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WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 44 Vol. II \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Friday, November 3, 2023





DON'T FORGET to FALL BACK!

Set your clocks back Sunday!

Daylight Saving Time Ends
November 5

Treats on the Streets on pages 3 and 12

Bluejay Blast Nov. 18
The twelfth annual Bluejay Blast will be Saturday, November 18. The event is sponsored by the Waseca Schools PTO to raise money for classroom use.

SWCD Board 6:30 p.m. November 9
The Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District board will be meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 9 at the SWCD offices, 300 North State Street (Door 4), Waseca.

Cornhole for a Cause 10 a.m. Nov. 4
This double elimination cornhole tournament will be at The Mill, 310 Second Ave SW in Waseca. Teams are asked to make a \$50 donation to the Waseca Area Food Shelf to enter. Prizes given for first through third places. Accompanying the tournament are food sales, a silent auction, meat raffles. More information available from Mike Priebe at (507) 461-4274.

Pioneer to publish photos of veterans
In observance of Veterans Day November 11, the Waseca County Pioneer will publish a section dedicated to our defenders of freedom. Area veterans or family members are encouraged to bring in photos of veterans in uniform from all branches of service for inclusion and the recognition they so justly deserve. Photos can be emailed to news@wasecacountypioneer.com or dropped off at the office at 111 Elm Ave. W.
The deadline for photo submission is Friday, November 3. For questions or more information, please call the Pioneer office at (507)-837-6767 or e-mail news@wasecacountypioneer.com

Straight River Youth show Nov. 3 at 3 p.m. in Owatonna
Straight River Youth Singers will be presenting Season of Gratitude on Sunday, November 5 at 3:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2500 7th Ave NE, Owatonna MN.

Coffee break debate



Preston Miller

A word from The Word

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.”

John 14:12

Great again!!

Annual get-together a success

Waseca Art Center hosts event Oct. 28

By MELANIE PILTINGSRUD
Staff writer

The Waseca Art Center's annual Great Fall Get-Together proved to be a popular event on Saturday evening, Oct. 28 as the upper story of the building filled with visitors.

Tickets for the Great Fall Get-Together were \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door.

Brad Donner photographed guests as they arrived, positioning them in front of a backdrop representing a particularly neglected old graveyard. Guests then stopped by a table to receive their tickets and auction numbers as they passed beautiful paintings by Margie Larson, Marjie Luizure, and Lisa Bierer, and, in the inner gallery, a display of breathtaking photographs from all over the world taken by former airline stewardess Autumn Carolynn.

A Spirits Wall exhibited bottles of wine and spirits donated for the event by members of the Art Center Board. Guests could purchase a cork from Mark and SkiAnn Christiansen for \$20, and then match the cork to the bottle to find out which beverage they had won.

Upstairs, Holly Grundlach of Minnesconsinite Cheeseboards catered the event, providing an astonishing variety of crackers, cheeses, deli meats, spring rolls, cocktail meatballs, berries, and cookies. A full bar was also available, provided by Starfire Event Center.

Also upstairs was the punch cup wall that guests may be familiar with from previous years. Guests could purchase a \$10 ticket from Missy Donner, then choose a tissue-papered cup to punch open to see what they had won, earning them anything from gift certificates from local restaurants to T-shirts. Austin Hansen, one of the first to try his luck, won a gift card to Crooked Pint and a free adult buffet from Pizza Ranch. Guests could also purchase a \$10 card from a deck for a chance to win a Yeti cooler. At the end of the evening, a card was chosen to determine the winner. The Key to My Art game reappeared this year, too. For \$30, guests could choose a key in the hopes that it would open the treasure chest that contained a pair of orange sapphire earrings, donated by William's Diamond Center.

For this yearly masquerade, the imagination on display was incredible. Kurt and Karen Krause turned up in the guise of a Viking and a goblin, respectively. Liz O'Brien came as a comic book character, a costume which she'd had overnighted from Amazon. Stacey Schroeder appeared as Three's Company's Mrs. Roper; Sue Hogarth showed up as Minnie Mouse. Rebecca Schimming



Mark and SkiAnn Christiansen welcome visitors and invite them to purchase a \$20 cork which will allow them to win a surprise bottle of spirits. Photos by Melanie Piltingsrud

really got into the spirit of the arts; she showed up as The Starry Night by Vincent van Gogh. Her husband, of course, played the part of Van Gogh himself. Prizes provided by Zinnias Boutique were awarded for costumes in both male and female categories.

A silent auction provided an array of items to tempt guests while they listened to the impressive live music of Pete Klug on guitar. When the silent auction and the music ended at 8 p.m., the live auction began, for which guests bid on such items as homemade caramels; an original oil painting; a heavy-duty Gorilla cart filled with wine, beer and a print by southern Minnesota wildlife artist Les C. Kouba; and an 8" x 10" painting of the buyer's choice by local artist Grace Galvin.

The Waseca Art Center has come a long way since the days when it was tucked into the small bookmobile location of the Waseca Library. Its current building on 200 State St. North, purchased in 2011, is spacious enough to allow the display of the Art Center's permanent collection of artworks, collected gradually since its inception in 1976 when Patricia Beckmann was the director. These pieces were on display upstairs during the Great Fall Get-Together. "It's actually a pretty extensive collection," said Kent Schultz, who has been associated with the center for decades and remembers Beckmann's ambition to get a broad cross-section of the community involved. "I don't know a thing about art," Schultz laughs, but Beckmann was determined to get him involved anyway.

Jessica Stuckmayer, current organization director, also got involved in the Waseca Art Center during its bookmobile days. She helped move the works of art from there to the new building. For Stuckmayer, formerly of Mankato, the art center was a way to get involved in the community—and get involved she did. She has now been the direc-



The talented Pete Klug entertains on guitar during Saturday evening's festivities.

The Great Fall Get-Together was originally the brainchild of Monica Priebe. Although Priebe is no longer on the art center board, she still works with fellow committee members Liz O'Brien, Terra

Great continued on 14

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Potential 8th Street project tabled

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

A lengthy topic of discussion as the October 21 Waseca City Council meeting began was what input residents along the street would like to share before the council authorized city staff to continue the application process for a state grant which would, if received, cover just over one fourth of a potential \$4.6 million project.

Discussion ranged over options including the choice between concrete and asphalt, and about the impact the project might have on homeowners' taxes; at that point council members decided to seek public input at a meeting scheduled on Wednesday, Nov. 1, before proceeding with the application process.

Council members approved a variance for property located at 611 and 615 Fourth Avenue NE after an energetic discussion about whether owner Blain Nelson, who owns both dwellings, could be allowed to sell them separately, given that the city has them recorded as being on a single lot. A neighbor to the property was concerned about the legal ramifications of approving the variance, claiming that, because they share a single driveway, they are one piece of property. The city attorney said there were no such concerns; after a 45-minute discussion, the council agreed.

James Christiansen spoke during the public comment portion of the meeting, sharing information about the EF Johnson Company. He wanted council members to be aware the company is still operating, although in a much-changed form, and recently celebrated its one-hundredth year. A granddaughter to the company's founder continues to live in Waseca. "I want my community to know that company is still in existence," Christiansen said. "I'm very proud to have been an EFJ person."

A joint powers agreement for the South Central Drug Investi-

Council continued on 11

Commissioner candidates debate

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Three candidates vying for Waseca County Commissioner in District 3 took to the stage Wednesday afternoon, October 25, at Waseca Junior Senior High School (WJHS).

The primary election for the open commissioner seat will be November 7. The top two vote-getters will move on to the February special election with the winner of that election serving the remaining three years of the term.

In the first and only round of the 2023 WHS Coffee Break Debates, candidates Ann Fitch, Larry Johnson, and Brad Milbrath answered seven questions each from the event's moderator, WJHS senior Preston Miller. Norah Schimming worked the time cards, reminding candidates how much time they had to speak.

Candidates began with opening statements.

Fitch sighted the bittersweet reason behind the day's debate, thanking commissioner Blair Nelson for his journey of service and dedication prior to his unexpected passing in May.

Fitch cited her support for entrepreneurs and her experience with the Waseca Chamber of Commerce, the tourism board, and her previous position with the Waseca City Council as her qualifications. Fitch said she would fight for businesses, bring fresh ideas and support transparency in government.

Johnson, a resident in Waseca since 1990, cited his numerous positions with local clubs and organizations, as well as 13 years on and off of the Waseca City Council as qualifications for the position of commis-



Waseca County District 3 commissioner candidates, from left, Ann Fitch, Larry Johnson, and Brad Milbrath. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

sioner. Johnson is a member of the Waseca Exchange Club, Waseca Lions Club, and Waseca Area Caregivers. Johnson referenced a run for a state representative seat, and a loss in the Waseca mayoral race by 16 votes. He closed, saying he was the most "well rounded candidate."

Milbrath gave the shortest introduction, citing his 34 years of local

government experience, 24 of which were served in the Waseca County Sheriff's Department as sheriff and chief deputy. He argued he ensures professional representation. He also referenced his experience working with many local governing boards.

All three candidates expressed gratitude to the students of WJHS for hosting.

The afternoon's first question asked candidates what should be the top priority of the county's \$38 million budget? What should be increased in the budget or what can be cut?

Johnson - "No grandiose promises."

Debate continued on 5



Compostings

by Al Batt

How does Shrek like his eggs?

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I got a speeding ticket yesterday.

How fast were you driving?
I don't know. It all happened so fast.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. A single snowflake fell. I suspected it was an advance scout. I was right. My wife, armed with nothing but a table fork, was trying to land a pickle bigger than the jar it swam in. Dill pickles rock. So does pickled okra, but pickled beets taste like pickled beetles. My wife finds pickle fishing a demanding sport. I tackled the jarred asparagus as it pickles my fancy.

I spoke to a wonderful group with a boxelder bug on my head. I didn't put it there. What does an audience say to a bloviating buffoon with a boxelder bug on his bean? Nothing. There were days this fall when it was difficult to do anything without having a boxelder bug on my head.

I taught classes on writing and birding. None of the college classrooms had a pencil sharpener. They should. I think every school-room should, including the bathrooms. The pencil sharpeners should be manual, not electric. Cranking a sharpener is excellent exercise and, as walking does, it fosters creativity.

A TRAVELING MAN
I looked at 10-gallon hats at a Texas convention at which I yapped. The conventional explanation is that the hat could carry 10 gallons of liquid. It might hold three quarts. An ad for Stetson depicted a cowpoke giving his thirsty horse a drink from his hat. The name "10-gallon hat" is an exaggeration and carrying water in it would likely damage it beyond repair. Some historians believe the name came from the Spanish word galón, a braided hatband. Texans may have understood the word as "gallon" and the name spread. Others believe the name came from the Spanish tan galán, meaning "very gallant" or "very dashing." Most cowboys wore bowler hats. The Stetson hats I looked at were \$30-40 per gallon.

I'VE LEARNED
To never keep a sledgehammer and a computer in the same room.
You're never too old to say "horse" or "cows" when you drive past them.

When I was a boy, we had butter every meal. We liked gravy, but it wasn't as good as butter on

the pancakes.

Every trick-or-treater that showed up at my door this year was dressed as the Invisible Man, but I couldn't see why.

The journal Psychology of Popular Media Culture found popular country songs are countercyclical to what's happening in the country. In good times, the songs are slower and more morose. In bad times, they get celebratory.

Two words open a lot of doors. They are "push" and "pull."

Bad jokes department
"What's the difference between Congress and organized crime?" One is organized.

"How does Shrek like his eggs?" Ogre easy.

I realize now I shouldn't have rubbed the ketchup in my eyes. Of course, that's in Heinz sight.

Laxative won't cure a cough, but it will make you afraid to cough.

NATURE NOTES

Crows announced my arrival. I followed trembling leaves down a trail while leading a nature walk. As I pontificated to those nice enough to join me, house finches sang. The birds are permanent residents, but some undergo a short-distance migration south. Males sing throughout the year, except during a period of molt (late July to October). I spotted a hermit thrush on a picnic table near the trail. Considered by many to have the most beautiful song of all birds, its soul-stirring sound is flute-like and ethereal, and led to it being nicknamed the "American nightingale." It doesn't do much vocalizing during migration.

At home, there were playground scuffles among the native sparrows scratching beneath the feeders. I saw a white-throated sparrow without a tail. When a hawk or cat tries to capture a songbird, the songbird has a trick called a fright molt, which is what it's called when a bird loses feathers due to sudden stress. This usually involves feathers near the tail or rump, where birds are likely to be attacked as they flee. It can be a lifesaving technique when a bird is about to be caught—similar to a lizard dropping its tail. There is a downside to having your tail scared off. A tail assists the bird in turning and balancing in flight, but if dropping feathers allows the bird to fly another day, it's worth it. It will make do until a new tail grows back.

MEETING ADJOURNED
"As much as we need a prosperous economy, we also need a prosperity of kindness and decency."—Caroline Kennedy.

From riverbeds to hospice beds

As I type this, I have just come from an interview with Eric Miller, the county's "One Watershed, One Plan" coordinator. I have to say, it was a perspective-changing conversation. We covered a wide range of topics associated with how water moves and where it goes.

For me, and for most people, my consideration of the topic has always been based on what I have experienced. For example, I live very close to the LeSueur River. Right now, I'm tempted to say I live close to the LeSueur River riverbed, since that's what we've been seeing all summer—the sand and rocks along the channel where the river is "meant to be." Nearly all the time, the LeSueur is a quiet neighbor.

But there have been moments. After the large rainfall this past May, for example, I could find only one route that allowed me to return home. All others had water running over the roads I might normally choose. The portion of road I otherwise almost always take had so much fast-flowing water flowing across it that I could practically see it washing away before my eyes.

All of us, I am sure, have pictures in our heads (and probably phones) of high-water moments. They are in-



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

escapable reminders that, however much control we humans have, it is insufficient when compared to nature.

But back to my point: As Eric and I discussed the philosophy of the "one watershed, one plan" approach, my view was broadened. Yes, it is a big deal to me (and to the township, I'm sure) when water damages my gravel road. However, my local disaster is part of a much bigger picture: in the case of the Le Sueur River watershed, over 100,000 acres of area whose hills and valleys, rises and falls, help determine where the water goes, and how quickly it goes there.

Located near the river, I am at a literal "low point" which has been geographically molded over time to receive the water. But I am still "higher" than the receiving points downstream. The waterflow I am watching is exactly that—"flow." It's

passing by me and heading elsewhere. While it's doing so, it is continuing the molding which began roughly 10,000 years ago when the last glaciers began to melt and their water went in search of pathways. When it did not find a path, it made one.

What my limited human perspective interprets as nature's fury entails no emotions at all. Instead, it is a natural, predictable process—one that has happened frequently enough and with sufficient power to shape the earth itself.

It's simply fascinating to think about. I appreciated having my perspective broadened.

Something else I very much appreciated this week was my conversation with hospice nurses Tarin Nelson and Patty Smith. In among the information they shared about their work were stories of some of

their experiences with paranormal occurrences. Patty said that, while it does not happen with every patient, it happens with many that they receive messages from people who have died, or that they have conversations with them. Tarin mentioned being in a doorway when one of her patients carried out an exchange with someone she could not see. The patient asked, "You're dead. What are you doing here?" A bit later, he said, "Okay. I'll see you Thursday, then." And, she reports, the patient died on Thursday.

My personal belief is that those we love—and who loved us—are "up there" fully aware of the choices we are making and the things we are doing. I have my reasons for this belief, but know better than to think I could change a skeptic's mind. Still, my belief makes a difference in how I see the world, how I choose to interact with people, and how I respond to hardship.

Watch for the stories on hospice care in an upcoming edition of the County Pioneer. I did not need reassurance that my beliefs are reasonable, but it was a pleasure to speak with others who shared them, so my thanks to Patty and Tarin.

Those rugby guys really know how to sing

Well, it finally snowed. What a bummer. I do not appreciate walking half an hour to class in the cold weather through the wind tunnels every other block. I get to class and am unable to warm up, shivering to my core. Not actually, but I'm still cold in my three layers so it's unfortunate. It didn't help that I came back to my apartment and the thermostat was set at a chilling 64 degrees. I thought about taking a hot shower to warm up, but that didn't seem to be worth my time. I'll just sit in bed with multiple blankets and convince myself I'm warm.

Halloween went by in a flash and it was fun. My roommates and I hosted our second annual Halloween party and it was a success, but all of our get-togethers are. We hung lights and streamers and even put orange tablecloths over the lamp to make the room glow with an orange hue. It definitely set the vibe for the songs people cranked out on the karaoke machine. What's funny is one of our friends is on the university men's rugby team, so about half the team



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

showed up and were in our apartment. Those rugby guys really know how to sing.

There were some great costumes too - Luke Skywalker, potato sack, Peter Griffin.

Well, it's now midterm season at school, so everyone is either wound up tight and stressed out, or in procrastination mode and doing the things they probably shouldn't be doing, which I am guilty of.

What's funny is seeing the difference of midterms between colleges and majors. I personally don't have any midterms, I've ended up with semester-long projects or scattered quizzes here and there. No class of

mine has the traditional midterm and final exam. Engineering students seem to have midterms or quizzes every single week. Architecture students have their studio, and mid-semester "reviews," and business kids are busy with their coloring sheets. That's only a joke, they do have regular midterms, it's just that none of the business majors have classes on Fridays so a lot of people make fun of them.

So you stack midterms with the cold and it's a perfect combination of grumpy students. I know I'm not alone in the desire to skip class and stay in bed most days, but that's not how the world works. I force myself

to get up, put on my three or four layers and fight my way to class.

But I silence my complaints because I know a lot of people work outside in this weather all day. Plus I will admit that it's not even that bad yet, so good luck to those guys when it does get bad.

My grandma told me that I missed one of the top five worst winters when I went to Spain, which I was thankful for. But if this year is going to be even worse than the last, then that is going to be unfortunate. Maybe I'll just have to go study abroad again.

Two of my roommates are studying abroad in the spring. One is going to London and one is going to Denmark. But that means we will have two strangers living in our apartment with us. I'm not expecting anything bad, it will just be quite different is all I am saying. I guess we will see how it goes, it will be an interesting winter ahead of us.

My Determination: "What you call insanity, I call inspiration" - Sue Sylvester, Glee

Waseca rotary seeking nominations

The Waseca Rotary Club is seeking nominations for the 2023 "Service above Self" award. This is the twenty-eighth year the local organization will be honoring a Waseca community member for longstanding, exceptional dedication as a volunteer.

Anyone wishing to nominate a candidate may do so by submitting the name and address, along with a brief statement describing why the candidate should be chosen, to Waseca Rotary Club; Attention: Kristie Biehn, 210 North State St, Waseca, MN 56093, or send by

email to wasecarotary@gmail.com: the deadline for submission is November 30.

The name of the award recipient will be announced in December; the individual will be honored at the Waseca Chamber of Commerce Community Award Banquet in Janu-

ary. The Waseca Rotary Club will contribute \$500 in the recipient's name to their favorite charity or non-profit organization.

Any questions concerning the award criteria may be directed to Kristie Biehn at 835-3260 or by email at wasecarotary@gmail.com

Conflict, argument and debate

This week started on Wednesday, October 25.

I photographed the grand opening celebration at FM Bank.

Following that pleasant encounter, I headed over to the high school to listen to three excellent candidates debate the most hot-button issues facing Waseca County in the district 3 commissioner race.

Few items were "hotly" debated. I'm delighted that all three candidates genuinely respect each other and find value in each other's contributions to Waseca County.

I have no idea who is going to win, and if I could vote for all three, I would.

Regardless, I will share some of the experiences I've had with each of the three candidates.

I have worked with Ann Fitch the most because of her position with the Chamber of Commerce. She likes people and I like people, so we get along well. We also both have strong connections in the greater Waseca area, so I feel the two of us can relate on some levels to the amount of information we are confronted with on a weekly basis.

Larry Johnson and I have had a few interactions, all pleasant. The most recent was on the sidelines of the opening game for the Waseca



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

Bluejays football team. He was helping with stats. Larry always seems to be in a good mood; I consistently enjoy seeing his videos on Facebook. He's the "Minnesota Mortgage Man" and although mortgages may be boring to some, Larry adds some excitement to his lessons. (I should also mention that I enjoy Ann's TikTok videos, similar to Facebook videos, where she talks about pickles.)

My dad speaks highly of Larry. I told him Dad who was running for commissioner last month and he immediately recognized Larry. I thought maybe he was confused with a different Larry Johnson until I showed him a picture. "Nope, that's him," he told me. Apparently Larry had a business in the 2000s and bought some advertising from my father shortly after he bought the New Richland Star.

"That really helped us out when I got started," Dad told me.

The final candidate is who I would probably peg as the best known of the three, former sheriff Brad Milbrath. Surprisingly, I had not spoken with Brad until I called him to ask whether he would like to advertise in the paper for his candidacy.

Brad was the first to announce, and he even sent out an official release to both the Star Eagle and Pioneer newspapers informing readers that he was running. I appreciate when people keep the newspaper in mind when running for office, or really, for sharing any news with the public. (The other candidates did also send press releases as well. Brad was simply first.)

So, how did the debate go? I thought about keeping score and figuring out who won, but after two questions, my attention simply shifted to listening and taking notes. I was surprised at how short the debate was, but as the candidates

agreed, outside of the jail question, a local county sales tax, and a couple other issues, there wasn't much to discuss.

I'm not a big fan of a county sales tax, and honestly, I'd have to look at the numbers about the jail for myself. One can hear everyone in the world talk about it, but until I can look at the number myself and ask questions, I don't think I can state definitively where I stand.

From the debate, the Pioneer newspaper was put to bed for the week. This means the paper was sent to the printer after Deb, our editor, and I finished making our corrections.

Thursday night was spent watching the Waseca/LCWM volleyball competition. I really felt like the Bluejays were the better team on the floor, but things just didn't fall into place. I watched the final sets sitting next to another sports reporter and we both agreed, it was very intense, exciting volleyball.

Saturday afternoon was spent photographing a very cold football game. Good luck to the Bluejay football team on Friday.

"For good ideas and true innovation, you need human interaction, conflict, argument, debate." - Margaret Heffernan



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GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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Treats on the Street • Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023

Folks flock to annual activity

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

“Isn’t this great?” asks Waseca Music Company’s Jim Kozan.

Kozan is seated on the steps of his shop, laughing, smiling and admiring costumes as a line of children walks past for “Treats on the Streets.” Oh, and of course, handing out candy.

Most businesses on the downtown four blocks of State Street were distributing treats; trick-or-treaters typically began in the parking lot in front of the community center where many businesses located outside the downtown area had tables and booths. Even though the line was quick-moving, sheer numbers caused it to be more than a block long ahead of the first station.

Along with businesses, numerous area organizations also had stations to distribute treats; nearly all were set up along the walkway, with only a few asking trick-or-treaters to step inside.

Members of the police department and reserves stood watch at intersections to protect everyone’s safety and keep both foot traffic and vehicle traffic moving.

According to Ann Fitch of the Waseca Chamber of Commerce, the event is planned by herself, Jaala Miller of Four Seasons and Angie Brooks of Ultra Beach Tanning Salon. The “Treats on the Streets” theme evolved about five years ago from a “Brick and Block” theme with a similar goal: to draw trick-or-treaters and members of the public to the downtown area.

Based on the amount of candy distributed through the Chamber of Commerce’s “candy tube,” she estimates about 1,000 children, accompanied by uncounted adults and family members, cycled through downtown. Although not all organizations registered via the “Treats on the Streets” Facebook page, the list of registrants includes: 4-seasons Apparel & More LLC; WITH Therapy Services; Huebl/Mulcahey Insurance Agency/Waseca Realty; VFW Post 1642; South Central Human Relations Center; C and A designs MN - DIY Workshop; Keen Bank; AudioTronix; Lakeshore Rehabilitation Center; Waseca County Mounted Sheriff’s Posse; Alee Services; Waseca Public Library; Fernbrook Family Center; Wright and Associates LLC; Waseca County 4H; ICAN, Inc of Waseca; The CBD Center Waseca; FM BANK; TEAM Academy; United Prairie Bank; St John’s Lutheran Church; Katie Gonzales State Farm; Waseca Art Center; Waseca Soccer Club; ITRON INC.; Thrifty White; FM BANK; Growing Roots Chiropractic LLC; Grace Lutheran Church; Elise Ferguson ERA Gillespie Real Estate; Southside Marine & More; Corn County Seed Company; Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce; Fernbrook Family Center; Waseca Fire Department and Auxiliary; Natural Aesthetics; Refinery 507; The vibrant collective; Ultra Beach; Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center; Minnwest Bank; Matthew R. Petsinger Agency LLC-American Family Insurance; Pic A Dilly’s Boutique; Waseca County; Sipe Tax Preparation and Representation.



Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

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OBITUARIES

Julie A. Bramer

Julie Ann Bramer, age 74, of Waseca, MN, formerly of Brice-lyn, MN, died peacefully Saturday, October 28, 2023 at her home surrounded by her family. Funeral Service was Thursday, November 2, 2023 at Nasinec Funeral Home at 11:00AM in Wells, MN. Visitation was prior to the service from 9:30-11:00 AM at Nasinec Funeral Home in Wells. Interment will be in South Blue Earth Lutheran Cemetery in Seely Township, Faribault County, MN. Nasinec Funeral Home in Wells is entrusted with arrangements. Please see www.nasinecfh.com to leave on-line condolences.

Julie was born November 18, 1948, the daughter of Jule and Emmeline (Hove) Henning in Blue Earth, MN. Julie was baptized and confirmed at South Blue Earth Lutheran Church. She attended school and graduated from Brice-lyn H.S., the class of 1966. Julie met Robert Bramer when they started work at Nordsaas American Homes and were married May 28, 1969. Julie worked at Nordsaas, Schmidt Law Office, then was an executive assistant at Round Bank in Waseca prior to her retirement. Julie was very organized and caring. She loved being with her children and grandchildren. Julie was a great storyteller and loved to socialize with her family and friends while out to eat or anywhere they could gather. She enjoyed reminiscing about good times and loved fast cars. Julie enjoyed taking trips with family and friends to Branson and South Dakota.

Julie is survived by her husband



Julie Bramer

Bob of 54 years; 3 children: Traci (Scott) Birr of Mankato, MN, Trent Bramer of Waseca, MN, and Justin (Holly) Bramer of Waseca, MN; 8 grandchildren: Zachary, Joshua, & Matthew Birr; Emma & Abby Bramer; Lexi, Jude (Courtney Androli), & Mila Bramer; siblings: Mike (Diane) Henning of Brice-lyn, MN and Lori (Rick) Olson of Albert Lea, MN; in-laws Richard (Polly) Bramer of Scandia, MN, Judy Bassett (Mike Kruger) of Blue Earth, MN, Linda (David) Bach of Minnesota Lake, MN, Ronald "Pete" (Celeste) Bramer of Hill City, MN, Randal "Scooter" (Lisa) Bramer of Easton, MN, and Roger (Tammie) Bramer of Waseca, MN; along with many nieces, nephews, and their families. She is preceded in death by her parents; siblings: Sheila and Randy; sister-in-law Judy Bramer; brother-in-law Rodney Bassett; in-laws: Arthur and LaJune (Bartelt) Bramer.

Eugene Roemhildt

Eugene "Gene" Paul Roemhildt danced the polka through the pearly gates of heaven on Sunday, October 15 after living a very full and happy life. He was 91 years old.

Gene was born on October 9, 1932 in the Isosco Township of Waseca County to Paul and Mercedes Roemhildt. Gene grew up on the family farm and graduated from Waseca High School in 1950. He worked as a farmer until 1953 when he was drafted in the US Army during the Korean War. He served in Frankfuhr, Germany with the 4th Infantry Division and discharged in 1955. He was proud of his service and always felt it was the Army who "made a man out of him". In 1960, he married Bonnie (Bartelt) who was a high school classmate.

Gene appreciated the value of education and graduated in 1964 from Mankato State University with a degree in Elementary Education. He taught elementary education in Waseca for 3 years while he earned a master's degree in educational psychology.

He and Bonnie had two sons, Steve and Mark, while living on the farm in Waseca. They later moved to St. Peter in 1970 where Gene worked as the High School and Elementary Guidance Counselor for nearly 20 years. He finished his professional career in the Stewart & Brownston School District where he retired in 1998. Throughout his career he saw hundreds of children walk through his doors. 'Mr. Roemhildt' was well liked by students and staff.

In 1980, he and Bonnie bought their first rental property as a partial summer job and hobby for Gene. Over time, they owned fourteen units throughout Saint Peter. After retirement, Gene pursued his interests, visited with friends at coffee groups, and was active all around town. He and Bonnie also traveled extensively and visited



Eugene Roemhildt

their son's at their many military duty stations. Their travels included China, Korea, Egypt, Italy, Germany, Russia, Iceland, Hawaii and Alaska. He loved music (especially polka), dancing, and was active in the church. He loved conversations about farming and attending local sporting events. He could always be found engaging students and asking them about school and their favorite subjects. Gene was most proud of seeing his sons marry and be successful in their lives and families.

Gene is preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Bonnie. He is survived by his younger brother, Terry (Deb), sons Steve (An) and Mark (Gabriela), grandchildren Raina, Rebekah, and Paul, and his special 'buddy' Rosie Volk. In lieu of flowers, please send a donation to First Lutheran Church in St. Peter, MN.

The funeral will be at First Lutheran Church on Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 11:00am followed by military honors. Visitation will be one hour prior. Burial will be with family at a later date. To leave a condolence for the family, visit www.saintpeterfuneralhome.com. The family wishes to thank Ecumen Prairie Hill and Ecumen Hospice who took such loving and professional care of dad in his final days.

James Staloch

JAMES M. STALOCH, age 76 of Waseca, died at his home on Saturday, October 28, 2023.

James was born in Winnebago, Minnesota, on September 27, 1947, to parents Henry and Marcella (O'Keefe) Staloch. After graduating from Huntley High School with the class of 1965, he went on to Mankato State University, where he earned a degree in law enforcement. He met his future wife, Vicki DeFrance, at the University and they were married in Marshalltown, IA on August 16, 1969. After working at the local canning factory for a time, James started his law enforcement career in his hometown of Winnebago. The department there was so small that he had to use his own revolver for his service pistol. In 1974 he found an opportunity to move to a bigger police department in Waseca, where he started as a patrolman. Later, he worked his way up to being Sergeant and eventually Chief of Police. He was very proud of the work that his department did under his tenure, solving some important cases for the community of Waseca. He was always a determined advocate for victims getting justice and not just getting the criminals.

James spent over 30 years in the Army Reserves. He served with the

Army Corps of Engineers in Mankato and was later based out of Fort Snelling in St. Paul, where he reached the rank of Master Sergeant. He was an internal investigator for the Army.

For as serious as James's career was, he was such a humorous man. He had a laugh that caught on like wildfire. He was so clever with his wit and adept with turns of phrases. James was never afraid to be silly, have fun, or embarrass his children. In fact, he got great joy out of the latter.

When James was afforded some free time, he spent it at his cabin in Cass County on Lake Inguadona. Sometimes he fished, sometimes he mowed the grass, but most of the time he just wanted to watch the news and Family Guy near a lake. James enjoyed hunting with his family, it didn't matter if he shot the big buck or not, he simply relished the time in the woods with his loved ones. The most entertaining hunting trips for James were butter hunts; if there was a butter sale in a 60-mile radius, he was going to find it. James scoffed at the words, "Limit 2."

James was an involved community member during his life in Waseca. He belonged to the Waseca Rotary Club, the Masons Lodge #77, The Knights of Columbus, and the Amer-

ican Legion, just to name a few.

James was a man whose love revolved around his family. He was beaming when he was around them or talking about them. He loved all his children and grandchildren, the ones he had and the ones he gained, with all his heart.

James is survived by his four children, Matthew (Darcy) Staloch of Osakis, Mark (Courtney) Staloch of Dassel, Micah (Liv) Staloch of Mankato, and Ann (Steven) Fitch of Waseca; his grandchildren Mackenzie (Kyle) Petermeier of Wadena, Morgan Staloch, Luke Staloch, Seth Staloch all of Osakis, and Toren Staloch of Mankato; his great-grandchild Jaya Petermeier of Wadena; his brother Tom (Judy) Staloch of Mankato; his sister Marie (Lynn) Olson of Amboy; and his brother-in-law Lon DeFrance of Boynton Beach, FL. James will be thoroughly missed by all of his nieces and nephews, Uncle Jim was one of a kind. He was preceded in death by his wife Vicki; his parents Henry and Marcella; and his parents-in-law, Forrest and Helen DeFrance.

Funeral services will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, November 6, 2023, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca, with Father



James Staloch

Marty Schaefer officiating. Visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service at the church. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca is handling the arrangements.

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VOTE



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



So many ways luck can appear

The title of my column is “Bits and Pieces,” so it’s time to write about some.

The word “lucky” is a positive, uplifting term. When you experience luck, you’ve been blessed, had an experience with success and good fortune.

The Minnesota Gopher football team had not beaten the Iowa Hawkeyes since 2014. Coach P.J. Fleck had never beaten Iowa; the last Gopher win at Iowa City was in 1999. Coaches will all tell you, “in some games, it’s better to be lucky than good.” The Gophers just experienced both on a windy Saturday afternoon in Iowa City.

The defense was giving some outstanding plays and the Gophers were leading 12-10 with a couple of minutes remaining. On the fourth down, the Gophers had to punt deep in their own territory. My thoughts? Here we go again: Iowa will field the ball, run a couple of plays, and move the ball into field goal range as time expires. They will win with a heartbreaking 13-12.

The punt went high into the air and bounced around near the sidelines at the 50-yard line. The Hawkeye punt returner fielded the football, straddling the out-of-bounds line. He turned and ran around all of the eleven Gopher defenders for a magnificent Hawkeye leading touchdown, to the end zone.

The thousands of Hawkeye fans went wild celebrating their hero and his score. No official thrown flags on the play; it appeared the great play would stand. The question went to the official replay booth and the video showed that the punt returner was close, but not out of bounds. After a long meeting, the officials made the call. A punt returner has the option to signal for a fair catch by waving his left hand in the air.

The officials in the replay center saw the returner had waved his left hand to the side a couple of times before fielding the football. The final call? Illegal fair catch signal, five-yard penalty. Hawkeye ball at the 45.

The call was definitely very subjective and a very gray area. The Iowa fans became rabid, crazy, and very upset at the unbelievable “no touchdown” call. A few plays later, the Gophers intercepted a pass and sealed their first victory in a long, long time.

The Iowa/Minnesota football game has a longstanding tradition: The winner receives a 98-pound bronze statue of a pig, Floyd of Rosedale. Floyd had been on the Iowa campus for more than two decades. The Gopher football team rushed over to the sidelines and hoisted Floyd into the air in celebration. The iconic trophy was now theirs to bring back to the U of M campus. The game may be remembered as one of the luckiest Gopher wins ever.

A few weeks ago, I had back-to-back days when I considered myself very lucky. I headed out to the car to run an errand and for some

unknown reason looked at my tire. There, as visible as could be, was a nail head shining in my tire tread. Driving slowly and with great care, I headed to Tesch Auto Service. The staff pulled the nail, repaired the tire, and I was on my way. No changing a flat tire for this guy...I was lucky!

I had a wonderful breakfast at the Pheasant Cafe with my friends Jay and Walter. We were saying our parting goodbyes in front of the restaurant when Walter asked me, “How did you get here today? Did you walk?”

I responded, “Are you kidding? I can barely walk to my car!”

Walter said, “Here, maybe this will help you drive home. Your keys—found them tucked into the booth when we left.” Once again, I felt lucky as I started the engine to return home.

A new vocabulary term that has come to be over the past year is “funflation.” It’s a term applied to the rising costs in sporting events, camping, RV sites, waterparks, recreational activities, etc.

Sixty percent of Americans say they are cutting back drastically on family activities due to rising costs. I sure didn’t see any funflation when the Twins filled the stands during their playoff run; thousands of fans screaming and waving homer hankies at every home game. I also didn’t observe any effects from funflation when the Vikings beat the 49ers, much to the pleasure of a Skoll-screaming, sold-out U.S. Bank Stadium. I guess if you win, no matter the cost, they will come.

At least one theater on Broadway in New York City is now offering free childcare for those who come to the fantastic plays. That is an offering that’s long overdue for people who attend fine-art plays, musicals, and the like. That theater is addressing funflation with a creative solution.

A few high-end restaurants are now fining parents whose children are unruly or undisciplined while dining. Anyone who pays big bucks to eat at a high-end restaurant, I’m sure, expects a social atmosphere and a chance to eat their meal without disruption. If parents complain that they tried their best to control their messy, loud, disruptive youngsters, that creates a subjective situation. Maybe the waitress just doesn’t like kids? The answer? Hire a babysitter and have a wonderful, high-end outing with your spouse.

My wish is that all of you have a lucky experience in the near future. Maybe a pull tab, maybe a big cash Bingo win, maybe a scratch-off ticket someone gave you for a birthday gift.

If you’re looking for some “Bits and Pieces” and you like pretzels, try Snyder’s pretzel honey mustard and onion pieces. Big flavor, hearty, crunchy, generously seasoned with tangy flavor and the sweetness of honey: it’s my go-to dreary-day snack!! You will be lucky if you try them.

Results shared from survey

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

Board Member Dave Dunn began the October 26 meeting with a report regarding the district’s accounts payable amounts for the past month. Before the motion to approve was passed, some questions were posed regarding some of the higher amounts. Superintendent Eric Hudspith explained some of the payments made during October were once-a-year costs due this month.

Area Learning Center (ALC) Coordinator Mandi Nohner presented the first of the district’s building reports as school has now been in session for two months. Currently the ALC has seventy-one students in grades 7-12 enrolled during the school day and an additional thirty students who take part in one of the three night school sessions offered. The ALC also offers one credit recovery session during the summer tailored for students who did not earn a high enough percentage of possible scores to pass a particular course. In these courses, according to Nohner, they are given the chance to earn the needed points and thus receive a passing grade. “It’s true credit recovery,” she said. Class sizes range from 10-20 students depending on both class and student needs, with a staff-to-student ratio of 12:1.

Nohner says the ALC uses a hex-mester (hex) schedule (cutting the high school trimesters in half). “This allows them to start over six times during the year which makes earning the diploma a little more attainable in the timeframe they spend with us.” The ALC also offers independent study and apprenticeship programs.

The ALC’s mission is to provide a

unique learning environment in that the delivery of services meets the individual learning needs in a non-traditional setting. Alternative education presents an option for students and parents when a student does not thrive in the traditional classroom setting. Its objective, according to Nohner, is to provide a positive climate and safe environment for the social and emotional well-being of students. The ALC’s dedicated, high-quality team of ten staff has high expectations for student learning. “We want to make sure our students have a successful future wherever that may be,” Nohner says, “whether that’s post-secondary education, or right into the workforce, they are a productive citizen.”

She shared that, at the conclusion of the first hex, 49% of students had passed seven out of seven classes, the highest rate the ALC has ever had in the eighteen years she has been there. Nohner attributes that success to the relationships built among students and between staff and students, intentional course design, and the independent study and credit recovery classes as well as “seat-based” classes. “We’ve had a waiting list before. I don’t like to have that,” Nohner said. “I’d like to serve the kids that are in need of the type of program that we have, which is why we started up independent study. Kids who have less than ten credits, or kids who have elective credits but not the core credits needed; we shift those students who can benefit to independent study. We are really trying to keep a waiting list from happening.”

Hudspith shared facility feedback results generated from the com-

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

munity survey that has been out for the last six to eight weeks. Hudspith said there were “a little over 400 responses” and his intention at tonight’s meeting was to spotlight some information for the board and community, but that he would be emailing the full survey results and feedback received to board members the following morning for their perusal. The graphic on the first Google Slide showed 51% of respondents either strongly support or support a \$36 million bond for Waseca Public Schools for creation of a K-6 elementary school using the current intermediate school building as the starting point. On his second slide, Hudspith showed the results of the second question which asked respondents to check the reasons why they supported or opposed the facility plan. “There are a variety of different opinions and perspectives, all of which are very valid,” Hudspith said. “Folks could check off more than one response, so if they had several reasons for their opinion, they could certainly respond as such.” The third slide in the presentation illustrated “a nice cross-section of our community” Hudspith said as he pointed out the survey respondents included retirees, non-parents, commercial, residential and agricultural property owners as well as parents of school-age children.

Hudspith concluded his presentation with some general observations, including that the number of responses received were similar to those of the Spring 2022 survey, that

the responses received were similar to those relative to supporting or not supporting a bond, and that there was representation from a variety of community perspectives providing insights toward both rationales. Hudspith said the next step is for the board to review the survey results in full. “There are multiple comments to read through and consider. Some are paragraphs, some are a couple lines,” he said. “There’s always going to be a handful of responses that are agenda-based but for the most part they are very respectful and productive.” Full survey results will be available for public viewing in the near future. The board will then determine a course of action for facility improvement, whether it is a K-6 facility bond, a bond for repairs at Hartley and the intermediate school, or a non-bond option.

Business Manager Matt Moline gave a brief report, letting the board know school staff is in the process of selecting school-supported employment benefits for a few more weeks, and that the financial audit is ongoing but will be complete by the end of November with the final report at that time.

Other matters on the agenda included board committee reports: Dave Dunn said the facilities committee received a maintenance report of repairs, updates, and needs of the district buildings and grounds. Charlie Priebe reported things are ongoing with the four negotiations groups he is a part of. The student representatives summarized the recent and upcoming student activities. Julie Anderson reported the contract for new food service director Amy McQuery has been approved.

■ Debate

from Page 1

Johnson said he was unsure what should be done. “I can’t say 100% what my priorities are until I’m in there.” Johnson stated Waseca is a good, quality and safe community.

Milbrath said budget mandates from the states need to be a priority, specifically where those funds are going.

Fitch said she could make no grandiose promises either. She emphasized the need for increased access to broadband internet. She also said she wasn’t confident about the county’s collaboration with MN Prairie, stating she was unsure of its ethics.

Question two was a follow up to question one, asking candidates whether they would support a county sales tax.

All three candidates gave varying answers to this question. It was stated by all three that this is a moot point for two years, until the state removes the moratorium.

Milbrath said he would support a half cent tax. He said it could help for the new justice center.

Johnson said he would not favor a sales tax at all. “I am opposed to general tax increases on principal... I would need some good convincing to change my mind.”

Fitch was unsure and said she would like to see more input. She did

state there are viable projects those funds could help support.

Question three asked candidates to share a story of Waseca County working together with local cities. Candidates were also asked how this collaboration could be improved.

Fitch said the ConAgra project brought together Waseca City Council and County to do an excellent job keeping ConAgra in town. She said the collapse in agribusiness would have been devastating for Southern Minnesota.

Johnson spoke about housing collaboration with New Richland and Janesville used to create opportunities for first-time home buyers. Johnson paused to recognize high school students, asking them who was going to college. Most raised their hands. Johnson then asked if those students could find that job or career here in Waseca. Only a handful of students’ hands remained raised, compared to nearly every hand which was raised indicating they were college bound. Johnson said this is a countywide problem which needs an answer.

Milbrath spoke about radio systems switching from VHF to 800 megahertz in Waldorf, Janesville and New Richland. The switch was good for first responder communications. He also cited safe routes to school and many other collaborations in his 34 years of experience.

Milbrath said collaboration could help keep businesses in Waseca County.

Question four asked candidates,

“Where do you see Waseca County 10 years from now? What are steps forward that will help a healthy economy?”

“Bigger, hopefully,” Johnson answered.

He said Waseca needs to quit losing business and population to surrounding counties and that facilities don’t need to go backwards.

“We have to keep growing,” Milbrath said. “Creating opportunities for college kids to come back here. Competitive wages, housing, industrial parks.”

Fitch said she would like to see the county take a more participatory role in economic development. “Gap financing to help businesses,” Fitch said. “I would like to see the county establish a revolving loan fund to help with that.”

Fitch also said she would like to see generational farms expand. “That will help us grow.”

Question five asked about the quality of Waseca County’s correctional facilities. “How to improve?”

The question was answered by all three candidates talking about the Waseca County Jail, which is the oldest in the state and no longer meets state requirements.

Milbrath is in favor of building a new jail, but said moving to another facility, i.e. sending prisoners to Steele County instead, could lower the tax burden. He also said that, “we would be putting money into their economy instead of ours.”

Fitch said it isn’t financially feasible to build a new jail. She said it’s

really difficult decisions like this one which commissioners are elected to make.

Johnson said half of the people will be happy and half not regardless of the decision made. He has not come out in favor of a new jail or in favor of the county outsourcing its jail.

Question six: “What do you believe are the biggest strengths and weaknesses of Waseca County?”

All three candidates agree there is nothing glaringly wrong in Waseca County, citing community ties and strong business atmospheres as strong points. Need for housing was also stated.

“It’s difficult to be a bedroom community when you don’t have enough bedrooms,” Fitch said.

Question seven asked what the biggest infrastructure needs are in the county.

Johnson said development, including utilities, by the on ramps on Highway 14 were the only needs he could identify.

Milbrath talked about upcoming mandatory inscriptions needed on radios for 911 calls.

Fitch said broadband access for rural areas.

All three candidates gave brief closing statements during which they thanked students and encouraged them to stay engaged.

“The county will be in great stewardship whoever wins,” Johnson closed.

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The Pastor's Column

Political season in Waseca

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

It is political season in Waseca, a new county commissioner will be elected in the next few days and they will step into a role they think they can fill and try their best. The candidates are willing to serve and we have the opportunity to elect one as part of our rights as citizens. Now I want you to know, I just realized this week that we have 3 candidates, I know all three of them as you probably do as well. I am not going to share who I am supporting nor why, but I am going to share what God's plan is.

Romans 13 gives us a pretty clear understanding of politics and our relationship to governing authorities. Paul write in verse 1, "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God." It is God who causes authorities to be established in their positions, even if we don't like it.

Now if you want to talk about taxes, turn in your bibles to Romans 13 and just read. Paul is pretty clear in his letter, and Jesus told the disciples in Mark 12:17 to, "Give to Caesar's what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." I am not hear to talk about taxes and laws though, but rather how do we respond to those authorities placed over us?

Paul writes to Timothy to share some important information about the persecution of the church. We often forget that there was great animosity towards Christians through most of its early years, and the Christians would stand before rulers and governing authorities many times and be asked to answer for their beliefs. This is what Paul tells us in 1 Timothy 2:1-6:

I I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.

We have been called to pray for all peoples, our neighbors, friends, enemies, and especially those in positions of authority. To pray for them means that we are striving to love them as Christ loved them. Our friends and enemies need a deeper relationship with Christ, just as we do. We must pray for them and the decision that they will make.

When we pray for those appointed by God to a position of power, we are asking God to move in their hearts to draw people to know Christ. We are asking for God's decisions to be made so that His will may be done. So join me in prayer that God may establish His leader in our community and we may share Jesus' work in our community as well.

Growing Roots opens in Waseca

New chiropractice office located at 1800 North State Street

Lyndsea and Jay Bulfer to hold open house Sat.

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Lyndsea and Jay Bulfer, both doctors of chiropractic medicine, have founded "Growing Roots," a new chiropractic treatment office located at 1800 North State Street in Waseca.

Both Lyndsea and Jay completed their training at Northwestern University in the Twin Cities in April of 2022. They have been working with chiropractic businesses as close as Faribault and as far away as Illinois since then, but realized they would like to work together and that they would like to put down roots in Jay's hometown: Jay is a 2017 graduate of Waseca High School and the son of Waseca residents Dan and Jenny Bulfer.

The two worked together to renovate the part of the Verizon building which includes their treatment center. They opened their doors for business on October 16.



Lyndsea and Jay Bulfer are chiropractic doctors with local roots; Jay is a 2017 graduate of Waseca high school. The two met during their training. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

The company will be holding an open house from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 4. "It will give people a chance to meet us," says Lyndsea. "They can see our clinic and our facilities, and have some refreshments."

Moving forward, she says, "Our vision is to become part of the community, both by building a family-like atmosphere with our patients and by participating in community events."

Since some of his high school jobs included working with Greener World Solutions, Jay says it is a company goal to provide services which help people with physically demanding jobs feel good and keep working. He says chiropractic services are well known for helping with aches and pains.

Lyndsea explains that the nervous system serves the body in much the same way roots support a tree: nerves deliver the messages which

allow all systems to work together. Chiropractic treatment focuses on helping strengthen those messages and those systems. Thus, she says, Growing Roots can help people with a wide range of problems, including vertigo, headaches, "colichness" in babies, pain caused by repetitive motion. The center can also advise patients regarding nutrition choices which will help with certain conditions.

"Both Jay and I have extensive training and experience working with everyone from newborns to the elderly," says Lyndsea. "We have practiced in high-end, high-volume clinics, and can perform all the services chiropractic patients expect; we are also acquainted with the most recent techniques."

Lyndsea recalls an experience treating a patient while working in

"Both Jay and I have extensive training and experience working with everyone from newborns to the elderly."

— Lyndsea Bulfer

an Illinois clinic. The woman had doctored extensively because she was experiencing a shooting pain which began at the base of her neck and would spread rapidly over the top of her head. She had undergone MRI and CT scans, and in the end been told there was no treatment for her condition, occipital neuralgia.

"Well, that's nerve pain," says Lyndsea, who recalls providing a set of treatments which fixed the problem. "That's what we work with."

"She had never been to a chiro-

practor before," she says. "She was so very grateful to find out she didn't have to 'just live with it,' which is what her doctors had told her."

Lyndsea mentions that many people appreciate the "holistic" approach provided by chiropractic treatments. While continuing its current range of services, Growing Roots is also planning to add acupuncture and Department of Transportation physicals sometime in the future.

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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

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Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting

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Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship

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10 a.m. - Mass

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Pastor Sarah Krolak

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH
Alma City, Minnesota
Pastor Robert Harting
Sunday - 10 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

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Argus Archives

100 Years Ago

- On Wednesday, Oct. 18, at the home of her daughter Mrs. A. W. Jennison celebrated her eighty-second birthday. She was the recipient of many gifts, glowers and letters, and messages of congratulation from relatives and friends far and near; but nothing pleased her so much as a box of apples sent from Vermont by her nephew, Walter Sutton. Mr. Sutton lives on the old homestead in East Shelburne. The land was a part of the Hamshire Grants and was purchased by Benjamin Sutton in 1782. Here in 1840 Mrs. Jennison was born and here she lived until her marriage in 1861. She was surprised and delighted with the apples which reached her in perfect condition.

- The hall was filled to a capacity audience when on Wednesday evening Mrs. Anna Dickey Olesen, candidate for United States Senator, appeared at the Town Hall. The audience was in thorough sympathy with the speaker, we should judge, if a fair estimate might be made as to the effect of the talk. There is no gainsaying the fact that Mrs. Olesen is a brilliant woman and a gifted speaker.

- As James Cahill drove out from his farm home the other day, a car came in view. Evidently the driver lost his head for he immediately shot ahead and crossed over on the wrong side of the road. The two cars came together with more or less disastrous results. Mr. Cahill's car suffered a broken wheel and the dislocation of the radiator. The other car was about as badly used up. But luckily neither one of the drivers was injured.

75 Years Ago

- Geza Schutz, who prizes his independence and individualism above all else, found both in the good earth of southern Minnesota. And yet, the Janesville farmer also finds himself becoming less and less distinguishable from that vague mass, "the public." For Schutz, one-time League of Nations staff member, promotes industrial peace throughout the state and in some of the nation's great cities in addition to farming acres of rolling fields along the Le Sueur river. Many a knotty labor-management dispute has ben settled by Schutz in the quiet farmhouse from which he can look out across his cornfields to the little winding stream and the wooded hills beyond.

- After losing their first game of the season with Blooming Prairie last week the Golden Bears bounced right back yesterday afternoon and took the New Richland Cardinals into camp on the latter's grounds, 13-6. According to reports from the local fans who were on the sidelines, the officiating was the rankest seen this season, as far as dealing the Golden Bears several raw deals.

- A postal mailed August 12, 1930, at Elm Creek, Neb. Reached Harry L. Olson at Fairmont early kn October this year. Jena P. Nielsen at Austin received the first word in 21 years from relatives in Denmark and learned that his 87-year-old mother is still alive. For the first time in 30 years Albert Rueckert, Sauk Centre, heard from relatives in Germany, reporting skimpy meals and attire.

50 Years Ago

- A former educator, who is known for telling humorous stories in dialect, will be the guest speaker at the annual banquet of the Janesville Area Chamber of Commerce, October 25. Ed Phalen, now of Menomonie, Wisc., said he hopes to "send the crowd home happy" when he wrote recently to Chamber Secretary Irv Kopischke. Mr. Phalen has been an educator for the past 40 years and a speaker and master of ceremonies for over 30 years. In his biographical material, Phalen says that he has been involved in community affairs as county chairman of the Red Cross and United Fund.

- If I told you it takes 40 feet to stop your car when it is being driven 20 miles per hour, you'd probably say, "so what." But if you could have been at the Janesville or Waldorf-Pemberton high schools last Monday you would have been amazed to see for yourself how long that 40-feet actually is. That was the opportunity area teenagers had last week when a representative from Farm Bureau Insurance Services, Des Moines, Ia., came into the area with what Principal John Graff describes as "one of the finest driver education programs available."

- Newell Searle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rod Searle of rural Waseca was honored recently by two organizations for an article published in a 1971 issue of "Minnesota History", the magazine of the Minnesota Historical Society. The Forest History Society, a national historical organization devoted to forest history presented him with their Blegen Award for best article on forest history. The presentation was made at the annual meeting of the Society in Hot Springs, Ark., last week. Searle was the first recipient of this award. Recognition was also given by the Minnesota Historical Society for the same article, entitled: "Minnesota National Forest: The Politics of Compromise, 1898-1908," which concerns the efforts of conservationists to create a national forest in Minnesota, now known as Chippewa National Forest. At its annual meeting in St. Paul on October 7 the Blegen Award of the Minnesota Historical Society was presented to Searle.

25 Years Ago

- When Mary Gutknecht and her Shetland sheep dog "Cricket" walk around Janesville people may notice a very well-trained dog. What they do not know is that Cricket recently earned the National United States, Canada and Japan Champion title. The national competition, sponsored by the North American Dog Agility Council, was held Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 4-5, in Phoenix, Ariz. The national championship is held once a year with the top 260 dogs competing. Cricket earned the championship title by placing high in the jumpers class, agility trial champion and the gamblers class (overall distance commands).

- A special election on Tuesday, Nov. 4, will determine the direction of the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School District. After months of planning and researching, the JWP School Board is asking district residents to pass an \$11 million bond referendum which will allow the district to update its current facilities. The board's proposal is in response to the last bond issue in December 1996 which showed that many residents wanted to stay on the existing sites. This in mind, the school board worked to formulate a plan that would provide a compromise. The \$11 million bond referendum allows for a combination of demolition, renovation and new construction at both the Waldorf and Janesville sites. The state will pay about 17.19 percent making it a \$9.2 million issue for the voters. Over the past 30 years, no major renovations or upgrades have been done to either of the buildings.

- Renovation projects are underway in the city of Waldorf. Mayor Harold Tesch said the Waldorf City Council has been working on cleanup for a long time. "It has been costly, but rewarding," he said. Over the summer, five buildings were demolished on Main Street, and the construction of a community center is scheduled to begin this November. Tesch said the community center will give the city a place for public meetings, weddings, etc. "We didn't have the facilities before," Tesch said. "This should give us ample room.

Waseca Archives

100 Years Ago – Waseca Herald

- Dr. Edmund Mackey, popular farmer and veterinarian residing near Waldorf, was elected president of the Waseca County Poultry Association at the annual meeting held at the creamery hall in this city Thursday evening. Prof. F. L. Crowe, of New Richland, who has headed the organization for the past four years and to whose efforts much of its present success is due, declined re-election and Dr. Mackey was unanimously elected to succeed him. C. J. Ballard of Iosco was elected vice president and Mrs. E. R. Reineke, of Blooming Grove, secretary-treasurer.

- Mr. and Mrs. Emil Long were awakened by their daughter last Thursday morning just in time to save them from being asphyxiated by coal gas. Mrs. Long arose and went to her daughter's room but was overcome and fell to the floor. Mr. Long came to their assistance and was able to phone MRs. Currie who lives next door, and arrived directly. Upon entering she smelled the gas and opened the windows and doors.

- The city council, at its meeting Tuesday evening voted to sell \$79,000 worth of sewer and drain bonds on Nov. 2nd at 7 pm. The cost of the Oak street curb and gutter was assessed at 75 cents a lineal foot. The West Elm street drain assessment was not acted on.

75 Years Ago – Waseca Herald

- A Waseca fire which broke out Sunday afternoon around 5:15 destroyed the old Priest building on the corner of North State Street and Second avenue N. W. Losses for the three business establishments and two others near to the frame building are expected to pass the \$50,000 mark. The building, which housed the Corner Lunch, Tobin & Webber barbershop and the Buckley Appliance Co., was left a shell when the fire department managed to get the blaze under control 40 minutes later.

- The members of Waseca County 4-H clubs were entertained last night at their annual Achievement Banquet which was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and Waseca county banks in cooperation with the extension service. There were tables arranged for 474 and the places at the tables were filled by 4-H club members and their leaders and guests. The group was served by members of the Chamber of Commerce who were arranged in waiter teams. The banks of the county provided the top quality beef by buying the champion steer at the 4-H club livestock sale at fair time. Toast-master of the evening was Cletus F. Murphy, county agent, while Harold Hebl acted as song leader with Mr. Joseph Kozan as accompanist.

- Three Waseca men and one man from Waldorf took a three day course in farm income tax reports in St. Paul last week. They were H. A. Panzram, Judge Leon J. B. Sexton, and L. R. Peterson of Waseca and Frank Toller of Waldorf. The course covered income tax deductions, livestock sales, sale of personal dwellings and auction sales besides regular income tax problems.

50 Years Ago – Waseca Journal

- Sunday was a long ordeal in Waseca for the Al Kunst and Dave Kunst families. "We hold no hate in our hearts, we believed in what our sons were doing, working for world peace and understanding through UNICEF," said Mr. and Mrs. Al Kunst as they talked about the tragedy that abruptly ended the world walk begun in 1970 by their sons John and Dave. Mrs. Dave (Jan) Kunst was awakened at 8:10 a.m. Sunday by the U.S. State Department which informed her that the brothers had been shot in Afghanistan. John, 25, was killed and David, 33, was wounded under the armpit. The brothers, walking in Afghanistan, were shot Saturday night by bandits while in a small camp near Sarobi, Afghanistan, about 30 miles east of the capital Kabul.

- Marvin R. Kalis, has been named Pride Seed Dealer in the Waldorf area according to Jay L. Jensen, Pride sales representative for this section of Minnesota. In making the announcement Mr. Jensen pointed out that Marvin's assigned sales area will include joining quarters of Vivian, Freedom, Wilton and Byron townships. Since its organization in 1934, Pride has expanded to become one of the nation's leading seed corn companies.

- Down 12-0 at the half, the Waseca Bluejay Football team put on one of the biggest rallies in many years and beat Hutchinson 20-12 Friday night in a rainy and windy game at Hutchinson. Completely out-played in the first half the Bluejays couldn't stop the Tigers' powerful ground attack of their own. The Bluejays recovered two Tiger fumbles in that flat first half or they could have found themselves behind by a greater score. Chris Brown opened the second half by returning the kickoff 18 yards to the Waseca 33. Chuck Scumacher rallied his blueays together and marched 67 yards for the score.

- The Waseca Rescue Squad was called out to the Adolph Hoffman Sr. Farm at 8:56 Sunday night. According to Fire Chief Slim Cunningham, Adolph Hoffman, Jr. from Hopewell, Virginia was visiting his mother when he became ill and was semi-conscious the boy's mother became concerned. She called the fire department for help, who sent the Rescue truck and notified Seewald Ambulance. Hoffman was semi-conscious when help arrived. Hoffman was taken to the Waseca Memorial Hospital where he is listed in satisfactory condition.

25 Years Ago – Waseca County News



In 1997 - Waseca swimmer Jayme Bartelt is ready for a quick start under the watchful eye of her mother Jane in a recent Bluejay swim meet. Bartelt was one of three four-event winners for the Bluejays in a 109-74 rout against Owatonna. Bartelt won the 200-meter and 500-meter freestyle events, plus swam on two winning relay teams. Trisha Seys and Jami Jager also won four events for Waseca.

-A tour of Parkview Estates, Johnson Avenue, Waseca, shocked some people who went to the open house Saturday. The previous University of Minnesota dormitories have been transformed into new apartments. Leasing agent for Lloyd Management, Inc. Julie Kuipers was available to answer questions during the open house. "A lot of students who used to live here have walked through and are surprised at what's been done to the buildings." Two buildings hold 15 apartments each and the third holds eight, three bedroom bi-levels. The smallest of the apartments is 870 square feet and the largest is 2,104 square feet. Some final touches need to be completed in the buildings as well as some landscaping, but a few apartments are already being called home by some.

- Two more people involved in the early August crime spree, that resulted in 50 complaints to police, pleaded guilty last week. Erick Wayne Johnson, 19, pleaded guilty Tuesday and Ryan Andrew Hollerich, 18, pleaded guilty Wednesday. Waseca Police said that the pair plus Douglas Jay Ross, 23, and Tracy Jo Hockers, 17, committed the crimes. Ross pleaded guilty and was fined \$3,000 Oct. 9. He also has to help make restitution which totals more than \$9,000. Many cars were damaged by having their tires slashed or by scratching a key on the paint surface. Numerous items were also taken from the vehicles.

Looking Back (New Richland)

100 Years Back - 1923

Six thousand dollars worth of bonds stolen in the mail robbery at Owatonna last April have been recovered. The bonds were discovered when a Sioux City, Iowa bank reported their appearance, which was followed by the arrest of the proprietor of a pool hall at that city.

Auto bandits were frustrated in their plans to loot the Maertz & Renner general merchandise store in New Prague early last Friday morning, when they were frightened away by the approach of Chief of Police Frank Bilek. As it was, they made away with only about \$450 worth of goods when it would have been possible for them to have secured about \$4,000 worth of loot.

Messrs. C.A. Newgard, H.F. Bestmann, H.E. Johnson, A.O. Lea, A.N. Tyrholm, C.S. Shurson, Carl and Sam Zellweger attended the banquet at Waseca Monday evening which opened the "Better Sire" campaign in Waseca County.

The M. & St. L. is conducting an excursion to the Northwestern foot ball game this week. The rate is \$4.35 to Minneapolis and \$4.80 to St. Paul.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Hoelz are nicely settled in their new home on the Brandt farm, but Bill thinks they will never finish moving.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Foels and daughter drove to Waseca Sunday and visited at the home of S.B. Towler. On their return home they were accompanied by Mrs. Foels's father, Mr. Robt. Sadresky.

77 Years Back - 1946

The Gust Schoenrock estate of 240 acres six miles west of New Richland has recently been sold to Sohre brothers of Good Thunder who are to take possession next March 1. Every renter on the place since 1927 has bought his own farm. They are Ed and Emil Schoenrock, Kenneth Heckes and Carl Schroeder.

The number of women employed at the New Richland branch of the Minneapolis Knitting Works is gradually increasing until at present at least 25 have employed there. Difficulties which include machine troubles, lack of material and failure of new machines to arrive prevent a more rapid increase in the number employed.

James Paulson, T[5], who had spent since January in Austria with U.S. troops, surprised his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L.M. Nelson of Berlin township by arriving home Tuesday. He will receive his discharge Nov. 24.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson were in The Star office last Thursday after visiting their farm southwest of town. "Tommy" says that from a 42 acre tract he received \$1702.25 for his share of the soy bean crop and that he still has a little over a ton to dispose of.

Arthur Clemetson, who lives northwest of Freeborn, was in last week and informed us that a new gasoline pipeline from Albert Lea to Mankato passes through his and his neighbor's farms.

Several ladies were entertained at the Mrs. E.M. Schwenke home Saturday afternoon in honor of Sandra Gutfleisch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Gutfleisch of St. Paul who celebrated her first birthday anniversary.

50 Years Back - 1973



Friends and neighbors of Clarence Battey of rural New Richland gathered at his farm Monday to harvest his 160 acres of soybeans. Driving the seven combines, many trucks, and tractors and augering the beans into bins were from left, front: Alfred Smidt, Merlin Krueger, Louis Battey with Jerry Battey on his knee, Edgar Dinse, Dale Winegar, Bill Miller; back: Clayton Hansen, Jacob Hoelz, Russ Schmiesing, Kenneth Schlaak, Gary Berg, Harlan Berg, Harlan Johnson and George Dobberstein. Dale Krueger, O'Dean Miller, Cleo Lohberger, Orville Bolduan, Leonard Wacholz, George Arne-man, George Harlow, Clifford Coy, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Coy and Robert Miller also assisted or furnished equipment, but are not pictured. Little Jerry arrived home on the bus from kindergarten just in time to get in on all of the excitement.

25 Years Back - 1998



Admiring the scarecrow they erected on Ellendale's main street last Thursday are from left: Derek Chicos, Tara Schmidt, Linn Whiteside and Ben Groth. They are members of the Adviser-Advisee group led by Frank Whitcomb, NREHG middle school instrumental music instructor.

Bluejays hold off Jordan, 21-7

Waseca to again face Fairmont for section title, state tournament berth

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Jordan Hubmen showed there are ways to slow the explosive offense of the Waseca Bluejays. The Bluejays showed they can win anyway.

The Jays, held scoreless in the second half, shut down the Hubmen when it mattered most and capitalized on four turnovers as they prevailed 21-7 in a Section 3 AAA semifinal football contest on a cold, snowy Waseca field Saturday, Oct. 28.

The Bluejays, 8-2 and seeded second in the section, behind Fairmont, reached their sixth consecutive section final and, for the third year in a row, the opponent is Fairmont.

"We've overcome a lot the last week and a half, two weeks," said Waseca head coach Brad Wendland. "We've gotten real good leadership from our seniors."

Although the persistent Hubmen kept it close and caused some concern in the second half of the section semifinal, it was clear the visitors could not match the Bluejays' firepower on a muddy field. A two-touchdown second quarter gave the Bluejays a 21-0 halftime lead which, on this day, made difficult for Jordan to rally. And the Waseca defense made sure of it.

"We hang our hat on defense," said Wendland, who also praised his squad for limiting turnovers to one. "We like to make opponents drive the whole field. That's huge for us. Not turning the ball over was great. Obviously, we didn't run the ball like we're used to, but we had a couple guys really step up."

The play of the game, according to Wendland, was a fourth-down pass to Deron Russell that went for 36 yards and a touchdown.

The defense was led by Carter Ellis with 15 tackles. Noah Thompson had 10 tackles, Shane Engel-Mueller eight. Tauston Rupe and Jose Mixteco had interceptions.

The Hubmen prevented a three-and-out on the game's first possession by converting a fake punt on fourth down. Three plays later, facing fourth-and-11, they did punt, but it only traveled 11 yards. With Micah Allen-Haas and Mixteco running the ball and Carson Ohnstad catching a 13-yard pass from Jordan Johnston, the Bluejays scored nine plays and 42 yards later when Allen-Haas rumbled into the end zone from 5 yards out.

The defense came through with a big stop when a muffed punt gave Jordan the ball at the Waseca 34, as Rupe intercepted a pass.

Jordan's next drive was halted when Ellis made a hit on the quarterback, causing a fumble, which Thompson picked up and returned to the Jordan 26. Four plays later, Johnston was on target to Ohnstad, who made a leaping catch over a defender for a 29-yard touchdown. That made it 14-0 with 3:34 left before halftime.

With Ellis leading the charge, the Jays forced another fumble on Jordan's next possession. Thompson recovered it. Russell's 36-yard touchdown reception from Johnston put Waseca up 21-0 at the intermission.

The Jays started the second half with their first three-and-out of the day, and Jordan answered with a methodical 12-play, 69-yard scoring drive. But the march also used up most of the game clock in the third quarter.

After another three-and-out for

"We hang our hat on defense."

— Waseca coach Brad Wendland



Ellis



S.Engel-Mueller



Mixteco



Ohnstad



Rupe



N.Thompson

Waseca, Jordan took over at its own 29 and drove into Bluejay territory as the third quarter ended, converting two fourth downs on the way. Mixteco's interception ended the drive, and Jordan eventually ran out of time.

Johnston completed six of 13 passes for 94 yards, all in the first half. He did not throw an interception. Ohnstad caught five passes for 50 yards.

Allen-Haas led Waseca in rushing with 33 yards on eight carries, with Mixteco adding 31 on nine attempts.

They Bluejays face Fairmont Friday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. at New Ulm High School for the section championship and state tournament berth. The Cardinals defeated the Bluejays 21-0 at Fairmont in the final game of the 2023 regular season.

"We're excited to prepare for it," said Wendland. "We're excited to be playing on (artificial) turf. We think that helps us a little. We'll go to work, prepare as hard as we can and play as hard as we can. It'll be fun."

The winner Friday plays in the state quarterfinals Friday, Nov. 10 against the Section 1AAA champion at Hastings High School. The semifinals are Saturday, Nov. 18 at 2 p.m. at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. The final is Nov. 25.

Waseca 21, Jordan 7					
JOR	0	0	7	0	7
WAS	7	14	0	0	21

First Quarter

WAS — Allen-Haas 3 run (Hulscher kick)

Second Quarter

WAS — Ohnstad 29 pass from Johnston (Hulscher kick)

WAS — De.Russell 36 pass from Johnston (Hulscher kick)

Third Quarter

JOR — Bakeberg 5 run (Vallie kick)

Fourth Quarter

No scoring

	JOR	WAS
First downs	13	8
Total plays	56	41
Rushing yards	61	73
Passing	14-27-2	6-13-0



COLD-BLOODED CONNECTION — Carson Ohnstad (18) hangs onto a pass from Jordan Johnston (12) as Wyatt Clark (10) of Jordan defends.

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



STOPPED COLD — Waseca's Noah Thompson (44) tackles Seth Noyes (5).



TAKEAWAY — The Bluejays' Jose Mixteco intercepts a pass.



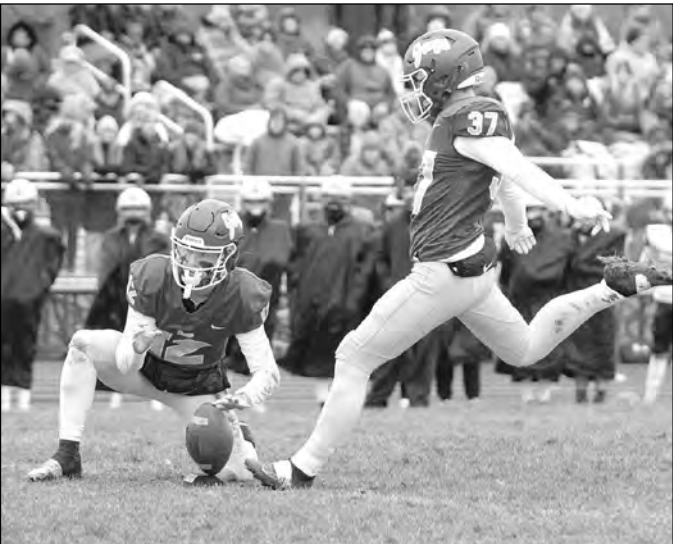
UNDER PRESSURE — At left, Carter Ellis (6) and Noah Thompson (44).apply pressure to Jordan quarterback Graham Helgersen. At right, Ellis gets the sack and causes a fumble, which Thompson was there to recover.



BIG PLAYS — At left, Carson Ohnstad goes up high for a catch between Jordan defenders Mason Adamek (4) and Brock Bakeberg. At right, the Bluejay's Deron Russell (7) makes his way to the end zone for a touchdown as Jack Olson (1) pursues.



WELCOME WAGON — Shane Engel-Mueller (55) stops Brock Bakeberg (12).



MR. AUTOMATIC — Zach Hulscher (37) kicks an extra point against Jordan. Jordan Johnston holds.

BLUEJAY FOOTBALL



PLAYER of the WEEK

Noah Thompson

Linebacker, fumble recovery and interception

Bluejay Football Player of the Week Sponsored by:



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Bluejays send three to state cross country

Dufault, Omtvedt, Fjeldkamp advance as Waseca girls' team just misses

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The season is finished for the Waseca High School cross country teams.

For three individuals, it's extended.

Waseca's Callie Dufault, Stella Omtvedt and Isaac Fjeldkamp advanced out of last Thursday's Section 1AA meet at Bancroft Bay Park in Albert Lea, qualifying for state.

The WHS girls, seeking a second consecutive trip to state, finished third as a team.

"It was great seeing Callie, Stella and Isaac advance to state," said Bluejays head coach Grant Popp. "They worked hard this year and were able to put together good races when it really counted. It would have been really exciting to have the girls' team going to state again this year, but with Northfield in our section, we knew we were running for second place against Faribault. They had the better race, but we have everyone back next year and we'll hopefully be in a position to challenge for that spot."

Dufault, a junior, punched her ticket to state with a 10th-place finish, clocking 20:53.7 for 5 kilometers. Omtvedt, a freshman, was right behind, taking 11th in 20:54.1. They embraced at the finish line.

Following for the WHS girls: Maren Schimming, 14th, 21:17.9; Taylor Markeson, 24th, 22:00; Quinn Yoder, 41st, 22:58; Melanie Krueger, 43rd, 23:07; and Kelsey Draeger, 44th, 20:08. Krueger is a junior, Draeger a sophomore,

Markeson a freshman, Schimming an eighth-grader and Yoder a seventh-grader.

Northfield won the girls' meet with 44 points. Faribault scored 98, two points ahead of the Bluejays. Following were Stewartville with 109, Byron 136, Winona 140, Austin 147, Red Wing 160, Albert Lea 257, PEM 267, Kasson-Mantorville 285 and Zumbrota-Mazeppa 313.

The girls' section champion was sophomore Nora Hanson of Red Wing with a time of 19:39.8.

Feldkamp, a junior, qualified for state by taking eighth in 18:09 for 5 kilometers.

The Bluejays were eighth among 12 teams with 223 points. Winona was first, Northfield second.

Following Feldkamp for Waseca: Tanner Hanson, 44th, 20:38.7; Tristan Godwin, 52nd, 20:58; Colton Schroeder, 56th, 21:03; Tyler Jellum, 63rd, 21:43.9; and Bobby Mortenson, 73rd, 22:37.

David Obst, a sophomore from Kasson-Mantorville, won the boys' race with an impressive time of 17:24.3.

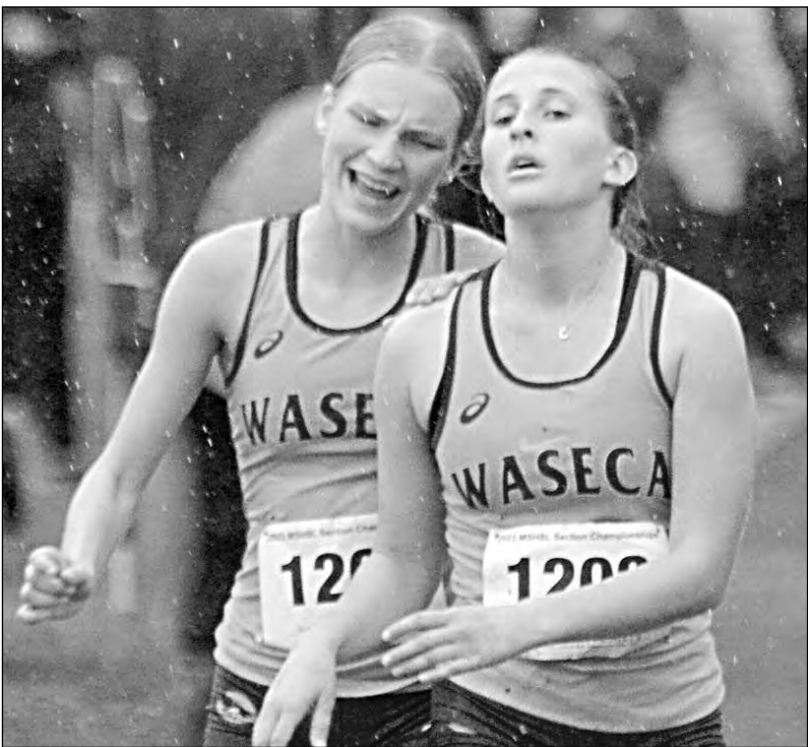
"The boys had a good race for the conditions and overcame a couple of falls to finish the season strong," said Coach Popp. "It will be fun to see this group of juniors come back next year and continue to improve."

The top two teams, and top six individuals not on those teams, advanced to state Saturday, Nov. 4 at the University of Minnesota's Les Bolstad Golf Course. The Class AA boys run at 2 p.m., the girls at 2:45.



ALMOST — The Waseca High School girls' cross country team was edged by Faribault by two points in its bid for a second straight state meet appearance. They posed for a photo after last Thursday's Section 1AA meet in Albert Lea. From left: Stella Omtvedt, Maren Schimming, Kelsey Draeger, Callie Dufault, Taylor Markeson, Quinn Yoder, Melanie Krueger-Eineke.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



SHINING AT SECTION — At left, the Bluejays' Stella Omtvedt and Callie Dufault embrace after finishing the Section 2AA meet last Thursday at Albert Lea's Bancroft Bay Park. At right, Isaac Fjeldstad races his way to state.



SECTION INTENSITY — Above left, the Bluejays' Siri Kuhns bumps a shot during the Waseca High School volleyball team's section tournament game against LCWM last Thursday. Above right, Aliyah Taylor spikes over LCWM blockers. Below, the Bluejays celebrate a point.

BLUEJAY FOOTBALL

PLAYER of the WEEK

Jordan Johnston

8-8 passing, 100 yards, 1TD
116 yards rushing, 2 TDs
vs. Worthington

Bluejay Football Player of the Week Sponsored by:



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Grizzlies 8th, 12th in Section 2A meet

The WEM/JWP Grizzlies cross country teams wrapped up the season in the Section 2A meet at Norwood Thursday, Oct. 26.

The girls finished eighth among 17 teams with 224 points. First-place Mountain Lake Area, 82 points, and runner-up Mankato Loyola, 86, advanced to state.

Grizzly performances: Mackenzie Westpah, 11th, 20:45.8; Kwynn Krause, 37th, 22:28.66; Lauren White, 46th, 22:53.08; Mady Miller, 64th, 23:57.15; Madeline Hoehn, 66th, 24:15.19; Ellie Schlie 80th, 24:53.9; and Lydia Coulsey, 82nd, 24:57.54.

For the boys, who placed 12th as a team with 295 points, had these finishers: Wyatt Jans, 23rd, 18:02.15; Gavin Brown, 47th, 18:51.84; Teagan Mulder, 48th, 18:52.5; Alex Kleve, 82nd, 20:43.7; Wesley Heinz, 109th, 24:07.92; and Maddox Moreno, 110th, 29:17.17.

The Mountain Lake and St. James boys' teams advanced to state.



WINTER WONDERLAND — At times, it was a winter wonderland at the NRHEG High School football field last Friday as the Panthers’ season ended 38-22 at the hands of Blue Earth Area. From left, the Panthers’ Jordan Brouwers (54) makes a play on the BEA quarterback; NRHEG’s Sam Olson (9) breaks in the clear; the Panthers’ Harbor Cromwell (23) follows the blocking of Zander Flatness (56).



Panthers’ winning streak stopped in section tourney

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

When the NRHEG High School football team started the season 0-4, not many people expected much out of the Panthers the rest of the way. They proved those people wrong. The Panthers posted four consecutive victories to finish the regular season, earning the No. 4 seed and a home section playoff game. Unfortunately, that’s where the Panthers’ season ended, with a 34-22 loss to No. 5 seed Blue Earth Area Friday, Oct. 27 in New Richland.

“We had a hard start, with the Bucs moving the ball really well,” said NRHEG coach Marc Kruger, whose team finished with a record of 4-5. “We never caught up from there.”

But that does not mean Kruger didn’t take pride in the accomplishments of the 2023 Panthers.

“I am very proud of this team and getting to 4-4 this year,” said Kruger. “Ending the year winning

four straight is huge.”

The Panthers were never really in the game against BEA, trailing 12-0 after one quarter and 32-0 at half-time.

NRHEG put one touchdown on the scoreboard in the third period and two in the fourth.

The Bucs outgained the Panthers 429-178 in total yards, 348-142 rushing. The visitors totaled 22 first downs to NRHEG’s nine.

The Panthers will graduate seniors Jaylin Raab, Sam Olson, Jackson Chrz, Reese Routh, Zander Flatness, Garrett Degen and George Roesler.

Blue Earth Area 38, NRHEG 22						
BEA	12	20	6	0	—	38
NRHEG	0	0	6	16	—	22
First Quarter						
BEA	5	run (two-point conversion failed)				
BEA	—	Langager 30 run (two-point conversion failed)				
Second Quarter						
BEA	5	run (two-point conversion suc-				

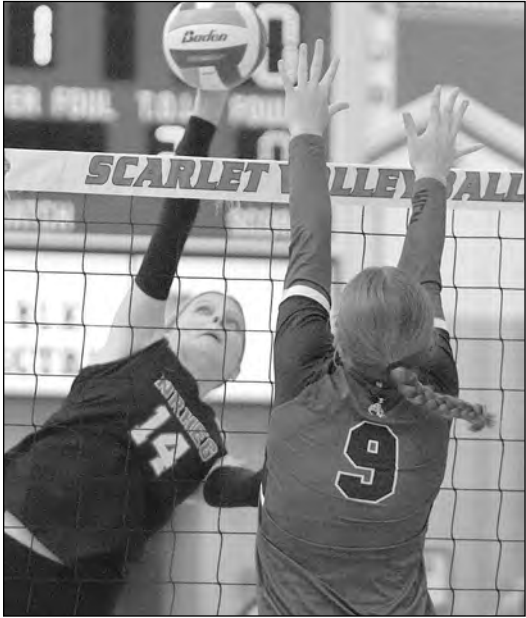


DEFENSIVE PURSUIT — At left, NRHEG’s Deven Parpart (26) and Sam Olson (9) combine to stop a BEA ball carrier. At right, Jaylin Raab (5) takes down the quarterback.

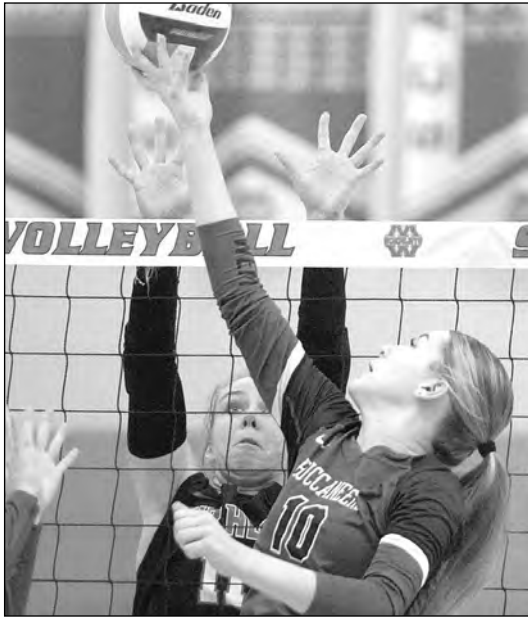


cessful)		NRHEG — Lewison 20 run (two-point conversion successful	
BEA	2 run (two-point conversion failed)	BEA	NRHEG
BEA	— Langager 11 run (two-point conversion failed)	First downs	22 9
Third Quarter		Total plays	60 42
BEA	— Langager 3 run (kick failed)	Rushing yards	348 143
NRHEG	— Raab 35 run (kick failed)	Passing Yds.	82 35
Fourth Quarter		Total yards	429 178
NRHEG	— Olson 4 run (two-point conversion successful	Third down	4-8 1-7
		Fourth down	1-2 0-2
		Turnovers	0 1

Penalties	3-25	4-35	team 4-63
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS			
Rushing — NRHEG: Raab 3-39; Olson 5-37; Cromwell 4-29; Lewison 1-20; Dobberstein 9-18; BEA: Langager 20-129; Rhey 6-42; Rest of Team 25-177			
Passing — NRHEG: Dobberstein 3-14-1, 35; Olson 0-1-0, 0; BEA: 6-8-0, 81			
Receiving — NRHEG: Roesler 2-18; Bartlett 1-17; BEA: Sonnek 2-18; Rest of			
Defense — NRHEG: Cromwell 12 tackles, 1 tackle for loss; Olson 6 tackles; Roesler 6 tackles, 2 assists, 1 tackle for loss; Bartlett 5 tackles, 1 tackle for loss; Ihke 4 tackles, 1 assist; Parpart 3 tackles; Raab 2 tackles; Brouwers 2 tackles, 1 assist; Larson 2 tackles; Gilliland 1 tackle, 1 tackle for loss; Flatness 1 tackle, 1 tackle for loss; Rest of Team 8 tackles, 2 assists, 1 interception, 1 sack, 1 tackle for loss			



NOT AGAIN — WEM again ended the season for the NRHEG volleyball team in the section tournament. From left, Madison Murray (14) spikes past a WEM blocker; the Panthers’ Hallie Schultz (11) battles at the net; Murray gets a hug from Taylor Schmidt.



SECTION SCENES — Faith Nielsen, left, gets low for a dig against WEM at Mankato East last Thursday. At right, the Panthers’ Gabby Schlaak spikes past WEM blockers.



WEM again ends NRHEG spikers’ season

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

For the fifth year in a row, the NRHEG High School volleyball team faced arch-rival Waterville-Elysian-Morristown in the section tournament.

If you’ve been paying attention the last four years, you probably can guess what happened last Thursday when the teams met in the sub-section quarterfinals at Mankato East High School. Yes, the Buccaneers again prevailed, 3-0, winning 26-24,

25-18 and 25-5.

“This was a tough loss for the Panthers,” said NRHEG coach Ashley Tolzman. “They started out strong in the first set. You could see that they came ready to play. They were communicating well and covering the court.”

Unfortunately, it did not continue. “The second set started out rough,” explained Tolzman. “We made a few mistakes and got in our heads and stopped talking. They were able to get past it and fight to

make a comeback and make the score closer.”

Then everything fell apart.

“In the third set, all communication stopped and frustration took over,” said Tolzman. “WEM went on two long runs with serves that we just couldn’t return.”

Individually for the Panthers: Gabby Schlaak 7 kills, 1 block, 14 digs; Camryn VanMaldeghem 1 block; Izzy Stadheim 1 dig; Elsie Schultz 15 digs; Tayler Schmidt 7 kills, 19 digs; Hallie Schultz 26 set

assists, 1 kill, 12 blocks, 15 digs; Keira Lenort 4 kills, 8 blocks; Madi Murray 11 kills, 12 blocks, 2 digs; Chloe Stork 5 blocks; Faith Nielsen 1 assist, 19 digs.

The Panthers completed their first season with Tolzman as head coach. The Panthers graduate seniors Elsie Schultz, Hallie Schultz, Erin Peterson, Sydney Lewer, Stadheim, Schmidt, Lenort, Murray and Nielsen.

CC season ends at section for NRHEG

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The NRHEG High School cross country teams took some high hopes and a season’s worth of work into the Section 2AA meet hosted by Norwood-Young America at Baylor Park Thursday, Oct. 26.

It did not go as they hoped. The Panthers’ state hopefuls fell short and the girls’ squad finished 10th out of 17 teams, marking the end of the season for NRHEG distance runners.

Sophomores Devon Nelson and Jacob Karl, who placed first and third, respectively, in the Gopher Conference meet, finished far off the pace. Karl placed 28th, clocking 18:06.02 for 5 kilometers, while Nelton was 31st in 18:06.32. Also running for the Panthers were Jackson McGannon, who took 79th in 20:35.96, and Owen Flatland, who was 107th with a time of 23:57.69.

The boys’ section champion was St. James senior Levi Miest, who clocked 16:06.32.

Boys’ team standings: Mountain Lake 60, St. James 70, Mankato Loyola 81, Madelia 127, LCWM 134, Sibley East 178, Norwood-Young America 239, LeSueur-Henderson 259, Lester Prairie 262, Sleepy Eye St. Mary’s 270, WEM 295, Martin County West 296, Minnesota Valley Lutheran 303, Maple River 304, Blue Earth Area 372. NRHEG and United South Central fielded incomplete squads.

Julianne Wobbrock, a seventh-grader, again led the NRHEG girls, taking 16th in 21:07.50. Following for the Panthers: Ella Jenö, 21st, 21:52.07; Holly Bartness, 52nd, 23:05.39; Annabelle Petsinger, 71st, 24:41.13; Madison Corkill, 100th, 27:04.46; and Amelia Duryee, 107th, 29:23.94.

The first-place finisher was Valerie Quast, a sophomore from Mankato Loyola who clocked 19:03.67 for 5 kilometers.

Mountain Lake took the girls’ team title with 82 points, followed by Mankato Loyola with 86, GFW 125, Sibley East 140, Maple River 192, St. James 194, Martin County West 210, WEM 224, Lester Prairie 260, NRHEG 261, Blue Earth Area 269, LeSueur-Henderson 282, LCWM 303, USC 332, Sleepy Eye St. Mary’s 338, Norwood-Young America 340, MVL 436. USC was incomplete.

The top two teams and top six boys and girls not on that team advanced to state Saturday, Nov. 4 at the University of Minnesota’s Les Bolstad Golf Course.

NRHEG clay target team finishes third in conference

The NRHEG clay target team finished in third place for the fall league.

“It was a team effort to move up from our initial start for the season, so the coaches are quite pleased with the final result,” said NRHEG coach Dan Sorum.

Alden Dobberstein led all shooters with a 24.1 season average. This was good enough to give him the second highest average in the conference and to finish 23rd in the state. There were 3300 athletes in the league this fall.

Also finishing in the Conference Top 25 were Justin Beauvais (11th) for the guys and on the ladies side, Ciara Stenzel (7th), Gracie Luna (11th), Faith Phillips (14th), Nora Flatness (15th), Abbie Viktora (18th), and Alexis Olson (25th).



The Waseca High School vocal department presented its first concert of the year, Friday Oct. 27. Pioneer photos by Deb Bently



WHS Choir Concert

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The high school vocal department presented its first concert of the year Friday, Oct. 27; it was also the first under the school's new vocal music director, Megan Kreinbring. Former director Deb Wantoch Yess served as the concert's collaborative pianist.

The concert was titled "Come to the Music." It was explained during introductory statements that the songs were selected to represent the ways music brings people together, providing them with shared experiences: "We have prepared a selection of pieces tied into a sense of home and belonging," said Kreinbring. "Music has the power to inspire, move us, and bring people together."

The concert began with three songs performed by the 36-member

Concert Choir: "Closer to the Flame" by David Lantz III; "The Moon" by Andy Beck; and "Antiphonal Cantate" by Greg Gilpin.

The next element of the concert was a song and dance number by the contest group, the State Street Singers. Their energetic performance was very popular with the audience. The group's number, "Say it Louder" was arranged by Anita Cracauer. Dance captains for the group are Ashton Jenzen and Norah Schimming. The presentation on Oct. 27 was termed a "preview" of upcoming contest performances. As of now, The State Street Singers are scheduled to compete on Feb. 17, Feb. 24, and March 1.

Two sextets were next on the schedule. The girls sang "Lullabye (Goodnight my Angel)" arranged by Mac Huff and "Song of the Apple

Tree" by Stuart Chapman Hill. The boys' group performed the lively "Vive la Compagnie" arranged by Dave and Jean Perry.

The final group of the evening was the 50-member Select Choir. The four songs they presented were "Down in the River to Pray" arranged by Christina Laberge; "Come to the Music" by Joseph Martin and accompanied on the flute by Hannah LaCroix; "No Time" arranged by Susan Brumfield; and "Wade in the Water" arranged by Mark Hayes.

The evening's printed program also reminded concert-goers that the vocal department has a junior high concert scheduled on Dec. 11, a high school concert on Dec. 18, and a choir boosters burger fry on January 19. "The December concerts will bring some classic favorites," Kreinbring said. "But also more challeng-



A map showing the proposed construction on 8th Street NE in Waseca.

Council from Page 1

gation Unit (SCDIU) was unanimously approved. Council members previously questioned the expenditure, but upon learning the city's cost would be "only \$10,000," the detractors withdrew their objections. In addition to paying the annual membership fee, the city provides an officer to work

with the SCDIU.

It was announced that Planning and Zoning coordinator Bill Green will retire as of December 1.

Crossing guards Sandra Wright and Daryld Wright retired after 7 years and 17 years, respectively, on June 6, 2023.

An ordinance regarding golf carts in town is being worked on by city staff, and is quote, "A mess."

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

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November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NATIONAL VETERANS & MILITARY FAMILY MONTH			1 6pm BAR Bingo	2 7pm BINGO	3 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	4
5	6	7 Burger nite 5- 7pm	8 6pm BAR Bingo	9 7pm BINGO	10 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY	11 VETERANS DAY
12 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host	13 7 PM POST & AUX MEETING	14 Burger nite 5- 7pm	15 6pm BAR Bingo	16 7pm BINGO	17 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm	18 Turkey Bingo 7pm
19	20	21 Burger nite 5- 7pm	22 6pm BAR Bingo	23 THANKSGIVING DAY	24 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	25
26 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host	27	28 Burger nite 5- 7pm	29 6pm BAR Bingo	30 7pm BINGO		

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■ Great from Page 1

Bjerke, Anne Jenkins, and Molly Erdman, to plan this event. The group began planning and soliciting donations for the event in June. An extensive list of businesses and individuals donated their time, money, and goods for the Waseca

Art Center's Great Fall Get-Together, proving how much the broader Waseca County community treasures the Art Center. The next event at the Waseca Art Center is the Member Show, at which members of the organization will display their own works of art. This event will take place Nov. 21 – Jan. 6. For hours, events, and membership prices, visit the art center website: www.wasecaartcenter.org.

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Grand Opening



RIBBON CUTTING - Members of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce, staff, and community representatives celebrated the grand opening of FM Bank Wednesday, October 25, 2023.
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

The Waseca Chorale
under the direction of
Deb Wantoch-Yess and John Hoehn
presents

Fantasy of Christmas Carols

Sunday, November 26, 2023 at 4:00 pm
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
111 4th Street NW, Waseca

Tickets available at the door
Adults \$10
Youth ages 12 and under \$7

This performance of the Waseca Chorale is made possible in part by a grant from the E.F. Johnson Foundation

Holiday Food Drive
October 30 - November 17

"Together We Can Make a Difference!"

Join iWealth in our annual Holiday Food Drive and help make the season brighter for those in need. We're proud to continue our tradition of giving back to the community and supporting the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center.

iWealth will again sponsor a Holiday Food Drive for the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center. All donations will be used to fund the Holiday Food Baskets, distributed by the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center. The iWealth Foundation will be donating \$3,000 again this year. Due to your faithfulness in giving, we were able to cover 100% of the cost of the Holiday Food Basket Program in 2022!

Excess funds will be used to help support the WANSC Backpack Program which provides healthy food options for hundreds of students PreK - Grade 12 on weekends. If donations exceed the total cost of this year's Holiday Food Baskets, the WANSC Backpack Program will also benefit.

2022 Totals:
\$6,365 community donations
\$3,000 iWealth Foundation donation
\$9,365 TOTAL
71 families donated
229 households served
(184 children, 270 adults, 89 seniors • 543 people)

You can Help!
All tax-deductible donations should be made payable to: **WANSC**.
Write "iWealth Holiday Food Drive" in the memo line.

Please mail your donation to:
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203 3rd Ave NW
Waseca, MN 56093
WANSC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

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Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advice offered through ICA Group Wealth Management LLC, a registered investment advisor. ICA Group Wealth Management LLC and iWealth are separate entities from LPL Financial. WANSC, iWealth Foundation and LPL Financial are separate entities.

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