori with six. Takara Slattery had 12 digs, Taylor 11. Ellery Waldrod, a sophomore, led the team with three blocks.

The third-seeded Bluejays

Third-seeded Bluejays advance to face second-seeded LCWM

advanced to the section quarterfinals Thursday against second-seeded LCWM, with the winner playing in the semifinals Tuesday, Oct. 31 at 6 p.m. in New Prague.

The section final is Thursday,

Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Peter.

LCWM ended No. 7 seed JWP’S season Monday, with game scores of 25-13, 25-21, 25-21.

For the Bulldogs: Brielle Bure 1 ace, 3 assists, 13 digs; Nevaeh

Weimert 10 assists, 2 digs; Katie Olson 2 kills, 3 digs; Lilly Strauss 1 ace, 3 kills, 3 digs; Claire Walz 4 kills, 1 block; Aubrey Weedman 6 kills, 1 block, 13 assists, 8 digs; Presley James 11 kills, 3 blocks, 1

dig; Paige Walz 4 kills, 3 digs; Lexie Dahlberg 2 aces, 3 digs; Hope Dimmel 1 ace; Ali Olson 7 digs.



SETTING THE PACE — Leading the way in the Big South Conference meet for the Waseca High School cross country teams were Isaac Fjeldkamp, and Stella Omvedt.
Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



WHS cross country teams third, fifth in Big South meet

The Waseca High School girls’ cross country team finished third in the large-school division of the Big South Conference meet Tuesday, Oct. 17 at Marshall.

The host Tigers won handily, with five runners in the top 10 while scoring 24 points. St. Peter was second with 56, followed by Waseca with 68, Fairmont 106 and Worthington 134.

Maren Schimming, an eighth-grader, paced the Bluejays, placing 10th with a time of 19:59.79.

Following for the Bluejays: Callie Dufault, 12th, 11 20:08.97; Stella Omvedt, 13th, 8 20:13.25; Taylor Markeson, 17th, 21:25.15; Kelsey Draeger, 18th, 21:37.5; Quinn Yoder, 22nd, 22:19.72; and Melanie Krueger, 25th, 23:02.00.

The winner of the large-school girls’ race was Allyson Sample, a Marshall senior who clocked 18:12.07

Luverne senior Jenna Debates was first in the small-school division with a time of 18:07.25. Redwood

Valley took the team title.

The Waseca boys finished fifth among large schools with 109 points. Marshall won with 26, Worthington had 64, Fairmont 79 and St. Peter 94.

The top finisher for the Bluejays was junior Isaac Fjeldkamp, who clocked 16:33.01 for fifth place.

He was followed by Tyler Jellum, 25th, 18:54.74; Colton Schroeder, 26th, 18:58.14; Tristan Godwin, 30th, 19:13.73; Tanner Hanson, 31st, 19:37.86; and Bobby Mortenson, 35th, 20:21.32.

Finishing first was junior Fanuel Wolday of Worthington in 16:00.54.

Will Ahrens of Redwood Valley, a junior, was first in the small-school division in 15:55.26. His team also won the title.

The Bluejays are in Albert Lea this week for the section meet.

STANDINGS			
Football			
South Central White			
	Conf.	Ov.	
Waseca	4-0	6-1	
Jordan	2-1	4-3	
Tri-City United	2-1	4-3	
Belle Plaine	0-3	1-6	
Albert Lea	0-3	0-7	
Big South Conference - East			
St. Peter	9-0	15-4	
Waseca	7-3	9-6	
New Ulm	6-3	11-9	
Blue Earth Area	3-7	6-15	
St. James Area	2-8	4-16	
Fairmont	2-8	4-17	
Big South Conference - West			
Marshall	6-0	23-5	
Redwood Valley	5-1	26-2	
Windom Area	4-2	18-9	
Luverne	2-4	9-13	
Jackson County Central	2-4	10-18	
Worthington	2-4	11-15	
Pipestone Area	0-6	1-21	
Mid Southeast West			
Norwood-Young America	7-0	7-0	
Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop	6-1	6-1	
Mayer Lutheran	5-2	5-2	
Lester Prairie	5-2	5-2	
United South Central	4-3	4-3	
St. Clair/Mankato Loyola	4-3	4-3	
NRHEG	3-4	3-4	
Randolph	3-4	3-4	
Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton	2-5	2-5	
Cleveland	1-6	1-6	
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	2-5	2-5	
Medford	0-7	0-7	
Gopher Conference			
Kenyon-Wanamingo	10-0	22-2	
Bethlehem Academy	9-11	11-11	
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	7-3	20-8	
Randolph	6-4	13-8	
Medford	6-4	15-13	
NRHEG	5-5	12-10	
Hayfield	5-5	8-18	
Triton	4-6	8-14	
Maple River	4-6	12-11	
Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton	3-7	8-12	
United South Central	1-9	6-16	
Blooming Prairie	0-10	5-18	
Boys' Soccer			
Big South Conference			
Worthington	11-1	16-2	
Marshall	11-1	12-5	
New Ulm	7-4	8-5	
Fairmont Area	4-7	6-9	
St. Peter	4-8	4-12	
Waseca	3-83	11-1	
St. James/Windom/Madelia	0-11	1-14	
Girls' Soccer			
Big South Conference			
Waseca	10-1	12-4	
St. Peter	9-0	13-2	
Marshall	6-3	6-5	
New Ulm	6-4	6-8	
Fairmont Area	4-7	5-12	
Worthington	2-10	2-15	
St. James/Windom/Madelia	0-12	0-15	

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Football Panthers rally past United South Central

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

One of the most exciting halves of football Panther fans have seen in a long time took place Wednesday, Oct. 18 in New Richland.

NRHEG scored all of its points in the second half and defeated United South Central 27-26.

“Both teams moved the ball well in the first half,” said NRHEG head coach Marc Kruger. “Both teams played well and made big plays to get stops. In the second half, we took out some plays I didn’t like and fixed others that really helped finish off drives on key third and fourth-down type plays.”

At halftime, the Rebels led 6-0. The game arguably came down to two key plays as both teams traded scoring drives in the second half.

Before those two plays, however, a false start due to “fireworks” almost cost the Panthers.

After a touchdown pass to Jackson Chrz, one of two on the night for Chrz, the Panthers led 20-12 with 11 minutes remaining in the game. With the extra point attempt kicked through the uprights, flags flew as the offensive line jumped at the same time as fireworks were shot into the air. Backed up, the next extra point attempt was blocked, keeping it a one-score game.

Three minutes later, the Rebels marched down the field on a drive consisting entirely of run plays. After a touchdown run of a couple yards, the two point conversion was successful.

A 58-yard scamper by junior Alden Dobberstein set up a 2-yard

touchdown run by Jaylin Raab on the Panthers’ next possession. The extra point made it 27-20.

“Alden is such a good quarterback when he has time,” Kruger said after the game. “He can read so well and put the ball in the right spot.”

On the next possession Aidan Schlaak made one of two game-saving and clinching plays.

A 40-yard run from the Rebel quarterback set up a first and goal for USC. Two plays later they punched it in with 3:41 remaining in the contest. On one of the few pass plays of the night for the Rebels, a wide open receiver was standing in the back of the end zone. On a diving play, the ball was tipped away just in time, by none other than Schlaak.

With a minute remaining in the

game, with the Rebels trying to drive down the field, Schlaak again put the game on ice when he intercepted the USC quarterback at mid-field.

Kruger talked about numerous players, highlighting their performances.

Chrz caught four balls for 144 yards, two touchdowns, including a 57-yard reception and a two-point conversion pass.

“We’ve just kind of been waiting for those connections,” Kruger continued.

Throughout the night, the offensive and defensive lines played well.

Wednesday night, however, was not just about football. It was Senior Night, and Cancer Night.

“It’s exciting to have games like this and this atmosphere back”

Kruger said. “It’s so much fun.”			Rushing yards	146	261
			Passing	1-2-0	6-11-0
			Passing Yds.	25	153
			Total yards	286	299
			Third down	6-9	4-7
			Fourth down	1-2	1-2
			Turnovers	0	0
			Penalties	10-47	3-17
NRHEG 27, United South Central 26					
USC	6	0	6	14	— 26
NRHEG	0	0	7	20	— 27
First Quarter					
USC — 7-yard run (two-point conversion failed)					
Second Quarter					
No Scoring					
Third Quarter					
NRHEG — Olson 4 pass from Dobberstein (Roesler kick)					
Fourth Quarter					
NRHEG — Chrz 57 pass from Dobberstein (Roesler kick)					
NRHEG — Chrz 25 pass from Dobberstein (kick failed)					
USC — 3-yard run (Martinez run)					
NRHEG — Raab 2-yard run (Roesler kick)					
USC — 1 run (two-point conversion failed)					
			USC	NRHEG	
First downs			11	13	
Total plays			45	47	
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS					
Rushing — NRHEG: Dobberstein 9-109; Olson 4-14; Raab 8-12; Flatland 3-6; Cromwell 6-5; USC: Martinez 11-116; No. 35 13-51; Rest of Team 16-94					
Passing — NRHEG: Dobberstein 6-11-0, 153; USC: Martinez 1-2-0, 25					
Receiving — NRHEG: Chrz 4-144; Roesler 1-5; Olson 1-4; USC 1-25					
Defense — NRHEG: Flatland 9 tackles, 1 tackle for loss; Bartlett 6 tackles, 1 tackle for loss; Olson 4 tackles; Roesler 4 tackles; Parpart 4 tackles; Ihrke 3 tackles; Chrz 2 tackles; Martens 2 tackles; Raab 1 tackle; Brouwers 1 tackls; Rest of Team 5 tackles					

Season concludes for Bulldog football

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It was a fun season that saw plenty of improvement for the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton football team.

But it wasn’t meant to be in their section tournament opener Tuesday night at Dodge Center, where they fell 43-6 to Triton.

The Cobras controlled the action from the outset, leading 15-6 after one quarter and 36-6 at halftime.

The Bulldogs ran for only 11 yards to Triton’s 401.

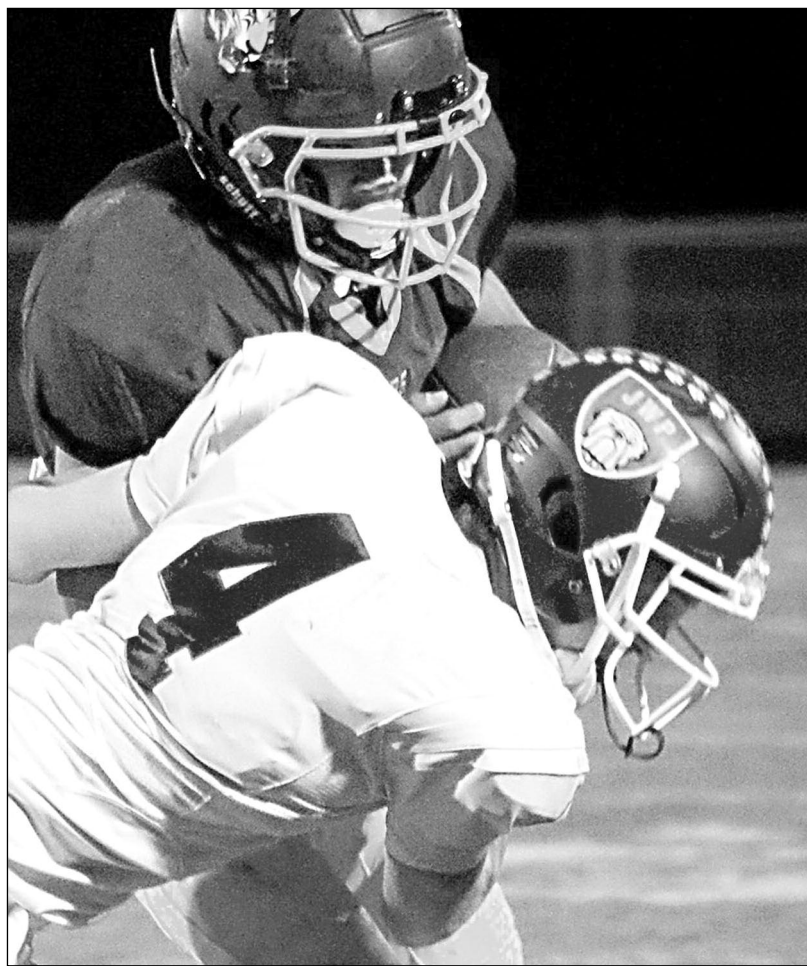
Quarterback Dalton Bauer completed 10 of 21 passes for 91 yards.

The Bulldogs, who finished 3-6, finished the regular season the previous week at Medford, winning 21-0.

Ryan Kronbach, Ty Melchior and Nolan Morsching scored for the Bulldogs, with Bauer going five-for-16 passing for 115 yards and no interceptions.

The Bulldogs held Medford to one first down.

Triton 43, JWP 6				
JWP	6	0	0	0 — 6
TRI	15	21	7	0 — 43
First Quarter				
TRI — Leonard 6 run (Stark pass from Leonardo)				
JWP — Kronbach 44 pass from Bauer (N.Morsching run failed)				
TRI — Munnikhuysen 50 punt return (Martinez kick)				
Second Quarter				
TRI — Adreon 11 run (Martinez kick)				
TRI — Koenigs 1 run (Martinez kick)				
TRI — Stark 2 run (Martinez kick)				
Third Quarter				
TRI — Stark 10 run (Martinez kick)				
Fourth Quarter				
No scoring				
First Downs				
Total plays				
Rushing Yds.				
Passing				
Passing Yds.				
Total Yds.				
Fumbles-lost				
Penalties				
Third Down				
Fourth Down				
Time of Poss.				
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS				
Rushing — JWP: N.Morsching 10-15; Gerds 1-4; Gahlon 2 -5; TRI: Stark 16-210; Adreon 12-69; Leonardo 10-39; J.Ortiz 7-35; Munnikhuysen 6-27; Valdez 2-9; A.Ortiz 1-5; Felix 1-4; Barker 1-3; Koenigs 2-2; Garness 4 -7				
Passing — JWP: Bauer 10-21, 91; Gerds 1-1, 9; Thell 0-1, 0; TRI: Leonardo 1-1, 3				
Receiving — JWP: Kronbach 2-59; McWaters 6-29; James 1-9; O’Brien 1-3; TRI: Barker 1-3				
JWP Defense — N.Morsching 6 assists; O’Brien 3 tackles, 5 assists; Thell 1 tackle; Cahill 1 assist; Berndt 2 tackles, 4 assists; McWaters 4 tackles, 7 assists; Born 3 tackles, 5 assists, 1 sack; Gerds 1 tackle, 1 assist; L.Morsching 3 tackles, 9 assists; Fall 1 tackle, 1 assist; Miller 1 assist; Cummins 6 assists; Carda 3 assists; A. Quast 8 assists; Davis 3 assists; Gartner 5 tackles, 9 assists				
TRI Defense — N.Morsching 6 assists; O’Brien 3 tackles, 5 assists; Thell 1 tackle; Cahill 1 assist; Berndt 2 tackles, 4 assists; McWaters 4 tackles, 7 assists; Born 3 tackles, 5 assists, 1 sack; Gerds 1 tackle, 1 assist; L.Morsching 3 tackles, 9 assists; Fall 1 tackle, 1 assist; Miller 1 assist; Cummins 6 assists; Carda 3 assists; A. Quast 8 assists; Davis 3 assists; Gartner 5 tackles, 9 assists				
JWP 21, Medford 0				
JWP	7	0	14	0 — 21



THE SEASON IS HISTORY — At left, JWP’s Alex James (4) takes down a Medford ball carrier during last week’s 21-0 victory at Medford. At right, the Bulldogs’ Ethan Born (30) takes the field.

MED 0 0 0 0 — 0				
First Quarter				
JWP - Kronbach 55 pass from Bauer (James kick)				
Second Quarter				
No scoring				
Third Quarter				
JWP - Melchoir 9 run (James kick)				
JWP - N.Morsching 3 run (James kick)				
Fourth Quarter				
No scoring				
First Downs				
Total plays				
Rushing Yds.				
Passing				
Passing Yds.				
Total Yds.				
Fumbles-lost				
Penalties				
Third Down				
Fourth Down				

JWP 12 42 105 5-16-0 115 220 115 12-26 1-7 1-3				
MED 1 49 117 3-13-1 24 141 1-1 7-63 0-9 0-4				
First Downs				
Total plays				
Rushing Yds.				
Passing				
Passing Yds.				
Total Yds.				
Fumbles-lost				
Penalties				
Third Down				
Fourth Down				



THE SEASON IS HISTORY — At left, JWP’s Alex James (4) takes down a Medford ball carrier during last week’s 21-0 victory at Medford. At right, the Bulldogs’ Ethan Born (30) takes the field.

Time of Poss. 24:04 23:56				
Schweisthal 2-7				
JWP Defense — N.Morsching 2 solo tackles, 2 assists; O’Brien 2 tackles, 5 assists; James 1 tackle; C.Quast 1 tackle; Melchoir 4 tackles, 4 assist, 1 sack; Walker 1 tackle, 1 assist; Berndt 2 tackles, 2 assists; McWaters 2 assists, 1 interception; Born 2 assists; Gerds 2 tackles, 2 assists; L.Morsching 1 tackle, 6 assists; Fall 1 tackle; Miller 1 assist, Cummins 1 assist; Carda 1 tackle; A.Quast 1 tackle, 4 assists; Davis 3 assists; Schlueter 4 assists; Gartner 3 tackles, 4 assists				
JWP Defense — N.Morsching 10-70; Melchoir 7-38; Kronbach 2-6; McWaters 1-5; Dahlberg 1-4; L.Morsching 2-2; Gahlon 4 -2; Gerds 2-2; Bauer 1-0; MED: Ortiz 29-110; Schweisthal 8-7				
Passing — JWP: Bauer 5-16-0, 115; MED: Ortiz 3-13-1, 24				
Receiving — JWP: Kronbach 7-72; James 1-31; McWaters 3-12; MED: Ahrens 2-17;				
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS				
Rushing — JWP: N.Morsching 10-70; Melchoir 7-38; Kronbach 2-6; McWaters 1-5; Dahlberg 1-4; L.Morsching 2-2; Gahlon 4 -2; Gerds 2-2; Bauer 1-0; MED: Ortiz 29-110; Schweisthal 8-7				
Passing — JWP: Bauer 5-16-0, 115; MED: Ortiz 3-13-1, 24				
Receiving — JWP: Kronbach 7-72; James 1-31; McWaters 3-12; MED: Ahrens 2-17;				

NRHEG clay target team moves up Dobberstein earns patch for 75 straight

NRHEG High School junior Alden Dobberstein showed he can do more than throw and run the football with authority.

He can also shoot.

Dobberstein earned a patch for hitting 75 consecutive targets as the NRHEG clay target team had a very good week.

The Panthers moved up to third this week as they continue a steady pace this season

“In a season that saw the team start in fifth place, this progress has been enjoyable,” saied NRHEG coach Dan Sorum. “What’s even more enjoyable to the coaches and fans however has been how the team’s weekly team scores have increased each week. It shows growth and improvement across the whole team.”

Dobberstein was the lone shooter to score a 25 straight for the week. He was joined by Eli Hendrickson and Zander Flatness for the best team score each with 47 out of 50. Alden is in fourth for males in the conference and 39th in the state. Justin Beauvais is in 9th place while on the ladies side Gracie Luna is 7th and Ciara Stenzel is 9th. The team has one more week left in the season.

NRHEG spikers win tourney opener

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

If there’s one thing NRHEG High School volleyball coach Ashley Tolzman counted on, it’s that her Panthers would have a battle against Maple River in the opening round of section play Monday night.

She was right.

After dropping the first game 25-16 to Maple River, which recently beat NRHEG, the Panthers rallied to win 3-1 at New Richland, taking the final games 25-19, 25-20 and 25-23.

“What a match!” said Tolzman.

“After recently going up against Maple River and losing, we knew we were going to have to work to get this win. We started out slow in our first set, not really moving and talking. By the end of the first set we started waking up and playing how we practiced. The girls were fired up and really playing as a team. It was so wonderful to see.”

Individually for the Panthers: Gabby Schlaak 16 kills, 3 blocks, 16 digs; Camryn VanMaledghem 2 blocks, 1 dig; Izzy Stadheim 4 digs; Elsie Schultz 25 digs; Tayler

Schmidt 21 kills, 2 blocks, 28 digs; Hallie Schultz 45 set assists, 4 kills, 5 blocks, 30 digs; Keira Lenort 5 kills, 4 blocks, 1 dig; Madi Murray 6 kills, 9 blocks; Chloe Stork 1 kill, 2 blocks, 3 digs; Faith Nielsen 3 assists, 2 kills, 34 digs.

The win advanced the Panthers to the Section 2AA quarterfinals against WEM Thursday, Oct. 26 at Mankato West High School. If they win, the Panthers will play LCWM or Waseca Tuesday, Oct. 31 at 6 p.m. at New Prague. The final is Thursday, Nov. 2 at 7:30 at St. Peter.

The Panthers prevailed 3-0 at Nicollet the previous week. Game scores were 25-16, 25-19, 25-15.

“We were able to make a clean sweep and use a different lineup each set getting a majority of our girls on the court,” said Tolzman. “It was nice to break our current streak of losses and get the girls excited to play again.”

Individually: Schlaak 7 kills, 3 blocks, 3 digs; VanMaldeghem 1 block, 1 dig; I.Stadheim 1 kill, 4 digs; E.Schultz 1 kill, 4 digs; Schmidt 8 kills, 3 blocks, 12 digs; H.Schultz 28 assists, 2 kills, 9

blocks, 20 digs; Erin Peterson 2 digs; Lenort 6 kills, 3 blocks, 1 dig; Murray 6 kills, 9 blocks, 4 digs; Addy Stadheim 2 digs; Stork 1 block; Nielsen 3 assists, 1 kill, 17 digs.

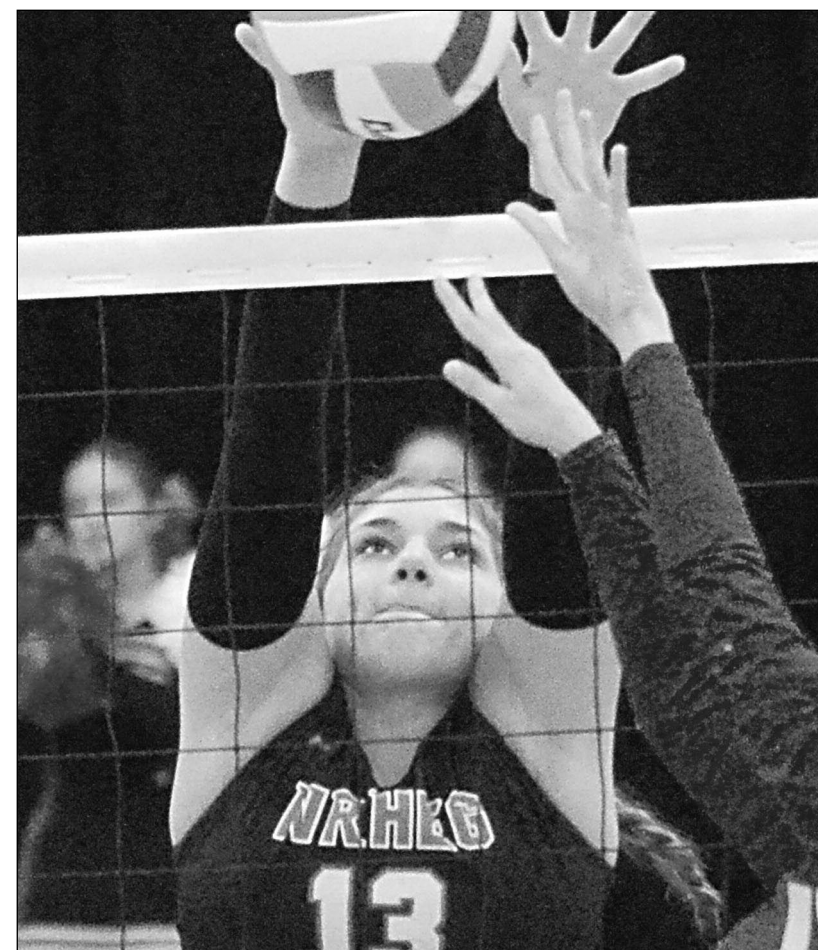
The Panthers hosted Randolph for their Dig Pink Night and won 3-0, by scores of 25-19, 25-19, 25-20.

“What a night it was,” said Tolzman. “The girls were really looking forward to this night. We had a great turnout and a lot of support in our fundraising efforts.”

Their auction for the jerseys brought in \$1866. They also brought in funds from the 50/50 raffle, and the New Richland Fire Department.

“We are so very grateful!” said Tolzman. “The girls played very well, they covered the court and kept swinging in every set.”

Individually: Schlaak 10 kills, 13 digs; VanMaldeghem 1 kill, 1 block; I.Stadheim 1 dig; E.Schultz 4 digs; Schmidt 6 kills, 3 blocks, 13 digs; H.Schultz 37 assists, 2 kills, 3 blocks, 11 digs; Lenort 7 kills, 6 blocks, 1 dig; Murray 13 kills, 9 blocks; Stork 1 kill, 7 blocks; Nielsen 1 assist, 19 digs.



REJECTED — NRHEG’s senior Keira Lenort blocks her opponent’s scoring effort. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

Grizzly CC teams second in Gopher Conference meet

Both the boys’ and girls’ cross country teams from WEM/JWP settled for second place in the Gopher Conference meet at Blooming Prairie last week.

Blooming Prairie won the boys’ meet with 43 points. The Grizzlies had 60, Maple River 71, Hayfield 73, Medford 114 and Randolph 142.

NRHEG and USC did not field full squads.

For the Grizzlies, freshman Wyatt Jans led the boys with a fifth-place finish, clocking 19:13.4. Also in the top 10 were Gavin Brown, ninth in 19:46.2, and Teagan Mulder, 10th in 20:13.2. Mulder is a seventh-grader.

Following for the Grizzlies were

Alex Kleve, 13th, 21:10.7, and Wesley Heinz, 39th, 24:13.5.

Devin Nelson of NRHEG won the boys’ race in 18:49.10.

Maple River captured the girls’ team championship with 58 points, followed closely by WEM/JWP with 66. Blooming Prairie had 78, NRHEG 112, Medford 118,

Randolph 123, USC 134, and Hayfield 189.

Defending conference champion Mackenzie Westphal, an eighth-grader, finished fourth with a time of 22:18.7, followed by teammates Kwynn Krause, seventh, 10:23.4; Mady Miller, 14th, 24:02.3; Lauren White, 21st, 24:40; Madeline

Hoehn, 23rd, 25:12.4; Ellie Schlie, 29th, 25:44.8; and Lydia Cousley, 38th, 26:43.7.

Eighth-grader Sophia Stencel of Maple River was the girls’ race winner in 20:36.0.

■ Sold from Page 1

erty at 831 Third Avenue NE. Clemons refers to having “undergrown” the large structure. “We had to take a hard look at the numbers, finances, and necessary maintenance costs for a 109-year-old structure,” observed Clemons. Those costs were balanced against the ways the fraternity uses the building: up to 30 meetings a year for the organization’s current 24 members. Though “bittersweet,” he says, the decision to sell the building was the

right one. A private individual has purchased the house, which was listed at about \$280,000, telling the Masons he plans to use it as a single family dwelling—the purpose it was originally built for. Once the sale is complete in December, Tuscan Lodge No. 77 will go looking for a new location in Waseca that is better suited to its needs, and from which it can continue its philanthropic endeavors. Adding to the “bittersweet” tone of the sale, some exciting and memorable events have taken place In the nine decades the fraternity has owned the building. Clemons tells of a time when the organization held weekly fish fries. A large fryer was installed in the basement. The food

was prepared there and passed out a window, then delivered to customers dining on the large porch which wraps around the building’s south and west sides. He describes wine tastings, French toast breakfasts, and an “old-fashioned Christmas” event that included visiting with Santa, making ornaments, and eating freshly baked cookies. In those times, however, the Tuscan Lodge had 100 members or more. As they pass ownership on, according to fraternity member Mikhail Rostislavovich, something “sweet” is that the historic structure is preserved with roughly 95 percent integrity from what it was like when it was built. Included in the sale are even some books which remain on

the library shelves with messages and signatures from the Aughenbaugh family members who once occupied the home. An elegant building by any standard, the structure has finely crafted woodwork, windows with elaborately shaped leaded glass designs, and many features reflecting its Italian Renaissance “Palazzo” style. The new owner has expressed a commitment to handle any future work with the deference due to a building on the National Register of Historic Sites. Also “sweet” is that the Tuscan Lodge will continue its philanthropic contributions for the community of Waseca from its new base of operations.

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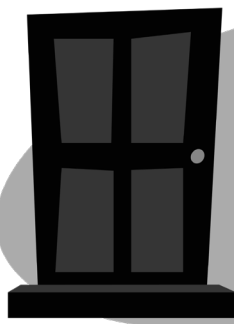
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Burger nite 5-7pm	4 6pm BAR Bingo	5 7pm HALL BINGO	6 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	7 Troy Daniels party Kozz back hall
8 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am -Noon Your Host Waseca High School Volley Ball	9 7 PM POST & AUX MEETING	10 Burger nite 5-7pm	11 6pm BAR Bingo	12 7pm HALL BINGO	13 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm U.S. NAVY BIRTH- DAY	14
15	16	17 Burger nite 5-7pm	18 6pm BAR Bingo	19 7pm HALL BINGO	20 WALLEYE EATSor SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm	21
22 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am -Noon Your Host Waseca High School Choir	23	24 Burger nite 5-7pm	25 6pm BAR Bingo	26 7pm BINGO DAY OF THE DE- PLOYED TREATS ON THE STREET 5 -7 PM	27 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm NAVY DAY	28 Halloween BINGO 7 PM
29	30	31 Burger nite 5-7pm				

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Waseca History Center holds haunted library

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The Waseca County History Center's "Haunted Library" event sold out for all three one-hour sessions scheduled the evening of Thursday, Oct. 19. Groups of 10 moved through the history center's two buildings to acquire clues and solve a puzzle based on an actual Waseca County mystery from the 1890s.

History Center staff and volunteers spent more than 90 man-hours researching, staging, and presenting the challenge, says Amy Danielson, the organization's coordinator of marketing, exhibits and events. Danielson was among the researchers who found articles from two different newspapers that described mysterious occurrences at the Bashaw Farm, located near Janesville back in Victorian times.

According to the papers, area residents and passersby had been having "haunting" experiences for weeks on the property. A figure would be seen looking into the windows and even standing on the roof of the Bashaw family home, apparently looking down the chimney. Eerie tapping, pounding and howling noises would also be heard, although the ghostly figure was never seen

from inside the house.

The news agencies claimed Mr. Bashaw was so unsettled by the occurrences he was considering selling out and moving away. Events culminated one night when about 60 people, some carrying clubs and other handheld weapons, arrived on the property. The ghostly figure appeared in front of them and one brave individual stepped forward to strike it with his club—which passed right through. The figure then launched itself into the air, whereupon the attacker "took a long look" and promptly fainted.

The answer to the mystery, though, was far less spooky.

The noises had been made by two hired hands who lived on the property; they had been assisted by the farmer's daughter. The eerie figure was created by a "magic lantern," a sort of projector which could easily be purchased via mail order, but was apparently outside the experience of most area residents.

Participants in the "haunted library" were treated to some fascinating artifacts, including a small-scale sample coffin once owned by an area funeral service and a wicker carrier used to transport bodies long ago. The piece was in storage at the Dennis Steffel Oemtvett company and



Rachel Riska, Saskia Nichols, and Amy Danielson presented Victorian characters during the Waseca History Center's "Haunted Library" event.

was loaned to the center.

Danielson was particularly impressed by numerous pieces loaned and arranged by Justine Meyer of Pearl Button Primitives: she expresses gratitude for everyone who gave generously of their time and talents to operate the event.

She also says she was taken by surprise when the event sold out. The admission price was \$20, with free admittance to History Center members. If a future similar event is planned, she speculates, it will probably be expanded to include more time slots.

In the meantime, she and fellow staff members have turned their attention to planning the "Holiday Bootleggers' Ball," scheduled at the History Center at 5:30 on December 2. The event will feature live music played by the Waseca High School

jazz band, authentic 1920s dances, and a costume contest. More information will be available as plans are finalized.

Planners and contributors for the event were: Gameplay order, Riddles, and Puzzles: Saskia Nichols, Amy Danielson, SK Shannon, Jess Barten, Caitlin Roberts, and Camden Ramirez.

Script: Melody Taylor, Rachel Riska, Saskia Nichols, S.K. Shannon. Actors: Rachel Riska, Saskia Nichols, Kitty Classen, Amy Danielson. Artifact Displays: Justine Meyer of Pearl Button Primitives. General Decor - Justine Meyer of Pearl Button Primitives, Joan Mooney, Virginia McCarthy and Amy Danielson. Actual Librarian: Virginia McCarthy. Director: Joan Mooney. Museum Exhibits: Pauline Fenelon, Amanda Larkin, Amy Danielson.

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■ Bartelt from Page 1

Waldorf-area business owner. "It took us about four."

Area farmers stopped work on their own fields to help. Along with about 50 volunteers, seven combines, six grain carts and 20 or more semi trucks appeared on the three fields of corn and got to work around 8 a.m.

As trucks were filled, they drove to the local elevators, both of which had temporarily closed to all other deliveries.

McDonough commented that the work went very smoothly. "Everybody there was very good at what they do," he observed. "They just pitched in and kept things going. If they saw something that needed doing, they did it."

Funding from MinnWest Bank and Matawan Grain provided a meal after the work was finished. Area resident Shawn Chicos used his drone

equipment to make a video and take still photos. The result of his work is posted on his Facebook page.

Noting that similar projects of this type have occurred in the past, McDonough regards the harvest and the number of volunteers as a double message. First, it was another tribute to Bartelt's service and dedication to his friends and his community. Second, it was a message that rural communities are still founded on the "old-fashioned" philosophy that one good turn deserves another.

"I'm proud to have been Arron's

friend," said McDonough. "And I'm proud to say I'm part of this community."

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