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WASECA
COUNTY
PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 37 Vol. IV \$2

Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca

Thursday, September 11, 2025

Pages
9-11



4H

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U.S. POSTAGE
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Waseca Football Association Burger Fry at the Mill Thursday, Sept. 11

The Waseca Football Association will hold a burger fry at the Mill from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11. Help support Waseca Bluejay youth football; cost is \$12.

Grape Stomp and Beer Fest at Indian Island Winery Sept. 13

The Indian Island Winery will have its Grape Stomp and Beer Fest from noon to 9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13.

All You Can Eat Breakfast Sweet-Sommers VFW Sunday, Sept. 14

Enjoy an all you can eat breakfast at the Sweet-Sommers VFW from 8 a.m. till noon thanks to the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center and Food Shelf. Adults \$12, children 6-13 \$7, five and under free. Homemade biscuits and gravy, pancakes or French toast. Free will donations accepted.

Flavors of Fall Festival at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm Sunday, Sept. 14

The Flavors of Fall Festival will take place at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm from 1 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14. Cooler days, golden rays and calm vibes. Music by Luke Smith and Chickaboom & Troglodyte. Enjoy fall beers and wines along with apple cider bar.

Paw Patrol Party at Janesville Public Library Sept. 15

Kids will have a paws-itively good time celebrating their favorite neighborhood rescue dogs at Janesville Public Library at 4 p.m. Monday, September 15. Kids will play games and make Paw Patrol-inspired crafts. This free event is geared for ages 4-6.

Trains at the Waseca Public Library Tuesday, Sept. 16

Put on your conductor hat while we get to work on the railroad's newest projects at Waseca Public Library at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16. Kids will build trains, sort cargo, draw tracks, name trains, and more! This free event is geared for ages 3 to 6.

Colorful Clothespin Magnets at Janesville Public Library Tuesday, Sept. 16

Make the ordinary more extraordinary with this simple, useful craft that turns clothespins into floral magnets at Janesville Public Library at 6 p.m. Tuesday, September 16. Free and geared for adults.

Fall Book Preview at Waseca Public Library Tuesday, Sept. 16

Waseca Public Library staff will present a preview of the most anticipated books of the fall at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16. Geared for adults.

A word from
The Word 

Let all that you do
be done in love.
1 Corinthians
16:14



ONGOING WORK - Construction continues on Second Street in Waseca, causing difficult access to businesses like the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center and Waseca Area Food Shelf.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

We're still here!

Neighborhood Service Center, food shelf adapting to construction, disruption

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center (WANSC) and Waseca Area Food Shelf are open for their usual activities and happy to assist customers and donors.

"Access can be a little complicated," admits organization executive director Cindy Kolander, "so we are adjusting to circumstances day by day."

Beginning Aug. 21, construction is underway on Second Street Northwest and will continue well into the fall. Fencing and safety precautions allow entry to the dual-purpose building located at 203 Third Avenue Northwest only from the south—and only from the parking lot located behind the Waseca

County News building along Second Street.

Kolander explains donors and customers visiting the food shelf are now asked to come and go through the "delivery" door, a double-wide doorway on the south face of the building which now sports a sign identifying it as the entry.

Nearby, an arrow labeled "Store" shows how to access the thrift store sales area—namely by walking around the building to the usual store entrance.

Normal traffic flow at the building allowed customers to park only a few carlengths from the entry, but they now must walk much further, depending on where they were able

Disruption continued on 5

Kay Gottschalk named to Bethany Hall of Fame

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

It could be claimed that Janesville area resident Kay Gottschalk has been making lemonade for 40 years.

Although she loves sports and team competition, a medical condition keeps her—literally—on the sidelines. There, her "lemonade" is being a book keeper, something she has been doing for Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato since the fall of 1984. On September 19, she will be one of six inducted into the college's "Hall of Fame" in recognition of her contributions.

Gottschalk, a 1983 graduate of Waldorf-Pemberton High School, was exceedingly active and successful in basketball, volleyball and softball during high school, having been named most valuable player (MVP) in basketball in her sophomore, junior and senior years. For that accomplishment, she was inducted into the JWP hall of fame in 2017.

As she graduated, she was offered a scholarship



HONORED - Janesville area resident Kay Gottschalk will be inducted into the Bethany Lutheran Hall of Fame Sept. 19 in honor of 40 years as a book keeper for the school's volleyball team.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

to play both volleyball and basketball at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato. She signed up and selected physical education as her major with the

Kay continued on 5

September's black shadow

By MIKHAIL ROSTISLAVOVICH

The morning of September 11, 2001, seemed no different from any other morning as I prepared to go into the office at the Center of the American Experiment in downtown Minneapolis where I was the Programming and Development Director. Earlier in the week I had been in conversations with New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani to bring him in as our guest speaker for our annual dinner in the spring. My intent that day was to tie up any loose ends with the mayor and the speakers' bureau that represented him, then set a date for his availability.

That was not going to happen, at least not that day.

I got into my vehicle and turned on the radio to listen to some classical music for my morning commute. The news hour came on stating that a plane had crashed into one of the World Trade Center towers in New York City. My thought was, what was that pilot of a

small plane thinking, maybe he had a heart attack. At any rate, it would be a good conversation opener with the mayor's scheduler.

I was one of the first to arrive at the Center. I was early, around 7 a.m. I wanted to get on the phones before the day got away and most of my calls would be made to the eastern coastline where they were an hour ahead of us. I figured I needed an answer for my board of directors concerning the annual dinner.

When I opened the office I was surprised to find my colleague, a former colonel in the military, there at this hour. He asked me to come into his office on my arrival. He was an interesting fellow whom I had first met during the Reagan Administration.

He had been the marine who carried the nuclear football for the President. It was a briefcase that contained the

9/11 continued on 6

Recovery Awareness Month sends messages of support

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Waseca County has proclaimed September "Recovery Awareness Month," in alignment with a nationwide initiative.

For the next four weeks, the courthouse exterior will be lit in purple to help increase awareness surrounding recovery from substance abuse disorder and show support for people and families who are rebuilding their lives.

Waseca resident Megan Radel spearheaded the initiative which requested the proclamation. Radel and fellow group member Nikki Weller recently completed the process to

become certified peer recovery specialists (CPRSs). Requirements for the program are that an individual have personal experience with substance abuse disorder, must have been sober for at least one full year, must complete at least 46 hours of classes in coaching and ethics, and must pass a state-administered examination.

Radel explained the role by describing what Charity Steinbring, the CPRS who helped Radel on her recovery journey, had done. "She walked alongside me," said Radel. "She helped me feel I wasn't facing

Recovery continued on 4



RECOVERY WORKS - The Waseca County Courthouse will be lit in purple all through the month in recognition that September is "Recovery Awareness Month" both nationally and in Waseca County. Celebrating the strength and resilience of people who have rebuilt their lives after recovering from substance abuse disorder are (front, from left) Nikki Weller, Elissa Johnson, Megan Radel; (center row, from left) Hunter Carlson and Heather Clark; and (back, from left) Rachel Cornelius, Waseca County Attorney; Mackenzie Weis, Department of Corrections; Nicole Grams, Steele Waseca Drug Court Coordinator; and Dan Frenk, Waseca County Court Services.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

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Compostings

by Al Batt

Falling more in love with each year

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

My doctor said I need to stop worrying so much, so I paid some guy \$60,000 to do all my worrying for me.

Wow, \$60,000! How are you going to pay that?

That's not my worry.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Serendipity is the search for one thing and finding another thing that's a treasure. Lost things become discoveries. If something isn't quick enough to get out of the way, someone will collect it because people will collect anything. Rubber bands, dolls, twist ties, comic books, toys, baseball cards, pens and pencils, ketchup packets, expired coupons and past due bills.

SCHOOL DAZE

Years ago, I read to classes in school. I arrived early and watched as parents brought their precious young'uns to school. One man held his young son's hand. They both looked frightened, but the father wore a brave smile. The child had a worried countenance bordering on panic. It was hard to determine which one held the tighter grip. When they came into the school, the boy's grip lessened as he saw another boy he recognized—a friend or a relative. The young boy slipped his hand from his father's. The boy looked happy. The father became a poster for a bittersweet moment. The fake smile had moved from the father's face to a genuine smile on his young son's.

THOSE THRILLING DAYS OF YESTERYEAR

The preacher visited my aunt. She was nearing 100 years of age and lived in an assisted living place. She needed to see a nurse and hoped the preacher would wait for her return. He was happy to do so. He sat down and read his emails. Then he noticed a bowl of peanuts next to the chair. He thought my aunt wouldn't mind if he ate a couple of them. They were good. It's hard to eat only two peanuts unless you're allergic to them. He got carried away and ate all but one of them. He couldn't take the last one. When my aunt returned, he confessed to eating all but one peanut. He apologized, saying, "Don't worry, I'll bring you a bowl of peanuts on my next visit."

"Oh, my goodness," said my aunt. "You don't need to bring me any peanuts, I can't eat them until I get my new teeth. I'd take some chocolate-covered peanuts, though. I suck the chocolate off them and put the peanuts back into that bowl."

ASK AL

"Why did Cleopatra take milk baths?" Because she couldn't find a cow tall enough to take a milk shower.

"Why do we have to have blizzards?" So, we rural folks can hurry to town the minute the blizzard subsidies and tell others how it wasn't that bad.

"What did unicorns eat?" Fوندue.

"How many apples can you grow on a tree?" All of them.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

I switched all the labels on my wife's spice rack. I'm not in trouble yet. But the thyme is cumin.

For years, I believed the Earth was flat. Then I turned four.

My uncle was driving to work when he had his third flat tire of the week. That was the day he retired.

IN GRATITUDE

My thanks to the Albert Lea Audubon Society for displaying bushels of my photos of birds, plants, mammals and insects at the Freeborn County Fair. It was a wonderful surprise.

Happy anniversary to my bride, Gail. I fall more in love with you each year.

NATURE NOTES

Carl and Cheryl Beckendorf of Fairmont found 24 monarch butterfly caterpillars on one milkweed plant. An egg is about the size of a pinhead, and the butterfly usually lays a single egg on a plant, but egg dumps, where many eggs are laid on one plant, have been observed. Some butterflies don't get a chance to lay all their eggs. The eggs hatch in about four days (can be three to eight). Dr. Karen Oberhauser, former director of the Monarch Lab at the University of Minnesota, had a captive female that laid 1179 eggs in its lifetime, but the average is around 700. Fewer eggs are laid during hot, dry summers. Oberhauser reported one captive female laying 205 eggs in one day.

"I found a decapitated rabbit inside my fenced-in yard. Whodunnit?" The great horned owl deals with large prey by beheading the victim and taking the head to its nest or noshing perch. That owl is the only wild predator that regularly kills skunks.

"How far does a honey bee travel during a foraging trip?" A bee could travel as far as 5 miles from the hive but typically forages closer to home. A single bee would visit 50 to 100 flowers of the same species unless there is a scarcity.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"A person who is nice to you but rude to the waiter is not a nice person."—Dave Barry. Be kind.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Amtrak train and rollercoasters

Last weekend, I rode an Amtrak train from Winona to a suburb north of Chicago. A major objective of the trip was to meet up with my sister-in-law so that we could go ride rollercoasters at Six Flags Great America.

The rollercoasters were exciting, of course, but here I want to tell about my train ride.

It was very pleasant. I managed to get a window seat and spent a large share of my ride looking out at the passing countryside.

At times, the train moved impressively quickly. For a while, I had a good view of a section of interstate highway which followed a parallel route. Thanks to a particularly distinctive semi truck which I could always easily spot, I estimated the train was moving slightly faster than the traffic on the freeway. But the vehicles didn't stop every 40 to 80 miles to debark and take on passengers.

Speed wasn't the objective, though. I knew what the train's schedule was and had planned for the five-hour ride.

I greatly enjoyed the view between Winona and LaCrosse—there, the tracks are parallel to the Mississippi River, sometimes right along the shore, sometimes a couple of hundred feet back. In places, the cabins and boathouses along the river were weathered and humble. Then, as we came

closer to towns, they would quickly become more modern and luxurious.

Of course, everyone knows railroad tracks often run through the more industrial parts of town. Back when railroads were the main way of transporting goods, it happened more or less automatically that factories and shipping companies located along them.

Since it was a passenger train, it also rolled through more urban parts of town to the historic train depots. Having often been in a car that had to wait while trains rolled past, it was a fascinating change in perspective to be on the train looking at lines of cars waiting for the tracks to be cleared. It was an indicator of the size of the town we were passing through to see how long the lines of vehicles became.

I felt the frustration of the drivers below me at one point when the train was stopped at the depot to serve passengers, but extended across nearby streets. There we sat, me looking down on them from invisibility in the train, them looking around impatiently, probably expressing their frustration that the train wasn't moving.

The vast majority of the ride was through countryside. I spent lots of time looking at trees, marsh, fields of crops and other common sights. There were occasional changes of scenery.



TRAIN VIEWS - A view of the Mississippi River taken from a railroad bridge during a recent train ride.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

At one point we went through a tunnel that must have been quite long, given that we were moving quite quickly and still we seemed to be in darkness for a few minutes. The wall of the tunnel seemed alarmingly close to the train's exterior. At another point we had been traveling through a pine forest for quite some time when suddenly I was looking at a sand "pit" of surprising proportions. Long overhead beams carried giant "buckets" which could be seen in the acts of picking up sand from some location out of sight, then dropping it on mountain-like piles under the beams.

At another point, a gigantic clear area was visible surrounded by the pines. It was obvious hundreds of cars sometimes come and go in the area, but it remains a complete mystery to me what reason they might have had to gather in such a remote location.

It was also great fun to look at the architecture of the thousands of houses we rolled past. Much of

the time we were moving too fast to see much detail, but at other times the train moved along very slowly. From the heights of the "upper level" seats in my coach class car, I had an easy view into back yards, even when they were fenced.

We must have been in a rather prestigious neighborhood when I saw the waters of three crystal-blue swimming pools in three yards in a row.

On a number of occasions, people watching the train pass would be waving enthusiastically. I wanted badly to wave back, but had to recognize that from their perspective I was just a shaded window reflecting the sunlight. Still, their enthusiastic friendly greetings made me smile.

My five-hour ride left me wanting to do it all again. I pictured riding a lot further, possibly into the Rocky Mountains, where the views would be of a landscape outside my everyday experience.

How I reluctantly became a Broncos fan

I have finally experienced my first NFL game. Although it was a Denver Broncos game and not a Minnesota Vikings' game, I still had a great time.

Since I have recently moved to Denver, Jack's family invited me to go with them for the season opener last Sunday. His family has had season tickets since the early 1960s and from my understanding, around 95 percent of seats at Broncos games are filled by season ticket holders. Either way, I was honored to have been invited when I knew there were other family members who would have appreciated a Bronco game more. Especially when I have never had an urge to attend an NFL game. I was always under the impression that it would be just as nice, if not nicer, to sit comfortably in my home and watch the game on the TV, be able to hear the comments and watch the replays. But I take that statement back.

Despite being made fun of for being a Viking fan and not necessarily a Broncos fan, I was forgiven by those around me as it



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

was my first time ever at a professional game. And, sadly, I was wearing a Broncos shirt in order to seemingly fit in.

But considering everything, I still had a great time. I've been to a handful of Minnesota Gopher football games of course, but going to a professional game is a whole different level. Sitting in the top section of Empower Field and Mile High Stadium, they have the seats marked where it is exactly a mile high – 5,280 feet above sea level.

The fans, though, are what makes it. In college, it seems that going to games is just an excuse to drink for long periods of time and get rowdy. Yes, people tailgate and appreciate alcohol at professional games too, but then

there are the people like the ones sitting in front of us, who never drank a drop and were seriously invested in the game the entire time. I was told they never miss a game.

I also had no idea about the camaraderie shared in the stands. You want a crowd mentality? Go to a professional sports game. Just walking up the ramp to the higher floors, there were numerous times when one person would shout out above the noise, "Go Broncos!!" and then the surrounding twenty or thirty people would raise their hands and shout back, "GO BRONCOS!" Their enthusiasm was infectious and my determination to be impartial and continue my Viking pride started to ebb as I began shouting

and cheering with the rest of them.

And then there's the fanfare. Fireworks, planes flying overhead, cheerleaders doing organized dances, and giant flags being run across the field. It was impossible not to feel a part of the team, cheering on the players in orange and booing the Tennessee Titans in white. Unfortunately Thunder the horse was under the weather, so I wasn't able to see the Bronco run across the field, but when the mascot climbed to the top of the giant scoreboard in the fourth quarter, I was incredibly impressed.

So even though the Broncos themselves did not play to what I was told is the best of their ability, they still won, and I walked out with a smile on my face, a "My first game" button Jack found for me proudly shining on my shirt.

Life is just full of wonderful and exciting things, what can I say? Plus, pumpkin lattes are back, so everything is grand.

My Determination: "It's just life, so keep dancing through." – Stephen Schwartz, Wicked



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Remembering September 11

Monday afternoon I sat down for lunch with Mikhail to talk about his 9/11 story. His story was powerful, emotional and moving. We were in agreement that the story he shared should simply be in his words.

With this edition of the paper publishing on 9/11, I wanted to feature stories remembering the day.

On Tuesday afternoon I attended the Waseca Exchange Club's meeting. Stories from 9/11 were shared.

Minnesota State House Representative Tom Sexton's wife Jeanne Sexton was in attendance and spoke of their family's experience living on a military base at the time. One night Tom was home for dinner. After wishing Tom farewell the next day, she said, "See you at dinner." Then



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

she didn't see him again until 2002. (The couple is celebrating their 39th year of marriage this coming week. Congratulations. Jeanne said the secret to a successful marriage is communication. Even if you don't feel like talking, do so. Oh, and make sure to compliment your partner.)

A local firefighter shared his story. While working at Hy-Vee, his manager called him into his office to share the news of the first tower being hit. As he watched news coverage from a

laptop, the second tower was hit. The manager told the firefighter to head to the fire hall to see what was going on. Nearly a dozen firefighters were already gathered at the station, at that time, taking in the news together.

Mikhail shared his story last. He choked up while he spoke and paused a few times. I'm grateful for his willingness to share his experience. The day shall not be forgotten.

My 9/11 story is short. I was almost four years old, in daycare.

Our daycare lady told us a scary movie had come on TV and that we couldn't watch it. Shortly after, my dad picked me up and brought me home.

My strongest memories of the day come from school. Every year we spent that day of the year watching news coverage, talking with our teachers about what that day was like.

Speaking with my older friends, there is a clear distinction between generations.

The generation that lived and experienced what that day was like as compared to the generations that didn't.

"If we learn nothing else from this tragedy, we learn that life is short and there is no time for hate." — Sandy Dahl, wife of Flight 93 pilot Jason Dahl.

Diamond Art Bookmarks New Richland Public Library Sept. 17
Create Diamond Art Book Marks at the New Richland Public Library at 10:15 a.m. Wednesday, Sep. 17. Craft and Coffee, join us twice a month for Craft Wednesday.

Jigsaw Puzzle Derby at Waseca Public Library Sept. 17
Teams of up to 4 players will compete in a jigsaw puzzle competition at Waseca Public Library at 10 a.m. Wednesday, September 17. The first team to complete the puzzle wins a prize and bragging rights! Registration required.

Virtual Author Event Gave Henry Waseca Le Sueur Library System Sept. 17
Author Gabe Henry will guide viewers on a surprisingly hilarious journey through the history of the English language while he discusses trouble-makers like Mark Twain who broke all the rules, at a virtual Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System event at 1 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 17.

Waseca Bean Bag Tournament Sept. 18
The Greater Mankato Area United Way is hosting the fifth annual Waseca Bean Bag Tournament Thursday, Sept. 18 from 3 - 5 p.m. at The Mill Event Center. Call Diane Beckmann at 507-835-9899 to register.

Family Tradition at Janesville Veterans Memorial Park Monday, Sept. 18
Musical group Family Tradition will play at the Janesville Veterans Memorial Park from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 18. This event is part of the free “Songs in the Park” series.

Mother-Daughter Book Club at Waseca Public Library Thursday, Sept. 18
Girls in grades 3 to 6 are invited to bring a significant adult female to join them as we discuss great new books, do activities, and enjoy treats. Participants are invited to stop by the library to pick up this month’s book, “Glass: A Cinderella Tale” by Kathryn Lasky. Book club begins at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 18 at Waseca Public Library. An ASL interpreter will be provided.

Sacred Heart School Fall Festival Sept. 19, 20, 21
Fish and pulled pork meals, a pancake breakfast, children’s games, bingo, raffles, silent and live auctions, dances, and a children’s choir worship service are all part of the Sacred Heart Fall Festival scheduled across Friday, Sept. 19 to Sunday, Sept. 21. More information online at the Sacred Heart Church website: <https://sacredheartwaseca.org/paish-news-items/1778-life-rotator-38>

Waseca Car Show at Club 57 Sept. 20
The Waseca Car Show will take place at Club 57 beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 20.

Blair Nelson bench dedication



DEDICATION - Many members of the Blair Nelson family gathered on Wednesday, Sept. 3 to dedicate a new bench overlooking Clear Lake in Waseca. Top, pictured from left: Carissa, and Brock Nelson, Taylor, Carson and Chad Ziemke, Jace Jennings. His wife Dianne and Nicole Nelson, Tenelle Jennings, Rocky, Eve and Calvin Nelson, Harper Ziemke, Blain and Blake Nelson, Anna, Maddy and Chaz Benson, Brooks and Lyric Butler, Shanley, Kinsley and Robin Nelson and Adam Rehman. Pictured left, the weed harvesting craft acquired under his leadership has been officially christened the Blair Nelson Paddle Boat. It swung by as the bench was being dedicated.

DeRaads feel honored to contribute to Marching Classic

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Dale and Cindy DeRaad will be near the front of the Marching Classic parade in Waseca on Sept. 20 as this year’s grand marshals, but it wouldn’t be surprising if they spend part of their time looking over their shoulders to check on their “usual” places.

The Marching Classic parade will begin at noon Sept. 20 in downtown Waseca. Organizers share that about 100 units will be taking part, including nine high school bands competing in the “marching” section of the day-long competition, special guests the Maverick Machine Drumline from Minnesota State University Mankato, and the Waseca Marching Jays performing in exhibition.

The parade will start in the parking lot of the city public safety building, travel north on State Street, and turn in at Trowbridge Park.

The DeRaads can list off quite a range of tasks volunteers like themselves perform for the parade and the Classic in general. And while they feel honored to be recognized for their contributions, they say it is just as much an honor to be able to contribute as part of the volunteer team.

Dale got an early start with the event, having served as a member of the Waseca Chamber of Commerce “band festival” committee back in the 1980s. He says he felt then, as he feels now, that the Marching Classic is something Waseca can be proud of. Not only is it a well organized,



MARSHALS - Dale and Cindy DeRaad are the grand marshals of the Waseca Marching Classic parade, set to begin at noon on Saturday, Sept. 20 in downtown Waseca. Ten high school bands will be taking part, along with special guest, the Maverick Drumline from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

simplifies the explanation, saying Cindy “helps anywhere she’s needed—for the entire day!”

Cindy agrees with Dale’s assessment that the Classic brings the Waseca area many benefits. She points out it also lets visitors see the way the community pulls together to accomplish good things. With this being the event’s thirty-eighth year, she mentions it is now very much a tradition near and dear to many hearts.

They themselves are a three-generation band family: Dale remembers his participation as a trumpet player in the Ellendale High School band offered him camaraderie, fun, and a sense of being part of something bigger than himself. The couple’s daughter Michelle, a 1999

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Council sets 6.3% preliminary levy increase

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editor

Members of the Waseca City Council continued their discussion about the 2026 budget and levy during a Sept. 2 work session.

The work session, lasting only 11 minutes, concerned a short summary from City Manager Carl Sonnenberg about the two levy options previously presented to the council: 6.3% or 5.6%. Sonnenberg said the difference between the two budgets is that one includes \$87,000 meant to be set aside to strengthen the balance in the general fund.

The council was in general favor of the 6.3% option. Councilmember Jeremy Conrath added, “I’d like to see it a bit lower in the final levy, but I understand and I appreciate the staff working through a bunch of difficult stuff. I’m hoping the final levy in December will come in under five, but I’m okay with, right now, the 6.3.”

Mayor Ryan Zimmerman asked Sonnenberg to be reminded what the 6.3% does for the tax rate. Sonnenberg replied that the 6.3 levy would look at a 77.4% tax rate, assuming that the tax capacity remains at the 2025 level, which he said the city does not know as it is yet to be determined by the county. Zimmerman added the 77.4% would be five points higher than the 2025 tax rate of 72.7%.

“Two steps forward, one step back. But in the long run, hopefully it keeps trending south,” Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman also added that he was not in favor of any increase, but without a plan for a big commitment towards growth, and having to grow the tax base, the city would just be kicking the can down the road. He said, “It’d be nice to get to a consistent downward trend in this tax rate. We as a council really need to make that commitment.”

The council decided they did not need more work sessions regarding the subject but would like updates from Sonnenberg in the future.

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Summer session discussion

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

During the Sept. 4 meeting of the Waseca school board, superintendent Eric Hudspith reviewed summer programming within the district. He shared that 75 students attended summer school at Hartley and 45 at the intermediate school in June. Hudspith says summer sessions occur in June to take advantage of learning that’s happened over the previous school year, capitalizing on the gains students have made. Summer school for special education students extends into July.

Junior/Senior high principal Justin Johnston and Area Learning Center director Mandi Nohner spoke next. Johnston reported that during June, seventh- and eighth-grade students who have failed a core class over the last year have the opportunity to attend the session, with fifteen students doing so. Nohner said the Central building was the location for the three-week summer session for the 73 Waseca, WEM, and JWP students in grades 9-12.

Board members next looked at the school calendars for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 years; due to the late Labor Day occurring in both years, the start to the school year could be later than expected.

Hudspith reported having spoken with the superintendent of SouthWest Metro about future plans for the “setting four” special education district currently housed in the Central building and providing services for eleven core districts. Though no decisions have been made at this time, SW Metro is considering purchas-

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

ing the former school building located in Morristown and relocating the program, which would require students from Waseca, NRHEG, Waterville, and Janesville to be transported to the new location. Hudspith told the board that if SW Metro purchased the building but did not have the support of the districts which would make use of SW Metro’s services, it would be at risk of losing revenue to pay for that purchase.

Hudspith presented his working list of superintendent goals for the board’s feedback and consideration. On it were a strategic process or working toward the district’s priority areas, student success outcomes aligned with the vision card measures, and future readiness or increasingly preparing students for post-secondary education.

The superintendent listed his thoughts for improving on his second goal of community engagement, and the last two goals centered on operations items such as the long-term facility plan and maintaining fiscal viability. The board will approve the superintendent’s goals at the September business meeting.

Board members also discussed their role in keeping the district on track; district policy, operations oversight, board operations, superintendent relationships and public engagement. For the 2025-26 school year, the superintendent suggested “facilities” as a priority goal. The regular business meeting will be Sept. 18.

Cow loose in New Richland area

Early in the day of Monday, Sept. 8, a cow got loose from Neighbors Meats and ended up in a field southwest of Highway 30 near the school.

The New Richland Police Department posted a notice regarding the incident on their Facebook page that day.

“We want to reassure everyone that no students, staff, visitors, or community residents were ever in danger, and no one was harmed during this process. The response was handled quickly and with great care,” according to a New Richland

Police Department Facebook post. “We also recognize that some students may have seen or heard about the incident and may feel unsettled. The NRHEG Principal was aware and was kept informed of the incident.

We encourage families to reach out to Principal Berg or the New Richland Police Department if they have questions or concerns. The safety and well-being of our school community is always our top priority. Thank you for your trust and support.”

■ Recovery

from Page 1

my struggles all by myself. She offered guidance, support and encouragement.”

The county proclamation states one of its purposes in declaring Recovery Awareness Month is “to honor the strength and resilience of individuals who are on their journey to recovery.”

Radel elaborated on this by saying, “it takes amazing strength to leave behind that old lifestyle and start rebuilding relationships within families and the community.” She mentioned feeling fear she would “lose all my friends” until she came to realize the people she was interacting with daily “weren’t really my friends at all.” She spoke of wondering whether her family members could ever accept her back into their lives, then discovering they had been longing for her return.

“I talk to my mother every morning now,” she said. “My day wouldn’t feel complete if I didn’t.”

“I’m living a life now that I never thought would be possible,” she stated. “I am really grateful to those people who are willing to see me for who I am now rather than for the way I used to act.”

Members of the group have a purple shirt with the large words “Living Proof that Recovery Works.”

Radel explained people who experience substance abuse disorder

are never “cured.”

“We fight all day every day,” she said regarding the risk of falling back into that former lifestyle, saying it is an anthem in the recovery community that “You’ve got to change your people, places and things.”

“Going to any of those old places, interacting with people who are not in recovery, those are a real risk factor.”

Because of that risk, Radel says people in recovery search for settings where they can enjoy positive social interactions away from any types of chemicals. She names regional organizations which plan such events, and mentions that the Waseca area sober community is putting together a family night the evening of Sept. 17 with a pot luck meal and sand volleyball.

A group called Minnesota Recovery Connection is offering a Recovery Night at the Twins on September 16 with tickets in a designated section costing only \$16.

“There are getting to be more and more of them,” Radel said of such activities.

The county’s willingness to proclaim September as Recovery Awareness Month, and the fact the county courthouse will be among landmarks across the country illuminated in the signature color, Radel said, is part of an important message that people in recovery are not going through their journeys alone.

“It unites us all. It’s a message of support being sent by the whole country,” she observed. “It joins us all together and helps give us confidence.”

Fall Festival brings community together

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

This year’s Sacred Heart Fall Festival is set for the weekend of Sept. 19, 20 and 21. This yearly event draws hundreds of visitors to a wide variety of activities and entertainment across its three-day run. As has been the case for decades, a giant white canopy tent will be set up over the street in front of the church; most events will take place there.

Carley Broughten, administrator for Sacred Heart said, “This is a weekend to bring the community together and support Sacred Heart Catholic Church and school. All the money raised goes to the church.” Starting on Friday, Sept. 19, the concession stand will be under the tent for all three days, but it will not operate during meal times. Newly available at concessions this year will be the Cheesy Taco Dog, a hot dog topped with taco meat and nacho cheese.

Open throughout the festival will be a country store with produce, jams

and jellies and baked goods available for purchase. A silent auction will have many themed baskets donated from local businesses like Morgan’s Meats, Oscar’s, Otisco Valley Growers, Farmamerica and members of Sacred Heart. A book fair will offer parents and students time to peruse books for school or personal use. The white elephant sale will have many different items available like gently used clothes and household items; last year there were quite a few used lamps for sale.

A “Spirit Wall” will offer adult beverages. Festival planning committee member Becky Petsinger explained, “The Spirit Wall is a game of chance, similar to a cork pull. For \$20 you choose a gift bag that contains an alcoholic item such as wine, beer growler or liquor-(Hence the name Spirit.) You don’t know the item in the bag till you open it. The items are graciously donated to the festival.”

A fish fry will be offered from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday with the weekend-



FALL FESTIVAL FUN - From the 2022 Sacred Heart Fall Festival, three ladies hold apples and sweets. From left: Lori Mickelson, Jane Christian, and Gerylyn Kassel.

long events open until 8 p.m.

Saturday’s events start at noon with early bird bingo and the weekend-long spirit wall, silent auction, book fair, country store and white elephant at noon, super bingo at two p.m., pulled pork sandwiches at 4:30 p.m. There will be a Festival Children’s Choir Mass at 5 p.m. and a 7 p.m. street dance featuring musician

Bryce Leppert.

Sunday will include a pancake breakfast, silent auction, book fair, country store and white elephant sale starting at 9 a.m. with Mass at 10 a.m. Raffle drawings at 1 p.m. and children’s games and activities all weekend long. This event is free to attend and open for all.

Justice center, jail now expected to cost \$25 million

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

After numerous discussions with the architects, the Waseca County Board of Commissioners approved moving work on the new county jail and justice center into the “schematic design” phase during their Sept. 2 meeting.

With a target construction price of about \$25 million, three stories and anticipated exterior dimensions of about 125 feet on a side, the structure will include a “class one” jail—one rated by the Department of Corrections to keep inmates for no more than 72 consecutive hours. The structure will house four county departments: the sheriff, county attorney, community corrections and emergency management, as well as a new district courtroom and the four people staff it. A new secure entry will include scanning equipment both for people and their belongings.

The structure will be located west of the historic courthouse in what is now a parking area; the current law enforcement center will eventually be razed and replaced with parking. The public entry will be on the south side.

According to information shared during the meeting by Dana Hlebichuk, architect and vice president with Widseth design in Mankato, a preliminary concept for the structure was pared down based on discussions over the past three weeks, reducing its planned “footprint” by almost 4,000 square feet and bringing expected costs for its construction down from a figure of \$42 million broached more than a year ago.

Hlebichuk predicted preliminary bids could be sought next June and September, with “mobilization on site” beginning in August, and with a plan to have the exterior of the building in place before winter so that work could continue through the coldest months. He anticipated the building could be occupied beginning in the early summer of 2027.

Commissioners expressed enthusiasm that, after more than two years of research and discovery, all the pieces are in place to move forward. The building currently housing Waseca County’s jail and law enforcement center is the oldest one of its type still in use in the state, and the Department of Corrections has threatened to downgrade or close it numerous times for various structural and procedural reasons. Conversations to replace it have begun a number of times beginning in 2003 but have not come to fruition.

“We’re finally getting this done,” commented commissioner De Malterer. “It’s exciting to have things moving forward.”

At the request of the Waseca Lakes Association, commissioners issued a proclamation naming the weed harvesting vessel which has been used during recent summers on Clear Lake in Waseca “The Blair Nelson Paddle Ship.” The name is in honor of county commissioner Blair Nelson’s work spearheading the aquatic invasive species (AIS) abatement program during his tenure on the board. Nelson died suddenly in the spring of 2023.

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

A bench has also recently been installed along the south edge of Clear Lake. A ceremony scheduled for the afternoon of Sept. 4 dedicated the bench in Nelson’s honor.

Another proclamation affirmed the national observance of “Recovery Awareness Month” during September. Representing a group of individuals in recovery, Waseca area resident Elissa Johnson shared some statements in support of the proclamation saying it would “honor the strength, healing and resilience” of people in recovery from substance abuse disorder. Johnson requested that the courthouse be lit in purple—the signature color of the move-

ment—to acknowledge the observance. “This would be a gesture that recognizes the courage of individuals in recovery and sends a message of hope to anyone walking by.

“This isn’t about funding or programming,” the group’s statement claimed. “It’s about showing that recovery is real and our community stands with those working every day to rebuild their lives.”

County public health nurse Sarah Berry asked commissioners to approve an agreement between the public health department and two area school districts, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva and Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton.

Under the agreement, she explained, public health staff members would provide vision and hearing screening for young students at the

schools. Districts agreed to pay Berry’s department up to \$45 an hour for those services; the amount is what schools can be reimbursed by the state for providing the screenings.

At the request of the planning and zoning department, commissioners approved an order of abatement regarding hazardous materials on property located within the boundaries of the small town of Matawan near the county’s southern border in Vivian Township. The order cites numerous contacts with property owner Gerard Wilmes requesting improvements, all to no avail. The abatement order authorizes the county to arrange for the removal of hazardous elements and assess the cost of the work as taxes levied against the property.

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- Children's Dance: 5 - 8 PM
- Meat Raffles: 5:30 PM

SATURDAY:

- Bingo: 12 PM
- Inflatables, Kid Zone: 12 PM
- Pulled Pork Sandwiches: 4:30 - 7 PM
- Street Dance: 7 - 10 PM

SUNDAY:

- Kids Carnival: 11 AM - 2 PM (Games, Crazy Hair, Face Paint, Inflatables)
- Pancake Breakfast: 9 AM - 11:30 AM

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EVENT DETAILS

Friday, September 19, 2025

Fish Fry: 5 - 7 PM
Live Auction: 6:30 PM
Location: UNDER THE BIG TENT at Sacred Heart Church, Waseca

Street Dance with Bryce Leppert
Saturday, 7 - 10 PM

Friday:
Fish Fry: Friday, 5 - 7 PM
Live Auction: Friday, 6:30 PM
Spirit Wall/Cork Pull: Friday, 5 - 8 PM; Saturday, Noon - 7 PM
Saturday:
Pulled Pork Sandwiches: Saturday, 4:30 - 7 PM
Mass Children's Choir: Sat, 5 PM
Early Bird Bingo: Saturday, Noon
Super Bingo: Saturday, 2 PM

111 4th Street NW, Waseca, MN

Saturday, Sept 20, 2025

Early Bingo Games: Noon
Location: UNDER THE BIG TENT at Sacred Heart Church-Waseca
Super Bingo Ticket Prices: \$25.00 (advance sale), \$30.00 (at the door)
Note: All advance sale tickets need to be purchased by 1:00 PM on Friday, Sept 19. Tickets available in the Parish Office.

Sunday:
Pancake Breakfast: Sunday, 9 - 11:30 AM
Mass: Sunday, 10 AM
Raffle Drawing: Sunday, 1 PM
Friday, Saturday, Sunday:
Silent Auction, Book Fair, Country Store & White Elephant: Friday, 5 - 8 PM; Saturday, Noon - 7 PM; Sunday, 9 AM - 1 PM
Concessions, Children's Games & Activities: All weekend, Concessions available under the tent all 3 days

Making appointments at Area Food Shelf especially vital now

By **DEB BENTLY**
News Editor

Staff at the Waseca Area Food Shelf want people to know they are very welcome to come to the food shelf to get food for their households. But they should know—

“Appointments are even more important than before.”

With normal operations disrupted because of road construction, the food shelf must now use

the one south entry door both to receive deliveries and donations of food, and to welcome customers inside to choose their selections.

“We just ask that people help us keep our operations as smooth as possible,” comments organization executive director Cindy Kolander.

Appointment times can be reserved by calling 507-833-4119 ext. 302 during normal business hours.

■ Disruption

from Page 1

to find a parking space. “Many of these customers are senior citizens who have trouble walking,” Kolander observes. “They may find a few hundred feet is further than they care to navigate to our thrift store entrance.”

As construction continues, the WANSC has been informed even the sidewalk along Second Street will be removed, which will call for further creativity in managing traffic flow into and inside the thrift store, whose checkout lanes are near the north entry.

“We have already seen about a 50-percent drop in shoppers and donations in the store,” Kolander revealed, saying this leads to numerous difficulties. First, the dramatic decline will make it difficult to meet everyday expenses, since thrift store sales income is applied

to basic business expenses such as insurance, utilities and staff payroll.

Second, even once normal access patterns are restored, it means the store will have less inventory on its sales floor. Prior to construction, Kolander says, the store typically received donations from about 20 households a day. Since Aug. 21, that number is between five and seven.

“Most importantly,” Kolander emphasizes, “we want people to know we are still open during this construction and we are here for them, ready to serve.”

Next, she wants people to know the designated driving path to the food shelf and store leads along Fourth Street Northwest between Sacred Heart Church and Sacred Heart Elementary school, then east along Second Avenue Northwest to the parking lot behind the County News building. Orange traffic signs using the abbreviation WANSC point the way.

McCarty Farm scones are a hit at farmers’ market

By **BEN REVERMANN**
Staff writer

The Waseca Farmers Market was alive with activity during the chilly Saturday morning of Sept. 6. Lindsey McCarty of McCarty Farm was operating her booth with the assistance of her sister, Tracy Arola. Lindsey says her biggest seller is homemade scones in various flavors including chocolate chip, pumpkin white chocolate, lemon blueberry, strawberry white chocolate, turtle, chocolate peanut butter and caramel apple.

The baked goods are apparently quite a treat since Tracy admits lightly, “I get paid in scones and apple crisp and that’s fine by me.”

McCarty Farms has had sales tables at the Waseca area farmers market for three years and also sets up at the market in Janesville every other Thursday. Along with that, the farm has a self-serve produce stand at the end of the family’s driveway



SCONES AND MORE - Tracy and her sister Lindsey McCarty were selling lots of scones at the Waseca Farmers Market on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025 on behalf of the McCarty Farm stand.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

located at 33430 150th Street, about 3 miles southeast of Waseca. She pointed to an empty part of her selling table and said, “I sold 25 dozen eggs today. We have around 70 chickens laying back at the farm.”

McCarty says the baked goods are from her kitchen, made by her own hands. I have always enjoyed baking throughout my life even as a child, “My mother, who is no longer with us, always enjoyed baking. Some of my recipes are family recipes from her. I’ve been baking for the same 3 years we’ve been at the market. I have a Cottage Food License in addition to a MN Certified Food Protection certification. What I didn’t learn from my mom I’ve garnered

from research such as YouTube, books, etc.”

The produce “is from our garden. We plant and sell green beans, radishes, snap peas, cucumbers, summer squash, pumpkins, winter squash and more throughout the season. In our extra time we enjoy baking - our favorites being our strawberry rhubarb crisp during early spring and our banana breads! We also have elderberry and tomato soups available.”

McCarty Farms also sells freeze-dried treats, said Lindsey proudly. The inventory includes freeze-dried bananas, strawberries, peaches, apples, pickles, ranch cucumber and pineapple.

During the winter when she has a

little time on her hands, Lindsey says she sews. “I like to sew so I make hot pads, bowl cozies and scrunchies. It’s been a hobby of mine for a long time.” But she wanted to point out what’s different about this winter: “I’m working on a McCarty Farms delivery service and stepping that up when the farmers markets are done this year.”

Anyone interested in checking out McCarty Farm, can contact Lindsey McCarty at 507-676-5892 or get more information on her Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61564081337849>.

Waseca Council proclaims Constitution Week

By **AMELIA ROESSLER**
Editor

The Waseca City Council proclaimed Constitution Week and discussed mosquito spraying at the regular City Council meeting Sept. 2.

Waseca resident Marily Wilkus, who is also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), requested that the city commemorate the framing of the Constitution of the United States of America. She said the DAR chapter has been considering ways to celebrate, and has three goals surrounding proclaiming a Constitution Week.

Wilkus said the first goal is to encourage the study of the historical events that led to the framing of the constitution, the second is to remind the public that the constitution is the basis of America’s great heritage and the foundation for its way of life and third, to emphasize U.S. citizens’ responsibility to protect, defend and preserve the Constitution.

The council passed the motion, proclaiming Sept. 17 through Sept. 23, 2025 as “Constitution Week.”

Not originally on the agenda, but added through a request from councilmember Jeremy Conrath, the council discussed the options for additional mosquito spraying. Although each treatment costs \$2,180, Conrath said, “If any of you have been outside, I think we all know

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

that the mosquitoes are relatively bad this year.”

With the first frost expected first in four to six weeks and the Waseca Marching Classic coming up, Conrath asked the council whether it would be beneficial to spray a few more times.

After clarifying with city manager Carl Sonnenberg that the city did not already have treatments scheduled for the time of the Sept. 20 Marching Classic, councilmember Mark Christiansen said if the city were to spray, it would have to cut funding elsewhere in the budget.

“I’m sorry the mosquitoes are out, but that’s life. For the last couple of weeks, there’s taxes and levies and stuff like that, so unless you can show me somewhere we can find the money, I’m not for it,” Christiansen said.

Councilmember James Ebertowski asked if there was a way to allocate money without causing problems in the budget. Sonnenberg replied that he hadn’t looked into it but that it would be considered as a budget amendment and that he can work to find where in the budget adjustments would be made.

Mayor Randy Zimmerman said he didn’t think the mosquitoes had been that bad, just within the last week.

Councilmember Stacey Shroeder added since everything is cyclical and that it’s coming to the end of the season, she would say no.

“Authorizing a spray doesn’t mean the mosquitoes are going to listen,” Sonnenberg said.

Ebertowski then suggested an idea of scheduling a spray before the Marching Classic and if the funds can’t be found within the budget, to then cancel the spray. Between Sonnenberg’s concerns about proper scheduling and Schroeder’s comments it would be unfair to the sprayers, council members reached a unanimous consensus not to schedule another mosquito treatment.

Also discussed at the meeting was the request for assistance from the city fire department in raising funds for the Waseca Wrestling Club. Fire Chief Jason Forshee presented to the council and explained the request from the Wrestling Club to sell tickets for a drawing, with the winning child(ren) granted the experience of taking a ride in a fire truck.

According to the request, City staff have conferred with City insurance and legal representation, both of which would not object to the participation if the passenger(s) are wearing seat belts and the vehicle’s lights and sirens are not used in any manner not allowed by law.

Forshee said the fire department participated in similar requests when assisting the school district reading

program more than 10 years ago. He added that staff is working to put together a policy for future requests. The council approved the request.

The Waseca Band Boosters requested permission to paint the Waseca Bluejay logo on downtown sidewalks. The logo would be part of a Boosters fundraiser with area businesses paying to have the logo painted in front of their entries. The symbol is expected to last about two years.

Conrath asked whether the group had a plan for removing or refreshing the symbols once they become weathered. Mayor Zimmerman said he was not “super in favor” of the idea because symbols would likely become faded or worn over time.

The council ultimately decided to table the request until the next council meeting so a representative from the Band Boosters could be present to answer the council’s questions and concerns.

An on-sale liquor sales request for Minnesota Vikings morning football games the days of Sept. 28 and Oct. 5 was also approved by the council.

In commission reports, Conrath said the Fire Relief Association is getting a square card reader so people can start paying with debit and credit cards. He added they are hoping to have it for the chili feed open house, but that it will be at all future events such as the fish fry and onion stand.



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■ Kay

from Page 1

intent of becoming a teacher and a coach.

As a freshman at Bethany, she finished 1983 volleyball season with the team’s highest number of blocks and

second-highest of “kills.” She helped take the basketball team to the state tournament early in 1984.

When she began to feel some uncharacteristic pain early that spring, she visited the doctor and was informed she has rheumatoid arthritis (RA). According to the national Rheumatoid Arthritis Foundation website, RA is a disorder which causes the body’s own immune system to attack the linings around joints. The lining becomes painful and swells, sometimes to a point where the joint can barely move. Symptoms often come and go, and affect different joints at different times, although usually symmetrically, for example, both the left and right thumbs. People prone to the disorder often don’t have any symptoms until middle age, but Gottschalk is among those affected relatively early in her life, and so was said to have juvenile RA.

“Basically, I live in pain every day,” she describes, mentioning that symptoms have worsened with age.

Along with the life-changing diagnosis of RA during college came a piece of advice: “Change your major.” Unwilling to leave her love of sports and fitness completely behind, Gottschalk changed to “therapeutic recreation.”

That fall, unwilling to remove volleyball from her life, she moved to

the sidelines as a book keeper and was able to continue benefitting from her scholarship.

After graduating college, Gottschalk used her therapeutic recreation degree to help with activity departments at a number of elder care facilities, then went on to provide in-home care. She and her husband Gary have been married 28 years.

Through it all, including at times when the rheumatoid arthritis has had her on crutches, she has not only continued her role as a book keeper, but expanded it. She keeps books and fills in various roles for volleyball and basketball games at Bethany, the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton school district, and, beginning about eight years ago, Minnesota State University Mankato.

“Part of me wishes I could be on the floor,” she admits, “but I’m also part of the action there at the table.”

She says she takes joy in the athletic accomplishment and dedication of the team members; she also jokes that she not only gets one of the best seats in the house, she is paid to sit in it. The fast action can make her job difficult sometimes, though, since she sometimes has her “nose in the book” and misses what’s happening on the floor.

“I do my best, though,” she adds. Thanks to working with three dif-

ferent institutions, Gottschalk says her schedule can get very full at times, typically calling on her to attend about three games a week in the fall and winter seasons. “Bethany is my priority, though,” she adds. “I always say yes to Bethany when I can.”

In other seasons of the year, Gottschalk is an enthusiastic gardener raising a wide variety of vegetables and selling them at farmers’ markets.

She is an active member at Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville where she helps organize the congregation’s share of the community-wide “meals on wheels” program, is a member of two choirs, and the Dorcas Society. She has also been a zone treasurer for the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML).

In her role as director of the Janesville community food shelf, she assists with food distribution there and generally helps when she can—including responding to a recent offer from the Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC) in Waseca that area food shelves could have all the green beans they chose to pick.

Gottschalk says she is grateful to be recognized for her contributions as a book keeper for Bethany, and that she is glad she could maintain a lasting connection to the athletic competitions which have always brought her so much pleasure.



The Pastor's Column

The mostly healthy church

By PASTOR MIKE COGLAN

I was at a pastor's gathering where I heard someone recommend a church leadership book. The book is called The Emotionally Healthy Church. It's not a bad book. But the funny thing is that I misheard my friend when she brought it up. I thought that she was recommending a book called The Mostly Healthy Church. At first, I thought, "Who would use a title like that?" But on reflection, I decided that would be a great book title.

There are hundreds of leadership books for pastors. The titles offer big promises. Your pastor probably has a few of these on his shelves. There is the Triumphant Church. There is the Purpose-Driven Church. There is the Thriving Church, the Unstoppable Church, the Equipping Church, the Break-out Church, and the list goes on and on.

I could never write a book like that; or at least I would never use a title like that. My church has not yet arrived. I don't expect my church to say that we have discovered the secret of success. We're not a "healthy" church. We are a support group for the unhealthy. "Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Mark 2:17)

How healthy can a church be if it is full of people? People fail. People have insecurities and fragile egos and blind spots. People have doubts. People disagree on styles of music, preaching, programs, and social issues. People have conflicts. A church is only as healthy as the people who attend and serve. I do think we are improving. Every day we get a little bit healthier. So, I like to think that ours is a "mostly" healthy church. Maybe that is the best we can be.

These thoughts were on my mind as I traveled to speak at another pastor's gathering. I

was practicing my message in my car as I drove. I asked out loud, "What does it mean to be a healthy church?" Somehow, I triggered my phone to reply: "I don't think I can help you with that." That question baffles even Google. There is no consensus on defining a healthy church. The good news of course is that we serve a healthy God. We serve a triumphant, unstoppable, thriving and purpose-driven God. Any health in a church is due to the grace and power of our God and He gets all the credit. This healthy God has asked us to take responsibility for some things. The following come to mind, not necessarily in order of importance. A church's health depends on being built on Jesus, not personalities, programs, or traditions. "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 3:11)

A church's health is seen in the quality of the friendships inside the congregation. Early believers shared resources, worshipped together, and cared for each other. "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." (Acts 2:42-47)

Mostly healthy churches welcome different backgrounds and gifts. "Just as a body, though one, has many parts... so it is with Christ." (1 Corinthians 12:12) Godly churches don't exist for themselves alone but witness for Christ in word and action. "Go and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19-20) And the defining quality of a church's health is love. "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35)

These are just some of the ways we might measure the health of our churches. But don't be too harsh. Be thankful if you find a mostly healthy church. And try to be a mostly healthy churchgoer.

■ 9/11

from Page 1

contents to be used by the President of the United States to authorize a nuclear attack while away from fixed command centers. He was also a friend and had raised the possibility he would run for a seat the United States Congress. I assumed that was what this early morning conversation was going to be about since no other staff were in the building.

When I walked into his office I could see he was concerned and a bit shaken. I asked if everything was okay. He replied absolutely not. He had received a call from a friend of his at the Pentagon who reported that American Airlines Flight 11 had been hijacked, at least that was the message relayed by the flight attendants and then to the FBI.

"These bastards are up to no good," he said. His cell phone rang again. The plane that had crashed into the World Trade Center was Flight 11. He then said, "NORAD didn't scramble fast enough to intercept and identify the damn plane."

He was visibly shaken. I asked if there was anything I could do. He just stood at his desk not giving me a response. Clearly, by his non-response there wasn't, so I returned to my office bewildered and shaken myself, not clearly understanding what was going on.

My colleague then came to me telling me to call the staff and tell them not to come in; we would be closing for the day. There was a fear that the IDS Tower might be a target due to its proximity to the Minneapolis Airport. Downtown Minneapolis was being evacuated.

He again shook his head and said, "We're being attacked by a group of radical cowards." I frantically called my contemporaries telling them not to come to work. My colleague, myself, and our founder and president Mitchell Pearlstein would remain at our office.

My colleague again came in and said it's been confirmed: the hijacker on Flight 11 made two accidental transmissions to ground control. He had been identified as Mohammed Atta, an Egyptian terrorist working with al-Qaeda.

I don't know what I was thinking, but I thought to myself, you need to focus on your work. This whole thing is under control, the damage is done, move forward. I began to call Giuliani and after thinking a moment hung up, realizing he would be busy with the attack on the tower. Within an hour the news was reporting the crash of Flight 11. The video showed the tower smoldering but still standing.

We didn't have access to the news, it was being phoned in to us by family and friends.

My colleague came in again and said a second plane had crashed into the second tower. It was United Airlines Flight 175. He further stated that he understood that all flights leaving or coming into New York had been banned from the airspace.

At that moment I sat down in his office dazed by the communications he was hearing and working hard to gain my faculties so I could clearly understand the gravity of what was happening. As we all sat there trying to understand the conversations we were hearing from my colleague's phone, another jetliner was hijacked.

He called his contact at the Pentagon, and it was indeed confirmed that the Federal Aviation Administration had gotten information that some of the passengers and crew on board Flight 77 were able to contact their family members on the ground stating that they had been hijacked.

The call he was on was abruptly cut short. He slowly hung up the phone and said that an airliner had just hit the Pentagon. His contact had dropped off the phone after what he thought was a loud explosion.

We could only assume that the plane was the missing Flight 77. It was confirmed that the explosion was a jetliner hitting the Pentagon.

Shaken, he was phoning frantically until he got someone else on the line. I didn't catch whom he was talking to, but we knew from that conversation that for the first time in our country's history, all flights over or bound for the continental United States were grounded, including 3,300 commercial flights being guided to land in airports outside of our country and over 1,200 private planes which were guided to land immediately.

By 9:00 a.m. we were hearing that other national sites might also be targets, including the White House and the United States Capitol. Around that same time, the South Tower of the Trade Center collapsed. We were a country under attack by cowardly Mideastern terrorists who stole our planes, kidnapped our citizens, and used them as their missiles to try to break our country. I don't know if I will ever trust anyone from the Middle East again as long as I draw breath. I have never felt so enraged in my life.

We had gotten information by 10 a.m. that Flight 93 had crashed into a field in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Our thoughts were that the terrorists didn't have control of the plane and must have inadvertently crashed it. At around the same time, the North Tower of the Trade Center collapsed.

At 10 a.m. I received a call from Giuliani's office saying that the mayor would have to postpone our event indefinitely. My response was, "I understand, thank you for taking the time to call. Tell the

"This day will be forever bookmarked in the annals of our history as the day when Americans knew that the actions of a few would change us forever."

— Mikhail Rostislavovich

mayor that I and the rest of the nation are praying for him and New York."

I felt as though I was in a nightmare. Everything that was happening seemed so surreal. My words during that brief phone conversation with the mayor's scheduler were succinct and void of emotion. I sat at my mahogany desk that was once in United States Senator Dave Durenberger's office wondering what was going to happen next.

I, along with the rest of the nation, sat waiting—wanting to act and to hear what our next step as a country would be. Thousands of our fellow Americans had been murdered. I wanted revenge, I wanted retaliation, but most of all I wanted every person in the world who is identified as a member of, or whoever is associated with, al-Qaeda removed from the face of the earth in as painful a way as possible.

I was interrupted by a phone call from a colleague of mine whom I had worked with in United States Senator Rod Grams' office. The conversation was devastating.

"Have you heard from Erik Ammoth?"

"No, why? What's going on?"

After a long pause and his voice quivering, he said, "You may want to call him. His brother Gordy was killed this morning."

"You're kidding, was it a car accident?" I was thinking, what else could go wrong today? Erik lost his brother in this horrific moment in time. Is there no mercy in this world?

"No," he replied, "Gordy was killed at his office. He was working on the one-hundred-and-fourth floor of the World Trade Center's South Tower when the jetliner hit it this morning."

"My God, I'll give him a call. He must be in shock." He was. There was a noticeable sigh of anguish in both of our voices as our call ended.

The attack on America had now hit close to home for me. The numbers of those murdered we were hearing about all day now had a name attached to them, Gordon Ammoth, 32 years of age from Wayzata, Minnesota, the brother of a colleague and friend. He was innocently working at his desk when he was murdered by a group of radicals who had no place among the living in our world as far as I was concerned. I make no apologies nor ever will for that statement.

As I was putting away my files and preparing to go home, my phone rang once more. I paused, not

wanting to pick it up ever again.

My emotions were raw from the last conversation. It was Ralph Burnett. I had gotten to know him and his wife Peggy through my years spent as a fundraiser for various entities that I had worked for. They were always gracious enough to open their home on Lake Minnetonka whenever I needed it.

This time it was Ralph who needed a favor. He wanted to know who to contact at the State Department. He went on to say, "We lost Tommy and we need to get him home."

He was confused and wasn't making sense. His words were disjointed and his sentences fragmented.

After some time I was able to figure out he was talking about a relative who was on Flight 93, Tom Burnett. I asked him if he was sure that he was on the flight.

He stated, "God damn it I know he was. His wife talked to him before the flight crashed. He pulled together a group of guys to take out the hijackers. The damn plane was crashed on purpose. You have to help me."

His last words to her were, "Oh my God. It's a suicide mission. Don't worry, we're going to do something. I love you and tell the kids I love them too." He hung up and now he's gone.

I was shaking my head in disbelief. Tom Burnett had gone to Jefferson High School in Bloomington, Minnesota, with my former wife. He was their star quarterback. Our paths had crossed on numerous occasions but it was always small talk at events.

I gave Ralph my contacts at the State Department but warned him calling might be unproductive because most of the lines had been shut down to most incoming calls.

I left my office in downtown Minneapolis that afternoon. Once outside, the clear blue September skies were quiet, the traffic was gone from the city, all was eerily still. As I looked to the heavens I took notice, not a plane in the sky, not even the white wisps of jet exhaust.

Today, September 11, 2001, the morning that woke us to the threat of terrorism. This day will be forever bookmarked in the annals of our history as the day when Americans knew that the actions of a few would change us forever.

If you murder Americans, we will crush you. We will hunt you down, and death will be your only reward.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * * * *	Sunday worship 10 a.m. * * * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * * * *	412 N. Main Street, Janesville Pastor Jason Wolter Rev. Timothy Contreras Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * * * *	Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Ferichs Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m. * * * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. * * * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class * * * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter) * * * * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays 9 a.m., Sunday School/Fellowship 10:15 a.m., Wednesday evening worship 6:30 p.m. * * * * *	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville Father Robert Schneider Sunday - 8:30 a.m. - Mass * * * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Onisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship * * * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship * * * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * * * *	LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting * * * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Sammy Pothiredy Saturday - 5 p.m. Worship * * * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday — 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1 * * * * *	NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday "Young at heart" Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation * * * * *
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca Father Glenn Ferichs 507-835-1222 Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m. * * * * *	REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-607-8245 * * * * *	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday — 6:30 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18 * * * * *	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER. * * * * *

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Janesville

1925

-Next Tuesday the old school bell will again be called into action after a three months' vacation. The window displays in many of the stores during last week have also served as a reminder of the fact that vacation days will soon be over. There will be several changes in the faculty the coming year. Mr. Feist, Miss Ryan, Miss Johnson, Miss Doty and Miss Lund will not be back. Mr. Feist is going to teach in the schools at Detroit, Michigan, Miss Ryan will be at Canby, Miss Johnson will be at St. James, and Miss Lund is going to Coleraine. Miss Doty does not expect to teach but intends to finish her course at the university.

-Things happen fast in Janesville. Last week the Argus predicted that there would be a brass band organized before winter. Our utter modesty does not permit us to claim credit for the fortunate turn of events, but the day after the Argus was out, along came Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Johnston of Cedar Falls, IA., with a proposition advanced by Mr. Johnston to take charge of band work in Janesville. Mr. Johnston's references were carefully scrutinized. He was highly recommended by friends, among them Ken Boyd, who by the way is an authority on band work, so at a meeting Monday evening the organization was perfected and Mr. Johnston offered a contract. Now we are ready for a little steam in Janesville community life.

-That this immediate locality has developed a reputation as an Alsike Clover producing section is proven by the fact that nearly 20 buyers are here bidding for the seed. One of the buyers is from Indiana, we understand, while nearly every seed house of importance in this and bordering states is represented. As a consequence of the spirited bidding the price averages about 20c a pound, though in a few instances even more than that has been offered. The yield varies considerably. Judging from reports of the hullers the average may come up to about four pounds an acre with an occasional excellent yield of seven pounds being noted.

1950

- One of the largest enrollments of students in the history of Janesville Public Schools took place on Tuesday morning when 316 pupils were registered and assigned to classes, according to M. Langehaug, superintendent. Last year the total number of students on hand opening day was 276, or 41 less than this year. These figures do not include the kindergarten. Following is this year's enrollment by grades: Grade 1, 18; Grade 2, 20; Grade 3, 35; Grade 4, 20; Grade 5, 25; Grade 6, 16; Grade 7, 18; Grade 8, 22; Grade 9, 37; Grade 10, 33; Grade 11, 41; Grade 12, 31.

-Three persons were hospitalized Monday for injuries suffered in a near-head-on collision at Madison Lake Monday at 9:30 p.m. Treated and released Tuesday noon from Immanuel hospital, Mankato were August M. Beccue, Eagle Lake; Engelbert Schorn, Eagle Lake; and Marilyn Pass of Jackson. A fourth person involved, John Aamot, Jackson, was not hospitalized. Highway patrolmen said that Aamot's car, going west into Madison Lake, on Highway 60, collided with one owned and driven by Beccue. Miss Pass was riding with Aamot. Beccue was heading east and was turning left into Madison Lake when the accident occurred, said officials.

-Putting frosted corn into temporary silos this year will help Waseca County farmers save storage space for mature corn, County Agent Cletus Murphy said this week. Because fo the late spring and generally bad corn weather, local corn crops are three weeks behind schedule. In cases of large acreages of immature corn, it is suggested that it be made into ear corn silage. This is one of the best ways of preserving the very immature corn, according to M. L. Armour, University Farm Extension agronomist.

1975

-Villiam Schmidt unlaced his work boots, then shed his shoes and socks before walking barefoot into the kitchen on the Blaine Phillips farm south of St. Clair. Schmidt, 22, says that's the way it's done in Denmark. He doesn't believe in wearing barn boots in the house. The incident is typical of the way the 22-year old Denmark man feels about his visit to the U.S. Since March of this year he has been living on the Phillips' farm and caring for their Holstein herd. Schmidt is one of five Denmark men who are in Minnesota this summer participating in a University of Minnesota Student Exchange Program. All together there are 50 people, from 12 countries, in the program.

-Waldorf – Janesville and Waldorf-Pemberton both suffered from a bad case of First Game-It is here Friday night but the Bears were better able to move the ball on the ground and came away with a lackluster 12-0 win.

-Sheryl Westphal, Janesville, became the first woman to sweep a class at Sprintways International when she won the 18 and over fourcycle class Sunday. Placing second behind Miss Westphal was Janesville's Don Witt. Darold Gehring, Waseca, took third.

2000

-What started out as a routine traffic stop last weekend turned into much more for Janesville Police Officer Trevor Hamdorf. According to Hamdorf, he pulled over a vehicle for a speeding violation in the early morning hours of Saturday, August 19. As he approached the vehicle Hamdorf detected a strong smell of marijuana. While questioning the passengers, an underage female admitted that she had been drinking. the passengers were asked to step out of the car. As the female passenger got out, Hamdorf saw an open container under the seat and a bat, a small device used for smoking marijuana, on the passenger seat. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed cash, a bag of marijuana, and an unidentified substance similar in appearance to methamphetamine, packaged both in a larger bag and in several small bags.

-Through a program sponsored by the Minnesota High Technology Foundation, the Janesville-WaldorfPemberton schools received 80 free computers last week. This program enables businesses, organizations, government agencies and individuals to make tax-deductible donations of eligible used computers and related equipment. The donated equipment is refurbished and placed in qualifying Minnesota K-12 classrooms at no cost t the school district.

-In response to concerns and a request from residents, the Janesville City Council is considering moving ahead sooner than previously planned on a major drainage project in the city. At last week's council meeting, an initial drainage report was presented by Joe Duncan, city engineer. The plan had previous been authorized by the council to study existing reports and reevaluate the plans relative to drainage and flooding problems, specifically in the south part of Janesville. For this project to be moved up to 2001, a decision by the council would have to be made quickly. According to Duncan, bids would have to go out in March or April of 2001, and some initial work would need to be done before the snow falls.

Waseca

25 years ago

- Former Wasecan Carrie Rothwill Burger was recently promoted to Full Commander in the U.S. Navy. She is stationed at Camp Le Jeune, North Carolina, and has served in the Navy for 12 years. Burger is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Wesley Rothwill, Jr. and granddaughter of Estelle Rothwill, all of Waseca.

- A Waseca woman was injured in a motorcycle accident Friday afternoon in Waseca. According to the Minnesota State Patrol report, at 2:58 a.m. a vehicle driven by James Joseph Kozan, 51, of Waseca was traveling on Highway 14 east of Waseca near Waseca County Road 81 which is near the Steele/Waseca County line when about a doze cows ran on the roadway out of the ditch. Kozan's vehicle struck two of the cows. He suffered a broken knee cap as a result of the accident.

- Greg and Nancy Ristau and Linden and Toni Bauleke, all of Waseca are happy to announce the engagement of their children, Jenny Ristau and Brandon Bauleke, of St. Paul. Jenny is a 1996 graduate of Waseca High School and a 2000 graduate of the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul. She is currently employed by Arthur Andersen, LLP. Brandon is a 1993 graduate of Waseca High School and a 1997 graduate of Hamline University, St. Paul. He is currently employed by US Bancorp. Piper Jaffray.



- These 10 Waseca football players all started last season, and will carry much of the load when the Bluejays travel to Benilde-St. Margaret's for Friday's season opener. Front row (from left) are: David Miller, Andy Guse, Jake Bjerke, Jeff Roemhildt and Joe Isder. (Back row): Kellen Driscoll, Jim Mienek, Steven Hanson, Spencer Hanson and John Arnold. The Jays opened the 1999 season with a 23-0 loss to the Red Knights, and went on to a 2-7 year. Waseca is looking to even the score with BSM Friday night.

50 years ago

- Waseca police report money, suitcase thefts:The first theft was reported late Saturday afternoon by Evenstad's Department Store when five money bags were taken from the safe. The theft apparently occurred between 12 noon and 5 p.m. Saturday, according to authorities. Approximately \$617.39 was taken in cash and checks, according to police.

- The highway traffic death toll for the Labor Day weekend was 381, well below estimates of the National Safety Council. The Safety Council had estimated that between 460 and 560 persons would lose their lives during the 78-hour holiday counting period that began 6 p.m. Friday and ended at midnight Monday.

- The Bill Brooks family never did get to see the Bluejays win their first football game of the season Friday night. The family was forced to leave, rather abruptly, after a nest of bees was knocked down from the bleachers on the east side of the Community Field. The bees, apparently angered by the loss of their home, swarmed and covered family members, along with other spectators.



- The family of Nguyen Trong Liem was met by several Wasecans at the Mankato Airport Sunday afternoon. In front are (l-r): Trieu Thi Kiem, Nguyen Trong Phuong, Nguyen Trong Nha Nghi and Nguyen Trong Trang Nghi. Back row: Nguyen Trong Liem, Rock Leier, Dao Thanh Huong, Nguyen Trong Tuon, Nguyen Trong Thuy, Nguyen Trong Lan, Olga and Ralph Grant and Howard Sahlstrom.

75 years ago

- Mrs. Albert Raatz and the Carl Raatz family returned Friday, August 24, after a three weeks' trip to the west coast. They motored 5630 miles during the entire trip. On their way, they toured the Black Hills and Yellowstone National park, and later spent several days at the home of Mrs. Carl Raatz' sister, Mrs. Reynold Richter, at Dayton, Wash, Or. the Redwood highway, they saw the famous Tree House, with a circumference at the ground of 101 ½ feet and stands 250 feet high. It is estimated to be 4000 years old.

- The record group of Waseca's 4-H delegates to the State Fair left Monday. The group included Barbara and Joyce Powell, Palmer Sunbeams 4-H Club, who will present a demonstration on "A Dress is Only as Good as It Seams", Joan Bluhm, Waldorf Peppy Peppers 4-H Club, will demonstrate "Summer Salads Around the Clock".

- Mrs. Gena Knutson, 77 years old and affectionately know as "Ma" among the staff at Waseca Memorial hospital, resigned her position as cook at that institution after almost 28 years of service. Her resignation was effective Aug. 1 of this year. Mrs. Knutson, who has seen many turnovers of personnel at the hospital, started work there as a cook a little more than a year after the institution was built in 1922.

New Richland

25 years ago



- One of the most exciting parts of Cheryl Wayne Kalkanian's trip to Africa was climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. She and her companions and porters completed the 19,439 foot climb in four days. When they left the foot of the mountain the temperature reached 90 degrees fahrenheit. Four days later when they reached the peak far above the clouds at 5:45 a.m., January 24, it was 30 degrees below with snow, ice and sleet.

- Timothy and Brenda Ingvaldstad of Fairmont announce the engagement of their daughter, Gretchen M. to Bradley Mass of Pemberton. A 1998 graduate of Fairmont High school, Gretchen, is attending South Central Technical College and is employed by Young America.

- Bradley is a 1994 graduate of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School, he is employed by Roemhildt electric of Waseca. A Saturday, September 23, 2000, wedding is planned.

- Jim and Kari Kuball are the parents of a son born Saturday, August 12, 2000, at the Waseca Medical Center.Adam James, as he has been named, weighed 9 lbs and 12 oz. Adam has one sister, Tarin, age 18. Maternal grandparents are LeRoy and Therese Jameson of Hartland. Paternal grandparents are Dorothy Kuball and the late Laverne Kuball of Waterville.

- Area Students named to the spring semester 2000 Dean's List at Gustavus Adolphus College in St.Peter were Meghan Krause and Ryan Wangen, both of New Richland.

50 years ago



- Members of Waldorf-Pembertons FFA champion General Livestock Team are pictured here with their ribbon and trophy, won on their first place position in the Minnesota State Fair judging contest. They are from the left: Dana Dane, eight individual; Guy Ewald and Robert Drager.



- Martha Olson sets up Lori Hansen for an effective spike as Sue Misgen of Ellendale on the other side of the net, is ready to defend. Looking on are Karin Edwards and Susie Stafford. New Richland-Hartland girls defeated Ellendale in their first conference game, Tuesday night.

- Wayne T. Hanson, special agents for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co., will be awarded the coveted Chartered Life Underwriter designation at the National Conferment Exercises of the American College of Life Underwriters in Boston, Massachusetts on September 12.

75 years ago

- A. T. McGovern took the service truck used by him and his crew of the Northern States Power Co., to Faribault last Thursday to have a two-way radio receiving and sending set installed in it. This is part of the power company's expansion plan which it is hoped will result in better service to its customers. This will enable trucks to be dispatched anywhere they are needed and will eliminate some extra driving as well as assist in restoring service after wind and electrical storms. Officials can contact any truck in the division and the truck can answer back on its own.

- Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Callahan, living south of New Richland, became the proud parents of twin sons, their first children, born at the Naeve hospital, Albert Lea, on the first day of October.

Get your news in the Pioneer
• news@wasecacountypioneer.com
• Call (507) 837-6767
• Stop in person 103 S. State St.



Waseca Try Hockey For Free

Date: Sunday October 12th
Where: Waseca Community Arena
Time: 8:00-9:00 am
Who: Waseca-WEM-JWP-NRHEG
Register: https://www.tryhockeyforfree.com/event_detail/3987

A limited amount of equipment is available to borrow, so if you have skates, a hockey stick, hockey or bike helmet, and a pair of winter gloves, please bring them. Your son or daughter does not need any previous skating or hockey experience to participate. If you need equipment, please come at 12:30pm.
Shannon Cliff 507-461-0985 bsttcliff@gmail.com

WE HAVE EQUIPMENT
Equipment handout 7:45 am



wasecahockey.org



Waseca Hockey awarded grant to support young players

The Waseca Hockey Association is proud to announce it has been awarded a grant from the Minnesota Wild Foundation's Skate It Forward initiative. In this inaugural year of the program, the grant will cover the first-year registration fees for all new Waseca Hockey players ages 8 and under.

The Minnesota Wild Foundation launched Skate It Forward with a clear purpose: to grow community hockey participation in Minnesota by making it easier for first-time players to get on the ice. The long-term goal of the initiative is to one day make the first year of ice time free for every young hockey player in Minnesota.

"Hockey is hard enough. Getting on the ice should be easy." With the support of this grant, the Waseca Hockey Association can help remove financial barriers for families, ensuring more children have the opportunity to experience the sport, build skills, and create lasting memories on the ice.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Minnesota Wild Foundation through this exciting new program," said Matt Schmidtke; Waseca Hockey Association President. "This grant opens doors for kids who may not have otherwise had the chance to play hockey, and it allows our association to continue growing the love of the game in our community."

Families are encouraged to take advantage of upcoming opportunities to try hockey in Waseca: Try Hockey for Free – Sunday, October 12 at 8:00 a.m. at the Waseca Community Arena Girls Try Hockey For Free – Saturday, October 18 at 11:45 a.m. at the Waseca Community Arena

The Waseca Hockey Association encourages families interested in registering their first-time players ages 8 and under to visit wasecahockey.org for more details. Waseca Hockey is open to all students attending Waseca, WEM, JWP and NRHEG schools. To learn more about Skate It Forward or to donate, visit www.skateitforward.org.

WASECA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION GIRLS TRY HOCKEY FOR FREE



**OCTOBER 18 11:45AM
WASECA COMMUNITY ARENA**

WASECA | WEM | JWP | NRHEG

LEARN ABOUT OUR MN WILD SKATE IT FORWARD GRANT AND HOW YOUR CHILD MAY QUALIFY TO PLAY THIS SEASON FOR FREE!
MEET VARSITY PLAYERS | BLUEJAY BUDDIES | MAKE FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS | MEET PARENT MENTORS

This event is designed to provide kids a completely free experience to try hockey. A limited amount of equipment is available to borrow. Please bring skates, hockey stick, helmet and gloves if you have them.

If you need equipment please come at 10:45am

REGISTER HERE 

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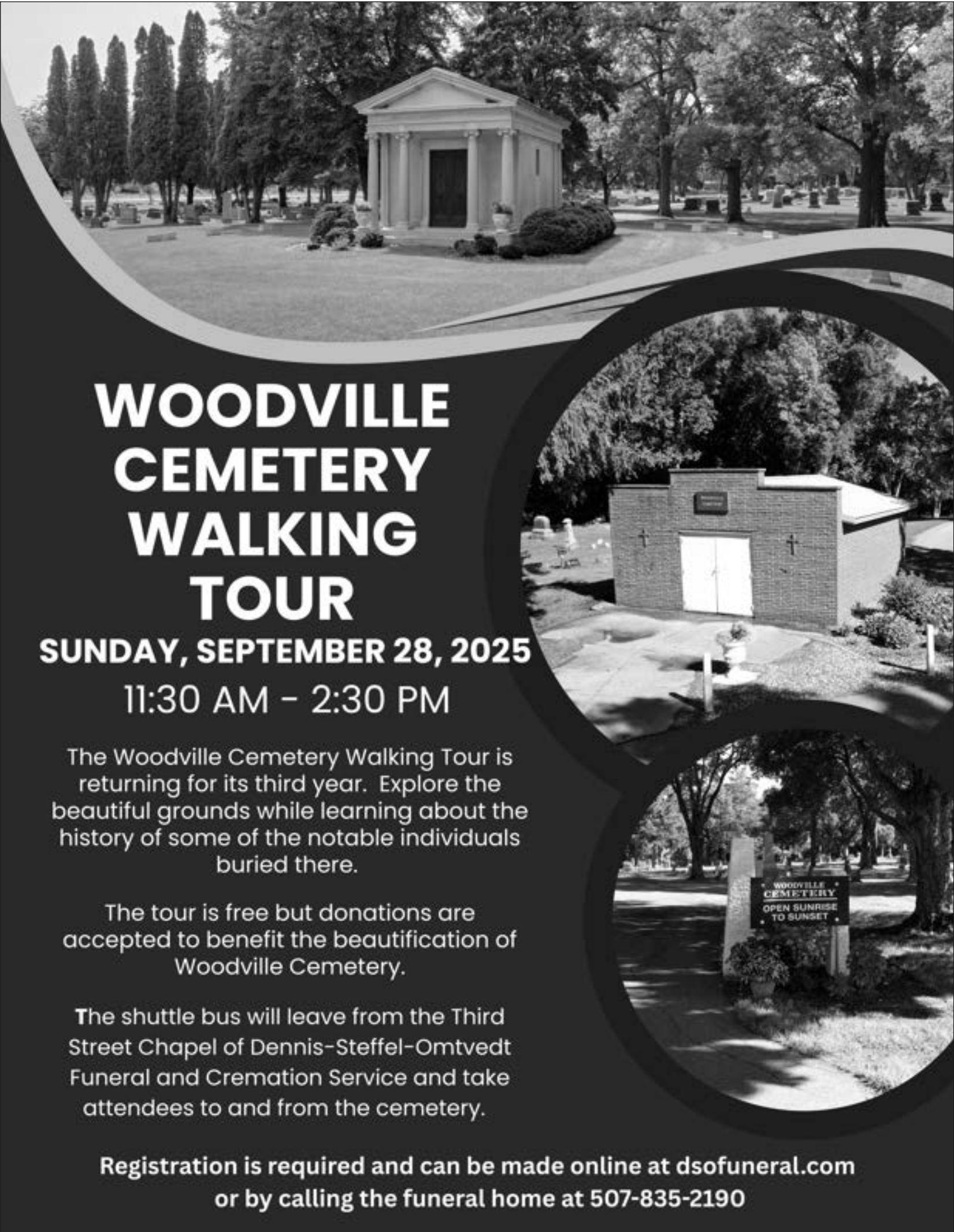
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Are You Interested In Becoming A Foster Parent For Children?

MN Prairie County Alliance is offering free informational sessions regarding child foster care.

Interested applicants who live in Steele, Dodge, or Waseca County will learn what to expect when becoming a foster parent and how to get your child foster care license. There are virtual and in-person sessions offered on: 9/29, 10/28, 11/20 & 12/15.

Please register online at: www.owatonna.ce.eleyo.com & search "Informational Session: Becoming a Child Foster Parent" or you can contact **Pam Temple** at **MN Prairie County Alliance** at 507-431-5727 for more information.



WOODVILLE CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025
11:30 AM – 2:30 PM

The Woodville Cemetery Walking Tour is returning for its third year. Explore the beautiful grounds while learning about the history of some of the notable individuals buried there.

The tour is free but donations are accepted to benefit the beautification of Woodville Cemetery.

The shuttle bus will leave from the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service and take attendees to and from the cemetery.

Registration is required and can be made online at dsfuneral.com or by calling the funeral home at 507-835-2190

Waseca County Fair 4H

2025 Waseca County Fair 4-H Judging Results

The 2025 Waseca County Fair has been the highlight of the year for the over 175 4-H exhibitors in Waseca County 4-H, as they saw their hard work pay off with livestock shows, exhibit judging, and other fun events. Below are the 4-H youth who received recognition for their project work at the 2025 Waseca County Fair.

GENERAL (NON-LIVE-STOCK) EXHIBIT JUDGING RESULTS FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE RESULTS

• Overall Grand Champion Family & Consumer Science - Natalia Rivera, Janesville Jacks & Jills

• Overall Reserve Champion Family & Consumer Science - Addison Anderson, Homegrown Explorers

• Grand Champion Child & Family Development - Alexis Olson, Waldorf Peppy Peppers

• Reserve Champion Child & Family Development - Kenley Gehrke, Waldorf Peppy Peppers

• Grand Champion Constructed Clothing - Abby Sommers, Riverside Ramblers

• Reserve Champion Constructed Clothing - Audrey Gray, Homegrown Explorers

• Grand Champion Purchased Clothing- Kinley Thostenson, Homegrown Explorers

• Reserve Champion Purchased Clothing - Willow Bartelt, Clover Clan

• Grand Champion Upcycled Clothing - Willow Bartelt, Clover Clan

• Grand Champion Home Environment - Natalia Rivera, Janesville Jacks & Jills

• Reserve Champion Home Environment - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers

• Grand Champion Needle Arts - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

• Reserve Champion Needle Arts - Chayce Bartelt, Clover Clan

• Grand Champion Quilting - Addison Anderson, Homegrown Explorers

• Reserve Champion Quilting - Willow Bartelt, Clover Clan

• Grand Champion Fashion Revue - Audrey Gray

• Reserve Champion Fashion Revue - Isabel Berg

FOODS & NUTRITION RESULTS

• Overall Grand Champion Food & Nutrition - Julia Alvarado, Riverside Ramblers

• Overall Reserve Champion Food & Nutrition - Alexis Feldkamp, Clover Clan

• Reserve Champion Food - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

• Reserve Champion Food - Teagan Tietje, Janesville Jacks & Jills

• Reserve Champion Nutrition - Claire Harguth, Riverside Ramblers

• Grand Champion Food Preservation - Alexis Feldkamp, Clover Clan

• Reserve Champion Food Preservation - Sam Feldkamp, Clover Clan

• Grand Champion Food Revue - Audrey Gray

ANIMAL SCIENCE RESULTS

• Overall Grand Champion Animal Science - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

• Overall Reserve Champion Animal Science - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan

• Grand Champion Exploring Animals - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers



Waseca County 4-H large group photo 2025



Charley K - Dairy 2025

• Reserve Champion Exploring Animals - August Bethke, Waldorf Peppy Peppers

• Grand Champion Horseless Horse - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

• Grand Champion Cat - Jaxon Alvarado, Riverside Ramblers

• Reserve Champion Cat - Gavin Hodgkins, Clover Clan

• Grand Champion Dog Display - Rylie Cromwell, Waldorf Peppy Peppers

• Grand Champion Science of Animals - Health/Breeding/Production - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan

• Reserve Champion Science of Animals - Health/Breeding/Production - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan

• Grand Champion Science of Animals - Other Exhibit - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan

• Reserve Champion Science of Animals - Other Exhibit - Rylie Cromwell, Waldorf Peppy Peppers

• Champion Veterinary Science - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

• Reserve Champion Veterinary Science - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan

AGRONOMY, GARDENING, & HORTICULTURE RESULTS

• Overall Grand Champion Agronomy - Stetson Lynch, Janesville Jacks & Jills

• Overall Reserve Champion Agronomy - Molly Volovsek, Riverside Ramblers

• Overall Grand Champion Horticulture - Brody Gray, Homegrown Explorers

• Overall Reserve Champion Horticulture - Luke Feldkamp, Clover Clan

• Overall Grand Champion Gardening - Isaac Feldkamp, Clover Clan

• Overall Reserve Champion Gardening - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

• Grand Champion Agricultural Technology - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

• Grand Champion Corn - Stetson Lynch, Janesville Jacks & Jills

• Grand Champion Plant & Soil Sciences - Molly Volovsek, Riverside Ramblers

side Ramblers

• Grand Champion Soybeans - Stetson Lynch, Janesville Jacks & Jills

• Grand Champion Weeds & Pests - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

• Grand Champion Flower Gardening - Luke Feldkamp, Clover Clan

• Reserve Champion Flower Gardening - Violet Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

• Grand Champion Indoor Gardening - Brody Gray, Homegrown Explorers

• Reserve Champion Indoor Gardening - Joe Harguth, Riverside Ramblers

• Grand Champion Fruit - Isaac Feldkamp, Clover Clan

• Grand Champion Herb Gardening - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

• Grand Champion Potatoes - Isaac Feldkamp, Clover Clan

• Reserve Champion Potatoes - Sam Feldkamp, Clover Clan

• Overall Grand Champion Vegetable Plate - Sam Feldkamp, Clover Clan

• Reserve Champion Vegetable Plate - Luke Feldkamp, Clover Clan

PERSONAL GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT RESULTS

• Overall Grand Champion Personal Growth & Development - Jaxon Alvarado, Riverside Ramblers

• Overall Reserve Champion Personal Growth & Development - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

• Grand Champion Health & Wellness - Kenley Gehrke, Waldorf Peppy Peppers

• Reserve Champion Health & Wellness - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers

• Grand Champion Citizenship - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers

• Reserve Champion Citizenship - Alexis Olson, Waldorf Peppy Peppers

• Grand Champion Self-Determined - Alex Harguth, Riverside Ramblers

• Reserve Champion Self-Determined - Willow Bartelt, Clover Clan



Jacob K, Memphis S, Adler B - Dairy Goat 2025

• Reserve Champion Entomology - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

• Reserve Champion Entomology - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan

• Grand Champion Exploring the Environment - Jaxon Alvarado, Riverside Ramblers

• Grand Champion Forest Resources - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

• Reserve Champion Forest Resources - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan

• Grand Champion Geology - Alexis Olson, Waldorf Peppy Peppers

• Reserve Champion Geology - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

• Grand Champion Water Resources - Alexis Olson, Waldorf Peppy Peppers

• Reserve Champion Water Resources - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers

• Grand Champion Fishing Sports - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers

• Reserve Champion Fishing Sports - Joe Harguth, Riverside Ramblers

• Grand Champion Shooting Sports - Chayce Bartelt, Clover Clan

• Reserve Champion Shooting Sports - Adler Bethke, Waldorf Peppy Peppers

• Grand Champion Wildlife Biology & Management - Treyson Tietje, Janesville Jacks & Jills

• Reserve Champion Wildlife Biology & Management - Molly Volovsek, Riverside Ramblers

STEM & MECHANICAL SCIENCES RESULTS

• Overall Grand Champion STEM & Mechanical Sciences - Brody Gray, Homegrown Explorers

• Overall Grand Champion STEM & Mechanical Sciences - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan

• Grand Champion Aerospace - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan

• Reserve Champion Aerospace - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers

• Grand Champion Entomology - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

• Reserve Champion Entomology - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan

• Grand Champion Exploring the Environment - Jaxon Alvarado, Riverside Ramblers

• Grand Champion Forest Resources - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

• Reserve Champion Forest Resources - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan

• Grand Champion Geology - Alexis Olson, Waldorf Peppy Peppers

• Reserve Champion Geology - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

• Grand Champion Water Resources - Alexis Olson, Waldorf Peppy Peppers

• Reserve Champion Water Resources - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers

• Grand Champion Fishing Sports - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers

• Reserve Champion Fishing Sports - Joe Harguth, Riverside Ramblers

• Grand Champion Shooting Sports - Chayce Bartelt, Clover Clan

• Reserve Champion Shooting Sports - Adler Bethke, Waldorf Peppy Peppers

• Grand Champion Bicycle - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

• Reserve Champion Bicycle - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers

• Grand Champion Engineering Design - Brody Gray, Homegrown Explorers

• Reserve Champion Engineering Design - Orlin Schaetzke, Janesville Jacks & Jills

• Grand Champion Woodworking - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan

• Reserve Champion Woodworking - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

EXPRESSIVE ARTS RESULTS

• Overall Grand Champion Expressive Arts - Gavin Hodgkins, Clover Clan

• Overall Reserve Champion Expressive Arts - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

• Grand Champion Creative Writing - Gavin Hodgkins, Clover Clan

• Grand Champion Crafts - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

• Reserve Champion Crafts - Kinley Thostenson, Homegrown Explorers

• Grand Champion Fine Arts - Alexis Olson, Waldorf Peppy Peppers

• Reserve Champion Fine Arts - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers

CLUB EXHIBIT RESULTS

• Grand Champion Club Hay Bale Decoration - Vista Busy Bees 4-H Club

• Reserve Champion Club Hay Bale Decoration - Waldorf Peppy Peppers 4-H Club

• Grand Champion Club Banner - Homegrown Explorers 4-H Club

• Reserve Champion Club Banner - Waldorf Peppy Peppers 4-H Club

• Grand Champion Club Scrapbook - Palmer Sunbeams 4-H Club

LIVESTOCK PROMOTIONAL POSTERS RESULTS

• Grand Champion Overall Promotional Poster - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan

• Reserve Champion Overall Promotional Poster - Willow Bartelt, Clover Clan

• Grand Champion Beef Promotional Poster - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

• Reserve Champion Beef Promotional Poster - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan

• Grand Champion Dairy Promotional Poster - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan

• Reserve Champion Dairy Promotional Poster - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers

• Grand Champion Dog Promotional Poster - Kashton Gehrke, Waldorf Peppy Peppers

• Reserve Champion Dog Promotional Poster - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan

• Grand Champion Dairy Goat Promotional Poster - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan

• Reserve Champion Dairy Goat Promotional Poster - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers

• Grand Champion Meat Goat Promotional Poster - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers

• Reserve Champion Meat Goat Promotional Poster - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

• Grand Champion Horse Promotional Poster - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan

• Reserve Champion Horse Promotional Poster - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers

4H continued on 10



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Waseca County Fair 4H



Ty K - Meat Goat 2025



Ashley H - Dairy Steer 2025

- Grand Champion Llama Promotional Poster - Willow Bartelt, Clover Clan
- Reserve Champion Llama Promotional Poster - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan
- Grand Champion Poultry Promotional Poster - Kaeson Gehrke, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Reserve Champion Poultry Promotional Poster - Orianna Jewison, Homegrown Explorers
- Grand Champion Rabbit Promotional Poster - Willow Bartelt, Clover Clan
- Reserve Champion Rabbit Promotional Poster - Jaxon Lewer, Palmer Sunbeams
- Grand Champion Sheep Promotional Poster - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan

- Reserve Champion Sheep Promotional Poster - Orianna Jewison, Homegrown Explorers
- Grand Champion Swine Promotional Poster - Kaeson Gehrke, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Reserve Champion Swine Promotional Poster - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers

LIVESTOCK COSTUME CONTEST RESULTS

- Grand Champion Junior Livestock Costume Contest - Willow Bartelt, Clover Clan
- Reserve Champion Junior Livestock Costume Contest - Natalie Schoenfeld, Clover Clan
- Grand Champion Intermediate Livestock Costume Contest - Audrey

- Gray, Homegrown Explorers
- Reserve Champion Intermediate Livestock Costume Contest - Violet Jewison, Homegrown Explorers
- Grand Champion Senior Livestock Costume Contest - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Senior Livestock Costume Contest - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan

BEEF SHOW RESULTS

- Champion Cow/Calf Pair - Stetson Lynch, Janesville Jacks & Jills
- Reserve Champion Cow/Calf Pair - Owen Kelm, Clover Clan
- Champion Market Heifer Prospect Calf - Siri Kuhns, Riverside Ramblers
- Champion Beef Steer/Bull Prospect Calf - Jax Gereau Mulcahey, Janesville Jacks & Jills
- Reserve Champion Beef Steer/Bull Prospect Calf - Mikayla Lewer, Riverside Ramblers

- Champion Dairy Steer Prospect Calf - Hadley Roeker, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Champion Commercial Breeding Heifer - Lucas Hoehn, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Commercial Breeding Heifer - Paige Gunsolus, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Reserve Champion Registered Breeding Heifer - Brielle Gunsolus, Waldorf Peppy Peppers



Paige G - beef 2025

- Champion Market Beef Steer - Olivia Johnson, Vista Busy Bees
- Reserve Champion Market Beef Steer - Paige Gunsolus, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Champion Market Beef Heifer - Brielle Gunsolus, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Reserve Champion Market Beef Heifer - Peyton Sommers, Riverside Ramblers
- Champion Dairy Steer - Ashley Haefs, Homegrown Explorers
- Champion Dairy Steer Rate of Gain - Peyton Sommers, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Market Beef Rate of Gain - Mackenzie Levos, Janesville Jacks & Jills
- Champion Senior Beef Showmanship - Paige Gunsolus, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Reserve Champion Senior Beef Showmanship - Addison Kelm, Clover Clan
- Champion Intermediate Beef Showmanship - Hadley Roeker, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Reserve Champion Intermediate Beef Showmanship - August Bethke, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Champion Junior Beef Showmanship - Carson Levos, Janesville Jacks & Jills
- Reserve Champion Junior Beef Showmanship - Owen Kelm, Clover Clan
- Champion Junior Beef Interview - Lucas Hoehn, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Junior Beef Interview - Stetson Lynch, Janesville Jacks & Jills
- Champion Intermediate Beef Interview - Violet Jewison, Homegrown Explorers
- Reserve Champion Intermediate Beef Interview - Hadley Roeker, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Champion Senior Beef Interview - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers
- Reserve Champion Senior Beef Interview - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan

DAIRY SHOW RESULTS

- Champion Overall Dairy Animal - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Overall Dairy Animal - Hannah Sommers, Riverside Ramblers
- Champion Registered Holstein - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Registered Holstein - Hannah Sommers, Riverside Ramblers
- Champion Grade Holstein - Hadley Roeker, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Reserve Champion Grade Holstein - Katy Eldeen, Riverside Ramblers
- Champion Color Breed - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Color Breed - Owen Sommers, Riverside Ramblers
- Champion Senior Dairy Showmanship - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Senior Dairy Showmanship - Claire Bartelt, Riverside Ramblers
- Champion Intermediate Dairy Showmanship - Hannah Sommers, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Intermediate Dairy Showmanship - Owen Sommers, Riverside

RAMBLERS

- Champion Junior Dairy Showmanship - Abby Sommers, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Junior

- Dairy Showmanship - Caden Sommers, Riverside Ramblers
- Champion Junior Dairy Interview - Owen Sommers, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Junior Dairy Interview - Hadley Roeker, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Champion Senior Dairy Interview - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Senior Dairy Interview - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan
- Champion Dairy Genetics - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Dairy Genetics - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers
- Champion Dairy Production - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers

DAIRY GOAT SHOW RESULTS

- Champion Overall Dairy Goat - Alexis Myers, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Overall Dairy Goat - Alexis Myers, Riverside Ramblers
- Champion Milking Doe - Alexis Myers, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Milking Doe - Alexis Myers, Riverside Ramblers
- Champion Dry Doe - Jacob Klaras, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Reserve Champion Dry Doe - Memphis Schlaak, Riverside Ramblers
- Champion Senior Dairy Goat Showmanship - Alexis Myers, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Senior Dairy Goat Showmanship - Kenley Gehrke, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Champion Intermediate Dairy Goat Showmanship - August Bethke, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Reserve Champion Intermediate Dairy Goat Showmanship - Jacob Klaras, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Champion Junior Dairy Goat Showmanship - Asa Bethke, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Reserve Champion Junior Dairy Goat Showmanship - Jaxon Alverado, Riverside Ramblers
- Champion Senior Dairy Goat Interview - Alexis Myers, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Senior Dairy Goat Interview - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan
- Champion Intermediate Dairy Goat Interview - Jacob Klaras, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Reserve Champion Intermediate Dairy Goat Interview - Rylie Cromwell, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Champion Junior Dairy Goat Interview - Jaxon Alverado, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Junior Dairy Goat Interview - Presley Roeker, Waldorf Peppy Peppers

DOG SHOW RESULTS

- Dog Agility
- Champion Elementary Agility - Alexis Myers, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Elementary Agility - Mikayla Lewer, Riverside Ramblers
- Champion Jumpers 1B Agility - Alexis Myers, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Jumpers 1B Agility - Mikayla Lewer, Riverside Ramblers

DOG SHOWMANSHIP

- Champion Open Junior Showmanship - Rylie Cromwell, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Reserve Champion Open Junior Showmanship - Alexis Feldkamp, Clover Clan
- Champion Open Senior Showmanship - Alexis Myers, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Open Senior Showmanship - Mikayla Lewer,



Katy E - Dairy 2025



Noah H - poultry 2025

Riverside Ramblers

DOG RALLY

- Champion Foundation Rally - Alexis Feldkamp, Clover Clan
- Reserve Champion Foundation Rally - Audrey Gray, Homegrown Explorers
- Champion Beginner Rally - Audrey Gray, Homegrown Explorers
- Champion Grad Rally - Rylie Cromwell, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Reserve Champion Grad Rally - Alexis Myers, Riverside Ramblers
- Champion Dog Obedience - Audrey Gray, Homegrown Explorers
- Reserve Champion Dog Obedience - Audrey Gray, Homegrown Explorers
- Champion Obedience Foundation - Alexis Feldkamp, Clover Clan
- Reserve Champion Obedience Foundation - Audrey Gray, Homegrown Explorers
- Champion Obedience Beginner - Alexis Myers, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Obedience Beginner - Rylie Cromwell, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Champion Dog Interview - Audrey Gray, Homegrown Explorers
- Reserve Champion Dog Interview - Alexis Myers, Riverside Ramblers

HORSE SHOW RESULTS

- Horse Pleasure
- Champion Horseless Horse Skills Class - Willow Bartelt, Clover Clan
- Reserve Champion Horseless Horse Skills Class - Chayce Bartelt, Clover Clan



Alex H - Self-determined 2025

4H continued on 11

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Waseca County Fair 4H



Addison A - Quilting 2025



Alexis M - Dairy Goat 2025



Jaxon A - Dairy Goat 2025



Willow B - Costume 2025



Regina Y - Fleece 2025



Oriana J - Rabbit 2025



Kinley T - Clothing & Textiles



Jaxson L - Rabbit 2025



Kelton P - Rabbit 2025



Natalie S - Costume 2025



Julia A - Overall Foods



Avary H - Horse 2025



Alexis O - Fine Arts 2025



Cole C - Sheep 2025



Oliver J - Cloverbud Rabbit



Asa B - Dairy Goat 2025

- Champion Western Horsemanship Grades 10+ - Avary Hopper, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Western Horsemanship Grades 10+ - Sydney Lewer, Riverside Ramblers
- Champion Mini In-Hand Jumping - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan
- Champion Trail Grades 6-9 - Ezra Boerner, Vista Busy Bees
- Reserve Champion Trail Grades 6-9 - KayleeAhna Berg, Janesville Jacks & Jills
- Champion Trail Grades 10+ - Sydney Lewer, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Trail Grades 10+ - Avary Hopper, Riverside Ramblers
- Horse Games
- Champion Pole Weaving Grades 3-5 - Evelyn Schlaak, Riverside Ramblers
- Champion Pole Weaving Grades 6-9 - Ezra Boerner, Vista Busy Bees
- Reserve Champion Pole Weaving Grades 6-9 - Isabel Anderson
- Champion Pole Weaving Grades 10+ - Sydney Lewer, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Pole Weaving Grades 10+ - Avary Hopper, Riverside Ramblers
- Champion Jumping Figure 8 Grades 3-5 - Evelyn Schlaak, Riverside Ramblers

- Reserve Champion Overall Meat Goat - Sam Feldkamp, Clover Clan
- Champion Meat Goat Breeding Doe - Sam Feldkamp, Clover Clan
- Reserve Champion Meat Goat Breeding Doe - Alexis Feldkamp, Clover Clan
- Champion Meat Goat Wether Dam - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan
- Champion Market Doe - Ty Krautkremer, Homegrown Explorers
- Reserve Champion Market Doe - Claire Bartelt, Homegrown Explorers
- Champion Market Wether - Ty Krautkremer, Homegrown Explorers
- Reserve Champion Market Wether - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan
- Champion Dairy Market Wether - Adler Bethke, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Reserve Champion Dairy Market Wether - Jacob Klaras, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Champion Senior Meat Goat Showmanship - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan
- Reserve Champion Senior Meat Goat Showmanship - Olivia Eaton, Homegrown Explorers
- Champion Intermediate Meat Goat Showmanship - Rylie Cromwell, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Reserve Champion Intermediate Meat Goat Showmanship - Avery Fliflet, Homegrown Explorers
- Champion Junior Meat Goat Showmanship - Lucas Hoehn, Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Junior Meat Goat Showmanship - Asa Bethke, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- Champion Senior Meat Goat Interview - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers
- Reserve Champion Senior Meat Goat Interview - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan
- Champion Intermediate Meat Goat Interview - Rylie Cromwell, Waldorf Peppy
- Reserve Champion Intermediate Meat Goat Interview - Violet Jewison, Homegrown Explorers
- Champion Junior Meat Goat Interview - Alexis Feldkamp, Clover Clean
- Reserve Champion Junior Meat Goat Interview - Gemma Eaton, Homegrown Explorers

- POULTRY SHOW RESULTS**
- Champion Overall Poultry - Jacob Knutson , Homegrown Explorers
 - Reserve Champion Overall Poultry - Sam Feldkamp Clover Clan
 - Champion Market Chickens - Treysen Tietje Janesville Jacks and Jills
 - Reserve Champion Market Chickens - Mackenzie James Palmer Sunbeams
 - Champion Breeding Chickens - Treysen Tietje Janesville Jacks and Jills
 - Reserve Champion Breeding Chickens - Teagan Tietje Janesville Jacks and Jills
 - Champion Bantam Breeding Chickens - Treysen Tietje Janesville Jacks and Jills
 - Reserve Champion Bantam Breeding Chickens - Teagan Tietje Jansville Jacks and Jills
 - Champion Egg Production - White Layers - Kayla Knutson , Homegrown Explorers
 - Reserve Champion Egg Production - White Layers - Oriana Jewison , Homegrown Explorers

- Reserve Champion 4 Class Junior Buck - Chayce Bartelt, Clover Clan
 - Champion 4 Class Senior Doe - Jaiden Johnson, Clover Clan
 - Reserve Champion 4 Class Senior Doe - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan
 - Champion 4 Class Senior Buck - Brody Gray, Homegrown Explorers
 - Reserve Champion 4 Class Senior Buck - Isabel Berg, Homegrown Explorers
 - Champion 6 Class Junior Doe - Alexis Feldkamp, Clover Clan
 - Reserve 6 Class Junior Doe - Brody Gray, Homegrown Explorers
 - Champion 6 Class Senior Doe - Isaac Feldkamp, Clover Clan
 - Reserve Champion 6 Class Senior Doe - Sam Feldkamp, Clover Clan
 - Champion 6 Class Senior Buck - Ezra Boerner, Vista Busy Bees
 - Reserve Champion 6 Class Senior Buck - Sam Feldkamp, Clover Clan
 - Champion Doe & Litter - Audrey Gray, Homegrown Explorers
 - Reserve Champion Doe & Litter - Ashley Haefs, Homegrown Explorers
 - Champion Senior Rabbit Showmanship - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers
 - Reserve Champion Senior Rabbit Showmanship - Sydney Lewer, Riverside Ramblers
 - Champion Intermediate Rabbit Showmanship - August Bethke, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
 - Reserve Champion Intermediate Rabbit Showmanship - Audrey Gray, Homegrown Explorers
 - Champion Junior Rabbit Showmanship - Alexis Feldkamp, Clover Clan
 - Reserve Champion Junior Rabbit Showmanship - Willow Bartlet, Clover Clan
 - Champion Junior Rabbit Interview - Jaxson Lewer, Palmer Sunbeams
 - Reserve Champion Junior Rabbit Interview - Violet Jewison, Homegrown Explorers
 - Reserve Champion Intermediate Rabbit Interview - Violet Jewison, Homegrown Explorers
 - Reserve Champion Intermediate Rabbit Interview Audrey Gray, Homegrown Explorers
 - Champion Senior Rabbit Interview - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers
 - Reserve Champion Senior Rabbit Interview - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan
- SHEEP SHOW RESULTS**
- Champion Market Lamb - Hannah Sommers Riverside Ramblers
 - Reserve Champion Market Lamb - Hannah Sommers Riverside Ramblers
 - Champion Registered Breeding Sheep - Avary Hopper Riverside Ramblers
 - Reserve Champion Registered Breeding Sheep - Karley Hamilton Clover Clan
 - Champion Commercial Breeding Sheep - Karley Hamilton Clover Clan
 - Reserve Champion Commercial Breeding Sheep - Cole Christensen

- Reserve Champion 4 Class Junior Buck - Chayce Bartelt, Clover Clan
 - Champion 4 Class Senior Doe - Jaiden Johnson, Clover Clan
 - Reserve Champion 4 Class Senior Doe - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan
 - Champion 4 Class Senior Buck - Brody Gray, Homegrown Explorers
 - Reserve Champion 4 Class Senior Buck - Isabel Berg, Homegrown Explorers
 - Champion 6 Class Junior Doe - Alexis Feldkamp, Clover Clan
 - Reserve 6 Class Junior Doe - Brody Gray, Homegrown Explorers
 - Champion 6 Class Senior Doe - Isaac Feldkamp, Clover Clan
 - Reserve Champion 6 Class Senior Doe - Sam Feldkamp, Clover Clan
 - Champion 6 Class Senior Buck - Ezra Boerner, Vista Busy Bees
 - Reserve Champion 6 Class Senior Buck - Sam Feldkamp, Clover Clan
 - Champion Doe & Litter - Audrey Gray, Homegrown Explorers
 - Reserve Champion Doe & Litter - Ashley Haefs, Homegrown Explorers
 - Champion Senior Rabbit Showmanship - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers
 - Reserve Champion Senior Rabbit Showmanship - Sydney Lewer, Riverside Ramblers
 - Champion Intermediate Rabbit Showmanship - August Bethke, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
 - Reserve Champion Intermediate Rabbit Showmanship - Audrey Gray, Homegrown Explorers
 - Champion Junior Rabbit Showmanship - Alexis Feldkamp, Clover Clan
 - Reserve Champion Junior Rabbit Showmanship - Willow Bartlet, Clover Clan
 - Champion Junior Rabbit Interview - Jaxson Lewer, Palmer Sunbeams
 - Reserve Champion Junior Rabbit Interview - Violet Jewison, Homegrown Explorers
 - Reserve Champion Intermediate Rabbit Interview - Violet Jewison, Homegrown Explorers
 - Reserve Champion Intermediate Rabbit Interview Audrey Gray, Homegrown Explorers
 - Champion Senior Rabbit Interview - Oriana Jewison, Homegrown Explorers
 - Reserve Champion Senior Rabbit Interview - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan
- SHEEP SHOW RESULTS**
- Champion Market Lamb - Hannah Sommers Riverside Ramblers
 - Reserve Champion Market Lamb - Hannah Sommers Riverside Ramblers
 - Champion Registered Breeding Sheep - Avary Hopper Riverside Ramblers
 - Reserve Champion Registered Breeding Sheep - Karley Hamilton Clover Clan
 - Champion Commercial Breeding Sheep - Karley Hamilton Clover Clan
 - Reserve Champion Commercial Breeding Sheep - Cole Christensen

4-H continued on 12

Football Bulldogs win a wild one at St. Clair

The JWP High School football team evened its record at 1-1 with a wild 30-29 victory at St. Clair last Friday.

The Cyclones led 16-8 at half-time, but the Bulldogs rallied for 22 second-half points, with the home team scoring seven in third quarter and six in the fourth.

Daulton Bauer completed 12 of 20 passes for 287 yards. Chase Gerdts ran the football 11 times for 36 yards. Gerdts also led the defense with 13 tackles.

JWP 18, St. Clair 29				
JWP	8	0	6	16 — 30
SC	8	8	7	6 — 29
First Quarter				
JWP — Walker 10 pass from D.Bauer (Bauer run)				
SC — Lentz 4 run (Freitag 2 run)				
Second Quarter				
SC —Freitag 16 pass to Lentz (Ward run)				
Third Quarter				

JWP — Gerdts 17 run (two-point conversion failed)
SC — Ward 6 run (Wilspmlol)

Fourth Quarter
JWP — Gerdts 45 pass from Bauer (Bauer run)
JWP — Quast 29 pass from Bauer (Quast run)
SC — Ward 23 pass from Freitag (Gerdts run)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing —JWP: D.Bauer 10-21; Kronback 1-3; Gerdts 1-36; SC: Ward 9-43; Lentz 5-23; Hansen 10-43; Youngberg 3-6; Freitag 9-9; Pierce 1-0
Passing — JWP: D.Bauer 12-29, 287; SC: Bahl 8-9, 121
Receiving — JWP: G.Bauer 17-128; Quast 6-23; Gerdts 3-23; Weedman 4-20; Scholl 3-7;; D.Bauer 1-5; SC: Ward 7-151; Lentz 1-0; Youngberg 2-18; Wilmes 1-34; Cumberland 2-7; Morris 1-24; Winkler 1-0
JWP Defense — Quast 2T; G.Bauer 2T; Scholl 3T; Weedman 5T; Geariety 5T; Dahlberg 1T; Kronbach 13T; Gerdts 13T; Rolfsen 3T; Rider 8T; Cummins 5T; Huber 2T; Johnson 5T; Blasing 1T; Wheelock 1T

Volleyball Bluejays



The 2025 Waseca High School volleyball team. Front from left: Ashley Fliflet, Alyssa Kilmer, Madalynn Root, Avery Barto, Audrianna Willingham, Addison Zimmerman and Tajha Nelson; back: oach Krissy Plonske, coach Abbie Wobschall, Brooke Bartelt, Bry'asia Mayberry, Remy Murphy, Ellery Waldron, Savanna Vagts, Kaia Sartori, Emily Mumme and coach Elizabeth Prostrrollo. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann



HITTING THEIR STRIDE — NRHEG’s Julienann Wobbrock and Jacob Karl in action at the Hayfield Invitational.



Photos by Larry Nydegger

Wobbrock runs away with first at Hayfield

The NRHEG High School cross country teams competed in the Bill Glmoski Invitational Aug. 28. There were 21 schools represented.

On the girls' side, the Panthers Julieann Wobbrock led the team with a 7th-place finish, competing the course in 21:24.6. Holly Bartness and Amelia Duryee were the only other varsity competitors for the Panthers, finish 87th and 93rd, respectively, with times of 29:56.5 and 31:25.3.

For the boys, Jacob Karl ran a time of 19:09 to take 21st place. Devlin McWilliams clocked 28:58, finishing 113th.

"Today was a pretty nice day to have a race," said NRHEG coach Larry Nydegger. "Julieann ran a really smart race, using her strength in the middle of the race to make some big moves and finish in the top 10 against some really strong competition. Jacob is getting his running legs under him again. He had a strong last mile, moving past a number of runners to nearly crack the top 20."

The NRHEG Panthers traveled to Hayfeld for the 24th Hayfield Invitational. Pine Island took the team titles for both boys and girls.

"It was a great day for a run as the temperature was cool and the winds were calm," said Nydegger.

Karl ran a strong race, finishing 19th with a time of 18:10.30. Devlin McWilliams finished 78th in 24:41.9.

"Jacob is getting his stride back, running a very competitive time against some strong competition," said Nydder. And Devlin improved his personal-best time by more than 3 minutes."

Wobbrock led the girls' team with a dominant performance, taking charge of the race in the second mile and not looking back. She covered the course in 19:19.9, taking firrst place by more than 20 seconds. Bartness and Duryee finished 61st and 62nd, respectively, with times of 27:52.0 and 27:52.3. Both improved their times on the course from the year before.

Colton Lermon, Josie Tufte, Violette Botten, Rylee Cromwell and Tiffany Jewison competed in the C-squad race. Colton took home an award, finishing fifth on the 1.5-mile course.

"As a coach, it's great to see the work that the runners are putting in at practice pay off," said Nydegger. "Julieann set a goal for the season of getting a time under 20 minutes. t was exciting to see her accomplish that!" The Panthers compete in Blooming Prairie on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

Waseca County Fair 4H

- Champion Wether Dam - Hannah Sommers Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Wether Dam - Abby Sommers Riverside Ramblers
- Champion Junior Lamb Lead - Willow Bartelt Clover Clan
- Reserve Champion Junior Lamb Lead - Jaxson Lewer Palmer Sunbeams
- Champion Senior Lamb Lead - Avary Hopper Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Senior Lamb Lead - Jaiden Johnson Clover Clan
- Champion Fleece - Karley Hamilton Clover Clan
- Reserve Champion Fleece - Regina Yezdi Clover Clan
- Champion Senior Sheep Showmanship - Karley Hamilton Clover Clan
- Reserve Champion Senior Sheep Showmanship - Cole Gartner Riverside Ramblers
- Champion Intermediate Sheep Showmanship - Hannah Sommers Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Intermediate Sheep Showmanship - Kalton Peirce Palmer Sunbeams
- Champion Junior Sheep Showmanship - Abby Sommers Riverside Ramblers
- Reserve Champion Junior Sheep Showmanship - Cole Christensen Palmer Sunbeams
- Champion Junior Sheep Interview - Cole Christensen Palmer Sunbeams
- Reserve Champion Junior Sheep Interview - Willow Bartelt Clover Clan
- Champion Senior Sheep Interview - Karley Hamilton Clover Clan
- Reserve Champion Senior Sheep Interview - Avary Hopper Riverside Ramblers

- SWINE SHOW RESULTS**
- Champion Market Barrow - Owen Schlaak, Riverside Ramblers
 - Reserve Champion Market Barrow - Kayla Knutson, Homegrown Explorers
 - Champion Market Gilt - Aaron Merritt, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
 - Reserve Champion Market Gilt - Jacob Knutson, Homegrown Explorers
 - Reserve Champion Commercial Breeding Gilt - Hadley Roeker, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
 - Champion Commercial Breeding Gilt - Orianas Jewison, Homegrown Explorers
 - Champion Registered Breeding Gilt - Jacob Knutson, Homegrown Explorers
 - Reserve Champion Registered Breeding Gilt - Hadley Roeker, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
 - Champion Swine Rate of Gain - Jacob Knutson, Homegrown Explorers
 - Reserve Champion Swine Rate of Gain - Kayla Knutson, Homegrown Explorers
 - Champion Swine Senior Showmanship - Orianas Jewison, Homegrown Explorers
 - Reserve Champion Swine Senior Showmanship - Jacob Knutson, Homegrown Explorers
 - Champion Swine Intermediate Showmanship - Kayla Knutson, Homegrown Explorers
 - Champion Swine Junior Showmanship - Presley Roeker, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
 - Reserve Champion Swine Junior Showmanship - Henrik Roesler, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
 - Jake Strobel Memorial Sports-

- manship Award Winner - Aaron Merritt, Waldorf Peppy Peppers
- PREMIER SHOWMANSHIP RESULTS**
- Champion Premier Showmanship - Orianas Jewison, Homegrown Explorers
 - Reserve Champion Premier Showmanship - Karley Hamilton, Clover Clan
 - Community Impact Recognition Minnesota 4-H youth are making a difference in their community - The Community Impact Recognition award recognizes youth who s projects primarily benefit someone or something beyond the youth individually or their family. Youth s exhibits and presentations that demonstrated community impact included:
 - Julia Alvarado - Foods & Nutrition
 - Kaeson Gehrke - Self-Determined
 - Kashton Gehrke - Health & Wellness
 - Kenley Gehrke - Health & Wellness
 - Audrey Gray - Foods & Nutrition
 - Karley Hamilton - Plastic Sculpture Challenge
 - Orianas Jewison - Youth Leadership
 - Charley Kietzman - Child Development
 - Alexis Myers - Youth Leadership
 - Alexis Olson - Child Development, Water Resources
 - Molly Volovsek - Plant & Soil Science
 - Janesville Jacks & Jills - Club Hay Bale
 - Waldorf Peppy Peppers - Club Hay Bale
- SOIL & WATER YOUTH**

- CONSERVATION AWARDS**
- The Waseca County Soil and Water Conservation District awarded select exhibits with Youth Conservation Awards for their accomplishments in conservation. This year award winners were:
- Orianas Jewison, Homegrown Explorers - Soil Layers
 - Orianas Jewison, Homegrown Explorers - Common Grass Weeds in Minnesota
 - Cooper Mason, Janesville Jacks & Jills - Moths and Butterflies
 - Cora Schaetzke, Janesville Jacks & Jills - Fairy Garden
 - Alexis Olson, Waldorf Peppy Peppers - CoCoRatts
 - Treysen Tietje, Janesville Jacks & Jills - Duck Nesting Tube
 - Molly Volovsek, Riverside Ramblers - Cattails
 - Kendrick Cromwell, Waldorf Peppy Peppers - Trees at my House
 - Charley Kietzman, Riverside Ramblers - Seasons
- SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**
- Waseca County 4-H awarded \$1,000 in scholarships to youth members who graduated High School in the spring of 2025. The scholarship recipients were:
- Karley Hamilton
 - Mackenzie Levos
 - Addison Kelm
 - Molly Volovsek
 - Isaack Feldkamp
- MARKET LIVESTOCK BLUE RIBBON AUCTION**
- Several representatives from local businesses gathered at the recent Waseca County Fair to purchase the ribbons of 4-H market livestock animals. 4-H youth who earned a blue ribbon on their animal participated in the sale, with the ribbon being sold on 76 dairy steers, beef steers, swine,

- sheep, poultry, rabbits, and goats. Area auctioneers Larry Born, Landen Flemming, and Bill Harguth volunteered their time as auctioneers for the event.
- The Blue Ribbon Livestock Auction is the biggest fundraiser for the Waseca County 4-H Federation. This year \$59,774.98 was raised for youth in market livestock projects with the 4-H Federation receiving \$14,943.75 to be used for programming and scholarships to camps and leadership development opportunities. It will also support existing 4-H programming, like clubs, adventures, project workshops, and adult volunteer training. All 250 youth in Waseca County 4-H will benefit from profits raised at the 2025 auction.
- Individuals and businesses who were buyers at the 2025 Waseca County 4-H Blue Ribbon Livestock Auction included A & A Farms, Ag Partners, Androli Ag, Cody Root, Condon Farm Service, Corn Country Seed - Beck's Hybrid, Dale & Mary Hoy, Dead End Cattle Company, FM Bank, Greener World Solutions, Hi-Yield, Holland Ag, J & J Trucking, James Bros Construction, Janike Seeds, Johnson Berkshires, Jule & Wendy Johnson, Kelms BBQ, KFS of Hope, Kuball Dairy, Matt Groskreutz, Mark Sommers, Minnwest Bank, Morgan's Meat Market, Neighbor's Meats, O'Brien Tax & Accounting, Roesler Seed, Schwarz Insurance, Smiths Mill Implement, Southbend Show Goats, Southfork Seed, Srp Plumbing & Heating, TDL Farms, Waseca County Fair Food Vendors, and Whitewater Creek Grain & Feed,
- Area businesses and community members who supported the Waseca County 4-H Market Livestock Auction through pledge bids included

- Aaron Halla, Alee Services, Arnoldt Truck Wash, Byron Law Office, Compeer Financial, Corn Country Seed Co - Becks Hybrid, Flori Hamilton, Fox Farms, Hurricane Hill Farm, Janesville State Bank, Jennifer Peirce - Edina Realty, Kappy's Collision, Lyle & Kathy Peltz,
- Mark Sommers, McPherson Crop Management, Steiner Consultants LLC, Tait Ingvalson/Geneva Lumber, Unique Classic Cars, and Waseca Glass,
- Waseca County 4-H would like to say a big thank you to our sponsors, buyers and volunteers who took part and helped with the Auction. Without them, Waseca County 4-H wouldn't be able to support the youth program members in such an enormous way.
- About Extension 4-H: 4-H is a youth development program of the University of Minnesota Extension. Available for youth beginning in kindergarten, 4-Hers participate in hands-on learning experiences in STEM, leadership & civic engagement, animal science, creative arts and much more. Through 4-H's learn-by-doing process, youth obtain essential life skills such as problem solving, decision making, coping and communicating that help them succeed in their school, college, community and career. Research shows that youth who participate in 4-H have better grades and are more emotionally engaged with school, are more than twice as likely to be civically active and contribute to their communities. Learn more about Minnesota 4-H here.



TWO POINTS — The Bluejays Kaden Garza (56) runs down the Belle Plaine quarterback for a sack during the first half of last Friday’s 37-6 victory in Waseca’s home opener.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

Bluejays top Belle Plaine

WHS football team improves to 2-0; at Fairmont Friday

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Waseca High School football coach Brad Wendland had nothing but good to say about last Friday’s performance.

With good reason.

The Bluejays blew out visiting Belle Plaine 37-6 in their home opener.

“We took a big step this week improving as a team,” said Wendland. “The kids played with great effort and energy. I’m very proud of that. It was awesome to see. We were very balanced on offense this week and got another tremendous effort from our defense and special teams. We need to continue to grow and mature as a team. We had too many penalties and we aren’t as consistent as we’d like them to be. We hope to take another big step this week.”

The Bluejays dominated Belle Plaine, amassing 422 yards to Belle Plaine’s 61 and 12 first downs to the Tigers’ five.

Waseca was penalized 13 times for 86 yards.

Brady McKenna got the Jays started with a first-quarter safety and Jordan Johnston added a 3-yard

“We took a big step this week improving as a team. The kids played with great effort and energy.”

— WHS coach Brad Wendland

run. In the second period, the Bluejays scored on a 29 yard pass from Kellen Klinger and a 1-yard run by Johnston. Deron Russell hauled in a 76-yarder from Klinger before Belle Plaine finally scored in the waning minutes. After a scoreless third period, Johnson added a 55-yard touchdown run in the fourth. Johnston ran the ball 13-times for 124 yards and Klinger completed 16 of 29 passes for 225 yards.

The Bluejays travel to Fairmont this Friday for a 7 p.m. game.

Waseca 37, Belle Plaine 6				
BP	0	6	0	0 — 6
WAS	8	22	0	6 — 37
First Quarter				
WAS	— Brady McKenna safety			
WAS	— Johnston 3 run (Rupe kick)			
Second Quarter				
WAS	— Russell 29 pass from Klinger (Klinger run)			
WAS	— Johnston 1 run (Rupe kick)			
WAS — Russell 76 pass from Klinger (Rupe kick)				
BP — Peterson 37 pass from Creighton (pass failed)				
Third Quarter				
No scoring				
Fourth Quarter				
WAS — Johnston 55 run (Rupe kick)				

	WAS	BP
First downs	12	5
Total Yds.	422	61
Penalties	13-86	5-55

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — WAS: Johnston 13-124; Parpart 6-14; Russell 1 —9; Klinger 10-18; BP: Bungarden 4 —7; Koepf 10-17; Creighton 6 —26; Stier 1 —3

Passing — WAS: Klinger 116-29, 225; Kath 0-1, 0; BP: Creighton 8-23, 80

Receiving — WAS: Johnston 3-16; Russell 8-185 Worke 1-6; Long 2-9; Parpart 1-7; BP: Bungarten 1-7; Koepf 1 —5; Volek 1-7; Iovino

Waseca Defense — Parpart 1T; Noble 1T; Mansfield 3T; Mitchell 1T; Rahe 3T; Glynn 5T; Rohl 4T; Root 3T; Rupe 1T; Jeske 3T; Oveido 7T; L.Selthun 1T; Garza 6T; McKenna 2T



ROOM TO RUN — The Bluejays’ Jordan Johnston (2) found plenty of room to run against Belle Plaine last Friday. At right is Waseca’s Brady McKenna (58).

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens



BREAKING AWAY — With coach Brad Wendland looking on at left, the Bluejays’ Deron Russell (7) breaks a big one against Belle Plaine.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

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Waseca Bluejay’s



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BIG PLAYS — At left, NRHEG’s Calvin Nissen runs the ball during the Panthers’ 27-21 victory over Hayfield last Friday in New Richland. At right, Jordan Brouwers recovers a fumble. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

Panthers hold off Hayfield, 27-21

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The NRHEG High School football overcame a big, physical Hayfield team to post a 27-21 victory over Hayfield at New Richland last Friday.

“It was a great, and very physical football game,” said NRHEG coach Marc Kruger. “I am so proud of these boys for pulling this out. We had a nice lead and Hayfield never

quit.”

The Panthers jumped to an early 13-0 lead, scoring on a 6-yard run and a 78-yard pass, but the Vikings answered with a 2-yard touchdown run later in the first quarter.

It was 13-7 at halftime.

After a scoreless third period, the Panthers scored on a 13-yard run and a 31-yard run in the fourth to go on top 27-7.

The Vikings scored in the fourth

on 1-yard run and an 84-yard punt return.

The Panthers outgained the Vikings 123-70 on the ground while Hayfield led 153-130 in the air. The Panthers totaled 13 first downs, Hayfield 11.

The Panthers 1-1, play Southland at Adams this Friday at 7 p.m.

	NRHEG	27	Hayfield	21
	13	0	0	14 - 21

	7	0	0	14 - 21
First Quarter				
NRHEG — 6 run (kick successful)				
NRHEG — 78 pass (kick failed)				
HFLD — 2 run (kick successful)				
Second Quarter				
No scoring				
Third Quarter				
No scoring				
Fourth Quarter				
NRHEG — 13 run (kick failed)				
NRHEG — 31 run (two-point conversion successful)				

	NRHEG	HFLD
Total plays	56	61
First downs	13	11
Rushing	123	70
Passing	130	153
Third Down	3-11	5-13
Fourth Down	1-4	1-4
Fumbles lost	0	1
Penalties	7-55	2-10



ACTION AT THE NET — At left, NRHEG’s Nora Flatness (4) and Gabby Schlaak (1) team up for a block against Alden-Conger’s Alvia Newman (12). At right, Chole Stork (15) spikkes while Eva Marschalk (11) defends during NRHEG’s 3-0 loss to Alden-Conger last Tuesday. The Panthers bounced back to shut out USC Thursday. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Volleyball Panthers shut out United South Central

The NRHEG High School volleyball team won big last Thursday, dominating United South Central 3-0 in New Richland. Game scores in favor of the Panthers were 25-21, 25-12 and 25-16.

"We captured a commanding victory on a lively night in the gym," said NRHEG coach Bethany Tennis. "Energized by the home atmosphere, the girls demonstrated adaptability, making adjustments that created strong offensive opportunities."

Setter Addy Stadheim directed the offensive attack, tallying 35 set assists despite occasional challenges in serve receive. The Panthers' out-sides, Camryn Vanmaldeghem and Gabby Schlaak, delivered consistently on the pin with 19 kills combined, while our blockers provided a steady presence across the net. Senior Nora Flatness was key behind the serving line in set two to stretch the point differential.

With momentum building early in

the season, the Panthers will look to maintain consistency and continue strengthening skills and out of system options heading into next week's competition.

Individually for the Panthers: Schlaak 7K, 3D, 1SA, 1A, 1B; C.VanMeldgehem 11K, 3D, 1SA, 2B; Anika Ladlie 6K, 2D, 2A, 2B; Flatness 1K, 2D, 4A; Quinn VanMaldeghem 1K, 2D, 1B; Stadheim 2K, 4D, 35 SA; Chloe Stork 3K, 3B; Meela Budach 1K,

2D; Chloe Riewer 2D, 1SA, 1A.

Two nights earlier, the Panthers lost 3-0 to visiting Alden-Conger, which won 25-14, 25-18, 25-20.

"We battled, showing grit against tough competition early in the season," said Tennis. "As a team some improvements include stronger passing to open up more offensive options, and quicker adjustments on defense. I'm proud of how the girls reacted and kept improving throughout each set. Alden is a tough team

and I expect very good competition between these two teams later in the season."

Individually for the Panthers: Schlaak 5K, 10D, 3B, 1SA; C.VanMeldghem 9K, 11D, 2B, 2 SA; Ladlie 8K 1B; Flatness 3B; Q.VanMaldgehem 2K, 5D, 1B; Kayden Warke 1D; Stadheim 2K, 6D, 21 SA; Riewer 2SA.

WHS girls' CC team sets sights on state

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Isaac Feldkamp, Tristan Godwin, Tanner Hanson and Tyler Jellum have graduated. So has Callie Dufault.

It leads to differing expectations for the Waseca High School 2025 cross country teams.

While the boys are looking at a rebuilding season, the girls - with nearly all of their squad returning from last year's state meet team - are hoping to return to state and improve upon their finish from last season.

Bluejays earning all-conference honorable mention last year were Stella Omtvedt, Ellie Kopishke and Maren Schimming. Also back are Taylor Markeson, Quinn Yoder, Jenna Yoder, Ava VanDenHemel and Kelsey Draeger.

Wyatt Hager and Luke Feldkamp are the lone Bluejay boys returning.

It leaves the girls, who won the Section 1AA title last year, aiming to improve on last fall's 10th-place finish at state. The girls were third in the Big South Conference, the boys fifth in the conference and sixth in the section.

"The boys are rebuilding after losing some key seniors," said coach Grant Popp. "Our girls return most of the team that went to state last season."

The key to success?

"Both the boys and girls need to stay healthy and keep improving throughout the season," said Popp. "We're not a high-mileage team or a big team, so we need to make up for it by staying focused and making the most of our opportunities to get better. Both the boys and girls need to stay healthy and keep improving throughout the season."

For the boys, Belle Plaine, according to Popp, is the Big South favorite after finishing second to state champion Marshall, which graduated most of its varsity. St. Peter figures to lead the section after winning the conference last year and had the top state finish.

"They return with their entire varsity team," said Popp, who added the Bluejays had three great weeks of practice.

"The team is really coming together and everyone is working extremely hard," said Popp. "I'm really looking forward to seeing what both teams can accomplish this season."

Popp, in his eighth season as head coach of the Bluejays, is assisted by Heidi McCabe and Nancy Kaplan.

Collins nets 250th win

The Waseca High School girls' tennis team defeated Tri-City United 6-1 last Tuesday in Waseca. The JV also won 3-2.

Singles scores:

No. 1 - Vivian Mader, Waseca def. Ellie Adams 6-3 , 6-2;

No. 2 - Maddy Benson, Waseca def. Reagan Steffen 6-2 , 6-3;

No. 3 - Pearl Moore, Waseca def. Destynce Wolff 7-5 , 6-4

No. 4 - Layla Keith, Waseca def. Clara Leonard 6-2 , 6-0;

At doubles:

No. 1 - Paige Dufault and Ava Miller, Waseca def. Cristina Cruz and Hallie Holicky 6-1 , 6-1;

No. 2 - Hannah Rugger and Anna Benson, Waseca def. Camryn Holicky and Lexie Berger 6-2 , 6-0;

No. 3 - Lucy Fleek and Caleigh Hoefs, Tri-City United def. Madison Rasch and Lily Sanchez 6-3 , 6-3.

It was the 250th career victory for Bluejays coach Kyle Collins.

Waseca, 4-3 overall, improved to 2-1 in the Big South Conference's Black Division.



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7	8 7 pm Post & AUX Meeting	9 Burger nite 5-7pm	10 6pm BAR Bingo	11 7pm HALL BINGO	12 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	13 PATRIOT DAY
14	15	16 Burger nite 5-7pm	17 6pm BAR Bingo	18 7pm HALL BINGO USAF BIRTHDAY	19 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	20
21	22	23 Burger nite 5-7pm	24 6pm BAR Bingo	25 7pm HALL BINGO	26 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	27
28	29 VFW DAY	30 Burger nite 5-7pm				

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Wellness event to feature eight topics

Eight area individuals will be sharing what personal experience has taught them about overcoming health concerns or difficult personal situations during a Waseca Wellness Summit scheduled for 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 24, at the Vibrant Life Collective, 201 S. State Street in Waseca.

Co-organizer Marty Johnson of Keep Fightin' Recovery says one goal of the event is to help participants take a "holistic overall look at their mental wellness" and learn how others have faced difficult situations in their lives.

Admission for the gathering is \$15, which includes refreshments and social time, followed by talks between 15 and 20 minutes in length from eight area individuals. Afterward, the admission price includes access to an online recording of the event. Those who do not attend on Sept. 24 can arrange for online access to the video for \$5.

Speakers include Sarah Hoffman of Agutzy Girl; Dr. Mackenzie Hoy of Vibrant Life Chiropractic; Rian Bang of Wild Root Alchemy; Marty Johnson of Keep Fightin' Recovery; Alysia Olson of Renewed Harmony Cranials; Stephanie Culhane of the Well-House; Ken Bentson of



Heartland Healthcare; and Andrea Burger of Anytime Fitness.

Johnson said the intent of the summit is to provide a wide range of information in a relatively short time, allowing people to follow up afterward on those topics which are significant to them or others in their lives. Since the speakers are all local, he pointed out, it will be easy for them to follow up with them if they wish.

Publicity for the event says it offers "real-life stories and practical tools from people who have walked the path of healing themselves—and are now helping others do the same."

Anyone interested in further information can use the included QR code or contact Mackenzie Hoy at mackenziehoydc@gmail.com or call 507-571-2566.

Local artist places well at prestigious state fair show

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Local artist Robin Warburton's sculpture "Daybreak," which features an open-mouthed eastern meadowlark apparently in the act of singing, placed very highly at the competitive "juried" fine arts show held at the Minnesota State Fair.

A summary sheet displayed at the show indicated more than 2,800 original pieces had been submitted in the categories of painting, sculptures, watercolor, drawings, ceramics/glass, textiles/fiber and photography; only a total of 337 were accepted. Of the 172 sculptures submitted for consideration, Warburton's was one of 21 selected.

Warburton mentioned her piece was the only "realistic" three-dimensional sculpture made of wood. After judge Dennis Kalow, who Warburton observed tended to favor abstract pieces, evaluated all items in the show, he placed "Daybreak" in fifth place overall. The pieces in first through fourth place followed principles of abstract art. Warburton shares that, in 2024, her sculpture of a kestrel took fourth place in the state fair show.

An article in an April edition of the Pioneer described two larger-than-life-size projects Warburton has had underway for the past several months—an eagle with its wings outstretched and its talons open, and a great-horned owl named Alice, whose living inspiration is kept by the International Owl Center in Houston, Minn., because of an injury.

The "Alice" sculpture is moving forward, but far from finished, Warburton explains, at least partly because she does not yet have specifications about where and how the sculpture will eventually be mounted and displayed.

The eagle, on the other hand, is complete. Warburton says she looks forward to its unveiling during her "Minnesota Nature Alive in Wood" showing scheduled at the Waseca Art Center from Nov. 1 to Dec. 19. The piece, titled America Freedom 250, has a wingspan of seven feet, six inches.

She notes she is spending much of her creative time sculpting additional pieces for that show, with the intent of having at least 20 never-shown-elsewhere pieces to display. She says she is using some techniques new to her to stretch her boundaries a bit. Among the pieces underway are a number featuring sculpted flowers, including a hummingbird drinking deeply from a blue morning glory. Nearby, a wooden goldfinch eyes a hand-sculpted zinnia while a monarch butterfly rests at the base of a yellow pansy.

Warburton notes she looks forward to the show since the staff at the Waseca Art Center are willing to be flexible and make their needs for displays known in advance.



SCULPTING - Janesville area artist Robin Warburton's piece "Daybreak" was selected for inclusion in the fine arts display at the Minnesota State Fair. More than 2,800 works were submitted, only 337 were included. Warburton's piece, pictured bottom right, features a meadowlark and placed fifth in the show. The Waseca Area Art Center will be featuring a display of works by Robin Warburton in November. The show will feature at least 20 new sculptures and will include the unveiling of her larger-than-life size sculpture of a bald eagle. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

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