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LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
No. 40 Vol. IV \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, October 2, 2025

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“Hat Extravaganza”

Scarecrow Decorating Contest at Farmamerica

Farmamerica is calling on individuals, families, organizations, classrooms, and businesses of all kinds to showcase their creativity in its Scarecrow Contest. Once registered, entrants will receive a link to choose a time to decorate their scarecrow on-site on Oct. 8, 9, or 10. The scarecrows will remain on display through October 17. \$25 for entry, nonprofits enter free.

Beers and Brats Oktoberfest at The Mill Thursday, Oct. 2

The Beers and Brats Oktoberfest celebration at The Mill Waseca will take place from 3:30 p.m. until gone on Thursday, Oct. 2. With brats from Wiste's Meat market and beer specials on Summer Shandy, Schell's Oktoberfest, and Busch Light.

Lego Story Time at Waseca Public Library Saturday, Oct. 4

Kids ages 4-6 can join Waseca Public Library's monthly creative Lego-building group, with an adult. This month's Lego Story Time will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, October 4. Each event will include a story to inspire the builders.

JWP Hall of Fame Banquet Oct. 4

The annual JWP Hall of Fame Banquet will be held Oct. 4 beginning at 4 p.m. at the Purple Goose in Janesville. A meal will be served at 5 p.m., awards to follow at 6 p.m. Those interested in enjoying the meal should contact Mike Niemczyk at 507-381-1025 to purchase a ticket.

Lego Club at Waseca Public Library Oct. 4

Kids ages 7-12 are invited to join Waseca Public Library's creative Lego-building club. This month's Lego Club event will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, October 4. Each event will have a theme to inspire and Legos to build with.

JWP Hall of Fame Banquet Oct. 4

The annual JWP Hall of Fame Banquet will be held Oct. 4 beginning at 4 p.m. at the Purple Goose in Janesville. A meal will be served at 5 p.m., awards to follow at 6 p.m. Those interested in enjoying the meal should contact Mike Niemczyk at 507-381-1025 to purchase a ticket. Those interested in just the program are welcome to attend.

Barnyard Treasures Fall Festival Oct. 4

The Barnyard Treasures Fall Festival will take place starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 4. There will be numerous vendors present, including sour dough at 8623 SW 108th St. New Richland MN.

A word from The Word

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you.

Deuteronomy 31:6

Homecoming Triumph WHS celebrates September 22-26



2025 Waseca High School Homecoming royalty: (front, from left) Ethan Hiller, Jordan Johnston, Cyrett Long, Evan Bryon, Lillian Schultz, Caleb Wulf and Slade Barnett. Back: Katie Olson, Layla Keith, Paige Dufault, King Deron Russell, Queen Chloe Roehmildt, Ellery Waldron and Meraina Hiller.

Coronation and win close festive week

Waseca Homecoming week 2025 concluded last Friday after a week full of activities, themed dress up days, coronation, and parades came to a close. The excitement concluded with a 49-6 win over the TCU Titans on Friday evening.

The anticipation kicked off with a pep fest for all fall sports held the Friday before homecoming week, Sept. 20. Also leading into the excitement was the Bluejay Boosters' breakfast at the American Legion. "Dress-up" days, activities and games were scheduled all week long.

A major highlight was coronation on Thursday evening. Coach Brad Wendland told everyone in attendance that this year's football team is dedicated to representing their school and their fellow students with integrity, then brought up captains Lucas Selthun, Ethan

Hiller, Deron Russell and Jordan Johnston to introduce each of the 60-some members of the team.

The homecoming court consisted of 12 talented and involved individuals. Paige Dufault, daughter of Jared and Stacy Dufault, participates in tennis, show choir, select choir, sextets, FCA and BPA. She is in Student Council and is the senior class president and a member of the Minnesota Honor Society. Dufault lifeguards for Lakeside and Community Ed and is also a member of Christ Community Church. Dufault was escorted by Cyrett Long, son of John Long and Christine Sanchez. Long is involved in football, basketball and BPA. He also works at Pizza Ranch.

Meraina Hiller, daughter of Randy Hiller and Kristine Christiansen, is involved in fall and winter varsity cheer, a member of



Waseca's 2025 Homecoming King and Queen, Deron Russell and Chloe Roehmildt

Trinity Lutheran Church and works at the Jays Nest and nannies. She was escorted by Slade Barnett, son of Scott Barnett and Stephanie Barnett. Barnett is a wrestling captain, a member of the student council and works at Pizza Ranch.

Layla Keith, daughter of Joe Keith and Muriah Miller Keith, is involved in show choir, sextets, select choir and is a section leader in choir. She is student council president, involved in BPA, a

Coronation continued on 14

JWP Hall of Fame induction ceremony

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

The annual JWP Hall of Fame Banquet will begin at 4 p.m. Oct. 4 at the Purple Goose in Janesville. A meal will be served at 5 p.m.; awards to follow at 6 p.m.

Those interested in enjoying the meal should contact Mike Niemczyk at 507-381-1025 to purchase a ticket. Those interested in just the program are welcome to attend.

The following persons and teams will be inducted:

Teams: 1997 Boys' Basketball team, 2000 Boys' Golf Team, 1997 Wrestling Team.

Individuals: Mike Cummins, Travis Gunsolus, Trent Gunsolus, Bob Hendricks, Tim Johnson, Josh Melchior, David Pope, and Greg Strauss.

Greg is a 1970 graduate of Janesville where he participated in football, basketball, baseball and track. He is a two-year all conference and all-area basketball player and was all-conference in track for 3 years. In track, Greg competed in the pole vault, 220 (100 yard), and the long jump earning conference championships in all three, setting a

conference record in the long jump and a school record of 22 seconds in the 220. Greg was all-state track in 1970 and 1971.

Josh Melchior
Josh is a 1991 graduate of JWP earning 11 varsity letters, four in Football, four in wrestling, and three in baseball. He earned all-conference and all-area honors in football, was a 1,000 yard rusher for two years and was All Area Player of the year. Josh held the single season rushing record in football for 25 years. In wrestling, Josh placed fourth in state and earned All State honors his senior year. Josh attended Mankato State University and coached JWP Youth Football for four years. Josh and his wife Lisa have two children, Taya and Ty.

Dr. David Pope
Dr. Pope Started teaching in the science department in Janesville in 1960. He began attending medical school in 1964, yet returned to Janesville in 1969 and opened his medical practice. By the time he retired in 2005, he had performed a few thousand pre-participation physicals. Dr. Pope attended many athletic events in case his help was needed – and numerous times it was – all of which he re-

members well: two broken arms, a shoulder separation, a heart murmur and a dislocated knee cap. In the 70s the rescue squad of the fire department became trained EMTs, yet Dr. Pope continued to attend and support the local athletic programs. He helped start the Janesville Area Foundation and served as its secretary for several years. The Foundation has provided many grants to JWP and has supported a number of athletic programs. He has also served as secretary of the Janesville Matters organization. Dr. Pope was a Rotarian for 50 years and the club provided thousands of dollars to JWP for many programs. Rotary also sponsored the Youth Exchange program and both brought more than 30 students to attend JWP from around the world and sponsored many JWP students who spent a year abroad. Dr. Pope became a Paul Harris Fellow for his contributions. His best memories of JWP are the trips to the state tournaments and watching students develop their skills, mature and have fun.

Dr. Pope and his wife Vanette have four children, Brian, Tammy, Scott and Amy. Tim Johnson
Tim is a 1990 Graduate of JWP. He partic-



David Pope

ipated in track for four years and spent three as part of the football and basketball teams. In 1989, Tim took eighth place at the state track meet in the pole vault; in 1990 he placed second at state in the pole vault. Tim still holds the JWP pole vault record.

Tim attended UW- Stout and in 1995 set the UW - Stout pole vault record. He was

Fame continued on 12

Calonett hosting college competition

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Calonett of rural Waseca is hosting a collegiate level 5k event featuring 10 colleges on Oct. 11 beginning around 11 a.m. Runners, coaches and Luther alumni will begin arriving at the property, located at 14720 Old Highway 14, around 9:30 a.m., with a color guard presentation at 10:30 a.m. Alumni from participating colleges are eligible to participate, but not eligible for awards. Following the race will be an awards presentation. More than 1,000 spectators are expected and the local community is invited to attend this free event.

Walter, 76, and Cheryl, 71, Mishek, organized the second annual 2025 Coach Finanger Invitational in honor of Cheryl's mentor and college cross country coach Kenton Finanger, 93. A collegiate coach for nearly three decades, Finanger holds more national championships at the Division 3 level at Luther College in Dubuque, Iowa, than any coach in the school's history.

Ten schools are expected to compete in this officially sanctioned NCAA event, with more than 200 athletes taking part.

"Hopefully this will be a great honorary event for a well deserving coach," Walter said. "And a great event for all the athletes and spectators... The coaches who came to preview the course think it's going to be the prettiest, the best, and the hardest course their athletes have ever run. Heartbreak Hill will be quite the event to see as runners come up for the finals."

Following the event, competing athletes, approximately 30 Wasecans who are Luther graduates, and volunteers and staff will be staying for a complimentary dinner catered and prepared by Calonett Farm's personal chef, Bradley Blackhawk.

Members of the general public are invited to come view the race and are encouraged to begin bringing their own chairs if they would like. Food trucks are expected to be available for purchase by the public. Parking and admission to the race are free.



Compostings

by Al Batt

Great-tailed grackle

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

Do you ever talk to yourself? I think everybody talks to themselves.

I wasn't talking to you.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I recently watched an old movie, "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre," from 1948, starring Humphrey Bogart, where I heard a kookaburra calling in Mexico. Filmmakers often used that Australian bird as a stock background noise for jungle scenes. I've heard it in Tarzan movies. Tarzan (John Clayton II, Viscount Greystoke) is a fictional character, a feral child raised in the African jungle by great apes; created by Edgar Rice Burroughs in the novel "Tarzan of the Apes" published in a magazine in 1912 and in a book in 1914. Tarzan was the son of a British lord and lady marooned on the coast of Africa by mutineers. When Tarzan was an infant, his mother died, and his father was killed by Kerchak, the leader of the ape tribe that adopted Tarzan. Tarzan lived in Africa, but those who watched his movies heard a kookaburra from Australia.

I'VE LEARNED

I love skipping stones on the water. There is something about the sound of a bouncing rock that brings pleasant thoughts. A friend, after several shoulder operations, is concentrating his stone skipping on iced-over lakes.

The trifecta bit me: mosquito, multi-colored Asian lady beetle and a no-see-um. If something bites you and there is nothing there, it's a no-see-um (minute pirate bug, a tiny insect with a big bite).

A survey by MarketBeat.com reveals each state's most beloved local brands. Here are the Minnesota-made goods that inspire the most pride: #1 General Mills (Golden Valley), which produces Cheerios, Betty Crocker and Pillsbury. #2 Red Wing Shoes (Red Wing). #3 Hormel Foods (Austin). #4 3M (Maplewood), innovators of Scotch Tape and Post-it Notes. #5 Pearson's Candy Company (St. Paul), makers of Nut Goodie and Salted Nut Roll.

In Iowa, it's Blue Bunny Ice Cream in Le Mars. Other state favorites are Dot's Homestyle Pretzels in Velva, North Dakota, Wall Drug Store in Wall, South Dakota, and Wisconsin's is Harley-Davidson in Milwaukee. Ice cream was a common favorite: Blue Bunny in Iowa, Blue Bell in Texas, Ben & Jerry's in Vermont, and Yarnell's in Arkansas.

If you have trouble finding your car in a parking lot, trade it in

for a yellow vehicle.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

I got an electric shock the other day. But instead of making a "zap" sound, it went "Hooray!" It was ecstatic electricity.

I'm not using Amazon again. I ordered grain for my chickens. But after I got it, they asked for my feedback.

What do you call bears with no ears? B.

My uncle was a successful farmer. He said he began flourishing once he started keeping records of each cow's name. That was the cattle-list.

A man goes into a drugstore and asks the pharmacist if he could give him something for the hiccups. The pharmacist reaches out and slaps the man's face.

"What did you do that for?" the man asked, rubbing his smarting cheek.

"Well, you don't have the hiccups anymore, do you?" said the pharmacist with a smug smile.

"No, but my wife, who is sitting outside in the car, still does!"

NATURE NOTES

They were my constant companions in Texas. A Mexican legend says the great-tailed grackle had no voice, so he stole songs from the sea turtle, leaving the turtle silent and himself bursting with chatter. This grackle has a unique ability—each eye can independently view its surroundings for food and predators, seeing two different images simultaneously—a talent thought to be the chameleon's alone.

"Why do the leaves of trees show their undersides?" I see oaks, maples and poplars flipping their leaves when there is a change in the prevailing wind, an increase in humidity levels or low moisture. Leaf flipping is usually a sign that rain is imminent, when the leaves change position because of weather conditions that typically develop before rain moves in. Gusty winds often precede summer rains, causing leaves to flip over and show their silvery sides. Tree leaves generally grow in accordance with the prevailing wind in an area. Winds from incoming storms frequently go against the prevailing wind, and the force of the wind causes the leaves to flip.

"Are there any birds named after women?" Yes. Lucy's warbler, Grace's warbler, Blackburnian warbler (named after Anna Blackburn or her brother Ashton), Anna's hummingbird, Virginia's warbler and Zenaida dove.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees."—Amelia Earhart.

Socially responsible thrift shopping

I've mentioned before that I like going to thrift stores. As far as I'm concerned, it's the socially responsible way to shop. Rather than contributing to the excessive trend of "out with the old, in with the new," it's a way to "reduce, re-use, recycle."

As I'm sure nearly everyone has, I have made some very satisfying purchases—not only saving money, but also finding items with character and style.

Apparently I came into the company of a truly like-minded individual last Saturday when I attended a "Hat Extravaganza" at Waseca's Faith United Methodist Church. There, church member and Ellendale area resident Roberta Walker was sharing information about her hat collection, which numbers 150 or more.

Roberta shared that nearly all of her hats—which not only range over every color in the spectrum but also include neutrals and metallic colors—were purchased on the



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

second-hand market. Very important to mention is that none of them looked used; instead they seemed as fresh and crisp as if they had just come from the milliner.

By chance, also in attendance at the extravaganza was another person I think of when it comes to "reducing, re-using and recycling," a local woman I wrote about almost exactly one year ago who spent seven years meticulously sorting through her parents' overwhelming collection of belongings and finding environmentally responsible places where the widely varied assemblage of household and vintage items could

be sent.

As Roberta talked about acquiring her hats, she made the statement that, when she sees a sign for a sale, her car "almost turns itself" to follow it.

I couldn't help smiling at that.

I have been stopping at fewer sales these days, to a large degree because I am frequently on my way somewhere and don't believe I have time. Still, I feel an internal tug. Who knows what I might be missing? What items offered at the sale could fill a gap faced by someone in my family or circle of friends?

The internal conflict continues for a block or more while I repress

Going to the Big Apple and Bethlehem

My travel saga continues. Last weekend I had the fortunate opportunity to travel to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania with Jack in order to visit his dad and attend the Celtic Classic festival happening in the town.

We flew in on Thursday evening, and since the festival didn't start until Friday night, we decided to waste no time and took a day trip to New York City on Friday. It was about an hour and a half drive from Bethlehem, but it was worth it and beautiful in my opinion.

I remember that I was quite small the last time I was in the city, although of course I can't remember what age. So I was very excited to venture around the Big Apple this time and soak up the sights I knew I would remember.

The first thing we did was go to The Edge, which had an observation deck with a glass floor 100 stories in the air. The views were indeed amazing, and I took a lot of pictures for my digital scrapbook (my iPhone photos album). Next, we walked along the river down to the Intrepid Museum, a military and maritime history museum located on the 1943 aircraft carrier, the *USS Intrepid*. Jack's father had wanted



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

to go to see the space shuttle they had, but I was entranced by all the small rooms, walkways, and stairs in the ship where Navy members did their work from 1943 to 1974.

Trying to picture myself as a part of the Navy, working on the ship, was fun. Would I man one of the data machines? Would I be a communicator or scribe of some sort? Maybe even a chef? But the main question to ponder was whether or not I would even like it. Who knows? However, since my journey in life has taken a completely different route, I was grateful for the chance to appreciate and respect the hard work of everyone who was stationed on the ship and served our country.

We then meandered our way to Times Square of course. It was cool, but not as awe inspiring for me as it was to pass the New York Times building. We stopped

for lunch, went to Rockefeller Square where the Ryder Cup was being projected, stepped into St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Lego store and called it a day. We had to get back in time for the start of the Celtic Classic, so we went as fast as New York City traffic would allow.

We made it to the Classic in time for the caber toss competition, where very large men test their strength by throwing a very long log into the air to see if they can make it flip over. It was quite fun to see and the six or so men in kilts performed odd feats of strength all weekend, vying to see who was the strongest of them all.

We joined in as much of the fun and revelry as we could. Dressed in matching kilts and regalia ourselves on Saturday, we attended the parade, watched the men and pipe bands compete, ate great food, and listened to Irish,

the urge to turn around. If I should pass a second sign pointing to the same sale, the admonitions start all over again.

A piece of good news for me is, if I don't get to any garage sales for a while, the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center stands ready to satisfy my craving for bargains, variety, and novelty. Whether at the Service Center or a sale, a significant part of the fun is seeing the interesting items people have chosen and made use of.

I toy with ideas about how I might use those items, or how they might benefit people near to me. If the benefit seems strong enough and the price is enough of a bargain, I am likely to make a purchase, always hoping my speculations are accurate.

Anyway, I hope you enjoy the piece about Roberta Walker and her hats. Perhaps you, too, will find yourself connected to her interesting experiences in some way.

Scottish, and Celtic musicians play all the songs important to their culture. It was an amazing time. I learned drinking songs I wish I had known in college, raunchy songs to make you laugh and ones that could make you cry. I learned Irish handcuffs are when you're holding a beer in each hand. I learned people really like corn and that an enthusiastic fiddle player can really dance around in a kilt.

Being able to appreciate culture is an experience I don't know how to put into words. People walked around in matching clan shirts and kilts. Pride regarding who they are and what families they belong to showed on their faces, warming my heart. I may be mostly German with a wee bit o' Irish in me, but seeing people celebrate and appreciate their Celtic heritage while keeping the history alive is a memory I will never forget.

My Determination: "Most of the great triumphs and tragedies of history are caused, not by people being fundamentally good or fundamentally bad, but by people being fundamentally people." — Neil Gaiman, Good Omens

Every week is the same but different

The last time former Star Eagle Publisher Lavonne Meyer and I visited, it started when she banged on my front door, waking me up from a peaceful sleep.

She was mad.

After I relieved myself, got dressed, and hurriedly put on shoes (without socks), I opened my front door to see which building was burning down.

This was the only time I was ever yelled at by Lavonne so I knew she wasn't really mad about her subscription to the paper.

After a number of seconds I stopped her from speaking by telling her I would not come to her house and speak to her this way.

She calmed down right away and we went into my office to chat, rather than at my front door. I asked her what was wrong.

She told me about her subscription bill problem. I told her I had to create a new system for billing subscriptions and some mistakes were made that could not be corrected until information never previously communicated to me, was communicated.

She was understanding.

She then told me about another problem, a lack of a receptionist. This was shortly after Reed



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

Waller, longtime production manager, retired. I said I would get on top of it and I did, hiring my young cousin, Payge Rosacker, a short time later. This is Payge's first job and she's in the middle of her second year now.

Before Lavonne left I asked her what was bothering her (because it couldn't be me who got her this worked up). She grew tearful and told me about a personal relationship that was hurting her emotionally. After hearing her out, I gave her a hug and walked her to her car.

It makes me want to cry thinking back to this moment because this was the last conversation the two of us ever had.

We can never know what someone else is going through or which moment together might be our final one.

My first memory of Lavonne, as an employee of the Star Eagle, came when I was a very green 19-year-old editor of the paper. She walked in with a big smile

like the sun beaming, and told me I made it. She was proud of me.

When I described the conversation to my mother, my mom's eyes grew wide and her voice took on a tone of surprise. The reaction was so unexpected, I remember it well to this day. Mom went on to tell me the compliment was a big deal. Lavonne doesn't just say things like that, Mom told me.

I'm grateful I/we/the paper received her blessing.

We sat down about three years ago to write her, Lavonne's story. I published it on the front page of the first ever edition of the Waseca County Pioneer. I waited to publish it in the Star Eagle until her death in March of this year, 2025.

I wanted to honor her and her memory as best I could.

What made me think about this, now?

Two things.

I was driving to Albert Lea

Sunday and saw smoke billowing out of Hartland. I almost didn't stop to investigate but Lavonne's voice, telling me the story of her first story, taking photos of a dead body involved in a car accident, rang through my mind.

Second.

Last week I accidentally published a photo with an advertisement as a cutline by mistake. Payge had clipped the photo and ad together and I thought they went together. I'm very sorry for the mistake. It was my fault. I should have known better. But, the mistake got me thinking, all the way back to the reason I hired Payge. Because an upset reader banged on my door to tell me I did something wrong.

Thank you Lavonne for looking out for me and the paper.

And to the Stennes, I'm sorry. And thank you for reading the paper. I still think about the story I wrote about Pete. It was one of my favorites. Right there with Lavonne Meyer.

"Our memory is a more perfect world than the universe: it gives back life to those who no longer exist." - Guy de Maupassant

"Every week is the same but different." - Lavonne Meyer



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

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GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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JIM LUTGENS
JON LUCCA
BEN REVERMANN
TERESA ROSACKER
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St. Paul Lutheran Church Oktoberfest Saturday, Oct. 4

Waseca's St. Paul Lutheran Church Oktoberfest will take place on Saturday, Oct. 4 from noon to 8 p.m. will feature a bean bag tournament (\$40 registration), a stein holding contest, live music from Los Toquileros and Marv and Kaat. Food, refreshments, and a bouncy house. St. Paul's is located at 313 Third Ave NE, Waseca.

Open House and Chili Feed at Waseca Fire Department Oct. 5

The Waseca Fire Department Auxiliary is sponsoring an open house and chili feed on Sunday, Oct. 5. Serving chili or chicken wild rice soup. \$10 for bottomless bowl, \$5 hot dog meal w/\$1 for additional hot dog.

Wood Slice Birds at Waseca Public Library Monday, Oct. 6

Craft colorful birds using wood slices at 10 a.m. Monday, October 6 at Waseca Public Library. In this hands-on event, kids will use natural wood slice as their canvas to design and create bird-inspired artwork. Ages 7-12.

How about Them Apples at Waseca Public Library Oct. 6

Teens will discover a variety of apples as we hold a tasting with local varieties and toppings at Waseca Public Library on Monday, October 6th at 1 pm. Free and geared for teens.

Mythical Creatures Club at Janesville Public Library Oct. 6

Each month, dive deep into the lore of one incredible mythical creature, from ogres to kelpies. Mythical Creatures Club begins at 3:30 p.m. Monday, October 6 at Janesville Public Library. Club members will also complete an activity, craft, or game inspired by the creature of the month. Ages 7-12.

Dr. Jean Marie McGowan at Waseca Public Library Oct. 7

"Are You There, Doctor? It's Me, Menopause" Dr. Jean Marie McGowan will discuss the signs and symptoms of perimenopause, menopause and her book at Waseca Public Library on Tuesday, October 7th at 6 pm. Free and open to the public. She will lead a candid discussion answering your questions, from hormone therapy to mental health and weight gain.

Christ the King Lutheran Church Baked Potato Bar luncheon Oct. 8

Women of the Word (WOW), Christ the King Lutheran Church, will be holding a Baked Potato Bar luncheon with all the delicious toppings, plus dessert, on Wednesday, Oct. 8, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at 309 Sixth Street NE, Waseca. Cost is \$9 per person. "Potato-to-Go" option is available by contacting Karen Neu at karenneu0016@gmail.com or at 612-991-6001 to place your order.

Cancer Awareness

Survivor Kim Maas tells of her battle with ovarian cancer

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

After two surgeries and chemotherapy, Waseca area resident Kim Maas has been cancer free since April. Because there have been times over her one-year battle with ovarian cancer when she questioned how many days she had left on earth, she observes, "I feel fortunate to be here; every day is a blessing."

But along with that, she says, when it comes to "the big C," "I don't think I can ever feel confident again. It's dangerous to be confident."

Kim, her mother Sue, and her sister Rebecca recently took part in the Murray County Relay for Life in August at the Murray County Fairgrounds. On September 20, she and Rebecca went to the Steele County/Waseca Relay. The combination of being with family and helping support the

American Cancer Society seems representative of Kim's recent journey.

"When I first learned I had cancer, I thought about my family," she remembers. "I didn't want them to go through the pain of losing someone they love." Along with that, "I wanted to know everything I could about cancer that could help me survive."

Kim recently contacted the Waseca County Pioneer offering to share her experiences in honor of

September being recognized as gynecologic and ovarian cancer awareness month. Whenever it's told, her biggest hope is that her story can be of help to others.

"You know your own body," she says regarding any warning signs or symptoms. "If something about your health or your healthcare doesn't seem right, you have to advocate for yourself."

Referring to ovarian cancer as "a very silent killer," Kim acknowledges many of the symptoms can easily be attributed to other causes, or dismissed as unimportant. She offers the examples of increasing frequency of urination, fatigue, unexplained weight loss, reduced appetite and bloating.

In her case, she says, it was possible to overlook three telling incidents because they came weeks apart and did not seem related to each other. It began with a change in how she experienced her monthly periods. In January of 2024, she describes being in so much pain she could barely move—a definite change from before. But when the pain was much less by her February period, she dismissed it as an anomaly or a change due to aging. Another unrecognized warning sign occurred just after she had donated blood; despite having donated many times before without experiencing problems, she became so lightheaded she needed assistance to get to a nearby chair with a fan.



SURVIVOR - Waseca area resident Kim Maas was diagnosed with ovarian cancer just over one year ago. She has now been cancer free since April. Maas (center) with her mother Sue and sister Rebecca during a recent Relay for Life event.

In March, she experienced what she took to be a very severe cold. When she visited a doctor for lingering congestion and trouble breathing, she requested a chest x-ray, but was instead prescribed steroids.

"By August [2024] I could barely breathe," she remembers. Although she is an avid walker, things reached a point where "I could barely get to the end of my driveway." After a chest x-ray revealed bilateral blood clots in her lungs, Kim was prescribed blood thinners and underwent further testing which revealed a tumor on her right ovary. When it was surgically removed in September, the tumor was discovered to be about 7 inches in diameter. It was also learned it had "burst" only a few days before, potentially releasing infectious elements into the rest of her

JWP SCHOOL BOARD

JWP scrutinizes Narcan policy

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

At their Sept. 15 meeting, members of the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (JWP) school board asked superintendent Jeremy Erler to acquire more information about a proposed policy regarding medications like Narcan, a substance which can save the life of someone experiencing unconsciousness and possibly approaching death to due to an opioid overdose. Narcan can be administered either by a nasal spray or an injection.

The Minnesota legislature recently made it acceptable for schools to allow one student to administer the medication to another in an emergency, however some board members vocalized concerns about adding it to the district's policies.

"I thought it was interesting they would allow other students to administer it and not require an adult," board member Laura Seys stated regarding the legislature's decision. Erler responded suggesting the policy might be based on the circumstance that, even if unconsciousness results from a source other than an opioid, there are no "contraindications," that is, the substance will not cause harm.

Seys suggested that Erler bring the topic to the Waseca County Family Services Collaborative governing board, which Erler is a member of, to see what they think. Seys stated she is open to the idea if it creates the opportunity to save a life.

Erler informed board members the substance is kept in numerous locations within the school, and primarily in the nurse's office. Board member Monica Erickson mentioned access to the substance is important and described a time when an overdose occurred during drivers' education class in the evening, when other doors and offices were locked.

"We have to have it on site within this building and we have to have it down at the athletic complex," Erler said. "So it's in the concession stand down there."

He said the topic was discussed very briefly at the law conference he attended earlier that day, on Sept. 15.

"They basically just said because it is such a life and death emergency, if the only other person around is another student, they don't want that person to not administer it because they think they're going to get in trouble," another board member said.

In other business, Erler expressed how "incredibly well" the Chromebooks situation is going.

"The teachers have control and long-term and short-term loaners are working together as planned," he added.

In all, the long-term loaners amount to eighty for the entire school year and between sixty to seventy Chromebooks can be checked out on a daily basis if

Council continued on 12



SPECIAL OLYMPICS - Area resident Jake Lieser is among almost 260 members of "Team Minnesota" for next year's national Special Olympics competition, set to take place in June at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus. Team members gathered this month at Treasure Island for their first practice and uniform fittings.

Jake Lieser to compete at Special Olympics nationals

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Waseca resident Jake Lieser, 28, names friends he has made from across the state and even around the country thanks to his participation in Special Olympics. "It's all about the connections," he says of the nationwide program which brings neurodiverse individuals together for sports competitions of many types.

Lieser learned this past May that he is among the 200 or so athletes on "Team Minnesota," the group representing the state in the national competition from June 20 to 26 at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus. Nationals are held only once every four years.

A participant in track and field, he is slated to compete in the Men's 4 x 100 meter relay, the 400 meter walk, and shotput. He says he not

only enjoys taking part in his own categories, but also cheering on fellow athletes. He mentions an impressive array of sports including field hockey, basketball, swimming, bocce ball, golf, flag football, and—at least in Minnesota—cornhole.

Team Minnesota gathered at Treasure Island Resort in mid-September for what Lieser called a "meet and greet" event. About 260 people including the athletes, family members and staff spent a large share of the weekend learning about the schedule and details of the national competition, being fitted for their uniforms in a maroon and gold color theme, and gathering for practices to "get to know each others' strengths and weaknesses when it comes to competition."

Lieser reveals he first joined Special Olympics as part of a field



Jake Lieser

He also describes his determination to do well at a slightly different form of competition which will begin next spring. "It's a 'peer-to-peer' contest," he explains. "The two athletes who raise the most money will be the first two members of the team to step out during the opening ceremonies.

"I'm going to work really hard to be one of those two people."

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OBITUARIES

Alden Patten

Alden "Pat" Patten, age 91, of Waseca, passed away on Friday, September 26, 2025. He was born on November 9, 1933 in St. James, Minnesota to Earl and Anna (Carlson) Patten. After graduating from Medford High School in 1952, he entered into the United States Marine Corp serving his country from 1953 to 1956. He attended basic training at Camp Pendleton, served in Korea, and was honorably discharged in 1956. Pat received the National Defense Service Medal, UN Service Medal, and Korean Service Medal. After his military service, he entered into the construction field and found a home working as a foreman for AB Systems starting in 1972 until his retirement in 1995. In his earlier years, Pat enjoyed hunting, trapping, and fishing. He also enjoyed playing cards, spending time with his family, friends, and veterans. Pat was a proud member of the VFW and American Legion for over 50 years.

Pat is survived by five children, Cindy Harrold, Suzie Root, Lynne Patten, Bill Patten (Kelly Lundgren) and Joely Patten Eskens (Allen); one sister Lois Danks; six grandchildren, Shane Patten, Abbey (Rick) Hackbarth, Bill (Machia) Root, Jackie Root, Ben Root, Mikayla Eskens (Jon Koser), nine great grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his former spouse, Donna Oliva (Bartz), the mother of his children.



Alden Patten

He is preceded in death by his parents, Earl and Anna Patten, sisters Marjorie Patten and Kathy Gunderson, brother-in-law Luther Danks, nephew Steve Danks, and grandchild Jesse Hudson.

A Celebration of Life Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, October 4, 2025 at 11:00 AM at St. John's Lutheran Church in Waseca, with Memorial Visitation held prior to the service starting at 9:30 AM. A luncheon will follow the service at the church. Arrangements are entrusted to the Dennis Steffel Omtvedt Funeral Home in Waseca.

A special thanks to the doctors and staff at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, Freedom Home Health Care, Ecumen (hospice), and Oaklawn Rehabilitation Center.

Pat will be remembered for his calm demeanor, sense of humor, quiet strength, and generous spirit.

Karen Pettigrew

Karen Fay Pettigrew, age 80 of Waseca, died at her home surrounded by her family on the morning of Friday, September 26, 2025.

Born in Minneapolis on November 27, 1944, Karen was the daughter of Howard Sumner and Fay Eileen (Bashore) Stiff. She grew up in St. Louis Park and Hopkins, Minnesota. She attended Minnesota State University - Mankato from 1962 until 1966, and the last year in an internship at Hennepin General Hospital in Minneapolis. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a four-year degree in medical technology. She worked briefly as a medical technologist at St. Joseph's Hospital in Mankato and later for the Mankato Heart Health Project, a research project through the University of Minnesota. While in school she participated in Latin Club, National Honor Society, Girl Scouts, and Band. Karen met Quintin Pettigrew (from Cannon Falls) during her college years and they married in 1967. They lived and raised their family in Mankato during the first 35 years of their life together and moved to Waseca in 2002. Karen's interests included Bible Study Fellowship, Waseca Monday Study Club, reading, cooking (always something healthy), quilting, and sewing of all kinds.

Karen is survived by her husband Quintin of Waseca; four daughters, Kara Pettigrew (Sam Basho) of Lake Elmo, Kayla



Karen Pettigrew

Pettigrew (Libier Bermudez) of Des Moines, IA, Jennifer Kust (fiancé Jeff Erickson) of Hudson, WI, and Bethany Meyer (Brandon Meyer) of McKinney, TX; eight grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and one great-grandson. She was preceded in death by her parents.

A viewing and graveside interment service was held at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 30, 2025 at the Cannon Falls Cemetery.

A memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 30, 2025 at First Congregational Church in Waseca, with Rev. Derrick Skoglund officiating. Visitation was held from 1:00 p.m. until the time of the service at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in memory of Karen are preferred. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca is handling the arrangements.

"Hat Extravaganza" features Roberta Walker's collection

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Until this past Saturday, Roberta Walker had shared her collection of more than 150 hats mostly only one at a time.

"I wear them to church on Sundays," she explains.

Not that no one ever sees her collection. She describes display cases in the Ellendale area home where she and her husband Roger live. There she enjoys setting out various hats along with matching accessories like gloves or jewelry. "I like to mix and match them," she says of the displays, mentioning that she changes them out every now and then just for the simple pleasure of doing so.

"There's something about them that I find very special," she says. "They're not only fun to wear, they're fun to look at."

Walker, 80, shared her collection with more than 40 people who attended a women's fellowship gathering the morning of Saturday, Sept. 27, at Waseca's Faith United Methodist Church, located along the west shore of Clear Lake.

To prepare for her talk, she spent many hours selecting the hats she would like to place on display, delivering them to town in numerous trips with a car stacked full of hat boxes, then arranging them appealingly on about 10 display tables in the church basement. Along with that, she placed a hat and some accessories on each of the tables occupied by guests. Other members of her "women's circle" prepared cake and coffee for the event, and even made small table favors shaped like elegant hats.

"The women's fellowship meetings are something we've really come to enjoy," Walker said of the fairly new monthly event. Presenta-

tions like hers and an earlier one by church member Sherry Jones regarding buttons take place maybe three or four times a year.

During a presentation which lasted about an hour, Walker shared that she believes her love of hats may stem from her childhood, when women frequently wore hats in public, and always to church.

Her first experiences were with Easter bonnets; she remembers getting a new one nearly every year throughout her childhood. The next consistent exposure, she said, came when she entered the health care field. Back at that time, nurses were expected to dress all in white and to wear a sort of starched white arch on their heads.

The collection of showy, colorful hats which was displayed on Sept. 27 began, Walker believes, in the mid-1960s, when she bought a wide-brimmed felt hat in navy blue. She was about to take her first airline flight and felt like dressing up, so she put together a color-matched outfit that included her dress, shoes and gloves.

"You might think I have a lot of money invested in my collection," she told guests. "But if you know anything about me, you know I like a bargain."

She went on to tell that she stops at thrift stores whenever she gets a chance, and that "my car practically turns itself when I see a garage sale sign." One of her best buys was a time when she bought six stylish hats for only \$5. She mentions that people who know of her collection often give her hats as well.

She told the story of one time she was at a thrift store with a family member. "I saw this one hat," she said lightheartedly. "But she told me no, there was no way I was going to



COLLECTION - A few of the 40-some people who attended Roberta Walker's presentation this past week chose to wear their own hats. Pictured here are (seated, from left) Wilda Smith, Roberta Walker, Jean Slattery (back row, from left) Linda Griffin, Sheila Morris, Jan Ross and Merrily Wagar.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

buy it. So I didn't."

On the trip homeward, though, she couldn't stop thinking about the hat.

"So I called her, and I told her she had to go buy that hat and send it to me."

The group let loose an energetic, simultaneous "Oooh," when Walker lifted the hat in question out of a nearby box. Brimless, it was draped with a gauzy, transparent fabric. The color was a luminescent lime green.

"When I have trouble finding a shirt or a jacket that matches a hat," she went on to say, "I sometimes just wear black and then add a necklace or other jewelry that matches."

She looked again at the lime green hat.

"Anyone from church can tell you, I wear a lot of black outfits."

Walker mentioned she enjoys wearing her hats because they help her feel stylish and unique. Women sometimes compliment her hats, but the really interesting observations and comments tend to come from men. She mentions one that a fellow called a "spaghetti hat," and another which was dubbed a "bird's nest."

She went on to say she enjoys having the hats as something of a personal trademark, and takes pride that her two granddaughters love wearing

her hats when they visit, and when they accompany her to church.

"Now they're starting to take them home with them," she says. "They live rather far away." Granddaughter Jensen Pfander, 19, now lives in Iowa, but had previously lived in Texas. Granddaughter Sophia O'Brien, 7, lives in Brazil.

Walker had also looked up some etiquette regarding the wearing of hats. Social convention, she said, dictates that men should remove their hats when they come indoors; this includes everything from a casual "baseball" hat to a jaunty fedora to a cowboy hat. Men's hats should either be placed on a coat rack along with coats or jackets, or held in the hands or on the lap.

Women, on the other hand, are expected to keep their hats on—"unless they would be an inconvenience to someone nearby, or they might obstruct someone's view,"—Walker summarized. It is acceptable, she shared, for women to place their hats on a table if they choose to remove them indoors.

"Don't wear a hat that's too small for you," she also warned during her presentation. "When they're tight, you get a headache."

Janesville apple testing gets sticky

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Janesville Public Library held an apple taste test for a small group on Tuesday, Sept. 23. There were four different apple types and three different caramel dips with the children keeping track of who liked what.

Head Librarian and recently married Kelly Krienke, was wearing plastic gloves and used a commercial apple cutter and cutting board. Said Krienke, "Don't worry, guys, I sanitized everything, so we were completely ready." The children were ready, willing and able for the tasting. Said Aubrey Leiferman, "I like the squishy apples that you get when you're eating an apple pie." Evelyn Demarais, who was unable to have any caramel today said, "I like apples when they are the most juicy." Then she whispered, "I especially don't like it when they turn brown." Elsie Jaeger was also there, she chimed in, "I like the juicy, not too hard and not too soft."

There were four different apple types, Cosmic Crisp, Granny Smith,



CRISPY - Elsie Jaeger, Librarian Kelly Krienke, Aubrey Leiferman and Evelyn Demarais attended the apple/caramel tasting event at the Janesville Public Library on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Pink Lady and Honey Crisp. There were three different caramel types, Mrs. Richardson's Caramel dip, Litehouse low fat Caramel and Abdallah Homemade Caramel dip. First the girls wanted to rate the flavors of the caramel, since it was just Aubrey and Elsie eating the caramel, said Aubrey, "I would give Mrs. Richardson's dip 10 out of 10, I like the Abdallah second with 9 out of 10 and Litehouse I give 1 out of 10." Elsie said, "I too like Mrs. Richardson's 10 out of 10, I also give Abdallah 10 out of 10 but I like Mrs. Richardson's better. I don't like the Litehouse and give it 0 out of 10."

Krienke started out with Cosmic

Crisp, which turned out to be the eventual favorite for all three of the girls who gave the crisps a 10 out of 10. For Granny Smith, Evelyn said, "It's soft but hard, I give Granny Smith 0 out of 10." Both Aubrey and Elsie gave Granny Smith 7 out of 10. Pink Lady apples earned a 10 out of 10 from both Aubrey and Elsie and a 7 out of 10 from Evelyn. Honey Crisp earned an average 9 out of 10 with Evelyn adding, "It's goodness

alone earns a 9." Elsie then added, "Honey Crisp has the most flavor and is the most juicy."

Somehow every apple Krienke cut got more juicy first to last, with the final apple Honey Crisp actually spraying the table and the librarian, earning a collective, "Cool" remark from the girls. But despite its "Juiciness" the girls still gravitated to the Cosmic Crisp brand being the best.

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Farmamerica sponsoring local scarecrow contest

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Farmamerica wants to make it perfectly clear no crows are welcome at its upcoming Fall Festival on Oct. 11 or MEA Discovery Day on Oct. 17. At least, that’s how it seems given that the facility hopes to have dozens of scarecrows decorating its historic loop.

“We want people and groups to get excited about the idea and see just how creative they can be,” explains Kari Wadd, program coordinator with the facility. She explains she and communications specialist Morgan Mudgett helped devise the scarecrow contest in response to requests from area community members who have contacted Farmamerica in the past asking how they can make contributions to some of the many events and celebrations held there.

The two explain that interested groups—whether they be friends, coworkers, classmates, family or businesses—are asked to sign up in advance online so that a sufficient number of spaces can be prepared. Decorating days are Oct. 8, 9, and 10, with participants asked to reserve a time slot to complete their work.

Each participating group will be given a post about 5 feet tall and a space 6 feet square around it where they can create a theme. Aside from the post, all elements are to be supplied by partici-

pants. Once up, scarecrows will stay in place through the Oct. 17 MEA Discovery Day event. They will be seen by hundreds of people, given the Fall Festival has historically drawn well over 1,000 visitors.

“Businesses will probably want to create something around their products or services,” suggests Wadd. “People might choose a particular holiday or a setting, like a pirate ship or a castle.

“Really, the possibilities are endless.”

Non-profit organizations can enter the contest for free. Others will pay a \$25 entry fee. A \$100 prize and a scarecrow trophy will go to the winning display as chosen by a panel of judges. Visitors to the facility will also vote on a “people’s choice” award; that group will receive a trophy.

Rules for the contest are posted on the Farmamerica website, as are the judging criteria, which include creativity, design, sturdiness (i.e. resistance to the elements), and “overall impression.”

Contestants are asked to keep their entries light-hearted and fun, with no political or vulgar elements.

Much more information and online registration forms are available at farmamerica.org/scarecrow-contest/.

Janesville approves 15% preliminary levy increase

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

Members of the Janesville city council set a preliminary levy increase of 15 percent during their Sept. 22 meeting, with the expectation that city administrators would put in time over the next few months to trim the budget and lower the percentage. City administrator Clinton Rogers reminded council members that last year’s preliminary levy increase of 18 percent was whittled down to about five percent in the same way.

According to information provided by Rogers, the city’s approved operating budget for 2025 is \$2.25 million; the current proposed budget for 2026 is \$2.3 million. Rogers made it clear any increase in property taxes for 2026 will be caused more by decreases in funding provided by the state than by any increases in city expenditures.

Rogers expressed confidence the increase could be kept in check even with potential insurance cost increases. He stated his thanks to staff members for compiling the needed budget amounts.

Council member Ivan Maas asked about funds budgeted for upkeep and painting at the library building in 2025.

“We allowed \$20,000 for capital repairs,” Maas stated. “At that time we had talked about painting and new furnaces. Those projects weren’t completed, correct?”

“Some of the first work was completed this summer, but then we still have money slated to keep doing those,” Rogers answered.

Maas stated his interest in ensuring further improvements are made, commenting, “I guess the library needs a lot of work. It’s been neglected for a long time.” He went on to say money spent on the library “would be put to good use.”

In other business, the city received five applications for the golf course clubhouse manager position; those will be reviewed by council members on Oct. 1 with interviews to be arranged afterward.

During his administrator report, Rogers mentioned the citywide cleanup had taken place on Sept. 13; when he stopped by to drop some of his items off, he said he noticed it was operating fairly smoothly and heard no concerns.

Because Oct. 13 is a legal holiday, the next council meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 14.



WELCOMING ART - From left: President of the Waseca Arts Council, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Director of Education and Programming Christy Easton, Katie Youngberg, Cherie Jacobson, Gregory Easton Jr., Kathy Lindner, and Jeanne Sexton attended the Waseca Art Center's gallery opening exhibiting Water Colorist Cherie Jacobson and photographer Harry Popiel on Thursday, Sept. 25.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Waseca Art Center welcomes watercolorist Cherie Jacobson, photographer Harry Popiel

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Waseca Art Center (WAC) held a gallery opening for two artists on Thursday, Sept. 25. Displays by water color painter and Waseca local Cherie Jacobson and photographer Harry Popiel will now be on display until Oct. 31.

While recovering from brain surgery in 2018, and with a lot of time to spare, Cherie Jacobson, taught herself to paint using water colors as a therapeutic outlet, which blossomed into a passion. Her first words to the group of art seekers were, “I am grateful, overwhelmed and honored you’re all here to see my stuff.” After introducing her, WAC President Mikhail Rostislavovich, requested that she explain her process a little and asked her fans for a minimum of five questions. Jacobson

laughingly said, “I can’t imagine what anyone would want to ask.”

One question concerned the paints she prefers. “I am in love with the Daniel Smith paints, (which are available online), the ground-up minerals they use in their paints are amazing. For example, for the purple colors they use crushed amethyst.” A murmur flowed through the crowd before there came a follow-up question, “Can you talk a little about your elephant painting?” Her husband Larry sort of replied for her, “We saw the elephant picture before it was done.” Jacobson continued and said light-heartedly, “My family gave me a hard time about that elephant picture; they saw it before the shading in back was done but that painting has gotten a lot of feedback and it’s all positive.” Near the elephant was a picture of a dragonfly. Said Jacob-

son, “That picture was one of my earliest, I love nature and animals.” There were other animals including mice, zebras, and starfish. Those, she said, were modeled after images she found online. She went on to say, “But I have no trouble finding inspiration in southern Minnesota.”

The Beckmann Gallery features a retrospective look at Harry Popiel, a photographer who died in 2019. Popiel, moved to Waseca with his wife, son and daughter in 1984 and focused much of his time on capturing natural settings and images including landscapes, waterfalls, and water-related scenes. He traveled throughout southern Minnesota. When his wife died earlier this year, she bequeathed his photos to the Northfield Arts Guild who donated his work. Originally from the east coast, Mr. Popiel was tireless in getting the Waseca

County Veterans Memorial in front of the courthouse built. His photographs may be recognizable because his work has been exhibited in art centers throughout southern Minnesota over the years.

After the introduction and questions, guests were encouraged to mingle and enjoy refreshments including chocolate tiers and sparkling cider. Cherie Jacobson will also be teaching a fall landscape watercolor class at the Waseca Art Center located at 200 North State St. on Wednesday, Oct. 8 from 5-7 p.m. There will also be a get-together at the Starfire Black and White room on Saturday, Oct. 25 to celebrate 50 years of the Waseca Art Center. The evening will include appetizers, full bar, and music by Crista Bohlmann. Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door.

Chana’s Pinatas pass the weight test at the farmers market

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The weather was a little on the warmer side for a Waseca Farmers Market this late in September. There was also a heavy wind but that didn’t stop Chana Rodriguez from selling her pinatas, in between customers she was able to spare a minute to chat.

Her stand is called Chana’s Pinatas, she sells pinatas, homemade jewelry and has a few stories to go along with them. Said Rodriguez, “I sold all last year from the Owatonna market. This is my first year in Waseca because I moved over here.” She was asked why she makes pinatas herself and she replied, “Because some of the store-bought pinatas are really lacking in quality,” she whispered, “A lot of them are just plain crap.” She referenced one she picked up for her aunt from the Twin Cities, “I went to get it, and it was a big number 2 for my niece and cost \$80, it was so bad we didn’t want to use it and I started thinking, ‘I bet I can do a way better job than that.’” She referred to another story, “My niece got a pinata and the string wasn’t secured very well, and she was the only one that got a turn because she knocked it down and all the other kids were disappointed.”

She explained how her pinatas are hung using cotton twine that goes all the way around the bottom, making sure that even if it’s filled to the top with candy, because of the way she’s secured it, even if they’re heavy, “My pinatas don’t fail or fall.” Her first design was from a game called “Among Us,” those are the characters that look like guys in multi-colored hazmat suits, “It turned out really well.” At her stand she was displaying Cuphead, Pokémon, avocado, baby shark, Minnie Mouse, and Baby Dinosaur.

All her pinatas are homemade, she also makes her own glue called engrudo from the very natural ingredients of flour and water. She had some time to perfect her craft, “Right now I have four drying, but the most I’ve ever made was six in a week.” She has three children and had them do some testing for her out in the yard. She charges \$25 for a 20-inch pinata but said, “My sisters and mom think I should charge more be-



HOMEMADE - Chana Rodriguez of Chana's Piñatas displayed two examples of her work, themed after Pokémon and Cuphead. Rodriguez makes her pieces at home and sells them at the Waseca farmers market.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

cause they’re so good, I’ve gotten a lot of feedback and it’s all positive.”

Rodriguez does take requests but otherwise she just makes what she feels like making. She also sells earrings, keychains, and bracelets. She has been delivering some of them but that’s getting to be some long hours driving. Etsy is another option but she’s also working her ‘real job’ and can’t spend all her time on the pinatas as much as she would like to.

There are videos online of parents putting carrots and broccoli in the pi-

pinatas and the following disappointment from the kids. Rodriguez said the strangest thing she’s heard of going into one of her pinatas was, “It was a bunch of those little, plastic liquor bottles for a 21 and over party, they filled it to the top and my pinata didn’t break. It passed the weight test.” She recommends filling her pinatas about a third of the way to the top. She can deliver in Owatonna or Waseca and can be found on Facebook @chanaspinatas.

suggests seeking the company and advice of fellow cancer survivors. Having already walked the road, they not only offer emotional support, they have knowledge and experience when it comes to medications, services, support organizations, and medical practices. They can share information, advice, and personal perspectives to help ease anxiety about approaching treatments.

Kim expresses gratitude for the support and assistance of the late Bea O’Brien of Waseca, and of Linda Tobias, her own supervisor at the Minnesota River Agency on Aging in Mankato. With more than 40 years as a cancer survivor, Kim says, Tobias has been in a place to provide tremendous personal and social support.

In Kim’s case, a scan after she completed six chemotherapy treatments across 18 weeks showed something suspicious near her spleen. Surgery in April of this year led to the removal of an 11-centimeter tumor which had attached to

her diaphragm, the muscle used to cycle air in and out of the lungs. A small piece of her diaphragm had to be removed along with the tumor.

“I feel really fortunate I was eligible for a second surgery,” says Kim. Though it may seem obvious, Kim suggests people have genuine, deep conversations with medical personnel, always speaking up when something doesn’t seem quite right and also ensuring providers truly understand any concerns and expectations. Cancer patients should seek out professionals who have knowledge and experience regarding their particular situation.

In that regard, Kim says she feels fortunate in having been treated by a team of doctors and surgeons specializing in cancer of the female reproductive system who seemed very up-to-date on recent research and techniques.

At this time, she has a follow-up meeting with a gynecological oncologist every three months.

Despite having been cancer free

■ Cancer from Page 3

logue of fear and doubt—not only feeling physically weak because of chemotherapy, but wondering whether it would work or, after the surgery and physical suffering, she was going to die anyway.

“So there you are, worried, exhausted, and unable to sleep.”

She says she knows there is something of a stigma about seeking treatment for mental illness, but people should ignore the stigma and recognize the value of quieting that dark inner uncertainty. For her, she says, a combination of medicines and therapy have been very important. She has also found tremendous value in renewing her connection to religion and faith.

When it comes to undergoing the many procedures and treatments associated with fighting cancer, Kim

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50% of millennial investors choose to invest in real estate.

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BIG PLAY — The Bluejays’ Cyrett Long (1) celebrates a big play in Waseca’s 49-6 homecoming victory over Tri-City-United last Friday.
Waseca Football Association photo

Bluejays win big for Homecoming

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It was a successful Homecoming for the Waseca High School football team.

Very successful.

The Bluejays blew out Tri City United 49-6 last Friday. Waseca improved to 5-0 while the Titans fell to 0-5.

Quarterback Kellen Klinger sparked the win for Waseca, completing 14 of 14 pass attempts for 276 yards.

"Fourteen-for-fourteen, I don't know if that's never happened before," said Bluejays head coach Brad Wendland. "Klinger is relentless about wanting to get better. He really loves football."

But Tri-City United was not as inept as the final score indicates. They totaled 344 offensive yards and 15 first downs.

"Give TCU credit," said Coach Wendland. "They moved the ball as well as anyone has on our defense."

But the Bluejays moved it better, totaling 521 yards while leading 28-0 at halftime and 35-2 after three quarters.

Jordan Johnston had a big game for the Bluejays, totaling 135 rushing yards on nine carries.

Deron Russell also had a big night, scoring two touchdowns while racking up 227 yards receiving on nine catches. Johnston caught three passes for 32 yards, Cyrett long two for 17.

Penalties continued to plague the Bluejays, but Wendland felt the team made some progress anyway.

They committed six infractions for 75 yards.

"I do think we took a couple steps, but we still have a ways to go," said Wendland. "We have some things to work on. We've got plenty of room for improvement."

Reserves played much of the second half for Waseca, though Wendland reinserted his starters after the Titans' first touchdown in the third quarter.

By then, though, it was out of reach for the visitors, who were shut down by another stalwart defensive effort by the Bluejays, who sent the game into running time before it was over. Reserve quarterback Aydan Kath registered the final points for the Bluejays on a 12-yard touchdown run.

The Bluejays make a long road trip to Worthington this Friday. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

Klinger completes 15 of 15 passes

"I do think we took a couple of steps, but we still have a ways to go. We've got plenty of room for improvement."

— Brad Wendland

Waseca 49, Tri-City United 6		First downs	10	15
		Total Yds.	521	344
		Penalties	6-75	5-46
First Quarter				
W — Johnston 64 run (Rupe kick)				
W — Long 10 pass from Klinger (Rupe kick)				
Second Quarter				
W — Russell 87 pass from Klinger (Rupe kick)				
W — Johnston 13 pass from Klinger (Rupe kick)				
Third Quarter				
W — Johnston 58 run (Rupe kick)				
TCU — O'Malley 15 run (pass failed)				
Fourth Quarter				
W — Russell 81 pass from Klinger (Rupe kick)				
W — Kath 12 run (Rupe kick)				
Waseca, 49 Tri-City United 6				
TCU	0	0	6	0 — 6
WAS	14	14	7	14 — 49
WAS		TCU		

JWP football team falls short 38-8 at Southland

Bulldogs host Medford this Friday at Janesville

The JWP High School football team traveled to Adams to face Southland last Friday and had a long bus ride home after dropping a 38-8 decision.

After a scoreless first quarter, the home team put the first points on the board with a second-period safety. It was 2-0 at halftime and Bulldogs were still in it.

Southland pulled away in the second half with a pair of third-

quarter touchdowns and 22 points in the fourth. The Bulldogs finally scored a touchdown in the final period.

The Bulldogs face Medford at Janesville this Friday.

Southland 38, JWP 8					
JWP	0	0	0	8 — 8	
S	0	2	14	22 — 38	

	JWP	S
Plays	49	49
First downs	12	20
Rushing	12	270
Passing	21-29	6-13
Passing TDs, int.	0-2	0-1
Total Yds.	234	325
Third do	4-10	4-9
Fourth down	1-4	1-4
Fumbles los	0-0	1-0
Penalties	3-12	4-56



BREAKING TACKLES — At left, NRHEG sophomore Dakota Schlaak (2) breaks away from Redwood Valley defenders. At right, the Panthers' Sean Lassahn (6), a sophomore, picks up tough yards.
Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens



WHS CC girls 2nd at Zumbrota

The Waseca High School cross country teams competed in the Zumbrota Invitational last Thursday.

Byron took the girls' team title with 60 points, followed by the Bluejays with 91. Eight teams scored.

Ellie Kopischke led the WHS girls, placing 10th in 20:54.7. Maren Schimming was right behind in 11th with a time of 21:02.7. Others: Stella Omtvedt, 13th, 21:10.1; Ana VanDenHemel, 30th, 22:41.9; Taylor Markeson, 32nd, 22:48.3; Quinn Yoder, 36th, 23:12.4; Jenna Yoder, 41st, 23:45.3.

JV girls places and times: Kelsey Draeger, fourth, 23:55.3; Violet Rohwer, 25th, 26:09; Najorie Lacy, 58th, 36:09.4.

For the varsity boys: Keenan Collins, 32nd, 19:29; Wyatt Hager, 38th, 20:01.1; Luke Feldkamp, 52nd,

21:04.1. Rochester Century won the boys' team title with 40 points. The host team was second with 80.

Bluejay JV places and times: Korbin Collins, 39th, 22:36.1; Ryan Yoder, 44th, 22:55.4; Sam Feldkamp, 59th, 24:51.4; Tre Porter, 88th, 33:33.2

Waseca C-squad places and times: Noah Love, third, 13:05.2; Kurt Erickson, fourth, 13:50.8; Alexander Lewandowski, 18th, 15:05; Miles Popp, 20th, 15:23.5; Will Deml, 22nd, 15:37.8; Owen Fierke, 34th, 17:55.2; Colin Guggisberg, 43rd, 21:34.4.

For the girls, Leah Wilson was the C-squad runner-up in 14:54.

The Bluejays host their only home race of the year Thursday at Lakeside Golf Course.

NRHEG volleyball team improves to 15-5

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School volleyball team started last week on a positive note, with a 3-0 victory over Hayfield Sept. 23.

Two nights later was a bit more challenging.

The Panthers played well against Hayfield, winning 25-23, 25-16, 25-14.

"The girls made improvements throughout each set," said NRHEG coach Bethany Tennis.

Senior Chloe Stork had a big night at the net, with seven blocks at key moments. Gabby schlaak led the team in kills while Camryn VanMaldeghem anchored the defense.

Panther statistics: Schlaak 10K,

6D, 4B; Camryn VanMaldeghem 4K, 9D, 2SA, 3B; Anika Ladlie 2K, 2D, 1SA; Nora Flatness 1K, 2B; Quinn VanMaldeghem 3K, 3D, 2B; Kayden warke 1SA; Addy Stadheim 3K, 6D, 26SA, 1B; Stork 6K, 2D, 7B; Meela Budach 1K, 1SA; Chloe Riewer 7D.

On Thursday, at Jordan, the score was reversed as the Panthers lost 3-0 at Jordan, with set scores of 25-19, 25-16, 28-26.

Despite the score, Tennis said the Panthers played some of their best defense of the season.

"The girls showed nonstop hustle and scrappy determination which allowed them to be competitive with a good Class AA team," said Tennis. "We battled through

adjustments and played well together. The seniors continue to play a strong role in the success and environment of NRHEG volleyball. The girls worked extremely hard from first whistle to last, and we'll take the positives from tonight's matchup and build on them as we head into the last few weeks of the regular season."

Individually for NRHEG: Schlaak 8K, 12D, 2A, 1B; C.VanMaldeghem 4K, 16D, 1A, 3B; Ladlie 4K, 1D, 2B; Flatness 3K, 1A, 3B; Q.VanMaldeghem 1K 4D, Warke 2D; Stadheim 3K, 8D, 1A, 2B; Stork 2K, 1D, 1A, 3B; Riewer 7D.

The Panthers ran their record to 15-5.

Panthers can't stop RWV

A few big plays.

That was enough to propel Redwood Valley to a 46-6 victory over the NRHEG football team last Friday.

"Redwood is a very good team," said NRHEG coach Marc Kruger. "I thought we played well for a lot of the game; we just had too many mistakes and missed opportunities. With three games left, we really need to refocus and figure out some ways to finish drives. We are able to move the ball, just not get into the end zone. On defense, we will make a lot of great plays and stops, but one mistake will cost us."

The Cardinals scored on passes of 52, 46, 20, 39, 99 and 15 yards, leading 12-6 after one period, 26-6 at halftime and 33-6 after three.

Panther quarterback Brooks Gilliland completed 10 of 28 passes

for 106 yards. RWV threw for 307 yards while the Cardinals outgained the Panthers 442-193 in total yards.

NRHEG hosts another strong squad, Fillmore Central, this Friday at 7 p.m. in New Richland.

RWV 46, NRHEG 6				
RWV	12	14	7	13 — 46
NRHEG	6	0	0	0 — 6

First Quarter
RWV — 52 pass (two-point conversion failed)
RWV — 46 pass (two-point conversion failed)
NRHEG — Gilliland 1 run (kick failed)

Second Quarter
RWV — 20 pass (kick good)
RWV — 39 pass (kick good)

Third Quarter
RWV — 1 run (kick good)

Fourth Quarter

RWV — 99 pass (kick good)
RWV — 15 pass (kick failed)

	NRHEG	RWV
Total plays	69	53
First downs	14	16
Rushing	87	135
Passing	106	307
Total Yards	193	442
Third Down	2-12	0-9
Fourth Down	2-6	5-7
Fumbles lost	0	0
Penalties	11-68	2-5

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING — NRHEG: R.Schlaak 10-37; Lassahn 13-26; B.Gilliland 3-15; M.Gilliland 3-4; Nissen 1-3; Wyrum 1-2; RWV: Dauer 5-24

PASSING — NRHEG: B.Gilliland 10-28, 106; RWV: 9-24, 307
RECEIVING — NRHEG: R.Schlaak 6-65; Lassahn 2-26; Johannsen 1-8; Meyering 1-7
NRHEG Defense — Holland 4T; Lassahn 4T; D.Schlaak 4T; R.Schlaak 3T; Larson 3T; Bartlett 2T; Meyering 1T; M.Gilliland 1T; Hanna 1T; Wyrum 1T; E.Hendrickson 1T; W.Hendrickson 1T; Brouwers 1T; Selover 1T

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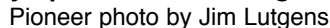
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"Our runners continue to impress me with their positive attitudes and their support for each other," added Nydegger. "They challenge each other to do their best. This is a great group of runners!"



The Jays lost 2-0 to West Salem, with set scores of 25-19, 25-20. It was also 2-0 against

Ellery Waldrom 23 kills, Asia Mayberry 21 kills. Alyssa Kilmer topped the team with 50 digs. Kaia Sartori registered 22 digs, Madalyn Root 19. Kilmer had five service aces.

The Grizzlies' Emma Bittner was fourth in the girls' 2500-meter C-squad race in 13:35. Eli Fall placed 24th in the boys' C-squad race with a time of 14:33.7

Moore, 6-0, 6-1

[illegible]



The Pastor's Column

Sports connect us to religious life

By FR. GLENN FERICHES

As the fall season approaches, football, cross-country, and many other sports capture the attention of many people. People gather in stadiums, plans are made to secure one's seat to watch the game on television, and the local paper is filled with the activities and achievements of local students. although the thrill of the competition and its entertainment value are often the primary source of attraction, the very concept of sports and competition enjoys deep spiritual and religious principles.

At the heart of Christianity is the belief that we have been created in the image of God, containing both a body and a soul. Our soul animates our body, giving it life and the possibility of developing talents, cultivating discipline, and mastering the world around us. Our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, purchased at a great price (1 Corinthians 6:19), which we are to care for, develop, and discipline, according to the precepts of the Lord. Sports are a pathway that can help one appreciate and develop these qualities.

During my late teens and early twenties, I enjoyed participating in the sport of bike racing. Excelling in this sport requires patience and discipline. A cyclist learns how to improve his performance through proper breathing and pedal techniques, balance exercises, and much more. Learning how to isolate and improve upon each of these qualities taught me invaluable life lessons for work and living the Christian life. Is it not true that the perseverance, self-control, and discipline necessary to excel in a sport are mirrored in the Christian disciplines of prayer, fasting, and charity toward those around us?

Another gift that sports has to offer is a sense of community. This often takes the form of cooperation and teamwork between athletes. Members of a team can both challenge and depend upon each other to improve their performance and reach their

goals. Players recognize the need to acknowledge and respect each person's strengths and weaknesses as they develop the trust and cooperation needed to function well as a team. The development of community is also fitting among spectators. A true sense of community develops around a team as they rejoice when the player succeeds and offer encouragement when a member falls short. Christians are like players on a team, St. Paul tells us that "as the body is one adn has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ" (1 Cor 12:12). As if players on a team, Christians do well to support, encourage, and work with one another, recognizing both strengths and weaknesses in living out our faith, "being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind...looking not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:2-3).

Modeled after Christ, sports also possess a moral dimensions. Respect for the rules of a game, fair play, and full respect for players on the other team are essential to playing a game well. When people are held to the standard of playing fairly, these lessons will overflow to other areas of life. Although one may not understand or agree with the rules of a game or the decision of a referee, actions such as cheating, vanity, or disrespect towards members of the other team are unacceptable.

What more can we learn from sports that connect us to the Christian life? Just as discipline, training, methodology, and passion for the sport are all necessary to achieve the final goal of winning the game, Saint Paul offers a beautiful analogy for the Christian. "Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one...I drive my body and train for it, for fear that after having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified" (1 Corinthians 10:25-27).

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation seeking applicants for improvements grants

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) is currently accepting applications for its Taylor Rural Improvements Grant program. Towns, or the Native nation, with populations under 10,000 in SMIF's 20-county region that provide essential services to underserved populations are eligible. Nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations, public institutions and units or agencies of local, state, federal and tribal government are encouraged to apply. Requests of up to \$30,000 for eligible projects will be considered.

The Taylor Rural Improvements Grant seeks to support capital projects that provide essential services to underserved populations within the community. For this grant round we will consider projects that fall under the following essential services categories:

food, clothing, shelter, transportation or internet accessibility.

Examples of projects include, but are not limited to: refrigerator/freezer or loading dock for food shelf, upgrades to community owned thrift store, new furniture for a homeless shelter, computers or hot spots for libraries, or a bus that provides transportation for underserved community members to school or medical appointments.

The Taylor Rural Improvements Grant is supported by a generous donation from Glen A. Taylor through the Taylor Family Farms Foundation. Taylor has a long history of funding philanthropic initiatives related to rural community revitalization. The gift will create a financial framework to support these and other causes for future generations in



IMPROVEMENT - Towns that provide essential services to underserved populations are eligible to apply for the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation's Taylor Rural Improvements Grant program.

the area Glen Taylor still calls home.

"We are grateful to Glen A. Taylor and the Taylor Family Farms Foundation for their initiative to support small towns," shared Benya Kraus, SMIF president and CEO. "Their generosity with the insight of leaders of small communities will help provide services essential to the well-being of underserved populations in our region."

Applications are due to SMIF by October 15, 2025. Awardees will be notified by November 14, 2025. For the application and guidelines, visit smifoundation.org/taylorruralimprovements. For questions, contact Sarah Scheffert, communications and community vitality specialist, at 507-214-7015 or sarahs@smifoundation.org.



WARM WELCOME - The Waseca Area Ambassadors announced the addition of the Waseca County Corn & Soybean Growers as a new member of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce.

Waseca Corn & Soybean Growers welcomed

The Waseca Ambassadors welcomed the county Corn & Soybean Growers as a new chamber member

The Waseca Area Ambassadors are excited to announce the addition of the Waseca County Corn & Soybean Growers as a new member of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce. This local organization represents the interests of corn and soybean farmers in Waseca County and plays a vital role in supporting agricultural education and community initiatives.

The Waseca County Corn & Soybean Growers actively contribute to local organizations, including FarmAmerica and the Future Farmers of America (FFA) programs, demonstrating their commitment to fostering agricultural education and empowering the next generation of farmers. Additionally, they engage in advocacy work to represent the interests of their members in the agricultural sector.

Robin Dulas, Executive Director of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism, expressed her enthusiasm about the new partnership. "We are thrilled to welcome the Waseca County Corn &

Soybean Growers to our Chamber. Their dedication to supporting local agriculture and community initiatives aligns perfectly with our mission to promote economic growth and community development in Waseca. We look forward to collaborating with them to enhance the agricultural landscape in our area."

Katie Gonzales, Ambassador Chair, also shared her thoughts on the new membership.

"Having the Waseca County Corn & Soybean Growers join our Chamber is an exciting opportunity for both organizations. Their commitment to agricultural education and advocacy is invaluable, and we are eager to work together to strengthen our community and support our local farmers."

The Waseca Area Ambassadors are dedicated to fostering relationships among local businesses and organizations. The addition of the Waseca County Corn & Soybean Growers is a significant step toward enhancing the agricultural community in Waseca County.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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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. * * * * *	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 * * * * *
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. * * * * *	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) * * * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship * * * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville Father Robert Schneider Sunday - 8:30 a.m. - Mass * * * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship * * * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Sammy Pothiredy Saturday - 5 p.m. Worship * * * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 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 * * * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1 * * * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * * * *
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. * * * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota * * * * *	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages	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 * * * * *
REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca * * * * *			NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION TO THE WASECA PIONEER.



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Janesville

1925

- Watch the pay envelope your cow brings in if it's bigger returns you are after, the Blue Valley Creamery Institute advised to the enterprising Minnesota Dairy Farmer. To find out exactly the wages per hour that each cow is paying for the labor and care expended on her, it is merely necessary to deduct the total expenditures from the total receipts of each cow and divide the difference by the number of hours of labor expended on her during the year.

-Janesville will be ready for you bright and early Saturday morning. Dollar Day in this town will give you buying opportunities that will surprise you. Besides, there will be plenty in the way of amusement, entries of mammoth pumpkins, squashes, 'taters, corn, cabbages, 'n everything. Awards will be made for various contests and a few of our stores and business houses will run little affairs of their own. The 20-page booklet mailed out contains the listings of hundreds of real bargains. Look it over, compare the prices, mark the items you want, and bring your book in with you.

-Officers for the senior class in the high school were selected at a meeting held last week by the June 1926 class. Charles Hofmann was elected president, Leonard Marx, Treasurer and Miss Cecelia Amberg, secretary. Now that the officers have been chosen the class is well organized and committees for the year will be appointed soon. The class emblems and rings were selected Monday and will be secured through the local jeweler, F. W. Fratzke.

1950

-Two Janesville youths, freshmen at Concordia College, St. Paul, were injured slightly early Saturday when hoodlums invaded a college dormitory and beat up sleeping students, it was reported in Saturday's Mankato Free Press. The Janesville youths, both 18, are James Koehler, son of the Rev. and Mrs. A. T. Koehler and Wayne Brandmire, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Brandmire. James required stitches to close a wound in his neck and Wayne was treated for severe bruises.

-Dr. Geza Schutz, Janesville farmer and noted labor arbitrator, will be the guest speaker at the membership luncheon meeting, the first of the season, of the Mankato Branch of the American Association of University Women, Saturday, September 23, at the Mankato Golf Club, according to an article in Monday's Mankato Free Press. Dr. Schutz, one-time League of Nations staff member, now promotes industrial peace throughout the country and in some of the nation's greatest cities in addition to farming acres of rolling fields along the Le Sueur River. It is no accident that the Janesville farmer has become one of the state's most successful, although least known, labor mediators. For twenty years before he and his wife, a native of Janesville, settled on the abandoned, worn-out farm seven miles south of here, he had been engaged in such work, first with the League of Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, then on a private basis in New York.

-A goal of 500,000 signatures in Minnesota to the Declaration of Freedom, which is the heart of the Crusade for Freedom, has been set up, Harry A. Bullis, regional chairman, has announced. The campaign, which will continue through September 30, is America's answer of big truth to the big lie of the Soviet, Mr. Bullis said. National Chairman of the move is General Lucius D. Clay, former military governor of Germany during the Berlin airlift. The campaign has two objectives, one to gives as many people in the country as possible the opportunity to declare their ideals of freedom by signing a declaration of freedom, and two, to give these same people the chance to do something in a concrete way to combat Soviet propaganda.

1975

-Homecoming Week got underway here Monday and five senior girls haven't had a calm moment since. All five are keeping their fingers crossed, hoping that the elusive homecoming crown will come to rest on their head this Thursday night. Nominated by the senior class, for what has become one of the most coveted honors at JHS, are Tracy Priem, Mary Williams, Beth Lundquist, Teresa Finley and Sue Stransky.

-Mrs. Lloyd (Audrey) Wilson will become the first woman ever to serve on the Janesville Area Chamber of Commerce when the new board is formed later this month. Mrs. Wilson, Vic Dimmel, and Bob Hildebrandt were elected from six nominees at the Chamber monthly last Wednesday. They will join Larry Vinson, Gerold Chapman, Dennis Gustafson, Leon Schultz, Herb Stankey, and Darwin Lochner on the nineperson board.

2000

-Thanks to new speed measuring devices presented by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Office of Traffic Safety, law enforcement officers in Janesville, Madison Lake and St. Peter are better equipped to identify vehicles driving at illegal and unsafe speeds. The police departments are three of only ten law enforcement agencies in Minnesota being awarded a Kustom ProLaser III or a Kustom Eagle Radar for participating in the Safe and Sober enforcement effort that took place during the month of April. The presentation took place at a news conference in Madison Lake.

-The Janesville-WaldorfPemberton volleyball team brought home the consolation trophy in its first tournament action of the season. JWP won three of five matches in the eight-team Redbird invite at Montgomery Saturday, and avenged a loss to Gopher Conference for Blooming Prairie in the process. The Bulldogs improved their overall record to 5-4 for the season, including 4-3 away from home.

-The Janesville Fire Department was called to a fire at 206 W. 1st St. On Sunday night just before 11:00 p.m. The home, owned by Don and Lesley Kump, had flames coming out a second floor window when the fire department got there. The children who were sleeping in the bedroom awoke their parents and they all got out of the house in time. The fire was continued in the upstairs bedroom, with water damage in other areas of the house.

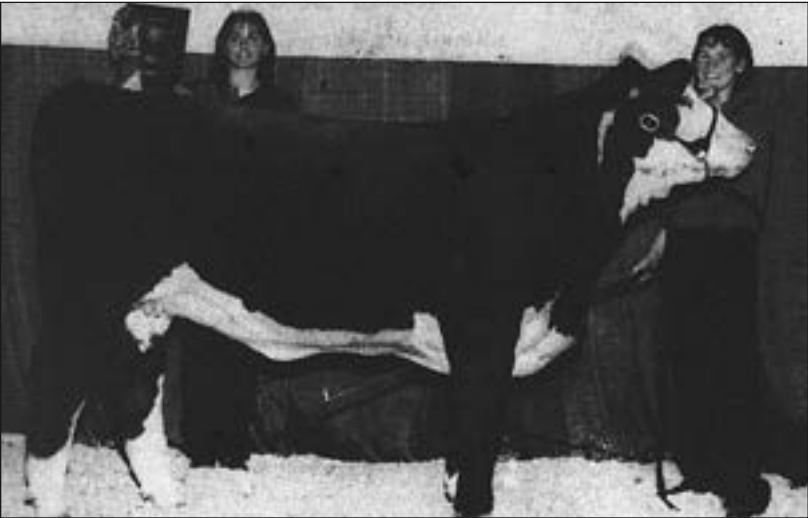
Waseca

25 years ago

- The state fire marshal is continuing an investigation into the fire that destroyed a church near Meriden. The state fire marshall arrived in Meriden last Friday looking at what remains of St. Paul's Lutheran Church to determine the fire's cause, whether it was arson, electrical or otherwise.

- The Waseca Band Boosters are happy to welcome all participating bands from around the upper midwest. The Band Boosters are a non-profit organization formed in 1973 as a support group for the students and director. The members, made up of Waseca High School Band parents and anyone else interested in a quality musical experience for students, assist in areas such as concerts, fundraising, trip support and transportation.

- On August 23, Waseca teenager Neil Dickie, 17, was critically injured in a car accident on Lemond Road outside of Owatonna. His friend, Shea O'Neil, died in the collision. Another passenger, Megan Scholljegerdes was treated and released from the Owatonna Hospital the day after the accident. The three Waseca teenagers were on their way to hockey practice in Kasson when the accident happened.



- Ann Ewald, 17, of Waseca County, showed the Grand Champion Polled Hereford heifer at the 2000 Minnesota State Fair Beef Show. Ewald, daughter of Guy Ewald from Waldorf and a member of the Waldorf Peppy Peppers 4-H Club, is pictured with a Minnesota Beef Princess.

50 years ago

- U.S. 14 improvement expected to begin next year: "Over the next two year period I feel we can re-surface Trunk Highway 14 from Eagle Lake to Waseca and we can do that in 1976. And I think we can do Waseca to Owatona in 1977. I will sit down tomorrow with my regional supervisor to find a way, even though it is not programmed, to upgrade Highway 14 so that even though it's not smooth, it's safe." Those were the words of Minnesota Commissioner of Highways Frank Marzitelli as he spoke to the Highway 14 association at the Holiday Inn in North Mankato Tuesday night.

- Interest in the upcoming Waseca city elections continued to grow today as another candidate filed for the council. Assuring a race in the third ward is George Hayunga, 29, 808 4th St. SW, filed this morning. Hayunga is a life long resident of Waseca with the exception of two year, 1968-1969, spent working in Mantorville.

- Births: Sept. 23-Girl to Mr. and Mrs. Larry Beers, Waseca Hilltop Hospital Unit, Mankato. Sept. 22-Boy to Mr. and Mrs. David Mittelstaedt, Janesville Naeve Hospital, Albert Lea. Sept. 22-Boy to Mr. and Mrs. Ricky Kofstad, New Richland.



- These five Waseca High School seniors will be vying to wear the crown of Homecoming Queen 1975, when the activities get underway next Thursday and Friday, Oct. 3 and 4. The girls from left to right are: Elizabeth Welna, Cathy Sybrant, Deb Nissen, Julie Preuss, and Debbie Hall. On Thursday, Oct. 3, the queen will be crowned to reign over the Friday football game between the Waseca Bluejays and the St. Peter Saints.

75 years ago

- Local and county sheep men are reminded that a ram exchange day is scheduled Thurs., Sept. 28, at the S. E. Experiment Station just west of Waseca. Cletus Murphy, Waseca county extension agent, said the exchange will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon of that day on the experimental farm grounds.

- When the Waseca Lions Club presents the University Touring Company's production of "She Stops to Conquer" at Waseca high school auditorium on Thursday, Oct. 5, audiences will be enjoying a theatre adventure which nearly turned into a real life experience for the author, Oliver Goldsmith.

100 years ago

- Mrs. A. J. Anderson and little daughter were slightly injured when struck by a car when crossing Elm street, on Main, Tuesday afternoon. They stepped out on the street after a car passed and another car struck them. The driver, John McGough of Kilkenny, had the car under control and stopped quickly. Mrs. Anderson's hand was cut and the girls arm and knee were bruised.

- Although the attendance was small, the reception for the public school teachers at the high school Monday evening proved a very pleasant social affair. During the first hour everybody had an opportunity to get acquainted and also to inspect the new library. All then gathered in the auditorium, where the program opened with the singing of, "America." President Junke of the Parent-Teacher Association the extended a welcome to all and stressed the need of co-operation between parents and teachers.

- On Sunday evening the members of the North Waseca Lutheran Church gave a welcome-reception to their new pastor, the Rev. Ramseth, and family. A very interesting program of songs and recitations was rendered by the young people, after which Joseph Lee, speaking for the congregation, in happy terms bade the pastor and his family a hearty welcome and assured him of cooperation in the work. He closed by presenting on behalf of the congregation a substantial purse as a material token of good will.

New Richland

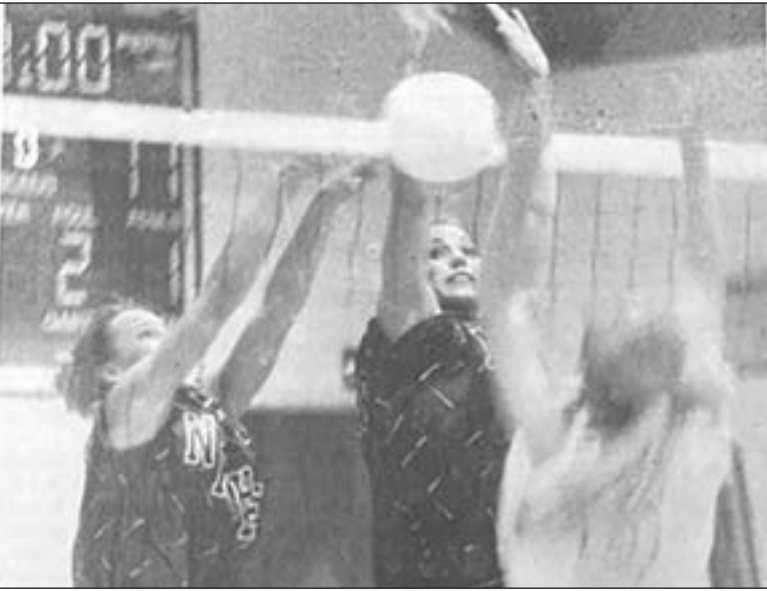
25 years ago



- The Millers smile as they display the Century Farm sign they will post near the end of their driveway on their farm, four miles north of New Richland. They were honored at the Waseca County fair and Minnesota State Fair as owners of the farm that has been in the same family for 109 years.

- 50th Anniversary. It's Martin and Gerry Hoffman's 50th Anniversary 9-25-00!

- The following area students earned degrees from South Dakota State University in Brookings during spring commencement exercises: Doctor of pharmacy - John Carl Kuth, Albert Lea; Jeremy Paul Anderson of New Richland. Bachelor of science in electrical engineering - Joseph Allen Lindeman, Conger. Bachelor's degree in family and consumer sciences - Kelly Jean Purdy,



Albert Lea (with honors).

- Erin Anderson and Elizabeth Schultz put the ball back over the net in the face of a Medford player who was unable to get to the net fast enough. The Panthers defeated the Tigers 3-0 last Thursday night.

50 years ago

- Don and Arlis Entwistle and their youngest daughter, Jackie, stand in front of their new soft-goods store in the building south of their New Richland Drug. The Store will open Saturday with all kinds of ready-to-wear and fabrics, as well as hobby-crafts.



- The New Richland-Hartland football squad made the homecoming joy complete as they shut out Morristown 29-0, Friday night, to cap the festivities. The Cardinals are now tied for first in the Gopher Conference, with Blooming Prairie and Medford, all with 3-0 records. The Cardinals received the opening kick-off on the Cards 46-yard line, where it was returned by Scott Smith 12 yards. After the first series of downs, Scott brought the ball to the one-yard line, on a 42-yard run around left end. Rod Smith capped the drive with a one-yard plunge. Adryn Peterson kicked the conversation point and the Cards led 7-0 with 8:47 left to play in the first quarter. Top tacklers for the game were Mitch Abraham and Terry Dunnette with six each. According to Coach Jim Simer, the Cards all played well, Friday against Morristown. "We were just too fast for them," he added.



- Members of the 1917 confirmation class of Pontoppidan Lutheran Church of Lemond are pictured here at Royal Villa as they were about to enjoy a 58th anniversary dinner, following church services, Sunday. They are from the left, front: Gerhard Johnson, Ralph Johnson, Lloyd Jacobson, and Alie Hanson; back: Mrs. John (Helen Strand) Sheplee, Mrs. Ed (Ethel Hanson) Oldendorf, Ruth esping, Mrs. Allen (Edna Strand) Martin and Mrs. Gertie (Johnson) Nelson.

- Fern Arlene Durfey of Lansing, Mich. and Elroy S. Verplank were united in marriage, Thursday, September 25th with the Rev. Orville Boettcher officiating at the 5 pm ceremony at St. Peters Lutheran Church, New Richland.

75 years ago

- Miss Shirley Martinson of New Richland has been accepted into the Alpha Delta women's society at St. Olaf college. A total of nearly 150 girls were elected to membership in six societies. Final approval of each member was made by the student intersociety board. The formal installation for the new members was held at a mass meeting of all the groups.

- Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Bluhm of London announce the arrival of their daughter, Julie Kay, born Saturday, October 21. This is the first child in the Bluhm family. Mrs. Bluhm is the former Betty Skelton and Mr. Bluhm, formerly of Waldorf, is the creamery operator in London.

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WOMEN OF THE WORD (WOW)

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Proceeds will go to Missions.

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WED, OCTOBER 8TH

11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

309 6th Street NE

Waseca, MN 56093

■ Fame

from Page 1

also NCAA Division III All American placing sixth in the pole vault at nationals. Tim coached pole vault at UW-Stout in 1996 and continues to coach at JWP. In 2019 Tim was recognized as the section 2A volunteer coach of the year. He coached athletes at the state track meet in 2019, 2021 and 2022.

The 1997 Boys' Basketball Team The team earned Gopher Conference and Section Championships and qualified for the state tournament for a second year in a row. The team lost a tough first round draw to Caledonia by five points, finishing with a 25 – 2 record.

Team members were Travis Anderson, Josh Berndt, Tim Burke, Brent Fury, Chris Gardner, Travis Hinze, Dave Jewison, Dan Jorgenson, Tim Sheehan, Justin Stanke, Clint Westphal, Ben Wheelock, Jared Ziemke, Josh Ziemke, and Jake Zimmerman. Managers were John Schultz and Jacob Hoehn. The team was coached by Dave Tonolli, George Tuvey and Ritchie Johnson. Stats were taken care of by Kenda Lindeland, Katie (Seys) Reyes and Katie Sikel. On the Cheer Team were Heidi Bartelt, Jackie Danberry, Katie (Kruse) Engel, Melissa Olson, Jessie (Witts) Courtney and Lisa (Yentsch) Dudley.

The 1997 Wrestling Team The team was Gopher Conference and Section Champions and qualified for the state tournament for a second year in a row, placing sixth in the state tournament and ending that season with a 19 – 4 record. All-Conference wrestlers were Joe Weimar, Bob Beelow, Trent Gunsolus, Dana Gostomczik, Dave Carleton, Ben Blegen and Jeff Adams.

Team Members were Jeff Adams, Bob Beelow, Ben Blegen, Dave Carleton, Aaron Duenes, Mike Fasnacht, Dana Gostomczik, Trent Gunsolus, Andy Krause, Joe Johnson, Jake Kaiser, Jason Lueders, Karl Mettler, George Phillips, Adam Roesler, Mike Schuch, and Joe Weimar.

The team was coached by Mike Niemczyk, Gary vonHoltum, Bruce Manthe, Tim Oelke, and Willie Eustice. In charge of stats were Courtney (Adams) Anderson, Kelly (Schwichtenberg) Berry and Tannis Steinberg. The Cheer Team included Heidi Bartelt, Jackie Danberry, Katie(Kruse) Engel, Melissa Olson, Jessie (Witts) Courtney and Lisa (Yentsch) Dudley.

Robert (Bob) Hendricks Originally from Watertown, MN where he was All Conference in Football, on the Student council, FFA President and received State Vocal Music Awards. Robert graduated from St Cloud State University and then earned his Masters degree from Mankato State University. After moving to Janesville, Bob became involved supporting local schools and communities by serving on scholarship committees, being emcee for many events including Miss Janesville and Dairy Princess and using his strong vocal ability announcing football for many years. Bob also coached varsity wrestling and junior high football. He received the Paul Harris Award from the local Rotary Club. Supporting some outstanding athletes in football, wrestling, baseball and basketball were some of Bob's favorite memories of JWP athletics.

The 2000 Boys' Golf Team The team earned Gopher Conference, Sub-Section and Section Championships and was rewarded with a team trip to the state tournament. All-Conference individuals were Evan Holmes, Sean Mulcahey, Brian Finley, and Levi Mulcahey. The team finished seventh at the class A state tournament. State qualifiers were Sean Mulcahey, Levi Mulcahey, Sean Finley, Brian Finley, Reid Olson, and Evan Holmes. The team was coached by Mike Muedeking.

Trent Gunsolus Trent is a 1999 graduate of JWP and an eight-time letter winner who participated in football, wrestling and baseball. Trent was a five-time all conference recipient in wrestling and two-time all state wrestler placing fourth and first in his state appearances. Trent attended Itasca Junior college and then coached junior high wrestling at JWP for 5 years.

Travis Gunsolus Travis is a 2001 Graduate of JWP where he played football and wrestled for the Bulldogs. Travis was a two-time state participant in wrestling taking third place as an individual in 2001 wrestling in the 125-pound slot on the 1998 second-place team.

Mike Cummins Mike is a 1991 graduate of JWP. He earned nine varsity letters: three each in football, basketball and baseball. Mike earned all area in all three sports and all-conference honors two years in basketball and baseball. Mike also captained his senior year basketball team.

Mike continued his education at Bethany and Mankato State College, playing basketball for Bethany. He then continued his involvement with athletics as a coach for various levels at JWP, Waterville and Mahtomedi where he spent 12 years on the Mahtomedi youth basketball board.

Returning a punt 60 yards for a touchdown his senior year is one of Mike's favorite memories as well as beating an undefeated St. Clair team in section finals his sophomore year.



1996-97 JWP Wrestling team (front, from left: Lisa (Yentsch) Dudley, Heidi Bartelt, Jackie (Danberry) Simonson, Melissa Olson, Katie (Kruse) Engel. Middle row, from left: Andy Krause, Corey Meyer, Joe Weimar, George Phillips, Bob Beelow, Jake Kaiser, Ben Blegen, Karl Mettler, Joe Johnson, Trent Gunsolus, Mike Fasnacht, Coach Mike Niemczyk. Back row, from left: Coach Gary Von Holtum, Coach Tim Oelke, Jeff Adams, Dana Gostomczik, Adam Roesler, Jason Lueders, Dave Carleton, Mike Schuch, Aaron Duenes, Coach Bruce Manthe.



1996-97 JWP Boys' Basketball team — Front row, from left: Coach Rich Johnson, Tim Sheehan, Jake Zimmerman, Clint Westphal, Josh Berndt, Travis Hinze, Justin Stankey, Brent Fury, Coach George Tuvey. Back row, from left: Chris Gardner, Travis Anderson, Dan Jorgenson, Jared Ziemke, David Jewison, Josh Ziemke, Tim Burke, Ben Wheelock, John Schultz (Manager), Coach David Tonolli.



Greg Strauss, athlete



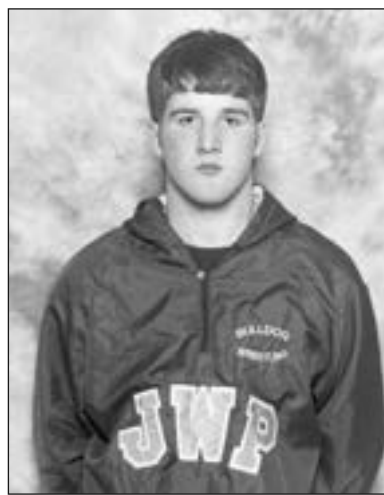
Josh Melchior, athlete



Mike Cummins, athlete



Tim Johnson, athlete



Travis Gunsolus, athlete



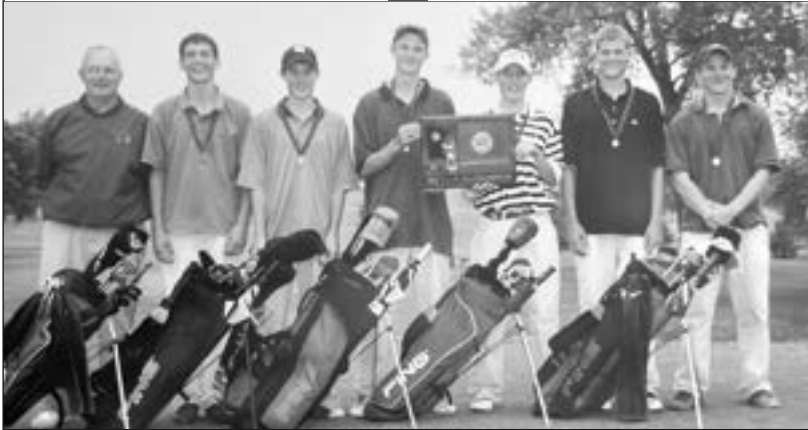
Travis Gunsolus, athlete



David Pope, contributor



Bob Hendricks, contributor



2000 Boys' Golf team state qualifiers, from left: Coach Mike Muedeking, Sean Mulcahey, Sean Finley, Levi Mulcahey, Evan Holmes, Brian Finley, Reid Olson.

‘Ask a Trooper’: School Patrol

Question: My grandkids get to be on their school’s “School Patrol.” I am so happy they get to help but can you talk about this? I want people to be aware to help keep them and everyone safe. Thank you for all you do.

Answer: Congratulations to your grandchildren! You should be proud as it is quite an honor to be serve on those School Patrols.

A little history lesson on the School Patrol. The idea of the School Patrol originated with Sister Carmela of the Cathedral School in St. Paul on Feb. 21, 1921 when the first patrolmen were stationed at the intersection of Kellogg Boulevard and Summit Avenue in Saint Paul. Adopted citywide by the City of St. Paul in 1922 as a part of the program of the School System and the St. Paul Police Department, it was also adopted as a statewide program by the Minnesota State Patrol. Generations of children for over 100 years have served on the School Patrol all

across Minnesota.

When you see a student safety patrol helping schoolmates cross a street or highway, you must come to a complete stop. You must also stop for adult crossing guards displaying a stop sign or flag. It is illegal to drive through a line of children crossing the road, even if a school safety patrol is not present. Violating this law is a misdemeanor. A second violation within a year is a gross misdemeanor.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson – Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)

■ Council

from Page 3

need be, he added. He also said elementary principal Jeff Adams and high school principal David Rysdam are working to set up a math curriculum committee.

“Standards will be fully implemented in the 2026-27 school year,” Erler stated. “They’ll be tested on for Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) testing in the 2027-28 school year.”

The other subject area which is up for renewal is Social Studies, he added.

He reported that the comprehensive reading in the elementary school adapted a more rigorous curriculum than the previous one and expressed positivity about that after he sat in with a few Professional School Counselors (PSCs).

“I was surprised hearing third-grade vocabulary, being like the word ‘meander,’” Erler said. “The kids are using it on a daily basis in the classroom in the correct content areas and ways.”

Regarding finances, the school board approved its preliminary levy at the statewide proposed maximum, a figure determined by a state-set formula, the factors of which have not all been released,

so it is not a specific number, business manager Wendy Dieker said. She also explained that by Sept. 30, the levy system will be closed. She added that after the school board approves its preliminary levy, Waseca County sends out preliminary statements in November, allowing taxpayers the chance to attend “Truth in Taxation” meetings where they can ask questions. A final levy must be determined by the end of December; it can be lower than the preliminary number, but not higher.

As she shared budget information, Dieker indicated school leaders had been working to trim an initially proposed budget of \$2.5 million down to less than \$2.1 million, but also mentioned an anticipated \$500,000 decrease in state funding due to a number of causes, most importantly declining enrollment. She added work on the budget will continue for the next few months.

In other business, the school board also approved the updated price increases for adult meals by ten cents for breakfast and 25 cents for lunch.

The school board officially accepted donations of \$1,000 from Steele-Waseca Co-op Electric for a scholarship fund and \$3,000 from PrairieCare Fund for the Bully the Blues Project Hope.

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69th Birthday



Happy sixty-ninth birthday to Waseca native and former Twins third base coach Gene Glynn, who celebrated his birthday on Tuesday, Sept. 23.

Fun Fact: Glynn received Minnesota’s first-ever “Mr. Basketball” award his senior year at Waseca, and handed the award off to Basketball Hall of Famer Kevin McHale (of Hibbing) the following year.

Glynn was an all-time great at Mankato State in both baseball and basketball, and still holds school basketball records in assists in a game (16, 1976), season (221, 1977), and career (772). The second baseman also once held the school record with 81 career stolen bases.

After earning his degree in Physical Education in 1979, Glynn was signed as an amateur free agent by Montreal Expos scout Bob Gebhard (who is a Minnesota native, played for the Twins, and later served in the Twins’ front office during both World Championship seasons before becoming the first general manager of the Colorado Rockies). Glynn played seven seasons in the Expos’ farm system, including parts of four seasons at Triple A. He began his coaching career in 1986 as a manager in the Expos farm system. Bob Gebhard brought him into the Rockies organization in 1992 and he got his first major league job as manager as Don Baylor’s first base coach in 1994 and third base coach from 1995 to ’98. Glynn has mentioned 1996 as one of his most memorable seasons, when the Rockies hit 221 home runs and stole 201 bases (and still finished third in the NL West).

Glynn then coached third base for the Expos in 1999, Chicago Cubs from 2000 to 2003, and San Francisco Giants from 2003 to 2006. He would have greeted Sammy Sosa on 163 home run trots in his three seasons in Chicago, and Barry Bonds on 121 trots over four seasons.

He was then a scout in the Tampa Bay Rays organization from 2007 to 2011. He was hired by the Twins to manage the triple-A Rochester Red Wings in 2012. He interviewed for the major league manager job after Ron Gardenhire’s dismissal in 2014. That job ultimately went to Paul Molitor but Glynn was named the Twins’ third base coach, a role in which he served for four seasons until Molitor was dismissed as manager.

■ Coronation from Page 1

member of the Minnesota Honor Society and a member of Sacred Heart Church. Keith also plays tennis, is in gymnastics and works at Starbucks. She was escorted by Deron Russell, son of Derrick Russell and Bambi Jes. Russell is a football captain, basketball captain, involved in BPA, a member of the Christ Community Church and works at Pizza Ranch. He plans to attend NDSU to play football next fall.

Katie Olson, daughter of Christopher Olson and Mary Jo Stangler, is a member of Christ Community Church, Minnesota Honor Society, and is in select choir, BPA, tennis and swimming. She is a lifeguard through community ed and is a FCA huddle leader and nannies in the summer. Olson was escorted by Ethan Hiller, son of Scott and Deanna Hiller. Hiller is a captain of the football team and participates in basketball and BPA. He is also a member of Sacred Heart Church and works at 4 Seasons.

Chloe Roemhildt, daughter of Bill and Stephanie Roemhildt, participates in softball, fall ball and dome ball. She nannies, works at Wistes Meat Market and helps on her family farm. Roemhildt is a member of the Waseca Honor Society and Trinity Lutheran Church where she is a member of the youth advisory team. She was escorted by Jordan Johnston, son

of Lee and Diane Holthus. Johnston is involved in track, BPA, yearbook and is a captain of the football team and works at Pizza Ranch.

Ellery Waldron, daughter of Chris Waldron and Kara Waldron, participates in BPA, is a captain of the volleyball team and plays softball. She is a member of the Minnesota Honors Society, of Christ Community Church, and is in select choir, sextets, student council, FCA. Waldron also works at the Jays Nest and coaches T-ball and nannies in the summer. She was escorted by Caleb Wulf, son of Rick and Jill Wulf. Wulf is involved in football, basketball, and is a member of the Minnesota Honor Society and Christ Community Church. He works at Waseca Waterpark and is also a caterer at Infinity Catering.

When it was time to reveal the identity of the king and queen, school safety officer Greta Luiken and ceremony emcees Maddy Bensen and Sadie Schimming brought the capes and crowns forward, placing them, after the traditional moments of suspense, on the heads of Deron Russell, son of Derrick Russell and Bambi Jes, and Chloe Roemhildt, daughter of Bill and Stephanie Roemhildt.

A semi-formal dance followed the coronation ceremony. The school-day excitement came to a close on Friday afternoon with a parade featuring more than two dozen units, followed by Friday evening’s triumphant game.

Waseca teacher Kelvin Hill

Name: Kelvin Hill

Family: I have a wife, Alorah, and I’m a brother of two siblings, Ben and Ellie.

Hometown: I grew up in Saint Paul, then moved down to Mankato to go to college. I currently live in Mankato, but I want to move to Waseca as soon as possible!

Where did you go to school and what degree(s) do you have: Mankato State University, with a bachelor’s degree in special education.

Is this your first teaching job? If not, where else have you taught and how long?: This is my first teaching job, but I have been in Waseca for over a year doing my field experiences and my student teaching here!

Why did you want to teach?: Since middle school, I have always wanted to be a teacher. None of my family members went to college, so it was my plan to be the first. I was, and now I want to be a great role model for my siblings and students alike.

What led you to apply at Waseca?: This community in the school is amazing, and I feel very supported for being a first-year teacher.

What is (or do you think will be) your favorite part of teaching?: Making students feel like they have a voice and have some control over their learning and education.

What is one thing kids will leave your classroom with (hopefully)? I want them to find the joy of learning. Wanting them to take charge and learn something they want to learn. Reading and writing about a topic you enjoy is one way to make yourself motivated to read/write more. Being a special education teacher, I want to empower my students to feel like they can do things.

What do you like to do outside of school?: I play board games and card games like Wingspan and Magic: The Gathering. I also like MN sports, with the Timberwolves being my favorite.



Kelvin Hill is part of the support staff at the Waseca Junior High School.

Is there anything you could talk about forever if someone gets you started?: Just about anything to do with board games and how they are great educational tools.

Is there anything that “everyone knows” about you?: I enjoy having fun and joking around. I always try to see the positive in things.

Waseca Garden Club features homemade wine making

By BEN REVERMANN Staff writer

The Waseca Garden Club, which meets the fourth Monday of each month, met at the Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC) on Monday, Sept. 22. The evening featured Bev and Marshall Herfindahl for a wine making presentation; about 25 people attended. The Waseca Garden Club has been meeting for forty years, with the first meeting taking place at the SROC on Sept. 19, 1985. All Waseca Garden Club meetings are free and open to the public.

After club president Dacia Hinkhouse opened the meeting, the demonstration began with an invitation to taste any or many of nine homemade wines set out on a table. Half the wines were white and half were red. Said Marshall, “The flavors go in order starting with the sweetest first.” The sweet wines were “clear”; the flavor of the reds became dryer the further along the samplers got.

Bev said, “Marshall has been making wine the longest because he made it for the first time in his dorm room in college. Then, when it was ready, he drank the entire gallon in a single night.” There was a collective groan from the club and a member said, “All that work for just one night.” Marshall stated he has learned a few things since then.

The Herfindahls make their wine from commercially created kits. Said Marshall, “I suggest when you do it, to buy everything in the kit. If it says it stays in the bucket for two weeks, then it stays in the bucket for two weeks. Just follow the direc-



CRAFTING - The Waseca Garden Club, held a wine making presentation for its members thanks to fermenting experts Bev and Marshall Herfindahl at the University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center on Monday, Sept. 22, 2025.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

tions.” He had a six- and a five-gallon bucket with a hole cut in the top. He showed how to use the tool he called a “De-gasser, to be used after the yeast is poured in and pressure starts to build.”

Bev continued, “What starts out in a six-gallon bucket with the water and concentrate, is then poured into a five-gallon bucket once all the crushed grapes are removed and the fermentation has begun. We don’t crush the grapes, they come like that in a bag.

“Fermentation occurs naturally as tiny organisms from the yeast turn the sugar in the grape juice into alcohol. Two more weeks in the five-gallon bucket will get you 24 bottles of wine. For flavor there’s sugar or wood chips.”

Marshall added, “We did beer for a very short time, but one case of beer will get you 54 bottles and I can’t drink that much beer in a year, so we just stick with wine.”

Bev said, “If you want to sell your wine you have to get a license, so we mostly just give our wines away or drink them, we also donate quite a

bit.” A question was asked about different flavors of the same wines and if those differences were because of the season the wines were bottled. Marshall answered, “We do this in our basement and we have special tools wrapped around the buckets that keep the wine a constant 70 degrees, that’s in either winter or summer.”

Another guest asked about cabernet being such a dark color. Marshall responded, “The dark color of Cabernet Sauvignon is due to the thick skin of the grapes, which contains pigments.” The couple were also asked if they’ve ever tried making wine without the kits and Bev replied, “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it. We’re pretty happy with the kits so we’ll just do that for now.”

This week’s refreshments were provided by Pat Forshee and Jane Lau and they served apple cake, veggie pizza and assorted nuts and mints. The Waseca Garden Club will meet again on Monday, Oct. 27 and will feature a discussion on Spruce Tops by Pat Forshee, this is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

Deer Hunters Association holds banquet

By BEN REVERMANN Staff writer

The Minnesota Deer Hunters Association’s (MDHA) sixteenth annual banquet took place the evening of Saturday, Sept. 20 at the Sweet-Sommers VFW. Funds raised by the event will be used to promote youth outdoor education, scholarships, local habitat projects and local and regional trap shooting teams.

Tim Collins, president of the Waseca MDHA, indicated a line of fundraising activities that included a drawing with a hunting knife as a

prize and a “booze raffle,” then mentioned something new, a “During the hunt” basket has been added for the ladies who stay home. Collins explained, “When the guys go out to the hunting shack, you know the ladies will have their wine or candle baskets. We also have a couple of baking baskets and a Cabela’s Camp Coffee basket, you know, for the ladies.” One of the silent auction items was a Ruger Wrangler .22, 8-shooter. Next to it on the silent auction block was a mahogany ammo box with a few boxes of ammo al-

ready inside. Other items included a variety of soaps, a Crown Royal basket, expensive sunglasses, Ranch Road Apple Brandy, blankets for the winter months, deer salt licks and liquid salt, a fire kit for the cabin.

There was a baseball donated by Minnesota Twins player Bailey Ober, grilling seasoning, a honey basket, bourbon, double chili and AR 15 magazines. Also donated were a tabletop griddle and a stand up griddle, said President Collins, “Cabela’s really came through for us this year.”

The kitchen opened at 5 p.m.,

David Orfei and his son Armand, 12, were eating cheeseburgers and finishing their fries. Said David, “I’m a member of the MDHA, I was hoping to win a gun tonight, but we’ll see.”

Armand had a little more time to think about the question and said about the gun he might like to win for deer hunting, “If we go hunting in Wisconsin it would be a rifle, but here I would probably use a shotgun.” Armand was also quick to point out about his ability to shoot, “I’m on the clay target team for Owatonna.”

ZED by Duane M. Abel

